

# NEWS

## Who are you voting for in the SGA election?



"Justin because he's very friendly to work with."  
Sabina Medilovic,  
HSTBA 02



"It's between Zach and Deepti. They are both really close to me."  
Xenia Tomlinson,  
PSYBA 04



"I have not decided yet who I am voting for."  
Jason Campbell,  
MISBD 06



"Justin. He is a hard worker."  
Dilip Varghese,  
ME BD 06



"Deepti Soni because she is the most responsible for the job."  
Cyndi Morales,  
BIOBD 02

Suggestions for question of the week? Send ideas to brs191@psu.edu

## Costa Rica trip open to all

By Amanda Allen  
staff writer

The final registration deadline for the Tropical Biology: Exploring Costa Rica 2005 trip is set for the first week in May. Academic excursions to Costa Rica first began over winter break in 2002; students returned to the country one year later. "We have a wonderful connection in the country, Rafael Robles, that we have used in two previous trips," said Mangel. "The first trip took place over winter break 2002/2003. The second trip took place over winter break 2003/2004. Both experiences were incredible and life changing for everyone involved."

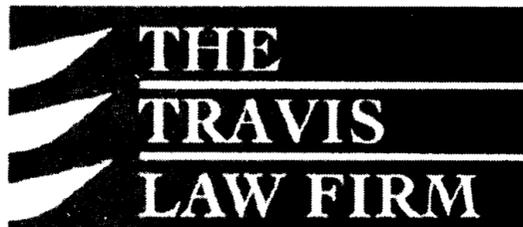
Rafael Robles, an acclaimed Costa Rican tour guide and naturalist, will guide students through their excursion. During their time in Costa Rica, students will visit many different ecosystems including a volcano, a cloud forest, riverine systems and beach ecosystems where they will listen to local presentations and give presentations of their own, as well as explore the ecosystems. Along with exploring the country of Costa Rica, students will be able to earn undergraduate/graduate and Act 48 hours, along with fulfilling travel abroad requirements. Tropical Biology: Exploring Costa Rica 2005 is open to the general public, including non-Behrend students. "That is what makes this

offering special from what we have had in the past. Biology majors, non-biology majors, Behrend students, non-Behrend students, undergrads, grads, etc. can all take this class. There are different criteria for each offering," said Mangel. Students will pay just shy of \$2,000 for their travel costs which include round-trip travel from Erie to Liberia, Costa Rica, seven-nights lodging, land and boat transportation, meals and guide resources. Credit tuition and fees will vary. A deposit of \$200 is due by April 8, 2005. Students interested in registering for this summer course should call the Center for Corporate and Continuing Education at 814-898-6103.

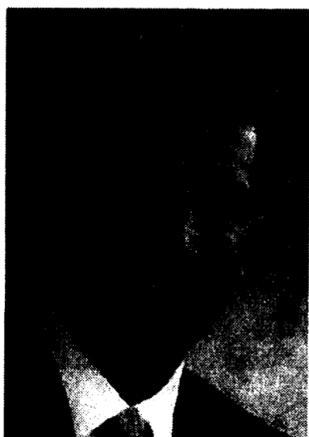
## Behrend students for sale Date auction to raise money

By Courtney Straub  
contributing writer

Every year the Resident Assistant class completes a community service project. This year some of the students plan to hold a date auction to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The auction will be held April 5 at 7 p.m. in Bruno's. A variety of students will be participating in the auction. If a student is bought for a date they will be sent to a movie sponsored by the LEB. The students in the class work together in groups to complete fundraisers. Erin Daquelente and Gino Lombardo are the two students who first thought of the date auction idea. "I thought it would be a fun idea to do the date auction," said Daquelente. "However, everyone in my class is willing to help along with a few RAs." "They're doing a great job organizing it," said Erin Hilla, a member of the Resident Assistant class. "I'm really impressed with the time they've put into it." According to www.wish.org, Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Make-A-Wish is one of Penn State's philanthropies. That is why the Resident Assistant classes fundraise to make a wish come true. Each wish that Make-A-Wish grants is special so there is no set price on how much it takes to grant a wish. "We have been doing canning and other programs to help raise money as well to help make a girl's wish come true," said Daquelente.



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## Graduation information

By Christina Hakel  
staff writer

Seniors despairing about the lack of information about graduation have many sources they can contact. Students should not wait for information to come to them; they should go out and get it. The Commencement Ceremony will take place May 14 in the Junker Center. Students should meet around 11:15 in their designated areas. Students in the Sam and Irene Black School of Business, Engineering and Engineering Technology and Science should all meet at the Junker Center Running Track. Students in Humanities and Social Sciences should meet in the Junker Center Aerobics Room. Five tickets will be issued to each graduate and can be picked up April 4 from 10 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. and Tuesday April 5th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Reed Wintergarden during Senior Salute Days. Class rings, personalized commencement announcements, caps and gowns can also be purchased during these times. A navy baccalaureate or associate degree cap is \$22.95 plus tax. A black graduate degree cap, gown and hood are \$44.95 plus tax. A photograph will be taken of each graduate being congratulated by the CEO and Dean Jack Burke. An order form will be sent out, but if it is not received by May 7, students can contact the Office of the CEO and Dean at 814-898-6160. Spectators will not be allowed to approach the platform with personal cameras. Since parking is limited in the Junker lot, shuttles will be running to and from the Junker lots to all lots. Guests should arrive no later than 11:30 a.m. Students not attending the ceremony should complete a Notice to Graduate in Absentia form in the brochure mailed out or at <http://pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/academic/registrar/commencement-form.htm>. For more information, students can contact the Office of the CEO and Dean at 814-898-6160 or visit the graduation website at <http://pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/academic/registrar/commencement.htm>. This site also contains accommodation information for nearby hotels.

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