

# The Behrend Beacon

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## Irwin addresses Kosovo crisis

by Mike Coursey  
staff writer

Dr. Zachary Irwin, professor of Political Science, gave a talk on the crisis in Kosovo on Tuesday, April 6th in the Reed Commons. Dr. Irwin's presentation had been originally designated for Reed room number three; but a overflow crowd of approximately 75 people necessitated moving it to the Commons.

Dr. Irwin's talk consisted of a brief historical overview of the Balkan area and the implications of the tensions in the area. Dr. Irwin stated that, "Two weeks into the conflict misperceptions have emerged on both sides. NATO overestimated the effect of the bombing and Serbia underestimated the coherence of NATO."

Irwin used a map to show that Kosovo is between the size of Rhode Island and Connecticut; and has a population of 1.2 million. Dr. Irwin said that the West feared that the

Kosovars would form a "greater Albania with Macedonian Albanians and other Albanians. Such a state could lead to indefinite conflict in Serbia."

Irwin went on to say that the "KLA (Kosovar Liberation Army) was organized in the 1980's as a Marxist Leninist political force and that gradu-



photo by Will Jordan  
Dr. Zachary Irwin outlined the crisis in Kosovo on Tuesday

ally the KLA became a major factor after the repression and killings of Milosevic."

Dr. Irwin had a tough task squeezing enough of the pertinent information into a forty five minute talk, being that the Balkan situation is one of the most politically complicated in the world. Dr. Irwin went on to describe how the Albanians remain a tribal people in that they depend on an extended kinship and stay in touch with their village and neighbors and have a small degree of separation.

Dr. Irwin went on to field some questions and talked about how the West would react to NATO's response to Milosevic.

The Kosovo area propelled Milosevic into power in 1989. Dr. Irwin went on to show how much of a "ripple effect" the situation in the Balkans could and will have on Turkey, Greece and other concerned countries.

Students found the talk informative. Jackson Connor, 06 English, "Dr. Irwin's speech was informative. It evoked a curiosity in me to learn more on the subject".

Another student, Athena Farantzios, 04 psych, added, "It was a very interesting speech that gave me insight into the situation in Kosovo. It also made me realize how different people are around the world."

The talk was very well received by the faculty, students and visitors in attendance. Dr. Fernandez, Professor of Spanish, at Behrend, "He gave different points on the enormity of conflict and tried to tie historical background solutions accepted to everyone involved". There were also two local news stations covering the talk. Channel 12 (NBC affiliate) and Channel 24 (ABC affiliate). Dr. Irwin's insight on the Balkan crisis gave some constructive perspective on very complex situation that is rising to crisis proportion.

## More books for Behrend: Behrend library to purchase new books

by Mike Frawley  
assistant editor

A great boon was provided to our library by Provost and Dean Dr. John Lilley and the Penn State Dean of University Libraries Nancy Eaton. They have agreed to provide an additional \$100,000 a year for the next five years for the purchase of new books for the library. Behrend will put up \$50,000 of the grant, while the University Libraries will match that amount.

Decisions on new book purchases will be made by the Behrend Library Committee. The members of the Library Committee are committee chair Dr. Chuck Yeung, assistant professor of physics; Dr. Susan Chinn, assistant professor of MIS; Dr. Daniel Frankforter, professor of history; Dr. Ken L. Saunders, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; Dr. Paul Barney, lecturer in biology; Dr. Stephen Ferruci, lecturer in English; Bradley Johnson, lecturer in engineering; Dr. Mary Beth Pinto, assistant professor of marketing; Dr. Rick Hart, director

of the Library; and Michael Zampetti, student representative.

Dr. Hart already has a plan in motion to purchase books with this year's \$100,000 allocation. He has asked each school on campus to submit requests for \$18,000 in books they would like purchased. Dr. Hart has also sent out *Choice* cards, giving briefs reviews of new books, to faculty members, and contacted a new book supplier, Academic Book Center, to help with the selection process for the new books to be purchased.

\$10,000 of the allocated funds have already been used to purchase books that have been requested by interlibrary loan more than once in recent years, thus making these books readily accessible to Behrend faculty and students. \$20,000 more has been set aside for members of the library staff to select books that will cover all subject areas.

In the coming years that the funds will be available, the money will be added into the money used for the regular book selection process.

## Undergraduate Research Conference held at Behrend

by Will Jordan  
editor in chief

On March 27 Behrend hosted the eighth annual Undergraduate Student Research and Creative Accomplishment Conference. Students and faculty from SUNY Fredonia, Grove City, Mercyhurst College, Edinboro University, and Behrend received awards for their outstanding work, which were given at a luncheon following the conference.

The event was sponsored by Behrend and the northwestern Pennsylvania chapter of Sigma XI, which is the national scientific research society.

Over 100 students presented their

work in the form of posters and oral presentations which were the result of several semesters of research. There were two categories in which students could win awards. The two categories are the poster category and the oral pre-

**"I was surprised to win first place but I knew that I was going to win something," Allyson Cuccia, 08 Busi Ec.**

sentations category.

In the poster category, posters by Eric Fink, biology, and Shannon Lenze, Banchi Dessalegn, and Andrea Furman, psychology, from Behrend tied for first place. A poster by Shital Patel and Chad Stolz, chemistry, from Behrend

was the runner-up.

In the oral presentations category, in the division of chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer engineering, Matt Behan from Behrend was a runner up.

In the oral presentations category, in the division of business and history, the winner was Allyson Cuccia, 08 Busi Ec, from Behrend. Cuccia said, "I was surprised to win first place but I knew that I was going to win something." Cuccia did her oral presentation on the effects of team cohesion.

The runners-up were Christopher Cairns and Kim Thurston, Matt Roche, Joe Angello, and John Linville, all of Behrend.

Cairns, 04 Pol. Sci., stated, "My

presentation was on the U.S. and the Chinese revolutions from 1910 - 1913. I was surprised to win because every speech was of high quality and each one deserved to win. It was an honor to be recognized." Cairns added, "I can't take full credit for it because Dr. Rossi edited my presentation last minute so that I wouldn't go over the time limit."

The winner for the oral presentation in the division of biology was J.K. Patel of Behrend. Runners-up from Behrend were John Magenau and Kevin Wellejus.

Sigma Xi presented Dr. Mary Chisholm, associate professor of chemistry, with the faculty mentoring award. Other professors from Edinboro and Mercyhurst also received awards.



photo by Mike Frawley  
First floor reading area of the Behrend library

## Mice in dorms cause problems for students

by Katie Galley  
wire service editor

Monday morning, March 1, 5:45 am: the students in Almy Hall room 403 were rudely awakened to a mysterious scratching and tapping noise. Upon switching on the light the students were astonished to see a brown mouse scurry across their floor and disappear under the door into the central study area.

Both students screamed and ran down to the ground floor in Almy to their supervisor's apartment. Dan Schiesser, Almy Hall Supervisor, accompanied the students back to their room to help them look for the mouse. After an extensive search throughout the room the trio came up empty-handed. Schiesser advised the girls to contact Housing and Food

Services to come up and investigate the situation.

Both of the students called the Housing and Food Services office and left messages because it was still only 6:30 am. Thinking that Housing may not take them seriously, both girls called their parents and had them call Housing as well.

Housing responded quickly to the problem, at first. Bigfoot, the extermination company that Behrend uses promptly reported to room 403 and placed sticky glue mouse traps in the room. Returning to their rooms after classes that afternoon, the students noticed that the traps had been placed, but the location of the traps worried the students.

The traps were placed right by the students beds. The students were worried that the mice would escape the traps and move onto their beds. They realized that the glue traps may not

necessarily be strong enough to hold traps into the central study area. The



photo by Mike Frawley  
Almy Hall, where mouse sightings have been taken place

down the mice and they moved the students called Housing again to ask

why they had choose to use the glue traps and not the traditional snap-traps.

Edward Mulfinger, Director of Housing and Food Services, says that, "The glue traps are more humane for the animals and they put students in less danger of being pinched or snapped by traditional traps." The students, however protested to Housing that the snap-traps would work better and they would be perfectly safe as long as Housing informed them where the traps were placed ahead of time. Housing allegedly told them that the glue traps would be enough.

Highly doubting Housings points the students paid for and set themselves a traditional snap-trap to catch the mice in. Since mice are nocturnal creatures the students waited to see the results of both the glue trap and the snap-trap in the

morning.

The next day the students were shocked to see that neither trap had worked, and that the bait on the snap-trap had been eaten. Furious, they tried again the next night with the same results. The bait from the snap-trap was gone and the glue trap had proven completely ineffective. The mice had gone from being a nuisance to a threat. The students started finding droppings on their desks and in the kitchen area. One of the students found holes eaten in their shirt. The students again contacted Housing for help.

The students asked for the building to be exterminated and for compensation on the ruined shirts. However, their requests fell on deaf ears. Housing told the students that extermination would be impossible

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What's Inside?