

New generation in Student Services Staff

By Holly Lew
Collegian News Editor

Generating Involvement. Behrend's new Dean of Students Affairs, Chris Reber, and new Assistant to the Dean, John Downey, commit themselves toward providing Student Services with a personal touch.

"You have a big university—a huge university—with the option for students who want to get a Penn State degree to go to a college with a small-town atmosphere with a personal touch," said Downey.

"That's why the most important thing to me is to make sure that every student has that personal touch, that they see the Student Services staff, they know who the student leaders are, they know the faculty member by name..." added Downey.

According to Dean Reber, Behrend's "Generating Involvement" theme resulted from exten-



Chris Reber appointed Behrend's Dean of Student Affairs.

sive studies indicating that involvement of students in a college environment outside of the immediate classroom setting has been shown to be positively related to things like academic achievement, student satisfaction with the college experience, the likelihood of students to complete their intended degree program, and longer-term career success.

Since the type of involvement Student Services is aiming for is so broad, some changes in focus have been made.

Because "it requires a strong club and organizational network," according to Dean Reber, and because we have over 50 student organizations, John Downey's position was created. Downey focuses on clubs and organizations, and leadership development. He also "equips organizations with a major opportunity to involve

students," said Dean Reber.

Some other positions developed to generate involvement are: a full-



John Downey focuses on unifying the student organizational network.

time Intramural Director, Robert Peck; a Minority Counselor, Vera Lee Byrd; and a Nurse Practitioner.

The Student Services staff has a rejuvenated sense of its unique role in the college student's educational experience.

"We know—it's not just a hunch—we know that it is important for the average student to have a wholistic kind of college experience; learning happens inside as well as outside the classroom," said Dean Reber. Unlike classroom

learning, learning in what the Student Services staff calls the "co-curriculum" requires voluntary student initiative. Student Services provides many alternatives for learning in the co-curriculum. Dean Reber considers Behrend a "model campus in terms of the number opportunities we have."

Student Services, Dean Reber, John Downey, Jamie Grimm and P.J. Brown, is generating involvement to help you achieve the ultimate educational experience.

Election results

by Liz Fitzgerald
Contributing Writer

The votes have been tallied and the results are in.

Inter Club Council VP - Heidi Gebhart
Student Programming Council VP - Karin Lee Shrum
Student Government Association VP - Maria Savoldi
Commuter Senators - Elizabeth Buck, Andrew Festa, Tina McGinnis, Gerald Nicks, Matt Savacool, John Schaaf

The two new freshmen senators are Orlando Cruz and Michael Fekete. Cruz, from Miami, FL, feels he can "make a significant impact on the policies of the SGA. I want to get the freshman class more involved with their government," by providing an active voice in SGA meetings. Cruz has goals but says he needs to know what the freshmen want. He encourages students with suggestions to talk to either himself or Fekete.

Fekete, devoting most of his time to the freshman class, said, "I'm not on any other committees because I feel it is important to dedicate my time to what I feel is most important so I can get the best results." Mike plans to write a column in the Collegian to keep the freshmen informed and involved.

To find out more details about what our student government is doing, the senators, encourage everyone to attend the weekly SGA meetings, which are held Wednesdays at 5:30 in R116.

Architects win award

by Bill Warner
Collegian Staff Writer

The architectural firm responsible for the design of Penn State Erie - The Behrend College's Hammermill and Zurn science buildings was honored at a recent ceremony in Pittsburgh.

The firm of Bohlin Powell Larkin Ciwinski received the merit award for Achievement in Design from the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The ceremonies took place at the University of Pittsburgh May 29, 1987.

According to Richard Speicher, president of the Erie chapter, "The AIA is far and away the largest professional architects organization in the country. Roughly 75, - 80, of the professional architects in the US are members of the AIA. The organization takes a leadership role in promoting the positive values of architecture, such as environmental responsibility and historic preservation."

Linda Cornwell, the Associate Director of Development and

University Relations, represented Penn State-Behrend at the awards banquet. Cornwell said that the competition was among Pittsburgh-based architectural firms.

To avoid favoritism, the competition was judged by a panel of out-of-town architects. The panel viewed slides of each building involved in the order of their choice. They said the winning firm was chosen for several reasons. Its outstanding designs as well as its fitting buildings into landscaping scheme and conformation with the master plan for the campus were among the reasons cited. The firm was also honored with an award for its design of a children's park in Huntington, VA.

The Hammermill and Zurn science buildings house the engineering and natural sciences labs as well as classrooms and faculty offices. Penn State-Behrend's General Electric Foundation Computer Center, which provides students and faculty with access to a mainframe computer and 60 microcomputers, is located in the Hammermill complex.

Why WBCR doesn't rock

by Maria Plaza
Collegian Staff

According to Kirk Stewart, WBCR's general manager, the radio station has been off the air since a serious equipment malfunction occurred late last semester. With only a little over \$200, the radio club cannot afford to purchase replacement equipment.

There is hope in sight, though. A local benefactor is willing to donate the money to buy necessary new equipment, but before the donation is accepted, it must be approved by the University. So the WBCR staff is working to prove that the station is a worthwhile and productive organization.

A high management turnover rate has hurt the station in the past, says Stewart, but he has high hopes for the future. "With new management staff and the reorganization of WBCR, we will have a continuity of management policy and procedure throughout following years," said Stewart.

If everything goes according to plan, the station will reopen sometime toward the end of next semester with a new location—the present bookstore area, which will become available when the new bookstore is completed.

New equipment, new management and a new location aren't enough to satisfy the WBCR staff though. One of their primary goals is to have the station affiliated with

a communications class. According to Stewart, the WBCR club plans to remain open even if it becomes affiliated with a class. "I have absolutely no intention of making it mandatory for management personnel or staff to take any communications course," he said. He strongly feels, however, that station work should be worth credits.

Other plans include the rewriting of WBCR's constitution with what Stewart calls "major changes," and FCC licensing of all the station's deejays.

The station's expansion will provide more opportunities for students in various majors to get involved. Stewart says the reopened station will have a new management position for a marketing

major.

When it returns to the air, WBCR will carry commercials for the first time. Its broadcast day, says Stewart, will last from 8 a.m. until midnight at the least, and may last twenty-four hours if there is sufficient staff.

Even though they're not on the air, WBCR's staff is busy planning fund raisers to pay for equipment upkeep and the purchase of new albums. The first event planned is a lip sync contest and dance cosponsored by Jet FM 102 which is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 20 in the Wintergreen Cafe. WBCR plans to have cider sales and a Halloween costume contest to raise funds.

Honors programs challenge students

by Marjorie Suróvic
Collegian Staff Writer

This year Penn State Erie-The Behrend College has not only improved the look of the campus but has also improved the academic curriculum. The Behrend College Honors Program and the University Scholars Program are brand new programs designed to challenge academically superior students.

"To qualify for the Behrend College Honors Program, a freshman must have earned 1200 on his or her SAT or have a predicted GPA of 3.0 or higher," said Mari Trenkle, Honors coordinator and administrative assist-

tant for academic affairs. "At the first level of this two-tiered honors program, freshman must maintain a 3.2 or greater GPA each semester," added Trenkle. "Presently we have 31 freshmen enrolled in our program, and I am really excited about working with these students," said Trenkle.

The honors program is being phased in yearly. The next step for an honor student is to climb to the second tier, which is the University Scholar Program. It is possible for freshmen this year to graduate with an honors degree if they meet the guidelines established by the University.

Although the honors program sounds like a lot of hard work, it

also involves many social activities. "Mini faculty seminar with topics ranging from economics to international terrorism, off-campus plays and meetings with famous personalities are just a few of the social activities that we are planning for our honor students," said Trenkle.

An honors program would not be complete without faculty advisors. Purna Das, assistant professor of physics, advises Science and Engineering students; Dr. James Kurze, asst. prof. of economics advises students in the School of Business; Steven DeHart, asst. prof. of German and Humanities, advises the division of Humanities and Social Sciences;

and Michael Chiteman heads the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). These advisors will guide and assist the honor students throughout their college careers.

"No longer will Behrend College be looked upon as a feeder campus or a stop-over on the way to University Park," said Trenkle. "This program attracts a better quality of students, and the community is excited about this solid academic program we are here at Penn State," said Trenkle.

For more information concerning the University Scholars and Behrend College Honors programs, contact Mari Trenkle at 898 - 6160.

Fall graduation pumped up

by Rebecca Macey
Collegian Staff Writer

Due to the steadily increasing number of fall graduates, Behrend has outgrown its traditionally informal graduation procedure. Caps, gowns, music, commencement speaker, pomp and circumstance. This year for the first time at the College, fall graduation will be held in formal ceremonial style.

In past years, fall graduation has been somewhat "no frill," and this level of informality has stirred up bad feelings amongst many of our past fall graduates. In a letter addressed to Andria Sullivan, former SGA secretary, a student expressed her disappointment in the "casual dress, punch and cookies reception." "We were made to feel second-rate and as if noone wanted to put forth the effort to have a real ceremony after fall semester... Didn't we work just as hard?"

January 9, 1988 at 1 p.m., fall graduates will receive the same treatment as spring graduates do. A formal

ceremony will be held in Erie Hall with all the pomp and circumstance as traditional graduation ceremonies. Graduates will be decked out in caps, gowns and tassels, and Dr. Diana Hume-George will serve as commencement speaker.

Dr. George-Hume, professor of English here who received the Council of Fellows Excellence in Teaching award, said, "Fall graduates ought to have the same opportunity to cap off their college education with the formal ritual that spring graduates have. Although I've never been very comfortable with formal rituals myself, I see the symbolic value of them."

This year Behrend will also have its first two MBA graduates, adding to the special air of this occasion. (The names of these students were not available at the time of publication).

Keepsake regalia—caps, gowns, tassels—should be picked up in the bookstore no later than Oct. 31.

The snow date for the fall graduation is Jan. 10, 1988 at 1 p.m.

GE donates K.E.S.L.E.Y.

by Jennifer Diletuso
Collegian Staff Writer

Recently Penn State Erie - The Behrend College received a generous donation of equipment from the General Electric Foundation Company. The donation consists of several state-of-the-art series-one programmable control systems.

EET instructor here, Roger A. Kuntz used his 11 years experience at GE to obtain the equipment for

use at Behrend. He contacted a fellow alum, Bob Johnson, who is an executive general manager in Valley Forge. Through Johnson, the K.E.S.L.E.Y. program was ordered. The program consists of a microprocessor-based computer that controls other machines, eliminating the need for human supervision. GE has a six-mile long assembly line to build dishwashers that is completely automated. Two supervisors test quality and packaging, while the new programmable control systems complete

their assigned tasks. The unit, approximately two feet in length, has the capacity to control much more than its larger counterparts.

This donation is especially important because of a limiting budget of \$15,000 for the engineering program. With repair costs and maintenance, not much is left for expansion.

The two uses of this equipment will be to give students hands-on experience with state-of-the-art programmable controls and in research.

Lotus courses to be offered

University Relations—Beginning Oct. 8, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, will host Hands-On Seminars for managers, executives and other high-powered business people who want to find out how the Lotus computer package can improve productivity and profitability.

Sponsored by the Penn State-Behrend Division of Continuing Education, the seminar includes an Introduction to Lotus 1-2-3TM (with sessions held Oct. 8, 15, and 22) and sessions in Advanced Lotus

1-2-3TM (Nov. 5, 12, and 19). All sessions will be held in the General Electric Foundation Computer Center located in the college's Hammermill and Zurn buildings.

Karen Cooper, an instructor of management information systems in the Penn State-Behrend School of Business, will lead the seminars. Cooper, formerly a staff member of the Information Systems Group at United States Steel's Chemicals Division headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pa., holds a master's

degree in information science from the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in information science.

The fee for the Lotus seminars is \$125 per seminar. A special rate of \$200 per person will be offered to anyone registering for both the introductory and advanced seminars.

Advanced registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the Penn State-Behrend Division of Continuing Education at 898 - 6103.

Observe this open house

University Relations--Star seekers will be treated to a decadent supply of celestial delights on Oct. 3 at 8 p.m. when the observatory at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College opens its doors for another Open House.

Dr. Robert Marande, assistant professor of physics, will host the free-and-open-to-the-public event, which will feature glimpses of globular clusters, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. If rain dampens the mood, Dr. Marande will offer a

star-spangled slide presentation and lecture.

Space is limited and reservations are required for the open house. For more information or to reserve your space beneath the stars, call 898 - 6105.

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