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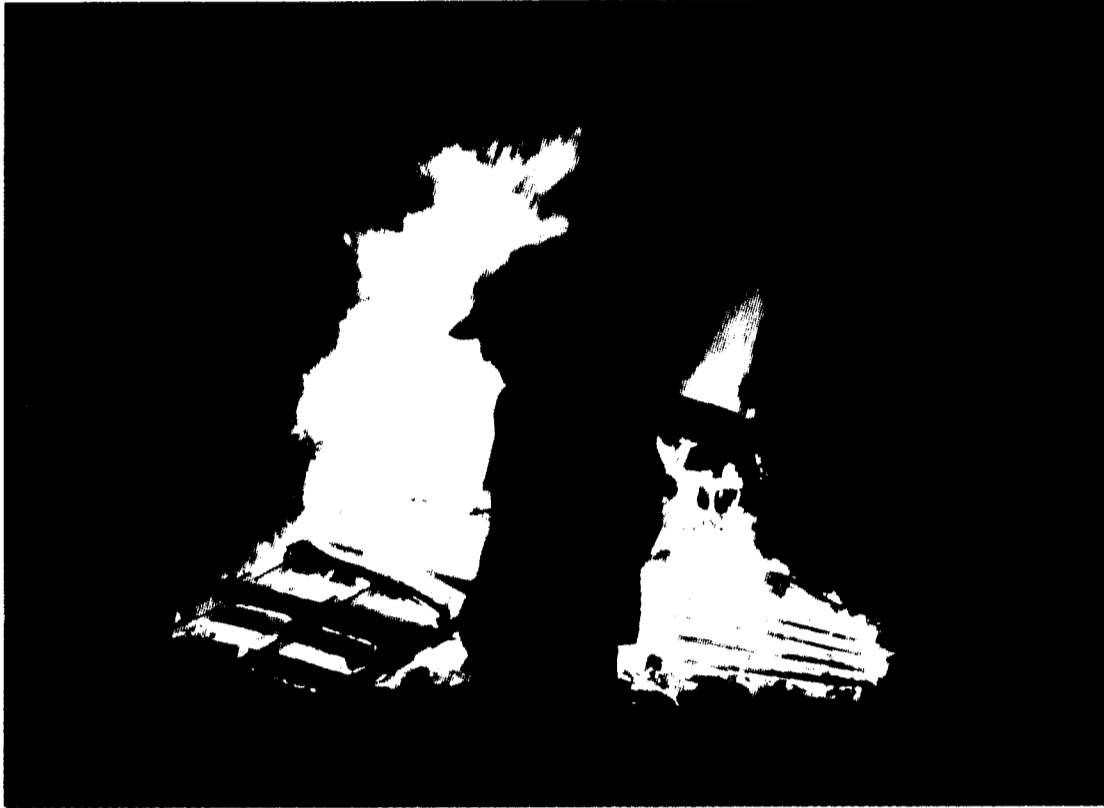
THE BEHREND BEACON

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GREEKS ON FIRE



K.J. MARGRAFF/BEHREND BEACON

A Delta Chi brother stands in front of bonfire. The bonfire is just one of the Rush Week events Delta Chi is using to recruit new members. Rush Week for all Greeks continues into next week.

We're happy and we know it Survey suggests satisfied students

By Meghan Whitesel
staff writer

According to the results from the Student Satisfaction Survey, Penn State Erie was ranked highest in most hours spent studying and for fewest classes skipped. Among the 20 campuses, as well as University Park, Behrend students were most satisfied with their academic experience and had the greatest sense of belonging.

What is the Student Satisfaction Survey? The survey is used to gain feedback from students attending Penn State. The results help the Division of Student Affairs to understand the students' experiences and satisfaction with the institutions. Using the results, the DSA can make efforts to improve a scholar's encounters.

The survey took place between March 18 and

April 5, 2004. Overall, 3,770 students participated. About 125 of those students were from Penn State Erie.

According to the survey results from students at UP and Behrend, 62% chose Behrend as having the greatest sense of belonging to Penn State.

"The campus has grown over the course of the years," said Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs. "It's a very good sign that the students are recognizing that Behrend is a great place to be."

Many projects have helped create the environment that Behrend possesses. Many of the institutional buildings have been renovated and new ones are being built. According to Miller, the honors program has continued growing over the past years.

"Our students feel that they are at the best campus the university has to offer," said Miller. "Students demand high quality, and they are glad to see it."

All Penn State campuses emphasize faculty research. At Behrend, the faculty's main objective is to educate and then research. This allows for better relationships with professors.

"The students here at Behrend are qualified and very focused," said Miller. "The curriculum runs on strong academics."

Survey results showed that 85% of the students who knew one or more faculty members were from Behrend. Of the participating campuses, 75% felt that Behrend had the greatest quality of teaching.

"The faculty reacted positively to the survey results," said Miller. "They were very pleased."

Efforts are continuing to increase the learning experiences for students. With the completion of the Research and Economic Development Building, many of the programs will grow.

"There is a lot of momentum going here," said Miller. "We are already seeing the benefits of projects past, and we will continue to see Behrend strive for greater excellence."

All invited to Welcome Weekend

By Tanya Doggwiler and Elizabeth Cybulski
staff writers

This year's Welcome Weekend is bringing all of Penn State Behrend's family together. For the first time in six years, Family Weekend and Alumni Weekend are being combined for a joint celebration.

The idea to combine the two events came from Associate Director of Development, Kevin Moore, Director of Student Affairs, Ken Miller, Assistant Director of Student Affairs, Kris Mottatorok, Manager of Special Events, Judy Glembocki and Assistant Director of Development, Rebecca Grimaldi. The inspiration to combine the two came from "the real desire alumni have to have more interaction between current students and other alumni," said Grimaldi. "The alumni want to show students how they care and still remain connected to the college."

"It's a win-win situation, a better collaboration," said Mottatorok in a separate interview. It is a win-win situation that is going to combine activities that were signature events at separate weekends. In the past, the Alumni Weekend included an ice cream social and the Family Weekend featured a carnival. This year's Welcome Weekend will include both events.

Taking place Sept. 24 to 26, two highlighted events are the Athletic Hall of Fame, which will feature alumni who were major athletes during their time at Behrend and the Scholarship Luncheon, an invitation only event for current scholarship recipients and their families.

A new event during the weekend is the Aloha Dinner and reception, which will be hosted by CEO and Dean of Students, Jack Burke. Not

only is the event new, but online reservation requests for the dinner are available.

Other new events are the Golf Instruction and the Horse Trolley where guests can take a "leisurely tour of the campus."

Students and faculty alike will also be preparing events for Welcome Weekend. "Each department is gearing up to present their most positive face," Grimaldi said. On Saturday, the Lion Entertainment Board and Residence Life will have booths set up at the carnival and the Jazz Band will be performing.

Welcome Weekend is not only designed for the elder alumni and students with families, but for students campus-wide and alumni of all ages. Grimaldi was quick to say that including the alumni does not mean the weekend is geared toward the eldest alumni but "the broad spectrum of alumni from alumni just out of college to the alumni with children who are starting to look at colleges themselves."

Students already have positive feelings about the alumni joining family Sept. 24 to 26. "It's pretty cool that the alumni are still a big part of the campus because they help out so much financially," said Ivan Eisenberg, 01.

Freshman Lauren Kessler is happy to see the alumni included because "the alumni can come and see how much the campus has changed since they've been here."

The alumni themselves are geared up for a great weekend. "The alumni will enjoy seeing the upgrades in student life and education as well as the nostalgia from walking around their former school," said Grimaldi.

The new Welcome Weekend's main goal is to enhance the relationship between students, their families, faculty and alumni.

New University Relations Director Logan House fills vacant position

By Maggie Causgrove
staff writer

The Logan House has added a new addition to the college grounds. The University Relations office is pleased to welcome Dwayne Wright as the new Director of University Relations.

Wright came to Behrend after previously teaching at Tennessee State University for one and a half years. "The beautiful campus; expansion, both in facilities and programs, as well as the opportunity of Knowledge Park; and the continuing education are some of the reasons why I chose Penn State Behrend," said Wright.

The University Relations Office is in charge of a number of tasks. Their obligations entail developing successful marketing and communication strategies, as well as promoting the ongoing effort towards outreach programs to help further continuing education.

Along with Bill Ericson, the University of Relations Publication Coordinator, Wright hopes to strengthen these resources over his course at Behrend and get the word out to future prospects about all that Penn State has to offer.

Wright believes that there are enough activities occurring on campus for current students to enjoy their Behrend experience and get involved, as well as encourage potential students by showing all the university has to offer.

One of the most important parts of his new job,

Wright said, is to, "tell the story." Wright hopes to get the word out about Penn State Erie and all the up and coming events and proceedings around campus as well as throughout the Erie area.

Another goal of Wright's is to share the success stories here on campus of the faculty, staff, alumni and undergraduates. All have a story to tell about past accomplishments, engaging new research, exceptional work experience and so forth. By informing the area and truly getting the word out that Behrend is full of successful inhabitants, Wright hopes this will spark an even greater interest in Penn State Erie.

With many new plans in the works and various goals in mind, Wright is off to a great start here at Behrend. When asked how he felt about his new position and the effect he hopes to make on the university, Wright said, "I am definitely excited to be here. When I first found out about the position I wanted to find something with strong ground work and support and I felt that the Behrend College offered me that."

Wright was a finalist for the position in the summer and has said that his "enthusiasm has stayed constant over time." He has acknowledged Behrend is an excellent opportunity and that while it may present him with some challenges, that these obstacles will only provide a greater growth opportunity for the college and Erie in general.

Speaker Series faces unsure future

By Sarah Weber
staff writer

On Sept. 23, the Penn State Behrend Speaker Series will host the nationally recognized political analyst, columnist and author Linda Chavez.

Chavez, an "unlikely republican," as she dubbed herself in her 2002 biography, is widely hailed as one of the country's most prominent Hispanics.

A native of Albuquerque, Chavez writes a weekly syndicated column and hosts her own program on the Liberty Broadcasting Radio in Washington D.C. She is also a political analyst for FOX News Channel.

In 2001, Chavez was chosen as President Bush's nominee for Secretary of Labor. Chavez however, withdrew her name from the ballot.

Chavez's presentation like all other Speaker Series presentations will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the McGarvey Commons of the Reed Union Building.

Sponsorship for the series, however, has been a topic of deliberation for several campus groups. Late last year, the Student Activity Fee committee, which consists of faculty and student members, discussed discontinuing funding for the series. However, after students on the committee voiced concern about completely cutting the program, the series was given partial funding. The series' funding was cut in half since last year from \$50,000 to \$25,000.

"None of us wanted to cut it all together," said Scott Soltis, Student Government Association president and SAF committee member. "The hardest part was to gage the level of student interest. It'd say it's definitely deserving of SAF money."

During the 1990's, Penn State Behrend's Speaker Series won the National Association for Campus Activities' Best Lecture Series Award twice.

Ken Miller, director of Student Affairs, says that

the Speaker Series is a well attended program that students enjoy.

"[The program] is under appreciated because it is not the first thing students think of in terms of activities," said Miller. "It is an excellent opportunity to sit down with some really influential people." Miller also said that the biggest issue with the series is cost. He said that in the last few years the market for speaker presentations has "gone crazy."

This year, the Sam and Irene Black School of Business chipped in to pick up the deficits that the SAF contribution cuts left.

"There is no guarantee that the series will be able to go on every year, but we can try," said Miller.

Other contributors to the series are the Janet Neff Sample Center for Manners and Civility, and the Harriet Behrend Ninow Memorial Lecture Series Fund.

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Sports, New volleyball coaches

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