

# The Behrend Beacon

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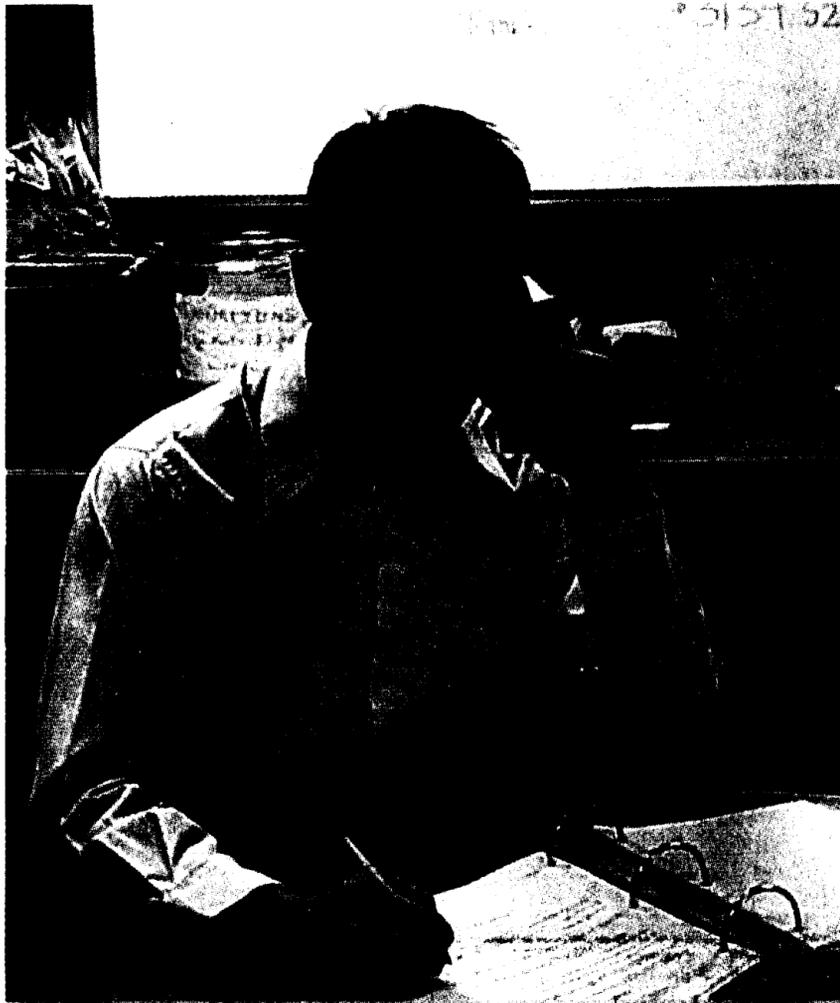
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## Masilunas chosen as division rep

### Senior track member elected for two-year term on regional council



by Ray Immekus  
staff writer

Senior track and field athlete Dave Masilunas was recently named to the Student Athlete Advisory Committee Division III Management Council. He, along with Sarah Forbus, a graduate of Denison University, will replace Kary Couchman and Joshua Espinosa on the committee. Masilunas' term on the Management Council will begin following the National SAAC Conference in January, which will be held in Nashville, Tenn.

"Penn State Behrend is proud to have one of its own student-athletes representing the entire body of Division III," said director of athletics Brian Streeter. "It is an honor to have Dave selected to this committee. He will be on the ground floor of planning and implementing new NCAA mandates that will continue to reform college athletics in the future."

This promotion comes only one year after Masilunas was named to the national committee. SAAC consists of 78 total members, representing all three NCAA divisions. Along with being a member of the Behrend chapter of SAAC, Masilunas is one of 28 student members who represent Division III on the national committee.

"Last year I went from team SAAC representative to national representative in the span of like three months," said Masilunas. "It was kind of like a culture shock going to the national convention and being thrown into the lions' den of all these

athletic directors from across the country coming up and shaking my hand and asking me for my opinion on different matters."

Masilunas' promotion was somewhat of a spur-of-the-moment action. Espinosa decided to step down from his position on Management Council because his full-time job was stopping him from fulfilling his duties for the NCAA. That's when Masilunas decided to put himself up for election. He was elected and will now serve until the year 2006, even after his college days are over.

The mission of the NCAA Division III SAAC is to promote a positive student-athlete experience. This is done by protecting and promoting opportunities for all student-athletes, in order to protect their well-being. Fostering a positive student-athlete image, while maintaining the tenants of the Division III philosophy is also a prime focus of the SAAC.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee management councils, like the one Masilunas is now a member of, give student athletes the ability to discuss issues with the SAAC.

Division II and III SAAC committees continue to be involved in legislative issues that arise at the NCAA convention.

The honors for Masilunas did not stop after being elected. This week he received an invitation in the mail from the NCAA president to attend a national reception.

"I'm flattered to be elected to management council. I always looked up to the people there. I always thought they were the ones with the most experience. It's going to be a good experience. I'm really looking forward to," Masilunas said.

## Fall commencement scheduled for Dec. 20

by Dean Spence  
staff writer

As the end of the semester approaches, students are becoming more and more anxious to start their winter break. After all of the projects are completed, all of the papers are written and all of the tests are taken the students are ready to head home.

However, there is one more assignment for more than 800 students to complete. The assignment was given out at the beginning of the semester; it was to prepare for the beginning of their college career. The assignment was to get a college degree. The seniors of the fall semester will complete their assignment on Dec. 20 when they are handed a degree in their chosen major.

Friends and family will gather in the Junker Center at noon on the special day to watch the graduates receive their diplomas and listen to the commencement speaker, Dr. Antonella Capillari, associate professor of mathematics.

Capillari has been a faculty member in the School of Mathematics since 1994. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of L'Aquila, Italy, and her master's and doctorate degrees from Pennsylvania State University.

Capillari has been a faculty member on several projects. Her 1987 book, *The Stars and Stripes of Proofs*, is in its second edition. She has also written a biography of the mathematician Maria Gromova. She has also written several articles on mathematics for the *Journal of Mathematical Education in Science and Technology*.

The ceremony will be held in the Junker Center. The program will begin at 12:00 p.m. and will last for about an hour. The program will be broadcasted on the radio and on the television.

her college education at Behrend. "It was an overall good experience. I will take with me all that I have learned not only scholastically, but what others have taught me."

Serenca is not the only graduating senior pleased about the education received at Behrend. "My experience was rewarding and challenging," Jenna Nielsen (marketing) said. "When I look back, I would not change a thing about the decisions I made. I look into the future with high hopes about my ambitions but with hesitation, because it is scary knowing you are entering a new world."

One student was ready to receive his diploma upon entering college. "Freshman year, I couldn't wait to graduate, and senior year, it's still the same," Tim Bering, MEd '07 said. "I've had a lot of good times here and definitely will miss interacting with my professors as well as my brother and friends."

Even though students are excited to graduate, they are also disappointed in not having the opportunity to use the soon-to-be built facility, the Roserach and Economic Development (REDC). "It's great to be here," said Tracy Hill (MIS, 09). "I'm sad a lot of improvements are coming and I won't be able to use them." He was referring to the REDC. Bering is also disappointed in not having the chance to use the new facility.

Even though students are excited and proud about all of the work they have done at Behrend, they are also sad to see the end of their college career. "I'm sad to be leaving here with a Penn State degree," Bering said.

## Students take pride in remembrance

by Lauren Packer  
editor in chief

Erin Troester, PSHBA 03, views Behrend a little differently after attending the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Hanging of the Greens.

"I feel a greater sense of pride in our school now that I know the story behind Hanging of the Greens and Mary Behrend's generous donation of her home that became the campus we have today," Troester said. "I had been aware of who Mary Behrend was because people talk about her all the time, but I never knew that she had a son who died very young."

Approximately 25 to 30 students, faculty, and staff attended the ceremony, and all learned a little bit more about the Behrend history thanks to Ben Lane, professor emeritus and author of "Behrend Remembered." Lane gave the closing and opening remarks for the ceremony.

Following Lane, a series of Behrend students, including SGA president Scott Soltis and SGA member Alexander Henderson gave remarks. Soltis gave a speech explaining "every gift comes with a price."

"I felt very honored to take part in a rich tradition

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Campus executive officer and Dean Dr. Jack Burke hangs a wreath on the door of the Behrend crypt with help from SGA President Scott Soltis at last week's Hanging of the Greens ceremony.

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