Once again, Millersville University ranked in the top 25 for U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges. In the 2016 rankings, released on September 9, 2015, Millersville ranked 24th in the category of best public regional universities for the North region.

“I see this ranking as recognition of our collective efforts at Millersville University to provide diverse, dynamic and meaningful experiences to inspire our learners,” said Brian Hazlett, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management at Millersville. “This is a testament to the effort and quality of our faculty, staff, programs and students. We are honored to be recognized.”

For the list of all (public and privates) in the category of Best Regional Universities – in the North region, Millersville ranked 83. That’s up from 87 last
Regional Universities are defined as those offering a broad scope of undergraduate degrees and some master’s degree programs but few, if any, doctoral programs. Other Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities in this category were ranked as follows: West Chester 71, Slippery Rock 79 and Shippensburg 92. Bloomsburg came in at 104, East Stroudsburg, Kutztown and Mansfield at 131. California University of Pa., Cheyney, Clarion, Edinboro and Lock Haven were listed alphabetically in the second tier. Indiana University of Pa., which has offered doctoral degrees for many years, is listed in a different category. They were in the second tier of “National Universities.”

The U.S. News ranking system rests on two pillars. The formula uses quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality, and it’s based on their researched view of what matters in education. First, schools are categorized by their mission according to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2010. Once schools have been divided by category, U.S. News gathers data from each college on up to 16 indicators of academic excellence. Each factor is assigned a weight that reflects, in their judgment, about how much a measure matters. Finally, the colleges and universities in each category are ranked against their peers, based on their composite weighted score.

The “Best Colleges 2016” guidebook will start shipping on Sept. 15 and be available on newsstands Sept. 29.

**MU is #1 on PayScale**

Millersville University received the #1 spot in “Your degree will earn you the most from these colleges” list, published on CNNMoney.com, for graduates with an education degree.

According to the Payscale 2015-2016 college salary report, the median starting salary for MU graduates with an education degree is $39,600 and the median mid-career salary is $74,100. Runners-up for the #1 spot were Western Michigan College and CUNY-Brooklyn College.
PayScale’s 2015-2016 college salary report is based on salary data for alumni of 1,519 schools. Median starting salaries are based on full-time employees with five years of experience or less in their career and median mid-career salaries are based on full-time employees with at least 10 years of experience.

To see the “Your degree will earn you the most from these colleges” list, please visit http://money.cnn.com/gallery/pf/college/2015/08/26/college-degree-earnings/index.html.

Unearthing Untold Stories of Lancaster County

Millersville University and LancasterHistory.org are pleased to announce a first-of-its-kind partnership in support of the Providence Project, a research project to tell the untold story of the founding of the United States and the birth of American values. For the past several years Dr. Marlene Arnold, professor of anthropology at Millersville University, and students have been studying the decades leading up to the American Revolution in this region.

Their aim is to create a compelling and captivating tale that communicates the importance of the Lancaster region and its people to our nation’s founding and to the establishment of its core values, while at the same time telling the story of the region’s Native Americans. This research work and resulting book could
provide the basis for a TV series—an historical drama set in Lancaster County and southeastern Pennsylvania in the 1700’s—that weaves the experiences of our ancestors into an epic story through which we can see ourselves and understand our place in American history.

“We are creating a few fictional characters to maintain links between real-life historical events and the actual historical figures who appear, such as Benjamin Franklin and Susanna Wright,” said Arnold. While most of the families are real and the stories are true, this is not strictly a history, nor is it a documentary.

Arnold states that this story is not just for us here in Lancaster or in Pennsylvania today, but speaks to all Americans. “As a TV series, this would represent an extraordinary opportunity, a great opening for America to explore a new frontier—our past—in a way that has never been done. And in so doing, we can arrive at a new shore, with a new understanding of who we are and of our place in the world.”

“We're very excited that Dr. Arnold has taken on this project,” said Dr. John Anderson, president of Millersville University. “It's such an important part of our community's history – but one that has never been told before.”

Original inspiration for the project came to Arnold after reading The American Soul: Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Founders by Jacob Needleman. She came to believe it was necessary to take a look at our region’s past in a new way.

“Treatments that look at this period typically focus on the European settlers. What we're doing, that's very different, is giving an authentic identity to the Native Americans who were here. We are bringing forth their voice as equal to the Europeans,” Arnold said. “We’re also including, as authentic people with fully developed characters in our story, African-Americans, both free and enslaved.”

The project has grown to become a joint venture between Millersville University and LancasterHistory.org, a partnership that Arnold calls “the first of its kind.” In 2006, Arnold invited Needleman to speak at an event at the Ephrata Cloister that was co-sponsored by Millersville University and the
Lancaster County Historical Society, now LancasterHistory.org, with support from Philip R. Wenger of Isaac’s Deli, Inc. This eventually led to the establishment of the partnership.

“This is great for the University; it’s great for LancasterHistory.org; and it’s great for our community, said Arnold. “This partnership will provide new opportunities for our students to engage in research along with faculty at both institutions.”

Thomas R. Ryan, President and CEO of LancasterHistory.org noted “We are very excited about collaborating with Millersville University on this exploration of roots of early American society and culture. Because of the unique resources our two institutions bring to the project, this has the potential to shed significant light on the formation of many of the fundamental American values that we aspire to live out each day as a nation.”

Dr. Ryan is chairing an advisory group, the Providence Project Council, whose members provide advice, serve as ambassadors to advance the project, coordinate fundraising and development strategies and provide financial assistance through fundraising efforts. In addition to Ryan, Project council members include Arnold, project director, Aminta Hawkins Breaux, Janet B. Calhoun, Bruce R. Limpert, Lyn W. Limpert, Jacob Needleman, Robin E. Sarratt, and Paul W. Ware.

Council member, Bruce Limpert, commented on the potential economic impact Providence Project could have on Lancaster County: “We have many people who come to our region for tourism. In highlighting how some of our founding core American values are embedded in the heritage and culture of Lancaster County and the region, the Providence Project offers visitors an additional layer for exploring and understanding our area. It expands the reasons for coming to Lancaster. It provides new meaning; it’s a vehicle for people to see our region in a new, different way. Ultimately, we could create a historical trail—the Providence Trail—for visitors to follow to see how our original core American values had their birth in Lancaster County communities and in similar localities in the eighteenth century.”

In order to create a riveting saga that ties together the many different cultures living in Pennsylvania during the eighteenth century and that spotlights the
important role played by our ancestors in the birth of American values, Dr. Arnold and her students have been engaged in research over the past two years.

Students do literature searches, read material, including primary documents, and write up the findings of their individual research topics. Arnold and her students even have their own room reserved at the university library to hold group meetings and to house their research materials.

“This type of research—doing historical research—wasn’t necessarily my area, but because I was looking at it from an anthropological perspective, it was very different from looking at it from simply a historical perspective,” said Michael Hoffman, an anthropology major who graduated from Millersville in May 2015. “Getting to see history through an anthropologist’s eyes—the culture and the people who are interacting in the time period—it was a very good mixture.”

Efforts for the project are now coming from beyond just the discipline of anthropology and are cutting across other academic areas by involving students and faculty from the departments of history, art and design, communication and theatre, English, geography, and more.

“This variety of disciplines is necessary as the end goal is to present the research as a book, as well as a television series. An interdisciplinary approach is required in order to more fully understand the people and events of this time period and to represent them in a way that is deeper, richer, and more authentic,” said Arnold.

LancasterHistory.org is a community-based, not-for-profit organization established to educate the public on the history of Lancaster County and its place in the history of Pennsylvania and the United States. For more information on the Providence Project, contact Dr. Marlene Arnold at Marlene.Arnold@millersville.edu.
Don’t Miss a Beat!

The Lancaster Symphony Orchestra (LSO) and the Arts at Millersville University have partnered for a new experience for performers and audiences this concert season.

“I was looking to do something a bit different for our fifth season opening night, and partnering with the Lancaster Symphony on a new venture sounded exciting,” said Laura Kendall, director of the Office of Visual and Performing Arts at MU.

The season opening is a tribute to Hollywood’s greatest composers and features music from “Star Wars,” “Superman” and more. Hollywood Heroes, a full orchestra concert, will take the stage in the Clair Performance Hall (Winter Center) on Saturday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m.

In the spring, LSO and MU will again collaborate for “Broadway Our Way.” The concert will feature singers Will and Anthony Nunziatas who have been described as “a nearly impossible pairing of talent, stage presence and charisma” by the Huffington Post. Broadway Our Way will have two showings on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Clair Performance Hall (Winter Center).

This is a collaborative effort from two of Lancaster’s premier arts organizations. The LSO and Arts at MU have the opportunity to grow classical music audiences and enhance learning experience for students. Millersville University’s Office of Visual and Performing Arts oversees the Ware and Winter Centers, which serve as cultural centers by presenting a wide variety of events and exhibitions ranging from student and faculty works to internationally acclaimed ensembles. The vision is to promote civic engagement, collaboration and innovation between the University and the greater Lancaster community.
These events are open to the public. Tickets cost $45 for general admission, $20 for children 17 and under and $20 for MU students with ID. Tickets may be purchased at MUTicketsOnline.com, at the Student Memorial Center Ticket Office (Room 103. 21 S. George St., Millersville), by calling 717-871-7600 or at the Ware Center box office (42 N. Prince St., Lancaster). The Student Memorial Center ticket office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Ware Center box office is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Winter Center box office will be opening one hour before showtime.

Lockey Lecture Examines LGBT Issues in Education

Emily A. Greytak will be tackling the subject of K-12 student discrimination at Millersville University’s annual Lockey Lecture. During the lecture, Greytak will concentrate on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students. In addition to the lecture, the public will have an opportunity to engage with Greytak during a panel discussion. The lecture and panel discussion are open to the public.

The lecture, “The State of LGBT Issues in K-12 Education: Reflections on the Past, Recommendations for the Future,” will take place on Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Lehr Room in the Bolger Conference Center (Gordinier Hall). On Sept. 18, Greytak will moderate the panel discussion, “Creating Safe Spaces for LGBT Students in Schools,” at 10 a.m. in the Stayer Multipurpose Room. She will also be meeting with students in Millersville’s College of Education and Human Services on Sept. 17.
Greytak serves as the director of research at the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, which conducts research on LGBT issues and is focused on policy and curriculum, professional development and student leadership. She also teaches programs on education theory, research methods and gender studies.
Previously, she was an educator on child welfare and anti-bias issues. Greytak earned her Ph.D. in Education Policy from the University of Pennsylvania and has been doing applied research for over 15 years.

Admission for the lecture and panel discussion are free of charge, but tickets are required. Tickets can be reserved at http://www.studentservicesinc.com/ticket-sales/

The Anna Funk Lockey Lecture, established in 1987, is a lectureship fund focused on bringing well-known educational experts to Millersville University's campus.

MU Goes Pink!

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.

“So many of us have been touched by breast cancer in some way,” said Jenny Monn, instructor of nursing at MU. “At the Breast-a-Ville, students have the opportunity to learn about breast health, breast cancer and breast care. It is our hope that they not only use this information themselves, but also share what they learned with family and friends!”
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. The theme this year is “Know Your Family History.” The Breast-a-Ville will feature activities that will focus on the genetic aspects of breast cancer and encourage participants to investigate their family history. Returning vendors include The Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition, Grace Cancer Care, and The Penn State Breast Center, in addition to the games and other activities. Breast-a-Ville is part of the breast health initiative at Millersville University that was started by Dr. Dennis Denenberg, professor emeritus, in honor of his sister, Diana Denenberg Durand, a 1967 graduate from Millersville State Teachers College. Dr. Denenberg is now joined by Dr. Richard Frerichs, professor emeritus, in honor of his wife Marsha. 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 for adults and $5 for students. 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/. 
Identifying New Species

This summer, Dr. Aaron Haines and a class of 13 students from five PASSHE schools conducted a field study at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station (CBFS) in Wallops Island, Va. The students documented 90 terrestrial vertebrate species within Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge and identified three new species that had not been previously documented within the refuge by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Conservation Biology course (BIOL 443) focuses on biological diversity, its threats and how to identify conservation strategies to protect against these threats through a series of experiments, sampling and case studies.

“My big goal for this course was to engage the students in my course to contribute to their professional career with a respected agency in their field of study, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, while being active learners,” said Dr. Haines. “Working at a National Wildlife Refuge gave students a great life opportunity within a dynamic learning environment to practice professional field techniques, work as a team, handle wildlife, learn how to problem solve under difficult field conditions and understand how data gathered in the field helps guide management decisions.”

The course began on June 29 with the sampling/assessment period. July 8-17 was the data analysis portion of the course. When the students were not in class, they were doing activities such as snorkeling, owl calling, kayaking, fishing and visiting the Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge and Nature Conservancy.

The CBFS service learning and research experience provided a number of the core values of Our Bold Path including exploration, professionalism, public mission and integrity. Students had the opportunity to grow intellectually and personally to become professionals in their field of study.
Of the 13 students in the class, seven were from Millersville University, three from East Stroudsburg University and one from each West Chester University, Bloomsburg University and Slippery Rock University.

“That class really opened my eyes to different parts of conservation. I also learned a lot of useful techniques that will help me in my career,” said ESU student Taylor Layden. “Seeing [Dr. Haines’] passion for conservation has inspired me to go more into the conservation aspect of marine biology.”

Conservation Biology (BIOL 443) was part of a service learning effort coupled with a research based course format to increase student professional development and passion for STEM studies in the biological sciences, in compliance with the goals of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Refuge System and the college students from this Chincoteague Bay Field Station. For more information, please visit www.cbfieldstation.org

One Day Give on 10/9

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 (http://www.millersville.edu/give/where-to-give/one-day-give.php). Call 1-877-872-3820 or email giving@millersville.edu for more information.
Katherine Kealey has been named the new director of the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) at Millersville University.

As director of CSIL, Kealey will oversee various programs including student and campus activities, clubs and organizations, Greek life, multicultural programs, leadership programs and the University Activities Board.

“I am extremely excited to return to the CSIL office to develop opportunities for students to engage in the campus community,” Kealey said.

Most recently, Kealey had worked as associate director of CSIL and program director of the Office of Transition Programs. Prior to joining Millersville, Kealey was the director of fraternity and sorority life at Wingate University in North Carolina. Kealey earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Elon University in North Carolina and a Master of Education from Ohio University.

Millersville University has also appointed Cleo “Vickie” Blackston as interim director for housing and residential programs. Blackston had previously worked as residence hall director, area coordinator and associate director of housing and residential programs at Millersville since 1979.

Through these positions, both Kealey and Blackston join the leadership of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management’s student engagement team.

Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Duane Hagelgans, earth sciences, recently opened the New Mexico Emergency Management Conference. Hagelgans gave the plenary speech to the 400+ attendees on the opening day of the state conference, “Planning for the unexpected: A Black Swan Event.” Hagelgans spoke about his research into regionalization and how regional cooperation allows the emergency management field to better handle disasters, especially those unexpected disasters like the 2006 Nickle Mines Amish shooting. He discussed the four days he spent at this tragedy and how this began his research into better regional cooperation in the field of emergency management.
In addition, Hagelgans was asked by Lancaster County to be the keynote speaker at the County’s annual 9-11 memorial service at the Lancaster County Emergency Services Training Center. He will be reflecting on that horrific day in 2001, the lives that were lost, the collaboration that took place and as in line with his research, how regional cooperation and all responders and citizens working together is essential in any disaster for a successful outcome.

**Dr. Abdelhadi Halawa**, Wellness and Sport Sciences, completed his visiting professorship at the Center for Yellow River Civilization and Sustainable Development, a research center at Henan University, Henan Province, China. From mid-May to mid-August, 2015, Halawa who was selected by the Chinese Ministry of Education as a National High-End Foreign Expert and Lead Researcher at the Center, led a team of two faculty researchers and four graduate-level student co-researchers to conduct a study on the traditional dietary habits, food consumption, and related health practices of the Chinese Hui Nationality living alongside the Yellow River Basin in central China. Additionally, Halawa gave several public speeches and presentations at the Journal of Hui Culture Studies in Zhengzhou City, Henan University, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi’an, Shaanxi Province, and for the visiting exchange students and faculty members from Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin. Halawa has been reinvented to serve in the same capacity to conduct another research project at the Center in the summer of 2016.

The Chinese news about his presentation for the visiting exchange students and faculty from Beloit College is at: [http://www.hhwm.org/news/230](http://www.hhwm.org/news/230)

**Dr. Gordon M. Nesbitt**, Wellness and Sport Sciences, Campus Recreation and Dr. Anthony Grant, former interim athletic director, contributed a chapter titled “Applying the Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership Findings to Collegiate Recreation and Athletics” in the just released “New Directions for Student Leadership” periodical series titled “Student Leadership Development through Recreation and Athletics” by Jossey-Bass publishers.

**Congratulations to Aileen J. Brown, Registrar’s Office**, who married Greg Sanchez on September 5, 2015.

**Retired Faculty:**

**MU PROFESSOR EMERITUS WINS PRESTIGIOUS COMMISSION**

**Dr. Sy Brandon**, professor emeritus of music, was selected as the 2018 recipient of the Thor Johnson Memorial Commission that is sponsored by the Delta Omicron Foundation. Brandon will be composing a composition for flute, clarinet and piano that will be premiered at the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity’s Triennial Conference in 2018. The commission covers the cost of writing the composition as well
as expenses to attend the performance. He was selected from an international pool of composers who applied.

Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity is a professional fraternity in the field of music with collegiate chapters established throughout the United States and abroad. Three undergraduate students founded the fraternity in 1909 at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Its objectives are to promote American music and musicians, to further the work of composers, to stimulate appreciation of good music at the community level, to advance high ethical standards of professional conduct in the musical world, to encourage understanding of the cultures of all nations, and to do any and all things conducive to the service, betterment, and ultimate welfare of musicians. The Thor Johnson Memorial Commission by the Delta Omicron Foundation honors the memory of Dr. Thor Johnson, National Patron of Delta Omicron.

Dr. Sy Brandon holds the rank of professor emeritus of music from Millersville University, Millersville, PA where he taught low brass, composition, orchestration, music history, electronic music and music industry. In 2010, he was commissioned by the Arizona Commission on the Arts to compose the band composition to celebrate Arizona’s Centennial in 2012. Dr. Brandon has received widespread acclaim for his compositions including first prizes in the Kappa Gamma Psi Original Composition Contest (1963), WITF-FM Classical Composition Contest (1996), Tuba Universal Brotherhood Association Tuba Etude Composition Contest (1996), El Dorado Sacred Music Composition Contest (2000), Franklin and Marshall College Wind Ensemble Composition Contest (2001), New England String Ensemble Competition (2003), and Quadre Composition Competition (2015). He was an American Prize finalist and semi-finalist in 2012 and 2013 in several composition categories.

Brandon’s music has been recorded by Czech National Symphony Orchestra on the Albany Records Label, the Philharmonia Bulgarica and the Kiev Philharmonic on the ERM label, the Contemporary Record Society, Trutone Records, by the Swiss Duo Delimme on the Arizona University label, and by numerous artists through Emeritus Recordings. His music has been performed both throughout the United States and abroad, including performances by the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force Bands and broadcasts by many public radio stations including NPR’s “Performance Today” and APR’s “Pipedreams.” He is the author of “A Composer’s Guide to Understanding Music” and “Dr. B’s Music Practice Guide.”

The composition that Brandon will be writing is a five-movement, 15-20 minute composition for high school level musicians called “Emoticons”, an aural representation of contrasting emotions.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Brent Horton, assistant professor of biology.

Q: Where are you originally from?
I am originally from Clayton, a small town in the Appalachians of northeast Georgia.

Q: How did you become interested in studying biology?
My first interests in biology stemmed from my childhood interests in wildlife, which I developed through hunting, fishing, camping and family trips to the great national parks of the west, including Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton and Glacier National Parks. After obtaining an undergraduate degree in Wildlife Biology and working in Conservation Biology for a couple of years, I realized that I wanted to know more about the behavior of wild animals. More specifically, I wanted to know how and why they do the things they do to survive and reproduce in the wild.

Q: From what school(s) have you earned your degree(s)?
I earned my bachelor of science in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University, and my Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Maine. I completed two postdoctoral fellowships, one in physiological ecology with at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, and another in neuroscience and animal behavior at Emory University.

Q: What area(s) of biology interest you the most?
I am most interested in the physiological and behavioral ecology of vertebrate animals. More specifically, I study the endocrine, neuroendocrine and genetic bases of behavior in wild birds.

Q: What did you enjoy most about your first year teaching at Millersville?
Foremost, I enjoyed the daily interaction with Millersville’s students, both inside and outside the classroom. I find it rewarding and worthwhile to play an important role in their education and their development as they work toward and decide on their own career paths. I enjoy the great diversity of their own interests in biology and learning more about them and what they want to do and become. In addition, I have enjoyed my new home here at Millersville. I have received great support and guidance from the biology faculty and I enjoy working and growing with them.

Q: Did you have a favorite class you taught this past year?
My favorite course was Behavioral Ecology, which I taught at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station this past summer. During this intense three-week course, I get to spend most of
the day with my students teaching them about the evolution of animal behavior, and we get to know each other really well. We spent 50% of our class time outdoors, learning to observe and document the behavior of wild animals. This course provides an ideal opportunity to teach and learn Behavioral Ecology.

Q: Are you involved in any current research in biology?
Yes. I continue to work on understanding the neuroendocrine and genetic bases of social behavior in two unique species of birds. First, I continue to work with the white-throated sparrow, a North American songbird in which two color morphs exhibit alternative reproductive strategies characterized by differences in aggression, parenting, and mating behavior. This work is a continuation of my Ph.D and postdoctoral work, and I work in collaboration with Dr. Donna Maney and others at Emory University. Specifically, we study the neurogenetic bases of social behaviors such as aggression and parenting.

My newest research is on the wire-tailed manakin, a bird that lives in the Ecuadorian Amazon. I do this work with Dr. Brandt Ryder at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and Dr. Ignacio Moore at Virginia Tech. This bird exhibits a rare form of cooperation. Males work together to perform an elaborate courtship display to impress females, and these display partnerships form the basis of a complex social network. In turn, a male’s status in the social network predicts his fitness (reproductive success). So, not unlike in our society, it is ‘who you know’ as much as ‘what you know’ that determines success in life for wire-tailed manakins. We are study the neuroendocrine and genetic bases of those male behaviors that influence their role and position in the social network. Last year we received a large grant from the National Science Foundation to support four years of research on this project in the Amazon.

Q: You’re teaching two special topics courses in biology this school year. Did you design them and what are they about?
As previously noted, I taught Behavioral Ecology at Chincoteague Bay Field Station (CBFS) this past summer. This course has not been taught at CBFS for nine years, so in a way, I am actually reviving an old course. I designed this course to teach Behavioral Ecology as it should be learned, with a strong field component. This course investigates “why” animals do the things they do; that is, we study how behavior evolves in response to natural selection and sexual selection.

The second ‘topics’ course will be Mechanisms of Animal Behavior, which is slated for the spring 2016 semester. This will be a new course for Millersville University, and I am designing it. This course will focus on “how” animals do the things they do; that is, we will study the physiological bases of animal behavior. Topics will include the endocrinology, neuroscience and genetics of behavior.

This fall, I am teaching Endocrinology. This is a long-standing course here at Millersville, but it will be my first time teaching it.
Q: How do you want students to remember you?
I would like students to leave my courses knowing that I sincerely care about their education, not only while they are in my class, but also afterwards. I truly want them to learn during my courses, and I want them to enjoy learning while working with me. My hope is they will remember me as someone who invested in them and their education, and as someone who went above and beyond their job description to help their students become better prepared for their future.

Q: Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
Tough question. The obvious answer would be my parents, who have always supported me in my various endeavors. But, I would not be here today if it were not for my many mentors along the way. These include my first field instructors, Dr. Dean Biggins and Jerry Godbey with the USGS in Fort Collins, CO, who showed me how to become a field biologist. It also includes my Ph.D. advisor, Dr. Rebecca Holberton, who showed me how to transition from wildlife biology to physiological and behavioral ecology, and my first postdoc advisor, Dr. Scott Sillett, who helped me expand my ideas about physiological and behavioral ecology to the broader fields of life history theory and evolutionary biology. My most recent mentor was my last postdoctoral advisor, Dr. Donna Maney at Emory University. Under her guidance, I grew into the full-fledged academic that I am today. This development, however, was possible due to the excellent mentoring I received along the way.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote?
“To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal and the facts from the fiction.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Q: What are you hobbies outside of work?
My primary “hobbies” outside of work are my two boys, Asher and Beckett. They consume my non-academic time. When I have an extra moment, I enjoy golf and being an outdoorsman.

Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?
In 2013, I was awarded a Young Investigator Award by the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology. It was truly an honor for my research and potential to be recognized by this group of experts in the field.

Q: If you could do any job in the world, what would it be?
Honestly, I am doing my dream job. I am a teacher and a researcher, and this is where I am meant to be. Add tenure and promotion to the title, and all is perfect.