

Weekly Political Ticker

ADAM SPINELLI
humanities editor

Rep. Wilson (R-SC) shouts "You Lie" to President Obama during his address to a joint congress...his outburst has called for legislation to be passed criticizing him...Actor Patrick Swayze dies after fighting a battle with pancreatic cancer on September 14, 2009...audio tape of Osama Bin Laden surfaces saying Obama cannot stop the war...Former White House Press Secretary Jody Powell passed on September 14, 2009... Obama says reform is needed so financial collapse on Wall Street doesn't happen again...Former NFL player Jay Riemersma to run for the Michigan congressional seat being vacated by Rep. Peter Hoekstra...WWE CEO Linda McMahon announced Tuesday she is running for Sen. Chris Dodd's (D-CT) seat in 2010...President Jimmy Carter says that opposition towards President Obama is "racially driven"... Obama announced a new missile defense plan to better provide for US forces and Allies in Europe...The White House unveiled a \$25 million medical malpractice initiative in efforts to reduce health care cost...this initiative is another part of President Obama's plan put forth from last week's address to a joint congress...President Obama joined Chinese Premier Hu Jintao, and Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt to address the UN on global climate change...House Ok's to extend jobless benefits...Senator Max Baucus created a health care bill that is currently being reviewed and amended by the rest of congress...Obama presses for new talks of peace between Israeli's and Palestinians

On This Day in History: September 25

1513: Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean.

1789: The U.S. Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution, which Ten of became the "Bill of Rights."

1957: 300 U.S. Army troops stood guard as nine black students were escorted to class at Central High School in Little Rock, AR. The children had been forced to withdraw 2 days earlier because of unruly white mobs.

1965: Willie Mays, at the age of 34, became the oldest man to hit 50 home runs in a single season.

1981: Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, being nominated by President Reagan.

1995: Ross Perot formed the Independence Party.

2002: U.S. forces landed in Ivory Coast to aid in the rescue foreigners trapped in a school by fighting between government troops and rebel troops that had attempted to take over the government.

FACULTY AND STAFF

H&SS Honors Diane Nowacinski



contributed photo
Administrative Assistant
Diane Nowacinski

ANDREW TARR
humanities writer

The Penn State Behrend School of Humanities and Social Sciences has gone through substantial growth over the last several years and Diane Nowacinski has done her share of work in helping the schools expansion.

A native of Erie, with over thirty years of learning and

working at Behrend, Diane has spent much of her life on the Behrend campus.

She graduated with a bachelor of arts in English with a minor in Woman's Studies and was one of the first members of Alpha Sigma Lambda, an adult learner society, where she still takes part in the yearly induction ceremony.

She has a son, Jason, who recently graduated from Behrend with a degree in History. A daughter, Kelly, who is a junior at Behrend and plays for the Behrend Lions woman's basketball team. She even knew Irvin Kochel, whom the Humanities and Social Sciences building is named after.

Diane worked in the College Registrar's office for 25 years before taking the position of administrative specialist for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

"The move to H&SS was like coming home since I graduated with a bachelor of arts in English with a creative writing option" says Diane. "The growth in the

school over the last several years has been astounding."

In the H&SS Diane does a lot of work in making schedules for professors, setting up offices and mailboxes, basically all of the behind the scenes work that goes on in the school.

When she first started in H&SS in 2003 the school had 57 full-time faculty members and 27 part-time faculty. Now growing to 68 full-time members while keeping the part-time number at 27.

"The increased number of faculty, of course, meant an increase in the number of classes I schedule" says Diane, "an increase of about 40 classes. We were able to secure the permanent use of two classrooms in the REDC to help accommodate the additional classes. The new psychology lab finally materialized. Dr. Jason Bishop, launched YPC, The Young People's Chorus of Erie. We received endowment for the school. Faculty from the school received numerous awards, the most recent being Dr. Rob Speel's Coun-

cil of Fellows Excellence in Outreach Award."

Over the past year the school has also hired seven full-time professors.

In their busy schedules the staff of H&SS still took time to hold a farewell party for Mrs. Cathy Mester, senior lecturer in communication, who retired after 38 years.

The faculty also held their annual staff assistant's banquet to remind them that they are appreciated.

She notes of her support staff: Bev DiNola, Jackie May, and Tricia Willis. Diane also set up the display of photos in the H&SS office.

The photos are works of students that entered them in the Spring Photo Show that happens annually in the Kochel Center.

"I definitely have my ties to Behrend" says Diane.

The Behrend Beacon, along with all the other members of the School of H&SS, would like to thank Ms. Nowacinski for all of her hard work and dedication to the school.

CREATIVE WRITING

Behrend welcomes back Diana George

ALLI HEITZENRATER
humanities writer

Diana Hume George, professor of English and Women's Studies Emerita at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, will return to the college on Thursday, Oct. 1, to appear in its Creative Writer's Speaker Series.

The reading will take place at 6 p.m. in the chapel worship space. preceded by a reception at 4:30pm. Both events are free and open to the public; however parking will be available in the Junker Center lot.

George is the author of many pieces of literature including, but not limited to: *The Lonely Other: A Woman Watching America*.

In addition, she is an essayist, poet and critic. Her work also has appeared in such publications as *Best American Essays*, *River Teeth*, and *Creative Nonfiction*.

"I have met George on a number of occasions and I am excited for her to return to campus," says Professor Eugene Cross. "It is always nice to have alum return so we can see where they are now."

A member of Penn State Behrend's faculty for 26 years, George is the former director of both its Creative Writing and Women's Studies Programs.

Professor Cross also says, "I will encourage all my students to hear her speak. Along with the students who

will attend the reading, the campus is certainly benefiting from her return."

Most recently she was a visiting writer at North Carolina's Davidson College, at Antioch College in Los Angeles, and at Ohio University.

George also is a co-director of the Chautauqua Writers' Festival and contributing editor of Chautauqua Journal.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is also bring other speakers to campus, like poet David Baker on October 22nd.

For more information about the series, phone the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at 814-898-6108.



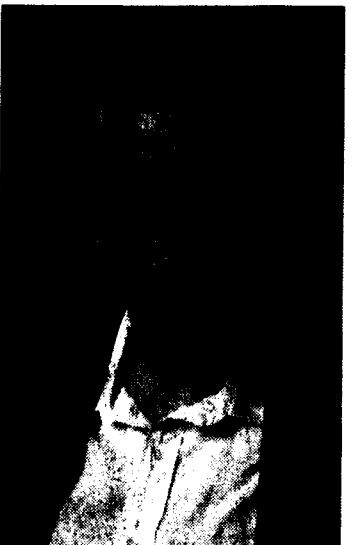
Diana Hume George

FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Irwin set to travel to Norway

ADAM SPINELLI
humanities editor

Dr. Zachary Irwin, Associate Professor of Political Science here at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College,



Contributed Photo
Dr. Zachary Irwin

has the opportunity to travel to Oslo, Norway next month. He will be going as part of a conference that works with post Yugoslavian states. Dr. Irwin recently completed another conference in Norway ob Slovenia in 2003.

"My work is to deal with the relationship of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the European Union," says Irwin. "The European Union has been a major actor both domestically and internationally in relationship to this country. I will also be focusing on how together with the United States and other major countries and unions, The European Union has spent billions of dollars to try and develop this small country."

A group like this meets every once in a while in

order to create a monograph - a scholarly book about a specific topic. Professors from all over the world gather in a space, normally the hometown of the book's editor, to discuss, draft, and organize the book.

"Each professor has a different field of interest and specialty," continues Irwin. "I will be focusing on the European Union, but there could be a variety of topics on Bosnia-Herzegovina like Education, nationality, and so on."

Countries from around the world are represented in this conference and also support this meeting for the production of a textbook. Dr. Irwin believes that this is a fundamental part of being a college professor.

"This isn't a part of teaching, college teaching is

about this," states Irwin. "Personally I am grateful to Penn State for the opportunity of research because it allows professors to stay fresh and in touch with what is going on in the world. These meetings have a bearing on fairly specific subjects that may normally have nothing to do with our classes. But the subjects of the meetings all trickle down to the classroom level; that is what makes college teaching different and that's what is important."

Dr. Irwin also works with, and chairs the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and had the opportunity to go to many countries to write books like this. He is excited to have this opportunity to go to Norway next month.

What's hot this week:

Pop Chart:
"I Gotta Feelin"
The Black Eyed Peas.
The E.N.D.

Country Chart:
"Big Green Tractor"
Jason Aldean.
Wide Open

Rock Chart:
"Check My Brain"
Alice in Chains.
Black Gives Way to Blue

Hip Hop/R&B Chart:
"Pretty Wings"
Maxwell.
BLACKsummernights

Album:
Jay-Z
The Blueprint 3

From The Office of H&SS:

Given recent outbursts by Congressman Joe Wilson, Kanye West, and Serena Williams, public attention once again has turned to the question of civility -- or more accurately, the lack of civility -- in contemporary America. H&SS offers students opportunities to improve the public discourse through various courses in history, political science, English, communications, philosophy, and other areas that focus on national issues, history, and culture. The Sample Center for Civility, housed in H&SS, also offers events during the year aimed at improving the quality of public debate. H&SS invites students to get involved by enrolling in these courses and taking part in H&SS activities.

Dr. Richard Aquila
Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

School of H&SS: Upcoming Events

MONDAY, SEPT. 14
6:00 P.M.

Event: Creative Writing Speaker Series
Speaker: Diana Hume George, Author
Location: Smith Chapel
Note: reception at 4:30pm and reading at 6pm

Corrections:

In the last issue of the Humanities and Social Sciences page (9/11), an introduction to new H&SS Behrend professors highlighted seven first-year faculty members.

In the feature, Dr. Dharmaranda Jairam's name was misspelled. His last name, Jairam, was displayed as Ji-Rum. While we are confident that everyone who has read the article now can enunciate his name perfectly, having his name printed in phonetics was no doubt a horrible error in copy editing, and we apologize for the error.

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wishes to see their name in a publication. The Beacon is currently recruiting
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do you wish to write about?
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Communication Psychology
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