

Reading in the Garden

The new sculpture garden at Ganser Library will promote the University's commitment to sustainability by showcasing Pennsylvania's native plants. Native plants provide food and habitat for native animals and do not require special care or resources since they are already adapted to Pennsylvania's climate. Sub-gardens will further showcase the various uses, taxonomy, habitats and evolution of native plants.



It's all part of the renovations at Ganser Library, which will begin this summer. Most of the changes will occur inside the building, but some of the biggest changes will be happening outside its walls.

Stretching from George Street, in front of the library, to the library's parking lot, will be a sculpture/reading garden.

“The University wants to have the cultural influence of the library expand past its physical borders. That is where the idea of the sculpture/reading garden came from. We want the community to interact and learn about nature as well as experience the artistic touches that the garden offers,” said Erin Dorney, outreach librarian.

During the fall 2010 semester, two classes contributed substantially to the final designs.

The plants to be used in the garden were hand-picked by assistant biology professor Dr. Christopher Hardy's “Plant Systematics” class. The final design is a compilation of the best designs of his 22 students.

“We wanted to design this garden with hopes that, in the future, classes will be able to walk through the garden and study the various plant species from an evolutionary, ecological and environmental perspective,” said Hardy.

Assistant professor of art Line Bruntse's advanced sculpture classes have been creating concepts for seating areas in the garden, referencing native plants and geologic periods. The seating areas were conceived to be places for flexible learning in smaller groups, reflecting the conceptual direction for the library renovation. Through models and drawings, students worked through their ideas and presented their concepts.

In addition to ideas of how to incorporate sculpture into the garden, the sculpture students' designs include an outdoor amphitheater; a pergola, or an open gazebo, shaded collaborative seating area and individual seating for the garden.

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Both classes traveled to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa., for design ideas and inspiration.

“Historical references, landscape engineering, issues of public safety, material selection and cost management are only some of the complex issues the students are dealing with for the project, which is a great learning experience for the students,” said Bruntse.

Through the duration of the library's renovation, updates on the progress will be available to keep the University community well-informed. The University hopes to have the renovation completed by fall 2013. For the most up-to-date information about the renovation of the Millersville University Library, visit <http://blogs.millersville.edu/newlibrary/>.

MU Mobile

Access to Millersville University is easier than ever with MU Mobile, a new website that is free to use and accessible from any mobile Smartphone. The URL for the website is m.millersville.edu.

“The idea was a collaborative effort between IT and marketing,” said Ryan Griffith, web developer at Millersville. “Based on increasing mobile traffic and current [web] trends, we decided to launch a side project that would offer the campus community an alternative, mobile-friendly view of the Millersville website.”



Involvement in the planning and development of the site included the system administration team, web developer and designer as well as a digital media specialist. Before the site was developed, a poll was posted to My'Ville to see if students would be interested in a mobile version of Millersville's website. Since the “silent launch” on September 1, 2010, the website has received more than 3,000 page views.

When away from a computer, you can use MU Mobile to get information on Marauder athletics, campus information, MU weather forecasts and more.

You can watch a video on MU Mobile at www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQzbUHQq6Lg.

“The benefit of using the mobile website is that we are able to provide an easy-to-use site that will function in a similar manner to a much broader and diverse mobile audience, rather than developing an application (i.e. an app) that will reach a much smaller audience,” said Griffith.

After first time use of the website, the site can be saved onto the homepage of any Smartphone, or as a bookmark, for instant use in the future.

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For more information on MU Mobile, contact the Millersville Web Team, at Webteam@millersville.edu.

Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway with Ratfish

Art and paleontology enthusiasts will enjoy a unified experience at Lancaster's North Museum of Natural History & Science. The museum's new exhibit, "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway," with artist Ray Troll and paleontologist Kirk Johnson, features fossils and how they show the Earth's past. Troll's friend, Millersville's Dr. Dominique Dagit, biology, was recently on hand at the museum to give a ratfish demonstration among the exhibit.

Dagit was invited to display her ratfish and give a hands-on workshop for kids on February 12. In addition, Dagit recently received University funding for "Scholars in the Classroom" and will bring Troll to Millersville's campus, March 15, to spend the day with her classes.



The museum's exhibit features 20 framed pieces of Troll's artwork, which were created for a book describing a 5,000-mile trip through the West to explore fossils. The exhibition uses visuals and stories from the book with real fossil specimens from the museum's paleontology collection.

Visitors are also able to dig for dinosaur clues, try on fossilized footprints and participate in a Hamburger Hunt.

The "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway" exhibit runs now through May 1. The North Museum of Natural History & Science is located at 400 College Ave. in Lancaster, Pa. Admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$6.50 for juniors, ages 3-17 and seniors, ages 65 and over. The museum is free for children under three years old.

4th Annual Science Olympiad

Students in middle school and high school will have the opportunity to use their knowledge and skills in science at the fourth annual Science Olympiad. Millersville University will host the Pennsylvania Central Region Science Olympiad competition, Saturday, March 26. Winners of the local competition will then compete at state and national levels.

Currently, more than 40 schools are registered to participate in the competition, which consists of 46 team events. The events are separated by two divisions: Division B is middle school and Division C is high school (23 events per division). Each school brings 15 students who compete



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in various events throughout the day on topics including genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology.

Science Olympiad is a national nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers.

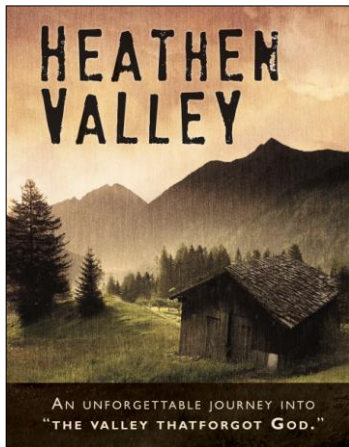
“This is an event that promotes recruitment of highly competitive students to science fields and to Millersville University,” said Dr. Maria Schiza, co-coordinator for the Olympiad and assistant professor of chemistry at Millersville. “Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved in a day of fun and scientific competition.”

For more information, contact Schiza at Maria.Schiza@millersville.edu or 717-872-3413, or Dr. Mehmet Goksu, co-coordinator for the Olympiad and assistant professor of physics, at Mehmet.Goksu@millersville.edu or 717-872-3770.

2009-2010 President’s Report

The 2009-2010 President’s Report is now available online. You can read about and watch videos of the highlights at www.millersville.edu/president/reports/index.php.

Millersville University Theatre Presents “Heathen Valley”



What is the meaning of “home”? How do you find where you belong? Once you find a home, how do you hold on to it?

Millersville University Theatre explores all of these questions and more in the upcoming production of “Heathen Valley,” a drama by the late Romulus Linney.

Directed by Tony Eliot, communication & theatre, the production will run in Rafters Theatre, Dutcher Hall, **March 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 at 8 p.m.** and **March 20 and 27 at 2 p.m.**

Set in the 1850s in the remote mountains of North Carolina, “Heathen Valley” follows an Episcopal Bishop in his attempts to bring organized religion to a remote and untamed community, where brothers marry sisters and people live lives of extreme violence and poverty. The Bishop leaves William Starns, a well-meaning ex-convict, behind as his Deacon, charged with transforming this place from the “valley that forgot God” into a place of refuge and comfort.

Told through the memory of a former orphan boy who joins the Bishop and Starns on their journey, “Heathen Valley” is, at its core, a story about finding and holding on to home, a family and a place of belonging.

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Tickets cost \$10.00 for general admission; **\$7.00** with an MU ID and senior citizens and **\$5.00** with an MU ID, for super saver advance sales, only at the Millersville Ticket Office in Gerhart Hall (22 E. Frederick St.).

Tickets may also be purchased online, at MUticketsonline.com or by calling the Ticket Office at 717-872-3811. The theatre has limited seating, so get tickets early!

For more information, contact Tina Stout, theatre production manager, at Tina.Stout@millersvill.edu or 872-3712.

Louis Vyner Award in Performance, MU Students Audition

This February, Millersville University musicians will compete for the Louis Vyner Award in Performance for an opportunity to perform with a music ensemble at Millersville University.

First-round auditions were held February 4, resulting in five finalists: Amy Chapman, Paulino Contreras, Brett Jarvis, Katelyn Smith and Lindsey Stauffer. The finals will be on February 18, at 7 p.m., at Millersville University-Lancaster, 42 N. Prince St. The event is free and open to the public.

The Louis Vyner Award in Performance honors the late founder and conductor of the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra. It recognizes a student's excellence in performance including conducting, which is judged by faculty. All applicants must have a 3.0 QPA in music courses and must have reached junior status in the University as a degree candidate in music by the date of the audition. The recipient will receive the annual income from the fund established in 1980, in the form of a cash award, and a public performance during their senior year with recognition as the Louis Vyner Performance Award winner.



“This is a fabulous opportunity for a Millersville student to showcase his or her ability in music performance or conducting,” said Dr. Micheal Houlahan, chairperson and professor of music. “Vyner was such an influential and passionate musician in the local community; it’s great that our students can share that same passion.”

The performance may take the form of a solo recital, solo or conducting appearance with one of the large University performing organizations, or otherwise as approved by the major performance teacher and the department chairperson.

The audition requires a maximum of 20 minutes performing and two works of contrasting styles for performers. Individual movements from large works are understood as individual compositions for the purpose of this competition. Applicants should provide their own accompanists in consultation with the head piano teacher.

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Conductors prepare one work in advance with an ensemble assembled by the conducting applicant; a second work is chosen by the faculty. The conductor has one week prior to this rehearsal period during which to study and prepare the score.

Spring 2011 Millersville University Library Events

Save the date and join us – all events are free and open to the public:



February 23 – Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Graphic Novels (Library, 4th Floor, 6-7:30 p.m.). Please join us for a lively panel discussion on use of graphic novels for education. Featuring Dr. Timothy Shea, English, discussing the pedagogical value of graphic novels and James Pannafino, art, discussing the artistic value of these materials.

March 24 – Afterthoughts for the Hazel Jackson Lecture (Library, 4th floor, 4 p.m.). Join members of the University community for an informal follow-up discussion of ideas and issues presented by Walter Ellis Mosley's 2011 Hazel Jackson Lecture. Facilitated by Dr. Marjorie Warmkessel, library.

April 4 – Friends of Ganser Library Spring Lecture (Lehr Room, Bolger Conference Center, Gordinier Hall, 7-8:30 p.m.). The Friends 2011 spring banquet will feature Marilyn Johnson, journalist and author of "This Book is Overdue!"

April 13 – Afterthoughts for the Kenderdine Lecture (Library, 4th floor, 4 p.m.). Join members of the University community for an informal follow-up discussion of ideas and issues presented by Dr. Caitlin Donnelly's 2011 Kenderdine Lecture. Facilitated by Jessica George, library.

April 21 – Why I Read Fiction Panel Discussion (Library, 4th floor, 4-5:30 p.m.). Faculty members from outside of traditionally literature-focused fields discuss why they read fiction and how they incorporate it into their teaching. Featuring Dr. Stacey Irwin, communication & theater; Dr. Lynn Marquez, earth science and Dr. William Wolf, art.

April 29 – Film Screenings of "Only When I Dance" and "Jaffa" (Myers Auditorium, McComsey Hall, 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.). Join us for two screenings of foreign films. Presented by the Millersville University Library and co-sponsored by the Foreign Languages Department and the MU Cine Club. This event is free, no advance tickets.

Please check the [Library Facebook page](#) for more details or contact Library Outreach at 717-872-3617 or Library.Outreach@Millersville.edu.

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Spring 2011 Math Colloquium

Millersville University and Franklin & Marshall College announce the spring 2011 Math Colloquium. All lectures will be held Thursdays at 4 p.m. at **either** Millersville University, in Wickersham Hall, room 101 **or** Franklin & Marshall, in Stager Hall, room 114.

February 24, at F&M – Issues Related to the Longtime Dynamics of Partly Dissipative Reaction Diffusion Systems, with Dr. Zhoude Shao, mathematics professor at Millersville.

March 3, at MU – Resolutions of Determinantal Ideals, with Dr. Heidi Hulsizer, Hampden-Sydney College.

March 10, at F&M – Local artist and F&M alum talks about her work with polyhedra, with Kate Coolidge.

March 24, at F&M – Issues and Approaches Involving the Modeling of Functions of Multiple Responses, with Dr. Kevin Robinson, mathematics professor at Millersville.

March 31, at MU – Tiling a square with eight squares, with Dr. Iwan Praton, F&M.

April 7, at MU – Stamp Folding Puzzles: Delightful Excursions in Recreational Geometry, with Dr. Ron Umble, mathematics professor at Millersville.

April 21, at MU – In the shadow of Desargues, with Dr. Annalisa Crannell, F&M.

For more information, contact Dr. Ximena Catepillan, MU, at 717-872-3993, Dr. Mingquan Zhan, MU, at 717-872-3139 or Dr. John Grosh, F&M, at 717-358-5858.

2011 Carnival of Majors

Millersville University faculty should encourage students to attend the 2011 Carnival of Majors, Wednesday, March 16 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The Carnival of Majors event allows students to explore academic major options at Millersville University as well as an opportunity to speak with faculty and staff from Millersville's various departments.

Every year, about 25 departments attend the event. The departments participating in this year's carnival range from the Exploratory Program and the geography department to the sociology department and industry and technology department.



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The event includes free cotton candy, popcorn and a visit from Millersville's mascot, Skully the parrot.

The carnival will be held in the Stayer Hall Multipurpose Room. It is free and open to all who wish to attend. For more information, contact Sarah Darling at the Office of Academic Advisement, at 717-872-3642.

Leadership Development Program Getting Underway

A call has been issued for those interested in joining the 2011 class of the Leadership Development Program for Supervisors and Managers. Class members participate in a variety of programs, which enable them to:

- Discover Their Personal Supervisory Style.
- Learn & Practice Supervisory Skills.
- Explore the Role of Supervision and Management at MU.

Program requirements include attending all five full and half-day sessions and at least three Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Programs. **Applications are due to Melanie DeSantis in the Office of Human Resources by February 25, 2011.** Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee and applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the program by March 10, 2011.

You may also contact members of the 2010 class, listed below:

Back Row (L-R): Hiram Martinez, Office of Social Equity & Diversity; Dan Yabut, University Communications & Marketing; Will Redmond, Office of the Provost; Pat Benson, Dining & Conference Services; Andy Welaish, Office of the Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences; Jennifer Mariacher, Budget; David Errickson, Purchasing; John Sicotte, Registrar's Office; Lisa Ulrich, Human Resources and Greg Schmalhofer, Information Resources.



Front Row (L-R): Janine Ball-Bailey, Accounting; Nancy Korycinski, Office of the Provost; Melissa Walter, Dining & Conference Services; Ginny Massey, Office of VP Finance & Administration; Veronica Longenecker, Information Resources and Matt Kirchoff, Dining & Conference Services.

Not Pictured: Bill Good, Maintenance Operations.

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New Tutors

The Tutoring Center would like to offer congratulations to the following tutors who completed the College of Reading and Learning Association -International Level 1 Tutor Certification Program!

Fall 2010 Certified Tutors

Eric Chronister - Geography
Danielle Farnell - Biology & Chemistry
Elizabeth Garrett - Chemistry
Jessica Gibiser - Biology
Leah Graham - Earth Science, Geography, Biology
Courtney Herb - Biology
Bradley Herchelroath - English
Justin Hoffman - Physics
Matthew Lewis - Physics
Tim McLaughlin - Economics
Kimberly Pugh - Biology
Shawn St. Clair - Computer Science, Chemistry, Economics
John Timlin - Physics
Kyle Toth - Chemistry & Computer Science

Spring 2010 Certified Tutors

Carissa Alza - Biology & Chemistry
Renee Austin - Biology
Brandy Baltzall - Anthropology
Stephanie Bushman - Geography
Kylie Caffrey - Communications & Theater
Brandon Cassel - Chemistry
Keely Eisenhauer - Government & Political Affairs
Melissa Horger - Biology
Kaleb Koons - Economics
Hong Lam - Business
Stephen Melnick - Chemistry
Shanirra Parnell-Stewart - Social Work
Kali Short - English
Christopher Stehli - Biology
Jennifer Vu - Business Administration



The Tutoring Center offers tutor training to promote expertise in tutoring services. The Tutoring Center was awarded Levels 1 & 2 International Tutor Training Certification from the College of Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). Millersville University's Tutoring Center was commended as a "very strong comprehensive program that demonstrates clear evidence of a commitment to CRLA principles of training." CRLA noted that Millersville's program operates in a unique manner by "inviting" certified tutors to continue to work toward higher levels of

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certification. This “invitation only” aspect insures that only those truly interested will continue to earn higher levels of certification. Millersville’s program stresses critical thinking skills and has documented improved results on the part of the students who are tutored by tutors trained in critical thinking skills.

HR Training Workshops

April 11

Business Etiquette, Stayer Hall, room 302, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Learn modern office etiquette including making introductions, giving and taking compliments, the art of the apology and email do’s and don’ts.

April 11

Supervisor Tool Kit, Part 2: Motivation/Positive Feedback, Stayer Hall, room 302, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Recognition of work in a positive way can increase productivity and build teamwork. This workshop will explore employee motivation and how to give positive feedback.

April 20

Team Building Tools, Part 2: Creativity, Stayer Hall, room 302, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Learn the stages of group development, how to engage your team from the beginning and ways to create a high-functioning team.

HR Mini Sessions

Sessions held in the HR/Payroll Annex Conference Room, Dilworth Building.

February 23

Paraphrasing & Asking Open-Ended Questions, 11 a.m. – noon

February 24

Pulling Back & Blocks to Listening, 11 a.m. – noon

March 23

Telephone Skills for Handling the Angry Customer, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

March 24

State Employee Assistance Program (SEAP), 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

April 5

Lessons in Leadership – Visioning, 11 a.m. – noon

April 6

Making the Most of Change, 11 a.m. – noon

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Spring Break Training Blast

March 8

Team Building Tools, Part 1, Stayer Hall, room 302, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Learn tools to generate ideas, collect information and solve problems.

March 9

Handling Conflict, Stayer Hall, room 302, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Explore handling conflict with calm, careful, solution-oriented questions and statements that can help clarify conflicts and issues.

March 10

Supervisor Tool Kit Part 1, Planning & Delegating, Stayer Hall, room 302, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Delegation and planning can be powerful tools in motivating and developing staff. This interactive workshop will explore tips and techniques on assigning work, building trust and coaching.

March 10

What's My Communication Style? Stayer Hall, room 302, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Discover your communication style and tips for communicating effectively with others.

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Millersville University Administrator Assumes New Duties



Dr. Jane Bray, dean of the School of Education, recently assumed additional responsibilities as associate provost at Millersville University.

Bray received her bachelor's and master's in elementary education from Kutztown University and her Ed.D. from Lehigh University. She joined the Millersville administrative team in August 2001.

Previously, she served as interim dean for the School of Professional Studies at East Stroudsburg University, heading its Teacher Education Unit. She also served as chair for the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

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“It is exciting to have this unique opportunity to serve as both dean for the School of Education and associate provost at Millersville,” said Bray. “I am sincerely looking forward to working on a variety of key initiatives within Academic Affairs and contributing to the institution in a larger capacity.”

Faculty and Staff Activities

Steve DiGuiseppe, alumni services, recently received an “Award of Recognition of Superior Performance” for his stellar service to the Millersville Borough, University, community, Business Association, Parade and Millersville 250th Committee.

Dr. Chris Hardy, biology, and colleagues from Africa and Europe have recently published their research documenting the means by which plants in the biodiversity hotspot southwestern Cape of Africa survived ancient climatic changes. While ancient climate change drove some lineages towards extinction, the ones that survived did so by shifting their geographic ranges or by shifting the timing of flowering in response to climatic change. The research is published in the journal *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, and is available from the Herbarium herbarium.millersville.edu upon request.

Janet Kacskos, APR, University Communications & Marketing, and Millersville graduate student, Alexandra Wachman, presented at the 2011 CASE District II Conference in Baltimore, Md., February 7. Their presentation was “Crisis Communication.”

Dr. Joseph C. Labant, elementary & early childhood, presented “Teaching the Voting Process to Young Learners” at the annual National Council for the Social Studies Conference in Denver, Colo., this past fall. While at the conference, he also served as one of three delegates that represented Pennsylvania in the Council’s House of Delegates. Earlier in the semester, Labant presented “Varying Instructional Strategies in Elementary Social Studies to Ensure Success for All Students” at the annual Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Conference at the Lancaster County Convention Center in Lancaster, Pa.

Dr. Marilyn Parrish, library, recently co-authored a chapter for the *2010 Handbook for Adult and Continuing Education* with Ed Taylor and Richard Banz. And she was co-editor of *Adult Education in Libraries, Museums, Parks, and Zoos: New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*. In addition, she was co-author or author of two chapters: Chapter 5 - (Re)membering: Excavating and Performing Uncommon Narratives Found in Archives and Historical Societies and Chapter 9 - Reflections on Adult Learning in Cultural Institutions. Parrish also gave a presentation with Ed Taylor at the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education conference in Clearwater, Fla., in October 2010.

Dr. Beverly Schneller, English, is presenting a guest lecture, “Political Women in the Irish-American Community, 1870-1890: Beyond the Parnells” in the Graduate History Program at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Va., February 21, 2011.

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Francis Schodowski and **Martha MacAdam**, development, along with Carrie Matesevac from Duquesne University recently presented at CASE District II Conference in Baltimore, Md. The title of their presentation was “Stewardship on a Shoestring.”

Dr. Dominic Scott, educational foundations, presented at the New England American Conference on Irish Studies, November 12-13, at Framingham State University, Ma. The title of his presentation was “Ulster’s Troubled Youth and the Hero’s Journey.” In addition, he presented at the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Conference, September 30-October 2, in Lancaster, Pa., on “Hands-on Learning in a World of 7 Billion.”

Dr. E. Elliott Seda, educational foundations, presented a workshop to teachers and administrators of the Nueva Esperanza Academy in Philadelphia, Pa., entitled Characteristics of Effective Urban Teachers, January 31.

Dr. Mark Snyder, industry & technology, had an article published in *Tech Directions: Linking Education to Careers in February*. Snyder wrote, “Affordable, accessible, immediate—capture stunning images with digital infrared photography.” The article featured infrared photos captured by Millersville University students including an image of Biemsderfer Hall. The cover photo was by the author. The digital issue is available at digital.ipcprintservices.com/publication/?m=6340&l=1

Retired

Jean Bradel, emeriti music, recently had one of her students, Theresa Walker (MU '10), perform the role of Mrs. Snoring Man in the production of “White Christmas” at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, Pa.

Dr. William B. McIlwaine, professor of science education emeritus and Millersville University trustee, was recently honored by the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association (PSTA), where he served as executive director for 26 years. The PSTA purchased a brick in honor of his service. The brick is part of the capital campaign organized by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) as part of their efforts to construct the new John Glenn Center for Science Education in Arlington, Va. The new center will house the offices of NSTA, as well as the new NSTA Leadership Academy and offer a variety of programs for teachers of science.

Jim Yescalis, retired photographer, will have a photo exhibition at the Keystone Art and Culture Center, located at 420 Pearl St., Lancaster, opening First Friday, March 4, from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. The show is titled "Streets and Scapes" and includes black-and-white and color photographs taken between 1969 and the present. “Streets” refers to street photography, primarily of people in various locations and “Scapes” to nature photography. On March 25 (fourth Friday), in conjunction with a bronze pour at the Center, there will be an artist’s talk at 6:30 p.m. The show runs through the end of March.

Congratulations

Drs. Christopher Hardy, biology, and **Nazli Hardy**, computer science, on the birth of their baby boy, Zaavi C. Hardy, December 8.

Obituary

Terence "Terry" L. Ott, 61, died February 6, in Camp Hill, Pa. He worked for Millersville University for 23 years and was the head of the dish room in the kitchen until his retirement in 1994.

Who Makes Millersville Special

This issue of the Exchange features Gene Ellis, instructor in communication & theatre and faculty advisor for the Snapper.



Q: Where did you go to college?

A: I have my undergraduate degree from Carson-Newman College. I dual majored in English literature and communication. When I started my master's I chose Marshal University and majored in communications. Currently, I completed all my course work for my Ph. D. from Southern Illinois University. I have been teaching on college campuses for 37 years, the last 22 years here at Millersville.

Q: As a communication professor what is your favorite class to teach? Why?

A: I really enjoy the fundamentals of speech class. You get to work with students on different levels of competence in a subject that all must master to some degree. Communication is fundamental to any profession you enter. You have to be able to "communicate" your thoughts to others to sell that product, create that story or help another. It's exciting to see the growth of students in that class.

Q: What do you love about Millersville University?

A: The students! What a great group of people. I also am thankful for the academic freedom to express and discuss ideas that not everyone agrees with.

Q: You are the faculty advisor for the Snapper. What were some of your responsibilities?

A: As Snapper advisor, I am responsible for guiding the editors of our paper. I am not responsible for the paper, the students are, but I am like a coach. Every week I sit and critique the paper from layout to story structure. I look at both the positives of that paper and the areas that can be improved. I listen to complaints, solve problems and laugh. I help with story ideas and suggest areas of interest.

Q: Theater seems to be a large part of your life. Can you imagine your life without it?

A: I have always been involved with theater. I started acting in plays in the second grade and have not stopped. It is my creative outlet. I met my wife on stage; during a summer production

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our director paired us up as a husband and wife team and he has never yelled stop. All my kids have been on stage. And I always seem to be involved in some way.

Q: Tell us about directing the show *Hair*. What was your favorite part?

A: My favorite part of *Hair* was teaching the actors the history of the era. We watched films, read books, looked at pictures and tried to bring the era alive in their mind. A lot of the staging was pictures of major events from that decade.

Q: How many shows have you directed? Will you continue to direct?

A: I have directed a lot of shows, about - 200? I just finished directing *The Full Monty* at Ephrata Performing Arts Center (EPAC) and I am directing *Lost in Yonkers* in the late spring.

Q: What is your theater background?

A: I was originally going to be an actor. So I have classes in acting, directing, voice, movement, etc. I have directed at all the universities I have worked for. At one time I was on the executive board for the Southwest Theatre Association, president of the Arkansas Theatre Association and regional director for the American College Theatre Association. When I moved to Lancaster, I started doing shows for The Fulton, Theatre of the Seven Sisters and EPAC.

Q: What is your favorite Broadway show?

A: My favorite Broadway show is *Sunday in the Park with George*.

Q: What was your favorite show to direct?

A: My favorite show to direct was: Ok there are three: *To Gillian on her 37 Birthday*, *Sordid Lives* and *Hair*.

Q: What was the last show in which you were the member of the cast?

A: I was Grandpa Joe in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* at EPAC.

Q: What was your favorite show to perform?

A: My favorite show to perform was *Chicago*. I played Mr. Hart and sang Mr. Cellophane.

Q: Would you prefer to be on stage performing or be behind the scenes directing?

A: I really enjoy both aspects of theatre. However, if I had to pick, I would prefer to direct. I love the creativity and vision of direction. It is so energizing to see your vision come to life.

Q: Do you direct anywhere else?

A: Yes, I am directing at EPAC and at my church.

Q: Besides Theater, what other hobbies do you have?

A: I love to read. You will always find a book near me. Borders and Barnes & Nobel are my favorite stores. My wife says I could live there. Since I purchase at least two books a week, every year I donate boxes of books to Hershey Public Library book sales.

Q: What are some of your favorites (food, TV shows, movies, colors)?

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A: My favorite food – Beef stew and sweet potatoes. Favorite TV Show – M.A.S.H. Favorite Movie – Orson Well’s “Citizen Kane.” Favorite Color – Blue.

Q: Where was your last vacation and was it enjoyable?

A: My wife and I went Cape May and stayed at The Queen Victoria bed and breakfast with friends. It was the most relaxing experience; we shopped, ate, laughed and had no worries – it was great. Now, my favorite vacation spot is the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We go there every summer.

Q: What is an interesting fact about yourself that most people do not know?

A: I grew up in the South and all my family still lives there - so - they joke that you can take the boy out of the South but you can’t take the South out of the boy. I am a major NASCAR fan. I go to at least two major races a season and follow my driver. I am also a hockey fan and go see the Hershey Bears as often as I can.

Q: Is there any other information that would be useful for the article?

A: I have been married to Barbara for 36 years. We have three children and soon, (my daughter is expecting her third girl in February) will have six granddaughters. My wife and I are both deacons in our church, Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren.