

Painful past gives Oborski closer relationship with God

by Eileen Jensen
staff writer

Have you or someone you know, become closer to God through painful circumstances? After eating a lunch consisting of soup and rolls, students and faculty gathered in the Smith Chapel Living Room to hear inspirational words from the second Soup for the Soul speaker, Lynn Oborski, SGA Financial Supervisor. She spoke of her experiences of painful circumstances that have brought her, as well as people in her life, closer to God.

Oborski began with telling a story of traveling to Oregon with her husband. They were driving through Wisconsin when they both began to sing "God Bless America." after singing the words and walking through the Red Wood forest, Oborski realized, "The presence of God was there." She said, "My faith is a very important part of my life."

Though driving through Wisconsin wasn't a painful experience, she spoke of how adventurous people and risk takers are the inspirations in her life. Oborski turns to God when pain finds way into her heart.

Oborski read the following passage from the Bible. It's from the book of Job, Chapter 19. She stated, "...I know that my redeemer lives and in the end, he will stand on the earth...I myself will see him with my own eyes - I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! Job is the "poster child" for painful circumstances in our lives. Not only did he look to God, but his story allows everyone to find God through difficult times."

Oborski's next inspiration in her life was stating a selection from a novel, based on true motivational experiences. Joni Eareckson Tada was involved in a diving accident that left her a quadriplegic in a wheelchair, unable to use her hands. Though she was faced with a difficult, painful circumstance, Tada was able to see God in her life. From one of Tada's books, Oborski stated, "When life is rosy,

we may slide by with knowing about Jesus, with imitating Him and quoting Him and speaking of Him. But only in suffering will we know Jesus."

Oborski told of people in her life that she personally knew went through tough times and painful circumstances. The people in her life have "pursued God through it all."

"Asking why isn't the issue" said Oborski when talking about her experiences in talking to God. "God wants us to ask why. He wants us to press into him" she said. Through talking to God and turning to Him through painful circumstances, you tend to find compassionate people in your life.

Talking about her own life, Oborski mentioned that God "transformed her life."

She said, "we learn things about God in suffering that we can't learn any other way." She frequently found herself praying to God and asking "why." Oborski believes she had "a personal revival" in the 7 months that she was experiencing a truly painful circumstance in her life.

"In this world we will have trouble. Go to God and ask why, complain to Him." After stating that God listens to everyone, even in times of trouble and pain, everyone that attended the Soup for the Soul luncheon realized that people take things for granted and we are lucky to be who are. Looking towards God for help and for answers allows everyone to look at the good as well as the bad in their life.

"In the times we ask why, we are with Him." Open yourself up to God, ask why and realize that through painful circumstances we become closer to God and learn more about ourselves along the way.

The Soup for the Soul session ended with reflection and discussion based upon a passage from Job, Chapter 41. "I have heard of You by hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see You." Take time each day to reflect on the good and bad experiences you've had in your life, because through painful circumstances you may find yourself closer to God than ever before.

Streeter named ECAC President

by Dana Vaccaro
staff writer

Brian Streeter, Penn State Behrend's athletic director, has been named President of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) in 2004-05.

ECAC was founded 65 years ago and has emerged as the nationwide leader in service. The ECAC managed 113 championships in 35 men's and women's sports for over 125,000 student-athletes becoming the largest single conference under the NCAA. The Conference has 317 member institutions in Divisions I, II and III in many locations from Maine to North Carolina.

Streeter has been involved with the ECAC since 1983. He is currently in his seventh year as Behrend's director of athletics. Along with being a director of athletics, Streeter is a member of the ECAC Board of Directors and serves as chair of the ECAC Championships Committee. Streeter also serves as chair of the ECAC Men's South Soccer Committee, Men's South Basketball Committee and he is part of the selection committee for the Women's South Volleyball Committee.

Along with Streeter's involvement in the ECAC he has been part of the AMCC and the NCAA. He has served a two-year term as the commissioner of the AMCC and participated in many AMCC subcommittees. He also serves on the NCAA Women's Soccer Committee, the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Selection Committee for Women's Softball and the NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee. Streeter also is involved with the American Red Cross and a part of local Board of Directors for the American Red Cross.

Before becoming an athletic director at Penn State Behrend, Streeter was an assistant athletic director and head coach of men's basketball at Hobart College for 16 years.

Streeter has many accomplishments over the years. He is a five-time winner of the Schoenfeld Regional Sportsmanship Award given by the College Basketball Officials Association. In 1995, he earned top honors for the same award nationwide. Streeter was named the Geneva, N.Y., American Red Cross Volunteer of the Year in

1993 and was one of the two ECAC Jostens Administrators of the Year in 2001.

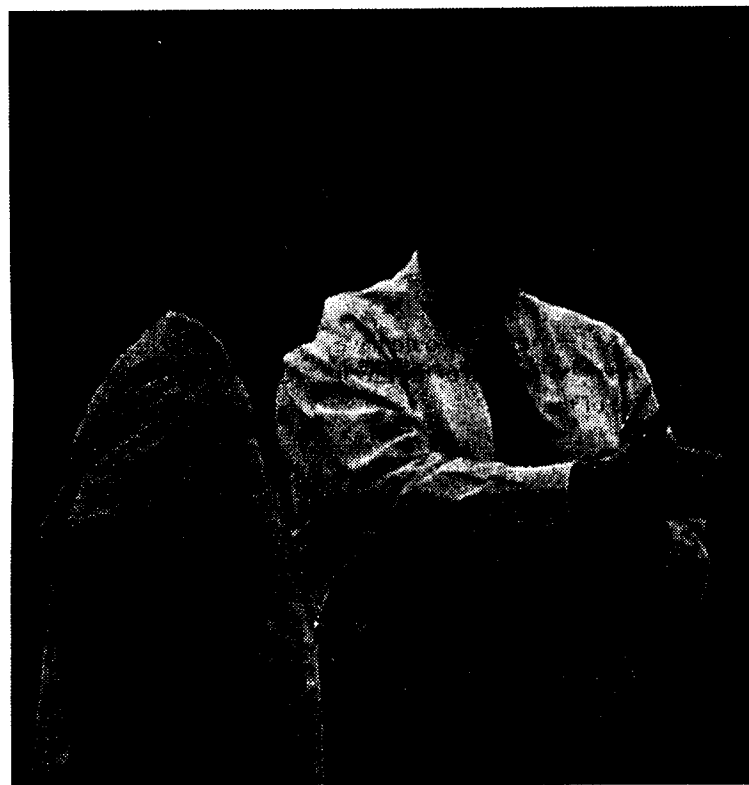
"He became a big part of it (ECAC) by serving on all of the committees," Roz Fornari said of Streeter becoming President of ECAC. "He understands how it works. It makes him very qualified," continued Fornari.

Streeter feels the biggest challenge he has with the ECAC is to have better communication as an organization to our members. "You get out of the organization what you put into the organization. With the ECAC, I try to put in every minute," said Streeter.

Dave Cooper, track and cross country coach believes it is a well-deserved honor for Brian. Cooper also feels that it is an honor for Penn State Behrend and thinks it will put Penn State Behrend out there in the spotlight.

"I take it as an honor in a sense to be given the opportunity to serve ECAC as their president elect," said Streeter. "This means your own colleagues that you're working with feel that you can give leadership to the organization and help the organization," he continued.

Streeter is excited about the chance to be president of the ECAC and said, "it's about Penn State. It's a great opportunity to put Penn State Behrend out in front of the ECAC, so members of the institution know who we are."



Dave Cooper (L) and Brian Streeter (R)

FILE PHOTO

AST sisters march for a safe tomorrow

by Erika Jarvis
feature page editor

October is national domestic violence awareness month and not only have the ladies of Alpha Sigma Tau worked hard on campus to spread the word, they also participated in the SafeNet march.

The 5th annual march was held Sunday, and was one of the largest to date. With over 400 people marching from French Street to State Street to Perry Square and back, the reason was not for money but to solely raise awareness.

Erin Dillaman, a sister of AST and an intern for SafeNet, said that this march was the headlining even for the organization.

"The main goal of the even was to raise awareness to the people in Erie about domestic abuse. In Pennsylvania alone a woman or child dies from domestic abuse. We're just out there to get the word out and save lives," said Dillaman.

While SafeNet is not AST's main philanthropy, they became more involved after participating in SafeNet's Take Back The Night. They were seen earlier this month outside of Bruno's decorating tee shirts to spread the word about domestic violence. This march was just another way the sisters wanted to help out.

"The march was so successful! Mayor Filippi was our keynote speaker and he announced that SafeNet would be receiving a \$15,000 grant to further the campaign," Dillaman said.

After the walk there was a memorial service for victims of domestic violence, along with a speak out for anyone to voice their opinions on the topic.

"The memorial service and speak out was so touching. We have all been a victim of domestic violence some point in time may it be physical or emotional. It was just amazing to hear what others had to say," said Dillaman.

SafeNet, which was started 25 years ago as a hospitality house to shelter battered women and children, has expanded a shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and educational organization. Now with the grant the organization can help out more people and better their facilities.

Dillaman, who got her internship through the Career Development Center had to take a class over the summer for 50 hours to train correctly to work for SafeNet.

"They take everything so seriously, I need to be prepared on the off chance I get asked a question about violence. We need to be prepared to correctly help out victims of abuse," said Dillaman.

SafeNet also has a hotline number that one can call if they ever need a question answered or help in a violent situation. Anyone can call, women, children and even men.

"It sounds funny, but men are even victims of abuse. Men tend to suffer from emotional abuse because women can manipulate men easily," said Dillaman.

With a hotline for crisis situations, interventions for teenagers and a number of shelters with their locations kept secret, SafeNet houses up to 30 women and children for up to 30 days in each house. "My sisters and I are just out there to educate. Abuse knows no sex, gender or age," Dillaman said.

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