

The Behrend College Collegian

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Muy bien: students experience a week in Spain

by Anne Rajotte
managing editor

"It was a great learning experience," Jaime Ellis', 04 International Business, thoughts on her week long trip to Spain echoed the sentiments of all of those who participated.

Spanish professor Dr. Juan Fernandez, ambitiously took thirteen students to his home country of Spain during Spring Break.

The students spent their first three days in the capital city of Madrid. During the days, they walked throughout the city visiting such sights as the Royal Palace and the Prado Museum. At night, they expe-

rienced some Spanish cuisine and nightlife.

Later in the week, the group traveled south. On Wednesday they made a stop in Toledo on the way to Jaen. From Jaen, the students took day trips to Granada, Córdoba, and Málaga. In Granada, they had the opportunity to see the Alhambra, which is often considered one of the seven wonders of the world. In Córdoba, the group visited a great Mosque, which was later turned into a cathedral by Christians.

For most students, it seems that the highlight of the trip was a visit to Dr. Fernandez' hometown of Escuenela. **Spain continued on page 3**



photo by Anne Rajotte

Some of the Behrend students who went to Spain stand in front of Hotel Mindanao in Madrid.

Collegian to adopt new name in Fall

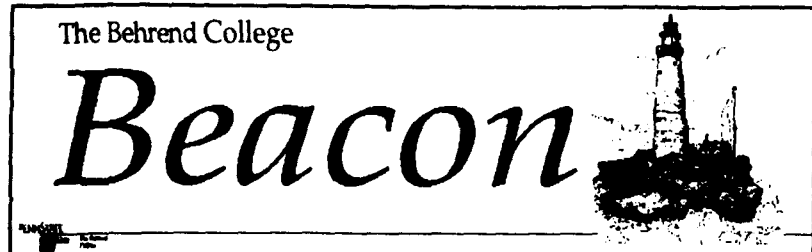
by Andrea Zaffino
staff writer

For the students of Behrend, next year there will be a change in a tradition spanning three decades for the college. That is the name of the campus newspaper, the name which is currently "The Behrend College Collegian" beginning next year will be called "The Behrend College Beacon."

There are several reasons for the

name should be. Eventually there was a contest held in the Collegian newspaper for anyone who had an idea for a new name to email their suggestion to the staff and the person who suggested the winning name would receive an award of \$25.

Of the many names received, more than one gave the suggestion the Beacon, however the award, it was decided, would go to the first person to recommend the name. That



name change. Some have to do with Behrend distinguishing itself from University Park, whose paper is also called the Collegian. Another factor is that the name "The Beacon" is more relative to the Erie area because of the lighthouse on Presque Isle.

During the past academic year many people on the newspaper staff advocated a name change but were rather indecisive as to what the new

person was Dan Merson, a graduate student intern in the Office of Student Affairs. He will be presented with his check in the full amount of \$25 next week.

The first official issue of the Beacon will be published orientation week for the Fall 1998 semester. It has been undecided yet as to whether or at what occasion the new name will be officially unveiled.

Behrend students take in Washington

by Ayodele Jones
staff writer

While many students were vacationing to hot spots during Spring Break, a group of Behrend students spent a week in Washington, D.C. visiting various agencies and witnessing the United States government in process. The days were filled with an array of sights and tours. The trip was organized and escorted by Dr. Robert Speel,

assistant professor of political science, and Dr. Zachary Irwin, associate professor of Political Science.

The State Department and The Federal Bureau of Investigation were the first sites of interests visited by the students. The FBI was a favorite among students because of a demonstration which showed the firing range and capacity of guns used by federal agents. There was also a warehouse that

showed the guns confiscated during various raids and arrests. They ranged from your average revolver to a cane which fired five shots. Students were able to visit the reception/dining area for foreign dignitaries in the State Department in addition to a regular prescribed tour of antique furniture and rooms. Monday also included a talk with two legislative assistants in the office of **Washington continued on page 2**



photo courtesy of Robert Speel

Behrend students at the north entrance to the White House. In the background is the Old Executive Office Building, the largest granite structure in the world, where the offices of White House interns such as Monica Lewinsky are located.

First stage of Smart Cards to begin next semester

Andrea Zaffino
editor in chief

Next Fall, when Behrend students return, they will have a new perk attached to their meal plan and student identification cards. Not only will the cards supply their current functions for on campus food purchase, they will also have an option for an AT&T calling card.

This new addition is part of an overall reform in the use of student identification cards throughout the Penn State system. Currently, at Behrend there are two separate cards. The 1997-'98 Freshman students have the newer cards and most other Behrend students still possess the cards they discontinued after the spring of '97 semester. Neither of these will work for students beginning in the summer '98 session. This is the same circumstance for any Penn State campus University-wide. The cards are being changed because of a new pilot program going on at University Park that hopefully will reach to Behrend by either 1999 or 2000.

The HUB Identification office at University Park is working on a Smart Card program, which is something fairly new to colleges as a whole. Fred Fenstermaker, the assistant manager of Housing and Food Services, said of this new program, "Some other [colleges] have it but we're in the first couple."

Next year, the cards at Behrend will only feature the phone card option, however the program at University Park will be expanded much further.

Students there will be able to use their cards for outside businesses, on campus vending machines, laundry machines and copy machines. Fenstermaker explained why this is not happening at Behrend yet. "It's running as a pilot program at University Park, not at Behrend or any other commonwealth campuses because they will cost significantly more." However Fenstermaker goes on to say, "The whole University is moving in that direction."

The changes in Behrend's system next year will require that all students with an older card get their picture retaken and all students will be receiving a new card, that will be able to accommodate a phone card feature. The following year or perhaps the year after, all students will once again have to get new cards provided that the Smart Card system takes full swing and is used at Behrend.

This card will be of more use when and if businesses take root along Sta-

tion Road in future years. The combination of the Smart Card giving students an account in which they can use at these businesses will surely provide competition to Behrend's Housing and Food Services. To this, Fenstermaker says, "It goes with the plan of the college's future development. I'm not concerned with the competition, right now we [Food and Housing] have to be all things to all people."



Fred Fenstermaker, Assistant Manager of Housing and Food Service