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Paul Weitz, Astronaut - Alumnus

Weitz Plans Behrend Visit

Astronaut Paul J. Weitz will return to the Erie area for a two-day visit in April. The highlight of the visit will be a special dinner in his honor to be held at the Harbor Creek High School. The dinner will be open to the public.

The Harborcreek native will be in town on April 18 and 19, 1984, at the invitation of the Harborcreek supervisors, the Harbor Creek School District and officials of Penn State-Behrend. His visit will include attendance at the Harborcreek supervisors' meeting, trips to Harbor Creek elementary schools, a reunion dinner with his former high school classmates, a visit to science faculty and students at Penn State-Behrend, and the special dinner at the high school on Thursday evening.

Weitz was graduated from Harbor Creek High School, where he was valedictorian of his senior class. He received his B.S. in aeronautical engineering from Penn State University and his M.S. in the same field from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. He is married to the former Suzanne M. Berry of Harborcreek. They have two children, Matthew, 25, and Cynthia, 22.

The veteran NASA astronaut has logged 793 hours in space in two flights. He served as a pilot on Skylab 2, the first manned Skylab mission, in May and June 1973, and was spacecraft commander for the maiden voyage of Challenger in April 1983. He has been involved in the NASA space program since 1966.

In 1973, Weitz was the first person ever awarded the Behrend Medallion. The award honors distinguished individuals who, by serving society and by attaining eminence in their chosen field, bring honor to themselves, to their community and to mankind. Recently, he was selected as a local hero in a reader survey conducted by the *Sunday* magazine, a weekly feature of the Erie (Pa.) *Sunday Times-News*.

The homecoming dinner will be held at the Harbor Creek High School on April 19, 1984, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 per person and may be obtained at the Harborcreek Municipal Building during regular business hours. For more information, contact Joe Sonney, Weitz Homecoming Celebration chairman, at 899-3171.

S.G.A. Elections Slated For April 3rd & 4th

The Penn State-Behrend Student Government Association will hold its annual election for positions on the Student Senate with "a whole cast of candidates," according to S.G.A. President Doug Saltzman. Saltzman, who was recently a candidate for the presidency, dropped out of the race on Wednesday, March 21.

Ten positions on the 1984-85 Student Senate will be on the ballot in addition to the vice presidents of the Community Council and Joint Members Council. Candidates were required to file a petition containing 53 students and faculty signatures with the Student Government Association by March 26. Commuter and resident positions must be filled by and voted for by commuter and resident students, respectively.

The constitution of the Student Gov. Assoc. requires that all elections must be conducted by secret ballot, and that a plurality of votes is needed to be elected.

As of March 26, 1984, Dann Johns and Doug Gerow were running uncontested for the top positions in the Student Government. If elected, Dann Johns, (4th semester, Political Science) will become president of the Student Government Assoc. and chairperson of the Student Senate. The position of S.G.A. vice president and Student Senate vice chairperson will be filled by Doug Gerow (4th semester, Business Economics), if he is elected in the April 3 and 4 election. Gerow is currently a Commuter Senator on the Student Senate.

Arden Jizmajion (6th semester, Psych) and Mark Rose (2nd semester, Pre Med) will compete for the presidency of the Commuter Council. Rose is currently vice president of the Council. Alex Primas (2nd semester, Engineering) is running, unopposed, for the Commuter Council position of vice president.

Four Commuter Senator positions will be elected. This ballot is filled by Timothy F. Carley (2nd semester, Business Administration), Michael R. Kitchen (6th semester, General Arts and Sciences), Derrick Landers (6th semester, Business) and Barbara Jo Wetmore (4th semester, Accounting).

Daniel Pontzer (2nd semester, Engineering) and

James R. Zaczekiewicz (4th semester, Management) are running for two Resident Senator position.

The presidency of the Joint Residence Council will be filled by either Richard M Breeswine (2nd semester, Engineering) or Thomas L. Salem Jr. (2nd semester, Meteorology), who are both registered candidates for the positions. The number and post in the J.R.C. provides the largest competition in the election. Tracey C. Haller (2nd semester, Petroleum Engineering), Shannon Mayers (2nd semester, Pre-Engineering) and Benita A. Silverberg (2nd semester, LA) are running for the position of J.R.C. vice president.

Candidates were briefed on election rules and procedures at the March 26, 1984 meeting of the S.G.A. Election co-chairpersons Thomas Hicks and Todd Kightlinger reviewed policies and answered questions that the candidates and those in attendance raised. Hicks emphasized that students must have their I.D. cards to vote. "I.D.'s will be checked at the voting booth," stated Hicks.

Terms of office for all positions begin June 15, 1984 and end on May 31, 1985.

ELECTED OFFICES

SGA President	4 Commuter Senators
SGA Vice President	JRC President
Commuter Council Pres.	JRC Vice President
Commuter Council V.P.	2 Resident Senators

"I would like to see a large turn-out for the elections." S.G.A. President Doug Saltzman went on to say that he is "encouraged by the present amount of participation within the Student Senate."

The Student Senate is the legislative body of the S.G.A., which is the governing body of the student population of the College. All Student Senators have a vote on the Senate and have the opportunity to serve on various committees of the S.G.A. These include: Inter-Club Council, Budget Affairs, Communications, Student Relations and Student Services.

Two additional Senate positions, Freshman Senators, will be elected in the fall semester by first and second semester students.

Ridge Visits Behrend

By Phyland Robertson

"The continuing debate on the role of education in America is an appropriate one," said Rep. Thomas J. Ridge, in an exclusive Collegian interview. "We must sit back and assess the situation. It still remains to be seen what the role should be."

Ridge is the first-term Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania's 21st District, which encompasses Erie County.

He expressed his belief that "the quality of public education in America has to improve." Toward this end, Ridge supports enlarging the size of grants

available for research and development projects of universities. "While the administration would like to restrict (this area), I think it should be expanded," said Ridge. "Colleges and universities are a tremendous resource and asset to our community."

Ridge also expressed support for increasing the amount of aid available for students and their families. "I support increased funding in terms of guaranteed loans, grants, and work-studies," he said. "When I went to college, I had all three."

He dismissed the belief that

students often don't repay the loans as unsubstantiated. "Students don't forfeit on loans any more than businesses do," said Ridge. "The statistics are about the same."

Addressing Behrend, Ridge finds its expansion into the technical and computer fields "exciting." He maintains that "to be employed in today's market, one must have a certain literacy with computers. Behrend has responded to the needs of the marketplace, to the realities of what's going on out there. This

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Behrend Receives \$500,000 From G.E.

By Edward McClosky

Behrend College has received a \$500,000 grant from the General Electric Foundation for the development of a campus computer center, Provost Lilley announced recently.

Carl Schlemmer, vice president and general manager of G.E.'s Transportation Systems Business Operations in Erie, presented Provost Lilley with the first of five \$100,000 checks.

The computer center, to be named the General Electric Computer Center, will be in the soon-to-be-built Hammernill Building. The center will have a direct link to the University Park mainframe computer, offering

students and faculty access to one of the largest computer centers in the country.

"This grant represents a noteworthy commitment and serves as recognition of Penn State-Behrend's potential," Schlemmer said.

"The amount is highly significant, but it is what the grant represents that should make us all stand tall and be proud," said Dean Lilley.

He called the grant "a real source of pride for everybody in Northwestern Pennsylvania," implying the Sunbelt and the Silicon Valley are not the only locations for 'high tech.'

"Every year, the General Electric Foundation considers numerous proposals for education betterment," he said. "Many of these come from some of the largest and most prestigious institutions in the country. This award to our institution makes us especially proud, given the nature and quality of the competition for the Foundation's support."

The G.E. Computer Center will be vital to the development of a Masters of Business Administration program at Behrend, which will be offered in 1985. With this MBA program, Dean Lilley said, Behrend hopes to recruit and retain the finest young persons in the region.