

## Weekly Political Ticker

ADAM FRACASSI  
HSSS editor • political science major

Pennsylvania Representative John "Jack" Murtha died at age 77...former representative Charlie Wilson died this week as well...Governor Sarah Palin spoke Monday and has been criticized recently for the speech...Palin had written talking points on her hand that she should remember...White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs poked fun at her by putting notes on his hand during a press conference...President Obama met with congressional republicans to talk about several issues ranging from health care to jobs...Governor Sarah Palin has attacked White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel for his use of an offensive word...Former State Senator Scott Brown won Massachusetts special election to finish out the term of former senator Ted Kennedy...Brown is the first Republican to hold this seat in years...Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke announced on Wednesday his plan to bring back the trillions of dollars the central banking system lent to the banks...The European Union announced that they would be sending money to help relieve Greece of their debt...this comes as good news to the US...10 Americans are being detained in Haiti on charges of child abduction.

### On This Day in History: February 12

1733: Savannah, Georgia was founded by English Colonist James Oglethorpe

1878: Frederick W. Thayer patented the baseball catcher's mask.

1892: President Lincoln's birthday was declared to be a national holiday.

1909: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded.

1915: The Cornerstone of the Lincoln Memorial was laid in Washington, D.C.

1924: President Calvin Coolidge gave the first presidential political speech on radio.

1973: American Prisoners of War were released for the first time during the Vietnam Conflict.

1996: U.S. Federal Judge ruled that the presidential line item veto is unconstitutional.

1999: President Clinton was acquitted by the U.S. Senate on two impeachment articles. Charges were perjury and obstruction of justice.

2003: The U.N. nuclear agency declared North Korea in violation of international treaties. The complaint was sent to the Security Council.

## Question and Answer with Dr. Aquila

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Rather than adorning his office walls with degrees, awards, and other memorabilia, the Director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences chooses to hang pictures of his favorite subject: rock 'n' roll.

Aquila's office has bookshelves, tightly packed with books about history and rock 'n' roll music.

His desk, a beautiful dark wood, is far from cluttered. With the exception of a few stacks of papers, the desk is remotely empty.

In four months, that desk will be entirely empty, as Dr. Aquila plans to vacate his position at the end of the spring semester.

With one of the most significant positions in the university vacating, Aquila looked back over his career as the Director of Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Q:** Where did you get your degrees from?

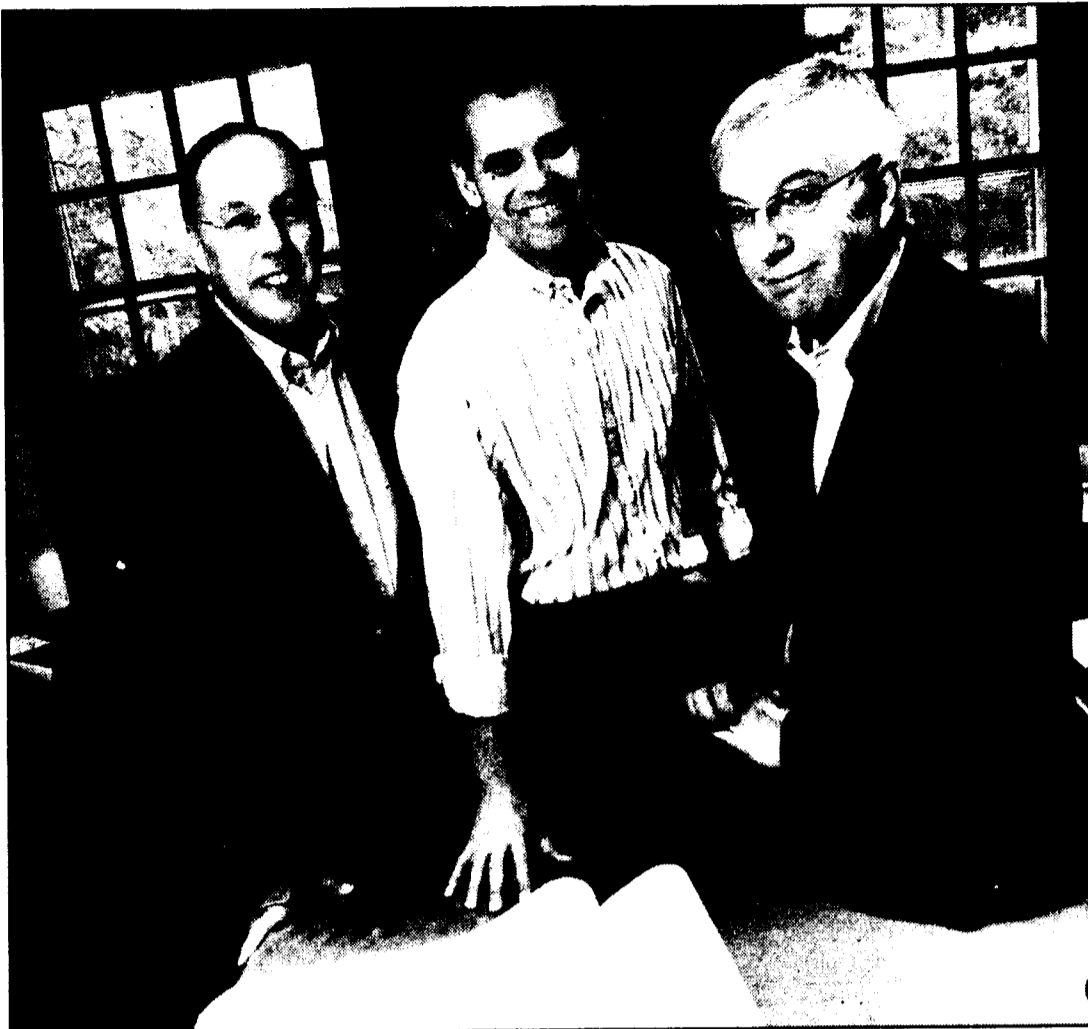
**A:** My PhD. is in American History from The Ohio State University and my B.A. is from Bowling Green [Ohio] in journalism.

**Q:** Did you work at other universities before Penn State Behrend?

**A:** Yes, I worked at Ball State for 25 years as the Chairman of the History Department.

**Q:** What were the major duties of being the director?

**A:** Provide leadership for programs, be



Penn State Behrend Marketing

Dr. Aquila has been the director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences for six years, and is set to resign from this position at the end of the Spring 2010 semester. Above, Aquila (left) with Behrend Chancellor Jack Burke (right) and Dave Christiansen, Associate Dean.

responsible with faculty for tenure, teaching and making sure professors are doing their can, assessment of curriculum changes, to decide what they can be doing to figure out what makes the program tick. The school director provides the leadership for the team. This is a team effort and we have a wonderful faculty. It's like a manager of a baseball team: the manager provides leadership but without the team to back him up, nothing will work. It doesn't matter how good the manager is or the team is, they have to

work together. It's time to step out of the manager and onto the field.

**Q:** What made you decide to resign from this position?

**A:** I truly miss being in the classroom. I thought I would be able to teach more than I've been able to. I also really miss writing. I've written multiple books and this is a really time consuming job.

**Q:** What will you miss the most about being the school director?

**A:** What I'll miss is being able to help faculty and students and working how I do with my staff. Much of what we accomplish is because of them.

**Q:** Are you going back to teaching after this semester?

**A:** I am taking a year sabbatical to

travel around town. I am going to use that year to write a book about Images of the American West. I will return to full-time teaching in Fall 2011, teaching pop culture, American west and American Indians.

**Q:** What hopes do you have for the incoming director?

**A:** It's up to that person to devise strategies. When I first came I had the chance to devise new strategies and my wish is for them too. Whoever it is, they will have the full support of the faculty and staff.

**Q:** What advice would you give to the new director?

**A:** I'm convinced that the new person will have plenty of advice from the faculty.

**Q:** What will you miss the most about being the school director?

**A:** What I'll miss is being able to help faculty and students and working how I do with my staff. Much of what we accomplish is because of them.

Dr. Aquila has been the director of the Humanities and Social Sciences for six years. His official last day in office will be June 30th, 2010.

Barring the possibility of an interim director, the new director, who is yet to be determined, will not be a current member of the Penn State faculty.

He or she will take office July 1, 2010.

## Gender conference returns to Erie

ANDREW TARR  
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Sarah Whitney will be leading the 2010 Gender Conference at Penn State Behrend.

The Third Annual Gender Conference will be held on April 8 and 9 at the Larry and Kathryn Smith Chapel here at Penn State Behrend.

All creative thinkers on gender are encouraged to submit proposals and join in for conversation an engagement.

Since its creation, the Gender Conference has drawn hundreds of participants from the Behrend community as well as participants from Gannon University, Mercyhurst College, Edinboro University and West Virginia University.

Sarah Whitney, Lecturer in English and Women's Studies and conference chair said, "our conference on gender is a forum for college students, faculty and the larger regional community to both present and experience thought-provoking works on issues of gender.

"Our theme, 'Gender in the World,' can be interpreted broadly; it addresses all aspects of sexuality and gender for both men and women," she said.

"We'll consider submissions of original work, including papers, posters, roundtable discussions, and creative or artistic presentations."

The conference will include a presentation by Lee Ann De Reus, Penn State Altoona associate professor of human development and women's studies.

De Reus has received many honors, including the inaugural Penn State University Spirit of Internationalization Award (2008), and the Carl Wilkens Fellowship (2009) for her work on researching and giving accounts of genocide on women in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In 2007, she traveled to a Sudanese refugee camp in Chad, where she spoke with 25 Dar-

furi women who survived genocide. She co-founded the central Pennsylvania chapter of the international organization Save Darfur.

At Penn State, she inspires activism in her students by leading international service and study abroad trips to Tanzania and the Dominican Republic.

There will also be a presentation of the film *Out in the Silence*, a documentary about an announcement of a same sex marriage in Oil City, Pa's local newspaper and the controversial chain of events that followed it.

The film was produced by Penn State and has been shown all over the nation. The Philadelphia Inquirer called it a "stunning documentary."

Submission abstracts of 250 to 500 words should be e-mailed as a word attachment to behrend.gender.conference@gmail.com by Monday.

## Professor Cross Wins Dzanc Prize

ALLI HEITZENRATER  
HSSS writer • creative writing major

Eugene Cross, Humanities and Social Sciences Professor, has been awarded the third annual Dzanc Prize.

The Dzanc Prize is a \$5,000 monetary prize awarded annually to a writer of literary fiction.

The writer must have an unfinished piece of work to submit for review and present a Community Service Program to be administered anywhere in the country.

Cross will use his prize to establish a year-long series of creative writing workshops for refugees from Nepal, Sudan and Bhutan.

This will branch off of his

work as a weekly "conversation partner" for English as a Second Language class. Cross' work was selected out of over 100 entries.

"Eugene's writing has that perfect blend of modernism and classic storytelling, is at once humorous and sexy, intelligent and provocative, and is at the same time composed and controlled," said Steven Gillis, publisher of Dzanc Books in Michigan. "We were also very much moved by Eugene's service program...All taken together, we at Dzanc are proud to have Eugene as our recipient of the 2009 Dzanc Prize."

"I'm excited and extremely honored to have been selected for the 2009 Dzanc Prize," Cross said. "The award will

give me the opportunity to work closely with Nepalese, Bhutanese and Sudanese refugees as they write and share their amazing stories even as they continue to unfold.

"I'm also deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue working on my manuscript while engaging in literary outreach with a civic-minded organization such as Dzanc."

Currently Cross is working on his collection of short stories, *Fires of Our Choosing*. For more information about Eugene Cross' success with this award, plans for his Community Service Program, Dzanc Books, or the Dzanc Award, please visit the Dzanc Books website at <http://www.dzancbooks.org/front.html>.



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Professor Eugene Cross is the winner of the 2009 Dzanc Prize.

### What's hot this week:

**Pop Chart:**

"Tik Tok"  
Ke\$ha  
Animal

**Country Chart:**

"The Truth"  
Jason Aldean  
Wide Open

**Rock Chart:**

"Break"  
Three Days Grace  
Life Starts Now

**Hip Hop/R&B Chart:**

"It Kills Me"  
Melanie Fiona  
The Bridge

**Album:**

Need You Now  
Lady Antebellum

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