

# NEWS

## Scheduling problems bring stress for faculty and students

By Kaylan Samec  
contributing writer

Penn State Behrend students are exhausted after a long battle of scheduling for the fall semester. Students had trouble deciding how to place specific courses into their busy schedules.

Some students need higher level courses for their majors, but they say they can't take all of them. A common problem for students has been that either the classes are scheduled at the same time or are only offered one semester per year. Students then have to wait for the next year to take all required courses, making them miss their expected graduation date.

While upperclassmen struggled for their specific classes, some newer students said they had problems deciding what they need as general education classes. A lot of freshmen students come to Behrend with undecided majors, leaving them confused of what courses to take that may help them later. Having a large variety of general education courses to choose from may seem like a good thing, but if a student chooses courses that will not work with their major, it may end up pushing their graduation date back. Penn State Behrend freshman Katrina Huevel said it was very difficult to choose classes without having decided on a major. "I'm not positive on what general education classes that I need to take," said Huevel. "Since I have no idea what I want to do it leaves many open options, but so open that I may be going in the wrong direction." Huevel discussed how she had another problem with scheduling since she is involved in the varsity sport cheerleading. "I have to fit all my classes before five o'clock so I can make it to practice," said Huevel. "Since I have to

cram all my classes with that time frame, there are classes that I am not often available after five."

While many freshmen students are struggling with fitting classes into their busy schedules, other students are struggling to graduate on time. Some Behrend transfer students said they are having problems with their credits transferring from another college to Behrend. Sophomore Chris Krysiak said that he should be a junior after transferring from Slippery Rock. "Most of my classes that did transfer from Slippery Rock were my general education classes," said Krysiak. "Most of the classes that I need to take are my major classes. But since I can't take all of them I want, they expect me to take general education classes that I already took at Slippery Rock." Krysiak plans to take summer courses to catch up to his planned graduation date.

**"Later students realize that they don't have all the classes they need to graduate..."**

-Dr. Troester

Not only is scheduling frustrating for students, it can be stressful for some advisors as well. Penn State Behrend Communication Professor and advisor, Dr. Troester said it is very difficult for everyone on campus. "The biggest problem for advisors is actually getting the students to see their advisors," said Dr. Troester. "Later students realize that they don't have all the classes they need to graduate and then finally come to speak to their advisor. So as advisors, we try to email students to remind them to speak to us so they can get the right classes and graduate on time." Penn State Behrend advisors and staff continue to support students with their busy schedules.

It is not too late to receive help from your advisor with your student schedule. Advisors and staff are always open for questions. If you continue to have problems with your schedule, make an appointment to speak with an advisor today.

## Returning adult student speaks out about Behrend's small adult student population

By Jessica Samol  
copy editor

At Penn State Behrend, Adult Students represent only 13 percent of the current student population. According to the Center for Adult Students at Behrend, an adult learner is a student who meets one or more of the following criteria: is 24 years of age or older, a veteran of the armed forces, returning to school after four or more years, and/or assuming multiple roles such as parent, spouse/partner, employee and student.

Adult student and English major Pamela Glass transferred to Behrend from Penn State Shenango last year. Glass began her education at Penn State Shenango, where 54 percent of the student body was adult learners. Transferring to the Behrend campus as an adult learner Glass says was quite an adjustment for Glass, as she said, "Throughout the day, I see very few adult learners."

Glass, who is a middle-aged mother, finds the university's description of an adult student to be misrepresentative, saying, "Many students take longer than four years to finish college, and graduate when they are 24 or 25 years old." In an English class that Glass is currently enrolled, she posted a discussion on the class message board asking students for their input on the university's description of an adult learner. Classmate Kayla Hammer responded saying, "I think that the age for adult learners should be raised to 30-years-old. I know a few people that will be 24 by the time they graduate." In addition, Hammer said, "My sister will be 24 way before she gets her diploma,

because she is currently overseas with the military. I don't picture her as an adult student."

Aside from the age issue of adult students, Glass believes that Behrend's campus has tried to create a welcoming environment for adult learners. One of the ways Behrend has done so is through organizations such as the Returning Adult Student Organization (RASO), whose purpose is to promote concerns of returning adult students while providing friendship and support to them and their families. However, Glass feels that adjusting to Behrend has been difficult, saying, "There does not seem to be quite as many social aspects, particularly events for adult students."

In comparison to Penn State Shenango, Glass feels that perhaps more adult learners attended the campus due to its accessibility and advertising for adult students. Glass describes the environment of Penn State Shenango, saying, "It was much more laid back. There seems to be a lot of competition and pressure among students at Behrend." Glass feels that Behrend places a much larger emphasis on its academics than Shenango, which has made her much more academic-centered.

Glass feels that the adult student population could get larger if Behrend advertised more to prospective adults. Furthermore, Glass thinks that Behrend needs some sort of provision to help and attract more adult learners. Despite being among the minority of adult learners at Behrend Glass is doing just fine. She is scheduled for an internship this summer at Meadville Universal Well Drilling Inc.

## Behrend students help with the Ophelia Project

By Sam Del Verne  
contributing writer

Behrend musicians are helping out by giving their time and talents to put together a concert of cover songs and originals. The Ophelia Project is an Erie-based organization that advocates healthy peer relationships. Students of Dr. Ursula Davis' COMMU 305 class are putting together the concert to raise money and awareness for the Ophelia Project. Students in the class contacted the organization, telling them they would like to help raise awareness. The Ophelia Project depends on people such as these musicians for support.

The benefit concert will feature Behrend student musicians that were asked to play the local show. Students volunteering to perform are Jefferson James, Ryan Gallagher, Brian Hutchison and Jeff Stempka.

The concert will be held at the Plymouth on Thursday, April 19 starting at 9 p.m. Students and others involved will be collecting donations for the Ophelia Project to benefit the local organization.

## International Institute Project continued from page 1

allow them to continue learning on their own time. Wilson said she was accompanied by Kelly Walczak (MKTG) who was also a big part of the International Institute Project. "I wanted to thank Kelly Walczak, Erin Winklevoss and Melanie Blass. They were all a huge help and it wouldn't have been such a success without their help," said Wilson.

Quing Liang, ESL Coordinator for the International Institute of Erie, said she was very interested in the fundraiser when she first heard about it. "Students have their own money problems with tuition, books and everything else, so we are thrilled when they just volunteer their time to help the immigrants merge into American culture. So when they help more by donating money and books, I am very impressed," said Liang. She explained that the money brought in by the International Institute Project will be used to purchase translation dictionaries for the families learning to speak and read English.

Liang said the ultimate goal of the International Institute of Erie is to help the immigrants achieve self-sufficiency, as many of them come from disastrous cultures and devastated countries. However, due to the recent decision to merge with, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USC), they have had to lay-off several employees and cut back on overall spending and supportive funding for the immigrants. According to their website, USC claims to "Address the needs and rights of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide by advancing fair and humane public policy, facilitating and providing direct professional services, and promoting the full participation of migrants in community life."

While Liang said the merging will benefit the International Institute of Erie, currently it has them in an uproar. "Volunteers have been an excellent support for us, especially all the support from college students at Gannon, Mercyhurst, Edinboro and Behrend. Even if they just come in and volunteer for a couple of hours, it makes such a difference. We are so grateful to Danielle and Professor Blasko, who has been sending her students to help us for years," said Liang.

For the past 87 years, Erie has been the resettlement destination for thousands of immigrants and refugees, and Liang said she believes it is because of the warm, family-friendly community of Erie. She commented that nearly 70,000 refugees come to the United States each year, and a few hundred of them come to Erie. However, many people are unaware of the annual increase of immigrants because Erie already has many different cultural communities established for the new immigrants to move into. Liang said, "The system first looks to see where the families are from. We have had families from all different places, like Bosnia, Ukraine, Russia, Iraq, Somali, Sudan and Turkey where they have suffered great religious persecution. If they already have families in the U.S., then they are usually placed with them. If not, then they are placed where communities have already been set up like Erie."

Liang also stressed the value of college students who volunteer and work with the immigrants who are around the same age. "They help them and know that someone here is going to look out for them. Then they can say, 'I have an American friend now,' and that is so important to their transition," said Liang. This concept was also part of the International Institute Project's mission, to help students become aware of the organization and get them invested and involved in the lives of the immigrants. Wilson was previously quoted as saying, "We also want people to know their stories, so we will have pictures and information about some of the refugees at our tables so people can really see who they are helping." Wilson said she now hopes that the donations, efforts and awareness of Behrend students will continue through volunteering at the International Institute of Erie, as the gift of time, communication and direct interaction is the most influential donation.

To find out more about the International Institute of Erie or to sign up to volunteer go to [www.interinstitute.org](http://www.interinstitute.org), or call (814) 452-3935.

## Spend your summer at Penn State Behrend!



### Summer sessions at Penn State Behrend

4-week session  
May 14-June 1

4-week session  
May 14-June 5

4-week session  
June 11-July 25

Late summer  
3-week session  
July 30-August 17

## Quotes on Civility

**"Let me never fall into the vulgar mistake of dreaming that I am persecuted whenever I am contradicted."**

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility



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