

## Question of the Week

asked by Kelly Walsh

"How do you define fun?"



"Something you can relate to and makes you laugh."  
Kelly Diplacido  
Psychology, 06



"Anything that makes us laugh, like 'The Simpsons'."  
Cameron Shuck  
Psychology, 06



"Our PLET pals Mike Butala and Ben Kundman."  
PLET Clan



"The Behrend night life."  
Marisa Aiello  
BLASC, 06

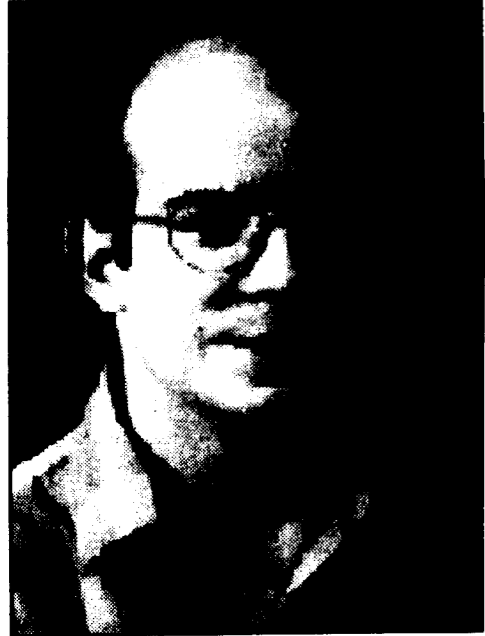


"He is; No she is."  
Amanda Mauser;  
Matt Keith  
Education & Psychology 06;  
Marketing 07

# Indianapolis Physics conference an enlightening experience for Behrend students and faculty

by Lori DeFabio  
staff writer

Three Behrend faculty members along with seven Behrend Physics majors joined several thousand physicists at the prestigious general meeting of the American Physics Society held in Indianapolis from March 17-22. Dr.



FILE PHOTO

Dr. William Baxter was one of three Behrend professors who attended the General Meeting of the American Physics Society. Seven Behrend students also attended.

William Baxter, Dr. Blair Tuttle, and Dr. Chuck Yeung attended the meeting because the APS is the largest association of physicists and the March meeting is the largest one it sponsors.

"I don't know how many physicists were in attendance this year, but usually there are 3000 to 6000," said Dr. Baxter. The seven students at meeting were Brian Sands, Kim Herrmann, Justin Crepp, Gregg Beaumont, Mike Perkins, Bruce Tepke, and Stephanie Gorniak, all Physics majors.

"I am very glad that I went to this conference. These meetings represent current research in a field in which we have been studying past research in every physics class I've taken," said Sands.

Each faculty member gave short talks at the meeting. Dr. Baxter gave a talk titled "Stress in a Two-dimensional Granular Medium." Dr. Tuttle gave a short talk about the "Theory of Band Offsets between Silicon and its Oxides," and Dr. Yeung was the research advisor to Kim Herrman for the presentation she gave. Herrmann was the only Behrend student gave a short talk, titled "Molecular Dynamics Simulation of Reactive Compatibilization."

Some students were honored to have

been able to give posters. Tepke, Sands, Perkins, and Crepp all presented posters of their research at the meeting. Tepke showed his poster "Grain Detection in Photoelastic Stress Images." The poster that Sands presented was titled "Gas-Assisted Capture of Earth-sized Moons around Extrasolar Giant Planets." Perkins presented his poster "The Orbital Evolution of Uranus and Neptune in the Early Solar System." Crepp's poster was entitled "Stability of Satellite Orbits Near the Outer Edge of a Circumplanetary Hill Sphere."

"It is extremely unusual for undergraduates to give posters and talks at these meetings, so our students are really exceptional," stated Dr. Baxter.

Attending this meeting was truly an educational experience for all.

"I'm very glad I went," said Perkins. "All posters were presented at the same time in a large auditorium so I was able to see other posters and talks over the course of the conference, and thus I learned a lot about what other researchers are doing and what is on the leading edge of modern physics."

Attending these meetings is the best way to get an accurate feel of what is happening in Physics today. The latest work in Physics, Applied Engineering,

Biology, and Chemistry were all presented.

"This [meeting] gave me the opportunity to learn in more detail some of the things going on in physics and also to present our research results. We also get to talk to different people in the field and potential collaborators," said Dr. Yeung.

Herrmann felt this trip was a very valuable experience.

"Brian Sands and I had attended the Centennial APS March meeting in 1999 when we were freshmen and listening to talks there and seeing the amazing demonstrations made it an overwhelming and very exciting experience," Herrmann stated. "Attending another meeting in our senior year was another great experience because this time we presented and we understood more of the material that we heard."

Students also made the trip to present their own findings.

"I'm a senior and graduating and would like to talk to others outside Behrend about my research, to show the physics community what I am working on and to get feedback on it," said Perkins. Because APS is the largest gathering of physicists in the country, it

is logically the best place to present.

Anyone can attend the annual meeting if they wish to ride in the School of Science's 15-seat passenger van. However, this year the only ones who wished to attend were Physics majors. Next year the meeting will be held in Austin, Texas.



FILE PHOTO

Dr. Chuck Yeung also attended the conference. Yeung is giving a lecture on Tuesday as part of the Provost's Speaker Series.

## FROM FRONT PAGE

### AMHERST

quality of our playing as the quality of your listening."

The next piece, also in four movements, was a 20th century composition by Pierre Max DuBois titled "Saxophone Quartet." This was followed by the two-movement "Rise," written by Steven Bryant. Bryant completed "Rise" under the influence of the Sept. 11 attacks, causing his piece to reflect the melancholy of that time and the hope that followed it.

The concert ended with three piece written by quartet member Carere: "Just In," dedicated to Carere's son, Justin; the romantic "Bus Stop Rag"; and the lightning-paced "Cantor Scamper."

Dr. Daniel Barnard, lecturer in music director of Behrend's choir and studio singers, invited audience members to show their appreciation for the musical talents of the quartet by purchasing their CD or their video, which is geared toward children. The group remained at Behrend to perform and speak during Barnard's music appreciation class.

A preliminary schedule of performers has been arranged for the 2002-2003 season of Music at Noon: The Logan Wintergarten Series. Further details can be found on the website [http://www.pserie.psu.edu/hss/music/music/music\\_at\\_noon.htm](http://www.pserie.psu.edu/hss/music/music/music_at_noon.htm).

### GORGE

efforts as the ecological preserve on campus to proceed. Her students have been profoundly effected by the construction, and many seek ways to preserve the natural resources of the campus.

"What you learn in school has to affect your personal, political, and professional behavior," said Silver. She said that the best way for students to help Behrend's environment at this time is to voice ecological concerns to provost candidates during the hiring process. The administrator's attitude towards preservation profoundly affects the environmental health of the campus, so every effort should be made to ensure that the new provost will strive to keep this campus ecologically safe.

"The time to do things for the environment is every time," Silver said. "When you're brushing your teeth, throwing away trash,

driving a car... Collectively we do matter a whole lot, and we need to find things to do that are constructive, not destructive."

"The time to stand up against the road was five, four, three... even two years ago. No

one can do anything about it now," she said, bemoaning the futility of ELF's alleged actions. She noted that none of these destructive acts is helping the environment and only serves to give environmentalists a bad name.

Spiking a tree does not prevent the tree from being chopped down; by the time the spike is discovered, it's too late to save the tree. Furthermore, if the group was to blow up the completed bridge, as its statement threatened, the ecological effects would be devastating.

"I cannot understand being willing to cause destruction and injury," Silver said. "Two wrongs don't make a right."



FILE PHOTO

Dr. Pamela Silver, associate professor of biology at Behrend, says the new highway has increased awareness of ecological concerns at Behrend.

## Senior Class Gift reminder



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Clint Lewis signs 831 letters that will be sent out to all seniors this week. Don't forget to send your pledge cards indicating your desired donation through on-campus mail!