

The Behrend Beacon

Editor in Chief
Lauren M. Packer

Managing Editor
Daniel J. Stasiewski

Assistant Managing Editor
Scott Solits

News Editors
Justin Curry
Angela Szesciorka

Sports Editors
Kevin Fiorenzo
Amy Frizzell

Editorial Page Editor
Amy Wilczynski

Features Editor
Dana Vaccaro

Greek Life Editor
Courtney Straub

Staff Photographers
Jeff Hankey
Heather Myers



THE BEHREND
Beacon

"Professionalism with a
personality"

Advertising Manager
Ryan Russell

Calendar Page Editor
Rob Frank

A&E Editor
Daniel J. Stasiewski
Erika Jarvis

Supplemental Editor
Lauren M. Packer

Adviser
Cathy L. Roan, Ph.D.

Copy Editors
Carolyn M. Tellers
Kristin Bowers

Penn State Erie,
the Behrend College:
First Floor, The J. Elmer Reed Union Building,
Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.
Contact The Beacon at:
Telephone: (814) 898-6488
Fax: (814) 898-6019
ISSN 1071-9288.

Another Beaconian exits Behrend

An entire year as editor in chief concludes with this issue. An entire year of hard work, planning, conflict resolution, production nights, budget meetings and proposals and listening to suggestions and complaints has come to a close.

It's with sadness that I leave the Beacon and my great staff, but at the same time I'm moving on to bigger and better things.

Kudos to my young staff. Comparing issue one to our final issue this year has shown remarkable growth and improvements in not only layout and design, but also content and quality.

Big props to publication managers Kristin Bowers and Carolyn Tellers for tirelessly going through each page of every issue, fixing spelling, grammar and AP format mistakes.

Pat on the back to advertising manager Ryan Russell. We wouldn't be enjoying the fruits of our labor nearly as much without your hard work and dedication to our advertisers.

Good luck to new editor in chief Dan Stasiewski and adviser Dr. Cathy Roan. The Beacon has made great strides, but still has far to go. The addition of new technology and newly renovated office space is a huge step in the right direction to push our newspaper to the next level.

Lastly, I would like to thank all students involved in the Beacon this school year—Comm 001, Comm 260 W, staff writers, contributing writers,



Lauren Packer
editor in chief

letters to the editor, photographers, etc. Most of all, thank you to the student body for your readership, comments, suggestions and for taking the time every week to pick up a copy of paper.

I encourage all students to get involved with the newspaper. We are the watchdogs of this campus. We have a huge role in what's going on. The administration, faculty, and staff read the Beacon, and take it seriously. It's time we, as students, start taking our role seriously.

I've enjoyed this experience; it will certainly be one that I will never forget. Spending every Thursday night with the Beacon crew eating free dinner, and making tons of new friends and contacts, is something that the classroom couldn't offer me.

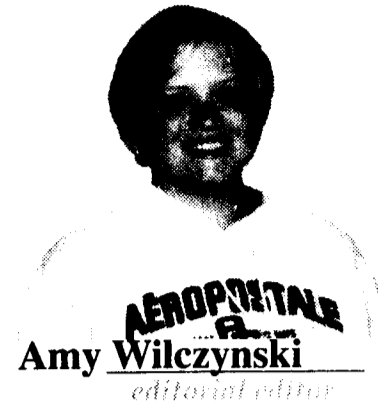
And so ladies and gentlemen, another Beaconian graduates, passing on the legacy and migraines to a new class. Au revoir!

Goodbye PSU, hello real world

So here we are, on the brink of graduation, and I am still not completely convinced that all this education was worth it for me. I spent four long and grueling years in college and am now over my head in student loan debt. Of course I am not the only one in this situation but I am easily frustrated. I don't have a job related to my college degree, in fact it seems almost impossible to find one at all. As of right now, my plan is to continue doing hair, which is actually my passion, until I get a job that is related to my major. Doing hair is absolutely fine; I prefer being in the cosmetology field to sitting behind a desk.

Every day is an adventure in the hair business. It makes each day exciting. I have a short attention span and when I know exactly how my work week will be, I lose excitement. I need a job that is different every day and that definitely does not consist of sitting behind a desk making cold calls all day long (I tried that job once too).

My parents keep telling me that I should be happy that I have a degree even if I don't use it for a couple of years. No one walks out of college and gets their dream job, but for some reason, I am disappointed and almost regret spending the time and money on college. I took cosmetology during high school and I have always been happy doing hair, so why did I push myself and go to college? I suppose a



Amy Wilczynski
editorial editor

big reason is because my parents wanted me to, and deep down I wanted to see myself go to college. A degree never expires and I may be able to use it years from now when I am no longer passionate about being a cosmetologist. But for now I am not seeing the value of my degree in Communications and Media Studies. I have nothing against the program, I just haven't found a job that interests me in my field. Kudos to those who have. After millions of job searches, I still go right back to the hair business.

One thing I am thankful for is that I now have options. I can do hair anywhere in Pennsylvania and I have a college degree that is valid anywhere in the world. I should never have a problem finding some kind of work. I can always fall back on one or the other, which is nice since I do get bored easily.

My previous editorial was about how my dad always told me that going to college would be worth it in the end. He's right, I just cannot see that yet. Without my parents support I never would have gone to college or would have at least dropped out after my first year, like I almost did. My parents have always stood behind me in everything I have ever done in my life. I am so thankful for them.

On May 15, 2004 I will receive my Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Media Studies from Penn State University. I will give a sigh of relief as a ton of bricks are lifted off my shoulders. I did it. I am finally a college grad. I will move on to the 'real world' of a full time job and paying back my thousands of dollars in student loans. Next summer, after I am more settled in the 'real world', my life will change once again when I marry the most wonderful man in the world. We will have the support of each other as we create a new life together and eventually a family of our very own. Goodbye Penn State Behrend, goodbye life as a college student; hello life after graduation, hello 'real world'.

This is Amy Wilczynski, former calendar page editor, current editorial page editor of the Behrend Beacon, signing off.

Life provides its own learning

I'm not going to bother with a fancy introduction or some catchy lead to get your attention I'm just going to be as frank as possible. I woke up this morning and realized that my college career is halfway finished and I can't figure out what the @*#&# I've learned.

Granted I have been attending class, taking notes and all that good stuff, but that's not exactly what I'm referring to in this case. You might be asking yourself what is she talking about. So let me ask you this, what is that one really learns during college?

I've learned that there will always be that one class or that one thing that seems as though it will kill you...literally. For me that class would be French. Now some may laugh not knowing how insanely frustrating that class is. So, let me put it in perspective for you. Going to that class makes me want to visit the gorge. Not to take in the beautiful scenery but to hurl myself into the vast opening only to hope I hit every jagged rock on the way down. I know that's pretty harsh but just try taking back to back semesters of it with Mme Wolfe, and you might know where I'm coming from.

Second, there will always be those people that don't like you for whatever reason they can think of that week. I've had my fair share of these people and still do. So let me just say this one thing. Chances are if they don't like me then I probably...okay more than likely don't like them either or don't



Amy Frizzell
sports editor

care. It's not my problem.

Third, there will always be someone who thinks that being a COMBA major is taking the easy way out. Yes, I do agree that being a communications major is in some ways easier than other majors, but who cares?

Does my being a communications major have any direct effect on someone else who happens to be an engineering or accounting major or anything else? Is my taking different classes on different subjects then you screwing up your little machines that do who knows what? No, I don't think it does.

I'm not in the major because I'm "stupid", I'm in it cause it provides more variety. Seeing as I'm a person who quite frequently likes to

change her mind I would say it was a good choice. If someone doesn't like that then I guess that's his or her problem, cause once again I don't care. Finally doing what is best for you is sometimes the only thing you can do. Now don't get me wrong I would do anything for my friends, unless it will land me in jail then I'd be happy to find someone else to do it. But every once in a while it's impossible to please everyone else. It's not your job to make sure everyone else is happy. Sure it's the nice thing to do but you can't always do the nice thing. Letting people walk all over you may please others but do you really think they're thinking about making you happy as they wipe their flip flops on your face?

Sure I haven't mentioned the real things I've learned like about tribes that beat little boys in order to make good iron. But let me leave you with something that Thomas Hughes once said "Life isn't all Beer and skittles; but Beer and skittles or something of the same sort must form a good part of every Englishman's education." Though he's not referring to the bite size candy most of us are familiar with he still makes a good point. One must earn a good education but one also cannot have a full education without living life. I'd say that's good advice coming from a guy that died in the 1800's.

my academic standings, volunteering, on-campus involvement and my variety of media-related internships that prompted the graduate school selection committee to invite me into their program.

Looking back on my time at Behrend, I always note two very important lessons that I have learned – two ideas that have become the cornerstone of my desire to further my education, so as to become a professor of Communication in the future.

First of all – you must make the most of what you have. I don't care if you are in an associate's degree program at a community college or if you are in a doctoral program at an ivy-league school – you will get out of it what you put into it. The possibilities are endless if your desire to reach your goals grows greater with each passing moment. If you want something bad enough, you will get it.

Secondly, good things take time. Like a fine wine, we get better with age. Life isn't a race – things are meant to happen when they happen. Reaching a goal is definitely a process and

we only get better and that process only gets easier if we keep working at them. Having said all this, and in anticipation of leaving Behrend after being an undergraduate Communication and Media Studies student for four years and working as an employee within the program for one year, I would like to applaud the school, I would like to applaud my degree and I would like to applaud the graduating class of 2004. Thank you for the challenges, thank you for the wisdom, but mostly, thank you for helping me to discover the person I want to become within the academic career that I desire to pursue. To the class of 2004 – regardless of your pasts, degrees and your current plans for the future – the possibilities for each of you are endless. Make the most of what you have, know that a college degree never expires and know that over time and with a little hard work, anything is possible.

Christine Kleck
Media Research Technician
Behrend Communications and Media Studies, Class of 2003

The following positions will be available for Fall 2004:

- News Writers
- Sports Writers
- Editorial Columnists
- Student Life Writers
- Advertising Staff
- Distribution Staff
- Public Relations Staff
- Staff Photographers

The Beacon provides a great place for all majors to get real world experience. To express interest in any position send a message to behrcoll@aol.com.

Letter to the Editor

On April 23, I made a trip to State College, PA for a meeting with Dean John Nichols of the College of Communications at the University Park campus. We both had questions for one another at the meeting. My questions included everything from how to begin my graduate school research, to what my fall schedule is going to be like when I begin their MA in Media Studies program this August. Dr. Nichols' questions ranged from what my plans were for my education and research,

to why his son should consider Behrend for his college choice, and in particular why should someone choose Communication and Media Studies for their major. Ironically, it was my acceptance into the Master's program that ended up being one of my greatest selling points for Behrend and it was all that I did within my undergraduate years, from

SEND LETTERS

Letters must be signed and include a telephone number, major, semester standing and full name. Letters more than 350 words may be edited. Letters that are libelous or are personal attacks will not be published. Send to: The Behrend Beacon, Reed Union Building Club Mailbox, 5091 Station Rd, Erie, PA 16563. E-mail: behrcoll2@aol.com