Poetic injustice: Poet’s pen is laid to rest

Dr. Patricia Kellogg-Dennis, associate professor of English at Rider University, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 8, at Capital Health System at Fuld in Trenton.

Kellogg-Dennis was raised in Long Island, N.Y. and moved to Princeton in 1970 and to Trenton in 1980. She earned a BA in English from Marymount Manhattan College in New York, MA from C.W. Post University. She then received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from New York University in 1975.

She had been a member of the English faculty for more than 30 years, after hav- ing started as an instructor in the evening School in 1971. She became a full-time faculty member of the department in 1972.

The courses she taught included Literature and Mythology, Creative Writing; Poetry, Introduction to Shakespearean composition and courses. Her play, ‘The Relative’, became a student production and was presented in the Yvonne Studio Theater in Fine Arts. She also appeared in other local theater and Rider productions. Her poems and scholarly essays have been widely publi- shed and she presented her papers at major conferences throughout the world.

Dr. Robbie Sethi, a professor in the English department, described Kellogg-Dennis as an insightful person who would get right to the heart of the matter, going right to the truth as she saw it. “A conference or seminar with her could really be stimu- lating because she wouldn’t let anybody get away with anything that didn’t make sense,” said Sethi. “She was argumenta- tive, feisty and free-thinking. At the same time she was a deeply spiritual person and very warm. It was a real combination for a poet.”

Sethi added that Kellogg-Dennis spent a lot of time work- ing with students on their writ- ing, having high expectations and encouraging them to do their best. However, she point- ed out that most important was the fact that she was outspoken, outrageous and always good for a laugh.

Danni Ding, one of three group leaders, “the resident advisers and mentors have been very helpful and friendly.”

“Before I came to America, I had no imagination of American culture and American life,” said Ding. “With my one year at Rider, I can use this experience to build my own opinions about the American economy and Ameri- can culture, and that will have a good impact on my future.”

Kelly and Rozanski both credit Cindy Threatt and Stephanie Pollack of Residence Life for “moving mountains” in preparing for the cohort’s arrival. According to Threatt, not only did they have to accommodate the 23 students, but also the three instructors who came with them.

“We set them up with an apartment building in White Apartments,” said Threatt. “Then we had to furnish it to make it as comfortable as pos- sible so they really felt at home when they entered.”

One of the most diffi- cult parts of the process was to obtain the student visas, a task that has grown increas- ingly complicated in the post 9/11 era. The Chinese government has been concerned that Chinese students who come to study in the U.S. end up stay- ing here. Associate Provost Jim Castagna said the U.S. State Department is aware of the problem and has been tough about giving visas to students from China.

“What we did was absolute- ly everything we could think of to make the process a success,” said Castagna. “President Rozanski and the migration advisor who advised us, we repeatedly visited with the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai to solicit their advice on the most impor- tant things to do, and just put the icing on the cake. Dr. Linguo Gong and I went to China in September 2004 and prepped all of the cohorts on the entire application process and answered all questions.”

The State Department approved the students’ visas based upon the ties students have in China that would indi- cate an intent to return to the country, their English language skills and their financial abil- ity to pay for a year of Rider tuition. Another important consideration is safety. Steven Chen says there have been a number of things that made him feel at home, such as Cindy Threatt planning a Chinese spring festival for the cohorts and President Rozanski speaking Chinese to them. He recognizes how important adaptability has been in his transition.

“I think Rider has done a great job for us,” said Chen. “They have been very consider- ate and planned everything for us like parents. It has exceeded my expectations. I think I will improve myself while I’m here and achieve my goal.”

SECURITY BRIEFS

Lincoln Lawbreakers

A visitor was arrested for having two warrants in two different townships. The Lawrence Police Department (LPD) ran a license plate check on his car Friday, Jan. 28, after issuing him a summons for illegally parking in the fire zone on Complex Drive and discovered the outstanding warrants. The LPD called Security, who then checked the visitor log for the car. The visitor was then located and arrested. The warrants had been issued for traffic violations. He was issued a Persona Non Grazi (PNG) letter.

Freshmen Bake Out

Two male students in Ziegler were arrested on Friday, Jan. 28 for a narcot- ics violation after a female student member of mari- juana coming from their room. Security arrived and one of the students who was returning from the restroom consented to let the officers check the room. Security also noticed the strong odor of burning marijuana and even- tually the students turned over both a glass pipe and what is believed to be mari- juana. LPD was called and the students were taken into custody.

Poyda’s Pyros

A fire was started in Poyda at 1 a.m. on Sunday when an unknown victim lit two pieces of paper on fire on a restroom door. Smoke detectors were activated as a result of the smoke caused by the burning paper. The fire extinguished itself.

Holiday Un-giving

An undisclosed amount of cash was taken by an unknown suspect from a coach’s office in Alumni Gym sometime between Dec. 7 and 12. The investigation is continuing and anyone with information is asked to call Security at x. 5029.

A Lawsuit in a Puddle

A female faculty member slipped on a puddle of water in Fine Arts when she exited the elevator and turned the corner on Monday, Jan. 24. She landed on her knee and later called Security, who provided her with medical atten- tion. She was later treated at a nearby facility.