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OBITUARIES/NEWS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New SUNY chancellor wraps up 64-campus tour

Zimpher: Academics must serve their state for greater recognition

The Associated Press

HERKIMER, N.Y. — The State University of New York system must achieve global academic recognition by first helping the state through tough economic times, its chancellor said Monday.

Chancellor Nancy Zimpher was at Herkimer County Community College on Monday, one of the final stops in her summer tour of all 64 SUNY campuses. The former University of Cincinnati president came to the job in February calling for SUNY to be a global model for academic research and excellence, particularly in the university centers at Buffalo, Binghamton, Stony Brook and Albany.

"Academics are themselves as citizens of the world. They seek national and international

recognition for their work," Zimpher said. "That's the greatest pathway to national and international recognition is to serve your state, and I just think that's an important way of thinking about our work."

Zimpher maintains that while experts criticize the university system, which has about 640,000 students across all campuses, but as New York's recession has worsened, she has also emphasized that SUNY must help drive the state's economic recovery by creating jobs in research and innovation.

Even before the recession hit, New York was suffering from the drain of graduates leaving for better opportunities in other states.

"That's what we do here around the Herkimer campus in central New York, where rusted dams control the flow of water over remnants of the Erie Canal and shuttered factories line the shores of Mohawk River town."

The economy and job opportunities were on the minds of several freshmen



SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, with members of the Herkimer County Community College men's soccer team Monday during her visit to the college in Herkimer.

from nearby Fort Plain on moving in. Day at the Herkimer campus, she said, "I didn't come here to find just work and just get by," said Stephanie Seiler, 17, who wants to work in human resources. "I didn't want to live paycheck to paycheck."

"I probably end up working at McDonald's," said her friend Megan Trumbull, 18, a small business major.

Zimpher plans to present findings from her summer tour in a list of priorities to be made public Sept. 15. After that, she will seek ideas from faculty, staff, students, parents and other New Yorkers.

A plan for the future of the SUNY is scheduled to be released in the spring.

It will be a difficult task at a time when the state's fiscal crisis has kept funding flat. The United University Professions union says campuses are "budget starved," forcing staff cuts and forcing larger classes and increased use of adjunct instructors.

SUNY costs about \$5,000 a year in tuition, room, board and fees, and substantial increases in tuition have long been politically risky.

"These are tough times, and that's what we want to do is challenge the pocketbooks of our students and their families," Zimpher said in an interview. "That's the only way we have the state and all the elected officials react to the problem."

Zimpher said she is committed to affordability as it has been made public Sept. 15. After that, she will seek ideas from faculty, staff, students, parents and other New Yorkers.

Cookbook author Lukins, 66, dies

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sheila Lukins, the store owner and cookbook author who helped change how Americans eat, died Monday at her Manhattan home, according to longtime colleague Laurie Griffiths. She had been diagnosed with brain cancer three months ago.

Born in Philadelphia, Lukins got her education in the facets, graduating from New York University with a degree in education, but in the 1970s, after she had spent some time at the Gordon-Bros in London and had worked with some chefs in France, she returned to New

York and started a catering business. In 1977, she co-founded The Silver Palate, a shop on Manhattan's Upper West Side that introduced people to cuisines from Greece and Italy.

"She had a wonderful flair for putting together interesting combinations of flavors," said Griffiths, who worked with Lukins for many years on her cookbooks.

"I think she changed the way we eat."

In 1982, "The Silver Palate Cookbook" was released. One of a number of cookbooks Lukins would work on. Her books have sold several million copies.

Slain pastor remembered for commitment

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — As many as 1,000 people packed a church Monday for a nearly three-hour service to celebrate the life of a pastor who was found slain inside her church in southwest Oklahoma and to remember her as a sweet-loving woman of God.

It was during her Aug. 23 trip, while preparing her sermon, that she was killed, authorities said. An Anadarko police officer found her inside the church after a minister she was supposed to meet became concerned when she didn't answer the door.

According to a forensic expert who reviewed a preliminary autopsy report, Daniels suffered numerous gunshot wounds to her chest, back, stomach and

head. Her body was moved into an unnatural position after she was killed, investigators have said.

Daniels' brother, Ivan Henderson, said his sister was a person or people who killed his sister he thought so they could not kill again.



Palbearers carry the casket of a slain pastor Monday during her funeral in Oklahoma City, Okla. A pastor was slain inside her small church on Aug. 23.

chest, back, stomach and head. Her body was moved into an unnatural position after she was killed, investigators have said.

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Obituaries

Obit & Funeral Notices



Richard H. Jenkins of Vestal died August 29 at Lourdes Hospital. He was born in Brooklyn, NY and graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1941. Immediately thereafter he joined the U.S. Navy. During World War II he served with a naval task force in the southwest Pacific. He was awarded 5 battle stars for naval action with the enemy. After his service he attended the University of Missouri where he earned a BS in mechanical engineering. He was employed by General Electric as a project engineer for 29 years and retired in 1986. He was a member of the Union Presbyterian Church and served both as deacon and elder. He is survived by his wife Barbara, son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter David Jenkins, Kim Germain and Adelaide Jenkins of New York City, his daughter and son-in-law Susan Jenkins and David Hoyer of Loudon and his brother Thomas Jenkins of Woodstock, NY.

There will be a memorial service held in Lake Placid, NY at a later date. Those desiring to make a contribution in his memory may want to consider Union Presbyterian Church in Endicott or Speculator Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Speculator, NY.

Frank J. Toth of Binghamton died August 30, 2009. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Elizabeth Toth, and his parents, Thomas and Dorothy Toth. He was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He is survived by his children, James and Gayle Toth, Clark Summit, PA, Thomas and Stacey Toth, Endicott, Tenn and Steve Allan, Binghamton, his grandchildren, Brooke, Christopher, Matthew, Amber, Kory, Amanda, Ashley, Alyson, three sisters, Roberta Bush, Patsy Reese, Judith Mancini, several nieces and nephews. He was a retired employee of Vail-Ballou Press, Inc. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a member of D.A.V. Chapter 60. The family wishes to thank his caregivers, Sue Shea, for her outstanding care of Frank and I Thank You to Wilson Memorial NT-4. Private Funeral Services will be held at the J.A. McCormack, Sun Funeral Home, 141 Main Street, Binghamton. Reverend Timothy R. Bennett will officiate. Burial will be in Vestal Hills Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in memory of Frank may be made to any charitable organization.

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shopLocal

Judge finalizes dismissal of Web hoax charges

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A judge has finalized his decision to throw out convictions of a Missouri mother for her role in an Internet hoax directed at a 13-year-old neighbor girl who committed suicide.

U.S. District Judge George Wu said in his written ruling that the case was never a legal test of crimes involving "cyberbullying."

"Prosecutors, who adopted that terminology early on, brought charges against Lori Drew under the Federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Statute which does not involve cyberbullying," the judge said.

"We acquitted Drew of misdemeanor counts of accessing computers without authorization last month because the ruling was tentative until it issued its final ruling."

Drew's attorney, Dean Sterand, believes Wu's ruling is "a pretty much final disposition of an unconstitutionally" said Sterand, who expects a department of justice attorney to go back to Congress for clarification.

Thom Meneck, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles, said no decision had been

made yet about a possible appeal.

Prosecutors say Drew sought to impersonate Megan Meier by helping create a fictitious teen boy on the MySpace social networking site and sending flirtatious messages to the girl in his name.

The false boy then dumped Megan in a message saying the world would be better without her. Megan hanged herself a short time later, in October 2006, in Davidson, Fla.

Drew was not directly charged with causing Megan's death. Instead, prosecutors indicted her under the computer fraud act, which in the past has been used in hacking cases.

"We'd be paying nothing, filed late Friday, cited vagueness of the statute and the chance that innocent users of the Internet could become subject to criminal charges if Drew's conviction was allowed to stand."

He gave examples of people who could be liable for violating MySpace rules online including "the lonely heart who submits intentionally inaccurate data about how he appears, height and/or physical appearance."

Much attention was paid to Drew's case, primarily because it was billed as the nation's first "cyberbullying."

EPA: Chemical disposal plant properly closed

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — An Army chemical weapons disposal plant that handled nerve gas and other deadly agents has been properly closed and cleaned, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday.

The dismantling of the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System facility in the now-unnamed Pacific island about 80 miles west-southwest of Honolulu took about three years, ending in 2004.

Sarin nerve gas, mustard gas and blister agent dating back to World War II were incinerated at the facility, known as JACADS, along with more than 400,000 rockets, grenades, bombs and mortars containing chemical agents, including the deadly nerve agent VX, officials said.

The EPA said its multiyear review found the Army met all permit requirements for closing.

"Over the 15 years of JACADS' construction and operation, the EPA closely monitored the facility to ensure safe operations and prevent chemical releases," said Jeff Scott, director of the EPA's Pacific Southwest Region's Waste Management Division.

"Our closure decision brings a successful end to this project to safely dispose of 4 million pounds of toxic chemical weapons while protecting the former workers and wildlife on Johnston Atoll," he said.

The EPA said its closure approval "ensures protection from impact of JACADS for not only human health, but also for the ecology and environment."

chest, back, stomach and head. Her body was moved into an unnatural position after she was killed, investigators have said.

Daniels' brother, Ivan Henderson, said his sister was a person or people who killed his sister he thought so they could not kill again.

3 men returned to U.S. to face sex tourism charges

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Three men expelled from Cambodia are facing charges in the U.S. as part of a crackdown on Americans who travel overseas to have sex with children, authorities said Monday.

The three previously convicted sex offenders were the first to be charged under "Operation Offender Traveler," an initiative targeting problems in Cambodia, which authorities described as ground zero for the crimes.

"Let their arrests serve as notice to any other person who

might be tempted to travel outside of this country," said John Morton, head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "We're sending a plain message to Americans who travel overseas to have sex with children."

Ronald Brayman, Erik Posten and Jack Sporch were expected to arrive in Los Angeles later Monday evening.

The three suspects were named in separate criminal complaints filed in April and May related to child sexual exploitation. They are expected

to appear in court Tuesday. It was not immediately clear if the men have lawyers in the U.S.

ICE has stationed an agent in Cambodia full-time for at least a year to focus in large part on such cases.

Brayman, 46, of Menlo Park, is accused of traveling to Cambodia in September 2008 and paying a 10-year-old Vietnamese girl for sex acts.

Posten, 40, of Norwalk, engaged in sex acts with at least three Cambodian boys, authorities said. He gave their parents money and rice, and paid two of the boys between

\$5 and \$10, the criminal complaint said.

Sporch, 25, of Sedona, Ariz., sexually abused at least one Cambodian boy, authorities said. Witnesses claim Sporch drove his motor bike through the streets of Siem Reap, stopping Cambodian women to attract children.

Several boys stayed at the home, which had a swimming pool, water slide and video games, authorities said.

All three were charged under the Protect Act, which became law in 2003 and made it easier to prosecute people for overseas sex crimes.