

THE BEHREND BEACON

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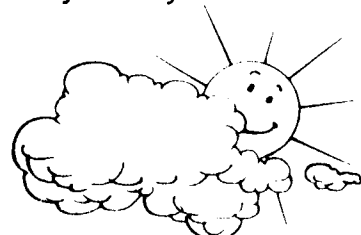
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FALL 2001

WEATHER

Friday's forecast:
Partly sunny



High: 48°
Low: 33°

Check page 2A for the
weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE

PAGES 8-9

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
What's better — living in the residence halls, or living off campus? Find out what fellow students have to say in this week's housing supplement.

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ANOTHER REASON NOT TO GO TO CLASS
A review of new games available for Sony Playstation and Playstation 2 provide a whole new reason to avoid those pesky classes.

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RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
Drew Barrymore shows the world how to be grateful for mistakes once regretted.



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New H&FS managers foresee future of Behrend

Two new faces arrive at Housing and Food Services: Randy Geering and Michael Lindner

by Erin McCarty
assistant news editor

Behrend's Housing and Food Services is under the new management of Randy Geering, who graduated from Penn State with a degree in hotel, restaurant and institutional management in 1989.

Geering has worked in food service for most of his life, with duties ranging from dishwashing to supervising kitchens and dining rooms to managing operations. His work for Penn State began in October 1998 when he took a position with the Housing and Food Services office at Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley in Reading, Pa.

"My family and I are very impressed with Behrend and Erie," said Geering. "The college is guided with the spirit of cooperation. There is much to do in and around the area which will bring many years of enjoyment and opportunity to myself and family."

"The housing and food industry is constantly changing, as well as the college," Geering added.

Although he has made only small changes so far, he foresees many dynamic opportunities at Behrend in the near future.

"With the addition of new facilities and more bed space, the Perry renovation, the complexion of the campus will change, and the Housing and Food Services department will grow and change as well."

"I would welcome suggestions and ideas from students if there are things that they feel we could

do better," added Geering, who is ready to work with the Behrend community.

As he prepared for the work ahead, Geering acknowledged the good work of his predecessor. "Ed [Mulfinger] is hard working, diligent, honorable and fair."

Mulfinger has moved on to State College, but said he won't forget his time at Behrend.

"After spending seven years as the manager of Housing and Food Services at Behrend I miss the employees and the students," said Mulfinger, who is now Housing and Food Manager for University Park. "One forges life-long relationships at Behrend and although I do not visit as much as I would like I always feel welcome at Behrend because that is what Behrend is all about."

"I am pleased we have Randy Geering at Behrend College," Mulfinger continued. "He has great strengths that will enhance the management team at Penn State Erie. His experience in fine dining and his experience at Penn State Berks prior to this appointment at Behrend make him an asset to our operation. He is committed to the welfare of our students and customers and cares about our successes."

Geering, meanwhile, credits the Behrend community with making his task especially enjoyable.

NEW H&FS MANAGERS

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PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY

Randy Geering has replaced Ed Mulfinger as the manager of Housing and Food Services at Behrend. Geering will oversee all housing and food operations at Behrend, from food selections at Dobbins and Bruno's to housing renovations in Perry Hall. Providing assistance will be Michael Lindner, new manager of Bruno's.

Porac anticipates new role

by Erin McCarty
assistant news editor

"I miss doing what I really love: working with students and doing research in the field of psychology," commented Dr. Clare Porac, who recently announced her resignation as director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Although she has been able to teach one class — History and Systems of Psychology — in addition to fulfilling her duties as school director, Porac says the demands of the position have not allowed her to be as active as she would like. Now that she will be moving into a full-time faculty position, she will have many more opportunities to interact with students and to concentrate on her research. She already has several grant proposals which she intends to write, having not had ample time to prepare them while working as school director.

"It's a big job," she said. "With 66 full-time faculty, a larger and more diverse group than is found in the other schools, it's very demanding."

"I love working with the new faculty. They are very good, very enthusiastic."

Dr. Clare Porac,
Director of the School of Humanities
and Social Sciences

Dealing with the diversity of interests and backgrounds of the faculty has been both a rewarding and difficult task. Since 1999, when Porac came to Behrend to assume the role

of school director, 15 new full-time faculty have been added. The challenge of her recruiting efforts paid off when these excellent new faculty members were found.

"I love working with the new faculty," Porac said. "They are very good, very enthusiastic."

One of her other great successes has been increasing school spirit in Humanities and Social Sciences. Her efforts toward achieving this goal have included instituting the annual H&SS report for alumni of the school, setting up the display cases showcasing the publications of HSS faculty, and nominating faculty for University awards. She has also assisted in getting raises for faculty when possible.

"I was always very sorry to see faculty resign," said Porac. The departures of several outstanding

PORAC'S NEW ROLE

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Search continues for provost and dean

by Erinn Hansen
staff writer

Penn State Behrend is on the hunt for a new provost and dean after Dr. John Lilley resigned last spring, having served the campus for 21 years. A provost is the chief executive and academic officer for the campus, functioning similarly to the president of Penn State. The provost's role is to represent the community, as well as the rest of the University.

"The provost has to earn a Ph.D. as well as a degree in teaching, and has to be a strong academic leader," said Dr. Jack Burke, who is currently the interim provost and dean until a new one is hired. "The provost needs to have a vision for the future, set policies, and interact with the students as much as possible, especially with fundraising," he added.

A search committee consisting of students, faculty, staff, and administration was created during the summer with the huge task of finding Behrend a new leader. There have only been three executive officers in the school's 53-year history, and the new provost will have to live up to high expectations.

The committee is especially interested in someone who is committed to teaching and learning, so interacting with the students is important.

The search committee itself consists of 14 members, including Dr. William Cale, chairperson and CEO and dean of Penn State Altoona; Robert Sector, vice provost for academic affairs at University Park; Lisa Harrington, a Behrend staff assistant; and Christopher Reber, associate provost for advancement and university relations at Behrend.

The committee also includes undergraduate student Nicole Cipriani and graduate student David Rose, as well as eight faculty and staff members. These members include Dr. Kenneth Fisher, professor of engineering; Dr. Victoria Kazmerski, associate professor of psychology; Dr. John Rossi, associate professor of history; Dr. Kathryn Wolfe, professor of French; Dr. Peggy Lee,

associate professor of management; Dr. John Mageneau, director of the School of Business; Dr. Pam Silver, associate professor of biology; and Dr. Chuck Yeung, associate professor of physics.

The purpose of the search committee is to identify, through a national search, four individuals who possess the academic and administrative qualifications to be successful as provost and dean of Penn State Behrend. Following campus interviews, appointment of the new provost and dean is officially made by Dr. Rodney Erickson, senior vice president and provost of Penn State.

"Candidates typically submit a cover letter and a detailed resume," said Cale. Erickson then seeks to balance the committee with sensitivity to academic rank and consultant groups.

There is a certain process that the search committee uses to hire a provost. "Our committee is very thoughtful and engaged on this search process," said Cale.

First, an announcement about the position is sent to various outlets with national visibility. Second, there is a screening of the candidate pool by the search committee to identify a semifinalist group. Third, face-to-face interviews with the semifinalists are conducted at a neutral location, usually at a hotel near a major airport.

Next, the candidates' references are screened. Then, the search committee selects finalists, conducts open interviews at Behrend, and holds a meeting with central administrators at University Park. At the point of the campus interviews, the two student members will have ample opportunity to meet and interview the finalists, as well. Last but not least, there is the final selection. According to Cale, this process usually takes about six to seven months before a new provost is hired.

The search process is moving along quite well, and the committee is down to a list that consists of nine to 10

PROVOST SEARCH

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The answer: What is Political Science Jeopardy?

by Paige Miles
interim managing editor

And the question is: What event was held in Reed 117 Thursday night.

Political Science Jeopardy, hosted by Dr. Robert Speel, associate professor of political science, took place for the third year in a row. Adding a patriotic ring to this year's contest, a flag that had previously flown over the United States Capitol adorned the background.

A quiz was given to audience members who wanted to participate with questions about governors and senators of different states, state capitals, and members of the United Nations. The nine top scorers qualified to play the actual game.

Each of the three games involved three contestants. The best of the three advanced to the final game. Each game consisted of three rounds—first round, double jeopardy, and final jeopardy. Dave Beicher won the first round with the final category of Religion and Politics; Troy Frederick won in the

second round with American Political History; and Steve Webb took the third with Nobel Peace Prizes.

Two of three finalists, Webb and Frederick, were

POLITICAL SCIENCE JEOPARDY

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PHOTO BY PAIGE MILES

Steve Webb, Dave Beicher, and Troy Frederick were the three finalists in this year's Political Science Jeopardy. Webb, last year's champion, won again. All nine participants received \$25 gift certificates to Erie businesses.