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BEHREND BEACON

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Graphic by: Marcus Yeagley
Photo by: Daniel Smith

Behrend hosts mobile blood drive

MIKE O. WEHRER
news editor

On Oct. 28 and 29, Penn State Behrend hosted a mobile blood drive in McGarvey commons. According to Deanna, a worker at the event, The semi-annual blood drive at Behrend is a popular and slightly competitive effort by the Erie blood Bank to collect blood for transfusions.

"I know we've been coming here for as long as I've been working here, and that's four years," said Deanna, "but I know we've been coming for a lot longer than that, the mobile program has been going on for almost 20 years"

"We usually do one around Halloween and we do another one around March or April," continued Deanna, "it's kind of evolved because Gannon was putting up really big numbers, and we'd do a drive here and Behrend would put up huge numbers. They were kind of competing to see who could put up the most donors."

"We realized that if we fanned the flames a bit, we could keep everybody motivated," said Deanna, "and this year, SUNY Fredonia put up 199 donors in 2 days, and Behrend got close to that number last time we were here. We thought, 'well, we can beat that' and set out to beat that record. We're probably going to be a little shy, but it was still a record turnout for Behrend, we've already had more than 170 donors and that's more than we've ever done, so that's fantastic."

Deanna said that, as always, any blood type was appreciated, especially type O negative, because it can be used for transfusions for anyone, regardless of the recipient's blood type.

"Inventory is pretty flush, and it will be even better after this drive, but we're always looking for O negative," said Deanna

Every pint of blood is estimated to save 3 lives, and many students could be seen doing their part to make sure that the bank is fully stocked in case of any emergency.

Behrend continues to grow, setting new record for enrolled students

CHRISTINE NEWBY
managing editor

A new enrollment record of 4,767 students was set for the fall 2009 semester, resulting in a 2.9 percent increase over the previous record set in fall 2008.

According to official student census figures released by the University on Oct. 15, Penn State Behrend serves 4,400 students in resident instruction programs. Of these, 4,031 are registered as full time and 369 as part time.

An additional 367 graduate students are served by the college through Penn State's on-line World Campus as they pursue an intercollege Master of Business Administration degree or certificate in Enterprise Resource Management.

The increase in enrollment was not due to the freshman class, according to Mary-Ellen Madigan, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid.

"The freshman numbers have been steady with a tiny increase," Madigan said. "All of the growth has been in the upper division (juniors and seniors), graduates, and online students."

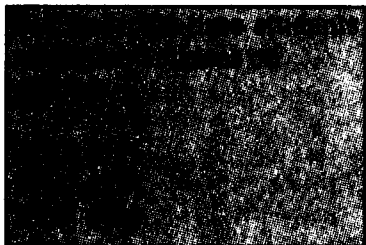
Behrend welcomed 1,060 new students for the fall 2009 first-year class, an increase over the fall 2008 total of 1,045 first-year stu-

dents.

According to a Behrend press release, the college has opted to control the size of its first-year class to maintain the college's low student-to-faculty ratio and accommodate the increase in upper-class students who have chosen to complete their four-year Penn State degrees at Behrend.

A significant factor in the increased enrollment number is housing. Madigan said that the change in enrollment can be tracked by housing options. "Anytime we've had a large increase in enrollment, usually there was an increase in housing like the new addition to the University Gate Apartments," Madigan said.

Not only is Behrend increasing their enrollment, but the University is also retaining stu-



crease the number of students who stay at Behrend," Madigan said. "I've been here 23 years and only about 25 percent of students stayed and graduated from Behrend and now that number is 75 percent."

The high percentage of students staying at Behrend can be linked to the purpose of the enrollment management group. The group consists of nine administrators whose main focus is retaining students. Madigan, along with David Christiansen, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and other administrators are involved with the group.

According to Christiansen, retention initiatives include a seminar on time-management and study skills, advising aimed for first- and second-year students, sophomore interest groups, centralized academic planning, and much more. Madigan said

that involvement in extracurricular activities is another factor.

"If a student is involved with extracurricular activities and involved on campus as a freshman and sophomore, that most likely will be a significant factor when deciding whether or not to stay at Behrend or transfer," she said.

The additional majors offered is another reason why students choose to graduate from Behrend.

The college currently offers more than 40 degree programs, including 34 bachelor's degrees in four academic schools—Sam and Irene Black School of Business, School of Engineering, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the School of Science, along with the nursing programs.

"We've added more majors and increased out of class activities like athletics and clubs, which plays into students experience at college," Madigan said. "Some students come

here and think they are going to transfer to University Park, but then decide to stay at Behrend."

Christiansen believes that the strategic vision guides Behrend and results in an increase in students staying here.

"We are guided by our mission, what we are supposed to do, and also our vision, what we want to evolve into," he said.

"There is a saying known as 'Behrend envy' because the other campuses want to be like Behrend. People ask, 'how does Behrend do it?' It takes time and commitment on all levels."

David Christiansen

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Top majors among juniors and seniors

Major	Students
Mechanical Engineering Technology	141
Mechanical Engineering	134
Nursing	131
Biology	123
Plastics Engineering Technology	104
Communications	94

Knowledge Park celebrates 10 years aiding students, companies

MIKE O. WEHRER
news editor

Knowledge Park celebrated its 10 year anniversary on Oct. 29 with speeches by Behrend Chancellor Jack Burke and Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation President John R. Elliot, followed by a reception and open house.

According to a press release from Penn State, Knowledge Park was a partnership between Behrend and GEIDC to provide companies an innovative and technologically advanced atmosphere, while providing networking opportunities for students and companies.

"The park was never simply a real estate venture," said Dr. Robert Light, senior associate dean for research, graduate studies, and outreach, "It brings forward-thinking organizations together with faculty members, staff and students, applied research and

technology transfer services. The close interactions between park tenants and the college continue to be a key component of this collaborative environment."

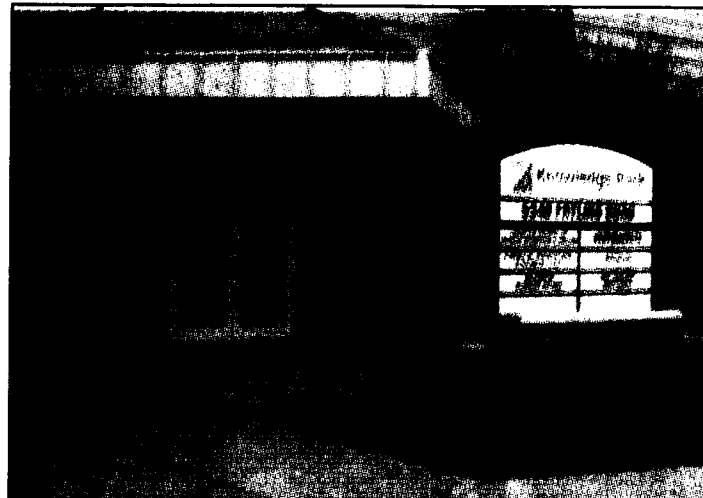
According to the press release, there are currently 14 tenant companies with a total of 500 employees at Knowledge Park.

The facilities physically encompass 200 acres of Behrend's campus and has room for more than 20 building sites.

Many students on campus are not aware of the many opportunities offered by Knowledge Park and the companies who re-

side there.

According to Light, around 10 students have internships or jobs with businesses at Knowledge Park, but this



Mike O. Wehrer / The Behrend Beacon

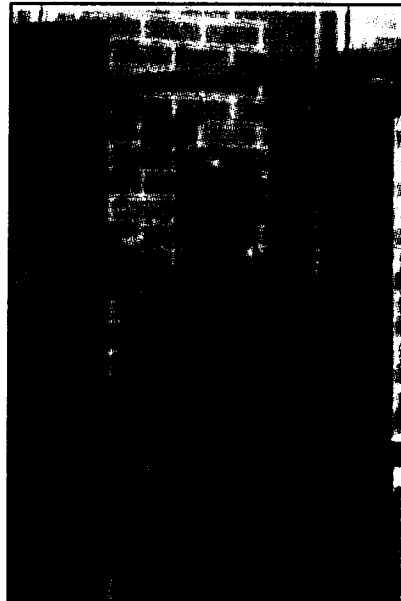
Knowledge park houses many companies, most of which utilize Behrend students and alumni and provide valuable experience

number has been as high as 40 students in the past.

Because Behrend is primarily an engineering and sciences campus, many of the jobs and internships at Knowledge Park fall under this category. There are other positions available to students following other career paths. Non-engineering positions include technical writing and marketing, as well as business opportunities.

In an interview, Light said that the positions offered at Knowledge Park were a combination of unpaid and paid, depending on the specific company offering the job or internship. Occasionally, said Light, a company will offer a scholarship to a student or group of students in return for their services.

Light referred students who wish to explore options at Knowledge Park to the Career Development Center here on campus.



Mike O. Wehrer / The Behrend Beacon
GEIDC President John R. Elliott followed Chancellor Burke and spoke about Knowledge Park's goals

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<p>friday 67 p.m. showers likely</p>	<p>saturday 58 windy with possible showers</p>	<p>sunday 49 mix of clouds and sun</p>
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-Matt Alto, weather editor