At their meeting on March 19 the Millersville University Council of Trustees (COT) approved emeritus status for Dr. Susan Komsky, vice president of information technology, who will be retiring in June. Komsky has been with the University for 10 years. In addition to her work at the University, Komsky served the boards of various groups including the Lancaster Historical Society and the Y.W.C.A. and served as a member of the Jewish Community Center.

Emeritus status was also approved for Dr. Keith Lauderbach, industry and technology, who retired in 2007 after 29 years and for Dr. William Moyer, psychology, who retired earlier this year after more than 30 years of service to the University. And, the COT approved resolutions of appreciation for retiring COT members, Dr. Joseph Hennessy and Dr. James Stengel.

In other action, the COT approved increasing room and board by 6.3%. That means students will pay $3,654 per semester, rather than the $3,438 that they currently pay. In addition, the COT agreed to increase the general fee for undergraduates by 2.9%, which means the fee will go from $636 per semester for undergraduate students to $654.

“Tribute to Wickersham”

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) recently recognized the Erdman Anthony firm and EI Associates architectural firm for their innovative work with the redesign of Wickersham Hall. The redesign was placed in the category of building/technology systems and won the 2008 Diamond Honor Award on February 7.

“This was a state-wide award and Wickersham won the top award in its category,” said Dr. Robert Smith, mathematics. “We also received a very nice etched glass plaque.”

The Diamond Honor is the major award within the Building Systems category and Arthur Dickinson, Steve Strock and Smith accepted the award on behalf of the University.

Komsky Receives Emeritus Status

Dr. Susan Komsky

Faculty, staff, students and community members turned out in mass on Tuesday, March 18 to hear Democratic presidential candidate, Senator Hillary Clinton speak in Pucillo Gym. The event was covered extensively by local, regional and national media.

The COT also agreed to give $5,000 as the annual contribution to the Millersville Borough Fire Company.

Tribute to Wickersham

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Dr. Alex DeCaria, earth sciences, is serving on the Science Standing Committee of the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP). This is a federally mandated assessment funded by the Department of Education and is an ongoing, national measure of student progress over time in various subject areas. The Science Standing Committee advises on the development of the science assessment portion of the NAEP.

Tony Elliot, communication and theatre, recently performed with the York Symphony and the York Little Theatre in a concert version of Stephen Sondheim’s award winning musical, “Follies.” The benefit performance was put together to celebrate the 75th anniversaries of both the York Symphony and the York Little Theatre. It was held at the Pullo Family Performing Arts Center in York on March 8. Elliot was cast in the feature role of young Buddy.

Diane Fleishman and Kathy Naegele-Delgado, internships & civic engagement services, attended the national conference of the Cooperative Education & Internship Association in Myrtle Beach, S.C., March 8-11. Fleishman was on the conference committee and was the chair of the Best Practices Award Committee and presented the award at the closing banquet.

Janet Kacskos, APR, communications and marketing, was recently elected to the College and University Public Relations Association of Pennsylvania (CUPRAP) board of directors. She was elected at the spring 2008 annual meeting in Hershey on March 7. Kacskos will represent state universities and will serve a two-year term, 2008-2010.


Dr. Blaise W. Liflick, computer science, presented a workshop entitled “Teaching Assistive Technology to CS Majors” at the Association for Computing Machinery’s SIGCSE 2008 international conference, March 13-16, in Portland Ore. The workshop introduced teaching assistive technology (AT) for the disabled as an advanced elective course for computer science majors, illustrating many CS concepts and principles using AT.

Dr. Susan P. Luek, psychology, and John Hughes, respiratory therapy, were major category judges for the 2008 Lancaster County Science and Engineering Fair held at Franklin & Marshall College on March 17-19. Luek judged the Senior High Behavioral and Social Sciences Category, and Hughes judged projects in the Junior High Life Sciences Category.


Dr. Kendra Saunders, counseling and human development, presented “University Counseling Center Assessment: Planning for the Future” at the International Counseling Psychology Conference in Chicago in March.

Dr. Dominic Scott, educational foundations, presented a paper titled “American Education-Crisis or Celebration?” at the 4th International Scholars Conference at St. Mary’s University College, Belfast, N. Ireland on March 7. St. Mary’s College is one of Millersville’s new global partners. In addition, Scott presented a paper titled “Inclusion and Integrated Schools in N. Ireland” at the 52nd Comparative and International Society Annual Conference at Teacher’s College, Columbia University, N.Y., on March 18.

Dr. M.P.A. Sheaffer, English, cantored the Good Friday and Easter Vigil Masses at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, in New York and sang as an alto ringer in the Pontifical Mass of Easter Day at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, which featured works by Rheinberger, Pascual, Uenger, and Handel. In addition she gave the invited lecture for Lent at the Catholic Centre of Chiswick, London, on March 11.

Dr. John Wallace, biology, was voted in as Fellow in the American Academy of Forensic Science at the 60th annual conference for the academy, Feb. 19-23. In addition Wallace was recently author for four publications. He was lead author of the book chapter “Culiciae, An Introduction to Aquatic Insects of North America” and he was lead author of “Caddisflies assist with homicide case determining a postmortem submersion interval using aquatic insects” in the “Journal of Forensic Science.” In addition, Wallace was lead author of a book chapter entitled, “The use of aquatic insect evidence in criminal investigations” in the textbook, “Entomology and Death: A Procedural Guide” and he co-authored a book chapter entitled “Forensic Entomology,” in the book, “Forensic Investigation: Inside the Yellow Tape.”

Birth

Congratulations to Kerri Houp, dining and conference services, and her husband Brent, on the birth of their daughter, Caitlyn Grace Houp, on February 13.

Marriage

Congratulations to Srinivas Gotety, administrative information services, on his marriage to Neelima Aiyalarapu, on February 24, in India.

New Coordinator

Christina Pantoja ’06 was recently hired as the community service coordinator for the office of internships & civic engagement services at Millersville. Pantoja previously worked as assistant manager at Top of the Line Fragrances in Lancaster and has worked as a research assistant and Latino Studies student assistant at the University.

The Exchange is published for employees of Millersville University of Pennsylvania on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Send news to the Office of University Communications & Marketing, Duncan Alumni House; email: janet.kacskos@millersville.edu or call ext. 3586. Editor: Janet Kacskos; Graphic Designer: Diane Tothero; Student Writers: Sarah Harper and Peter Taraborelli; Student Photographer: Lindsey Tomao. Current and past issues of the Exchange are available online at www.millersville.edu/~ucm/.

Staff Activities

Millersville University is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Institution.

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Melissa Walter and her two and a half pound striped bass represented Millersville University at the National Association of College & University Food Service’s (NACUFS) Mid-Atlantic Culinary Challenge. Walter brought home a bronze medal for her efforts.

The University held an in-house cook-off on February 5 to decide who would represent Millersville at this year’s challenge. The winner of the event was Walter, interim catering supervisor, who prepared a custom recipe of Mediterranean Striped Bass. She competed against three others at Millersville. They were judged on preparation, cooking technique, efficiency, presentation and taste.

Millersville is a member of NACUFS and sent Walter to the University of Maryland in College Park, March 16-19, to compete against nine other contestants from the Mid-Atlantic region. Judges from across the country judged the competition. The winner of the competition, Thomas Schraa from the University of Maryland, will now compete in the national competition July 10 in Washington, D.C.

Melissa Walter

A Good Catch

In a “jazz club” atmosphere, join the Alumni Association for an evening of music and dessert fanfare. Tickets are $5. Registration is online at www.villealumni.com, or by calling the Alumni Services Office at 800-681-1855.
Who Makes Millersville Special?

This edition of the Exchange features Dr. Nazli Mollah-Hardy, computer science. She has her master’s in business administration in media management and a Ph.D. in computer science. She was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Q: Where does your expertise lie?
A: Intelligent networks and security. For my dissertation, I worked on building intelligent e-government and e-medicine networks. Lately I have taken an interest in bioinformatics. In addition, I am currently working on developing security-testing products for e-commerce and online banking with a local security company.

Q: What field/aspect of science intrigues you the most?
A: There is an objective as well as a creative basis on which to develop, and then test, hypotheses. The ubiquitous applications of science and the unending depth of science thrills me— one can feel like Indiana Jones in the discovery.

Q: How did living in Southern Africa impact you?
A: For one, I used to eat pizza and chicken wings with a fork and knife. Also, I easily convinced my new friends in the U.S. that I rode on a zebra from my mud hut to school each day. Being born in Asia and brought up in Africa effectively gave me the sense that the world belongs to me, as it belongs to you, and the next person— equally. We are all immigrants and temporary visitors to Earth— for a very short and unknown time frame. The basis for security in ownership is shaky.

Q: Can you name all the places that you have lived?
A: Dhaka, Bangladesh, the land of the Royal Bengal Tigers; Harare, Zimbabwe, the most beautiful savannah landscape in the world; Potsdam, N.Y., the coldest place on Earth; New York City, good sushi; and Lancaster, Pa., I was to find my future husband, Millersville faculty member Dr. Christopher Hardy, biology, here so I seized the opportunity!

Q: What was the most intriguing place that you have traveled or lived in the world?
A: Victoria Falls— because like its native name “mosi au tunya,” it is truly the smoke that thunders.

Q: What made you want to begin teaching science?
A: The best way to become an expert in something is to teach. It’s an opportunity to discover new arenas—with respect to the technology, applications and methodology.

Q: What is the most exciting part of teaching science?
A: Well, the night skies put life into perspective and keep me humble. I feel very lucky to be alive. Suddenly problems don’t seem insurmountable, a traffic jam is not a big deal, and the earth becomes even more fascinating. Being a part of the universe grounds me but also gives me infinite hope— a bit of magic in the science.

Q: If you had to pick one renowned individual to sit down with, with whom would it be?
A: Given the chance, I would dine with Buddha, who was a great seeker of knowledge but found peace, happiness and enlightenment within.

Q: What do you enjoy as a hobby/ extracurricular activity?
A: Canoeing, hiking, snorkeling, making dinner (albeit inedible), nature watching, opining— with my very favorite person, Chris Hardy. And of course cheering for Manchester United Football Club. For these, I feel most grateful and fortunate.

“manage” which gives me some hope, thank you. I have a lot of support from my husband and from my department, especially my mentor Dr. Blaise Liflick.

Q: What is the basis for security in ownership?
A: There is an objective as well as a creative basis on which to develop, and then test, hypotheses. The ubiquitous applications of science and the unending depth of science thrills me— one can feel like Indiana Jones in the discovery.

Staff Activities cont. from pg. 2

Dr. Jeffrey W. Wimer, wellness and sport sciences, was selected to conduct an on-site program review for the Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education at Montclair State University, N.J., on March 5-6.

Miriam M. Witmer, educational foundations, along with eight students presented “The Color of Teaching: Mentoring to Recruit and Retain Students of Color in Education Programs” at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in New Orleans, February 6-10. She will also be presenting this topic at the Pennsylvania-National Association of Multicultural Education conference at Temple University on April 5.