

A look at the life of Dr. Matthew Davies

by Heather Fleming
staff writer

Dr. Matthew Davies is a fourth year Coordinator of the Department of Political Science and International Studies Association, and he is also the Chair of the Global Development Section. He is not just a man who teaches at Behrend; he is just as curious as any student and loves to learn.

"The most gratifying moments in the classroom come when someone asks me a question I don't know how to answer, because it shows me that the student cared enough to learn about the topic to be able to ask difficult questions," Davies said. This is a professor who is extremely motivated in what he does and this shows through his hard work.

"I can say that part of making a difference [in the world] lies in being an active member of the profession, which includes teaching, research and writing, and service to the profession," Davies said.

Much of his research and writing takes him out of Erie to places like New Orleans, London, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland. Because of his membership in the International Studies Association (ISA) and the British International Studies Association (BISA), Davies attends annual conventions in places around the world. While in London, the workshop that he attended "was organized to discuss the institution of a post-graduate program in Commonwealth Studies at the Institute for Commonwealth Studies."

Attending these conferences, Dr. Davies admitted, is "a lot of work!" But he also said that he really "likes conferences as much work as they are. I always learn a lot and really enjoy myself."

There may be those who are wondering why Davies would be a member of the British International Studies Association, which is intended primarily for scholars working in the UK. But it does have members from around the world. So why is Davies a member of the BISA?

"Many of the people in my field whose work I greatly admire are working in the UK, and membership in the association helps me to keep up with their work when I read the journal that BISA sponsors and when I attend the annual convention," said Davies.

Not only does Davies attend conferences and participate in panel discussions, he is currently writing a book with Dr. Michael Nilemann of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.



PHOTO BY ROB WYNNIE / BEHREND BEACON

Dr. Matthew Davies and his wife strike a cozy pose. Davies, an assistant professor of political science, also serves as Coordinator of the Department of Political Science and International Studies Association and Chair of the Global Development Section. He is also a member of the International Studies Association (ISA) and the British International Studies Association (BISA) and attends conferences worldwide.

"The book deals with the social theory of a French philosopher and sociologist whose name was Henri Lefebvre who died in 1991," said Davies. "I am examining [Lefebvre's] work on everyday life and on the social production of space to see how his insights might contribute to the study of international relations and the global political economy."

Writing, research, and teaching are just a few of the ways that Davies hopes to make a difference in the world today. He strives so hard in his profession because he is trying to

"find good ways to think about problems in the world, and we bring these ideas to bear not only on our research but also on our teaching." He is instilling ideas in all of those he teaches and hopes to see a chain effect in changing the world.

"When it works, then students who read our books and papers or take our classes think harder about their world and how they want it to be, and then make their contributions to changing the world as well," said Davies.

Behrend students sound off about new ATM ownership

by Erin McCarty
news editor

Members of the Behrend community casually walking by may not notice the change in the ATM located in the Reed Building. As soon as they stop to make a transaction they will realize that the ATM is under new ownership. Instead of being owned by Mellon and Citibank, the ATM is now controlled by PNC Bank.

The change comes as a part of the university-wide partnership with PNC and the id+ card, which allows Penn State students, faculty and staff with PNC accounts to use their id+ cards as ATM cards. Everyone using the ATM without a PNC card may now incur fees of up to \$2 from PNC, as well as additional fees from the bank where they have an account. This news garnered varied reactions from students familiar with the ATM in Reed.

"I think the switch-over to PNC is definitely a good thing," said Allison Jawdy, Accounting 06. "The reason I chose PNC in the first place was because it was what was on campus when I was here as a freshman. I was disappointed when they changed it to Citibank or Mellon." Of course, the benefits to the switch are strongest for students who have accounts with PNC, as Nicole Greene, Communications 06, pointed out.

"I believe that this change is definitely a good one for people with a PNC account," said Greene. "I did not understand why it was changed in the first place. For people like myself who do not have a PNC account, it really doesn't make much of a difference because I am still being charged \$2 for every transaction, which is a bit much."

Other students, like Kara Grisé, Marketing 06, saw the change as negative overall.

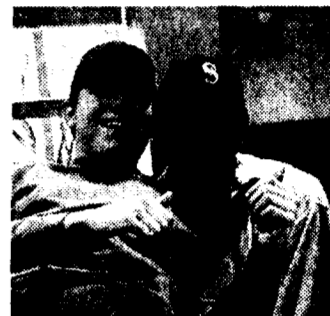
"PNC has really high fees," said Grisé. "I don't know why the school switched back again."

Those wishing to forego most of those fees may consider the option of opening a PNC account. They may also simply choose to withdraw cash only from ATMs associated with their own bank. Not everyone may reap benefits from the change in ownership, but students like Leslie Coven, International Business and Finance 07, who will have to pay fewer fees have reason to be pleased.

"So long as we don't have to pay a fee to use our own money, it's a good thing!" Coven said. "About time!"

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

- asked by Kelly Walsh



"The Rams because Simmons says so."

Kevin Brunner
EET, 08



"Cleveland, because Lurch said so."

Craig Ottaviani
MIS, 08



"All I know is that the Steelers lost and I am going to a party."

Bethanie Falleta
Elementary Education, 04



"The Rams since Pittsburgh lost."

Adinah Juliet
Psychology, 04



"St. Louis without a doubt because their offense is unstoppable and their defense has stepped up to be a Super Bowl contender."

Dante Spain
EET, 04

More parking spaces planned, according to forum panel

by Nicky Galloway
staff writer

The parking forum convened Monday at 5:15 p.m. in Reed 117. The parking forum panel consisted of Dr. Jack Burke, the Interim Provost, John Ream, the Director of Operations, Bill Donahue, the Director of Police and Safety, and Ken Miller, the Director of Student Affairs. The forum explained that there is always enough parking, but it may not be as convenient as students want it to be. Penn State Erie has the lowest parking rate of all of the Penn State campuses for commuters and residents. At University Park, students pay a lower rate for parking that is less convenient and a higher rate for more convenient, closer parking. On the Behrend campus, all parking is considered close and convenient.

Plans call for 200 more spaces next fall. However, there is a struggle with balancing the beauty of the campus and parking lots. If Penn State Erie puts a new lot in, there will be a loss of trees and natural setting to make room for the parking lot. As a result, the campus would not be as eye-appealing. In addition, all of the money for the new spaces and the current lots comes from the students' fees for parking privileges. It costs \$18,000 a space to deck the parking at the Junker Center, but only \$3,000 to put one asphalt space in.

Questions all around at Pizza with the Provost

by Jen Henderson
staff writer

"What is your favorite television show?" Dr. Jack Burke, interim provost and dean, asked the students who gathered Monday in the Perry Hall Lobby. This question helped break the ice for many more inquiries that were to follow. Pizza with the Provost provides students a chance to question the provost, student activities directors, and also housing and food services on problems or concerns that they have found important on campus. Also attending Monday's session were Ken Miller, the Director of Student Affairs; Randy Geering, Manager of Housing and Food Services; Nancy Paneponto,

Associate Director of Student Affairs; Branch Holmes, building coordinator for Perry and Lawrence residence halls; and all four RAs from Perry Hall.

The evening started with one of the 15 students in attendance commenting on the limited choices of healthy food available on campus. Behrend officials responded that many times there are limited fruit selections and salads available, but they are not always there at various times in the day. Normally, there are no salads made for the weekends either, so students have limited healthy selections during these times. Students made suggestions about possible fruit bars, and more vegetables being available. Officials addressed the problem with Bruno's not

opening until 4 p.m. on Sundays and discussed a more central location for an additional food place. More fast food restaurants are highly likely to appear at the new intersection near Knowledge Park. However, this would still be quite a distance for students to travel for food.

Other factors that attendees discussed in great detail were the need for a bus on campus to take students various places in Erie, computer and other labs being more accessible at various times throughout the week, bathroom concerns, parking on campus, library resources, and campus renovations.

Many students present at the meeting were residents of Perry Hall. Specific requests that were made included a water fountain for the guys on the first floor of the building and more soap dispensers on both sides of the building. The possibility of supplying air fresheners for the restrooms was also mentioned. The plans for the proposed renovations for Perry Hall were displayed. Renovations would total about \$10 million and add enough space for approximately 150 more students. The plans also would be more wheel chair accessible and would provide a route down the hill. The bathrooms would also be rewired and remodeled for more privacy.

The topic of parking also brought up new suggestions of tiered parking and additions to lots that already exist. Officials also addressed the bus suggestion, but they explained that a previous bus was rarely used. It caused high prices and was not really worth the time and effort to keep it running for the few students who used it.

Throughout the evening many good points were addressed and the faculty on hand listened intently to what the students had to say. Hopefully, some of the issues will be taken into greater consideration to the betterment of the student body.

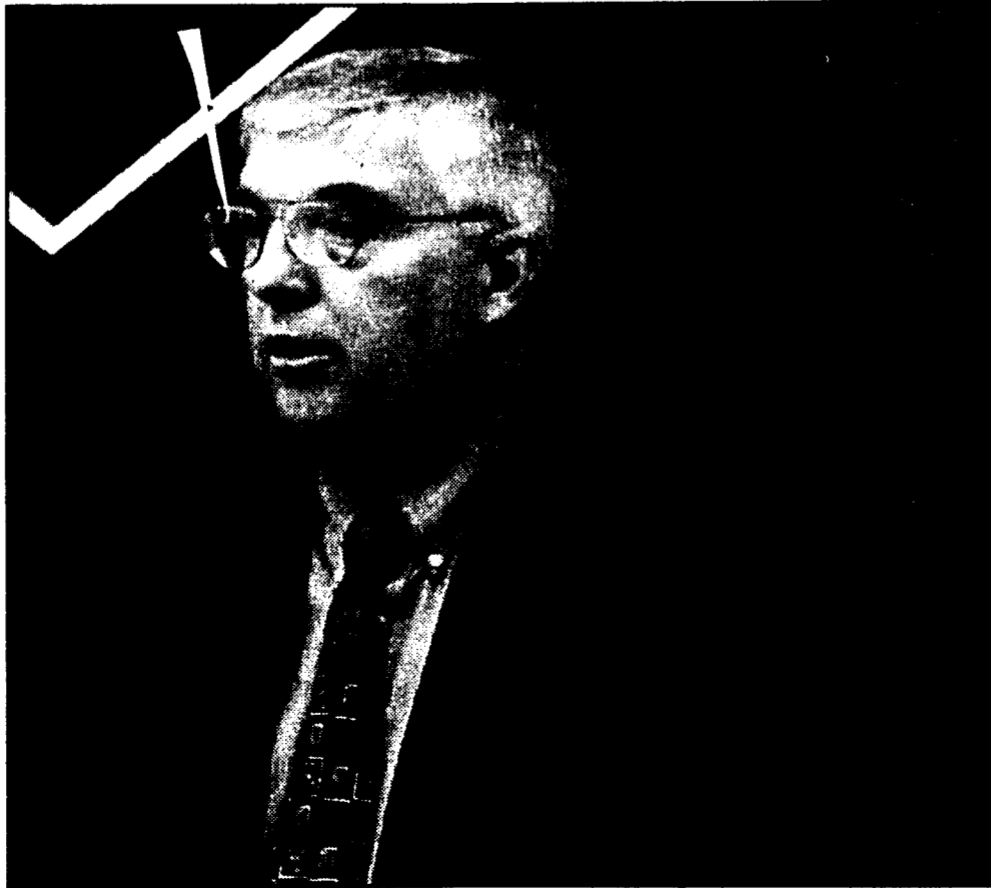


PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

Interim Provost and Dean Dr. Jack Burke addressed student concerns during Monday's Pizza with the Provost.