Celebrate Weather and Climate

From grabbing an umbrella on the way out the door, to riding your bike to work to reduce carbon emissions, we would have no way to plan or respond to matters of weather and climate without the contributions of science. So states the Year of Science 2009 website in celebrating weather and climate for the month of August. Millersville’s Dr. Sepi Yalda, earth sciences, is one of the six featured scientists from across the country during the 12-month celebration led by participants in the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS) network. She is the only featured representative from academia along with scientists from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Storm Prediction Center, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab and the Global Change Research Program/Mercury Program.

“Whatever I love about my work is the opportunity to work with others who are in different disciplines. I also enjoy the challenge of learning new tools while in the process of developing new technologies,” states Yalda, who has been with Millersville since 1997 after receiving her Ph.D. in meteorology from Saint Louis University in 1997. Alongside Yalda, a Millersville meteorology graduate, John Jensenius ’74, who was in Millersville’s Department of Earth Sciences’ first graduating class, is also featured. Jensenius is with the National Weather Service in Maine.

As a grassroots effort, COPUS hopes to increase the public’s understanding of the nature of science and its value on society. Creating new forms of communication and developing new opportunities for the public to engage in science is a key objective of COPUS.

For more information on the Year of Science 2009 or to learn more about their featured scientists, check out their website at www.yearofscience2009.org/about/about.html.

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

Someone once said, “Every day is an opportunity to make a new happy ending.” For the past 20 years, the Lancaster Partnership Program (LPP) has been providing an opportunity for socioeconomically disadvantaged students, enrolled in the School District of Lancaster, the chance to make their own happy ending.

The partnership, which is made up of 14 corporate partners, the School District of Lancaster (SDL) and Millersville University, targets those students who have been previously underrepresented—namely African Americans and Latinos. In the past, those particular students had low high school graduation rates.

The vision statement says it all: “The Lancaster Partnership Program at Millersville University is dedicated to providing an educational environment for students that fosters intellectual, social and cultural development. The program will increase the high school graduation and college participation rates of students enrolled in the School District of Lancaster.”

Starting in the eighth grade, students in the program are paired with their own mentor. The LPP increases parental involvement and requires students to sign a contract to solidify their commitment to the program.

The results prove the program is working. The LPP began in 1988 and by 1993 the first cohort graduated. Out of the 925 students to go through the program, 71% have gone on to higher education—Millersville University accounting for 52% of those students. In addition, the number of African Americans and Latinos from SDL to participate in post secondary education increased, from 1988 to 2007, by 338%.

“The program wouldn’t be possible without the commitment of the corporate partners,” said Jerry Eckert, vice president for University advancement, who assisted in creating the LPP. “The corporations agreed to participate in a long-range effort to make our community better through education. It’s also about the courage the students have—their perseverance and taking advantage of the opportunity provided.

The program was never intended as a ‘hand out’ but as a ‘helping hand’ with many students rising to the challenge.”


Minor “Will” Redmond, interim assistant provost, oversees the program and has since its beginning. He knows the time and effort it takes to make the LPP work. The first word that comes to his mind? “Unbelievable—that this kind of partnership can be sustained through economic hard times—two recessions,” said Redmond.

Many students who took advantage of the program would admit that without LPP they did not know where they would be. “This is true for Stanley Johnson—one of Redmond’s favorite success stories. Johnson, a 24-year-old LPP student, had to undergo a dozen skin grafts, overcoming bacterial meningitis before graduating from the program in May 1999. More than $2.2 million has been awarded to LPP students and more than $3.8 million have been generated in grants.
Staff Activities

Dr. Kenneth P. DeLuca, industry & technology, recently presented his final report to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) on a research effort partially funded by a PHMC Scholars-in-Residence Program grant. He was awarded a grant from the PHMC to conduct an in-depth assessment of the commission’s timekeeping mechanisms (with a special focus on Pennsylvania-made clocks) located throughout the Commonwealth. The Scholars-in-Residence Program is primarily designed to promote the interpretation of Pennsylvania history, to stimulate research, and to promote the dissemination of research findings.

Drs. Oliver Dreon and Nanette Marcum-Dietrich, educational foundations, will be giving presentations at the STEM Academy for Educators. The presentations are “Engaging Digital Natives in the Science Classroom” and “Classroom Symposium: A Model of Scientific Talk.”

Dr. Anne Papalia-Berardi, special education and Dr. Joseph C. Labant, elementary and early childhood education, recently presented at the 11th Biennial Conference for the International Association of Special Education in Alicante, Spain. The title of their presentation was “Including All Students in Social Studies Instruction: Example Adaptations.” The conference was held on the campus of the Universidad de Alicante, July 12-16.

Dr. Ying WuShanley, wellness & sport sciences, presented the research paper “Women Can Hold Up Half the Sky: Myth and Reality in Chinese Women’s Sport” at the 37th annual convention of the North American Society for Sports History held in Asheville, North Carolina, in May.

Congratulations to:

Carol Landry, maintenance operations, and Richard Brown on the arrival of their new son, Garrett Ephraim Currahee Brown, born on July 12.

John Sicotte, registrar’s office, and Amy Nunemaker, who were married on July 19 in the gazebo at Millersville University.

Obituary

Margaret Mary Tate, 66, of Columbia, died August 7, following a long illness. She was a graduate of Millersville State College and served as a field instructor for Millersville University social worker students.

Celebrating the Works of Franz Joseph Haydn

Millersville University’s music department is pleased to announce the first faculty concert of the 2009-2010 season on September 20 at 4 p.m. This program is part of the Music from Millersville series held at St. James Episcopal Church. The lecture/recital, “Here’s to Haydn – Hovering above the Rest” features Dr. Anita Renfroe at the harpsichord and piano. This program will emphasize the significance of Haydn’s keyboard works in affecting the change from the harpsichord to the fortepiano as the dominant keyboard instrument of the era. 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Franz Joseph Haydn’s death.

Haydn was a benevolent member of society throughout his life. In keeping with that spirit, attendees are asked to bring canned goods to the program to benefit the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

St. James Episcopal Church is located at 119 N. Duke St., Lancaster, Pa. The program is free, and the public is invited to attend. For further information, please call the music department at 871-8737 or contact Anita Renfroe@millersville.edu.
The visual identity of Millersville athletics has a new look. The family of logos for athletics includes a standard athletics logo, the Spirit Mark (more commonly known as the “M” mark), a new Marauder head icon, and standard Millersville and Marauder typefaces.

“A consistent identity is important for athletics because it builds recognition of our program and provides increased opportunities to generate revenue,” said Liz Braungard, University Communications & Marketing (UC&M).

“It also gives coaches and staff more flexibility,” according to Ethan Hulsey, UC&M. “By providing guidelines, it takes the guesswork out of the decision-making.”

The Spirit Mark is a registered mark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The new Marauder head icon will eventually be registered as well, but until then it is trademarked to protect the University’s interest in the mark.

For more information on licensing, contact Braungard at Liz.Braungard@millersville.edu. Athletics identity questions can be directed to Hulsey at Ethan.Hulsey@millersville.edu.

The Elsie S. Shenk Wellness & Women’s Program will once again be holding a wellness fair “Wellness 2009 – Wellness and Activities Fair” on Tuesday, September 22, in the Quad on campus. The rain location is the SMC Fitness Center Open Recreation Area. The 16th annual fair will run from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Numerous community organizations, departments and student organizations will be participating by setting up interactive displays. Free food will be available as supplies last from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. to individuals who visit five participating vendors, and music will be provided.

“This is a great opportunity to experience a day of fun and interactive wellness activities in the six wellness dimensions: physical, social, environmental, spiritual, emotional and intellectual. Each year we choose one of the dimensions as the theme for the fair. This year we have chosen social,” explained Deb Huslin with the Wellness & Women’s program.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This issue of the Exchange features John M. Hughes. Hughes began at Millersville in 1982 with the establishment of Millersville’s respiratory therapy program. Twenty-seven years later, Hughes is now the director of Millersville’s respiratory therapy program.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?
A: I enjoy watching university students turn into healthcare professionals.

Q: What challenges do you face as director of the respiratory therapy program?
A: Handling all of the many facets of running things, e.g., anticipating the future needs of our profession, counseling students, marketing the program, etc.

Q: What is your favorite part about Millersville and the campus?
A: Although I spend most of my time off campus at our Lancaster Regional Medical Center site, I have always enjoyed my relationships with the staff and faculty members on campus.

Q: Your expertise is in the future direction of respiratory therapy, controlling asthma, and how smoking affects lungs. Why do you focus on these areas of study?
A: I have always been a visionary, so anything regarding the future intrigues me. I also serve in national and state leadership positions to help direct our professional future. I suffered with asthma as a child and know what it is like to experience shortness of breath. Knowing that asthmatic symptoms can be completely managed in most asthmatics drives me to help free others from suffering. Growing up in the ’60s, I started smoking cigarettes as an adolescent and became addicted. So, I understand both the pathophysiology that chronic cigarette smoking causes and what it takes to quit.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to everyone about what you have learned about respiratory therapy and the human body?
A: The heart/lungs package is fundamental to life itself. Changes occur rapidly, making it a clinical challenge to manage. If you enjoy helping people and are gratified by seeing the immediate results of your efforts, you owe it to yourself to investigate this career.

Q: How can the public get a better understanding of the impact of smoking and second-hand smoke?
A: I doubt that there are many people who don’t know the facts about cigarette smoking. Unfortunately, they become addicted when they are young and lack good judgment. Then they rationalize their behavior when they are older because denial is foundational in addiction.

Q: How has working with students affected your research and your career as a whole?
A: I realize that without sound research, our profession is doomed to be guesswork. That just isn’t good enough when you are treating critically ill patients and consuming resources in the process. I enjoy engaging students in their research and love hearing from graduates who alert me to their articles that are being published in medical journals.

Watch this video to see how three Millersville University students studying respiratory therapy spent their summer. Brittany Ferretti, Lauren Shank and Jared Brooks gained professional experience at Lancaster Regional Hospital learning how medical ventilation equipment, blood gas systems and the hospital atmosphere work. The three will graduate in December from Millersville.

Q: Did you always know you wanted to study the respiratory system of the human body growing up?
A: No, I stumbled into medicine when I was engaged to marry my wife. I did have an excellent high school advanced biology teacher who inspired me and laid the groundwork.

Q: Millersville’s respiratory therapy program enables students to engage in hands-on experience with patients and hospitals. How has this influenced Millersville’s program, as well as the students who partake in the experience?
A: It is essential to have both a clinical and academic partner in order to produce this kind of practitioner. We have an excellent partner in the Lancaster Regional Medical Center. The respiratory therapists are patient, nurturing and quite committed to helping our students develop into competent therapists. This coupled with an excellent curriculum and faculty has produced an exceptional reputation for this program, placing our graduates in demand.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your career?
A: I most enjoy taking care of my home property, playing my guitar and kayaking.

Q: If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?
A: Anywhere there are mild winters, wooded lake-front property and hungry bass.

Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?
A: As part of a three-man team, winning a national knowledge bowl competition. We competed at the national level three years and won it in the fourth (2000).

Q: What makes you smile?
A: Teaching a student who “gets it.”

Q: Do you like to travel?
A: Occasionally – I like being home the best.

Q: If you could spend a day with anyone dead or alive who would it be and why?
A: Apostle John. He had a unique relationship with Jesus and first-hand knowledge of the future of this world.

Q: What is your favorite quote?
A: “Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life” —Confucius.

Attention

There will be a SIREN TEST on Millersville University’s campus Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m. The test will last approximately two minutes. The siren test is part of MU/Alert, Millersville’s state of the art alert system for major crises or emergencies.

For Sale

Bi-level home, Ironstone Ridge Rd. 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 2-car garage, 1.5 acre landscaped and wooded lot, 10 minutes to campus. $237,500. 717-872-2897 (H) or 717-875-2499 (C).

John M. Hughes