

A P S C U F

LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY FACULTY NEWS AND VIEWS

Vol. 00/01 No. 10

May 2001

2000/2001 IMPORTANT APSCUF DATES

Spring 2001

May 16-18 Leadership Work-
shop in Carlisle

Sep 7 Fall Picnic/Meeting
Sieg Conference Center

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

May 31 President makes decisions
on Tenure and notifies ap-
plicants

Jul 15 President makes decisions on
Promotions; notifies appli-
cants

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Newsletter Committee

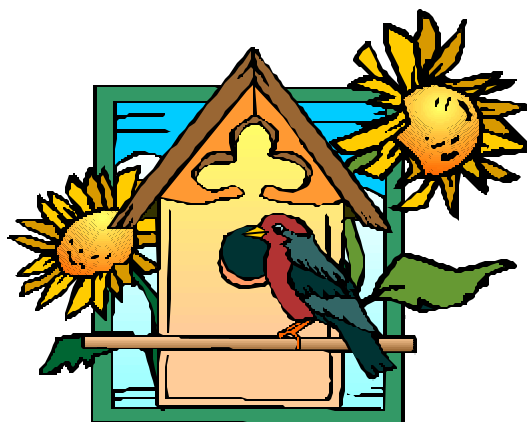
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All faculty are encouraged to submit Articles and Editorials to the APSCUF Office (Raub Hall) or E-mailed to eforce@lhup.edu by the 15th of each month. Articles on computer disk will be greatly appreciated.

You can find copies of the current and the past year's newsletters at www.apscuf.com. Click on Lock Haven.

Enjoy your summer!



REMINDERS

☞ If you have questions regarding your Health & Welfare benefits, contact the APSCUF Office or Al Hoberman, Health & Welfare Specialist.

☞ The State APSCUF website (www.apscuf.com) features a direct link to the PA Faculty Health and Welfare Fund Office. The link is listed under the "Health and Welfare Forms Online" spot on the right side of the page. If you click on the H&W Form you need (Dental, for example), you will go directly to the H&W Fund's Dental Claim form. This allows the APSCUF site to always have the most up-to-date forms available.

☞ Whether it is the birth of a child or grandchild, a marriage, an achievement, or informational article you would like to share in the monthly newsletter, please forward the information to Esther, APSCUF Office X2231 or by e-mail at eforce@lhup.edu.

Dr. David Bower, II To give presentation in the fall

Dr. David Bower, II in the Health Science Department will be presenting "Helping School Age Students With Loss" at the Pennsylvania State Association of Health, PE, Recreation and Dance. The presentation will take place at the Seven Springs

Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania on Friday, November 30, 2001

FACULTY NOTES

Congratulations to:

Bruce Young who has been chosen as the recipient of the 3rd Outstanding Service Award.

Punnipa Hossain who has been chosen as the recipient of the 3rd Outstanding Scholarship Award.

RETIREMENT DINNER

The annual retirement dinner was held on Friday, April 27, 2001 at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport.

Our retirees for this year were:

Dr. James Y. Dayananda,
Prof. Nelson DeLavan,
Prof. Bernard C. Dornisch,
Dr. Arunkant Patel and
Dr. Mary H. Pursell.

All were honored for their years of service to LHU and given a plaque. *Congratulations!*



SPRING PICNIC

One hundred and twenty-five faculty, APSCUF members, and management attended the annual Membership Picnic on May 1 at the Sieg Conference Center. The Social hour began at 4 pm; dinner was served at 5

pm, followed by our monthly membership meeting at 6pm.



Zak gave special welcome and recognition to newer faculty members at the University.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The Clinton County Children and Youth festival was held on April 6, 2001, at Thomas Field House. The festival has been a success with nearly 1,000 children participating in various learning and recreational activities provided by area social service agencies and our student groups, organizations, and classes. The festival has become a great means to create a better understanding between the community and LHU students. Nearly 25 student groups actively participated in the festival in planning, organizing, and managing the festival. It has also become a very fertile ground for many of our students to apply their classroom knowledge into practice. For example, my instructional media classes used their classroom assignments to provide education and entertainment for children. The next year will be the festival's 20th anniversary celebration. We expect a greater participation from our students to engage in service learning for the community creating a better "town-gown" relationship.

Submitted by,

Punnipa Hossain



**APSCUF ELECTION
RESULTS**

President Elect: **Art Gray**

Secretary: **Carol Rehn**

Treasurer: **Punnipa Hossain**

Legislative Delegates:

Caryn Carr
Bruce Young
Bob Myers – 1-year term

Alternate Delegates:

Fay Cook
Steve Hicks

Member at Large:

Len Shepard
Lou Widmann
Dan Shaw

Grievance Committee:

Caryn Carr
Doug Campbell
Larry Lebin

Nominations and Elections
Committee:

Paula Packer
Steve Hicks
Ronald Fennell – 1-year term

Promotions Committee:

Cindy Clark
Laura Lee
W.P. Abeyasinghe
Joe McGinn

Sabbatical Leave Committee:

Beth McMahon
Ed Jensen
Cathy Traister

Tenure Committee:

Alan Golden
Lou Widmann
David G. Bower II

Honors Committee:

Jane Penman
Susan Strayer
Laird Jones

Annik Kerszberg – 1-year term

Professional Development
Committee:

Ed Jensen
Karen Kline
Sue Boland
David G. Bower II

Alternate Workload Leave Com-
mittee:

Annik Kerszberg
Greg Lund
Beth McMahon

Faculty Award Committee:

Cathy Rush
Philip Huber

Gender Discrimination Board of
Advisors:

Alan Golden



***Congratulations and thank you
for your volunteering to serve
on these committees.***

**127th LEGISLATIVE ASSEM-
BLY**
4/19-21, 2001
LANCASTER, PA.

Negotiations and retirement legis-
lation were the two items of most
immediate concern at the 127th
Legislative Assembly held at Lan-
caster on April 20 and the 21. The
current negotiators continue to try
to win a contract for the system
coaches. While the two sides are
closer to agreement than ever be-
fore, there are still a few issues
separating them.

Tied up with these negotiations is a
definite chance for a contract ex-
tension of the CBA for faculty.
Management would like to explore
the possibility of a two year exten-

sion, but our side insists on first
resolving the coaches' contract.

Our new negotiations' team was
announced. LHU Professor Bruce
Young will once again be a mem-
ber of the team. Also, Pro-
fessor

Howard Congdon has been named
as an alternate.

Retirement legislation will most
likely be determined within the
next four to six weeks. Our chief
lobbyist, G. Terry Madona, dis-
cussed a number of very definite
possibilities concerning an in-
crease in the 'multiplier.' You
can get information on this pend-
ing legislation by logging onto
PCN and the various legislative
web sites, or by watching PCN on
channel 41 (AT&T cable system).

The committee to choose the next
Chancellor is in place and has a
very demanding schedule to make
its selection in time for the
2001/02 Academic year. One in-
teresting note is that a terminal
degree is not—that is NOT- a re-
quirement. Most of the delegates
found that to be both odd and trou-
bling.

Chancellor McCormick spoke at
the Friday evening dinner. His
speech was not planned and so he
did ramble some, but it was a very
heart felt academic autobiography
covering his undergraduate time at
IUP, his teaching career, his presi-
dency of Bloomsburg and his years
as the SSHE Chancellor.

CAP will be making endorsements
for the May Judicial elections.
These are important since so many
of our disputes with management
end in the courts. CAP will rec-
ommend that you vote for the De-
mocrats, Kate Ford Elliot, Jerry
Langan, Irwin Aronson, and James
Dodardo. Aronson, for example,
worked with our chief negotiator,

James Cowdon, and is an experienced labor attorney.

You will be receiving information concerning these important elections. It is important for us to support pro labor elected officials.



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RIDGE STUDIES BIGGER STATE PENSIONS *GOVERNMENT

WORKERS, LEGISLATORS HOPE TO TAP A BLOATED RETIREMENT FUND.

By MARIO F. CATTABIANI

Gov. Tom Ridge is open to the idea of increasing pensions for tens of thousands of state workers, including members of the General Assembly.

Here's why Ridge appears sold: The retirement system is flush with cash and it won't cost state taxpayers extra now to make pensions more generous.

That's "a factually sound argument and one the governor takes very seriously," said Tim Reeves, Ridge's press secretary.

But when and by how much pensions may rise remain unclear. Clouding the issue is an expected push by legislative leaders to seek an even higher increase for House and Senate members than Ridge endorses.

Thanks to stock market advances over the past decade, the State Employees' Retirement System, which administers pensions for 109,000 active government workers, has 123 percent of what it needs to cover current liabilities and therefore is in sound fiscal health.

As a result, the state could allow a 25 percent across-the-board pension increase without having to spend addi-

tional tax dollars for at least 15 years, Reeves said.

State pensions are funded by employee and employer contributions and by investment returns. Employees give 5 percent of their salaries. The state match and the returns vary year to year.

Increasing pensions has long been the goal of legislative leaders, who have heard loud complaints from rank-and-file members claiming that their pensions lag private sector rates and are below some other state employees, such as judges.

The problem has been finding the right time to raise pensions so it won't cost the lawmakers too much politically.

At the center of the pension issue is what's known as a multiplier, which is used in calculating retirement benefits.

Now, most state employees, including members of the General Assembly, have a multiplier of 2 percent. The multiplier is applied to the average of the three highest annual salaries. That number is then multiplied by the years of service.

For most state workers, the equation has not changed since the state retirement system was created in 1924.

Lawmakers elected before 1974 have paid more into the system and will retire with much handsomer pensions. Meantime, district justices have a multiplier of 3 percent and other members of the bench, such as county judges, have a multiplier of 4 percent.

Under one scenario gaining momentum in the Capitol, active state workers would see their multiplier jump 25 percent, to 2.5 percent.

An employee making \$50,000 a year with 10 years of service can now retire with a \$10,000 annual pension. That would increase to \$12,500 under the plan.

But legislative leaders will meet Tuesday with Ridge about getting a 3 percent multiplier for lawmakers, who have an annual base pay of \$61,890.

The change would be a 50 percent pension jump, giving lawmakers the same multiplier as district justices.

"They think they should have retirements at least as good as the minor judiciary," said Stephen Drachler, press secretary to House Majority Leader John Perzel, R-Philadelphia.

Drachler dismissed as "unseemly" speculation in the Capitol that leaders may hold up the state budget or a measure on how to spend the state's \$11 billion tobacco settlement if the administration doesn't support a pension increase.

While Ridge appears ready to entertain a 25-percent increase, he's less inclined to support a greater hike for legislators.

On that score, Reeves said the governor "needs to be convinced. And the slope is very steep."

Officials stress that details of the pension package have not been set. Among the unknowns is whether an increase would benefit recent state retirees.

House and Senate leaders last pressed the issue in the fall, at the end of the two-year legislative session. But Ridge said then he would not consider a pension increase during a lame-duck period -- a time when lawmakers leaving office still can vote on bills.

Lawmakers believe a deal must be cut this spring or they'll have to wait another two years.

They are reluctant to consider it after the summer recess and are unwilling to address the issue next year when all 203 House seats and half of the 50 Senate seats are on the ballot.

It all sounds very familiar to area legislators. Sen. Lisa Boscola, D-Northampton/Monroe, has heard talk of increasing pensions since taking office in 1995. She described as "greedy" lawmakers proposing a 50 percent increase. Politically, however, she understands the rationale.

Some lawmakers believe that if they are going to expose themselves to the political scrutiny of voting for a pen-

sion hike, it ought to be worth it financially, Boscola said.

"It's one of those votes the public doesn't forget," she said.

Even if Ridge gives his blessing, there's no guarantee legislative leaders can muster the votes to pass the measure, Boscola said.

She vowed to oppose any bill containing pension increases.

Rep. T.J. Rooney, D-Northampton, doubts a vote on pensions is imminent.

"I don't expect it any more this year than in any of the other nine years that I've served," he said. "It's always talked about, speculated about, and nothing ever comes of it."

