MU Announces Second Doctoral Program

Millersville University’s request for its second doctoral degree was approved March 13, at a special meeting of the Board of Governors. The degree of Doctor of Social Work (DSW) will be jointly offered by Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and Millersville. The first doctoral program, a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership in partnership with Shippensburg University, was approved earlier this year.

“Our faculty and staff are working diligently with our Kutztown University partners to deliver a great new program in social work that builds on our outstanding reputations and provides a new opportunity for social work professionals,” said Dr. Vilas Prabhu, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “This is a unique collaboration that allows us to optimize resources and create a national model. It also helps to fulfill a goal in our strategic plan to offer doctoral programs.”

“We are excited to achieve another important milestone for our campus community,” said Dr. Victor DeSantis, dean of the College of Graduate & Professional Studies. The new Doctor of Social Work degree fills an important need in the region for well-prepared social work leaders and educators and expands our academic offerings at the graduate level.

The mission of the Doctor of Social Work program is to offer education and training to prepare graduates to create, implement and evaluate social work interventions, while also training them to teach advanced practice to undergraduate and graduate level students.

In the past, a master’s in social work was considered the necessary degree for a career in social work. More recently, there has been a shift and now a more advanced degree is needed to prepare social work students for the leadership roles they will take on in the field.

“The DSW will prepare the next generation of social work leaders charged with developing, implementing, and evaluating interventions to ensure social work practice promotes the greater public good,” said assistant professor and social work department chair, Dr. Karen Rice. “Additionally, the DSW program will prepare graduates for teaching and leadership in higher education. The program utilizes an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural curriculum that includes learning and research opportunities. This allows students to interact with an increasingly diverse world and prepares them for global citizenship, a major focus of the social work profession.”

The degree program will be jointly offered at Millersville and Kutztown and will have a blended course format that will include intensive weekend residency and online instruction. The program will take students three years to complete, and the initial cohort will begin in fall 2015 with 12 students. The DSW also needs approval from Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
For more information, please visit the program website at http://mville.us/DSW or call 717-871-4723 (GRAD).
“Millersville meteorology is usually the largest contingent of students attending the annual meeting of the American Meteorology Society (AMS),” said Dr. Richard D. Clark, department chair, professor of meteorology, and faculty advisor to the MU student chapter of the AMS.

This year 30 undergraduate meteorology students and 10 graduate students in the Integrated Scientific Applications program students—the most Millersville has ever had—traveled to Phoenix from Jan. 4–8 to attend the 95th Annual Meeting of the AMS.

Dr. Todd Sikora, professor of meteorology also attended the meeting, and presented a scientific talk on the “Origin and Frequency of Near-Surface Statically Stable Layers and Elevated Weak-Static Stability Layers during the Ontario Winter Lake-Effect Systems (OWLeS) Project” at the 19th Conference on Air-Sea Interactions and co-authored two posters. “Students who attended the conference received tips that may help them break into the field, networked with other students and professionals, learned about the latest innovations and presented their research findings.

Renee Duff, a senior meteorology major, took home first place out of 200 posters at the AMS Student Conference for her poster “Effects of Wildfire Pollution on the Microphysical and Electrical Properties of Pyro Cumulous Clouds.”

“I completed this project at my internship at Colorado State University over the summer,” said Duff. “The research was to see how weather is affected when liquid cloud droplets interact with wildfire smoke.”

Many other students presented their research as well. Senior Jordan McCormick presented her project “Quantified Artificial Heating Source Bias on Temperature Probes.” The experiment, in partnership with NOAA, was to see how buildings and parking lots affect the air temperature.

Senior Kaitlin Rutt spent her internship at Texas A&M University where she looked at time and space scales recorded from the Pacific island and compared them to everyday climate models. She present a poster titled, “Temporal and Spatial Variability of Tropical Rain Rates over the Kwajalein Atoll.”

The 2015 AMS national conference brings together students and professionals to share research on the scientific, technical and professional advances required to develop and deliver weather, water and climate information.
“If you ask any of the students what the greatest takeaway from the conference was, you would get the same answer—networking,” said Clark.

“It’s a great place to meet with potential employers, see the full scope of the weather and climate enterprise and prepare for the future,” said Jimmy Fowler, president of the MU student chapter of the AMS. The AMS meeting is a gathering of over 4,000 stakeholders representing all sectors of the enterprise. Students could hear a talk by the AMS president on future trends and walk across the hall to attend a scientific presentation on climate change or air pollution.

Many of the students attending the AMS Meeting are hoping to attend graduate school or move directly into the workforce. Millersville meteorology has a national distinction for being a strong, rigorous program where students are steeped in the science, proficient in math, and technologically competent and often have experience through field research or external internships.

Now that the hype from the conference is winding down, the meteorology students are focusing on their next big event, “Public Weather Awareness Day.” The event will feature student booths to educate the public about the weather, a weather balloon launch, free food, raffles, face painting, balloon animals and the opportunity to play around with a green screen.

“Public Weather Awareness Day” will be held on April 18 in Pucillo Gymnasium from 11-3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.
Activities for March 19, 2015

President Anderson Named to AASCU's Faculty

Millersville president Dr. John Anderson has been named to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)'s faculty for the New Presidents Academy. He’ll be educating new presidents on working with external constituencies and fund/friend raising.

The academy is tailored to the distinctive needs of presidents and chancellors who lead state colleges and universities. It provides a unique opportunity to meet with state university peers in a learning environment that is supportive, engaging and tailored to the specific challenges that a first-time president is likely to face.

The program provides practical advice grounded in leadership research and complemented by the knowledge and experience of the current and former AASCU presidents who serve as Academy faculty. Anderson joins Muriel A. Howard, president of AASCU; Jolene Koester, President Emerita of California State University, Northridge; Keith T. Miller, President, Virginia State University; and Steve Turner, President, Northeastern State University on the faculty. There is additional information on the academy at: http://www.aascu.org/LD/NPA/.

New Dean for the School of Education

Millersville University has appointed Dr. George P. Drake, Jr. the next dean for the School of Education.

Drake has been the associate dean for curriculum and accreditation in the College of Education at West Chester University since 2007. Prior to that, he was a member of the special education faculty at WCU. Additionally, he at various times served, as coordinator of student teaching, coordinator of graduate studies and department chairperson. Before moving into higher education, Drake taught special education in New Jersey for 10 years.

His service includes two elected terms on the board of school directors of the Kennett Consolidated School District, where he served in several capacities including curriculum chair, personnel chair, vice president, and president. Drake was also nominated in 2013 by Governor Corbett to represent higher education on the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission, and
began serving in that capacity in April 2014. The commission is charged with improving the quality of education in Pennsylvania by providing leadership in the area of preparation, certification and standards of conduct for teachers.

He earned a doctorate from the University of Virginia, a master’s in education from The College of New Jersey, and a bachelor’s from West Virginia University. He holds New Jersey teacher certifications in special education, elementary education, and early childhood education.

Drake will begin his new role on July 15 and will commute to Millersville from his home in Landenberg, Pa.

**The Right to Write**

The English Department partnered with the first Poet Laureate of Lancaster County, Barbara Buckman Strasko, to bring “The Right to Write,” a series of five poetry workshops for students in grades 5-12 in the School District of Lancaster. The workshops will be held on Saturday mornings from 10-12 p.m. at the Ware Center. Remaining dates for this workshop will be on March 21 and 28 and April 18 and 25.

Students will have the opportunity to express themselves creatively and artistically while learning more about creating poetry. Selected students who have demonstrated a gift and/or a love for writing poetry in past workshops with Strasko have been invited to be a part of this special writing program. Under the direction of Strasko, English graduate students Eliot White, Gary Reinbrecht, Maria Ronneburger and Sara Thomas serve as facilitators to nurture students’ abilities for self-expression and their appreciation for poetry as an art.

**Faculty/Staff Activities**

Drs. Jill Craven, Sandra Deemer, Erin Moss, Kendra Saunders and Kathleen Walsh presented “Female Representation in PASSHE Leadership” at the Annual Commission on Human Diversity Conference at Kutztown University. The event was held last month.

Dr. Kerrie Farkas, English, has published a new book, “The Transportable Writing Tool.” The book develops writers’ awareness of eight elements important to composing across varied circumstances and genres: insight, audience awareness, expression, conventions, unity, development, coherence and editing. This book comes with online exercises, activities, and PowerPoints to enhance instruction of writing in any discipline.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, sang as an alto ringer in the March 1 performance of Handel’s oratorio Samson by the Canterbury Choral Society in New York.

Dr. Ken Shields, English, recently brought his total number of articles in refereed journals, book chapters and contributions to festschriften (a volume of articles and essays in honor of a colleague) to more than 170.
Drs. Caleb Corkery, Jill Craven, Kim McCollum-Clark and Tim Shea, along with Tony Sedun and students Rowan Byrne, Christian Stock and Lizzy Wahba (along with many other community members) learned how to build community, resolve conflicts, explore identity and promote social justice using story-building techniques shared by The Anne Frank Project. The event took place February 20 and 21. The event was brought to campus by Shea and was sponsored by Dr. Jeff Adams, and facilitated by Drew Kahn, director of The Anne Frank Project. During the two day seminar, participants processed loss through developing stories out of Maya Angelou’s poem “When a Great Tree Falls.” For more information on the project, see: http://www.annefrankproject.com/.

News from Retired Faculty

Dr. Jack Fischel, professor emeritus of history, recently had his review of “The Spanish Holocaust: Inquisition and Extermination in Twentieth Century Spain” by Paul Preston published in the Fall 2014 issue of “SHOFAR; AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF JEWISH STUDIES.” In addition, Fischel will be the guest speaker at the 2015 Annual JCAL YOM HA SHOAH Memorial Observance on April 15 at the Lancaster Jewish Community Center. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Congratulations to:

Dr. Jose L. Holland-Garcia, music, on his marriage to Nicholas Raymond Holland on December 20, 2014 in York, Pa.
Music in the Dominican

The first international educational trip offered by the University’s Marauder Music Productions (MMP) took place during winter break to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Students who are involved in Music Business Technology, Music Education and Latino/a studies were invited to participate. Six faculty and 46 students visited Punta Cana Jan. 11 through Jan. 16.

While there, students were taught Caribbean music and dances from native Dominicans. They had the opportunity to teach music at the Bavaro Bilingul School to pupils ranging in age from 4 through 18. They also participated in a cultural excursion, which included visiting a coffee plantation, a sugar cane plantation and rural schools while learning about the history of the Dominican people. And the students participated in an aquatic excursion to explore indigenous plants and animals of the Dominican.

Some students attended the trip as a compliment to their winter course. The Latino studies students observed gender interactions in the tourist industry. Adriana Ongay, a sophomore, said, “I would highly recommend studying abroad because it is the best way to immerse yourself in your studies.”

Similar trips are offered every year over breaks, but this was the first international educational trip. Dr. Barry Atticks, assistant professor and director of the music business technology program, organized this trip and hopes to organize other similar trips in the future. “My life was changed during my first international experience to Norway as a Fulbright Scholar, as my eyes were opened to people of different cultures outside of the United States. I wanted to provide an affordable way for students to go on an international trip and have the opportunity to learn about different cultures,” said Atticks.
Weather Watch

Millersville University students have produced a series of videos for “Weather Watch,” the University's exclusive weather entertainment web-show run entirely by student meteorologists. The latest in the series is “Spaced Out” with Mike Cook. You can watch all of the videos at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjl9F0MNI55Qye4q-bH_Bow.

The goal at Weather Watch is to provide professional quality programming to the general public that is both educational and entertaining. Visit their website at www.muweatherwatch.com.
AmeriCorps PACC VISTA Funding For Third Year

Millersville University has received AmeriCorps PACC VISTA funding for the third year in a row. The money will allow MU to continue the VISTA Project Cygnet during the 2015-2016 school year.

VISTA is part of AmeriCorps, the federal volunteer service program designed to fight poverty in America. Pennsylvania Campus Compact (PACC), a coalition of member institutions in the Commonwealth, administers the program. The VISTA Project has been a part of Millersville University’s Office of Experiential Learning and Career Management (ELCM) since 2013 and it is designed to build and strengthen partnerships between the University, the School District of Lancaster, and community partner organizations. Millersville students, who mentor, tutor and instruct children in after-school programs, support Project Cygnet’s mission to alleviate poverty by increasing children’s academic achievement.

“We’re delighted to receive the funding and to continue our outreach to the Lancaster community,” said Melissa Wardwell, director of Experiential Learning & Career Management at Millersville.

Project Cygnet partners with SWAN, The Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Brightside Opportunities Center, The Mix at Arbor Place, Wheatland Middle School and Attollo. The focus of the project is to “provide academic enrichment opportunities and mentoring to children grades K-12, to improve the educational outcomes of K-12 students in order to help break the cycle of poverty,” said Wardwell.

In the 2013-2014 school year, over 200 school children received tutoring and mentoring services as a result of the first year of this program. According to the school district’s data, 83% of the participating school students tested proficient and/or improved in core subject areas and 92% showed an increase in academic engagement. More than 80 Millersville students volunteered nearly 3,000 hours of service in the project.

Millersville students are encouraged to join in the project to help fight poverty in America. They can participate by providing children tutoring, homework help, and academic enrichment services and running recreational activities with children through sports, art, music, dance, cosmetology, computer classes, robotics, etc.
Project Cygnet is actively recruiting for a new AmeriCorps PACC VISTA Project Coordinator for the 2015-2016 school year. For more information on the position, contact Melissa Wardwell, melissa.wardwell@millersville.edu. To become part of Project Cygnet as a student volunteer, please contact A.J. Ortiz, ELCM.Vista@millersville.edu.
Getting Creative with Text

Students at Millersville University enrolled in ART 221: Introduction to Art Education have been hard at work creating displays for the 5th floor of McNairy Library. Six displays will be available for viewing beginning March 23.

In partnership with Dr. Leslie Gates, assistant professor in art and design, and Tatiana Pashkova-Balkenhol, assistant professor and undergraduate research and instruction librarian, art students were given the challenge of creating artwork that revolved around the word, “text.”

“I chose this word based on the relationship between text and a library,” said Gates. “In addition, the word ‘text’ has so many interpretations beyond just printed words.”

The purpose of the project is to engage students in an open-ended project they could assign to their future art students. “In this assignment, I am modeling the type of teaching I will expect of them in future field placement experiences,” said Gates.

This project sets up students for art in the real world. Gates served as the consultant for the students and Pashkova-Balkenhol acted as a museum curator. The students had to work with Pashkova-Balkenhol if they had logistical or practical questions about space or permissions.

“The library is always looking for collaborative projects that engage students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real world situations,” said Pashkova-Balkenhol. “As a public hub, the library has several spaces which art students can utilize to enhance their learning experiences and to showcase their art to a broader university community.”
**Time for New Phone Numbers**

As you probably have heard, Millersville University is in the process of changing campus phone numbers starting with 872-3XXX and 871-2XXX to ‘871’ numbers by the end of the spring semester as part of the new NEC Cloud VoIP initiative.

Phone numbers are currently being changed throughout different departments. As the numbers are changing, Human Resources and Information Technology (IT) have been working together to update people finder so that all phone numbers are accurate.

“Throughout the campus, the telephones will work on their own network including separate network switches so that the telephone and data traffic will not compete with each other for bandwidth. VoIP is the current telephone technology. This new solution will provide the campus with a stable reliable telephone system,” said assistant vice president of Information Technologies, Veronica Longenecker.

Because the new VoIP system works through network switches, this solution will prevent any calls from being made to or from a campus phone during a power outage. However, there will be an emergency line at the SMC Information Desk in the event of a power outage, so that they will be able to keep contact with Millersville University Police Department.

The new VoIP phones will require users to dial ‘8’ to get an outside line and to set up their new voicemails. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to participate in the VoIP training sessions to learn how to use the VoIP phones and to set up new voicemails.

For more information about the VoIP phones or to find out how to set up new voicemails please contact the IT Help Desk at 871-7777 or visit the following link: [http://mville.us/voip](http://mville.us/voip)
Working During Break

Thirty-six students from Millersville University spent their spring break helping those who are in need.

Millersville’s Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project (CCERP) sent 13 students on a five-day trip to Bithlo, Fla. Bithlo defaulted on loans, lost its status as a city and fell under the control of the Orange County Government. It has seen decades of neglect, resulting in polluted water, accumulation of junkyards, lack of resources and dilapidated buildings.

The team served dinner at a shelter, renovated neighborhood homes, embarked on a landscaping project and assisted with a neighborhood canvassing initiative. At the end of each work day, students discussed and learned about the root causes of the social issues involved in the effort to transform the Bithlo community.

Melissa Wardwell, director of CCERP and Dr. Victor DeSantis, dean and associate provost for CCERP, accompanied the trip as the staff leaders and group facilitators.

In addition, 12 students from Millersville’s University Christian Fellowship traveled to Far Rockaway, Queens, N.Y., to help rebuild the recovering area from Hurricane Sandy. The peninsula has suffered excessive damage from flooding. UCF worked with the Mennonite Disaster Service and the First Church of God in Far Rockaway for the entirety of the break.

And, the social work department at Millersville took a seven-day trip to Heredia, Costa Rica. This trip allowed 12 students to explore the social issues of sexual violence and human trafficking. The students worked with two non-profit organizations, La Posada de Belén, a shelter, and Fundación Rahab, a safe house for women.
Room and Board for Fall

The Millersville University Council of Trustees on March 18 approved a 2.9% increase in room and board and general fees beginning fall 2015.

Total room and board rates will increase $126 per semester, an increase of 2.5 percent from the 2014-2015 rate. This increase includes a 1.9 percent bump in the meal plan prices which is the result of the new block-meal format being introduced next fall.

The University’s general fee—which includes services such as the University shuttle, academic support, and cultural, athletic and social programs for students—will increase by 5% percent or $48/semester for undergraduates and 4.6% or $42.75/semester for graduate students.

The tuition for Millersville University students is set by the Board of Governors, usually in June.
Dr. Ruth Davis

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. Ruth Davis, professor of nursing.

Q: Where are you originally from?

I was born and raised in Barnsboro, N.J., a very small rural farming community.

Q: What motivated you to pursue a career in nursing?

I guess my interest in nursing stemmed from wanting to be involved in an applied health science. I found my niche as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP), where I provide primary health care to clients.

Q: From what school(s) have you earned your degree(s) from?

I completed two years of undergraduate education at Eastern College (now University), earned a bachelor of science in nursing from Thomas Jefferson University, a master of science in nursing from University of Pennsylvania, and D.Ed. from Penn State University.

Q: What is your favorite class to teach at Millersville? Why?

I teach a wide range of topics and courses including pathophysiology and advanced physical assessment for our graduate nursing students in the MSN programs, as well as general education courses, which include Intro to Women’s Studies and Women’s Health Issues. As a member of the Women’s Studies faculty, I particularly enjoy teaching these courses because the students enjoy themselves.

Q: Is there a specific health topic you are passionate about?

I like neurology related to clinical practice. There is always something new and exciting to incorporate from research into my lectures. I also care about diabetes because of the systemic nature of the disease; it is as challenging to teach as it is to treat in primary care.

Q: What do you want the students and staff to know about the nursing program at Millersville?

Our undergraduate program is a BSN completion program designed solely for Registered Nurses. So, folks come to us as transfer students, completing the requirements as a registered nurse elsewhere. We offer undergraduate courses leading to the BSN and also two graduate level nursing programs culminating in the MSN. These include the Nursing Education and the Nurse Practitioner options, the latter preparing students to become certified family nurse practitioners. Soon, we will be offering a BSN
option totally on-line, in addition to our very active on-campus BSN programs on Millersville campus and our HACC off campus site. We are currently working on a DNP (Doctorate in Nursing Practice) program.

Q: You have presented at multiple conferences all around the world. Which conference was your favorite and why?

One of my favorites was a research conference in Iceland. I rented a car for a day, and traveled all around the island. It is awe-inspiring, very stark and beautiful with many active geysers. I had the chance to not only engage in great conversations with the other participants, but also had a chance to get out into the community and get to know the people who live there.

Q: As a result of these conferences, you’ve done a great deal of traveling. Which country has been your favorite to visit?

I had an incredible experience while in Botswana. I had a rare opportunity to spend a few days with a family in an outlying village. One of the people that went with me had brought dozens of toothbrushes to give out. Most had never had one before in their lives. I also left some clothing and a pair of shoes. The woman I gave them to said to me that she now had “new shoes” to wear when she went to the clinic.

Q: What are you interested in researching?

I would say I am most interested in finding out how people, particularly women, experience life events and how these shape their perceptions, ideas and coping skills.

Q: Are there any research projects that you have done in the past or present that you would like to tell us about?

One of the major endeavors I have been involved with over the years is my clinical work as a nurse practitioner with the Blackfeet tribe in Montana. I went back every summer for years, volunteering a clinic based in the hospital on the reservation. I was fortunate that I was able to stay with a family and got to understand the culture, as I was included in a variety of activities for which most people do not have the opportunity.

Q: How do you want students to remember you?

I want them to remember that I am their biggest advocate. I know I set a high bar for students in my classes because I truly want them to be as successful as they can be.

Q: What are your interests outside of work?

I’m interested in sewing, quilting, concerts at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, travel, reading, watching classic films and baseball. I also love being involved with my church community and volunteer work as a nurse practitioner at Water Street Health Services and at a health clinic I created at the Shelter for Abused Women in Lancaster.
Q: Do you have a favorite quote?

“If you don’t like something, change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude.”

– Maya Angelou

Q: What is something you absolutely need to get through your day?

My faith and prayer, and coffee—but it is mostly decaffeinated!

Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?

My lovely, talented, daughter. She is my greatest blessing and joy.