

PSU film lecture series is set for Theaters Movies 14

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MORE INFORMATION

The Penn State University Wilkes-Barre campus will present its annual film lecture series beginning in October at R/C Theaters Movies 14 in Wilkes-Barre for the first time since the program began nearly 10 years ago.

This year's film series, titled "Celebrating Five Decades of Thrillers," will feature the films "The Sixth Sense," "The Exorcist," "Rosemary's Baby," "The Changeling (1984)," and "The Ghost & Mrs. Muir" beginning on October 6. Participants can register through the college's Continuing Education department, and the five-week event is open to the general public.

Bill Bachman, instructor of communications at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, will conduct the movie and lecture program, which he hopes will change the way viewers watch films.

"I hope people come out and become wiser consumers of movies and begin to ask questions and come up with some new answers," he said.

Bachman said the weekly class consists of a pre- and post-screening discussion which will help participants look for points of conversation within the movies to expand upon afterwards.

The movies are not just typical seasonal scares. Bachman called some of them love stories, some compassionate stories and others entertaining on a deeper level.

"I think 'The Exorcist' is a really challenging piece of film because it deals with demonic possession and has some pretty mature themes associated with it, but I think it's a unique, almost one-of-a-kind film from back in the 70s," said Bachman.

This isn't the first time the campus has offered this kind of class.

The program started as a cultural offering on campus, with films being screened in the auditorium in the Science Center. Over time, the college has been able to offer the course for one credit for students and a continuing education credit for the general public.

Contact the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus Continuing Education department at 675-9243 for more information. Registration forms are also available at R/C Theaters Movies 14 in Wilkes-Barre but must be returned to the Continuing Education department on the campus in Lehman Township. Registration costs \$40 for all five sessions, which will be held on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

The class does feature a syllabus and Bachman said, besides active participation in the discussions, an essay will be part of the course requirements.

Choosing the films is a painstaking process, said Bachman, explaining he aims to choose five of "the best of the best" to present and further discuss. He tries to provide an overarching theme that might reflect current events or the time of year.

"Two years ago, when we were going to be invaded by a pandemic...I did a whole series on diseases," he said. "I opened that series up with a general practitioner from the Back Mountain to give us just a general background (on this issue)."

When the program first started, Bachman credited its success to the fact that the film series reflected local interests, such as movies that featured actors who hail from the area or dealt with subject matter that related to the region's history.

"This film series thrived on trying to find films that had a local tie-in," he said. "I can remember the very first movie we ever did in this, and it wasn't that it was a local attachment based in the historic sense, but there was a local attachment and this area loved it to death because it replicated a lifestyle here, and that was 'How Green Was My Valley.'"

"How Green Was My Valley," released in 1941, is about the hardships workers and residents faced in a Welsh mining town.

As luck would have it, this year's series fits in well with that local theme, too. Scranton native Jason Miller played the role of Father Damien Karras in "The Exorcist."



Brooke North, of Denver; Katrina Kindig, of Mechanicsburg; Giuliana Mucaro, of Howell, N.J.; and Robert Romagnolo, of Cresco, repair areas of the Back Mountain Trail damaged by a summer rainstorm during Misericordia University's inaugural Orientation Day of Service.



Dylan Reedy, of Falls, a business major at MU, uses a weedwacker to clear high grass at the Dallas Senior Center in Dallas Borough.



Student orientation leaders, Kayla Attig, left, of Myerstown, and Dan Zuckerman, of Plainsville, Conn., plant one of 450 seedlings at Frances Slocum State Park.

Inaugural Orientation Day held at Misericordia

Program allows freshman students to learn how to give back to the community.

The inaugural Misericordia University Orientation Day of Service on Saturday, Aug. 27 sought to create a sense of community among the 369 members of the incoming freshman class by having them give back to the communities, people and non-profit organizations in the region.

"It was an incredible opportunity for our students to get to know the area they now call home," says Kristen Mitchell Samuels, M.S.W., community outreach coordinator at Misericordia University, who coordinated the service sites. "I was so impressed by the feedback. The students were incredibly positive and open to the experiences and many have come through the office asking about how they can participate in more service activities."

Overall, more than 500 members of the campus community - freshmen and transfer students, orientation leaders, staff and faculty - fanned out across eight service locations in the neighboring communities around Misericordia University to offer their time

and talent.

Teams repaired flood-damaged sections of the Back Mountain Trail, planted trees and erected fence posts at Blue Chip Farms, prepared Camp Orchard Hill for the upcoming season, conducted general maintenance work and planted 450 seedlings at Frances Slocum State Park, prepared a greenhouse for another planting season at The Lands at Hillside Farms, befriended residents at Mercy Center, became wheelchair transports at the Meadows Nursing Center and conducted detailed landscaping work at the Dallas Senior Center.

"Without the volunteers, it would have been difficult to have this work done," said Sherlene Long, director of the Dallas Senior Center, as she watched MU students clean out debris-filled gutters, cut grass and use a power washer to clean the building's vinyl siding. "I love to see the younger people volunteer like this. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Chelsea Mixon '12, of Bethlehem, served as a student orientation leader at Blue Chip Farms, an animal refuge. Fifty-eight freshman students, orientation leaders and Peer Advocates chipped in to ensure that Margie Bart's labor of love continues to

thrive for the benefit of old or unwanted animals.

"Being a senior social work major, I have had numerous experiences volunteering and working with people of all ages," Mixon acknowledges. "I had a new and unique opportunity to volunteer with several freshman students. All of the volunteers quickly jumped in to complete various tasks around the farm."

"One of the things that touched me the most was talking to Margie Bart, the founder of Blue Chip Farms. Her story is truly inspirational. She has such a big heart and love for animals. She told us how she dedicated her life to provide a safe and peaceful place where animals can be happy and loved. Thank God for people like Margie. Anyone who loves animals should check out this place. An hour of their time can go such a long way."

Between light showers and overcast skies, Jenny Borton, of Harding, pulled weeds and cleared brush around the landscape of the Dallas Senior Center in Dallas Borough.

"I think the service opportunity is good," she offered. "I enjoy it because I like helping people."

"I think it's (the day of service) a great idea," added Victoria Adeyinka, of Maplewood, N.J.,

who assisted Borton in her landscaping activities. "We have a chance to help people out and give back to the community. It's always good when you can do that."

Inside a historic greenhouse, 37 Misericordia volunteers loosened and scooped up aged dirt that has been used over the years for flowers and vegetables at The Lands at Hillside Farms. With the soil removed, the volunteers hauled in fresh dirt for fresh plantings.

"I've done a lot of community service," acknowledges Jenna Reel, a freshman from Lancaster, "but this is different than anything I've ever done. It's a good experience. We get to know more of the area and get to know more people in our class. It helps to stay involved a lot because you are going to have to know the community and because a lot of students would probably stop with community service."

Misericordia University's Orientation Day of Service was part of a slate of activities for a four-day orientation weekend. It began with freshman move-in day and the annual Convocation ceremony, which welcomed incoming students to campus and marked the beginning of the new academic year.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Lock-In Committee sells hot dogs

The Dallas High School Lock-In Committee will sell hot dogs, drinks and baked goods at today's Dallas Harvest Festival. Cruise and gift basket raffle tickets will also be available for purchase.

All proceeds help fund the all-night party held for seniors after graduation. Donations of baked goods would be appreciated.

PTSO sells gift cards

The Dallas High School PTSO is selling \$50 & \$100 gift cards for Thomas' & Weis Markets. Proceeds from the sale of the gift cards will help fund the 2012 Lock In held after graduation.

Gift cards will be available at the Dallas Harvest Festival or by calling Ann Manganello at 675-9516.

Dallas Soccer Club sets craft show

The 28th Annual Fall Craft Show sponsored by the Dallas Boys Soccer Club will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 2 at the Dallas Middle School, 2000 Conyngham Ave, Dallas.

A variety of craft vendors, homemade baked goods and lunch will be available. Admission is free.

Festival will benefit local ski club

Matt DeAngelis and Dave Margary will conduct the first-ever Lehman Autumn Festival from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Lake-Lehman High School grounds to benefit a local ski club.

Admission and parking are free. There will be live entertainment, food, vendors, yard sale marketers and more.

Anyone interested in the yard sale, vendor space or sponsorship may contact 262-6275.

MU schedules three open house programs

Misericordia University is offering an open house program on the Back Mountain campus to give students and their parents an opportunity to spend a day touring the 124-acre campus and to meet with students, faculty, coaches and admissions and financial aid counselors.

The open house will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, and Oct. 29. Registration will begin all three days at 9 a.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center at the north gate of campus.

The open house schedule includes registration, refreshments, campus tours, a faculty session and lunch and meetings with representatives of student services, athletics and financial aid.

For more information, contact the Misericordia University Admissions Office at 675-4449.

Officials visit alumni

President Thomas P. Leary and other officials from Luzerne County Community College recently visited the offices of Back Mountain Dental to meet with LCCC graduates who work there and to discuss the important role they play in the community. The LCCC Alumni Association presented each of the graduates with a gift. From left, first row, are Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87, Shavertown, director, alumni relations, LCCC; Beth Patterson '01, Sweet Valley; Doreen Ackers '85, White Haven; and Janine Kravitz '02, Laflin. Second row, Thomas P. Leary, Kingston, president, LCCC; James C. DeFinnis, DMD; Leigh Hoover '87, Benton; and Terri Dempsey, Dallas.

