

What's hot this week:

- Pop Chart:**
"In My Head"
Jason Derulo
Jason Derulo
- Country Chart:**
"American Honey"
Lady Antebellum
Need You Now
- Rock Chart:**
"Between the Lines"
Stone Temple Pilots
Stone Temple Pilots
- Hip Hop/R&B Chart:**
"Everything to Me"
Monica
Still Standing
- Album:**
My World 2.0
Justin Bieber

Steensland lands job for \$5mil film

DEVIN FAULHABER
staff writer

While his colleagues toil over pages of research, communications professor Mark Steensland is dealing with pigeons sent from Hell.

Steensland will bring author Robert E. Howard's acclaimed horror short story "Pigeons from Hell" to the big screen, in association with Paradox Entertainment.

Pigeons from Hell, which author Stephen King labeled "one of the finest horror stories of our century," is the story of two men traveling through the 1930s American South.

In search of a place to stay for the night, they find more than they bargained for in an abandoned plantation house.

Steensland was surprised the rights to the story hadn't been bought yet and quickly approached Paradox to secure them.

Paradox owns the rights to all of Howard's material. Howard wrote much of his work in the 1920s and 30s, including Conan the Barbarian, Solomon Kane, and Kull the Conqueror, among others.

Known for his horror short films, Steensland used these to get in touch with a development executive at the company. After a short pitch meeting, the company contracted him to adapt the story.

The first draft of the script is currently finished with a second on the way. Budgeted at around \$5 million, Steensland aims to deliver a close adaptation that is heavy on atmosphere.

Steensland is currently in the running to direct the film.

As for the movie's release date or who will be cast in it, "it's about as sure as tomorrow's weather," Steensland says.

Although the story is known

in many literary circles, the challenge will be pitching the name to an unfamiliar audience. A change in title is planned but has not been finalized.

Louisiana, the site of filming for such movies as *Déjà Vu* and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, is a possible candidate for shooting.

Steensland, too, brings some Hollywood to Erie, in the form of his communication courses at Penn State Behrend.

Behrend will once again offer Steensland's screenwriting course in the fall. The class, offered once every two years, gives students an in-depth look behind the screenwriting process.

Students watch films such as *Toy Story* and *Midnight Run* to analyze their narrative structures before writing their own short film or feature length screenplays.

Industry professionals are

also brought into class, allowing students to ask questions about the realities of working in Hollywood and the challenge of selling a film to executives.

Brian Morris, a creative writing major previously took the screenwriting course and was impressed by it.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to explore another genre of writing and improve my own writing," Morris says.

Screenwriting Info:

Comm 346
Writing for the Screen I
Emphasizing analysis, creativity, and critiquing skills necessary for the development of storytelling.
TR 11:00 - 12:15
REDC 206

Weekly Political Ticker

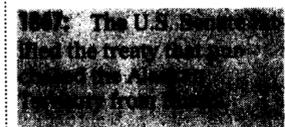
ADAM FRACASSI

H&SS editor • political science major

Supreme Court Justice **John Paul Stevens** announced that he is retiring after the end of this term...This retirement gives President **Obama** his second Supreme Court nomination in his first term...Among the list of names to replace Justice **Stevens** are Secretary of Homeland Security **Janet Napolitano**, Attorney General **Eric Holder**, and Michigan Governor **Jennifer Granholm**...The Securities Exchange Commission filed civil charges against the Goldman Sachs CEO on fraud charges...Obama announced that he is increasing the NASA budget by \$6 billion over the next five years...Arizona State Senate passed a bill this past Monday that requires immigrants to carry their alien documentation on them at all times and gives police the right to question anyone if suspected of being an illegal immigrant...President **Obama** asked Health and Human Services Secretary **Kathleen Sebelius** to establish a rule that would no longer allow hospitals the right to deny gay and lesbian couples the right to visitation...A volcanic eruption in Iceland caused the airline service to be shut down because the ash is extremely thick and clogs jet engines as they fly through it...the ash cloud caused President **Obama** and Vice President **Joe Biden** to not be able to attend the funeral of Polish President **Lech Kaczynski** who was killed in a plane crash earlier this week...Obama decided against holding a public ceremony for the National Day of Prayer...There was a massive earthquake in China that killed over 600 people.

On This Day in History: April 23rd

1861: Arkansas troops seized Fort Smith



1900: The word "hillbilly" was first used in print in an article in the "New York Journal." It was spelled "Hill-Billie."



1924: The Senate passed the Soldiers Bonus Bill



1954: Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit his first major-league home run



1985: The U.S. House rejected \$14 million in aid to Nicaragua.



2003: President Bush authorized a bill to make changes to the nickel for release in 2004.

Nine students inducted into Lambda Pi Eta

ADAM FRACASSI
H&SS writer • poli sci major

Penn State Erie is proud to introduce nine new students into the Behrend chapter of Lambda Pi Eta.

The students were recognized and inducted on April 15.

Lambda Pi Eta is a prestigious honor society of the National Communication Association. Students were presented with certificates and membership pins at the induction ceremony.

This membership is a prominent achievement.

According to the press release, the president of the Omicron Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, Amy Lawrence says, "Membership is an extreme accomplishment and honor. The organization only honors those

who academically excel."

Lambda Pi Eta signifies the three ingredients of persuasion that Aristotle

described in his book, *Rhetoric*: Logos, meaning logic (Lambda); Pathos (Pi), relating to emotion; and Ethos (Eta), defined as character credibility and ethics.

Lambda Pi Eta honors students for their impressive commitment to the study of communications.

In order to become a member, students must complete 60 semester hours with at least 12 focused in communications.

Students must also have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater, and a communications GPA of at least 3.25.

"Membership is an extreme accomplishment and honor."

Amy Lawrence

Omicron Chapter President of Lambda Pi Eta

Lambda Pi Eta was founded in 1985 at the University of Arkansas. Lambda Pi Eta became a component of the National Communication Association (NCA) in 1988, and was bestowed the official honor society of the NCA in July 1995.

The NCA is non-profit with over 8,000 educators, practitioners, and students working and living in every state and more than 20 countries.

The NCA "advances communication as the discipline that studies all forms, modes, media and consequences of communication through humanistic, social scientific and aesthetic inquiry."

The National Communication Association is the largest national organization to promote communication, scholarship, and education.

It aims to contribute to a better education and society through its work.

Becoming a member was no easy task, and congratulations go out to the nine new members of Lambda Pi Eta.

H&SS Professor Feature: John Gamble

ANDREW TARR
H&SS writer • poli sci major

Of all the professors at Penn State Behrend, John Gamble has been here the longest. So long that he has earned himself the title of Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Law.

Gamble is in charge of many different departments on campus, including Pre-Law advising and the Honors Program.

Of all professors, Gamble is arguably one of the most unnoticed. He recently sat down with the Beacon to discuss his job as a professor here.

Q: Where did you get your degrees from?

A: My Ph.D. is from the University of Washington in Seattle, and my undergraduate degree is in political science with a minor in math from the College of Wooster.

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

A: Yes, I taught in Rhode Island for five years before coming here.

Q: How long have you been at Behrend?

A: I have been teaching at Behrend for 30 years now.

Q: What are some of the things you are involved in as a professor here?

A: I am the director of the honors program. That is about 20 percent of my job as a professor here.

Q: What all is involved as being the director of the program?

A: I try to make sure people understand the requirements and apply for programs they might qualify for. I also have to provide guidance to college to help find good students and get them to apply. I also answer questions that students may have about any of our honors courses.

Q: How do students become a part of the honors program?

A: There are two different honors programs here at Behrend. First there is the Behrend honors program for the first two years of your college career. Most people enter into it as a

freshman because of high grades in high school. Then there is the Schreyer Honors College, which is a University wide honors college program.

Q: What is required for a student to do?

A: It all depends on how tough the high school is that they attended. They must have at least a 3.5 or 3.6 G.P.A. in high school. Schreyers Honors College requires a paper, where Behrend's Honors Program does not. The Schreyer members must complete a thesis in senior year of college. Both are required to maintain a G.P.A. while attending the university.

Q: What are you working on now?

A: I am currently writing a book about how people need to better analyze their news. It is called *No Bull Information*. I want people to demand more accurate information from the news, whether that is from buying products, voting for a candidate, or applying for a university. That is the theme for the book. In it I offer suggestions for how you can contest information. I am aiming to complete it this summer.



John Gamble, H&SS School Distinguished Professor in Political Science and International Law John Gamble has been teaching at Behrend for 30 years and is the director of the honors program.

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Wednesday 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Thursday 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Questions? Call 451-6700

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