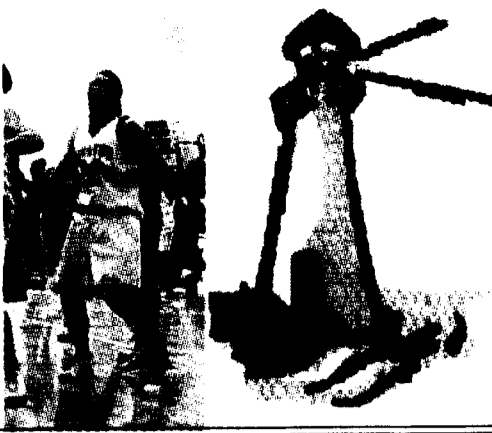


**ALL
CONFERENCE
TEAMS
HIGHLIGHTED**

We recognize all of our All-Conference Team athletes for the 2003-2004 season.

SPORTS
Page 14.



The Behrend Beacon

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A&E EVENTS REVIEWED

The A&E staff reviews the year in the world of theatre, music, movies and books featuring "Little Shop of Horrors" and commentary on the band "The Jet"

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Friday, April 30, 2004

A Penn State Erie Student Publication APR 30 2004

Vol. LI No. 27

Year in Review

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Inside REDC groundbreaking held

Administrators, legislators and community members take part in ceremony



SPORTS IN REVIEW

Take a look back at the year in review of sports, including the championship winning basketball, tennis, and soccer seasons.

SPORTS, Pages 11-14

SAY GOODBYE TO THE BEACON BUNCH

Check out the staff page to see who's been bringing you all you need to know for the last year. Graduating from staff this year is Lauren Packer, Ryan Russell and Amy Wyczynski.

STAFF, Page 8

GREEKS REFLECT ON YEAR

The Greek community reflects on their past year, as well as set goals and expectations for their new members and organizations for the upcoming year.

GREEK, Page 10

THE STORIES THAT SHAPED THE YEAR

This week's News section is packed with the stories that shaped and effected the year the most. From the housing crunch to the first ever basketball homecoming, the Beacon looks back on yet another year.

NEWS, Pages 1-6

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CONTACT US

Newsroom: 898-6488
Fax: 898-6019

E-mail: behrcoll5@aol.com

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.

by Daniel J. Stasiewski
managing editor
and Jenna Dominick
contributing writer

The groundbreaking for Behrend's largest facility and the Erie region's largest state financial gift took place Wednesday, when Penn State friends and government officials gathered in the Smith Chapel to take turns turning over dirt.

The \$30 million Regional Economic Development Center, commonly known as the REDC, is the future home of the Sam and Irene Black School of Business and the School of Engineering and Engineering Technologies.

The facility is expected to serve two major purposes: increasing academic space, and providing a single facility for two schools that have already begun to integrate.

Dr. Jack Burke, campus executive officer and dean, said he believes Behrend is the only school in the country that has combined the two schools, and this combination serves a realistic purpose.

"When you get out into a corporate setting, that's what's going to happen," said Burke, commenting on the need for business student to know more about engineering and vice versa.

This shared facility improves the partnership that was fostered in December 2000, when the GE Fund of Stamford, Conn., gave Behrend a \$176,000 grant to integrate parts of the engineering and business curriculums.

The schools have begun offering a new Product Development course, BDENG479A/MANGT 479A, previously called Small Product Realization.

In that course, "teams of business, engineering and engineering technology students take a product idea from



Dr. Jack Burke, CEO and Dean, looks on as Erie County Executive Rick Schenker and City of Erie Mayor Rick Filippi participate in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Research and Economic Development Center, held Wednesday afternoon in the Smith Chapel. The REDC building is projected to open in 2006.

development for the Erie region.

The new facility will provide a direct link to Knowledge Park as well as bridge the business and technology gap that currently prevents Erie from getting back on its economic feet.

State Rep. Tom Scrimenti, Erie Mayor Rick Filippi, Erie County Executive Rick Schenker and Harborcreek Township supervisors Ken Springirth and Donna Mindek were all on hand to celebrate the investment in the future of Erie and Behrend.

At the groundbreaking, Burke also read a letter from former governor and now Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, who played an integral role in getting state funding for the REDC

construction.

"The important feature is the learning and education that's inside those walls," said State Sen. Jane Earl, who was also in attendance for the ceremony. "Employers interested in investing in this area, one of the things they look at when determining whether they are going to come here or stay here, is the quality of their workforce."

Earl believes that the vision of both the university and the state have come together in support of the northwest Pennsylvania region and that is the support needed to prevent college graduates from leaving the state.

FILE PHOTO