

Behrend offers course credit while traveling over spring break

by Rebecca Weindorf
staff writer

This year's alternative spring break trips have more to offer than just a once-in-a-lifetime chance of seeing different cities and countries - you can earn credit doing it, too.

This year, the spring break trips include a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. (March 5-11) and a ten-day trip to Spain (March 3-13) during spring break in March.

Each individual trip can be scheduled through the normal scheduling process. The class for the trip to D.C. is Political Science 297(D), worth one credit; the class for the Spain trip is International Studies 497(C), worth three credits. Each class meets a series of times to organize and become oriented with the upcoming trips.

Politics in Washington D.C.

Dr. Robert Speel has been organizing and heading this trip for three years now. The purpose of the trip, he says, is to orient students with how politics work in the U.S. and in international organizations, and to see firsthand the experience of real politics.

"For the last couple years, we were able to meet with Congressman Phil English and Senator Rick Santorum," Dr. Speel said. "We were also able to visit the Jamaican and Irish embassies, have tours of the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, and the Library of Congress, among others. Two years ago, a few of the students

were able to meet Buddy (the "first-dog" of the Clintons)!"

Not only do the students get to meet representatives of Pennsylvania and tour several sites of D.C., but they also get to stay at The Virginian Suites in Arlington, VA. The suites are complete with two beds, a full kitchen, television, furniture, private bathroom, and closet space. The ample free time that students get between tours and visits can include a trip to nearby shopping areas and exploring the different restaurants around the area.

"The class scheduled (with the trip) isn't required for graduation or for the political science major," Dr. Speel said. "When scheduling the course, you need to pre-register and give me the deposit and registration form. In order to receive the credit, students must write a paper on their experience upon return from Washington."

Priority for the trip is given to Behrend political science majors with junior or senior semester standing, but it is stressed that the trip is open to anyone who has an interest in a wide range of topics and from majors of all kinds. It is not restricted to anyone, including people who previously went on the trip, but priority will be given to those who have not had a chance to go.

Overall expenses for the week should be about \$500; for any student that is registered as a full-time student in the spring, there will be no additional costs incurred for the course. Transportation and lodging are estimated at \$350, with

double occupancy & six nights; food and incidentals are roughly estimated at \$150-\$200, which include souvenirs, eating out, and local transportation (metro or taxis).

Brochures and registration forms with more information on the trip are available in Dr. Speel's office in the Academic Building. The deadline for the \$100 non-refundable deposit (which will be immediately reimbursed if the student is not chosen to go due to space limitations) was Thursday, November 18, but there will probably still be spaces available if students contact Dr. Speel before Thanksgiving.

Spain: A Cultural Encounter

Dr. Juan Fernandez has been in charge of the Spain trip since it was started three years ago. In the first year, fifteen students went on the trip; last year, fourteen students completed the trip. The course is not required for any major, but it can be applied to several different majors and minors for credit.

The trip to Spain involves exposure to Spanish life and the Spanish people; aspects of Spanish culture, art, and civilization of the Spanish are observed and learned by the students. The class will have six class meetings at Behrend before going to Spain consisting of lectures, discussions and presentations to prepare the students for the trip.

"We will be visiting a variety of places in Spain, including [the cities] Madrid, Toledo (also known as the City of El Greco), Cordova, Granada, Jaen, Malada, and some olive oil factories,"



Behrend students had the chance last year to visit many Washington D.C. sites including the Supreme Court (pictured above). PHOTO BY MIKE FRAWLEY

Dr. Fernandez said. "We also visit some national monuments, the National Palace, Alhambra, and the Mosque."

A tentative schedule has been made for the trip in March; several places in past years have been visited, including all the places mentioned above. Dr. Fernandez comments on how successful the trip is for all students.

"The students that have gone to Spain have had all kinds of experiences - we've had students that never had flown before in a plane," Dr. Fernandez said. "One student is now studying in Argentina; another is studying in Costa Rica; and one student who visited Mexico is

now in London. Many of the students that decide to take this trip are successful in later studies and after graduation."

Upon return from the trip, students will be required to write a paper on Spanish civilization in order to earn full credit for the course.

Costs for the trip is \$1,199, which includes plane ticket, hotel accommodations (double/triple occupancy), daily breakfast, transportation in Spain, and entry to museums and palaces. It is estimated that \$300 be brought for extra spending money and other meals. Students registered as full-time students at Behrend will have no additional costs

incurred for the course.

Students that are willing to go can contact Dr. Juan Fernandez for more information at 825-8115 or Ms. Norma Hartner at 898-6178, and there are brochures and registration forms in the Humanities and Social Sciences office. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due on Friday, November 19. Other billing will be done through the University system, and after November 19, students will be admitted only if space is available to them. Cancellations, since the cost includes plane tickets, cannot be refunded.

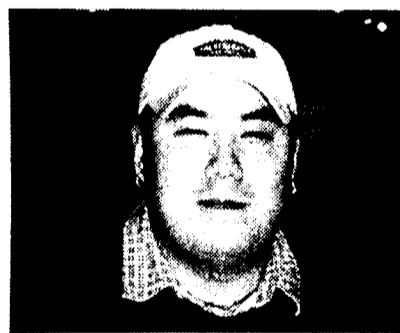
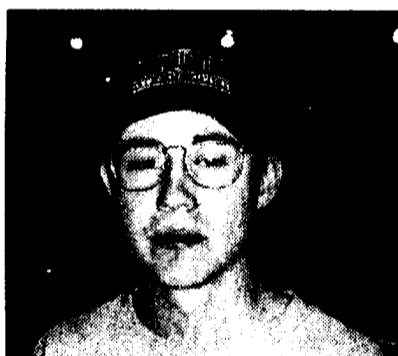
Question of the Week

WHAT HAS SGA DONE FOR YOU?



"I don't even know what that is."
-Erica Fox, 03, PSYCH

"I don't really think they've really done anything."
-Ryan Alexander, 03 PLET



"They gave up on the FM radio station."
-Robert Delaney, 07 MIS



"I can't really say that SGA has done really anything."
-Jeneane Cooper, 03 ENGR

"I don't even know what you're talking about."
-Andrea Pedersen, 04 BIOL



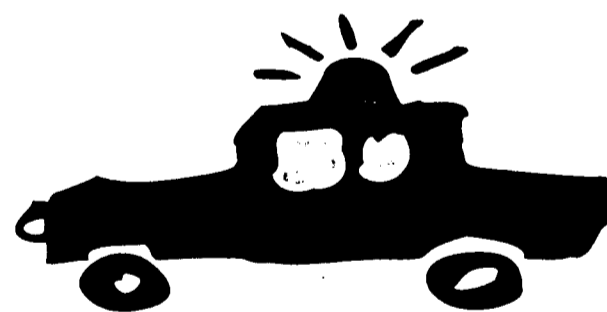
"I've never even heard of it."
-Adam Sainato, 01 AG

"It's hard to say something positive when all I've heard about them is bad."
-Dawn McKee, 05 PSYCH



Police And Safety REPORT:

- 11/11/99 17:40 A P&S officer cited a motorist for driving 40 mph in a 15 mph zone.
- 11/11/99 20:15 A P&S officer was dispatched to the lower Reed Lot for a minor traffic accident.
- 11/12/99 13:00 A complainant reported that someone hit his car.
- 11/12/99 14:15 P&S received a report of vandalism done to a light on the north side of the Ohio Hall entrance way.
- 11/12/99 15:30 A complainant came to P&S to report damage done to her car.
- 11/12/99 17:10 A complainant advised an officer that the top of the wooden board that holds reflectors near Ohio Hall was broken.
- 11/14/99 23:10 A complainant reported having received harassing phone calls.
- 11/15/99 22:25 A complainant reported possible vandalism to his vehicle.



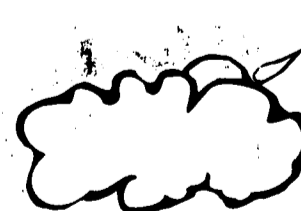
WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

NOVEMBER 19-21, 1999



Friday

MOSTLY SUNNY;
CHANCE OF EVENING
SHOWERS; HIGH OF 60.



Saturday

CHANCE OF RAIN; HIGH
OF 50-55.



Sunday

CHANCE OF MORNING
SHOWERS; LOW OF 40,
HIGH IN LOW 50'S.