

# Behrend Collegian

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## Semester Changes Clarified

by Kim Strong

"Changes make a college look harder at itself," states Mr. Robert Schenker, Registrar.

Transitions. Alterations. Conversions. What is all this talk about change at Behrend?

The change is University-wide and it entails a conversion of Penn State's term calendar to a new semester calendar. The new calendar will begin in the Fall of the academic year 1983-84.

The two semesters, fall and spring, will be fifteen weeks long according to University President John W. Oswald in a newsletter titled "Semester." This fifteen week period is actual instruction time; registration and orientation, final exams, and a new Penn State addition of "study days" supplement the fifteen weeks of academics.

As an example, for the Fall semester of 1983, orientation and registration is August 22-25. Classes begin August 26 and end December 13. Two days of study follow this, and final exams will be December 16-17, 19-22. Two holidays during the Fall are Labor Day and Thanksgiving Holiday (November 24-27).

The spring semester follows much the same schedule with a Spring Holiday (March 5-9) breaking in between the beginning of classes (January 16), and the last day of finals (May 12).

Oswald feels that the fifteen-week system "reinforces the basic, intent of the semester calendar in extending the opportunities for learning, term paper writing, and thoughtful assimilation of knowledge." The addition of two study days between the

last day of classes and the first day of finals will also benefit the student.

But a growing concern among students is that the seminar transition will mean course changes and credit changes in some courses.

For instance, incoming freshmen are required to take English 10 and English 20 - two different terms in their freshman year. Mr. Schenker of the Records Office explains that this will be altered next Fall. English 10 and 20 will be eliminated. In place of these, English 15 will be a one-semester requirement for all incoming freshmen. Then, in the student's sophomore year, he will be required to take another semester of English, but it will be more attuned to his major.

Schenker says that no students will lose credits in the transition. Advisors and students will look carefully together at courses and how they apply or transfer in the semester calendar.

The "Semester Transition Handbook" (you can pick it up in the Record's Office) offers extensive information on the exact changes in major courses. This handbook can tell you courses that will be added, dropped, or changed in the new system. This handbook also lists filing deadlines for Financial Aid.

Because the academic calendar will be changing, summer term 1983 will be shortened to eight weeks. Classes for the summer term will begin June 15 and the last day of final exams will be August 13.

## Federal Aid Restrictions Set

by Maryann Rizzo

Students receiving federal financial aid may lose their eligibility if they fail to meet the "Satisfactory Academic Progress Standard," adopted by The Pennsylvania State University on August 30.

Dr. John Brugel, Director of Student Aid at University Park announced, "The new standard has been approved by the President's Administrative Policy and places Penn State in full compliance with federal student aid regulations."

The standard, effective Fall Term 1982, requires baccalaureate degree candidates to maintain a minimum credit level of satisfactory progress. Full-time undergraduate students must successfully complete 24 credits freshman year, 52 sophomore year, 84 junior year, and 120 senior year.

Students seeking associate degrees must also comply with the standard. They are expected to maintain 24 credits the first year and 52 credits the second year.

Graduate students will also be affected by the new federal progress standard. Full-time graduate students must complete 24 credits the first year, 48 the second year, 72 the third year, 96 the fourth year, and thesis work the fifth year.

Also, graduate students are required to follow the established standards of scholarship set forth in "The Pennsylvania State University Bulletin/Graduate Degree Programs."

A failure to meet the minimum credit level will result in a loss of federal aid. Apparently, students planning to drop courses or

withdrawing from the university for a term will be the most affected by the change. For example, a full-time baccalaureate freshman student would not be able to drop a course in the Spring, if he had only completed 23 credits. A sophomore planning to withdraw from the university for a term could not do so, if he would fail to meet the minimum credit level.

Because a failure to meet the minimum credit level will result in a loss of federal aid, Dean Harshbarger advises students to monitor their academic progress levels.

The "Satisfactory Academic Progress Standard" will affect many types of federal aid. Aside from SEOG, PELL, and PLUS, the National Direct Student Loan, Guaranteed Student Loan, and

College Work Study Programs will be affected.

Previously, students were expected to meet a minimum credit level in order to obtain state financial aid, such as PHEAA. This requirement has not changed. As a result, students receiving federal and state aid must maintain the minimum credit levels to insure their eligibility for aid in the future.

Before the adoption of the "Satisfactory Academic Progress Standard," the federal government only required universities and colleges to set some type of standard and follow it, according to Dr. John Brugel. The old standard can be found in the "Academic Policies and Procedures for Undergraduate Students."

Copies of the new standard may be obtained from the Office of Student Aid, 335 Boucke Building at University Park. Also, the "Satisfactory Academic Progress Standard" will be included in the new edition of the Penn State Student Handbook.

## Hicks Resigns S.G.A. Position

by Doug Saltzman

On December 8, 1982, Thomas Hicks announced his resignation as Lower Division President of the Student Government Association. Hicks resigned to take a position as Resident Assistant (R.A.) in Lawrence. The position opened as R.A. Denny Welsh transferred to University Park. Hicks was elected last spring in a close and controversial election against Andrew Oairns and Tim Richards. He served as Lower Division President during the fall term.

When asked about Hicks' resignation, S.G.A. president Ed McCloskey said, "Tom gave

credibility to his position, (Lower Division President), a quality that lacked in the past." McCloskey went on to say that "the hard work that Tom accomplished will certainly be missed."

According to Article VIII of the Student Government Constitution, "Vacancies in the offices of the Upper and Lower Divisions shall be filled by a special popular election." According to McCloskey, a candidate must be a full-time 1st-5th term student in good standing with the university. Interested candidates must petition to get on the ballot.

Nomination forms requiring 50 student signatures and 3 faculty signatures may be picked up at the Reed Union Building Main Desk. The special election to replace the Lower Division President will take place in early January.

"The S.G.A. hopes to gain a dedicated individual to replace Hicks," says McCloskey.

Hicks had to resign his position as Lower Division President to take his Resident Assistant position.

A more relaxing form of entertainment resumed shortly after lunch, when the film "Ordinary People" was shown. The film was chosen for its accurate depiction of psychotherapy techniques. Following the film, which was attended by 125 people, a panel discussed the film's realism.

"All in all, I'd say that we had between 200 to 250 at different events," said Dr. Rosenfeld.

Asked if the Psychology Department has plans for more conferences, Dr. Rosenfeld said that Penn State - Behrend will be the site of the Undergraduate Conference of the Western Pennsylvania Psychology Association, in the Spring of 1984.

Rosenfeld said that people came to the college from other local colleges, particularly Fredonia, Edinboro, Shenango Valley (Penn State) and Altoona (Penn State) for the conference.

Rosenfeld said that students from the local high schools also attended the conference. He said that he considered the conference, all in all, "a great boost for our program."

## Undergrad Psychology Conference Held At Behrend

by Chuck Beckman

"A positive experience" were the words Dr. Paul Rosenfeld, instructor in Psychology, used to describe Behrend's First Undergraduate Psychology Conference, held recently at the college.

The Conference was organized under the guise of Behrend's Psychology Department. The Psychology Club, a student organization under the direction of Club President Kathy Vickey and faculty advisor Dr. Debra Stein, was also "heavily involved," according to Dr. Dana Anderson, Assistant Professor of Psychology.

The two day conference featured events of interest to psychology majors and non-majors. On Friday night, November 5, Dr. Frank Andrasik, assistant professor from SUNY Albany spoke on the topic "Biofeedback Treatment of Ten-

sion and Migraine Headaches."

Dr. Andrasik is one of the leading researchers in the field of biofeedback techniques. Biofeedback machines, mechanisms which register and relay changes in body functions, have been on the market in recent years for home use. The approximate cost for a biofeedback machine is \$1,000.

The talk by Dr. Andrasik, sponsored by the Mary Behrend Cultural Fund, received media attention from two local television stations and numerous radio stations. Reportedly, the crowd for Andrasik's lecture of people from the Erie community, and the crowd was larger than any other audience for a guest speaker since ex-Senator George McGovern visited campus two years ago.

Despite the snow, Saturday morning's events were very suc-

cessful, according to Rosenfeld. Following an simulated treatment by Dr. Andrasik and his biofeedback machine, several papers were presented by Behrend students.

Mark Kremer "A Theory of Illusion." Barbara Webster presented "Psychological Concerns in an Intensive Care Unit." Frank Condo read "Galvanic Skin Responses as a Measure of Emotional Reactivity."

Anthony Menditto read "Learned Helplessness." Lisa Lubomski presented "Attribution Theory and Research on Rape." Debi Bobango read the final paper, "The Genetics of Schizophrenia."

Papers for each group were introduced by Norma Nighman and Diane Pelletier, respectively.

Faculty from Behrend and outside colleges also read papers at the conference. The featured paper was presented by Dr. William Balch of the Altoona campus of Penn State. Also presenting papers were Dr. Robert Tauber, Assistant Professor of Education; and Dr. Anthony Salvia, Associate Professor of Industrial Engineering.

**Merry  
Christmas  
from the  
Collegian  
Staff**