

SUE takes on the big NYC

by Michael Grooms
staff writer

Behrend students took a trip to the Big Apple. On Wednesday, March 28, at 3:00, nearly 30 students boarded a bus headed for New York City. The trip, organized by the Society of Undergraduate Economists, was intended mainly for Economics and Finance and other business majors. Many students donated time to fundraisers like car washes, tee shirt selling, and raking leaves to finance the trip. SGA also contributed some money. Left over seats were available to any other interested students. The bus reached its destination around 11:30 Wednesday night. The group, led by Dr. Weller and Dr. Kurre, stayed in Manhattan.

The entire group slept at the Wellington Hotel, located on 55th Street and 7th avenue. Thursday morning the group started their tours. At 9:00 a.m. the group visited the TIAA-CREF, a firm that runs retirement plans (including Penn State's). The company manages millions of dollars by investing customers' money in stocks and bonds markets. In fact, many Behrend professors invest their money with TIAA-CREF in order to secure money for retirement. The company fed the students breakfast, and then had

several speakers discuss asset management, internship opportunities, and jobs that were available.

From there, it was off to the World Trade Center. On the 99th floor, the group visited Guy Carpenter & Company, the world's largest reinsurance firm. They insure insurance companies, providing funds to insurance companies when they suffer major losses, for example, massive flood or hurricane damage. The company treated the group to lunch. Two vice-presidents, one public relations person, and one student intern from England spoke to the undergraduates about a typical day at the office, and what the upcoming graduates should be prepared for.

The group's next stop was the New York stock exchange. Murray Teitlebaum, Director of Education for the NYSE, was their tour guide. He took the group to a conference room in the stock exchange where he spoke to them about the hectic lifestyle of the industry. Then he gave the group a special treat. Usually the tourists can only see the floor of the stock exchange from behind glass. According to Dr. Weller, "We did not get the normal tour, we were looking at the stock exchange floor, and there was no glass in our way. We could hear it, we could smell it." The group was even fortunate enough to be there as

the closing bells sounded.

On Thursday evening, during dinner at Montes, located in Greenwich Village, Allyson Cuccia, a former Behrend graduate who now works for a large financial firm on Wall Street, spoke to the group for about an hour on what it is like to work for a Wall Street firm.

During the trip, the group used the subway system to get from place to place. Dr. Weller commented, "It was cheap, and not too disgusting!" On Friday, the students went to the N.Y. Mercantile exchange. This is where people trade natural commodities such as natural gas, gasoline, oil, and precious metals. One of the students from the group waved to one of the floor traders. The gentleman came up to the group and talked to them. He must have been having a good day, since he ended up buying eight \$100 tickets to the Broadway show *Beauty and the Beast* for some of the students.

Later in the day, the students went to Park Avenue to visit a company named Bloomberg. This company does financial research, and provides financial information for customers. The company had a few of its representatives (some former Penn State graduates) talk to the students about how to get internships and jobs. Every student received lunch and an electronic planner from the company.

On Friday night, the group broke up. Each student could do what he or she wanted. Some students went to dance clubs, and others went to Broadway shows. Dr. Kurre and Dr. Weller received a special treat. Dr. Weller mentioned, "I phoned to try and get tickets to see the famous Blue Man Group, and was able to get them only because someone else cancelled at that same moment. The show was excellent!" Saturday was a free day for the group. Many students took a walk through Central Park. Some students went to the Museum of Natural History, where many enjoyed the spectacular dinosaur exhibit. Some students went down to the docks and toured the Aircraft carrier "the Intrepid". The aircraft carrier was converted into a museum. The group left New York at around 8:00p.m. Saturday evening, and arrived in Erie at around 5: a.m. on Sunday morning.

The students had a great time and got to experience New York City first hand. Dr. Weller states "it was a great experience for the students. They were able to find out what goes on in the big financial institutions, all the people we met were extremely nice, and the speakers were excellent. The experience was so positive we are considering doing the trip every two years."

Senior Design Days culminate engineering education

by Rehab Elzeney
staff writer

The culmination for all engineering majors occurs this Saturday, April 28. After so much time and effort, seniors are coming together to present their Senior Design Projects.

About 120 engineering students are participating in this three-credit course this year. Working in groups of two or three, seniors are expected to solve some sort of technical engineering problem. They typically start working on these projects in the fall semester.

First, students must develop a proposal, which is then presented to a faculty member to accept the idea. Then the seniors come up with a preliminary design in the fall. Work on these projects continues all year, with help from faculty advisors. Along the way, presentations and progress reports are given. Finally, the masterpieces are presented at the end of the school year.

The event will kick off in the Nick Building at 8 a.m. The actual projects will be presented between 8:30 a.m. and noon. Presentations will be done in half-hour intervals, including five minutes for questions and answers.

This year, the keynote speaker is James S. Davis, President and CEO of Aalborg Industries, Inc. With 25 years of experience in technological businesses, he is qualified with much

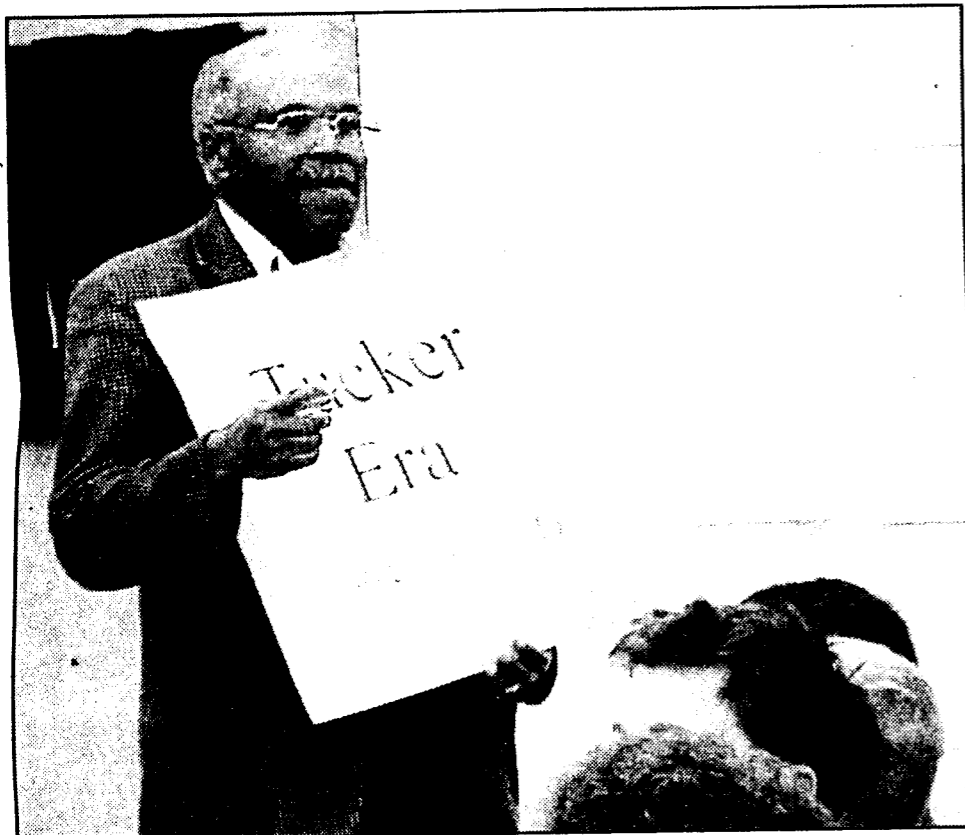
technological knowledge along with a broad range of management skills. His theme for the Senior Design Projects is "Business in the 21st Century: Providing Leadership for Change."

In the School of Engineering, there are several fields involved with these projects. These include electrical and computer engineering, electrical engineering technology, mechanical engineering, mechanical engineering technology, and plastics engineering technology.

"About eighty percent of these projects are industry supported," commented Dr. Robert Simoneau, director of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology. An example of one of the projects that will be presented in computer engineering, is a competition where students design robots that compete against each other. Another project requires that students develop a neural system that converts sign language into written language.

Dr. Simoneau acknowledged the efforts of Ms. Jacqueline May, staff assistant and Mr. Dave Roth, associate professor of Mechanical engineering. "They are really the ones that put this thing together," he said. Dr. Ford, associate professor of ECE, emphasized this fact. He said that they "have been very instrumental" in putting this event together.

GOODBYE, DR. EVA TUCKER



PHOTOS BY NEIL MAKADIA

After dedicating 36 years of his life to Behrend, Dr. Eva Tucker, assistant professor of geoscience, is retiring. The School of Science held a surprise goodbye salute for him on Thursday during the last class he will ever teach at Behrend. Dr. Pamela Silver Botts, associate professor of biology, played the bagpipes during the ceremony.

Don't forget

Spring 2001 Commencement

Saturday, May 12
Noon
Reed Lawn

(in case of inclement weather, ceremonies will be held in the ARC)

Join the Beacon on April 29 at Presque Isle!

Don't
think
you're
a hero?

She does.



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