

NEWS

Behrend Family Honored at Annual Ceremony

by Kevin Moore
Collegian Staff Writer

The 36th Annual Hanging of the Greens was performed in the Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery on Friday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

The Hanging of the Greens is a ritual designed to give thanks to the Behrend Family who generously contributed to the Penn State University.

This ceremony takes place each year in the Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery located on Shannon Road. The Wintergreen Gorge Chapel was built for the Behrend's many, many years ago. There is a crypt in the chapel where the bodies of several members of the Behrend family are laid to rest, including that of Mary Behrend, whose donation made Penn State-Behrend possible.

The candles situated on the lecterns and windowsills were the only source of light in the chapel. All the warmth there seemed to emanate from those attending the ceremony. That warmth was not only physical, but spiritual as well.

Professor Benjamin Lane began the ceremony by providing a brief history and background for the ritual. The Penn State-Behrend chorus, under the direction of David Stuntz, sang several Christmas hymns, including *Silent Night* and *Good King Wenceslas* between each of these readings. SGA President Dann Johns, SGA Vice-President Doug Gerow, SUB President Ed Bailey, and Doug Saltzman each recited various biblical Christmas stories

and messages of thanks.

Everyone wished a "Merry Christmas" to all, then sang O

Come, All Ye Faithful, and departed.

The Hanging of the Greens is a

tradition that a very small percentage of students participate in, but remember that there's always next year! Merry Christmas!

SGA Elects New Advisor

by Paula Maus
Collegian Staff Writer

The Student Senate of the Student Government Association recently appointed Dr. Richard Mester as the SGA faculty advisor. Dr. Mester, Assistant Director of the Division of Humanities and Communications, is happy about the appointment and feels honored because, "SGA has a very vital and central role in the collegiate atmosphere."

This is the first time in approximately one and one-half years the SGA has had a formal advisor. Dr. James Kurre, Assistant Professor of Economics, was the advisor for the 1982-83 term. Since then, Dohn Harshbarger, Dean of Student Affairs, has acted as an informal staff advisor.

SGA Vice President Doug Gerow says, "We didn't feel an immediate need to elect a new faculty advisor. Dean Harshbarger served more than efficiently. But at this point, SGA needs faculty input for an alternative point of view."

Mester is the first SGA faculty advisor from the Division of Humanities and Communications. The most recent SGA advisors have come from Political or Business backgrounds.

To elect a faculty advisor, a member of Student Senate must nominate a candidate whom he or she supports. Student Senate then votes on nominees. Michael Kitchen, the Student Senate member who elected Mester serves on the

SGA Budget Committee. Kitchen says that he, "...wanted to see so-



Dr. Richard Mester
New SGA Advisor

meone from the Humanities and Communications in that position." Kitchen also notes that, "Since Dr. Mester is a philosopher, his approach is very unique and focuses on different angles."

SGA's primary objective is to, "Represent the student's interests

to the administration at Behrend and University Park," says Gerow. Gerow feels that Mester will serve as an asset to the organization because, "He can provide alternative viewpoints to issues and that will be beneficial not only because he is a philosopher, but because Dr. Mester is very dynamic."

As the faculty advisor, Mester has control of a vote in the Budget Committee. This is an important part of his job because the Budget Committee recommends allocations to all chartered campus clubs and organizations. Kitchen is curious concerning this facet of Mester's role, because, "It will be interesting to see his stance on the Budget Committee...I don't know if he will be monetarily liberal or conservative with funding." Mester, however, believes that he is to, "Assist in the fair and equitable distribution of student activity funds."

Mester says his role is, "To act as a liaison between students, faculty and administration in matters of student concern." Mester also states, "My role is to serve the SGA in an advisory capacity as it fulfills its role coordinating and implementing its constitutional responsibilities."

Dr. Mester received his BA and MA from the Aquinas Institute of Philosophy in River Forest, IL and earned a doctorate in Philosophy at University Park. His term as SGA faculty advisor will begin in January and continue for the remainder of the semester.



Your Turn to Grade

by Gregory Goldsmith
Collegian Staff Writer

In order for the administration to learn students' views of the faculty and their teaching abilities, it asks students to fill out faculty evaluation forms (IEF) at the end of each semester. The purpose of these forms is to evaluate the instructor's performance in and out of the classroom. These are also used as part of the divisional evaluation of each college to determine how effective and efficient the material is and how well it is presented to students.

Although students may not realize it, these forms play a significant part in whether the instructor receives tenure. This is not to say that if an instructor receives poor evaluations he won't be tenured, but the results will be taken into consideration when he is reviewed by the division head of his respective college.

Another purpose of the IEF is to give students the opportunity to voice their formal opinion of the instructor, the materials used for the course, and the instructional process toward courses such as possible additions to and subtractions from the courses.

After the evaluations have been completed, they are reviewed by the administrators and the division heads of each college within the Pennsylvania State University system. Instructors are not permitted to review IEF's until final grades have been filed so as not to influence their issuing of students'

final grades.

In an attempt to prepare the students and faculty for the IEF period, the Student Government Association planned an "IEF Awareness Week," that was held Dec. 3-8. During the week, a committee of students and faculty explained to classrooms of students and faculty the purpose of the evaluations and exactly what they are used for, who reads them and what happens after they are reviewed. It is necessary that all students give an honest evaluation since they have a strong bearing on the decisions made by the IEF review boards.

On the IEF, there are multiple questions that students use as a basis for their evaluation. Among these questions, at the bottom of the IEF there are three in which students write responses. These allow the instructor and the evaluation review boards to see what the general feelings of the students are about each instructor and the course. It also gives the students the opportunity to answer in a manner other than filling in the circles standing for Poor, Average, Above Average, Good, Excellent and Top Two Percent.

Students are reminded that these evaluations should be taken seriously when filling them out. The IEF acts as a liaison between the students and the faculty for changes that may need to be made within a division to improve the course and to communicate the ideas of the instructors.



Student Activities Hotline

by Julie Potochny
Collegian Staff Writer

Jamie Grimm, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, has implemented a Student Activities Hot Line. A 25 second message concerning activities scheduled that day is available to anyone calling 898-6211 after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all day on

weekends.

The Hot Line has been in effect since Dec. 1. Student response is averaging 20 calls each night. Student Activities bought the answering machine from Paul Bailey, head of the Instructional Communications Center. This was the only real expense in the project.

Grimm records the messages every day and hopes to expand the messages to two or three minutes to provide more information. If

any club or organization has an event to publicize, they should submit a brief description of the event to Jamie Grimm, located in the Office of Student Affairs.