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# BEHREND BEACON

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## GE CEO to visit Behrend

CONNOR SATTELY  
editor-in-chief

CEO and President of GE Transportation Lorenzo Simonelli will visit Penn State Behrend to speak with students this week.

His presentation will include advice to students on "making it in the real world." Simonelli will also share his experiences in managing a multi-faceted \$5 billion business.



Behrend Marketing

The event, which will be held in the Samuel P. "Pat" Black III Conference Center in the REDC, will be held Monday, Feb. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Ralph Ford, Director of the School of Engineering, says that the event will likely draw students from various studies.

"He's under 40 years old, the CEO of a major corporation, has been all over the world, and probably has a ton of great experiences to share," he said.

"Really, I expect not just engineering students, but students in any study across the college to show up."

Simonelli, named in 2009 as one of Fortune's "40 under 40," originally began his studies not in engineering, but in business.

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Jack Burke attended the Feb. 10 SGA meeting and participated in a Q&A with the senators. He spoke on issues of maintaining diversity at Behrend, the advantages and disadvantages of online classes, and his retirement from the position of chancellor.

## Chancellor Burke meets with SGA

### The future of education at Behrend may be online, he says

ALLY ORLANDO  
news editor

On Feb. 10, the Student Government Association met with Chancellor Jack Burke and spoke about his retirement, what he has seen during his years at Behrend, and what he expects to see in future years.

To keep the student body diverse, Burke believes that it largely depends on the effort of the students. Students have to feel comfortable enough to introduce themselves to others and be friendly.

A few outside factors that he feels might help with this effort are more classes that deal with ethnic relations and breaking down barriers. He also said that from the get-go, Student Affairs encourages students to interact with one another through the many orientation activities that are offered.

On a day-to-day basis, Burke feels that groups like SGA are helping because students have to get to know each other.

On a larger scale, Burke believes that this generation is diverse in nature and much different than what he experienced when he was this age.

"I came from a town that had one African-American family, and actually it was mixed, and that was the only African-American student I saw until I was in college," Burke said. "I lived through the Civil Rights era when all of

this was changing and all of that is behind us now."

Burke says that after he retires, he will miss the people, the interaction, and keeping updated with technology.

"It was pure hell in the 90s," he said. "We literally sat around a table like this and said, 'What's a network? We gotta get a network but we don't know what a network is.' So then they talked about different protocols, so we had to figure out what a protocol was and it was really difficult. There were times when you had to jiggle the wires to get the network to work. Obviously we've come a long way since then."

In Behrend's near future, Burke sees "hybrid classes"—a combination of online and face-to-face instruction—becoming a part of our system.

Burke explained that the online portion of these hybrid classes is meant to supplement the face-to-face portion. For example, a student may apply knowledge from face-to-face instruction to an online lab.

"It isn't just lecture; it isn't just discussion, but if it's done right, then it is a combination of all those things."

"The more approaches there are, the more chances there are that you're going to learn something and learn what your strengths are."

"There's no one way for one person [to learn]," he said.

Kay Johnson, who teaches several courses in finance at Behrend, is currently on medical leave and teaching her classes online. Burke was surprised to find that the students taking her online class had better test scores than those whom she taught face-to-face. In the course over all, there were fewer Fs, fewer Ds, and fewer withdrawals.

Burke said that we currently have 402 students from all over the world who are taking online courses at Behrend. The classes are taught by a "virtual faculty" and students must purchase a seat in the course to take it online. Burke said that as many as \$50,000 worth of seats in these classes can be gone in a heartbeat.

Burke was surprised to learn that last year the use of our computer labs went up 32 percent. He assumed that since nearly every student owns a computer, it would have went down.

However, he attributed this increase to group projects that require computers and the collaborative learning involved in using computers.

Advice that Burke offers to the new chancellor of Behrend would be to be prepared to work long hours, fight the fight, take care of students, take care of the faculty, and to get the government to give us more money.

Burke also thinks that a useful trait for the job of chancellor is a good sense of humor.

## Andy Iams to revive PSB homecoming

SHAWN ANNARELLI  
managing editor

Senior Andy Iams is giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to Homecoming at Behrend. Plans for this year's Homecoming were cancelled.

"I think a lot of people were disappointed that it fell though this year," Iams said. "We had a lot of success with Homecoming two years ago."

Iams' is "100 percent sure" there will be a Homecoming dance next October. With eight months to prepare, time is on his side.

"We are planning for a week's worth of activities with a dance on the last night," Iams said. "We want to do something fun that will bring the campus together and promote school spirit."

Iams and his committee of five will explore every possible option for the Homecoming week.

In addition to a dance, they would like to plan a pep rally for Behrend varsity athletics and a campus parade featuring clubs and organizations. They will also consider bringing in bands and comedians for entertainment.

"We are looking into everything, but we are in the beginning stages of planning," Iams said.

"We want to get as many students, clubs and organizations involved as possible," Iams said. "We've got big expectations for this event, and we are going to need some real help."

Planning for and participating in the events will extend to Behrend Alumni, too.

"I think it is critical to get Alumni involved," Iams said. "They helped make Behrend what it is today. This is a great opportunity to get everyone engaged with campus activities."

"We want to do something fun to bring the campus together."

Andy Iams  
Homecoming  
Committee President

## In Shuster, a drive for success

ERIC PEIRCE  
assistant news editor

At Penn State Behrend, not only are we filled with talented athletes, but also with talented scholars.

These academically-talented students are distinguished by accepting the honor of being a Schreyer scholar, a title that does not come easily.

A Schreyer scholar must not only have high SAT scores, but must also maintain a 3.33 GPA each semester and take at least three honors courses each year.

Luckily, Matt Shuster was ready to step and take the challenge. Shuster, a senior graduating this spring with a Software Engineering major, made the whole process look easy. Yet this was not the case.

"I had to set my goals and

"[Don't] be afraid to ask for help from your professors."

Matt Shuster  
Shreyer Scholar

stick by them," Shuster said. "Dedication is probably the secret to succeeding."

Shuster, a member of both the Phi Kappa Phi and Tau Beta Nu Honors Societies, has not only received a Chancellor Scholarship, but has also been on the Behrend Honors program here for two years.

For these programs he performed feats that involved "a couple long nights," Shuster said.

It isn't just his strong dedication to his college career that



Connor Sattely / The Behrend Beacon

Matt Shuster has received a Chancellor Scholarship and is part of the Behrend Honors program.

helps him succeed.

"It's surprising, but asking my professors for help probably was one of the most important factors to my success," Shuster said.

"If I were to offer any advice to students, it's to not be afraid

to ask for help from your professors during or after classes. They are more than willing to help you understand a point that they made in class."

After completing an internship with PPG (an international manufacturing company) last

summer, Shuster has taken an offer to work full-time this summer as a programmer analyst, a job that entails software and application development.

It will be a promising career starter for Shuster, who will continue to succeed.

## SGA seeks new name for Aquarius Dr.

SHAWN ANNARELLI  
managing editor

What's in a name? The Government Affairs Committee of SGA is seeking input as to whether or not Aquarius Drive should be renamed.

Some student suggestions:  
• Jack Burke Way  
• Chauncey Dr  
• Institution Dr  
• Nittany Lane  
• Lion Crossing  
• Innovation Dr  
• Inspiration Rd

"When the street was first named students did not have any input," said SGA Governmental Affairs Director Zach Goncz.

"We think it's important for students living on the street to have a say, because we have gotten complaints that it seems out of place."

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