

# NEWS

## A look back over the past 10 years at Penn State Behrend

- 1997**
- Logan House refurbished and dedicated.
  - Almy Hall, residence unit, opens.
- 1998**
- Penn State Erie celebrates 50th anniversary.
  - School of Business receives \$20 million endowment gift, the third largest gift in Penn State's history.
- 1999**
- First-ever All-Class Reunion held.
  - Ohio Hall, residence hall, opens.
  - Knowledge Park at Penn State Erie opens.
- 2000**
- 2001. -\$10.2 million Athletics and Recreation Center dedicated. (The facility will be renamed the Junker Center in 2001).
  - Mehalso Observatory and telescope erected.
- 2001**
- Enrollment stands at 3,700.
  - Dr. John M. Lilley leaves Behrend after twenty-one years as provost and dean to become president of the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Jack D. Burke named interim provost and dean effective July 1.
  - New baseball and softball complex opens.
  - Three new buildings open in Knowledge Park: a second office building, the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Technology, and the Penn State Behrend Child Care Center (relocated from Station Road).
  - The Larry and Kathryn Smith Chapel and Floyd and Juanita Smith Carillon opens, located across from the Library.
  - Construction begins on the Eastside Access Highway, which will run through campus and will connect the college and Knowledge Park to the Bay Front Parkway and downtown Erie.
- 2002**
- Design begins on the \$30 million Research and Economic Development Center, which will house the School of Business and the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology.
  - Two existing facilities named in honor of previous Behrend administrative heads. Students now study in the Irvin Kochel Center and the John M. Lilley Library.
- 2003**
- A Bachelor of Science degree in Science and a Master of Project Management are added to the curriculum. Penn State Erie now offers thirty majors, nineteen minors, and three graduate-degree programs.
  - The college breaks ground on a new residence facility, named Senat Hall, to open in fall 2004.
  - Behrend's 725-acre campus earns official recognition as an arboretum from the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.
  - Dr. Jack D. Burke named campus executive officer and dean, succeeding Dr. John M. Lilley as the college's top official.
  - The Sam and Irene Black School of Business named in honor of the Blacks' \$20 million estate gift for school endowments, originally announced as an anonymous gift in 1998. The Black School also achieves accreditation from AACSB International.
- 2004**
- A Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in creative writing is added to the curriculum. Penn State Erie now offers thirty-one majors, nineteen minors, and three graduate-degree programs.
  - The college breaks ground on the Research and Economic Development Center (REDC). Once completed, the center will effectively double the amount of classroom and office space at Behrend.
  - Senat Hall, Behrend's latest residence facility, opens to its first residents. The hall is open to first-year students participating in the Freshman Interest Groups program.
  - In December, Pascale Malouin traveled from her home in Edmonton, Alberta, to Erie to take part in commencement and become the very first graduate of Penn State's online Master of Project Management (M.P.M.) program. This marked the first time she had stepped foot on the campus.
- 2005**
- In January, an asteroid is named for Roger Knacke, director of the School of Science, in recognition of his astronomical work.
  - The Penn State Behrend Lion statue pounces into temporary quarters on the college grounds in February.
  - Penn State Behrend grants first groups of student SAP Certification. SAP certification gives students an edge in the job market after graduation.
  - At spring commencement, Penn State Behrend graduates its largest class in the college's history.
  - In June, the long-awaited Bayfront Connector opens, providing a direct route between Penn State Behrend and downtown Erie.
- 2006**
- The college's innovative Logan Music Series wins the Chamber Music America/American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' (CMA/ASCAP) Award for Adventurous Programming.
  - In May, Penn State Behrend moves its spring commencement to Tullio Arena to allow larger groups to attend.
  - The Research and Economic Development Center (RED-C) opens for student classes, research, and studies. The facility houses the Black School of Business and the School of Engineering.
  - Student enrollment at Penn State Behrend tops 4,000 for the first time. This is the largest incoming class in the history of the school.
  - An associate degree in Nursing is announced. Classes will begin in fall 2007.
  - The Penn State Behrend Lions athletic teams win their fifth AMCC Presidents' Cup in six years. The award recognizes the best overall athletic program in the conference.

\*A complete historical timeline can be found at [www.behrend.psu.edu/aboutPS/timeline.htm](http://www.behrend.psu.edu/aboutPS/timeline.htm)

## As Behrend grows, technology follows

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Penn State Behrend is not only celebrating its 60th anniversary, but is celebrating the highest number of students enrolled since 1948. There are about 4,400 students attending Behrend this year and roughly 1,100 of them are freshman. 75% of freshman said that Behrend was their first choice. However, the enrollment of freshman students is lower than in the past because Behrend admissions wanted to better accommodate the upperclassmen that planned on returning.

To prepare for the high number of people interested in Penn State Behrend this year, admissions raised the criteria. They were looking for people with a more competitive combination of high school GPA and SAT scores.

In the early 1990's, Behrend was no longer seen as a two-year but a four-year school. Still a good number of Behrend's upperclassmen were expected to continue their education at University Park. Recently Behrend has noticed that only about 25% of upper-

classmen actually leave come junior year. More and more students are willing to stay due to the campus' growth. "For a long time we really had pretty flat enrollment and we had to because we didn't have any room. Then with the REDC, that really enabled us to grow," said Mary-Ellen Madigan, head of Penn State Behrend's admissions. "What's nice about Penn State is that students have the option [to stay or leave], a lot of students come here with the plan of staying for two years. [they] get here

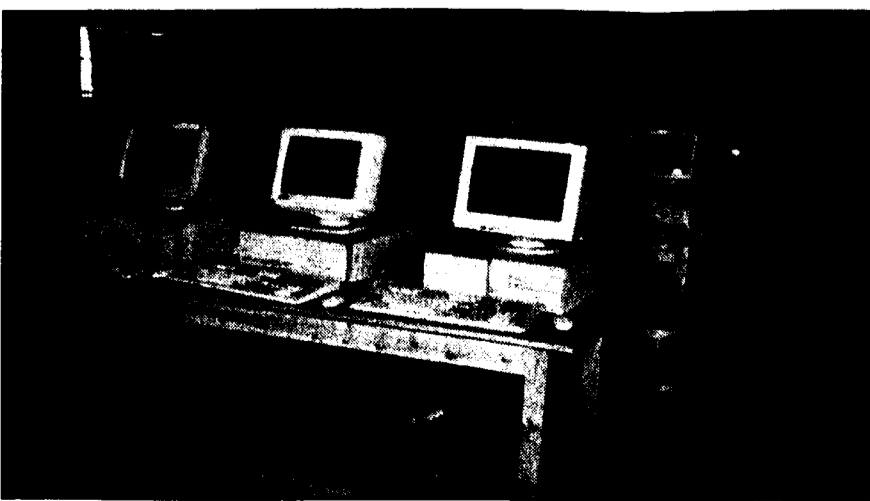
and decide they really like it. They met their friends here, they connect with faculty, and end up staying here all four years."

Penn State Behrend had made technological improvements in the past four to five years to better help prospective students, and even those already attending, by using AOL instant messenger throughout the admissions office. Mrs. Madigan receives three to four messages a day. "Sometimes I get messages saying 'where do I go for this?' It's a lot

less threatening then talking on the phone."

While the number of students using the instant messenger service is growing, so is the number of parents using the system for getting their questions answered quickly. Most of the offices on campus, and even other Penn State campuses, use instant messenger and will communicate with each other on a daily basis. "There is really good communication and cooperation between all the offices. We work cooperatively to ensure that we are doing what needs to be done so we can manage the whole enrollment [process]. It's providing a better service to students."

Penn State Behrend will undeniably see more and more students interested in attending. Renovations of the campus happen regularly and the plans for more housing are already in progress. Behrend is known and preferred because of its low student-to-teacher ratio that will also keep the number of students enrolled controlled. "I think how you do undergraduate education really well is the faculty being able to really work with the students and not having huge classes."



Behrend's technology has come a long way from these days



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top: Students wait outside of the Junker center for an event.

Bottom: Modern-day: A beautiful walk between classes at Penn State Behrend

## Anniversary: 60 years and growing

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**Athletics**

The first athletic opportunities that became available were the men's basketball and wrestling team, and the practices were held at Lawrence Park High School. Behrend now has twenty-one NCAA Division III varsity-sporting teams, in addition to the dynamic intramural program offered throughout the school, which attracts students to events so diverse that they can participate in anywhere from dodgeball to bowling.

**Faculty**

12 full-time faculty members were employed from the start. The faculty body has risen to a tremendous figure of 650 full-time and part-time employees, including 275 devoted professors.

**Degrees**

As previously mentioned, students could not finish their degrees at Behrend in the early stages. Jumping ahead to modern day, the college currently features over 40 degrees at the associate, bachelor's, and graduate levels.

**Residence Life**

The first residence hall, Perry Hall, did not appear until 1968, housing just 200 men and women. As of this year, over 1650 students live throughout the cam-

pus in a wide array of housing, including dormitories, suites, and apartments. Internet and cable television is standard everywhere.

The change has been substantial. A positively opportunistic place in endless ways. What once stood as a two year preface to an ultimate goal that students would reach over three hours away can now be fulfilled on a vibrant, natural, beautifully secluded environment that sits just off the Bayfront Connector. As far as Chancellor Burke is concerned, the biggest and most significant change has been the quality. But it's also the simple things that combined to boost this campus to its stance today.

It is interesting to hear the story of a historical success such as the tale that Behrend holds. What is even more interesting is the futuristic potential this thriving community possesses. I await the story of the 100 year anniversary; the immensity of it is hard to imagine.

Congratulations, Penn State Behrend. Congratulations to anyone who was ever a part of it. Alumni, faculty, and students alike can appreciate the past and wonder at the leaps and bounds to come in the future from such a great school.

### Letter from the editor

I just want to take a few hundred words to say welcome to all new students, and welcome back to the returning ones. This is my first time as news editor, however I have worked on the staff for the past two years, so in no way am I a novice. The past couple of years I have heard numerous complaints concerning stories that we've covered, or stories we haven't covered—that's how the media world runs. We will never please each individual. This is a reality I have accepted, however, it won't stop us from trying.

Here's the deal- our staff is not big, meaning we do not see everything that happens on this campus. Considering that the Beacon is a student-run paper, every student on this campus is responsible for what gets printed.

To illustrate that point a bit more clearly, if you see anything that you think qualifies as news- tell us. Simple as that. Send an e-mail, come to us directly (office in lower Reed), do it anonymously, or any other way you can think of. It will help to produce a successful paper, providing you with content that is more relevant to you, the reader.

This we all we ask. Whatever you think is important, there is a strong chance that we will too. So don't be shy, we're always looking to improve our services.

Sincerely,

Ryan P. Gallagher  
news editor