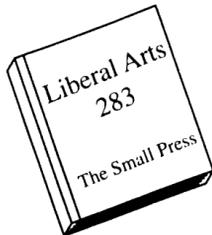


Students' books to be published

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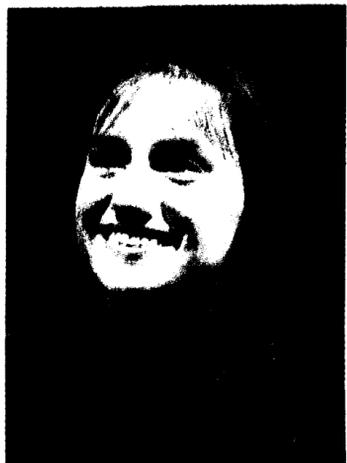
A Penn State Erie Student Publication

SGA president-elect Miles talks of goals for 2000/2001

by Tracy Jones staff writer

classmen] should have that option first," said Miles.

Another issue with housing is the \$795 base fee that resident students must pay for their meal plans. Miles wants to know where it goes and what exactly it is used for. "When



Jen Miles

you do the math, the University is making upwards of \$2 million dollars just from this base fee. I want to know — and want students to know — just where their money is going," said Miles.

With only three weeks left in the school year, Miles plans to finish this year up and tie up any loose ends, preparing to dive right into her agenda at the start of next semester.

The Beacon will feature vice president-elect Clint Skillen's goals in next week's paper.

Academics will be a larger focus of the SGA next fall as newly-elected president Jen Miles takes the helm at the start of the school year. Miles has many goals and plans for next semester, and with the cooperation of senators, council members, and student body, some positive changes will take place.

Miles' main focus will be academics, and she plans to work to make the quality of a Behrend education better. She would like to form academic committees for all majors, including everything from marketing to engineering. Students will sit on these committees, and they would be available when it comes time to hire new professors and interview them. A student-run database could also be created, containing information about professors, their teaching styles, and how their classes are run, so that students will know what to expect and which professor they'd prefer.

Student safety issues will also be addressed, and offenses such as prank phone calls and automobile break-ins in the isolated parking lots will be looked into. Miles is also concerned about computer safety, such as hacking and lack of privacy.

A commuter lounge is also proposed, which would give commuter students a place to relax, watch TV, visit with friends or just study between classes. The lounge would provide those students a place besides Bruno's to hang out in.

When it comes to housing, Miles sees a few problems. One is that "the lottery system of room assignments implemented this year just isn't working. Seniority should come into play here, so that seniors get their first choice of housing, then juniors, and so forth. There's no reason for seniors to be living in the dorms while there are first-semester students in Ohio Hall. They [the upper

A new Greek tradition begins



PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUNER

Bill Williams, International President of Delta Chi fraternity, speaks at the Greek Awards Banquet.

Greek members honored at Awards Banquet

by Karl Benacci news co-editor

The first annual Greek Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Reed Commons. The purpose of the event was not only to honor Penn State Behrend's fraternities and sororities, but also to honor the Greek system as a whole.

Shawna Pelasky, the coordinator of Greek life and student leadership programs, made the opening remarks. The spotlight then moved to the guest speaker, Bill Williams, who is the International President of the Delta Chi fraternity. His speech about various Greek issues received a standing ovation from the audience.

The remaining segment of the banquet was set aside for the presenting of awards.

A committee that consisted of Ken Miller, dean of students; Linda Lombardi Nestor, acting associate dean of student affairs; and Kris Motta, assistant director of student activities, chose the winners of the awards.

There were a total of sixteen different awards distributed, including the "Friend of Greek Life Award," which was given to

Christopher Rizzo, director of student activities. "I am honored to receive the award. Anytime that one is recognized for years of service and work, it is very reinforcing. . . . Since I began my position as director of Student Activities in 1994, I've been a voice of support and challenge within the Greek system. It gives me a sense of accomplishment to know that the students appreciate my efforts over the years," Rizzo stated.

The "Greek Man and Woman of the Year Awards" went to Kevin Mink (Delta Chi) and Erin Baker (Alpha Sigma Tau). "I am shocked and feel very honored to receive the award for "Greek Woman of the Year," Erin Baker commented. "There were several deserving women up for this award and each of them should be recognized as well. I am still surprised that I was chosen."

Matthew Eckl, who is also the Interfraternity Council president, gave closing remarks to end the banquet; a reception followed.

The idea for the Greek Awards ceremony can be credited to Erin Baker and Matthew Eckl. They both plan on having the awards

banquet again next year. Erin Baker stated, "The banquet went more smoothly than I anticipated and I was very happy with the outcome. I think it was a very positive effort to support the Greek community."

Eckl added, "This event was a great opportunity to recognize those who give their time to advance Greek life. In future years, competition for these awards alone will be incentives for greater achievement among chapters."

Rizzo remarked on the value of the Greek system, stating: "An undergraduate Greek experience constructed upon the core values of sister/brotherhood, ritual, and history can be a very powerful developmental journey for a student, building leadership skills and connections to other students and the College that will serve that individual far beyond her/his college years. I applaud efforts of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils and those individuals who put together the First Annual Greek Awards to celebrate the academic, service, and leadership efforts of Greek students and chapters at Penn State Behrend."

Panhellenic Council passes resolution to be alcohol-free

by Jason Snyder editor-in-chief

"This is a big move for the Behrend chapters to make," said Shawna Pelasky, coordinator of Greek Life at Behrend. Pelasky is encouraged that the Behrend chapters are the first small institution to make the resolution and commend all three Behrend chapters for doing so.

Pelasky added, "this is a huge step and one that the National Panhellenic Council has been encouraging all campus chapters to make." Behrend is one of a select few colleges in the nation to pass the resolution and the only college in the Erie area to make the change.

Stephanie Falcone, the Scholarship Chair of Panhellenic Council, sees the resolution as a risk management tool for the Behrend chapters. She sees the Behrend sororities working on improving their image and moving away from alcoholic functions. "We want to move away from an alcoholic image, because that's not what we're about."

Dean of Students Ken Miller also is encouraged by the resolution saying, "it makes a major statement about Panhel's view toward alcohol."

The resolution will be put into effect at the beginning of the Fall 2000 semester.

Behrend's Panhellenic Council has recently joined a small group of college campuses across the nation in continuing their efforts to move toward an alcohol-free image. The council unanimously passed a resolution that will encourage the Behrend chapters of the Panhellenic Council to co-sponsor functions in men's fraternity facilities only if the functions are alcohol free.

"This document essentially says that they (Behrend's sororities) will not have any alcoholic functions with a fraternity unless they are at an off-campus location with a third party vendor," said Pelasky.

Alpha Sigma Alpha's national organization already enforced the resolution for some time before the idea was brought to Behrend's Panhellenic Council. However, the representatives of the Theta Phi Alpha and Alpha Sigma Tau sororities needed to take the idea to the delegates in their respective chapters. The delegates of both sororities passed the resolution, which was taken to the Panhellenic Council for a 3-0 vote for the new policy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. CLARE PORAC

Undergraduate Student Research and Creative Accomplishment Conference

Anna Zielinski and Edyta Stadnik present their research on "The Atmospherics of On-Line Marketing" about marketing to college students on websites. The Undergraduate Student Research and Creative Accomplishment Conference was held on Saturday, April 8, in the Academic Building.

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Wish-a-thon 2000 April 14-15



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