

BEHREND'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Committee begins planning fiftieth anniversary celebration

by Andrea Zaffino
photo editor

The 1998-99 academic school year is an especially notable one for Penn State-Behrend. It will mark Penn State-Behrend's 50th anniversary as a Penn State campus and its 25th anniversary as an official college that offers four year degrees.

Anne-Marie Welsh, the director of public relations for the campus, told of plans to commemorate this benchmark: "It will probably be celebrated with a series of events that will take place all throughout next year."

John Lilley, Penn State Behrend's provost and dean, is convening an anniversary committee to plan with

this year-long celebration. The committee will be meeting periodically throughout the remainder of the fall '97 and spring '98 semesters.

Thomas B. Hagen, a former student at Behrend, has accepted the responsibility as the committee's chair. Hagen attended Penn State Behrend from 1953-55. Because Behrend was not yet able to confer four-year degrees at that time, he went to Ohio State University to obtain his degree as a bachelor of science in commerce. Hagen is currently the chairman of the Custom Engineering Company, located in Erie, which specializes in metal fabrications and consulting.

In 1988, the Behrend college hon-

ored Hagen as an Alumni Fellow. Along with being the anniversary committee chair, Hagen also has a seat on the Penn State-Behrend council of fellows and served from 1995-97 as the secretary of community and economic development for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania on Governor Tom Ridge's cabinet.

As of yet, the planning committee has not gotten together to formulate any ideas, however planning is not limited to this group. Welsh said, "If any students feel inspired with any ideas for the celebration, they can feel free to email me at axw6@email.psu.edu."



Portraits of the Behrend family line the walls of the library gallery.

Photo by Jason Blake

Library gallery presents Behrend history

by Andrea Zaffino
photo editor

With the fiftieth anniversary of the Behrend College coming up in what is now just a few months, it is apparent that many of the students and even some faculty and staff know little about the history of this campus and the family that founded it. Another thing of which people are unaware of on this campus is that obtaining information about the campus history is readily available to them.

Anyone who has ever walked into the Behrend library has noticed the small gallery to the right of the entrance doors. It displays various artifacts from the Behrend family's history, there is a bust of Moritz Behrend, a painting of Ernst Behrend, and a painting of Norman H. Wilson who was Hammermill Paper Company's second President and an honorary Chairman of the Board,

among other people important to Behrend's and Hammermill's past. There are drawings and blueprint sketches of the paper company's design.

The Army/Navy "E" flag was awarded to Hammermill by the United States Department of War. It was an award given to those production plants that attained an excellent level in manufacturing and distributing war-related goods during the second world war. It was very prestigious and given out on a rather irregular basis. Hammermill contributed to the war effort by supplying paper which the Army and Navy used for forms, orders, maps, and blueprints.

One of the professors who spearheaded the work done on this gallery was Dr. John Rossi, Assistant Professor of History. He was asked to research the historical backgrounds and descriptions of the portraits and

the artifacts within the gallery, due to his being a twentieth century historian. Dr. Sharon Dale, Associate Professor of Art History, was in charge of the layout of the room. Dr. Rossi, Lynne Weber from Development and University Relations and student Chris Duine were assigned to work on it.

In the basement of the Otto Behrend Science building many of these artifacts and paintings were being stored in cardboard boxes and being leaked on. Rossi said, "Chris Duine, Lynne Weber, and myself made arrangements to move the records and portraits to a safer drier location."

When the library opened in 1993, the room where the artifacts and portraits are now was constructed especially for that reason. It is actually called the "Gallery Room."



The Reed Commons after the recent renovations.

photo by Andrea Zaffino

Reed commons to close in April

by Anne Rajotte
editor in chief

Students returning to Behrend next year will be greeted with a newly renovated Reed Commons. The work will begin in March and the Commons will be closed from April 1 to the end of the semester.

Penn State's Board of Trustees will be meeting at Behrend in June. According to Chris Reber, Dean of Student Affairs, this meeting provided the opportunity to make changes have been needed for some time. The renovated Commons will have a new sound system specifically designed

for the acoustics of that room, new lighting and a catering area. The Commons will also be improved aesthetically by a new floor and repainting.

The lighting will be improved having lighting zones and more capabilities, such as the ability to accommodate equipment for a band.

Chris Rizzo, Director of Student Activities, said the feel of the room, "will be much more warm and inviting." He went on to say, "I hope the students will use the space even more." It is also hoped that the students will use it more for informal activities, such as studying.

The downside of the renovation is

the fact that the Commons will be closed from April until the completion date which is June 27, in time for the Board of Trustees meeting. There are regular activities held in the Commons, such as the Catholic Mass on Sunday night. Rizzo has attempted to let people know about the closing so event can be scheduled around it. So far, there have been no complaints and no rescheduling problems.

Reber commented that the minor disruption this year will be made up for by benefits of the renovation in the long run. Rizzo stated that when completed, the Commons will be "a top notch programming area."

Creamery to name ice cream in honor of Behrend's fiftieth

by Ik Chan Kang
new editor

Penn State's Creamery is renaming one of their ice cream flavors in honor of Behrend's fiftieth anniversary. The new name will be decided by a contest open to the Behrend community.

There are eight flavors that entrants can select in renaming the ice cream flavor. The flavors are: vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, peach, butter pecan, bittersweet mint, peanut but-

ter swirl, and coconut chip. It is open to anyone who is considered part of the Behrend community. Using the theme for our anniversary year, "Penn State-Behrend at 50: A Golden Opportunity", there would be endless numbers of names that an entrant could come up with. Entries will be accepted by e-mail, mail, or fax. The addresses are: email: axw6@psu.edu, fax: (814)898-7116, and mailing address: Ice Cream Contest, Office of Development and University Relations, Penn State-Behrend, Station

Road, Erie, PA 16563

There are rewards for the winners who's ideas get selected. The winner will receive free cones of the winning flavor for 10 friends. The final decision will be made by the members of the Anniversary Committee, who will serve as judges for the contest. As Anne Marie Welsh (Director of Public Relations) states, "We love to see as many participants as possible. Why don't all of you enter into the contest to kick off the anniversary in a good fashion?"

Professor Emeritus remembers 45 years at Behrend

by Andrea Zaffino
editor in chief

As Penn State Behrend's 50th Anniversary approaches, the faculty and staff of the college prepare for what will be a year long celebration, to take place throughout the Fall '98 and spring '99 semesters.

One of the pivotal members in charge of planning for the occasion is Associate Professor Emeritus of English, Ben Lane. Lane is currently working on a publication which focuses on Behrend's history as a college. This is a topic he knows quite a lot about because he has worked at the Behrend campus since 1953, just five years after it was established.

When Lane first arrived he and his wife, Carolyn lived on campus in a small house adjacent to Jordan road. At the college's very start, all faculty lived on campus. Lane himself began as the Dean of Students as well as teaching four classes. "Everybody did everything," Lane said.

In the beginning, the campus existed of little more than the Glennhill Farm House, Turnbull Barn, the Carriage House and the Theater across from Turnbull. Glennhill Farm House was used as a residence hall for the women students as well as a cafeteria with a dining room and a kitchen. The downstairs of Turnbull was for classes while the upstairs remained a barn, and even before the property was made into a college, the Carriage House was the Behrend's garage, and home to their chauffeur.

The working title of Lane's transcript is "Behrend Remembered." Which is due out sometime in the next year. He is unsure at this point whether it will be published under the same title. Not only will the subject of the Behrend college itself be a topic in Lane's written work, but also the events leading up to Mary Behrend's donation of the Glennhill Farm to Penn State University.

Beginning in the 1860's in Germany the Behrend family owned a papermill by the name of

Varzinerpapierfabrik, Hammurmühle. Along with another mill the Behrend's ran under Count Otto Von Bismark, Fuchsmühle, Hammühle. "Which became one of the most premier papermills in Europe," Lane said.

The head of the family at this time was a man named, Moritz Behrend. He had three sons, Ernst, Otto, and Bernard Behrend, whom Moritz wanted all to move to the United States. Lane said this was because, "The Behrend's were a Jewish family and even though they had converted to Lutheran there was a lot of anti-semitism building in Germany even then."

The transcript will go into great depth with topics such as these, and many other things that have shaped Behrend into the institution it has become at present. If Ben Lane's progress continues on schedule, his work will be a notable inclusion to next year's commemoration.

