

Humanities Roundup

Proposals Set to Bolster Division

By Mary Lee Schnable

A proposed research center, lecture series opportunities, and a hiatus for the experimental Monday-Wednesday classes are among recent developments in the Penn State Harrisburg Humanities Division.

A gift of \$5000 has been received for a proposed American Studies Research Center to be located at PSH. The gift is from the Ann McCormick Trust Fund and will be put toward the projected \$150,000 cost of the center, said Dr. William Mahar, Humanities Division Head.

Plans are for the center to function as a clearing house for all American Studies research in this area of Pennsylvania, Mahar said adding, "the American Studies program at PSH is nationally known."

There will be no 75-minute Monday-Wednesday Humanities classes on the Fall 1989 schedule, Mahar said. Although the classes have been well received by faculty and students involved, lack of classroom space and normally heavier fall enrollment prohibit including them, he said.

Congressman Doug Wolgren is the featured speaker for the first of the GTE Ethics Lecture Series, to be held on March 6th. Wolgren is scheduled to arrive on campus at 3 p.m., and will be

in the Gallery Lounge for an informal get together with faculty and students says Dr. H. Sachs.

Wolgren's 4 p.m. lecture, also in the Gallery Lounge, will be open to the community as well as faculty and students.

The purpose of the three part GTE series is to bring prominent speakers to the campus to discuss the kinds of ethical decisions they face every day, said Dr. William Mahar, Humanities Division Head.

The second part of the Series will feature Samuel Florman, a prominent Engineering Technologist, while the third will involve Penn State faculty and Engineering Technology Division Alumni in a panel discussion. The Series is funded by the GTE Foundation.

Mr. Hyman Myers will be the speaker on March 21, as the American Studies Lecture Series, now in its third year, continues at PSH. Myers is an authority on Victorian architecture and preservation, and is the architect who redesigned the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia after it was virtually shut down by Legionaire's Disease several years ago.

Students Contribute to Sexual Fantasy Research

By John Yagecic

The "Sexual Fantasy Study" signs that adorn the campus have sparked many questions and some imaginative conversations in the Lion's Den.

Dr. Michael Becker, Assistant Professor of Psychology, assures curious students, "it's no joke; there really is a study."

The study, which began on this campus last November is scheduled to resume the week of Feb. 20.

"Sexual fantasy," said Becker, "is an important type of human behavior."

"The scientific study of sexuality was inhibited until relatively recently," Becker said.

"Because of that inhibition, I think we know very little about sexual behavior, especially considering how important sex is to human beings."

Becker plans to use the information gathered to study sexual fantasy and obtain a better understanding of what fantasy is.

"I think we'll get a bigger picture of what fantasies are all about and what they represent," Becker said.

Since its initiation at Penn State Harrisburg, 65 students have participated in the study.

"Ideally, we'd like between 350 and 400 participants," said Becker.

As an incentive Becker is offering \$10 to all participating volunteers.

"We don't have a formal means of getting research participants. At larger universities, students in introductory psychology courses are often required to participate in a number of research studies," said Becker.

"We don't have that luxury here; we really do rely on volunteers," Becker said.

Student volunteers are asked to write out in detail the most common sexual fantasy they have experienced in the past three months. The participant then answers a series of questions about the fantasy.

"Students who participate can count on complete anonymity," Becker stated.

Males and females complete the study at different times with a research assistant of the same sex.

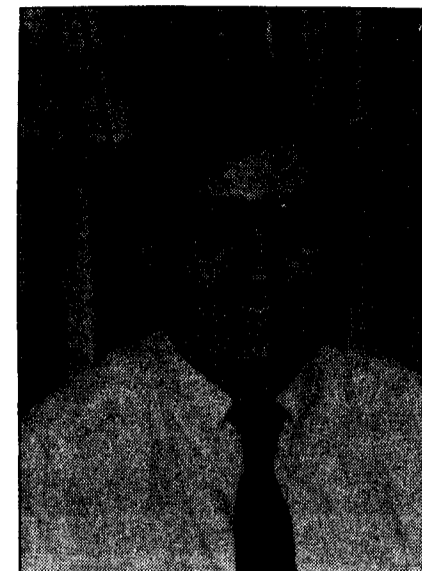


photo by John Yagecic
Dr. Becker, Assistant Professor of Psychology

"We'd like all different majors," Becker said, "this way we'll have a good representation of all college students."

Students who have already participated found the study to be a positive experience.

"It was great," said public policy major Peg Leight, "it was the easiest ten dollars I ever made."

"From a stand point of researching human behavior, it is a very practical and worthy cause, not to mention getting some beer money for the weekend," said finance major Brian Steidle.

The study was financed by the Capital Research Fund.

Becker and his research assistants Tom Thorpe and Flossy Wolf are already planning to present their study at the American Psychological Association and Eastern Region of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality meetings in Boston this March.

"We would expect that we would be able to get many convention papers and formal research reports from this project," said Becker, "the data is really quite extensive."

Students interested in participating can sign up in the Behavioral Science Office, room W-157 of the Olmsted building.

Downtown Center

(Continued from page 1)

Karlik said the center will provide needed access to all PSU campuses. "We are here to serve as a conduit to all the resources within the Penn State system," Karlik said. She added that although information for all campuses is available, most inquiries have been about Penn State Harrisburg or University Park.

Karlik said that a PSH graduate admissions counselor is available every Tuesday, and she hopes that a similar arrangement can be made for an undergraduate counselor.

According to Karlik, the center attracts people who think about continuing their education but are not sure they are ready. "There's a real interest in education. Having the center

here triggers interest." The center averages 14 walk-ins per day, she added.

The Downtown Center is currently staffed by three full-time employees. In addition, two full-time and two part-time employees of PSU's Continuing Education Division work on the center's third floor where the division recently relocated its Harrisburg regional office.

The center's facilities include the following: three multi-purpose rooms for classes, workshops and meetings; study, lounge, and snack areas; and staff offices. As well as audio visual equipment, three computers are available for student use. The computers will be linked to PSU LIAS system.

The Downtown Center is managed by the PSH Institute of State and Regional Affairs.

Spring Semi Sponsored by RSC, SUBOG through S.G.A.
Plan to Attend:
A Fool's Night Out
Price: \$10.00 a person
\$20.00 a couple
block of tickets available
no date needed, anyone is welcome to attend. Table of 10 seats
More information to come.

Spring Blood Drive

Monday, April 10 the Chi Gamma Iota Fraternity and the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank will sponsor the Spring Blood Drive from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Gallery Lounge. All students, faculty and staff are urged to donate blood. This semester, due to the flu epidemic, the local blood supply has been seriously reduced. *Please donate, the need is urgent!*

Capital Times Staff:

The next meeting of the Capital Times staff will be Friday February 17, in room W-337 at 2:00 p.m.

ADOPTION

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