

NEWS

By Bradley Stewart

Was the career fair a useful job developing tool?



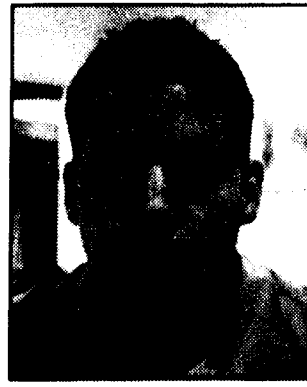
"I think it was very useful. There were a lot of people there that were in my particular major."

Dave Gomo,
MET 07



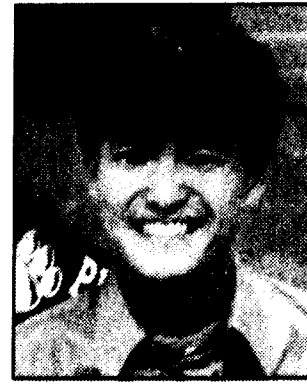
"I don't think it was because I'm an economics major and I don't think they had enough companies to represent my major."

Fariha Andaleeb
ECON 03



"Yeah, for me it was because I was looking for another internship. I got to contact a lot of companies."

Greg Seese
PLSTC 07



"I was very excited to see so many companies that I was interested in working for: Country Fair, Home Depot, and WICU."

Jonathan Meyn
COMMU 07



"I talked to eight different companies and gave out six resumes and with me being a senior I think it was a good career fair."

Lindsay Patton
CMPS 07

Have a suggestion for Question of the Week? Email your question to us at: behrendbeacon2@aol.com.

English professor wins award

By Lisa Lamendola
staff writer

George Looney, assistant professor of English and creative writing, recently won the White Pine Press award for his collection of poetry titled "The Precarious Rhetoric of Angels."

"It's a collection of poetry that explores the fictions we use to deal with grief. It's about grace and redemption," said Looney.

Looney, who has five manuscripts currently circulating for various competitions, said he's been second place in many previous contests.

"I've been a finalist four times a year. I finally got over that hurdle with 'The Precarious Rhetoric of Angels.'"

He explains why it is hard for poets to get a publisher.

"Most publishers have five or six poets and they aren't too anxious to sign on new writers. That's why I participate in many contests."

Looney is also the program director of the new B.F.A. creative writing program. He is responsible for formulating the curriculum as well as the creative writing program at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

"The goal was to set up an order for an unorganized set of classes," said Looney. "I realized it was necessary when none of the students who were ready to graduate had read postmodern authors."

The goal of the program is to provide a broad span of knowledge for students and have them be well equipped when they graduate. The program

offers a balance of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction courses.

"We've taken what was there and built upon that so students are better prepared."

Every member of the staff is a practicing writer. Also, every student enrolled in the program is required to go to an advising session one hour a week.

"We're not only teachers, but also mentors," said Looney.

He credits the success of the program partially to the fact that there are no graduate programs at Penn State Behrend in Humanities. Without such a program, Behrend students are often ahead of other undergraduate students at different colleges when rivaling for spots in graduate programs. Often Behrend students are doing things that are considered to be at a graduate level.

"The Pennsylvania College English Association has given their award for creative writing to a Penn State student every year it's been in existence. No one else has ever won," said Looney.

Looney feels the program is an important one to have at Behrend. He believes part of the reason the program is such a success is because of Dr. Jack Burke, campus executive officer and dean of Penn State Erie.

"Jack Burke has been a strong supporter of the program from the beginning."

Although Looney says there are several great programs at Behrend, he said he is "proud and hopeful for the future of the program."

Looney's book will be available in the fall of 2005.

Arboretum beautifies Behrend

By Bryan Spry
staff writer

On Tuesday Penn State Erie will be holding a ceremony celebrating its one-year anniversary of becoming an official arboretum. Although Penn State Behrend was not designated as an official Arboretum until 2003, the arboretum at Behrend began to form over five decades ago and continues to develop.

Over five decades ago, Ernst and Mary Behrend began to collect trees from exotic regions where they would vacation. The Behrends would then plant these exotic trees on their Glenhill estate property. In 1948, Mary Behrend donated her estate with the intention of building an educational institution that would be preserved in the natural beauty of the environment.

An arboretum is defined as a place where an extensive variety of woody plants are cultivated for scientific, educational and ornamental purposes. This is the intent of faculty and students that continue to develop the arboretum at Penn State Behrend.

Behrend's arboretum covers a massive seven hundred and twenty-five acres. This arboretum contains over two hundred different species of trees, making Behrend the largest college or university arboretum in the region. In this broad variety of species, all of the fifty state trees are included Pennsylvania's being the eastern hemlock, or to those scientists, the *Tsuga Canadensis*.

The Penn State Behrend Arboretum has three main aspects. The first is the educational approach to the arboretum. The arboretum serves not only the student body and faculty, but the community as well. It acts as an educational tool on how to help preserve the environment.

Second is the experimental aspect of the arboretum. It serves the students of Behrend with the ability to experiment and test the uses, if any, of the trees and shrubs native and exotic to our region.

The final aspect of the arboretum is the outreach component it provides. People from the community, along with the schools from other

regions, are able to come to the Behrend campus and enjoy the natural aspect while walking along the miles of mapped pathways around campus.

Dr. Thomas I. Wortman, the assistant for academic administration and executive director of the arboretum at Penn State Behrend, said, "We would obviously like to grow," Wortman said. "We would like to host schools as well as different groups from around the region. We would like to educate them on the different variety of species of trees and allow them to enjoy the beauty that the arboretum at Behrend has to offer. We have a partnership with the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park and are actually connected to them by the walkway that goes along the bayfront connector."

Wortman said, "We would like to concentrate more on the educational and research aspects that the arboretum gives."

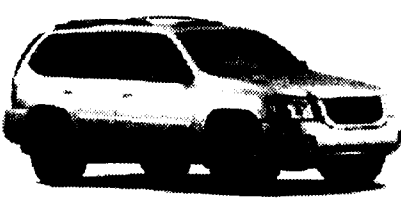
Students from Behrend also appreciate this intriguing landscape. Freshman Ben Morris said, "The arboretum at Behrend makes the campus more scenic. I also think other students enjoy it as well. I see people sitting along the walkways drawing pictures of the scenery this campus has to offer."

Brian Misterovich, INT B 07, said, "The arboretum creates a more interesting landscape and exposes the student body to a greater awareness to the dynamic tree species."

If you are interested in celebrating this achievement, there will be a tree planting ceremony to commemorate this one year anniversary of the arboretum. It will be held Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. on the walkway just north of the Lilley Library.

If you are interested in seeing this amazing arboretum for yourself, pick up a pamphlet at the information desk in the Reed Union Building. The pamphlet includes a brief history of the arboretum and a numbered map of tree names and where these trees are located on campus. You will be able to see over 70 different species of trees along with a sign below them which gives you their scientific name and any other interesting facts relevant to that particular tree.

Want to write for the Beacon staff?
Come to our Monday meetings in room 114 at 5 p.m. or e-mail your ideas to behrendbeacon@aol.com




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