Staff activities

Dr. Sandra Deemer, educational foundations, recently had two publications featured in the Educational Psychology Reader: The Art and Science of How People Learn. The first is titled “Using Action Research Methodology to Unite Theory and Practice.” The second, co-authored with Dr. Laurie Hanich, educational foundations, is titled “Teaching Educational Psychology Online: An Examination of Student Motivation and Learning in a Graduate Course.”

Melissa Gold, library, was selected for and recently attended the Association of College & Research Libraries' Immersion Program from July 25-30th in Burlington, VT. The Immersion Program- Teacher Track focused on improving and enhancing individual instruction skills for librarians.

Retired


Congratulations to:

Elizabeth O'Day, English, and Samuel D. Mutzabaugh, who were married on July 16.

Dr. Gregory Paul, communication & theatre, and his wife Libby who welcomed a baby girl, Emily Katherine on July 14.
Millersville University Ranks in U.S. News & World Report’s Top 100

U.S. News & World Report, in its annual college rankings issued for 2011, announced that Millersville University ranked 67 in the category of Best Regional Universities – in the North region. Millersville shares the 67th slot with seven other universities. Millersville was the highest ranked among the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities in this category. Shippensburg came in at 77, West Chester at 84 and Bloomsburg at 88.

Highlights of the college rankings will be published in the September issue of U.S. News & World Report, available on newsstands August 31. The 2011 Best Colleges guidebook will be on newsstands August 24.

“As we prepare to welcome back our students for the start of the 2010-11 school year, it’s a good time to reflect on the positive advances we’ve made at Millersville in the past year,” said Dr. Vilas Prabhu, provost of Millersville University. “In addition to the ranking from U.S. News & World Report, the Middle States Association of Higher Education reaffirmed the University’s accreditation after a nearly three-year intensive and highly collaborative self-study process involving more than 150 University employees, staff, students and alumni.”

Prabhu said other advances this past year include:
• Moving from one major learning management system, Blackboard, to Desire 2 Learn – a move that saved a million dollars for the system.

• Establishing the Software Productization Center, a cross-disciplinary effort that already has partnerships with WorkXPress, Cruzstar, MRG Power Labs and Runoff Studios.

• Opening Millersville University-Lancaster at 42 N. Prince Street in downtown Lancaster. The building will allow Millersville University to expand its liberal arts programs into the greater community in collaboration with key education and arts organizations, and it will provide quality event space for business and community organizations.

U.S. News & World Report rankings are based on numerous factors, including graduation and freshman retention rates, class size and student-to-faculty ratios. Overall, the category included a total of 572 institutions nationwide, ranked by region that provide a full range of undergraduate and graduate programs.

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Students, Faculty and Staff Come Together for Haiti

Nearly eight months ago, the strongest earthquake in the Caribbean, since 1770, hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti. After the initial shock on Jan. 12 and the subsequent 33 aftershocks, three million people were in need of emergency aid, 1.5 million were left homeless and more than 200,000 were reported dead. Over 280,000 residences and commercial buildings either collapsed or were severely damaged.

Since then, students, faculty and staff at Millersville University have donated time, money and supplies to the Haiti relief effort. Items collected filled 220 boxes and
included adult and children’s clothing, household items, hygiene items, non-perishables, school supplies, outdoor items and 1,000 gallons of water. So far, 3,800 pounds of donated materials have been sent to Port-au-Prince. All materials have gone to a medical supply distribution center and will be delivered to hospitals and clinics as they are needed. There is still one 20-foot shipping container at Millersville remaining to be shipped.

Dr. James Cosentino, biology, coordinated Millersville University’s Haiti Relief Project with faculty and staff, which focused on an organized system of relief efforts. He worked with Lancaster Regional Hospital and their clinics to gather medical supplies and had pallets of supplies ranging from antibiotics to children’s crutches. The University’s Health Services also aided the project by donating excess medical supplies and equipment along with bed linens, pillows and clothing that came mostly from nurse contributions.

James Pannafino, assistant professor of art, extended aid into the classroom by having his students design posters that reflected Haitian culture, allowing them to take a deeper look into how the Haitian population has been affected by the disaster. The posters were then hung during a rally held on campus last semester.

Haitian native and international studies major Mackenzi Vernat initiated Hearts for Haiti, a project focused on gathering support in the form of nonperishable food items, baby supplies, money, clothing, first aid materials and other items that would be helpful to victims of the earthquake. Vernat, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Iota Sigma chapter, and financial secretary of African Student Association at Millersville, raised more than $2,600 for the American Red Cross, through student collections and fraternity fundraising events.

Howard Jones, community service coordinator for the Civic & Community Engagement & Research Project, was inspired by Vernat to conduct a forum where students and community members could address the personal effects of the earthquake. Vernat’s motivation for Jones led him to coordinate a campus-wide rally for Haiti. Held on Feb. 16, the rally allowed individuals to express concerns, issues and emotional impacts of the earthquake.

“We cannot thank the students, faculty and campus community enough for their enduring efforts to donate and allow us to make a difference,” said Jones. “There is more to be done but we are grateful for where we are today.”

Donations are no longer being accepted. For more information, contact volunteer central at 717-872-3774 or at Volunteer.Central@millersville.edu.
Freshmen Will Tour Lancaster City

As part of orientation, Millersville's freshman tour of Lancaster City is scheduled for Saturday, August 28, from 1-4 p.m.

"We see it as an opportunity for students to begin connecting with their new environment," said Kelly Duncan, assistant director of student programs at Millersville. "The Millersville community extends beyond the boundaries of our University. We want our students to begin to see themselves as a part of the Lancaster community and explore ways that they can become more civically engaged in their new environment."

The tour of Lancaster City allows incoming freshmen to experience the city first hand as they explore the streets of downtown Lancaster. The ability to walk around the city, visit shops, talk with the locals and discover what the city has to offer to them, is an unrivaled experience surpassing a look at downtown brochures.
"In the past, the freshman tour has been one of the most popular aspects of our five-day orientation program. I'm glad that each year more and more businesses in the city want to share their knowledge, experience and business with our students," said Rocio Torres '10, marketing assistant at Millersville's communication and marketing office.

Because of the popularity of Millersville's previous city tours, Lancaster Bible College is now also offering a tour of Lancaster for their freshmen on August 28.

Look Out for Poison!

Poison ivy seems to be a lot more prevalent this year. Millersville’s Dr. Chris Hardy, biology, talks about the itchy stuff. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ao-9lf8DiY
Have we dropped “Anchor” yet?

The Anchor will open on August 25 in time for freshman orientation. The Anchor, a 14,500-square-foot facility in Gordinier, includes a seating area for more than 160 students, wireless Internet access and a convenience retail store complete with a made-to-order food station. Temporary equipment and furnishings will be installed by the opening date to be used for the fall semester. During winter break, the renovations will then be completed and the final equipment and furnishings will be installed.
Where to Eat

The newest eating location on campus, The Anchor, located on the ground floor of Gordinier Hall, will be open seven days a week from 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. beginning August 30. Gordy’s, the former convenience store, will now be part of The Anchor, and Turkey Hill Ice Cream will be served from the “Java and Sweets” part of The Anchor.

The Cove, which has food available for a quick breakfast, lunch or dinner, along with a variety of snacks, will be open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The Upper Deck at Gordinier Hall has a seating capacity of 430 and will be open seven days a week during the academic year. Dining hours are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The North Side Bistro at Lyle Hall will also be open for dining, with a seating capacity of 300. Dining hours are Monday through Thursday, breakfast from 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and dinner from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. The Bistro is also open on Friday for breakfast from 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. It will not be open for dining on Saturday and Sunday.
Millersville University Brings Nonprofit and Business Leaders Together

Millersville University’s outreach program, Nonprofit Resource Network (NRN), will host an event at Millersville University-Lancaster, 42 N. Prince Street, on September 2 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the third-floor Salon.

The NRN will host the free networking event for nonprofit and business leaders, in partnership with the Lancaster County Community Foundation, Leadership Lancaster and the Duke Street Business Center.

“We are very proud of what the network accomplished over the last three years. We have enrolled over 1,000 participants, have expanded our service area to 14 areas and have weekly office hours in Harrisburg. We believe this move to our new downtown location in Lancaster will only enhance our accessibility and ability to serve the community,” said Dr. Victor DeSantis, dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. “The NRN is a great example of how the University partners with other community resources to continue improving the region’s economic and social sectors.”

Prior to the networking event, Creating Powerful Networks: Unleashing Fall 2010 Nonprofit Resources, the NRN is holding three mini-workshops to introduce its fall programs. The workshops are titled: “Fundraising as a Career: What, Are You Crazy?,” “The 12 Essential Management Competencies” and “How Project Management Can be Used in YOUR Nonprofit.”

The Nonprofit Resource Network enhances the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations, providing professional development, networking opportunities and access to critical information resources.

For more information, contact Anne Gingerich, Nonprofit Resource Network manager at 717-871-2178 or visit the NRN website at www.NonprofitResourceNetwork.org.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This issue of the Exchange features Deb Miller, office manager of the University Communications and Marketing (UC&M) office. Miller has been with the University for 21 years.

Q: What are you responsibilities as office manager for UC&M?
A: I manage administrative operations for the office including the coordination of the student photography team and freelancers, budget tracking tools and reports and answering a multitude of questions and inquiries.

Q: What is your best organization tip for running an office?
A: Be flexible and have patience.

Q: You are currently president and have been a very active member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Tell us about your responsibilities with the union?
A: As president of the largest union on campus, I oversee our local union with labor-related issues. We handle any concerns that our members have and, when needed, represent them to University management. We also oversee all the business side – from budget issues to grievances.

Q: What is the importance of the union on campus?
A: The union is here to be sure that all our members are treated fairly and with respect, and that our collective bargaining agreement is followed.
Q: Where did you grow up?
A: South of Lancaster in the Quarryville and Kirkwood areas.

Q: What is your favorite food to eat for breakfast?
A: Blueberry muffins from the Cove. As everyone knows Millersville’s food is the best.

Q: Last fall you won WGAL’s messiest garage contest – what was that experience like?
A: It was awesome! There were a lot of people who made it possible... students, friends and family who voted for me every day. It was a lot of work, since we had to clean the garage out before they could start the makeover. Some of our students in UC&M came over and helped to move boxes. They were great.

Q: How does your garage look now?
A: It still looks pretty good. Yes, I have put a few things back in the garage, but it still looks good. The garage guys put drywall on the side walls and a slat wall on the back, which holds all kind of hooks, baskets, shelves and a cabinet.

Q: How closely do you work with Millersville students?
A: My first 10 ½ years I worked in the dean’s office for the School of Science and Math and interacted with a lot of students. I have been in UC&M for the past 10 years and although it is on the administrative side of campus, I have the chance to interact with student workers. We have around 37 students who work in communications, marketing, graphic, sports, the photography team, the mascot team and, of course, the main office. Students are wonderful.

Q: Is it hard when students come and go?
A: Yes. I usually become somewhat attached and I am glad they graduate, but miss them when they leave to begin their careers. They usually keep in touch. Some of our students have said that I am a mother figure to them here at Millersville. Every year, I have a pool party for the students at my house.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tseQQeznfbI

Q: Why is Diet Dr. Pepper your favorite drink?
A: It tastes like the real thing. It’s one thing I have in common with my supervisor, Amy Dmitzak.

Q: How many grandchildren do you have? What is your favorite thing to do with them?
A: I have eight grandchildren; Nicole, Rebecca, Devin, Natale, Nicholas, Savannah, Hunter and Austin and ages run from two to 16 years old. We have an in-ground pool so in the summer I love to watch them play in the pool. To see their skill improve from year to year is cool. We also put puzzles together and they teach me new games on the Wii.

Q: What kind of music do you listen to?
A: I like oldies and country the best, but listen to all kinds.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?
A: Free Time?? There isn’t much of that when you have grandchildren living with you... there is always something to do for them or with them... not complaining .... I
love it. If I can find free time I like to sit on my deck and think about how blessed I am with family and friends, etc.

Q: What future event, activity, etc. is coming up that you are most looking forward to (i.e., vacation/birthday)?
A: My husband and I are going on a cruise for the first time in October; I am excited.

Q: How long have you and your husband been married?
A: We were married 30 years on July 12.

Q: At the end of the day, what makes you smile?
A: My colleagues in Duncan Alumni House. If I’m having a bad day, there’s always someone there who can make me laugh.