



MILLERSVILLE RANKS IN TOP 100

Millersville University has been ranked 54th in the category of Best Universities—Master’s in the North region, according to U.S. News & World Report. Millersville received the highest ranking among the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education universities in this category. U.S. News & World Report rankings are based on various factors including graduation and freshman retention rates, class size and student-to-faculty ratios. Overall, the category included a total of 572 institutions nationwide, ranked by region, which provide a full range of undergraduate and graduate programs.



MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY IS IN DEMAND

Applications were up 14 percent for fall 2009, compared to fall 2008.

The average SAT score of admitted freshmen was 1065, compared to 1056 last fall.

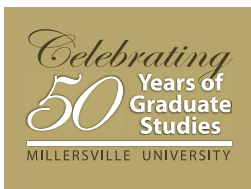
The official fall 2009 enrollment is 8,427 full and part-time students—a new record.



COLLEGE OF GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES ESTABLISHED

Millersville University announced the establishment of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies during its celebration of the 50th anniversary for graduate studies on Oct. 22.

The new college addresses the essential need for an improved structure and a higher profile for Millersville’s graduate and professional programs. It was established in order to serve the regional economy’s workforce needs with highly qualified professionals, and to ensure the future of public education at the post-baccalaureate level.



HOME COOKING CONTEST WINNER

Last spring the North Side Bistro held a home cooking contest for parents of Millersville students. Parents sent their favorite recipes to John Johnson, chef and manager of the North Side Bistro. He selected the top entries, which were then prepared for students, who voted for their favorite dish. The students’ choice for best recipe went to Donna Leister’s Pumpkin Cobbler.

Leister and her family recently received their prize of overnight accommodations at the Marriot in Granite Run, lunch at the Upper Deck, a meal prepared especially for Leister and her family by Johnson in the Kline dining room in Gordinier and Sunday brunch. According to



Left to right: Wayne, Alyssa and Donna Leister

Leister, “my husband was telling our neighbors that he had the best meal of his life... I couldn’t have said it better myself.” Leister stated that, “I have eaten at some exceptional four-star restaurants when traveling for my work, but I have to say your meal was the best.”



DOES YOUR STUDENT KNOW ABOUT TAT?

Call Up That TAT!. That is the message being spread to Millersville University students to raise awareness of the threat assessment team (TAT). The establishment of TAT@MU stemmed from the incidents that occurred at Virginia Tech in April 2007.

Incidents of violence, threatening behavior, unwanted pursuit, harassment, and behavior indicating a student, faculty, or staff member poses a risk to self or others are reported to the TAT@MU.

After a threat is reported, a preliminary investigation takes place by the Millersville University Police Department and other members of TAT. This includes interviews to determine the existence of corroborating evidence, Millersville student disciplinary and judiciary history, and other relevant information as deemed appropriate to ensure the safety of the university community.

Upcoming programs and activities on campus will raise awareness and show the importance of having a threat assessment team.

Urge your student to put the TAT@MU phone number in their cell phone: 717-872-3717. Remind them: Don't live in regret, report a threat and Call Up that TAT!.



ALCOHOL AWARENESS

by John Baltzer, Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor

As the alcohol and other drug counselor (AOD) at Millersville, I appreciated the letter from a concerned parent on binge drinking (published in the fall 2009 issue of this newsletter). I have seen two students this semester who frequently drink to a blood alcohol content (BAC) in excess of .50 (no, that isn't a typo), which could be potentially fatal for alcohol poisoning, and scores of others who drink in the "blackout-to-coma" range. It is reassuring to see that there are parents who truly grasp the scope of the problem. I suggest that all parents visit the website for the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (www.CollegeDrinkingPrevention.gov/1College_Bulletin-508_361C4E.pdf). Here you can learn about the reality of college drinking and how to help your student be safe.

As a result of the letter, more parents have contacted me and expressed an interest in lending their time and energy to reducing the harm caused by high-risk college drinking. Accordingly, we are scheduling a time to get together. If you are interested in reducing harm and risk caused by drinking for your son or daughter, or other students at Millersville, please contact me at john.baltzer@millersville.edu.

In other news, Millersville's Alcohol and Other Drug Steering Committee held its annual workshop in November and came away with goals that involve students, parents and the community.

During the workshop I was struck by how much Millersville is already doing to "reduce the harm." The fact that we have an AOD Steering Committee and an AOD staffer sets us apart from many other schools. There is strong support in Student Affairs for healthy living and dealing with high-risk drinking. We provide CHOICES for all Orientation Leaders and incoming freshmen, and follow up in many Freshman Year Experience and Health and Wellness classes. We provide increased police presence, equipment, and enforcement during times of historically heavy drinking. Judicial Affairs sends letters to parents and sees that all violators are given prevention information or an AOD assessment.

Our peer health educators are the backbone of our student efforts.

They work to get the truth out about what most Millersville students do instead of high-risk drinking by using ads, posters and Facebook. Student Activities supports a long list of clubs and organizations and provides alcohol-free events, as well as a new Five Star Program for Greeks. We provide mandatory AOD education and prevention sessions for athletes, Greeks and other high-risk groups. We provide e-CHUG and e-TOKE (online self-assessments) to help students take an honest look at their relationship with alcohol and marijuana. One of our best tools is Stall Talk, a weekly flyer that is posted in every rest room stall on campus and contains AOD facts that most students didn't get at school or at home. We sponsor an annual public service announcement contest about harm reduction and publicize the winners on WIXQ, MUTV, posters and in The Snapper to help students spread the word. We still have much work to do, but I am proud of our progress here at Millersville.

However, the most significant prevention effort of all is facilitated by parents. Students who don't drink, take drugs or smoke until age 21 rarely develop problems. Literally, as I wrote this article, another parent called me with concerns about her daughter's drinking, injuries, consequences and her family risk for alcoholism. I encouraged her to learn more about college drinking and to talk with her daughter about her relationship with alcohol. I encourage you to do the same.



OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY AROUND THE WORLD



Juniors Nicole Mathis (left) and Lindy Keefe are shown here touring Brussels.

Nicole Mathis and Lindy Keefe, juniors majoring in international studies with minors in Spanish, represented Millersville's Honors College this summer in Europe. They were among 26 students from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities who traveled to Paris, Amsterdam and Bruges, Belgium, to study "European Identity in the Middle Ages and European Politics and Identity in the Modern Era." The program involved a week-long study at Shippensburg University, followed by a two-week trip to France and Belgium.

"The experience was amazing. I've never been out of the country before, and to experience both the history and present-day workings of two different countries was fascinating," says Keefe. "We were able to hear speakers and learn about different aspects of the organizations we never would have been able to do without this program."

Sponsored by the PASSHE Honors Colleges, the program features a different host institution each summer. In 2011, Millersville will sponsor the program, "The Atlantic World in an Age of Revolution," with a trip to Bermuda. The 2010 program is "Mapping Cultural and Historical Egypt." The Summer Honors Program provides select honors students with the opportunity to study and travel abroad as a group. Two representatives from each PASSHE Honors College program are chosen. For more information, contact the Honors College at 717-872-3571 or visit www.millersville.edu/~honors.

In addition, Millersville University's Office of Global Education & Partnerships fosters global educational opportunities around the world. At present, it has partnerships with universities in Chile, China, France, Germany, Japan, Northern Ireland, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and more. The deadline for all summer/fall 2010 study abroad applications is February 19, 2010. For more information, log on to: www.millersville.edu/~globaled, or call 717-872-3884.



H1N1 UPDATE



Free H1N1 vaccine was made available to all Millersville University students this fall.

The vaccine will still be available in January when students return.

Getting the vaccine is a personal health decision. Unfortunately, there is a great deal of incorrect information being distributed on sites such as YouTube. Make sure your student is accurately informed about this important health issue.

Students interested in getting the vaccine should contact the Health Services office at 717-872-3250.

Students should continue to monitor emails and the Millersville website for the latest news regarding vaccinations and other important updates relating to H1N1.



UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

While the movie Rain Man first brought attention to the world of autism for many people in the 1980s, there has been a lot of research in recent years on this neuropsychological disorder. Because it is such a timely topic and has many bridges from the University into the greater community, the Common Reading Committee has developed a series of academic programming events around the theme of the autism spectrum disorder, to complement this year's common reading selection, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon.



Dr. Temple Grandin will be a featured speaker in March.

"It's a very relevant topic for our students," explained Dr. Laurie B. Hanich, professor of educational foundations. "One in 150 babies will be diagnosed with some form of autism. And many of our students have interacted with individuals on the autism spectrum. Degrees of autism range from very high mathematical abilities to non-verbal abilities."

Upcoming activities throughout the year will include service learning projects, the humanities film series and guest lecturers including the Anna Funk Lockett lecture on March 16 featuring Dr. Temple Grandin,

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IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, January 19

Spring term; classes begin

Saturday-Sunday, March 6-14

Spring recess

Monday, March 15

Classes resume

Saturday, May 8

End of spring term; Commencement



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Millersville University – 717-872-3011 • www.millersville.edu

Office of Financial Aid – 717-872-3026 • FA.mail@millersville.edu

Department of Housing & Residential Programs – 717-872-3162

Health Services – 717-872-3250

MARAUDER GOLD

Marauder Gold is the way for your Millersville student to pay both on- and off-campus. By making deposits into your son or daughter's account through MAX, their student ID card becomes Marauder Gold and provides them with fast, easy and cashless purchases at numerous locations.



Visit www.maraudergold.com for information and a list of participating businesses.

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professor at Colorado State University, and author of *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's* and *Thinking in Pictures*.

Throughout the year, faculty will bring campus and community attention to the wider world of disabilities, not just autism.

On March 31, 2010, the Honors College at Millersville will host a community issues forum on disabilities. The forum, "Disabilities and Public Policy," will focus on the impacts of disability policy, disability laws and the disability rights movement.

Dr. Dennis Downey, director of the Honors College, will moderate the forum. Speakers will include Steve Suroviec, the executive director of Arc of Pennsylvania, and Judith Gran and Thomas Gilhool, both of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.

This event is free and open to the public. Sponsors include the Millersville University Honors College, Common Reading Project, United Way of Lancaster County, Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP) and Arc of Pennsylvania.

For more information, contact Dr. Dennis Downey at 717-872-3924 or dennis.downey@millersville.edu.