

Latin students represent community

by Alicia McGrail
staff writer

Last Friday, the Latin Student Organization held its semi-annual Friday Fiesta, which was open to both students on campus and the Erie community to enjoy. LSO members hired a DJ to play Spanish music and made traditional Spanish food themselves, laboring in the kitchen for almost five days.

The group also went to the various halls on campus to offer lessons to the students on Spanish dance and prepare them for the Fiesta. All of the hard work paid off; the Fiesta

drew a turnout upwards of 250 people.

All of the effort we put into the Friday Fiesta was worth it because the community enjoyed it so much," said club treasurer Anna Fernandez.

Unfortunately, the Friday Fiesta planned for next semester may not be held, due to a lack of funding from the Student Groups and Activities board. Otherwise, the Friday Fiesta will be open to whomever wishes to attend in the Spring as well, and members of LSO predict an even bigger crowd at that event, which will feature a live band, as well as a DJ.

The LSO is centered firmly on the concept of community, and consistently interacts with Erie's Hispanic community. The club works with local churches and is involved with a variety of programs designed for Latin youth living in Erie.

In past years, the members have been involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs and have also taught Spanish dance to local children. The organization aims to present positive Latin role models for the children they work with, many of whom have problems at school.

"We reach out to kids of the same

background as us, and show them their potential as Hispanic college students furthering our education," said Radhina Ramirez, LSO's president. "We serve as positive role models to the kids by showing them that while things may be hard in school now, hard work will pay off someday."

The LSO not only reaches out to the Hispanic community in Erie, but also to Hispanic students here at Behrend by supporting one another, spreading awareness of the rich Spanish culture, and providing a close connection between students and the community.

SGA seeks ways to lower tuition

by Jen Henderson
staff writer

Students at Penn State Behrend are not going to give up their fight to address the issues that mean the increase that has already occurred. The tuition increase here and at the other 18 branch campuses is one such issue that students will consider.

The Student Government Association at Behrend is very involved in this ongoing process. The SGA, along with the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments, is working to address this issue and see what can be done to help. Even though they would like to, SGA cannot do anything about the tuition increase is due to the budget, inflation, and the need for better technology. President of the SGA Brandy Hovis said, "We need to pay more to keep up with other schools and keep the value on our Penn State degree."

It has been explained that the tuition increase is due to the budget, inflation, and the need for better technology. President of the SGA Brandy Hovis said, "We need to pay more to keep up with other schools and keep the value on our Penn State degree."

Ways that the SGA is dealing with this issue include setting up meetings with state representatives and senators, such as Senator Jane Earl, and starting a lobbying campaign. During these meetings they plan to give the representatives and senators a chance to get to know the students here and see that many of the bad things that they may have heard are far from the truth.

The meetings would also provide ample opportunity to show how senators' donations could influence a worthwhile, productive education.

"Many state representatives do

not feel that Penn State does good things as students and for the community due to various things that happened at University Park," said Hovis.

SGA plans a lobbying trip to travel to Harrisburg later this year. The Governmental Committee is also concentrating on other worthwhile events that will help their cause.

"Our efforts will concentrate on

"We need to pay more to keep up with other schools and keep the value on our Penn State degree."

-Brandy Hovis,
SGA President

the Rock-the-Vote campaign and a voter registration in the fall," said freshman SGA senator Jeremy Adlon, the chairman of the Government Committee.

Through this whole process SGA is trying to get additional state appropriations to help the cause. If the state appropriations occur, the tuition rates could decrease due to the money that would go toward Penn State Behrend and other branches to pay for the increase in tuition. For this whole procedure to occur, the SGA, along with many dedicated students, will devote their time and efforts to this effort.

Sophomore Business Bridge in sophomore year

by Ann Marie Havey
advertising manager

After a successful start last semester, the Sophomore Business Bridge will be held again Feb. 2 - 3, at the Bel-Aire Conference Center.

The SBB is an innovative, and now nationally recognized, program sponsored by Penn State Erie's School of Business. The SBB is designed to provide second-year business students with numerous opportunities and advantages, including building friendships with other School of Business students and faculty members; participating in teambuilding, problem solving, leadership, and negotiation skill-building activities; and assisting students with academic major choice and career decisions.

The retreat is primarily designed to aid sophomores in choosing their major, scheduling classes, and beginning to think about post-graduation plans. The team building, problem solving, and negotiation activities also enable students to start

forming friendships with their peers.

"The group activities at the Business Bridge not only allowed me to meet other business students, but also taught me team skills that I have used in my upper-level classes," said Lisa Ann Strobel, a BECON major.

This is a key part of the Sophomore Business Bridge because of the large number of group projects business students participate in at Behrend.

"We met graduates and business people that work in fields that relate to our major," said Becky Poling, an accounting major, of last year's SBB. "They helped us realize what we will be doing after graduation."

Business professionals representing many different careers will be guests at the SBB. Students meet with these professionals in small groups to participate in interactive discussions. During this time, students can ask various questions to understand the specific business fields and career paths more, and find out what companies are looking for in prospective interns or employees.

Recent graduates from Behrend

also host small discussions. They will share their experiences and discuss how their Penn State education benefits them. In addition, they can recommend professors, courses, and offer other suggestions about how to be more marketable upon graduation.

There will be faculty members from the School of Business there, too. The SBB encourages students to start building relationships with their future professors. There are many opportunities for students to engage in discussions with professors, providing a chance to feel comfortable and ask questions in a relaxed setting.

After speaking with the faculty Katie Leary, an MIS student, learned about the different majors, and how much they overlap; therefore, realizing how easy it would be to dual major.

Attendees also meet with current School of Business juniors and seniors. The upperclassmen will give insight on what to expect from classes, how to balance increasingly demanding workloads, describe

favorite projects they have done, and share their internship experiences.

Entertainment at the Business Bridge will include a comedy show created by Dr. James Kurre of the economics department, with the assistance of various other faculty, staff, friends, and students. This year students will have additional time to socialize and use hotel facilities, such as the swimming pool.

The Sophomore Business Bridge has now been presented at two national conferences, and has been recognized as a benchmark for developing similar programs in colleges and universities across the country.

Registration is very limited, so students interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should apply before leaving for break. The registration fee includes transportation to and from the Bel-Aire, lodging, meals, and the conference itself. Interested students need to register in Turnbull at the School of Business office.

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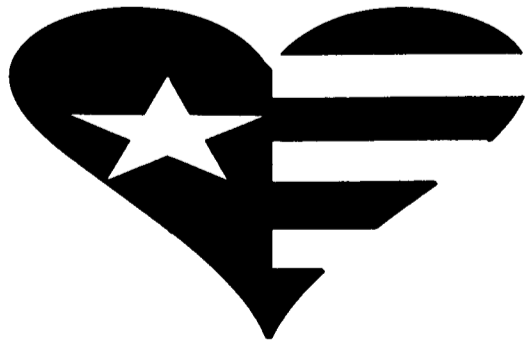
Chris Kwitowski
and Ryan Celio
are graduating.

Luke Thorwart is
transferring to
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Justin Rabell is joining the
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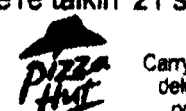
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