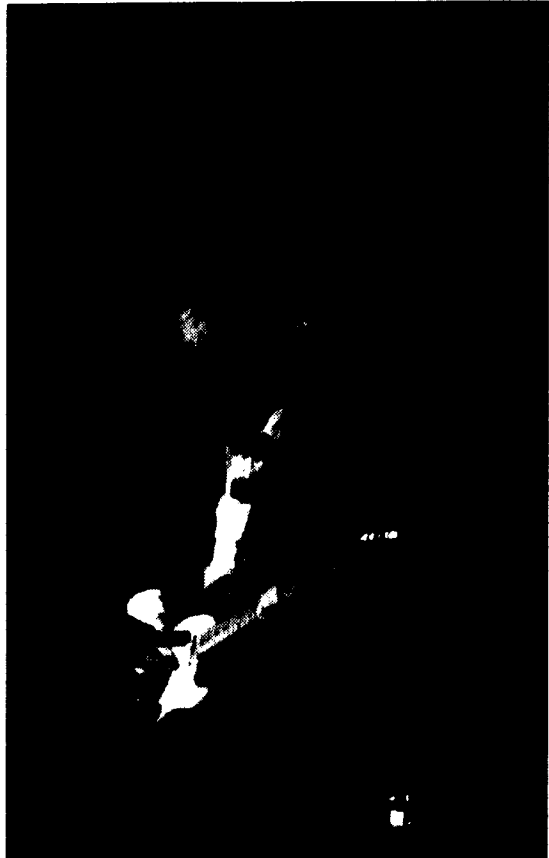
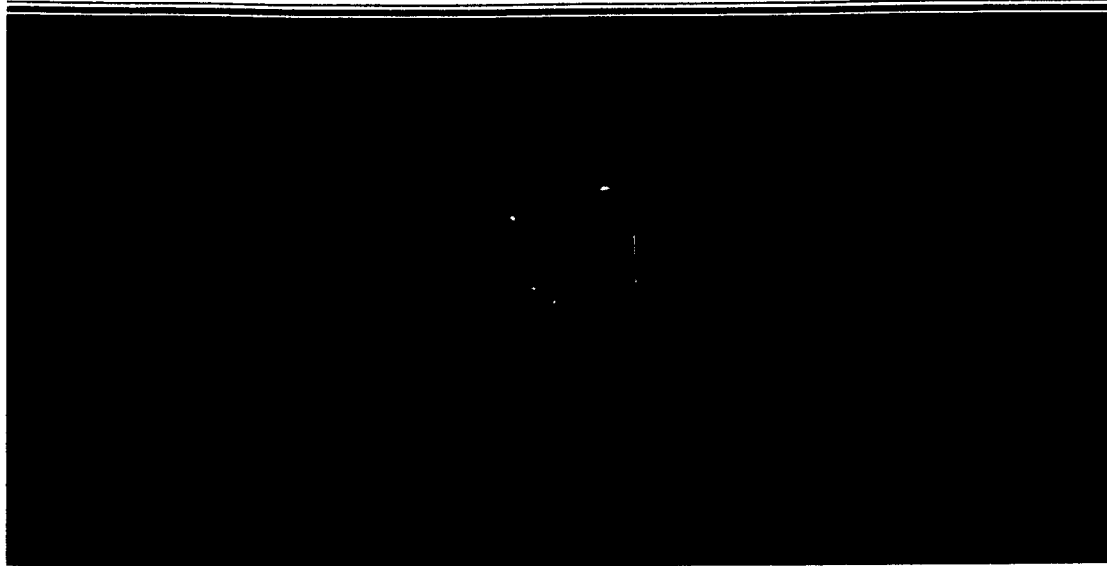


# NEWS



Keegan McGregor/THE BEHREND BEACON

The Clarks entertained students with a free concert in Erie Hall. They played hits from their whole catalogue.

## Behrend nursing program to hold information session

**By Molly Bonavita**  
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The nursing program at Behrend is a two-year Associates Degree. This program consists of liberal arts, science and a focused nursing program that prepares students for jobs in hospitals and long-term care facilities. After earning their degree, students can take the NCLEX, which is the exam where students can earn their licenses. The National League accepts Penn State Behrend's associate degree for Nursing Accrediting Commission and the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing; graduates are eligible to take the national registered nurse licensing examination administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. This program can be completed by full time and part-time students with 68 credits of course work.

The program, due to it being a two-year program, is intensive and demands effort. A freshman in the program, Ashley Gazdak, says, "The program is hard and requires intense studying, but as long as you work hard, the program can be accomplished." She also adds that the professors are very helpful and they soon hope to extend the program to a 4-year associates degree. "Many of the students work at clinical sites and hospitals, so you get real-life expe-

rience," Gazdak states. If you are a hardworking student and nursing is what you dream of, then this is the program for you. It may be time-consuming, but it prepares students for the work and gives them hands-on experience in hospitals in the community.

There will be an admissions information session on Nov. 12 for those students who are interested in the program. The event will be in the Otto Behrend Science Building Room 101 at 6 p.m. There will be faculty from the Nursing program available to answer questions students may have about the application process, prerequisite coursework, and scheduling options. At the beginning of the program, there will be a short presentation that will give an overview of the program. After, students will be able to meet with faculty to discuss timelines and answer any questions students may have. There will also be a tour of the program's nursing technologies and patient simulation laboratories.

"As a student, I think this information session is a good opportunity for students to meet with professor, learn more about the program, and ask any questions they may have," says Gazdak. The program is free to all students, but registration is requested. This can be done by phoning the Office of Admissions at 814-898-6100.

## ImaginePlastics.com spotlights Behrend plastics

**By Marcus Yeagley**  
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Matthew Yeagley was once a student at Penn State Behrend. Graduating with a degree in Plastics Engineering, he would go on to become a Product Engineer for International Automotive Components. "My education and experience at Behrend helped me jump right into my job designing plastic automotive components," says Yeagley, reflecting on his time in Erie. "Many of my co-workers were surprised by how much I knew."

The Penn State Behrend Plastics Department where Yeagley learned the skills to help start his career is one of the most highly developed of its kind in the United States. So much so that the website ImaginePlastics.com has done a profile of it. ImaginePlastics.com, which was created with a grant by the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative to the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, is a Flash page containing many videos and links to information about various plastics engineering programs. It was founded to help encourage students and parents to think about, consider, and explore working in the plastics industry - one which is growing at a substantial rate.

In a video targeted at parents visiting the website, Todd Kennedy, the President of McClarin Plastics, Inc., describes the kinds of people he believes are fitted for the industry: "...[T]hey have a curiosity. They see things and they think to themselves, 'Wow, I don't understand how that could possibly be made. What are the methods? What are the processes? How does this apply to my life?' And they had an instinctive interest."

On the website, five students and alumni from

Penn State Behrend, along with three from the Pennsylvania College of Technology, are interviewed about their interests in, enthusiasm for, and professions within the field of Plastics Engineering.

An alum of Behrend, Jason Williams, talked about his company K-Developmental, which he founded, and how his experiences as a child and as a college student helped shape him into a successful plastics engineer. "Growing up I was always a tinkerer taking things apart," said Williams in his video on the website. "Both my brother and I were the same in that regard. I had model trains growing up. I built a lot of plastic models growing up. I was always building, building something or creating something. And it's just kind of an extension of that."

Tiffany Beers, who received a B.S. in plastics engineering technology from Behrend in 2002, tells the site of her love for her job title of "Innovator" for Nike, Inc. "I loved this title when I got it because it's not just an engineer, it's not just a developer, or it's not a designer. It's a combination of all three." She goes on to tell of her involvement with an interchangeable airbag system for shoes.

Echoing Williams and Beers are Alicyn Rhoades, a researcher for Southern Mississippi University, who tells of her involvement with materials research for plastics, Mikael Wagner, an undergraduate student here at Behrend, who talks of his participation in a racecar project, and lastly Lynzie Collard, a junior, who interned at Bausch & Lomb to help improve contact lens.

The Penn State Behrend plastics department is located in the REDC, along with the Black School of Business. Behrend offers seven baccalaureate degrees and three associate degrees, along with one minor in the Engineering field.

## Student-run recycling program cleans up campus

**By Rachel Reeves**  
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As an adult student and a commuter, the parking lots were something that Cronmiller saw each and every day. One troubling thing that he began to notice was the amount of litter, and the lack of waste receptacles. Cronmiller observed that the nearest trash bins were a long walk away, and as a result students dropped their garbage on the ground or just left it in their cars. Especially since the weather turned, no one wants to trek



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

across the parking lot just to dispose of their empty coffee cup. The bins that were closest did not even separate trash and recyclables. "The parking lots take up such a great area, and there's no way to get rid of things [right now]," Cronmiller says.

Cronmiller is part of the civic responsibility freshman interest group. His professor, Dr. Troester, assigned a sustainability project for the semester, and Cronmiller saw it as an opportunity. Along with the rest of his group, Cori Learn, Jessica Quiggle, Sameria Hassan, Christian Davis and Steven Naponic, and, with help from campus maintenance,

Cronmiller set up 16 recycling and trash receptacles throughout the lower Reed parking lot.

Cronmiller said that he had had the idea before, but through the FIG his project could get financial backing from the campus. He plans to monitor the bins with his group and account for how much

keeping the parking lots cleaner and bringing in some money, maintenance will take over the project and place bins in every parking lot. He would even like to some bins down by the apartments. Even though they are off-campus, the apartments produce a huge amount of waste.

This project means more to Cronmiller than just convenience for garbage-laden commuters. "I'm a 28-year old freshman," he explains. "I have a lot of years on people in seeing what's happening in the environment." He has noticed that usually no

waste is collected by the end of the semester. Since Oct. 28, when the bins were set up, over 200 pounds of trash have been collected. So far, the project is working. "A lot of students are actually becoming more responsible in using them," Cronmiller says. "[Now] it's as easy to recycle as it is to litter."

Cronmiller hopes that the waste can be turned in for profit. The whole idea for the parking lots bins is to take what used to be waste, and turn it into something the school can monitor and manage. If, at the end of the semester, the bins prove to be effective in

action is taken against litter until it becomes an eyesore, and he doesn't want to see that happen at Behrend. He has also observed that young students at Behrend could have a little more foresight. "It's just something so easy to deal with. It does not take a lot of effort to be responsible of what you dispose of and how."

So, the next time you are trekking through the Reed parking lot and finish off your coffee or McDonalds, take the few extra steps to a garbage bin. Not only will it keep your car cleaner, but also our campus, and ultimately, our world.

Do you want to gain valuable writing experience?

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E-mail News Editor Lenny Smith at [lrs5046@psu.edu](mailto:lrs5046@psu.edu)

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