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Behrend back in "Thon"

by Will Jordan
editor in chief

Since 1977, Inter Fraternity Council/Pan Hellenic have hosted a 48 hour dance marathon with all the proceeds going to the Four Diamonds Fund. The marathon has been fondly nicknamed "Thon" by the inhabitants of University Park and it has become nothing short of the largest student run philanthropy in the nation. This year, Behrend will have a spot on the dance floor at "Thon."

Up until 1997, "Thon" was strictly an event that was unique to University Park. The spring semester of 1997 marked the first time that the dance marathon was extended to include a couple from each of the other 18 Penn State campuses.

In 1997, a couple from Behrend, working at the last minute, collected the minimum amount of money to participate in "Thon." But, in the spring of 1998, Behrend was the only campus in the entire Penn State Commonwealth that was not represented at "Thon." There was an attempt

made by Jennifer Fontecchio to organize a group of students to raise money, but she did not receive any help from the student body and her efforts were unsuccessful. According to Fontecchio, "There are far too many aspects involved with organizing the fund raising to leave it up to one person." Fontecchio also said, "Shortly before I became involved in Thon, my father died from cancer and when I heard about Thon and who it benefitted I thought it was a great way to help those stricken with this horrible disease."

For this spring semester, Behrend has found another couple that will

participate in "Thon," started on February 19. The couple consists of Mike Ames and Marta Gonzalez, 07,



Jennifer Fontecchio, MCC President
photo by Jason Blake

management. Gonzalez stated, "When Buck asked me I thought it was very interesting. I have been dancing for 14 years and I am looking forward to it." Ames is a member of SGA. He said, "I like to dance. I

want to see if I can make the 48 hours. I believe that it will be a great time and I believe it is for a great cause." At this point, over \$200 has been raised to help send our couple

down to "Thon" and support the Four Diamonds Fund. Hopefully, in the future, an effort will be made to make Behrend students aware of "Thon" and hopefully there will be more participation in getting our couple down to "Thon."

Few young people are ever come face to face with death. Even more scary is the fact that in a large number of these deaths the "attacker" is never seen. He reeks unbelievable havoc on the body of his victim, without any conscience, without any compassion and leaves behind a shell, a faint image of the person that was. The vicious attacker is cancer.

In the spring of 1972, a young man named Christopher R. Millard lost his battle with this terrible disease. When he died, his parents Charles and Irma Millard, were left to not only cope with the death of their son, but also with the enormous medical expenses that were associated with this kind of care. Even with medical insurance

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Behrend B-Ball on top of AMCC standings

By Jason Snyder
sports editor

The Penn State Behrend basketball teams are both approaching the conclusion of the regular season atop the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. Both teams have hit their stride this season and are threatening to bring the AMCC hardware to the Erie Hall hardwood.

The Behrend men are 16-3 overall this season, including a 6-1 record in the AMCC. They have improved on last season's record of 18-9 that saw them capture the AMCC championship. The Lions are coached by Dave Niland in his fifth season and assisted by Adam Stockwell and Ron Derian.

The men have earned winning streaks of five (2) and four already this season as the year approaches its final games. The Lions have averaged outscoring their opponents, 67-55.

Among the main contributors for the Behrend men are senior guard Jason Paloskey who scored his 1000th career point earlier in the year. Brock Bovaird and Andy Lawrence have also stepped up their play this season and Brian Emick and Chris Hughes have provided a punch down low for the Lions. Contributing strongly off the bench include Nate Willson and Ahley Orris.

If the men finish the regular season atop the AMCC standings, Erie Hall will be the home for the 1999 AMCC championships. They are 6-1 with only three conference games remaining against Pitt-Bradford, Pitt-Greensburg and LaRoche. Pitt-Bradford handed Behrend their only loss in the AMCC, 77-61. Behrend narrowly defeated Pitt-Greensburg, 51-50 and convincingly defeated LaRoche, 75-62. The Lions will also play two non-conference games against Waynesburg and Allegheny.

legheny.

The Behrend women have also put together an impressive season in a year that was thought to have been a rebuilding one. With a young team with no seniors, the Lady Lions have used their new talent to give them a 13-7 overall record, including a 6-1 mark in the AMCC. The Behrend women are coached by Rosalyn Fornari, in her sixth season, and assisted by Rob Wittman, Becky Reed and Amy Stranahan.

The Lady Lions have averaged outscoring their opponents, 63-54 in their 20 games so far this season. The Behrend women have recently held a seven game winning streak to move them well above the .500 mark.

The women have provided a well-balanced attack both offensively and defensively. Carrie Nestor has provided much of the leadership and has sparked the Lions with her all-around play. Tiffany Buck and Lisa Sanders have given the Lions a strong shooting touch with Erin Phillips and Jen O'Lare bringing strength to the inside game. Off the bench for Behrend, comes a spark from Jacqueline Jackson and Kate Costanzo. Jessica McDivitt, Katie Weigold and Christine Charnock have also contributed off the bench with some big games.

The Lady Lions will also face a tough conference schedule in the final weeks as they will face Pitt-Bradford, Pitt-Greensburg and LaRoche. The Lions defeated all three teams, including a 69-64 win over Pitt-Bradford, a 66-46 win over Pitt-Greensburg, and a 53-46 win over LaRoche.

The AMCC Tournament will be on February 25, 27 and 28 with a possibility that it will be played in Erie Hall. Fan participation is strongly encouraged as the both the Behrend men and women are playing for AMCC supremacy.

GE Awards for Behrend students

Shannon Weber
News Editor

Recently four Behrend students received General Electric internship awards for their excellent work at GE Transportation Systems. The students that received the awards were Dale Betts, a junior electrical engineering major; George Dodworth, a senior electrical engineering major; John Park III, a junior mechanical engineering major; and Celene Yanosko, a sophomore mechanical engineering major.

The winners were nominated by their managers from a pool of 172 GE interns. They each exemplified qualities of leadership, self-confidence and concern for a job well done. The winners received a cash award of \$500 and trip to the GE Transportation Systems headquarters in Crotonville, NY, near New York City. The awards ceremony was held at the company headquarters.

In response to receiving the award, George Dodworth said, "I was excited, honored and proud—all at once! The process of preparing a report for the award nomination was very time consuming, so it felt fantastic to know that work paid off. Of course, the idea of an all expense paid trip to New York City didn't sit bad with me either."

Celene Yanosko said, "I was surprised because there were a lot of applicants for this award. I do feel that I did my job well this summer and really helped out my group."

Yanosko worked for the Cooling and Lubricating Department of the Diesel Engine Division. She stated

that her, "Main projects of the summer were writing code in Visual Basic to run with Excel. The spreadsheet analyzed the cooling and radiator system. I did a variety of other jobs in my department such as collect data from the locomotives and organize graphs."

Dodworth worked as a co-op intern during the school year and throughout the summer in the Unit Exchange business at GETS. He stated that, "The Business was in the a transitional period. The rather outdated computer system, that was the heart of the operation, was being updated to the new Oracle system. I was responsible for resolving several key issues that made this transition as comfortable as possible for the business. Specifically, I was a member of a team that helped resolve overdue core returns from several domestic and international customers. Together, we were able to clear thousands of line items—creating manager confidence in the accuracy of the system, and collecting millions of dollars."

Both students agree that this opportunity will enhance their future career goals. Their experience has expanded them to a wide range jobs within engineering. Yanosko stated that her work at GE, "Will enhance my career goals because as of now I would like to work in a design engineering position. A good thing about working at GETS is that each summer you can work in a different department. Hopefully, this summer I will get a position in a dif-

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Colleges celebrate Winter Festival at Presque Isle

By Elizabeth Guelcher
staff writer

Last Saturday, students and staff from Behrend, Edinboro, Gannon and Mercyhurst collaborated to bring Erie residents the first actual Discover Winter at Presque Isle. Organizers have been trying for the past three years to get the event off the ground, but due to unseasonably warm temperatures and a lack of snow and ice, it has been canceled in previous years. This year, the committee was determined to hold the event, snow or no snow. And they did.

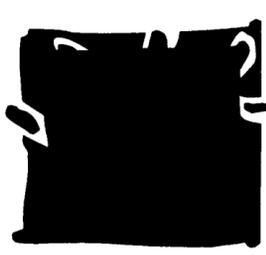
Some activities, such as ice skating and skiing had to be canceled, but volunteers were ready with alternate ideas. Young visitors to the Waterworks cabins could enjoy a variety of outdoor events, including volleyball, horse drawn carriage rides, pictures with the Behrend Lion and the Snowman, and Twister. Indoor activities included arts and crafts and storytelling. In every cabin, the fires were burning to keep everyone warm.

Students from Behrend's only service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, along with other Behrend students,

represented the school at Discover Winter. While not all of the members were in attendance, some of the students who volunteered included Kim Burkey, Lindsey Myrick, Dan Roberts, Trisha Smoose, and Celene Yanosko. Yanosko commented that Alpha Phi Omega has participated in several community activities so far this school year including the trick-or-treat to collect canned goods for Habitat for Humanity. She also said that the turnout for Discover Winter was a little less than what they had expected and credited the murky weather.

Linda Lombardi, Acting Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Kris Motta, Assistant Director of Student Activities spearheaded the volunteer effort this year. They worked with staff members from the other schools to pull a team together and get the plans off the ground. On the subject of the turnout, Lombardi said she would have liked to see more and members of the community attend, but understood that the weather would play a role in the total number of people. Both Lombardi and Motta invite all students, not just members of Alpha Phi Omega, to join the committee next year.

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for
Valentine's
day
supplement



The Visit



Members of the cast of Penn State Erie's production of the visit. From left to right (Front) Jackson Conner and Susan Rohde, (in back) Daryl Dambaugh, Jack Kichura, Dr. L. Ken L. Saunders.
photo courtesy of Behrend public relations

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What's Inside?