

# Behrend junior wins Finnegan Fellowship

by Erin McCarty  
assistant news editor

Stephen Webb, a junior at Penn State Behrend majoring in political science, is one of the recipients of this year's James A. Finnegan Fellowship Foundation Summer Internship Contest. Finnegan, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force, President of Philadelphia's City Council, and Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, died in 1958.

The foundation which honors him was established two years later for the purpose of providing exceptional undergraduate students from or attending college in Pennsylvania with hands-on experience in the affairs of state government.

In order to apply for this award, Webb had to submit a certified college transcript, at least one letter of recommendation, statements on why he was competing for the award and what extra-curricular activities he has been involved in, and an essay on a subject pertaining to political science. This essay asked the applicant to argue for or against Internet voting in state elections.

Webb's response, which cited the potential lack of security and privacy, the diminishing of civic pride, and the Internet accessibility gap as some of the downfalls to adopting an internet voting system at the present time, was a major factor in the judging committee's decision to grant him the

internship.

Webb is spending today at the Governor's Mansion in Harrisburg at a luncheon hosted by Governor Ridge and his wife. This event, which honors the winners, also serves as an occasion for interns and government administrators to meet one another and plan out the particulars of their summer placements. This summer, Webb will spend ten weeks in Harrisburg as a paid intern at a state agency, meeting with various state

officials each week. Webb, who plans to attend law school after he has graduated from Behrend, is very pleased to be given this opportunity.

"I am honored to have won a summer internship from the James A. Finnegan Foundation," he says. "The political science department here at Behrend has helped me prepare [for] and enter into a career in the political science field and I would like to thank them for their guidance."



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Steve Webb is a junior majoring in political science at Behrend.

# CMU professors speaks on interdisciplinary class

by John Federowicz  
staff writer

What do you get when you put an engineer, a technical designer, and a marketer in the same room? No, this isn't the setup for a bad punch line. The answer: the Integrated Product Development class at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa.

On Thursday, March 22 in Reed 113, the General Electric Speaker Series that is supported by Behrend's General Electric fund grant hosted a presentation that gave an overview of a cross-disciplinary class offered at Carnegie Mellon. The GE Speaker Series was initiated to spark energetic collaboration between both the Behrend School of Business and the School of Engineering.

Thursday's presentation focused on the Carnegie Mellon class instructed by Jonathon Cagan and Craig Vogel. From the Department of Mechanical Engineering and School of Design, respectively, the Carnegie class successfully merges the disparate fields of engineering, technical design, marketing, and supplying into a goal-oriented class targeted to create viable, real-world products. Seniors and grad students make up the roster of Carnegie's cross-disciplinary brainchild.

Cagan explained in his presentation that the class is a triumph of tinkering. That is, it has taken 12 years of evolution for the class to become the smooth-running, cross-disciplinary

course it is now, seven of which Cagan has instructed. Although originally initiated in a conventional classroom setting, Cagan lightly boasts of the class' current affiliation with corporate giant Ford Motors. In efforts to gain both real world experience and to ratchet the class up a notch, this affiliation with America's automotive juggernaut has resulted in patent-worthy products, many of which are targeted at the American truck driver, a huge auto-ownership demographic for Ford. Among the Ford-affiliated products that have

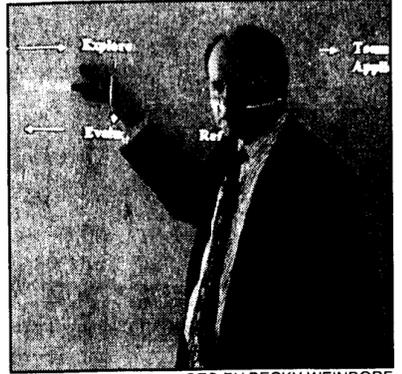


PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Professor Jonathon Cagan introduced his audience to the integrated product development class at Carnegie Mellon University. Cagan spoke at Behrend as part of the General Electric Speaker Series.

been created by the student teams are a pickup truck storage system, a detachable table that hooks onto the side of the truck, and a self-contained camping system that fits snugly into the truck's bed. As a result of Carnegie's newfound affiliation with corporate entities, a more accurate model of real-life business scenarios is able to enter the classroom, allowing the students to create innovative, practical products.

Among the other products in the past student repertoire of the IPD class is the Apothea, a self-contained system for managing medicine at home. The Grab 'n Do, a poison response system, prepares the buyer for any toxic contingency. Finally there is the

Dionysus, which is aptly named after the Greek god of wine since it is a cooler of the alcoholic beverage bottles.

The tailoring of these products to certain researched demographics illustrates the IPD commitment to real-life marketing accuracy, and at the same time it allows engineering students the latitude to design the product at the nuts-and-bolts level. The class acts as a unifying force bringing together these different fields and then submerging them in business scenarios that are patterned after real life.

So, again, what do you get when you cross all of these fields together? Perhaps the wave of education's future.

# Dinner to raise money for charity

by Libbie Johnson  
staff writer

Everyday 31,000 children die from malnutrition and preventable diseases, according to the Barna Research Group.

To raise awareness about hunger throughout the world and in Erie County, Reality Check, Behrend's service organization, and the Student Activity Fee are co-sponsoring the Empty Bowl Dinner. For a \$2 donation to benefit a local charity, a simple dinner of soup (choice of Vegetable or Chicken Noodle), bread, and water will be served. Those who attend will be able to keep their soup bowl as a reminder of those who do not have enough to eat.

The Empty Bowl Dinner will take place on Tuesday, April 3, at 6:00 p.m. in Reed Commons and will feature guest speaker Pamela Weber.

Weber plans to discuss what is being done in the community to meet homelessness needs and how a community can develop programs to fight this problem. "Each night in Erie there are approximately 994 homeless persons — 200-300 are children," Weber said.

Weber has worked in the human service field for over 22 years, and the last ten were spent with programs that deal with poverty and homelessness. Weber is the director of Project Hope, which she describes as "a 1.3 million dollar, 3-year Department of Housing and Urban Development funded project that began program activities July 1, 2000. The project, administered by the Erie United Methodist Alliance, is a collaborative effort among the Refugee Emergency Shelter for Families, the Rainbow Connection Thrift Store, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Disabled American Veterans."

Sarah Orr, Reality Check's secretary, came up with the idea to host the dinner after attending the Bread Box Awards, a ceremony which honors those groups and individuals who do projects for the The Second Harvest Food Bank. According to Orr, another school hosted a similar event. She hopes that the dinner will "create awareness [and] raise money."

Erin McCarty, public relations co-chair for Reality Check, said, "The Empty Bowl Dinner is an ideal way for members of the Behrend community to identify with the hungry while making a contribution to alleviating that hunger. We hope that this event will raise awareness of the problem of hunger in the Erie area. During the season of introspection it is a good time to reflect on how blessed we are and share our blessings with others."





At Penn State  
**Behrend's Athletic and Recreation Center**

April 19, 200 at 8:00 PM

**with special guest**

Students	\$15.00
Faculty/Staff	\$21.00
Public	\$21.00

**Four tickets can be purchased with each Penn State ID**

**Public can buy tickets at Dig Dios**