Community Service, With Distinction

Once again Millersville University has received a national honor for its commitment to community service. For the fourth year in a row, Millersville was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, with distinction in the category of general community service. Millersville University is the only school in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), to receive the noteworthy recognition for 2014.

“We’re pleased to receive this very high honor for our exemplary community service programs,” said Dr. John Anderson, president of Millersville. “Our commitments to the community, to service learning and to civic engagement are part of the foundation of our University.”

The award states, “The President of the United States of America hereby recognizes and congratulates Millersville University for the extraordinary and exemplary community service contributions of its students, faculty and staff in meeting critical community and national needs.”

The recipients were recently announced by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS has administered the award since 2006. Millersville has been named to the honor roll every year since the award’s inception and the last four years also attained the special level of “distinction.” The award serves to highlight the importance universities play in aiding communities and promoting student civic leadership by recognizing schools that create notable and direct impacts in their surrounding communities.

“The entire campus deserves this great honor, as we have all pulled together to make civic engagement an integral component of the Millersville experience,” said Dr. Victor DeSantis, associate provost of civic and community engagement. “I am proud that our students are making a significant difference.”

You can read more about the award at: http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/presidents-higher-education-community-service-honor-roll/2014-presidents-higher.
Makarevitz Uses Music and Design in Harmony

Cody Makarevitz had to pull a few strings when it came to finishing his senior capstone project – guitar strings that is.

Makarevitz spent much of the spring semester of his senior year building an electric guitar using computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) software and 3D modeling. He completed an independent study over the course of the semester by putting over four months of work into designing, modeling and building a fully functional electric guitar.

The project began when Makarevitz initially designed the guitar in fall 2014 during a computer numerical control machining course. Throughout the course, designs produced in Computer Aided Design (CAD) software are converted into numbers to be used as coordinates to direct the motion of a cutter. In order to successfully direct the machine’s movement, the programmer must translate the commands for the computer to understand where and how fast to move to make a cut. Makarevitz quickly realized he would not be able to complete the project by the time the fall semester ended and continued work on the guitar into the spring.

“I knew that I would only have three classes in the spring and a bunch of free time. I decided that it would be a great learning adventure and look good on my resume,” he said.

Just as musicians have to hit the right notes, so do designers in order to ensure accuracy when the final cuts are made. As the project furthered and the designs were completed, the process became more hands on for Makarevitz as well.

“Once all the programming was complete and ready, I had to purchase, mill and glue wood together for the body, neck and fingerboard,” he said.

With no previous experience on a project of this scale, Makarevitz utilized the knowledge he had learned during his time in CAD classes along with advisement from Dr. Mark A. Atwater, assistant professor of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology.
“This project has helped tie together a multitude of classes I have taken throughout my undergrad experience,” Makarevitz said. “This project was a test of all my collective knowledge learned here at Millersville University.”

Makarevitz recently graduated with a bachelor of science in Applied Engineering and Technology Management with a concentration in CAD and drafting. To him, the guitar will show future employers his technical skills, dedication and attention to detail, but as of right now, Makarevitz has a single plan for the guitar: to play it.

“Making an electric guitar from scratch seems like such a daunting task at the beginning. Now that it is complete, I can take the satisfaction of knowing I did it all by myself and that I have been given that capability to learn how to do something I previously knew nothing about,” he said. “This project was important to me because it gave me confidence to know that I could do something bigger than myself.”

**Global Exploitation of Women and Children**

The Millersville University social work department’s Learning Institute is dedicated to investigating global social issues. Each year the institute hosts events that center on an annual theme. This year’s annual Global Well-Being Conference will deal with the exploitation of women and children.

“On a global scale, women and children face similar challenges including poverty, inadequate healthcare, limited educational opportunities, sexual exploitation, gender inequality, homelessness, violence and family dysfunction,” said Dr. Karen Rice, chair of the social work department. “Though experiences differ in terms of chronicity, intensity and impact, in all women and children they create stress and trauma that compromise well-being.”
The Learning Institute’s 2nd Annual Global Well-Being Conference will take place at Millersville’s downtown campus, The Ware Center from June 10-12, 2015. The conference includes a plethora of presenters, a workshop and a documentary screening with panel discussion.

The keynote speaker will be Adele Taylor Ulrich, who educates and motivates people to fight for social justice. She currently directs hu-MAN Up, an initiative of the Planet Project. hu-MAN Up helps to challenge patriarchy, through engaging men and boys to create new social norms, free from sexism, male privilege and gender violence and to work to build a sustainable culture. Ulrich uses unconventional methods such as transit signs, monologues and art to raise awareness.

“Millersville University’s Department of Social Work is honored to host this conference, which brings together faculty, students and practitioners from across disciplines, and from around the world, to engage in critical dialogue regarding a global social issue,” said Rice. “Fostering life-long learning, licensed practitioners are able to earn up to 16 continuing education credits.”

Additional information can be found at, http://blogs.millersville.edu/learninginstitute/. Please contact Karen Rice at karen.rice@millersville.edu with any questions.

What Goes Boom in the Night

Two Millersville University faculty members and 16 undergraduate meteorology students are embarking on the adventure of a lifetime studying nighttime thunderstorms in the Great Plains of Kansas for six weeks this summer.

They will be joining scientists, students and staff from eight research laboratories and 14 universities from all over North America as part of the Plains Elevated Convection at Night (PECAN) project, based in Hays, Kan. from June 1-July 15.

According to the National Science Foundation (NSF), Millersville University’s participation in the PECAN campaign is “mission critical.”

The primary scientific objective of Drs. Richard Clark, Todd Sikora and the MU meteorology students will focus on a wind-field known as the Great Plains Low Level Jet (LLJ), about 1,000 feet above the surface. The LLJ is a recurring feature in nighttime
storms and acts as a conveyor of heat and moisture from the Gulf of Mexico into the central plains where it can invigorate thunderstorms at night well after solar heating has gone away.

“It is most common for thunderstorms to form in the daytime when they are aided by the sun heating the Earth’s surface, which drives convective motions deep into the atmosphere,” said Clark. “Less obvious are those mechanisms that can help in the development and maintain the vigor of thunderstorms that occur at night, and no where in the U.S. are nocturnal thunderstorms more prevalent than in the central plains. In fact, most of the summertime precipitation across the plains states occurs at night. Moreover, because at night the near-surface air is cooler than air aloft, the interaction between nocturnal thunderstorms and the surrounding environment can be significantly more complex than in the daytime. PECAN is designed to study these mechanisms with the aim of improving forecasts of severe weather at night over the central plains with an eye on the safety and well-being of the public.”

Millersville will stage its operations at Ellis, Kan. where it will deploy its suite of ground-based and balloon-borne instruments. “We bring a unique capability with our integrated system consisting of a Lidar, acoustic sodar, high frequency flux measurements, and, of course, our upper air measurements with free balloons and detailed measurements between the surface and 2,000 feet using our tethered aerostat,” said Clark.

PECAN is funded largely by the NSF, with additional funding from NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Energy, totaling $13.5 million.
Don’t Get Blown Away This Summer

Dorothy wasn’t prepared when a twister hit her house, but you can be.

Strong thunderstorms often pop up during hot and humid summer days, which can sometimes quickly lead to severe weather conditions. Preparing yourself and your family for severe weather should begin long before it arrives.

“The three most frequent threats for us in Lancaster Country are straight-line wind, hail and localized flooding,” said Millersville Weather Information Center Director, Eric Horst. “The more common danger is straight-line wind, which are gusts from storms, not affiliated with tornadoes that reach 40, 50 and 60 miles per hour. They can take trees down, take power lines down and take shingles off your house. They won’t roll over a car, but they can do damage.”

While tornadoes in Pennsylvania are rare, our state still sees an average of 10-20 a year, according to Horst.

Even a weak tornado can result in extensive damage, so preparation begins by always staying aware of the conditions outside as reported by meteorologists. An important distinction is made between a tornado watch and a tornado warning.

“A watch means the conditions are favorable for tornados to form. We need to be aware and keep our eye to the sky,” said Horst. “A warning means there is [a tornado] on the ground or a funnel cloud has been spotted.”

Safety precautions should take place before a tornado warning is issued. Keeping informed on the status of the tornado can be just as vital as taking appropriate action. Follow this link to sign up for MU Alert that will send updates for campus quickly by text message or email for tornadoes and other emergencies. Additionally, cell phones can automatically receive a wireless alert by text message from the National Weather Service during weather emergencies.
It’s important to find appropriate shelter when severe weather threatens. Those in the open outdoors should seek indoor shelter if possible. Priority should be placed on maximizing your distance from trees and cars. Lay face-down on low ground, using your arms to protect the back of your head.

If indoors, find an enclosed location on the lowest floor possible that contains no windows, such as a bathroom, closet or hallway. Stay away from corners that may contain debris and keep a distance from any glass. Crouch down and use padding such as a mattress, blanket or pillow to cover your head from falling debris.

Outside of the home, all places of employment should have established procedures for tornado emergencies to ensure the safety and accountability of workers. Procedures should be communicated and training should occur ahead of time to prepare employees in a weather-related emergency with equipment and resources such as emergency supply kits.

Sign up for MU Alert: https://mualert.millersville.edu/index.php?CCheck=1

Sign up for National Weather Service text messages: http://www.weather.gov/subscribe

A-Z; Summer at the ‘Ville

While activities on Millersville’s campus may have slowed down a bit for the summer, the faculty and staff are keeping very busy. Here’s a snapshot of what faculty and staff are up to this summer, from A-Z.

A- Dr. Cathleen Ardrey, assistant professor of music, will be enjoying her garden, reading and directing music at Wayside Presbyterian Church this summer.

B- Michele Boté, assistant director of Experiential Learning and Career Management, will ride her bicycle as much as possible to rack up miles for the National Bike Challenge (Team MU) and take part in the technical crew for the Philadelphia International Cycling Classic, while co-directing two local amateur bicycle races. She will also travel to Oregon in late July for the Oregon Brewers festival.

C- Dr. Changfu Chang, professor of communication and theatre, will travel with his family to Madison, Vancouver and Alaska. Then he is going to China where he will be scouting for his next 5-year documentary project.

D- Dr. Dennis Downey, professor of history and director of the Honors College, will spend his summer running the University Honors College and preparing for a sabbatical leave in the fall. In addition to teaching a graduate course in June, he will make
occasional research trips to Philadelphia archives and complete a long-overdue book manuscript before a family vacation.

E- Eric Horst, director of Weather Information Center, will be vacationing and rock climbing for a few weeks with his family in Europe after a long, hard winter of weather forecasting.

F- Dr. Kerrie Farkas, associate professor of English, plans to teach two summer business writing courses, travel to the Florida Keys with her family, prepare proposals for a brand new writing major, continue her research on empathy and writing, and try her hand at gardening.

G- Dr. Gary Zoppetti, associate professor of computer science, is teaching a 9-week CSCI course at Millersville and will vacation in New England to enjoy cooler weather afterwards.

H- Dr. Leroy Hopkins, professor of German, recently retired and intends to devote some time to research and writing as well as working to help ease the transition of our Center for Pennsylvania German Studies onto campus.

H – Deb Herlocker, executive assistant to the president, will be visiting family in Illinois and hopefully connecting with her California niece and nephew while there. She will visit the Welland Canal and 1000 Islands with other family, possibly a romantic weekend with her best friend/hubby, and maybe a day or two to work on her next children’s book.

I- Dr. Stacey Irwin, associate professor of communication and theatre, will go on a camping trip with her Girl Scout troop, do lots of kayaking, have fun with her family, teach online classes and finish the final manuscript of the book she is writing.

J- Dr. Justin García, assistant professor of sociology/anthropology, plans to get married, move into a new house and teach summer classes.

K- Kay Keen, interim receptionist in human resources, will be traveling to historically rich nearby cities such as Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D.C., etc. and spending time relaxing by a fire with family and friends.
L- Dr. Julie Lombardi, associate professor of wellness and sports sciences, plans to finish her Summer Session 1 course, do a little traveling for both business and pleasure, be as active outside as possible, and hopefully go to the beach.

M- Michelle Pérez, associate vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, will be completing her dissertation.

N- Dr. Susan Northwall, medical director of Health Services, will be enjoying a locally grown community supported vegetable share, continuing to cook/eat more macrobiotic foods, swimming and walking, traveling to Iowa and Wisconsin to see family and having family and friends visit with her and her husband.

O- Adam Owenz, executive director of University Marketing, is planning to knock out some home improvement projects, teach his 3-year-old daughter to ride a bicycle, teach his 5-month-old son to walk early and, during every other waking moment, he will find creative ways to tell the Millersville story and build our brand.

P- Dr. Vilas Prabhu, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, looks forward to a safari in the Serengeti of Tanzania, in addition to getting ready for the new academic year.

Q- Dr. Wilfredo Valentín-Márquez, assistant professor of Spanish, will be teaching an exciting graduate course on the culture of the Hispanic Caribbean, and then he is traveling to Puerto Rico.

R- Jeri Robinson-Lawrence (professor/co-director of the Entrepreneurship Minor) will be visiting family in England this summer.

S- Dr. Greg Seigworth, professor of communication and theatre, will be spending the summer planning an international conference to take place at the Ware Center in October, teaching two or three summer classes, eating at as many restaurants as possible with his wife and daughter and trying to keep his pool from turning completely green.

T- Dr. Todd Sikora, professor of meteorology, will be spending his summer investigating night-time thunderstorms, and related phenomena at a field experiment in Kansas.

U- Dr. Ron Umble, professor of mathematics, presented a paper at the Lehigh Geometry/Topology Conference on May 23 and is presently coauthoring three papers – one with Dr. Zhigang Han and two MU undergraduates, one with F&M professor Barbara Nimershiem, and one with professor Samson Saneblidze from the Mathematical Research Institute in the Republic of Georgia. He will teach two courses during Summer Session 2 and he will attend Mathfest in Washington D.C. during the first week of August.
V- Dr. Victor Capecce, associate professor of communication and theatre, is designing the scenery for the musical “La Cage Aux Folles” at the Ephrata Performing Arts Center, working with the production manager and recent MU graduate, Michael Wiltraut.

W- Dr. John Wallace, professor of biology, has already assisted with a local biological inventory at Climbers Run, helped his students get their research projects started and soon will graduate his eldest from high school and take him to college orientation. Later in the summer, he will write a grant proposal, a book chapter, two journal manuscripts, work security for a rock festival and conduct research on rainbow and brown trout diets with long line samplers in Ennis, Mont.

X- Dr. Ximena Catepillan, professor of mathematics, is traveling to Bolivia to study Inca ruins on the Inti Raymi solstice, followed by the publication of her first book in Etnomathematics. Her summer will culminate with a trip home to visit her family in Chile.

Y- Lydia Yeager, manager of ticket sales, is hoping to spend some time at the beach, catch up with family and sell tickets, of course!

Z- Dr. Nazli Hardy, associate professor of computer science, looks forward to summer days with Zuzu and Zaavi (and their Dad) that bring her back to her core; swimming in the ocean, hiking under the endless sky, food with good friends, playdates at the pool, s’mores at the backyard fire pit, reading in the tree fort, running through the sprinklers, spontaneous adventures with curious hearts, writing with an unencumbered mind, evenings beneath the stars…
Challenging Poverty

“Someone else’s challenges aren’t just their challenges; they are the challenges of a community.” That is one reason why Dr. Karen Rice, social work, says that Millersville University is partnering with community groups throughout Lancaster to empower people to be able to permanently move out of poverty.

United Way recently funded the Community Action Program (CAP) and several other entities, including MU, who are participating in the “Pathways Out of Poverty through Circles” project, with a $94,709 grant. The project provides low-income families with 16 weeks of training. The grant will help pay for a staff person, provide stipends for Millersville students and fund a variety of miscellaneous things including room rental for meetings and bus passes for families.

“We have a long history with CAP and the Circles program,” said Rice. “We place both undergraduate and graduate students with CAP for the students’ field placement and learning requirements. That interaction led to us being a part of this collaborative effort.” Millersville students, under the supervision of Rice, will be responsible for the evaluation of the program. They will develop a system to collect data over time and they will also create a measurement plan for the project. The thrust of the work will begin in August with the start of the fall semester.

“The project looks at the systemic barriers to getting out of poverty,” explained Rice. “It reflects our values of the social work department in addressing oppression and collaborating with the community. Whenever the University can be part of a community change effort and help a community positively, it’s a good thing.”

In addition to CAP and MU, the Pathways project includes; Central PA Food Bank/Hunger Free Lancaster County, Columbia Presbyterian Church, Community Life Network, First United Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity, Lancaster County Council of Churches, Tabor Community Services and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

“One of the tenants of the Circles program is to stress the importance of education. Thaddeus Stevens is one of the collaborative partners and they provide tutoring to people in the program. Going forward, Circles program would like to partner with other universities and reinforce the importance of education to getting out of poverty. Since Millersville is the largest provider of higher education in the county, it’s essential that we’re involved in this project.”
Faculty/Staff activities

**Dr. Andre Moine**, foreign languages, is currently on sabbatical while working on publishing his father’s diary from World War II. Moine’s father fought during the German invasion of Western Europe. He was captured and held as a prisoner for more than a month in the summer of 1940. Moine has been translating the diary from French to English, while making trips to France to conduct oral history interviews.

**Dr. Erin Moss**, mathematics, was a co-editor for “Teaching Children Mathematics,” the official journal of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The section co-edited by Moss focuses on helping professionals explore how students learn through lesson plans and math problems. Her next piece to be published is titled, “Philosophies of Mathematics and their Implications for Mathematics Education,” and will be featured as a chapter in a book about integrating philosophies of mathematics into university math courses. The book will be published by the Mathematics Association of America (MAA) Notes series.


**Dr. Karena Rush**, psychology, is currently working with the Parent Choice Foundation to help develop a scale to evaluate the learning potential of children’s toys and games. The scale will assess toys in how they contribute to children’s cognition, language, creativity, motor skills, social and emotional skills and potential academic learning. Rush is also currently involved in another study on biofeedback and mindfulness. Working with the Lancaster Intermediate Unit, this study focuses on children with social-emotional disorders facing severe challenges who generally do not respond well to treatment.

**Dr. Jennifer Wood**, communication and theatre, in her role as Millersville’s “Educator of the Year” was invited to speak at the Children Deserve A Chance Foundation in Lancaster City. She spoke at their Professional Development Night on May 20.
Need to Know: Orientation Adds Programming

Welcome New Marauders

Faculty and staff will have the opportunity to greet new incoming students this summer through various orientation activities.

In addition to the annual four-day fall orientation program, this year there is a new Pilot Orientation for students who cannot make it to the four day program due to NCAA athletics or marching band. Also new this year is Transfer Orientation and Advising Day for new students transferring from another institution that will offer a smooth social and academic transition.

“We’ve made strategic changes to better support incoming athletes and musicians in their transition to the University,” said Orientation Program Director, Katherine Kealey. “The Department of Academic and Student Development was already hosting a Transfer Advising Day, so it was a natural collaboration to combine our efforts to provide a comprehensive experience for our transfer students.”

Pilot Orientation
June 18-19

Transfer Orientation and Advising Day
June 26
August 3

Fall Freshmen Orientation
August 20-23

Please contact the Office of Transition Programs at ext. 5553 or orientation@millersville.edu with questions.
Q: Where are you originally from?
I was born in Washington D.C., and raised just southeast of there in Maryland.

Q: How did you become interested in studying education and children’s literature?
My dad was a principal. He was a big influence along with many of the teachers who worked for him. There’s a clear connection between my undergraduate children’s literature professor and my career path. I wanted to be her when I grew up.

Q: From what school(s) have you earned your degree(s)?
I attended University of Maryland for my undergrad and initial teacher certification program. I then earned my master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin and my Ph.D. from Ohio State.

Q: How many years have you been at Millersville?
This fall will be my 11th year!

Q: What area(s) of education interest you the most?
Literacy and diversity are my main areas of expertise. I have always had a strong commitment to urban education and issues of social justice. My son attends the School District of Lancaster and my spouse teaches at J.P. McCaskey High School.

Q: Do you have a favorite class to teach at Millersville? Why?
I’m lucky enough to get to teach what I love. Children’s literature is my passion and that’s what fills my schedule. As long as it’s a children’s literature class, I’m happy.

Q: Do you have a favorite title in children’s literature? A favorite author?
That’s really hard. I’d have to say my favorite author is Jacqueline Woodson. If I had to narrow down an artist for picture books, I’d say Chris Raschka. A favorite book is way too hard, but recently I loved The Imaginary by A.F. Harrold and illustrated by Emily Gravett. It’s illustrated but not a picture book. It’s the best kind of fantasy that a reader of just about any age would enjoy it.
**Q: What are some trends or issues in children’s literature that may surprise people?**
Many of us continue to be surprised by the dismal amount of multicultural or diverse books for children. My students are also usually surprised (and saddened) by the kinds of attempts at censorship that have arisen lately. I continue to be surprised that some adults have not embraced graphic novels (yes, comic books) or do not see their amazing potential in the classroom.

**Q: Have you met any well-known authors or illustrators?**
Lots. This is one of the best parts of my job. When I go to conferences, I often get to hear authors and illustrators speak. A few that people might have heard of are Tomie DePaola, Patricia Polacco and Mem Fox.

**Q: Have you ever been selected to sit on a panel to choose an award in children’s literature? How was that?**
Yes, and it was amazing. The American Library Association has very prestigious awards for children’s books, and it was a privilege to serve on two of their award committees: the Geisel award for beginner books and the Coretta Scott King award for African-American children’s literature. The jury process is very intense. You have to know your stuff and be able to hold your own in a debate, especially after hours of discussion while sequestered in a hotel conference room.

**Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?**
Sharing new books with my students. I work hard to help my Early, Middle and Exceptional Education majors discover new titles during the time they are in my class. It’s easy to get stuck on “old favorites,” and I love when I’m successful in moving students beyond that.

**Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?**
Surviving the adoption process. The satisfaction of the Ph.D., the excitement of relocating several times, and even the daily challenge of being a parent all pale in comparison to the accomplishment of adopting a child, especially as a same-sex couple.

**Q: If you could do any job in the world, what would it be?**
That’s a no-brainer. I’d be a librarian. I still hold out hopes of getting a Master of Library Science degree one day.