

Millersville University Seizes the Rankings

Millersville University has been seizing the opportunity and ranking high on college and university ranking lists lately, landing a spot in three different categories.

Out of the 684 universities that were distinguished nationally by Washington Monthly in its “2013 Best Master’s Universities,” Millersville University ranked 88. Millersville, the only university within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) to place within the top 100, received a score of 63 out of a possible 100 points across the three judged categories.



The Washington Monthly also recognized Millersville University in its “2013 Best Bang for the Buck—Master’s Universities.” Millersville was ranked 41 out of 152 universities, ranking second within PASSHE schools.

“When students come to Millersville, they can be assured they are not only getting a great value, i.e., Best Bang for the Buck, but they are also attending an institution that is nationally ranked for social mobility, research and service,” said Dr. Vilas Prabhu, provost and vice president for academic affairs.



The elements that determined Millersville University’s social mobility scores included students receiving Pell grants (30 percent), predicted rate of graduation (65 percent) and the actual graduation rate (61 percent).

The research score was calculated by the number of science and engineering Ph.D.s awarded by the University, undergraduate alumni that went on to pursue a Ph.D. and the total amount spent on institution research productivity, quality and future scholarships.

The service score was determined by the Peace Corps ranking (175), ROTC ranking (224), federal work-study funds spent on service, community service participation and hours served (23), and service staff, courses and financial aid support (130).

Millersville University was also recently recognized by being named on the Colleges of Distinction eGuidebook as one of the top 2013-2014 Public Colleges of Distinction.

To view the complete lists, visit www.washingtonmonthly.com and www.collegesofdistinction.com.

Chincoteague Bay Field Station Takes to Sky with NASA Partnership

In the past, when you mentioned the Marine Science Consortium on Wallops Island in Va., many people would think of fish and insects. It's time to change your thinking. The field station has a



Students operate the Vibracore soil sampler rig used in soil analysis

new name, and the students there are now working with fish, insects and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The new name is the Chincoteague Bay Field Station and Millersville students are being given the opportunity to intern with NASA and assist in conducting research.

Students and staff have been working with NASA on a number of projects, and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's

Wallops Flight Facility (GSFC WFF) is collaborating with the field station to promote student development in the sciences and faculty research in areas of interest to NASA.

“The Field Station has a strong scientific relationship with NASA,” said Dr. Ajoy Kumar, Millersville University associate professor of ocean sciences and coastal studies, who teaches a summer course on field methods in oceanography at the Field Station. “Most of the collaborations are through PASSHE schools. Our faculty uses NASA’s equipment and NASA scientists use the field station’s boats for their research.”

Millersville faculty and students currently have two ongoing projects with NASA that they are conducting in association with the Field Station. One involves using a LiDAR, a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analyzing the reflected light to map topographic surfaces from aircrafts and drones. NASA flies the LiDAR sensor on its drones and aircraft and supplies the data. Students collect ground data at almost the same time as the flight time to validate the aircraft based LiDAR data.

The other project in collaboration with NASA scientists involves using shipboard measurements to collect data on the Delmarva shelf region. “Our goal for this project is to collect climate quality data to understand how the warming seawater will affect oxygen and marine life in the area,” said Kumar.

Venetian Twins Comes to Millersville

On Nov. 8, The Venetian Twins will come to town. This side-splitting play consists of sword fighting, mix-ups, a musical number, romance and death—a combination necessary for any great production.

Zanetto and Tonino are twins who have never met and each is coming to Verona for separate reasons. The two could not be more different from each other, like night and day. Zanetto, the oafish brother, is to be married to Rosaura, a woman he has never met. Tonino, the intelligent brother, with his fiancée, Beatrice, arrive in Verona because he slapped a man back in his hometown. Both love interests, by chance, meet the other twin and confusion ensues. The ladies do not know that the men they love are twins, which makes for an interesting story.

The Venetian Twins, directed by Tony Elliot, is sure to be fast-paced with a high energy cast. “Hopefully that will translate into a crowd-pleaser,” said Elliot. “We’re out to have a good time and we want to take the audience with us.”

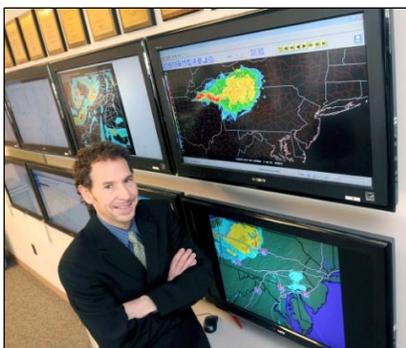


Rachel Faust, left, as Rosaura and Aaron Dake as Zanetto.

Opening night starts on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. in Rafters Theatre, Dutcher Hall. Additional performances will be held on November 9, 14, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. in Rafters Theatre, Dutcher Hall; November 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. in Rafters Theatre, Dutcher Hall.

Ticket Information: This event is open to the public. Tickets cost \$10 general admission, \$7 for students with valid ID and \$5 for MU-ID Super Saver (advanced tickets only at the Student Memorial Center ticket window, 2 per MU-ID). Tickets may be purchased online, at MUTicketsOnline.com, at the Student Memorial Center Ticket Office (Room 103), by calling the Ticket Office at 717-872-3811 or at the Ware Center Box Office (42 N. Prince St., Lancaster). Ticket Offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Weathering the Storm



Eric Horst tracks lightening with the help of Weather Bug

When a storm approaches Millersville, the Millersville University (MU) Weather Information Center is on it. The MU Weather Center will observe an evolving storm and can now track the approximate location of the lightning strikes.

This is possible through the Weather Bug lightning detection network, a new software program that allows a meteorologist to observe and track lightning occurring anywhere in the United States. Millersville University was

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recently invited to test out the program when it first arrived.

“Although Millersville University has had a partnership with Weather Bug for several years, the recent acquisition of this program allows us to monitor lightning in our area with incredible resolution, down to a city block in detail,” said Eric Horst, director of the MU Weather Information Center. “Rather than simply know that lightning has occurred within a certain distance of Millersville, we can now track the location of lightning strikes and identify lightning trends and storm track with great detail. This allows us to not only warn better, but we can analyze strike location and strike patterns post-storm.”

The lightning-detection program gives MU meteorologist another powerful tool when briefing Millersville University coaches, administrators and the local community during severe weather events.

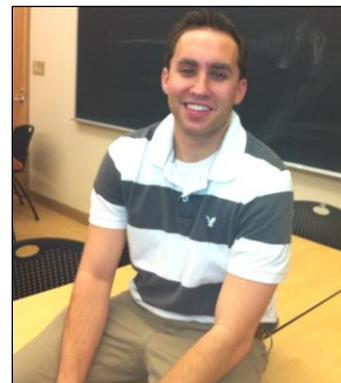
To stay up-to-date on the local weather forecasts, visit the MU Weather Information Center at: www.atmos.millersville.edu/~wic.

Millersville Student Finds Finish Line Grant

A Millersville student who spent the spring semester 2013 preparing recreational programs for children and young adults with developmental disabilities at Aaron’s Acres in Lancaster, Pa., also wrote a grant for them and recently learned it was funded for more than \$3,000.

Michael Curtis participated in a co-op learning experience with Aaron’s Acres, and as part of the co-op, students majoring in special education take part in a monthly program held in the University’s Stayer Hall. In addition to planning, preparing and implementing each program’s theme and activities, the students learn how to write grants and gain other skills that will be beneficial in their own careers upon graduation.

After researching new grant opportunities for Aaron’s Acres, Curtis found Finish Line Youth Foundation (FLYF). The foundation makes quarterly awards to children’s organizations and has pledged multi-year support for the Special Olympics.



MU student Michael Curtis worked to secure funding for Aaron’s Acres

Curtis’s grant focused on the summer camps, specifically funding for music, therapeutic service dogs and special entertainment for children and young adults in Berks, Dauphin and Lancaster Counties, where camp programs exist.

“From working with the participants in the Aaron Acres’ program, I have learned that even the simplest and littlest things can put a smile on a child’s face,” said Curtis. “By simply showing the child that we care, it can put the biggest smile on their face and provide them with many memorable experiences.”

Aaron’s Acres is a nonprofit organization that provides year-round recreational programs to children and young adults, ranging in age from 5-21 years old, with developmental disabilities in Central Pennsylvania. Their mission is to provide all children and young adults with special needs the opportunity to participate in unique social activities in an accepting atmosphere that embraces families in the program.

Snapper Named No. 8 College Newspaper Website in the Country

From the French Quarter and Bourbon Street to keynote speaker and “Today Show Fourth Hour” co-host Hoda Kotb, the Snapper, the student-run newspaper of Millersville University, had a



Webmaster Maria Rovito updates the Snapper online

once-in-a-lifetime experience in New Orleans. On Oct. 23-27, 11 Millersville University students who are editors for the Snapper participated in the 92nd annual Associated College Press/College Media Association (ACP/CMA) National College Media Convention held in New Orleans, along with more than 2,300 student journalists and advisers from all over the country. While the students were there, they attended lectures and keynote speeches, explored the Big Easy and submitted their

newspaper and website, thesnapper.com, to the ACP Best in Show competitions. A few days after returning to campus, they were notified that their website had placed at No. 8 in the ACP 2013 Best in Show “Website Enrollment Level 2” division.

The Snapper has their webmaster and associate opinion editor, sophomore English major and computer science minor Maria Rovito, to thank for that. She has been teaching herself web fundamentals such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript since high school. “It shows what happens when you are dedicated,” said Rovito. “I am glad the website was finally noticed.”

“I was ecstatic,” said Eugene Ellis, Millersville communications & theatre instructor and faculty adviser for the Snapper. “I was sitting in my pastor’s office when I got the phone call, and I’m sure my pastor thought I was going crazy. We have an excellent student paper, and I am always

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excited when others recognize the hard work and dedication of our staff. Maria deserves credit for the website, and the staff deserves credit for the content.”

The Snapper will still continue to make their paper and their website even better. “No one needs to rest on what has happened but look to the future to see how we can best cover Millersville,” said Ellis. “Plus with the changes in technology in print media, we have to stay on top of social media and the others areas of the profession.” Rovito also plans to incorporate elements that were present in websites that were ranked higher than the Snapper’s.

All student media staffs that attended the convention were eligible to enter categories specific to their medium. The website entries were judged on general excellence in design, navigation, writing, editing, graphics and interactivity.

The Snapper website can be viewed at <http://thesnapper.com>. For more information about other winners at the ACP/CMA National College Media Convention, visit <http://studentpress.org/acp/winners/f13bs.html>.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee Creates Working Groups

The strategic planning steering committee continues to make advances to produce a new strategic plan that will help guide Millersville University towards a prosperous future. The committee has already shared and received campus-wide input on the vision, mission, common purpose and goal themes.

While that input is being used to update the planning elements, working groups aligned around six goal themes: learner-focused, organizational agility, long-term sustainability, environmental stewardship, destination and national recognition. Each working group is comprised of steering committee members and volunteers from the University community. Through an inquiry-driven process, these working groups will recommend a goal to support the theme and critical, prioritized strategies. A seventh working group, core values, will help to formally identify values that will guide how we do our work at the university.



Victor Capece

“The goals of our smaller group were carefully crafted to answer the passions of the committee at large, as well as the recommendations of the new president,” said Victor Capece, communications & theatre professor and chair of the learner-focused working group. “The mission of our group began by fully defining ‘learner-focused with input from all the

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stakeholders of the University. Then we will identify the component elements, processes and criteria of that definition that are not yet part of the University's system. The final plan for the committee, with input from the stakeholders, is to plot strategies on how the goal of that definition can be achieved by focusing resources, adapting programs, embracing technology or whatever will yield the goal of 'learner focused.'"

"I think each of us already has thoughts, ideas and specific plans that have yet to be shared among us and honed. It's in progress now," Capecce adds.

The strategic planning steering committee plans to collaborate with the working groups to seek input from community members through online surveys, focus groups or calling upon additional expertise. In January, the committee will share the results for input with the University community. Once that feedback is incorporated into the plan, the final draft will be shared with cabinet for approval. The president and cabinet will have responsibility for implementing the plan.

For more information about the strategic planning steering committee and the working groups, visit <http://www.millersville.edu/iea/planning/index.php>.

The Latina/o Studies Department Receives Donations

Students will literally get hands-on experience with huipils, thanks to a recent donation. Huipils, which are handwoven blouses made by the indigenous people of Guatemala, were part of the donation from Millersville alumni Reverend Richard James '71 and his wife Jacqueline. The donation, which also included masks and wall hangings, was made to the Latina/o Studies department program. The couple served as missionaries to Guatemala and acquired them during their trips to the country.



Rev. Richard James, right, and wife Jacqueline display huipils marked for their new home at Millersville

The items will be a valuable resource in the classroom. "I intend to use the huipils to draw attention to the ways in which indigenous groups identified themselves through their weaving structures and patterns," said Dr. Kimberly Mahaffy, director of Millersville's Latina/o Studies minor.

She also wants to teach students how to weave with techniques similar to the people native to Guatemala, adding, "I plan to create a new course on weaving and social movements. The items will be useful examples of the weaving techniques and symbols

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that are unique to Guatemala. We also have an alumnus who has been teaching Latino/a Studies seniors to weave their own graduation stoles.”

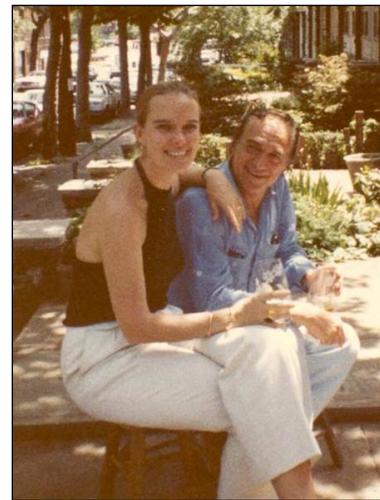
The native population in Guatemala was decimated as a result of a civil war in 1960 -1996. “These items serve to show the challenges the indigenous groups have experienced as they attempt to rebuild and reestablish a presence in the country,” said Mahaffy.

Dancing with the Faculty

Dr. Ana Börger-Greco, associate professor of Spanish at Millersville since 1989, is being featured in a documentary on the history of Flamenco dance titled "Sobre Las Olas: A Story of Flamenco in the U.S.," directed by Carolina Loyola-Garcia. Börger-Greco grew up in Latin America and Spain, and upon arriving in the US, became involved in a Spanish dance group that was chosen to dance in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico.

In 1969, she was accepted into the José Greco Company and has been executive director of the José Greco Foundation for Hispanic Dance since 2002.

“I am considered somewhat of an expert on Flamenco because of my long association with the José Greco Foundation for Hispanic Dance in Washington, D.C., because of years of involvement with the José Greco Dance Company and because I'm the widow of José Greco, who is known for making Spanish dance a household word in the United States,” said Börger-Greco. “I may be the only person in the documentary who is not a performer but more of a historian.”



Dr. Ana Börger-Greco, left, with late husband José Greco

The documentary will debut in Pittsburgh at the Three Rivers Film Festival on November 10.

“The film-makers and crew were at my house for four days about three years ago,” said Börger-Greco. “I'm thrilled that I have been invited to be at the premiere and anxious to see not only the part I'm in, but also all of the great dancing, singing and playing of this generation of Flamenco dancers.”

Need to Know



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MEMORANDUM

To: The University Community

From: Patrick Weidinger—Director of Environmental Health and Safety
Tom Waltz—Assistant Vice President for Facilities
Peter Anders—Chief of University Police

Date: November 5, 2013

Re: Test of Millersville University Mass Notification System

On Tuesday, November 12, and Wednesday, November 13, 2013, Berkshire Systems will be conducting tests of the MU outdoor mass notification (siren) system. Multiple announcements (tests) may be made each day as the contractor works on the system. All of these announcements are tests and are not emergency notifications. Should there be a campus emergency, information will be sent via text and email through MU Alert. To sign up for MU Alert, follow the attached link [MU Alert](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Weidinger at 872-3715, Tom Waltz at 872-3282 or Pete Anders at 872-3433.

Need to Know

NOVEMBER 16 FOOTBALL GAME TIME CHANGED TO 4 P.M.

Kickoff for the Nov. 16 football game between Millersville and California (Pa.) has been moved to 4 p.m. The start time was pushed from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. because of a possible NCAA playoff game for the Millersville field hockey team. The game also serves as Military Appreciation Day with veterans and active military personnel receiving free admission. The game between Millersville and California can be listened to on [MSBN](#) and watched live on Millersville's [All-Access](#) channel.

Need to Know

Invitation to University Community, Faculty, and Students

29th Annual Brossman Foundation and Ronald E. Frisbie Science Lectureship

Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Clair Performance Hall, Winter Visual & Performing Arts Center

We invite you to join us for the evening presentation

"THE HOCKEY STICK AND THE CLIMATE WARS"



Our guest speaker is Dr. Michael Mann. Dr. Mann is Distinguished Professor of Meteorology at Penn State University, with joint appointments in the Department of Geosciences and the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute (EESI). He is also director of the Penn State Earth System Science Center (ESSC). His research involves the use of theoretical models and observational data to better understand Earth's climate system.

Tickets for this event are free and may be reserved online at <http://www.studentservicesinc.com/ticket-sales/>

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at the Winter Visual & Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Roger Webster
Acting Chairperson
Science Lectureship Committee

11/7/13 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for November 7, 2013.



Faculty and Staff Activities

Janet Kacskos, communications & marketing presented at the recent Public Relations Society of American (PRSA) International 2013 Conference in Philadelphia, “The Entry-Level Certificate Program: Bringing College Students Into the APR Process.” Kacskos is a member of PRSA’s Universal Accreditation Board, which is developing the new certificate.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, gave an invited on-site lecture on “Otto Wagner and the New Face of Vienna” for the American Women’s Association of Vienna on October 14 in Vienna, Austria.

Retired

[Frerichs Honored for 16 Years of Service on School Board](#)

Sixteen years and counting—that’s how long **Dr. Richard Frerichs** has been serving on the Penn Manor School Board. His fellow board members recently honored Frerichs with a certificate of appreciation from the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA).

Frerichs, who served three years as Penn Manor board



Frerichs, center, receives a commendation from, left, Penn Manor superintendent Mike Leichliter and school board president Kenneth Long.

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president, has long been involved in public education. He worked for 36 years at Millersville University, retiring in 2004 as chair of the Department of Educational Foundations. He was recently appointed by Gov. Tom Corbett to serve on Millersville's Council of Trustees and also serves as board president-elect of the Pennsylvania School Board Association. His term as president begins next year.

In honoring Frerichs and other longtime board members, PSBA president Marcela Diaz Myers praised them for their nonpaid volunteer service. "They exemplify leadership and dedication, giving unselfishly to their communities, students and the public schools," she said.

On October 12, **Dr. Jack Cassidy**, retired elementary and early childhood education, received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Literacy Education at the annual conference of the Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE). Also, the TALE Board voted to name the award in his honor. The award will now be called the "Jack Cassidy Lifetime Achievement in Literacy Education Award." Cassidy was one of the founders and the first president of TALE in 2011-2012.

At Millersville, he was responsible for starting the master's program in gifted education and the reading clinic/BEST Program, which is still in operation. Cassidy was also elected president of the International Reading Association and the Association for Literacy Education and Research (ALER - formerly the College Reading Association). In 1994, he received the IRA Special Service Award, which is given, from time to time, for unusual and distinguished service to the International Reading Association, recognizing admirable service to the organization in some specific capacity or capacities, requiring special skills, knowledge, and creative effort. In 2007, ALER gave him the A.B. Herr Award for distinguished service in reading. It recognizes a professional educator who has made outstanding contributions to the field of reading. In 2010, Cassidy was inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame, considered one of the most prestigious awards granted to those in literacy education.

Cassidy has over 100 national publications including over 50 nationally refereed journal articles, books, and book chapters. In addition, he has been an author, editor or consultant on over a dozen series of texts and materials for children and youth.

In 2011, Cassidy retired as associate dean in the College of Education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Lori Leaman, assistant to associate provost for civic engagement and events coordinator.



Lori Leaman, left, with husband Michael and son Colton

Q: Where are you from?

A: I was born and raised here in Lancaster County. My family recently moved just miles away from campus to a quiet wooded property along the Little Conestoga Creek.

Q: Do you have any children?

A: I have one amazing son, Colton, who keeps me on my toes and reminds me daily to see magic in every aspect of our world. I also have two very special nephews that I adore, Preston and Pearson.

Q: Did you attend college? If so, where and what was your major?

A: I am a 2001 Millersville University alum, and my major was art.

Q: How long have you worked at Millersville?

A: I am in my sixth year working at Millersville.

Q: Who has been your favorite speaker to work with so far?

A: We have had so many fantastic speakers, it is almost impossible to choose just one! Naomi Tutu, daughter of Desmond Tutu, was amazing to listen to and Richard Dreyfus was fun, humble, a fantastic speaker and a Hollywood icon!

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Q: How has your work at the Civic & Community Engagement & Research Project (CCERP) changed over the years?

A: CCERP has gone from a dream of Drs. Francine McNairy and Melvin Allen to a new fledgling initiative on campus to an engaging growing center!

Q: What did you do before you began working at Millersville?

A: This is my 12th year in event planning. I was previously with Sterling Financial Corporation (Bank of Lancaster County) and also at Accomac Events.

Q: What are some causes you volunteer for?

A: My nephew Preston is a juvenile diabetic, and was diagnosed at age 3. The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is doing amazing work and is a cause I wholeheartedly support. I am also on the planning committee for Mountville's Bicentennial Celebration in 2014, and that has proved to be educational and fun. I also chair their annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony for the Veteran of Foreign War Post and am active in the life and mission of my church.

Q: What is the hardest part when planning events?

A: Flight delays, rainy days, late or apathetic vendors, last minute changes or no-shows and incorrigible brides who forget the real meaning of their day.

Q: What do you enjoy about Millersville most?

A: The students! Their energy is great! I love when I get to be a part of and witness that moment when they realize that they can and will make a difference in the world!

Q: How do you want students to remember you?

A: Fun, fair, friendly and engaged in what matters.

Q: What are your interests outside of work?

A: I enjoy traveling, being with my husband Michael and our son, spending time with family, being outdoors, holidays, shopping, decorating, volunteering and yoga.

Q: If you could go anywhere on vacation, where would it be?

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A: So many choices and places on the wish list...Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island was one of my grandparents' favorite places ever, so that definitely is at the top of the list.

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

A: Patience. I have a 3-year-old who knows everything.

Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?

A: My family, definitely. Also, surprising my husband by passing my motorcycle license test.