

REDC named after retiring chancellor Burke

ERIC PIERCE
news editor

Over the summer, Penn State Behrend found a way to honor Jack Burke, Behrend's former chancellor, by renaming the Research and Economic Development Center the Jack Burke Center.

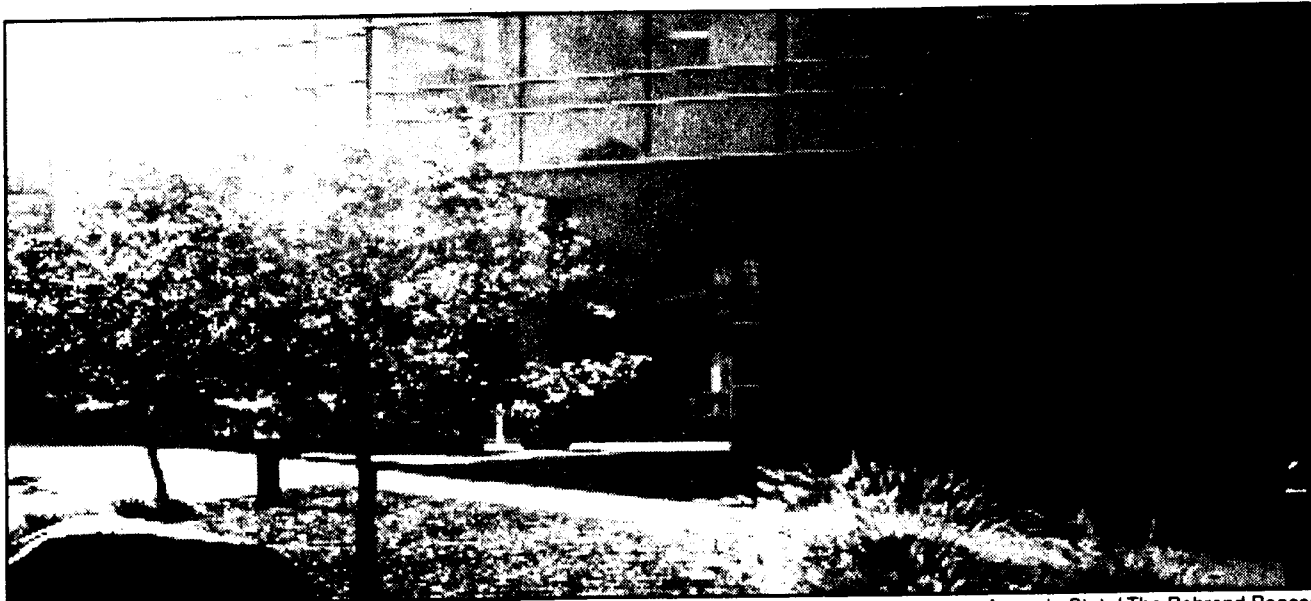
The final decision was made by the Penn State Board of Trustees.

Randy Geering, Director of Operations, calls the naming a fitting tribute for an "inspired leader."

"Jack Burke had a major impact on Behrend, and was instrumental for the construction of the REDC from the start," Geering said. "It was an honor for Behrend to name the REDC after him."

The Burke Center, as it is now known, opened in 2006, housing Behrend's Sam and Irene Black School of Business as well as the School of Engineering. This made Penn State one of the first colleges to place both of these schools under the same roof.

Burke first started his professional academic career by serving as a faculty member and as associate dean at the State University of New York's Empire State College.



Amanda Stetz/The Behrend Beacon

Known for its modern classrooms and hands-on learning opportunities, the Research and Economic Development Center will be renamed in honor of former chancellor Jack Burke.

He launched his career at Behrend in 1981, serving as senior associate provost and senior associate dean until he was named chancellor in 2001.

As chancellor, Burke was responsible for running and organizing Behrend's academic programs, research and service, budgeting, mar-

keting, and fundraising. While at Behrend, Burke earned his certificate of Educational Management from Harvard University in 1986, and has written over 30 journal articles.

This is not the first time Behrend has named its buildings after academic leaders: In 2002, the Irvin Kochel

Center was named after and the John M. Lilley Library w Irvin H. Kochel, who was the head of Behrend from 1954 to 1980, and after Dr. John M. Lilley, who also the head of the college from 1980 to 2001.



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Chancellor

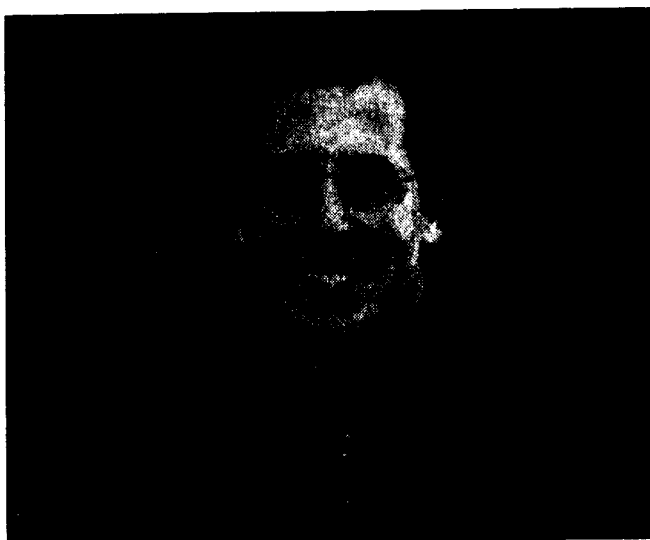
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Dr. Birx graduated from University of California with a bachelor's degree in engineering physics. He also holds a master's degree in biophysics and an MBA in finance from the Miami University of Ohio, and a doctorate from the University of Dayton in electrical engineering.

Before working in the academic field, he worked at Systems Research Laboratories Inc. for 19 years in Dayton Ohio.

With a diverse career, Dr. Birx is prepared to take on the duties of Jack Burke, as well as continuing to adjust to Behrend with the students.

"I want to make it a good year," said Dr. Birx. "I want to keep it [Behrend] the great place it is for the students."



Dobbins

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"We've had problems getting materials here," he said, mentioning a shipment of glass in California, which was ordered two months ago. It had been defective, delayed, and is still not in place in an inner conference room.

Students were involved in the process as well, including a large contingent of student Housing workers who were responsible for equipment placement.

"It's not just building the structure," said Miller. "You've got to think about moving in all of the equipment, setting up the dishes, getting all of the kitchen equipment set up."

One early part of the renovation likely struck a tone with workers - installing a sprinkler system. Miller says it's already in place.



Amanda Stetz/The Behrend Beacon

After the renovations and fire, Dobbins will reopen on Friday. The project, which faced an already tight schedule, was significantly delayed due to the large fire in March which engulfed the Gazebo at Dobbins.

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Local/State News in Brief

Man arrested after threatening Erie driver with pistol

Erie-Times News

Stoneboro, PA

Todd A. Lewis of North Carolina was arrested Wednesday after threatening a driver with a pistol on I-79.

Lewis and an Erie man were merging into a single lane in the Lake Township construction zone.

Lewis reportedly passed the Erie

man exiting the construction zone, yelling and revealing a pistol.

Police report that there were no shots fired and did not reveal if he aimed at the driver.

Lewis is charged with simple assault, disorderly conduct, and carrying firearms without a license.

District will not be criminally charged

Philadelphia, PA

No criminal charges were filed against the Lower Merian School District in the laptop wiretap violations controversy that surrounded the district earlier this year.

"We have not found evidence that would establish beyond a reasonable doubt that anyone involved had criminal intent," U.S. attorney Zane

D. Memeger said.

The controversy started when student Blake Robbins sued the district, on the grounds of wiretap violations. Robbins claimed that the school activated the tracking system without legitimate reason. The system captured 56,000 webcam shots. The school also intercepted instant messages and video chats.

WEATHER

Friday: Partly cloudy, high 78, low 65.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, highs in the 80s, lows in the 60s

Sunday: A few thunderstorms possible, highs in the mid 70s, lows in the mid 60s.

Monday: Mostly sunny. High of 78.

Tuesday: More sun than clouds, highs in the low 80s.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, highs in mid 70s

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