



Students return from alternative Spring Break

by Collin McHenry
staff writer

Spring break often brings thoughts of Cancun and warm beaches to people's mind. This year, however, 12 Behrend students went on an alternative spring break.

"Everybody should go on Alternative Spring Break. It was one of the best weeks ever!" said student Joell Sperry, BADM 04.

By now you're probably wondering what exactly an alternative spring break is. Well, this year students from Behrend went to Nashville, Tenn. There they worked with immigrants and refugees at a soup kitchen and warehouse where clothing and furniture was stored, for the refugees.

They were in Tennessee for six days, from March 8 to Saturday. The project was led by a Catholic Charity Group.

Kelly Shrout, coordinator of Community Service and Smith Chapel, helped organize and was one of the two staff members who went to Nashville. Every year they go somewhere different and perform a different community service.

"Last year we went to Cleveland, and in 2002 we all went to Virginia Beach. We aren't sure where we will be heading next year. I try to leave it up to the students to decide," Shrout said.

"Our trip to Nashville not only had a huge impact on the students that went, but their advisers and those they offered their service to. We had so much fun both working and playing," said Jill Forsman, who served as the other adviser.

Stephanie Knecht, Chandra Giger,

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STUDENTS PREPARE TO RALLY

Students from the Governmental Affairs committee are venturing to Harrisburg on Monday to rally legislators for lower tuition rates.

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TEAMS RETURN FROM SOUTH

Members of the baseball, softball, track and tennis teams returned from training campus in the South this week, boasting a mix of results.

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METROSEXUAL CLINIC PLANNED

Residence Life, in association with SAF, will be hosting the Metrosexual Etiquette Dinner on Tuesday, March 23. Find out more about the dinner in this week's 'A Closer Look.'

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CONTACT US

Newsroom: 898-6440
Fax: 898-6019

E-mail: behrcoll5@aol.com

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.



FILE PHOTO

SGA Vice President Jenn Sutter, MKTG 08, and President Scott Soltis, GAS 06, are seen in their debate in March 2003. On Tuesday, the two will face off with their respective runningmates as they both prepare to advance to next year's Presidency. Sutter's runningmate for the election is Erica Sitter, MRKTG 06, and Soltis' is Justin Curry, GAS 06. The four will be debating issues and discussing their platforms March 23 at 5:20 p.m. in Reed 114.

Candidates prepare for debate

by Collin McHenry
staff writer

The current president and vice-president are running on separate tickets this year. The SGA debates are coming up, and President Scott Soltis will be debating Vice-President Sutter. Both tickets have a lot of experience in Student Government which could make for an interesting debate.

Running alongside Soltis, is current SGA Senator and Thon Chair Justin Curry. Sutter's runningmate is SGA Treasurer Erica Sitter.

James Wyble holds the position of Elections Chair and will be in charge Tuesday's debate.

"I'm looking forward to a good, clean debate and I hope to see many students there. Students

have more say in things on campus than what they know, this is an opportunity to exercise that power," Soltis, GAS 06 said.

Sutter and Sitter were unavailable to answer questions.

According to Soltis, the candidates all bring a lot of experience with them. This will make the government run smoother, leading to student benefit.

"Since I am currently president and Justin is a senator we can clearly see both ends of the spectrum in SGA. One of our major goals is to make sure that SGA works efficiently and effectively to serve our fellow students," Soltis said.

Issues that will most likely be brought up include tuition, student life, diversity and clubs. Students are encouraged to attend and hear the issues discussed since they will

ultimately be affected by them, because after all, Student Government is run by students, and run for students.

Soltis and Curry feel that they have strong stances on many of the issues, including the hot topic of rising tuition prices.

"We have a few major projects in store for us if we win the election," said Curry, GAS 06, "but the end result will be a major stronger Student Government that quickly acts upon student concerns to bring about a quick resolution."

"We will win them over with our experience. We are very well qualified and have clear goals in mind for next year that keep the entire student body in mind," Soltis said.

Many people are eager for the upcoming debates. Those wishing to

attend the debates can do so next Tuesday at 5:20 p.m. in Reed 114.

Students also have another opportunity to meet the rest of the candidates running for the 11 open senate seats as well as the secretary position next Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the "Meet the Candidates" event. Both presidential tickets will also be in attendance at the event.

"The debate should be interesting," said Curry "It's not every day you have such an interesting twist in an election."

Soltis also seems very confident about the upcoming debates, which will be on the issues students' face.

"I'm pumped. Anyone will tell you that I'm argumentative and well informed so I thrive on debates." Soltis said.

Housing and Food Services faces major renovations

by Brad Stewart
staff writer

The sound of backup alarms, drills and saws are commonplace at Penn State Erie. Between the Reed Union Building and Perry Hall lies a mass of metal and brick that will soon be home to Behrend students—Senat Hall.

Senat Hall, the name coming from a Lake Erie ship, is scheduled for completion in late August in time for incoming freshman of the fall 2004 semester. According to a Behrend news release, the residence will provide housing for 150 students. From its lowest point to the highest the building has five floors. The main entrance will lead into offices for Housing and Food Services—the remainder of the building will be specifically designed and divided to hold freshman of similar majors.

The 150 freshman living there will be grouped by academic major, and students on each floor will be enrolled

in two courses together.

This grouping will socially and academically benefit aspiring scholars.

Each room will accommodate two students. Based on student feedback, hallways will open into a small foyer which will connect two bedrooms,

each with their own door and lock, and a bathroom. The design will allow two rooms to share the foyer as a central space but prevent any unwanted access to a room through a joined bathroom.

"We understood that there were problems with the linked bathrooms

in Almy and Ohio," said Randy Geering, director of Housing and Food Services. "We listen to students and try to adapt."

How much does a dormitory cost? Senat Hall holds a price tag of \$11.9 million—all of the funds coming

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

An artist's rendition of the completed Senat Hall, center. The new residence hall will house 150 students and the new Housing and Food services office.