Ruth Boykin is Millersville University’s first-ever Frederick Douglass Visiting Teaching Scholar. In keeping with Frederick Douglass’s life of public service and commitment to equity and access, the Frederick Douglass Institutes of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) offer teaching opportunities to qualified graduate students who are pursuing careers as university faculty and who are entering the final year of terminal degree and/or doctoral programs.

A doctoral candidate in communication and rhetorical studies at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Boykin arrived at Millersville University in the fall of 2014 to teach, continue her research and contribute to the life and vitality of the University. She taught full-time during the fall in the communication and theatre department and is now teaching two classes for the spring of 2015.

“Many individuals throughout the University and the community have been a genuine source of encouragement and support since I arrived.” said Boykin. “I’m impressed with the quality of life here and efforts of the leadership to sustain a vibrant region in Lancaster County.”

Boykin taught college courses for 15 years, has traveled to several nations in North America, South America, Africa, India and Asia, and worked in educational administration and management before deciding to obtain her doctorate. “I’m a first generation college graduate in my family, and education will always play a key role in my life.”

In the midst of completing her doctoral studies, she will be spending this summer as a participant in a NEH 2015 Summer Institute at Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI). Boykin is one of three postgraduate students among 25 participants chosen nation-wide to receive this scholarship on the topic of
“Development Ethics and Global Justice.” The 2015 NEH Summer Institute will concern matters of global justice with an eye to gender disparity, distributive justice and individual economic opportunity and our common environmental future.

“The Institute will feature scholars from Oxford University and other major international institutions,” said Boykin. There will be collaborative research opportunities and I’ll be able to refine my research interests in ethics, intercultural studies and interpersonal communications. We’ll also do field work in local communities to observe organizational modeling of ethical and global justice concepts. I’m excited about this summer opportunity to study and participate in this wonderful opportunity and to collaborate with leading scholars.”

**Millersville Fraternity First in Nation to Complete Workshop**

A group of fraternity brothers at Millersville University have a mission to stop sexism, rape and harassment of women. Twenty-two members of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity were the first in the nation to participate in a day-long training workshop from the hu-MAN UP Local College Coalition (HULCC).

The SAFE HOUSE workshop, sponsored by the HULCC, engaged the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha in a variety of activities to learn that they are both perpetrators and victims of a culture that promotes hyper-masculinity, sexism and objectification of women. Members signed a zero tolerance pledge for any behavior that disrespects, objectifies, oppresses, stereotypes or targets others.

The brothers will become allies on Millersville’s campus to fight and end rape culture by actively taking part in activities and educating others. “As individuals, it is up to us to change the culture we live in and be proactive participants,” said Anthony Ciliberto, president of Lambda Chi Alpha. “We want to stand up and speak out against the stereotypes in not only fraternity men, but young men everywhere and show that we can all be allies in this fight.”

Dr. Didier, faculty advisor for the Millersville
chapter of HULCC, was proud of Lambda Chi Alpha’s accomplishment “I was so impressed with this fraternity and their participation and engagement in this workshop,” she said. “They actively listened, engaged in discussion and were involved in all the movement exercises.”

Dr. John Anderson, president of Millersville, was just as impressed. In a letter addressed to Ciliberto, he said “I admire you and your brothers for your commitment to helping our campus create and maintain safe spaces in all our relationships.”

“We would love to work with the HULCC in the future to set up events for faculty, staff and peers,” said Ciliberto. “We also want to encourage others to attend any events in the surrounding area where the hu-MAN UP professional staff will be participating.”

If you are interested in getting involved with HULCC, or would like to arrange a workshop or training session, please contact Dr. Dominique Didier at Dominique.Dagit@millersville.edu or 717-871-7440.

Campus Event Planner of the Year

Students from over 4,200 colleges and universities nationwide were eligible, but only one would walk away as the College Power Performers Campus Event Planner of the Year. In late February, Millersville University graduate student Kristi Lewis received notification that she had placed first in the “Best Overall Event” category for 2014.

Lewis, who will be receiving her master’s degree in Educational Leadership in May, was nominated by one of the agents she worked with on the November 2014 event “Robert Channing – Mind-reader and Hypnotist and Mental Artist.”

“When I found out I was nominated for the event it was a complete shock,” said Lewis. “I did not expect to win at all, I was just honored to be nominated.”

Power Performers evaluated each nominee based on his or her organizational skills, professionalism, friendliness, the event theme, promotion/marketing and the response of the audience. Lewis scored high enough to beat out the other three final nominees in her category.

Lewis, who is the graduate assistant for the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL), planned the event as a part of the ‘Ville After Dark program—a series of late night activities that take place every weekend on campus.

“Robert’s agent asked to change the date several times as [Channing] was on ‘America’s Got Talent’ at the time,” said Lewis, who was forced to change the date of the event to accommodate. “He was getting requests from across the nation to do corporate conferences.”
The frequent changes didn’t affect the outcome of the event, which was viewed as a success in the eyes of not only Power Performers, but also students, the campus community and Lewis herself.

“I’d say the event was successful,” said Lewis. “It also happened to fall on Parent and Family Weekend, so students came with their family members to enjoy the show.”

In her sixth and final year at Millersville University, Lewis ended time spent planning successful events with a bang, though she couldn’t have done it alone.

“It is a nice way to wrap up my experience here this semester,” she said. “The entire CSIL staff has certainly helped me with all of my events. They provide great ideas and feedback on each of my events which is something I am definitely thankful for.”

**MU Goes to Space**

Nine students in the meteorology program at Millersville University are in Boulder, Colo., this week for the 2015 Space Weather Workshop.

Students visited the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), which is a federally funded research and development center managed by the nonprofit University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and funded by the National Science Foundation.

Prior to the start of the workshop the students had the opportunity to climb the Flatirons.
Made In Millersville

Millersville University students have conducted various research and creative projects over the past year and now they have the opportunity to share these projects with the campus community during the second annual Made in Millersville.

Made in Millersville will be held on Thursday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the McNairy Library. Dr. Rene Munoz, director of sponsored programs & research administration, and Tatiana Paskova-Balkenhol, assistant professor in the library department are coordinating the event. They are assisted by a committee consisting of 17 faculty and staff from departments and offices across the University.

Last year’s event succeeded in drawing more than 100 participants. This year’s goals are to increase both conference participation and attendance.

“First, I hope this event informs other students, faculty and local businesses to the excellent work going on at Millersville. Second, I hope this event inspires other students and faculty to engage in research and creative projects and to share those projects with the rest of the University,” said Dr. Mark Atwater, assistant professor of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology, who serves on the committee.

Dr. Farkas’ English Advanced Composition students are writing some of the conference presenters’ profiles for the website at http://blogs.millersville.edu/madeinmu/

Faculty are asked to encourage their students to visit Made In Millersville this year and become participants next year, as it allows students to gain experience in research, creativity and presentation skills.

Three specific examples include:

“The Last Argument of Kings: A Case Study in Cold War Weapon’s Acquisition, The MBT-70 1963-1970”

By Mike Fitzpatrick – Major: Master of Arts in history


“Made in Millersville is an important showcase of student creativity and excellence,” said Mike Fitzpatrick, a Made in Millersville participant this year. “It gives students a safe place to share
their ideas and scholarship with one another and with the outside world. I am proud to take part in a forum which enhances on campus discourse, as well as to support my fellow students.”

“In Between the Hands”

By Alexandra Rodrigues - Major: Fine Arts Major with a concentration in Metals/Jewelry; Minor: Business management

“Made in Millersville is a great opportunity for excelling Millersville students to show the community, both near and far, our accomplishments while here,” said Alexandra Rodrigues, another Made in Millersville participant. “It provides a platform for students to showcase what they have studied and researched while attending school.”

“The Relationship Between Coping Strategies, Burden, and Distress in Female Certified Nursing Assistants Who Care for Dementia Patients”

By Madison McQuistion – Major: Psychology; Minor: Geriatric


“I decided to take part in the Made in Millersville because I felt it would be a great way to share my experiences with the public, said Made in Millersville participant, Madison McQuistion. “I think my project can provide valid support for current and future healthcare professionals.”

To help get the word out, three students from Comm 390 are running a social media campaign as their class project to increase student attendance at the conference.

For more information on the event contact Dr. Rene Munoz at 717-871-4457 or rene.munoz@millersville.edu

Helping Aaron’s Acres

Millersville University student Chloe Singer won a grant to benefit Aaron’s Acres, a nonprofit organization that provides children and young adults with special needs recreational programs throughout Lancaster, Berks and Dauphin counties.

Singer, a senior from Nazareth, Pa., is majoring in early childhood/special education. She completed an internship with Aaron’s Acres during the 2013-2014 academic year. She wrote and submitted the grant with the aid of her internship supervisor, Risa Paskoff.
The grant was funded by the Rite Aid Kidcents Charity Foundation, which supports Aaron’s Acres and hundreds of other charities. The grant will allow Rite Aid customers in Lancaster, Berks and Dauphin counties to round their purchase up to the nearest dollar and donate their change. The donated money goes directly to Aaron’s Acres.

Aaron’s Acres will use the funds to provide age-appropriate recreation to children and young adults in their school and summer camp programs. Some activities include horseback riding, swimming, going to parks and bowling. These activities will focus on communication and socialization among peers and community members.

During her internship, Singer gained valuable hands-on experiences working with children with different abilities and challenges. “It has furthered my education and provided me more knowledge than any class I could have taken,” she said. “I have made so many meaningful connections with people through Millersville and Aaron’s Acres, connections that will continue even after I leave Millersville.”

Falling in Love with Sci-Fi

Where does such a strong fascination for science fiction begin? For English professor Dr. Tim Miller, it began as a child when his mother taught him to read by using science fiction books. She would have him read one sentence, close his eyes and imagine what was happening in that sentence. From that moment on Miller’s fascination with reading, especially science fiction began to soar.

Miller has collected hundreds of signed science fiction magazines that fill his basement today. Included in these collections are “Amazing Stories,” “Imagination,” “Science Fiction Quarterly” and “Wonder Stories.” To this day, he still tries to keep up on what is happening in the science fiction world by subscribing to the science fiction magazine “Analog.”

Science fiction was not always considered literature. It has been given many different terms over the years as it has claimed a spot in the world of literature over time. It has held the terms “trash,” “scientific romance,” “scientifiction,” “science fiction” and most commonly today, “Sci-Fi.”

“Many people considered it newsstand pulp style magazines that were trash,” said Miller, “In the 1970s the term scientifiction was coined and it became more of a serious literature.” Hugo Gernsbacher had created the classification of scientific fiction with his first magazine, “Amazing Stories” in 1926.
“Sci-Fi takes specific niches and registers or expresses them through emotional, intellectual and exceptional lives of characteristics,” said Miller. Science fiction is a literature that has changed overtime since it began and is still changing today. What makes this type of literature so exciting is that it is “always dealing with forms of newness of which there is no name and goes beyond the beyond with realities unthought-of,” said Miller.

**Biologists Gathered**

On April 10 and 11 Millersville biology faculty Drs. Ryan Wagner, Sharmin Masswood and Aaron Haines were accompanied by Millersville undergraduate biology students at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Biologists at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists (CPUB) was founded in 1973 as an organization to provide support for the teaching and research activities of faculty in the biological sciences. Every year CPUB provides a forum for graduate and undergraduate students for the presentation of their research.

This year, 10 biology students and an earth sciences student from Millersville University attended the CPUB meeting to present their research findings. In addition, Wagner presided over the conference as he has done during the last four years as president of CPUB.

**10-Minute Winners**

Not everyone has a lifetime to commit to writing plays like William Shakespeare. Luckily, on March 30, the staged readings for the winners of Millersville’s 10th annual 10-minute play contest took place in Rafters Theater, Dutcher Hall. One MU student and one professor received accolades finishing in second place and runner up, respectively.

Millersville student Roxie Keller’s play “Texting” placed second in the contest, while
associate professor and chair of the English department Dr. Caleb Corkery’s play “Real Community” was named the first runner-up.

Messiah College’s Rachel Ballasy took first place for her play “Floating on Edge,” while “Thunder,” by Clarissa Grunwald of Franklin & Marshall rounded out the list of winners in third place. All of the plays were performed by a predominantly Millersville-student cast.

**On your mark, get set, GO!**

If you love the televised worldwide competition “The Amazing Race,” you will thoroughly enjoy what the Millersville Student Alumni Association (SAA) has in store.

On Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m., the SAA will coordinate its own version of “The Amazing Race” at Millersville. Participants in “The aMUzing Race” can grab a team of four and race across Millersville’s campus to win a $100 cash prize and a basket of Millersville themed items.

Starting at the top of the George St. parking garage (across the street from Gaige), teams will compete in a series of mental and physical challenges. Each participant will receive an official aMUzing Race t-shirt and team bandana. The second annual event will bring together both Millersville students and alumni. The entry fee is $20 for a student team and $30 for an alumni team.

A late fee of $5 will be added for teams registering after April 8, registrations will be accepted through Wednesday, April 15 if space permits. A team of four people is recommended, however, a minimum of three members are required to qualify as a team. Note that it is best to have teams of four, but the minimum number of team members is three.

To register, submit participant’s names, T-shirt sizes and email addresses to Maggie Johnson at mustudentalums@gmail.com.

In addition, the SAA is looking for alumni volunteers to help with various events in the race. Email Maggie Johnson for more information about how to help.
Need to Know

Arbor Day Walk and Silencing the Hate events

Faculty, Staff and Administrators

Arbor Day Spring Walk featuring

Trees of Distinction

Friday, April 24, 2015

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

To register for lunch, email human.resources@millersville.edu

Please discuss this with your supervisor if you plan to attend during your work schedule.

Silencing the Hate Week 2015

Here is a listing of events for Millersville’s Silencing the Hate Week, a week that aims to call attention to hate and discrimination on campus and put an end to it.

All Week:

Create your own Silence the Hate Week T-shirts! Tables will be set up at the Juice Bar and in front of the school store at 11 a.m. all week long.

Wednesday 4/15

Angela Braden, Motivational Speaker

Student Memorial Center, Room 118; 6-8 p.m.

Braden is hailed by many to be one of the most recent gifted and captivating speakers. Although she lost her eyesight as a child, she didn’t allow her disability to define her destiny.

Braden has made several appearances on Black Entertainment Television (BET) and has been featured in various national magazines such as Upscale, YSB and Consumer Reports. She draws from her experiences as a blind woman to help audiences see their way to their personal best.

Seeking Happiness: The Journey from Abuse with Jenny Durofchalk

Student Memorial Center, Room 24; 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Thursday 4/16

Nicole Kelly, Motivational Speaker

McComsey Hall, Myers Auditorium; 6-8 p.m.

Friday 4/17

Day of Silence

Campus-wide

Students across the country participate in the day of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools.

Color Fight

Quad; 4-4:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Gay Straight Alliance, join in on the rainbow fun with a color fight on the quad! Be sure to wear Silence the Hate white T-shirts.

4/16/15 Activities

Sculptor Joe Mooney donated two of his works to Millersville University in the spring of 2014 coordinated by Line Bruntse, associate professor of sculpture. One, “Family Dinner” is already installed in front of the Winter Center. The second awaits some tender loving care from selected sculpture students before it is ready to be installed in the Library Reading and Sculpture Garden on campus.

The artist and family came to visit with the works and see where they were being installed. When touring the Art & Design Department, Mooney expressed how nice Sykes Gallery is and expressed a desire to exhibit here.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. Gerard Igyor, assistant professor of communication & theatre.

Where are you originally from?
I’m originally from Gboko, Benue State; it’s right in the middle of Nigeria.

When did you immigrate to America?
I came to America in 1979 to Wisconsin as a transfer student.

What is your educational background?
I went to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh for my undergrad, where I got my Bachelor of Science in radio, television and film. I stayed at the University of Wisconsin for my masters, also in radio television and film. For my doctorate I started at the University of Pennsylvania and transferred to Temple University. I went to UPenn because they admitted me first. While I was there, Temple offered me more money, so I left the program and transferred to Temple.

Do you think that your background influences how you teach?
Where I am from, we don’t joke around when it comes to learning. We are very very serious about learning. By the time I was ready to enter the University in Nigeria there were only about six universities that had the capacity to admit less than 5,000 students at once. There were over 500,000 students that were seeking admission into the University. You can see the fight for this and why you have to be serious not only in getting into the University but how serious you have to be with your studies. That’s how I come to the classroom. I bring that determination to put in the best that I can so that the students can come out in the end with something. I want my students to be able to hold a conversation with students from other schools and be able to converse intelligently with info they’ve learned from me. I want them to be able to present that information better than other students can.

How long have you worked at Millersville?
I came to Millersville in the fall of ’93 as a professor.

Where have you worked prior to Millersville?
Before Wisconsin I worked in a television station in Nigeria as a documentary film producer. I started teaching graduate courses in Philadelphia at Temple College of Health Physical Education & Dance. Then I started teaching computer applications, while I was also an adjunct
in the school of communication. From Temple I went to Stockton State in New Jersey, teaching communication. After that I came to Millersville.

**Why did you decide to become a professor?**
I’ve always wanted to be a teacher of some sort. I wasn’t sure what area in particular until I got my Masters and then I figured I’d get a PhD in telecommunications and become a professor.

**What’s your favorite aspect of being a professor?**
I like engaging students that are serious about their education. It tends to be a problem for some students, but I like it when students are really interested in what they do. As class we do the work, do it right, then there is time for fun. A lot of time students don’t see that part of me, they think I’m serious all the time, but once we get the work done, then all that’s left is fun.

**What do you find to be the most difficult aspect of being a professor?**
The most difficult part is when a student is failing. It’s always our darkest hour, when a student who has good potential isn’t making it. I take it as a personal challenge—no one should be failing my classes so I make it my job to help them find their potential.

It’s been a long journey here—coming from a different country and cultural background isn’t easy either. You have problems with students not understanding who you are, but it’s worse when you discover that your own colleagues don’t understand where you’re coming from and can misrepresent you. The foreign faculty here bring so much—cultural, intellectual and artistic—to this university, but it can go under appreciated. It can get frustrating when your American co-workers don’t know who you are.

**Do you have a favorite course to teach?**
I like all the courses that I teach, obviously. I don’t have a favorite in particular. I don’t like teaching production classes right now, but other than that I love them all.

**Why would you recommend communication as a major at MU?**
With knowledge in communication you can work in almost every field there is. Here we have broadcasting—within that we have writing, production, marketing, advertising, writing for news—so there’s a lot just in broadcasting. Then there is public relations, theater and communication studies. So if you come out with a degree in speech communication you should be prepared to work almost anywhere, not just in a broadcast facility.

**We understand you plan to return to Nigeria for some time in the near future. Tell us about that.**
I’m going back to Nigeria for a one year sabbatical. I applied for a sabbatical leave three times and just got it recently. I’m leaving at the end of spring semester this year. I’ll be gone for fall 2015, all of spring 2016 and I’ll be back fall 2016. I’ll be doing research on the new technologies in mass media. I want to explore how they’re changing the concept of broadcasting. It only used to be radio and television, with the internet now we have blogs, social media, traditional news on
the internet—I’d like to see how that has affected and penetrated the African culture. Once in a while I teach at a state university in Nigeria, my biggest project is the work I’ve been doing with them to establish a student radio station at the college. I’m happy to report that we’re almost there—once I get back it will be on the air.

**Where did the idea for a radio station come from?**
It was my idea. We talk about policy, regulation, law and deregulation in telecommunications. Somewhere in there we found that this gives students a chance for hands on experience; it helps the community and the students. I’m trying to make Benue State like any other university in America. WIXQ has been going on for a while now and it provides a voice for the students. For the students to have a station in Nigeria, a third world country, that’s worth going for.

**What are your plans for after your teaching career ends?**
I plan to go back home and retire back to Nigeria.

**You tell your students that no one pronounces your name correctly (“E-Gor”), how is it supposed to be pronounced?**
The “I” is silent in the pronunciation. It should be said “Gyor”

**Something you’re known for is your frequent use of the phrase “That’s sausage!” Where did that originate?**
I had an English professor in film studies/production in the UK who was very fond of using that phrase. When we came back with rushes footage that we had shot on 16 or 35 mm film he would look at it and say “most of this is sausage, it’s unusable.” That’s where that came from—it’s stuck with me since then. Even when I don’t say it in class my students will.

**Do you have a favorite quote?**
I don’t really have a favorite quote but once in a while I’ll try to quote MLK. “There is always time to do the right thing.”

**What are some of your hobbies outside of work?**
Right now I don’t have any hobbies. I spend so much time here—I come here in the morning and don’t leave until 9 or 10 at night depending on how deep I’m buried in my work. I don’t visit friends around here. I’m never lonely though—I just always have something to do—I’m never idle.