

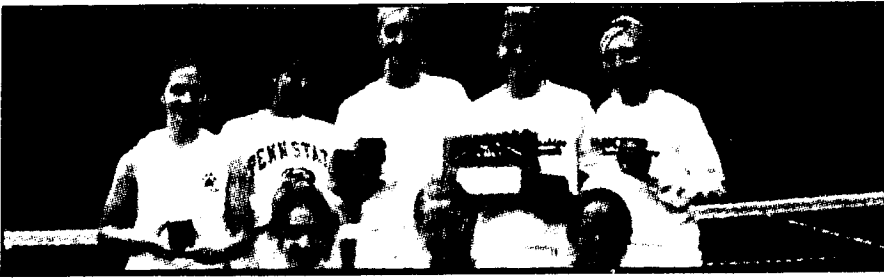


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# THE BEHREND BEACON

Friday, October 21, 2005

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

OCT 24 2005

Vol. LIII No. 9

## Sorority sisters support bi-annual blood drive

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With all of the natural disasters ravaging the country, what is a better way to lend a helping hand than by donating blood? On Thursday, Oct. 20, Behrend's social sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha sponsored a blood drive by the Community Blood Bank of Western Pennsylvania from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Reed McGarvey Commons. Thursday's drive was one of two of this year's bi-annual blood drives held by the sorority.

Community Blood Bank coordinator Nicole Eller was satisfied with Thursday's turnout. She said that everything went smoothly and "on pace." She mentioned that there would probably be about 60 donors for the day; most drives collect blood from about 70 people. Though the drive did not reach last year's mark of 80 donors at the time of interview, Eller stated, "There is usually a bigger turnout in spring." She mentioned that last year's fall drive was hosted on a Wednesday, suggesting that the different day of the week would result in fluctuated numbers of donors.

Alpha Sigma Alpha senior Annie Jordan said, "I think that there was a good turnout for a Thursday. Even with the long classes, everything was going fast and [the Community Blood Bank staff] was doing a good job here." The sorority has been sponsoring blood drives with the same blood bank for many years, according to Jordan.

The majority of the students who attended the blood drive donated blood for the common cause of helping people. Freshman Kevin Jackson donated blood for the first time on Thursday to "help people out." He said that he always wanted to donate blood, but was never presented with the opportunity to do so. Junior Jenna Yankowski donated for the first time for the same reason. She said that she came to the drive because she saw a flyer on campus. Freshman Brian Thompson has donated blood

four or five times before Thursday and started donating through his high school blood drives. He said that donating blood is a good cause and everyone should "donate blood to help other people." He continued, "It's not a big deal and it doesn't take very long." All of the donors interviewed said that they were not nervous about donating.

Eller said that the Community Blood Bank is the only supplier of blood to all of the hospitals in Erie, Elk, McKean and Warren counties. According to Eller, Community Blood Bank supplies 100 percent of the blood needs for 12 area hospitals, including Hamot Medical Center and Saint Vincent Health System. Eller said, "The best reason to donate blood is of course to save lives. But, the best

reason to donate blood to a community blood bank is to supply blood to the area that you live in." Community Blood Bank is also the preferred provider (but not the only provider) for six hospitals in New York including Westfield Memorial Hospital, Brooks Memorial Hospital (Dunkirk), WCA Healthcare System (Jamestown), TLC Health Network (Irving), Olean General Hospital and Jones Memorial Hospital since Feb. 15.

Of the 36 members of Alpha Sigma Alpha, many of the sisters volunteered with the drive. Jordan said, "The new members don't have to come, but some of them volunteer anyway." According to Eller, the sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha help to promote the drive by posting flyers around campus and by assisting at the registration table. Eller said that the drives are organized through Student Health services and hosted by a campus organization in this case Alpha Sigma Alpha. Eller said, "[Community Blood Bank] would love to come out more than twice a year for other organizations."

Eller said that Community Blood Bank "look[s] forward to the academic year, as [the bank] can collect a large amount of blood in a little amount of time which in turn creates a good boost of the local blood supply." If any other campus organizations are interested in hosting a blood drive, please contact Nicole Eller at the Erie Branch, 814-456-4206.



Kathryn Carstater/THE BEHREND BEACON

Matt Decker is one of many Behrend students, staff and faculty who donated their blood.

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## Angel gifts brighten up Christmas

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Preparation for the holiday season seems to come earlier each year, and with December more than two months away, not many people have gotten into the magical spirit of Christmas. However, it is never too early to make a difference in a child's life by donating to the Angel Gifts Program. The Angel Gifts Program is sponsored by Reality Check and the St. Martin's Center for Service, and they have been bringing joy to children of the Erie area during the holiday season for years.

The Angel Gifts Program is designed to ensure that all children experience a fulfilling Christmas that can shine a light of hope onto the troubles in their lives. The whole holiday season is about the love of family and taking the time to appreciate the little joys of life. Parents and guardians must sign their children up to become eligible for the program. Then, there is a waiting period as the staff of Reality Check investigates the family history and their financial situation, determining their eligibility. Kelly Wertz ShROUT, a member of Reality Check and head of the Angel Gifts Program said, "We expect to

see more candidates this season because of the higher gas prices and because of the higher living standards. It has made everyday necessities difficult and sometimes the parents can't even provide that, which makes buying Christmas gifts seem impossible. This year we have over two thousand children in the program."

There is still hope of a memorable Christmas for the Angel Gifts children if the citizens of the Erie area, the students and faculty of Penn State Erie included, take action and get involved in the inspiring cause by adopting a child for Christmas. Anyone that is willing to take the time and financial efforts of adopting a child is welcomed and appreciated by Reality Check and St. Martin's Center for Service. When adopting a child, you not only have the opportunity to bring happiness to a child on Christmas morning but also better the lives of the entire family, because as we all know, Christmas is not just about the presents. It is more about spending time with family and letting everyone know how much you care. Show that you care by contacting Kelly Wertz ShROUT at kaw148@psu.edu. The deadline to sign up for the program is approaching fast and volunteers will not be accepted after Oct. 28.

After committing to the program, participants and the Angels will receive their star which provides the child's information which includes the child's name, age, sex, clothing size and a small wish list. These stars should arrive in mid-November, giving the volunteers almost three weeks to do their shopping. Obviously, the volunteers are allowed to spend as much money on their adopted child as they would like, but the average amount spent is anywhere from \$25 to \$50. Volunteers should know that this is a commitment to the children. When signing up, they should want to help in making a difference, so fulfilling the duty is expected.

On Dec. 9, the gifts should be wrapped and brought to the Smith Chapel. The gifts need to be turned in weeks before Christmas because of the overwhelming amount of gifts that are brought in. The process to sort all of the gifts and pair them up according to family takes the majority of December. However, the donated gifts will always make it under the tree on Christmas morning where the children get to take part in the happiness and excitement which is the holiday season.

## Teaching Workshop helps professors relate to students

By Justin DeSantis  
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Next week, in the continuing Penn State Behrend College Teaching Workshop Series, faculty members will be involved in a lesson. But it's not your usual lesson. The next event will be about obtaining, interpreting and responding to student feedback of the professor's teaching style. The goal is for professors to be more receptive to student feedback. It also serves to incorporate the ideas students have offered in order to improve the professors' own teaching styles. What follows is a blending of teacher ideas and student opinions that create more interactive teaching environments.

If that seems to be complicated, it really shouldn't be. The goal is to have the teachers and faculty who attend the workshop talk in a forum about new and inventive ideas. Each faculty member relates his or her own experiences and teaching styles, and then they engage in topics from their own philosophies about teaching. The event encourages faculty to reevaluate their own methods and come up with new and exciting forms based on other teachers. It also serves to better foster the camaraderie between the faculty members.

"We have a lot of top-notch teachers here, we want to help them reach their maximum potential of teaching," says Carla Torgerson, at the Center for Teaching and Educational Technologies.

There will be tips on how to make lectures more engaging for students and how to better retain interest.

The event is open to all teachers, full and part-time. Teacher's assistants are also allowed to come, although, students are not usually allowed to attend. The turnout has been approximately 25 faculty members for each of the last two events.

The workshop is being held in Reed 114. The next workshop will be offered Tuesday, Oct 25, and again on Wednesday, Oct 26. Both events are free of charge.

