

The Behrend

Beacon

Erie, PA 16563

April 29, 1999 Volume XLVII No. 29

H & SS names new director Two Behrend seniors win Oswald and Hetzel awards

by Mike Frawley
assistant editor

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences has run this entire year without a permanent director, but after an exhausting search new director has finally been chosen. The new director is Dr. Clare Porac, a native of Pittsburgh and a Professor of Psychology at Victoria University.

She was chosen by the Search Committee after a long and exhausting process. After interviewing many very qualified applicants the Search Committee deemed Dr. Porac to be the most qualified for the position. The Search Committee consisted of Dr. Dawn Blasko, Assistant Professor of Psychology; Dr. Sharon Dale, Associate Professor of Art History; Dr. John Gamble, Professor of Political Science and International Law; Dr. Diana Hume George, Chair of the Search Committee and Professor of English and Women's Studies; Dr. Ann Pancake, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Literature; Dr. John Rossi, Associate Professor of History; Mr. Brian Streeter, Athletics Director; Dr. Rod Troester, Associate Professor of Speech Communication; and Dr. Kathryn Wolfe, Associate Professor of French, chose the best applicant for the position.

Dr. Porac currently is Professor of Psychology at the University of Victoria. The University of Victoria is located in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. She was born in Pittsburgh, which gives her ties to the local area to compliment her qualifications. She received her B.A. from Duquesne University in Sociology, and received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research in New York City. She has



Dr. Clare Porac, incoming director of Humanities and Social Sciences

been a professor at the University of Victoria for 24 years, and has served in numerous administrative positions in her time at the university. She currently is serving as the President of the University of Victoria Faculty Association, and in the past has served as Vice-President of the association and as a University Senator for the Arts and Sciences. She is very well published, having co-authored five books and written over 80 journal articles in her field of study.

Dr. Porac will be taking over the Humanities and Social Sciences

Director position that was left vacant when Dr. Roberta Salper stepped down last year. Dr. Dean Baldwin has been acting division head since Dr. Salper left, and he has been recognized by both students and faculty as having done a great job in the interim.

While many students do not understand what the director of the school in which they are enrolled does, it is a very important position. In an interview with Dr. Baldwin, he explained what the director's responsibilities are. The director deals

with personnel matters for their division. These matters include the hiring of new faculty members, overseeing the performance of the faculty, handling whatever problems the faculty has, and helping with promotion and tenure of faculty members. The director also deals with curriculum development by working with the department heads on revising and updating the curriculum.

The director also can do a lot for students. Students who want a course substitution in their major, approval of an independent study, or to declare a dual major must talk with the director of their school. Also students wanting to comment on the performance of one of their professors should talk to the director of the school. Recruiting and retention of students for the school is also part of the director's duties. This involves talking to students at open houses and sponsoring events, such as the Humanities and Social Sciences Pizza Party held last month in Lawrence Hall. Finally, the director usually teaches one course in their field per semester.

The Division of Humanities and Social Sciences consists of six majors: Communication, English, general Arts and Sciences, History, Political Science, and Psychology. It also has two specialized minors: Gender Studies and International Studies, and an Elementary and Secondary Education co-op program with Mercyhurst College. The division has 50 full time and approximately 30 part time faculty, varying by semester.

Dr. Porac will begin her new position this summer, and will have a great many things to do to prepare for the upcoming school year.

by Shannon Weber
news editor

Two of the most prestigious senior awards in the Penn State system were recently won by two of Behrend's seniors, Kristi McKim, 08 Eng. and Gretchen Kline-deHart, 08 Psych. At a recent awards ceremonies held at University Park, the John W. Oswald Award was presented to McKim, and the recipient of the Ralph Dorn Hetzel Memorial Award was Kline-deHart.

The John W. Oswald Award is given in the honor of John W. Oswald, the thirteenth president of Penn State. It is awarded to a graduating senior who has excelled in at least one of the following areas: scholarship, athletics, social service, religious activity, student government, and communication. The Ralph Dorn Hetzel Award honors another former president of Penn State. The Hetzel Award is granted to an undergraduate who has illustrated qualities such as leadership during his or her college career and gives the promise of public-spirited achievement in the future. This is the second year in a row that Behrend has

had students receive two of the seven University-wide awards given to seniors.

Kristi McKim is an English major from New Castle and received her award for participation in journalism, speech and the mass media. She is co-editor in chief of Behrend's journal of literature and the arts, *Tempus*. McKim is also a writing tutor in the Learning Resource Center.

In addition to being a student, Gretchen Kline-deHart is also a registered nurse and has served as a teaching assistant in her major, Psychology. She has also served as a teaching assistant in German and women's studies. Kline-deHart is a Lion Ambassador. She has been instrumental in serving the College through her membership on the Student Activity Fee Committee, the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, and the Strategic Planning Committee. When asked how she felt about being the recipient of the Hetzel Award, she stated, "I feel honored to be recognized out of the whole graduating class of Penn State."

Look on page 9 for the results of the pizza taste testing contest to see who has the best pizza in Erie!!!

Hepatitis shots available to Behrend students

by Jennifer Hemme
staff writer

Behrend's Health and Wellness Center is offering the Hepatitis B vaccine to all students. Hepatitis B is an inflammation of the liver. It is caused by the hepatitis B virus and is considered a sexually transmitted disease (STD). There is no known cure for the disease and it is 100 times more contagious than HIV.

Hepatitis B can be transmitted through body fluids like semen and blood, and also through toothbrushes and razors. Some of the symptoms of Hepatitis B are: jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), pain in the right side of the abdomen (where the liver is located), dark urine, long-term and persistent fatigue, and also flu-like symptoms (nausea, vomiting, fever, and appetite loss).

College-age students are at the highest risk for all STDs, including Hepatitis B, and Behrend students are no exception. Patty Pasky-McMahon, director of the Health and Wellness

Center says "When studies have been done that look at the sexual behavior of students here at Behrend, comparing them to students at other college campuses, we were no different. We were not better; we were not worse. So they [Behrend students] are as much at risk, nationally, as other college students are."

Pasky-McMahon advises students to use the same preventative measures for Hepatitis B as those used to prevent HIV infection, namely that students should use protection (condoms, dental dams) during sexual activity and that they should not share needles, razors, or toothbrushes. She says, "I always tell people that in all personal care items remember the word 'personal'—it's for yourself—because that is the safest thing for you and for others."

The Hepatitis B vaccine is \$40.00 an injection at the Health and Wellness Center. The treatment consists of three shots given over a period of six months and it lasts at least ten years.

New Editor-in-Chief takes over *Beacon*

by Will Jordan
editor-in-chief

Once again, the reins of leadership of the *Beacon* will be changing hands for the Fall semester. Many other editorial staff positions will be changing hands as well.

Jason Snyder, a second semester Communications major, will become the new editor-in-chief in August. Snyder, who has been the sports editor of the *Beacon* for the past two semesters, is looking forward to being editor-in-chief. "I hope to continue in the path that Will Jordan started. I am looking forward to working with a larger staff and many new faces. I am confident that the people who will be returning will set an example for incoming editors. I hope to continue putting out a quality paper that the students can be proud of," stated Snyder.

Several editors will be leaving the

Beacon after this semester. Will Jordan will be transferring to the Uni-

versity Park campus in the fall to further his education in the College of Communications. Ayodele Jones, the managing editor and office manager, will be stepping down to focus on graduating next semester. Jon Stubbs, the features editor, will be transferring down to University Park

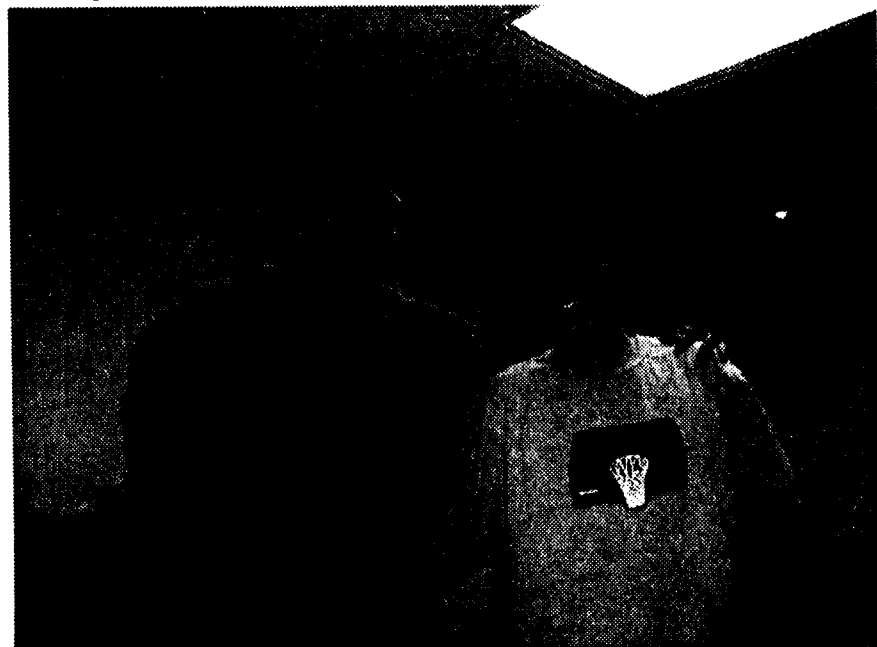
as well. Other editors that will be

leaving are editorial page editor, Natalie Gagliano, business manager,

Jaime Davis, and copy editor, Rose Forrest.

Mike Frawley, current assistant editor, will become the new managing editor of the *Beacon*. "I am looking forward to working with Jason next semester, but I will still miss all the outgoing editors and wish them the best of luck."

Also returning is news editor Shannon



Former editor in chief Will Jordan congratulates new editor in chief Jason Snyder

photo by Mike Frawley

editor cont. pg. 2

What's Inside?

Open bottle
of Ice
House

pg. 2

Star Wars Trivia

pg. 7

Softball
wins
AMCC

pg. 9

What's Inside?