

Millersville University Exchange

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NSF Grant Funds Scholarships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Millersville University's School of Science and Mathematics a grant of \$584,980 for a project titled "Building the Future: Improving Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented and Financially Disadvantaged Science and Math Students." Dr. LaVern Whisenton-Davidson, biology, will direct the initiative.

The project will "provide scholarships to underrepresented and financially disadvantaged students who major in an area of science (biology, chemistry, earth science, computer science, physics) or mathematics," explained Whisenton-Davidson.

Twenty-eight or more scholarships will be awarded over five years for financially disadvantaged students. Each student will receive up to \$5,000 annually. At least half of the awards are designated for underrepresented students. Other support structures include peer mentoring, living learning communities, and a workshop series that develops academic skills, explores career options, and prepares students for placement after graduation.

"I think this will be a way to get more underrepresented groups into the various areas of science and mathematics," Whisenton-Davidson stated. "I hope this grant will allow other individuals to get 'hooked on science.'"



Dr. Whisenton-Davidson

204 Alumni Work at Millersville

Millersville alumni are everywhere—including right here at the University. In fact, 204 grads are currently employed as faculty, staff and administrators.

"Those alumni who graduate and come back to work on campus help spread the good news about Millersville around their hometowns and communities," said Dianne O'Connor, alumni services. "It is a wonderful testimony to the deep feelings of pride and loyalty alumni have toward their alma mater. These employees are choosing to give back because they received an education second to none and left with unforgettable memories."

Even those who are not alumni show enthusiasm for their work at Millersville University. Not an alumnus herself, O'Connor exclaims "After working here, you quickly come to love this place and feel like it is your own alma mater!"

Dr. Christine Gaudry-Hudson, foreign languages, rides her scooter to work. It's an environmentally sound way to get around – and fun.

Save Gas and Money

With the changes in today's economy everybody is trying to save money, especially on gas. "Higher gas and oil prices do have an impact on the economy in that people have to adjust their budgets and spending," said Dr. Mike Gumpfer, economics. "Also higher gas prices have, and will, continue to put pressure on other prices given that gas and oil are used as inputs into the production of so many products."

Here are five tips to save money and gas (source: howtoadvice.com):

1. Avoid warming up your engine, even on cold mornings. After 30 seconds, you're just burning fuel.
2. Avoid topping off while filling up. Usually the first "click" is more than enough.
3. Make sure your car gets regular tune-ups, along with tire checks. It will run better, use less gas and save money in the future.
4. Before you fill up, check for prices on the web. There are dozens of sites dedicated to finding the cheapest places in your area to buy gas.
5. Walk. Run. Jog.

It is important to remember that in the long run the economy works to naturally balance itself out. Gumpfer says, "Higher gas prices increase opportunities for

substitute goods and encourage innovation in technology. New technology equals more jobs, more profits and more money back into the economy." Gumpfer also believes that "markets for more fuel efficient transportation alternatives and markets for alternative energy are taking off."

So, put down the car keys and lace up your walking sneakers – especially around Millersville's beautiful campus.



Staff Activities

Dr. Nadine Garner, psychology, and Laura May, graduate student in the school counseling M.Ed./certification program, presented a two-hour workshop, entitled, "Creative Scaling Techniques: How to Collect Data without Even Trying" at the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association Conference in April.

Dwight Horsey, financial aid, is serving as president of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) this year. He recently attended the Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference in Portland, Maine. In addition, Horsey wrote a letter for the summer 2008 PASFAA newsletter regarding the state of financial aid.

Retired Staff

Dr. Dennis Denenberg, emeritus, has built on his work as co-author of the award-winning children's nonfiction book "50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet" to become a guest columnist for the children's history magazine "Cobblestone." Denenberg's column debuted in the July-August issue of the magazine, which is focused on U.S. presidents.

Shehan Named Head Baseball Coach

Jon Shehan '06 led the Millersville baseball team to a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Eastern Division title as the interim head coach in 2008, and on July 31, athletic director Peg Kauffman announced that Shehan has been named head coach.

"Jon did an outstanding job as the interim coach," Kauffman stated. "It was clear that he was the best fit, and we are really excited to have him as the leader of the baseball program."

Shehan, a former Millersville catcher was named PSAC Eastern Division Coach of the Year during his first season. Under his direction, the Marauders improved by 15 victories, finishing 24-26 overall and 12-8 in the division after going 9-37 the previous year. Millersville won its first division championship in eight seasons and made its first PSAC Tournament appearance since 2000. The 24 victories were the most of any first-year head coach in school history, and he became the only coach in Millersville's 112 years of baseball to win a divisional title in his first season.

"He's already proven himself to be an

excellent coach and leader on and off the field," Kauffman said. "He relates to the student-athletes, and they have responded to him. We are fortunate to have such a young, enthusiastic coach that is also a



Coach Jon Shehan

proud Millersville alum."

Prior to 2008, Shehan served as an assistant coach for two seasons. As a player, Shehan hit .328 during his four-year career at Millersville. He is currently working toward a master's degree in sport management at Millersville.

Understanding First-Year Students—and Their Parents

In June at the First-Year Experience International Conference in Dublin, Ireland, Dr. Ralph "Doc" Anttonen, academic and student development, and Judy "Mama" Anttonen discussed "A Positive Role in First-Year Students," the idea of "helicopter parents" and the role they play in their child's lives as first-year college students.

Anttonen believes that there are several possible reasons for the emergence of helicopter parents. He believes they could be acting from "guilt or regret" from being too busy when their offspring were growing up.

"Parents have a hard time letting go during their child's first year because public school enables parents to have so much control over day-to-day life," said the Anttonens. "Public school enables parents by giving up-to-the-minute access to things such as grades, activities, calendars, progress reports and course outlines. In college, materials are not as accessible for parents. They are virtually impossible to see without the students' knowledge and signature, and even then only allows them to see certain things."

"There are many situations that deal with college life that parents may want to intervene on," said the Anttonens. "They include housing/roommate issues, class

scheduling, grade challenges and issues with class attendance." These are concerns that without a doubt almost all first-year students will have to deal with. But these same concerns can be handled without parental help.

This is not to say that students shouldn't look to their parents for help, but rather, students should begin to help themselves, including solving some of their own problems.

Anttonen recommends that parents connect with their child's Parent's Association if their college/university has one, create helpful campus partnerships to address parental concerns/complaints and issues, and understand the campus culture. He also



Dr. Ralph Anttonen

suggests making contact with other parents during summer orientation and using parent handbooks, calendars, newsletters and web sites to their advantage.

The Anttonens made the presentation with Dr. Douglas Zatechka from the University of Nebraska.

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: janet.kacskos@millersville.edu or call ext. 3586.

Editor: Janet Kacskos; Graphic Designer: Diane Tothero '82. Student Writers: Jenna Gerstenblith, Peter Taraborelli and Lauren Thompson; Student Photographer: Nadine Kern.

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

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Child Soldier to Inspirational Writer/Lecturer

Ishmeal Beah's book, "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," is being read this summer by Millersville University's incoming freshman. The book is based on Beah's years



Ishmeal Beah

as a child soldier in Sierra Leone. He was orphaned by the civil war and was carrying a gun by age 12.

Beah will be on campus to give the Hazel I. Jackson and Kenderdine lectures on September 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Lyte Auditorium. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Beah was eventually released by the army and moved to a UNICEF rehabilitation center in the United States in 1998. He finished his last two years of high school in New York at the United Nations International School and received his bachelor's degree in political science at Oberlin College in 2004.

Beah is now a member of the Human Rights Watch Children's Rights Division Advisory Committee and has spoken before the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations and a handful of other panels that deal with children affected by war.

The lecture is sponsored by Millersville University Commission on Cultural Diversity, Lancaster League of Women Voters, Black Culture Celebration, Cultural Affairs, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Common Reading Program and University Theme.

Special Events Service Request Form

New to the Millersville University website is the special events request form, which can be found under the Special Events link, at www.millersville.edu/~muevents/.

Anyone who needs University special event services is requested to use this form. The online version of the service request form will help maximize coordination and organization of special events.

Sarah Vanderslice Garden



Located behind Reighard Hall near the wellness apartments, the Sarah N. Vanderslice garden consists of flowers such as daylilies and rudbeckia, and a seating area surrounded by inkberry holly, winterberry and cotoneaster. Dedicated in honor of Sarah "Sally" Vanderslice, a member of the board of directors for Student Services, Inc., since 1996, and a former member of the Council of Trustees from 1982-1997, it is a perfect place to kick back and relax.

Welcome Center Grabs Attention

Millersville University's new Welcome Center is hitting all the right spots. With new Macintosh computers and a flat screen television with scrolling marquee, the center has many upgrades to help prospective students get acquainted with the University. Computers are located both in the lobby and in the lounge. The lobby computers may be used by any student, but the two in the lounge are reserved for prospective students visiting Millersville.

The center's television presents Millersville trivia. It also has a tour guide feature which displays a photo and gives a brief biography on each guide, helping future students get to know their tour guide even before they set out to explore the campus. Scrolling at the bottom of the screen is a marquee that gives information on current happenings at the University, such as lectures or trips. A customized message can also scroll at the bottom of the TV, welcoming visitors by name or by group, which further personalizes the experience.

Students are welcomed in many different ways, whether it is the visual aesthetics



that grab their attention, or the customized technology applications.

The goal of the center is to "present a personalized and welcoming environment. The sofas and chairs in the lounge are set up in conversational 'pods' which encourage future Millersville families to talk with one another," said Elizabeth Braungard, communications and marketing.

"Welcoming future students and their families with light refreshments and professionally attired tour guides sporting black and gold, the Welcome Center presents a powerful first impression that is second to none," said Braungard.

Who Makes Millersville Special?

Our spotlight staff member for “Who Makes Millersville Special” is Mark Duncan, director of campaign giving. Duncan resides in Millersville with his wife and two sons.

Q: Where did you complete your schooling?

A: I graduated from Rowan University (Glassboro State College at the time) with a degree in communications in 1989. I have the equivalent of a music minor. I began as a music education major and changed after two years.

Q: What was the most rewarding part of finishing school?

A: The look of pride on my father’s face at graduation.

Q: What was the most significant life lesson you learned when you finished school or while you were in school?

A: Tenacity and patience... You have to believe that you are always in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. Everything you want will come in time.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A: Seeing the students and faculty benefitting from dollars we raise. This is a people business and that is what “sells” when donors commit to investing in the University.

Q: What are some of the work responsibilities you have?

A: My key responsibility is managing the day-to-day operation of the current capital campaign. I also have a portfolio of 150+ donors and prospects. I’m responsible for building relationships on behalf of the University with hopes that they will “invest” in our present and future students.



Mark Duncan

Q: How difficult is it to raise money for the University?

A: Raising money is always a challenge but it is not difficult to sell a quality institution such as Millersville. Like any “product,” you have to believe in it before you can convince someone to invest in it.

Q: How do you go about engaging people so that they want to give?

A: Part of our job is to build relationships. We engage prospects by matching their interests with what the University has to offer students. We then try to get them involved by attending events, volunteering on committees and interacting with students. Many become very attached to our mission and want to do what they can to support the University.

Q: What is your favorite sports team and why?

A: The New York Giants. I am a proud native of New Jersey (a.k.a. the Promise Land or the Land of Milk and Honey). I have been a Giants fan my entire life.

Q: What is your favorite time of year?

A: Spring/summer. I don’t care for cold weather at all.

Q: What are some of your hobbies or interests?

A: I absolutely love creating and listening to music, jazz in particular. Music has been a huge part of my life since the 3rd grade. I also enjoy basketball, golf (well, I make an attempt to play) and dancing.

Q: If you would sit down with anyone and pick their brain, who would it be and why?

A: There are two people I would talk to together: Barack Obama and Cory Booker. Cory Booker is the current mayor of Newark, N.J. He is not well-known nationally but he will be. He is extremely bright and has a very promising future as a world leader. I have read one of Barack Obama’s books and I would just love to talk to him about education and the things that inspired him to achieve his goals.

Q: What was the best piece of advice that you received?

A: Always gravitate towards the things that inspire you to be your best.

Q: If you could change one thing in the world what would it be and why?

A: I would totally eliminate all forms of racism. The fact that it still exists on many levels from all sides is simply absurd in a world that is so progressive.

Q: What is your favorite animal?

A: Dogs. We got a puppy this past fall. His name is Brody, and we enjoy him very much.

Q: What was the most influential event that has happened to you?

A: Winning the football state championship in high school. That experience provided me with a great deal of confidence, patience and determination today.

Q: What is your life motto?

A: The Platinum Rule: Do unto others as THEY would have you do unto them.

Q: Where did you meet your wife?

A: My wife Chris and I met over 25 years ago at Camp Johnsonburg in New Jersey. We were just friends when we worked at camp. We lost touch for about 10 years but always knew about each other through mutual friends. We reunited at an event at camp in the fall of 1991. From that point forward, we spent a lot of time together as friends. One day in February 1992, she asked me to accompany her to visit a very dear friend of hers who was dying from cancer. We had a wonderful visit. Before we left her, without my knowing, Rhonda whispered to Chris, “You’re going to marry him.” Now, we weren’t even dating! The next day I literally woke up and realized I was in love with Chris. We began dating a few weeks after. I proposed at Camp Johnsonburg and we were married in 1994. We take our children to Johnsonburg on vacation every summer. It is a very special place to the Duncan family.

Travel Programs Destinations

For more information call #2308 or email: specialevents@millersville.edu

NEW YORK CITY

- Sept. 28 - “Young Frankenstein”
- Dec. 6 - Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show

HERSHEY PARK TICKETS - \$25 & \$35

Alumni & Friends

State System

Reservations/info available at #3352 or 5628. Or visit: www.alumnivacations.com, click on Millersville.

- Canary Islands & Casablanca/Morocco Cruise Dec. 10-21
- Southern Caribbean Cruise Jan. 25-Feb. 1, 2009
- Windmills/Tulips River Cruise Apr. 7-17