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Students, Dean Lilley discuss the future of Behrend

by Abigail Mouyard
staff writer

Due to University Park's continual growth, other Penn State campuses have been undergoing major changes. Behrend has been a four-year school for twenty-five years and other campuses have recently followed by offering four-year degrees. Penn State University would like to expand its campuses, including Behrend, which will bring about an increase in students and facilities.

According to "Penn State Campuses: A Plan for the Future," Penn State University, in July of 1997, redesigned the Commonwealth Educational System (CES), which included giving each of the 17 undergraduate campuses a college home, changing the reporting line for the Great Valley Graduate Center, and merging four campuses into two units. This will also eliminate the CES. This plan seeks to improve the disciplinary unity across the University, provide quality control, and ensure modest, planned growth within existing and planned capacity. There were no plans to restrict lower-division students who may choose to move from any campus to an upper-division campus (including University Park). However, to meet enroll-

ment objectives, it is a working goal that each of the campuses outside of University Park will try to maintain but not exceed the number of students that transfer there. All campuses are encouraged to transfer more students to upper-division campuses other than University Park, including Erie and Harrisburg.

"I like the chance to be able to get to know many students and faculty because of the size of Behrend's campus."

Aaron Lundberg
01, Communications

Behrend College intends to keep the percentage of students that transfer to University Park steady at about 25%. Behrend has 3200 students currently and the University would like to see an increase in the future to between 5000 and 7000 students. Behrend's future plans, other than increasing enrollment, are to expand on the unused acres of the campus. This includes a multipurpose building that will contain an indoor track

and a swimming pool, and is scheduled to be finished in the summer of 2000.

What makes 75% of Behrend students stay on campus for the full four years?

Aaron Lundberg, 01 communications, stated, "I like the chance to be able to get to know many students and faculty because of the size of Behrend's campus."

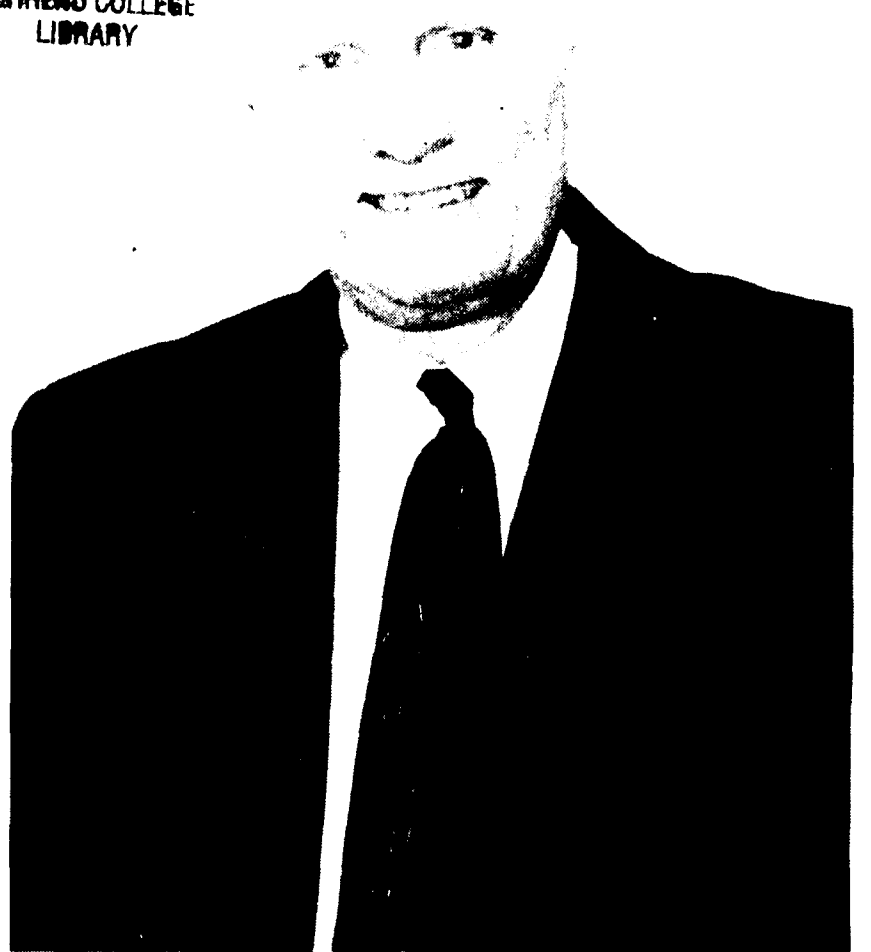
John Lilley, Provost and Dean, would like Behrend to, "retain its inspiring quality and continue to be an inspiration to students." However, he does want students to keep certain things in mind as Behrend grows larger: "What do we want to protect at Behrend as we grow larger, and what are the values we need to identify and stick with as we grow?"

Most students think that Behrend needs to maintain its small, personal atmosphere. Kristi Wilson, 04 business, commented, "I like Behrend's small classes and personal attention from teachers." Thien Tran, 09 plastics, agreed, stating, "I enjoy Behrend's faculty and their immediate assistance when you need help. They hold an attitude of wanting to help students."

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Provost and Dean John Lilley

photo by Jason Blake

Behrend admission standards becoming more selective

by Andrea Zaffino
editor in chief

Penn State University is a name recognized on at least a national scale. It has been equated with a certain level of pride and prestige among its alumni, and those who obtain degrees from the University are for the most part respected for them. Yet for a student who earns his or her degree from the Behrend College, there is a question of whether or not that same level of respect is attached to their accomplishment.

This question begins with the standards of admissions at the Behrend College and how they compare, not only with the standards of University Park, and the other Commonwealth campuses but to other school outside the Penn State system.

When a prospective student's application is reviewed for admission to Behrend, several factors are weighed. Of those, the most important are a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) for grades 9-11 and their SAT or ACT test scores, either of which is acceptable. A student can take and retake these examinations as many times as they like and their highest score is the one which receives evaluation by the College.

Mary Ellen Madigan, The Director of Admissions at Behrend, said, "In the admissions process, we look for students with strong academic preparation. Because the University is so large and we process so many

applications, we have a very quantitative process. Basically we consider a student's high school GPA and scores on the SAT and ACT."

About 3/4 of the decision to allow a student admission is placed on their GPA. Melissa Grimm, The Assistant Director of Admissions at Behrend, said that a student's "rough average" GPA, in order to gain acceptance into Behrend, is anywhere between a 2.9 and a 3.32, however Grimm also said that a fair number of students that apply fall above this average and a

few fall below it.

The other quarter of the decision is the student's score on either their SAT or ACT depending on which they took. The rough average SAT score falls somewhere between a 25% and 75% range which is inside 1010 and 1170. The average ACT scores falls between a middle 50% range which is a score between 21-26.

"The admission criteria for Penn State University Park is higher than it is at Penn State Behrend."

Mary Ellen Madigan
Director of Admissions at Behrend

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In comparison to University Park, these standards fall a little bit short. Madigan confirms this by saying, "The admission criteria for Penn State University Park is higher than it is at Penn State Behrend."

The average GPA given consider-

ation there ranges between 3.36 and 3.76 and the average SAT scores admitted are between 1150 and 1330. These figures are rough averages as well.

When compared with other Commonwealth campuses within the Penn State System, Behrend does have a more rigorous selection process. The average GPA of an incoming student at any one of the branch campuses is between a 2.66 and a 3.2. The SAT scores range roughly from a total score of 930-1120.

est regard by the Admissions Department at Gannon, Elliott commented, "SAT and ACT scores are weighed along the same lines as [a prospective student's] GPA and class rank."

There are more noticeable lines drawn between a comparison of Behrend's admission standards and that of ivy league school Cornell University, where a student's GPA is intermingled within a profile that shows whether or not a student has graduated from high school within the top 10% of his class. Of all the entering freshmen students admitted to Cornell for the 1997 academic year, 82% of the students ranked by their high school were in the top 10% of their class. However, this number can be deceiving as 35% of the total first year undergrads' class ranks were never reported.

The SAT's are reviewed very selectively at Cornell. It is done by a ranking system divided by verbal and mathematical scores. 30% of the students admitted receive a verbal score of between a 700-800, twenty-seven percent have scores ranging from 650-699 and 23% have between 600-649. Of the Math section 48% are between 700-800, 25% are between 650-699 and sixteen percent are in the 600-649 range.

This is deceiving as well because even though a larger percentage of students score higher on the math, a

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Spirit Committee works to build Behrend pride

by Kristin Schmid
staff writer

In an attempt to bring more pride to Behrend, Dr. Chris Reber, Dean of Student Affairs, and eight other faculty members have collaborated with students to form a Spirit Committee. These students represent a broad base of student life and attempt to bring more excitement to campus. Not only do their plans have major effects on next year but to get the ball rolling the committee has already put some plans for this semester into action.

Some of these plans include a formal dance, a spring band event, which will be somewhat similar to a Battle of the Bands, and performances of the Behrend Gospel Choir at basketball games during half time.

The committee has met four times this semester and has been brainstorming for ideas. They have come up with numerous ideas, and have considered many options on what activities they want to bring to campus.

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Dean of Student Affairs Chris Reber

photo by Jason Blake

Students prepare for trips to Washington and Spain

by Anne Rajotte
managing editor

During Spring Break, when most students are heading home or to sunnier climate, about 40 students will be going to Spain or Washington DC as part of academic courses being offered at Behrend.

Twenty one students and two faculty members will be visiting Washington DC as part of political science 297D. The students on this trip will

have the opportunity to take a tour of the State Department, the FBI, the Capitol and the Library of Congress. There will also be trips to the various monuments and museums around the city.

In addition, the group will be able to meet with Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum and Senator Arlen Specter's legislative assistant, Molly Birmingham. They will also meet with Phil English, the House Repre-

sentative from the Erie area.

International Studies 497C has been meeting most Mondays since the beginning of the semester to learn about the history and culture of Spain before spending a week in Madrid and other cities. The class will spend a few days in Madrid where they will visit the Prado art museum and other sites in the city. They will spend the remainder of the week traveling around the southern part of Spain as

far as the Mediterranean Sea. They will also visit Dr. Juan Fernandez' hometown of Escanuela, in the province of Andalusia. Fernandez is the professor teaching the class and accompanying the students on the trip.

This is the first time that Behrend has offered these particular trips, though there are plans to repeat them regularly in the future.