In Loving Memory...

Ms. Kate Brennan 1953-2008

Anna Miller

Many believe that in our lifetime we will come across one person other than our parents who will have an impact on our lives like no other—one person we respect, admire, and look up to. For me, that person was Ms. Kathleen Brennan. For those of you who never had the privilege of meeting her, Ms. Brennan was one of the best English teachers here at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

Kate Brennan, daughter of Joseph and Gloria Brennan, was born on June 19, 1953. She graduated from Dallas Senior High School in 1971, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from College Misericordia in 1975, and her Masters Degree in English from The University of Scranton in 1986. Brennan started her teaching career as a seventh-grade teacher for the Lake-Lehman School District. In 1980, Brennan joined the English department of College Misericordia (now Misericordia University). It wasn’t until nearly six years later, in 1986, that Ms. Brennan joined the faculty here at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, dedicating the past 22 years of her life to her Penn State students. But that only gives facts about Ms. Brennan; more important are the relationships she developed over the years with other people.

Countless students, friends, and colleagues will remember Ms. Brennan not only as an instructor, but also as a friend who would always be there to help, counsel, advise, and even

in to console. Penn State Wilkes-Barre student Liz Sukaloski said, “Ms. Brennan was always a kind and generous teacher. She put her heart in teaching. In my freshman year, like any normal freshman, I was nervous about my first college class, and she helped ease my nervousness by her jokes and sense of humor that she used in her classroom. She will be greatly missed.” As a student who was privileged to know and study with Ms. Brennan, I struggled with what I was going to say and how I could sum up the past three years of knowing such a kind, warm-hearted instructor. So many students have stories to tell about this great teacher. All I can do is tell my own. When I first came to Penn State, my major was English. Just like Ms. Brennan, I too wanted to be an English teacher. I had no background in writing, and I was intimidated about joining The Collegian, worrying that I was not as qualified and skilled as the rest of the staff. However, Ms. Brennan saw something in me, and encouraged me to write for The Collegian. Ms. Brennan was the type of instructor who was tough, but who saw potential in her students when sometimes the students didn’t see potential in themselves. Even those of you who may not have known her certainly knew of her. I am sure you know of her famous Blue Mazda RX8 sports car. I am sure that on more than one occasion you may have seen her outside the Hayfield House smoking a cigarette while walking to class. And I am sure that you have passed her without the knowledge of who she was.

Recently I met one of Ms. Brennan’s colleagues and closest friends, Marilyn Olenick. Mrs. Olenick spent cigarette breaks and late-night dinners with Kate Brennan as the two went through some of life’s most intense challenges together, bringing them even closer together. “She believed that for the world to be a better place, we have to make it that way. Her death leaves an entire English department speechless,” Olenick said of Brennan.

Brennan’s favorite poet was William Blake, who wrote, “Love seeketh not itself to please, nor for itself hath any care, but for another gives its ease, and builds a Heaven in Hell’s despair.” I chose to include this particular quote because Ms. Brennan cared so much more about others than herself. She tried to build a heaven out of what she saw here, which is often very similar to hell. An on-campus memorial service is being planned for December 1 at 7:00, Science 101, as soon as her many contacts at University Park and former students can be notified.

Below is Ms. Brennan’s favorite poem:

Five Ways to Kill a Man

Edwin Brock

There are many cumbersome ways to kill a man. You can make him carry a plank of wood to the top of a hill and nail him to it.
To do this properly you require a crowd of people wearing sandals, a cloak that sways, a cloak to disport, a sponge, some vinegar and one man to hammer the nails home.
Or you can take a length of steel, shaped and chased in a traditional way, and attempt to pierce the metal cage he wears.
But for this you need white horses.
English trees, men with bows and arrows, at least two flags, a prince, and a castle to hold your banquet in.
Dispensing with nobility, you may, if the wind allows, blow gas at him. But then you need a mile of mud sliced through with ditches, not to mention black boots, bomb craters, more mud, a plague of rats, a dozen songs and some round hats made of steel.
In an age of aeroplanes, you may fly miles above your victim and dispose of him by pressing one small switch. All you then require is an ocean to separate you, two systems of government, a nation’s scientists, several factories, a psychopath and land that no-one needs for several years.
These are, as I began, cumbersome ways to kill a man. Simpler, direct, and much more neat is to see that he is living somewhere in the middle of the twentieth century, and leave him there.
My fellow Penn Staters,

Every once in a while I am struck by a thought so simple that it is astounding, yet so powerful that it changes the way I think and live. Often the thought is simply a bit of common knowledge that everybody knows but nobody really thinks about or takes seriously. It’s usually something like “eat less sodium” or “respect your parents”—one of those universally-accepted good ideas that I’ve always heard but never given my full attention. Then one day it hits me, and it suddenly seems so profound and so brilliant that I wonder why people don’t talk about it more often. So behold my latest revelation: we take things for granted, and we shouldn’t.

Ever drop your cell phone in a toilet? It can happen to anybody. You don’t realize how much you use it until you see it lying there underwater, helpless and filthy. Good things can be lost in a moment, can’t they? Everything fades so quickly. One day our campus is ablaze with gorgeous red, yellow, and orange leaves, and the next day we arrive to find nothing but ugly gray tree skeletons. But cell phones and flamboyant vegetation are small losses compared to the genuinely significant things that can disappear without warning. Friends. Teachers. Mentors. This semester we are mourning the loss of Ms. Kate Brennan, a beloved English instructor and mentor to many. The campus is in shock—students and colleagues are stunned by the sudden void—and the general consensus is, “We didn’t see it coming.” Of course not; we rarely do. That’s why we go to bed angry at family members, ignore grandparents in nursing homes, put off important conversations, and tell ourselves, “I’ll call my best friend tomorrow; I don’t want to miss my favorite show tonight.” And then when that next opportunity never comes, when the loved one is suddenly gone, we feel like somehow it’s not our fault, like we’ve been robbed. How many of us are thinking, “If I were given one more conversation with Ms. Brennan, what would I say? And why didn’t I say it when I did have the chance?” Do we take things for granted?

You have two to four years here at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. What are you doing with them? Do people here know your name yet? We have over a dozen student-run clubs here on campus. We have Jackie Warnick-Piatt filling the campus calendar with a variety of cultural, educational, entertaining, and just plain weird events. We have more than enough opportunities to spend time with other human beings. I suspect that some students are waiting until they enter “the real world” to get active, meet people, and make a difference. Want to know how to impact people’s lives? Spend an afternoon with them. You don’t have to pay their college tuition or donate a kidney to leave an impression. But you’re not going to impact anybody’s life by eating lunch in your car. Don’t put off doing something worthwhile. Don’t assume that tomorrow is your big chance to make a difference or touch a life. Tomorrow may not come. Let’s stop taking time for granted. You’re at Penn State Wilkes-Barre right now, surrounded by people you may never cross paths with again. So what are you going to make of it?

Sincerely,

Donna Smith
Editor-in-Chief
The John R. Murphy Center Dedication

Desiree Thorne
Kali Sanders

Nearly one hundred people attended the Dedication Ceremony of the brand new John R. Murphy Student Center, on Tuesday, October 21. Many students had been highly anticipating the opening of this "one stop shop" as it has come to be called. What was the old library has been renovated in every way possible and is now a center that students can visit for almost everything they need from the time they apply at Penn State Wilkes-Barre until graduation. The center will house the Learning Center, Student Support Services, and Career Services, just to name a few. According to Chancellor Charles Davis, "[the John R. Murphy Student Center provides] an opportunity for the campus to improve the quality of services it provides to its students and become even more student focused."

The highlight of this ceremony, however, was not the building, but instead the speakers. Each person who took to the podium spoke so wonderfully of John R. Murphy that his family remained in tears from beginning to end. The first of these in the ceremony was Richard Barry. Barry, Penn State alumni of 1980, was largely responsible for making the renovations of the old library possible. While speaking in the Barry auditorium, named in his honor, he told the audience how much of an influence John R. Murphy had on him during his college years at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. "I would not be the same person today if I had not come here for two years and spent so much time with John Murphy." It was because of Murphy’s dedication to his students, this one in particular, that Barry asked that the new center be named in honor of his mentor, Murphy. It became clear that Barry was especially glad to give back to the students at the campus where he gained so much.

The second speaker was Jim Ryan, previous CEO of Penn State Wilkes-Barre. He opened his speech with a quote that made everyone in the audience laugh, “On my second day here as CEO… John said to me, I want you to know I’m happy that you’re here, but I didn’t support you coming.” This is the kind of person that Murphy was said to have been during his days as the Director of Student Affairs. While he had “loyalty, creativity, and independent thought, he was never a ‘yes man.’”

Lastly in the Barry Auditorium, Murphy was given a chance to speak. The first thing he did was introduce his entire family, telling everyone how proud of them he is. “This is a day that a lower middle-class, Irish kid could never have possibly anticipated”, he remarked sentimentally. He spoke about the award in his honor, the Murphy award, which ten outstanding students have received thus far. When thinking back on his life as the Dean at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, he said “I often think that it seems to be almost unfair that I got to do what I actually loved, and in addition to that, that I got this type of recognition.” In closing, almost in tears of joy, Murphy said he’d like to “thank the Pennsylvania State University for the chance to be a small part of something with such a big purpose.” He then read a poem he had written for the occasion about overcoming “crossroads of fortunes and failures.”

After leaving the Academic Commons, everyone went to the entrance of the new John R. Murphy Center where Murphy, Barry, and his wife Susan Barry cut the blue and white ribbon. Then, students, faculty, alumni, and friends were invited inside for a chance to look at the newly restored building for the first time. A reception of mingling and good company was held. One thing is for sure, students are very glad to have such a charming new building, and it wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of many.

Haunted Forest

Suzanne Griffiths

This year the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Haunted Forest theme was the “Insane Asylum.” The event was scheduled to be held October 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25, but unfortunately was cancelled on October 25 due to rain.

On behalf of The Collegian, I offered to visit the Haunted Forest to provide readers with a firsthand report of what really takes place on campus during one of these spooky nights. On Thursday, October 23, I visited—and survived—my very first Penn State Wilkes-Barre Haunted Forest tour.

As a Haunted Forest tourist, I entered into the Commons and was taken up to Hayfield House with a group of fellow visitors, and that is where it all began. We entered into the Hayfield House through a back room where insane patients were playing games. We then passed through the insane asylum’s television room, where more inmates were kept and were watching television or playing a piano. As we walked downstairs we heard someone screaming and yelling, and witnessed another patient him back to the hallway. (It kind of reminded of me of the movie Hostel, in which a guy with a drill was going to kill one of the prisoners.) Then we were taken outside and into the woods, which I didn’t think was a good idea, but the tour guide assured us that we could leave if something bad were to happen. In the woods there were more prisoners who had escaped from the nearby insane asylum and it was scary and cold. As we walked deeper in to the woods, there were a lot of campfires that helped set the mood. Students popped out in masks, apparently changed and deformed due to chemical spills in the insane asylum. When we got to the end of the woods, we went through a tunnel and walked back to the Commons.

We as humans have our fears, but we always try to hide them and be someone that we’re not. But when you go through the Haunted Forest, you will see another side of yourself that you never knew you had. Picture yourself going into a building that you have been going through and taking classes in for years, and then suddenly seeing crazy teachers and students in there doing nutty things; it is very creepy. At the Haunted Forest I saw teenagers get scared and cover their eyes. I also saw men trying to protect their girlfriends because they were scared. Overall it was a success, because most of the people left satisfied.

On the night that I visited the Haunted Forest, the very last group to go through was a group of students from Penn State Main Campus. I heard all the students saying, “This was so scary!” One girl in particular remarked, “That lady in the wheelchair was so scary; oh my gosh!” That lady was our professor, Dr. Christine Berzeny, and she, along with all of this year’s Haunted Forest volunteers, did a wonderful job.
2008 Scholarship Dinner

Of the 157 Penn State Wilkes-Barre scholarship winners this year, about eighty recipients took the opportunity to thank their donors in person at the 2008 Scholarship Dinner on Thursday, October 16. Held at the Appletree Terrace at Newberry Estates in Dallas, the annual dinner once again brought students and local scholarship providers together to meet one another and to honor both the scholarship winners and donors. “This is a chance where the students get to meet the donors who are supporting their education here at Penn State. It gives the students a chance to thank the donors for the money they have received,” said Karen Brace-Hodle, Penn State Wilkes-Barre external relations assistant. Brace-Hodle explained that the donors, in turn, appreciate the chance to meet the students whom they are supporting and to see that the scholarships are making a difference in students’ lives. “That’s the purpose of the dinner—to make that connection.”

Among the speakers at the scholarship dinner was Chancellor Charles Davis, who expressed his appreciation for the scholarships presented to the campus and for the unique opportunity provided by the annual Scholarship Dinner. “It is a wonderful opportunity. It is a wonderful thing to be able to sit and see the person who helped make your dreams possible. …As we all know, in today’s world, a college education is not getting any cheaper,” Davis said. On behalf of the advisory board, Davis presented a Community Leader Award, offered only when individuals perform outstanding deeds in the community. Presented to the Conyngham brothers, the Community Leader Award was accepted by John Conyngham, who, after noting his reputation for brevity, gave a humorously brief speech. “Your education at Penn State is something that is going to be more and more important as you go through your life,” said Conyngham. “Believe me; Penn State does a great job in Wyoming Valley.” An Outstanding Community Leader Scholarship was presented in Conyngham’s name to Student Government President Mark Calore.

Calore and sophomore Courtney Senghaas also addressed the crowd, and Senghaas told donors what so many other scholarship recipients were saying. Senghaas, who intends to major in creative advertising, said that because of the financial support provided, “I am able to deal with my financial obstacles and struggles while still pursuing my college education.”

William Leandri, Chair of the Advisory Board, spoke on “Scholarship as an Investment,” and posed the question, “What prompts you to want to donate?” To the students, Leandri explained, “[Scholarship donors] do it just for the privilege of doing it. They get no pay for it. In some ways it’s an investment. …The donors really are helping to give you as students as investments in the future. You are the future of this country.” With one final challenge, Leandri encouraged students to do the best that they can. “Try to make the donors proud of their investment in you.”

Scholarship donor Jay Karnofsky, who along with his wife Jane provided the Jay and Jane Karnofsky Endowed Scholarship, had the chance to meet this year’s recipient of his award at the dinner. Though his wife passed away four months ago, Karnofsky still took the opportunity to meet scholarship winner Desiree Thorne and hear how his gift is making a difference in her life. Explaining what prompted him to donate, Karnofsky said, “I graduated from main campus in 1942, and my wife graduated in 1943. I love Penn State, I really do. The greatest time of my life was at Penn State. My wife and I and my children and some of my grandchildren are true-blue Penn Staters. Our children started [the scholarship]. Actually, it was a birthday gift to me!” Karnofsky said that he and his wife have kept the scholarship going for about eighteen to twenty years. “God blessed me with some success and I have the financial ability to do it. We thought it was the right thing to do. We love Penn State. I think it’s now equivalent to probably two scholarships.” Aside from meeting his scholarship recipients at the annual scholarship dinner, Karnofsky enjoys receiving thank-you letters from students who express their appreciation and take the time to tell their personal stories. “I’ve got some beautiful letters that I’ve saved—thank-you letters from when they received [the scholarships].”

Sophomore and civil engineering major Dhaval Patel was among the many scholarship winners at the dinner, and he expressed in conversation his own appreciation for the Simon S. and Anna N. Russin Memorial Scholarship that he received. “This helped me financially, so this way I won’t have to work as much and I can spend more time studying instead.”

Brace-Hodle explained that the eligibility requirements for scholarship recipients vary according to the type of scholarship being awarded. “There are many kinds of scholarships,” said Brace-Hodle. She explained that some company presidents offer endowed scholarships specifically for employees’ children, while other scholarships are awarded based on the high schools from which students graduated, or specific fields in which students are studying. “Basically, the donor who’s putting the money up will set the eligibility requirements on the scholarship. Probably 99.9% of them have a financial need requirement, as well as an ‘outstanding student’ [requirement].” Stacy Zelinka, Penn State Wilkes-Barre financial aid coordinator, added that students must fill out a scholarship application to be considered for a scholarship, and must have completed FAFSA for the current academic year.

Honoring those who received this year’s Penn State Wilkes-Barre scholarships, the 2008 Scholarship Dinner was once again a success. “I thought that the night went very well,” said Brace-Hodle. “It’s one of the highlights of my job.” SGA President Calore spoke for all of the students in attendance when he announced, “…With every fiber of our blue and white souls, thank you.”
Donna Smith

Feathers flew in the Barry Auditorium on Thursday, November 6, as Native American dancers performed their age-old tribal dances for the campus and community. After performing a noontime show for students in the Cafe Commons, Professor Frank LittleBear and his fellow dancers reconvened at 7:00 p.m. for an evening presentation in the new Academic Commons. About twenty-five people, including community members, Penn State Wilkes-Barre staff, and students, attended the free event and were guided through a one-hour overview of Native American heritage and culture with you. “We’re at a crossroads today, because we see so many of our children looking at our culture, our way of life, as more of a hobby,” said LittleBear. He went on to explain that people often think, “to honor our veterans, our warriors”. According to LittleBear, old warriors were responsible for teaching the war dance to the younger generations. “You start the dance on one knee, scouting around, looking for your enemy.” LittleBear explained that the high-energy “Fancy Dance,” demonstrated by one lone dancer, was created in the 1940s by Native Americans who wanted to speed up some of the traditional Native American dances. “Like most young people today, they found a way to express their culture through a more contemporary style.” Audience participation was requested for both the Snake Dance and the Two-Step, and most members of the audience took the opportunity to dance with the Native American visitors.

Who is Nurse Lucy Viera?

Born and raised in Hazleton, Viera obtained her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from Wilkes University in 2000. Viera accepted the position as campus nurse in early October of this year. “After getting interviewed and walking through the campus, I fell in love. The atmosphere reminded me of when I was in school and the scenery is beautiful.” The best part of the job, however, is the interaction with the students, she assures. “Someone told me the students keep you young.” Demonstrating her concern for the wellbeing of the people she treats, Viera declared that the worst part of her job is trying to get a student to see a doctor or go to the hospital when a student considers it unnecessary.

When asked why she decided to extend her hours on campus, Viera again demonstrated her concern for the students: “I realized how hard it is [for the students] to be in a new place without the comforts of home. Although I’m only here part time, at least it’s something.” Viera’s campus availability allows her to keep her hours at the emergency room of Geisinger Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre, where she has been a nurse since 2000. When asked to compare campus nursing to emergency nursing, Viera replied, “My heart will always be in emergency nursing. On the other hand, campus nursing is different in a way that is eye-popping and just plain fun. Campus nursing is more laid back, whereas in the ER any situation can turn ugly fast.”

Viera graduated from Bishop Hafey Junior-Senior High School. When not in the ER or on campus, the Wyoming resident goes to Francis Slocum State Park with her two dogs. Some of the services Viera will be providing include assessments and referrals to the local doctor, as well as x-ray and medical referrals. Viera is available in the Athletics and Recreation Building on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 noon to 4:00 P.M.
Kali Sanders

Penn State Wilkes-Barre recently accepted a new director of development to its always-growing family: Mr. Anthony Shipula. The duty of the Director of Development is to go out and find money for the campus, usually in the form of scholarship funds. I had a chance to meet with Mr. Shipula to ask him a few questions.

During the short meeting with Shipula, I had the chance to find out a little about his background and his goals for this campus as the Director of Development. Shipula is a graduate of Wilkes University, class of 1978, where he obtained a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Finance and Commerce. He most recently worked for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, where he began with helping to run a three-million-dollar Capital Campaign named the “Strategy 21 Campaign” in the 1990s.

Shipula was the Director of Membership Benefits for the Chamber of Commerce most recently. Among his previous positions that are more like the one he is currently doing at Penn State are Director of Alumni Relations at Wilkes for eleven years, and Director of Development for the Diocese of Scranton and Misericordia University. I asked Mr. Shipula his “plan for Penn State Wilkes-Barre”. He said, “To help achieve fundraising objectives, to fund scholarships and other faculty programs.” Shipula plans on doing so by “cultivating and soliciting alumni and other donor prospects.” I felt that this was a good objective and plan, so I moved on to see how he feels about the campus. He feels that one item that needs attention here on the campus is to “secure more scholarships to help meet the needs of current students and future students of Penn State Wilkes-Barre.”

Shipula also feels that it is “nice to see the Murphy building with a centralized area for students to receive help with college needs.” Once I got all of the hard questions out of the way, I added in a few just more so that the students here can get a better idea of the kind of person Mr. Shipula is:

Hey, Mr. Shipula, what’s your favorite…
...food? Seafood
...movie? Under the Tuscan Sun
...music? Light Jazz...
...color? Blue
...superhero? Batman
...sport? Football
...sports teams? Penn State, the Eagles, and the Phillies
...TV show? Boston Legal

Briana Mitchell

If you’ve seen students walking around on campus with uniform-like apparel on, those are our courageous Lion Ambassadors, most likely doing yet another tour of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus. The Lion Ambassadors is a club run by students who strive for campus unity and spend most of the academic school year recruiting new students and hopefuls. In only the fall semester, Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s Lion Ambassadors have hosted several important events including a Youth Symposium, two events for “Penn Staters for a Day”, and an Open House. All of these events are packed with information about our campus, with the Lion Ambassadors just a call away to answer questions.

On October 9, hundreds of students from local high schools came to visit Penn State Wilkes-Barre for a Youth Symposium, which was a series of workshops guided toward creativity, held primarily in the Tech Center. Students drew paintings and ended up in the Athletic and Recreation Building where they were given a presentation on the importance of college. The ever-faithful Lion Ambassadors, of course, were present at the event.

On October 6 and 28, the Lion Ambassadors hosted two “Penn Stater for A Day” functions. Members of the club are required to submit their schedule for that particular day, and a high school student follows them around, attending classes, visiting the Student Commons, and getting a feel of college life for a day. Penn State Wilkes-Barre holds an average of five of these events a year with nothing short of success.

On October 25, Penn State held an Open House for more prospective students to get a feel for all of the clubs and departments on campus. The Lion Ambassadors were also present to answer questions about student life. Students receive information on financial aid, the admissions process, as well as a message from the Chancellor.

No matter what event, the Lion Ambassadors always make sure to be present. With the utmost pride and dignity, the Lion Ambassadors make sure to represent Penn State in the most positive fashion and have fun doing it as well.

Brie Dana Mitchell

Leading New Students onto Campus

Ted Carl

One of the most recognizable clubs on campus is the 4 Seasons Club. Known for their infamous ski trips and rafting adventures, the 4 Seasons Club plans on visiting Killington, Vermont this winter. In early January, the club, led by President Tom Vanhorn, will set out on a bus excursion to one of the most impressive ski resorts on the east coast. Last year the 4 Seasons Club went to Sugarloaf, Maine, and everyone had a great time. Among the things that club members learn on these trips are team work, leadership skills, and of course being their own chef. “Last year I felt that many of the members learned a lot about team work, and made new friends. I am hoping for the same result this time around,” Vanhorn stated. This year looks like another promising trip, and so far the club has about thirty-five members signed up to go. The ski trip is open to all Penn State Wilkes-Barre students, and those interested can contact Tom Vanhorn by e-mail at TEV50000@paus.edu. Interested students are urged to sign up quickly, as there are only few spots open.

Every Thursday night during the month of October, students disappear around campus. At 6:30 p.m., individuals gather at a place where ghosts strut and ghouls roam: the Bierly auditorium. Instructor Bill Bachman can be counted on annually to teach Comm. 197 on campus, a film class that last about a month, and every year he follows a theme. This year Bachman chose a paranormal theme, in response to the paranormal investigation that took place in the Hayfield House last spring (for details, see the May, 2007 issue of The Collegian). Bachman explained that the investigation made the paranormal a “hot topic” on campus.

When asked what possessed him (nudge, nudge) to start a course of study that mainly involved watching movies (which by the way I have no problem with doing), Bachman said that he saw “a void on campus for a class that is both academic and entertaining.” Thus was born Comm. 197, a film class that Bachman offers every fall. Bachman said when he was in college he took an elective course on radio/TV and film production, and he “loved every second of it.” This, he explained, led to his interest in film.

After the success of Bachman’s recently-produced docu-drama on the story of Frances Scoulom, rumblings have been heard on campus of a new movie that he is working on. Bachman said that he is working on something, but he isn’t sure what it is going to be. He is looking at two different perspective ideas. Bachman would not release any information on what those two ideas are, saying, “I don’t want to jinx anything!” He did say that this film is going to be very complicated. His Frances Scoulom movie he said was pretty complex also, but not as complex as this next one. The script is being written in the next six months, and Bachman plans on shooting from June, 2009 to October, 2009 and releasing it around Labor Day of 2010. So keep an eye out for Bachman out around filming and watch out for his next big movie. And if it’s too late to join this fall’s movie class, go and try to get in it next year! The course is both entertaining and interesting, just as Bachman had hoped it would be.

Ghouls Roam in $101:
A Paranormal Movie Course Offered on Campus

Chad Dewing
The 2008-2009 women’s basketball season has officially started at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. The season began with practice on October 15 at 7:30 in the morning. At the start of practice there were nine heads fresh out of bed and ready to practice. Those nine girls were Allie McCarthy-Mamsey, Corrine Monick, Danielle Grasso, Ellen Williams, Lydia Naperkowski, Marissa Duffy, Renee Fumanti, Tamara Brown and Terrysha Lewis. When these members of the basketball team were asked why they wanted to play, a myriad of enthusiastic answers followed.

“I like to try new sports,” said McCarthy-Mamsey. Monick, daughter of coach Jack Monick, joked, “I play basketball because my dad makes me!” Monick has been playing basketball since elementary school, and she explained that her love for basketball grew with her as she got older. Grasso has been playing basketball since she was in the second grade and has been “committed to the sport since then,” she said. Williams explained that she wanted to play basketball simply because “it gives me something to do and I like basketball.” “I love the game; it’s a part of who I am and who I will become. I aspire to be a coach and to take Monick’s spot!” laughed Naperkowski. Duffy and Fumanti provided several reasons why they joined the team: “We love the game, have had a passion for basketball since we were younger, want to support the new program at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, and for Penn State Pride!” Brown said, “I love playing basketball and I’ve been playing since the fourth grade.” Lewis added, “I have always wanted to play basketball and Penn State Wilkes-Barre gave me the opportunity to do just that. I also want to be part of something big and worthwhile and this is where it’s at.” And so the girls faithfully drag themselves out of bed every morning not only to practice but to perfect the team as a whole. With all the new talent, you don’t want to miss out on this season. The girls are bringin’ it! The women’s first game is Wednesday, November 19, at 6:00 P.M. in the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Athletics and Recreation Building. They will be playing against Penn State Abington.

Lazy Artists Open Mic Night

The first Lazy Artist Open Mic event was held Friday, October 10th in the Barry Auditorium. Participants were invited to sing, read poetry, or show off hidden talents. Pictured from left to right, are Jeremy Burgess, Dr. Chin, Courtney Pieszala, Amy Welgus, Vanessa Heeter (Photos/Ted Carl)
Movie Reviews

The Forbidden Kingdom

Sarah Ferrier

Recently a film has come that has taken our martial arts lovers by storm. That film of course is The Forbidden Kingdom, directed by Rob Minkoff. Even for those movie lovers out there who are not obsessed with ancient Chinese fighting scenes, there is a lot more in this movie that might hold your attention.

This movie—mostly set in ancient China—has a very authentic feel to it. The set and costume designs are as amazing as they are beautiful. The landscapes are vibrant and full of life. A few of these memorable landscapes and costume designs are as amazing as they are authentic.

One of the most important things about this movie, in this movie lover’s opinion, is the coming together of the two most skilled martial artists—at least in the movies—of our time. That, if you haven’t guessed, would be Jackie Chan (Rush Hour and Shanghai Noon) and Jet Li (Unleashed, The Black Mask, and Kiss of the Dragon). Never before have these men been put together in a movie to duke it out. What is really amusing about this is that they seem entirely out of character compared to what we are used to. Chan is one drunken master who happens to be a master of the drunken fist technique—yes, yes, but not as odd as Li being the hysterical Monkey King. In these roles, our fist-fighting heroes can play with another side of their acting skills that they haven’t really had a chance to get in touch with. It seems like they had a good time making this film, which means it will seem more genuine to their fans.

This awesome movie is now available on DVD and carries along with it a bunch of extra features, including a look at the female fighters in the story, and of course, like almost every Jackie Chan movie, the bloopers. It is definitely a must-have for all martial arts and mystical movie fans alike. Of course, you can’t take my word for it. Go out and get your copies today, or at least steal one from your movie buff friends, ’cause you know they already have it.

Collegian Cartoon

AT LEAST I GOT A MOVIE.
We, the average consumers—not millionaires, not the stock market and its big-time investors, and not the government—are responsible for between 66% and 70% of the nation’s economical interchanges. So, as an article in the Los Angeles Times by Leslie Earnest and Daniel Yi informed, “Since consumer spending is 70% of the economy, if we become cautious and close our wallets, then we go into a recession. If we feel good about the economy and continue to spend money, the economy grows. In simple terms, that’s what happens.”

Currently, we aren’t spending, and we may be heading toward an economic recession because of this. But why exactly are we keeping our wallets closed? Why aren’t we spending our money? A combination of rising interest rates on credit card and mortgage payments, rising gasoline prices, and particularly troubling rising food prices all have caused us to be especially careful with our money lately.

All of us have experienced, are experiencing, or will experience debt problems; some of us minor problems and some of us major problems. Unfortunately, more and more of us are experiencing debt problems lately, even those of us who never thought that we would.

“As home prices fall and banks tighten lending standards, people with good credit, or prime, credit histories are falling behind on their payments for home loans, auto loans and credit cards at a quickening pace,” said Vikas Baja and Louise Story of the New York Times. We are having problems getting mortgages and credit cards due to the “tighter standards” of lending companies, and then once we have them, due to a combination of rising interest rates and these “tighter standards,” we are having problems paying them off. Certainly, it is worth noting that lending companies have “tightened their standards” largely because of chronic late-payers. Tragically, we that have always paid on time must suffer, and ultimately, the economy will suffer. If we can’t even pay our debts, we certainly can’t afford to spend money on much more than the essentials.

Anyone who owns or commutes in a car, which I assume would include all of us, has experienced the financial agony that comes with the current high gasoline prices. Although the prices have fallen significantly recently, they are still astronomically high, and these prices take a chunk out of everyone’s bank account, regardless of how large an account you have. Not only does the financial burden of high gasoline prices take money out of our pockets that we could be spending elsewhere, but since we can’t afford to be constantly fueling up, we can’t travel, or spend as we travel as much as we would if we could afford more gas. Eliminating vacations that we would drive to in times of lower gasoline prices, and thus eliminating from the economy the money we would spend on these vacations, are prime examples of this. In 2006, when gasoline prices were approximately the same as they are now, a Gallup poll read the following: “At the top of the list of consumer spending cutbacks in response to higher energy prices are the use of air conditioning or heating and eating out, with 57% of consumers saying they have reduced spending in these areas. Cutting back on vacation plans comes next, with 52% saying they have reduced their planned spending.” Notably, 31% of consumers say they have had to reduce their spending on food and other necessities as a result of higher gasoline and other energy prices.” With cutbacks in all these areas, we see that because of high gasoline prices, just as we see because of credit problems, people are spending less and can’t afford much more than the essentials.

Some of us are struggling to even afford those bare essentials. If you go grocery shopping or buy food of any kind, you have noticed that the prices of even these essential items have risen dangerously. Earnest and Li for the Los Angeles Times quote Britt Beemer, chairman of America’s Research Group in South Carolina, which surveys up to 15,000 shoppers every week, who says, “For the first time in probably a decade we’re having major inflation at the supermarket. … We’re in a situation where these consumers are being pushed to the wall.” If we can’t even afford to buy the amount of food we would like to buy, in some cases that is essential to buy, what can we afford to buy?

Where can we afford to disperse our funds in excess to jumpstart the economy if we can’t comfortably afford to pay our debts, fuel our cars, and buy our groceries? How can we buy things we want when we can’t even afford the things we need? With only problems in sight, we are left wondering, what can we do? Ultimately, the only way the economy will improve is if we spend. The only way we will spend is if we trust that our economy is stable, or that it will be stable. The fate of the economy is in our hands, and it will only improve if we improve it.

According to the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, made by the United Nations General Assembly on December 17, 1999, “violence against women” is a term that refers to “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.” Violence against women is understood to encompass, but is not limited to, physical, sexual, and psychological violence in the family, the general community, or elsewhere. Specific examples include battering; rape by an unknown or known perpetrator; female genital mutilation or other traditional practices that are harmful to women; molestation; sexual harassment; intimidation at work, educational institutions, or anywhere else; trafficking in women or forced prostitution, etc.

These definitions seem repetitive but are important to list, as sadly it is unclear to some
**Hollie Browning**

### The Ocean

I tried to create the most beautiful places in my mind, with the bluest waters, and the brightest sunlight. But the sun washed ashore it never raised or set. The waters of my dreams became midnight blue, dark blue, purple, but glowed from the light of the circular moon. I looked beyond the sky, passed the darkened waters then back through the fluffy white clouds—I looked for a place to call mine instead I found exile. Tonight I lay here only to wash ashore with the sun and be one with the many beautiful things in life that I could not touch. So I spread my arms widely, buried my legs in the wet sand, and waited for life to take my breath away. And this night I could not forget.

### Lessons of Love

I knew of her when she walked the philosophical mazes of my mind, caging her inner beauty while uniquely intensifying the outer.

To her I'd say, “Let the beauty out and to me become a loyal princess!”

I loved her then I'll love her now and always.

Though at one time these words I use hadn’t existed and emotions were just a state of mind molding an overwhelming feeling within; an indescribable, desirable, chaotic stream giving life to the lifeless and love to the loveless.

### A Death

I fell as my knees sunk in the soggy grass. I touched your name imprinted on the black, glassy-looking stone hoping you'd feel me reaching out for you. Flashbacks began of the day they spilt dirt over the expensive steel box you lay in today. I choked on the prayers of the drama kings and queens that were there. Since you've gone they all act like they knew you. No one will ever love you like I did. You taught me the essence of beauty and I taught you the meaningfulness of words. I can’t remember your smile now or how you looked. All I see is a stranger gently touching your eye lids and closing them for you. I remember how angry I was at that moment; I wanted to tear my heart out and give it to you so yours would beat again. I still have the tears you cried closed so tightly in the palm of my hands they're safe there in the depths of the scar they left.

### A Fate of Nothingness

Sarah Ferrier

I can see myself standing alone in the darkness, Wondering if this is really the way the world ends. How simple it was to get to this place of nothingness; It was so unexpected that I felt no pain in that instant.

It’s so funny to look back on the life I had and wonder why. For all the things that I have done or that I had left undone, Did I really deserve this fate of silence on this dark, rainy night? Maybe, if I think real hard, I can find some justification.

I’m sure he didn’t mean to drink so much, it’s only Tuesday; I’m sure there was a reason that I came to this place and he didn’t. I’m sure my friend that was sitting next to me is alright; I’m sure of this because here I stand in this eternal night, alone.

What happens now; I’m scared, alone, and without sound. I’m screaming with tears; why isn’t anyone able to hear me? I can’t feel any more pain but I would take it back in an instant. Now everything is fading away and I slip into nothingness, gone forever.
Ted Carl

**INGREDIENTS:**
- FROZEN HAMBURGER PATTIES (BUBBA BURGERS ARE GOOD.)
- YOUR FAVORITE BRAND OF CHEESE
- HAMBURGER ROLLS
- RED ONION
- PORK ROLL (TAYLOR PORK ROLL IS THE BEST.)
- TEASPOON OF BUTTER

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. Fire up the grill and put it on high. (Let it warm up for a few minutes.)
2. Throw as many burgers on the grill as you want.
3. Flip when the bottom looks done (dark color).
4. While cooking your burgers, put a pan on the stove and add the butter in the pan while turning the stove on medium heat.
5. Take two slices of pork roll and put them in the pan. (Check the burgers.)
6. Flip the pork roll when the one side is dark.
7. Slice up the red onion and place it on the bottom of a hamburger bun (Make sure the skin is off.)
8. The burger(s) should be done by now, so turn off the grill and get those babies on the buns.
9. Take your pork roll and place on top of the burger.
10. Take your favorite cheese and place on top of the pork roll.
11. ENJOY!

Melissa Gunshannon

**ROLL INGREDIENTS:**
- 3 EGGS
- 1 TSP. BAKING SODA
- 1 C. SUGAR
- 1 TSP. GROUND CINNAMON
- 3/4 C. FLOUR

**DIRECTIONS:**
- BEAT EGGS AND SUGAR IN A LARGE BOWL. ADD PUMPKIN, BAKING SODA, CINNAMON, AND FLOUR.
- GREASE AND FLOUR AN 18" X 12" X 1" PAN (COOKIE SHEET). POUR BATTER IN PAN AND SPREAD EVENLY TO ALL CORNERS. BAKE AT 375 DEGREES FOR 10-15 MINUTES. IT SHOULD BE LIGHT BROWN AND SPRING BACK WHEN TOUCHED. REMOVE FROM OVEN AND PUT A DISH TOWEL OVER TOP OF PAN; HOLD TIGHTLY AND FLIP OVER. ROLL THE CAKE IN THE DISH TOWEL LENGTHWISE (AS IT SERVES MORE PIECES). LET COOL ABOUT TWO HOURS.

**FILLING INGREDIENTS:**
- 8 OZ. CREAM CHEESE
- 1 C. POWDERED SUGAR
- 4 TBSP. BUTTER
- 1/2 TSP. VANILLA

**DIRECTIONS:**
- MIX INGREDIENTS TOGETHER WITH AN ELECTRIC MIXER. UNROLL CAKE, AND SPREAD FILLING EVENLY OVER CAKE (DON’T FORGET THE EDGES!). YOU CAN ALSO SPRinkle MORE CINNAMON ON TOP IF YOU LIKE. RE-ROLL, WRAP IN FOIL, REFRIGERATE, AND ENJOY!

Matthew Biscontini

**EASY MICROWAVE FUDGE**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 CUP WHIPPING CREAM
- 1 CUP WHITE SUGAR
- 1 CUP BROWN SUGAR
- 3 TABLESPOONS BUTTER
- 1 TEASPOON VANILLA
- 1/2 CUP CHOPPED NUTS

**DIRECTIONS:**
- IN A LARGE MICROWAVE-SAFE BOWL WITH A SPOON MIX TOGETHER WHIPPING CREAM, WHITE SUGAR AND BROWN SUGAR UNTIL COMBINED
- MICROWAVE ON HIGH FOR 15 MINUTES STIRRING, USING A WOODEN SPOON AT ABOUT 7 MINUTES (NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE MIXTURE COOKS IN THE MICROWAVE FOR THE FULL 15 MINS).
- REMOVE FROM MICROWAVE WITH OVEN MITT (VERY HOT!)
- ADD BUTTER (NO SUBSTITUTIONS, HAS TO BE BUTTER) AND VANILLA; MIX WELL FOR ABOUT 1 MINUTE.
- ADD CHOPPED NUTS (IF DESIRED)
- POUR INTO A BUTTERED 8 X 8-IN SQUARE BAKING PAN. (YOU CAN ALSO POUR INTO INDIVIDUAL SMALL FOIL CUPCAKE WRAPPERS.)
- REFRIGERATE UNTIL HARD BEFORE CUTTING INTO SMALL SQUARES; IF YOU ARE CREATIVE, GET COOKIE CUTTERS AND MAKE SHAPES!
- ENJOY!
Greetings from Prague!

The following is an update from former Penn State Wilkes-Barre student Sandra Kobos, who is currently studying in Prague for a full semester through New York University.

Sandra Kobos

So I am still in Prague. The weather is unseasonably warm. The leaves have all changed color and fallen slowly. The changing of the leaves was so familiar to me from home in Pennsylvania that I almost forgot to notice it.

I have reached the mid-way mark of the semester. Mid-terms are coming and going. I was worried about this point in the beginning. I did not know how difficult it would be on me, thinking, “It’s half over; can I do it again?” But I know that of course I can. I have grown to love it here. Things that I miss come to my mind sharply at times—just certain yearnings to drive to Borders or get cheese fries from Sheetz. But those feelings quickly pass because I know that I will be able to do those things soon. What is harder is forcing myself to enjoy the time I have here because I will never be able to experience this city again in the way that I am able to now.

My life has fallen into a pattern now. That is comforting, and in this comfort I notice things that I never would have if I were only spending a week’s vacation here. On buildings that I pass daily there are details in the architecture that are only now catching my attention. This week in one restaurant in particular, on my third visit within the past month or so, I noticed something strange in the walls. There are some sort of statues in the walls, looking as if people are pushing themselves through—here a torso and a head, there arms and legs. It is a bit creepy, but utterly beautiful at the same time.

However, the most odd (and eerie) thing that I have seen so far was in a town called Kutna Hora that I visited a few weeks ago. In this town there is a “bone chapel.” Inside are the bones of an estimated forty thousand people, most of whom died during the fourteenth century due to the black plague. Most of the remains were stacked carefully into large dome-like structures behind mesh walls, while others were used to build the chapel’s chandelier and a giant coat of arms.

I will be leaving the Czech Republic shortly for fall break to go to Poland with my father. I am excited to be able to see family and more of the country where I was born. After I return to Prague, I have a feeling that the time will simply fly by. It may sound negative of me to say so, but I wouldn’t mind if it did fly by. Although Prague is amazing, I am still highly anticipating New York. Of course, I also miss my friends and family at home and cannot wait to see them all again. All I can hope for is to finish off this experience with no regrets, and as of yet, I have none.

Skull sculpture, Prague Castle (Photo/ Sandra Kobos)

Bone Chapel, Kutna Hora (Photo/ Sandra Kobos)