

Friends *Folio*

A Newsletter from the
Friends of Ganser Library
No. 61 Fall, 2010

Student Life at Millersville, 1855-1955

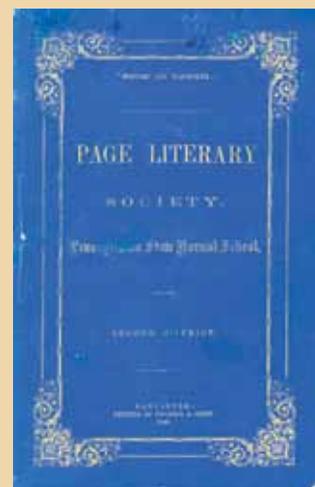
Spencer Shambaugh and Mary Shuman



Student life on Millersville University's campus is ever-evolving. New clubs, organizations, and activities are created while other efforts are discontinued when they no longer serve the academic and social interests of students. An Archives and Special Collections exhibit, located on the fourth floor of Ganser Library, explores several aspects about student life at Millersville during its first 100 years.

Documents featured in the exhibit include minutes from the competing Page and Normal literary societies, minutes from faculty meetings, and student theses. The Page Literary Society and Normal Literary Society minutes provide insight into topics of interest and conversation on campus, Faculty meeting minutes offer a glimpse of student activities from a different perspective, while student theses illustrate issues of educational concern.

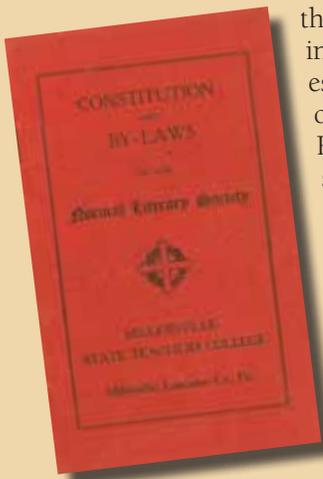
Literary societies were a form of entertainment for students that focused on the "development of ability in writing and speaking... interest in contemporary affairs and in an open minded approach to the problems of the time (Graver 220)." The Page Literary Society was the first of the two literary societies founded at Millersville. Page started in 1855 and incorporated in 1858 with the motto "Rich in Truth." Page tried to recruit as many new student members as possible. Meetings were typically held at 6:30 on Saturday nights in the chapel of Old Main. Minutes demonstrate that meetings mainly consisted of music by the Page Glee Club and short debates over selected controversial issues and topics, as well as the election of officers, listings of new members, and honorary members.



The Normal Literary Society grew out of the Page Literary Society as the result of a difference of opinion. Prof. Wickersham stated "the hive has become too small for the bees, and a swarm would be the proper relief (Lenhardt 3)." Several days after the heated discussion occurred, the Normal Literary Society was established with Prof. Brooks as the guiding spirit. Normal chose the motto "Fight for Truth and Right." Normal met on Saturday evenings to debate issues that were meant to entice the mind and further

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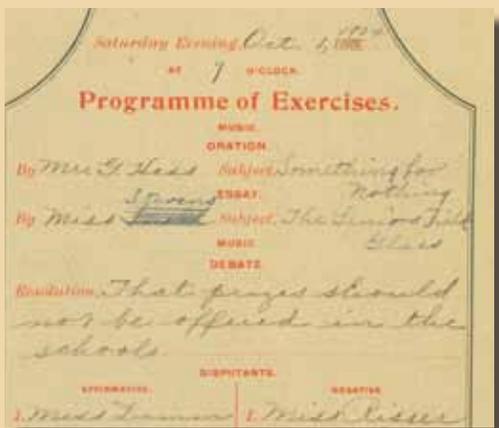
the intellect. Other activities included orations, reading of essays, and the enjoyment of music. Also, just like Page, Normal recruited new students, even before they had arrived at Millersville. In later years, the societies sponsored a variety of events ranging from concerts and dances. The literary societies enjoyed a healthy rivalry. Often several students were sent to represent their respective societies at the annual anniversary meeting.

The committee of the whole met and was promptly called to order at ten minutes, twenty seconds and three fourths of a second after 9 o'clock P.M. on Saturday the 26th of Feb. in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty one.

It is evident that humor was welcome in these settings.

The students of the then-named Millersville State Normal School certainly were not afraid of being themselves. This is shown in the faculty minutes with several different accounts of student behaviors. Faculty meeting minutes offer an overview of the meetings that would take place each week among the faculty, covering the time period 1855 to the 1950s. In the early minutes, faculty members discuss rules and regulations, discipline cases, promotions of students in studies and different activities that were happening in Millersville. Reviewing these minutes prompts the question, How are current students different from or similar to students during Millersville's early years?

Literary society minutes demonstrate student interests through the choice of subject areas that were debated. Topics ranged from gender issues such as "Women should be admitted into our higher institution of learning on equal terms with men," debated by the Page Literary Society on October 16, 1874, and "Man is intellectually greater than woman," debated by the Normal Literary Society on October 20, 1880.



Additional topics include presidential matters with debates such as "Does Washington's refusing to accept a third term imply a similar action on the part of every other succeeding President?" at Page on June 18, 1875, and "The assassination of a President would be more detrimental to the interest of a country than that of a Monarch" from Normal on July 6, 1881.

One of the discipline cases discussed is the case of two boys who took two ladies out into a field by Shenks Lane. One of the girls confessed that the boys "pushed her up against a tree, and treating her in a very rude manner, using language so vile that they cannot tell it even to ladies" (Faculty Minutes, May 9, 1900). The boys of course denied the accusation, but later confessed once they found out that the faculty committee knew the truth. Faculty members also discussed health issues on campus. On June 16, 1890, it was noted that "the general health of the school is fair." Unfortunately, just a little further down in the minutes it is noted that a student died from meningitis: "his disease was contracted by bathing in the Conestoga."

Many questions emerge when exploring these records of student life. The Normal and Page debate topics prompt questions such as: What was happening at the time that made these topics relevant to the students? What topics would be debated today? Upon further investigation one might wonder how serious these two societies were at times. One example is the Page debate "Which is the most preferable way of committing suicide?" on June 18, 1875. Considering the time, was this an issue that would be acceptable to discuss in such a public forum? Normal demonstrates a more satirical approach with a rather large document that vaguely details a campaign between two people of opposing parties within the society. It seems serious except for the following description:

Friends Folio

The *Friends Folio* is published twice a year (fall and spring) and distributed to the Millersville University community and Friends of Ganser Library.

For more information or questions, contact us at (717) 872-3624, Special_Collections@millersville.edu or visit Archives & Special Collections on the 4th floor of Ganser Library.

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Current and past issues of the *Friends Folio* are available on the Special Collections website:
www.library.millersville.edu/sc.cfm?Parent=3336

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Early in Millersville's history, senior theses were required of all graduating students. Our collection contains theses written between 1850 and 1870. Student theses for each year were bound together in an alphabetical arrangement by author. Each handwritten thesis was about 13 pages long. The senior theses from this time covered many different aspects of education.



Public education was just getting its start, and was a huge concern for these soon-to-be teachers. Many of them wrote about the importance of teaching certain subjects to their students, including math, art, gym, and geography, all for differing reasons. Some wrote about how the school house and the school grounds should be set up, while others focused on what personal qualifications a good teacher or a good administrator should possess. Philosophies of teaching were also a common topic, including emerging psychological theories of learning and the human mind. Several theses discuss how education leads to a happier adult and after life. Many of the things that these students emphasized are things that we are still contemplating today. Should we give students the opportunities to take music and art classes? What is the most efficient way to set up and run a school house? Do children need to have gym class? Why should our students be taught a certain subject? Does it really matter if I know how students' learn? Though their reasons may be different and sometimes seem antiquated, they were considering the same questions that today's education students wonder about.

Through three types of archival records, we can catch a glimpse of what life was like for students in Millersville's early years. Differences such as dress, perspective and attitude towards certain topics are present but it is easy to see



similarities in student concerns and conversations. The Normal and Page Literary Societies, faculty minutes, and Student Theses have all helped highlight these similarities and can be found in the Archives and Special Collections at Ganser Library.

Spencer Shambaugh and *Mary Shuman* are student assistants in Archives & Special Collections. Spencer is a social studies secondary education major and Mary is a business major. Both will graduate in May.

The exhibit based on their research is located on Ganser Library's 4th floor across from Archives & Special Collections.



Spencer Shambaugh and Mary Shuman

Sources:

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News & Special Events

Friends Fall Lecture

Dr. Mary Glazier (Sociology) and Captain Pete Anders of the Lancaster City Police were the featured speakers at the Fall Friends Lecture, held September 21, in the Bolger Conference Center. Speaking to an appreciative crowd of students, faculty, and community members, Glazier and Anders presented *Collaborating for Social Change: The Lancaster Violent Crime Reduction Initiative*. For more information about the work of the Lancaster Public Safety Research Institute, go to www.lancasterpsri.org.



Dr. Mary Glazier

Book Sale

Mark your calendars now—the annual Friends book sale will be held March 14-16, with a preview sale on Sunday, March 13. The three-day sale offers a great selection of high-quality used books. We are always interested in receiving new volumes for the sale, particularly juvenile, art, music, and collectible books. This will be the last book sale before the library renovation, so be sure to bring your books to the library or contact the director's office at (717) 872-3608 if you would like to arrange for books to be picked up.

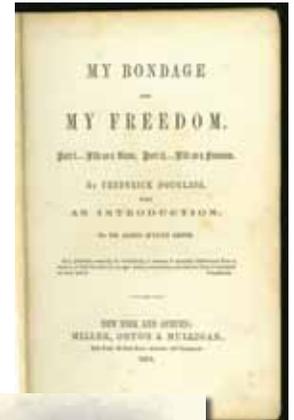
Digitization Update

As part of the Keystone Library Network, Millersville University participates in contributing digitized primary source materials to the KLN Digital Collections website: <http://digital.klnpa.org>. Millersville's collections now include The Snapper, the Millersville University Oral History Collection, The Frantz Family Letters, The Normal Monthly and The Normal Journal.

- The Frantz Family Letters are now available for researchers to use online. This collection includes letters mailed to Lancaster residents Esther C. Frantz and Andrew M. Frantz from their daughter Letitia Frantz, Esther's sister Elmira Landis and brother Henry Landis. Letters describe their travels and family life at home from June 24 to Oct. 21, 1883. Letitia writes about her experiences as a student at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.
- The first two publications of the Normal Publications digitization project are now complete. *The Normal Monthly: An Educational and Literary Journal* was published at Millersville from 1873 to 1876. The goal of the publication was to meet the educational needs of current students and graduates and to advance Normal education throughout the state and nation through columns on literature, mathematics, and natural science, drawing, educational news, and poetry. Graduation orations and

readings from the literary societies were also featured. The first issue, published January 9, 1873, states that the *Normal Monthly* will take an "especial interest in the education and proper social position of woman... In its first issue, it unfurls the flag of equal pay for equal labor regardless of sex." *The Normal Journal*, first published at Millersville in 1888, was "designed to afford a means of communication between the Millersville State Normal School and the educational public." Included in the masthead was the following: *Teaching is The Highest Science, The Finest Art, The Noblest Profession*.

- The second phase of our collaborative digitization project with Dickinson College is now complete. Funded through a Library Services Technology Act grant, the Slavery & Abolition in the U.S. (deila.dickinson.edu/slaveryandabolition/) digital collection now contains an additional 10,000 pages of text. The works in the collection reflect arguments on both sides of the slavery debate and include first person narratives, legal proceedings and decisions, anti-slavery tracts, religious sermons and early secondary works. In the past 18 months, more than 8250 individuals from 101 different countries have accessed the collection.



- Finding aids for our collections, along with digital images for many collections are now available through Archon: <http://jefferson.library.millersville.edu/archon/>. 143 finding aids of manuscript, archival, and photograph collections are available for researchers to use online.

Planned Giving Opportunities

Consider including Millersville University in your estate planning. For more information on planned giving opportunities, including Ganser Library, Friends of the Library, or student scholarships, contact the Millersville University Development Office at (717) 872-3820.



Library News

Meet our Library Interns

Michael O'Brien is working as the Library Outreach Support Intern this semester. Michael is a senior English major with a philosophy minor who has worked as a student employee of Millersville University Library for the last four years. He is considering going to graduate school in library science. Michael is working with Erin Dorney, Outreach Librarian, on various renovation-related projects. He is also assisting with a collaborative



Michael O'Brien

faculty-student research project related to academic library websites, which will support the Millersville University Library's website redesign (currently underway).

Kim Landis is serving as an intern in Archives & Special Collections. A communication & theatre major, Kim is creating a series of mini-documentaries which will stream from the Special Collections website. These mini documentaries will help people learn more about Archives & Special Collections, resources related to women's history, and what students are learning through carrying out research projects here. Kim is filming classes in Archives & Special Collections and interviewing faculty members and students. Funding to support Kim's project comes from a Women's Commission grant and from the Friends of Ganser Library.



Kim Landis

Introducing Chip German

Chip German became Vice President for Information Resources in July 2010 and in his new role oversees both the University Library and Information Technology.



To the readers of Friends of Ganser Library Folio:

It is hard for me to find words to describe the honor of my new role with the University Library. I'm one of those people who believe that the library is an institution's scholarly heart, and its health is an indicator of the health of the institution as a whole. By that measure, Millersville University's health score is excellent, in no small part because its heart is vigorous and youthful. The faculty, staff and student workers at our library are united in their dedication to the ongoing task of ensuring that we have a library oriented toward the future, which is not something that many university libraries can say.

Every day I enter the building, I do so knowing that I'm about to get a rush of energy and optimism. Despite the building's obvious need for renovation, the students headed in or out all show a sense of purpose and an openness to discovery that reminds me why I love my job: it is all about aspiration and possibility. But the very best part is the library's student workers. They inspire me with their dedication, their exuberance and their humor. I'm going to be proud to be able to say about each student we employ that I knew her or him as a worker at the Millersville University library. These smart and funny young folks are about to make an indelible mark on the world. Not so different from the students they help, they are Millersville University. They are the future, and they are our best contribution to the 21st century.

Special Collections Treasures

by Janet Dotterer

Special Collections has numerous photograph collections of student life at Millersville. Some of these collections include the original glass plates. We have been able to scan the glass plates of one of these collections: The Christian K. Lehman Collection from ca. 1901. Christian Lehman was a student at MSNS, graduating in 1901. The photographs include male and female students throughout the campus, most taken with the lake as a background.

To view these photographs online go to: <http://jefferson.library.millersville.edu/archon/> and type Christian Lehman in the search box. The record for the collection will appear and then you can click on "On-line Images/Records" and choose what photograph you would like to view.



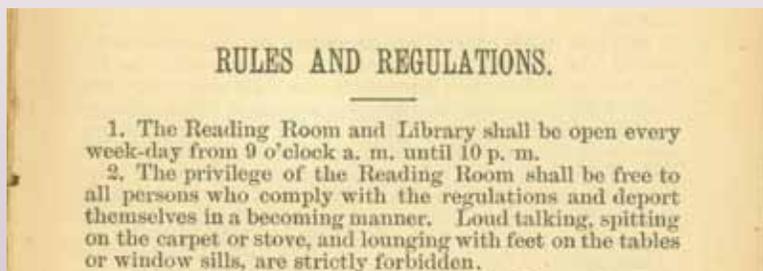
Recent Additions

Each issue of the Folio highlights recent additions to the collection made possible through funding from the Friends of Ganser Library or through donation.

A **Mathematical and Philosophical Dictionary** by Charles Hutton was published in London by J. Davis in 1795-96. This three-volume set contains 37 engraved plates and is the first edition of Hutton's work. Hutton includes histories of mathematics, astronomy and philosophy, and biographies of eminent ancient and modern authors. Hutton notes:

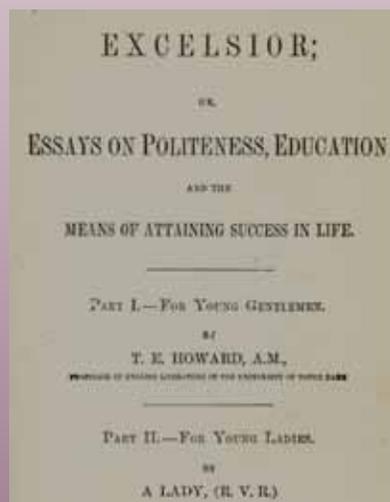
Among the Dictionaries of Arts and Sciences which have been published, of late years, in various parts of Europe, it is matter of surprise that Philosophy and Mathematics should have been so far overlooked as not to be thought worthy of a separate Treatise, in this form. These Sciences constitute a large portion of the present stock of human knowledge, and have been usually considered as possessing a degree of importance to which few others are entitled; and yet we have hitherto had no distinct Lexicon, in which their constituent parts and technical terms have been explained, with that amplitude and precision, which the great improvements of the Moderns, as well as the rising dignity of the Subject, seem to demand.

This title is from the Rousseau Collection.



The Library Committee of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, YMCA published the second edition of the **Catalogue of the Library of the Young Men's Christian Association** in 1879. The Library Committee sought to "direct the attention of the youthful reader to the excellent books...and thereby interest them in subjects profitable as well as entertaining to the young of both sexes." Mechanics and apprentices were encouraged to explore books related to "industrial pursuits" in the Scientific and Books of Reference departments. In addition to the listing of book titles and authors, the catalogue includes library hours (9 am to 10 pm daily) and an extensive list of rules, including prohibitions against "loud talking, spitting on the carpet or stove and lounging with feet on the tables or windowsills."

Excelsior; or Essays on Politeness, Education and the Means of Attaining Success in Life, was written by "A Lady (R.V.R.)" and published by John B. Piet of Baltimore in 1871. Part I contains advice for young gentlemen on manners, conversation, letter writing and work life. Part II is written for young ladies, covering topics such as self-sacrifice, affection at home, housework, mental training, and etiquette in rhyme. One rhyme begins: "A woman perfect and complete needs first to be a housewife neat; if wife on wifely duties bent, if mother on her charge intent..." The author was actually Timothy Edward Howard, an Indiana attorney who later served on the Indiana Supreme Court from 1893-1899. Rebecca V. Roberts (RVR) served as another author of the work.



Library Renovation Update



The Millersville University library is planning an extensive renovation project! Working with architectural firm Highland Associates (www.highlandassociates.com/index.htm), our plans are well underway. Beginning summer 2011, the library collection, services, faculty and staff will be moving out of the building. Construction will begin in fall 2011 with the goal of moving back into the building in summer of 2013. The library will be using Gerhart as a location for the circulation and reference desks, as well as some staff and collection offices. Location for other staff and faculty members are still in the planning stages.

Why does the library need such a major renovation at this time?

The role of academic libraries has changed significantly over the 43 years since Millersville's Ganser Library opened its doors. Moving away from sole reliance on physical materials, students now have the ability to access much scholarship electronically. Consequently, use of the library building has shifted dramatically to a more technologically rich, flexible, and multipurpose educational space. The renovation of the Millersville University library will bring the facilities into the 21st century, providing students, faculty and community members with an experience second to none. The library is the heart of the University, where information meets curiosity to produce knowledge in all subjects. Physically at the busy intersection of George and Frederick streets, it also exists at the busy intersection of scholarship and innovation, where generations of seekers who interact with information in different ways can encounter the raw materials of learning in both traditional forms and brand new ones. It is a warm and welcoming place where students and faculty collaborate, create knowledge, and celebrate culture, a place where people

come for inspiration as well as exploration. While retaining the spirit of Old Main, which stood for many years on the site of the present library building, the revitalized Millersville University Library will help those investigating any question use the best technologies available to uncover the most comprehensive answers. It is where discovery and enlightenment happen.

Inside the new Millersville University library:

- Open floor plans, natural lighting, attractive architectural design, and flexible furniture will provide visitors with the uniquely collaborative space necessary for completing group and individual research.
- An expanded, climate-controlled, secure space for the Millersville University Archives and Special Collections will ensure the longevity of valuable documents and materials, many of which are one-of-a-kind items relevant to the history of the University and surrounding community.
- Programming areas and exhibit space will provide opportunities for civic engagement and student learning with campus and community organizations.
- The renovated library will be ADA-compliant, including redesigned restrooms and elevator access to each floor, increasing opportunities for all students and ensuring equality of service. HVAC and electrical systems will be upgraded to meet current and future needs of visitors, collections, and technology.
- Additional, redesigned library classrooms (including smart technology and reconfigurable setup) will allow faculty librarians to utilize new models of teaching and learning for more than 200 courses, reaching more than 6,000 graduate and undergraduates yearly.
- 24-hour public access area, centrally located café, and expanded technology will encourage students to make the library their space, where they mindfully build the information and cultural fluency that is central to the liberal arts education at Millersville.



Keep up to date on the plans for the Library renovation. Visit the renovation blog: <http://blogs.millersville.edu/newlibrary/>



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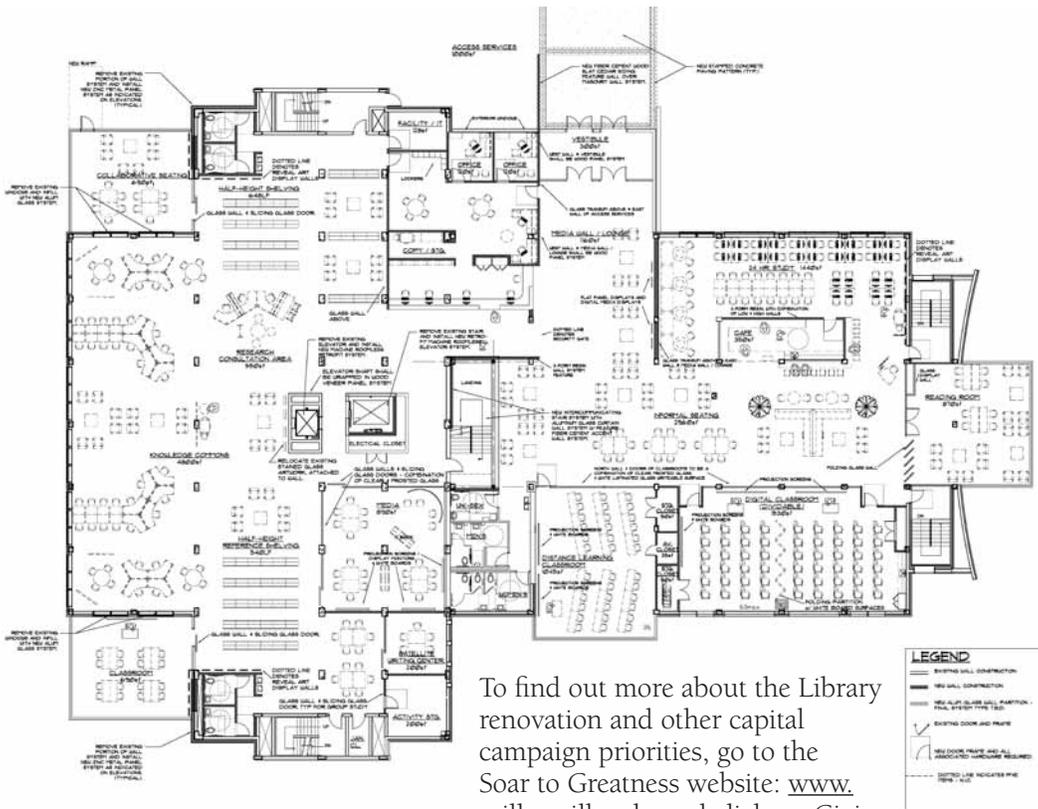
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Plans for Library first floor renovation



To find out more about the Library renovation and other capital campaign priorities, go to the Soar to Greatness website: www.millersville.edu and click on Giving to Millersville.

Folio by email

Sign up to receive the Friends Folio electronically. This environmentally friendly way to read the Folio also provides the benefits of earlier delivery and helps us reduce costs for mailing and printing. If you'd like to receive the Folio electronically, email Special.Collections@millersville.edu to let us know.

Becoming a Friend

People become Friends of Ganser Library when they make a donation to Millersville University and request mailings from the Friends. Encourage your friends to become Friends of Ganser Library through their support of Millersville University. For more information, contact the Millersville University Development Office at (717) 872-3820.