Susquehanna Helps LPP, Entrepreneurship Center

Earlier this summer, a special presentation was held in the Biemesderfer Center, where Susquehanna Bancshares presented Millersville University with a major gift of $30,000 to support the Lancaster Partnership Program (LPP), now in its 26th year.

“The financial support from Susquehanna Bancshares will ensure a pipeline from the K-12 schools into our colleges and universities with the ultimate goals of supporting workforce development and ensuring the economic vitality of the Lancaster region,” said Dr. Aminta Breaux, Vice President of Advancement at Millersville. “Susquehanna’s support to the LPP helps defray costs mostly borne by the student. The increased support from Susquehanna Bancshares will provide socioeconomically disadvantaged students the opportunity to graduate from high school and attend and graduate from higher education.”

In addition, Susquehanna Bancshares presented Millersville University with a major gift of $25,000 to support the Entrepreneurship Center.

“This gift will help to further advance entrepreneurship education and training efforts at Millersville. And, it will help support our entrepreneurial endeavors both on campus and in the community,” said Dr. Diane Umble, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.
Intramural Program Tops Competition

Millersville University’s intramural program was recently ranked as one of the top 50 intramural program in the nation by BestColleges.com.

“Over 1,200 students participate in the intramural program each year making it one of the most popular programs on campus,” said Dr. Gordon Nesbitt, director of campus recreation and intramurals.

Millersville University’s intramural program features a wide variety of sports from flag football to dodgeball. The program offers men’s, women’s and coed teams and leagues. The flexible program allows students, faculty and staff to sign up for a league, a one-day competition or to register as “free agents” on Millersville University’s website. On campus, there are three gymnasia, two swimming pools, tennis courts and a variety of sports fields to meet the university’s intramural demands.

BestColleges.com is a database website that assists students in choosing a college by ranking and highlighting the many features of different institutions. They judged hundreds of college intramural programs across the county focusing on the number of programs offered, efficient team/activity organization and appropriate sports facilities.

Intramural sports play a unifying role in the campus community, allowing students, faculty and staff to engage in friendly competition and recreation. It provides a safe and fun informal setting for players to compete in athletics, regardless of skill level. For more information and to see a full list the sports offered, please visit: http://www.millersville.edu/campusrec/intramural/.
Millersville Named One of the Safest College Towns

Millersville University has been named one of the safest college towns in the United States, according to The SafeWise Report.

Millersville ranks 22 in the list of the top 50 safest college towns. SafeWise is a home security company that generates its rankings by combining FBI crime statistics for the area and the number of safety-related programs and initiatives available on campus.

A large factor in Millersville’s ranking is the existence of the Threat Assessment Team (TAT), consisting of experts in human resources and employee assistance, law enforcement, university operations, medical knowledge, social equity and student affairs. TAT was established to address situations where students, faculty or staff are displaying disruptive or threatening behaviors that potentially impede their own or others’ ability to function successfully or safely.

“We recently adopted the smartphone app, “LiveSafe” for our campus. It empowers students to take more ownership in their campus’ safety by turning their smartphones into powerful personal safety tools that help increase communication between students and university police officers,” explained Dr. John Anderson, president of MU. “Users have the ability to keep their friends safe by virtually walking them to their destination, request a safety escort from University Police, or be tracked via GPS in the event of an emergency. It also facilitates discreet and risk-free bystander intervention.”
“In addition, MU is equipped with 29 emergency phones, also known as “Blue Light Phones,” it has 24-hour police patrol and camera surveillance and a threat assessment team. We also have a great working relationship with Millersville Borough and their police department,” said Anderson.

MU was one of four PASSHE universities to earn a spot on the list, alongside Slippery Rock (11), Clarion (17) and California University of Pennsylvania (29).


Hillel Celebrates Jewish Heritage

Whether it’s with food, friends, or festivities, Hillel is celebrating the Jewish faith on Millersville’s campus.

Hillel is a national organization designed to enrich the religious, cultural and social lives of Jewish college students. Millersville’s chapter of Hillel is advised by Dr. Barry David, professor of applied engineering, safety & technology. While the club’s main purpose is to promote Jewish awareness on campus, membership to the club is open to all faiths.

“We are a Jewish organization that aims to enrich the campus lives of Jewish students who are in the minority here at Millersville with a bit of comfort food and camaraderie with others of similar religious, cultural and spiritual backgrounds, beliefs and values,” said David. “Many of our members, including some officers, are non-Jews.”

Hillel sponsors numerous activities during the year in honor of Jewish observances.
Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) is the holiest day of the Jewish year and focuses on atonement and repentance and requires fasting. This year it was held on September 23. Members of the club gather for a communal break-fast at the end of the fast.

Other important days;

- Celebration of Sukkot, a traditional marking of the end of harvest time.
- Hanukkah (the festival of light). Last year, the club ate latkes (potato pancakes), made dreidels (a type of four-sided spinning top) and then played the dreidel game and exchanged gifts. This year it begins on December 7.
- For Purim, Hillel bakes and sells Hamentashen, a three cornered pastry treat stuffed with fruit or poppy filling. The food holds cultural significance by resembling the hat worn by the villain, Haman, who planned to destroy the Jews during the Persian empire.
- During the Passover Seder, students are provided an opportunity to participate in this ritual meal where the club follows the traditions of the Seder and reads from an abbreviated Haggadah.
- Hillel has also previously visited the Jewish Heritage Museum in Philadelphia and the Holocaust Museum in Washington.

A new event for the club this year is a Shabbat pizza and a movie. Shabbat is Hebrew for Sabbath, which is observed from sundown on Friday through sunset on Saturday.

“This is really an opportunity for Hillel students to gather, have some enjoyment, and if not religiously observe the Sabbath, to at least welcome it together,” said David.

Hillel meets every other week on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in SMC 204. For more information, contact Dr. Barry David at Barry.david@millersville.edu
Constitution Week Activities

Millersville University showed its patriotic colors by celebrating Constitution Week, Sept. 14-17.

During the week, students participated in various events, hosted by the Walker Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership (the Walker Center), to celebrate the adoption of the United States Constitution. The events included voter registration, a film screening and various lectures and talks on government and the upcoming presidential election.

The week started off with some sweetness, as students enjoyed ice cream while listening to Millersville professor Dr. Nitu Bagchi (government and political affairs) talk about “The Trump Phenomenon.” She spoke about the presidential candidate and his growing popularity. On Sept. 16, students watched “Gideon’s Trumpet,” a movie about Clarence Earl Gideon’s fight for free legal representation while in prison. Dr. Adam Lawrence (government and political affairs) lead a discussion about the movie and the Supreme Court case Gideon v. Wainwright. One of the highlights of the week is students had an opportunity to register to vote for the upcoming presidential elections.

On Sept. 17, The Walker Center hosted the legislative speaker series. Pennsylvania Senator Ryan Aument was the keynote speaker. He spoke on public policy issues, the value of public service and civic engagement, and his personal experiences in the political realm.

Throughout the fall semester, there will be additional events focused on civic engagement and governmental processes. For more information on the events and The Walker Center, please visit: http://www.millersville.edu/ccerp/walker-center/.

The Walker Center legislative speaker series invites federal, state and local legislators to Millersville University’s campus to educate students about public policy and legislature.
The third annual Interdisciplinary Interactive Design Conference (IIDCon) will be held at Millersville University on Saturday, Oct. 3rd from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Meyers Auditorium, McComsey Hall.

Interactive design combines the aesthetics, technology and cognitive human responses to web design and uses them to create efficient and stimulating websites.

“Millersville is the lead on interactive discipline and recognizes that it is a growing and changing environment,” said James Pannafino, MU associate professor of art and design. “Students get a modern education on top of a timeless education.”

Five guest speakers from the web, interactive and creative fields will be discussing the multifaceted construction of a user-friendly web experience from the technical, visual and creative perspectives. Each speaker will give a 35 minute presentation about her profession followed by an interactive Q&A panel with all five speakers. The day will conclude with a meet and greet in the Ford
Atrium where attendees will have the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the speakers.

The speakers this year are Joni Thyrall, product designer at NowSecure; Kasey Hults, from The Infantree; Sam Provenza, web designer at AWeber; Erin Good, MU alumna and front-end developer at Godfrey and Sofia Millares, creative director of product design at NASDAQ.

Students from all majors are encouraged to attend the conference, as there will be topics discussed from a broad spectrum of backgrounds such as computer science, communications, psychology, graphic design and more.

The conference is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information or to register for the event, please visit www.iidcon.com.

**Psi Chi Plans Panel on Domestic Violence**

Millersville University’s psychology department and the Millersville Chapter of the Psi Chi International Honor Society will present a panel discussion to honor October as Domestic Violence Awareness month.

On October 13, “The Link Between Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty” will aim to raise awareness of the connection between human violence and animal mistreatment. The panel will be held at 7 p.m. in Biemesderfer Concert Hall in the Winter Visual & Performing Arts Center. Multiple national and local speakers within the fields of psychology, public policy and human services will discuss current research, animal law and programs for victims. Prior to the panel, a presentation by Dr. Barbara Boat will take place in Byerly Hall at 4 p.m.

Psi Chi has planned the event in honor of Karlie Hall, a student tragically lost by Millersville last year as a result of domestic violence. Hall was dedicated to helping homeless animals.

“Animal cruelty is something that everyone should take seriously,” said Dr. Debra Vredenburg-Rudy, associate professor of psychology and faculty advisor of Psi Chi. “It should always be included in the discussion of human violence.
When the family pet is subjected to abuse or neglect, the children who live in that home are at risk for mistreatment and learn to model the behavior. People need to know that stricter laws that protect animals also protect children in the end.”

Participants at the panel include:

- Dr. Barbara Boat is a licensed clinical psychologist and an associate professor in the department of psychiatry and behavioral neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She is also the executive director of the Childhood Trust at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.
- Loretta Ann Reider is a resident assistant at Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County helping victims and their pets. As a survivor of domestic violence, she knows the importance of having a safe haven for victims.
- Dr. Karen Rice is an associate professor and the chair of the social work department at Millersville University. A licensed social worker in Pennsylvania, Dr. Rice has practiced in the areas of child welfare and adult and juvenile mental health and sexual perpetration. She was a trainer for the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center where she trained child welfare workers and assisted with the development of curriculum related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect and working with families with substance abuse issues.
- Sarah Speed, Esq. is the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee. The House Judiciary Committee is responsible for reviewing all legislation dealing with the crimes code, including animal cruelty. As Pennsylvania State Director, Speed was responsible for shepherding all animal related legislation, trained hundreds of law enforcement officers and volunteers, and managed animal sheltering for disasters and large scale cruelty cases. Sarah is currently President of the Board of the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team. She is also
serving on Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf’s Agriculture Transition Team.

Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Vredenburg-Rudy at debra.vredenburg@millersville.edu

MU Scores Above Average in College Scorecard

Millersville University scored above average in the categories of graduation rates, students who return after their first year and students paying down their debt; and the University received an average score for annual cost; according to the new College Scorecard released by the U.S. Department of Education. “Millersville University finds that the information portrayed on the Department of Education’s new College Scorecard appears accurate, as most of the data used is collected by the Departments of Education or Treasury through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS),” explained Dr. Lisa Shibley, assistant vice president, Institutional Assessment & Planning.

“The information shared presents Millersville in a positive light to potential students and their families. Most of the metrics indicate that our students succeed at rates at or above national averages,” said Shibley. “Millersville has been sharing similar types of information for several years to help prospective
students and their families make decisions about their college choice through initiatives like the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) College Portrait and more recently, the Student Achievement Measure (SAM).”

The new scorecard is specifically designed for use on mobile devices that will help students find the right college better than many of the existing commercial guides. Data from private organizations like Student Achievement Measurement (SAM) and Payscale will be used in later versions of the College Scorecard.

The SAM project provides a comprehensive picture of student progress on their path to earning a college degree or certificate. Compared to the limitations of typical graduation rate measures, SAM reports more outcomes for more students. For more information about SAM please visit [http://www.studentachievementmeasure.org/](http://www.studentachievementmeasure.org/).

Millersville University's statistics can be found here: [https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/school/?214041-Millersville-University-of-Pennsylvania](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/school/?214041-Millersville-University-of-Pennsylvania).

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**Happiness Is...**

Millersville University is putting on a smile as it hosts the 2015 International Policy Conference: The Essentials of Happiness.

Sponsored by MU Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project and the Robert A. Christie Lectureship in Economics, the conference will take place on Oct. 1-2 in the Lehr Room of Bolger Conference Center in Gordinier Hall. The conference will explore the science, discipline and art of happiness and wellbeing. There will be several lectures and sessions, focused on happiness, hosted by Millersville faculty from various departments including:

- Enhancing the Well-Being of Vulnerable Populations
There will also be two keynote speakers, Linda Larsen and Justin Wolfers.

The conference will begin on Thursday, Oct. 1, at noon-1 p.m., with Larsen as the opening speaker. Larsen is a best-selling author, humorist and motivational speaker, who wrote the critically acclaimed book True Power: Get it, Use it, Share it. She is also the author of several best-selling CDs and programs focused around achieving goals and overcoming obstacles.

The Christie Lecture will take place on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 7-8:30 p.m., with Wolfers as the keynote speaker. Wolfers, who is an economics and public policy professor at the University of Michigan, is a well-known speaker who outlines how economics affects every aspect of human life, from law and politics to behavior and labor. He is the co-author of the book, Happiness and the Human Development Index: Australia is not a Paradox. He is also a columnist for the Bloomberg View, The New York Times and the Freakonomics blog.

The conference is free and open to public, but prior registration is required. For more information and to see the full schedule of events, please visit: www.villehappy.com

The Robert A. Christie Lectureship in Economics, established in 1980, was founded in memory of Christie, who was president of Millersville University from 1965-68.
Millersville Receives National Diversity Award

For the fourth consecutive year, Millersville University is the recipient of INSIGHT into Diversity magazine’s Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award.

The national award recognizes colleges and universities that are committed to cultivating diversity and inclusion on campus. Only 91 other universities and colleges were recipients of the HEED award this year.

“Millersville University’s commitment to diversity and equity spans decades and encompasses a variety of areas,” said Jan Bechtel, interim director of the Office of Diversity & Social Justice. “The creation and continued evolution of the three Millersville President’s Commissions for Cultural Diversity & Inclusion, Status of Women, and Gender & Sexual Diversity has truly aided in the expansion of diversity. Other areas that have brought diversity and equity to our campus include minors in African American, Latino and Women’s Studies; sustained efforts to recruit and retain diverse students, faculty and staff; the first fully inclusive residential Career & Life Studies program for students with intellectual disabilities and a myriad of programs, events and initiatives that reflect an infusion of diverse perspectives.”

In order to be considered for the award, a comprehensive application, which provides a qualitative assessment of how universities and colleges are performing as it relates to diversity and equity, must be completed. The application takes several weeks to finish and truly exemplifies a collaborative effort because it requires data and input from a multitude of departments throughout the campus community.
“Individuals take time to gather information and provide the documentation needed to respond to the questions and each year the focus and questions differ,” said Bechtel. “After the second year, we began to utilize the application as an opportunity to evaluate our existing programs, events and initiatives and identify areas of opportunity to enhance our campus community.”

Diversity is a driving force for change, academic excellence and lifelong learning. This award and the application process reflects the University’s ongoing commitment to ensure equity and opportunity, increase awareness of diversity issues through education and strengthen relationships across diverse groups.

10/1/2015 Activities

Chris Steuer has been named Millersville University’s first Sustainability Manager.

Steuer will work to integrate sustainability into daily operations, help drive cultural change and enhance awareness while advancing Millersville University’s strong commitment to sustainability.

As Certified Sustainability Manager, Steuer has more than 10 years of experience in sustainability performance management in the private and public sectors. He holds a Master of Science in physical geography and a Bachelor of Science in earth sciences from Pennsylvania State University.

He has worked as a senior sustainability manager at ICF International in Washington D.C. since 2004, helping lead ICF’s multi-million dollar sustainability project portfolio, which included work with eBay, Visa and Sony, to the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Capitol. Steuer resides in Womelsdorf, Pa.

Steuer specializes in developing and implementing sustainability programs, tools and systems, and has expertise in evaluating sustainability performance,
developing sustainability indicators and meeting U.S. federal sustainability mandates.

Millersville’s Center for Sustainability strives to educate the community on sustainability, provide opportunities for MU to directly participate in sustainability initiatives on and off campus, encourage student and faculty-led research, and service on sustainability.

Broadcast Education Association Meet at MU

The Broadcast Education Association (BEA) regional meeting was held Saturday, September 26 on campus. The one day regional meeting provides an opportunity for faculty to gather in smaller geographic regions to share research and teaching ideas. Ten faculty from five universities from Pa., Maryland and Virginia and three professional media speakers (two were alums), and two MU faculty presented research in progress (Dr. Lowery Woodall and Dr. Rob Spicer).

Dr. Stacey Irwin ran the event as the District 3 representative to the BEA Board of Directors. District 3 is the geographic area of Pa., Md., Va., Mich., Ohio and Ky.

BEA website: http://www.beaweb.org/wp/
About the conference: http://www.beaweb.org/wp/?page_id=2387

Faculty/Staff Activities
Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, sang in an international chorus in Royal Albert Hall in London featuring Karl Jenkins’ The Armed Man on July 12. Also in July, she was a participant in the seminar “Roman Baroque” at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London.

Retired Faculty
Dr. Francis J. Bremer, professor emeritus history, was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the Congregational Library and Archives, located in
October is breast cancer awareness month and Millersville University will be hosting two events: the fifth annual Breast-a-Ville and Launching the Dream: A Benefit for Breast Cancer Awareness.

**Breast-A-Ville**
The fifth annual Breast-a-Ville event will be held Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the SMC Promenade. It is free and open to the public.
For more information about Breast-a-Ville, please contact Jenny Monn at Jenny.Monn@millersville.edu.

**Launching the Dream: A Benefit for Breast Cancer Awareness**
Launching the Dream will be held Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Ware Center. This musical fundraiser will benefit the Diana’s Dreamers: Determined to Defeat Breast Cancer endowment fund at Millersville University, which supports breast cancer awareness. Performances will include the debut of original songs by students Zac Terrazas and Liz Fulmer as well as a performance from the Men’s Glee Club and selections from Dennis Denenberg’s one-man-show, “Hooray for Heroes.”

Tickets cost $20. The full ticket amount is tax-deductible and any donations over the ticket price are being matched up to $10,000. Ticket information is at: https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?w=7b55bd1768d23da2e33bf24ff16939c2&t=tix.

For more information about MU breast health initiatives like Launching the Dream: A Benefit for Breast Cancer Awareness, please visit http://www.heroes4us.com/breast-cancer-awareness/.
One Day Give

October 9 marks the third annual “One Day Give” at Millersville University. The One Day Give is an all-day event where participants may make a donation to Millersville University that will directly impact the lives of its students. Last year’s One Day Give helped raise $193,556.75 for scholarships.

Those who generously donate during the One Day Give will have the opportunity to decide how their pledge will benefit current and future students at Millersville. Opportunities include the Impact Fund for student scholarships, the American Dream Ride Scholarship, athletics, the Ware and Winter Centers and more.

Read more about last year’s One Day give here. Call 1-877-872-3820 or email giving@millersville.edu for more information.

Running Events Impact Roads

Various streets around Millersville University will be used for running events on two dates this fall.

On October 10, “Immerse International” will be holding a 5K run at 9 a.m. “Immerse International,” formerly known as Millersville International House, is home to students who study at MU while visiting from another country. The race begins near the intersection of Herr Avenue and Landis Avenue and comes through campus before circling back to the start.

A one mile fun run will take place immediately following the 5k at 10 a.m. This race will also begin near the intersection of Herr Avenue and Landis Avenue. And, on November 26 (Thanksgiving Day), the 43rd annual Turkey Trot will take place between 9 and 10 a.m. Proceeds from the race benefit running programs at MU and Penn Manor, along with food donations collected for a Millersville food bank.

The race begins at Highschool Avenue and goes through campus, ending near Penn Manor High School.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. Leslie Gates, assistant professor of art and design.

Q: Where are you originally from?
I grew up in Mount Joy, about 25 minutes from MU.

Q: What is your educational background?
I have a B.S.E. in Art Education from Millersville University, an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from Shepherd University, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Maryland College Park.

Q: How did you become interested in art?
I think children are born as creative makers, and I was no exception. I appreciate that my parents supported my interests in art, music and dance as a child through summer camps, lessons, classes and many other informal ventures, like the time we were allowed to draw all over the living room walls before the wallpaper was applied.

Q: What type of artist are you?
A tall one.

Q: Do you participate in the arts outside of work?
Yes. I exhibit my work a few times a year, love visiting museums and galleries, and work with a friend to coordinate shows for a gallery space at my church. Perhaps more importantly, we have family dance parties in our living room.

Q: What about art education interests you the most?
Art educators are inherently activists when they give students choices and teach for creativity, given the increasingly standardized nature of public schools. What excites me is inviting my students to envision and enact an art education that will help to transform schools for the better.

Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?
Birthing two “babies” in one year: the first was a daughter named Evelyn and the second was a doctoral dissertation. My second greatest accomplishment is probably co-founding Lancaster County Opt Out, an organization dedicated to informing local parents about their rights to refuse the standardized testing of their children.

**Q: What are your hobbies outside of work?**
I enjoy cooking and making my own cleaning products. My spouse and I spend a lot of time reselling valuable items we find at thrift stores, which I joke is our only shared hobby.

**Q: What is your favorite quote?**
Henry Van Dyke wrote, “Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best,” which I find helpful as a recovering perfectionist.

**Q: How do you want students to remember you?**
I want my students to remember me as someone who kindly and carefully provoked their assumptions, desires and beliefs about art education, and supported their evolving teaching practice.

**Q: If you could do any job in the world, what would it be?**
I would create some type of a retreat center where art teachers could come talk to each other about ideas, make art, eat, laugh and write letters to their legislators about the perils of standardized testing.