

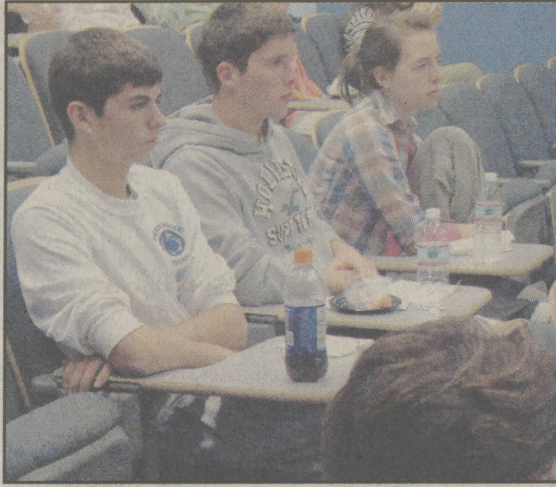
NYC

Continued from Page 1

rived. She remembers seeing a cloud of smoke in the sky and observing people running in all directions in Times Square.

Although she considered leaving her internship during times of uncertainty in the city, Ahmad stayed and developed a strong professional relationship with her boss at VHI. She even got to work on a VHI-sponsored September 11 benefit program at Madison Square Garden.

"It was one of the most amazing nights even still in my career," Ahmad said. "It was just amazing to see all the money raised and all the talent interacting with people and helping peo-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Penn State Wilkes-Barre students listen to alumnus Amanda Ahmad speak on Thursday, Sept. 11, in Barry Auditorium on the university's campus.

ple to smile for the first time after this horrible event."

When Ahmad's boss later left VHI to help launch Spike TV, Ahmad followed her, accepting a job in February 2003. Spike TV

launched in August of that year. "We've been there for the whole evolution of the channel," she said.

Ahmad's job involves the preparation for three major awards

events at Spike TV: Scream, which honors the best in comics, fantasy, science fiction and horror; the Video Game Awards and the Guys' Choice Awards for favorites in sports, music, movies and women.

She is living in a hotel in Los Angeles for three weeks during October to get ready for the Scream 2008 awards which will air at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21. She travels to the west coast five to six times a year for events.

When she is back in New York, Ahmad makes an overlay for the next event by contacting on-air hosts, booking celebrities for events, meeting with new talent and their agents, taking photos and more. She has met Samuel L. Jackson, Kevin Smith, Justin Timberlake, Steve Carell, Rainn Wilson and Muhammad Ali.

At the Penn State Wilkes-

Barre Alumni Career Speaker Series, Ahmad talked about her job and what it entails, hoping to answer students' questions about her major and the specifics of her day-to-day responsibilities.

"If you have a dream, be open to it and really try to achieve it," she said. "Be open because your dream job may be something you didn't even know existed."

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A lover of the land, Plains Township Veterinarian Doug Ayers thinks and lives "green." Growing up with animals in the midst of the Noxen state game lands, Doug truly has followed his destiny by doctoring animals and devoting his free time to protecting rural landscapes.

Three years ago he brainstormed a way to save a 400-acre privately owned Back Mountain farm by creating a nonprofit organization. Called The Lands at Hillside Farms, the sprawling property is used to teach visitors about our region's farming history; about caring for animals; and lessons on sustainable living. Ayers also was instrumental in the creation of the North Branch Land Trust to help landowners with conservation easements, putting limits on unwanted development.

His Northeast Veterinary Referral Hospital is green as well. It boasts a green roof and windows that take in natural sunlight during the winter, helping to heat the building. Inside, solar tubes that look like light fixtures bring sunlight in from the roof. Dr. Ayers even uses a "green" counter top made from recycled sunflower seeds.

Concerned about our world, Dr. Ayers encourages all those around him, in word and action, to find sustainable practices in all areas of our lives.

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