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# The Behrend Beacon

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## Music at Noon series opens

### Quartet brings upbeat kickoff to Wintergarden series

by B.J. Shields  
staff writer

When most students hear the words chamber music, they probably shudder as they picture a bunch of blue-haired individuals listening to Bach over tea and crumpets. However, students who this week attended the 2003-2004 inaugural Music At Noon performance learned that chamber music doesn't have to be a bore.

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, the Stefan Harris Quartet jammed in the Reed Union Building's Wintergarden Atrium, opening the fourteenth season of the Logan Wintergarden Series. Their upbeat modern jazz seemed to capture the audience of both students and the public.

Daniel Barnard, professor of music, invited the band after hearing them in January at the Chamber Music America Conference in New York.

The second I heard them I knew they would be great in our series. I wanted our students to be able to see how they interact with each other in such a magical way, said Barnard, who defined chamber music not as stuffy classical music that you need to wear wigs to play, but simply as music where each instrument plays a separate part and with generally no conductor.

After a brief introduction by Dr.

Barnard, the band let loose with two original works that showcased the talent of master vibraphonist Stefan Harris.

He just banged away with those mallets like you wouldn't believe, and the ethereal sound of the marimba heightened the sensual flavor of their music, said fourth year senior Biology major Amanda Gruver.

During a break, Harris mentioned that they hadn't planned to perform the specific songs.

To play originals, the group really has to know each other, Harris told the crowd in reference to their improvisational performance.

The talented vibraphonist was accompanied by quartet members Kim Thompson on drums, Matthew Parrish on the upright bass, and pianist Xavier Davis. Harris himself claims a strong musical background with a Bachelor of Arts degree in classical music, and a Master of Arts degree in jazz performance, both obtained while he was a student at the Manhattan School of Music. He pointed out, though, that he and drummer Thompson began their musical endeavors much earlier in their youth by banging on pots and pans.

In closing the first performance in the Logan Wintergarden Series, as is customary, Harris opened the floor to

dialogue with the audience. He answered questions, and went as far as providing the audience with several brief lessons on the evolution of jazz and blues.

The Logan Wintergarden Series was founded in 1989 with funds from the Harry A. Logan, Jr. Foundation. Kay Logan, a trustee of the foundation and principal flutist with the Columbus Symphony, designed Music at Noon: The Logan Wintergarden Series to demystify chamber music. The object of the series, from the beginning, has been to involve the students by providing opportunity for dialogue with world-class musicians in an informal setting. Each season includes six free public performances, all held in the Reed Union Atrium. To further encourage the informal setting, audience members are encouraged to bring their lunch to the events.

Future installments in this semester's series of performances include the Czech



PHOTO BY JUSTIN CURRY/BEHREND BEACON

Stefan Harris and his quartet provided a noon-time jam session for an audience of Behrend students, senior citizens, and Diehl elementary school students.

Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra on Oct. 7, and Cantus (a male vocal ensemble) on Nov. 4.

www.pseries.psu.edu/hss/music/music\_at\_noon.htm.

Further information can be found at

## Packer and Hansen to represent Behrend at All-University Day

by Justin Plansins  
staff writer

Sometimes students at Penn State Behrend feel as though they are not real Penn State students because they don't attend classes in University Park. At University Park, however, some students are unaware of the existence of campuses other than their own.

Penn State's All-University Day is an attempt at changing that assumption, as well as a chance for students from all Penn State locations to get together for fun and excitement.

All-University Day, commonly known as "All-U-Day", is a university-sponsored excursion to University Park in which all Penn State locations participate. All-University Day provides an opportunity to attend a Penn State football game and a major concert.

Though it is intended to be an all-day activity, the main event for the day takes place during the half time show when representatives from each location carry flags from their respective schools onto the field as a symbol of unity.

All-U-Day takes place this Saturday, Sept. 27 during the football game between the Penn State Nittany Lions and the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers.

It is a chance for students from Behrend to meet their fellow Penn State students in a fun atmosphere. Tickets were pre-sold during the first two weeks of classes at the RUB desk. The game this Saturday is completely sold out.

Representing the Behrend campus this year are Lauren Packer, a communications and media studies major, and Keenan Hansen, a psychology major.

The Student Government Association picked them to represent Behrend because SGA felt that both Packer and Hansen embody the values and characteristics that make Behrend a great place to attend.

"I was born in State College, PA and lived there my whole life," said Packer.

"I chose Behrend to experience something new and get away from the huge university... To represent Behrend, the school that has afforded me so many opportunities, both in the classroom and out, is unbelievable."

Packer, amongst other activities, plays water polo and works as editor in chief of the *Behrend Beacon*, cares a great deal about Behrend and has a fantastic amount of school spirit.

"I've been attending Penn State

football games all my life and tailgating every weekend... When I hear the crowd of over 110,000 chant 'We Are Penn State,' it is amazing to think that they all love the blue and white. To think that a simple chant like that is nationally known, and that everyone in the nation knows of Penn State, it is an honor to be a part of that system."

Both Packer and Hansen will be proudly running Behrend's flag this Saturday.

"It'll be a bodacious experience to run the flag down, man. It'll be awesome, dude. I can't wait to see the cheerleaders either. Rock on!" said Hansen.

Any Penn State Behrend students who were able to procure a ticket for this event will be able to show their support and school spirit during the ceremony.

Although the locations might be a good distance from each other, they are all Penn State.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN CURRY/BEHREND BEACON

SGA President Scott Soltis hands over the Penn State Behrend flag to Lauren Packer for tomorrow's All-U-Day ceremony at University Park.

## Dr. Nixon co-authors book on female bullying

by Eileen Jensen  
staff writer

Relational aggression is a form of aggression where relationships are used to harm others-not physically, but verbally. Penn State Behrend professor of Psychology, Dr. Charisse Nixon, co-authored a book entitled, *Girl Wars: Twelve Strategies that Will End Female Bullying*. After doing between three to four research years, Nixon and her colleague, Dr. Cheryl Dellasega, a nurse practitioner at the Penn State's College of Medicine, decided to "apply basic research" into a book that would help victims, aggressors, and kids caught in the middle of relational aggression.

When talking about the reason her book was written, Nixon replied, "There has been an explosion of information in the media that has highlighted how 'mean' girls really are...this has been damaging on a number of accounts. With no strategies provided, the public has begun embracing this notion that all girls are inherently relationally aggressive. Our culture has come to expect girls to be mean. We don't believe that is the case. And in fact, in our book, we argue that given sufficient guidance and a safe environment to grow, girls do have the ability to be caring and supportive. We look at girls' relational abilities as a strength...not a deficit. Our book was written to provide the reader with a new understanding of relational aggression including how to address relational aggression in constructive ways."

Dr. Nixon did a lot of qualitative work in order to make her book a success. This work involved interviews with various mothers, daughters, and members of families that have been affected by this type of aggression.

She said that often times children are "reinforced for being aggressive. They learn at a young age how to instill fear in others without getting caught. Relational-aggressive behaviors are particularly difficult to address because they are often manipulative, covert, and sneaky.

It is uncommon for the most

"popular" kids to be the most relationally aggressive kids. It becomes a difficult task to hold someone accountable for this type of aggressive behavior, when you don't really know who started it (e.g. rumors, exclusion)." Dr. Nixon and her colleague discuss in *Girl Wars* effective ways to build relationships within families as well as within peer groups.

Relational aggression can occur in boys as well. Nixon's book applies to girls and how their relationships may be in jeopardy, but with guidance from people who care and love them, relationships can be healed. Through the right steps explained throughout the book, self-esteem is built, strong identities are formed, and trusting, positive outlooks are created.

The most difficult part of publishing the book was, "not having my colleague nearby" said Nixon. Her colleague lives in Harrisburg, therefore a lot of their time was spent contacting each other through emails and telephone calls.

Nixon met her colleague in Harrisburg two years ago when she was giving a presentation. After spending time together professionally, Cheryl asked her to co-author a book with her that would help girls with relationship problem and overcoming obstacles in a society and culture that creates aggression.

When asked if she had always wanted to write a book, Nixon answered, "It's an outgrowth of what I've done scholastically. I have a passion for this topic." There are ways to handle situations when relational aggression is involved, but the main focus of the book is to, "focus on the kids in the middle."

It took just over one year to gather all of the research to put the book together. *Girl Wars: Twelve Strategies that Will End Female Bullying* was submitted to publication in the Spring 2002 and was published in October of the same year. If anyone is interested in purchasing Dr. Nixon's book, she will be having two book signings in October, at Barnes & Noble, located on Peach Street, and at Borders, which is behind the Millcreek Mall.

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