Millersville Makes Kiplinger’s 100 Best List

Millersville University has been named to Kiplinger’s Personal Finance list of “100 Best Values in Public Colleges of 2010.” The publication, in releasing the list, said, “Our definition of value begins with academics: No school is a bargain if it skims on quality. All of the schools in our rankings perform well on measurable criteria, such as student-faculty ratios, academic competitiveness and on-time graduation rates.”

“We are very pleased to be on this prestigious list,” said Francine G. McNairy, president. “Our ranking reflects our commitment to providing a high quality, accessible and affordable education for the citizens of the Commonwealth. We offer an outstanding education to our students, who will become consumers and active members of the communities in which they will live, work and where they will make a difference. It is gratifying to have this confirmation from Kiplinger’s.”

Six Pennsylvania schools made the list:
- University of Pittsburgh, 35.
- Pennsylvania State University, University Park, 40.
- West Chester University, 76.
- Bloomsburg University, 82.
- Millersville University, 98.
- Shippensburg University, 100.

McNairy Joins New “Presidents’ Trust”

Francine G. McNairy, president of Millersville, recently announced that she has joined a new Presidents’ Trust formed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). President McNairy and an esteemed national group of 81 other college and university leaders from around the country are forming this trust to strongly and collectively make the case for liberal education and its value in today’s world. The Presidents’ Trust is a leadership group within AAC&U’s national initiative, Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP). Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes to College. Read more at www.millersville.edu under “Featured News.”

Millersville Funded for Five More Years of Precipitation Collection

Under an agreement and with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Millersville University will continue to collect precipitation as part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) through 2014.

Under the supervision of Dr. Richard Clark, earth sciences, a select group of students has been dutifully collecting samples of precipitation every Tuesday since 2002 at a site located about two miles west of campus on property owned by Dr. Daniel Yocom, biology. The DEP funding, amounting to $52,000 over five years, pays for student wages, travel to the site and shipping containers to national analytical laboratories in Illinois and Washington State. It also supports travel for one student each year to attend an NADP workshop for comprehensive training.

Attention to collection protocol is critical, says Clark, because “a sneeze by a person with mercury amalgam dental fillings is enough to contaminate the sample and, should it occur, must be documented and reported to the labs.”

Funds will be used to purchase and install a new state-of-the-art digital rain gauge.

Millersville University is one of more than 250 sites nationwide that participate in the NADP National Trends Network. The purpose of the network is to collect data on the chemistry of precipitation (rain and snow) for monitoring of geographical and temporal long-term trends. The data are used to develop information on spatial and seasonal trends in mercury deposited to surface waters, forested watersheds, and other sensitive receptors. Millersville is one of only about 30 sites that also preserve samples for methyl mercury analysis in addition to total mercury.

Meteorology majors Anna Salvaggio and Travis Toth, both trained site operators, demonstrate proper sample collection techniques to their peers in the course ESCI 447, Meteorological Instruments, Measurements and Observing Systems.
Dr. Marco Antolin, foreign languages, gave two invited lectures on the contribution of Spanish poets to the internationalization of American poetry in the sixties. One lecture was at the 27th International Congress on Hispanic Literature in the Alcala de Henares University, Madrid, Spain, July 1-3. The other was given at Duquesne University, September 18-19.

Dr. Jane Bray, dean of the School of Education, was recently elected chair-elect of the Advisory Council for State Representatives. This is a group comprised of one representative from each state who advises the national organization of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). With her election Bray will serve a three-year term on the AACTE board of directors.

Roger Bruszewski, vice president of finance and administration, appeared on the Blue Ridge Cable 11 show “Your Local Government” during December discussing the Pennsylvania education budget, PHEAA grants and stimulus packages. This month, the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) Business Officer magazine features an article he co-authored on “Public Private Partnerships.”

Drs. Alex DeCaria and Todd Sikora, earth sciences, had their peer-reviewed paper titled “Momentum Advection and the Gradient of a Vector Field: A Discussion of Standard Notation” accepted for publication in the Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences.

Dr. Dennis B. Downey, history and Honors College, has been appointed to the editorial board of ABC-CLIO’s “Daily Life Series” and re-appointed to the Diocese of Harrisburg Commission on Catholic Social Doctrine. He continues his work on the working group of the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance. Among his recent publications, Downey co-authored “Just Do a Little Something: One Diocese’s Journey in Disabilities Ministry,” in the November 2009 Journal of the Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry.

John M. Hughes, respiratory therapy, was inducted as a fellow in the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) in conjunction with the AARC’s 2009 International Respiratory Congress in San Antonio, Texas, on Dec. 5th. The AARC confers this fellowship upon select individuals who have made “significant and sustained” contributions to the profession of respiratory care and whose leadership and scholarship have influenced the national professional community. Of the 146,000 respiratory therapists practicing in the U.S., only 220 have been inducted as fellows and carry the designation “FAARC” behind their names.

Dr. David Johnson, social work, recently received honorable mention for his dissertation titled “A Structure by No Means Complete: A Comparison of the Path and Processes Surrounding Successful Passage of Medicare and Medicaid under Lyndon Baines Johnson and the Failure to Pass National Health Care Reform under William Jefferson Clinton.” He received the award on January 15 at the Society for Social Work and Research conference in San Francisco, Calif.

Dr. Joseph Labant, elementary and early childhood education, was one of three Pennsylvania educators to represent the Commonwealth in the National Council for the Social Studies House of Delegates. The House of Delegates convened for two days during the Council’s 89th annual conference in Atlanta, Ga., November 13-15. In addition, Labant conducted a session titled “Including All Students in Social Studies Instruction: Example Adaptations” and presented a poster session titled “Utilizing Jerome Bruner’s Three Modes of Knowing to Teach Voting.”

Jim Miller and Justin Foreman, University police, recently received information and training on how to recognize certain mental disorders, appropriate law enforcement actions and services available to those in crisis. The training was provided by Mental Health America as part of the quarterly meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Campus Crime Prevention Practitioners. The meeting was held on campus January 8.

Dr. Barbara Stengel, educational foundations, was invited to contribute a chapter to John Dewey at 150: Reflections for a New Century, just published simultaneously in book form and as a special edition of the journal, Education and Culture. Her chapter is titled “More than ‘Mere Ideas: Deweyan Tools for the Contemporary Philosopher.”

Dr. Jeffrey W. Wimer, wellness and sport sciences, co-authored a peer-reviewed article titled “Using Problem-Based Learning to Link Classroom and Clinical Education” with Dr. Erika Smith Goodwin of Wilmington College (Ohio) that appeared in the recent edition of Athletic Therapy Today, the professional journal for Certified Athletic Trainers.

Eugene “Cy” Fritz, retired wellness and sport sciences, has been elected as one of the judges for the National Brace Beagle Field Trial in Pittsburgh in October. This trial is sponsored by The American Kennel Club and PURINA Dog Food Company.

Dr. Paul Ross, retired computer science, is a regular contributor to “K9YA Telegraph” and Lancaster’s Business to Business magazine. He wrote the article, “Direct Conversion Receivers” for the December issue of K9YA.

Obituary

Alan S. Holliday, 89, died January 8. Holliday was an alum who had served as the president of the Millersville University Foundation.

Red Dress Luncheon

The Employee Wellness Committee is participating in National Wear Red Day by sponsoring the 2010 Red Dress Luncheon for Women on Feb. 5. Jerri Anne Johnson ’85, director of the Women’s Heart Health Initiative at Abbot Laboratories, will speak.

The luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Lehr Room, Gordinier. The cost of the luncheon is $8. To RSVP for the luncheon, contact Deb Miller at deb.miller@millersville.edu.

Living the Promise

President Francine G. McNairy recognized Dr. Daniel Heslink, music, at a presentation of the Living the Promise award on December 3. As chair of the University Planning Council, Heslink led the initiative to develop the University's Vision Statement and Strategic Directions. The Living the Promise award recognizes Millersville students, faculty and staff whose work and life exemplify the University identity, and who live the promise that “Millersville University offers an educational opportunity that is second to none.”
Millersville Takes Gold, Bronze & Honorable Mention

Millersville University will receive three 2010 Council of Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) II Accolades Awards at the upcoming conference. Millersville received a gold award in advertising, a bronze award in best practices in alumni relations and an honorable mention in individual special relations projects. Millersville has won 14 awards since 2003 in the CASE District II Accolades Awards Program.

The gold received in Individual Advertising was for Millersville’s “We Will” television commercials. The entry was submitted by Elizabeth Braungard, director of marketing, who also coordinated the production for the TV spots. The commercials focused on University faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Millersville’s alumni relations entry received a bronze award and was led by Wendy Sheaffer, art director, and Dianne O’Connor, director of alumni services. The entry focused on showcasing innovative marketing and programming approaches and the success of the 75th anniversary of homecoming.

Millersville’s honorable mention in Individual Special Relations Projects was awarded for the William Ayers event held at Millersville on March 19, 2009. The entry was submitted by Janet Kacskos, director of communications, for media and community relations work.

Church, Law and Society in the Middle Ages

Millersville University’s history department will host a conference January 29-30 honoring professor Peter Landau (official title is Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult.), professor emeritus of legal history at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, Germany. Landau will be speaking at the conference, which is titled, “Church, Law and Society in the Middle Ages.”

The conference will include presentations of papers by scholars from Europe, Japan and the United States, including a presentation by Dr. Mary Sommar, history.

National Museum Seeks help from the University’s CDRE

The Center for Disaster and Research Education (CDRE) at Millersville University recently teamed up with the National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, Pa., “to assist in the development of their disaster plan, which is part of the museum’s accreditation process by the American Association of Museums,” said Dr. Sepi Yalda, interim director of CDRE.

Opened in 1977, the National Watch and Clock Museum is recognized today as the largest and most comprehensive horological collection in North America, featuring 12,000 items.

Yalda recruited two students to work with herself and museum director Noel Poirier to develop the disaster plan. Devin Fisher, an undergraduate geography major with a minor in environmental hazards and emergency management, and Nick Genovese, a master’s student in emergency management and emergency management, and Nick Genovese, a master’s student in emergency management, were eager to help.

“It knew it would be a great experience to do something that I was not familiar with,” said Fisher, who also works as the undergraduate research assistant at CDRE. “I hope to take the knowledge that I have gained from this experience and use it in the future to better protect our nation’s museums and historical landmarks,” said Genovese.

The CDRE’s work in this project will benefit the University in several ways according to Yalda. “First and foremost a University center is directly involved in providing service to the community, which is part of the mission of both the University and the center; it also provides a good opportunity for our students to be involved in an applied research project and work directly with professionals,” she says. In addition, “This project is unique since the museum is going through a process that is part of a national accreditation which may lead to other opportunities for the University and the center.”

For more information, contact Sepi Yalda at ext. 3293 or Sepi.Yalda@millersville.edu.
This issue of “Who Makes Millersville Special” features Bonnie Lee Work, secretary in the computer science department. Work has been at Millersville University for more than 35 years and plans to retire in March.

Q- Since you work in the computer science department, are you a computer aficionado?
A- Yes and no. Accounting is my idea of a fun crossword puzzle. I’ve had to master an array of software, dabbled in other software packages that our CSCI students could have developed much better, and memorized more computer terminology than I could ever have imagined.

Q- Have the talents of the computer science faculty rubbed off on you at all?
A- Yes. They are so intense regarding their research and quest for the next new project. It has been so enlightening to watch the full research process beginning to end. I would be such a ho-hum computer “user” if I had not been on the front line of all the interaction regarding research projects, new software and changes in hardware.

Q- What is the favorite part of your job and why?
A- Our students! They bring such energy into my life, our hallways and minds! Such a mix of talent, ability and culture—they keep me young!

Q- What is the biggest difficulty that you come across with your job?
A- Dealing with the statement “that can’t be done.” I say: Open your mind, find a way, you just need to go in a different direction.

Q- What is your favorite thing about the Millersville campus?
A- The people first and then the many opportunities that are offered to us, like cultural events, programs, tech camps for children, free art classes for children in the summer, school store and dining hall convenience, sports I can participate in, health events for everyone, etc.

Q- If you could change one thing about this campus, what would it be?
A- The Jenkins School leaving the campus. I feel if we are about education, what better way to encourage small children to look towards college than by having them experience day care on a college campus? My grandson, at four years old, would tell people he was “going to college” when he was attending The Jenkins School.

Q- People rarely picture themselves in the positions that they are in now. When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A- I wanted to be helpful to people. I’m right where I wanted to be. I’ve never wanted to be a career woman. Family is first for me. Millersville is my second family and I love my MU kids!

Q- Have you ever traveled for a vacation and where was your furthest vacation from here?
A- I usually try to travel to several locations each year—South Dakota, Bermuda, cruises to different islands in the Caribbean—just to name a few.

Q- If you could be anywhere on the earth right now, where would you be?
A- I would be on vacation with my family.

Q- Do you have any hobbies and if so what are they?
A- I enjoy riding my Harley Davidson motorcycle with my husband, Dave. He rides a Softail Custom and I ride the Fatboy model. My hobbies are reading, crafts, taking walks with my husband and enjoying my children and grandchildren.

Q- What is your favorite season and why?
A- Fall. The weather is just so fresh and breezy and invigorating.

Q- Do you have a favorite book and what are you currently reading?
A- My favorite book is the dictionary…you should see Daniel Webster’s home in New Hampshire. Currently, I am reading The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw.

Q- What kind of vehicle do you drive?
A- 2006 GMC Denali.

Q- What kind of music do you listen to?
A- I listen to jazz on the way to work, country on the trip home and 60’s Rock N’ Roll when I’m cleaning at home. I can’t say that I have just one favorite.

Q- If you could talk to any person, alive or dead, who would it be and why?
A- My mom, who passed away in 2005, to tell her again how much I appreciate all she did for me.

Q- If there was one thing that the Millersville community did not know about you, what would it be?
A- I love to volunteer! It is so rewarding. I’ve taught Sunday School, I am the co-director of ToughLove International in Lancaster, and I help my husband coach soccer and t-ball. I was my daughter’s Girl Scout leader for her Brownie troop and Junior troop, and I was the secretary/treasurer for my son’s Boy Scout troop, along with many other activities over the years.

Q- What do you plan to do once you retire from Millersville University?
A- I plan to spend more time with my husband and travel. I’ll also choose a volunteer position with children, somewhere in Lancaster and learn to read music.

See Bonnie’s photo album on the next page.
Mrs. Bonnie Work (second from left) and her family pose with Donald Duck in Disney.

Work’s son Kyle, his wife Mandy, granddaughter Taylor and their dog, Sebastian—Christmas morning.

Kisses! – Work’s daughter Amanda, her niece Taylor and Amanda’s dog, Daisy.

Work’s grandson Cameron and granddaughter Taylor.

Work’s granddaughter Taylor admiring Daisy’s jewelry.