



## YEAR IN REVIEW

### Survey suggests satisfied students High scores in studying, fewest classes skipped

By Meghan Whitesel  
from the Sept. 17 issue

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 and University Park colleges, 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 of 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 Miller. "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."

### Senat Hall comes up short?

By Aaron J. Amendola and Adam McLachlan  
from the Oct. 24 issue

Freshmen residents of the newly built Senat Hall have been having quite the time since moving in. The hall, which began its construction last year, was built with accommodating new freshmen students in mind.

Senat Hall was specifically designed to meet the needs of freshman students in the First-Year Interest Group program. Students will only be housed in Senat for their first year at Behrend and must remain in the FIG program their first semester.

With operational elevators on each floor (for handicapped students), several lounges and study rooms for residents to mosey around in and with an updated look from the Niagara and Perry dorm halls, Senat Hall is aiming to please.

The hall, which opened in August, cost \$11.9 million and is supposed to hold around 150 students, all of whom will be grouped by academic major. The hall is named after Acting Sailing Master George Senat, commander of the schooner Porcupine.

With three floors to fill the demand of incoming students, plenty of fun can be had at every corner, but there's also room for some errors.

Rob Covert, BIO 05, an RA on Senat's second floor said Senat has "a great atmosphere for students. It's a lot more conducive to studying than the other dorms. Not everything is perfect though."

"They've had a few problems with plumbing and the sewer backing up the first day... All the kinks are basically out now," said Covert.

Melissa Damon, PSHBS 01, had emphasized the air conditioning. "I love having air conditioning," said Damon. "Even though some nights, it is almost too cold, it is still great to have in your dorm room."

Staci Rowlands, ACCOU 01, and Lindsay Porter, DUS 01, second floor Senat residents, seem to have already bonded into great friends along with other Senat students. "The floors are bonding, we're all pretty tight...there's still a little bit of rivalry though," said Rowlands. "The only bad thing is the construction outside when we're trying to sleep in. The floor of our shower wasn't done...but we've been making the best of it."

The incomplete bathrooms have been the only repetitive complaint from Senat residents, also coming from Jason Dellosala, BIO 01, who said, "It's awesome compared to the other dorms...they just had to come in an finish our bathroom."

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### Student's vehicle meets untimely demise

By Bradley Stewart  
from the Sept. 10 issue

"Grab life by the horns" is a well known Dodge advertisement. But on Sept. 3, that was the last thing on Rick Haibach's mind when he was called out of class and told his Dodge truck had rolled into the gorge.

"It must have popped out of gear," claimed Haibach, pointing to the spot where his black, 95 Dodge Ram had been before he went to class that Friday morning. "It's a standard, and I left it in first gear."

Somehow from the time that Haibach parked his car and went to his morning class the truck managed to roll halfway across the Engineering parking lot, just northwest of the Benson Building, hopped the curb, and slid down the hill thirty feet, coming to rest, after flipping, against a tree.

"I knew it was bad when I saw it," said Adam Miloser, Plastics Engineering, 03, a friend of Haibach's. "It was upside down and you could see the underneath."

Patrick Ganje, who was unavailable for comment, was the first to notice the runaway truck and reported the incident to the Prischak Building office, who contacted Police and Safety. Police and Safety arrived on the scene, identified the vehicle and owner, tracked down a copy of his schedule and went to his classroom.

"I can only remember one other time that a vehicle went rolling down a hill" said Property Protection Guard Dan Leshe. "That was years ago up by Dobbins."

It took two tow trucks to remove Haibach's vehicle from the gorge: One to drag it out and another to take it away. When asked about the possibili-



BRAD STEWART/BEHREND BEACON

Rick Haibach, PLTBD 03, watches as his truck is prepared to be taken away. Police Services Officers Dave Leshner and Trevor Pearson stand in the background.

ty of guardrails, Police and Safety said it was an operations issue.

The truck was totaled, unfortunately

for Haibach, but Police and Safety said he could return his parking pass for a full refund.