

New Faculty Join Engineering

By Dina Walker

Three new appointments have been made at Penn State Harrisburg. Provost and Dean Ruth Leventhal recently announced that two faculty members and one staff member were appointed to the division of Science, Engineering and Technology.

Dr. Alex Aswad of Middletown, the newly appointed professor of engineering, holds a doctorate from the University of Denver where he formerly taught. Prior to that Aswad served as head of the structural section in the Ministry of Public Works for the state of Kuwait. Aswad has been a professional engineer in Colorado since 1970, and was a staff consultant for 12 years in the Stanley Structures Group, a prestresser and precaster of concrete in Denver.

"I'm very impressed with the program here," said Robert M. Webler of Hershey, the newly appointed associate professor of engineering. He added that the department is dedicated to producing engineers with "hands on experience"

who are in great demand in the field of engineering. Webler served as Vice President of engineering and technology at the Pittsburgh-based McGraw Edison Power Systems since 1972. Webler taught electrical engineering and instructed in-house courses and seminars on electric power systems while earning a master's degree in electrical engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Jerry L. Russ of Mechanicsburg, appointed coordinator of extended degree programs, comes to the newly created position with 27 years of experience as an industrial engineer with IBM. Russ said that he is developing a managerial control system for the extended degree program, which will establish consistency in the program's documentation. "It's trial and error to see where the program is going," he said.

Russ will serve as a liaison between faculty and administration at the three Commonwealth campuses providing extended degree programs in electrical engineering technology.

Chris Seay Slated for Gallery Lounge

By Dina Walker

February is Black History Month and the Capital College calendar is filled with events to celebrate the occasion. One such event scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, is a musical performance in the Gallery Lounge. Felicia Hayward-Brown, a staff member of the college, will be teamed with recent graduate Chris Seay. The two will perform songs from various musical categories including gospel, jazz and R&B.

Seay graduated from Penn State Harrisburg in January from the department of Business Administration with a degree in management. He is presently employed by PHEAA, Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Association, but he admits that his main interest is in pursuing a career in classical music.

Seay has been surrounded by music his entire life. Many members of his family play musical instruments, including his mother who plays the piano. But Seay said, "I just don't have the patience to study piano." He added that he always enjoyed singing, but never thought to develop his voice. At age 13 he joined the church choir, and Tony Leach, the minister of music at the church at the time, recognized Seay's talent and potential.

"Tony has been my friend and mentor ever since" Seay added. Tony has since relocated to Washington D.C., but continues to take a personal interest in Seay's progress. He said that Leach's

interest and friendship help to pursue his musical interests.

Seay is presently seeking a position as a local church soloist. "I'm not looking to make albums; but I would like singing to be my life. I enjoy and look forward to it, and would like to do it regularly," he said.

Seay's schedule is proof enough of his love for music. He is a performing member of Wednesday's Club, a prestigious music society in Harrisburg, which sponsors area musical events, recitals, and concerts. The club also awards scholarships to students pursuing a degree in music. He also belongs to the Harrisburg Choral Society, the Capital Area Music Association, and the Harrisburg Civic Opera.

Seay devotes a majority of his time to rehearsals for events sponsored by each of these organizations. "It's necessary to devote time to practice to develop stamina; even though I'm tired after work, the only way to perform well is to practice," he said.

Seay's high school did not promote the arts, but fortunately Blane Shrover, concert choir director at Shippensburg University did. It was at Shippensburg under Shrover's guidance that Seay developed his interest in classical music. It was also at Shippensburg that Seay met Felicia Hayward-Brown. These two will share their talents with Capital College students on February 3 in the Gallery Lounge.

King's Birthday Celebrated

By Bernie Mixon

On January 18, 1988, in the Black Cultural Arts Center members of the Black Student Union, as well as administrators, faculty, staff and students shared in the celebration of the legacy of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was a night filled with songs, presentations along with guest speaker, James Jones, Deputy Director of the Urban League of Harrisburg.

In his introduction, Wayne Ravenell, member of BSU stated that "you, me, we and us must act as leaders." Following the welcome address which was given by Crystal Moss, BSU Treasurer, the audience was led by Felicia Brown, acting coordinator of Student Services, in singing the Negro National Anthem--"Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing." Following the invocation by Rev. Calvin Favers, pastor, Capital Presbyterian Church, presentations were delivered by Wanda Ellis and Nowell Williams.

Ellis recited the poem "Negro Mother" by Langston Hughs. This poem addresses the hopes, fears and dreams of a negro mother for her children. The emotion that was evoked by the power of this poem was evident by the intensity by which it was delivered by Ellis. There was a sense of identification to those who grew up hearing the stories of oppression that blacks had to deal with in the south from the period of time that the poem takes place roughly from the 1800s to the 1960s. But to those who could not identify, they could better understand the obstacles that blacks faced.

Williams' presentation was of a different kind. He presented an "Open letter to Martin." In this letter, he explained the conditions of the world today. He identified such conditions as the threat of nuclear warfare, conditions in Central America, and the realization that we have not wiped out racism and


that the fight for equal rights is not over, but that there is still more work to be done. Williams also reiterated the message that King is gravely missed.

The BSU Mass Choir made up of member of the BSU sang many songs of faith and encouragement. The songs included "We've Come This Far By Faith," "Martin Fought the Battle of Jerico," and "Reach Out and Touch." With the latter song, the choir reinforced that belief that we can make a better world if we reach out and touch by going out in the audience and clasping the hand of someone.

Patsye Robinson from the development office performed an excerpt from "Free At Last." Using songs, Robinson depicted the struggles that blacks had to endure in the times before King and the pain that was felt when he was assassinated 20 years ago this April. One of the songs included "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child." Upon the conclusion, Robinson was greeted by a standing ovation for her powerful rendition.

James Jones, deputy director, Urban League of Harrisburg characterized the vision of King as being "depicted by his 'I have a dream' speech" and that "faith gave him the strength to perceive what he perceived." Jones identified the steps that it takes to bring a vision into reality. The first step is to recognize "and clearly see the vision and recognize the details." Understanding is next. You must "compare yourself to the vision and question traditions, laws and rules." Acceptance is necessary to attaining the vision. This means "humbling, the needs are bigger than the needs of I and you should be thankful for opportunity to make a difference. Most of all, the vision must be a movement that addresses the plight of freedom." Jones left the impression on the audience that a leader is "a searcher and a molder for consensus."

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