Walker Center Opens at Millersville to Help Reverse Trend of Disaffection from Civic Involvement

Former Congressman Robert Walker ’64 was joined by Millersville President Francine G. McNairy, and William Reuter, chairman, president and CEO of Susquehanna Bancshares, on December 10 to announce the Robert and Sue Walker Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership. The center will be part of the Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project (CCERP) on campus.

The center is made possible by a $250,000 gift from Mr. Walker in memory of his wife, Sue, also class of 1964, who died in May. In addition, Susquehanna Bancshares announced a $200,000 gift to establish an internship program as part of the Walker Center.

"Today's student is tomorrow's community leader," said McNairy. "As part of our societal responsibility, we encourage students to contribute through service to their communities. At Millersville, we have been intentional in one of our strategic directions—the development of life and leadership skills that promote the greater public good and affords our students an academic experience in service to community. Our students are engaged in providing professional services, voluntary and service learning projects. These benefit not only the student but also help to address community needs."

The Walker Center will promote volunteerism, public sector internships, civic skills training, a policy research shop where students will be given an inside perspective on the policy-making process by providing them opportunities to research topics critical to municipal, county or state governments, a public policy minor, distinguished visitors, student discussion groups, public affairs programming and international exchanges.

“Science and technology have brought us opportunities and wealth,” said Walker. “The information economy has expanded our horizons and our knowledge. Both have extended our reach— even to the stars. But both also have left us more isolated from the elements of our common bonds. The Walker Center will seek to use the tools of education to build linkages to the community at large and in so doing build the leadership skills required for our future together.”

“The Walker Center will be very student-focused,” said Dr. Mel Allen, philosophy, who heads the

continued on page 3

Millersville Weather Center Helps PennDot Battle Snow

PennDOT came under fire last year when highways became parking lots after snowstorms. In order to be better prepared this winter, PennDOT will now rely on the Millersville University Weather Center.

In the new effort, Millersville has been contracted to provide forecasts for PennDOT’s District 8, which covers Lancaster, York and six nearby counties.

According to Eric Horst, director of the Weather Information Center, “PennDOT sought out the center because it offers more precise forecasts than other outlets.” Compared to forecasts from television and the National Weather Service, “The Center can more accurately predict when snow will start and stop, when it will be at its heaviest or change to sleet and rain.

“This has been a great endorsement of what we do here at the Millersville University Weather Information Center,” said Horst. “Given the expanded service and funding, this is a great opportunity to expose some of our meteorology majors (who will participate in creating the PennDOT forecasts) to Operational Forecasting for winter storms.”

Horst has been forecasting for Lancaster County PennDOT since 1990. His personal specialty is forecasting winter storms and trying to value-add onto computer model forecasts of such storms. “This means I can often give them a sharper forecast on starting/ending time, accumulation and timing of changeover (snow to rain, ice to rain, etc.).”

continued on page 3
Staff Activities

**Dr. Christopher Hardy**, biology and Dr. Guy Steucek, biology emeritus, recently presented a talk entitled “Stepping in Mother Nature’s Footprints: A Practical Approach to Forest Restoration” at the 7th national conference on the Practice of Restoring Native Ecosystems in Nebraska. This meeting was sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, and the talk originated from a decade of study in the Millersville Bush.

**Dr. Joseph C. Labant**, elementary and early childhood, and Dr. Anne Papalia-Berardi, special education, made a presentation entitled “Including All Students in Social Studies Instruction: Example Adaptations” at the 2007 National Council for the Social Studies conference recently held in San Diego. In addition, Labant and Dr. Kazi Hossain, elementary and early childhood, presented a session on “Islam: The Most Misunderstood Religion in North America” at the conference.

**Dr. Nanette I. Marcum-Dietrich**, educational foundations, had her article, “Genetic Symposium: A Model of Scientific Talk,” published in the November/December issue of the American Biology Teacher. In December she traveled to Hershey, Pa., to attend the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association annual conference where she gave three presentations.

**Dr. M.P.A. Sheaffer**, English, sang as an alto ringer in the Advent Concert of the Sacred Music Chorale of Richmond Hill, New York City, on December 9. The program featured the Pergolesi/Duranti Magnificat, Ralph Vaughan-Williams’ The First Noel, and choral compositions and arrangements of carols by Sir David Willcocks, William Mathias and Sir Malcolm Sargent.

**Obituaries**

**Mariann Bishop**, 59, died on December 14. She worked at the University for more than 20 years, retiring in April 2006. She was in the Office of Research and Data Management as well as the Office of Financial Aid. Bishop died from delayed complications of treatment for breast cancer. Surviving is her husband, Larry, who is retired from Millersville as Director of Human Resources.

**Dona L. Spangler**, 61, died on December 6 following a brief illness. She worked for food services at the University. She was also a retail clerk for Turkey Hill Minit Market, Willow Street.

Millersville is the recipient of CASE District II Accolades Awards for the fifth year in a row. The University Communications & Marketing (UC&M) office will receive four awards, one gold and three silver. The awards will be presented at the CASE District II conference in January.

The gold award was given in the Print Design Poster category for the poster entry “Wash Your Hands,” submitted by Dan Yabut, UC&M, for the University’s “Ask Us Why” campaign for Health Services. Yabut also submitted a “Variable Data Letter for Black & Gold Membership/Giving” in the category Creativity on a Shoestring. This piece received a silver award for its aesthetic and problem-solving appeal. “It was a fun project because it wasn’t just about visuals, it allowed me to implement an element of problem solving,” said Yabut.

Another silver award was garnered by Wendy Sheaffer, UC&M, for the capital campaign’s Soar to Greatness logo. She designed the logo with the intent to “visually identify with our marketing objectives while integrating our history and integrity. It was very important to use colors and images that alumni and all members of Millersville University’s community felt a real connection with,” said Sheaffer.

A third silver award was received in the category Marketing Programs. It was submitted by Elizabeth Braungard, UC&M, and Sheaffer for the graduate studies marketing plan with collateral/creative re-positioning/advertising for Millersville University graduate programs. “Recognition in the marketing program category reinforces the importance of the marketing planning process we have at Millersville,” said Braungard. “The graduate plan is results-oriented, was built in collaboration with the graduate dean and the new visual identity helped to ‘bring the plan to life.’”

Duties of the ombudsman include receiving and investigating complaints and recommendations concerning the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation of the university, as well as those concerning the performance of individual employees. Ombudsmen are expected to handle complaints in a confidential manner.

The Exchange is published for employees of Millersville University of Pennsylvania on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Send news to the Office of University Communications & Marketing, Duncan Alumni House; email: UCM@millersville.edu or call ext. 3586. Editor: Janet Kacskos; Graphic Designer: Diane Tothero. Student Writers: Kevin Haring, Sarah Harper and Lindsey Tomao.

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

**Correction**

In the December 6 article “Building Names” it incorrectly stated that Jefferson Hall would house intramurals. It will only house athletics.

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Congratulations to the following Millersville University employees who have 30 or more years of service (left to right); Adele Ruszak, Dr. Colleen Stameshkin, Joseph Yourgal, Marie Roark, Beverly Funk and Donna Cargas. The employees were recognized at a reception on November 29.

Millersville University’s Employee Wellness Program “Shape your Future” is designed for all Millersville University faculty and staff members to help them keep in shape and improve their health.

Four people who attended six or more of the fall events were chosen to receive a $25 gift certificate from the University Store. The winners included: Dr. Ken DeLucca, industry & technology; Darlene Hunsberger, University Store; Ruth Virmani, Migrant Ed.; and Joseph Yourgal, maintenance operations.

More than a dozen events were held this fall including Dance for the Health of it, Smash the Butt 5K Run/Walk and Tai Chi run.

Susquehanna Bancshares will establish a nonprofit and public sector internship program for Millersville University students. It will allow students to be paid for internships at community organizations, with no cost to the organizations.

“Our company believes that the health of our economy depends on the health of our communities,” said Reuter. “Organizations dedicated to public service face many of the same challenges that businesses do, including competing for talented new associates. By offering financial stipends, nonprofits will be able to make it economically possible for more students to serve and learn with their organizations. The time, energy and talent these students offer will help further the work of each agency. In addition, students will gain insight into the important roles these organizations play in our communities, hopefully spurring a desire to consider work with nonprofits once they start their careers.”

The Walker Center joins the Center for Public Impact, the Center for Public Scholarship and the Office of Internships and Civic Engagement Services, which are part of CCERP.
This month, the Exchange features John Cox, assistant purchasing director, as the person who makes Millersville special. Cox has been with the University for eight years.

Q. What are your duties as assistant purchasing director?
A. I serve as back-up to the director of purchasing, supervise the Palmer Storeroom and receiving area, process the University's surplus furniture and IT equipment, coordinate and assist campus departments in the acquisition of new furniture and other duties as assigned.

Q. What do you find interesting about your job?
A. Interacting with people in all campus departments as well as the public sector.

Q. I understand your grandparents had an impact on your life. How have they shaped your work ethic and what have they taught you about yourself?
A. Both sets of my grandparents were farmers, so I learned from a young age how hard and long some people have to work. I often think of them, and I am thankful for the pleasant working conditions here at Millersville University.

Q. What is your favorite part about working for Millersville?
A. Interacting with fine people here at MU and learning from the diverse workforce.

Q. If you could change one thing about your position, what would it be?
A. I would probably like to make it easier to deal with people in other state agencies.

Q. I understand you are an advisor for Exploratory students. What advice would you give to an incoming college freshman?
A. Get involved in campus activities and stay in touch with your advisor.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of being an advisor?
A. Seeing advisees graduate.

Q. You are the president of the Friends of Ganser Library. What exactly is that organization and how does it help the University?
A. The Friends of Ganser Library is a group of staff, administrators, students, community members, faculty and former faculty who support the library and archives and special collections. They also support the following activities: a trip to the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., each year; a Fall Lecture and a Spring Banquet featuring speakers of local and regional interest; additional bus trips to other cultural and historic destinations; and the annual Friends used book sale each March. The Friends are always looking for new members.

Q. If you could re-choose your career, what would you be?
A. A fighter pilot.

Q. What is your favorite book?
A. Two books – “We Were Soldiers Once, and Young,” and “Flags of Our Fathers.”

Travel Programs
Destinations
For more information call #2308 or email: specialevents@millersville.edu

NEW YORK CITY
- Feb. 28 - “Spamalot” or “Legally Blonde”
- March 8 - “A Catered Affair” or “Mary Poppins”

Alumni & Friends
State System
Reservations/info available at #3352 or 5628. Or visit: www.alumnivacations.com, click on Millersville.

- Australia/New Zealand
  Mar. 17-Apr. 2
- Canada/New England
  Cruise
  Jun 28-Jul 5
- Hawaii Cruise
  Aug. 6-16
- Black Sea/Egypt/Holy Lands
  Cruise
  Sept 29-Oct 11

John Cox

Millersville Graphic Designer Wins Contest
Diane Tothero, University Communications & Marketing won Millersville Borough’s contest to create a new official seal. The contest was open to the public and entries were voted on by Millersville Borough residents.

The new seal will be displayed in the Millersville Borough office on the wall in the public meeting room and on the Borough stationary. The seal features Borough buildings representing Millersville University, Penn Manor High School, a community house and church. The buildings surround a large oak tree, which is overlapped by a Millersville banner.