

NEWS

SGA Platforms: know your candidate

Erin Kennedy – *President* (6th semester Communications/English)
Brad Kovalcik – *Vice President* (6th semester Creative Writing)

A vote for Kennedy and Kovalcik will enhance your Behrend experience. Combined, we have four years of SGA experience, and we are both involved in various other on-campus organizations including Greek Life and LEB. We will work toward lowering textbook costs to students, revising parking regulations, and an effective Student Activities Facility Fee. Internally, we will work to make SGA a more communication based and tight knit group. This will help SGA to work better together and become more prominent in the Behrend community. With these changes, SGA will be able to perform its primary function of assisting the student body in a more productive and efficient manner.

James Svolos – *University Faculty Senate Representative* (2nd semester Psychology)

As a new student, I am eager and dedicated to becoming part of the Student Government. I am capable of handling the responsibilities associated with the position of University Faculty Senate representative. One of Behrend's main attractions to students is the opportunity to work closely with professors and receive attention from faculty that is unfeasible at other universities. I plan to make sure that goal remains a reality and to strengthen the bond between faculty and students. I hope to work with both students and faculty to create opportunities for students to gain knowledge and experience that were previously unavailable.

Lauren Brake – *Senator* (6th semester Management)

I have served on SGA for a year and a half as the Panhellenic Council representative. During this time, I have learned a lot about campus as well as what students can do to help. I believe being a senator will make my understanding stronger. I will strive to be an accurate voice of the students and represent the student body to the best of my ability.

Ben Gilson – *Senator* (6th semester Business/Economics)

The student body needs not only a voice, but also action. This semester, I re-wrote the SGA Website, changed the budget process to facilitate 90% expenditures of allocated money, was approved to develop a website that collects ISBN numbers from faculty to display on a public website, coordinated the installation of an LCD TV to be placed in the Reed Union Building, and have aggressively repelled a proposed university-wide smoking ban. A vote for Ben Gilson is a vote to continue to improve Behrend and to show that we are the jewel of Penn State.

Lacey Shaffer – *Senator* (6th semester Communications)

I believe I should become a member of SGA because I think it is very important to get involved in campus life. It helps you know what's going on in student life and what you can do as a student to help other students with their needs. I also would like to be a member because I then can be one of the students that make important decisions about the campus of Penn State Behrend. I became a member mid-semester last year and would definitely like to continue as a Senator on SGA. I think becoming an SGA member in the past has helped me become well-rounded as a student.

Merve Senguler – *Senator* (2nd semester Business)

I am from Turkey, Istanbul so I'm coming from a different background than many students at Behrend. I believe that I can bring diversity and different ideas to the Student Government Association. I have been in the group as a secretary in Spring 2008 and it was a great experience for me. I would love to be a part of it again.

Sara Green – *Senator* (3rd semester Communications)

I would like to be a SGA senator because I enjoy being able to participate and be included in the issues around campus. I have learned so much while being on the senate this semester and would like to continue to have an opportunity and represent the students of Penn State Behrend. I feel like I continue to bring a different perspective and a new outlook of what can be done to get students involved. I personally feel that being able to vote and have a say in what directly affects me as a student is an immense privilege; and I would like to continue to be a part of it.

Molly Thomas – *Secretary* (4th semester Computer Science)

As secretary for the Behrend Student Government Association, I would like to assist the executive board in day to day operations, maintain a clean and functional office, and keep Senate members and students well-informed. I believe that an organized and dedicated secretary can be a great asset to the workings of the Senate and can keep business running smoothly. The secretary will also make all legislation, events, and other important information easily accessible to the group. I believe that my two years of dedicated involvement to SGA has prepared me for this position.

Amy Wagner – *University Faculty Senate Representative* (2nd semester Biology/Pre-Med)

If elected to the UFS position, I will improve the link between UFS and the Behrend SGA. I will present relevant, impactful legislation to the Behrend SGA in a meaningful, yet time effective manner. Being able to communicate both the importance and effect of the UFS individual pieces of legislation will be priority one. A vote for Amy Wagner will help to secure the SGA with a dedicated, efficient, and informative University Faculty Senator. Help give the SGA Senate and executive board the required scope to make good decisions.

James Wolfe – *Senator* (8th semester Mechanical Engineering)

With four years of SGA experience, I feel I'd make a great senator candidate. I am a former SGA President from Penn State Fayette and the 2007-2008 THON Chair for Penn State Behrend. I've also attended CCSG for 3 years, so I know a fair amount about issues facing the Commonwealth as a whole. I look forward to serving as a voice for the student body once again.

Matthew Foulk – *Senator* (2nd semester Aerospace Engineering)

I wish to continue my work as a senator. I have proven myself so far as never missing a meeting and being an active member in SGA. I will continue to help solve problems such as the random blackouts in the outdoor lighting and the trouble with scheduling on eLion. I hope I remain a voice for the students.

Nate Boring – *Senator* (Sophomore Political Science)

As an SGA Senator, I am certain that I can positively benefit the student body at Penn State Behrend. Among my experience that qualifies me to represent the student body is my extensive involvement in Student Government at the high school level. I served as both treasurer and president of my high school student council. I undertook responsibilities such as officiating weekly officer meetings and coordinating Red Cross blood drives. I hope for the chance to share what I have learned through my personal experience in student government and for the chance to serve the students of Penn State Behrend.

Daniel Frankel – *Senator* (Senior Business Management)

As senator, I will continue to represent the student body of Penn State Erie. My experience on SGA and as a Behrend student makes me a great choice for senator. I will share ideas that my peers share with me. I will challenge any controversial issue discussed by Senate. Votes made by me will represent the needs of my fellow students. As senator, I will always help all other SGA members in any way possible. My commitment to the Student Government will never waiver. Vote Dan Frankel for Senator.

300 students change assignment to University Park for Fall 2008

By **Angelica Stoltzfus**
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Every year a portion of the sophomore class says their good-byes to Penn State Behrend, their newly established relationships, and faculty to venture onward to the mother of all campuses, University Park. This year is no exception to this trend with approximately 300 students changing assignment for the fall of 2008. Behrend remains docile about seeing its former students move on, because the enrollment for Behrend in the Fall of 2008 is certainly something to acknowledge.

Aaron Marks, a hockey player for the PSB Hockey Club team admitted that his major was the primary motivation for him to transfer. He has now declared a Communications major specializing in the Arts and Science department and is thrilled to take on the "new scene that University Park has to offer."

Unfortunately he has not had the opportunity to schedule classes because the deadline is different at such a large campus. He did say that "housing was easy to find" and he expressed no concern for the extreme changes he will experience in the fall of 2008.

Overseer in the Department of Records at Behrend, Mary E. Bayuk was reluctant to report that "it's hard to say how many will be transferring because stu-

dents tend to confuse which college to select during scheduling. We run into problems," Bayuk explained, "because students who do not want to leave accidentally select University Park when scheduling and vice versa for those who actually plan to transfer." She did acknowledge that the majority of the sophomore class requested to stay at Behrend- understandably so after

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-Patricia Dingcong student

already finishing four semesters. For some students, the chance to go to University Park has been their intent since the beginning. Aseel Soudah, a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, expressed that she "always wanted to give University Park a try." Her plan was to start somewhere small then move on to a larger, more populated school. Unlike Marks, Soudah is not leaving because of her major but more because the mere "excitement and opportuni-

ties" that the large campus has to offer her. Soudah also reported that scheduling classes was "simple and easy; nothing more than scheduling for Behrend classes."

Unlike Soudah, Patricia Dingcong originally applied to University Park and was disappointed when admissions sent her to Behrend. "I've always wanted to go to University Park," Dingcong admitted, "now I finally have the chance and I am thrilled." Dingcong also wished that Behrend would expand their class sizes and offer more classes for students to schedule according to their major. Dingcong is also part of the sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha and plans to continue her activity in Greek life if the University Park chapter is similar to Behrend's.

But for the mass majority of students, many choose a major that is fitting to Penn State Behrend. Michael Sceiford announced his major was finance and he decided to remain because he "already knows a lot of people and the faculty too." He looked into transferring at one point and totally rejected the idea because he would be required to obtain foreign language credits and begin a double business major. "Both are out of the question," he stated. Sceiford said that he, unlike Dingcong, enjoyed the smaller class sizes and "couldn't imagine sitting in a class of 299 other students."


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