

# The Behrend College Collegian

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## Over 200 students receive degrees in December commencement ceremony

by Anne Rajotte  
managing editor

The years of hard work and dedication finally paid off for around 200 students receiving degrees in Erie Hall on Saturday, December 20. Around 160 Bachelors, 30 Associate and 14 Masters of Business degrees were conferred.

Daniel Sargent delivered the thanksgiving remarks with a poem. Hoop Roche, Chair of the Penn State Behrend Council of Fellows, remarked on the meaning of being a Penn State alumnus, citing alumni's well known devotion and love towards Penn State.

Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, an associate professor of Marketing at Behrend delivered the commencement address. He focused his speech on the work he did on his recent sabbatical to Bangladesh and on globalization. He emphasized that we are "living in a world that is much more interconnected

than many of us realize." Andaleeb conducted public opinion polling while on sabbatical in Bangladesh and his findings were published in newspapers across Bangladesh. He presented the graduates with the acronym SPECIAL: Self awareness, Partnership, Excellence, Commitment, Integrity, Ambition, and Learning. He explained the importance of each of these ideas in regard to success in life.

Kenneth Bunting, president of the Penn State Behrend Alumni Association inducted the new graduates and led them in the famous "We are Penn State" cheer. Michael Woycheck delivered the final remarks of good wishes.

The class of 1997's feeling was mostly one of relief and happiness. Cindy Stritzinger, who graduated with a degree in MIS commented, "I'm happy. Finally after four and a half years." Brian Smith, who also graduated MIS stated, "It's such a relief. I can't wait to start my new career."



photo by Anne Rajotte

Students eagerly enter Erie Hall in anticipation of being awarded their diplomas

## Behrend committee plans 50th anniversary celebration

by Andrea Zaffino  
editor in chief

Last Tuesday, January 13th, the first committee meeting was held in preparation for Penn State Behrend's fiftieth anniversary as a college. Tuesday's meeting was mainly used for brainstorming ideas and arriving at possible themes for the celebration. One possibility being considered for a theme is, "Behrend at fifty, a golden opportunity." The committee is planning a year long celebration which is taking place throughout the Fall 1998 and the Spring 1999 semesters.

The 50th anniversary theme will be incorporated through programs and events that traditionally take place annually at Behrend. Some examples of what this will include are the New Student Orientation, the Academic convocation, Homecoming and many other events put on by the college. The committee also plans to have the Speaker Series coincide with the anniversary celebration, which would

impact not on the speakers chosen for the series, but rather the topics on which they speak which should fit into the theme of the 50th anniversary.

The celebration's kick off will be on Saturday, August 29th of this year with the Black tie dinner. It will be on this occasion that the Behrend Medallion Award will be presented to certain individuals who have been beneficial to the community. It will be the first presentation of the Medallion award since 1988.

Much has yet to be decided, though one focus will surely be on the college's history and those responsible for its involvement with Penn State University. Many are aware that credit belongs to the Behrend family, who resided on the 425 acres of land when it was known as the Glenhill Farm. Specifically, however it seems a majority of the credit ought to be paid to Mary Behrend. Ben Lane, a committee member who is writing a history of the Behrend College into a

manuscript that will hopefully be published sometime in the next year, said, "The central figure in this whole thing is Mary Behrend. Giving up so much land and financial worth is considerable."

In the college's first years when it was still a small institution (with precisely 148 students) Mary Behrend would visit frequently. "She always wanted to meet with the students and talk with them personally" Lane said. "They would hold a tea for her in Erie Hall as the school grew larger."

The 50th anniversary committee plans to meet periodically throughout the rest of the semester. The first stage of planning seemed to have gone well for all who contributed. Peggy Bach, the Manager of Special Events and a committee member said, "I am excited about all the ideas that were generated by the meeting." The committee will reconvene on Friday, February 13th for further planning.



Faculty enter Erie Hall for graduation ceremonies

photo by Anne Rajotte

## I.D. cards needed to enter Almy Hall

by Nathan Mitchell  
layout editor

Starting Thursday, residents of Almy Hall won't need keys to enter their building. Thursday morning, students will bring their ID cards to the front desk in Almy to be activated to use in place of keys. Access to the building will only be possible through the use of the ID cards.

According to housing, the card access system was supposed to be operational at the beginning of last semester, but not all of the software was installed until now. The system is designed to allow housing, police services, and residence life to monitor entry and fire doors throughout the

building. If someone tries to enter Almy Hall who doesn't have clearance on his or her I.D., an alarm will be triggered. Once student's cards are made active, the security system will monitor who uses the devices at what time.

There have been complaints about the new system, ranging from the inconvenience of using a card in addition to room keys to the fact that the security system monitors students' movements in and out of the building.

Christine Dzara, a resident of Almy, believes "It's a good idea to be safe, but I don't like the fact that it's known when I enter and exit the building."



Obsessive-compulsive disorder sufferer Melvin Udall (Jack Nicholson) prepares to throw his neighbor's dog Verdell (Jill) down the garbage chute in the Gracie Films production "As Good As it Gets." Four holiday films reviewed pp 7-8.