

School Director Knacke to retire



Penn State Behrend Current School of Science Director Roger Knacke.

RYAN GULA
science editor

Dr. Roger Knacke, head of the science department at Penn State Behrend, is set to retire at the end of the school year, a position he has held for 18 years. Dr. Knacke came to Behrend after teaching at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Stony Brook where he also headed the science department for 6 years.

Dr. Knacke is a graduate of The Uni-

versity of California Berkeley where he received a bachelor's and Ph.D. in physics.

He became interested in astrophysics when he was in graduate school and decided to teach and perform research in that field. In an interview, he joked, "I'll retire from administration, not teaching."

After retirement he will be moving to California, where he hopes to return to the classroom as a professor, an aspect of education that he has missed.

Looking back at his experience at Behrend, he remembers working with outstanding students and faculty, and enjoyed following the paths that students chose once they left Behrend. Some went onto larger universities for graduate studies while others entered the industry to lead major companies.

During his tenure at Behrend, he was pleased to be a part of the administration that brought more research to the college, effectively creating what he considers to be "an ideal university," where there is an equal emphasis on both teaching and new knowledge.

He was careful not to take complete responsibility for accomplishing this, being quick to point out that there were many who helped achieve this goal and that there is still more to be done.

He hopes that this atmosphere of students "doing and learning" science will continue for many years to come.

He says that he will miss the people at Behrend the most when he leaves. He recalled some of his favorite memories each year, watching as new stu-

dents arrived each fall after high school and how quickly they assumed the roles of young adults and became more competent individuals. He will speak about 'Dark Energy in the Universe' on April 15 in one of the college's last Open House Nights in Astronomy this year.

Knacke started this Behrend tradition in the fall of 1993, a program that has allowed both students and community members to learn more about their surrounding world and given thousands their first glimpse of the sky through a telescope.

As Knacke and the school prepares for his departure, they continue their search for a new director of science. Interviews are ongoing and more information will be published as it is released.

Top Science News:

9/11 rescue workers' breathing problems continue

Many emergency workers who worked in the dust of Ground Zero on Sept. 11, 2001 continue to have breathing problems nearly nine years removed from exposure, the New England Journal of Medicine reports.

The study tested 92 percent of all rescue workers who arrived at ground zero between Sept. 11 and Sept. 24.

In the study, researchers concluded that firefighters who arrived in the morning of Sept. 11, when the dust was most dense, are the most likely to have developed diminished lung capacity. 22 percent of EMS nonsmokers who were at the scene have dropped below normal levels since 2002, the study said.

Discovery docks at International Space station despite problems

The space shuttle Discovery docked at the International Space Station on Wednesday, completing a journey marred by a satellite breakdown which prohibited radar tracking. This was the first time in 10 years - and only the second time ever - that a shuttle has docked with the space station without radar.

NASA will now scrutinize photographs sent from the Space Station in order to determine if any of the damage will jeopardize the shuttle's re-entry.

Upcoming Science event:

Who: Penn State Behrend Chem Club
What: Trash pickup
When: April 24th
Where: Presque Isle, Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Why: For the good of the environment, of course.
For more info: Contact Traci Halmi, tao104@psu.edu.

Interviews scheduled for Director candidate

Q & A:

Director Search

Q: Why should I care?

A: The Director of each of the four schools at Behrend is one of the most influential and important positions in determining who teaches your classes, what they're teaching, and what the school does to evolve.

Q: Is the new director picked yet?

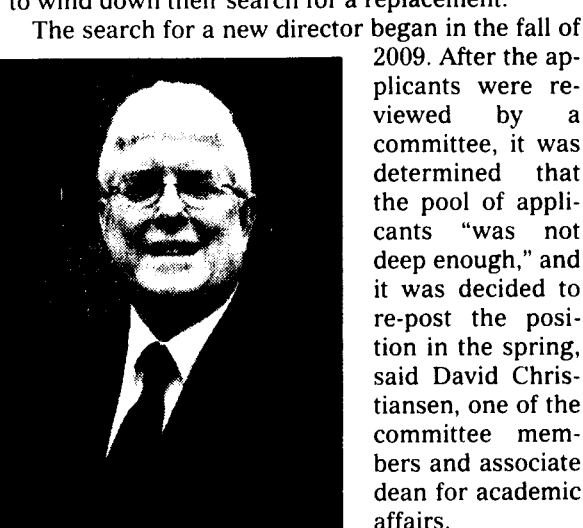
A: No. Dr. Geske (left) is simply one of the candidates that has accepted a scheduled time for interviews at Behrend.

Q: When will the new director be chosen?

A: The School of Science will hope to come to a decision as soon as possible so that the new director can start for fall. Follow up with the Beacon, which will be following this story as it develops throughout the year.

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As Roger Knacke prepares for retirement at the end of the school year, Penn State Behrend begins to wind down their search for a replacement.



Kettering University Public Relations (reprinted with permission of Dr. Geske)

Kettering professor and Director search candidate Dr. John Geske. Geske is one of several candidates who could be chosen for the position.

were chosen so that the committee would be balanced."

After a review of the spring applications, the committee members were able to narrow down the search to several qualified candidates.

These candidates were contacted and invited to Behrend for a formal interview.

After making contact with the individuals, only one candidate was able to accept the invitation. John Geske, the department head of computer science at Kettering University in Flint, Mich. agreed to visit on April 13 and 14.

Geske has taught and headed the computer science department at Kettering since his arrival in 1994, according to the school's website. He received his Ph.D. in computer science from Iowa State University.

During his two-day visit to Behrend, Geske will meet with three of the college's deans and share a meal with each member of the committee.

Additionally, he will host several forums with members of the faculty where he will present a background of himself and then answer any questions they might have.

The school has also arranged for Geske to eat an informal lunch with selected students from the science department.

Christiansen emphasized the importance of "the students' reaction" to the candidate.

To conclude his trip to Behrend, the afternoon of the second day will comprise of a real-estate tour of the surrounding area and a "wrap-up" meeting with Christiansen. The school's final decision has not been announced, but the Beacon will continue to follow this story.

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**PSB
AUTO CLUB**



It's time for the Penn State Behrend Auto Club's Annual Spring Car Show and Auto Cross.

Auto Show
Come down to the Behrend Auto Show to see some unique and beautiful cars.
When: Friday April 16th 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Where: Jordan Road parking Lot (by the Bayfront)

Free Pizza and Pop!

Auto Cross
If you want to put your driving skills to the test, come out to our Auto Cross.
When: Sunday April 18th Erie Hall parking lot
Registration: 8:30am -9:30am (Car must pass safety inspection)
Cost: Students \$15, Public \$20
Non-members of SCCA need \$15 weekend membership fee.

Questions? Email CJ at psbautoclub@gmail.com.

