

A busy week for Greeks

Second annual Greek Awards Banquet honors sororities and fraternities

by Hillary Hawranko
staff writer

The Behrend fraternities and sororities have been working year-round to improve the image of Greek life on campus, as well as in the community. Their efforts were recognized on April 9 at the Second annual Greek Awards Banquet, held in the Reed Commons. Various awards were presented to Behrend's five social fraternities and three social sororities.

The recipients of the Greek Week Champions Award went to the Theta Phi Alpha sorority and the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. The Greek Week events, which are held in October, included an obstacle course, tug-o-war, lip sync contest, and chariot race. This is an annual event held once a year to bring Behrend's Greek system together in a competitive yet fun atmosphere.

The Most Successful Rush Program Award was given to a sorority and fraternity for their exceptional recruitment efforts made during the rush season. This award went to Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority and Sigma Kappa Nu Fraternity.

Alpha Sigma Alpha also received an award for the Most Outstanding Campus Social Event. The sorority's Annual Date Auction brings together the student body to bid on their fellow classmates. The



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

The women of Alpha Sigma Alpha walked away from the Greek Awards Banquet with the awards for Most Successful Rush Program and Most Outstanding Campus Social Event. ASA Advisor Maria Madigan (third from left) received the Most Outstanding Advisor Award.

money raised benefited the Special Olympics and the S. June Smith Center, Alpha Sigma Alpha's two philanthropies. With the help and involvement of so many students, the sorority was able to donate more than \$1,500 to the two organizations. Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity was the

recipient of the Most Outstanding Philanthropic Event Award. The brothers of this fraternity took it upon themselves to raise money for a local church in Wesleyville that had suffered damage due to a fire. The proceeds from a 50/50 raffle went to help restore the church.

The Most Outstanding Advisor Award went to Maria Madigan, Alpha Sigma Alpha's advisor. Madigan is an alumna of Alpha Sigma Alpha and graduated in the fall of 1998. Since then, she has continued to work on Behrend's campus. As the Residence Coordinator of Perry Hall, Madigan also works in the Residence Life Office in the Reed Union Building. In the past two years as an advisor for Alpha Sigma Alpha, Madigan has assisted the chapter with nonbiased guidance, attended the sorority's Centennial Convention this past summer, and participates in the annual Officer Academy workshops on behalf of the chapter.

Although not a member of the Greek community, Kimberly Smith received The Christopher L. Rizzo Greek Life Award. This award is given to a Behrend staff member who has made numerous contributions to the Greek system. As SGA Financial Supervisor at the RUB Desk, Smith assists the organizations with their various fundraising events throughout the year. The members of Behrend's Greek community were proud to present Smith with this honor.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Zeta Beta Tau fraternity held its annual walk to Pittsburgh last weekend. The ZBTs are shown here in front of the Reed Union Building at the start of their trek.

The mysteries of Mayan astronomy revealed

by Mike Francis
staff writer

Students and the public were finally able to peer into the depths of space with Behrend's new telescope. On March 23 the sky was clear and the stars were shining. After the lecture given by Dr. Roger Knacke's niece Jennifer Ahlfeldt on ancient Mayan astronomy, everyone proceeded to the observatories to look at the night sky.

The telescope's high-powered eye was fixed on the solar system's sixth planet — Saturn. The high resolution showed Saturn and its rings very clearly, according to observer Dan Semeca.

"I was surprised how clearly Saturn appeared. I felt as if I could reach into the telescope and grab it. It's amazing that you could see something that far away," said Semeca.

The lecture that preceded the viewing of the stars was on ancient Mayan civilization and their relationship to the heavens. The Mayans were believed to have had great knowledge of the solar system

and the planets. In the city of Chick'en Itza, they had built a pyramid that, at the right time of day, would cast a shadow of a snake down the steps of the pyramid. This projection indicates that they must have had some idea of how the solar system works and of the revolution of the Earth.

The Maya worshiped the sun and built massive structures to commemorate their beliefs. Modern scientists have learned about their culture through the hieroglyphics that they left behind. Hieroglyphics are pictures made in stone that tell a specific story. The Mayans were also said to have had books and a system of writing. The Mayans had their own number system, and they were able to grasp the concept of zero.

Their civilization had a 260-day calendar that was divided into 13 months with 20 days in each month. The Mayan agriculture also provided a reason for building those massive structures. They used the pyramids and other buildings to look at the sky to tell them when they should start planting crops.

Observing the sun helped them to understand space and time. They would align three temples in a row, all focusing back to one point. When the sun would line up with the windows in the temple, it told them the season they were in.

They also could predict eclipses, which were very frightening to their civilization because they blocked the one thing they worshiped the most. Another frightening sight that was viewed by the Mayans were comets. They were frightened by the comets because they could not predict their rotation.

Around 1,000 A.D. an observatory was built to study the planet Venus. Mayans also studied the constellation Orion and are believed to have had 13 Zodiac signs. The Milky Way, for instance, was depicted as a two-headed serpent.

Scientists describe the Maya as an ancient society, meaning old and not very advanced. Considering what they had to work with — stone temples and the naked eye — they were very advanced indeed.

Conclusion of the Provost's Speaker Series



Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, associate professor of marketing, concluded the 2000-2001 Provost's Speaker Series with his lecture "Teaching Research: Challenges and Payoffs," which was given on Monday, April 2 in the Reed Lecture Hall. Dr. Andaleeb, a native of Bangladesh, is currently an editor for the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, sponsored by the Bangladesh Development Initiative and the Association for Economic and Development Studies on Bangladesh.

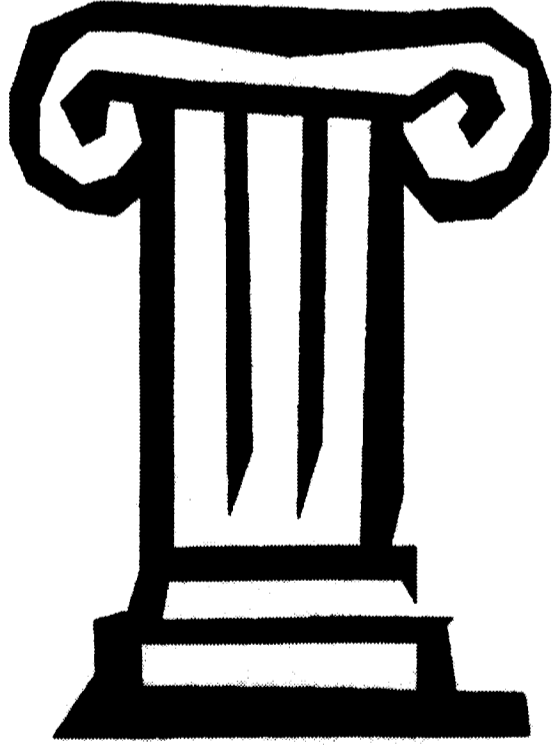
PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

The Greek Column

This has been a busy past couple of weeks for the Greek community at Behrend. Most importantly, congratulations to the new initiates of Alpha Sigma Alpha, Theta Phi Alpha, Sigma Tau Gamma, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Delta Chi, Sigma Kappa Nu, and Zeta Beta Tau. We wish you the best success in the future and hope you will do your best to keep the traditions of Greek life alive at Behrend.

On April 9, the second annual Greek Awards Banquet was held in the Reed Commons. Among the awards presented were the Most Successful Rush Program, Most Outstanding Philanthropic Event, Top Chapter Honor Certificates, New Member Recognition, Most Involved in Outside Organizations, the Humanitarian Award, and The Christopher L. Rizzo Greek Life Award. Special congratulations to Michael Chase (ZBT) and Sara Patrick (ΑΣΑ) for being awarded Greek Man and Woman of the Year. Also, the Behrend Greeks would like to thank Jerri Clorley of Student Activities for helping make this awards banquet such a success.

On April 25 the women of the Behrend Panhellenic Council will be participating with Behrend's Women Today Organization in the annual Take Back the Night Walk.



The walk begins at 7:00 p.m. in Perry Square.

Theta Phi Alpha Sorority will be celebrating their founder's day on April 29. Theta Phi Alpha was originally founded in Ann Arbor Michigan on April 30, 1912.

Sigma Tau Gamma and Tau Kappa Epsilon held their annual football game this past weekend. The Sig Taus won 6-0. The Sig Taus will also be volunteering their time at the Beverly Center, a senior citizen home, in the near future. Also this past weekend was the ZBT annual Walk to Pittsburgh. Further information on the ZBT walk will follow in the next installment of the Greek Column.

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