

STUDENT LIFE

Delta Chi contributes to community growth

By Ashley Bressler
staff writer

The influence of Penn State Behrend's fraternities expands the realm of the campus, affecting the citizens of Wesleyville. The presence of Greek life on the Behrend campus has become a familiar part of its energy and appeal for many years, but the ways of the Greeks have also become both a negative and positive part of the community outside of Behrend. Currently, Delta Chi is the only fraternity hosted by Behrend which owns a house in the borough of Wesleyville. According to Mark Mariani, Wesleyville Borough Building Official, the community had various problems with the Sigma Tau Gamma house, which resulted in the borough over-taking the house and tearing it down.

"When I came here, which was in June of last year, I had to deal with three to five years of complaints from the Sig Tau house. As a former Sig Tau member, it broke my heart to have to tear it down, but the community is better now. We have never had any problems with the Delta Chi members though," said Mariani.

The brothers of Delta Chi have a clean record with the borough police, and they hope to keep their good reputation intact. As fraternities are typically thought of as "parties," Delta Chi has a tradition of keeping their parties respectable and under control. Adam Wilson, Communications

major, said he has belonged to Delta Chi for two years and he has lived in the Delta Chi house for both of those years. "We do have parties. They are usually just the brothers, but we like to have other people too. We have a good relationship with the borough police, and we kind of have to because their building is so close to us. We've never had them come to our house and ask us to keep it down. It's a controlled place and we like to keep it like that," said Wilson.

Having respect for their neighbors and the community of Wesleyville has been a great part of Delta Chi's success. In 1992, the brothers began renting the house located on Buffalo Road in Wesleyville, and in 2000, they officially became the owners. In the past six years, the brothers have been able to pass on their traditions and have a sense of pride for

the home they created without greatly disrupting the neighborhood. Mariani said, "These guys have always been clean and appropriate. We haven't had complaints from anyone as far as I am aware. Since they are the only frat left in Wesleyville, I'd encourage them to become active in the community."

Having them here can be an absolutely

positive influence. That is if they choose to behave that way, but I don't have any concerns about their presence here."



Ashley Bressler/THE BEHREND BEACON

Brothers and alum of Delta Chi outside of their house. From left to right: Joe Wetmore, Don Wetsell, Adam Wilson, Matt Grolemond and Chuck Orton.

Music at Noon kicks off its 17th year



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

In 1989, arts advocate Kay Logan founded a music series in her name to bring national and international diverse music acts to the Erie area. Now in its 17th year, the Logan Series kicks off its Music at Noon showcase this week on Tuesday at McGarvey Commons in the Reed Union Building with a performance by acclaimed Columbian pianist and composer Claudia Calderón.

Born in Palmira, Colombia, Calderón's music is heavily influenced by her culture, as it, according to her official website, "preserves and promotes the ethnic music of the mountains, plains and coasts of Venezuela and [her native] Colombia."

In 1987, she graduated from the Musikhochschule in Hannover, Germany with a concentration in Piano Performing. Outside of school, Calderón researched the llanero harp at the FUNDEF Institute in Caracas. Venezuelan harp music in Venezuela and France became a particular passion as well as fascination for Calderón. She also received accolade for her major research breakthroughs in the Joropo music style, a genre specific to Venezuelan and Colombian folklore and culture.

Besides continuously researching and, subsequently developing this obscure genre of music

herself, in 1999 Calderón founded the Fundación Editorial Arpamérica, an institution for researching, rescuing and promoting harp and bandola music through educational publications and new compositions. This institution has allowed Calderón to visit numerous foundations across the U.S. and internationally, including the Historical Harp Society at the University of Amherst in Massachusetts.

As a pianist, Calderón has released three records over the past three years, including last year's El Piano Llanero II. Also last year, Calderón toured across the United States, including stops in Miami, Washington D.C., and New York. This past summer, she performed on the West Coast in Seattle and San Francisco. When she isn't touring, Calderón lives in Xalapa, Veracruz, México for an artistic residence. This upcoming Music at Noon performance will mark Calderón's first performance at a Pennsylvania school.

For more information regarding the Logan Series' Music at Noon concert events, please call 898-6111. The series receives major support from the Kay Logan Trust and additional funding from the Erie Arts Endowment of the Arts Council of Erie, Pennsylvania, Penn State Behrend's Student Activity Fee, Romolo Chocolates, and Wal-Mart, among others.

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