

Use of OrgSync grows within clubs

ALEX LEY
staff writer

At the start of the new school year, Behrend students returned to find a new communication medium, OrgSync. OrgSync is an Internet based communication tool that is meant to be a "one stop shop" for clubs and organizations. The website can do everything from managing attendance at meetings to being a central location for constitutions and other important documents.

To join OrgSync:

1. Log on to www.orgsync.com
2. Click "register" in the top right of the page
3. Type "Behrend" into the quick search box
4. Click "register"
5. Fill in personal information.
6. Enter a profile picture and/or expand your own personal info as much as you want.
7. Click "Join an Org" at the top of the page.
8. Find the clubs you belong to, or pick an interesting one and join!

Numerous clubs and organizations used similar features on the already existing ANGEL course management system, yet are finding that OrgSync could be much more efficient for their needs. While ANGEL does allow for communication, document viewing, keeping record of attendance and meeting minutes, OrgSync does have many other features that are useful. So, how does it work?

Any Behrend student can register on OrgSync in a matter of minutes. By providing basic contact information, the students can begin "joining" clubs and organizations. Students then receive notifications on all upcoming events, important dates, and how to get in contact with fellow club members. OrgSync boasts two notable features that its predecessor, ANGEL, does not: one central personal calendar with all upcoming events and mass cell phone texting.

Adam Fracassi, President of the Political Science Society believes that "...It is a great way to organize everything for our group in one place. It is easier to use than ANGEL because everything is together. I think if the presidents of all the other clubs use it, OrgSync will be very useful

and popular at Behrend."

Chanel Easley, President of the Multi Cultural Council also sees a great future for OrgSync.

"I think once the transition period is over, and all of the clubs have a better understanding of what it can do, OrgSync will be extremely useful."

One feature that Easley sees being useful is the calendar.

"OrgSync's calendar is so convenient for anyone who participates in multiple organizations. All of the dates and events for each club are located on one calendar, which makes things easy for students."

OrgSync provides a transition for returning Behrend students. However, the freshman class has the potential to hit the ground running with the new online resource.

"The only problem now is that it is new and the older students don't quite understand OrgSync. This freshman class is the first to see this new system. When they are seniors, everyone will be used to it and it will become the norm as ANGEL is now," Cody Brown, Interfraternal Council President believes.

Caleb Rogers, President of the Lion Entertainment Board and Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity can make great use of OrgSync's distinct features.

"Some of the features of OrgSync that I really see being more useful over time are things like the real-time accounting system, the mass text messaging, the community calendar, the web-based fundraising application, and the web site interface," says Rogers.

As for Chapter uses of the new resource, Rogers says, "For Kappa Delta Rho we use OrgSync quite a lot because it allows us to post forms online for our members to fill out and we are also able to keep our alumni more informed about what the Chapter is doing since they are able to register with the website as any of us are currently."

As OrgSync gains a better understanding among student life at Behrend, the way we communicate could change dramatically. Whether you are the President of an organization or a first-time member, OrgSync has the tools you need to be a successfully active member at Penn State Behrend.

PSB interested in Jordan Rd. Houses

TOBY KELLER
staff writer

For some, life on campus can turn out more than a degree: it can incite college pride, making experience at the university a more than enjoyable lifestyle.

The unique houses that are found along Jordan Road are residences that coexist on campus. Many question the reason for their locale and nature of their inhabitation, and they have gone all but unnoticed. For the residents of these dwellings, life on campus is an everyday occurrence.

These homes, though, could represent an area of future expansion for the school.

"When the people are ready [to sell], then we're interested, but we're not pressuring them," said Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs. "As they become available, we're not aggressively pursuing, but when and if they make that decision, we'll start planning."

"However, we're not going to go out and buy property just for the sake of buying. It

has to be reasonable. The market value could be too much and we won't want it."

While the campus continues to expand, seeking additional room for classes, student living, a fine arts center, a new stadium and separate fitness center, these houses remain perfectly intact.

Three of the four houses are privately owned. The brick, ranch style home that sits furthest back from the road is owned by Penn State Behrend and supports the Susan Hirt Center for Organization Research and Effectiveness, the CORE research evaluation and development base for teen pregnancy prevention providers.

The yellow house highest on the hill is home to Benjamin Lane and his wife Carolyn. Mr. Lane is considered a pioneer of the university; he was an English teacher, Dean of Students and Head of Admissions in his career at Behrend. When he began teaching, his home was far from campus. Glennhill Farmhouse, Lawrence, Perry, Niagara and the Science buildings were the center hub and outer limits. Now, they sit amidst new structures on the backbone of the campus, right at the main nerve—the Reed Union Building.

Dr. Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs, said he has often seen Mr. Lane out on

nice days conversing with students.

"They love being there, they love seeing students," he said, "They love being in the middle of things."

The house right below, between the CORE and Mr. and Mrs. Lane, is owned by Evelyn Barber. Her husband passed away in Aug. of 2009. Mr. Louis W. Balmer was one of the first 12, full-time faculty members. As a chemistry professor here, he taught for nearly three decades. There is now a scholarship in their name.

Denise and Audrey Menges own the fourth house along Jordan Road. Jerry Ross, President of the Greater Erie Boating Association resides on Old Station Road, before the Junker Center driveway.

These old houses stand as a constant reminder of the university's past, and the land on which they sit could play an integral part in the expansion that is surely part of Behrend's future.

Quick hits: Jordan Road Houses

What houses? The ones on Jordan Road that you walk past every day.

Who owns them? 3/4 privately owned; one owned by research center

Why do they matter? They could represent future expansion space.

Why are they placed there? When Mary Behrend first donated land to Penn State, that part of the land was actually a decent walk away from the "center" of the campus. As Behrend expanded towards where the Junker Center now sits, the campus eventually enveloped the houses.

Will Behrend pay millions? No - PSB will shoot for market value.

Behrend leads at coastal cleanup

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

Penn State Behrend was heavily represented at the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) this weekend in Erie.

Groups from Greener Behrend, the Center for Service, Residence Life, Campus Ministries, a BISC 003 course, and Gamma Sigma Sigma service sorority.

Ann Quinn, the advisor for new student organization Greener Behrend and an organizer of the Greener Behrend Task Force, says that

the event had a tremendous turnout from groups across the campus.

"This effort was driven by so many groups," she said, "and the work is just so important."

International Coastal Cleanup, led by the nonprofit organization Ocean Conservancy, is a worldwide effort to clean up the world's coastlines. According to the organization's website, more than a half-million people from 100 countries take part.

At Erie, students and community members who were

present at one of the cleanup sites picked up trash, cleaned the surroundings, and took part in a worldwide effort to help the environment.

In Erie, there were 15 sites - groups affiliated with Behrend participated in seven.

Quinn not only encouraged her organization to attend, but also brought students from her class, and from a civic community class she co-teaches.

"A big tenet of what I believe is service," said Quinn. "You can do all of the research

you want, you can do all of the studying you want, but service is such an important part of being a student."

Why, then, choose to help the environment?

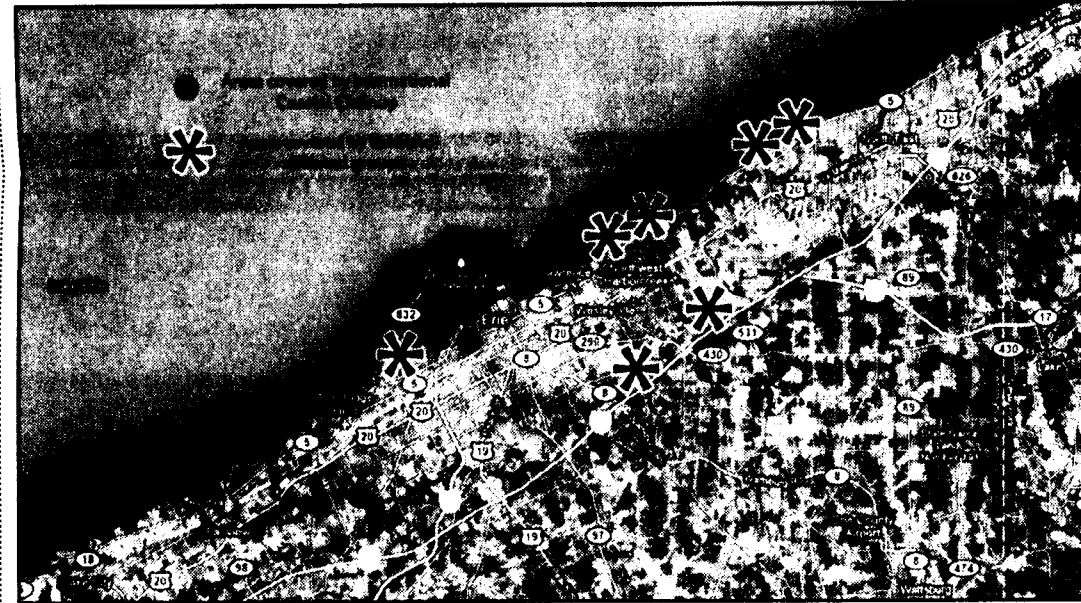
"Two reasons: first, it's beautiful," said Quinn. "The walk down to Four Mile Creek is just unbelievable. You walk on that path down there, and it's just stunning."

"Second, when you do work like this, you get to see that it's preventable. There's a lot of things that are going on that you can't reach out and clean up, like air pollution. But we got seven bags of recyclables and eight bags of trash just in the mile and a half of Four Mile that we covered."

Penn State Behrend's groups and classes cleaned up seven sites: Presque Isle State Park, Upper Mill Creek, McDannell Run, Lower Four Mile Creek, Upper Four Mile Creek, Seven Mile Creek, and Shade's Beach. The cleanup sites stretched from Lake City to beyond North East.

Greener Behrend, which became an official student organization just last spring semester, sent many of its students out, and is planning more cleanups before winter.

International Coastal Cleanup is in its 25th year, and Penn State Behrend has been participating for the last four years.



The Behrend Beacon
Behrend was represented by some affiliated group at seven out of fifteen cleanup sites this weekend. Dots represent a worksite; asterisks represent sites that had groups from Penn State Behrend.

ASB prepares for spring '11 Student Government Association

TASHIMA MITCHELL
staff writer

ASB is still standing and going strong

Making differences in people's lives, developing unbreakable bonds and overcoming obstacles, defines The Alternative Spring Break group.

"The Alternative Spring Break is a trip for students to do something different and possibly productive with their spring break", says Kylie Peters who has been on the planning committee for two years.

"Our planning committee is a hard working, creative group of students from soph-

omores to seniors who have all participated in past alternative spring break trips and are dedicated to making this coming trip the best it can be."

The students who participate in ASB get a rewarding feeling and a sense that they are giving back to the community. While the Alternative group is out of town, they do a lot of community work.

"We do humanitarian work so that we can impact people's lives in a positive way," said Amy Hudson who has been on the ASB committee for the last three years and will be attending her third trip this year.

"Our group believes that something as simple as recon-

structing a porch or sanding down walls can make a difference in someone's life."

In the past, ASB has successfully helped with the reconstruction of housing in Gulf Port, MS and New Orleans, LA. According to Hudson, this year they will be rebuilding houses, which ranges from putting tile on the floors to sanding down and painting the outside of a house. After work, and reflecting about their experience, they then are able to go site seeing.

"The trip isn't all work, it's still spring break," says Peters.

Ian McGinnity is the coordinator of community service and the Smith Chapel. He feels that he will benefit ASB because he can bring a different perspective to the group, since he is new to Behrend and has been to Phoenix and helped with poverty issues.

"My goal is for every student to have a meaningful experience. I have no doubt that we will have a successful year. With the A.S.B committee, the driven students, and the faculty and staff that will guide us, we will definitely have a wonderful trip", says Hudson.

Only time can tell how this year's A.S.B group trip will be, but with their determination and willpower, they will succeed.



A look at what is going on and what is coming up from the voice of the Penn State Behrend student body

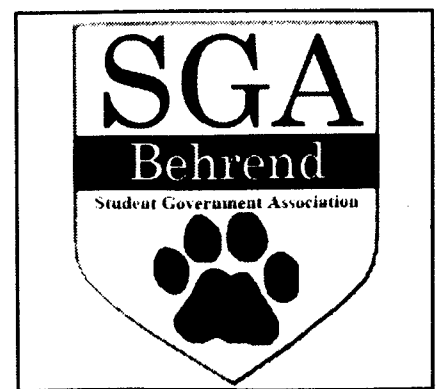
Stephen Burger, president, srb5125

Hannah White, vice-president, hwf5001

Briana Newstrom, secretary, ban5027

Jeff Tseng, treasurer, jat357

Ken Miller, SGA faculty advisor, kqm3



What's up this week:

On Monday, a few members of University Faculty Senate came to visit Behrend. About 20 students met with them and talked about various things such as, expanding majors at Behrend, expanding certificates and options for students and evaluating the general education requirements and what qualifies. During the weekly SGA meeting we passed several appeals to the budget and announced that we will be having speakers at approximately every other SGA meeting.

What's coming up

There will be Student Forum on Wednesday September 29th open to all students. This will be an opportunity for students to communicate with the Senate and voice their opinions. Academic Affairs committee is looking into expanding majors at Behrend, with emphasis on adding an Education certificate.

Important dates to remember:

SGA Elections will be held September 28th and September 29th, all students are encouraged to vote. At next week's SGA meeting Tracy Halmi will be our guest speaker, she is the chair of faculty council and will be answering questions regarding academics. The next SAF and SGA budget deadlines are October 5th and 6th respectively.