

THE BEHREND BEACON

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Friday, August 18, 2000

6 pages

PENNS STATE
Erie

FALL 2000

SPECIAL
ORIENTATION
ISSUE

NEXT ISSUE:
SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

WEATHER

WEEKEND : Partly Cloudy
with high
of 66, low
of 57.
Showers
likely on
Friday.

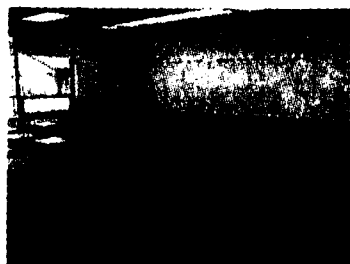
INSIDE

PAGE 2

An editorial view on college
life and what
students need for
a successful education.
Topics of conversation:
extracurricular opportunities,
commuter life, and the tools
for success.

PAGE 4-5

Take a look back at the
1999-2000 school year
and the summer of
growth that has almost
completely renovated the
Behrend campus.



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Fall intramural schedule
and information.

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Reed Union Building

New students enter new Behrend campus

*Behrend to reveal renovated campus
to new students at Orientation 2000*

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

Nothing seems to describe the atmosphere of the Penn State Behrend campus better than the theme of this year's Fall Orientation. "Building on the Past, Working Toward the Future" not only tells of the educational value that the students receive, but also speaks of the growth and improvement that the campus is undergoing as the 2000-2001 school year opens.

Led by Ms. Cheon Graham and Mr. Brad St. Germain, along with Kristina Motta, the program's advisor, 67 students contributed in the planning of the 2000 Fall Orientation for new students. The event will span a total of nine days, giving all new students a chance to learn of the opportunities the campus has to offer.

The program will begin at 8:00 a.m. on August 19, with the opening of residence halls and apartments for check-in, room keys and Orientation packets. Commuters can also check-in at that time in the Reed Wintergarden until 5:00 p.m.

During check-in hours, Orientation will host a family question-and-answer session, campus tours, a picnic lunch, and the Academic Convocation on the Reed Lawn, a requirement for all new students.

After dinner in Dobbins or Bruno's, students are required to attend *Playfair* in Erie Hall at 8:30 p.m., concluding the day's activities.

August 20th will feature small group meetings throughout the campus to discuss issues brought up at the Academic Convocation and in the new students' summer reading assignments.

Behrendpalooza gives students their last form of entertainment before classes begin on Tuesday. The event will be held on Monday, August 21, on the Ski Slope behind the Otto Behrend Science Building from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Music, food and comedy will be featured with the band *Grapevine*, one of Pittsburgh's best, playing at 7:00 p.m.

Many student organizations have events and activities planned to introduce themselves to the incoming stu-

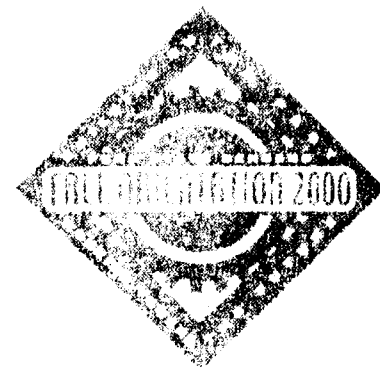
dents throughout the week. A complete schedule of the week's events can be found in the Fall Orientation 2000 packet.

The week will give all students their first look at the Behrend campus after a summer of change. Most visible to students when classes start will be the new lighting, ceilings and air conditioning in Upper Nick, Otto Behrend Science Building and Turnbull. Other renovations include an elevator in the Reed Union Building, new furniture throughout the campus, and a new research and teaching lab in the biology department.

Both the new observatory and Chapel have broken ground over the summer, with much progress made on the heavily anticipated Athletic and Recreation Center (ARC). Details of the many changes will be highlighted in the *Beacon* in the coming weeks.

Senior Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean Dr. Jack Burke told the Beacon last fall, "the main thing I want to do is get better." Students entering the campus should immediately see what he means.

Schedule of Required Events



Saturday, August 19

Academic Convocation	3:00 p.m.	Reed Building
Commuter/Off Campus Rec.	5:00 p.m.	Bruno's
Residence Hall Meetings	6:30 p.m.	Your Hall
<i>Playfair</i>	8:30 p.m.	Erie Hall

Sunday, August 20

How To Maximize Your Buzz!	9:00 a.m.	Reed Building
Small Group Meetings	10:30 a.m.	See Schedule
College Rep. Meetings	1:00 p.m.	See Schedule
Freshman Testing (if not previously tested)	2:30 p.m.	Reed 117

Don't Miss... Monday, August 21

"Living With More Awareness"	10:00 a.m.	Reed 114
<i>Behrendpalooza</i>	5:30 p.m.	Ski Slope

PAGE 2 - Fall Orientation of August
PAGE 4 - Moving Forward Feature

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

by Tracy Jones

PRESIDENT
Jen Miles

Academics will be a larger focus of the SGA this fall as newly-elected president Jen Miles takes the helm at the start of the school year. Miles has many goals and plans for this semester, and with the cooperation of senators, council members, and student body, some positive changes will take place.

Miles' main focus will be academics, and she plans on working to make the quality of a Behrend education better. She would like to form

Academic Committees for all majors, including everything from marketing to engineering. Students will sit on these committees, and they would be available when it comes time to hire new professors in the interview process. A student-run database could also be created, containing information about professors, their teaching styles, and how their classes are run, so that students will know what to expect and which professor they'd prefer.

Student safety issues will also be addressed, and offenses such as prank phone calls and automobile break-ins in the isolated parking lots will be looked into. Miles is also concerned about computer safety, such as hacking and lack of privacy.

A commuter lounge is also

proposed, which would give commuter students a place to relax, watch TV, visit with friends or just study between classes. The lounge would provide those students a place besides Bruno's to hang out.

When it comes to housing, Miles sees a few problems. One is that "the lottery system of room assignments implemented this year just isn't working. Seniority should come into play here, so that seniors get their first choice of housing, then juniors, and so forth. There's no reason for seniors to be living in the dorms while there are first-semester students in Ohio Hall. They [the upperclassmen] should have that option first," said Miles.

Another issue with housing is the \$795 base fee that resident students

must pay for their meal plans. Miles wants to know where it goes and what exactly it is used for. "When you do the math, the University is making upwards of \$2 million dollars just from this base fee. I want to know — and want students to know — just where their money is going," said Miles.

Clint Skillen shares many of the same concerns as SGA President Jen Miles and wants to investigate similar issues with her in the upcoming year.

The proposed academic committees by Miles and Skillen would allow some students to assist in the interviewing and hiring process of potential professors. These committees are "a really good idea because students should have a more active role

VICE
PRESIDENT
Clint Skillen

in what professors we hire," said Skillen.

Another item to be addressed is parking, particularly commuter parking. "Parking is an issue that needs constant pressure," said Skillen. "With a few pleas now and then, nothing will happen, but with that constant pressure, things will get done."

Security and safety issues concern many students, and it is important to Skillen and Miles to put an end to vehicle vandalism in the remote resident parking lots. Computer and phone privacy, with hacking, prank calls and threats are ongoing problems for resident students.

Finally, school spirit will be highlighted, in an attempt to simply get more of it. "The Spirit Station and Spirit Squad did a great job this year, and they brought a lot more fans to sporting events than had been there before. But there are still many students we'd like to see supporting Behrend athletics. We'd like to try to get more participation all around, in intramurals and dances, as well as sporting events," said Skillen.

THE
BEACON
WELCOMES
BACK ALL
STUDENTS
AND
EXTENDS
A WARM
WELCOME
TO ALL OF
BEHREND'S
NEW
STUDENTS
HERE THIS
FALL.

GOOD
LUCK!