

Behrend Beacon

Produced by the students of Penn State Behrend since 1946

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

In This Issue:			
Culture	2	Showcase	6
News	3, 5	Opinion	7
Local/National	4	Sports	8-10

weekend weather		
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
High: 65 Low: 55 Scattered T-Storms	High: 60 Low: 55 Showers	High: 65 Low: 50 Mostly Sunny

Behrend students remember friend, classmate Amber Heeter



Contributed Photo
Behrend junior Amber Heeter

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

To those who knew her, Amber Heeter was more than a friend or classmate. She was a sorority sister, a mentor, a mentee, and a constant source of inspiration.

Amber, 20, passed away suddenly from natural causes at her residence in Knox, Pa. on July 24. Heavily involved on campus, the void left by the tragedy is felt across Behrend.

"It didn't really hit me over the summer," said Michelle Lindemulder, a junior international business with marketing major who was a sorority sister in Alpha Sigma Alpha. "When I came to Behrend, it hit. Going into Brunos and not seeing her in her usual spot, getting coffee at the Clark Cafe and not seeing her behind the counter - it's weird being back here without her."

Amber's friends remember her as the perfect "sweetheart."

"She was absolutely the sweetest girl you'd ever meet," said Lindemulder.

"She had the biggest heart out of anyone in the room, hands down. She would do absolutely anything for anyone."

For those outside of the sorority, Amber was still a sister. For Christin Borucke, Amber's roommate last year, she's lost more than just a friend.

"Just seeing her and her spirit would make me feel better," says Borucke, a junior biology major. "Like I shouldn't be worrying about anything. Even if something bad happened, with her around, I could still smile about it."

She made every activity, everything

we did, really fun."

Alex Ley, the president of Alpha Sigma Alpha, met Amber last fall, and was her "big."

"As a 'big' it's your responsibility and your privilege to watch out for your 'littles' and watch them grow," she said. "It was cool to watch her grow and develop not just into an Alpha Sigma Alpha woman, but a great woman besides."

see Amber on page 3.

Frisbees fly high in Behrend Fields



ELESE MERKOVSKY
sports editor

Flying discs and launching bodies populate Behrend Fields during Ultimate Frisbee practices. Often, students can be seen in the field behind the on-campus apartments.

Now, however, the upcoming sport of Ultimate Frisbee is breaking the norm, as the plain plastic disc has ascended into the

ranks of competitive sport.

For those who have never played, ultimate Frisbee is a mix of soccer, basketball, and football. The non-contact sport takes the basics of throwing a Frisbee by turning it into a sport in which the players require speed, stamina and agility.

The sport is perfect for new college students to pick up, especially seeing as it originated in 1970 by Joel Silver. He attended

Lafayette College and helped to start the first club. Ultimate quickly spread and the first inter-collegiate game took place in 1972 with Princeton versus the Rutgers. Penn State is rich with Ultimate history, and was one of the semifinalists. Ultimate has taken off and expanded all over the countries colleges,

see frisbee on page 9



Growing Numbers

JENNA ABATE
news editor

With the first semester of the 2010/2011 academic year underway, some of you might be asking yourselves "how did I make it this far?" As for you freshmen, you might be thinking, "am I going to be able to keep up?" It's hard enough getting into college, but the real challenge is finding your place in a new and continuously growing atmosphere.

Not just anyone can get into Penn State Behrend, our home away from home. Director of Admissions Mary-Ellen Madigan confessed that Behrend has one of the highest enrollment criteria among the twenty Penn State undergraduate campuses. High school GPA is calculated and counts for about two-thirds in the admissions process. A combination of SAT scores as well as class rank is factored into the equation and counts for one-third toward the final decision.

Madigan mentioned how local enrollment has declined by fifty students most likely due to the economic standing in Erie County, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state of Pennsylvania.

On the other hand, ethnic enrollment is up. For example, the 2010 freshman class is one of the most diverse Behrend has ever seen with students from 14 countries, 27 states, and 67 counties across PA.

The numbers for out-of-state enrollment have climbed as well. This time last year, only 386 students enrolled as out-of-state residents as opposed to this year's growing number of 434.

"We're in a good place with our numbers here and are pleased with the not just the quantity, but the quality of our students," said Madigan.

What's the explanation for the sudden spikes in students? Perhaps it is partially due to Behrend's reputation for its specialty programs such as plastics engineering, the international business school, and the creative writing program.

Maybe the renovations and new additions to campus play a role in the growing numbers.

Whatever the case, Behrend's reputation precedes her as one of the fastest growing campuses in the Penn State system.

By the numbers:
Enrollment

14

countries

27

states

67

Pa. counties

50

less students than FA09

The construction finale:

KATIE DUFFY
news editor

For over 40 years, the possibility of a student theatre has been hiding beneath the concrete floors and in the uninviting seats of Reed 117. This summer, the school began renovations for what is now a state of the art movie theatre and multi-media employing classroom.

"I've been badgering Chancellor Burke for over 8 years to get this project underway," says Ken Miller, director of student affairs. In a student survey which was distributed last fall, the additions were voted of number two impor-



tance for the campus, following the establishment of a convenience store. Thus, the need for such enhancements was obvious.

The room was fully rebuilt from floor to ceiling, inside and outside. Now fully carpeted, equipped with 7.1 surround sound system, hi-def image with 720P resolution, and filled with cup-holder and fold-over desk outfitted chairs, Reed 117 is now a hub which students will not only be able to enjoy cinematic entertainment, but also an enhanced classroom experience. The facility has made significant enhancements considering just last fall, the movies were run from video cassettes.

Also amongst the numerous additions was, to accomplish a more conscious regard for ADA students, a handicap-accessible entrance.

"We were treating wheelchair students like second class citizens. It's for all of our students," said Miller.

In the future, the school plans to phase out the classes during the day so that the room is completely isolated as a theatre and a student-focused multimedia center. Already, it is possible for Behrend club members to create 30-second videos to advertize for their pur-

The much-anticipated Reed 117 is in its final stages of construction



poses, which the L.E.B. will run as previews before a film. This is a more effective, more interactive, and more personal means of getting the word out than spreading posters and fliers.

The renovation of Reed 117 is the beginning of the school's endeavor to accommodate student-suggested modifications, as well as to interactively connect the students to campus activities. Behind the beautiful new structure is the intent to use multimedia to out-

reach to students and get them more actively involved.

"We don't want students to just read the paper and hear about events, we want them to write for the paper and organize events", Miller says of this notion.

The project is to be completely finished within two weeks, after the installment of ceiling and acoustic panels along the walls.

Passing of professor Loss leaves void at Behrend

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

For Behrend senior A.J. Harding, returning to Behrend was tough this fall. When he came back, he did so without one of his closest friends and greatest instructors: Dr. Archie Loss.



Loss, who passed away this summer after a six-month battle with lung cancer, spent 36 years at Behrend, a career that spanned positions as an assistant professor,

full professor, professor emeritus, and Director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

What spread his name amongst students the most, though, was likely American Studies 105: American Popular Culture and Folklife.

It was in that class that Harding met a man who would help him become the person he is today.

"I took the class, and after that, I became a TA for him," said Harding, an international business major who didn't really need the class. He took it "just for fun."

"He'd invite me over to his house just to chill out and have dinner or coffee or something with his family," said Harding. "He was my professor, but he also

became my mentor academically, educationally, and interpersonally. He was a person that I could come to for just about anything."

That was a theme that carried through the life and career of the esteemed professor. His coworkers, too, saw him as a constant that would not fade.

Dr. Zachary Irwin, associate professor of political science, has known Loss longer than many.

"Over the years, one builds up a kind of sense of who a person is," said Irwin, who has been at Behrend since 1976. "We came to work together, and what I loved best about Dr. Loss is that he was truly that ideal of a gentleman and a scholar. He treated every person with respect, and he was always available when

you needed his time."

Loss earned his Ph. D at Penn State University park and a bachelor's degree in English and social studies from Millersville University. His career saw him visit Behrend first in 1970, and return after a stint with Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich.

He served for 12 years as the head of the then "School of Arts and Humanities." That was when many faculty, like Irwin, first encountered him.

"At the time, I think what impressed me was how approachable he was," Irwin said. "Sometimes you expect administrators to be a little standoffish. I never once experienced

see Loss on page 3

