

## BEHREND BEACON YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back at the stories that define the 2009-2010 academic year at Penn State Behrend

(ALL STORIES PRINTED WITH AUTHOR, THEIR STAFF TITLE AT THE TIME AT WHICH THE ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED, AND DATE THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY RAN IN THE BEHREND BEACON.)

### New Director chosen for School of Humanities and Social Sciences

#### School selects Queens College professor for director post

SHANNON EHRIN,  
RACHELLE THOMPSON  
culture editor, news editor  
April 16, 2010

Steven Hicks, chair professor of Philosophy at Queens College, was announced as the new director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences on Thursday. "One thing that attracted me to the position as it was adver-

tised is that it seemed to be a very good match for my qualifications," Hicks said. "I was pleasantly surprised; it was gratifying to know that the faculty and staff had confidence in my ability to take over as the director."

John Gamble, a Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations and the chair of the director search committee, believes that while Hicks will have to adjust to changes in the school, his background in philosophy is something that can apply to many different areas.

Gamble believes "he seemed to understand competing demands to research and teach well... the fact that he's in philosophy in some ways provides

natural linkages to a lot of different areas within the school, even though we don't have a major in philosophy at the school."

As chair of the Department of Philosophy at Queens College, Hicks oversaw a number of interdisciplinary programs, liberal arts studies, and took an active role in teaching cross-literary courses. Not only did Hicks graduate with a doctorate from Columbia University, he also has a strong record of publications on the 19th-century German philosopher, Hegel.

What attracted him to the job, Hicks said, was that it was "a good match with what I was doing, a good way to develop administrative and teaching ex-

periences also the new challenges that lie within."

Gamble said, "He has perspectives that appeal to a lot of us, so that might give him some understanding of a lot of different disciplines."

Kathryn Wolfe, Professor of French at Penn State Behrend, agrees that Hicks is the perfect fit for this position.

"During his on-campus interview, he struck many of us as being someone who listened well and gave thoughtful answers that bespoke a penetrating, humane and fair mind. We have every reason to hope for many years of enlightened leadership with this hire," said Wolfe.

Hicks is enthusiastic about his new role, and he is ready to

jump right in. He feels his first important task in his new position is to be an active listener, to talk to students and staff, and look at what has worked well at Behrend and try to improve, as well as look at what needs to be expanded.

"To put it simply, we want to prepare students to be productive in a pluralistic and increasingly globalizing society," said Hicks.

While Hicks is bringing a fresh mindset to the job, he will nonetheless "face the same issues as Behrend will face - tougher budget, harder to get money for programs than it's always been," said Gamble.

"What I think we've found in Hicks is someone who wants the job and thinks that it pro-

duces interesting opportunities, and will put forth effort into it."

The current Director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Richard Aquila, has served in this position since July 2004. This June, he will be stepping down as director and plans to go on sabbatical in the upcoming academic year.

July 15 will mark the beginning of Hicks' new position, and with him comes a strong philosophical approach to life.

"A life worth living is a life in which wisdom and technical expertise and knowledge is central to the mission of students having a liberal arts education, Socratic mission of critically scrutinizing information," he said.

### H&SS School hires digital communications professor

**Graphic Design**  
We create  
visual communication  
for your business  
and organization  
with a focus on  
brand identity  
and user experience  
We are open  
on Tuesdays  
5:00-8:00 p.m.  
on Wednesdays  
11:00-4:00 p.m.  
on Thursdays  
11:00-11:59 a.m.  
on Fridays  
11:00-4:00 p.m.  
on Saturdays  
11:00-4:00 p.m.  
on Sundays  
11:00-4:00 p.m.  
We are open  
on Tuesdays  
5:00-8:00 p.m.  
on Wednesdays  
11:00-4:00 p.m.  
on Thursdays  
11:00-11:59 a.m.  
on Fridays  
11:00-4:00 p.m.  
on Saturdays  
11:00-4:00 p.m.  
on Sundays  
11:00-4:00 p.m.

ALLI HEITZENRATER  
H&SS writer • creative writing major  
April 9, 2010

The communications department has hired a new professor who will start in the Fall 2010 semester.

This professor is Dr. Inkyu Kang from Madison, Wis. Kang has a B.A. in International Economics and a B.A. in English from Hankyong University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea.

He also has an M.A. in mass communications and journalism from Sogang University in Seoul, Korea. Kang has a second M.A. in Communication Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In addition to his bachelors degrees and two masters degrees, Kang has a Ph.D. in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Madison, Wis.

Kang worked as a lecturer for Korean Culture and Civilization, the fall of 2005 as a lecturer for Modern Korea: North and South, and the spring of 2006 as a lecturer for Korean Popular Culture.

At Behrend, Kang will be teaching multiple classes. Among those classes are a graphic design course, Introduction to Multimedia Produc-

tion, and a few other courses. Kang will also be the faculty advisor for the Beacon.

According to Rod Troester, the program chair of the communications department, the reason for hiring a new professor was simply because there was the opportunity available and they decided to seize it.

Troester also says that besides educational qualifications, when hiring a new professor, they also look for someone who will successfully be able to teach classes while continuing to do research. Being able to do both tasks is important, Troester said.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences, along with the Behrend Community, would like to welcome Kang to the faculty.

tion, and a few other courses.

According to Rod Troester, the program chair of the communications department, the reason for hiring a new professor was simply because there was the opportunity available and they decided to seize it.

Troester also says that besides educational qualifications, when hiring a new professor, they also look for someone who will successfully be able to teach classes while continuing to do research. Being able to do both tasks is important, Troester said.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences, along with the Behrend Community, would like to welcome Kang to the faculty.

### H&SS News in Brief

#### Craig Warren publishes first book; examines civil war

Dr. Craig Warren, an English professor, had his Civil War book, *Scars to Prove It: The Civil War Soldier and American Fiction*, published by the Kent State University Press in July of 2009.

The book is a close look at the complicated relationship between the numerous memoirs, regimental histories, and other narratives put out by Civil War veterans, and the thousands of Civil War novels published since 1865.

"It is clear that we write about the Civil War as a way to understand our own moment in time, especially with regard to the social and political issues of today: race, gender, religion, human rights, the nature of liberty, and the role of the federal government in our everyday lives," Warren said.

- Alli Heitzenrater, H&SS Writer, Feb. 26 2010

#### Speel wins University-wide award

Robert Speel, an associate professor of political science, has received Penn State University's Undergraduate Program Leadership Award for 2010.

The goal of the award is to recognize those individuals who have major responsibilities for the delivery of undergraduate education within a unit and who are providing leadership that has transformed or revitalized the undergraduate program within the unit in some way.

- Andrew Tarr, H&SS Writer, Feb. 26 2010

#### Steenland lands \$5mil film job

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

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

Steenland 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," Steenland says.

- Devin Faulhaber, H&SS Writer, April 23, 2010

#### Looney wins Zone 3 Poetry award



Creative Writing Program Chair George Looney has won the Zone 3 Poetry Award from the Center for Excellence for the Creative Arts at Austin Peay State University.

His poem, "The Revision of Something Imagined," was described by judge David Keplinger as being quite brilliant and having meticulously crafted sentences which, when combined with each other, created a haunting gift.

- Alli Heitzenrater, H&SS Writer, Feb. 26 2010

#### Professor Cross wins Dzanc Prize

Eugene Cross, Humanities and Social Sciences Professor, has been awarded the third annual Dzanc Prize, a \$5,000 monetary prize awarded annually to a writer of literary fiction.

Cross will use his prize to establish a year-long series of creative writing workshops for refugees from Nepal, Sudan and Bhutan. Cross' work was selected out of over 100 entries.

- Alli Heitzenrater, H&SS Writer, Feb. 26 2010



### Question and Answer with Dr. Aquila

ALLI HEITZENRATER  
H&SS writer • creative writing major  
February 12, 2010

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.



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.

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

**A:** My Ph.D. 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 responsible with faculty for tenure, teaching and making sure professors are doing they can, assessment of curriculum changes, to decide what can they can be doing to figure out what makes the program tick. The school director pro-

vides 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 decide

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.

### H&SS Editor

Adam Fracassi  
political science

### H&SS Writers

Andrew Tarr  
political science  
Zack Goncz  
political science  
Lasheena Barnes  
psychology

Alli Heitzenrater  
creative writing  
Matt Defusco  
creative writing  
Devin Faulhaber  
creative writing