

# Millersville University Exchange

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## Millersville University Ranked in Top Tier by U.S. News & World Report

### PASSHE Schools 2009 Scores

Millersville	58
Shippensburg	58
West Chester	69
Bloomsburg	81
Clarion	Not ranked- 3rd tier
East Stroudsburg	Not ranked- 3rd tier
Kutztown	Not ranked- 4th tier
Mansfield	Not ranked- 3rd tier
Slippery Rock	Not ranked- 3rd tier
California	Not ranked- 4th tier
Cheyney	Not ranked- 4th tier
Edinboro	Not ranked- 4th tier
Lockhaven	Not ranked- 4th tier
Indiana	Not listed

U.S. News & World Report in its annual college rankings issued for 2009 announced that Millersville University ranked 58 in the category of Best Universities – Master's in the North region. Millersville and Shippensburg University tied at 58 and were the highest ranked among the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities in this category.

Highlights of the 2009 edition of America's Best Colleges rankings were published in the September 1-8 edition of U.S. News & World Report magazine and the "America's Best Colleges" guidebook.

"While we will always strive to do better



each year, Millersville University students and their families should be pleased with the results of the U.S. News & World Report rankings," said Dr. Vilas Prabhu, provost. "They are getting real value in return for the investment they are making in their education at Millersville."

U.S. News & World Report rankings are based on numerous factors, including graduation and freshman retention rates, class size and student-to-faculty ratios. Millersville was one of 170 public and private master's universities in the north region.

## Debate Over Drinking Age

While more than 100 college presidents across the nation have formed a group to encourage a public dialogue about altering the country's drinking laws, Millersville University administration is speaking out against "The Amethyst Initiative" – a petition, of sorts, to lower the national drinking age. The coalition consists mostly of small, liberal-arts schools, at least 15 of which are in Pennsylvania, but also includes Ohio State University, the University of Massachusetts system and other colleges across the country.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) denounced the Amethyst idea as irresponsible, stating that parents should think about the safety climate at colleges whose presidents have signed on.

Millersville University President Francine G. McNairy does not condone lowering the drinking age. "Many campuses are experiencing more students coming to college with issues relating to alcohol abuse and addiction. To provide greater access runs counter to the supportive environment that Millersville University is trying to provide our students. We do not want to create greater obstacles to their success such as more

access to alcohol, but rather help them to address the issue itself. It is Millersville's intention to obey the law as it currently stands," said McNairy.

Millersville University has programs in place through its counseling center including a program for incoming students. Millersville's peer health educators also work directly with students on issues such as alcohol.

"Supporting this effort would not be supportive of our students who are already struggling to make the right choices," said Dr. Aminta Breaux, vice president of student affairs. "There is evidence that reducing the legal drinking age does not deter incidents of alcohol abuse and that it leads to more cases of DUIs as well as alcohol-related deaths. That's why we offer programming on responsible decision-making and address behavior that is not consistent with students achieving their goals. For some time, Millersville University, like many higher education institutions, has been concerned with the issue of alcohol abuse and through our Health and Wellness Center, we have concentrated on awareness, prevention and fitness programs," said Breaux.

## Wellness Fair Celebrates 15 Years

Millersville University will hold its annual wellness fair on Wednesday, September 17. This marks the 15th anniversary for the fair.

Free food and music will be provided, along with interactive displays set up from various departments at the University and numerous community organizations. Not only is this event a day of food, fun and games, but the events display the six dimensions of wellness: physical, social, environmental, spiritual, emotional and intellectual.

The wellness fair will be held on the Gordinier Greens from 11:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The rain location will be in the Student Memorial Center. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Deb Huslin, Wellness Center, at #3841.



## Staff Activities

**Dr. Lesley Colabucci**, elementary and early childhood education, has been appointed to the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association's Young Adult Library Service Association. This two-year appointment involves advising librarians and teachers of available services and support for resisting local pressure and community action designed to impair the rights of adolescent readers.

**Dr. Kenneth P. De Lucca**, industry & technology, recently participated in an emergency communications drill between a number of hospitals located in the Southern Susquehanna Valley. De Lucca was part of the Amateur Radio Work Group of the South Central Task Force for Emergency Communications based at the Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center, Lititz. Members of the task force are amateur radio operators who will staff emergency communications sites at hospitals and assist in conveying information to the eight county planning groups set up by the Homeland Security Alert System for various levels of disaster planning in Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Noel Heitmann**, mathematics, recently presented a paper, "Fluid Dynamics in Numerical Analysis: Using the Convection-Diffusion Problem for Multiple Topics" at MathFest 2008, held in Madison, Wis. on July 31 - August 2.

**Dr. Kazi Hossain**, elementary & early childhood education, made a presentation on "Teaching about Islam and Muslims in

the Classroom" at the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) summer conference. The conference took place in Washington D.C., August 2-6.

**Wayne Silcox**, University police, recently received the Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award at the Fall Convocation and Faculty Meeting at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC).

**Dr. Mark Snyder**, industry & technology, was recently awarded an \$80,000 industrial technology equipment grant through the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF). Half of the matching funds were specified for the acquisition of an 8'x6' samplemaker/cutting plotter table designed specifically for the creation of corrugated container and display prototypes. The remaining funds will be used to purchase additional equipment to support new packaging-related curriculum initiatives within the graphic communication program.

**Dr. Ron Umble**, mathematics, recently returned from a four-country lecture tour, which began in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania on July 9. This was followed by lectures at the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany, on July 15, at the University of Leicester in Leicester, England, on July 22, and at the University of the Basque Country in Leioa, Spain, on July 29. While in Jena, Umble served as an external examiner on Mikael Vejdemo-Johansson's Ph.D. defense jury. Vejdemo-Johansson visited Millersville University for two weeks this past spring.

## Welcome New Faculty



New faculty at Millersville University participated in the New Faculty Orientation program during the week of August 11. From left to right they include:

Richard Mehrenberg, special education; Dr. Shaun Cook, psychology; Rueben Blundell, music; Erin Dorney, library; Nivedita Bagchi, government & political affairs; James Pannafino, art; Jessica Kelly, geography; Timothy Shea, English; Dr. Yuan Zhong, biology; Dr. Mary Sommar, history; David DiRusso, business administration; Victor Capece, communication & theatre; Bryan Behrenshausen, communication & theatre; Dr. Hosein Atharifar, industry & technology (partially obscured); Dr. Sandra McPherson, economics; Dr. Robert Vaillancourt, earth sciences; Jennifer Shettel, elementary & early childhood education (partially obscured); Dr. Wilfredo Valentin Marquez, foreign languages; Dr. Tae-Wan Park, mathematics; and Oliver Dreon, educational foundations. Absent from photo: Dr. Lisa House, counseling and human development; Jon Landis, educational foundations.

## New Director

Stephen J. Anspacher has been appointed director of distance learning and off-campus programs. Prior to this appointment, he served at Hofstra University in New York as the interim associate provost and as an executive director of the Center for Continuing Education and Professional Advancement.



Stephen J. Anspacher

This fall, in collaboration with the Millersville University Online Advisory Group, Anspacher will begin the task of reviewing the online curricula, to "develop a broader model of engagement with distance learning that will build on the University's substantial success in distributed education," said Anspacher. "The expanded program will continue to offer courses to matriculated students in alternative times and places, to create a scalable distance learning program."

In addition, Anspacher will be studying opportunities to expand off-campus programming in the Lancaster, York and Harrisburg areas.

Anspacher is a graduate of the Teachers College at Columbia University.

## Congratulations to:

Mark Mullen, communication and network services, on the birth of his son, Wayne E. Mullen, on April 5.

Katie Waters, field services, and her husband Jim, on the birth of their son, Aidan J. Waters, born on July 14.

The Exchange is published for employees of Millersville University of Pennsylvania on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Send news to the Office of University Communications & Marketing, Duncan Alumni House; email: janet.kacskos@millersville.edu or call ext. 3586.

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Current and past issues of the Exchange are available online at [www.millersville.edu/~ucm/](http://www.millersville.edu/~ucm/).

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## The Garden of Agnes



Planted in October 2005, “Aggie’s Garden” lies near the Nichols House, across from Caputo. The garden is named after Agnes Schober, who began as the secretary of earth sciences in 1968. She worked for Millersville for 38 years serving six chairs and hundreds of students. Complete with a bench to admire the perennial and annual flowers such as sweet spire, spirea, mums and daylilies, “Aggie’s Garden” comes with all of the qualities one needs to relax.

## Welcome New Employees

Shelly Behrens has been hired as the field hockey coach for the Marauders this year. Behrens has extensive Division I assistant and head coaching experience and was also an assistant on the USA Field Hockey, National Team. Last year, Behrens was the head coach at Oneonta College in upstate New York.



*Shelly Behrens*

“Being from Central Pennsylvania, I have a familiarity with Millersville and the field hockey tradition,” said Behrens. “It is a great opportunity for me personally, as my family is in the area, and professionally, as I really have a great respect for Millersville athletics—especially the field hockey program.”

Behrens received a bachelor’s of science degree in education from Old Dominion in 1988.

Betsy Hayden is the new head women’s volleyball coach. Hayden becomes just the fourth coach in the program’s 18-year history.

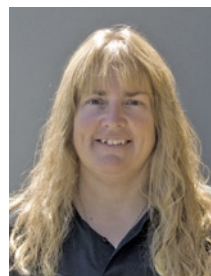
Hayden comes to Millersville after spending last season as the head coach at Division III Wesley College. The program—in just its third

year—experienced a quick turnaround under Hayden, posting a school record 11 victories and finishing with an 11-12 overall record.

Prior to her year at Wesley, Hayden established herself as one of the top volleyball coaches in the small college ranks at Onondaga Community College

“I’m excited to be part of a new tradition of volleyball at Millersville,” Hayden said. I feel I have the ability to connect with the student-athletes, and I want their experience to be a positive one. “

Hayden played volleyball and softball at Onondaga before transferring to Syracuse where she earned her bachelor’s degree in 2000. She also received a master’s degree in health education from SUNY-Cortland in 2003.



*Betsy Hayden*

## Meet the Coaches

The campus community is invited to “Meet the Coaches” at Jefferson Hall on Thursday, September 18.

## Listen to Games On the Web

The 2008 fall season marks the beginning of the newly established Marauder Sports Broadcasting Network (MSBN). MSBN will host streaming broadcasts of select men’s and women’s sporting events. This new feature is located on the athletics website and features Domenic Panza, ‘06 as the play-by-play commentator.



MSBN will include interviews with coaches and student-athletes in the near future. Archived broadcasts will also be available. Now, if fans miss the live event, they can listen at their convenience.

“New equipment has been purchased and everything is in place,” said Ethan Hulsey, director of athletics communications. “We can now broadcast all of our sporting events live to an unlimited audience who can possibly be anywhere in the world.”

Marauder sports used to be hosted over the airwaves on a local ESPN radio station 1600 AM.

All football games are scheduled to be broadcast live.

You can tune in, view a schedule and even listen to past broadcasts via a link on the athletics web site: [www.millersville.edu/~athletic/](http://www.millersville.edu/~athletic/).

Upcoming games scheduled to be broadcast include:

Women’s Soccer  
Friday, Sept. 5 vs. Concord  
Tuesday, Oct. 28 vs. ESU

Men’s Soccer  
Tuesday, Oct. 7 vs. West Chester  
Tuesday, Oct. 28 vs. ESU

Field Hockey  
Thursday, Sept. 14 vs. Shippensburg  
Tuesday, Oct. 21 vs. Lebanon Valley

## For Sale

Sealy single mattress and boxspring (unused). \$75. You haul. Contact Derek Shanahan at #3564..

# Who Makes Millersville Special?

This Exchange edition features Dr. Carrie Smith. She is an assistant professor of sociology and is in her third year at Millersville.

Q: What sparked your interest to teach here?

A: Millersville is a teaching-oriented school, and takes seriously the value and importance of good teaching. I also like the fact that Millersville is a public institution with a comparatively small student population. On a personal level, several members of my husband's family also live in the Lancaster area, which is fantastic. We haven't had any "Everybody Loves Raymond" moments yet!

Q: Have you always enjoyed sociology?

A: Absolutely! Like many people, the first major course that I took was "Introduction to Sociology." The professor had actually retired to Utah; however, he came back every fall to teach this course. He used many examples from his life in Utah to help explain the concepts we learned – I was immediately intrigued.

Q: What got you into this subject?

A: For one, I gained a whole new insight into Utah! But seriously, I realized that everything can be viewed sociologically, and that sociology has a good deal of relevance to everyday life. The main question I always seek to answer is, "How do people understand the world around them?" The discipline of sociology has been integral in helping me answer that question.

Q: What is your favorite class to teach?

A: I really enjoy all the classes I teach, but I have to admit that I particularly enjoy teaching "Social Problems" and "Sociology of Health." We always have great discussions in both of those classes.

Q: What was your favorite subject in high school?

A: I spent my pre-college education under the British system, and had to prepare for my "O" level exams. For English literature, we had to read three books over the course of two years and know them inside out. I really enjoyed that level of intensity and depth. I also spent two years learning about the history of Southeast Asia and the Pacific Theater of World War II, and I enjoyed those history classes tremendously.

Q: What college(s) did you attend?

A: I got my bachelor's at the University of California at Santa Cruz – home of the most unusual mascot in all of collegiate sports (the banana slug). I received my master's and Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. Most people probably also do not realize that I started out at a community college in San Jose, Calif. Like many of our students here, I was a transfer student.

Q: What is your favorite thing about



*Dr. Carrie Smith*

Millersville's campus?

A: I love the pond and its residents. I'm on the other side of campus, and don't get to go past it very often. Whenever I have an opportunity, I try to include the pond on my route when I'm running around on campus.

Q: What are your comments on the MU Alert System and the new security measures placed around campus?

A: You can never anticipate what might happen. To that end, I'm pleased that Millersville is constantly working on the alert system and figuring out additional security measures. Sitting in my office last week, I heard the siren test loud and clear!

Q: What is your favorite pastime?

A: I'm going to sound like a dork, but honestly, I love nothing more than to curl up with a good book. While I have a particular weakness for murder mysteries, I like to read on a wide range of topics. Right now, I'm reading a biography of the Russian statesman Grigory Potemkin.

Q: Where is your favorite place to travel?

A: New York City – there is so much you can do there, and the food is fabulous. The first thing I do when I arrive in the city is to pay a visit to Patience and Fortitude – the lions guarding the New York Public Library. The Museum of Natural History is also a regular on my list, as are the many wonderful independent bookstores in the city.

Q: If you were given a year off to go anywhere or do anything, what would that be?

A: I'm a big baseball and ice hockey fan,

so I would love to visit all the arenas and ballparks across North America, ending with an extended stay in the San Francisco Bay Area – where all my favorite teams are. I have never been able to attend the Maine Lobster Festival because it takes place right when the fall semester begins. A visit to the festival would be on my list as well.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher as a student, and why?

A: I have been blessed with several wonderful teachers! However, one person stands out in particular – my graduate school advisor, Karen Campbell. She's not only a great teacher, but is also a good sociologist and mentor. She also has a wonderful sense of humor – which is very important in life! Not only does she continue to push me to do my best, she does so with much kindness. We still keep in contact with each other, and make sure to get together for meals at conferences.

Q: What would you say to a student who hasn't decided on a major?

A: You need to do what you love and what you're good at. However, you also need to keep an open mind and constantly challenge yourself. Many people end up majoring in what they think will be a "useful" major. Our world is constantly changing, and the skills that remain useful are critical thinking, reading and writing well and strong analytical powers. Not surprisingly, those are the skills that a liberal arts education offers. So, declare your major, but at the same time, keep in mind that you should continue to explore other perspectives and disciplines outside of your major.

Q: Do you believe that every student should take at least one sociology class, regardless of his or her major?

A: Yes, absolutely! In fact, I think everyone should take at least one class in each major. The whole point of college is to learn to think in different ways and to expand your horizons.

Q: What kind of food could you eat all day, every day?

A: I could probably subsist on sushi and sashimi for the rest of the life.

Q: What is your favorite candy?

A: On my office desk, I have a container of root beer barrels. I keep encouraging students to help themselves so that I won't be tempted to eat them all myself.