

The Behrend Beacon

Friday, October 17, 2003

The 'Holy Days' are upon us

by Daniel Stasiewski
a&e editor

The curtain will rise on Behrend's production of Sally Nameth's Dust-Bowl drama "Holy Days" on Oct. 24.

Set in 1936, the one-hour drama follows two couples as they try to survive the dust storms that devastated their farms. One couple, Rosie and Gant, lost something more precious than just crops; they lost their son. With the other couple, Molly and Will, expecting their first child, Rosie must revisit her own loss just as her husband prepares to leave for an out-of-town construction job.

"Holy Days" is the first play directed by Behrend's new theater director, Dr. Christine Mangone.

Mangone has worked with college students before, even ones without much theater experience.

Because Behrend doesn't have a theater major, Mangone said the educational opportunities created by producing "Holy Days" could help students not academically involved in theater to adapt to the stage, as well as aid in her transition.

"This play is a challenging one to do," said Mangone. "But the rewards of doing it far outweigh the challenges."

Mangone said experience did not play much of a role in forming the cast for this weighty dramatic piece, emphasizing the learning opportunities involved.

That news was especially exciting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matthew Smith and Anna P. Sims of "Holy Days" prepare for their opening night.

for two members of the four-person cast who will make their stage debuts.

Claudia Caracci (Mechanical Engineering, 02) and Josh Ausel (Psychology, 03) will perform for the first time alongside Matthew Smith (DUS, 01) and Anna P. Sims (Marketing/Communications 03).

"Being somebody else is difficult," said Caracci, who tried out based solely on curiosity. "I didn't really take theater seriously before this production. I do now."

Unlike Caracci, Ausel wanted to do theater for some time, and he felt college provided him the necessary free time to commit to a production. Besides being the first play offered, "Holy Days" also turned out to be a good choice for a novice.

"This is a good play for a first role," said Ausel. "You get to know the characters pretty well because it's just the four of us."

Mangone described the play as a very character-driven piece, forcing

both the actors and audience members to work for the inspirational message.

"We are trying to bring out the humor," said Mangone. "We're trying to bring out the idea that there is so much love and there is so much hope that it counteracts the tragedy of their circumstances."

Despite the attempts to bring out the humorous or inspiring undertones, Smith said this is still a production with a lot of emotion power.

"The play is entirely about the relationships between the characters," said Smith. "There's a lot [of pressure] on everyone just because it's not a lot of moving around."

Sims also liked the opportunity to do a role where the acting was more important than the music or choreography.

Sims, the production's most experienced stage performer, is used to doing musical theater, but enjoyed the chance to play a complex character.

"My character creates the drama," said Sims, who plays Rosie. "She's the one that everyone has to be sensitive to because you never know what's going to upset her. She sets off the major fights in the play."

The enthusiasm for the characters is

also a large part of why Mangone decided to do "Holy Days."

"The thing that attracted me to this play the most is the fact that the characters don't feel sorry for themselves, and they try so hard," said Mangone. "It's not about being perfect or not being perfect, but it's this idea of trying to do the right thing."

Mangone said she hopes this experimental drama to be the first play in a series of community-building productions.

"I want to create a community of actors and audience members who are interested in a lot of different types of theatre," said Mangone.

Mangone has reached out to various community organizations and focused on bringing younger audiences to the shows. With the various theater companies in Erie, experimentation is what will make Behrend's theatrical experience unique.

"The main mission should be to create an audience and to create audience by giving them lots of different opportunities to be interested in different types of plays," said Mangone.

But right now, the focus lies on the success of "Holy Days."

The show will be performed Oct. 24 through 25 and Oct. 29 through Nov. 1 at 8 p.m., with Sunday shows on Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 starting at 5 p.m.

Tickets are available at the RUB Desk. Student admissions are \$3 each, with general admission priced at \$5.

Recent MBA Forum discusses ways to improve program

by Brian Mitchell
staff writer

The MBA Forum discussed the Masters of Business Administration (MBA) program, why to consider it, the application procedure and decision making and financial status.

First Dr. Peg Thoms, a business adviser, discussed the MBA program and why to consider it.

The MBA program has recently been updated. It is a 48-credit program offering a variety of business courses.

An MBA student would start taking the Foundation Core Courses, which teaches an overview of business law and ethics, investigating principles of accounting, economics finance, marketing and management and overview of statistical analyses of business problems.

After students complete their core courses, they start taking advanced courses. The advanced courses study accounting information and uses of IS/IT as a strategic organizational asset, analyzes human resources and diversity priorities in organizations and formulates objectives and implementation of programs.

Finally, the MBA program requires 15 credit hours of electives. There are two groups of elective courses: International electives and Community Outreach electives. The students must pick one from each group along with three additional electives.

Dr. Thoms was encouraging people to apply for the MBA program because it is a good program with the faculty and the quality of the students. The Behrend School of Business earned the ASE and ranked in the top 18 percent of Business school in the United States.

The MBA program's faculty is very unique. They meet extremely high teaching standards. Most

tend to come from working in the field of business; therefore, they have a diverse background. Also, this program accepted and recruited students with good qualities. Many become full-time employees right after they graduate.

Applying for this program requires the following: application and application fee (The faculty prefers applying online, which can be accessed from the MBA Web site at www.pserie.psu.edu), two official transcripts, three letters of recommendation from academic or professional sources, a typed personal statement addressing your reasons for pursuing the Penn State Erie MBA and an official GMAT score reporting a score of 400 or higher. The decision depends of the student's GPA and GMAT score, as well as the undergraduate GPA.

There are four ways to finance Penn State Erie's MBA: student loans, MBA scholarships, graduate assistantships and tuition reimbursement. Graduate students can borrow up to \$8,500 per year in subsidized Stafford Loan funds and \$10,000 per year in unsubsidized loans.

Penn State Erie awards several scholarships to MBA students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.

Assistantships include full tuition waiver, annual stipend, and health benefits to be offered to applicants whose academic credentials indicate a high level of achievement and whose backgrounds match the positions desired. To reimburse tuition, students must have their employer file a Tuition Reimbursement Approval form with Bursar's Office each semester.

The attendees learned a lot from the forum. Joe Greer, 07, Marketing, said, "this is definitely an option I am considering due to the benefit in terms of job positioning."

CREEK WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Pumpkin Carving Contest 5:20 p.m. Bruno's	Pie Eating Contest 5:20 p.m. Bruno's	Greek Sing 9:00 p.m. Bruno's
Thursday	Friday	
Tug-of-War 5:20 p.m. Reed Front Lawn	Come Support Behrend's Greeks!! ΔΧ ΚΑΡ ΣΤΓ ΤΚΕ ΑΣΑ ΑΣΤ ΘΦΑ	Chariot Races 5:20 p.m. Reed Front Lawn

Breast cancer awareness month continues

by Eileen Jensen
staff writer

Every 13 minutes a woman dies of breast cancer, but there are more than 1.7 million women who have had breast cancer who are still alive in the United States. You are never too young to develop breast cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Penn State Behrend is supporting those who are struggling and those who are survivors.

On Oct. 22 the Pink Fashion Show will take place at 8 p.m. to support those who have overcome obstacles and take a moment to remember the lives that came to an end because of breast cancer.

Breast cancer can occur in men and women, but is mostly found in women. Though many may think they can't develop breast cancer, one in every eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women and is the leading cause of death in women from the age of 35 to 54. In 2003, it is projected that 39,800 of the 211,300 women who are diagnosed with breast cancer will die.

Cancer occurs when the cells in the body divide and grow out of control. When the cells divide out of control it creates a mass of tissue called a tumor. If the cells are normal functioning cells the tumor is benign, not cancerous. If, however, the cells are abnormal then the tumor is malignant, or cancerous.

The causes of breast cancer are still

unknown, but several risk factors are present. Risk factors put someone at higher risk of developing breast cancer. They include age, genetic factors, personal health history and personal diet.

Warning signs of breast cancer development include observing a lump or thickening in or near the breast that persists through the menstrual cycle. This lump may feel as small as a pea. More warning signs are if this lump changes size or shape, the appearance or feel of the skin on the breast and the color of skin turning red.

The most common type of breast cancer is called invasive ductal carcinoma. This cancer starts in the milk ducts of the breast and then invades the fatty tissue of the breast. Nearly 80 percent of breast cancer cases are diagnosed as this type.

The second type of breast cancer is almost always curable, if it's in what is called stage zero of the invasive ductal carcinoma type. This second type is known as ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS). This type doesn't spread beyond the point of origin, so it is confined to the milk ducts of the breast.

The third type of breast cancer is called infiltrating lobular carcinoma. This type begins where breast milk is produced, the lobules, and spreads to surrounding tissues and the rest of the body. This type accounts for 10-15 percent of breast cancer patients that are diagnosed.

The fourth most common type of breast cancer is called lobular carcinoma

in situ (LCIS). Though this isn't a true type of cancer, it serves as a marker for having an increased risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer in possibly both breasts.

Mammograms and self breast examinations are two ways to detect breast cancer development. The American Cancer Society recommends having a baseline mammogram between ages 35 and 40, and then every year after age 40. Risk of breast cancer increases as a person ages, so a yearly mammogram is especially important if you are over age 40.

Breast cancer treatments are local or systemic. Local treatments are used to control the cancer cells in a specific area and systemic treatments control cancer cells all over the body. Local treatments include surgery and radiation.

Systemic treatments are chemotherapy and hormone therapy. A patient may have just one form or a combination of treatments, depending on how far the cancer has spread.

There are three steps to follow in order to detect breast cancer early. The first step is to get a mammogram. The second step is to self examine your breasts each month after the age of 20. The final step in early detection is to have your breasts examined by a health-care professional at least once every three years after the age of 20 and every year after the age of 40.