

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

**ISIT.COM**



PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

Construction workers work on the framework for Building 4 of Knowledge Park, the latest multi-tenant building that ISIT.com will be moving into in July.

educational programming. As Ann Krugger, senior corporate recruiter for ISIT.com said, "the high-tech infrastructure of the park and convenient access to the expertise and creativity of faculty, staff, and students make Knowledge Park the perfect location for us." She added, "Knowledge Park will be the home of our entire data infrastructure."

ISIT.com will have a state-of-the-art data center that will be climate-controlled and will feature key-card security access. The floor of the center will house Siemon-certified Gigabit Ethernet wiring as well as fiber optic cabling. All communication with the

data center will be by 100 megabytes per second ATM, running on single-mode fiber, using Marconi ATM switching equipment. This Verizon TLC connection is the first of its kind in this region.

Currently, the company has 35 employees and are looking to expand to over 100 by the end of the year. ISIT.com is a privately held company that was established in Erie in 1996. Unlike many dot-coms, ISIT.com has remained profitable. Revenues for 2000 were \$1.4 million and they are expected to exceed \$5 million for 2001. The Web site boasts an average of 30,000 visitors a month.

**Spring Break means more than partying for some students**

by Rob Wynne and Katie Galley  
wire service and editorial page editors

Instead of soaking up the rays on a beach somewhere warm, a handful of Penn State Behrend students soaked up culture and politics through their involvement in the annual Washington, D.C. Spring Break Trip from March 4 through 10.

Offered as POLSC 297D, Dr. Robert Speel and Dr. Matt Davies, associate and assistant professors of political science respectively, guided this year's group of 13 students to numerous monuments and historical buildings. These sites included a visit to the House and Senate Chambers on Capitol Hill, as well as breakfast with U.S. Congressman Phil English and a brief meeting with Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum. Other stops included the State Department, Pentagon, Library of Congress, National Archives, Greenpeace, Center for Defense Information, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and many others.

A nighttime tour of the Washington, Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt monuments, as well as the Korean War, Iwo Jima, and Vietnam War memorials, was also part of the itinerary. "The monument tour at night was extremely inspiring," commented Steve Webb.

Many in-depth questions and heated debates were held with Representative English. He discussed issues like Social Security and school shootings. Foreign affairs was also covered throughout the week as students visited the International Monetary Fund, the Canadian Embassy, and the Indonesian Embassy. Each building carried a touch of its home country and very much seemed to impress the students.

"My favorite stop was probably the Indonesian Embassy because the mansion in which the embassy is located is so beautifully decorated," said Ashley Sterrett.

Not only was the group given a tour of each of the buildings, but also a question and answer session with various officials allowed the students to talk first-hand with the speakers about foreign matters. For example, the gentlemen at the Canadian embassy spoke heavily about the \$1 billion in trade that the U.S. and Canada exchange daily. The Indonesian embassy speaker centered his talk on cultural differences and various historical aspects of the world's fourth most populated country. At Greenpeace, Anastasia Pfarr discussed the types and methods of programs that their Earth-preserving organization focused on.

And although there were many miles of walking to do each day, there was plenty of free time each evening to enjoy the nightlife that D.C. has to offer. Four students acquired tickets for a taping of WWF Smackdown, and other students were able to visit nightclubs, attend the local Gold's Gyms, and also visit the numerous malls. Also, on Friday, no itinerary was planned so as to let the students visit some of the many buildings that were not covered on the trip. Optional stops included the FBI building, the White House, and the numerous Smithsonian museums as well as the Smithsonian Zoo that contained a new Giant Panda display.

When asked how he liked the D.C. trip, Dr. Davies replied, "I always have a great time on these trips. My favorite part is in fact the briefings we get from professionals from government or think tanks, or from the representatives. The chance to interact with these people is very enriching."

The students that attended the trip included Ron Ridgley, Ashley Sterrett, Rob Wynne, Doug Smith, Alyssa Holcomb, Steve Webb, Carl Alberico, Ray Morelli, Mackenzie Baird, Krysty Bilski, Ryan Corle, Eunice Ng and Matt Wiertel.

While some students spent their time sightseeing this spring break, 11 others were volunteering their time

helping the less fortunate. Led by Father Lucas of the Catholic Campus Ministries, the students journeyed to Baltimore, Md., for the annual Alternative Spring Break trip.

This year the students, nine women and two men, gave their time at two organizations that are aimed to help the needy in the tougher parts of Baltimore. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of spring break the students volunteered at Our Daily Bread, a soup kitchen that feeds the hungry.

At the soup kitchen the students worked with the people and some worked behind the scenes, keeping everything running smoothly. The students arrived every morning around 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and stayed until the serving day was over, around 4:00 p.m. Volunteering by scrubbing pots and pans, serving food and making sure that everyone had a full beverage, the students served between 700 and 1,000 people everyday for lunch.

On the Tuesday of spring break the students volunteered at My Sister's Place, a day shelter for women and children. While grateful for the help the students were willing to give,

they were unprepared for their arrival and only four of the eleven students stayed to help organize all the donations that the charity gets. The others returned to the soup kitchen for the day.

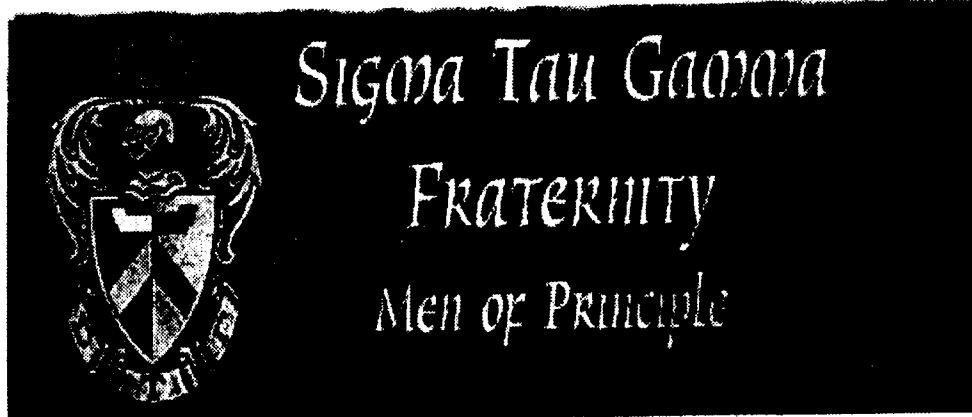
While in Baltimore the group stayed at Christopher's Place, a shelter for men recovering from drug addiction. Living in such close quarters with people with such big problems scared students at first, but then they started to bond with the men and close ties were formed. "When I first got there it was eye opening. There was no racial conflict, we all hung out together," said Dan Midberry, a student on the trip.

The students did get to enjoy some down time on the trip, though. They had most nights off and took in some of the scenery around Baltimore, such as the National Aquarium. On Thursday the group went to Washington D.C. to sightsee. Father Lucas also treated the group to a crab dinner. Many students wish to return to volunteer next year. "It was my first time going, and I am planning on going back," Midberry said.



PHOTO BY DR. ROBERT SPEEL

Behrend students participating in the Spring Break trip to Washington, D.C., pose for the camera on the terrace of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, overlooking the Potomac River.



**ΣΤΓ Congratulates the Brothers Above 3.0 GPA for Fall 2000 Semester!!!**

They are: (\* = Dean's List)

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tim Meyers      | Ryan Alexander* |
| Mark Laport     | Kolby Baker     |
| Andy Stark      | Luke Rex*       |
| Mike Blicha*    | Josh Boyce      |
| Dan Denning     | Jarrod Stanton  |
| Chris Cooper    | Mark Bryner     |
| Jason McElhaney | Adam Bloom*     |

Last semester the Wesley United Methodist Church suffered a devastating structure fire right before Thanksgiving. The following is an excerpt from their weekly bulletin, the "Wesley Witness":

**An Incredible Response**

One of the most amazing things I experienced as a result of our fire has been the tremendous outpouring of support we received from so many different individuals. Churches called to make their worship space available to us. Pastors called to offer encouragement and prayer support to sustain us. Individuals called to tell us they were sending us a special gift, or to tell us that their organization has selected us to receive a contribution.

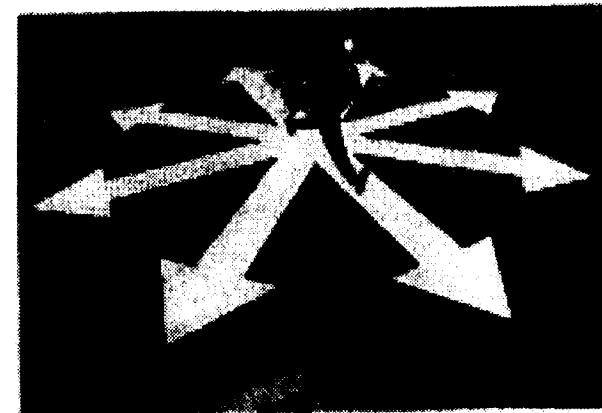
Perhaps my favorite story pertains to Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. Their house is across Station Road from Wesley Church. The day after the fire they offered to help us with clean up. Two weeks after the fire the president of their fraternity came to me with a check for us. They had conducted a 50/50 raffle for our church. (I know Methodist don't gamble). They gave us their portion of the proceeds. The winner of the raffle was Nick Hill from Hill's Market. He donated his portion to us as well.

It's been fun to see the generosity of the community to our fire. It's great to know that others call.

Your pastor,  
David Streets

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