

# Beacon

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## Going once, Going twice, sold Director of Engineering School to retire next year

Alpha Sigma Alpha holds date auction to raise money for charity

By Andrea Zaffino  
photo editor

After many years of service to the Behrend College, the Director of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Dr. Richard Progelhof, will be retiring at the end of the Spring semester. Progelhof has been working in the engineering departments at various colleges and universities since he completed his PhD. When he began working at Behrend at the beginning of this decade, he planned at that time on being here no more than six years.

Progelhof commented, "it's time to retire, I've been continuously working since 1962, and you don't have the stamina anymore."

He continued talking about his school and the accomplishments achieved during his time as Director. "I've been able to represent a really good faculty ... I've been very proud to serve as their director."

While Dr. Progelhof has served as Director, the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology has seen substantial growth. The student body has grown in six years from 719 students to an enrollment of roughly 1116. The School has also received a number of federal grants to improve laboratory equipment and to expand the plastics engineering program.

After retirement, Progelhof has plans to move South. "My wife and I have bought property in North Caro-



Dr. Richard Progelhof, Director of School of Engineering and Engineering Technology Photo by Andrea Zaffino

lina, and we plan to build a house there this winter."

Currently there is a search committee in place to find someone to fill the Director's position. Progelhof says he will stay on until this is accomplished. The chair of the search committee is Jack Young, associate professor of mechanical engineering. In the coming months, an extensive effort will be taken to find possible

replacements for the job. Young said, "we have drafted up advertisements which will be appearing though October and November in various publications and have established a web page for information on the duties of the position and background information on the College."

The address to that web page is <http://eetsg08.bd.psu.edu/>



Behrend student Rose Forrest auctions herself off for charity.

Photo by Andrea Zaffino

By Angela Rush  
staff writer

"Give me sixty-nine, do I hear seventy, seventy going once, going twice, sold for 70 dollars." On September 28, the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority held their third annual date auction. It proved to be a big success, with a total of \$829 raised to go toward the sorority's national philanthropies, The Special Olympics and the S. Jane Smith Center for children with mental disabilities.

The sorority made a total of \$400 the first year, \$795 last year, and this year saw an increase once again, at \$829. Lori Better, 05 psychology, said, "I expected a big turnout." The highest bid for a female was \$71 dollars and the highest for a male was

\$70 dollars. The lowest priced went for only \$8 dollars.

Local businesses and companies supplied the sorority with donations. Among the contributors were Blockbuster, Burger King, The Erie Play House, Pizza Hut, TGI Friday's and the list continues on. The way the dates work is this: everyone had the opportunity to bid on whatever person they wanted a date with, the highest bidder receiving a date with that person. The amount of money spent to buy the date determined how good the quality of the date would be. For example, if someone paid \$50 for a date, they are likely to get a candle-light dinner and a movie. If someone paid \$20 they would probably get something like movie tickets and some food from McDonald's.

Greg Foutz, 05 MIS, said, "It was

an interesting experience to be up there and I encourage everyone to become involved." He was bought for \$62 dollars by his girlfriend, Jacie Wilson, 03 Theatre Comm Art, who said, "it was very exhilarating because it wasn't like I really had a choice, and it was nice knowing that my friends were behind my back." One of her friends had lent her some money so that she could have this date with her boyfriend.

Jessica Manno, 03 Biology, commented that, "a lot of people attend because it is interesting." Peggy Molnar, 03 Communications, said that she had attended the previous year, but she said, "the participants are looking a lot better this year, and they

Auction continued page 2

## Parking is the topic at Coffee with Provost

By Ayodele Jones  
managing editor

Parking! Parking and More Parking! Questions and concerns regarding this passionate subject were addressed to Dr. John M. Lilley, Provost and Dean of Penn State Erie - The Behrend College. A large number of students gathered in the lobby of Perry Hall on Tuesday, September 29, to discuss their concerns about various topics on campus at the first meeting of *Coffee with The Provost* of the 1998 academic year.

Parking and the lack of available spaces provided and set the tone for the conversation of the evening. Among general complaints were the shortage of parking spaces and the distance that many students have to walk in order to park their car on campus. A parking lot on the other side of Ohio Hall (a new dormitory which is under construction) was supposed to be completed before students arrived for the 1998 academic year; completion of this alternate parking lot is now expected before the first snowfall.

Dr. Lilley recognizes parking as a very serious issue on campus and said that "parking is a really tricky problem, when it's a pain for you it's a pain for me in terms of the volume of e-mail I receive in regards to it." One student concerned with Behrend's increasing size asked Dean Lilley "since there is no parking now, what are they planning to do when Ohio Hall is completed and there are more students on campus?" Lilley responded with encouraging words: "There will be an additional three huge parking lots on the other

side of Ohio Hall, there will also be an additional parking lot across Jordan Road for the forthcoming new athletic complex. Once these lots are completed there will be more than enough adequate space."

Students offered various opinions on the subject of parking. Lisa Sanders, 03 MIS, said "Just suck it up! Stop bitching about it because it is not going to change. God we have a beautiful campus and if we keep building parking lots all we're gonna see is parking lots." One student came up with the notion that freshmen students should not be allowed to have cars on campus for their first year; this would alleviate many problems and give spaces to returning students. In comparison to other colleges Lilley noted that "Our parking is much more convenient than other campuses."

The quality of life on campus was also an important concern for students. The quality of programming at Bruno's came into question when several students pointed out that these events are poorly attended even though there has been an increased amount of audience members this semester. Angel Moreno, 07 BLASC, thinks that "the money allocated to the Student Programming Council needs to be reallocated to Hall councils so that students can have an input on what is programmed. As it currently stands a select few of students gets to decide what entertains the entire student body." Many students remarked that they return home during the weekends due to the lack of social life here at Behrend. For many in attendance, the quality and at times the absence of entertainment is one of the main reasons for their



Provost and Dean John Lilley

Photo by Andrea Zaffino

## SGA postpones Freshmen election

By Ayodele Jones  
managing editor

Once again elections for the open

The reason why we came to SGA is because the funding wasn't available through the Humanities Department.

Gretchen Foust, member of the Matchbox Players

freshmen seats on the Student Government Association have been postponed for another week. Elections will be held in the Senate next week, Wednesday, October 7. Freshmen candidates Michael Ames, Christopher Buchanan and Yolayne Merced will have an opportunity to speak on their particular platforms. Members of the SGA will vote and choose two candidates for the two open positions.

SGA approved the supplemental budget with two amendments to the original copy; The Student programming Council will receive \$2500 instead of the original \$5000, and Matchbox players will receive \$1070 with the obligation to pay back \$300 worth of "seed" money. Gretchen Foust, of Matchbox Players, 03 Business, said, "the funds we've been allocated will go to produce a musical that will benefit the entire campus. The reason why we came to SGA is because the funding wasn't available through the Humanities Department."

An open forum to discuss student concerns will be held on October 17 in Reed 117. These forums will be held the first Wednesday of every month. Buck Goedicke, president of SGA, urges students interested in joining the Computer Advisory Committee to submit a brief summary of why they desire to be on this committee and their qualifications.

### What's Inside

Page 2

Voter Registration Police and Safety Asleep under truck

Page 3

SPC Movie: Armageddon Calendar of Events

Page 4

Editorial: Baseball America's favorite pastime

Page 5

Campus News Teen Breasts

Page 6

Border patrol shooting

Page 8

Volleyball victory