

Behrend students support Blood Bank



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Behrend students give blood for the Community Blood Bank on Wednesday.

by Jennifer Primerano
staff writer

Seventy-seven Behrend students and faculty donated blood in the annual fall blood drive held by the Community Blood Bank of Erie County this past Wednesday.

For some students, like Dawn McKee, participating in the Behrend blood drive is a regular fall and spring activity. "You can think back and say, 'Wow!

Somebody's used my blood already and they're alive because of that,'" said McKee, 05 Psychology, who has donated blood four times.

According to Community Blood Bank Nurse Supervisor David Hughes, college campuses are an ideal sight to hold a blood drive.

"Usually the response when we do mobile drives is very accepting. It takes less time out of someone's day without them having to come to us," said Hughes.

The turnout for the blood drive

decreased approximately 15% from last year, but according to Hughes, all local donations this season are down compared to previous drives.

To those 77 individuals who did donate blood, Hughes thanks them. "Without donors, the supply of blood will fall and there's no substitute," he said. The Community Blood Bank is the sole supplier of blood to Erie's hospitals. At least 90% of the blood collected will stay in Erie County.

Engineering Fair unites employers and employees

by Karen McKim
staff writer

The 10th Annual Engineering Fair was held in Roche Hall on Thursday, October 14. The job fair gave students of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology an appealing demonstration of what companies are looking for in employees. Over 75 companies were in attendance at the job fair.

This fair is an attempt to bring students, faculty, and staff together with the delegates from various companies. As the student attendance has increased year to year, so has the number of representing companies. This concept, which began as a regional and local hiring event, has evolved into a full-scale engineering career fair that encompasses national and international employers as well as the traditional regional and local ones.

Students of all semester standing were welcome to attend the fair. Amanda McKain (Plastics Engineering Technology, 01) found that "it was a really great opportunity to see what we can do when we leave Behrend. For me, the best part was talking to a company from my hometown about the prospect of a summer job." McKain went into the fair with expectations. "I expected a very chaotic place where students were looking for a job and employers were looking for students," she says. Were these expectations met? "Yes," she answers, "it was crowded and there was a lot of interaction be-

tween the students and employers." Despite the crowd, McKain is glad that she went. "It was a good experience for interviews and helps people in engineering know what's out there as far as jobs."

The students weren't the only ones pleased with the job fair. The representatives from the companies spent the day with smiles on their faces and a successful outcome.

WCI Steel, based in Warren, Ohio, has been recruiting at Penn State Behrend since 1990, though this is the first year the company has visited the job fair. Administrator of Organizational Development Richard Kerlin feels the company will certainly benefit from this opportunity. Mr. Kerlin has always found Behrend to be an excellent connection while recruiting. "This college obviously has concern for its students which makes them a good school to work with." While at the fair, Mr. Kerlin, along with other representatives from the company, accepted resumes and set up interviews with students. For more information on WCI Steel, Inc., visit their web site at www.wcisteel.com.

Barb Horner, Human Resource Manager at Greenbriar Industrial Systems, also enjoyed her first year at the job fair. Located in Fairview, Pennsylvania, a division of Greenbriar Industrial Systems, Greenbriar Plastics currently serves the housewares, toys, industrial applications, and sports equipment markets. Ms. Horner explained that the company recently took on an in-

tern. Because of the positive results, they are looking for more interns for the rest of the school year. The corporation is also looking for general employees because their organization runs twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. If you are interested in talking to a delegate from this company, visit www.greenbriar1.com for details.

With their headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, the LTV Steel Corporation offers jobs in Cleveland, Indiana Harbor (southeast of Chicago), and Hennepin (southwest of Chicago). A representative for the company, Dee Tripp, feels this job fair was a great opportunity. Ms. Tripp says of Penn State Behrend, "The facilities are exceptional, and the students are professional, talented, serious, and down-to-earth. The staff has been very helpful." Ms. Tripp says the company will definitely be back next year. For more facts on this corporation, visit their web site at www.LTVSTEEL.com.

Just a few of the other companies in attendance were: Allegheny Plastics, Inc., Crown Cork and Seal, Delphi Automotive Systems, Erie Plastics, FCI Electronics, GE Transportation Systems, Motorola, Proctor and Gamble, Steere Enterprises, Toledo Molding and Die, Inc., Viking Plastics, Inc., and Yates Company.

There is no doubt that the job fair will continue thanks to the efforts of the Career Development Center who orchestrated the entire event.

"Be All That You Can Be" - ROTC Returns to Behrend

by Erin McCarty
staff writer

The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is back at Behrend after an eight year absence. According to Behrend ROTC representative Captain John Scott Gillespie, the interest has been "absolutely outstanding." In only one week of generating interest for this program, 39 students have signed up.

Behrend's ROTC program was shut down in 1991 because it was not satisfying the "Commission Mission," which bases a school's success in the program on the number of students commissioned upon graduation. Behrend was losing too many students to University Park for them to continue with the program. Now many more students are staying at Behrend instead of transferring to University Park in their junior year; therefore, ROTC was reinstated, this time in partnership with Gannon University.

This typically four-year program can be found in colleges across the country, and its graduates make up approximately 75% of the Army's officers. ROTC starts out with the Basic Course in a student's freshman and sophomore years, which consists of Army 101, 102, 203, and 204. Each course is worth two credits that can be applied to General Electives. At this point the student is under no obligation to pursue a military career. All materials, books, and uniforms required for the Basic Course are provided free of charge. In addition to regular class times, students must attend early-morning physical fitness sessions and a weekend of field training each semester.

Students who are unable to complete the Basic Course during their first four semesters can make it up at a five-week training camp in Fort Knox, Kentucky, called "Camp Challenge." Then they will qualify to go on to the Advanced Course. Students

may compete for two-year and three-year merit-based scholarships which pay full tuition, a \$450 annual book

allowance, and a \$150 monthly stipend. The Advanced Course is for stu-



BY JEFF MILLER

Captain Gillespie, Professor of Military Science

dents serious about becoming an officer. They must contract for it in their junior and senior years and will earn

\$150 a month for their efforts. As they approach graduation, more attention will be paid to what their particular

goals are regarding their military career.

Their performance at the five-week Advanced Camp is a major factor in determining the branch of the Army in which they will be placed. Upon successful completion of the program, they will be made 2nd Lieutenants in the regular Army, Army Reserves, or Army National Guard.

Although this commissioning is a major part of the ROTC program, that is not its primary purpose. The aim of ROTC is to make all of its participants better citizens, whether they go into the military or remain civilians.

"We want all students to take something away from this course [that] they can apply towards their careers or community," said Gillespie, "because only about 10 percent on average pursue a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant."

The ROTC curriculum stresses leadership skills as well as a healthy and active lifestyle. While participat-

ing in class and optional extracurricular activities, students are given opportunities to participate in many activities that they would not normally have the option to experience. Rifle marksmanship, rappelling, and water survival are only a few examples.

Anyone is welcome to sign up for the course. The Army currently includes a variety of ethnic groups, as well as many women. Approximately 20% of Behrend's cadets are female. Students must be screened before they can take the course, but there are ways to get around areas in which they are lacking.

"The sooner we know a student does not meet a certain eligibility criteria," Gillespie said, "the sooner we can begin working on a waiver to get them qualified."

Students who would like more information on ROTC at Behrend can check out www.pserie.psu.edu/admission/rotc.html or contact Captain Gillespie at jsg12@psu.edu.

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