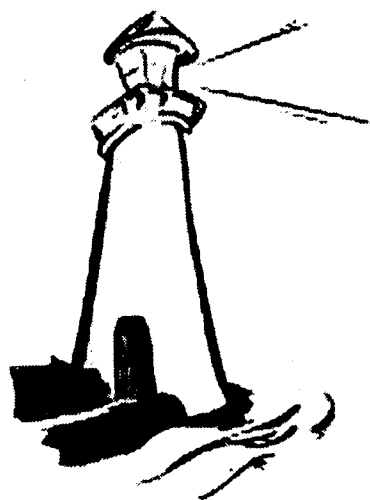


PENN STATE BEHREND

Year in Review



The Beacon takes a look at the highlights of the 2000-2001 school year, Dean Lilley's final year as Behrend's provost and dean.

PENNSTATE



Erie The Behrend College

BY JASON SNYDER

Lilley accepts job at Univ. of Nevada, Reno after 21 years at Behrend

The decision has been made and the deal is sealed: Provost and Dean Dr. John Lilley, Penn State Behrend's long-time executive officer, has decided to accept a position as the president of the University of Nevada, Reno.

At a press conference on Friday, April 20, Dean Lilley made the official announcement that he would be leaving Behrend.

"This is one of those classic bittersweet days," said Lilley. "I have accepted the offer of the Regents of the University of Nevada, Reno, to become their president this summer." Lilley will be the 15th president in the 127-year history of the University of Nevada, Reno.

Lilley announced that Dr. Jack Burke, his first major appointment in his 21-year stay at Behrend, has been named as the interim provost. Burke is currently Behrend's Senior Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean. A national search will take place next year to find a permanent replacement.

"I suspect I will not be a candidate, but I'm not holding that out," said Burke who did not wish to comment further on his future role at the college.

Back in February a search committee approached Lilley, requesting that he permit them to submit his name as a candidate for the position that was vacated by Dr. Jim Crowley in December 2000. Crowley had served as president of UNR for the past 23 years.

"I certainly wasn't looking for it (job at UNR)," said Lilley. He bet a co-worker \$.25 that nothing would come of the opportunity. "I had to pay off my quarter this week."

In February an ad hoc Presidential Search Committee was formed to interview and narrow down the 70-plus candidates and select eleven to be presented to the UNR Board of Regents. From the 11 selected, two candidates dropped out of the running.

In early March the 11 candidates were narrowed to six. These six were

then asked to attend day-long interviews at the Airport Plaza Hotel in Reno. After these interviews, the candidates were narrowed again to four. Aside from Dean Lilley, the other finalists were: Joann Boughman of the University of Maryland, Baltimore; Richard Davenport from Central Michigan University; and R. Michael Tanner of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

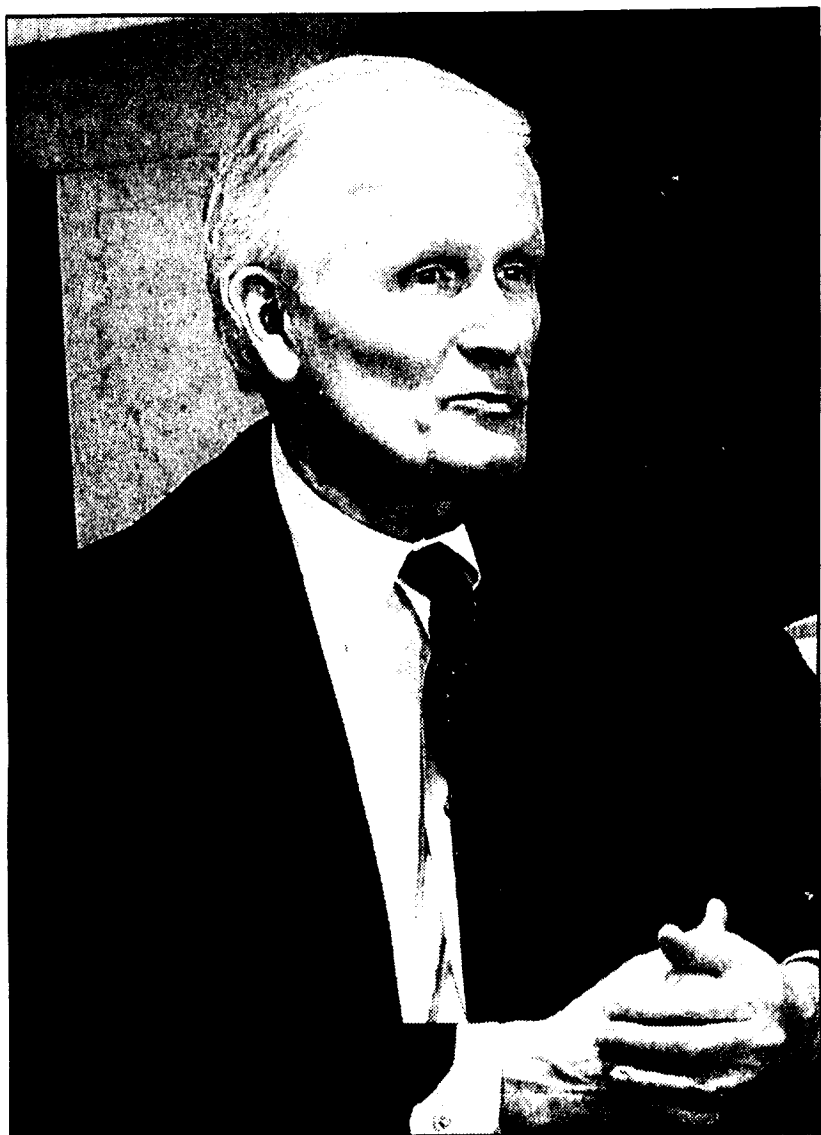
The four finalists were asked to return for a three-day visit to the campus. Dean Lilley was at UNR April 11, 12, and 13. There he met with UNR's vice presidents, deans, faculty, students, alumni, and Interim President Stephen McFarlane. He also traveled to the Las Vegas campus of the University of Nevada system and met with more members of the UN community.

The following Tuesday the five university system regents unanimously voted for Lilley, despite opposition from a 14-member advisory panel. Those in favor of Lilley's nomination cited his fundraising abilities and community presence as qualities in his favor. Those opposed questioned whether he would be able to make the transition from representing the 3,800 students at Penn State Behrend's campus to the 15,000-student UNR.

"The Board has a very good history of hiring excellent presidents of our institutions, and Dr. Lilley is no exception," said Thalia Dondero, Regents' Chair at UNR. In response to the opposition, Lilley says he will "listen, talk, listen, talk..." He doesn't plan on entering UNR will a plan, but does plan on listening and learning before he makes any decisions.

The seven members of the Board of Regents approved Lilley's appointment at a board meeting that Thursday.

The University of Nevada, Reno, is the oldest of the seven institutions in Nevada's public system of higher education. UNR has 10 schools and colleges — agriculture, biotechnology and natural resources, arts and sciences, business, education, engineering, human and community sciences, journalism, medicine, and mining and graduate studies.



Behrend gets \$30 million for REDC

Behrend was 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.

Aside from the benefits the REDC will provide Behrend, the building



will have an even greater impact for the community. Researchers from the region's colleges and universities will have access to this facility and its state-of-the-art equipment, as will company representatives. The REDC will offer educational training programs and research and technology transfer projects that will greatly benefit the area.

Governor Ridge indicated that the REDC and other similar cooperative projects that will link the community with industry and educational facilities will help to keep graduates and the knowledge and skills they possess in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Robert Simoneau, director of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, echoed Governor Ridge's sentiments: "The REDC will usher in a great opportunity for the Schools of Business and Engineering and Engineering Technology to forge a truly strong educational and outreach partnership which can be model for the Commonwealth and a significant asset to Northwest Pennsylvania."

Child Care Center will move to Knowledge Park

Months of meetings finally paid off for those fighting to keep the Child Care Center at Penn State Behrend. On Thursday, January 18, it was announced that the Center will be rebuilt in Knowledge Park as soon as feasibly possible.

The new \$1.1 million dollar center will be constructed by the Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation (GEIDC) as soon as the Harborcreek Township Supervisors grant permission to build. The college is currently seeking the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) in delaying demolition of the current center on Station Road. Should it become necessary, the college will find a temporary space on campus to facilitate child care while the new center is under construction.

GEIDC, which has been a partner of Behrend's in the development of Knowledge Park, will lease the 8,500-foot child care center to the college. At some point Behrend hopes to buy the center from GEIDC.

The decision to continue offering child care services did not come overnight, however. Many in the Behrend community had been working to keep child care a priority for months. Toward the end of fall 2000, the



announcement was made that when the current center was razed during the construction of the Eastside Access Highway, the funds might not be available to rebuild. Protestors came from the far reaches of the Behrend community to rally for the continuance of child care facilities on campus.

In late November two meetings were held to discuss the Child Care Center's uncertain future. The first was sponsored by the Women's Commission Liaison Committee and the second by the Child Care Center Parent Teacher Organization. Also instrumental in the debate were Dr. John Rossi and the Faculty Council Ad Hoc Committee he chaired that was created to deal with the dilemma.

At the SGA meeting on January 10, 2001, a motion was put forth to support the new Child Care Center. The motion passed with

an overwhelming majority.

Dr. John Rossi complimented the college's decision to rebuild the center. "Child care is not something that only benefits employees or students. Businesses have found that offering 'family-friendly' policies such as child care reduces absenteeism, increases productivity, and... users' loyalty and commitment to the institution."

Hovis, Lewis win SGA elections for 2001-2002

Turnout may not have been as high as last year's Student Government Association elections, but at least it was closer.

Brandi Hovis and Clint Lewis beat Keenan Hansen and Traci Hamm 190-126 for the positions of president and vice president for the 2001-2002 academic school year.

According to a statement provided by Hovis and Lewis, their platform includes taking care of "unfinished business." The president/vice president elect, also wish to increase involvement in SGA and SGA involvement in organizations on campus.

Only 316 students turned out to vote in this year's presidential election, a far cry from the 490 students who voted last year.

"There was a lot of controversy that surrounded last year's election. It's unfortunate to say, but controversy breeds publicity which increases turnout," said Miles.



"Keenan, Traci, Brandi and Clint didn't want controversy, so turnout wasn't nearly as high."

In last year's controversial election, Miles and Clint Skillen won in a landslide over Demian Blair and Mike Frawley, 401-89. This year's deficit was only a 64-vote margin.

This year's results were announced to a crowd of 20 people outside Bruno's. All four candidates were present for the announcement.

Shaggy performs at Behrend

At 6:00 p.m. April 19, 2001, the line started outside of the new Athletics and Recreation Center as fans began to anxiously await the Shaggy concert. However, organizers of the concert became nervous when Shaggy had not yet arrived for the sold out concert, two hours after his scheduled arrival time. It wasn't till 8:30 p.m. that he entered the ARC.

Immediately after Shaggy's arrival, RikRok and Ray Von began their opening act. The 30-minute delay was a result of Shaggy's late arrival. The crowd screamed with approval at the end of each of the opening band's songs. RikRok responded by talking to the audience and complimenting Behrend.

RikRok finished at about 9:00 p.m. Shaggy's performance began 15 minutes later.

Shaggy played his three most popular songs one after another; "Angel", "Mr. Boombastic", and "It Wasn't Me." Shaggy played for 60 minutes, but his audience began to leave after hearing the first three songs. Acoustics in the ARC made it difficult to understand Shaggy; therefore, when he played less popular songs, members of the crowd claimed they tuned out.

There were 2,500 tickets sold for the concert. This was composed of 1,854 student tickets and 346 faculty/staff/community tickets. Additional tickets were distributed for committee members and ticket giveaways at radio stations.