

# Graduating seniors reminisce

# Behrend students to volunteer in Big Apple

by Katie Galley  
editorial page editor

Fall Commencement is fast approaching, and as a result, Behrend will be losing a group of 176 graduates who have added much to our campus over the years. Various students have looked back upon their years at Behrend in different ways, and when they leave, these graduates will take with them different memories of their time here. Some will be moving on to new careers, attending graduate school somewhere, or just taking some time off after four grueling years at Behrend. But all of them will be taking something away from Behrend.

Kim Burkey, an Accounting major, will graduate next Saturday with two minors, one in Finance and one in Management. Having completed all this work in just three and a half years, she is ready for a break. "The day I graduate, I am going home to Williamsport." From there, Burkey will be moving to Pittsburgh to work at PricewaterhouseCoopers

Accounting Firm, where she will be performing tax and legal services for the firm.

Burkey spent her years at Behrend living in Tigress and then Ohio Hall stating Ohio as her favorite because she had her own room. Her favorite professor was Ms. Johnson, who she said "was supportive and helped me with my minors."

Burkey will be traveling to visit friends over Christmas and will go to New York City for New Year's Eve before setting into the real world. She says, "the one thing I'll never forget is the snow!"

Mike Frawley has been at Behrend for four and a half years, and he claims to have loved every minute of it. His favorite groups on campus were Theta Phi Alpha, Zeta Beta Tau, Alpha Sigma Tau, SGA and of course, the *Beacon*. He will graduate with a double major in Political Science and History. Some of his favorite memories include when he ran for Student Government Vice President (and lost to Jen Miles) and writing his first *Bitchin'* by Mike column for the newspaper.



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Kim Burkey is an accounting major and will be graduating this fall.

Frawley is planning to get married this May and then move down to Washington DC to pursue a career in politics. His second choice for a job is working for a non-profit watchdog group based out of central Montana.

Frawley says that he liked Behrend because he liked the people he went to school with, especially Jason Snyder, editor-in-chief of the *Beacon*, because he is "so darn sexy." His favorite professor was Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Robert Speel, because he, "introduced me to the intricacies of the American political system."

Another student that is looking forward to graduation is Heather Gainer. A MIS major, she is eagerly

waiting for the time when she can finally go out into the real world. After her four and a half years at Behrend, Gainer said that her future plans will go exactly like this, "finals, Christmas, New Year's, going to Aruba for a week with my boyfriend and then the real world."

Gainer attributes her success here at Behrend to having to take an internship, the small classes, and the hands on learning she received here.

This year's graduation ceremonies will be held in the ARC on Saturday, December 16, at noon. Students will receive their diplomas from Senior Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean Dr. Jack D. Burke.

by Libbie Johnson  
staff writer

Ten Behrend students are spending one week of their winter break in New York. But instead of enjoying the bright lights of Broadway, they will volunteer in this year's Alternative Winter Break.

These students, accompanied by Father Lucas, the Catholic Campus Minister at Penn State Behrend, will spend January 2-7 volunteering at Project Hospitality, a non-profit organization located in Staten Island, New York. These students also had to pay \$75 each to take part in this project.

According to student Brad St. Germain, co-coordinator of the trip, "Project Hospitality... provides service to Staten Island's homeless and hungry. It is designed ultimately to help the homeless find housing and reenter the work force. The agency also provides extensive social services and housing for those living with HIV."

The students will help at the soup kitchen and food pantry and will have the opportunity to volunteer at Project Hospitality's clothing donation center, family shelter, and other transactional centers.

Lucas is the adult supervisor for the Alternate Winter Break trip to Project Hospitality. "For the students the benefits include having a first-hand experience of the plight of the homeless and AIDS sufferers; having direct contact with people who have chosen to give of their time and energy to serve these people in their need; bonding

with other students in a constructive enterprise; and, for many students, seeing the larger world away from home. All of the above apply to me as well in addition to having the chance to spend time with some great young people," explained Lucas.

Reality Check, Behrend's service organization, and the Center for Service Leadership, are co-sponsoring the Alternative Winter Break program. Shawna Pelasky, coordinator of Greek Life & Student Leadership Programs, said that Project Hospitality was chosen because, "the student coordinators, Brad [St. Germain] and Elly [Vahey], decided that we should continue this trip to Project Hospitality because of what a great life changing experience it was." Pelasky said that The Alternative Break program allows students to travel out of their comfort zone to provide service to people in need. The opportunity to learn about equity issues from others in diverse settings is really a wonderful educational opportunity." This is the second year that Alternative Winter Break was planned at Project Hospitality.

Vahey would like to see more student involvement. "It's an eye-opening experience that allows us to see and help people in need of the everyday things that we so often take for granted, such as food, shelter, and just simple acknowledgment. It's truly rewarding to make people smile, and I sincerely suggest that everyone go on a trip like this if ever given the opportunity."

THE *BEACON* WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL THE GRADUATING SENIORS.

THE FALL GRADUATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2000 AT NOON IN THE ARC.

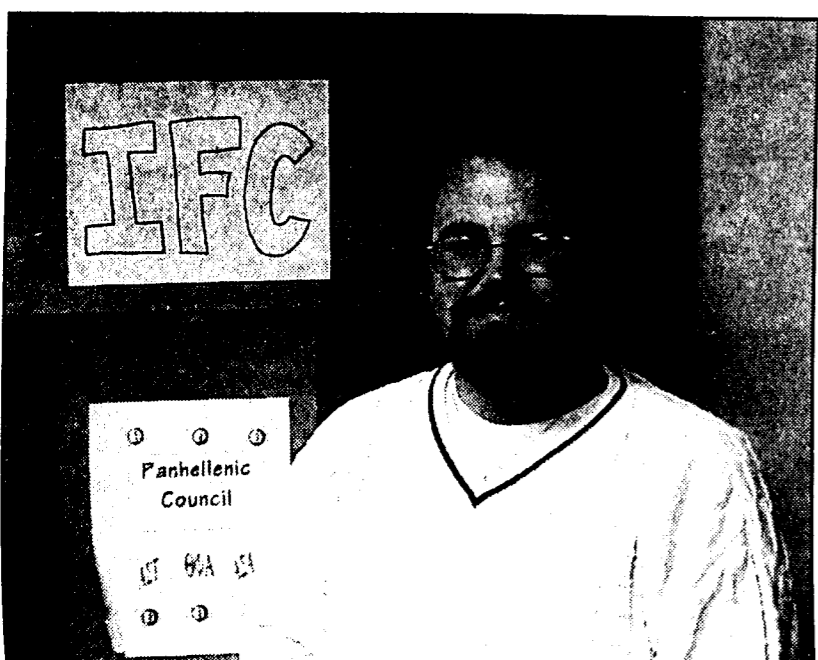


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Mike Frawley is a history and political science major and will also be graduating this fall.

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