

Curt Sonney

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been representing Erie County's 4th Legislative District - which includes Penn State Behrend - since December 2004. "The point being made was that you don't cut programs flat out of the

state budget. Rather than cutting all funding in one year, you phase out a program with small cuts - five, or ten percent.

"I have always fought for Penn State appropriation, and I will always fight for Penn State appropriation. There are a lot of things in the budget other than higher education that will be cut, and it's just a shame the government couldn't give them the ability to know those cuts were coming."

For Gerald Price, it's an answer that came too late.

"I fought him on that idea to cut funding," he said, "because of the financial devastation that it would cause

to the community, because of how much money a college and its students bring to an area. He didn't explain his comments - it's just unfathomable."

For Robert Light, Senior Associate Dean, this isn't the first time he's heard the Penn State funding debate, and it won't be the last.

"The state has certainly thought about [cutting funding]," said Light, who has been in his position for 22 years. "When the stimulus funding ends next year, we could face some cuts. Looking at a 20 percent increase, that's millions of dollars."

And the issue hits home, too, he says.

"It's significant to Penn State Behrend because we'd have to make up those cuts," he said.

According to Robert Speel, Associate Professor of Political Science at Penn State Behrend, much power rests in the hands of the students.

"This is why it's important for students to get involved and vote," he said. "Most students at Behrend don't vote, and those who do tend not to vote in local elections, so there's not much of a voting base from Penn State Behrend."

The he-said she-said, though, is all a part of a regular political campaign and is very common.

"As a politician you always have to be careful of every word you say," Speel said. "There will always be people taking things out of context or grabbing something for a soundbite."

What's not that common to hear in Erie is the issue of Penn State funding.

"In my 18 years here, this is the first time I've heard the issue of Penn State funding come up in a campaign in Erie," said Speel.

"You'll see it come up in Center County, because of University Park, and at some of the 2-year campus counties, but normally it doesn't come up much in Erie."

Geering promoted to Director of Business and Operations

SHAWN ANNARELLI
managing editor

After a year of new facilities, new challenges and new disasters, Randy Geering will find himself in a new position for a new year.

Geering will begin on May 1 as Penn State Behrend's Director of Business and Operations. He will have to fill some large, storied shoes as the current director, John Ream, heads into retirement.

"I will be with John until [April] 30," Geering said. "I don't know that I can absorb 26 years of service and experience in three weeks, but there are certainly some areas I'd like to pinpoint to gain knowledge on."

Randy Geering wants to have a short learning curve as he

transitions into his new position.

Geering has had to think quickly on his feet before. After all, he is the person who made the call to have the compartmented kitchen set up outside of Erie Hall to serve students after the Gazebo at Dobbins caught fire.

"There are some positives about John's position, because a lot of the things he does for the campus I do for Housing and Food Services," Geering said.

From construction projects and maintenance to overseeing upwards of 20 buildings, Geering has administrated many ventures in his nine years of service at Behrend.

"But there are other parts of John's job that I might be famil-

iar with that I will still have to learn more about," Geering said. "I think a positive thing is that I have an institutional memory of knowing people and the processes and systems, and I can utilize that as I move forward. I think that is huge."

Geering said that his new po-

"I am going to hit the ground running."

Randy Geering
Director of Housing and Food Services

sition has a penchant for quality dating back to John Lilley's days, and that it's not about

how he can do something. It is all about how well he can do something.

"I don't think there are people in these positions that settle," Geering said.

One example he gave is Behrend's year-in and year-out discussions on having a convenience store. The project is finally moving forward with a facility fee and with Housing and Food Services.

"We can say that we're going to have a nice convenience store," Geering said. "It's going to be done the right way. It's going to be the right size, and it's going to have exposure. We have all the right people working together on the same page to do this, so what we'll end up with is a real quality product."

However, the challenges that

lie ahead for Geering may seem like a breeze after the gauntlet of obstacles he has faced and conquered in the last year.

"I think it's all about having basic knowledge of everything and understanding the details of certain things," Geering said. "There are some human resources things that I'm familiar with, but I haven't the person making those decisions. That will be a hurdle."

The greatest step for Geering will be having a new chancellor, Donald Birx, stepping in.

"His philosophies and goals of which way the campus is going to move are going to be the next step," Geering said. "The next challenge will be Donald Birx learning and adjusting, and at some point we will say, 'Okay, what's next.'"

Part of what Geering wants to be able to do as Birx settles in is to take a step back to garner new ideas for Behrend's direction from each other and from others who have been here for a long time. He will be open to new ideas about different things, where steps may not have been taken in those directions.

"We have a lot of things going on this summer," Geering said. "We have labs being upgraded, renovations in a Reed, a new roof to be built for Reed, the Metzgar building, and I'll still be involved in food services to help see some things come to fruition."

"I am going to hit the ground running."

H&SS director

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Gamble believes "he seemed to understand competing demands to research and teach well... the fact that he's in philosophy in some ways provides natural linkages to a lot of dif-

ferent areas within the school, even though we don't have a major in philosophy at the school."

As Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Queens College, Hicks oversaw a number of interdisciplinary programs, liberal arts studies, and took an active role in teaching cross literary courses. Not only did Hicks graduate with a doctorate from Columbia University, he also has a strong record of publications on the 19th-century German philosopher Hegel.

What attracted him to the job, Hicks said, was that it was

"a good match with what I was doing, a good way to develop administrative and teaching experiences also the new challenges that lie within."

Gamble said, "He has perspectives that appeal to a lot of us, so that might give him some understanding of a lot of different disciplines."

Kathryn Wolfe, Professor of French at Penn State Behrend, agrees that Hicks is the perfect fit for this position.

"During his on-campus interview, he struck many of us as being someone who listened well and gave thoughtful answers that bespoke a penetrat-

ing, humane and fair mind. We have every reason to hope for many years of enlightened leadership with this hire," said Wolfe.

Hicks is enthusiastic about his new role, and he is ready to jump right in. He feels his first important task in his new position is to be an active listener, to talk to students and staff, and look at what has worked well at Behrend and try to improve, as well as look at what needs to be expanded.

"To put it simply, we want to prepare students to be productive in a pluralistic and increasingly globalizing society," said

Hicks.

While Hicks is bringing a fresh mindset to the job, he will nonetheless "face the same issues as Behrend will face - tougher budget, harder to get money for programs than it's always been," said Gamble. "What I think we've found in Hicks - is someone who wants the job and thinks that it produces interesting opportunities, and will put forth effort into it."

The current Director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Richard Aquila, has served in this position since July 2004. This June, he will be stepping down as di-

rector and plans to go on sabbatical in the upcoming academic year.

July 15 will mark the beginning of Hick's new position, and with him comes a strong philosophical approach to life.

Hicks said, "A life worth living is a life in which wisdom and technical expertise and knowledge is central to the mission of students having a liberal arts education, Socratic mission of critically scrutinizing information

Behrend Community All-Stars to face Steelers squad

ELESE MERKOVSKY
staff writer

After a major success last year, the Pittsburgh Steelers will make their way back to the Junker Center to take on the Behrend Community All-Stars basketball team on Sunday at 3:00.

That's right, basketball. The Steelers will leave their normal home of Heinz Field, and take part in a charity basketball game against Behrend staff, students and faculty.

The proceeds go to the men's basketball team, and helps to pay for the the multiple expenses not covered by the small amount of money given to D-III sports teams.

The main difference from last year is the big names popping up in the roster.

Such players as "Big" Ben Roethlisberger, the starting quarterback for the past two Super Bowl victories.

Along with Rothlisberger, starting tackle Willie Colon, runningback

Rashard Mendenhall, corner back Desha Townsend, and starting defensive end Brett Keisel all have a spot on the Steeler's basketball team.

Steelers' legend James Harrison, who is three-time Pro Bowl selection and has earned Super Bowl rings with the Steelers in Super Bowl XL and Super Bowl XLIII, has a spot in the lineup as well.

A question on the upcoming game would be recently traded Santonio Holmes, who was also named to the

roster but now will not be making an appearance because he is signed to the Jets.

Tickets are being sold in the Junker Center at normal hours. The Steelers will be available at halftime to sign autographs and meet the public.

There will also be shooting contests, 50/50 raffles, prize raffles, and will be fun for all ages.

Tickets are \$7 and can be bought at the Junker Center during normal business hours. The doors will open at 2

p.m. on Sunday.

Last year around 700 fans attended the game, showing that the event is able to bring out a large audience. In hopes to avenge their 68-69 loss, the Behrend All-Stars are looking for a win.

No matter who wins, the money goes to a good cause, and brings big name celebrities to a small school like Behrend.

Stahl to guest speak on Holocaust

AMANDA LOMMOCK
staff writer

Holocaust remembrance happens during the time of Yom Hashoah, commemorates the Holocaust and pays respects to the many lives lost.

It is, however, the privilege of Penn State Behrend to welcome a guest speaker for Holocaust Remembrance who reminds us that even during this terrible tragedy. There was

still hope, a hope created by the sacrifice of a few brave souls.

Stanlee Stahl, the vice-president for the Jewish Foundation of the Righteous will be coming to speak at Penn State Behrend on Monday at 9:05 a.m. in Reed Hall, Room 114 and will be bringing to light the lesser known and often forgotten heroes of the Holocaust: the individuals who were not Jewish, who risked everything to help Jews escape the Nazis.

"Most people do not know they exist," Stahl said.

"Any non-Jew caught helping a Jew where tortured and killed. These people were risking not only themselves but their families as well in many cases."

These brave individuals are honored by the Jewish Foundation of the Righteous and are sent aid to give thanks to the brave things they accomplished during the Holocaust.

Not many remember these individuals, mostly Christian, who gave hope during this time and rescued Jews knowing the risk if they were caught.

"Students should come to learn about a part of the Holocaust that is not often discussed," Stahl said, "and to learn that one person can make a difference for a right and just cause."

Greek awards

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Among those who presented awards during the ceremony were Lauralee Gleci-the President of Order of Omega, Lindsey Hopkins Hall--Coordinator of Student Involvement in Sorority and Fraternity life, Chancellor Jack Burke, Molly Thomas-vice president of SGA, Kris Torok, Brad Kovalick-the president of SGA, and Ken Miller--the Director of Student Affairs.

During the ceremony, Lindsey Hopkins Hall shared her feelings about the recent accomplishments of Behrend's sororities and fraternities.

"Last year, I told you I couldn't wait to see what your fraternity and sorority community accomplishes next," she said, addressing the audience.

"The same stands for this upcoming year.

"You continue to set the bar higher and higher for yourselves. Just a short three years ago, there were less than 100 members in your entire community. Now, you stand just shy of 200 members.

"Last spring for the first time, the all Greek GPA was above the all undergraduate GPA. You thoughtfully proposed eliminating the '01 Rule, which was ap-

proved and fall recruitment was implemented.

"All six organizations participated in Greek Week this year and came together to celebrate interfraternalism," Hopkins Hall said.

Hopkins Hall also spoke about how Behrend's sororities and fraternities have made an impact around campus and in the local community.

"I think the work of these students collectively impacts the campus and Erie community in many ways," Hopkins Hall said.

"Each chapter gives back to their communities in so many different ways from Adopt A Highway to Habitat for Humanity to the Martin Luther King Center to philanthropic events to raise money for the Erie Warming Center, for the ex-

PERIEence Children's Museum's Camp Hope: Activities for Grieving Children, and their national philanthropies.

"Many fraternity and sorority members are interested in making an impact in not only their chapter and fraternity/sorority community but within the greater campus community.

"While fraternities and sororities are made up of college students who aren't perfect, just like any other organization, sometimes their great accomplishments get overshadowed by some of the inappropriate decisions they choose to make.

"Greek Awards highlights those accomplishments and gives them something to aspire to and work towards," Hopkins Hall said.

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