

New labs open in OBS after long construction

TOBY KELLER
staff writer

In 1963, when the chemistry labs at Behrend were first built, only one current chemistry faculty member was alive, the Beatles' "She Loves You" was on top of the charts and the Rolling Stones had just released their first single "Come On." Iron

Chem Lab Dedication:

At a glance

WHAT: Dedication of the brand new chemistry labs at Penn State Behrend. Guided tours for those who haven't seen the new labs available.

WHERE: 101 OBS

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 15

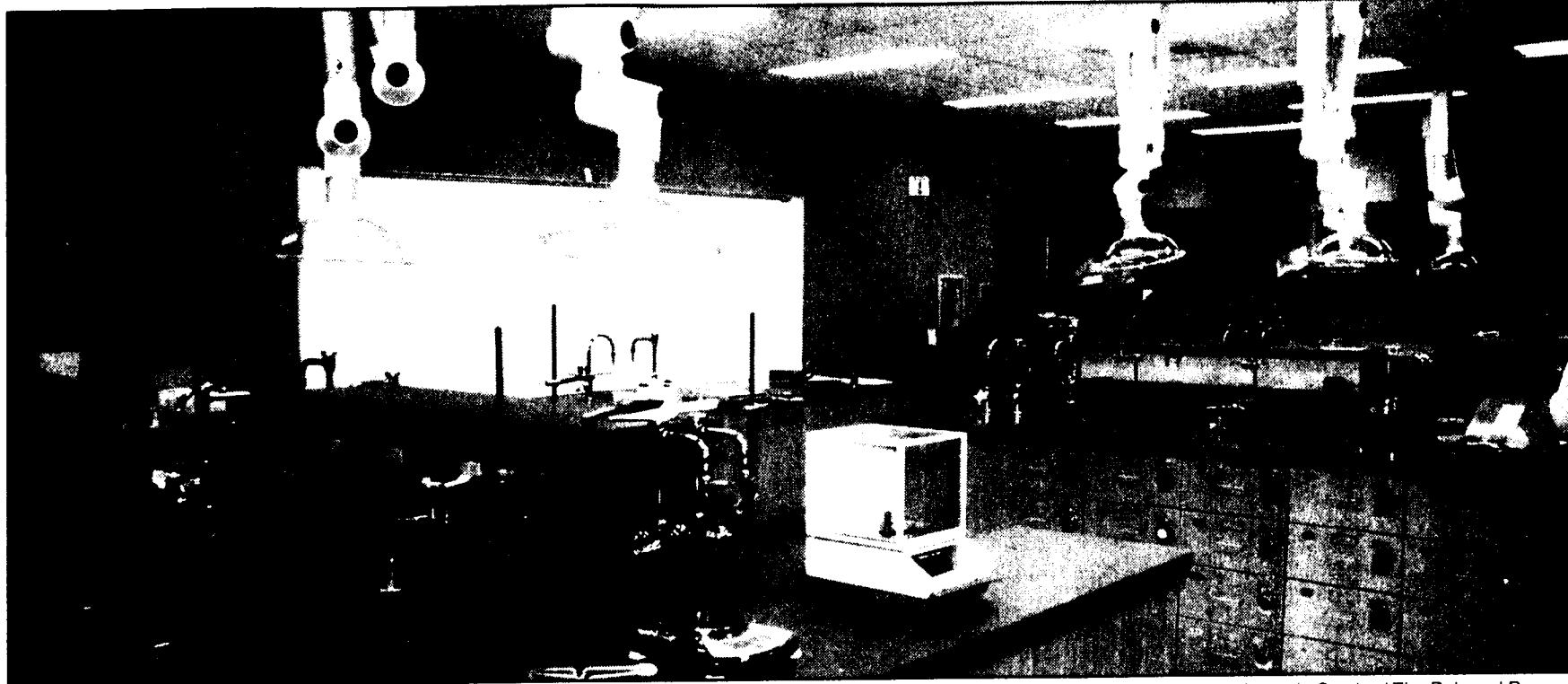
RSVP: RSVP to Amy Wittman at

alw6@psu.edu or in the School of Science office.

25,000 alumni have graduated from Penn State Behrend. Iron man has been made into a motion picture starring Robert Downey Jr., who wasn't born until 1965, King's speech has been memorialized amongst America's greatest movements, Kennedy has been succeeded by nine presidents and the Rolling Stones have released over 90 singles. Now it is Behrend's turn to reap the benefits of change: a 6.1 million dollar renovation to the original chemistry labs in the Otto Behrend Science building, set to be dedicated

Man made his first appearance in Marvel's Comics and Martin Luther King Jr., delivered his iconic "I have a dream" speech as over a quarter million people marched on Washington D.C. in a civil rights movement. This was also the year that John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

A lot has changed since then. Over



Amanda Snyder / The Behrend Beacon

New Labs in Otto Behrend Science Building include state of the art equipment and various safety upgrades.

on October 15, 2010.

The five old labs, over 9,000 square feet of space, have been completely gutted and consolidated into four larger, more accessible and academically conducive areas- all of which are ADA compliant. Two labs will be used for general chemistry and lower level analytical courses, while the other two will house higher level chemistry such as advanced inorganic and organic chemistry. The renovations also include a large preparation room, a separate storage area for chemicals with its own security, and a dedicated instrumentation lab that is accessible for students who may need time outside of their

regular class period.

The work is not entirely completed. There remains a "Punch List" of odds and ends that will keep contractors on call as faculty and students encounter problems.

Halmi says that the feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive so far.

"This is really state of the art stuff," said Chuck Yeung, Interim Director School of Science. "[The new labs] are gorgeous. They are a real upgrade and I think the students will really like them too. I know the professors are enjoying them."

Since one in three Behrend graduates will have taken a chemistry lab,

the faculty and staff of the Chemistry program did everything they could to ensure that students were not inconvenienced by the remodeling.

"We were creative and cut a little bit of class time but it did not cut any content," Halmi said. "The one significant impact that we really couldn't figure out anyway around was that we did not have summer session labs.

"Chem 111 and 113 typically enroll 10-12 students, but these are usually freshman classes and we really heard no complaints. Any kind of inconvenience felt by students is minor compared to the benefit for all of us." The new design will be more affective for students and faculty alike, and will no doubt be a point of pride for Penn State Behrend.

"When we designed the labs, we thought about what we could do in the future," Halmi said. "One of the extra benefits will be that the University will now be able to host things we otherwise could not. The American Chemical Society has an Olympiad once a year where high school students come and perform labs.

"We couldn't host them because we didn't have sufficient facilities. Now we can host them, or summer camps, in a really nice environment," she said.

Geering settling in as Operations Director Raffle raises over \$1000 to benefit student's family

CAROLYN ZAFFINO
staff writer

After graduating from University Park in 1988 with a degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional management, Mr. Randy Geering applied to work in the Housing and Food Service department at Penn State Berks campus. His wife worked in the development



Contributed Photo Randy Geering.

department and told him about a manager position, he was turned down for manager but hired to be an assistant manager. He worked there until February 2001, when

he left to become the manager/director of Penn State Behrend's Housing and Food Services in June 2001. He is very excited and anxious over the promotion, "this is a great opportunity and a unique time for the university." Penn State Behrend is poised to have a growth in enrollment, which would lead to a need for more facilities and student services and buildings. "I think of myself as a life-long learner, I am always open to learning new things," Mr. Geering said. He is in charge of making sure that the facilities stay clean and well maintained, oversee the new construction and renovation and plumbing in buildings. Mr. Geering also plans for future growth and how to add to the current space, and whether or not a new resident hall needs to be built. He was

also pleased to announce that Behrend has purchased Gospel Hill golf course, he served as the liaison between University Park and Behrend in that deal.

Mr. Geering said that he misses the interaction that he had with the student workers and the Resident Assistants (RA) when he was the director of Housing and Food Services. He says that now he technically oversees less people now than he did as the director, but he oversees all full-time workers now. He is now in charge of police services and their secretaries, maintenance, and human resources and their secretaries. "I don't know what I would do without my secretary, she is a huge help for human resources" Mr. Geering told me. He says also that they are going to try to develop the Reed Union

Building into more of a student union building. The biggest changes are the renovations that happened downstairs and the convenience store. "This is a very good way for the students to see where the Student Activities Fee from their tuition goes, that is where we have gotten the money to do these renovations."

He is very proud of the renovations of Perry, Lawrence, and Niagara that happened while he was Director, and also of the construction of Senat hall. His main goals are to do the campus justice, keep students wanting to come and stay on campus, and be a positive influence on the campus environment.

"Just remember, good things take time," said Geering.

Raffle raises over \$1000 to benefit student's family

ADAM FRACASSI
managing editor

On July 24, 2010, tragedy struck the students here on campus. Many lost who they considered to be a good friend.

In July, Amber Heeter passed away and the students at Behrend came together to help Amber's family out.

Over the past month, greek life, along with Student Activities, has been raffle tickets to students all over campus.



Contributed Photo Amber Heeter.

Over the past month, students in greek life have been selling raffle tickets to help the family. "The point of the raffle was to show the Heeter family how much their daughter impacted so many lives on this campus."

said Lindsey Hopkins Hall, Coordinator of Student Organizations and Programs. Tickets were sold for \$5 a piece with the winner of the

drawing getting a \$500 cash prize.

"At first, I didn't believe I won when Lindsey called me Monday afternoon," said raffle winner Chris Desmond. "After she responded 'no, you actually won' I realized that I did actually win the money. I never planned on winning, I just wanted to support the Heeter family and the sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha."

Overall, the raffle is considered to be a success. The students raised over \$1200 that will go directly to the family.

"My hope is that they will that everyone on campus came together because that's just how important Amber was to so many people on this campus," said Hopkins Hall.

In addition to the money raised by the raffle, Desmond is planning to give a portion of his winnings to the family as well.

The raffle is just one of the events that is planned to help the family. This coming Friday, there is an event planned to help the family even more. The event will feature students being able to Pie a sweetheart or Lindsey Hopkins Hall in the face outside of Bruno's from 11 - 2 with all proceeds going to the family.

Cardboard City applications now open

CAROLYN ZAFFINO
staff writer

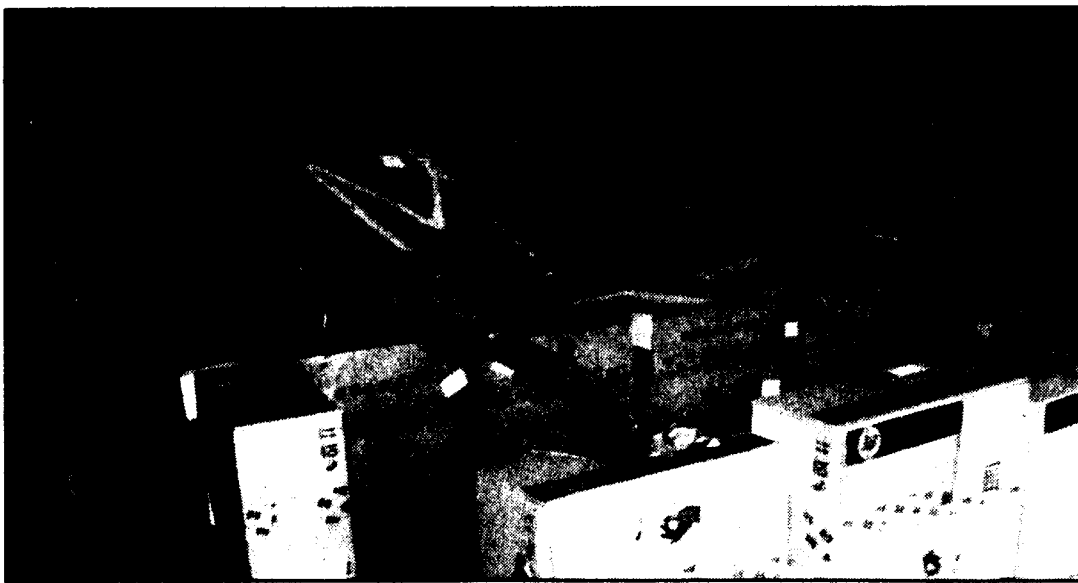
Come the last week of August, a large amount of Behrend students will find themselves living in nothing more than a pile of cardboard and tape.

These students won't be evicted or forced to live on the street: it's Behrend's yearly Cardboard City event.

Cardboard City is an event with an effort towards helping students understand a small taste of homelessness. Each year, clubs and student organizations sign up for a location on campus where they build a shelter out of cardboard. They then send their members to "live" in the shelter in shifts over a 24-hour period, collecting donations as they sit in the brisk October air.

The event is part of the yearly Hunger and Homelessness Week at Behrend.

Applications are now open for organizations to claim a spot. Forms will be available Friday afternoon at the RUB Desk, or under the "forms"

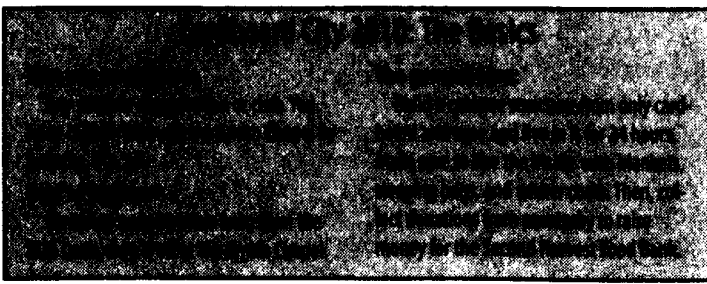


Keegan McGregor / The Behrend Beacon

During the Cardboard City event, clubs raise money by spending a day in a cardboard shelter.

section of the OrgSync group "Behrend Service."

All donations from Cardboard City go towards Second Harvest Food Bank. Donations given through this event have been so efficient in the past that it has been estimated that every dollar given provides \$17 of food for the bank.



THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

monday

55/43
mostly sunny

tuesday

60/48
few showers

wednesday

59/52
few showers

thursday

60/52
showers

The Beacon is looking for salespeople to sell advertisements to local businesses.

If you are interested in developing real-world business skills, we have a position waiting for you. Previous experience not required. Salespeople are paid by commission on sales.

Applicants should be in a major related to business or advertising or have a serious interest in pursuing advertising as a career. Positions will be filled on a selective interview basis.

Contact editor@psu.edu for more information or to apply