Millersville’s Atwater Scores NSF Grant

Millersville University students from applied engineering, safety & technology; chemistry and physics will soon be working together on nanotechnology projects, thanks to the efforts of Millersville University’s Dr. Mark Atwater. The assistant professor of applied engineering, safety & technology was awarded a $502,420 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to pursue researching the use of nanotechnology on metal foams.

The grant, which spans five years, is entitled “CAREER: New Solid State Metal Foams Using Oxide Reduction and Intraparticle Expansion.” Work under the grant will begin in June. The NSF explains that a “Career grant” is targeted for “…faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations.”

Atwater has been researching how nanostructured metals can be used in different applications since he began his Ph.D. studies at North Carolina State University in Materials Science and Engineering.

The NSF grant is Atwater’s third grant project. In October he received a five-year grant from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground to further study nanostructured metals, including high-entropy alloys and thermoelectrics. The new CAREER grant is based on work first established in conjunction with Army researchers and will complement existing efforts.
“Oxides can inadvertently get into metals during processing,” explained Atwater. “I have been working on how to control it and ways to benefit from it. The Army is interested because they want lightweight, strong materials for applications such as air and ground vehicles.”

In addition, Atwater is working on a research project to grow carbon nanofibers. The application of these unique foams may benefit the catalytic process used in that work and allow for overall cost reduction. That work is also funded through NSF until August of 2017.

“Metallic foams and porous metal structures are valuable because they are strong for their weight, can absorb impact energy and allow for efficient heat transfer,” said Atwater. “We first observed this new foaming mechanism in copper, and the new NSF grant will allow us to explore other metals, including nickel.”

There is a significant educational component to the grant including funding for two undergraduates and one graduate assistant (G.A.). Laura Guevara, a senior chemistry major, has been working with Atwater and will be the G.A. on the project when she graduates in May.

“I’ve always been interested in chemistry but I never imagined I’d be able to do this type of research at Millersville. I started my undergraduate work at Penn State, but it wasn’t a good fit. This has been amazing for me,” said Guevara, a Cocalico High School graduate.

Expanding the undergraduate nanofabrication option in applied engineering and developing additional programs, including a graduate offering, are on the radar for Atwater. “An opportunity for graduate study where we collaborate with other departments could really boost our enrollment potential and bring new opportunities to Millersville,” said Atwater.

“We would also like to connect with local or regional businesses,” said Atwater. “The ramifications of being able to produce strong, lightweight materials out of a variety of metals could be helpful for any number of businesses. We would like to encourage companies to partner with us at Millersville.”

**Business Program Reaffirmed**

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) www.acbsp.org

Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners has reaffirmed accreditation of the business programs at Millersville University.

Established in 1988, ACBSP is the only organization offering specialized business accreditation for all degree levels, from associate to baccalaureate to doctoral degree programs. ACBSP accreditation certifies that the teaching and learning processes within the Business Administration Program at Millersville University meet the rigorous educational standards established by ACBSP.

Millersville University was first accredited by ACBSP in 1995. That accreditation was reaffirmed in 2005.
University is required to go through the reaffirmation process every 10 years to maintain ACBSP accreditation.

“Millersville University has shown their commitment to teaching excellence and to the process of quality improvement by participating in the accreditation process,” said ACBSP Chief Accreditation Officer Dr. Steve Parscale, who will present the Certificate of Reaffirmation of Accreditation at the ACBSP Conference 2016 in Atlanta, Ga., on June 19.

“This reaffirmation of accreditation is evidence that Millersville University is committed to providing the highest quality business education for their students for the next 10 years, just as they have done since 1995,” said Parscale.

“Accreditation is about excellence in all that we do, and it is gratifying to be recognized by our peers with this reaffirmation,” said Dr. Douglas Frazer, chair of accounting and finance at Millersville.

Sustainability Day Jan. 26

Millersville University (MU) is hosting a Campus Sustainability Day on Tuesday, Jan. 26 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Student Memorial Center Atrium. The event will feature a water taste-testing challenge throughout the day. At 12:15 p.m., there will be a ribbon cutting with President John Anderson to kick off The Water Bottle Challenge, designed to reduce the need for bottled water at MU.

“Students who are engaged in The Water Bottle Challenge will be given reusable filtered water bottles and their water drinking habits will be monitored by a team of researchers,” said Dr. Nadine Garner, director of the Center for Sustainability. “The goal of the project is to understand the habits of college students in regard to their water consumption and to eliminate the use of thousands of disposable water bottles.”

The Campus Sustainability Day will feature various exhibits focused on sustainability initiatives at MU, which will highlight the efforts of the Center of Sustainability and campus departments including finance and administration, geography, education, dining and facilities, art, and environmental health and safety. There will also be free samples of organic products and
various giveaways including a drawing for a bike, handmade Peruvian shoes by Inkkas and an ultra-lightweight solar charger by Solar Paper.

The blind taste test will be of city water and Millersville University water to see if people can tell the difference. The University has its own well and since the system is smaller than for a city, the water isn’t in the pipes as long and the chlorine level can be right where it needs to be for safety and disinfecting, but doesn’t need to be super chlorinated – which can affect the taste.

“We hope that Campus Sustainability Day raises awareness about the great things Millersville is doing to become more sustainable while inspiring individuals to join in the fun,” said Chris Steuer, MU sustainability manager. “Taking time to think about more sustainable ways of doing things can lead to better outcomes that lessen our environmental impact, cut costs and improve the quality of our campus experience. At Millersville, students can generate and test ideas, learn from them and leave a better place for the next generation of students.”

For more information about the event or the sustainability efforts of MU please visit, www.millersville.edu/ccerp/sustainability/index.php and https://www.facebook.com/pages/Center-for-Sustainability-Millersville-University

Extended Quiet Study Hours at McNairy Library

From Sunday, January 24, through April 15, the McNairy library’s lobby and reading room will remain open until 3 a.m. Sunday through Thursday.

In response to recent recommendations from Student Senate, the library will now provide access to the lobby, Starbucks area and Reading Room for quiet study from 12 a.m. – 3 a.m. Sunday through Thursday. The library will close without extended hours at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

No one will be admitted into the library between 2:30 a.m. and 3 a.m. Students will not be admitted to other areas of the library outside the lobby or reading room. Access to library computers, laptops, printers and group study rooms will not be available to students during extended study hours. The extended quiet study hours will run as a pilot program from January 24 through April 15, 2016. After April 15, the library will assess attendance and participation in this program and may continue it as regular hours in the next semester.

WEATHER WARNING: If the university or the library are closed on Sunday for inclement weather, the extended quiet study hours will start Monday (January 25) instead. For more information about the extended quiet study hours pilot program, please contact D’Ann Ressler at (717) 871-7125 or D’Ann.Ressler@millersville.edu. For all other questions, please contact the Circulation Desk at (717) 871-1111
February 4, 2016 Activities

Dr. Gregory J. Seigworth, communication and theatre, organized an international conference on Affect Theory with colleagues from University of Pennsylvania (Dr. Heather Love) and Goldsmiths University in London, England (Dr. Lisa Blackman). The conference was held at Millersville’s Ware Center from October 14-17, 2015. There were 18 plenary speakers, a series of workshops, artistic installations, and performance interventions. Nearly 700 proposals from all over the world were submitted to the conference: ultimately narrowed down to 225 presenters from 18 different countries (the UK, Canada, Egypt, Serbia, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, Portugal, the Netherlands, South Africa, Japan, Ecuador, New Zealand, Spain, Finland, Brazil, Sweden and Israel). Approximately 400 conference attendees (faculty, independent researchers, graduate and undergraduate students) came to the conference overall.

In addition, Seigworth co-edited a double issue of the journal “Cultural Studies” (Sept-Nov 2015) with Dr. Joe Deville from Goldsmiths- London. The issue focused on ‘everyday credit and debt’ practices from around the globe, and among the dozen essays were contributions from Canada, Australia, England, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Portugal, Chile and Argentina. Seigworth co-wrote the issue’s introduction “Everyday Debt and Credit” with Dr. Deville.

Seigworth’s co-edited book “The Affect Theory Reader” was translated and published in South Korea in December 2015. He co-wrote a new preface for the Korean release with fellow editor Dr. Melissa Gregg. He was then invited to speak, via video-link, to a gathering of South Korean academics at ‘The Garden of Multitude Intelligence’ center. The two hour talk with question-and-answer session took place on Saturday January 9th and is now available on the web. The text of the talk — “An architecture for affective encounters” — will also soon be available in Korean translation.
In November 2015, Seigworth was invited to organize and conduct a two-day long workshop on ‘affect theory’ to take place from June 24-26, 2016 at “Museum of Jón Sigurðsson” – Hrafnseyri, situated in the West Fjords of Iceland. The workshop is oriented toward Icelandic and international graduate students and fellow academics.

Also in November 2015, Dr. Seigworth was asked to serve as the external reader for the dissertation of an architectural researcher at the University of Leiden’s Centre for the Study of the Arts in Society, Netherlands. In March, Seigworth will join the Reading Committee at the University of Leiden to conduct the dissertation’s defense.

Finally, Seigworth is among a dozen theorists / theologians invited to speak at Drew Theological School’s 15th Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium: “Affectivity and Divinity: Affect Theories and Theologies” in Madison, New Jersey. The colloquium at Drew University will begin on the evening of March 18, 2016 and conclude on the afternoon of March 20.

Faculty/Staff Activities

Drs. Ximena Catipillán, mathematics, and Waclaw Szymanski, mathematics at West Chester University, recently had their textbook “Mathematics in a Sample of Cultures” published by Kendall-Hunt. Read more at: https://www.kendallhunt.com/store-product.aspx?id=302057. Dr. Abdelhadi Halawa, wellness and sport sciences, authored a chapter titled “Eastern Contributions to the Globalization of Science and Medicine.” The chapter was published in December 2015 within a 387-page book titled “Encountering the East” by Peking University Press, Beijing, China. The chapter was selected to be published in the book in Chinese translated from the original work published in English by Halawa.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, sang as an alto ringer with the St. Olave’s Singers for the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers’ annual Carol Service in St. Olave’s Church in the City of London and for the Clothworkers’ Feast in Clothworkers’ Hall on December 21. On December 22, she also sang with the St. Olave’s Singers in St. Olave’s Church for the annual Christmas service of Trinity House. In addition, Dr. Sheaffer sang as an alto ringer with the Chorvereinigung St. Augustin at the Jesuitenkirche of Vienna, Austria, in Mozart’s “Piccolomini Mass” on January 1, 2016 and in Anton Diabelli’s “Pastoral Mass” on January 6, 2016.
Who Makes Millersville Special

Special features Dr. Bill Dorman, professor in communication and theatre.

Q. Where are you originally from?
I was born and grew up in Rutherford, N. J., for 22 years. It is eight miles west of New York City—the first town out of the Lincoln Tunnel with trees.

Q. What inspired you to study communications?
I am the youngest of five kids—I was an extrovert from day one, always active in theatre. I’m a sports fan so my early experiences were all with sports announcing or acting in plays.

Q. Where did you study?
I went to Susquehanna University, double majoring in theatre and communications. I got my master’s in communication from Bloomsburg State College and I got my Ph. D. in speech communication from the Pennsylvania State University.

Q. What is your past experience as a professor?
I taught as an adjunct at Bloomsburg and as a graduate assistant at Penn State. I came to Millersville as an instructor in 1985 and I’ve been here since then.

Q. What is your favorite part about being a professor?
Fostering student achievement. Sharing in the successes of my students, both while they’re on campus and after they graduate. I have hundreds of Facebook friends-alums who keep in touch. They continue to be energizing.

Q. Do you have a favorite course to teach?
No, they’re like children, each of them is unique and each one has its challenges. Production settings in broadcasting, writing and analyzing in Survey of Media, preparing and presenting in public speaking. Some are all majors, some are a mix and some are all non-majors. That variety is spectacular and keeps me excited in the classroom.

Q. What hobbies do you have outside of teaching at MU?
I like home projects and woodworking. I live in a house built in 1880, so there are always things to restore or repair. I play golf, I like to fish and my wife, Susan and I love to travel.
Q. Can you tell us about your honor “Advisor of the Year” from the National Broadcasting Society?
The NBS chapter at MU has a strong tradition of activity. I have been blessed with fabulous student leaders who have made my job easy. Student leadership is the key. When an organization like ours can offer students in broadcasting all sorts of opportunities to network with professionals, produce original programming and find like-minded peers, it’s a formula for success. I am so fortunate and honored to have been recognized for that award.

Q. What is something your fellow faculty members would be surprised to learn about you?
I’ve been going steady with my wife since Feb. 29, 1972.

Q. What was the last book you read?
I am currently reading “Grey Mountain” by John Grisham. I am always reading something current, and I prefer political thrillers and mysteries.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote?
“The best gift you can give your children is a healthy marriage.” Being married to my best friend has helped me keep my priorities straight.

Q. Where do you like to travel?
ANYWHERE, EVERYWHERE. My wife and I were in Barcelona and the south of France for a few weeks this past summer. We have plans to visit Hawaii, take a cross country trip and return to Italy. We cherish the thrills of new places.

Q. What is something you want your students to take away from your classes?
That hard work is worth the effort. Learning is change, change isn’t always easy, but the value of the growth is the payback. The speed and magnitude of change will make everyone a “life-long learner.” Enjoy the process—it will be your life.

Editor’s Note: Dr. Dorman will retire from Millersville University on May 12, 2016. Please join the Exchange staff in wishing him the absolute best.