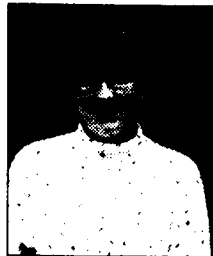


Question of the Week

by Jen Henderson, associate editor

"Do you wish Behrend had a 'walk way' to drive to class, even on winter days?"



"I think that it is dangerous to students and faculty who are trying to walk on a walk way!"

Prof. Susan Galle-Boyko
Psychology



"I think that it is fair, especially in the winter weather we have in Erie."

Jason Felege
Mathematics, 01



"It really doesn't make a difference to me."

Adam Curtis
DUS, 03



"Yes, that's a privilege of being a professor. As long as they don't run over any students, I don't see a problem with it."

Barbie Powell
Finance, 03



"I feel we all are part of the Behrend community and should follow the same rules and regulations."

Prof. Marcia Janson
Lecturer of Education

Gray expands his abilities in new Center for Navigation Research

by Katie Hinman
staff writer

The Pennsylvania Transportation Institute (PTI) was so with research being done by Dr. Robert Gray, assistant professor of engineering at Behrend, and his students that it has asked him to create a new Center for Navigation, Communication and Information Systems (CNCIS).

PTI said Gray's quality of research and that of the undergraduate research appeared to many of them as graduate-level projects. Gray's recent research is focused on the design and flight test of new aircraft avionics for enhanced flight safety and remote monitoring and diagnostics technologies. He has also been working on a program that combines learning and undergraduate research with GE Transportation Systems. Joining with PTI has many positive effects for the Behrend community.

"PTI has an international reputation and a long and successful grant record," said Dr. Jack Burke, interim provost and dean of Penn State Behrend. "Our relationship with PTI provides us with unprecedented access to research colleagues, grant funds, and other resources. The relationship will lead to increased funding for the college, and consequently more opportunities for faculty, staff, and student research. The center will work closely with companies and other organizations to develop further, their remote monitoring and diagnostics technology, including potential projects with the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Coast Guard, EMTA, and companies such as General Electric Transportation Systems." Being a professor in a university is more than just teaching the students.

"Being the director of this center will not be easy," said Gray. "For one thing, strict time management

is a must. Most PTI directors teach part time and research part time. They also have graduate students that help a tremendous amount with performing basic research. In fact, the graduate students at PTI perform a lot of the actual research under the guidance of their faculty advisor. This can be a godsend because it allows faculty to continue writing grants and performing necessary service and extended travel to the profession. I seem to follow a different pattern: I teach full-time and research full-time and am very active in other activities in helping at Behrend as well. I have been traveling a lot, too. What I will eventually need to do is find the right balance, too."

Conducting this amount of research is not easy, especially since many of Gray's colleagues are at University Park.

"Another challenge is how to be both efficient and effective while another set of your colleagues

are 3 1/2 hours drive away," said Gray. "I find myself frequently on the telephone or using a video conferencing from my workplace office or at home, driving or flying to University Park. It does take a lot of energy and determination, but I am willing (and excited) to give it a go. I think a future goal of mine would be to have a graduate student or research associate helping me and co-work with my undergraduate students on-site at Behrend. Another goal is to have other Behrend faculty working transportation related research of CNCIS at Behrend. That would be terrific. CNCIS can be used by other faculty at Behrend as a means to obtain funding and projects via PTI. Any faculty at Behrend interested to participate in the new center, CNCIS, can contact me at rxg31@psu.edu or x6184.

Psychology professor Boyko shares insights

by Caley Doran
staff writer

Susan Galle-Boyko has been employed part time by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences as a psychology professor for four years.

Galle-Boyko was born and raised in Erie. She graduated from McDowell High School. After graduation she went to Penn State Behrend where she earned her bachelors in Psychology. Galle-Boyko then attended Edinboro University where she earned her masters in Clinical Psychology. To teach psychology at the college level a Masters degree is required.

Along with teaching Galle-Boyko also works part time for a counseling agency in their employee assistance program.

"An employee assistance program, or EAP, is a service that businesses agree to offer to their employees," Galle-Boyko said. "Let's say that an employee needs to talk to a counselor about some minor issues. Employers realize that it would increase work productivity if the employee finds some one to talk to. So, the employer agrees to pay for a few sessions to help the employee as well as to help productivity. I would be the counselor that the employee comes to."

Galle-Boyko did not always want to be a Psychology professor.

"I was originally accepted to Behrend as an Engineering major," she said. "I didn't come to college wanting to be a psychology professor or teacher. My first semester I took Introductory Psychology with Dr. Kaligren along with other courses necessary for engineering. I aced my math and traditional science courses, but I did not ace Introductory Psychology. I was so upset that I took another psychology course my second semester, still without an A. My third course was Developmental Psychology, which I finally earned an A in, and by then I was hooked on the field of psychology."

Galle-Boyko then changed majors, convinced that she wanted to be a clinician.

Galle-Boyko had never seriously considered teaching until Behrend contacted her to finish Dr. Nixon's Developmental Psychology course. She accepted the offer and before long she was hooked on teaching.

"I continued to accept courses from Behrend ever since, and also signed up for substitute teaching in the Erie School District," she said. "I find purpose in life by helping and teaching others." Galle-Boyko, who has also taught at Mercyhurst College, is a newlywed.

"I was married for the first time on June 30, 2001 to my wonderful husband, John Galle-Boyko," she said. "We do not have any children...yet."

Outside of teaching, Galle-Boyko also enjoys rock climbing, although Erie is not the ideal place for such a sport. She said she loves to be outdoors and engages in activities such as rollerblading, swimming, and hiking. Galle-Boyko occupies her time with arts and craft activities in the winter months.

Galle-Boyko is also involved in the Academic Sports League program, which is a part of the National Academic Decathlon. The program was designed to allow high school students to compete locally and to qualify nationally in different academic subject areas. This year's first competition was held on

Saturday at Behrend.

"My level of participation is that I am one of the judges who will listen to student interviews, presentations, and debates, rating the quality and accuracy of their work," said Galle-Boyko. This year's national competition will be held in Erie.

"This may sound extremely humanistic, but my advice to all students is to know yourself," she said. "You have to live with yourself your whole life, and no one will know you as well as you know yourself. After you achieve the degree and you venture forth into the great world, the very foundational blocks that make you who you are will be tested as much as your knowledge in your subject area. If you don't stand up for what you know is right and ethical, then you will have failed yourself. And I have learned that it is better to be true to you and to do what you love to do versus 'selling out' to follow the crowd."

Galle-Boyko admires the full time Psychology faculty and says that they are "dedicated to providing the best academic environment for the Behrend students." Although Galle-Boyko has not had many opportunities to meet members of the other faculties, she said that those she has met show a dedication comparable to that of the Psychology faculty.

Of the students at Behrend, Galle-Boyko said, "I see Behrend's population as a typical group of college students for this decade. Most are dedicated to achieving their degree, while some are questioning why they are even in college."

One thing about students of this decade, especially students at Behrend, that surprises Galle-Boyko is how much they hate.

"While college is supposed to be an arena for fostering independent thought, it seems that there has been very little thought put into why there is this much hate," she said. "There is a difference between disagreeing with what a person or group of people believe or do, and terrorizing them for doing or being what they do and who they are. I would expect a small portion of students to have definite reasons from their childhood to hate, but I'm still seeing people without reason 'jump on the bandwagon' to hate."

"What I love most about this science is that it is able to bring hope into the lives of people that feel hopeless and helpless," said Galle-Boyko.



PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON
Psychology professor Susan Galle-Boyko shares insights garnered from her experience at Behrend.

Stevens adds humor to math department

by Lori DeFazio
staff writer

The Behrend Math Department is lucky to have with it the well-qualified, funny Scott Stevens.

Stevens received his B.A. from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, his M.S. from the University of Vermont, and then stayed at the University of Vermont to earn his Ph. D. Stevens has been employed as assistant professor of mathematics here since July. Before coming to Behrend, he spent two years at the University of Montana.

Like many college students, Stevens did not enter college knowing what his future career would be.

"I wanted to be the guitarist in a fabulously successful rock band," he said. "I still do but it's becoming increasingly unlikely that this career goal will be realized."

Stevens did not choose teaching as a career; it chose him.

"I knew I wanted to be in math and when I applied to graduate school at UVM they assigned me a teaching fellowship. I loved it and have been doing it ever since. Maybe it's the captive audience who feels that they should at least smile at my poorly delivered jokes," he added jokingly.

Like most that choose to come here and work, Dr. Stevens enjoys the size of Behrend and the students who attend.

"I really enjoy teaching and research," Stevens said. "Penn State Behrend offers the opportunity to do both in a nice town for raising a family. The strong engineering component here generates a greater appreciation of mathematics than one may find at a

liberal arts college."

Originally from Monroeville, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Stevens is enjoying his time in Erie.

"Presque Isle, Waldameer, Penn State Behrend, and of course the zoo have provided my family and I with a lot of good times," said Stevens. "I give Erie a big thumbs up. I've spent the last dozen years in small towns where you can walk to most everything you need, so all of the driving here has been a bit of a transition. I am now completely comfortable driving 50 or 60 mph just a few feet from cars traveling the same speed in the opposite direction. When I first moved here, that terrified me."

Currently, Dr. Stevens teaches two differential equations classes: Math 250 and Math 425.



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON
Dr. Scott Stevens brings levity to his role as assistant professor of mathematics.

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