

## Top 10 of 2011

With a new year just around the corner, look back at a year's worth of top stories and headlines featured in the Exchange during 2011.



### **#1: Pennsylvania's Proposed Budget**

In response to Governor Corbett's proposed budget cuts of more than 50 percent for Pennsylvania's state schools including Millersville, President McNairy issued a statement of concern for her students. "Our number one priority at Millersville University is our students and it is the students who will suffer the most if this proposed budget is approved," said McNairy. Thankfully, the legislature and the governor agreed to an 18 percent cut in the state allocation instead of the 50 percent cut initially proposed.

### **#2: The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster, Opens**

On September 12, Millersville University announced the dedication and naming of The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster. The center was named after Paul and Judy Ware due to their involvement and philanthropic commitments to the Lancaster community and to higher education. The purchase of this facility is bringing the community together to engage, innovate and to create, whether around the performing and visual arts or timely community issues.

### **#3: Millersville Celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Millersville community celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in style all year long. Beginning with a "Dancing through the Decades," ballroom exhibition, the celebration included fireworks, period clothing fashion, historic photos and a custom cake by Carlos' Bakery from Hoboken, N.J. – better known as TLC's Cake Boss. Other memorable events throughout the year included a children's ballet at Penn Manor, Millersville's Got Talent, Millersville's Community Parade and Turkey Hill's signature ice cream flavor for Millersville named Swan Swirl.

### **#4: Millersville Welcomes Police Chief Anders**

Pete Anders was sworn in as Millersville's Chief of Police on February 28, 2011. Chief John Rochat, Millersville Borough Police Department, Chief Keith Sadler, Lancaster City Police Department, and retired Millersville University Chief of Police Wayne Silcox, all took part in the ceremony. Leo H. Eckert, Jr., district justice, conducted the official swearing in and Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux, vice president for student affairs, presided over the ceremony. Anders has 20 years of law enforcement experience including most recently serving as captain of the criminal investigative division for Lancaster City Police.

### **#5: Millersville University Recognized for Green Efforts**

Millersville University has been recognized for its "Green" efforts throughout the course of 2011, beginning with a partnership between Millersville, Oregon Dairy Organics and Edie Waste systems to recycle 70 percent of organic waste within Millersville's Dining and Conference Services. Millersville's Sustainability Committee made its debut on April 22, with the launch of its website to coincide with Earth Day. Additionally, the University earned a spot on Princeton Review's Guide to 311 Green Colleges. Millersville green highlights include offering the "Climate and Society" course, where students record a greenhouse gas inventory for the campus,

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and Stayer Hall's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards. A recent "Go-Green" report marks the University's seventh year of green efforts including the reduction of emissions by 17 percent.

#### **#6: SMC Renovation and Opening**

During 2011, renovation of the Student Memorial Center (SMC) was completed with revamped meeting rooms and offices, the Galley, new fitness center and modernized lounge furniture and study spaces. One of the highlights to the renovation included the Marauder Court, which is used to hold events. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place on September 19, 2011.

#### **#7: Millersville Receives \$1.2 Million Dollar Math Grant**

Students majoring in mathematics education can now get help with their tuition thanks to a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This grant will increase the quality and quantity of mathematics teachers for high-need districts, and 84 percent of the grant will go directly toward student scholarships. Scholarships will be offered based on merit to outstanding students with a particular interest in teaching in an urban or high-need environment. Students receiving scholarships must agree that, in exchange for the scholarship, they will teach for two years in a high-need school district for each year of support they receive.

#### **#8: Millersville University's Blind Grant Updates Campus**

Through updated technologies and support services across campus, Millersville University blind or vision-impaired students are receiving the modernized tools they need to succeed, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Susquehanna Foundation for the Blind and the Bank of New York Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trusts. This grant was used to provide at least one computer in each computer lab with accessible technology for students who are blind or vision-impaired. In addition to collaborating with the Office of Experiential Learning and Career Management to create internships for spring and summer, the University expects to see an increase in internships, as well as job placement in subsequent years.

#### **#9: Millersville Sheds Light on Canada Goose Problem**

Millersville University provides an excellent habitat for the three dozen Canada geese that call this campus their home; however, these animals present a danger to individuals walking near The Pond. Employees, students and visitors are at risk while they walk on campus, due to the fecal matter that is present on walk surfaces and pond water. This matter exists through direct and indirect contact, which can lead to zoonotic diseases caused by infectious agents transmitted between animals and humans. The University is trying to eliminate this problem by implementing hazing techniques that keep the geese away from areas called "no go zones."

#### **#10: Millersville Men's Soccer and Baseball Teams Make History**

Throughout 2011, the men's soccer and baseball teams made Millersville University history. The Marauder soccer team won the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) for the first time in the program's history and defeated Bloomsburg on Millersville's turf. After winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Atlantic Regional and Quarterfinals, the Marauders lost to Fort Lewis in the semifinals. The senior class has the most wins in Millersville's history. Men's baseball won the PSAC East for the second time in four years and

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won the NCAA's Atlantic Regional for the first time in 11 years, which advanced them to the championship.

### **Student to Present Moment of Reflection at December Commencement**

Making the journey of more than 7,000 miles from Kenya to Millersville University is a family that is eager to see their loved one, Lucy Ngokonyo-Weaver. Ngokonyo-Weaver, a senior international studies major at Millersville, was selected to give the moment of reflection speech at December's commencement ceremony. In addition to graduating with the rest of the 2011 class, Ngokonyo-Weaver will briefly reflect upon her experiences at Millersville University.

Ngokonyo-Weaver was nominated to give the moment of reflection speech by Dr. Angela Cuthbert, chair of the geography department. "She has successfully made her way through college and is an inspiration to everyone, showing what bravery, hard work and dedication can get you," said Cuthbert.



Born and raised in Kenya, Ngokonyo-Weaver will discuss her experiences when she first visited Millersville University and her journey since then. "I can remember the overwhelming amount of support I received when I first came here to visit. I didn't think that anybody would understand my cultural values, but instead people embraced them," explained Ngokonyo-Weaver. After graduation, Ngokonyo-Weaver would like to work for a global organization, such as the United Nations, or as a Foreign Service Officer.

Millersville's commencement ceremony will take place on December 18 at 2 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium. For more information on December commencement, visit [www.millersville.edu/commencement/](http://www.millersville.edu/commencement/).

### **Health Services Becomes More Efficient**

Looking for an easier way to make an appointment with Health Services? Within the next four to six weeks, Health Services will be receiving a technical update that will increase the amount of storage capacity and accessibility for students to make appointments. Due to a recent mandate from the federal government, electronic health records (EHR) must be converted to electronic format by 2013.



"One of the biggest advantages to EHR is having patient information readily available in an easily accessible format. The providers at Health Services can check drug allergies and interactions before prescribing medications," said Jenny Monn, University nurse practitioner. In addition, laboratory and diagnostic testing will be readily available.

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Another benefit is that students will have access to an automated “sign in” process where they will be able to swipe their Millersville ID card. In the future, there will be a student portal where students can submit their health evaluation forms, receive laboratory results and schedule appointments online.

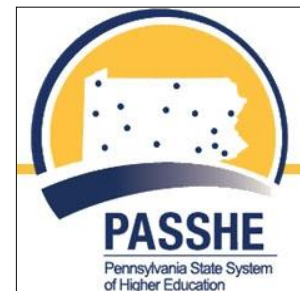
After the conversion, Health Services will be able to contribute to Millersville’s “green” initiatives by cutting back on the usage of paper. “Medical records are required to be stored for seven years; this places a great demand for space, storage capacity and paper. EHR will reduce this immensely,” explained Monn.

Initially, students may have to wait longer to receive an appointment due to the adjustments within the system. “For the first week or two, we will be extending our appointment times from 15 to 30 minutes, which will allow extra time for everyone to become acquainted with the system,” said Monn.

Informational posters can be found at Health Services, students’ email and an announcement via MyVille will come shortly. For more information, contact Monn at 717-872-3410 or [Jenny.Monn@millersville.edu](mailto:Jenny.Monn@millersville.edu).

### **Millersville Expands to “The City of Brotherly Love”**

Interested in receiving a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) education in Philadelphia or Harrisburg? Millersville University is planning to secure a location within “The City of Brotherly Love,” which will serve a new student market. The University continually assesses the Harrisburg market and plans to continue course offerings at the Dixon Center.



“Expanding into a new market will require that we research and analyze the needs of the surrounding population. That data will assist us in determining future additional offerings,” explained Dr. Victor DeSantis, dean of graduate and professional studies.

Initially, the University will offer English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher certification program and a master of education in language and literacy. “Millersville has a strong history of offering these programs at off-site locations in York and Berks counties. Additionally, the ESL program is in high demand and has assisted more than 45 educators pursue their add-on certification over the past two years,” said DeSantis.

Individuals taking these graduate courses on campus can self-pace their program, whereas students taking these courses off campus may only be offered three to six credit hours per semester. This would indicate that both groups could complete their program of study relatively in the same amount of time.

These programs will be primarily taught face-to-face, but it is anticipated in the future that Millersville will utilize its Instructional Television (ITV) technology and other distance learning

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deliveries. “Students taking courses via ITV receive the same quality instruction by Millersville University faculty as students who take face-to-face courses on campus,” said DeSantis.

Millersville and Shippensburg jointly offer a master of social work that successfully uses ITV technology and this program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

“Off-site programs are not designed to take resources away from students on Millersville’s main campus. Department chairs are working closely with their deans and faculty to ensure that all students’ needs are met,” explained DeSantis. A mix of regular Millersville faculty, as well as adjunct faculty is used to support off-campus programs.

“The PASSHE collaboration is looking to establish a lasting presence in the Philadelphia area and we hope to be a viable partner for the long term,” said DeSantis.

For more information on the expansion, contact DeSantis at [Victor.DeSantis@millersville.edu](mailto:Victor.DeSantis@millersville.edu) or 717- 872-3099.

## MAC DADI Rides On

The 2011 Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) Student Chapter/Robotics Team at Millersville University recently returned from the ATMAE National Conference held November 9-12 in Cleveland, Ohio. The team spent the last year developing Millersville’s Automatic Color-sorter with Dedicated Active Dual-drive Integration, or MAC DADI; a custom robot designed to retrieve colored ping pong balls, sort them and deliver them to designated drop off locations.



MAC DADI is the third robot developed by the team. This year’s design was extremely sophisticated and the largest mobile robot the team has ever constructed. MAC DADI’s control was distributed over three independent microcontrollers running in parallel sequencing a tremendous amount of inputs and outputs.

“The project took approximately one year (including the summer) and more than 3,000 man-hours to complete,” said Dr. John Wright, professor of applied engineering, safety and technology and the team’s advisor.

Although MAC DADI did not win the overall competition, Millersville’s entry did win the majority of the independent awards including Best Electrical/Control Methodology, Best Manufacturing and Best Technical Paper. The team now boasts winning 24 awards across several engineering, technology and computer science robotics competitions since 2001, when the robotics team was launched. In 2010, the team won the ATMAE Robotics Cup with SAM (Semi-autonomous Marauder).

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In addition to the robotics team awards, team member Dave Campbell placed third in the Haig Vahradian Technology Challenge (Quiz Bowl Competition) and Brandon Lalli won the Virtual Welding Competition, placing first and winning himself a brand new Lincoln Electric MIG welder.

“I am extremely proud of our team and our accomplishments,” says Wright.

Twelve team members attended the ATMAE Conference in Cleveland including Campbell, Sean Carter, Pauline Gemberling, Jake Girton, Phil Grigonis, Jon Hanson, Robert Hopkin, Wayne Lady, Lalli, Ritchie Mauck, Nate Miklos and Bradley Sensenig (team captain).

### **SIFE Organization Makes History in International Waters**

Costa Rica native Mario Araya, a senior and current president of the Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) organization at Millersville recently traveled internationally with the club for the first time in University history. SIFE went to Costa Rica from November 30- December 5 to promote education in areas of the country that contain high levels of alcohol, drug and crime activities.

With a vision to help students achieve their dreams through a free enterprise education, SIFE’s mission is to provide students with the opportunity to develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills in their communities. SIFE members achieve this mission by applying business concepts to develop outreach projects that improve the quality of life for people in need.



“We targeted three areas, with about 150 children per area. The overall message is to ‘stay in school.’ We also distributed packages that contain school supplies to the children, which may be the only Christmas present they receive,” said Araya. SIFE participated in a similar project locally, at McCaskey High School, in which the organization encouraged the students to stay in school and to continue their education post-graduation.

The organization has a goal to fundraise \$10,000 that will be used to fund the trip and cover the cost of supplies for the 450 Costa Rican children. The \$10,000 was divided into six smaller sections, and groups of students were responsible for a fraction of the sum.

“We are as close as we can be to staying on track with fundraising. We still have a while to go, but we will do it,” said Araya.

Araya, a business major with a concentration in international business, grew up in Central America and took an interest in business early on in life. “My father owned a clothing business in Costa Rica, so I was always interested in money and the stock market in a positive way,” said Araya.

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“I would like to eventually become an executive of a corporation, a chief executive officer or chief financial officer at some point in my life,” said Araya. He was accepted as an intern at Bimbo Bakeries, a large company that sells brands like Stroehmann, Entenmanns and Thomas’ in the summer of 2011. In January 2012, he will join the corporation and be evaluated for a position, and after six months, corporate executives will determine his position.

This spring, SIFE will attend multiple business conferences and participate in a SIFE regional competition in Philadelphia with other nearby universities. The organization will be evaluated at the competition based on the club’s project list. Some of the projects that will be discussed include the Costa Rica project, “Inner city Project” at McCaskey High School and educating employees at Peppridge Farm about ethics in business.

“The business department has set a foundation and structure for the person I am right now and through my experiences with SIFE over the past couple of years, I have learned a lot,” explained Araya.

### **Students Inducted into Business Honor Society**

Fourteen Millersville University seniors were recently inducted into the University’s Iota Delta Chapter of Delta Mu Delta, an international honor society in business administration. The students were honored during a ceremony held on November 18 in the Ford Atrium of McComsey Hall.

The inductees represent the four different divisions in the business administration department: Management, marketing, finance and accounting. Based on their option, the students inducted include Richard Adams, Katie Cunningham, Ricaldo Rivera, Allison Snyder and Kiah Wenger, management; Melissa Balliet,



Kate Bealer and Ariel Gehringer, marketing; Jessica Bitner, finance; and Jacob Dietz, Jennifer Doperak, Tonya Hsiung, Amanda Lehman and Megan Staub, accounting.

Admission into Delta Mu Delta is by invitation only and is based upon a student’s credits earned and their grade point average.

Millersville University’s Iota Delta chapter was chartered in 1999 and has been inactive since 2002. With the induction of this group, Millersville University will once again have an active Delta Mu Delta Chapter.

Delta Mu Delta was founded on November 18, 1913 by faculty from NYU, Yale and Harvard. The society was formed for charitable and educational purposes. It promotes scholarship in education and recognizes and rewards scholastic attainment in business subjects. Currently, there are more than 200 Delta Mu Delta chapters at four-year universities and colleges.

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## MESO Students Participate in Regional Competition

Seven students, representing Millersville University's Middle Eastern Studies Organization (MESO), competed against more than 120 students from 15 other colleges/universities at the Capital Area Regional Model Arab League simulation, held at Georgetown University, November 11-13. Four Millersville University students took home awards.

Participants were required to remain in character as members of diplomatic delegations from the countries they represented. This year, Millersville's delegation represented Jordan.

The objective for each delegation was to pass resolutions to the primary council that reflected the actual interests of the states they represented. On the final day of the simulation, all delegations came together in a Summit Meeting, where all resolutions from the councils were voted on by the delegations.



Awards were also given to participants based on performance in academic, procedural and behavioral terms. Millersville students who received awards included Derek Smith and Bjorn Bolt, who earned Honorable Mention awards for their representation of Jordan on the Joint-Defense Council; Richard Lyons, who earned the Best Delegate for Environmental Affairs award for his representation of Jordan on the Environmental Affairs Council and Crystal Manafi, who earned an Honorable Mention for chairing the Political Affairs Council.

The three other students who attended the event were Dart Leaderhouse, Alyssa Anderson and Curtis Martin.

Award winners had the opportunity to meet and have their picture taken with the event's keynote speaker Prince Abdul-Aziz bin Talal bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud. Millersville's MESO and their recent achievements will be discussed in the upcoming, updated paperback edition of *Arab Voices* by Dr. James Zogby, founder and president of the Arab American Institute in Washington, D.C. Zogby was invited to speak at the Millersville University International Policy Conference in September. Impressed by MESO's engagement in the issues of the Middle Eastern region, he decided to feature them in his book.

For more information, contact Craig Ilgenfritz, advisor of MESO, at [Craig.Ilgenfritz@millersville.edu](mailto:Craig.Ilgenfritz@millersville.edu) or 717-372-3550.

## Meteorology Student Spends Summer in Houston

The saying goes "Everything is bigger in Texas" – and that includes the weather. The extreme amount of blizzards, flooding, tornadoes and wildfires have kept meteorologists busy at the Weather Research Center (WRC) in Houston. Monica Krausz, a senior meteorology student at

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Millersville University, was the 2011 Summer Weather Camp director at the WRC. The camp, which is free of charge, has a goal of preparing the children for extreme weather events so that they can pass onto their families. Krausz facilitated the children in interactive projects, provided tours at the Weather Museum and taught the campers fundamental weather information.

For more information on the WRC, visit [www.wxresearch.com/](http://www.wxresearch.com/).

## **Millersville University Foundation Elects New Board of Directors**

The Millersville University Foundation has announced its new board of directors and officers. The Millersville University Foundation is a separate entity from Millersville University and its mission is to manage and invest endowed gifts for the University. The Foundation's activities are managed by an independent board of directors, which includes leaders from the University, the community and the alumni body at large.

Effective January 2012, the following individuals will begin a two-year term as officers:

- President: Robert A. Laskowski '74, senior vice president and treasurer of OceanFirst Bank, Toms River, N.J. (pictured right)
- Vice president: David K. Thompson, executive vice president of HomeTowne Heritage Bank, Lancaster, Pa.
- Treasurer: Amanda J. Shaw '01, manager of financial operations at Lancaster General Medical Group, Lancaster, Pa.
- Secretary: Dr. Tamara C. Willis '99, principal at Steelton-Highspire Elementary School, Harrisburg, Pa.



Effective January 2012, the following individuals will begin their term on the board:

- Dr. Kenneth P. DeLucca, professor of applied engineering and safety technology, Millersville University, Millersville, Pa.
- Anne C. Jackson '78, senior risk control consultant, The Travelers Insurance, Reading, Pa.
- Dr. F. Perry Love '58, professor emeritus, department of educational foundations, Millersville University, Millersville, Pa.
- Elizabeth Martin, owner of Martin Insurance Agency, Millersville, Pa.
- Dr. William B. McIlwaine, professor emeritus, department of earth sciences, Millersville University, Millersville, Pa.
- Amanda J. Shaw '01, manager of financial operations, Lancaster General Medical Group, Lancaster, Pa.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt public foundation incorporated to receive gifts that benefit Millersville University and to administer those funds in perpetuity in a manner prescribed by the donors. Today, the Foundation manages nearly 400 scholarship and program accounts, and holds assets in excess of \$19 million.

For more information on the Millersville University Foundation, contact Francis Schodowski, director of planned giving, at [Francis.Schodowski@millersville.edu](mailto:Francis.Schodowski@millersville.edu) or 717-872-3820.

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## Millersville's Council of Trustees Approves Contribution

Millersville University's Council of Trustees (COT), at their regular meeting yesterday, approved a \$2,000 contribution to the Lancaster Community Safety Coalition. The coalition is a nonprofit organization that has provided their assistance in creating and promoting safe conditions on the streets around The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster.



In an effort to better promote health and wellness for students, the Division of Student Affairs has embarked on a more concerted and comprehensive plan and they gave a synopsis of that plan to the COT. One of the outgrowths of their effort is a new program "Marauder Quest," which will offer incentives for students to achieve points for participation in identified programs, events and activities. Also, additional programs are under exploration such as "A Day without Technology," which would encourage students to eliminate use of a mobile phone and texting for a day.

The trustees also heard an update on the Soar to Greatness Capital Campaign – the \$85 million campaign recently topped \$80 million. And, they heard that the state legislature is looking at reducing Millersville's capital budget from \$130 million to \$60 million for next year.

In other action, the COT approved emeritus status for Dr. Yvonne M. King, associate professor of elementary and early childhood education (1987-2011) and for Dr. James P. Valle, assistant professor of elementary and early childhood education (1999-2009).

## Need to Know: HR NEWS: Winter 2011

### Benefits

#### Long Term Disability Rate Decrease

CIGNA is the current carrier of the voluntary Long Term Disability Insurance for PASSHE employees. Upon completion of their annual experience review, CIGNA has announced lower rates effective with the December 16, 2011 pay date.

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There will be a 10 percent decrease in rates. For the 90-day elimination period option, the rates will be reduced from \$.298 per \$100 of coverage to \$.268 per \$100 of coverage. For the 180-day elimination period option, the rates will be reduced from \$.237 per \$100 of coverage to \$.213 per \$100 of coverage.

CIGNA considers it a privilege to be your carrier and looks forward to continuing their valued relationship with PASSHE. If you have questions concerning this change, please contact the Office of Human Resources at 717-872-3017.

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### **New 2012 Contribution Limits for Tax-Sheltered Annuity (403b) and Deferred Compensation (457) Plans**

The contribution limits have increased for these plans:

- Employees under age 50: \$17,000 - Employees age 50 or over: \$22,500

Please contact the human resources to change your payroll deduction amount for these plans.

### **PASSHE Health Plan Updates (Faculty, Managers, Polices, Nurses and Coaches Only)**

#### **Healthy U:**

The deadline for completion of current phase of Healthy U, PASSHE's wellness program, is **May 31, 2012**. In order to qualify for significant discounts in your healthcare premiums, you and your covered spouse/same-sex domestic partner will need to accumulate a minimum of **70 points each** by this deadline.

There are a wide variety of activities and programs that individuals can choose from to earn Healthy U points. If you have not yet started Healthy U, the first two steps you will need to complete are taking the Pledge, and completing the Wellness Profile (worth 30 points). You can access both of these items at [www.highmarkblueshield.com](http://www.highmarkblueshield.com).

After you and your covered spouse/same-sex domestic partner have completed these two steps, you can then choose from any of the remaining programs and activities to attain the 70 point threshold.

For more information on the Healthy U program please visit PASSHE's website [www.passhe.edu/inside/hr/syshr/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.passhe.edu/inside/hr/syshr/Pages/home.aspx) (Click on your appropriate employee group and then the "Wellness" button). You may also contact human resources at 717-872-3017 with questions about Healthy U.

### **PEBTF Health Plan Reminder (AFSCME, SCUPA and Physicians only)**

#### **Coverage for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services:**

Coverage for mental health and substance abuse services is provided through United Behavioral Health (UBH), regardless of which health plan you have. UBH has a specialized network of professional providers and facilities. In order to ensure coverage for mental health and substance abuse services and the lowest possible out-of-pocket expense, you should contact UBH at **1-800-924-0105** for referral to an in-network provider. UBH may reimburse for some services obtained from out of network providers; however, there are limitations and higher out-of-pocket costs. For further details, visit PEBTF's webpage at [www.pebtf.org/Active/AdditionalBenefits/MentalHealth.aspx](http://www.pebtf.org/Active/AdditionalBenefits/MentalHealth.aspx).

#### **Coverage for Durable Medical Equipment:**

(Includes equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, diabetic supplies)

For employees covered under the Keystone Central HMO or Highmark Blue Shield PPO, durable medical equipment is provided by DMension Benefit Management. There is both a network and a non-network benefit. If you elect to choose a network provider, you are eligible to receive covered benefits at no cost. To find a network provider, contact DMension Benefit Management at **1-888-732-6161** or log on to their web site at [www.dimension.net](http://www.dimension.net). The network is extensive and it includes most major DME/P&O Providers. Further details on coverage for

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durable medical equipment can be found at PEBTF's webpage  
[www.pebtf.org/Active/AdditionalBenefits/DME.aspx](http://www.pebtf.org/Active/AdditionalBenefits/DME.aspx).

## Tuition Waiver

2012-2013 tuition waiver due dates are as follows:

- Summer Session 1 April 3, 2012      - Fall 2012 July 2, 2012
- Summer Session 2 April 27, 2012    - Winter 2012 October 23, 2012
- Summer Session 3 May 25, 2012      - Spring 2013 November 12, 2012

## Employee Wellness

Make your steps count and earn Healthy U points by joining the second annual Take A Hike, the spring 2012 **Employee Walking Challenge**. The challenge will be to accumulate steps as a team by walking, running, swimming, dancing or whatever your preferred exercise is. We will "hike" the Continental Divide, a 3,100 mile trail from Canada to Mexico. The 14-week program will begin on January 30, 2012 and continue to May 7, 2011. Although more details will be provided in a future announcement, you may register now as a team of 12 members or less by emailing [human.resources@millersville.edu](mailto:human.resources@millersville.edu).

For more information about the employee wellness program, visit  
[www.millersville.edu/hr/wellness/index.php](http://www.millersville.edu/hr/wellness/index.php).

## 12/15/2011 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for December 15, 2011.



## Faculty and Staff Activities

**Drs. Karen Rice** and **Heather Girvin**, social work, were invited to provide training to new Lancaster County CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) volunteers on "Developing Cultural Competence" on October 24. CASA volunteers are court-appointed to advocate on behalf of children in foster care who have been abused and/or neglected. In addition, Rice, Girvin and **David (DJ) Johnson**, social work, presented at the 57th Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting: Increasing Access: Confronting Disparity and Inequality in Atlanta, Ga., October 27-30. Their workshop, "Writing Across the Social Work Curriculum: Facing Challenges, Assessing Need, Planning Strategies," allowed them to engage in a professional conversation with other social work faculty around the nation regarding the need for

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social work faculty to take an active role in addressing the writing skills of their students. Strategies being implemented across Millersville University's social work curriculum were shared throughout the workshop.

**Drs. Rich Mehrenberg, Elba Rohena, Anne Papalia-Berardi and Ellen Long**, all special education, recently gave a presentation titled, "Try It, You Might Like It: Fostering Early and Frequent Experiences between Pre-Service Teachers and Children with Low Incidence Disabilities" at the 2011 National Teacher Education Division Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children. The presentation took place in Austin, Texas, on November 12.

**Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer**, English, was an alto ringer in the Winter Concert of the Richmond Hill Chorale of Sacred Music in Queens, New York. The Chorale performed J.S. Bach's "Magnificat" and "A Musical Christmas Card," which featured special choral arrangements of sacred and secular seasonal favorites.

**Drs. Philip Tacka and Micheál Houlahan**, music, were the headline presenters for the Eastern Division Conference of the Organization of American Kodály Educators Conference, November 5-6 at Adlephi University in Garden City, New York. Their two-hour presentation was based on research on music learning contained in their Oxford University Press publication *Kodály Today: A Cognitive Approach to Music Education*.

## **Congratulations to**

**Michelle Pérez**, student affairs, and her husband Rafael López, on the birth of their baby girl Gabriella on November 2.

**Hiram Martinez**, social equity & diversity, and his wife Deborah, on the birth of their son Jovani Hiram Martinez on November 7.

**Srinivas Gotety**, information technology, and Neelima Ayilavarapu, on the birth of their son Vikram Sai Gotety on November 14.

## **Obituary**

**Dr. Leophus S. (Skip) King, Jr.**, assistant director of the Lancaster Partnership Program, died on December 3. King joined Millersville in 1990. His first assignment was as the program coordinator for the tutorial program in the department of developmental studies. In 1993, he became the assistant director of the Lancaster Partnership Program and continued in this capacity for the next 18 years.

## Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of the Exchange features Kim McCollum-Clark, associate professor of English at Millersville, since 1994.

### **Q: Why Millersville?**

A: I actually interviewed for the position at Millersville University as “practice” (true story!). I saw the job ad at a professional conference and took it home to my spouse and my major professor to say, “See, there are jobs just like I want! And this one is even in Pennsylvania!” But I wasn’t ready to apply for positions; I had not even begun my dissertation yet. My professor said, “You should apply for practice!” I was offered the job. I was very happy about it because the position allowed me to continue “teaching English” while I was teaching teachers to teach English (if that makes any sense).



### **Q: Where are you originally from? Where do you live now?**

A: I am from a tiny little rural town in North Carolina called Ruffin. I am the first in my family to go to college. I now live in Hempfield Township in Lancaster.

### **Q: Where did you attend College?**

A: I graduated from Guilford College in North Carolina with a joint major in English and French. I taught high school, both subjects, in eastern North Carolina before I decided I needed to know more to become a better teacher. So I went to Penn State for my master’s in English and then my Ph.D. in English education.

### **Q: What is your favorite class to teach and why?**

A: I really love teaching English 486, “Teaching Reading and Literature with Young Adults, Grades 7-12” (also known as the class with the longest title at MU). I love this class because it’s the “bridge” class between English and English education. It’s exciting working with future teachers who are just starting to figure out how all these things work together.

### **Q: How do you get your students motivated about reading and writing?**

A: Part of getting students motivated about reading and writing is helping them shed all of the negative experiences and impressions they bring about both. Also, figuring out how to hand a student the perfect book.

### **Q: What do you want students to take away from your courses?**

A: I want them to believe that reading and writing are tools for a full life and that they are both readers and writers. Narrow cultural definitions of these roles should not hold them back from making literacy a big part of their lives, whatever their goals may be. I want my English education students to see that our job as English teachers is to help our students get ready for the lives they choose for themselves and to open up their students’ visions about how reading and writing fit in with their personal goals.

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**Q: You teach a few secondary English education courses. How do you prepare your students to be the best English teachers they can be?**

A: I try to create experiences in class that help open up the big questions about what it means to teach English and then I try to equip students with the skills, knowledge and further experiences to start to answer these questions. I say “start” advisedly because being a teacher is a lifetime journey of asking and answering questions and then learning that another set of questions lies on the other side of the answers. I am on a sabbatical leave now at Columbia Jr. /Sr. High School to be back in the day-to-day life of the teacher, to remind myself of those things. Everyday I leave with a list of questions to ponder, research and try to figure out.

**Q: Did you always want to be a teacher?**

A: I actually fought against the desire to be a teacher for a while in college. But, I had a dark night of the soul and realized that it was all I really wanted to do and it’s all I’ve ever done.

**Q: What is your favorite quote?**

A: “All men should strive to learn before they die what they are running from and to and why” - James Thurber.

**Q: What is your favorite novel?**

A: I cannot pick just one, but my favorite author is Ursula K. Le Guin, she writes science fiction and fantasy novels. She is my bar-none favorite.

**Q: What made you interested in English?**

A: I am completely gaga over English. I think it’s the spine of the humanities, because it’s the discipline that studies language, the spirit of human creation and written texts. I really do think that English touches on all aspects of human life and allows us to draw these disparate threads together and say, “Look at what this writer, this culture, wants to say to the rest of us about life!” English is a thing of joy to me.

**Q: What is the best moment you’ve had at Millersville?**

A: One of the best moments that I’ve had would have to be when I met a student in elementary education that could not pass the Praxis writing test due to her testing anxiety. She was just about to give up her dream of teaching because of that test, so I offered to tutor her at my house while I was on maternity leave with my second son, Adam. We worked together for four months on various strategies. One day, when I was not expecting her, she knocked on my door and had sneaked off to take the test – and she passed! We screamed, hollered and cried for about five minutes. I was so proud to go to her graduation and she’s been teaching elementary school for a number of years now.

**Q: Who is somebody that you look up to?**

A: I look up to my friends who are teachers – I call them my “teacher posse.” It’s not easy being a teacher today and they don’t just “phone it in.” They bring their best game to the classroom everyday because they know the cost. They want to shape student experience for the best everyday.

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**Q: Tell us about your family.**

A: I have a spouse, Robert, who is a professor at Penn State University Park, our alma mater. He teaches workforce education, working with career and technical school teachers and administrators across Pennsylvania. We like to travel in the summers with our sons, Eason, age 13 and Adam, age 9.

**Q: What are some interests you have outside of English and Millersville?**

A: I am a huge reader of young adult literature and graphic novels. Yes, it's part of my job, but I also love it. You can follow my reading on Goodreads.com. I made a goal to read 200 books this year and I'm on pace to meet that goal.

**Q: If you could go on vacation anywhere, where would you go?**

A: I visited the Theatre of Epidavros in Greece this past summer with my family. Sophocles probably watched his plays to be performed there. It's like Mecca for a literature lover and I had to stop myself from bawling like a baby (my sons threatened to leave me if I did).

**Q: If you could have dinner with any famous person (dead or alive) who would it be?**

A: I would love to have dinner with the late Jim Henson, especially if Frank Oz could be there too. I am a huge fan of the Muppets and I have a letter from Frank Oz that is one of my favorite possessions. I would love to hear those two geniuses and friends talk about the early days of Sesame Street and the Muppets.