Alum to Speak at Commencement

Dr. Sylvia Shellenberger will be the keynote speaker for the fall 2009 commencement ceremony held Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium. Shellenberger, a Millersville alum, is a psychologist and professor of family medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia. She is guest faculty at a number of institutions, including Baylor University in Texas, Favaloro University in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Cayetano Heredia University in Lima, Perú. Shellenberger graduated from Millersville University with a bachelor's in elementary education in 1971 and earned a master's in psychology in 1974. She received her doctorate in school and educational psychology from the University of Georgia in 1977.

For more than 30 years, Shellenberger has been a leader in the developing fields of collaborative health care and primary care psychology. Her primary work is aiding physicians on how to approach the psychological aspects of their patients’ dilemmas, such as assisting the family of a child who is depressed or being bullied, assisting a woman where domestic violence is an issue or assisting a family in the throes of making decisions about long term care.

More information on MU’s commencement can be found at: www.millersville.edu/commencement/.

Winter Weather Predictions

More snow and cold weather are part of the much anticipated winter outlook issued by Millersville’s Weather Center, continuing a 16-year-old tradition.

“We routinely deliver short-term, daily forecasts but the winter outlook seems to be the most anticipated and controversial,” said Eric Horst, director of the Weather Information Center.

Horst predicts that temperatures may average near or slightly below normal with snowfall between 30-40 inches which will be above the long-term average of 26 inches.

“When it comes to winter climate a significant part of the year-to-year variability relates to the changing sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean,” said Horst. “Last year the Pacific was cooler-than-normal (La Nina), which tends to favor a winter time storm track to the north and west of Pa. The result was a winter that lacked sustained cold and produced below normal snowfall (20 inches fell at Millersville) across much of the Commonwealth.”

“This fall and winter Pacific sea-surface temps are very different with water temps running one to two degrees (C) above normal, which is called El Nino, and it tends to enhance a southern storm track across the U.S. The result, based on past El Nino winters, is a wetter-than-normal winter across much of the southern U.S. and a secondary storm track up the east coast. The large scale influences often allow more cold air to filter into the Northeastern states and, with a storm track up the coast, this can lead to above normal snowfall in Pennsylvania.”

For more weather information visit www.atmos.millersville.edu/~wic.

Kwanzaa Creator Comes to Millersville

The holidays are right around the corner and for many that means spending time with family and friends. Dr. Rita Smith Wade-El, psychology, says one way to celebrate is by recognizing how different cultures observe the holidays.

In 1966, Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa, an African American and Pan-African holiday that is observed throughout the African Diaspora. Wade-El says diaspora means a dispersion of a people, language, or culture that was formerly concentrated in one place. Celebrated from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, Kwanzaa celebrates family, community and culture.

On Dec. 7, Karenga will be on the Millersville campus speaking about Kwanzaa. His speech, titled “Principles and Practices of Kwanzaa: Repairing and Renewing the World,” will be held in the Reighard Multipurpose Room in the SMC at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a Kwanzaa ritual and African dance and food.

Karenga is currently professor and chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. He is an internationally recognized activist-scholar who has written many works on Kwanzaa, including a definitive text on the holiday titled, “Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture.”

This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Wade-El at ext. 3090 or Rita.SmithWade-El@millersville.edu.
Dr. Ximena Catepillán, mathematics, presented the talk “The Calendars of the Maya” at the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges conference, November 12-15 in Las Vegas, Nev. In addition, Catepillán was reelected as a member-at-large of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Pa. and Del., (EPADEL) section (3-year term) of the Mathematical Association of America. The election took place at the EPADEL fall meeting at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, November 7.

Dr. Sandra Deemer, educational foundations, and Melissa Ostrowski, school counselor at Penn Manor High School and adjunct professor of educational foundations, presented a paper at the fall Pennsylvania Association for College Teacher Educators conference. Their presentation, titled, “An Investigation of Student Participation in a Graduation Project, Achievement Goals, and Career Exploration Endeavors” highlighted the initial findings of their three-year longitudinal study of the high schools’ graduation project.

Dr. Lisa House and Dan O’Neill, counseling and human development, presented at the Association of Counseling Center Faculty (ACCF) Conference at Penn State University October 22 and 23. House’s presentation was titled “Campus Connect: Evaluating a Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Program for Resident/Graduate Assistants and Peer Mentors.” O’Neill’s presentation was titled “The Non-Traditional Student and the University Counseling Center.”

Dr. Blaise W. Lithwick, computer science, Dr. Doug Zander, admissions, and student Robert McLaughlin, computer science, attended the founding conference of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Allies (LGBTQIA) Consortium on October 29-30, and will act as Millersville’s representatives to the consortium. The mission of the PASSHE LGBTQIA Consortium is to ensure and strengthen orientations, gender identities and gender expressions throughout the state system.

Dr. Ellen M. Long, special education, recently co-presented “Teacher Work Samples: Multifaceted Assessment Tool for Special Education Teacher Preparation Programs” at both the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children in Dallas, Texas, and at the National Conference for the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children in Charlotte, N.C. In addition, she presented “Peer Collaboration: A Planning Tool for Transition” at the International Council for Exceptional Children Career Development Conference, Savannah, Ga., and “What do general education teacher candidates want to know about special education?” at the 38th Annual Pennsylvania Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, Pa.

Drs. Rich Mehrenberg and Elba Rohena, special education, presented “Bringing the IRIS into Focus: Instructor and Student Perspectives” at the National Teacher Education Division Conference in Charlotte, N.C., on November 14. Undergraduate students Danielle Wagner and Laura Camp-Fieseler served as co-presenters for this workshop. The presenters gave both instructor and student perspectives regarding using the IRIS website as a learning tool for pre-service special educators.

Dr. Behnam Nakhai, business administration, published his refereed research paper “An Investigation into Negotiation Structures with Sigmoid Preferences,” co-authored with Joao S. Neves of the College of New Jersey, at the proceedings of the 40th annual conference of the Decision Sciences Institute, November 14-1 in New Orleans. At the conference, Nakhai also served as invited participant at the Business Statistics Focus Group, sponsored by South-Western Cengage Learning, Inc.

Dr. Gordon Nesbitt, wellness and sports sciences, recently presented “Student Centered Design – Building Community” with Douglas Shuck from WTW Architects at the National Intramural Recreation Sports Association regional meeting in Philadelphia November 13 and 14. In addition, he made two presentations with Millersville student Alyson Clark: “Using an Academic Platform to Put Your Intramural Program On-Line” and “Using Digital Video and Computer Software to Enhance Training and Administration of Staff.”

Dr. Dominic Scott, educational foundations, made two presentations at the Peace and Justice Society Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wis., in October. The two presentations were “From Paramilitaries to Peace Partners: Loyalist Transformation in Northern Ireland,” and “Putting the Passion into Compassion.” In addition Scott was awarded a full scholarship by the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies to participate in the “Sharing the Same Space” workshop, October 26-29 in Monterey, Calif.

Obituary

Dr. Patricia Kranz died on November 9. Kranz retired from the psychology department in 1996. She had been with the University since 1971 and taught courses in educational psychology. While at Millersville University, her contributions included serving on Undergraduate Course and Program Review Committee, MEDAL Fund, Teacher Education Council, and chairing the APSCUF Negotiating Committee from 1983-1986.

Retired Staff Activities

Dr. Jack Cassidy, retired elementary and early childhood education, now associate dean for graduate studies in the College of Education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, made two presentations at the annual meeting of the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers in Charlotte, N.C. The first was titled “What’s Hot, What’s Not in Literacy for 2010” and the second was an invited keynote speech for the clinical division, “What’s Hot in Reading Clinics.” His article “What’s Hot, What’s Not for 2010” appeared in the December/January issue of Reading Today published by the International Reading Association.

Threat Assessment Team

Call Up that TAT is the message of a new campaign for Millersville University’s threat assessment team. How aware students, faculty, and staff actually are of TAT@MU and its functions on campus is unknown, so a student public relations team from Dr. Jennifer Wood’s PR-4 class designed and implemented a campaign to raise awareness.

The student PR group came up with the slogan “Call Up that TAT” and used it as part of their campaign, which included sidewalk chalk announcements, residence hall programs, and a “TAT Day” on November 20 in the SMC Banking Lobby. TAT@MU was established in January 2008 following the incidents that occurred at Virginia Tech in April 2007. It is also modeled after the threat assessment team at West Chester University.

It is the shared responsibility of faculty, staff, and students to report any situation that is reasonably believed to present the potential for harm to anyone in the campus community. This includes incidents of violence, threatening behaviors, unwanted pursuit, harassment and behavior indicating a student, faculty, or staff member poses a risk to self or others. Faculty and staff have the advantage of observing students in daily activities and may notice behaviors that could be missed by others. Threat-related information should be forwarded to the threat assessment team.
**Foundation Officers & Directors Elected**

The Millersville University Foundation, which manages and invests endowed gifts for the University, has announced its new board of directors and officers.

Effective January 2010, the following individuals will begin their term on the board:
- Daniel Betancourt '80, president and CEO of Community First Fund in Lancaster, Pa.;
- Jan L. Graybill '80, a founding partner and president of Legacy Planning Partners in Coopersburg, Pa.;
- Eric G. Liddell ’71, retired president and owner of the Phillips Graphic Finishing Company in Manheim, Pa.;
- David K. Thompson, executive vice president of HomeTowne Heritage Bank in Lancaster, Pa.;
- Barry E. Miller ’77, managing director of retail sales for Susquehanna Bank in Lancaster, Pa.;
- Angel E. Torres, attorney for Nikolaus & Hohenadel, LPP in Lancaster, Pa.
- Dr. Tamara C. Willis ’99, principal at Steelton-Highspire Elementary School in Harrisburg, Pa.

Effective January 2010, the following individuals will begin a two-year term as officers:
- President: Joseph W. Garner ’90, director of research at Emerald Asset Management in Lancaster, Pa.
- Vice president: Robert A. Laskowski ’74, vice president and treasurer of OceanFirst Bank in Toms River, NJ
- Treasurer: Amanda J. Shaw ’01, manager of financial operations at Lancaster General Medical Group in Lancaster, Pa.
- Secretary: Clair McCormick, president of Lebzelter’s Total Car Care in Lancaster, Pa.

The Millersville University Foundation manages nearly 350 scholarships and program accounts, and holds assets in excess of $14 million.

**TAT continued from pg. 2**

by calling (717) 872-3717. However, in an emergency, immediately contact the Millersville University Dispatch Center at (717) 872-3911.

After a threat is reported, a preliminary inquiry will take place to determine the existence of corroborating evidence, student disciplinary and judiciary history, and other relevant information as deemed appropriate to assure the safety of the University community.

---

**Happy “Green” Holidays**

President Francine G. McNairy usually sends out holiday greeting cards to University faculty and staff. This year the president is going green and will be sending out video greetings instead. In addition to being more environmentally conscious, this new style greeting, managed through University Communications & Marketing, is being produced and edited by marketing interns in the department.

Alyssa Leister, Brooke Kramer, Lucas Neiderer, Brandy Jackson and Tim Mercandetti are the students participating as the talent, while Zach Reese, Jessica Do and Leah Kirstein served as the videographers, editors and script writers.

The president’s holiday greeting will share the students’ hopes for the world, as well as her own hopes and warm wishes.

Kirstein, project manager, stated, “The concept was to bring Millersville students, faculty and staff together by using the idea of hope. Just working on the project and seeing how other students view hope filled me with joy.”

The new video greeting is scheduled to be released before the winter break.

---

**Marine Science Consortium Receives Munchkin Van**

Millersville University recently donated a VanGO vehicle to the Marine Science Consortium (MSC), a residential environmental learning center whose 30-acre campus is located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

“Millersville University advocates for sustainable methods on our campus and wants to help the Consortium operate sustainably as well,” said Millersville’s director of maintenance & technical operations, John Colarusso.

The VanGO is a small cargo van, just a bit larger than an average golf cart, but outfitted like a regular van with plenty of cargo space, seats for driver and passenger, dual sliding doors and a hydraulic assist rear lift door. It reaches a maximum of 25 mph.

“It’s not going to win any races,” says MSC executive director, Amber Parker, “but that’s okay. This very mini van is perfect for moving educational equipment around our campus. It’s also energy efficient, which means we can decrease our carbon footprint by using it instead of larger trucks. And it sure is cute!”

The VanGO gets great gas mileage and can pull right up to labs and classrooms, making loading aquaria, research and education equipment easy. Visitors to MSC’s campus should expect to see the VanGO puttering around campus this spring.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. Maria Corley, music, who has been with Millersville University for 10 years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a music instructor?
A: Interacting with students and seeing them develop as people and musicians. I find it very exciting when students take the risk of expressing themselves in a deep way, or when I see how much someone improves over time.

Q: At eight years old you gave your first public performance. As a young performer did you ever hope to travel the world performing?
A: I did! When I was younger than that (about 2) I asked for lessons, and I said I wanted to be a concert pianist soon after I started lessons at age four. At the time it was about the applause, not so much the travel, but over time it has become about doing justice to the music and whatever gifts God has given me.

Q: What captures you about playing the piano?
A: What doesn’t? There are so many wonderful instruments, but the ability to play so many parts at once is gratifying. I also enjoy collaborating. There’s something about the colors I can get on a piano that is truly beautiful. Plus, there’s such a variety of great music written for the piano.

Q: Do you prefer to play as a solo or collaborative artist?
A: They are both wonderful. I can’t choose one. When I work with talented collaborators, it inspires me. Plus, I get to use the music! Solo is great because I can truly express things the way I want to without having to incorporate someone else’s views (although that can be very good for me too). But in order to really feel like I’m “one” with the piece, I usually have to memorize it, which becomes harder as I get older. Not that I really HAVE to memorize, of course. My favorite kind of recital is the type I’ve been doing lately—I play a few things solo and collaborate with a few of the many people whom my musicianship I respect.

Q: After performing across the globe, where is your favorite place to perform and why?
A: Tough question! I loved playing at the Liszt Academy in Budapest because it was a gorgeous space with a wonderful instrument and Liszt was such a titan of the piano literature. Plus, what I saw of Budapest was beautiful. I also enjoy performing in Bermuda, where my mother was born, but that has everything to do with Bermuda itself and not so much a hall or a particular instrument or occasion. Finally, I had a chance to play a spectacular Bechstein concert grand in Spain—that was because of a choral festival when I was a full-time faculty member at Florida A&M in Tallahassee, not a solo recital, but what an instrument!

Q: What was it like being a student of renowned Hungarian pianist Gyorgy Sandor?
A: He was old-world in so many ways. Always wore a beautifully tailored suit, with a pocket square. Very charming, and not at all rude, although he did have very high standards and taught me incredible amounts about technique (he wrote an excellent book on the subject). He was the first teacher who let me pick my own repertoire—rather daunting, but when he told me I could play anything, it was a real confidence-builder (I found Juilliard intimidating at first).

Q: Aside from being a pianist, you are also author of the novel Choices. What inspired you to become a writer?
A: I’ve always loved to write. I’m an introvert, and it is my favorite mode of expression, although I have learned, over the years, to express myself freely in speech too.

Q: What is your dream venue to perform at?
A: Carnegie Hall—I’ve done Weill Hall, but I would love to perform in the big hall.

Q: What is your favorite quote?
A: This, too, shall pass.

Q: Do you have any interesting stories from your travels abroad and experiences from performing?
A: Last September I went to Croatia because I was invited by a Myspace friend who organizes a festival there. I stayed in a five-star hotel overlooking the Adriatic and performed on a terrace. Just a beautiful experience, but very different than what I’m used to.