

Tucker reminisces about his 36 years at Behrend

by Ryan Flaherty
staff writer

"I have seen this place grow physically and academically."

- Dr. Eva Tucker

Not many students can remember when most classes were held in the Science Building, or when the cafeteria was located in Turnbull Hall. But Dr. Eva Tucker can recall many memories such as this from his extensive career at Behrend. "I have seen this place grow physically and academically," recalled Dr. Tucker.

Tucker started at Behrend back in the fall of 1964 when it was still a commonwealth campus. He started his work as an instructor of geoscience during his first four years at Behrend. Then, in 1968, he became an assistant professor of geoscience, which is his current title to date. Most students may recognize Tucker from his Geosc 20, The Planet Earth, class and his introductory oceanography class Geosc40, The Seas Around Us.

However, teaching at Behrend is not his only involvement in Erie. Tucker is currently a member of the Erie School Board and has been since he was appointed in November of 1964. During his time on the school board Tucker and his colleagues have made sure that proper funding has been given to the education system as well as making sure the city is providing a good quality of education.

About a year after starting at Behrend, Tucker became actively



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

involved in the community with numerous programs. Past involvements have included being on the board of directors for The Greater Erie Community Action Committee (a non-profit corporation that supports educational programs and scholarships); The Erie Museum and Planetarium; The Booker T. Washington Center; and WQLN TV. He also was a member of Family Services and was active in the Arts Festival.

Tucker is currently on the board of directors for the Incorporation of St. Vincent's Health Center and is the Director of Harborcreek Youth Services (a non-profit Catholic Institute Service to young men with behavioral problems).

Also active in church, Tucker is a member of the Steward Board at St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME).

To sum up his time at Behrend, Tucker said, "My experience at Behrend has been a very challenging and rewarding experience. I've enjoyed it. The people I have worked with were very professional and concerned about the quality of education to all students." Also mentioned was that very frequently students tell him that their parents have said "Hi," parents who had Tucker when they went to school at Behrend.

The end of this spring semester will mark Tucker's thirty-sixth year at Behrend.

ISPTH: long name, deep thoughts

by Erin McCurdy
staff writer

everyone to attend their discussions. This club is open to students, faculty, and staff.

The groups meet Wednesdays at 4 p.m. They meet in the upstairs of the Reed Union Building, in one of the vacant rooms.

Keenan Hansen and Jesse Colaizzi are the co-founders and co-presidents of this Club. Hansen is very excited about this focus group; he hopes that "the group's discussions will help everyone to gain a better understanding between the sexes."

Leeley Vahey, ISPTH's treasurer, feels that "the group will enable open conversation and allow anyone to voice their opinion." Natalie Gagliano, ISPTH's secretary, hopes that "the group will help to disintegrate ethnic, social, and sexist barriers in today's society."

Besides gaining membership, the next goal for the group is to hold a "Champagne Soiree" at Logan House. In the beginning of the fall semester, ISPTH is planning on holding a poetry reading. They are hoping to create a "coffee house" atmosphere where anyone is welcome to attend and/or read poetry. Details have not yet been finalized for the activity.

Any questions about the club should be directed to Hansen at x7015 or Colaizzi at x6501.

Another addition to Behrend's student organizations was made last month: ISPTH is a new club created for students wanting to discuss anything from current events to specific readings.

ISPTH is an acronym for the Intellectual Society for the Propagation of Transcendental Humanism. This group has focus-group discussions on chauvinism, bigotry, and sexism in our modern society. They want to discuss the various roles that men and women assume in society, and why. They believe that there is a conflict between modern sociological gender, which they feel is rooted in the formation of our patriarchal society, and our individual beliefs.

Their goal is to arrive at a better understanding of society's and human's inner-lying tensions and to create a resolution strategy through an appreciation of humankind's values, capacities, and achievements.

The group selects various readings to discuss, be they current articles from the news or specific chapters from a book, and then the following meeting they devote their time to this discussion.

They encourage anyone and

Creative Writer's Speaker Series concludes with Albert Goldbarth

Award winning publisher reads work at Behrend

by Becky Weindorf
associate editor

Albert Goldbarth, a creative nonfiction writer, visited Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, on Thursday, April 6, to read some of his works in the final installment of this year's Creative Writers Speaker Series.

The reading took place in the Reed Lecture Hall and was presented by the Clarence A. and Eugenie Baumann Smith Fund and the Mary Behrend Cultural Fund. The reading was free and open to the public.

On Thursday night, Goldbarth chose to read one of his essays, "The Whole of a Person's Nature," and one of his poems, "Powers" — both of

which were based on the nostalgia he has for his childhood.

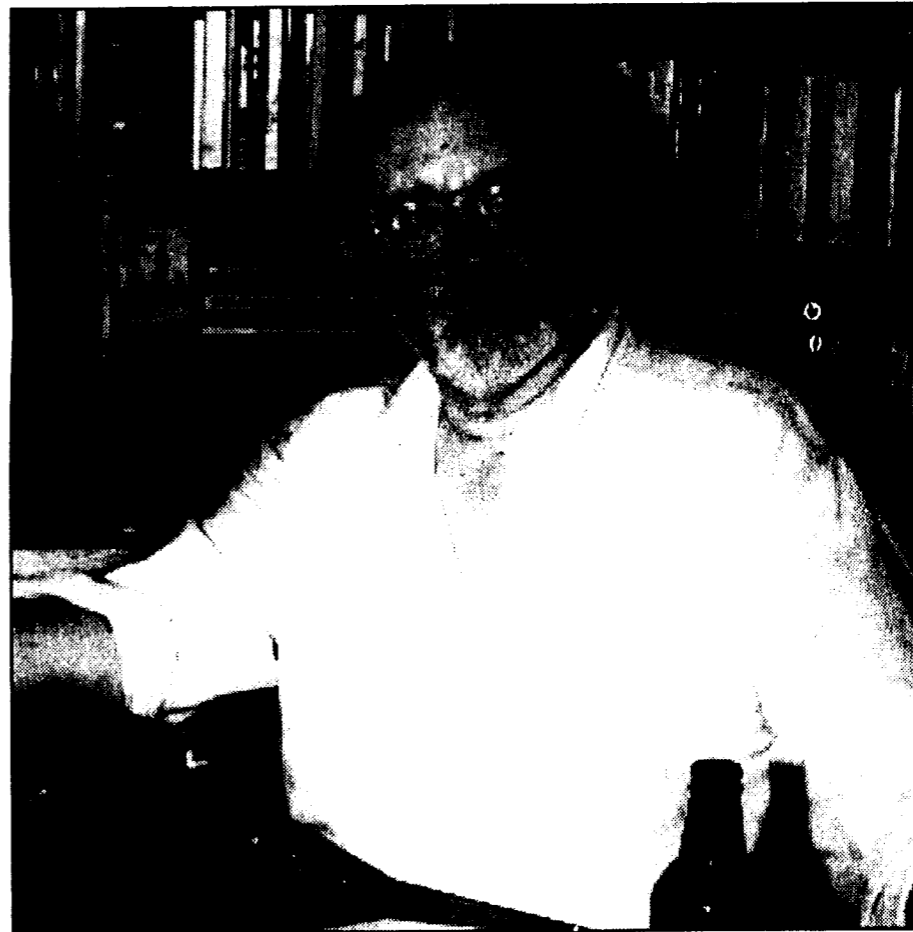
The essay and poem, according to Goldbarth, was "attempting to address ... a nostalgic need as a culture at a time when lives were led more wholly ... giving meaning to our human existence."

Most notably, this "meaning" he was referring to was found in the innumerable comic book superheroes he read about during most of his childhood.

The pieces also attempted to describe the increasing complexity of life that one finds when he or she becomes older. The transition from comic books to the real world was a strong theme throughout both of the works he read. Another focus in his

writing was on the escape that comic books provided from the "real world." Goldbarth was available with copies of one of his published books for the audience to purchase and for book signings after the reading. Goldbarth has been publishing books of poetry for 25 years, and has written three volumes of essays, *Dark Waves and Light Matter* being his most recent. He has published in hundreds of literary journals as well, including *The New Yorker* and the independent magazine *Kayak*.

Goldbarth has also received many awards for his writings, including the Guggenheim and three National Endowment for the Arts fellowships. He has also won the National Book Critics Circle Award.



Albert Goldbarth presented his award-winning writings at Behrend on April 6. His works include "The Whole of a Person's Nature" and a poem entitled, "Powers." Goldbarth has received the National Endowment for the Arts fellowship three times and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

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