

Sons Of Gaels gave a St. Patrick's Day performance at Bruno's on Wednesday.

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Alternative Spring Break club takes a trip to New Orleans to build a home

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Burke to Birx

Penn State announces Donald Birx as next chancellor of Behrend campus

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

Donald Birx, one of two final candidates for the chancellor position, has been chosen as Penn State Behrend's next chancellor. He will replace Dr. John "Jack" Burke, who will retire at the end of this semester.

The chancellor position, the campus's chief academic and administrative position, includes the overall operation of Behrend, including fundraising, strategic vision of the college, alumni and investor relations, faculty and personnel matters, and athletics, amongst a variety of other duties.

"Don Birx's experience in both academia and industry will help open the traditional boundaries between both worlds, enhancing students' educational experiences at Penn State Behrend," said Dr. John Romano, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, according to a Behrend press release sent this morning. "In

addition, his varied background, with degrees in arts and sciences, engineering and business, has enabled him to see the strong collaborative possibilities that exist in these very different fields. We're looking forward to his building such programs at Penn State Behrend."

"I am thrilled to be part of the team that will shape Penn State Behrend's next decade."

Donald Birx
Future Behrend Chancellor

Birx comes from the University of Houston, where he has been vice president of research since 2006. Before 2006, he held a position as interim vice provost/president for research

and professor of physics at New Mexico State University, while simultaneously serving as president and founder of PSI, a corporate entity at the institution for technology development and incubation. Birx also spent 19 years at Systems Research Laboratories Inc., in Dayton, Ohio before his position at New Mexico State University.

Birx holds a Ph.D in electrical engineering from the University of Dayton, as well as a master's in bio-physics and an MBA in finance, both from Miami University of Ohio. He completed his undergraduate studies in engineering physics, from the University of California - Berkeley.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the team that will shape Penn State Behrend's next decade as it continues to develop as a leader in high-quality, innovative programs for education, research and economic development," Birx said, according to the release.

Who: Donald Birx
What: Behrend's next chancellor
When: Summer 2010
Formerly: *The Vice President of research at Houston. *Professor of Physics at New Mexico State University *President and founder of PSI
Earned: *Ph.D in Electrical Engineering *MBA in finance



University of Houston Communications Department
Donald Birx has been named Penn State Behrend's next chancellor.

Dobbins fire ruled accidental; origins likely electrical

ALLY ORLANDO
news editor

Based on initial findings, fire officials believe that the fire started at a temporary entrance, which was in use because Dobbins Dining Hall is inaccessible.

On March 3rd, fire officials reported that they believed the fire was caused by an electrical problem in the Gazebo, likely due to a faulty wire associated with the cash registers.

They also reported that there

Inside: Behrend launches website for Dobbins information
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was nobody injured during the fire and no other campus operations, including classes and food service in Bruno's Café, were interrupted by the fire.

According to Randy Geering, Director of Housing and Food Services, there are no complications with the other buildings surrounding Dobbins. The fire marshal's official report is expected to be released in about two weeks.

"Ironically, we were installing fire detectors and fire sprinklers to Dobbins. When we set out to renovate the building in 2005, we were going to have fire detectors and fire sprinklers in place when renovations were complete. Now,

when the initial and additional renovations are made there will be fire detectors and fire sprinklers in place to prevent a fire spreading like this one. If there

were sprinkles in place when the fire started near the cashier register, the sprinklers would have stopped it there," Geering said.



Daniel Smith / The Behrend Beacon
Preliminary reports state the fire was electrical and accidental.

For the time being, the dining hall's kitchen and main seating area will not be able to be used because of damage caused by smoke and water.

The initial reaction after the fire was that the Gazebo was a complete loss and would need to be removed. Structural engineers have since determined that the existing steel structure of the Gazebo is salvageable.

To ensure safety, the Gazebo is likely to be boarded up until contractors can rebuild it.

Until the fire, a majority of the area was part of a \$7.5 million dollar renovation project. Currently, officials are working with contractors to get renovations back on track. Their goal

is to have the renovations completed before the fall 2010 semester.

"We need to renovate the Gazebo to feed the students. The Gazebo was added on in 1993, and we have the blueprint of what was there. We can build it again and potentially make improvements to it. We can make moderations to enhance energy usage in the building," Geering said.

According to Geering, the debris is already being removed in order to help speed the renovation process along. "We moved the kitchen out faster than the contractor

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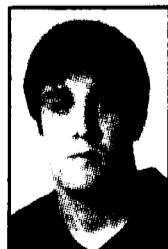
Men's B-ball wins ECAC Tournament

AMANDA STETZ
senior reporter

The Lions basketball team became a part of Behrend sport's history when they won ECAC Division III South Region's Men's Basketball Championships against Alvernia

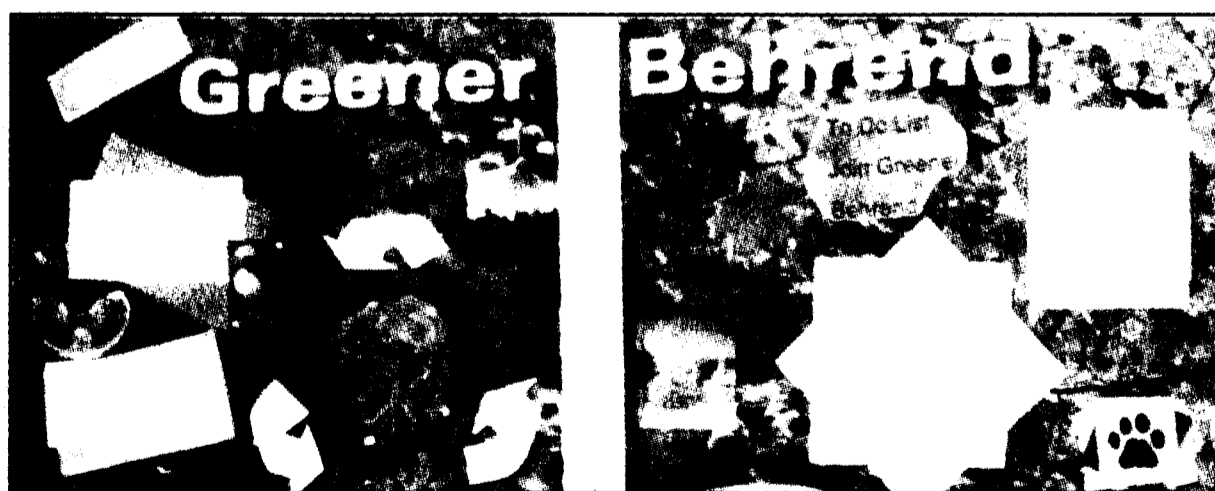
79-73, the second time the Behrend men have won it in the history of the program.

The ECAC Championships were held at Catholic University in Washington D.C. The Lions started the game right leading the game at halftime 42-29.



psblions.com
Adam Kaiser

see Basketball, page 3



Going "Greener"

SHAWN ANNARELLI
managing editor

Waste Management introduced single-stream recycling to Behrend two summers ago, but recycling bins across campus did not label them as such.

"Greener Behrend has nothing to do with the current recycling system, but Greener Behrend student members realized changes could be made for recycling to be easier for students," said Keith Cerroni, a Greener Behrend staff member.

Cerroni said that recycling bins on

campus are labeled to instruct students to separate paper and plastics, which is unnecessary.

"Greener Behrend student members saw a hands-on project with attainable goals, and it is all student-driven," Cerroni said. "We want to make students aware that they can single-stream recycle their products very easily."

Greener Behrend started their project by working with Housing and Food Services Director, Randy Geering, to sponsor new labels to replace current ones in Niagara and Lawrence Hall.

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Who: Greener Behrend
Why: To educate students on ecological benefits
Where: Everywhere you go the club will be looking for ways to better use our resources.

Men's varsity volleyball team added

SHAWN ANNARELLI
managing editor

Penn State Behrend is going to serve men's volleyball as a new varsity sport and hope for an ace of success.

"Volleyball has been a club sport for over 30 years, and making it a varsity sport is what students have been asking for," said Brian Streeter, who is Behrend's Athletic Director.

Behrend plans on the team competing starting in the Spring 2012 semester. Streeter said that the athletic department chose to pursue

What: Behrend's 22nd varsity sports team
When: 2011-2012
Coach: Phil Pisano
Conference: Not named

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58/41 **friday** mostly sunny

56/36 **saturday** cloudy

45/36 **sunday** cloudy