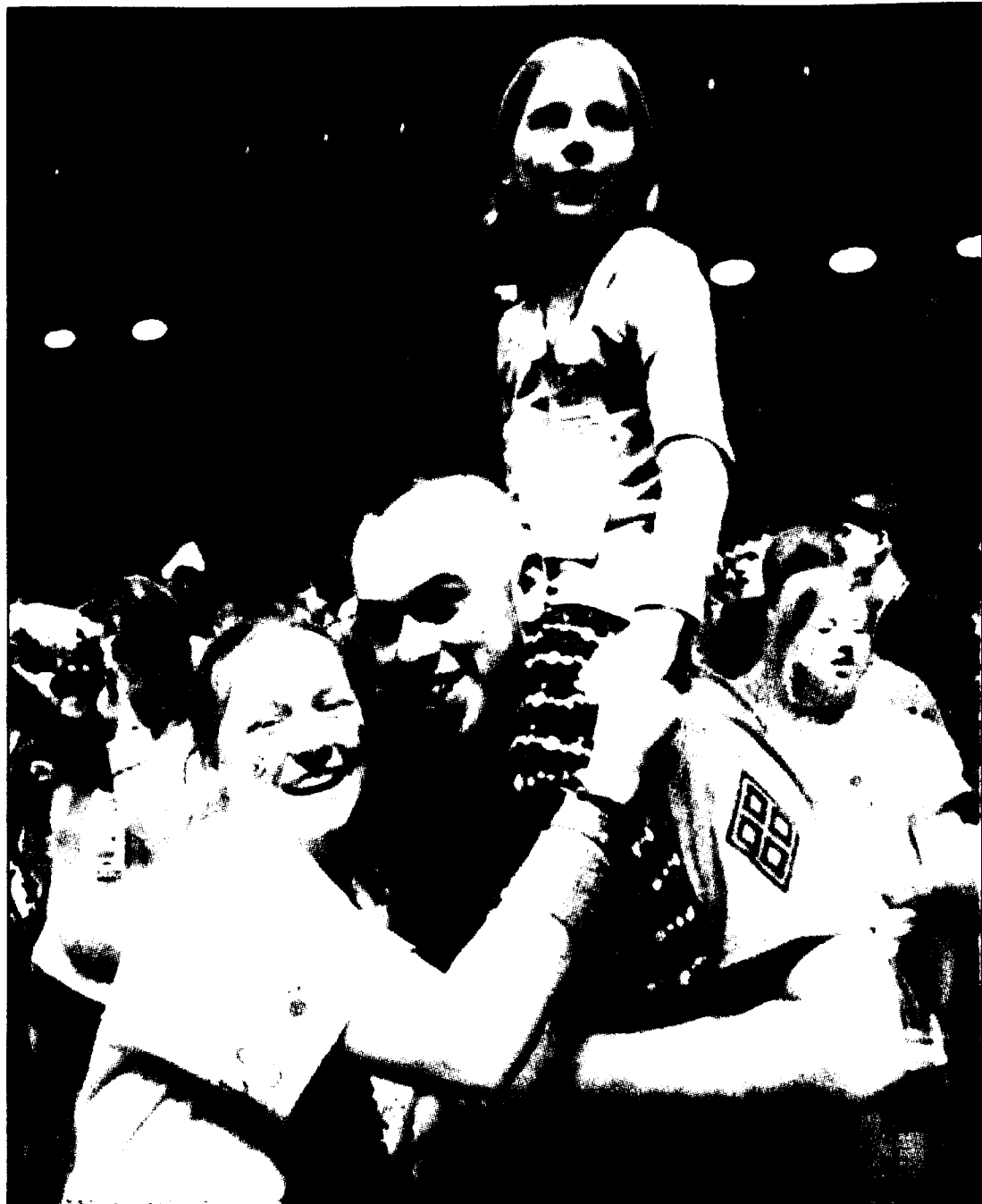


# BEHREND BEACON

## Rylee Dorer's fight for life



Behrend THON president Molly Thomas and former president James Wolfe give Rylee Dorer a boost at University Park's 2008 THON finale. Dorer went into remission after a two-year battle with cancer.

SHAWN ANNARELLI  
managing editor

"I am a survivor," giggles Rylee Dorer. Her voice has a peculiar tone, surely too mature for an eight-year old. But Rylee is just that, a mature, curiously intellectual 8-year-old cancer survivor.

Two years ago, Rylee attended her brother Corbin's soccer game and snacked on

**Rylee Dorer, Behrend THON child Born:** Oct. 1, 2001  
**Diagnosed:** Oct. 17, 2007 with Non-Hodgkins T-Cell Lymphoma  
**Remission:** Jan. 4, 2010

Goldfish while coloring under a blanket. Suddenly, she felt her chest burn, and tears gradually crawled down her cheeks.

Amanda Dorer, Rylee's mother, had her sip some water, only to have Rylee cry desperately while her chest aches intensified.

"I began loading the kids [Rylee, Corbin and their little sister Dalaney] into the car, but Rylee was okay when we were ready to go," Mrs. Dorer said.

Despite sleeping comfortably over night, Rylee awoke the next morning with severely bloodshot eyes and abnormal breathing. The family pediatrician prescribed her amoxicillin, but a visit two days later and a chest X-ray exposed a mass the size of an egg pressing against Rylee's trachea.

Her life took a turn sharper than her chest pains.

On Oct. 17, 2007, at PSU Hershey Medical Center, doctors

diagnosed Rylee with T-Cell Lymphoma, a white blood cell cancer. When the Dorers told Rylee, her first question was, "Am I going to die?," the hardest question they've ever tried to answer. Mrs. Dorer says they never told her yes or no, just that she could be cured.

"It was really scary," Rylee said, as she reflected on over two years of treatments. "The worst thing was when they put tubes down my nose into my belly. It was the tape I didn't like. The tape meant I had tubes and needles in me."

**"We set out on a mission and accomplished it. She is my little hero."**

Linh Nguyen  
THON member

Around the same time that Rylee began treatments, Behrend THON members, led by then club president James Wolfe, applied to have a THON child. During Thanksgiving 2007, Wolfe and Molly Thomas, who is currently Behrend THON's president, received letters congratulating them on their "first child."

"I was so excited," Wolfe said. "But I also thought, 'Holy crap, we have a responsibility to support Rylee as best as we can. I wondered if we could do it.'"

Wolfe contacted the Dorers and arranged to meet them at THON's annual Family Carnival, which benefits the Four Di-

monds Fund. It was the beginning of a learning experience for two families soon to be one.

"It was really cool to finally meet the Behrend kids," said Shannon Dorer, Rylee's father. "We were curious about what THON was, so we tried to learn a lot about them."

Wolfe said the feelings were mutual and that it was amazing how proactive the family was.

"When Kelly [Cardos], Erin [Keisel], and I met them at the carnival we were welcomed right away," Wolfe said. "We were surprised at how lively Rylee was. She ended up dancing on stage for us and just having fun. We made an immediate bond."

The first get-together may have gotten THON and the Dorers familiar with each other, but the second visit gave Wolfe and Thomas a humbling, in-depth look at the Dorers lives at the Hershey Medical Center.

Adorned in medical gowns and masks, Wolfe said that they had a preconceived notion that they didn't want to seem too happy walking in but were met by an upbeat family, including Rylee, despite her illness.

"I was excited to see them, again," Rylee said. "We already loved each other a lot, and I think they were really great for us."

"They [THON] were a big pick me up, because those first few months were the most intensive and the most difficult for all of us," Mr. Dorer said.

"Rylee was taking up to 12 pills a day which she could not swallow whole.

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### Kanzius Cancer Research Project could win \$250,000

CAROLYN ZAFFINO  
staff writer

The Kanzius Cancer Research Project has an exciting opportunity to win \$250,000 from Pepsi, and Behrend students can help them win.

PepsiCo. has begun a contest called the "Pepsi Refresh Project" which will give away up to 32 grants each month.

The Kanzius project has been nominated for April and people can go online and vote every day until April 30th.

According to the Erie Times-News on Friday April 2, the Kanzius project was ranked 33rd.

If they receive the grant, the researchers plan to hire a molecular biologist that specializes in cancer cell targeting and a physicist.

The steps for voting are:

- Go to [www.refresheverything.com](http://www.refresheverything.com).
- Click on the Health Category.
- Click on the \$250,000 category.
- Scroll down to the Kanzius Cancer Research Project (You may need to click "load more")
- Click on "vote for this idea"

If you are new to the site, it will require you to register. Once registered, click the "vote for this idea" again.

### Swishes for Wishes to benefit Make-A-Wish

CAROLYN ZAFFINO  
staff writer

The 5th Annual Swishes for Wishes Basketball Game is scheduled to be on Monday. Tip-off is at 5 p.m. in the Junker Center.

This charity basketball game features our graduating seniors versus a selected group of faculty and staff players including Courtney Nagle, Ken Bauer, Jimmy Sutton, Felecia Williams and many more.

All proceeds will benefit our regional chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in

hopes of granting a wish as the RA class has done for the past seven consecutive years.

While admission is free and open to the public, all of those attending are encouraged to bring a few dollars to help the cause.

How might one do this? Co-coordinator and Resident Life coordinator Keith Cerroni explains, "Every attendee gets a free raffle ticket (seniors get two)...buy more raffle tickets, and help a great cause. Plus, the more tickets you buy, the better your odds are of winning some of the over-

\$1,000 worth of prizes."

Sponsors of this event include the Senior Year Experience Committee and the 2010 RA Class. Also lending their support is the ACPC, Athletics, the Behrend Dance Team, and Behrend Cheerleaders.

"The average cost of a wish is \$3,400, and we are looking to raise at least that much for the eighth straight year," Cerroni says.

So please join the graduating senior basketball players, and selected staff members, as they shoot, sink, and swish for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

### H&SS hosts career fair at McGarvey Commons

ADAM FRACASSI  
H&SS editor

There's one for business & engineering, but not for humanities and social sciences until now.

Thanks to the hard work of multiple professors, organizations, and the Academic and Career Planning Center, the 2010 Government, Non-Profit, and Creative Careers fair can be considered successful.

The career fair took place this past Thursday in McGarvey Commons where over 50 employers attended to represent the variety of jobs that are available in the career field of degrees like political science, creative writing, and psychology.

Many students on campus are glad that the school of H&SS was finally represented in this type of fair.

"There are many opportunities for students in business and engineering to get jobs after graduation," says sophomore Amber Heeter.

"I understand those are the degrees that Behrend pushes to publicize most, but you can't



In McGarvey Commons students had the opportunity to explore a variety of career opportunities.

forget about the humanities and social science majors either. We all need jobs after graduation, too."

Faculty could also see the importance of this fair coming to Behrend.

"This is important for your future," said political science

chair Dr. Robert Speel in an e-mail sent to all political science students to remind them of the fair.

"Whether you are a graduating senior or looking for an internship, or just beginning to explore career options, this is important for you to attend."

Daniel Smith / The Behrend Beacon

Out of the employers that attended, many were very excited to represent their career and career field. The representatives from several organizations took the time out of their day to promote their service to students on campus.