

Millersville University Exchange

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A Contemporary, Enhanced SMC

Groundbreaking ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, October 24, at the Student Memorial Center (SMC), where a \$35 million renovation and addition project has been underway since summer 2009. The October groundbreaking is an opportunity for students to participate in the celebration.

"We want students to be a part of this wonderful, historic moment in the life of Millersville University," said Dr. Aminta Breaux, vice president of student affairs. "The renovations will give students a more contemporary venue for the wide variety of activities that currently take place in older facilities such as Brooks or Pucillo Gyms. There will be more space for individual and group activities for recreation—including intramurals and club sports—and students will have the opportunity for a pick-up game of basketball or to get on a treadmill and use other fitness equipment because of the expanded fitness and weight areas." Additionally, students will have space for studying and for small informal meetings.

"With the entire building being wireless students could easily set up their laptops or just



Renovated Fitness Center


hang out, listen to their iPods, surf the Net, or check their email during a break time. We also hope that these new venues will offer the opportunity for students to engage with faculty who may also opt to use the fitness areas or to take a break to eat in the newly renovated Galley, or just sit and read in one of the lounge areas before the next class," said Breaux.

The project is being funded through a bond referendum approved by students in February 2007, and work is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

"The SMC has served the students well over the years, but students today

have different interests and needs than the students of 20 years ago, and the Student Senate of two years ago recognized the need," explained Breaux. "By having a groundbreaking ceremony, we hope to celebrate the commitment of our students to support their alma mater. Those students knew when they voted for the renovations that they would not have the opportunity to benefit from the renovations, but they recognized a need and they did what they thought was best to improve the lives of students who would come to Millersville in the future."

"Rediscover Millersville" Forums

For the past year more than 150 faculty, staff and students at Millersville have been working on a self-study process that is the central piece of re-accreditation through the Middle States Commission of Higher Education. 

In preparation for a visit from the Middle States accreditation team, the draft of the University's self-study, titled "Rediscover Millersville: The 2010 Self-Study" will be made available to the University community for the first time on Friday, October 16, on the Rediscover Millersville website www.millersville.edu/rediscovermu. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to provide feedback concerning the self-study draft by Friday, Oct. 30.

To provide additional opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to ask questions about and provide feedback on the self-study report, three community forums will be held on campus. The forums will be held on:

- Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 - 8 p.m., Student Memorial Center room 44;
- Tuesday, Oct. 27, 10 - 11 a.m., Stayer Multipurpose Room and
- Wednesday, Oct. 28, 3 - 4 p.m., McComsey Hall, room 266.

Questions about the forums or the self-study should be addressed to Maureen Feller in the Office of Assessment and Planning at maureen.feller@millersville.edu.

Newly Enrolled Are More Diverse, Higher SAT Scores

The newly enrolled students at Millersville are more diverse and have higher SAT scores than their predecessors, according to the admissions office.

There were almost 9,000 applications for admission, an increase of 14%, for fall 2009 as compared to the previous year. The official fall 2009 enrollment is 8,427, an increase of 1.3%. For new enrollment to the University, the number increased

3% from last fall. The diversity for the newly enrolled also increased by 8% compared to last year. And, the average SAT score was 1065 compared to 1056 last fall.

"Our goals were to have 1,325 freshmen, 450 transfer students, have more diversity and sustain or increase the profile of the incoming class," explained Dr. Jose Aviles, associate director of admissions. "We met or exceeded all of our goals."

Going forward, the University will look at recruiting more out-of-state students, with the goal of increasing the percentage of out-of-state students from 4% to 10%.

"We'll put emphasis on recruiting out-of-state students, particularly from New Jersey," said Aviles. "That will give us a solid base to build on as we move into other neighboring states such as Delaware and Maryland."

see chart on page 2

Staff Activities

Dr. Mike Gumper, economics, gave a Stock Market Game workshop on September 22. Ten teachers attended from schools in Lancaster, York and Reading counties. He also participated in a videoconference with Adam Trone's AP economics students from Dallastown High School in York County on September 28, and he gave a presentation at the York County Business Educators Conference on October 1. In addition, Gumper will give a presentation for students in the gifted program at Pequea Valley High School on October 23.

Dr. Jessica Kelly, geography, **Dr. Stacey Irwin**, communication and theatre, and **Dr. Elba Rohena**, special education, participated in the PASSHE Weekend Writing Retreat for Multicultural and Women Faculty at Toftrees Golf Resort and Conference Center, August 13-16.

Dr. Clarence Maxwell, history, published an article on "Enslaved Merchants, Enslaved Merchant-Mariners, and the Bermuda Conspiracy of 1761" in the Spring 2009 issue of *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

Gwyn McVay and **Dr. Timothy Mayers**, English, read poetry to all ages during the Lyrics of Lancaster Libraries: An Evening of Poetry and Photography at Lancaster City's First Friday for Families Oct. 2. McVay and Mayers joined four area poets during the live poetry event, which helped support public libraries. McVay coordinated and organized the event with the Lancaster Public Library.

Deborah Sigel, art, had a solo exhibition of her ceramic sculpture, *FRESH*, at the Taipei County Yingge Ceramics Museum in Taipei. The exhibition, which runs through October 18, is a culmination her 2006-07 sabbatical and a one-month residency this summer at the Tainan National University of the Art in Tainan County, Taiwan.



Dr. Cordelia Moyse, history, has published *A History of the Mothers' Union, 1876-2008: Women, Anglicanism and Globalisation*. The book launch for the work is being held in London at Lambeth Palace, the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, on November 9.

Dr. Kevin S. Robinson, mathematics, presented the paper "Determining the Sample Size for Estimating the Standard Deviation" at the 2009 Joint Statistical meetings held in Washington, D.C., in August.

Dr. Jennifer Shettel, elementary & early childhood education, gave an invited presentation at the Lancaster Early Childhood Conference titled, *Write On! Teaching Emergent Writers*, September 26.

Angela Simmons, student programs, and **Dr. Jessica Kelly**, geography, attended the 2009 Leadership Institute for Faculty Women offered by the Women's Consortium of PASSHE at Toftrees Golf Resort and Conference Center in August.

Retired

Dr. Saulius Suziedelis, professor emeritus, history, was an invited presenter and consultant during the Ambassadorial Seminar on September 24 for Anne Derse, the incoming United States ambassador to Lithuania, which was held at the State Department in Washington, D.C.

Yalda and Schneller Receive Appointments

Dr. Sepideh Yalda has been appointed as the interim director of the Center for Disaster Research and Education (CDRE) and coordinator of the master's of science in emergency management (MSEM) for the 2009-2010 academic year. Yalda joined the faculty in 1997 and is currently professor of meteorology.

In addition, Dr. Beverly E. Schneller has been appointed coordinator of general education, effective through June 30, 2012. Schneller is currently professor of English at Millersville, where she has taught since 1989. She has been chairperson since 2002.

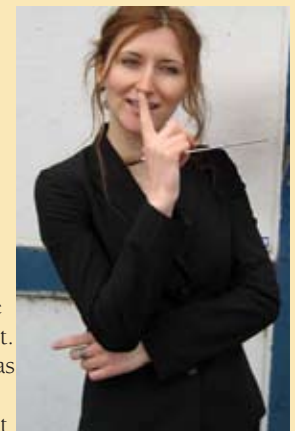
Obituaries

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Dixon, 93, of Lancaster, died Oct. 3. She was a professor and director in the Department of Health and Physical Education at Millersville University for over 30 years retiring in 1981.

Vera Volchansky

Dr. Vera Volchansky is the new director of orchestra at Millersville. A professional female conductor is still somewhat atypical in the field of orchestra conductors.

Volchansky holds a master's degree from the Eastman School and a doctorate from the University of Kansas. In 2008, she traveled to St. Petersburg, as a winner of the Fulbright award, to



Vera Volchansky

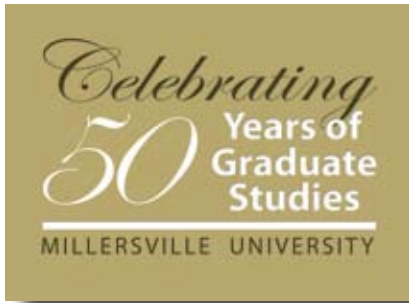
explore the unknown music of twentieth-century Russian composers. She has worked with orchestras and ensembles in Eastern Europe, Russia, and the United States, including the Congress Orchestra of St. Petersburg, the Hot Springs Festival Orchestra, The Academy of Conducting Orchestra at Aspen, and KU Symphony Orchestra at the University of Kansas, among others. In 2007, she was named a conducting fellow with the American Academy of Conducting in Aspen, working with David Zinman, one of the most recognized American contemporary conductors. Volchansky began studying violin at the age of six with her father, in Volgograd, Russia.

Enrolled *continued from pg. 1*

PASSHE Fall 2009 Enrollment by University

Bloomsburg	9,512*
California	9,017*
Cheyney	1,488
Clarion	7,346*
East Stroudsburg	7,576*
Edinboro	8,287*
Indiana	14,638*
Kutztown	10,634*
Lock Haven	5,329*
Mansfield	3,569*
Millersville	8,427*
Shippensburg	8,253*
Slippery Rock	8,648*
West Chester	14,211*
PASSHE Total	116,935*

* Record



Future of Graduate Studies

Millersville University began its graduate studies program in 1959 with graduate curricula in elementary and industrial arts education. Fifty years later, Millersville offers more than 50 master's degrees and professional certifications, with over 1,100 students currently enrolled. Perspectives on the Future of Graduate Education: Celebrating 50 years of Graduate Studies at Millersville, a symposium focused on the future of graduate education, will be held on Oct. 22, at 11:30 a.m. in Lehr Room in recognition of this milestone.

The keynote speaker of the event will be Dr. Debra Stewart, president of the Council of Graduate Schools. "Building a Vibrant Graduate Community for the Future" and "Graduate Programs of the Future and Their Impact on the Regional Economy" will both be discussed during the symposium.

"We hope the symposium is a chance to highlight the progress we have made in graduate studies, and an opportunity to explore our future directions," says Dr. Victor DeSantis, dean of graduate and professional studies.

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.kacsos@millersville.edu or call ext. 3586. Editor: Janet Kacsos; Graphic Designer: Diane Black '82. Student Writers and Videographers: Alexandra Wachman, Lucas Neiderer, Melissa Leary and Peter Taraborelli.

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

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SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

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Creating a Caring University Community

The large majority—79%—of faculty and staff at Millersville are "highly satisfied" or "satisfied" with their jobs at Millersville. That's just one of the many findings of the "Campus Climate Assessment Report of Results" that was presented on September 29 by Dr. Sue Rankin of Rankin & Associates.

"Millersville is a model for the state," said Rankin, who was retained to assist in the assessment process. "Starting with the diverse cabinet and moving through the University's long history of supporting diversity initiatives, Millersville does a good job. Many respondents praised the institution's efforts to create a welcoming atmosphere and asserted that the climate has improved in recent years."

In 2001, the Social Equity Advisory Committee with the support of the President's Advisory Council embarked on the initial campus climate project. In 2009, the Social Equity Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SESPAC) initiated a follow-up assessment to examine the current climate. An extensive survey with 103 questions was distributed campus-wide. There were 775 surveys returned.

"We conducted the climate survey to obtain information with regard to personal experiences and perceptions of climate from students, faculty and staff," explained Patricia Hopson-Shelton, chief diversity officer at Millersville. "In addition, the assessment will help to inform the update

of the University's Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity and Community."

Other findings of the campus survey included that most respondents—72%—are "comfortable" or "very comfortable" with the overall climate at the University. That number increases to 74% in departments or work units and to 79% in classes.

Two areas that the survey pointed to as challenges are creating a more welcoming climate for people with disabilities and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Hopson-Shelton said another area her office will work on is making sure once managers hear about a situation or issue that they know what to do with that information. "Not doing anything can be construed as a form of harassment," said Hopson-Shelton. "We want to make sure that people know they can contact our office for help, for questions/concerns, for anything."

The executive summary and presentation of results are now available at www.millersville.edu/services/socialeq/index.php. The complete findings can be viewed by visiting Delaware House.



Dr. Sue Rankin

New Exhibit at Ganser Gallery

Ganser Gallery will be hosting an exhibition of recent work by New York-based artist Steve Budington, October 27 to December 3. On Tuesday, October 27, at 5 p.m., the artist will give a talk on his work at Ganser Gallery, followed by a reception. Both the exhibition and the talk are free and open to the public.



Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of “Who Makes Millersville Special” features Master Sergeant Brendan W. O’Connor, a new senior military science instructor at Millersville University.

Q- How long have you been with Millersville University?

A- I arrived at Millersville on Aug. 26, 2009.

Q- Why did you come to Millersville?

A- I was thrilled at the opportunities available to myself and my family while working at a college campus in an area rich in our nation’s history and culture.

Q- What courses do you teach here at Millersville University?

A- I teach leadership, military history, consideration of others, physical training and civic engagement to freshmen through senior students.

Q- Many people are not familiar with the Army/ROTC program at Millersville; can you please elaborate on your position and your responsibilities?



A- I am placed here to join a team of soldiers led by Lieutenant Colonel Adrienne Eckstein, a professor of military science.

The team also includes Major Craig Walker, Major Regina Tellado, a Millersville graduate, and First Sergeant (Retired) Thomas Miller. Our team’s goal is to train, lead and assist in the development of college students who wish to serve their nation and fellow citizens as leaders in the United States Army. As the senior military instructor, I am able to provide examples of leadership, both good and bad, that I have personally experienced. In time, those students who accept the responsibility, duties and challenges of being an officer in today’s Army will shoulder a heavy burden as they step in front of a body of enlisted soldiers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs), who have been engaged in the Global War on Terror since Sept. 11, 2001. My responsibility is to aid in preparing them for their role, and to add to their classroom experience by relating the events, sounds, smells and sights of decisions made in the past to what they may encounter in their future experiences.

Q- Where did you work before you came to Millersville?

A- I worked at Fort Bragg, N.C., where I served as the senior NCO adviser to the Seventh Special Forces Group’s Command Surgeon. During my time at Fort Bragg, I also taught as a medical instructor at the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Group. There I taught medical subjects to members of all the services’ Special Operations Forces.

I decided to leave Ft. Bragg when I was given the chance to come to Pennsylvania to live and teach, to be closer to my family and



Master Sergeant Brendan W. O’Connor

to be closer to where I grew up.

Q- What sparked your initial interest in Army/ROTC?

A- My desire to serve the Army was always within me. My father was a career soldier who was pursuing a doctorate in English literature when he left for Vietnam. His father served as a General Officer in the Army. My mother’s brother and father served long and distinguished careers in the Army and Army National Guard; so one could definitely say that the service was in my blood. But most of all I wanted to serve because I thought it was the right thing to do. I was inspired to a commitment in gratitude to a nation that though not perfect, gives us so much.

Q- What is your previous experience with Army/ROTC?

A- Too many to list, but I have been skiing in Norway above the Arctic Circle, I climbed the slopes of volcanoes in El Salvador, Ecuador and Iceland. I’ve stepped out of a perfectly good airplane at 13,000 feet above ground level and entered the maritime food

chain while scuba diving at the mouth of the Chagres river in Panama. I was a Russian language student in St. Petersburg, Russia, and played Frisbee on Red Square at the Kremlin. I’ve ridden a German U-Boat and driven an armored vehicle. As an Army medic I’ve treated patients young and old from different countries in remote jungle villages and ultra-modern hospitals. I’ve delivered babies to this world and held the hand of young American men who made the ultimate sacrifice at the most forward edge of American diplomacy in Afghanistan. All these things and more, all the while as a member of the Army team, as an American soldier and leader.

Q- What do you like most about your career?

A- What I most like about a career in the service is the demanding variety of challenges waiting to be addressed. The challenges require the combined effort, experience, and knowledge sets of oneself and of those to your right and left. No one goes it alone, and each gives willingly of themselves to see things through. The unity of purpose while serving alongside one another in the uniformed services is probably only matched in the civilian sector by work as a firefighter or policeman.

Q- Is this something you always wanted to do as a child?

A- Yes. My wife reminds me often that I am living my dream. When I was a child, all I ever wanted to do was to be a soldier.

Q- How long have you been an active member of the Army/ROTC?

A- 31 years in the Army, a month in ROTC.

Q- What would be something that your students and co-workers would be surprised to know about you?

A- That I enjoy many different forms of art and its expression ... music, painting, sculpture, furniture and carpentry, metal working and automobiles, architecture and poetry.

Q- Where did you live as a child?

A- New Jersey is where I call home, but I also lived in New York, Kansas and Arizona.

Time Warping at Millersville

Jeff Lieberman of Discovery Channel’s “Time Warp” will be coming to campus on Nov. 5, for the 25th annual Brossman Science Lectureship. Lieberman will speak in Lyte Auditorium at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Lieberman will discuss slow motion photography of everyday events, discussing the effect of slowing down

the picture and allowing people to see all of what is happening.

“Because of his background in science and his appealing topic, the science lectureship committee felt Lieberman would be an excellent choice to stimulate the minds of not only young children but the adults as well,” stated Dr. Lyman Rickard, chemistry.