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# THE BEHREND BEACON

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## New signs installed to sharpen campus image

By Annie Sevin  
staff writer

There are some changes being made on the campus that should make things less confusing. A project called "Wayfinding and Signage Plan" has been in the works since 2001 and the campus is finally getting a glimpse of Phase I of the project. Directional signs for campus buildings have been created by Corbin Design and are being erected in nine different locations.

"[These signs] are part of a campus-wide signage plan. We want to have all buildings identified and directional signs to help visitors," said CEO Dr. John Burke. He is a member of a campus-wide committee that worked with Corbin Design to develop the "Wayfinding and Signage Plan."

John Ream, director of operations at Behrend said that currently there are mock-ups up around campus to gain feedback on the size of the letters and the location of the sign itself. The actual signs will be made of aluminum and are about nine by six feet. They will stand on the stone bases that have already been put into place around the campus.

Ream also stated that, "The signs are for the benefit of first time or prospective students and their families, but also for current student's families or visitors that don't know their way around the campus."

Eventually there will also be signs directing people to the residence halls, roadway, and parking lots. There will also be campus maps constructed in strategic places to help visitors get to their destinations.

Director of Athletics Brain Streeter says that any type of signage is going to "allow people to feel comfortable and welcome." He says that he is excited about this project, "It will give the campus a professional touch."

In addition to new directional signs, there will also be banners put up on existing lampposts leading the way to the Junker Center and the athletic fields. The banners will feature a giant paw print and will read Behrend Lions, according to Ream. These banners, too, will serve as guides for visitors to athletic events, even visiting teams who may lose their way.

"There should eventually be banners for all buildings, the library, the dining hall...they will all have different pictures," commented Streeter.

This "Wayfinding and Signage Plan" is not a major reconstruction project, but it is a long and presumably an expensive process. Ream thought it would take several years to finish all phases of the project. Mostly it will take awhile because it is based on a priority of funds and the development of the campus.

Ream says, "It's an interesting project...there's no perfect way to do it." Some of the signage project has already been completed, but only off campus; there are signs telling people where the campus is located along Interstate 90 and the Bayfront Connector. Also, according to Ream, Penn DOT paid for the signs alongside the East Side Access Highway.



In an attempt to sharpen the campus image as well as provide confused commuters with direction, Behrend is installing signs along Jordan and Station Rds.

Ream also said, "There are a number of sources contributing funds: Building Projects, college money and construction funds for the Junker Center."

Streeter remarked that, "The signs are considered movable equipment, so the movable equipment fund for the Junker Center helped to pay for the 'Wayfinding

Project.' Those funds were given to the campus by the state when the Junker center was built.... Money from the Junker Center will benefit the entire campus, not just the Junker Center."

Streeter also said, "Operational funds will probably help pay for the rest of the phases of the project, which may likely

come from University Park, so the students here shouldn't be affected."

Even though the entire "Wayfinding and Signage Plan" will take several years to complete, according to Dr. Burke, the first phase regarding the nine directional signs should be "completed shortly, within a week, weather permitting."

## Young voters hit polls

By Daniel J. Stasiewski  
editor in chief

National exit polls showed that youth voter turnout was at its highest point in more than a decade during the 2004 election, but Deepti Soni didn't need a poll to tell her that.

Soni, the SGA governmental affairs committee chair, was one of a number of students who helped organize the most successful Behrend college voting initiative in recent memory.

The program culminated on Nov. 2 with rides to the Brookside Fire Hall

polling place. The van trips took place every 20 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to the time the polls closed.

Soni estimates that between 25 and 30 students packed the vans every hour. For her it was the pay off for a more than a year's worth of hard work.

"We worked really hard both this year and last year and we just wanted to make sure the turnout was good," she said.

SGA Senator Zack Mentz helped out with the advertising the day before the election, placing two bed sheets around the campus. One sheet hung near the entrance to the Reed Union Building and the other on the tennis court fence. Mentz also said the group placed five wooden signs in high traffic areas to remind people of the rides to the polls.

Voter registration was also a major part of the voting initiative with drives going on last year and this year. Registration forms were also placed inside orientation packets.

On Nov. 2, however, registration time was over. Soni and the governmental affairs committee made sure that those students who were registered to vote had no excuse not to.

"Usually the polling booths have to be in walking distance, and if you know Brookside, it's kind of hard to walk down with all the hills," she said.

Even the kids with cars may have found it easier to take advantage of the ride to the polls, according to Soni.

Nationally, voter turnout for the 18 to 30 age group was up 9.3 percent compared to the 2000 presidential election. Exit polls have estimated that it may have been even higher in swing states like Pennsylvania.

Many national voting groups including the WWE's Smackdown Your Vote, Youth Vote Coalition, Citizens Change and the League of Women Voters were able to surpass their goal of 20 million 18- to 30-year-old voters. According to the National Election Pool, 20.9 million young voters turned out at the polls.

Director of Student Affairs Ken Miller, who has been on staff since 1988, said the Behrend showing was encouraging. "This is hands down the most involved

## Engineering students in action

Program highlights opportunities in technical fields

By Jeff Smen  
staff writer

The SEET department held a program called Engineering Ideas In Action last Thursday in Roche Hall. The event, which was held from five to seven, was designed to show students different engineering projects from the seniors with faculty members talking about engineering opportunities right here at Penn State Behrend.

Each table at the event had its own project to show off to students. The computer engineering department showed off a robot they built that used motion sensors to recognize when a person could walk by and it could even talk to that person. The electrical engineering technology department showed off a machine that could levitate a metal ball using electricity. The software engineering department showed off how applying software to a remote control car could make it move.

Overall each table had something in-

teresting to see or someone to talk to about any kind of engineering available at Behrend. Many of Behrend's engineering clubs like Society of Women Engineers and Society of Automotive Engineers could be seen at the event trying to recruit new members. The Society of Automotive Engineers showed off their car at the event which has been in the SMV Competition since 2002. When asked about the event, Troy Tancraitor, EEBD 07, at the show said, "Well I think it's a good opportunity to basically allow the various engineering branches to introduce themselves better to students and to see what kind of opportunities are available to first-year undergraduate students, and I'd say it's kind of encouraging to show that there are many opportunities here at Behrend compared to University Park."

Amy McCullough, ME 07 the president of the Society of Women Engineers, helped make this event possible. McCullough said that the women en-

gineers came up with the idea to hold the event in order to help socialize all of the engineers at the school, and the school has been meaning to have something like this event for a while now.

At the event McCullough said, "We had an excellent turnout. We ran out of food in the first twenty minutes and we planned enough for approximately 150 students so we had a really good turnout and I was really pleased with that. The entire faculty was very helpful, getting everything set up, and staying in contact with me."

Jim Lloyd, PLET 01, said, "I thought it was very helpful and interesting in choosing my major. If they have this event again next year I would definitely recommend all freshmen going."

After the big turnout to the event last Thursday, it appears the event did go very well. It wouldn't be surprising if Behrend's engineering department did this event every year.

## P&S carry firearms

By Dan Snedden  
assistant news editor

College campuses, like any community, are subject to crime. Behrend is certainly no exception, which is why some members of Behrend's highly trained Police and Safety staff are armed.

"Behrend has six full time, sworn police officers," said James Amann, manager of Police and Safety Services, "Many students don't realize that they are actual police and therefore should be equipped as actual police."

Along with the six full time police officers, Behrend also has two full time property guards who are authorized to issue parking tickets and other citations. Police and Safety also has a student auxiliary staff with many of the same responsibilities as the property guards. Of these



Police and Safety's preferred method of transportation.



A .40 caliber Glock, the firearm carried by academy trained Police and Safety officers.

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