

WELCOME BACK

THE BEHREND BEACON

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14 pages



SPRING 2000

WEATHER

FRIDAY - Mostly Cloudy



High 39
Low 27

Check page 2 for weekend forecast

INSIDE

PAGE 8

WATERFRONT DINING

Take a ride to the dock for a dinner on the waterfront. Review of restaurant inside.

PAGE 10

ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

Summing up two nights of awards in the entertainment business. The American Music Awards and People's Choice Awards in review.

SPORTS

LIONS PREPARE FOR CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The Lions tip-off their conference schedules against Pitt-Bradford. 2001 campaign off to rocky start.



INDEX

NEWS	
WEATHER.....	2
WORLD & NATION.....	3
NATIONAL CAMPUS.....	4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....	5

EDITORIAL	
STAFF EDITORIAL.....	6

FEATURES	
ERIE HAPPENINGS.....	9
A&E.....	10

SPORTS	
BEHREND SPORTS.....	11
NATIONAL SPORTS.....	14

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Offices are located downstairs in Reed Union Building

Behrend gets \$30 million

State money for REDC Building largest in Erie County history

by Liz Hayes
news editor

Behrend has apparently been very busy while students were away during winter break. On December 28 Governor Tom Ridge delivered \$30 million of Pennsylvania state money to Penn State Erie to fund the building of the Research and Economic Development Center (REDC). This grant was the largest ever in Erie County history.

The REDC has been in the planning stages for more than ten years, with construction being labeled as "high priority" in 1996 and 1999 by the Erie Conference's Community Coalition.

The REDC will be a 160,000 square-foot academic building that will house the Schools of Business and Engineering and Engineering Technology. According to Dr. Jack Burke, senior associate provost and senior associate dean, the building will provide 17,000 square feet of classroom space, a great increase from Behrend's current 23,000 feet. Also included will be up to ten computer labs and a cybercafe.

"The REDC will allow us to abandon all of the office

REDC FUNDED

continued on page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge speaks with Behrend's Provost and Dean John Lilley after Ridge announced the state's \$30 million gift to the Behrend campus. The gift will be used to build the long awaited REDC Building which will get Behrend's faculty out of trailers and will house the Schools of Business and Engineering.

Fall Commencement graduates over 200

The ARC hosts ceremony for first time



by Becky Weindorf
photo editor

On a cold, rainy Saturday afternoon, Behrend students and families gathered at the brand-new Athletics and Recreation Center (ARC) to watch the Fall 2000 commencement.

Families and friends were shuttled from the Erie Hall lot to the ceremony by bus, with limited cars having access to the new ARC lot.

The ceremony began at 12:00 p.m. with the procession of administration and Fall 2000 graduates. Dr. John Gamble, Provost and Dean John Lilley, and Senior Associate Provost and Dean Jack Burke led the procession. These three were followed by faculty members separated by schools. The candidates for degrees then followed and were seated.

During the ceremony on December 16, amidst the smell of fresh paint and the sight of protective plastic on the brand-new gym floor, 17 associate degrees, over 200 baccalaureate degrees, and 18 graduate degrees were conferred on the graduates of fall 2000 before a large crowd of friends, family, staff and faculty.

Opening remarks were made by Dr. Lilley, followed by the welcome by student Donald Adams and special greetings by P.C. "Hoop" Roche, chairman of Council of Fellows Board of Directors. Dr. John P. Rossi, associate professor of history, made this year's commencement address.

In a solemn ceremony, but before an excited and festive audience, graduates were commended for their hard work at Behrend by all who attended. Behrend wished the graduates luck in the future, welcoming them back to Penn State not as students, but now as alumni members.

Before the conferral of the degrees, Ted Junker, Penn State Board of Trustees Chair, placed a medal around Dean Lilley's neck, giving him the official Penn State authority to award the degrees to the graduating class.

The Behrend Ceremonial Brass & Percussion performed traditional music of "Pomp and Circumstance," the national anthem, and the alma mater during the

procession of colors, presentation of diplomas, and the recessional; ushers were supplied by the members of the Lambda Sigma Honors Society.

For the first time in years, Behrend was able to hold commencement without the need of issuing tickets to family and close friends. Dr. Lilley commented that the school is now able to enjoy the luxury of having an open commencement for all family and friends without worrying about reserved space and allotting tickets to each graduate.

In a speech to the new graduates, Dr. Rossi reminded them that statistics show a grim future for those who choose the single life. Married people, statistically, are far "happier" than single people are and feel that their lives are more fulfilled and worth living. Overall, graduates were reminded that commencement was the easy stuff behind getting a career; it is the work itself inside the career that can bring a person down. He wished the best of luck to graduates at the end of his speech.

Several graduates made the most of commencement this year by decorating their mortarboards. One graduate decorated hers with stars; several others had little quips, quotes, or other meaningful sayings for the audience, who occasionally cheered or screamed the name of "their" graduate during the degree presentation.

Marsalis to highlight Martin Luther King celebration

by Chris Buchanan
staff writer

On January 15, Penn State Behrend, along with the rest of the country, will be celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the observed date of his birth. There will be several activities for the Behrend community to participate in throughout the course of the day, with jazz legend Ellis Marsalis' lecture being the highlighted activity.

The celebration will begin with the Eighth Annual Family Breakfast in Bruno's Café, which will take place from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. Traditionally Dr. King celebrated his birthday with friends and family at the breakfast table, and the Behrend community is invited to do the same.

Later that afternoon, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., the campus is invited to participate in the annual celebration of Dr. King in the Reed Commons. All classes are encouraged to relocate to the Commons in effort to truly make the event a success. This year's theme is "Celebrating a Movement



Ellis Marsalis

MLK CELEBRATIONS

continued on page 2