

Millersville University Exchange

Vol XXX, Number 37
February 7, 2008

Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux - New VP of Student Affairs

President Francine G. McNairy announced the appointment of Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux as vice president for student affairs at Millersville University. She was selected after an extensive national search and will begin with the University on March 3.

Most recently, Breaux served as the dean of students at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP). In that position she served as the senior student affairs officer. She oversaw several departments and units including: Athletics and Recreation, Career Services, the Center for Community Connections, Campus Recreation, Greek Affairs, Student Health and Counseling, International Student Advising, Student Life, Multicultural Affairs, Off-campus Living, Student Conduct and Disability Services. As dean, Breaux developed and set strategic priorities for the division and participated in the leadership of the university via the senior leadership team, which includes vice presidents and deans.

“Coming to Millersville is a good fit for me at this point in my career,” said Breaux. “I’ve been in higher education for over 25 years, and I’m looking to move to a different level to broaden my horizons. Millersville will afford me a broader line of responsibilities, and I’ll be a part of the president’s cabinet. I think President McNairy is a very dynamic individual, and she was quite instrumental in my decision.”

Previously, Breaux served as the assistant provost of Drexel University in Philadelphia. In that position she provided oversight to several departments including: the Service Learning Office,

the Regional Office of the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS), the Academic Success Center, the Leadership Program, the American/Moldovan International School Linkage Program and the Philadelphia Alliance for Minority Participation Program (a National Science Foundation grant). Prior to her position as assistant provost, Breaux was director of Drexel’s Career Management Center, one of the largest experiential learning/co-operative education programs in the country.

Breaux has her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Temple University. Her master’s degree is from the University of Pennsylvania and her bachelor’s is also from Temple.



Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux

“We Have Not Forgotten”

A contingent of students and faculty from the School of Education is in New Orleans this week to present a donation to Hope Loughran, their adopted teacher, to help rebuild the school she lost in Hurricane Katrina. The campaign ran through the end of January on the Millersville campus.

Miriam Witmer, educational foundations, said eight students from the Color of Teaching program at Millersville are attending the American Association



Those attending the AACTE conference in New Orleans include mentors of the Color of Teaching program: Deighton Boyd, sophomore, social studies secondary education; Ariel Edwards, sophomore, social studies secondary education; Miriam Witmer, educational foundations; and Phalon Dow, sophomore, English.

of College Teacher Educators (AACTE) conference and as part of that trip will give the donation to Loughran, a graduate of the Conestoga Valley School District. The School of Education has been working with Loughran since soon after the hurricane.

“This is an opportunity to show our continued support and that we have not forgotten,” said Witmer. “This trip is very multi-purpose. In addition to making the donation and attending the conference, our students will be conducting research for a recruitment video for middle and high school students. We will be

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Staff Activities

Gwyn McVay, English, has been nominated by Pecan Grove Press for the 11th annual Levis Reading Prize awarded by the Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) English department. She was nominated for her book, "Ordinary Beans." The prize is awarded in memory of VCU English Department faculty member and poet Larry Levis. Judges are VCU faculty and the prize is \$1,000 and an expense-paid trip to Richmond for a reading.

Dr. Beverly Schneller, English, recently co-authored an article for Assessment Update with Dr. Dan Weinstein, Winthrop University, that has been accepted for publication this year. The article is called "The Degree Specification Project-A Case Study in Departmental Outcomes Assessment."

Dr. E. Elliott Seda, educational foundations, presented a paper titled, "Multicultural: Is it Anything, Everything, and Therefore, Nothing, or Should it be Something Different?" at the 6th annual Hawaii International Conference on Education, Jan. 6 in Honolulu.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, cantored the Christmas Vigil and Christmas Eve

High Mass at St. John's RCC for which she was also the alto soloist. Additionally in New York, she sang as an alto ringer at the Christmas Day High Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. In Vienna, she was the alto soloist at Christ Church Anglican on December 27 and an alto ringer with the Chorvereinigung St. Augustin at the Jesuitenkirche for Mozart's Mass in C on January 1 and Mozart's Kronungsmesse on January 6.

Dr. Todd D. Sikora, earth sciences, is co-author of a refereed article that appeared in the October 2007 issue of Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. The article "Use of MODIS and synthetic aperture radar wind speed imagery to describe the morphology of open cell convection," is co-authored by George S. Young and Caren M. Fisher of Penn State. In addition, Sikora is one of several co-authors of a paper given at the Polar Dynamics: Monitoring, Understanding, Predicting Open Science Conference, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway, August 2007. The paper, "Polar mesoscale cyclone SAR wind measurements," is lead authored by William Pichel of National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service.

Director of Foundation & Government Support Hired

Dr. Rene Munoz has been hired as the director of foundation & government support at Millersville University. Munoz started with the University on January 7. He was most recently an assistant professor of anthropology at Nanjing Normal



Dr. Rene Munoz

University in China. He has several years of experience in securing grants.

As director of foundation & government support, Munoz will be responsible for facilitating and securing grants and sponsored research funds from government (federal and state), foundations and corporate entities.

Munoz received his doctorate in anthropology from the University of Arizona. He has a bachelor's from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

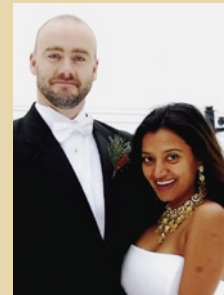
Retired Staff Activities

Dr. Dennis Denenberg, professor emeritus, elementary and early childhood, continues to present keynote addresses to conferences and conventions for corporate, teacher and parent groups. Denenberg gave four "Hooray for Heroes" presentations during January; Milford, Mass., Durango and Greeley, Colo., and Toms River, N.J. In addition, he has been appointed a special features columnist for Cobblestone Magazine, a history magazine for kids.

Changes to Information Desk

The University Telecommunications Center—formerly called the MU Information Desk—which is housed in Dilworth, is now staffed by professional dispatchers from Security Guards, Inc. The University Police department made the announcement on January 28. Security Guards, Inc., provide 24/7 coverage and service under contract for the campus community, including police and emergency dispatching, campus-wide alarm monitoring and answering the University's incoming phone lines.

Marriage



Congratulations to Dr. Nazli Mollah, computer science, and Dr. Christopher Hardy, biology, who were married on January 5.

The couple honeymooned in Breckenridge, Colo.

The Exchange is published for employees of Millersville University of Pennsylvania on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Send news to the Office of University Communications & Marketing, Duncan Alumni House; email: UCM@millersville.edu or call ext. 3586.

Editor: Janet Kacsos; Graphic Designer: Diane Tothero. Student Writers: Sarah Harper and Lindsey Tomao.

Current and past issues of the Exchange are available online at www.millersville.edu/~ucm/.

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Obituaries

Dr. Steven R. Centola, English, died on January 9. He started with Millersville in 1985 and was considered an international expert on Arthur Miller. Centola was the author of over 20 published articles, served as the editor of four volumes of the collected essays

of Arthur Miller and of essays on Arthur Miller. He is survived by his wife, Sue, and children Paula, Tamara and Devon.

Dr. Mary Ellen Smith Meiser, 96, died on January 6 in Maryland. She worked as a part-time physician at then Millersville State College from 1955 to 1977.

Season *continued from page 1*

getting personal stories of educators who are people of color. Once we get back, we hope to add footage of key people from Millersville. We are partnering with the communication department on the video production.”

Witmer says the AACTE conference, Feb. 6-10, is a prestigious, national conference. The trip is made possible by funding from the Office of Social Equity and the Office of Graduate Studies and Student Research.

Reports Available

The updated Fast Facts brochure and the 2008 Community Impact Report are now available. Fast Facts is a small tri-fold piece with facts ranging from the number of students to the cost of tuition. The Community Impact Report is a 10-page legal size document that shows how Millersville University impacts the entire region.

For copies, please email Deb Miller in UC&M at dmiller@millersville.edu.

Innovative Homepage

Millersville University's new homepage went live January 28. The initial roll-out includes about 100 targeted pages, with more “going live” every month. According to Danilo Yabut, university communications & marketing, “The first wave includes a new calendar, news, admissions, current student, search function, and index. After that, we'll be rolling out new departmental websites every month for the foreseeable future. Plus, we will continue to accept user feedback and make adjustments from those comments.”

It's Daffodil Time



The Millersville University Business Associates (MUBA) will sponsor the American Cancer Society's 2008 “Daffodil Days” again this year on campus. Faculty and staff who would like to participate can place orders through any MUBA member or by contacting Anna Stauffer at astauffer@millersville.edu or #3041. Order deadline date is February 14. Campus delivery is Wed., March 26.

Professor Emeritus Enlists Faculty to Write Encyclopedia

From the Marx Brothers to Bea Arthur, Larry King and Norman Lear, the second encyclopedia on Jewish-American history and culture will feature a wide array of personalities who have contributed to the American popular culture experience. It will also cover everything from food and cooking to fashion and sports.

Millersville professor emeritus Dr. Jack Fischel is editing the encyclopedia for Greenwood Press. He and Sanford Pinsker also edited the 1992 “Jewish-American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia.”

“This next encyclopedia is a potpourri of personalities,” said Fischel. “Did you know that Superman, Batman and Spiderman were all created by Jewish cartoonists? Did you know that many of Elvis Presley's songs were written by Jewish songwriters? Those cartoonists and songwriters and other notables from literature and the sitcoms will be featured in this new encyclopedia.”

Fischel is finding writers for the encyclopedia from across the United States, including right here on campus. Dr. Leroy Hopkins, foreign languages, Dr. Jill Craven and Dr. Alan Kelly both from English; Dr. Jeffrey N. Cartwright, communication & theatre; and Dr. John McLarnon, history, are just a few who have been enlisted to write essays. Susan Ortmann, history, is the

managing editor of the encyclopedia.

Hopkins wrote articles on Jack Benny, Al Capp and Peter Falk. “I volunteered because I have long been a fan of Jack Benny and appreciate the artistry of Peter Falk,” said Hopkins. “I agreed to do an article on Capp because I remember him coming to Harvard when I was there and I always read Lil' Abner.”

Craven is working on the Marx Brothers and director Sidney Lumet.

“When I was a kid, I always watched the Marx Brothers' films with my family,” said Craven. “I loved Groucho's quick wit, Harpo's wild antics and Chico's off-hand remarks. Their challenging, fast-paced, irreverent comedic style kept spectators engaged—both in thinking and laughing. As a kid, the Marx Brothers' Scrapbook was the first book on film that I owned—so it's been fun to research them again, a couple decades later.”

McLarnon said he wrote a piece on Joseph Heller (author of “Catch 22”), because Fischel asked him, “Jack was the chair of history when I started here in 1999. He became my mentor...and we became friends as well as colleagues. So when he asked me to write a piece, I took it as a compliment and because there are few things I would not do for him.”

The 200,000-word encyclopedia is due to Greenwood Press in May, with publication expected by the end of 2008.

Millersville visits Puerto Rico



A contingent from Millersville University traveled to Puerto Rico in January to visit with partner university, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. Pictured left to right are Dr. Norma Rivera-Hernandez, global partnerships; Dr. Alex DeCaria, earth sciences; Dr. Ajoy Kumar, earth sciences and Dr. Kirsten Bookmiller, global partnerships. The photo was taken by Dr. Doyin Coker-Kolo, School of Education.

Dr. Norma Rivera-Hernandez has been named the interim director for the Office of Global Education and Partnerships for the spring 2008 semester while Dr. Kirsten Bookmiller is on sabbatical.

Who Makes Millersville Special?

Our spotlight faculty member for “Who Makes Millersville Special” is Dr. Carole M. Counihan, anthropology. Counihan has her bachelor’s in history from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Q. You have been active in anthropology, gender and food studies for over two decades. How did you get involved in this line of work?

A. My time abroad in Italy helped me get into anthropology and food studies. I studied abroad in Florence when I was an undergraduate, but I went back to Italy afterwards. When I was in Italy for the second time, I traveled with my boyfriend to Sardinia. I became fascinated with the people, the island and the lifestyles. As I was getting into graduate school, the “second wave feminism” movement was becoming an increasing concern in academic circles. I realized food was a great way to study culture and women because food is an important part of women’s work. Women are food to the developing fetus and women are very tied up with food, such as for cooking, shopping and feeding their families.

Q. You said in one of your syllabi that “foodways are embedded in culture and reveal significant social relations, power structures, and meaning systems.” Could you expand on this?

A. The giving and receiving of food and eating together are really fundamental in establishing social relations. The power side of it deals with the power to give and withhold food. The meaning system shows the habits and values surrounding food.

Q. Where did this love of food stem from?

A. I love to eat and that love expanded when I went to Italy because the food is so good there.

Q. What exactly is ethnographic research and what have you done so far?

A. Ethnographic research is long-term, in-depth studies of other cultures. Research is obtained mainly through interviews and participant observations.

Q. You recently wrote a book called “Around the Tuscan Table.” What is this book about?

A. The book is about food, family and gender in 20th century Florence. It also deals with food production, distribution and consumption.

Q. What were some of your highlights during your travels to Italy?

A. I have spent six years in Italy altogether. The Duomo in Florence is a cathedral and is an extraordinary architectural marvel. The natural beauty of Sardinia is breathtaking with its gorgeous beaches. Lately, I have been



Dr. Carole Counihan

spending time in Parma, which is off the tourist track, and it has been fun to discover.

Q. You are currently doing a long-term life history project on food and gender identity in a Mexicano community in Colorado’s San Luis Valley. What have you found so far during your studies?

A. The project started because of family concerns; my husband is also an anthropologist. We both wanted to do ethnographic field work so we needed to work in an area where we both knew the language. It is a Mexican-American community, which helped my husband’s longstanding interest in Mexico. We have two young children, and it was an easy place to go with the kids. I am studying women, food and the changes of experience of food over time. It is a very different cultural setting than Italy.

Q. You are on the editorial advisory board of *Slow: The Journal of the International Slow Food Movement*. What exactly is the slow food movement?

A. Unfortunately, the magazine may stop printing soon, but it has been fun writing for them. The “Slow” movement is for good, clean and fair food. They want to promote really tasty local artisan food (produced by small producers with loving care), food without pesticides and herbicides and food that has grown sustainably.

Q. What do you think food says about a culture?

A. Everything! It cuts into the environment, tastes and family.

Q. How many books have you written? Do you have a favorite?

A. I have written two books, “Anthropology of Food and Body” and “Around the Tuscan Table.” I have edited three books and am currently writing a book on my research in Colorado. “Around the Tuscan Table” is my favorite – it is close to my heart.

Q. Are there any other places you have traveled to?

A. I have done a grand tour of Europe. I have been traveling through Mexico as well. I have also been teaching as a visiting professor at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Parma, Italy. I teach a tough intensive one-week course for a master’s program there.

Q. How do students usually respond to your classes?

A. I love to teach and I really enjoy working with students on this topic. They keep coming back to my classes, which is a good thing. What I think is really special about anthropology is that students get to do their own field work projects. It is different than going to the library because they get to go out and interview people and do observations.

Q. What other projects would you like to work on in the future?

A. I would like to go back to Italy and do a restudy of the family in “Around the Tuscan Table.” I did the bulk of the work in the 1980s, so it has been 30 years. It is a new generation, and I want to find out what is going on now in Italy.

Q. I’m sure everyone wants to know what is your favorite food?

A. It actually depends on when you catch me. I love chocolate but I would not want to live on it. Of course, I love pasta with a good tomato garlic sauce. I love pasta because it is really easy to make. I also love salad; nothing better than fresh greens.

Q. Do you have any other hobbies?

A. I love to read fiction, watch movies, garden and swim. I also love everything about the ocean, such as sailing and swimming. Oh, and cooking of course.

Q. With all your responsibilities, what is essential to get through your day?

A. Definitely enough sleep and a good meal.

Q. What is your life philosophy?

A. Keep at it! I believe in redemption and perseverance.

Q. What is your favorite holiday to cook for?

A. Thanksgiving!