Robertsons Receive Honorary Degrees

Dr. Charles Robertson and his wife Patricia Robertson, of Rockland, Del., will be the recipients of honorary degrees from Millersville University at the fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 20, 2009, at 2 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium. Patricia Robertson graduated from Millersville University in 1966 with a degree in mathematics education. After teaching for a year, Robertson attended the University of Delaware to pursue her master's degree in science. She now serves on the board of trustees for the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. Charles Robertson graduated from Rhodes College in 1965 with a degree in physics and proceeded to earn his Ph.D. in 1969 from Florida State University.

When Charles retired from the DuPont Corporation, the Robertsons, along with two colleagues, founded NanoDrop Technologies, Inc. (now a subsidiary of Thermo Fisher Scientific). He served as the company’s president and Patricia served as the company's director of finance and director of human resources before retiring in 2008.

NanoDrop manufactures photometric instruments that use a patented sample-retention process that revolutionized the measurement of small-volume liquid samples in biotech laboratories. At Millersville, the couple supports science education and research through scholarships for students in both physics and biology, funding for student and faculty research projects, and internship opportunities for summer biology field experiences including the Marine Science Consortium at Wallops Island. They have also gifted the University with cutting-edge scientific equipment that is used in chemical and biochemical research.

Holiday Traditions

For many years Diane Fleishman, director of Internships and Civic Engagement Services, has been celebrating the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, and this year is no different. Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday, which occurs between late November and late December, commemorating the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem after the Jews’ 165 years Before the Common Era (B.C.E.) victory over the Hellenist Syrians. During the revolt, the Jews had only enough olive oil for one night, but miraculously the oil burned for eight days until more oil was received. During Hanukkah a menorah is lit, a candelabra that holds eight candles, plus one that is higher and used to light the rest of the candles. Each candle signifies a day the oil continued to burn.

“Because Hanukkah celebrates the first fight for religious freedom and the miracle of the everlasting light burning for eight days when there was only enough oil for one day, we celebrate with foods cooked in oil,” said Fleishman, “My background is Eastern European so we make and eat potato latkes, also known as potato pancakes.”

For Fleishman, Hanukkah means a time for family and friends to get together. When her younger son went to college she began sharing the holiday with his two best friends. Fleishman’s children, now all in their 30s, would each receive one small gift every night, then a larger gift on the last night. Now because of distance, her children usually get their gifts all at once. Having the “boys” home is one of the most special parts of her Hanukkah.

“Somehow Hanukah is not quite the same without little children, so we join our Temple family on the Friday night during Hanukah,” said Fleishman, “At one point in the service everyone brings their menorah to the front of the sanctuary and lights the appropriate number of candles as the lights are dimmed. It is a beautiful ceremony that allows you to remember that we are blessed to have religious freedom.”
Recognizing Employees

The Employee Service Recognition Reception was held December 10 in the Bolger Conference Center. Employees who have been with the University for five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years were recognized. Those who were recognized for 30 years or more include: Susan Kastner, admissions (30 years), Luis Ramirez, housekeeping (30 years), and Dawn Reese, budget (30 years), Luis Ramirez, housekeeping (35 years).

Red Dress Luncheon

Friday, February 5, 2010, noon
Lehr Room, Gordinier

For more information contact
Dr. Virginia Palmer at
Virginia.palmer@millersville.edu or
Deb Miller at deb.miller@millersville.edu

Save the Date

MUBA Collects Toys for Tots

Millersville University Business Association (MUBA) President Deb Miller stands by the toys that were collected by MUBA members at their December 2 luncheon for Toys for Tots.

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.

Editor: Janet Kacskos; Graphic Designer: Diane Black '82. Student Writers and Videographers: Alexandra Wachman, Lucas Neiderer, Melissa Leary and Peter Taraborelli. Student Photographer: Tim Eckert.

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

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COT Approves Middle States Self-Study

Millersville’s Council of Trustees (COT), meeting in regular session on December 9, approved the Middle States self-study in anticipation of a re-accreditation visit by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools in March 2010. Additional information on accreditation, including the self-study, can be found at: www.millersville.edu/redcovermu/

The December meeting was the first meeting for new trustee Dr. Robert A. Frick ’66, of Lancaster. Frick, the superintendent of the Lampeter-Strasburg School District, was nominated by Governor Ed Rendell and confirmed by the state senate. He takes the place of Nelson Sears. A resolution of appreciation was approved for Sears.

In other action, emeritus status was granted for Jean Bradel, who taught music at Millersville from 1978-2009 and for Dr. Bernard Schroder, who taught at the University from 1989-2009, in the mathematics department.

And, the COT approved four Millersville University Foundation Endowments. All named endowments start at the $25,000 level. The endowments include:
- The Paul and Caroline Beideman Scholarship for the Honors College
- Dr. Kay Vandergrift and Dr. Jane Hannigan Scholarship for Women
- Liselotte R. Wehrheim Scholarship in Nursing
- Dr. David S. and Marie N. Zubatsky International Studies Scholarship and 20th Century Art Library Materials Fund

CFL Exchange

During the fall semester, residence hall leaders coordinated compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb exchanges within Burrowes, Diehm, Hobbs, Hull and Lenhardt Halls. The exchange resulted in the distribution of approximately 200 CFL bulbs.

Across the nation, university students and administrators have realized how much energy is used by, and wasted with, incandescent bulbs (traditional Thomas Edison bulbs). A CFL exchange is an excellent means to promote energy conservation and allow student leaders to reach out to their residents to reduce energy consumption. While conducting the exchange, student leaders promoted energy conserving behaviors, such as turning off the fan/air conditioner in unoccupied rooms, taking shorter showers and turning off computers when not in use.

Millersville students receive support from Tom Richardson, housing and residential programs and the Energy Performance Contract with NORESCO (an energy services company). John Colarusso, maintenance and technical operations, selected the following energy conserving measures:

- Lighting upgrades: New lamps and ballasts save energy, improve lighting, and reduce maintenance costs.
- Energy management system upgrades: Ten strategies unite for remote energy system upgrades, better monitoring and reduced energy costs.
- HVAC upgrades
- Energy Conservation Through Behavior Change®
- Kitchen hood exhaust fan controls

The retrofits have resulted in the decrease of natural gas and electricity consumption, reductions in pollution and reduced energy costs. Through Millersville’s efforts, the carbon footprint has been reduced, and approximately 3.5 million pounds of CO2 consumption has been avoided.

Students and staff have made significant progress in reducing Millersville University’s carbon footprint. Every person who uses the campus’ resources can help by turning off any unused equipment, especially computers. Set monitors to hibernate, as screen savers do not save energy. Also, reduce overall electrical consumption and turn off air conditioners in unoccupied rooms.

Millersville Opens Leadership Center

Thanks to a three-year grant from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Millersville opened the new Entrepreneurial Leadership Center (ELC) on Dec. 11. The University’s ELC is dedicated to promoting regional economic development through offering programs for entrepreneurs and small businesses and developing academic entrepreneurship courses and study. The center will collaborate with community and business partners to deliver entrepreneurial seminars and services.

Dr. Melvin Allen is the project director of the ELC, as well as the executive director of the Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project (CCERP). Dr. Marlene Arnold will serve as the ELC’s liaison in partnership and collaboration with local businesses and organizations, and Dr. Jean Kabongo will focus on campus initiatives, such as training University faculty members to teach entrepreneurial thinking and skills, and encouraging students to become increasingly innovative. Kabongo is the faculty adviser for the newly created student Entrepreneurship Club.

The first major offering of the center’s global business services is the creation of China Desk, which will be led by the newest ELC Fellow, Dr. Enyang Guo. Through Guo and her associates, the center will offer one-on-one consulting for small businesses and entrepreneurs seeking to do business with and in China. Guo will answer questions, solve problems and set up meetings in China. Small businesses and entrepreneurs who are interested in this service are invited to be part of a business delegation to China in June 2010. This visit will coincide with the World Expo 2010 being held in Shanghai, in which more than 100 nations are expected to participate. For more information contact the ELC at elc@millersville.edu or ext. 3567.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of “Who Makes Millersville Special” features Dr. Dominic Scott, a professor in educational foundations.

Q: Tell us about the educational foundations department.
A: EDFN provides students seeking secondary education certification with coursework, field experiences and essential knowledge to become effective educators. We also prepare school leaders seeking administrative positions in area schools. We offer a wide range of summer workshops, classes and professional development opportunities for educators in Lancaster and the surrounding counties. A quarter of all Millersville students come through our department.

Q: What courses do you teach? Which is your favorite?
A: I teach EDSE 321, Issues in Secondary Education, EDFN 511 Comparative Education, and I also supervise student teachers in local schools. I get a great thrill supervising student teachers and watching them become confident educators during their student teaching placement. It is the best job in the world.

Q: Why did you choose to work at Millersville?
A: I had other offers, but Millersville seemed to offer the best combination of salary, benefits and professional development. It was also closer to major airports and cultural opportunities.

Q: What do you like most about working with the students?
A: I enjoy the personal contact, the opportunity to provide mentoring, having them seek me out for advice and watching them grow into successful mature young adults.

Q: What is your relationship with the Lancaster Irish American Cultural Society?
A: I was able to provide guidance in its formation, and have sought to assist it grow beyond the romantic Ireland image so characteristic of many other cultural societies.

Q: Tell us about “Reconstruction and Hope in Northern Ireland.”
A: When I returned to Ireland after a 13-year absence, I was impressed by the many changes I saw there—so much reconstruction, community organization, local involvement and peace-building initiatives. I realized I had to share that with the Millersville community. I have taken groups to Northern Ireland to study the peace movement there for five years now and have brought peace experts from Ireland to speak at Millersville.

Q: What do you like best about Ireland?
A: The conviviality of the people, their wry humor, their love for and confidence in the ideals of America (we like to think we helped form them), and the natural beauty that is human sized and sometimes totally disarming.

Q: Is there anything Americans can learn from the Irish? How about vice versa?
A: Of course, we can and must learn from each other. Ireland offers a gentle reminder to relax, enjoy life in the moment, and get in touch with Mother Earth. The U.S. offers Ireland more efficient ways of doing things, confidence, self reliance and the belief in the realization of one’s dreams.

Q: Is the IRA still a threat to Ireland? Has peace come to the entire country?
A: All dissident groups are a threat to peace and prosperity, the most ominous being the Loyalist paramilitaries, who, after 11 years of enduring peace, still refuse to disarm. But what is more important is the commitment of so many people on both sides to “give peace a chance.” Too many people have suffered too much, for too long, to be robbed of the chance to see their children grow up with hope and be successful.

Q: What is the biggest misconception that Americans have of the Irish?
A: Stereotypes such as hard drinking, corn beef and cabbage eating, emotional hot heads. Irish creativity in literature, theater, music, dance and now business have helped dispel this mythology. I urge Americans to visit the real Ireland—beyond the Blarney Castle, Cliffs of Moher, six-day whirlwind tour—and see and meet competent Irish people in their own professional fields. Ireland is now the world’s leading exporter of pharmaceuticals, and the second biggest exporter of computer software.

Q: What advice do you try to share with your students?
A: Life is waiting for you to create it to your own liking. Set goals and take the first step. Let the flow of life take you to unexpected places. It is both a contradiction and an enigma—any other way and it would be boring!

Q: What is one of your greatest accomplishments?
A: I traveled for a year in Europe, the Middle East, Iran, Pakistan, India and Nepal. I learned to respect other cultures, see others as individuals, and restore my faith in humanity. I learned that we have an obligation to the human family to provide the basic necessities for a decent life, something we in the West seem to have forgotten.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?
A: I love gardening, growing vegetables and confounding my neighbors and others with the bountiful fruits of the earth. I enjoy traveling and meeting new people, and I love to reveal the hidden Ireland to my students.

Q: What is your educational background?
A: I studied at Oxford, Edinburgh and the University of Ulster in Europe. I got my Ph.D. from New Mexico State University and have developed a deep interest in peace education and reconciliation. I am an unrepentant learner!

Q: What is one thing people would be surprised to learn about you?
A: I meditate.

Q: What other organizations are you involved with on campus?
A: CCERP, the International Studies Committee and the University Theme Committee.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: I grew up in post-WWII Belfast, where food rationing was prevalent. My father left school at 10 years of age and worked at one job all his life. He could never have imagined what his children would achieve.

Q: What is your favorite memory from your time at Millersville?
A: This is beginning to sound like an exit interview! In the spring, when the first blush of green is on the fields, I drive to schools to observe student teachers, and become absorbed in the verdant loveliness of Lancaster County, aware of its similarity to Ireland, and of how fortunate we are to be surrounded by such beauty.