

## Renowned poet concludes series

by Erin McCarty  
assistant news editor

Poet Stephen Dunn concluded Behrend's 2000-2001 Creative Writers Speaker Series, co-sponsored by the Mary Behrend Cultural Fund and the Clarence and Eugenie Baumann Smith Fund, on Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall. He was introduced by Dr. George Looney, a creative writing professor at Behrend and the first speaker in the series.

"It was [Dunn's] poetry that I read first 20 years ago that sparked my interest in contemporary poetry," Looney said, praising it for its ability to "make visible for us the worlds we live in but seldom notice and never understand."

Dunn, a tall, bearded man looking very professorial with his silk vest and spectacles, began his reading with the poem "Last Hours," which described his feelings on the last day of his job working for a large snack corporation. He followed this in short order with "Sexual Revolution," "Something Like Happiness," and "Before the Sky Darkens" before pausing to preface his poem "60" with an unnerving bit of personal history.

"I always expected I would die young," Dunn said, referring to the fact that none of the men in his family had ever lived to the age of 60. He added that such an outlook had actually proven quite useful to him, as it compelled him to live each day to its fullest. The poem which resulted from his ruminations on his age was written as a birthday message to himself.

Although Dunn is a great believer in the Socratic saying that "the unexamined life is not worth living," he has often found himself thinking just the opposite. "At the Restaurant," the next poem which he read, reflected this latter attitude of ambivalence. The next three poems, "Old Dogs," "What Goes On," and "Our Parents," all grappled with the theme of love, though approaching it from different angles. Dunn followed these fairly somber poems with the humorous highlights of the evening.

"John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met." This was the epigraph, taken from a short story

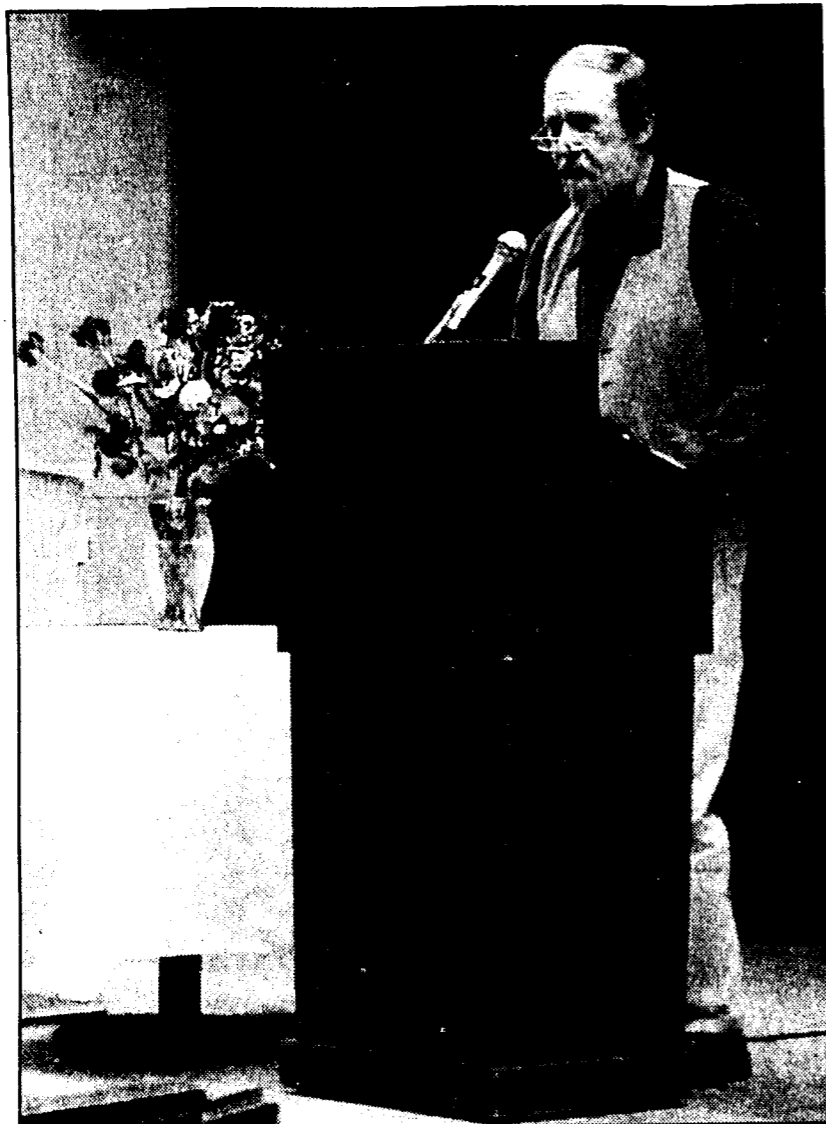


PHOTO BY ROB WYNNF

Stephen Dunn concluded the Creative Writers Speaker Series on Wednesday with a reading from his books of poetry. Dunn is a favorite poet of Professor George Looney, who introduced Dunn and spoke earlier this year in the speaker series.

written by a college freshman, which formed the basis of Dunn's next poem. Titled "John and Mary," it was a series of similes used to describe the fluttering lovers. He followed this with "Decorum," a poem which he admitted he was very unsure about reading on this occasion. Written from the perspective of creative writing teacher, the poem dealt with a class discussion on whether or not "the 'F' word" should replace "lovemaking" in a particular poem.

Dunn then switched gears by reading from his book of prose pairs, short works of prose intended to be read in pairs. He proceeded to read "Rights," "Principles," "Scruples," and "Saints," followed by "Seriousness" and "Oklahoma City." He led up to his conclusion with

"Story." "Burying the Cat," and "Backwaters," all of which, as Dunn apologetically noted, had to do with dogs or cats. He ended with "A Post-Mortem Guide (For My Eulogist in Advance)," a sobering yet witty poem about how he would like to be remembered.

The reading lasted for one hour and was followed by a brief question and answer period. Dunn remained to sign autographs for audience members, and several of his books, which include 10 collections of poetry, of which *Loosestrife* is the most recent, and two books of prose: *Walking Light: Essays and Memoirs* (1993) and *Riffs and Reciprocities: Prose Pairs* (1998).

## Faculty help students in more way than one

Staff contribute money towards scholarship endowment

by Breanna Bush  
staff writer

The faculty and staff of Behrend do more than just teach students. Approximately 58% of them, or 217 donors, give some of their earnings to what is called the Behrend Faculty and Staff Scholarship Campaign.

In spring 1999 a Behrend Faculty and Staff Committee, chaired by Associate Professor of Engineering Robert Farrell, decided to focus on the creation of a new scholarship endowment as a contribution to the University's Grand Destiny Campaign.

"Robert Farrell is a strong supporter of this campaign and he is very invested in the efforts to generate support among Behrend Faculty for student scholarships,"

said Mary Negri, associate director of development.

This committee met over a period of time and decided that its emphasis would be on donor participation. It then created a new scholarship called The Behrend Faculty and Staff Scholarship Endowment. This scholarship provided another avenue for faculty to benefit students directly.

The faculty and staff are able to allocate the money that they donate for scholarships to one of Behrend's 4 schools — Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Engineering and Engineering Technology, and Science. There is also an option to donate to DUS, or the Division of Undergraduate Studies, for those students who have not yet chosen a major.

The Faculty and Staff

Scholarships are given to the most outstanding student in each school. This is based on academic achievements. The faculty can nominate a student if they choose. The school director then forwards the student's name to the scholarship committee. Each scholarship is worth about \$500 and may increase each year as the faculty and staff makes more contributions.

The Faculty and Staff endowment is currently worth \$57,000 and the objective is for it to be worth \$100,000 by the end of the five-year period. Negri explained that the funds in this endowment have been invested, and only five percent of the fund is spent each year for the actual scholarships (as per IRS regulations). Right now, this percentage equals a little more than \$2,500.

## H&SS hosts state-wide conference

by Luke Schneider  
staff writer

Having trouble remembering the mountains of information required to do well on the finals? To help understand why, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences will host The Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference, scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The conference presents students and faculty with a chance to share ideas and present research, according to H&SS Director Dr. Clare Porac.

"We are most excited about The Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference coming to Behrend," said Porac.

WPUPC has provided students with the opportunity to present their research since 1972. In the past 29 years, thousands of students have presented their research and a few have gone on to become respected psychologists.

The keynote speaker for this year's

conference is James S. Nairne, PhD, a professor of psychological sciences at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. Dr. Nairne's speech, entitled "The Myths of Memory," will discuss how current scientific conceptions of memory differ from everyday views. For example, most researchers no longer believe we store "copies" of experience in the brain. He will provide examples of false remembering from the laboratory and from average settings.

Nairne's research specialty is human memory. Nairne is an associate editor for *The Journal of Memory and Language*, a consulting editor for *Memory*, and he has served on several editorial boards, including *the Journal of Experimental Psychology Learning and Memory & Cognition*. Nairne won the Year 2000 Excellence in Education Award from Purdue University and he was a G. Stanley Hall speaker at the 2000 convention of the American Psychological Association.

Students have two options for submitting their research. Research

can be submitted in both paper and poster sessions. The paper sessions will be 10 minutes, plus five minutes for questions. Students will be able to use PowerPoint, slides, overheads, and TV/VCRs for their presentations. A paper session should consist of a concise 10-minute oral presentation discussing the question being studied, the methods used, what was found, and what it means to the field of psychology. Poster presenters should display their research on 36" X 48" posters. Students should also bring copies of a one-page handout of their presentation. The deadline to submit papers is today.

This year the WPUPC is using an online conference registration form. They ask that each student planning to attend the conference, even if not presenting, complete the form. They ask that all registrations be in by April 13, but registrations will be accepted the day of the conference. The conference fee is \$8, to be paid at registration at 8:00 a.m. the day of the conference.

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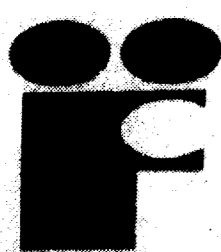
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