

Campus Mourns Loss of Associate Professor Suren Lalvani

By Deborah Sivia Mallek
Co-editor



Lalvani with Maya Swapna-Hoffman in 1995

The 1997 spring semester came to a bittersweet close with the sudden passing of Dr. Suren Lalvani on May 3. He was 42.

A native of Sri Lanka, Lalvani joined the Penn State Harrisburg faculty in 1990. He received the James A. Jordan Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1993 and was granted tenure as Assistant Professor of Humanities and Communications in 1996.

A memorial service was held for Lalvani on Monday, May 12. Students, faculty, staff and friends crowded into the Gallery Lounge to pay their respects and console each other on the death of the teacher, author, and poet. Speakers included Humanities faculty, students and Dr. John G. Bruhn, Provost and Dean of the Capital College.

There was a common thread to all that memorialized Lalvani. He was a consummate scholar, an outstanding teacher, and a kind and gentle man.

Dr. William J. Mahar, Director of the School of Humanities, commented, "Suren's death has come as a shock to his colleagues, students and friends. The College has been robbed of an outstanding teacher and a promising scholar whose contributions were recog-

nized by cultural studies and communications scholars around the world."

Lalvani is survived by his wife Caroline, his parents Kishnu and Dru Chundrum Lalvani of Pune, India, and a brother, Deepak of Bombay, India.

At his family's bequest, the College has established the Suren Lalvani Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contributions to the fund may be made to Penn State and sent to the Capital College Development Office.

Police Report Opening Day Marks Repeat Incidents of Purse Thefts

It hasn't been the best start to the semester for Police and Safety Services. Seven purses were stolen from an unlocked classroom on the first day of classes.

According to Police and Safety Services Director Kevin J. Stoehr, the thefts occurred sometime around 2 p.m. on August 27 as hundreds of new students began fall semester classes. Stoehr says that sometime that afternoon a professor instructing in the Olmsted building moved the class to another room to watch a media pre-

sentation. During that time, says Stoehr, someone entered the unlocked room and removed seven purses. Stoehr estimates the value at about \$53 in cash and seven sets of credit cards and drivers licenses.

As of The Capital Times press time, police had no leads on the thefts and no evidence of the stolen items has been found. According to Stoehr, there is no evidence one way or the other that this incident is related to two separate incidents of purse theft from Heindel Li-

brary at the end of spring semester.

Ironically, Stoehr was sitting at the information table in the Olmsted lobby from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in full uniform that same afternoon.

"It's probably somebody that observed the class, saw them leaving and struck," said Stoehr.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Police and Safety Services at 948-6232.

Graduation Proves High Water Mark For Class of 1972, 1997

By Deborah Sivia Mallek
Co-editor

Hurricane Agnes could have ruined graduation for the class of 1972. Instead, it seemed to bring the graduating class closer together. The Rev. Terry Wimmer, 1972 Penn State Harrisburg SGA president, was one of many who pitched in to help the victims of Hurricane Agnes.

Wimmer recalled, "The campus had, in essence, been turned into one of the first disaster relief centers."

Twenty-five years later,

Penn State Harrisburg extended a special invitation to all members of the Class of 1972 to attend the Class of 1997's commencement ceremonies as VIPs. The Class of 1972 was recognized during the 4 p.m. graduation ceremonies May 18 at the Hershey Theatre.

Honoring the '72 class was important to the 1997 graduates. As they were experiencing the thrill of the day, they were happy that the class of '72 would finally be able to share in that thrill.

A sea of caps and gowns

filled the auditorium at 1:00 p.m. and again at 4:00 p.m. Dean Peter G. Glenn of Penn State's newly acquired Dickinson School of Law was the keynote speaker. He reminisced about his own graduation ceremony.

"I don't remember who the Keynote speaker was or what he said, although I'm sure it was something worthwhile. I do remember that his speech seemed to go on forever," said Glenn.

Congratulations to the class of 1997 - and the class of 1972!

LIBRARY/Campus Will Soon Boast Library, Facilities of the Future

"Internet Cafe" where students will be able to log into the Internet with their own computers, while taking a snack break right in the library. The art gallery says Schill, will serve as a gallery and formal reception area for college visitors and serve as a feature the college has never really had before.

All told, college officials say that this library will not only enhance the college community, but the larger regional community as well.

Currently, Capital College can house 600 to 700 students in on-campus housing at its two dormitories and Meade Heights residential housing. South said plans for the expansion of the current housing are not yet finalized, but Bruhn elaborated, saying that in 1998 con-

struction will begin on a new "housing village" to replace Meade Heights. The new facilities will serve much the same purpose as Meade Heights and will include housing for families, gradu-



Capital College's Science and Technology Building will also undergo expansion starting October 4.

ate- and undergraduate students.

"Plans for the college over the next three years will have a major impact, not only on Middletown, but also the greater Harrisburg Area," said Penn State Harrisburg Provost and Dean Dr. John Bruhn.

The campus expansion projects were unveiled about the same time as a merger with the Schuylkill campus was announced but, says South, the two are not related. South explained that it will be some time before a notable increase in Capital College enrollment is seen, even next year the increase may only reach about 100 additional students. The merger means that students at the Schuylkill campus, which offers the first two

years toward a bachelor's degree, can now complete their requirements at the Harrisburg campus, which only offers the last two years.

Inspired by a 20 percent increase in summer class enrollment, Bruhn says the college will be taking a more regionally responsive role through the expansion, making Harrisburg campus a "jewel" in the university system.

HORIZON/From page 1

an adult will be only \$6 and each child accompanied by an adult will get free admission. This, say organizers, makes the Harrisburg Horizon affordable family entertainment.

When the team begins play in January there will be two games each week. A Saturday night game at the Capital Union Building and a Sunday night away game. Other teams included in the Eastern Basketball Conference are the York City Cyclones, the Reading Firedogs, the Lancaster Storm and other teams as far away as New York and New Jersey.

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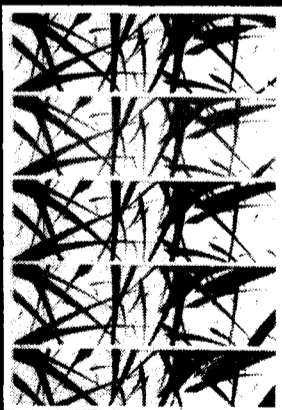
Community Arts & Crafts Fall Festival

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 4, 1997

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rain or Shine

777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057



- ❖ Free Admission ❖ Free Parking
- ❖ Arts & Crafts ❖ Craft Demonstrations
- ❖ Continuous Free Entertainment ❖ Food Sales
- ❖ Free Children's Activities

All proceeds benefit the Olmsted Recreation Board

For Fall Festival information call 948-6272

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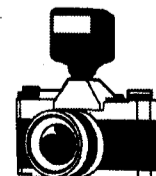
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