Monmouth University’s Department of Foreign Language Studies strives to inspire students to a lifelong appreciation of and engagement with foreign languages, literatures, and cultures, and to prepare them for a variety of careers as well as active participation in their communities through effective critical thinking and communication skills. The Chair of the department of Foreign Language Studies is Priscilla Gac-Artigas, who began her second term this past July. Priscilla joined Monmouth University in 1995 as an Assistant Professor, when foreign languages were part of the English department. In 2001, she was promoted to Associate Professor and in July of 2002 she became Chair, when the department was known as Romance Language and Literatures. “I have seen tremendous growth and change in our department; we have more Spanish majors and offer many more language classes with faculty to support them.” In 2003, the department name changed to Foreign Language Studies, offering additional courses in Italian, French, German, Latin, Portuguese and Arabic.

This fall, the department will be offering a new undergraduate degree of Spanish and International Business. “We will be the only university in the Northeast offering this type of major,” explained Priscilla, “making MU very unique. Only a handful of universities in the United States offer this degree at all.” Priscilla began developing the curriculum for this degree three years ago, working with the School of Business Administration and the Provost’s office. The state is recommending this program as a model for other universities in New Jersey that may want to adopt it. Monmouth University also requires seniors who want to teach a foreign language to take the Oral Proficiency Interview. “We began this program to make our Spanish majors and minors more competitive; now the state requires this exam for any graduates who want to teach.” In order to help them prepare for the OPI, Foreign Language Studies opened a Resource Center in 2005, which is staffed by three resource assistants: Dr. Elsa Lake, Ileana Fleites-LaSalle and Barbara Werther-Rosenow. The students are required to meet once a week in small groups for one hour to do conversation practice. “We receive such positive feedback from students; it is now open to students of intermediate levels of Spanish, French, German and Italian.”

As Chair, Priscilla schedules courses and is attentive to all the needs of faculty and students. She also acts as the liaison between faculty, deans and the administration. In addition to running the department, Priscilla teaches two classes: one in Elementary Spanish and another for advanced level students. “The elementary class keeps me in touch with students that are fulfilling a requirement for general education. The advanced level keeps me close to our students majoring in Spanish.” Priscilla’s area of specialty is Latin American literature, culture and civilization. “I love teaching and having contact with the students; my other passion is research.” Her current research is in contemporary Latino writers in the United States. Prior to that, Priscilla focused on Latinamerican Women writers abroad. She is the editor of Reflexiones, ensayos sobre escritoras hispanoamericanas contemporáneas, a two-volume series of essays on different writers written by scholars from all over the world, but mainly from the United States. Priscilla also wrote the introduction and contributed several essays and interviews. She has published and edited several books which can be viewed on her website. The most recent one is Nos tomamos la palabra, an anthology of works by 28 Latinamerican women writers. Priscilla recently attended a conference in Peru during Spring break to interview writers for a new book about culture and civilization in Latin America: Hoja de ruta, which will be published in May 2006.

Priscilla is originally from Puerto Rico and has lived in many different parts of the world. She received a B.A. in French Language and Literature from the University of Puerto Rico. Next, she attended Middlebury College in Vermont and studied in France for one year, earning an M.A. in French Literature. Priscilla was awarded a scholarship from the French government to attend the Sorbonne University in Paris, France where she obtained a Diploma of Studies in Depth in Modern Languages and Dramatic Arts Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from the University of Franche Comté, France, and won an award for her dissertation.

Priscilla’s first career was in theatre. She worked as an actress in France after joining a Latin American Theatre group and met her husband, Gustavo, who was the director of the company. Together they toured all of Europe and even Africa one summer. Eight years later, the couple decided to move to Chile, Gustavo’s birthplace. Since he was a political refugee, Gustavo was not permitted back into his country, and was sent to Argentina. Priscilla went to Puerto

Department continued on Page 4
PROMOTIONS
Congratulations!
1/01/2006 - 3/31/2006

Tremaine Byrd
Monmouth University Library

Suzanne Cummings
School of Education

Bruce Johantgen
University Police

Karen Mahoney
Registration and Records

Jennifer Miller
Graduate Admission

Kenneth Otten
Facilities Management

Linda Puches
Instructional Technology Services

E. James Renae
Fitness Center

Robyn Salvo
Human Resources

Ravindra Sharma
Monmouth University Library

Robert Shea
General Counsel

Shaun Stanton
Athletics

Peggy Steelman
Registration and Records

TRANSFERS
1/01/2006 - 3/31/2006

Patricia Curtis
Box Office Manager
Central Box Office

Nancy Gallo
Student Employment Assistant
LCAC

Merissa Jones
Student Account Assistant
Bursar

Janis Palumbo
Secretary
Psychological Counseling

Maydelle Romero
Program Advisor
Curriculum and Instruction

Noreen Spinapont
Campus Life Assistant
Student Activities

Fang Xie
Automation and Information Delivery Supervisor
Monmouth University Library

Do Your Part To Help
Conserve Energy
Turn Off Equipment
When Not In Use

Employee Activity Committee News

During the month of March, the Employee Activity Committee began hosting monthly meetings for employees interested in scrapbooking. A representative from Creative Memories comes to campus to help employees organize and preserve their photographs. Feel free to stop by the Student Center for the next session. The fee is $5.00 per session or $20.00 for five sessions.

The “Lunch and Learn” sessions with Dr. James Proodian have been very successful and informational. On January 25th we were educated on how to relieve muscle stress at the workstation and on March 22nd we learned how to manage stress in our daily lives. We will continue to offer these wonderful workshops throughout the year.

We also traveled to New York City to see the Broadway show “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” on March 25th. This production is based on the popular 1988 film that starred Michael Caine and Steve Martin and is a raucous musical comedy centering on two con men living on the French Riviera. Everyone was laughing hysterically during the show and enjoyed it thoroughly.

The EAC also reached out to the MU community during the “Caring for Kortney” fundraiser. We are very proud to announce that approximately $2,500 was raised by Monmouth University employees through generous donations, raffles and well wishes placed in an ad journal. Thank you to all that participated in this very worthy cause.

On Sunday, May 7th we made our annual trip to First Energy Park to see the minor league baseball team, the Lakewood BlueClaws play the Hagerstown Suns. Clifford the Big Red Dog was also at the game.

Remember to mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual President’s Cup on May 22nd.

Please watch for details on our upcoming summer events which will include the American Cancer Society Relay for Life on Saturday, June 10th. This will be held at Pier Village in Long Branch and MU will once again field a team of employees, family members and friends to remember and honor loved ones who have battled this disease. Our annual Sunset Cruise on the Navesink River will also take place in June.

What’s New at MU?
Savings Bond Purchase Program

All regular, full-time and part-time employees (who are eligible for direct deposit) are also eligible to purchase paperless U.S. savings bonds online through payroll deduction.

Through the Treasury Direct online program, you will be able to:

- Purchase and redeem your savings bonds
- View and track your purchases and account activity
- Access and print detailed information about your current holdings

For more information and to set up an account, you should visit www.treasurydirect.gov. You will need:

- Your Social Security Number
- A Valid Driver’s License or State ID
- Your Checking or Savings Account Number and Routing Number
- An E-Mail Address
- Internet Explorer 5.01/Netscape 6.2 or Later

Once you have set up your account, you can start your payroll deduction by completing a Direct Deposit form in the Payroll department, located on the first floor of Wilson Hall. Be sure to bring your TreasuryDirect account number with you.

WELCOME ABOARD!
1/01/2006 - 3/31/2006

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Monmouth County Freeholders Proclaim March 23 as “Monmouth University Hawks Day” Recognizes Men’s Basketball Team for Ability and Sportsmanship

The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders proclaimed March 23, 2006, as “Monmouth University Hawks Day” in recognition of the men’s basketball team members’ ability and sportsmanship.

The proclamation was presented to Head Coach Dave Calloway and President Paul G. Gaffney II on March 23 at the Lake Como Town Hall.

The Monmouth University Hawks became the first men’s college basketball team to claim the Northeast Conference Tournament championship by winning its last two games on the road. After winning the Northeast Conference, the Monmouth University Hawks reached the goal of all college basketball teams with an invitation to the annual National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

Monmouth’s finest moment occurred when the Monmouth Hawks officially became a No. 16-seeded team by defeating Hampton University, 71-49, in the opening-round NCAA game at the University of Dayton Arena and—with the help, guidance, and leadership from Head Coach Dave Calloway—became the first team in the school’s history to win an NCAA tournament game.

New Library Dean Appointed

Dr. Ravindra (Ravi) Sharma was appointed Dean of the Monmouth University Library, effective March 1, 2006. Dr. Sharma, who was strongly recommended by the Library Dean Search Committee, comes to this appointment following his service as Director of the University Library at West Virginia State University from 1996 to 2006. He served previously as the Director of the World Institute of Library and Information Science in Evansville, Indiana, and also as Director of the University Libraries at the University of Evansville. He holds a doctorate in Information and Library Studies and Higher Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo, as well as graduate degrees in library science and history. He is widely published. Of particular note, he received the Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award in 2005 from the Association of College and Research Libraries/American Library Association.
Rico and then on to Colombia to start a tour, where Gustavo was to meet her. It took him five months to drive from Argentina to Colombia, but finally made it and witnessed the birth of their eldest daughter, Melina. The couple stayed in Colombia for one year, and then went on to the Netherlands, performing for three more years, and having a second child, Alejandro. In 1991, Priscilla accepted a position with the University of West Georgia as an Instructor in Spanish and French. Four years later, she arrived at Monmouth University. Priscilla feels her years as an actress groomed her for a career in academia. “Teaching is like being in a theatre; if you do not have complicity with the audience, it will not be a successful play. It is the same in the classroom, if you do not establish a relationship with the students, they will not learn.”

Her life at Monmouth has been very fulfilling. “I have always found support in our Provost and Deans when introducing new ideas and projects for the department. We share the same visions and goals.” Priscilla is very proud of her staff, including all the adjunct professors, and the progress that they have made. Priscilla is also very proud of her children. Melina will be graduating this May from Columbia University in New York. She studied abroad in Chile last year, and is looking forward to a career in Visual Arts. Melina also designed the cover for Priscilla’s newest book. Alejandro, her son, is a freshman at Harvard University and is also a writer. He has published two books, the first at the age of twelve. It was a memoir based on his feelings of coping with discrimination. His second book is comprised of poems and short stories. Alejandro has been a keynote speaker at various schools and national conferences addressing audiences of children between ten and twelve years old as well as teachers and school administrators.

Alison Maginn joined Monmouth University in August 1997. She is an Associate Professor of Spanish. Her specialty is contemporary Spanish literature and culture, with a primary interest in narrative, poetry and film. She teaches eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century Spanish Literature and the Culture and Civilization of Spain. Alison loves teaching and cannot imagine doing anything else. “It is what I do best!” She feels that teaching is a vocation and knew as a teenager that this was her chosen career. Working with students always surprises her; she finds each experience different and rewarding. “Ultimately, these students are our future; the four years they spend at MU is a very important investment for our society.”

Alison likes to make her classes as fun and interesting as possible. Everyone must communicate within the language being taught, and participate in the class activities using prompts and visuals. She sets her classroom up in a circle, using the center as the performance area. “Teaching is a lot like acting. You are performing something that is real, an actual situation.” She strongly believes that if her students enjoy and perform oral exercises they will begin to trust themselves and become patient in learning. “For example, when we are studying Spanish literature, the students must prepare presentations for the class using their own ideas. Many will utilize PowerPoint for the Spanish civilization class, which involves the history of art and architecture. Learning a foreign language is a journey that requires time and patience,” explains Alison. In addition, she is involved with the Study Abroad program, which is a wonderful opportunity for students to study other cultures first-hand and encounter one of the most enriching experiences of their lives.

Another great aspect of her job, Alison points out, is the opportunity to continue research that is shared with colleagues and students. Her current research focuses on women writers of post-dictatorship Spain and newly-emergent Spanish cultural studies. Last year, Alison was granted a sabbatical to prepare a two-volume annotated edition of archival manuscripts held by the Hispanic Society of America. “These were letters written by prominent figures from Spain and Latin America, starting in the 1920’s, covering events in the Spanish Civil War through World War II. The letters really encompass the history of Spain and France and their relationship with the United States.” Alison plans to write a book about them in the near future.

Born and raised in Belfast, Ireland, Alison built up her fluency in Spanish and French through exchange programs. She attended the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland and received a B.A. in Spanish and French. She and her husband John moved to Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where they both earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish and Spanish Linguistics. Prior to working for Monmouth University, Alison was employed at Colby College in Maine for three years. John is a curator for a Spanish museum in New York. They have a daughter and a son. Hannah, a history major with a Spanish minor, is a senior at Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland. Ruairi (Rory) is ten years old and enjoys taking Latin jazz dance lessons with Alison. She and her family love to travel and visit Ireland every year, usually in the spring, for her mom’s birthday.

Mirta Barrea-Marlys has been an Assistant Professor in Foreign Language Studies since 2003 after being part of the department for two years. Specializing in Spanish, Mirta teaches Language Literature, Linguistics and Methods of Teaching Foreign Languages. Along with the School of Education, she helped develop the Linguistics course, as well as certification courses for Elementary and Secondary Education majors in Foreign Language Studies. She is in her third year of being on the tenure track. Prior to Monmouth University, Mirta was Assistant Professor of Spanish for Rutgers University. She has also taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University and Villanova University.

Mirta was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her family is Italian, and she grew up speaking both Spanish and Italian. She loved literature in high school and knew from an early age that she wanted to teach foreign languages at the college level. Mirta visited Italy often and studied there extensively, attending various semesters at the University of Florence, University of Urbino and Perugia University. She earned a Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literature from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in Spanish from Villanova University. She also received a B.A. in Spanish from Rutgers University.

Mirta practices the communicative method of teaching in the target foreign language, making it compulsory for her class to speak in Spanish 90% of the time. “Having students speak as little English as possible, helps them connect to the language, without having to translate.” She believes in making her classes fun and interactive. Mirta will act out verbs and bring in food and other objects representing nouns that they are learning. The most enjoyable part of her job is the students. “They become so enthusiastic and really get into the games. Seeing them progress and finally enjoy learning a language is very rewarding.” In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Mirta has been working with the School of Education to gain national accreditation for the Foreign Language Studies program through the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). She is also one of three faculty members who give the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), an exam students must take prior to graduating. “Our department is growing very quickly; it is very exciting,” explains Mirta. She is currently heading the search committee for a Spanish Business Instructor, a new degree that will be offered in the department.
Maria Simonelli has been with Monmouth University since September 1996 as an Instructor of Italian and Latin. She began working full-time in 2004. She teaches basic, elementary and advanced Italian, as well as Latin when it is requested. She is very passionate about her work, and feels teaching is something you have to love to do. “A great deal of patience is needed to be successful,” she explains. “When you learn a foreign language, not only are you learning how to speak it, but you learn how other cultures think and live. You become sensitive to another ethnic group.” Maria does not speak any English in the classroom. She starts out with easy information, such as names and dates. Latin classes are sometimes a bit more difficult than Italian. Her goal is to have the students understand that Latin is the root of many English words. Once they realize that, they become very excited. Maria prides herself in always being enthusiastic in the class and making it contagious. Her philosophy is: “when you teach you learn; it is always a shared experience.”

Maria was born and raised in a province of Naples, Italy. She graduated from the University of Naples with a Doctorate in Philosophy. Maria’s father wanted her to “follow in his footsteps” and become a lawyer. “I really like people and am a peaceful person; I do not like fights! I always enjoyed educating people and loved to learn from them too, so I followed my heart and decided to teach. Moving to America twenty-six years ago opened up a whole new world for me.” Maria has taught at all levels, from children to teens to adults. Several years ago, she taught Latin in the Ocean Township school district. Her students did so well that they won five awards in the Latin National Exam. Maria states that the biggest challenge in her life has been balancing her career and family. Both are extremely important to her, but her family takes priority. She and her husband, Jim, a physician, have three children. Peter is a junior in high school; Michael is a freshman, and their daughter Marielle is in second grade. “I go from being a university professor to a co-leader in my daughter’s Girl Scout Brownie Troop! I have two of the best jobs in the world.”

Laura and Reinaldo have two grown sons. “We are very proud of our children, and have always been a very close family,” Laura states with a smile. “When my sons were younger, all of their friends always congregated at our house. They called my home the ‘Holmdel Club.’” Their eldest, Rolando, is attending medical school at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts. Their youngest son, Daniel, is a psychologist and works for Catholic Charities. Laura loves her job and interacting with the students. She is always available to them and gives out her home telephone number. “If they are really interested in learning the language, and having a problem with homework or a paper, they will call me.” She has gotten some pretty late calls! Laura has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember and describes it as a wonderful profession. “Even as a child, I would teach my friends ballet or any other skill I was learning. I’ve always been willing to help people and really enjoy it.”

She began teaching at the University of Chile in Santiago and earned an A.A. in Italian Teaching. Laura taught Italian in Chile before moving to France with her husband, Reinaldo. While living in France, Laura studied at Fontaine Bleau University. Several years later, they moved to England and she studied at West London University and also taught Spanish there. Laura later worked at the University of North Hampton, England teaching Spanish and Ceramics. Finally, in the mid-eighties, Reinaldo’s job with Bell Laboratories brought them to New Jersey. Laura attended Brookdale Community College, receiving an A.A. in Education and then completed her B.A. in Bilingual Elementary Education at Kean University in Union. Additionally, she earned an M.A. in Spanish Grammar, Culture and Literature from the University of Salamanca, Spain.

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Raised in Chile, Laura has lived all over Europe. She attended the University of Chile in Santiago and earned an A.A. in Italian Teaching. Laura taught Italian in Chile before moving to France with her husband, Reinaldo. While living in France, Laura studied at Fontaine Bleau University. Several years later, they moved to England and she studied at West London University and also taught Spanish there. Laura later worked at the University of North Hampton, England teaching Spanish and Ceramics. Finally, in the mid-eighties, Reinaldo’s job with Bell Laboratories brought them to New Jersey. Laura attended Brookdale Community College, receiving an A.A. in Education and then completed her B.A. in Bilingual Elementary Education at Kean University in Union. Additionally, she earned an M.A. in Spanish Grammar, Culture and Literature from the University of Salamanca, Spain.
Together We Can Succeed!

2006 Monmouth University Employee Giving Campaign

Campaign Update as of February 22, 2006

- **Total Gifts and Pledges:** $9,324.02
- **Total Number of Donors:** 255
- **Employee Participation Rate:** 23%
- **Campaign Goal:** $100,000

**Employee Honor Roll of Donors**

The Faculty, Staff and Administrator campaign is in full swing and progressing well. The support of our employees is important and always appreciated. The Committee would like to individually thank all who have made a gift or pledge towards the 2006 campaign. They are as follows:

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Once again, thank you for your support and participation. If you are not on this list, the campaign runs until December 31, 2006. For questions or to make a gift, please call the Annual Fund at 732-571-7528.

(next page, please)
Together We Can Succeed!

2006 Monmouth University Employee Giving Campaign

Campaign Update as of February 22, 2006

Employee Honor Roll of Donors (Continued)

Harris, Curtis
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McCourt, Robert
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Orr, Timothy
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Pillar, James
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Worth, Maureen
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Gifts received between January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006 will be recognized in the Employee Giving Campaign Honor Roll.
Suzanne Cummings

Suzanne joined the School of Education on January 3, 2006 as the Coordinator of Field Placement Liaisons, Master of Arts in Teaching and Junior Field Placements. Suzanne holds a New Jersey Certificate of Eligibility with advanced standing as an Elementary Education Teacher, which she earned after completing her B.A. in Teacher Education/Social Sciences at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona. In addition, she previously earned a B.S. in Business Management from the University of Tampa and enjoyed a successful career in the technology industry as the Director of Information Technology at Crossway Ventures in Philadelphia.

Jennifer Miller

Jennifer became a Graduate Admission Counselor for Monmouth University on February 13, 2006. She was previously an Admissions Specialist for Walden University, an on-line higher education university in Baltimore, Maryland. She also served as a Senior Admissions Counselor at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Jennifer graduated from the College of Notre Dame with a B.A. in Communication Arts and a minor in Business.

Robert Shea

Robert was appointed Assistant Internal Auditor in the Office on the General Counsel effective February 13, 2006. He will be responsible for various aspects of internal operational, financial and compliance audits. Robert has extensive project management and internal audit experience working with Prudential Financial in Holmdel, New Jersey. He holds a B.A. in English from Glassboro State College and he has also been a columnist for the Asbury Park Press.
Her interest in Spanish started at age thirteen and continued through college. She studied abroad in Spain, spending a semester in Malaga. Julia graduated from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Spanish. Next, she worked in the accounting field for two years and found that it was not for her. Julia decided to return to graduate school, supporting herself by working as a teaching fellow. She soon discovered her passion for teaching. She also had the opportunity to spend a year at the Universidad de Sevilla in Spain and worked as a lecturer for the department of North American and English Philology. Julia received an M.A in Hispanic Languages and Literatures from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is currently finishing her doctoral studies.

Julia met her husband, Luis while attending graduate school. They were married in Portugal. He is a Professor at Columbia University in New York. Julia’s family is in Massachusetts and she visits them often. She also has a twin sister who lives in Connecticut and is in the information technology field. “I am very happy to be here at Monmouth University and working in such a fantastic department with wonderful people.”

Mercedes Salvador is the newest faculty member of the Foreign Language Studies department, arriving this past August. She teaches basic and intermediate courses in Spanish and uses visual tools in the classroom, including pictures, transparencies and images to educate students in vocabulary. Mercedes also uses music to enhance their listening skills. The best part of her job is being connected with the students. “It is very exciting to see them interested in other cultures and learning a new language. I am proud to be helping them understand the importance of diversity and showing them a bigger world.” Mercedes feels she also learns from her students. “They keep me young and remind me of what it was like to be in college.”

Mercedes was born in Barcelona, Spain and lived there until moving to the United States six years ago. She was a lawyer for ten years in Spain prior to changing careers. “I became a lawyer because I thought I could help people and change the world for the better,” explained Mercedes. She decided that she wanted to express her own ideas in writing and teach others the importance of accomplishing their goals. Mercedes decided to leave Spain and attend Goddard College in Vermont, where she received an M.F.A. in Creative Writing. She tries to instill in her students the philosophy of following their true interests, getting to know the world, and choosing what career is in their heart.

Prior to joining Monmouth University, Mercedes taught Conversational Spanish and Creative Writing in Spanish for advanced students at Virginia Tech University and Virginia State University. Mercedes sought a job in New Jersey and narrowed her search down to central New Jersey to be near the ocean and New York. “I wanted to live and work in a setting as similar to Barcelona as possible. Monmouth County offered all of that and Monmouth University was very attractive to me because I wanted to work for a small-to-medium liberal arts college.”

In addition to teaching, Mercedes’ passion is writing. She recently completed a multi-cultural novel that she has been writing for the last four years. The story is about two female best friends; one is Spanish, the other American, and how the death of one of them in India changes the other’s life forever. The Spring 2006 edition of the Monmouth Review, MU’s literary and artistic magazine, will feature an excerpt from the book. She hopes to have the book published in English and Spanish. Mercedes is also writing a literary criticism of Spanish authors for the Spanish magazine, Elhecho, which is published in New York. In her spare time, Mercedes is busy with her family. She and husband Alberto have two children, a ten-year-old son, Guillen and seven-year-old daughter, Monica. “My children speak three languages: English, Spanish and Catalan -the language of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain,” Mercedes proudly states. She and her family spend three months a year in Spain during the summer and love to travel. Their summer home is only an hour away from France.

The part-time secretary of Foreign Language Studies is Nicola Kelly, who joined the department in November 2004. Nicky enjoys interacting with students, helping them and answering questions that they may have regarding classes. “You establish a relationship and bond with the students,” she explains, “especially those who are majoring in a foreign language.” Most of her time is spent supporting the Chair of the department, Priscilla Gac-Artigas. These duties include: scheduling classes, filing syllabi and exams, budgeting and purchasing for the department, and organizing the Language Festival and other events. Nicky also coordinates interviews and works closely with the Provost’s office when the department is conducting a job search for a new faculty member. In addition, she facilitates book adoptions and changes in materials with the Bookstore for classes, supervises five student workers; supports the Spanish and Italian honor societies and maintains the Foreign Language Resource Library, which has a great selection of foreign films available to students.

Nicky really enjoys the people she works with and loves being in the department. “I have a very global background, and love the variety of cultures here. We have professors from Spain, Chile, Puerto Rico, Ireland and Italy!” She is originally from Jamaica and was raised there. As an adult, she lived in London where she met her husband, Kevin. Nicky worked in the investment banking industry there, and eventually she and Kevin moved to New Jersey, where he was originally from. They have three children. Their eldest, Gabriella, is sixteen and is in tenth grade; Robert is fourteen and is in eighth grade and the youngest, Alexander, is an eleven-year-old fifth-grader.

She returned to work after staying home with her family for fifteen years. Nicky has always loved Romance languages and has a good knowledge of French and Spanish. Coming from a family of teachers, she really wanted to work an academic setting. “It is very exciting to be part of a growing department and work with such a talented and fun staff.” Nicky is currently taking classes at MU and would like to complete her degree in Spanish.

Interested in Foreign Language Studies?

Visit McAllan Hall: Room 26

Call: 732-263-5493

Web Address: www.monmouth.edu/academics/deptlinks/romance.asp
Did you Know?

MU’S ENERGY RESOURCE POLICY

Monmouth University’s expenditures for energy are in the millions annually. Adopting an energy conservation policy would be most beneficial in the short term that will result in long term savings. Over the short term Monmouth’s energy infrastructure can be upgraded leading to new designs and retrofits. Implementing a conservation policy with specific saving objectives will provide campus-wide standards to conserve energy, maintain comfort levels for students, faculty, and staff, and keep costs at reasonable levels. With these energy conservation policies in place the Energy Resource Management Committee, will periodically review results, update policies when needed, and maintain records for future needs.

University Temperature Guidelines: To maintain reasonable comfort and lower energy expenditures, the University has established the following standards for comfort heating and cooling. Summer thermostat settings (air conditioning) are to be 74-77 degrees F for occupied periods and 80 degrees F for unoccupied periods. Winter settings (heating) are to be 70-72 degrees F for occupied periods and 63 degrees F for unoccupied periods.

Switchover from Heating or Cooling: Facilities Management personnel perform required changeover to/from heating or air conditioning in the Spring and Fall. Because of the varying equipment installed throughout campus, some buildings must be changed over manually. Other buildings operate continuously year-round automatically.

Building Resource Management: Windows and doors should be kept closed during the heating season and during the summer in those areas that have mechanical cooling. Every member of the University community should assume the responsibility of closing windows, turning off personal (desktop) computers and other office equipment when not in use, and shutting off the lights when leaving a room.

Space Heaters: There are two issues that must be carefully considered in regards to space heaters. Whether personal property or owned by the University, fire safety and energy efficiency are of great concern. All space heaters used on campus must be approved and/or issued by Facilities Management. This will ensure that these units are approved for fire safety as classified by the National Fire Protection Agency. The use of space heaters will be limited to areas on campus that have difficulty maintaining the accepted temperature range established by this policy. Facilities Management shall determine the need for their use. In time the use of space heaters will be prohibited except for areas identified as problematic. Facilities Management will initiate a schedule for the eventual removal of space heaters now in use.

Holiday Periods: A period of closure for the University offers a great opportunity to save money on utilities better spent elsewhere. Previous holiday occupancy patterns indicate that very few people inhabit the buildings for any substantial time period. Therefore buildings will be minimally heated/ cooled during holiday periods.

New Construction: The University will seek to reduce future energy costs in new facility construction and renovation whenever feasible.

Call-Ins: Facilities Management has personnel who are on-call for environmental concerns as well as emergencies after normal working hours and weekends. The effective and efficient use of call-ins is important to the Monmouth University’s budget considerations. For heating or air conditioning call-ins; indoor temperatures should be out of the ranges for the appropriate time of the year.

Suggestions: The Energy Resource Management Committee encourages suggestions for additions or modifications to this Energy Policy as well as other energy conservation suggestions. Please contact ERM@monmouth.edu.
Do you have a question about benefits?

Just... Ask Robyn, 

I thought that all full-time employees had vision coverage. When I went to the optometrist and gave them my Blue Cross card, they said that I was not covered. Am I doing something wrong?

You are actually making a very common mistake – and that is, using your Horizon Blue Cross medical card for vision coverage. On the contrary, Monmouth University offers vision coverage through Vision Service Plan (VSP) to full-time employees, as well as their spouse, domestic partner and dependent children. Employees are eligible to participate in the plan on the first of the month following 30 days of full-time continuous employment. There are no ID cards, and no claim forms – in fact, it is very simple to use:

1. Find a VSP network doctor by going to their website at www.vsp.com, or by calling 800-877-7195.
2. Make an appointment and tell the doctor that you are a VSP member. If your spouse, domestic partner, or dependent children are utilizing the service, they will need your name and social security number to access the benefit.
3. The doctor and VSP will handle the rest – it’s that easy!

Vision coverage by a participating physician includes an annual eye exam with a $10 co-pay, lenses covered in full every 24 months, and frames covered for up to $120 with a $25 co-pay.

If you choose contact lenses instead of glasses, your $120 allowance applies to the cost of the contacts and the contact lens exam.

Out-of-network benefits are also available by Vision Service Plan when the employee assumes a nominal cost.

IMPORTANT DATES

June
5 Summer Hours Begin
12 Performance Appraisals Must Be Reviewed with Employees and Returned to Human Resources with All Signatures
22 Medical Voluntary Incentive Program: 4th Quarterly Payment

July
1 Medical, Dental, Vision and Medical Voluntary Incentive Program: Open Enrollment Changes Take Effect
4 Independence Day Holiday
5 Submission of Tuition Remission Forms for Fall 2006 Semester Begins

August
14 Regular Hours Resume

The Monmouth Review Call for Submissions

The Monmouth Review is the University community’s literary and art magazine, published twice a year. All employees are invited to submit for consideration poems, short stories, essays, fiction, drama, interviews, photography, drawings, computer-generated art, and other forms of two-dimensional art.

To submit literary works, please send each work as an e-mail attachment in to Professor Stanley Blair in the Department of English, at sblair@monmouth.edu. To submit artwork, please contact Professor Karen Bright in the Department of Art and Design at x3923. Please include information about how you may be contacted, as well as a brief biographical note of up to fifty words.

If you have any questions about the Monmouth Review, please contact Dr. Blair at his office, Wilson Annex Room 505, or phone x3619.