

**Lock Haven
APSCUF IS BACK ON CAMPUS!
107 RAUB HALL**

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Four Students Awarded Local APSCUF Scholarships

Four LHU students were awarded \$500 scholarships from the local APSCUF Scholarship Fund for the 2004/2005 academic year.

Rebecca Sustak of Nazareth, PA
Major – Health Studies – Pre-PA Studies

Jennifer Koshko of Snow Shoe, PA
Major – Health Science – Pre-PA Studies

David Cantwell of Shenandoah
Major – Computer Science and Computer Information Sciences

Melissa Hanson of Sarver, PA
Major – Exploratory Studies

Not pictured: Rebecca Sustak



David Cantwell



Jennifer Koshko



Melissa Hanson

Photos by Robin Conklin, LHU PR

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR HEALTH BENEFITS

Open enrollment to change your health care plan closes May 7, 2004. Open Enrollment is a chance for you to change health plans or add dependents to your coverage.

Open Enrollment usually happens only once a year. Please contact Human Resources to obtain the forms needed to make a change.



CAP PAYROLL DEDUCTION

“In addition to donating your union dues rebate to CAP, there is another way for you to support the important political work of APSCUF’s Committee for Action through Politics.”

APSCUF’s Committee for Action through Politics (CAP) is intended to promote state government’s support for higher education. The CAP fund advances this goal by providing money for lobbying activities and for the election campaigns of those Pennsylvania Legislature members and aspirants who are committed to maintaining and strengthening quality public higher education in this state.

Many members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly are up for election in 2004. State House and Senate members play a critical role in supporting APSCUF’s legislative agenda. However, costs of fundraisers continue to escalate. To be in a position to financially support our friends on the “Hill,” we must do everything that we can to insure that APSCUF/CAP’s treasury is adequate. APSCUF’s influence in Harrisburg is indeed growing. Our financial stability can make it better!

In addition to donating your union dues rebate to CAP, there is another way for you to support the important political work of APSCUF’s Committee for Action through Politics. Obtain a **Voluntary CAP Deduction Authorization** form through Cheryl Orndorf in the APSCUF Office (x2231) . If you are already having regular payroll deductions made for CAP, thank you! You may wish to consider, however, using this form to increase your CAP deduction.

By Reynol Junco, CAP Chair

Birth Announcement

Lisa Reide and Matt Beatty are the proud new parents of Larissa Beatty. Larissa was born February 11, 2004, at 8:39 AM. She weighed 7.7 lbs and was 20” long.

Congratulations Lisa and Matt!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2003/2004 IMPORTANT APSCUF DATES

APSCUF Spring Picnic/Retiree Recognition/Meeting

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

- ?? **5:00 PM Social Hour**
- ?? **6:00 PM Dinner**
- ?? **7:00 PM Retiree Recognition**
- ?? **8:00 PM Meeting**

APSCUF Fall Picnic/Meeting
Friday, September 10, 2004
5:00 PM Social Hour
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Meeting

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- Apr 30** Sabbatical Committee submits full list of applicants to President
- May 22** Dr. Willis’ Retirement Party
- Jul 15** President notifies faculty of promotions



Legislative Assembly Report

Minutes for the APSCUF 138th Session Legislative Assembly February 19-21, 2004 Altoona, PA

In attendance from LHUP were Steve Hicks (President), Rick Lilla (Delegate), Bob Myers (Delegate), Fay Cook (Delegate), Jeff Burnham (Delegate), Cathy Traister (Alternate Delegate), and Howie Congdon (State Grievance Chair).

Not surprisingly, the main focus of the Assembly was the tentative contract proposal. President Bill Fulmer and Terry Madonna explained that the involvement of Governor Rendell in contract negotiations is unprecedented; he has no clear jurisdiction in the negotiations, and personally he has never negotiated in behalf of the employees rather than management. President Fulmer sought the assistance of the governor when it became apparent that the system was fully prepared to allow us to go on strike in order to break our union. Governor Rendell had certain conditions: it is clear that he expects every state employee contract to involve a co-pay on insurance. The trade-off is that if we accept the deal, we will have a positive relationship with the Governor that will benefit us over time.

Governor Rendell's involvement has clearly angered the Board of Governors and Chancellor Hample. The Chancellor was not invited to the press conference when the Governor announced the tentative proposal, and he has indicated that personnel changes in the system would not upset him. Furthermore, he has created a committee on class size and other issues relevant to the quality of higher education.

If we reject this proposal, we are left with the system's final proposal, a proposal that strips the CBA of its power. If the tentative proposal is rejected, we will request final-offer arbitration or fact-finding, but it is most probable that these options will be rejected by the state system. We will continue to attempt to negotiate until August 23rd, when we will go on strike. Even though the strike would begin a week before classes, and thus give students fair warning so that they could get a refund, it is likely that the Chancellor would obtain an injunction, and that we would be forced to accept the system's final offer. Furthermore, if

we don't ratify the contract, we will lose Governor Rendell as an ally, and we will face the Board of Governors alone.

The negotiations team then explained the history of the negotiations and gave a detailed presentation showing what we gain from the tentative proposal as opposed to the final best offer of the system. The team's overall recommendation was that this is "the best agreement we are able to reach in the present circumstances." In response to questions, the team explained that the tentative proposal would not be seen by the courts as the "last best offer," since the Governor is a third-party mediator rather than a representative of the system. Accordingly, if there is an injunction, we would be forced to accept the system's proposal. The team also noted that negotiations are ongoing in regard to the 2003 promotions and the number of years necessary to retire before attaining full health benefits.

Jeff Burnham made a motion to send the tentative proposal to the membership as soon as the specific language is in place. The motion was overwhelmingly approved. A second motion called for the Legislative Assembly to vote to recommend or reject the proposal once the final language is in place. This vote would most likely take place via teleconference.

The Public Relations Committee discussed strategies in the event the tentative proposal is either approved or rejected. If approved, we would stress the positive implications of our alignment with the Governor against the Chancellor. We will be seen by the public as making a sacrifice because we care about our students (our slogan would be "We took a bullet for quality"). If we reject the proposal, our public relations will be much more difficult since many will see us as money hungry.

A representative from the State Meet and Discuss team urged members to carefully check their paychecks for errors caused by the new SAP system.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Myers (Delegate).

The Legislative Committee reported that a lobby day was being planned for April, as has been done in the past. The goal is to obtain increased funding for the SSHE. Other initiatives included better methods to track bills and bringing more legislators to various campuses, similar to the Legislators Day that we already have at LHU. Finally, the Committee is looking at a new bill that would mandate background checks for prospective faculty, coming from an incident that occurred at Penn State.

The major event of Saturday morning was that during the Legislative Committee report, Will Radell of IUP offered the following motion: "As the governing body of APSCUF, the Legislative Assembly directs the Legislative Committee to explicitly report, at each meeting of the Legislative Assembly, on action taken by APSCUF staff, counsel, and the Legislative Committee to resolve retirement equity issues between SERS and the alternate retirement systems since each previous meeting of the Legislative Assembly." After some discussion, it passed by a wide majority of votes. Following this, Professor Radell made a similar motion regarding the Retirement Committee, replacing Legislative with Retirement in the language of the motion. It also passed by a wide margin.

It was announced that Barry Benson, a long-time active member in APSCUF, had passed away on Friday, and that a memorial service is planned for Tuesday morning, at the Methodist Church in Bloomsburg, PA.

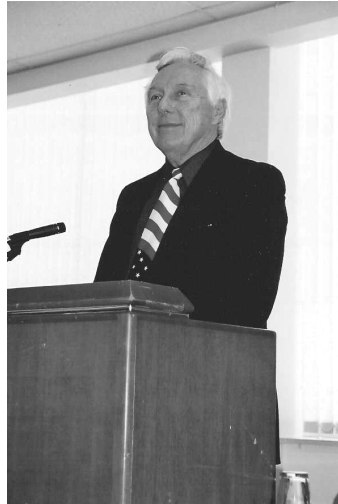
Finally, Roy Pointer announced that he was withdrawing his name from candidacy for APSCUF President.

Respectfully submitted by Rick Lilla (Delegate)

Please look for the April Assembly minutes in the May issue of the Lock Haven APSCUF Newsletter, which will be distributed in early May.



President Craig D. Willis speaks at his final Alfred E. Hoberman Legislators' Day as the Lock Haven University President. We hope to see Dr. Willis at many more Legislators' Days.



Alfred E. Hoberman Legislators' Day

The thirteenth annual Alfred E. Hoberman Legislators' Day sponsored by LHU, SCC, and LH APSCUF was held Thursday, March 18, 2004 in the PUB with a luncheon in the Multipurpose Room and a forum with legislators in Meeting Room #2. Legislators in attendance were:

Representative Kerry A. Benninghoff
 Aide Thomas Bowman representing Senator Arlen Specter
 Representative Steven W. Cappelli
 Senator Jake Corman
 Representative Michael K. Hanna
 Senator John N. Wozniak
 Aide Peter Winkler representing Congressman Peterson

Verizon Cell Phone Discount for APSCUF Members

Call Robert Davidson at 717-919-4806
 e-mail robert.davidson1@verizonwireless.com.

Benefits Information

Taken from an e-mail from Nancy Koutris, Special Services Director, State APSCUF 4/26/04

Prescription Coverage for Medicare Supplement...

Members who retire (**after July 1, 2004**) and are or become eligible for Medicare WILL HAVE THEIR DRUG BENEFITS REVERT BACK TO COVERAGE UNDER MAJOR MEDICAL.

Once Medicare Part A and Part B become effective, the retired member will have Medicare Part A and B as their primary insurance carrier with Highmark's Signature 65 (Medicare Complement) Plan, which supplements Medicare's coverage and

the Major Medical Plan. Major Medical will be (once again) the plan to which all prescription drugs are submitted and reimbursed from. For members who are presently 65 or are turning 65 within the next year and are weighing the decision to retire or not – the difference becomes having a \$250 or \$500 deductible under Major Medical (\$600 or \$800 annual out-of-pocket expense prior to the benefits going to 100% under MM). Plus, retiring after July 1, 2005, the benefit structure may be modified.

This was not Nancy Koutris' original understanding of the new RX plan. She asked to get the word out about what type of coverage those

who are contemplating retirement will have when they become Medicare eligible.

"PRC" Definition under the PPO...

"PRC" (Provider's Reasonable Charge or what used to be called the "UCR" – Usual, Customary and Reasonable rate) is the ALLOWANCE WHICH A PARTICIPATING PROVIDER/FACILITY HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT AS PAYMENT IN-FULL WITH INSURANCE COMPANY (HIGHMARK).

This amount is not the actual provider/facility charge, so when the

summary states 100% or 80% of the PRC, it is not referring to the actual provider/facility charges, but to the rate/charge that an in-network/participating provider/facility has agreed to accept as payment in-full for a particular service.

Members utilizing a non-network/non-participating facility or doctor will be responsible for the entire amount (actual) billed by the provider/facility, which could be considerably higher than the PRC.