

The Behrend College Collegian

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BEHREND: The Board of Trustees of Penn State University recently approved the appointment of an architect for two new residence halls at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, and the reconfiguration and expansion of a parking lot for the growing campus community.

The firm of Hoffman Popovich Architects and Associates of Boalsburg, PA will design the new 200-bed residence halls following the same general plan used for Almy Hall, a 128-bed honors residence currently under construction at the campus and also designed by Hoffman Popovich. Almy Hall is scheduled for

completion this summer, with the next new unit planned for occupancy in the fall of 1999, followed by the last unit two years later to create a village encompassing all three units.

This summer, in addition to completing Almy Hall, Penn State-Behrend will convert and enlarge an existing 141-space parking lot near the main campus entrance to a 406-space facility. The parking lot project at Penn State-Behrend, designed by the University's Office of Physical Plant, is expected to ease the parking congestion experienced in the 1996-97 academic year.

Student Creativity

BEHREND- Penn State Erie, the Behrend College, will hold its first spring art show, *A Celebration of Student Creativity: Drawings and Photographs*, April 15, 16 and 17 in the Reed Building Wintergarden from 6 a.m. until midnight. The event will showcase the work of students who have taken Intro to Drawing and Beginning Photography during the academic year.

Van Bork said she was so impressed by her students' work this year that she was inspired to put the show together. She said she believes that art students learn from their peers as well as from their teachers. "This will give them a chance to extend their learning from the course," said van Bork.

The show opens with a reception on April 15 at 4 p.m. in the Reed Union Building

"This is the first time we've created a forum for students to exhibit their creative work at Penn State-Behrend"
-Felicia Van Bork

Felicia Van Bork, lecturer in arts and curator of the show, expects over 200 students to participate. "This is the first time we've created a forum for students to exhibit their creative work at Penn State-Behrend," she said. "Our intention is to show the best efforts of each student."

Wintergarden. This exhibition is possible by the Penn State-Behrend Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Mary Behrend Cultural Fund, and the Penn State-Behrend Office of Student Activities. The reception and show are free and open to the community.

Rice of Strangers



Photo by Dave Boulos

The Penn State Behrend Studio Theatre presents *The Rice of Strangers*. Written by George Loukides and directed by Tony Elliot, the play will be produced on April 10, 11, 12, and 13 at 8:00 p.m. Call today to make reservations x6016. There is no charge for admission.

Mystical Alchemy

BEHREND- Dr. Alan Jircitano, assistant professor of chemistry at Penn State-Erie, The Behrend College, will highlight research in "Alchemy and Stamp Collecting," the final presentation of the 1996-97 Provost Series, Wednesday, April 16 at noon in the Reed Union Building Commons. He will speak because of a recent award, the 1996 Penn State-Behrend Council of Fellows Faculty Research Award.

In his talk, Jircitano will compare modern synthetic chemistry to alchemy, the mystical work of ancient chemists who searched for the magic that would turn base metals into gold. "Many people think that science is

simply a matter of collecting data," said Jircitano, "but that is only one aspect of chemistry. When you combine elements to develop new molecules you feel that same magic even today. Chemistry is more creative than just gathering data."

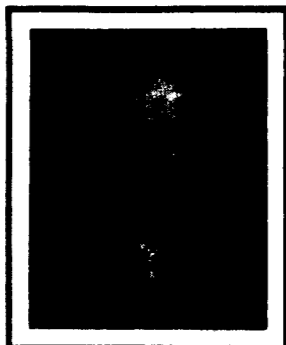
Jircitano's research centers on naturally occurring macrocyclic molecule hemoglobin. Using synthetic molecules, he models the macrocycle in an effort to develop a substance that emulates natural hemoglobin.

Jircitano explained that this synthetic hemoglobin may potentially be a sythetic blood. This would be an endless supply of much needed blood for transfusions and the dangerously low blood reserve. by continually seeking a synthetic form of hemoglobin, Jircitano learns more about the

natural macrocyclic itself.

Jircitano, who has been at Penn State-Behrend since 1984, is a graduate of Niagara University. He received his doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of Kansas and completed his postdoctoral research at Ohio State University.

Jircitano teaches both the general chemistry sequence and advanced inorganic chemistry at Penn State-Behrend. He has had more than 25 articles published in scholarly journals of chemistry, and his research has been funded by the Ben Franklin Partnership and the National Science Foundation. He is a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Crystallographic Association, and the Council of Undergraduate Research.



**Herb Lauffer
1941-1997**

Penn State Erie
The Behrend College
will celebrate the life
of longtime Athletics Director
in a service on
Sunday, April 13, 1997
2:00 p.m.
Reed Union Building
Commons

Following the service, the
family will greet students
colleagues, and friends



"Come on, you can do it!"-The sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority volunteered their time at the Special Olympics as cheerleaders last Saturday. "It was a nice feeling knowing that my encouragement made someone's day," said Carley Downs. "I like knowing that my involvement helped an athlete to grow," said Tina Zovko. It was a fun filled day of encouraging athletes to strive for the best.