

Millersville University Exchange

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Exchange Is Going Green

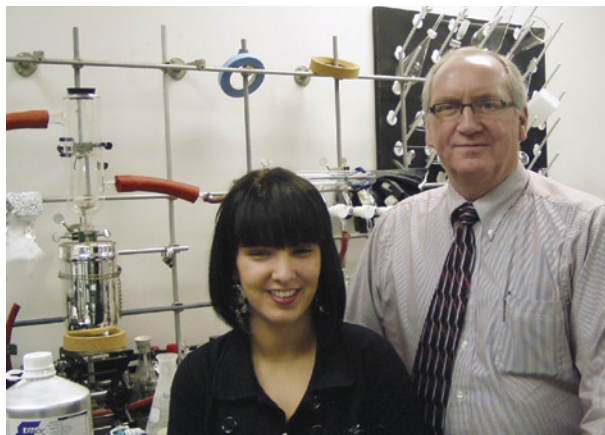
Effective with the July 2, 2009 Exchange, the twice-a-month faculty and staff newsletter will be going to an online-only version. The same news stories, faculty and staff activities, current events and "Who Makes Millersville Special" will continue. Look for details in future Exchanges.

Millersville Student Wins Merck Award

When Dr. Steven Bonser was attending American Chemical Society (ACS) meetings while he worked at Eastman Kodak, he dreamed of one day attending the meetings as an academician with his students. This August, Bonser will realize that dream when he attends the meeting as an assistant professor of chemistry at Millersville University with honors student, Laura Ruiz Espelt. Ruiz Espelt, who graduated from Millersville on May 2, with a degree in chemistry, will be picking up one of five national Merck Index Women in Chemistry Scholarship Awards. She will receive it at the 238th ACS national meeting and exposition in Washington, D.C., and, as part of the symposium, will give an oral presentation on her research.

"This is really, really special for me," said Bonser. "I am so proud of Ms. Ruiz Espelt, you can't imagine."

The 23-year-old Ruiz Espelt is a native of Spain who transferred to Millersville two years ago from one of the University's partner



Laura Ruiz Espelt and Dr. Steven Bonser

institutions, the University of Burgos. She has been working with Bonser to develop drugs used to treat anxiety and depression called novel diaziridine intermediates.

"It was a huge surprise to receive the award. I never expected it," said Ruiz Espelt. "Dr. Bonser definitely gave me the chemistry bug and encouraged me to go to graduate school." Ruiz Espelt will start this fall in the Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

"I try to instill in my students that a certain pride and privilege comes with doing laboratory research," said Bonser. "I want them to catch the

science bug, but I also want them to have fun." Bonser was with Eastman Kodak for 22 years as a senior R&D organic chemist before taking early retirement. He spent two years teaching at Bloomsburg and then moved to Millersville.

The Merck award includes a \$5,000 check, a stipend for travel and ACS meeting registration, as well as invitations to several special events.

ICPF Donates CAD Table and Software

The International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF) held a dedication ceremony at Millersville on April 9 for the Gerber Innovations DT9066 Samplemaker Table with 25 seats of ArtiosCAD software that were installed last semester.

ICPF's donation and installation is part of their nationwide initiative to grow corrugated curricula to expand the number of skilled graduates entering the corrugated industry.

Dr. Mark Snyder is developing Millersville's corrugated curriculum in industry and technology. "As a professor, I felt as though I was in a 'Catch 22' situation until recently. In order to establish an appropriate packaging curriculum, we needed equipment. Yet it's hard to request equipment if you don't have the curriculum. The ICPF donation provided the incentive to get the entire process started."



(L to R) EskoArtworks Sr. Account Manager Allan Hanlon, Gerber Innovations President Steven Gore, Provost Vilas Prabhu, Professor Mark Snyder, ICPF President Richard Flaherty and Marauder Graphics Club President Stefanie Kulczyckj cut the ribbon and dedicated the new equipment.

Tech Ed Program-of-the-Year

Millersville University's undergraduate technology education program has been selected by the Council on Technology Teacher Education as the 2009 Program-of-the-Year.

Dr. Perry Gemmill, industry and technology, submitted the nomination. Millersville surpassed the requirement of 12 certification licensure teachers with flying colors. From 2007-2008, the University confirmed 39 candidates for the Pennsylvania K-12 Instructional I Teacher certificate.

"Our program was the first in the country to be nationally recognized for meeting the performance-based technology teacher education standards that focus on the

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Staff Activities

Steven DiGuissepe, alumni services/special events/data management, presented at the annual Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II conference, held in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 23. The title of DiGuissepe's presentation was "Alumni Travel: Your Passport to Friendraising and Fundraising."

Amy Dmizak, University Advancement, made a presentation at the CASE conference in Baltimore, also on March 23. Dmizak copresented with Peter Holloran of Cognitive Marketing on "Branding and Marketing of Philanthropy."

Dr. Katarzyna Jakubiak, English, presented a paper on James Baldwin's reception in Poland at the 8th Conference of the Collegium for African American Research, University of Bremen, Germany, March 25-29. And, her article on the African-American poet Yusef Komunyakaa was published in the online source "The Literary Encyclopedia." The "Literary Encyclopedia" is a subscription-only database, which features solicited articles written by experts in their respective fields.

Drs. Joseph Labant, elementary and early childhood, and **Anne Papalia-Berardi**, special education, presented at the Association of Childhood Education International Conference in Chicago, Illinois, on March 20. The presentation was entitled "Including All Students in Social Studies Instruction: Example Adaptations."

Dr. Anne Papalia-Berardi, special education, presented two sessions at the 85th annual American College Personnel Association (ACEA) International Conference in Washington, D.C., on March 31 and April 1, in collaboration with presenters from

SUNY Cortland, the Madison City Police Department and Canisius College, Buffalo, N.Y. The sessions were entitled "Critical Incident Stress Debriefing; Addressing Crisis in School" and "The Urge to End It All: Proactive Intervention."

Drs. Marilyn McKinley Parrish, library and **Carrie Lee Smith**, sociology/anthropology, were featured speakers on April 22 at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia for the fourth annual conference on key issues in the history of women's health.

Dr. Dominic Scott, educational foundations, presented a paper at the Comparative and International Education Society annual conference at Charleston, S.C., March 22-26. The title of his presentation was "One SNIPP at a Time: Learning Conflict Transformation from the Other." Scott, along with Walt Vanderheijden, Hempfield High School, presented at a poster session at the Unite for Sight conference at Yale University on April 18-19. The title of the poster presentation was: "Educating for Global Citizenship." And, Scott made several presentations at educational institutions while on sabbatical in Ireland in the fall of 2008. He presented an address to the faculty of Queen's University Belfast titled "Teaching About Diversity." He also made a presentation to the faculty of St. Mary's University College Belfast titled: "American Education: Crisis or Celebration?"

Dr. M.P.A. Sheaffer, English, will participate in a poetry reading at the Osterhout Free Library, Wilkes-Barre, in conjunction with National Poetry Month and in conjunction with the publication of Pennsylvania Seasons, in which her poetry appears. She cantored the Good Friday Mass and the Easter Vigil Mass at St. John, the Evangelist RCC and sang as an alto ringer for the Easter High Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. In addition, she was one of the performers in the "Salute to Irish Poetry" program at the Players' Club of New York on March 26 in New York City. She read poetry of Oscar Wilde.

Drs. Jennifer Shettel and **Mary Ann Gray-Schlegel**, elementary and early childhood education, presented professional

development workshops to two area schools: Muhlenberg School District (grades 7-12), and the Sylvan Heights Charter School. The topic for both in-service sessions was nonfiction reading and writing strategies.

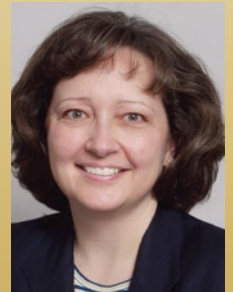
Dr. Ron Umble, mathematics, gave an invited "Math Chat" talk to students and faculty in the Dickinson College mathematics department on April 14. His presentation, entitled "Polygons that Tessellate the Plane Under Reflections," reviewed mathematical research projects by past and present Millersville undergraduates and announced new results recently obtained.

Brusic Named Acting Director

Dr. Sharon Brusic has been appointed the acting director of the Center for Academic Excellence for 2009-2010.

Provost Vilas Prabhu made the announcement. Brusic, an associate professor of industry and technology, joined Millersville University in 2003.

For the past year, she served as chair of the Academic Policy Committee. In her new capacity, Brusic will provide leadership and opportunities for faculty professional development through a variety of on-campus training opportunities, brown-bag lunches and special events to promote excellence in teaching and learning. Brusic takes the place of Dr. Diane Umble, communication and theatre, who has served as the acting director for the past two years.



Dr. Sharon Brusic

Attention Faculty Emeriti

Millersville University has a new website for faculty emeriti: www.millersville.edu/facultyandstaff/index.php. Dr. Nazli Hardy, computer science, was instrumental in developing the website. "As faculty we are especially proud and appreciative of our faculty emeriti. They continue to be of benefit to faculty and students alike and we'd like to showcase as many emeriti faculty as possible," said Hardy.

If faculty emeriti would like to be featured, they should send a short bio and contact information to Dr. Nazli Hardy at Nazli.Hardy@millersville.edu. In addition, if they would like to retain their Millersville email address, they should also let her know.

Congratulations to:

Josh Keller, University Police, and his wife, Shelly, on the birth of their daughter, Hope Lynn, on January 13.

Todd Echterling, academic, consulting & tech services, and his wife, Megan, on the birth of their son, Eli Joseph, on March 3.

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 Black '82. Student Writers: Jenna Gerstenblith, Peter Taraborelli and Lauren Thompson. Student Photographer: Catherine Lorah.

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

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Honors & Awards Convocation

More than 325 students and several alumni were honored at Millersville University's Honors and Awards Convocation on April 18 in Pucillo Gymnasium.



Dr. Timothy Trussell

Paul S. Beideman '71 received the Distinguished Alumni Award. The recipients of the Honorary Alumnus Award this year were Dr. Charles Winter and Stanley Kabacinski. Sarah May received the most awards of any student; the Dominick J. & Frances M. Fanani Junior/Senior Award, the Louis & Margarete Koppel Award in

German Language and Literature, the Ralph J. Hyson Memorial Award and the Xenophile - Theodore Rupp Foreign Language Scholarship Award.

Dr. Timothy Trussell, anthropology, addressed the students who were being honored, "In the faculty, we really never get the chance to say this, but I think this is the venue to let you know just how much we appreciate you.

"You are the people who show up early and stay late to ask questions. You are the students of intellectual rigor—you are the ones who truly think about the subject, and turn it over in your minds. You know you do not get ahead by turning things in late. The dog, strangely, never seems to eat your homework... imagine that!

"You are the ones who make our jobs so enjoyable, so I'd simply like to say, thank you. You mean more to us than you know.

Program-of-the-Year

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development of technological literacy," explained Gemmill. "Of prime importance in achieving national recognition was Millersville University's teacher candidate performance on the ETS Praxis test for Technology Education. During 2006-2007, Millersville had 33 examinees with a 100% pass rate on the Praxis II Technology Education test and for the previous three years, 105 examinees had a 98.1% pass rate."

"Most of you are here today under the mistaken idea that you are receiving an award. This is not true—you are not being given anything. You are here today because you have earned your award. Congratulations. Well done!"

What the Twitter?

Educating and empowering yourself to be savvy and safe online will be the topic of a lecture on May 18 on campus. Millersville's Dr. Nazli Hardy, computer science, and Penn Manor's Charlie Reisinger will present "What the Twitter."

Ning

The lecture on online safety will be held in the University's Student Memorial Center's Reighard Multipurpose Room at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

This event is part of an ongoing lecture series by the Millersville University- Penn Manor CyberPartnership. One of the goals is to connect the community to computing and technology. The partnership was recently named as a Distinguished Award winner by the Civic and Community Engagement and Research.

"Our purpose is to make the most recent developments in the field of information science available to the community," said Hardy. "We hope to educate the public about the powerful applications of Web 2.0 and social networking, as well as the dangers they pose and how this can impact the rest of their lives. We also want to provide awareness of the current applications to parents in order

to empower them to protect their children."



For more information please visit cs.millersville.edu/activities/mupmpart or contact Dr. Nazli Hardy at Nazli.Hardy@Millersville.edu or cs.millersville.edu/fs/nhardy.

Intramural Activities Trigger Expansion



Comprehensive Facilities Planning of Columbus, Brailsford & Dunlavy of Washington, D.C., Entech Engineering of Reading, Pa., and Pennoni Associates of Monroeville,

Pa., is preparing a 10-year facilities master plan update for the University. WTW Architects of Pittsburgh is designing a major renovation and expansion of the SMC's more than 50-year old existing building. Construction began in September and is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2011 at a cost of \$35 million.

"In my 32 years of university activities I've never seen such a level of participation in intramural sports as we have at Millersville," said Roger Bruszewski, vice president of finance and administration.

"Over 50 percent of our student body participates, and their willingness to pay increased fees has enabled us to move forward with a major expansion and renovation of the Student Memorial Center/Student Sports Center." Additionally, WTW, in cooperation with

Pa., is preparing a 10-year facilities master plan update for the University.

"The master plan," said Paul Tellers, WTW Associate and director of planning, "includes land use, academic space, parking, traffic patterns, utilities, residence halls and their size, quality and quantity."

"We're looking at every aspect of space," added Bruszewski, "how to use it and remain a good neighbor to the residents of Millersville."

"The SMC/Sports Center expansion," noted Paul Knell, WTW Principal-in-Charge, "will include a new fitness center, three basketball courts, an elevated running track, climbing wall and new offices for student organizations. The renovations will include a food court, computer lab, bank, public lounge space and café."

For rent

3 bdrm, 2-1/2 bath, house w/ garage, \$1000/month plus utilities. No pets, credit check required. Available May 15. Bob Charles (717) 872-7193.

Who Makes Millersville Special?

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Robert L. Slabinski '78, general manager and CEO of Student Services, Inc., (SSI) and Student Lodging, Inc., (SLI). Slabinski will be retiring the end of June, after serving the University community for almost 40 years.

Q - What was your first position at Millersville?

A - I was a student at Millersville, and my first job was to give billiard lessons in what is now the Sherts boardroom of Biemesderfer Center. That was where I first met Dr. Gary Reighard, then vice-president of student affairs. He became my mentor and a good friend over the years. I still enjoy getting together with him for lunch on a regular basis.

Q - And then?

A - I also worked in the SMC as the ticket manager, night manager, food service manager, building manager, general manager of Student Services, Inc., CEO of Student Services, Inc. and Student Lodging, Inc.

Q - What other jobs have you held over the years?

A - At one point I built and operated Robert's Village Inn, a restaurant and bar that is currently Jack's. Everyone should own and run a restaurant/bar at least once in their lifetime; however, when I sold it, I never looked back.

Q - What sort of business model do you follow?

A - I constantly remind our team "to give yourself the best opportunity to be successful." An interest of mine is following the financial markets and the bond market in particular. That knowledge proved to be very useful over the years, especially recently as the financial markets deteriorated.

Q - What is one of your greatest accomplishments?

A - In retrospect, it was making the decision to form Student Lodging, Inc., and purchase Brookwood Court Apartments in the early '80s. We transformed a facility that was infested with "vermin" and plagued by fires into safe, convenient and affordable housing for Millersville students. Just prior to our purchasing Brookwood, there was a tragic fire that claimed the life of two young women.

Our first priority was to retrofit the units with a sprinkler system. The system performed admirably on a number of occasions. It proved to be a great investment.

Q - What's one of your favorite memories over the years?

A - The Students for a Democratic Society decided to take over the TUB (Temporary Union Bldg. - currently Biemesderfer Center) to protest the Vietnam War. When



Robert L. Slabinski

I heard about the plan to occupy the TUB, I informed my superiors. They thought I was exaggerating so they left it to me to handle the situation. In those days there was no University Police. Some 1,000 students from Millersville and F&M showed up to hold a rally opposing the war. It was a bit tense for a while. I knew one of the leaders and indicated that it was getting late and they had made their point. He smiled and said that he would "take care of it." When it was his turn to speak again he jumped on a table and in a passionate tone urged the crowd to "Burn the ROTC Building." The chanting crowd left the TUB in search of the ROTC building. In the early '70s we did not have an ROTC building. I locked the doors and turned off the lights.

Q - Other good stories from your time at Millersville?

A - Well, there was the time when Jerry Eckert (vice president of University Advancement) asked me to lunch. Whenever Jerry asks you to lunch, you know it's going to be expensive. The MU Marching Band had been invited to perform at the Sugar Bowl, but they needed \$10,000 to cover expenses. Jerry asked if SSI/SLI could help, and I said sure. I thought it would be a wonderful experience for our students. I was pleased that we were in a position to help, but then he stuck me with the \$22 lunch bill.

Q - What do you like to do in your free time?

A - At one time in my life I was very much into boating and fishing. A friend and I had a 25-foot Grady White on Lake Ontario where

we fished for king salmon. Then I got into golf. It's tough to be a golfer and a boater. When time permits I would like to get back to boating and fishing. I was a much better boater than I am a golfer.

Q - So, is golf now your main hobby?

A - I struggle at it, but I do enjoy the camaraderie. You can learn a great deal about someone during a round of golf. I might add that a great deal of business is conducted on the golf course.

Q - What else do you do to relax?

A - There is a group of friends, many with ties to the University, that play poker. We get together at least once a month. The group has been playing regularly for over 30 years.

Q - Do you enjoy reading?

A - Yes. I read the Wall Street Journal and USA Today every day. I recently read *The Creature from Jekyll Island* by Edward Griffin. It is the story of the world banking system and the Federal Reserve.

Q - What's your favorite season?

A - The next one—I'm always looking forward. We learn from the past, but we need to live now and prepare for the future.

Q - Do you have any pets?

A - My wife and I have three cats, Licorice, Thomas and Brunson (the latest addition). He showed up at the front door when I hosted a poker game in January.

Q - Do you have a retirement plan?

A - Every person and business needs a well thought out retirement/succession plan. I've been blessed over the years to have talented, hard-working and committed co-workers who are responsible for making SSI and SLI what they are today. Terry Hummel, our CFO, will become the CEO of both organizations. I will move to the board of directors and assume more of an advisory and supportive role. My wife, Jane, and I plan to do a little traveling.

Q - Anything else you would like to add?

A - These have been fabulous years. I've had the privilege to work with three wonderful presidents: Dr. Duncan, who encouraged me as a young man; Dr. Caputo, who brought a new level of intensity to the University and provided the "climate" that encouraged an entrepreneurial spirit; and Dr. McNairy, who continues to move the University forward and who has been a pleasure to work with and is a strong advocate of our organizations.