

Millersville University Exchange

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New Hours this Fall for Health Center

The Health Center will reduce its hours for the fall semester, based on the recommendations of a student-centered task force. The facility has been difficult to maintain 24/7, and the death of medical director Dr. James Heffern earlier this year exacerbated the situation. Hours of operation this fall will be 8 a.m. – 9 p.m., Monday – Friday; 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday; and closed on Sunday.

“This wasn’t an easy decision, but a necessary one,” explained Dr. Aminta Breaux, vice president of student affairs. “Our primary goal is to meet a high standard of care. The loss of our medical director and staffing issues, limiting overnight coverage to one unassisted nurse, made it necessary to take some corrective measures.”

During the fall semester, the task force will hold focus groups with students to decide on the best course for the future. “We want to know what the students think is the best option,” said Breaux. “One possibility would be to continue the reduction of hours on a

permanent basis. Another option would be to increase student fees to move back to the 24/7 operation.”

“In light of Dr. Heffern’s passing, Health Services needs to reduce hours for the fall semester to continue the standard of care,” said Shannon Farrelly, student senate president and member of the task force. “This semester will be used to collect feedback from students to meet their needs as we move forward with the future of Health Services.”

Millersville is one of only three schools in PASSHE with 24/7 coverage at its health facility. With several medical facilities within five miles of campus, the task force recommended to move in the direction that many universities and colleges across the nation have taken and reduce hours.

There will be no layoffs with the reduction in hours. Instead, there will be more nurses available during the day. In addition, Health Services will begin to schedule appointments in order to better serve students.

Upcoming Athletic Events

The Millersville University women’s basketball team will hold its third annual Lady Marauder Basketball Golf Tournament at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center on Sept. 19. For more information, contact Mary Fleig at #3706 or mfleig@millersville.edu.

HOME GAMES

August 31

Women’s Soccer vs. Philadelphia

September 2

Volleyball vs. Shippensburg

September 5

Volleyball vs. West Chester
Volleyball vs. Dowling
Women’s Soccer vs. Concord

September 6

Football vs. Slippery Rock
Cross Country Alumni Open
Field Hockey vs. C.W. Post
Men’s Soccer vs. Molloy (Youth Night)
Volleyball vs. Wilmington

New Desert Garden Blooms

In an effort to showcase the wonderful world of desert-adapted plants, Millersville University botanists and botanical enthusiasts recently planted a desert garden in the courtyard between Roddy and Caputo Halls, just outside the glass wall of the lecture hall in Caputo 210.

Plantings include prickly pear and columnar cacti, as well as a pony-tail palm, agave, aloe, euphorbia and jade plants. A layer of cocoa shell mulch adds a deep contrast to the plants. The garden was designed by campus gardener Pat Goldbach and Dr. Chris Hardy, biology. Dr. Nazli Hardy, computer science, Dr. Ryan Wagner, biology, and biology student John Brakeall all rolled up their sleeves to help during the planting process.



Staff Activities

Dr. Robert Carballo, English, recently had his essay "Chaos and Order in 'King Lear': Shakespeare's Organic Conceptions of Nature and Man" published. The essay appears as part of "King Lear" in the Ignatius Critical Edition Series edited by Joseph Pearce and published by Ignatius Press of San Francisco. This is a new series of scholarly editions of major works of Western literature that features the annotated text and at least nine critical essays divided between classical and contemporary interpretations.

Dr. Dominique Didier Dagit, biology, recently published two papers describing five new species of fish. That brings to 12 the number of species she has named in the Order Chimaeriformes, which is 30% of the total species in the order. The first paper was

on two new species of the genus *Hydrolagus* from Australia and the second paper was on three new species of the genus *Chimaera* from Australia. Both papers have been published in a new volume entitled, "Descriptions of New Australian Chondrichthyans," published by CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research.

Deb Miller, communications & marketing, served on the appeals committee at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) International Convention, July 28-August 1 in San Francisco. In addition, **Donna Gochnauer** and **Aldine Owens**, housekeeping, attended the international convention with Miller, representing Millersville University Local 2421.

Athletics Department Ramps Up



Anthony Grant

Steve Roach and Anthony Grant have been hired as associate directors of athletics at Millersville. Athletic Director Peg Kauffman made the announcement in July. Roach's primary focus will be compliance and Grant will serve as the department's academic coordinator.

It is the first time in the history of the Millersville athletic department that the administrative structure will include two such positions. The second associate position was created following a recommendation by the Blue Ribbon Task Force that also suggested the merging of the then-separate men's and women's athletic departments into one.

"With the restructuring of the athletic department, there became a need to create another position," said Kauffman. "Compliance and academic coordinating are very demanding areas and require a high level of expertise."

In addition to their primary responsibilities, Roach and Grant will also be involved with game management and budget and will have interaction with programs such as the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC), the Black & Gold Club and CHAMPS/Life Skills.

Roach had been serving as the interim associate director of athletics at Millersville since September of 2007. He received his bachelor's degree from Indiana (Pa.) in 2001, and in 2005 he received his master's degree in sport management from Slippery Rock, where he also served as a graduate assistant in the athletics department. Prior to coming to Millersville, he spent two years as the assistant athletic director of compliance and facilities.

Grant comes to Millersville from the University of Iowa where he worked as the athletic student services academic coordinator since 2006. He also served as



Steve Roach

an athletics department intern in 2004-05 and a teaching assistant in the department of health and sports studies from 2003-05. Grant also worked as the athletic facility supervisor at St. Joseph's University while earning a master's degree in sport and recreation administration from Temple University in 2003. He completed his bachelor's degree in English from Penn State in 2000 and is scheduled to receive a Ph.D. in athletics administration from Iowa in December.

Aviles New Associate Director of Admissions

Dr. Jose Aviles has been hired at Millersville University as the new associate director of admissions.

Aviles says he is excited to work for "one of the very best public institutions in the Northeast." Aviles has his bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as an Ed.D. in educational leadership all



Dr. Jose Aviles

from Rowan University. He explains that after his interview at Millersville, he knew Dr. Douglas Zander, admissions, was someone he would like to work with, due to his commitment to education.

Prior to Millersville, Aviles worked for admissions at LaSalle University, Swarthmore College and Rowan University. At Millersville, Aviles will help craft each incoming class for the University, and help students and their families move fluidly through the admissions process.

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 Tothoro. Student Writers: Jenna Gerstenblith, Peter Taraborelli and Lauren Thompson.

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

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From New York To Millersville (and every stage in-between)

He's worked on sets and designed costumes for hundreds of productions ranging from "A Christmas Carol" to "Winter's Tale." He has taught at a variety

of institutions ranging from Albright College to Pennsylvania School of Art and Design. He serves on the board of directors for Ephrata Performing Arts Center (he designed the set for the recent production of



Victor Capece

"The Women") and is currently one of the featured artists in the traveling show, "15/15." He was the producing director of American Music Theatre and has served as the theatre design advisor for the School District of Lancaster for the past four years. He also owns "Renn-Art Associates" and was the technical director at Theatre Harrisburg.

And now, with more than 30 years of experience in all aspects of theatre, fine arts and arts in education, Victor Capece can add faculty member and technical director at Millersville University to his extensive resume.

"I started out as an actor/singer/magician," said Capece. "While I gave up being a magician early on, it really underlies all that I do. Scene changes are magical to audiences. Costumes can be magical. Actors, designers and magicians play off of audience assumptions. They take into consideration how the audience is perceiving what you're doing. They know what knowledge the audience generally has and they work with that information."

With a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Ithaca College and a master's degree in fine arts from Yale School of Drama, Capece was a member of United Scenic Artists from 1975-1998 working on the movie set for "Ghostbusters" and the TV show, "Saturday Night Live."

He served as an adjunct faculty member at Millersville before being hired full time.

This year at Millersville, Capece will be working on "Italian American Reconciliation" by John Patrick Shanley with performances during November; "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," by William Shakespeare with performances in February and "The Shape of Things" by Neil LaBute, which will be performed during March and April.

University Prints Green

University Services at Millersville is working to become more environmentally friendly. With the addition of a new, high-performance, chemical-free computer-to-plate (CTP) machine, the printing area will no longer need to deal with irritating odors or noxious chemicals.



Nicole Hoffman works on the new chemical-free computer-to-plate processor.

Instead, the new machine is water-based and the only by-product is carbon, which can actually be used as a garden fertilizer.

The CTP uses high-intensity thermal lasers to etch an image onto a thin sheet of aluminum. The sheet is then placed on a printing press roller where it will be coated with one color of ink and rolled across a sheet of paper. The new machine replaces an older one that used several chemicals that required copious ventilation and had a tendency to stain the user's hands a deep shade of purple if they did not wear proper protective apparel. It was also necessary to keep the old machine in the dark because light could damage the developing process of the plates.

"The old machine was slightly bigger, and it cost a lot more to run and maintain," said Ken Dearstynne, finance and administration. "It is a big step that we can install this new machine, knock down some walls that are no longer needed and not have to make any special arrangements to remove these chemicals."

"We are also looking into substituting the

inks we currently use," said Marlin Keim, University Services. "It will take awhile, but, hopefully next year all of our inks will be plant-based and all other chemicals, cleaning products, etc., will be environmentally friendly."

Barbara Buchanan, University Services, explains, "We are trying to become Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified, which means that we have made a commitment to working toward conservation and toward helping our environment in everything that we do. This will allow us to place the logo of the elite certification on all of our documents, projects, envelopes and everything else that we do."

Under Construction

Major capital construction projects are coming to a close in preparation for the fall semester.

The faculty of Stayer Hall now have a parking lot located beside their building on the site of several old tennis courts. The students who will be housed in Bard and Gilbert halls will walk on new floors and will see improvements in their bathrooms completing the second phase



in a multi-year renovation plan.

At Pucillo Gymnasium, the air handling units have been upgraded, the gym's floor was repainted and the entire roof replaced. Several new light towers have been installed

to illuminate evening games at the women's softball field.

"It has been a rough summer with quite a few bumps in the road. Rain, heat and bad soil have slowed down some of the projects, but the progress has still been significant," said Arthur Dickinson, capital construction, contracting and design. "All of these improvements will be open and ready for the academic year."

In the Student Memorial Center, the handball court has been renovated into a new cardio-fitness room. "We turned handball courts into a state-of-the-art cardio room with all new machinery," said Geoff Beers, Student Memorial Center. "We also added five plasma televisions and a theater system that allows the occupants to plug in their headphones and tune into whichever television that they want."

Finally, in Lyle Hall the new Millersville University Welcome Center is greeting guests and future alumni with open arms.

Who Makes Millersville Special?

This edition of “Who Makes Millersville Special” features Miriam Witmer. Witmer has been at Millersville for seven years in the School of Education. She is an adjunct professor and supervises student teachers. Witmer has her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Millersville.

Q. Where were you born?

A. Rochester, New York.

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I moved around a lot. Most of my life was spent in the Harrisburg area.

Q. What do you believe is your most significant contribution to Millersville?

A. What I can bring to the students—how I can help them. I really want to promote the students’ education and professionalism. In 2004, I took students to Mexico for an international study concerning parental involvement in education. The students really benefited from our four days of research there. Those two students, Jeffrey Cox and Jennifer Frederick, then used that research to help create a summer workshop here at Millersville. I also mentor two young women in the Millersville Mentoring Alliance Program (MMAP) and that is very satisfying. They help to keep me in touch with the student perspective. I learn so much from them and only hope that I am helping them be successful. Finally, directing the Color of Teaching Mentoring Program has allowed me to work directly with students of color who are education majors. Last February, we presented our program at an international education conference (AACTE) in New Orleans. I am happy to help students reach their professional goals. Q. Tell us about your involvement with the Color of Teaching.

A. The Color of Teaching initiative started four years ago with a PASSHE grant secured by Dr. Sandy Deemer. One big component of the program is to mentor students of color who are education majors. In turn, they mentor middle school and high school students of color who are interested in a career in education. We have grown from three mentors in 2003 to 22 trained mentors today. Some of the graduates of our program are now teaching in the community. We have been involved in the high schools locally, and this year we want to support the middle school level.

Q. What skills do you feel the Color of Teaching program provides students?

A. They certainly get the opportunity to improve their interpersonal skills. Teaching is such an interpersonal profession. The students tell me they also get a sense of community—they are all students of color, all facing similar issues. They are really able



Miriam Witmer

to bond when they reach out to high school students. Even though they’re very close in age, our college students are seen as the mentors to the high school students. It helps our Millersville students mature and develop into teachers. I hope they also find the program to be supportive of their personal and professional goals.

Q. How did you get into teaching?

A. My Aunt Bonnie Bentz was my teaching inspiration. Also, when I was 15, I went on a mission trip to Mexico. I tried to teach the kids the song, “Jesus Loves Me” in English. After I worked with them and they actually sang the song to all of us at the end of the trip, I cried. It was awesome; that was my first teaching moment. I’ve had the teaching bug ever since.

Q. What other organizations and committees are you involved in?

A. I am president of “Celebration for Life,” a fundraising group for cancer-related research, education and support services. The group started with my husband and me, along with two of our friends, after a mutual friend was diagnosed with cancer. We held an auction and then donated the money raised to the American Cancer Society in his name. Every year we pick a guest of honor who is a cancer survivor. We just celebrated our eighth year and have donated more than \$100,000 dollars to research, education and support. We also have a golf tournament each year, and we sell raffle tickets for our

exclusive “Circle of Hope” pendant. People can find out more about the organization by visiting our website at www.c4life.org.

Q. What pushes you / motivates you?

A. People on all different levels.

Q. How do you motivate your students?

A. I try to be real. I taught English for 16 years in a public school (Lampeter-Strasburg High School) and I bring those stories into the university setting. I encourage the students not to be mediocre.

Q. Why did you move from teaching in the public schools to the university level?

A. I had our daughter and didn’t want to work full-time any more. Dr. Rich Frerichs (retired Millersville administrator) was very supportive and opened the door for me here.

Q. What is your favorite thing to do to relax?

A. Sit on the beach and read a good book. My favorite book growing up was “To Kill A Mockingbird.” My two favorite recent books are “Kite Runner” and “DaVinci Code.”

Q. Who has had the largest impact on your life?

A. My 9-year-old daughter, Marissa Janai. Once I had a child, I had to be a better person. Children watch everything you do. She encourages me to be careful, to be gentle in the world.

Q. Do you have a favorite vacation place?

A. The Riviera Maya, Mexico. I love it. I’m really a warm weather person.

Q. Do you have any pets?

A. A lovable yellow lab named Teddy.

A Green Exchange

Have you signed up to receive the Exchange electronically? It’s not too late! Advantages of the online version include being the first to receive it (at least one day ahead of the printed version) and helping to reduce costs for mailing and printing. It is also an environmentally friendly way to read it.

Anyone who would like to receive the Exchange electronically should send an email to Janet Kacskos at janet.kacskos@millersville.edu.