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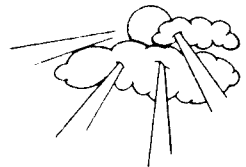
September 8, 2000

14 pages

FALL 2000

THE WEATHER

TODAY : Partly Cloudy



High 79
Low 61

Check page 2 for
weekend forecast

PAGE 7

The Debate of the Week takes
sides on one of television's most
popular, but controversial
spectacles.

PAGE 8

Behrend student Stephanie
Falcone's road trip to Minnesota
kicks off the Beacon's Cruisin' 4
Cash.

PAGE 10

A breakdown of the
season's top music.

PAGE 11

The Behrend soccer teams
dominate own tournament
to open season.

UPON COUNTRY
PREVIEW



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Offices are located downstairs in
Reed Union Building

Technology catching up with enrollment



A student utilizes the newly renovated MIS computer lab in the Nick Building. N156 has new recessed tables, larger monitors, and upgraded work stations.

PHOTO BY LIZ HAYES

by Liz Hayes
news editor

In addition to the numerous construction projects that are currently tearing Behrend apart, many more improvements are being made that are easily taken for granted, as they are not as obvious to the public. Over the summer many departments on campus have made various upgrades that are making great strides to keep Behrend up-to-date in the world of technology.

In recent months many of the computer labs have been drastically altered so that they may be more accessible to the student body, as well as to faculty. Several labs have had complete makeovers, and many more have had aesthetic renovations completed. Almost every student computer terminal on the campus has had some sort of upgrade.

In the Computer Center in the

Hammermill Building, the main lab (H135) has had all computers upgraded to new 650 mHz Pentium III processors. Also, larger 17" monitors have replaced the older versions.

A smaller lab off the main lab has been reborn into a Collaborative Learning Lab. Until this semester, H139 was specifically a School of Science lab. Now, while students in the School of Science are still given preference, anyone is welcome to use the new facility. Before renovations, the lab was rather traditional looking – long tables set up in rows with several cramped stations at each table. In its new form, the lab is now geared toward collaborative group work.

There are now seven large workstations that will each comfortably accommodate a small group. Large 21" monitors have been installed so that all members of a group will have maximum visibility.

Several of the workstations can also be combined to form even larger stations.

It is the thought of Ron Hoffman, manager of network and information systems, that this lab can also be used for small class workshops. The lab will accommodate a group of about 12 people. A new overhead projector has been installed with this in mind.

As in most of the computer labs, new ceilings and lighting have been installed. In H139 in particular, a new form of automatic lighting has been added. The lights have a sensor that recognizes when people are in the room. When someone walks in, the lights turn on automatically. After there has been no movement in the room for a short time period, the lights will turn off.

Another lab that has been renovated in the Hammermill Building is H130, just down the hall from the Computer Center. This lab, which Hoffman says

is very popular with many of the faculty because of its large size of 28 workstations, is now equipped with the fastest systems on campus – 800mHz Pentium III processors. The old machines, which ran at 300mHz, have replaced the computers in the 26 e-mail kiosks around campus, which formerly ran at 130 mHz.

In the Nick Building, N156 has also been remodeled and upgraded. This lab, which gives preference to MIS courses, is the largest individual computer lab on campus. The 41 stations in this room were updated to 650mHz Pentium III processors, and have also been reequipped with 17" monitors. Also changed in this room are the actual tables the computers sit on: new recessed tables have been installed, which allow the monitors to sit down at a better viewing angle. The lower monitors also enable students to more easily see the professor, blackboards, and projector

screens. Hoffman hopes that he will soon be able to outfit other labs with these recessed tables, particularly H130.

Over the summer, all Behrend stations were upgraded from the Windows 4.0 operating system to Windows 2000 – which makes Behrend the only campus in the University system to be running this new version on all public computers, according to Hoffman.

All labs and kiosks are now running on a data switch, which allows for a quicker response to the central server, providing a 10-fold increase in speed to the individual machines. The University also provided a new T3 line to University Park's server, which will also greatly increase the connection speed. And this fall Hoffman is hoping to have special ports hooked up in the Library and Reed Union Buildings and

Technology cont. on page 2

NEXT

New baseball and
softball fields /
The ARC

Logan House
renovations,
Chapel and Bell
Tower, Knowledge
Park

The next 5 years...

Speaker Series to feature American Dream

by Michael Frawley
managing editor

This year a new speaker series makes its debut on campus — "Speaker Series: The American Dream in the New Millennium." This series will bring to Behrend a variety of speakers to appeal to the broad variety of people and interests on campus. The theme for this year's series is people who have succeeded personally and professionally and have inspired others to follow. Two speakers are planned for each semester, with Donna Shirley and Brandi Chastain in the fall and Ellis Marsalis and Cornel West speaking in the spring.

Donna Shirley, who will kick off the series on Wednesday, September 13, served as the manager of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Mars Exploration Program. She was the

leader of the team that built the Mars Sojourner Rover which landed on Mars on July 4, 1997. Shirley's lecture will share the struggles and the triumphs of the Pathfinder and Sojourner Rover teams and the continuing story of the Mars Global Surveyor.

Sure to be a student favorite will be the November 16 speech by Brandi Chastain. Chastain, a soccer superstar, is best known for her winning penalty kick against China in the 1999 World Cup, and her celebration afterwards which gained her worldwide attention. Currently she is the assistant women's soccer coach at Santa Clara University, her alma mater. She is also a member of Team USA and will be competing for the gold in the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

Kicking off the spring semester will be Ellis Marsalis on January 15. Marsalis is an internationally renowned musician and jazz pianist. Marsalis is

currently the head of jazz studies at the University of New Orleans and a board member of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The final speaker in this year's speaker series is Dr. Cornel West, who will be at Behrend on February 28. Dr. West is a professor of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University. He has been called the "pre-eminent African American intellectual of our time." He is currently only one of 14 university professors at Harvard, out of a staff of 2,200. He also is the co-chair of the National Parenting Association's Task Force on Parental Empowerment.

The wide variety of speakers from various walks of life seems to appeal to the Behrend Student body. Karl Gressley, president of Commuter Council, said, "This year's speaker series provides an array of diverse topics that should satisfy all of the interests of the student body."



UNIVERSITY RELATIONS PHOTO

Brandi Chastain will be speaking on campus on November 16.