



Amel Balcica/Collegian Photo Coordinator

Know what time it is? Not an hourglass, but part of Dr. Baxter's sand granulation experiment.

Change in aid

by Tom Keefe
Collegian Staff

The financial aid application process is changing.

Kate Delfino, Assistant Director of Admissions, Financial Aid and Graduate Admissions, said that the new application process should make it easier for students to file for financial aid.

The major change in the financial process is the new renewal form for federal student aid.

These forms will be mailed later this month to students who previously filed for federal student aid.

They can be used as a substitute to the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) form to apply for federal student aid for 1994-95.

The application shows the information that the student supplied in the previous year.

Delfino said, "The student should review all of the information on the application, and correct anything that has changed."

She added that students should pay particular attention to the "School Release" and "Student Status" sections of the application. Each student should make sure that the correct Penn State campus is listed.

Not all sections of the renewal application need to be filled out. Sections which must be filled out are clearly indicated on the form.

Under the new application process there is no longer a need to file a separate Pennsylvania state grant application. The student only needs to file the renewal application or FAFSA application.

The renewal application or the FAFSA form cannot be filed until January 1, 1994. Delfino recommends that one of the forms be filed by February 15, 1994.

The financial aid office will have information tables set up in the Reed Building at the end of November and again in January, to have their financial aid questions answered.

Faculty Profile of the Week

by Kristin Wasilewski
Collegian Staff

Dr. G. William Baxter, an assistant professor of physics at Behrend, has recently been working on some experiments concerning the physics properties of granulation.

Baxter said he has two basic ways of selecting experiments.

"I'm attracted to experiments that one, can be done by one or two people and that can be done here (at Behrend) as opposed to going somewhere else, and two I can see and that I can show to other people. I like experiments that are visual," Baxter said.

In the past, he has studied fluids and convection. This led to his interest in granular substances which have many of the same properties as fluids. These substances include Kentucky blue grass, sand, coal, or any other kind of grain.

"I'm interested in how these materials move" he said. "This is simple, but this is physics."

Baxter has been working on his most recent experiment with an undergraduate student, Mike Vavrek.

This experiment involves

taking a bucket of sand and rotating it at different speeds to observe the reaction and shape of the sand.

"By studying this shape you can learn how the material behaves," he said.

Baxter said he is surprised that no one has done this experiment before because it "is a really popular introductory physics problem if you fill the bucket with water instead of sand."

Baxter started teaching at Behrend last fall.

He said, "I prefer teaching small classes. This year I am teaching smaller classes, so that works out well."

In the spring, he is scheduled to teach general physics (PHYS 202 and 202P) as well as technical mechanics in physics (PHYS 419).

He attended the Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where he received his undergraduate degree. He said it was a "very interesting and unusual school" while also "a very good school."

Baxter received his master's degree in physics at Ohio State University and his Ph.D. from Duke University. He also

completed post-doctoral work in San Diego at the University of California.

For the future, Baxter plans to work on experiments dealing with stress distribution of grains.

Baxter's experiments are useful because "there's a market that needs to know how these materials behave."

What makes his work interesting Baxter said "is that we think we can explain most of this, but there are some things we can't explain."

As for family, Baxter's father was a psychology professor at a small college before he retired and he has a sister who lives in Atlanta. He isn't married, but he does have a cocker spaniel named Gracie.

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