

Question of the Week

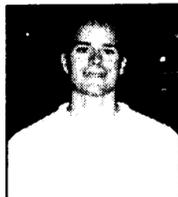
by Jen Henderson, associate editor



"Yes, she should go to jail."
Amy McElhaney
Psychology, 05



"Whatever the law states. She shouldn't get an easy rap just because she's a movie star."
Gerald A. Stevens
Management, 10



"No, because you have your average non-superstar person, who has committed the same crime and receives a small court infraction of community service or a fine."
Justin Bloyd
History, 03



"Yes, because if it were anyone else they would go to jail."
Wendy Rihel
Communications, 09



"Yes, just because she is a celebrity it shouldn't mean anything."
Ross Klingensmith
Software Engineering, 01

Fraterrigo joins Behrend English Department

by Kassi Hindman
staff writer

Every year Penn State Behrend welcomes many new faces. This year is no exception. One of the many new faculty members is Melissa Fraterrigo, who joined the English department. You may have her as a professor if you take English 15, rhetoric and composition, English 262, Reading Fiction, or English 50.

Fraterrigo grew up in a suburb outside of Chicago. She attended the University of Iowa before going to graduate school at Bowling Green

State University. Although this is her first year at Behrend it is not her first time working for Penn State. Out of college, she was a writer and resident at Penn State Altoona. As she put it, "I wrote a lot and taught a little."

Her teaching career began as a high school English teacher. She also taught seventh grade while she was taking writing classes. However, she learned that teaching seventh grade was just skimming the surface of writing. She wanted to go into more depth with her students. The answer to this conflict was to teach at the collegiate level. Her first job as a professor was at Southern Utah

University, where she also taught English.

Fraterrigo has a one year contract with Penn State Behrend.

When asked about what she likes about Behrend she said, "I like the students here. They are interested in learning and are always questioning things." Besides teaching English she also enjoys writing her own fiction. She has published many short stories.

Teaching three classes occupies most of her time. However, when she is not busy with her teaching or writing she also enjoys swimming,

camping, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

She has two pieces of advice for the students at Behrend.

"Enjoy college. It will not last forever," she said. "Pay attention and look specifically at what aspects of classes you like when you are choosing a career path," said Fraterrigo.

Soup for the Soul discuss sheltering the homeless

by Erinn Hansen
calendar page editor

On Thursday, students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Smith Chapel for the fifth of this semester's Soup for the Soul.

This week's series, entitled "Shelter the Homeless," presented Sister Marie Eileen and Vaughn Hewitt who talked about St. Patrick's Haven.

"St. Pat's is a shelter to get men off of the streets at night so they will have a warm place to stay," said Sister Eileen. "Most of our money we use comes from donations from people in the community."

St. Pat's was started when a man was found lying on street grates in order to keep warm. Workers never used to get paid for this program, however, a few years ago it was decided that minimum wage was to be paid. It can hold 23 people - 21 men and two managers - and feeds people on Saturdays because the Soup kitchen is closed.

The event then featured Hewitt, who spoke about his life and experience at St. Patrick's. Three years ago, he was an alcoholic and things were not going right for him.

"I got myself so far down in a hole, that I felt like I had no way out," said Hewitt. Sister Eileen then offered him the job to work at St. Pat's that he volunteered to take. The first year was a little rough for him, but he made it through ok. It was during his second year that he began to understand people

and that the place was no joke. What helped him come around was a prayer titled "Just Hang On" that he said and still says today. After three years of working at St. Pat's, he has completely changed from when he first started, and has been sober ever since.

This week's Soup for the Soul was a huge success, and the audience's reaction showed.

"It was interesting to hear his perspective on it because you get a sense of what is happening," said Jen Kuntz, student at Behrend.

Soup for the Soul, directed by Sister Mary Drexler, coordinator of Catholic Campus Ministry, and Lynn McNeil, coordinator of Protestant Campus Ministry, was started last spring during Lent.

"It is an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to gather for education and community building, around a particular topic," said Drexler. "It has been a wonderful program that has responded to a need on campus for this type of event."

Soup for the Soul attracts between 20 and 30 people, and occurs for six weeks a semester. It uses the Corporal Works of Mercy for each of its themes, featuring different speakers who work in each of the subjects, while providing free lunch to all that attend. Lunch included cream of mushroom soup, hamburger stew, rolls, water, and tea.

The last of this semester's Soup for the Soul will take place next Thursday at noon in the Smith Chapel, and will feature Reverend Charles McClung, who will present "Visit the Imprisoned."



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

United Way campaign exceeds goal

(From left) Alan Perez, president of United Way of Erie County; Brenda Bane, operator in the MISC Copy Center; Dr. James Kurre, associate professor of economics; and Ken Miller, director of Student Affairs, unveil the grand total for Behrend's United Way campaign. The goal of raising \$40,000 was exceeded by more than \$7,000, thanks to the donations of faculty, staff, and students.

This year saw an increased amount of student involvement. Although about the same number of people donated as last year, most donors gave more money.

Everyone who donated was automatically entered in a raffle, regardless of how much they gave. Especially large donations made donors eligible for grand prizes, including a new car and a shopping spree.

Although the incentives were a nice bonus, "We hope people donate because they care," said Bane. She said that there was a greater need this year because of the economic situation in Erie.

"Ninety-nine percent of the money stays in Erie," Bane said. "It's an agency that does a lot of good. You never know when you might need assistance."



PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON

Sister Marie Eileen shares her experience about working at St. Patrick's Haven Thursday. Also speaking was Vaughn Hewitt, who was aided by the shelter.