

# The Behrend Beacon

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## Swimming and diving teams claim AMCC Championship

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The Behrend Lions men's and women's swimming and diving team claimed their third straight AMCC Championship on Feb. 12-14 at Grove City.

"We had a great season," said assistant coach Joe Tristant. "Everyone exceeded the expecta-

tions of the coaching staff and by doing so, helped bring back to Behrend another AMCC Championship."

The women's team had strong performances from sophomores Krystal Kovach and Katie Van Epps, and freshman Anne Lawrence.

Kovach won both the one- and three-meter diving champi-

onships with a score of 405.35 and 422.8 respectively. According to the Behrend website, Kovach's scores are both consideration scores for the NCAA Championships, which will take place March 12-14.

Sophomore Katie Van Epps took first place in the 200 yard butterfly and second in the 200 and 400 IM. Freshman Anne Lawrence came in first in the 100-yard butterfly and the 200-yard backstroke, which gave her two AMCC Championships.

Kovach felt the women's team had a good overall performance this season.

"I feel that we did well this year," said Kovach. "The team consisted of mostly freshmen swimmers, so to see the girls working hard and winning AMCCs was impressive. I'm very proud of all the girls and I hope we can work just as hard next year and bring back another championship for the 09-10 season."

The men's team was led by sophomores Josh Weaver and Ben Strunk, and freshmen Dane Dombrosky and Steve Zomicik.

Scoring 43 points at the meet, Weaver proved to be the high-point winner. Weaver placed first in the 100- and 200-yard freestyle and second in the 500-yard freestyle. Dombrosky finished first in two individual races: the 500-yard freestyle and 100 fly.

Weaver, Dombrosky, Zomicik, and Strunk won four AMCC relay championships. The relay



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Behrend swimming and diving team claimed the AMCC title.

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## Behrend THON raises nearly \$30,000



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The Penn State Behrend dancers with their four diamonds family, The Dorers.

By Rachel Reeves  
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Despite challenges ranging from a falling economy to a car accident, this year Behrend was able to contribute nearly \$30,000 to the record-breaking THON. The Penn State total of \$7.49 million shattered last year's grand total by over \$800,000.

The money will go to the Four Diamonds Fund, which is an organization that provides financial support to families affected by pediatric cancer. Specifically, Behrend was raising money for the Dorer family. Rylee Dorer,

their seven-year old daughter, was diagnosed with T-cell lymphoma in October of 2007.

Molly Thomas, co-chair for The Behrend THON team, said that interacting with the Dorers made the long months of work worthwhile. Both Thomas and the co-chair Linh Nguyen cut their hair after growing it out for months for Rylee. The seven-year old, who cut off her own hair for treatment months earlier, finally realized that they had given up their hair for her when she was holding the pigtails in her hands. "We had given blood, sweat, tears and hair the entire year, and to see

her feel it made it worth it," said Thomas.

Thomas said that the dancers - Alyssa Beck, Allison Shearer, Jamie Mayer, and Julie Colvin - held up extremely well considering the circumstances. Immediately following a send-off dinner held in the Junker Center, Thomas and the dancers traveling to University Park were in a car accident. Since they could no longer drive, Thomas's parents came to pick them up and finish the trip to State College. The group finally arrived at the hotel

See THON on page 5

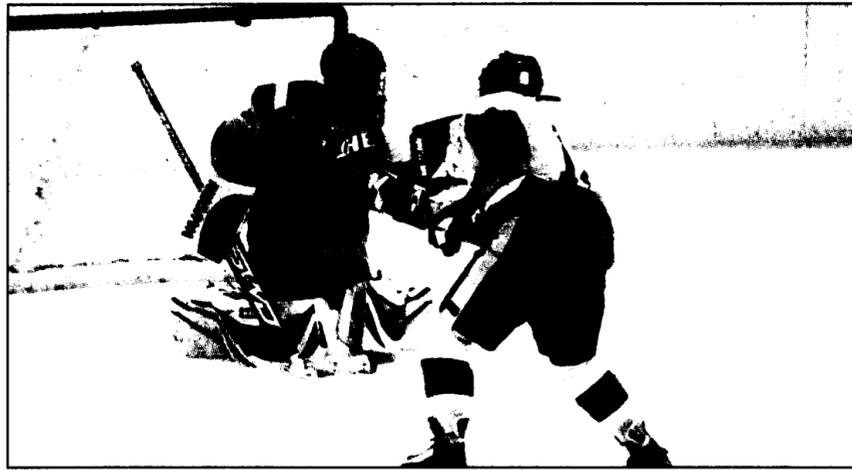
## Men's hockey club to play in league championship

By Christine Newby  
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The club men's ice hockey team etched their name into the Penn State Behrend history book as the first Behrend team to compete in the College Hockey East (CHE) Championship.

The Behrend Lions will play California University of Pennsylvania (Cal U) in a best-of-three championship series to determine the league champions of the CHE. The championship will take place at the Roy McKnight Hockey Center at Shady Side Academy, which is located in Fox Chapel, PA. The games will be Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:20 p.m., Saturday Feb. 28 at 5:20 p.m., and, if necessary, Sunday, March 1 at 2:20 p.m.

"Our team needs to start our game off at full throttle and not let them have an ounce of breathing room," said head coach Gio Duchini. "This includes attacking without hesitation, taking the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Behrend men's hockey club will be competing in the CHE Championship for the first time ever.

body when they can, and taking every shot we can, not just waiting around for the pretty ones. We sometimes come out flat and give our opponents the edge then decide to battle back once we are down. Cal is one of those teams

that can and will take every opportunity that is given to them."

The team is led by the captain of the team, Brysten Jones, who is in his fifth and final season as a graduate student at Behrend and president of the club. The assis-

tant captains are senior Brian Hammel, and juniors Chris Simanic and Matt Laskey.

The Behrend Lions were victorious last weekend in the first and

See CLUB HOCKEY on page 10

## Astronomy author speaks in REDC

By Marcus Yeagley  
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Hundreds of students, administrators, and visitors crowded into the Sam and Irene Black Conference Center to hear Dava Sobel speak Thursday night.

Sobel is a former New York Times science writer and author of many books covering various elements of astronomy. Her presentation was called "The Planets" and was based on her last book by the same name that was released in 2005.

The event was framed around several pieces of artwork. Sobel had commissioned them for the book by the well-known space artist Lynette Cook.

One of the first pieces of art Sobel displayed was one of a model of the planets within a bedroom, much like the ones created by young children in grade school. The window in the background showed the planet Earth in the distance, implying the model was created by some being from



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sobel spoke Thursday night.

another world.

All of the artwork emphasized similar offbeat elements and each part of her presentation consisted of her reflecting on that.

For her, the sun was thought of through the book of Genesis from the Bible. The artwork displayed resembled the Garden of Eden. In front, a sundial resembling the true surface of the sun, covered in

See SOBEL on page 5

## New chancellor yet to be determined

By Heather McGovern  
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After extending the date of Chancellor John D. "Jack" Burke's retirement to June 2010, a successor still has not been named. Originally, Burke announced his retirement to be June 30, 2009; however, upon his return this past July, the chancellor

extended his retirement date.

Many factors prompted his retirement extension, the largest of these being the economic situation of our country. The chancellor does, however, plan on eventually retiring from his 29 years of working for Penn State Behrend to a quiet, artsy town settled alongside the St. Lawrence River in upstate

New York.

The position of chancellor at Penn State Behrend is the highest administrative role within the university. The position is comparable to that of a dean or president at other institutions. With the position comes many responsibilities. Among them,

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## Students participate in Habitat for Humanity

By Connor Sattely  
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Usually, when a large amount of students depart en masse from Penn State Behrend, they are usually enroute to a party, sporting event, or local concert. Last Saturday, Feb. 21, a group of around 20 students drove off campus for a very different goal: to aid in

building a home for those who could not afford it themselves.

The event, one of many that Habitat for Humanity has done this year through Behrend, had students finishing priming and painting in the inside of a house on Wood Street, about ten minutes away from Behrend. Some students engaged in finishing up building the frame and door of a shed in the backyard, and another

crawled under the foundation of the house to reconnect broken pipes.

Though the activities may not sound like casual Saturday activities for two dozen college students, the event brought out the best in the students who attended, and provided them an outlet for the frustrations of their everyday academic lives. Frequent laughter

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### Friday



High: 48°F  
Low: 19°F

Rain and wind with temps fall during the day.

Forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Matt Alto

### Saturday



High: 31°F  
Low: 18°F

Partly cloudy and colder.

### Sunday



High: 28°F  
Low: 18°F

Partly sunny.

Forecast continued on page 4.

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