

## Weekly Political Ticker

ADAM SPINELLI  
humanities editor

House Democrats reduced the cost of their Health Care bill to \$871 Billion...Only 20% of Americans describe themselves as Republicans according to new poll...57% of Americans want a Public Option in the Health Care Reform bill ... Senator **Olympia Snowe** split from her party and voted for the bill in the Senate Finance Committee...She was the only Republican to do so...Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** is set to give a speech on arms control at the US Institute of Peace...**Sarah Palin** is set to appear on Oprah the day before her book is released...White House officials criticized Fox News for distracting Americans on reform...Former President **Bill Clinton** rallied for New Jersey **Jon Corzine's** reelection campaign...The Dow Jones closed above 10,000 for the first time in almost two years - this is a sign that the recession is finally ending...Western countries met in order to talk about Iran's nuclear facilities...South Carolina Governor **Mark Sanford** is expected to have an impeachment bill passed against him...Progressives have criticized Senate Majority Leader **Harry Reid** for his lack of putting a Public Option in the Health Care bill...Americans think that Afghanistan is turning into a second Vietnam war...President **Obama** gave a speech where he announced he would end Don't Ask, Don't Tell...Former President **George W. Bush** is going to be the featured guest speaker for a business seminar.

## On This Day in History: October 23rd

**1869:** John Heisman, one of the innovators of football, is born.



**1929:** The Dow Jones plunges, beginning the stock market crash that led to the Great Depression.



**1946:** The United Nations convenes in New York for the first time.



**1989:** Hungary becomes an independent nation.



**1998:** Japan nationalizes its first bank since World War II.

## FACULTY & STAFF

# History prof. tours France on book tour

ADAM SPINELLI  
h&ss editor

Dr. Michael Christofferson, Professor of History at Penn State Behrend, was honored by being invited to France for a book tour on his book *Les Intellectuels contre la gauche: l'ideologie antitotalitaire in France (1968-1981)*.

Contributed Photo  
Dr. Christofferson.

A unique opportunity for a lifelong student of French.

The book was reviewed in the France daily newspaper *Liberation* and received very positive feedback. They also published an interview with Christofferson.

Christofferson spent about a week in France during the week of October 11, 2009. Christofferson was invited for this book tour by the publisher of the book with support of the American Embassy in France.

*Les Intellectuels* was published in English in 2004 and in French in September 2009 is about how and why French in-

tellectual Pro-Marxists and Pro-Revolutionists turned in the 1970s.

The book is especially interesting to many French people because many people in France who were involved in this time period are still alive and remain integral parts of society.

While in France, Christofferson participated in a discussion/debate on the book in Blois, France. He then took his book tour to independent book stores to talk about what he wrote in Paris, Bordeaux, and Toulouse. The events lasted around two hours each, though in a much different setting than one would see in America.

"There are no chain bookstores in France, such as Borders or Barnes and Noble," he says.

"Independent book stores are very popular and successful in France because of the Law of Single Price, which was put in place in 1981. The law states that for the first two years of printing, it is illegal to sell a book for more than 5% of the cover price."

The book tour allowed Christofferson to travel to various regions of France. He traveled from city to city via high speed train, and made it to each stop in around two hours.

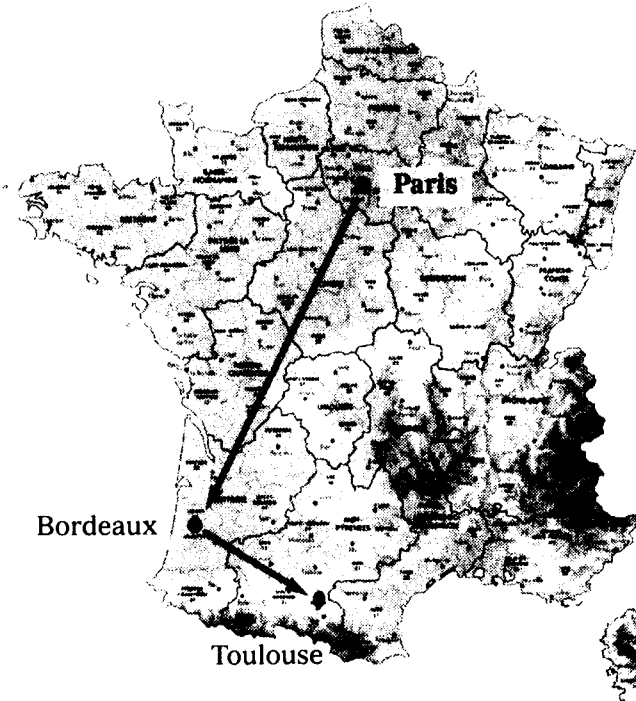
Christofferson lived in France for a total of two years (on and off) and learned to speak French decently well, which luckily helped eliminate language as a big obstacle for

his trip. Before going to France, Christofferson wrote a speech in French to serve as a guideline for what he would say during his book tour. He says that after the first day or two, language was fine and he was able to communicate more properly.

After an event, Christofferson says that he would often go out to dinner with the bookstore owner. The dinners could last two, three, and sometimes four hours, in the traditional dining custom in France.

Christofferson says that if someone wants to truly study and get to know the culture, learning the language is imperative.

Currently, Christofferson is in the process of writing another book, a biography of Francois Furet, a well-known French historian. First published in English, Christofferson wrote an article called "Francois Furet entre histoire et journalisme," while the French translation was recently published.



Graphic by Adam Spinelli  
Christofferson's French book tour included stops in Paris, Bordeaux, and Toulouse.

## CREATIVE WRITING

# Poet David Baker visits Behrend

ANDREW TARR  
humanities writer

Night was beginning to fall as members of the Behrend and nearby communities filled into the sanctuary of the Larry and Kathryn Smith Chapel for the final reading of this semester's Creative Writer's Speaker Series read by Poet David Baker.

Contributed Photo  
Poet David Baker

David Baker holds the Fordham Chair of Creative Writing at Denison

University. He is also a professor of English at Denison University.

Baker has published nine books of poetry, including *Never-Ending Birds*, *Midwest Eclogue*, *Treatise on Touch: Selected Poems*, *Changeable Thunder*, *The Truth About Small Towns*, and *After the Reunion*.

He also published several books of criticism, including *The Radiant Lyre: Essays on Lyrics Poetry and Heresy and the Ideal in Contemporary Poetry*.

He has received fellowships and awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Nation Endowment for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, the Poetry Society of America and others.

"David Baker is a poet that loves the world" said George Looney, holder of Program Chair here at Behrend, in his introduction of the night. Listening to some of Baker's works you can see where he is coming from. Spending much of his life in the Midwest has helped Baker form a mold in which he writes a lot of his works about.

Baker's daughter is also a major source of inspiration to him. The poem "Homecoming" was written about his years of attending morning coffee shop chats with his daughter and her friends before taking them to school.

Another poem inspired by his daughter and also the title for his latest book of poetry, "Never-Ending Birds," which is

about the sighting of a massive flock of migratory birds that never seemed to end or begin. He recounts him and his family on a trip when his daughter pointed to the sky and saying "those are the never ending birds."

When asked who he was inspired most by to be a writer he answered "everybody." With a few chuckles of the audience he continued on saying that anyone who had the loneliness and daringness to write poetry was an inspiration to him. He looked up to poets Walt Whitman, John Keats, and Paul Celan.

The Creative Writer's Speakers Series will resume next semester on April 15 with a reading by Debra Nystrom.

## SCHEDULE OF COURSES

# New classes being offered this spring

MATT DEFUSCO  
humanities writer

Penn State Behrend is planning on offering many new classes this coming spring semester in all subjects in Humanities and Social Sciences. Some of the new classes are listed below:

### Political Science:

- **PL SC 123:** Studies the social and political tensions that arise from ethnic and racial distinctions that are made in America.
- **PL SC 155:** Goes through the different types of media to investigate methods of tyranny and their consequences in history.
- **PL SC 480W:** Examines the process of political legislation and the changes in office that occur. Also discusses the interaction of the different political institutions.
- **PL SC 439:** Explores motives and reasoning behind violent terrorism in the world, and presents it as a different option of solving political problems.

### History:

- **HIST 121:** The Holocaust is looked at extensively through the media means of literature and film. Explores the philosophical aspect of the Holocaust.
- **HIST 172U:** Examines the different aspects of Japanese society, including social events and culture from ancient times to the present.
- **HIST 175:** Focuses on China and Japan and their developments as separate countries but also their relationships with each other and especially their relations with the West.
- **HIST 497:** Examines the modern Arab-Israeli conflict. Examines all political and social aspects concerning the current situation.

### English:

- **ENGL 262:** Examines the different sections of fiction reading including character, plot, and viewpoint analysis in prose genres around the world.
- **ENGL 185:** Designed to take the reader out of their normal literature styles by comparing them to those from around the world.
- **ENGL 436:** Examines American fiction since 1945 to the present through reading literature by authors such as O'Connor, Updike, and Bellows.
- **ENGL 484:** Analyzes pieces of literature by James Joyce and how they came into being.

## What's hot this week:

### Pop Chart:

"Down"  
Jay Sean  
My Own Way

### Country Chart:

"Getting You Home"  
Chris Young  
The Man I Want to Be

### Rock Chart:

"Check My Brain"  
Alice in Chains  
Black Gives Way to Blue

### Hip Hop/R&B Chart:

"Pretty Wings"  
Maxwell  
BLACKsummernights

### Album:

Michael Buble  
Crazy Love

## Foreign Language Quote of the Week

"Le refus des louanges est un désir d'être loué deux fois."

Francois de La Rochefoucault:  
French noble and writer

## Message From The Editor:

In case you've been looking around and seeing the pink Hungry Howies pizza boxes, and have been wondering why they have them all of a sudden, October is National Breast Cancer awareness month.

Breast cancer affects millions of women each year, as many students across campus unfortunately have seen first hand - myself included. So if you don't do it on a regular basis, now is your chance. It's your chance to thank your mom, sister, aunt, and any other female in your life. Now is your chance to tell these women in your life how much that they mean to you. Now is your chance to tell them how much you love them. Because yesterday is gone, and no one has promised tomorrow, so make sure you go out and live for today.

ADAM SPINELLI  
Humanities and Social Sciences Editor

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