

Campus Voice

What is the most important part of the Christmas Season to you?

by Nan Quatchak and Vail Weller
Entertainment Editors.



Andy Oney
3rd semester
Management
"Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and being at home with my family."



Denise Cutruzzola
4th semester
Communications
"Going home to be with my family, getting into the Christmas spirit (trimming the tree), visiting relatives and friends."



Tina McCracken
2nd year
English
"Sharing things with my family."



Marty McElligott
3rd semester
Chemical Engineering
"Being away from school. It's good to get home with my family."



Chip Hamilton
3rd semester
Communications
"I wish that I could say something that could wrap it all up. It's everything from being in the kitchen with mom baking cookies to buying your sister that sweater. It's just the whole overall feeling."

photo by Marybeth Zawistoski

FEATURES

Traveling Professor Teaches at Behrend Brings a wealth of knowledge and five cats

by Millicent E. White
Collegian Staff Writer

Behrend is fortunate to have Dr. Duncan White as a visiting assistant Psychology professor. Dr. White has been at Behrend since the beginning of the semester in August and will stay here for one year or longer if his contract is renewed.

White took 10 years between high school and college to try out different professions and live in different environments before deciding to study psychology. He has lived in various parts of the world doing many things including 2 years in North Africa, 2 years in Rome Italy, giving glacial tours in the French Swiss Alps, Marine art and boat builder in Maine. Dr. White believes these experiences have given him a very broad liberal arts background and made him certain that his choice of careers was the right one.

Prior to coming to Behrend, White spent 2 years at Kenyon College in Ohio. White's first impressions of Erie were good. He enjoys the scenery and the fact that on a clear day one can see Lake Erie and Canada. He likes the scenery of farm land and hills on the outskirts of town better than downtown Erie itself, but he feels some of the renovation downtown is very nice.

The people of Erie as well as the scenery have left a very good impression with Dr. White. Through a somewhat unfortunate happening upon his arrival he has found the people very friendly and helpful. It seems Dr. White's old car had some problems. A few people were very willing to go out of their way to get him the parts he needed.

White's thoughts on the future of psychology are ones of change. For years the American Psychological Association was the main association of psychologists. It was formed around the turn of the century. The American Psychological Association dealt mainly with the clinical (applied) side of psychology. Now a new order of psychologists, the American Psychological Society, has emerged as the main psychological association. This new society puts emphasis on the technical or research side of psychology.

White said that, concerning future employment, the psychology field will be hiring graduates in both the cognitive and developmental fields. He also feels there will be positions in the industrial, clinical, and human welfare sides of psychology, most of which are applied forms of psychology. White feels the emphasis on research in psychology will grow but not fully develop until the middle 90's for those students interested in the research end of psychology. Teaching jobs at colleges and universities will be hard to find. White believes there will not be many positions available.

Dr. White believes the research and teaching of psychology go hand in hand. One necessitates and facilitates the other because in the lab one gets a better understanding

of psychology. The classroom forces psychology to make sense, it also gives the psychologists a chance to make sense of and apply their research. Teaching makes research meaningful.

Dr. White is in the midst of a research project right now. In his research he is using 5 cats as models for the human visual system. He has found the types of cells in cats to be similar to the cells of the human eye. Do the eye cells of cats mean the same to cats as they do to humans? That is what he is trying to find out.

The cats are placed in a specially made box and shown 40

figures a day. The object is to determine how the animal uses information. They try to make a distinction between a visual figure and pattern. The cat must decide what is more important, figure or pattern.

White's results have been that cats, like humans and monkeys,

prefer figures. The cats are not harmed in any way with the experimenting. No surgical procedures are involved and the cats are not caged. The animals are also content, each weighing 10-12 pounds a piece. They enjoy the attention and especially the clam juice and milk reward if they choose the right figure.

When asked if he enjoys teaching better than research or vice versa, Dr. White replied that he didn't prefer one over the other. His research is very important to him and teaching is difficult because he feels a lot goes into the investment of teaching.

As far as his future is concerned, White will stay at Behrend for the remainder of the year or longer if his contract is renewed. He enjoys Behrend and its students because they offer such a broad range of interests and capabilities. His favorite aspect of Behrend is the people and he is thoroughly enjoying his time here.



photo by Tracy Cross

Dr. Duncan White, assistant professor of Psychology

Poetry Corner

by Pierce Riley

Argus

Temporal vs. Spiritual.
Love vs. Lust.
The haze of days and nights,
blacks and whites.

and yellows.

Society (or The Danger of Overthinking While Braindead)

In the morning I wipe paste from a tube under my arms.
so I won't smell
and put on liquid from a bottle
so I will.

And I don't know why.

During the night I sleep semi-clothed in order to cover
certain body parts I have
that are just like the ones on half of the other bodies
on this big ball of dust in the boondocks
called Earth.

And I don't know why.

I inhaled the smoke of burning leaves through a paper tube
with a plastic filter
when I cried about my Grandfather
dying of cancer.

And I don't know why.

The same people that declare war on other nations,
Killing their inhabitants and American soldiers,
Create legislation prohibiting the returning soldiers
from driving over 55 m.p.h...
for fear they might kill somebody.

And I don't know why.

I know that one plus one equals two except when referring
to two healthy animals of the opposite sex
in a confined area for an extended period of time and
I remember that Pierre Curie got run over by a truck.

And I don't know why.

I know that tonight I will sleep semi-clothed, that I
will put paste on my armpits tomorrow, drive 55, and
inhale burning leaves until I die.

But please...

Don't ask me why.

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