

Question of the Week

by Courtney Straub and Heather Peterson, news editor and staff writer



"Within the next week."
Laura Martin
DUS, 01



"The second week of October."
Kyle Sheehan
Biology, 04



"Next Monday."
Brittany Nguyen
Mechanical Engineering, 01



"October 5."
Shaun Sauer
MIS, 07



"November 18"
Sarah Mensing
Business, LAS, 07

International Film Series continues at Behrend

by B.J. Shields
staff writer

"We saw the university begin to increase efforts to offer international education, and we thought 'maybe we can open the movies to the rest of the student population,'" said Dr. Juan Fernandez-Jimenez, Professor of Spanish at Penn State Erie, referring to the inception of Behrend's International Film Series.

Just about 10 years ago he had decided that students in his Spanish classes should know more than just the words and phrases of the second language they were learning. He thought they should also understand its history and culture, and what better means than to offer them the opportunity to view some popular movies from Spain.

Opening these movies to the rest of the student body, and as well to the general public gave way to the mission of the series: introducing viewers to other cultures through the artistic medium of film, and to encourage them to take active interests in foreign cultures and language. Since the inception of the series, it has come to consist of films from various nations of origin, such as Brazil, Argentina, Portugal, Germany and France.

"I was a bit naïve at first, thinking the most difficulty would be in securing the films," said Fernandez. After contacting the Spanish Ministry of Culture, he found that the rights to publicly broadcast the films would cost more than just simple rental and shipping fees.

"The costs for showing each film range anywhere from as little as \$250 to as much as \$500," said Fernandez.

Thanks to the popularity of the series, the films have been able to establish funding through the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, with additional

contributions coming from the Mary Behrend fund.

"When we started the series, it was funded through the equal opportunity program, whose support allowed us to bring speakers to enhance the films. However, the support of that program was intended solely for the establishment of such ventures," said Fernandez.

"We've been fortunate to have good response to the series, but would of course like to pack the room," said Fernandez. "If we can do that, perhaps we could be considered for further funding, and possibly bring additional speakers to stir interest."

Speakers and funding aside, the International Film Series has been an asset to the community in its mission.

The series is comprised of four films this year (all include sub-titles), including the recently shown "Happenstance", directed by Laurent Firode, and starring Audrey Tautou.

Students can look forward to the next film in the series "Nine Queens" (Argentina, 2001) to be shown Monday, October 6. This film is directed by Fabian Bielinsky and stars Gaston Pauls. Touted as a devious thriller, the film spans a day in the life of scam artist Juan (Pauls) as he pairs up with the crooked cop who arrests

him.

The next film in the series is scheduled for Monday, October 13. "The Princess and the Warrior" stars Franka Potente (*Run Lola Run*) as Sissi, who lives an isolated life as a nurse at a mental institution. When she meets Bodo, a handsome petty thief, her life is turned upside down. The film from Germany is directed by Tom Twyker, known for his stunning images and swirling camera movements.

The final film, scheduled for October 20, is titled "Goya in Bordeaux", directed by Carolos Saura (Spain). It follows the life of one of the greatest artists of the



Happenstance was the first film shown in the International Film Series

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modern era, exploring his evolution as a man, in his works, and in his private obsessions.

All films will be shown in Room 117 of the Reed Union Building, starting at 7:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

FROM FRONT PAGE

STOPSIGNS continued from page 1

Jordan Road, but it's terrible when you leave from College Drive, forget that they took the stop signs out and almost kill yourself, along with everyone else at the intersection," quipped the owner of a red Mercury Cougar.

With the winter months fast approaching, there is one positive that will come out of all of this. No longer will anyone coming back to an on-campus residence have any excuse for not making it up the Jordan Road hill.

This idea made Jason Giordon's day. Giordon, a sixth semester plastics engineering technology major, who lives in the apartment complex, had more than his share of problems with drivers on the Jordan Road hill last year.

"I hadn't thought about it until now, but I like what PENNDOT and Harbor Creek did, removing the stop signs like that," said Giordon. "There was a time last year when I had to do a 180 degree turn in the middle of the road because someone didn't know how to drive in the winter."

The biggest argument against the signs is that they are needed because delivery trucks and some others that frequent the college do not realize that the signs have been removed. All it would take is one truck to stop and a car behind it to not have time to stop for everyone to wish the signs were still there.

Regardless of the mixed feelings, the signs are gone, for now. The three way debate between PennDot, Harbor Creek, and the College will likely not be going away any time soon.

Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra graces Logan music series

The Logan Wintergarden Series will continue its fourteenth season on Tuesday, Oct. 7, with the internationally acclaimed Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. This combination of talented musicians from both the Czech Philharmonic and Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra will give a lunchtime presentation in the Wintergarden of the Reed Union Building at Penn State Behrend. The performance is free and open to the public.

This thirty-member orchestra including strings, winds, brass, and timpani will perform selections such as the overture to Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, the second and third movements of Beethoven's Piano concerto No. 5, and the andante movement of Jan Voreisek's Symphony No. 1. Currently on its third tour in North America, the orchestra will highlight Welsh pianist Richard Ormrod, who has captured attention on former U.S. tours.

Led by Pavel Prantl, artistic director and concertmaster, the CPCO is most widely known for its tonal clarity and

musical intimacy. Its classical repertoire ranges from composers such as Beethoven to the lesser known Jan VACLAV VORISEK. Since 1977 this orchestra has been recognized for its "Czech strings" sound, a unique Czech tradition that focuses on resonance and tonal color originating from the Czech Philharmonic.

The series was founded by Kay Logan in 1989 and is supported by the Harry A. Logan Jr. Foundation. Logan created this unique series as a way of bringing classical music to all audiences, including children. All of the musical groups incorporate an educational program with audience interaction into their performances, and each ensemble also performs at Diehl School, Behrend's Adopt-a-School partner.

Guests are encouraged to bring a brown-bag lunch to enjoy the informality of this noontime event. For more information about upcoming Logan performances, contact the Penn State Erie Office of Students Activities at (814) 898-6171.

Information compiled from University Relations resources.

Rae Thon reads at Smith Chapel

by Justin Plansinis
staff writer

Melanie Rae Thon (pronounced "ray-tone"), acclaimed writer of fictional novels and short stories, visited Penn State Erie last Thursday, September 25. She read an excerpt from one of her books, spoke to both faculty and students, and answered many of their questions.

The Clarence A. Smith and Eugenie Bauman Smith Fund financed Ms. Thon's visit to Behrend. At 4:00 p.m., a reception was held for Ms. Thon in the Smith Chapel living room, and over 30 students and faculty were in attendance. A variety of cheese and fruit was served as refreshments and the event was very informal. Both students and faculty asked questions about her inspirations, her history, as well as her novels.

Ms. Thon's most recent novel entitled *Sweet Hearts*, the story of why a pair of children led a degenerate life, was the most frequent topic of conversation. She described how her own life growing up in Montana near a Native-American reservation gave her the knowledge and interest to write about similar events that happened in *Sweet Hearts*. Students showed an interest and knowledge in her

work based on their intelligent questions. The students in attendance represented Penn State Erie very well.

The reading was free and open to the public. Though attendance at the reading was required for some English classes here at Behrend, the number of people there of their own choice was impressive.

At 7:00 p.m. Thon read a sample of her fiction in the main room of the Smith Chapel. She read a part of her short story, "Father, Lover, Dead Man, Dreamer" which is from her short story collection entitled *First, Body*. Many students and faculty stayed to have their books signed by Ms. Thon, and some bought copies of *Sweet Hearts*, which were being sold outside the chapel.

"I enjoy speaking with my readers," said Thon, "I like to hear first hand what people think of my work." Indeed, Ms. Thon traveled all the way from Utah and lost her luggage en route and yet she was still incredibly eager to speak with those in attendance.

Aside from *Sweet Hearts*, Thon's other novels include *Meteors in August* and *Iona Moon*. Her collections of short stories include *Girls in the Grass* and *First, Body*.

Originally from Montana, Melanie Rae Thon has taught at Emerson College,

Syracuse University, the University of Massachusetts, and the Ohio State University. She divides her time between the Pacific Northwest and Salt Lake City where she teaches English and fiction writing at the University of Utah.

Thon is the winner of the *Five Point's* Paul Bowles Price for Fiction from Georgia State University in Atlanta. In 1996, GRANTA included Ms. Thon on its list of twenty "Best Young American Novelists." Her fiction has been included in *Best American Short Stories*, and she has received many grants from various art foundations.



Melanie Rae Thon spoke with students about her recent novel

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Richard Ormrod is a member of the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra

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