

# Sandra Spanier happy to be back at PSU

By Kathryn A. Ratliff  
Staff Reporter

When her husband accepted a position as President of Penn State University last spring, Sandra Spanier knew she'd be returning to a familiar community brimming with memories.

Spanier, a former English instructor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the wife of former chancellor Graham Spanier, received both of her master's degrees from Penn State.

Now, she has returned to her alma mater — not as a student, but as an instructor, teaching two American Literature courses this spring.

"It's fun to come back to a situation where former professors are now colleagues," Spanier said from her home in University Park, Penn.

Spanier moved with her family to Pennsylvania only two and a half weeks ago, she said. But in that time, she has already started to become reacquainted with old friends and former students from her days as a public school

teacher.

"The community is familiar in many ways and has changed in many ways," she said. "It has grown so much."

Spanier said she interviewed at Penn State a week and a half after her husband accepted his presidential appointment March 23, and she accepted the position shortly afterward.

Now Spanier said she was excited to continue her growth as a scholar at Penn State.

"I'm so glad to be part of a department that's growing," Spanier said. "This is a nice opportunity, a challenge and a fine university that I have some ties to."

Robert Secor, English department chairman at Penn State, said he was thrilled to have Spanier as part of his faculty.

"Her addition is terrific for us," he said. "She is an excellent teacher."

But Spanier said she also missed the UNL English department, being close to her family and the Lincoln community.

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**SANDRA SPANIER**

English professor at Penn State University

Spanier has taught American Literature courses at both UNL and Oregon State University. She specializes in American ex-patriot writers of 1920s Paris, such as Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Kay Boyle.

In fact, Spanier is considered an authority on Kay Boyle, and has received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to work on creating a book of Boyle's collected letters.

She plans to work on the book this fall at Penn State, she said. It is a research project she began while in Nebraska.

Last January, before her husband was even a candidate for the presidency, Penn State administrators invited Spanier to give a spring speech on Kay Boyle.

During her time there, she said, the nature of her visit changed from guest speaker to job candidate.

"Sandra does such interesting work," Secor said. "And I've said this before, if I could ever hire a colleague, I'd hire someone like Sandra Spanier."

"I'm pleased that things have worked out so well," Spanier said. "I was very warmly welcomed."

## Regents approve items for UNO, Medical Center

From Staff Reports

Although the NU Board of Regents set aside its meeting Saturday to address tuition alternatives, it took time to approve personnel and business items for UNO and UNMC.

For the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the regents:

- Appointed Don Leahy as athletics director at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

- Adjusted the salary and title of interim deans John Flocken, college of arts and sciences, and Judith Watanabe, college of business administration.

- Approved a leave of absence without pay for Lydia Dwine, associate professor at the school of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

For the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the regents:

- Approved a leave of absence without pay for Donald Leuenberger, vice chancellor for business and finance. Leuenberger was appointed by Gov. Ben Nelson to direct the Nebraska Department of Social Services.

- Approved the renaming of South Hall to the Lawrence Bennett Hall. Bennett taught at UNMC in 1934 as an assistant professor in the physiology and pharmacology department. In 1972, he became professor emeritus of physiology and biophysics.

The board also went into closed session to discuss a lawsuit against the university. No details of the litigation were revealed.

## Regents

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the people who were shut out to at least have access to an education.

"This is the equity of the whole society," he said, "not just of the university."

While the dinner analogy discourages overconsumption, Regent Drew Miller said educational overconsumption could be positive.

Students should base their education on what is best for them, Miller said, not on their tuition bill.

As more students pay for their own education, Karelis said, they will be more concerned about how the classes they take today affect their tomorrow.

But Interim Chancellor Joan Leitzel said she suspected tuition would influence a student's choice.

"Students are not sophisticated consumers," she said.

Miller said students, especially undergraduates, should be allowed to treat themselves to a smorgasbord.

"You want to encourage people to sample everything," he said. "It's more advantageous."

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said differential tuition would be difficult to put to work at the lower undergraduate levels.

"At the lower levels, instruction is much more common than different," he said. "Freshmen take the same rounded classes."

When students are secure with their majors, he said, they would be wise enough to see the return on their investment. As a result, he said, cost would be less of a factor.

NU already charges more for graduate and professional studies, and puts extra fees on some classes, said Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln, but that is the extent of differential tuition.

"Where do we go now?" he asked. "I don't think Nebraska is ready to make this step."

Some universities already use differential tuition, Karelis said, but it is up to each university to decide the time for change.

According to President Dennis Smith, the NU system is ready for change — of some kind.

"Cost pressures will worsen," he said. "We can't continue to raise tuition, and there's no doubt we have to look at alternatives."

"Whether these are the ones or not, I don't know."