



**Interview with Rafael Scarnati,  
a student from Mexico**

**by Ashley Hurst**

**Q: Did you look at any colleges in Mexico?**

**A: "Yes, I looked at ITESM, my brother goes to this institute. I also looked at UDEM."**

**Q: What made you choose Penn State University and the United States?**

**A: "I chose the United States and Penn State University to gain independence and because of the great education that they both have to offer. Also, I chose Penn State University because my dad attended this University."**

**Q: What are some things that you like about Behrend so far?**

**A: "Education is great. The classes are interesting and I like that there are small class sizes. Socially, people are friendly. It is somewhat different than Mexico because when you greet people in Mexico you kiss them on the cheek, but here you just shake hands, its more of a cultural difference."**

**Q: What is the difference between Mexico and the United States?**

**A: "The food is different. For example, it is easier to drink in Mexico because it is legal [at a younger age]. The parties are a lot wilder at Behrend than in Mexico."**

**Q: "Education is a lot better also, if you want to get a good education you have to go to private schools in Mexico, but in the United States there are great public schools. The public schools in Mexico are not very good."**

**Q: Have you been homesick at all this school year?**

**A: "Yes, when everyone went home for Labor Day I was here by myself and I really didn't know anyone yet, that is the worst that I have been homesick. I won't go home until Christmas, but my parents and best friend are coming up here to see me for Thanksgiving."**

## Diverse Clubs and Organizations

by Lauren Hiegel, Ashley Hurst, and Zoe Rose  
staff writers

National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) – provides a supportive environment for African American students.

Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS)- Support group for Latin American students on campus.

Asian Student Organizations- supports Asian students on campus. Celebrates various holidays and customs.

Human Relations Programming Council (HRPC)- provides forums on issues of racism, sexism, prejudice, and discrimination.

Association of Black Collegians (ABC)- promotes ethnic awareness on campus and is very active in the Penn State Behrend Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

Multi-Cultural Council (MCC)- This is the coordinating council for all the organizations listed. It is important in putting together the annual Cultural Fiesta to all students, faculty, and staff.

Trigon- this organization makes homosexuality and bisexuality acceptable. It is also a support and social group.

# BEHREND DIVERSITY

by Lauren Hiegel  
staff writer

Penn State Behrend is a diverse campus that sponsors a variety of clubs and activities, which support cultural differences on campus. Behrend is well known for its activities that help students become more culturally aware of their surroundings.

For example, there are many multicultural programs and activities. These include the Speaker series, Feminist Scholar Speaker Series, Cultural and Performing Arts Series, Film Series, Cultural Fiesta, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. week-long birthday celebration.

The Speaker Series brings nationally recognized individuals to campus to entertain and educate students, faculty, and staff. The Feminist Scholar Speaker Series brings feminist leaders to campus to discuss feminist issues. The Cultural and Performing Arts Series has very diverse performances including comedy acts, storytelling, music, and drama. The Film Series hosts films that are associated with special observations and celebrations. Cultural Fiesta is a day-long party celebrating different cultures with food, music, and dance. Finally, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration commemorates his birth and the history and legacy he left behind.

### Statistics about Behrend:

African Americans - 116 Students

International - 47 Students

Asians - 61 Students

Total Number of Minorities - 227 Students

Latino/Hispanics - 50 Students

**Interview with Kumiko Asada,  
a student from Japan**

**by Zoe Rose**

**Kumiko(Kimmy) was born in Japan and attended high school in Indonesia.**

**Q: Why did you decide to come to the United States for college?**

**A: "The University in Indonesia is not very good and I have friends here in the States. Also, since I attended Jakarta International School, it has the same educational system as the schools here in the states."**

**Q: Why did you not attend a Japanese university?**

**A: " It would be difficult to attend a university in Japan because they have different criteria needed to be accepted and I would fall behind because they have a different system. It is easier to adapt to the school system here since it is almost the same as Jakarta."**

**Q: What is a main difference you have experienced by attending Behrend?**

**A: "Classes at Jakarta are much harder than here but the GPA calculation is easier than here. Another difference is that a lot of students go home for the weekend so it can get lonely. My parents call me every weekend since it can get expensive to communicate."**

**Q: Socially, what do you feel is different here than Indonesia?**

**A:Socially, when one greets an individual in Indonesia, you would shake hands first and then kiss them on the cheek three times."**

**Q: What do you think of the food served here at campus?**

**A: Culturally, American food is greasy and oily. In Indonesia, I eat Asian food which is more nutritious than the States."**

