

Brokenshire

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"It hasn't always been easy," she said, "but I love my classes and the other students."

Although it's a big accomplishment to receive her degree, Brokenshire admits that her education has had to take a back seat to other events in her life.

"Through it all I raised two children and did other things that were necessary for the family," she said. "Since the kids have been grown I have been able to get back to my classes and concentrate on my degree."

After graduation Brokenshire will have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrative Arts with a theater emphasis. Although she admits she is unsure where the degree will lead, she is excited to be graduating.

"I have worked very hard but have had a very good time also," she said.

Brokenshire began her college courses in Syracuse in 1966 as part of a program offered by a

company where she worked.

Then she met her husband-to-be, John Brokenshire, and the two were married and started a family. During this time she stopped taking classes to spend time with her family.

When her first son was in kindergarten, Brokenshire decided it was time to head back to the classroom and found a school that had a daycare center where she could put her other son when she was in classes.

"This meant a lot to me," she said, "because we always said he was going to school with mommy".

In 1979 the family moved back to this area and Brokenshire continued to take classes at local colleges. In 1987 she earned an associates degree from Penn State Wilkes-Barre, but she wanted to continue and get her Bachelors degree.

Because of her age, she wasn't sure what major to take, but decided on theater.

"I've always been interested in the theater and when I decided to start taking classes again my advisors told me to take something that I enjoyed. So I looked towards the theater department," said Brokenshire.

A degree in theater would have taken a bit longer so she decided to major in general arts with a theater emphasis. This decision turned out to be a good one because she was introduced to many different areas of the theater.

During her two years at Penn State's main campus in State College, Brokenshire took advantage of opportunities to take part in school productions, travel to England, and complete an internship in theater operations.

"It was all very exciting," she said. "I not only learned in the classroom but also by experiences outside my classes."

She worked on three productions at Penn State, including "Joseph and the Amazing Techni-

color Dream Coat," for which she was the costume designer.

"That was a real treat," Brokenshire said of the play. "It was the first time that I could really get creative while working on a show."

It's easy to see Brokenshire's enthusiasm towards the theater as she speaks about her experiences. "I just love it when my creative juices get going and 'Joseph' really got me going," she exclaimed.

Brokenshire spent nearly 50 hours making the multi-colored outfit and when the show was over bought the coat to keep as a reminder of one of her first successes.

"I can say that when I was doing that show it was the happiest time I spent in school."

Another unique experience was her an internship at the University's Center for the Performing Arts. Brokenshire compared the center to Wilkes-Barre's Kirby Center and said she saw a different aspect to theater during her time

there.

"I worked with a lot of national touring companies and was amazed with some of the inner-workings of these shows," she said.

"It was interesting working with people from all over the country," she added.

Working with the operations aspect of theater opened her eyes to some of the not-so-glamorous parts of a show.

"Many times I worked with the shows from the very start to the very end — from unloading the equipment off the truck to putting back on when the show was over — and it was almost always fascinating," said Brokenshire.

Maybe the most spectacular part of her education was a summer trip to England.

"It was a six credit drama course but it was fun," she said.

She and her group watched 18 plays in 19 days while also taking classes and touring the countryside.

"I was thrilled to have the opportunity to go, but there were some things that were a change for me," she said.

"When we first got to our flat my roommates didn't think it was that bad and went about their business," she chuckled. "But I had never been in such a small apartment and was not sure if I did the right thing. Now I'm glad I went."

As a theater emphasis student Brokenshire had the unique opportunity to see plays performed in England. From big theaters to small pubs she saw a wide variety of shows.

"We also got to meet a lot of interesting people who, like us, were spending time in another country. It was fun to see how other cultures lived."

All of these experiences will take a back seat this month when Brokenshire will receive her diploma. The degree has a number of meanings for her as she is the first

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