



THE BEHREND Beacon

March 29, 2002

12 Pages

Vol. XLIX

No. 25

• A PENN STATE ERIE STUDENT PUBLICATION •



Spring 2002

WEATHER

Friday's forecast:



Mostly Cloudy
High: 55°
Low: 39°

Check page 2 for the weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE

NEWS

A panel met on Thursday in honor of Women's History Month and International Women's Day. The panel discussion, titled "The Legacy of the American Women's Liberation: Post-9/11 Afghan Women and International Feminism," featured Dr. Colleen Kelley, Dr. John Rossi, Dr. Eric Corty, Allison Parr-Plasha, and Dr. Syed Andaleeb. See page 2.

The annual Evening of Dubious Taste will be held Tuesday. A Behrend tradition since the '80s, it is a night of bad writing and frightening food. Check it out on page 2.

The dynamic duo Yellow Rage performed at Behrend on Wednesday. Through spoken poetry, they help to diffuse stereotypes of Asians. Read more on page 3.

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Poet Martin Espada inspires, in both English and Spanish



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

On Thursday night, poet Martin Espada read to about 75 students, faculty and staff in Reed 117. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Espada first visited Puerto Rico when he was 10 years old and has returned several times. Espada's poems were often biographical, including one about his time as a lawyer in Puerto Rico and his discussion with Pennsylvania death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Some of his poems were bilingual, combining the smooth rhythm of the Spanish language with verse carefully crafted in English. One poem addresses the common stereotype of Puerto Rican culture that Espada encounters, one of how a "Puerto Rican" should look, act and dress. In addition to subtly satirizing stereotypes people hold, Espada uses several of his poems to offer insight of the issue.

Espada's animated, powerful, and lyrical reading made him another accomplished addition to the English department's Creative Writer series. The event was sponsored by the Student Activity Fee, the organization of Latin American Students, the Lion Entertainment Board, and the Clarence A. Smith & Eugenie Baumann Smith Fund.

Convocation to give communication students taste of real world

by Nicole Charsar
staff writer

Calling all Communications majors! Are you interested in gleaning the benefits from years of valuable "in the trenches experience" of communications professionals? Then you should attend the first annual Communications Convocation, titled "Creating A Personal Matrix for Success," it will be held on April 6 in Roche Hall from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Although this event is geared especially towards communications majors, students of all majors are welcome.

"This event is a first for our campus and it's a golden opportunity for students to listen and learn from communications specialists in the various fields of television, journalism, public relations, advertising and new media," said John Kerwin, professor of communications and one of the co-coordinators of this event. The other coordinators are Richard Welch, a professor from Mercyhurst, and Behrend

professor Clare Porac. He added that the day will be for and by the students from Edinboro, Gannon, Mercyhurst, and Penn State Behrend. The students will facilitate the day's activities and the afternoon's break-out sessions where companies such as Bensur Advertising, Erie Convention and Visitors Bureau, Erie Times-News, WICU-TV, General Electric, and Corry Publishing will share their perspectives and employment opportunities in their respective fields.

Erie mayor Rick Filippi and his communications assistant Tina Mengine, a Behrend professor, will chat with the students during a catered lunch at Bruno's. Breakfast and lunch are both free, but students must register between 10:30 and 11 a.m. and receive a ticket. For more information, please contact student facilitators Angela Rush (asr142@psu.edu) and Megan McNameara (msm245@psu.edu) of the Association of Women in Communications.

Behrend business students take a closer look at the world

by Niki Clouse
staff writer

Professor Jana Goodrich's International Management students transformed Behrend's Reed Wintergarden and McGarvey Commons into 34 countries Sunday evening.

The students called this international event "Walk the World, Taste a Nation," and that was exactly what people got to experience when they walked around the booths that were set up inside McGarvey Commons. Each exhibit had four to six students who were chosen by Goodrich from her two MANGT 480 classes.

Goodrich said the exhibits were designed to reflect the culture and business practices of other countries.

"We live in a global world where, even if we never have an 'international' job, we will be interacting with people from other countries and cultures very frequently and must be well prepared to do so," she said.

At each exhibit, the country's flag was draped over the tables and poster boards were displayed to show pictures of the people, buildings, animals, and food in that country. Population and poverty statistics which compared one country to another were also displayed. Some booths had televisions or laptops that displayed a slide show of the countries, and all of them had comparison sheets or handouts for guests to pick up to read more about business and culture in each country. Several friends and family of students loaned items to be arranged on the tables as part of the display. Angie Leasure, a student in

MANGT 480, said that she feels she will not embarrass herself in her job because she has a better grasp on what is happening in the global business world. Goodrich said that was one of the main goals of the event.

"As students become international business people, or become involved with organizations that do business internationally, they need not only to recognize that there are very significant differences among cultures, but to be able to research those cultures so that business can be conducted there safely and effectively," said Goodrich.

The exhibits were not the only international events that attracted other peers, parents, professors, and even a few kids. There was also Latin dancing that was presented by Ron and Cheri Mahovsky and an instrumental presentation including bagpipes played by professor Dr. Pamela Silver and drums played by Douglas Clark. Ashraf Jessani, a student of Behrend, did Henna painting. Near the end of the event there was a raffle.

The food buffet, that sat to the left of the entrance, seemed to draw a lot of attention. The menu had a variety of foods such as the Ecuadorian treat mini potato pancakes, Greek spinach pie, a Russian cookie, an Asian appetizer (mini egg rolls) and many other delicious dishes.

Students were dressed in business apparel ready to answer any questions that the guests had about their display and research. The evening ended with Goodrich thanking her students for their outstanding work and accomplishments.

Brandi Hovis renews commitment to SGA

by Kevin Fallon
assistant news editor

A sign that hangs in the SGA office reads, "The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was 'involved'—the pig was 'committed'."

If this is true, then Student Government president, Brandi Hovis has really been hamming it up during her years at Behrend.

And Hovis is further demonstrating her commitment to Behrend by running uncontested for SGA president for a second straight term, a feat that is rarely done.

"Brandi has shown exceptional commitment to SGA," said Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs and SGA advisor. "She is very interested in student concerns and suggestions and uses every opportunity to seek feedback from students. If she says she is going to do something, she will and do it well." Hovis will likely start her second term in the fall.

"I'm very excited and look forward to serving for a second year because I understand and know a lot more going into SGA," said Hovis.

Many said the school will benefit from Hovis' upcoming reelection because she can pick up right where she left off.

"(The reelection) is a good thing because this way Brandi knows what she didn't accomplish," said SGA senator Jason Snyder. "It benefits students because there are a lot of pressing issues she didn't have time to address."

And there are many issues Hovis

thinks SGA needs to look at next semester.

"I think SGA needs to really play their role with the student population and what the students want," said Hovis. "We need to inform the students of things that are affecting them and making them realize that they do have a voice at Behrend."



Name: Brandi Hovis

Age: 22

Major: Bus. Management

Future plans: To go to graduate school for Student Personnel Administration then work in higher education.

History in SGA: senator, secretary, president, and THON chair.

Hometown: Cochranton, Pa.

They can voice their opinions on faculty, advising, information technology, parking, diversity, and construction."

Hovis is running with Katie Leary, and next semester will mark the first time Behrend has seen females filling both president and vice

president seats.

"I think it's great," said Hovis. "Since I've been here it's always been girl/guy combos so it's something different. But, in my eyes, it's whether we have the dedication and enthusiasm that really matters and counts."

Hovis will have to deal with an almost brand new senate, with only three of 11 current members running. But she said she is excited to try and build a strong senate with new faces.

"There are going to be a lot of new people. However, they are going to have a strong base in understanding their role as an Behrend SGA senator," said Hovis. "I will strongly encourage that each senator represent and reach out to all students so they have a better understanding of SGA and the power every student at Behrend can have to make a difference."

Hovis has a modest view of her own presidency. She would rather point the attention to other members of SGA.

"The important people are the senate because that make all the decisions," said Hovis.

Her humble attitude though doesn't stop people from singing her praises.

"Brandi has demonstrated excellent leadership for SGA this past year and represents the students of Behrend in a consistently strong manner," said Miller.

Hovis' view on involvement and commitment is evident when she said, "I feel that if you're going to do it, then do it good."

And it seems she has indeed.