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On the Road to an Education



This story is part one in a series which will take a look at Behrend Academics, analyzing the good and the bad and examining some of the obstacles to earning a degree.

Communications Program Closes its Doors

by Bill Warner
Collegian Staff Writer

Following a surge in freshman and sophomore enrollment, Penn State University's School of Communications has been placed under emergency enrollment controls.

The change, which became effective December 13, 1988, allows only incoming freshman entrance to communications majors and will force students who had hoped to transfer to the school to opt for other programs.

Dean Brian Winston, in an interview with "The Weekly Collegian," explained that the number of freshman and sophomores entering the school has grown steadily since 1986, reaching nearly 1100 in the fall of 1988, an increase not expected until 1990.

"We had no way of anticipating this would occur," explained Dr. William Dulaney, Associate Dean of the School of Communications, in a telephone interview.

"We became a free-standing unit in 1986. We have no large data base from which to project future enrollment." Total enrollment in the School's five majors, advertising, broadcast/cable, film and video, journalism and mass communications, as of fall 1988 is 2331, according to the Final Distribution of Enrollment, published by the registrar's office at University Park.

Cathy Mester, the Behrend Campus representative for the School of Communications, was

stunned by the sudden announcement. "Usually when an enrollment control goes on, there is some forewarning, a semester ahead or some such thing, that everybody is told that enrollment has gotten up too high for what we can handle, and holds will be put on on such and such a date. In this case it was an emergency situation."

Mester pointed to two concerns which affected the decision. "One is equipment. There are many courses that

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Communications majors may find long lines aren't the only difficulties awaiting them here.



Mrs. Cathy Mester

Behrend's Communication Department Head
photo by Sandi Inman

Construction Project Ahead of Schedule

by James Martin

Clubs and organizations including the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Collegian may be moving soon, according to Dean of Student Services Chris Reber.

He explained that the \$6 million renovation of the Reed Building is running between two and three weeks ahead of schedule. Before renovations can be completed, occupants of offices near the RUB Desk will have to be moved to their new locations.

While a considerable amount of work remains to be done before offices can be used, walls

are in place, wiring is completed, and most of the painting has been done. At present, workmen are putting ceiling tiles in place.

Reber expects the offices to be carpeted before moving day, but indicated the \$80,000 requested for new furniture still awaits Penn State approval.

Office space has been set aside for a number of organizations including The Collegian, Student Programming Council, Student Government Association, Inter-Club Council, Commuter Council and the yearbook, Blueprints.

Spaces vacated by these organizations will serve as a center for personal, minority, academic and career counseling.

Teleconference Held For Black History Month

by Laura A. Weaver
Collegian Staff Writer

Behrend's celebration of Black History Month began at 1 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 1 with a teleconference in the Reed Seminar Room.

The conference, entitled, "Beyond the Dream: A Celebration of Black History," dealt with the issue of black children's education and was presented in the form of a panel discussion. The panel consisted of three members of the education system, Donald Stewart, Mary Farrel, and Judith Eaton.

Several topical questions were raised and addressed by members of the panel. The first issue raised was the question of motivation.

Farrel noted that most black children think "achieving is being white, not achieving is being black." She suggested this situation could be corrected by letting the children know that "you can achieve your dreams . . . if you get an education."

Donald Stewart, President of the College Board, addressed the topic of home life.

"So many (kids) are coming into the arena minus a strong family background," he said. He noted that this would seem to retract from possible achievement levels.

In addition, Stewart said that church and community provide youngsters with feelings of self-worth.

Judith Eaton, president of the Community College of Philadelphia, gave several reasons why students should consider a community college.

She pointed out the the opportunities provided at a lower cost to the student and their family; and problem solving techniques available because of the school's small size.

She also noted the advantage of a community college for lower income students who otherwise might miss the opportunity for post-secondary education.

Eaton also made a remark regarding President Bush's educational standings, "Children did not create the deficit," therefore in order to insure our future we must push for education and, "we must invest in our children."

Other topics such as personal commitment on the part of parents and schools, black children's self-image, black and white integration, and black people's evident concern with their education, were debated with audience participation.

The teleconference and discussion were sponsored by Black Issues In Higher Education magazine.

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