




## WEEKEND WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
		
Mostly Cloudy High: 62° Low: 48°	Showers High: 62° Low: 51°	Showers High: 55° Low: 45°

## BEHREND BRIEFS

### PNC to provide campus financial services

Penn State and PNC Bank have entered into an agreement allowing PNC to be the exclusive provider of financial services to students, faculty, and staff in conjunction with the Penn State id+ Card program.

Customers of PNC Bank can link their id+ Cards to their PNC Bank checking, savings, or money market account to use their cards at ATMs and to make purchases anywhere MAC / STAR and PLUS are accepted.

PNC will be on campus every Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Reed Union Building just outside of the id+ Office to link id+ Cards and to provide information about starting accounts with PNC.

### Lilley expresses gratitude

In a letter to Interim Provost and Dean Dr. Jack Burke, Dr. John Lilley wrote: "Please convey to my many colleagues at Penn State Erie how much my family and I appreciated your many kindnesses when we were together at the Glenhill Appreciation Dinner.

"Having the Library named for me was much appreciated, but to receive the Behrend medallion on top of it was a great and joyful surprise. Judy Glembocki and her colleagues produced an extraordinarily beautiful setting.

"I hope my comments were sufficiently forward looking. I have great affection for what has happened at Behrend, but I am genuinely excited about what lies ahead. All good wishes and thanks again."

### Academic calendar available

Penn State officials have finalized the academic year calendar for the next six years. Changes to the fall semester that result in a more compact and efficient teaching and learning term for faculty and students alike beginning in 2003. The new academic year will consist of 145 class days and 10 assessment/examination days.

While the new calendar does not affect the current schedule for spring and summer semesters, students will see a noticeable change in the fall semester format. The new fall term will span 16 weeks, including 14 weeks of classes and one five-day week of finals and assessment activities. In addition, class start dates in the fall will be later. Through 2008, classes will begin no earlier than Aug. 30 and as late as Sept. 5.

Five days without classes are also built into the schedule: Labor Day; the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week; and the Friday at the end of the sixth week, creating a three-day study break at the midpoint of the fall calendar.

For the full story by Tysen Kendig, visit <http://www.psu.edu/ur/2002/calendarchanges02.html>

### NYC firefighter speaks at University Park

Chief Richard Picciotto, the highest-ranking New York City firefighter to survive the World Trade Center collapse and the last fireman to escape the devastation, is the next speaker in Penn State's Distinguished Speakers Series on Monday at 8 p.m. in Eisenhower Auditorium on the University Park campus.

The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Tickets are now available to students attending the University Park campus and to faculty, staff and students from other Penn State campuses. The general public may pick up any remaining tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. The Eisenhower ticket office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Limited tickets might also be available the night of the speech.

For more information, call (814) 863-3786 or visit <http://www.psu.edu/ur/2002/picciotto.html>

### Tesh to perform at University Park

John Tesh, with special guest Nicole C. Mullen, will perform Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. at the Bryce Jordan Center on Penn State's University Park. Tesh's many talents have garnered him three gold albums, six Emmys, a Grammy nomination, an Associated Press Award for investigative journalism, a Keyboard Magazine Award, several No. 1 radio hits, three hit PBS specials and two tours as an Olympic announcer/composer. In 1996, after 10 years as co-host of Entertainment Tonight, he left the highly visible position to pursue his career as a musician fulltime. Tesh's recent CD release, "A Deeper Faith," continues to chart the Billboard Top 200. "Christmas Worship," hopes to make as strong an impact.

Joining the tour is Mullen, the first woman in 14 years to receive the Gospel Music Association's Songwriter of the Year award.

Tickets are now on sale at the Bryce Jordan Ticket Center, Eisenhower Auditorium, select Uni-Marts and Altoona campus; or charge by phone at (814) 865-5555 or (800) 863-3336; or online at <http://www.bjc.psu.edu>

### WQLN fund drive a success

Many members of the Behrend community called and participated in the Academic Challenge on Oct. 24 on WQLN radio. Not only did they support an important public service in this region, but they also impressed a large audience with their Penn State pride.

WQLN officials said more than \$5,600 was raised for the station during Behrend's segment of the Academic Challenge, and they observed this was among the strongest responses in recent memory by an organization.

## POLICE AND SAFETY

- 10/30/02 09:30 A complainant reported the theft of a CD player.
- 11/5/02 12:15 A complainant reported that several video games were taken from his room last weekend.

## CLASSIFIED

*"The responsibilities of courtesy involve sensitizing ourselves to the ways we can honor other people."  
- McCullough*

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility



## FOCAL POINT

# Behold the Chair of Enlightenment

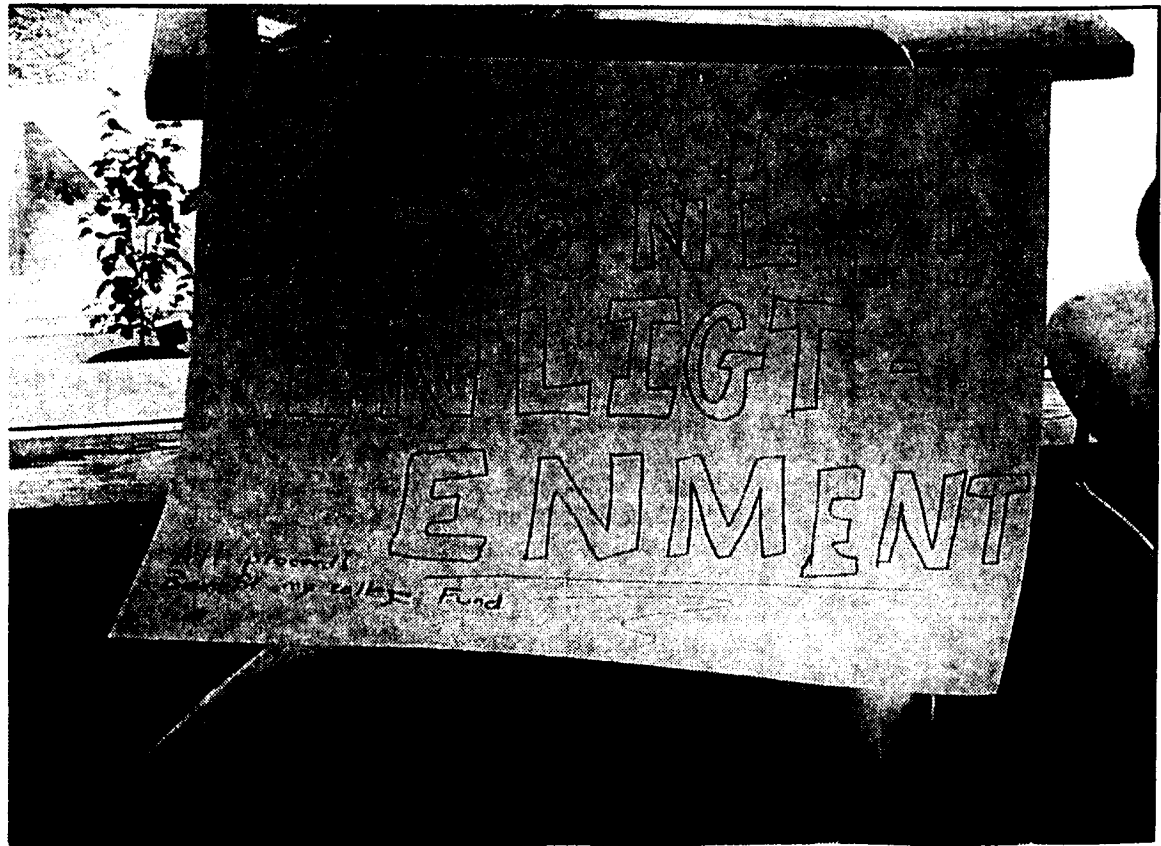


PHOTO BY PAIGE MILES / BEHREND BEACON

The lucky discovery of a chair afloat in the gorge spawned this attraction in Bruno's last week. For a mere fee of a quarter (to benefit the finder's college fund) students could sit in the chair and embrace a higher state of being.

# Thoms' stay in Sweden valuable experience

by **Erinn Hansen**  
calendar page editor

Dr. Peg Thoms, Associate Professor of Management, Business, and Human Relations, just recently returned from a teaching trip to Umeå University in Umeå, Sweden.

"I needed international experience, and I wanted to work with foreign students," said Thoms.

Umeå, Sweden is located 300 miles south of the Arctic Circle, in the northeastern part of Europe, and is one of fastest growing cities.

At Umeå University, which enrolls more than 18,000 students in six colleges, Thoms taught a five-week class in the human resources portion of a project management course in the School of Business and Economics.

"This was the only course the students were taking at the time," said Thoms. "Classes are taught in five-week segments, in which courses are taken one at a time. Students are expected to spend at least 40 hours on the class that they are taking." This curriculum is also used in the high schools.

The students' grades are primarily dependent on the final exam. It does not matter how the students do on class assignments, for the final exam determines whether or not you pass the course.

"Students can literally not come to class, and just basically take the final," said Thoms.

The students at Umeå were from all over Europe, with only about 1/3 of them actually from Sweden. Tuition is free, even for foreigners.

Thoms also helped two students who were majoring in project management, and one of those students will visit her and Penn State Behrend sometime in January.

Language in Sweden was not a problem, for English is their second language, as well as being the language of business.

"If people want to work in business companies in America, you have to speak English," said Thoms.

Swedish students are taught English their entire life, starting when they are children, and Umeå has two English speaking high schools. Thoms' 17-year-old son, whom she brought with her, went to high school in Umeå and made

many friends with no trouble at all.

Thoms also taught a seminar for 20 faculty members, who represented different majors in the business program at Umeå University. This seminar is based on the theory of her upcoming book entitled "Driven by Time: A Guide to Time Orientation and Leadership," to be published by Greenwood/Praeger in 2003.

"The Umeå faculty found America to be overly future-oriented," said Thoms. "They see greater value in taking care of the world's immediate needs for food, health care, and education. They asked me to include advantages of leaders with past and present time orientations in my book."

The faculty maintained a high level of commitment to education and a strong multidisciplinary approach, and Thoms had a great deal of open discussion and dialog with them.

Thoms also found that people have a different approach toward research. In the United States, scholars in her fields do more quantitative research, using surveys and gathering numerical data. In Sweden, scholars do more qualitative research, where they look for patterns or trends resulting from personal experience.

The atmosphere in Sweden was also different from here in the United States. People dress very casual, informal, and

liberal. Students call their teachers by their first name. Children have great power in their families, for they have very few limitations and very little discipline. There are laws against drugs, but children in Sweden can basically do what they want.

Along with that, Thoms found out that a lot of people are not married in Sweden. Couples would live together for 20 years, and have children, but never get married.

Thoms and her son spent three weeks in Sweden (March 31- April 20) and enjoyed it very much.

"It is like being in a new world," said Thoms. "In April, the days are already getting longer, but there would be piles of snow left over from winter. Also, the cars had heaters that people would plug into the outlets in the parking lots, and have running. Sometimes, if you did not have the heater running, the car would not start."

Even Thoms' son agreed that this was the greatest experience of his life, and encourages students at Behrend to study abroad sometime during their college career.

"It is very worthwhile to go study and live in other countries," she said. "There are people here at Behrend who can give information, and help students who are interested. It is one of the greatest experiences of anyone's life."



PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON

Associate management professor Dr. Peg Thoms sees her recent trip to Sweden as a valuable experience.

# Behrend gets into the spirit of giving

by **Jenna Dominick**  
staff writer

In the frozen food section of Wal-Mart last Sunday, in huge, black text the number 55 stood boldly. No, this was not the aisle number, but the number of days remaining until Christmas.

What? Many people just put away their Halloween costumes, and already department stores are decorating, count-downs have started, and wish-lists have been written. Many will enjoy a warm and fuzzy holiday season with their families and friends with a plethora of gifts under the tree.

But what about the people who aren't as fortunate? Reality Check, a student service group at Behrend, is helping to find a solution. For the fourth year, it is

running the Angel Gift program.

The Angel Gift program, run by junior Jen Town, works in cooperation with St. Martin's Center in downtown Erie to provide more than 120 kids with gifts for the holidays. Each November, Angel Gifts receives names of underprivileged children from the Erie area. While many ask for toys, some ask for very basic items, such as winter coats and boots.

Faculty, staff, and student organizations submit their names and wishes to participate to Reality Check. The deadline to sign up is Nov. 11. A week later, the children's names are sent to the Angel Gift-givers. By Dec. 4, the presents are due back to Reality Check, wrapped and ready to be taken to St. Martin's Center.

"We encourage student organizations

to participate in the Angel Gift program," said Town. "Most gifts are between \$20-\$40, but sometimes a student group will buy a bigger gift for a family, such as a Nintendo system."

Reality Check promotes service projects such as Habitat for Humanity and Alternative Fall and Spring Break. Students travel to soup kitchens to help serve and they have also made trips to the March of Dimes in the past. Reality Check's advisor is Kelly Shroud.

"It's great to be a part of Reality Check and to have the chance to help out," said Town. "Especially around the holiday season, there are so many underprivileged people who are so grateful."