Behrend STARs guide the way for new **students**

by Hillary Hawranko staff writer

For over four years, STARS have been leading students to Behrend. STARS, or Student Telecounselor Advisory Representatives, is an organization composed of thirteen Behrend students working for the Admissions Office. These students assist in the recruitment of high school seniors for Behrend by calling those who have shown an interest in the college as their first choice of schools. Aside from answering any questions these incoming students may have, STARS students also portray a positive image of the campus.

The recruitment process consists of three phone calls made to a high school senior who has expressed an interest in enrolling in Behrend. The first phone call made by a STAR is a prospect call in which the Behrend student contacts those who have shown an interest in the college. The second phone call is one of congratulations for their offer of admission to Behrend. During this conversation, the STAR focuses on the personal interests of the incoming student in order to assist them in deciding which of Behrend's many activities, clubs, and organizations would be right for them.

The third call, which focuses on academics and activities, is a way for STARS to filter the incoming freshman into the different activity offices and departments at Behrend and answering any questions they may have concerning the majors and courses at Behrend. While assisting the new student in finding an activity, club, or sport that suits their interest, STARS are also publicizing campus organizations.

Since September, over 7,000 calls have been made to high school seniors. Of these calls, 3,441 conversations were carried on between a STAR and someone interested in Behrend. So far, this program has been successful in assisting incoming freshmen in their decision-making process. Enrollment has increased by a large percentage since the program began. It also increases the campus' credibility by providing truthful answers about the college, especially to new students who are nervous about coming to college. These students tend to feel more relaxed and at ease when talking to a college student, rather than an administrative adult.

While under the direction of Kate Dallenbach at the Admissions Office, STARS students are also coordinated through the leadership of two supervisors, both Behrend students. Ann Marie Havey, a sophomore Marketing major, and TJ Thomas, a junior Marketing major, are STARS with a year and a half of qualified service.

According to Havey, "the Admissions Office lets us be honest, but tactful in answering questions." For example, when asked if there are parties at Behrend, the STAR admits that there are, but also incorporates the many other activities on campus. They also tell students that while classes may be harder than high school, there are always ways to get through them, such as tutors and the Learning Resource Center.

The other STARS range from freshmen to juniors and have a diverse range of majors, including Plastics Engineering, Biology, MIS, Finance, and Accounting. One comment made by Jaime Cooper, a freshman STAR, was, "I like the idea of helping incoming students decide to come to Behrend and make their transition easier."

There are currently thirteen STARS, but new ones are recruited every semester. This is a paid job, and students work no more than three evenings a week. Qualifications include a conversational manner and a positive attitude about the campus. For more information on how to become a STAR, contact Kate Dallenbach at X6100 kad190@psu.edu.

A tree grows in Versailles

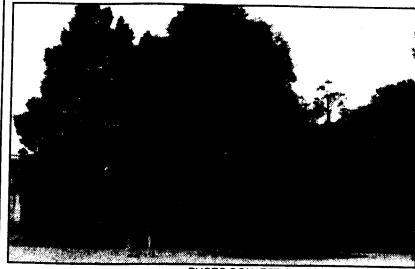


PHOTO DONATED BY DR. KATHRYN WOLFE

Roots from some of the trees donated by Thomas Jefferson to Marie Antoinette that were ripped out of the ground in the storm were left as a reminder.

> by Lucas Schneider staff writer

On December 26, 1999, a tremendous windstorm swept through the Chateau de Versailles in France, leaving 10,000 trees uprooted, blown down, and destroyed. The once beautiful garden was left a hazardous and ugly mess.

In June of 2000, Dr. Kathryn Wolfe, professor of French at Penn State Behrend, took six students on a study abroad program in France. She and the six students enjoyed a tour of France, but when they came to the Chateau de Versailles, they saw the devastation left behind by the windstorm that swept through the previous year.

The spacious and breathtaking garden looked almost like a barren wasteland. The wind gusts, blowing at 100 mph, uprooted 80% of the historic trees planted during the 18th and 19th centuries. The Chateau de Versailles has never seen a storm as powerful as this one, and it will take years to rebuild the park. The estimated cost of storm-related damage is around \$37 million, including \$23 million to the park alone.

To help replace the trees, the people of Versailles began an "adopt a tree program." For \$154, a person or group may adopt a tree to be placed in the

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Garden of Versailles. The goal is to replace all the 10,000 trees that were lost during the storm. When the tree is planted, a certificate in the person's name or in an organization's name is sent back confirming the tree's existence.

The Behrend group decided to do their part to assist the program by adopting a tree. "The exact site of our tree is not known, but it is somewhere in the Trianon section of the garden," Wolfe said. "The tree type and exact location will be known at a later date."

The first Chateau de Versailles was built in 1623 as a hunting lodge by Louis XIII, the father of Louis XIV. The young king liked it so much that he had it enlarged. In May 6, 1682, Versailles became the official residence of the Court of France.

The area where Behrend's tree is located is called Trianon. It is the name of a village Louis XIV purchased and then demolished in order to build a house. When the responsibilities of being king became too much, Louis XIV could get away for a little while and remain close to his family at the Trianon. The Trianon was Louis XIV's first royal caprice.

Behrend received a certificate on December 12, 2000, confirming the location of Trianon as the tree's home in the Garden of Versailles.

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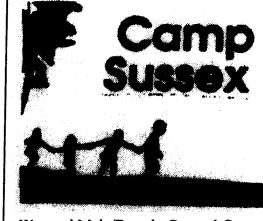
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