

NEWS

Should we have a shuttle service to transport students to drinking establishments?



"Yes, it's a lot safer to transport people to and from bars than to risk them killing each other."

Brittany Hess,
ELISH 10



"Yes, it could lessen underage drinking."

Brenda Starr,
ACNTG 05



"I'm not letting that come out of my tuition."

Issac Rules,
BLASC 07



"It would be beneficial only if it's on certain hours, and certain days so it doesn't waste our money."

Stephen Oyler,
INTL BUS 02



"Yeah, it will help prevent drunk driving."

Emily Widdowson,
MTHBD 02

Have a suggestion for Question of the Week? Email your question to us at: behrendbeacon2@aol.com.

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where most of the Alternative Spring Breaks included 12 members. They encourage all students to join and are hoping the group grows during the next semester.

If interested in joining the organization, contact De' Adra Walker, president, or Kelly ShROUT, coordinator at the Smith Chapel 898-6609. They hold weekly meetings every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Smith Chapel.

Want to know something about Behrend? We'll answer your questions.

e-mail behrendbeacon@aol.com or call 898-6488

First woman completes computer science degree

By Lacy Buzard
copy editor

When Lindsay Patton walks up to receive her degree May 14, it will not only signify a major change in her life, but in that of the School of Science. Patton will be the very first female computer science graduate from Penn State Erie.

Patton's graduation may serve to attract more women to the computer science major.

"I have really bad senioritis," said Patton.

She has been searching for employment close to her home and family in Rochester, NY. Logical Solutions.Net, Incorporated is her top choice. They are always looking for programmers and there's an advantage to being a woman, according to Patton.

During the job search, Patton will be going through the same interview processes as men in her field. In the industry now, applicants will more than likely interview with a group of people as opposed to just the head of human resources, according to Mr. Gary Walker, lecturer in computer science and Patton's senior design advisor.

Being the only girl in her upper-level classes has been challenging for Patton. "It's kind of difficult because you have to compete with all the guys and it's like, yes, I'm capable," she said.

Patton has been interning for the Pennsylvania Sea Grant since September updating an extensive website on aquatic flies. The website was last updated in 2002.

Patton and her group are now in the design phase of their senior design project.

They are developing a user-friendlier program to perform a subset of the Maple program, which evaluates certain calculus functions.

Patton has taken charge of the reporting and presentation part of the project, according to Walker. Each member of the team contributes to the overall planning of the product by tackling a separate aspect.

The team will complete the design phase of this yearlong project in February, when they will actually begin to build the product. "Now they're starting to treat me like I'm one of them," said Patton in reference to the men in her major and senior design group.

Walker says that the teams for senior design go through the "formin', stormin', normin'" cycle where the teams form, then accustom themselves to working as a team

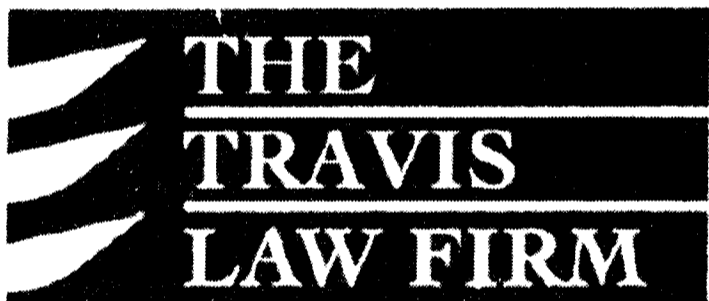
and finally normalize their working behavior.

"So far, Lindsay's team has done a lot of formin', but not a lot of stormin'," said Walker. "But they will."

Unlike other colleges, Behrend's senior design projects in computer science have a 100 percent completion rate. Walker hopes to continue on this trend indefinitely.

Jason Jennings, Patton's teammate in charge of interface and graphics, thinks it's about time for a female to graduate in their major. "I'm kind of surprised she is the first," he said. "It just seems like something either sex can do."

"There's no capability difference between men and women in the field," said Walker. "I've worked with women, for women and managed women and there's absolutely no difference."



Greener Behrend Task Force Tips for January 28:



Too "plugged in"?

The economic boom in our consumer-oriented society, the growth of new technologies, and the changing workforce-more people working from home-have dramatically increased the number of products that require power in the average home. Some of today's homes sport multiple computers, printers, faxes, TVs, VCRs, DVD and CD players, and hair dryers.

Computer equipment is the fastest growing electric load in the world. Unfortunately, much of the energy for computers is wasted because they are often kept on while not in use.

Furthermore, many idle appliances-TVs, VCRs, cable boxes, DVD and CD players, cassette decks, cordless phones, burglar alarms, microwaves-continue to consume energy when switched off. This energy keeps display clocks lit and memory chips and remote controls working. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory calculates that these energy "leaks" account for 5 percent of total domestic electricity consumption, cost more than \$3 billion annually, and spew 18 million tons of carbon into the atmosphere.

Idle TVs and VCRs alone cost U.S. consumers more than \$1 billion a year, or some \$30 per household. Emissions from power plants supplying that electricity are equal to the pollution caused by 2 million cars! New technology in ENERGY STAR qualified TVs and VCRs will reduce wasted energy by up to 50 percent.

Activate your "sleep" feature on ENERGY STAR qualified home office equipment (PC, fax, printer, scanner)-so that it automatically powers down when not in use to save up to \$70 annually in electricity bills and improve product longevity.

Turning off your computer during long periods of non-use cuts costs and improves longevity.

Each year, Americans spend more money to power home audio and DVD products when turned off than when actually in use.

Every kWh of electricity you avoid using saves about 1 1/2 pounds of CO2 from being pumped into the atmosphere. If over the next 15 years, Americans bought only ENERGY STAR qualified products, we would shrink our energy bills by more than \$100 billion and eliminate as much greenhouse gas pollution as is produced by 17 million cars for each of those 15 years! (<http://www.energystar.gov/>)

(Information provided by: Alliance to Save Energy, 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 900, Washington DC 20036)



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