

Working for the mouse



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angela Fetzner and Brian Veshecco not only share similar hats but similar experiences working for Disney World.

by Megan Loncaric
staff writer

How would you feel about going to Disney World? How about going to Disney World for four months? Better yet, how about going to Disney World for four months and getting paid for it?

This was the amazing fate of two Behrend students, Angela Fetzner and Brian Veshecco, who both did internships at the Epcot Center in Disney World in Florida during the fall of 2002. They saw the advertisements about the intern opportunity last year, and both decided it would be a great and interesting internship opportunity. Besides, who wouldn't want to get paid to go to The Magic Kingdom?

Fetzner, FNC 07, said that the internship was a really good experience. "I got a lot of experience working with a lot of different people from different countries," she said. "At Epcot, there are different attractions for different countries, and each attraction had international students from that country working there as interns as well."

Veshecco, MRKTG 07, wanted to be an intern at Disney World because it seemed like it would be a nice break from school.

There are several groups you choose to be in before you actually go down to Florida. The group Fetzner and Veshecco chose was called Park Operations.

"While I was there, I took a Human Resource class, and a communications class called Experiential Learning, which taught different theories and ways of learning," Veshecco said.

Fetzner also took the Experiential Learning class.

"You do not have to take a class there to be an intern, but it was free," she said. "There were no problems getting the credits transferred from there to Penn State," she added, "Penn State set it up so the credits would transfer from Disney World with no problems at all."

There is a bit of paperwork they had to fill out before they can intern at Disney World.

"Most of it is just collecting signatures from people," Fetzner said. "Plus, you have to transfer your transcript and find a teacher to sponsor your internship there."

"It's definitely worth it," said Fetzner.

Classes, though, are just an option. You aren't required to take classes if you want to intern at Disney World. You are there to work.

Veshecco's official title was "Attraction Host." He helped operate Splash Mountain.

He also helped out with the many parades that Disney World puts on.

"I was sort of like crowd control," he said.

Fetzner's position title was "Hopper." She worked at the laser/fire works show called Illuminations, helping audience members find their seats. She was also part of Park Clear, which went through the numerous restaurants throughout Epcot and helped clean up and made sure everyone left.

Interns there have the option of staying in the dorms Disney provides or staying out of the park. If you decide to stay in the dorms provided, Disney takes out money out from your paycheck. Interns get paid \$6 an hour.

If you would like to read more, visit www.wdcollegeprogram.com to fill out an application, and take it to the presentations on Mon. Oct. 27 at 5 p.m. at Gannon or Wed. Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. at Mercyhurst in the Old Main building. Any questions can be directed to Brian Veshecco at bjv119@psu.edu or Angela Fetzner at amf208@psu.edu.

Dialing up the future of Behrend

by Erika Jarvis
features page editor

We all know how annoying those telephone calls can be that come to us during dinnertime when we're finally sitting down to eat. Most often it is a credit card company seeing if you'd like to open an account with them, or it's a national radio survey both sound like fun and not useful.

Well there's one call that goes out to prospective Penn State Behrend students and it could be the most important call they receive when deciding on their college future.

While you may not have heard of The Stars, many prospective Behrend students have. They are the Penn State Behrend telecounselors and their job is to help out curious high school seniors decide if Behrend is the place for them.

"We call up students who have stated they were interested in coming to Behrend and talk to them about the campus. We often answer their questions about the application process during the first phone call," said Journalism and International Politics major Deepti Soni, 01.

While this is Soni's first semester working with The Stars, she is one of about 15 other Stars. On any given night you can find seven or eight students down in Glenhill Farm House in the admissions office dialing up possible students.

Most of the telecounselors are students who were called while they were in high school trying to decide what to do for college.

"It's so great and a fun time helping perspective freshman decide what they want to do," Soni said.

The program first started about 7 years ago and in the first few months it was up and running, Behrend saw the acceptance rate go up 4 percent. Due to the telecounselors and their phone calls, that number has been rising every year.

The Stars call up the prospective freshmen three times. The first call is to help out the seniors figure out their application and answer their questions about SAT scores and often money questions.

"I have been asked so many questions! Most often we get questioned about money, SATs, environment, clubs on campus and even parties," said Soni.

The second call is placed to congratulate the student on getting accepted to Penn State Behrend and to talk to them about how they feel about it. This is the time when the telecounselors start to really sell Behrend and help the student decide whether or not they want to accept their entrance to Behrend.

Lastly, the third call is often to welcome the students to Behrend after they have accepted their invitation to Behrend. Also, during this phone call the Star talking with the students helps them to figure out their FAFSA forms and other things they need to send in such as housing form.

All phone calls and conversations between the students are kept confidential.

"I think the fact that we have a confidentiality rule makes the students feel at ease and are more open to ask us any kind of questions, knowing that we won't tell anyone what they asked us," said Soni.

Surveys conducted during the spring of last year showed that the students found the telephone calls from current Behrend students to be a very positive experience and really helped them in their decision making.

"It's such a great thing knowing you're helping out these kids. I love being able to put out such a positive image of Behrend. I love it here and I want to share that with others," Soni said.

Curious as to how you can be a Star? Well you are in luck-it happens to be one of the few jobs on campus that is work-study and wage. All it takes is filling out an application and going through an interview process. Maybe you, too, can help project a positive view of Behrend and help expand this ever-growing campus. For more information you can call 898-7181. Ask to speak with either John Smith or Mary Ellen Madigan

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