All 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, (PASSHE), schools will make the switch from Blackboard, the current learning management system (LMS), to Desire2Learn (D2L), before the start of summer session one.

The current version of Blackboard, which Millersville is using, is five years old and is no longer supported by Blackboard. Six different LMS were available to choose from. The final decision was made by the Council of Presidents to upgrade to D2L. PASSHE signed a five-year contract with an option to extend for another five years.

“Blackboard will be shut off in the middle of June and all the online material will be transferred, except user-generated data, to the new system. Tutorials will be set up through My’Ville for students, and information sessions on how to use D2L will be available in the near future. Millersville is in the process of acquiring the 24/7 helpline D2L provides; however, for now, Millersville’s help desk will be available for questions. Also Anspacher has set up a blog for questions accessible by anyone. The link to the blog is: http://blogs.millersville.edu/d2l4muo/.

“Overall D2L is a friendly community site for everyone, and in a year from now people are going to be so happy with it they won’t even remember the challenges of converting from the old systems,” said Anspacher.

From Blackboard to Desire2Learn

Comencement is Coming

The May 2010 commencement ceremony for undergraduate degree candidates will be held Saturday, May 8. And, for the first time, there will be a separate commencement ceremony held for graduate degree candidates on May 7.

The May 7 commencement ceremony for master’s degree and/or post-bachelor’s teacher certification will be held in Pucillo Gymnasium at 6:30 p.m. featuring Tiffany Wright, Ed.D., ’02M, as the commencement ceremony speaker.

The May 8 baccalaureate commencement will be held in Biemesderfer Stadium at 10 a.m. Brian Gladden ’87, senior vice president and chief financial officer for Dell, Inc., will be the speaker.

Wright is the Career Academy principal at York County School of Technology in York, Pa. She received a bachelor’s degree from Gettysburg College and earned a master’s degree in leadership in teaching and learning at Millersville University. In 2009, she completed her doctoral program at Johns Hopkins University and was presented the prestigious 2009-2010 Phi Delta Kappa International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award.

Gladden attended Millersville University from 1983 to 1987 and was a three-year letter winner as a member of the Marauder football team. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration and is currently responsible for all aspects of Dell’s finance function including accounting, financial planning and analysis, tax, treasury, audit and investor relations. He is also responsible for Dell’s global information systems operations.

Family members attending the undergraduate ceremony on May 8 at Biemesderfer Stadium do not need tickets for general seating. Special needs guests will require a ticket to sit in special needs seating. All undergraduate candidates can request three tickets in the event the undergraduate ceremony is held inside at Pucillo Gymnasium. A live webcast of the ceremony will be broadcast to the Student Memorial Center, where tickets are not required. This site offers convenient access to bathroom facilities, an elevator and refreshments.

For more information regarding the May 2010 commencements, check the commencement website at www.millersville.edu/commencement.

Millersville Welcomes Sheila Jordan

Professional jazz singer Sheila Jordan will be on campus three days this month as Millersville University’s 2010 Artist-in-Residence. Jordan will work closely with faculty and students during her residency on campus from Apr. 19 through Apr. 21. Jordan’s activities include holding meetings with music majors for a question-and-answer session, conducting lectures, discussing her musical career, participating in a music master class and spending time with the Millersville University Jazz Band.

Jordan’s residency will culminate with continued on pg. 3
Staff Activities

Dr. Ralph Anttonen, director of exploratory programs, has been elected as chair of the Faculty Academic Advising Commission of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Anttonen will assume this leadership role at the end of the NACADA annual conference held in Orlando, Fla., in October and serve in this position until Oct. 2012. Anttonen will provide leadership and direction; promote participation in commission activities and conference programming; and propose and facilitate activities and publications to advance the professional development of its members.

Dr. Ximena Catepillan, mathematics; Nazli Hardy, computer science; and Christopher Hardy, biology, along with three students from the School of Science and Mathematics, led a panel discussion at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Mathematics Association (PASSHEMA) conference at West Chester University on April 9. The topic was “Opportunities and Challenges for Women in the Sciences.”

Dr. Alex DeCaria, earth sciences, served as a panelist for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Grade 4 Science Scale Anchoring Meeting, held in Princeton, N.J. April 6-9. At this meeting panelists reviewed the results of the 2009 national assessment and evaluated the alignment of student achievements with benchmarks. DeCaria is also a member of the NAEP Science Standing Committee.

Dr. Heather Girvin, social work, was elected president of the Pennsylvania Association of Social Work Education at the annual meeting and conference at State College – April 9-10.


Dr. Abdelhadi Halawa, wellness and sport sciences, presented a research paper titled “Effects of Globalization on the Rising Rates of Obesity and Overweight in Developing Countries” at the Intellectbase International Consortium (IIC) academic conference held in Sydney, Australia, March 8-9. His paper examined the contribution of globalization, especially the role of free trade since the establishment of the World Trade Organization in January 1995 on the rising rates of obesity and overweight in developing nations. Additionally, Halawa has been nominated to serve a two-year term as an executive editorial board member of the IIC.

Patricia Hopson-Shelton, assistant to the president for social equity/chief diversity officer, was appointed by the Pennsylvania State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She will serve a two-year term.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, cantor the Good Friday Mass and the Easter Vigil Mass at the Church of St. John, the Evangelist, R.C. and sang as an alto ringer in the Cathedral Choir of St. Patrick’s Cathedral for the Easter Sunday High Mass, both churches in New York.

Dr. John R. Wallace, biology, has been invited by the World Health Organization’s Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative to serve on the Research Coordination Working Group and the Transmission Sub-Working Group.

Credit Union Renamed

The former Millersville Federal Credit Union has changed its name to Lanco Federal Credit Union. Once affiliated with the University, the credit union is now independent and still maintains membership of more than 90% University employees. Phone: 872-5057, ext. 531. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Obituary:

Eleanor V. Haleman, 92, of Lancaster, died April 5. She worked in the housekeeping department.

Those retiring with thirty years or more are from left to right: Beverly Funk, dining and conference services; Rachael Wywadis, registrar’s office; Dr. Richard Fulmer, social work; Bonnie Lee Work, computer science; Dennis Karli, financial aid and Patricia Wright, business administration.
Millersville Hosts Autism Panel

Millersville will host “Reframing Autism,” an open panel discussion on autism and its representations on April 20. The discussion is part of the Humanities Film Series focused on challenging established conventions, accepted wisdom, preconceived notions and even common sense.

The panel will include: autism author William Stillman; Dr. Thomas Neuville, special education; Dr. David Hill, psychology; Pat Amos, parent advocate; Dr. Karena Rush, psychology; and two students to be named by Neuville.

Stillman is an award-winning writer and author of numerous books about autism including his groundbreaking trilogy. The God Connection and be civically engaged, “said Diane Fleishman, director of internships and civic engagement services.

Millersville was honored with the President’s Honor Roll Award in 2008 and has since been privileged to receive the Honor Roll with Distinction Award in 2009. Institutions honored with this award have demonstrated strong institutional support for community service and were chosen based on their high level of student involvement in community service, for their individual project descriptions and for the large amount of federal work-study funds dedicated to community service.

Alumni Association Announces Awards

The Millersville University Alumni Association has announced the 2010 Distinguished, Honorary and Outstanding Volunteer Alumni Award Recipients.

John Getz ’99, of Maryland was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award. Getz has a bachelor of science degree in biology. Previously he was a molecular biologist with Morphoteck and also worked for Digene, where he was responsible for designing and testing an HPV (Human Papillomavirus) kit approved by the FDA as the only HPV test for women. In 2005, Getz was hired by the U.S. Department of Defense, Armed Forces Medical Examiners Office. There, Getz is developing 3D protocols that could be used for screening mass casualties during disasters to help with identifying the dead and to determine crime versus accident victims. Dr. Ralph Anttonen, of Millersville, was awarded the Honorary Alumni Award; Anttonen has been a faculty member with the University since 1971 and currently serves as the chair of the Department of Developmental Studies, professor and director of the exploratory (undeclared) program. He was the recipient of the MU person of the year award for the 2001-2002 school year. Anttonen has announced Marauder basketball games for 36 years, been the faculty advisor to Millersville’s radio station, WIXQ-FM for 30 years and acted as a mentor to hundreds of students.

Dr. Richard Frerichs ’64, of Millersville, was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Alumni Service Award. Frerichs served on the executive committee and alumni board of directors for the alumni association for over five years. He has volunteered as the chairman of Millersville’s commencement committee and for Millersville athletics, serving as a home game football announcer since 1970. Frerichs served as the vice president and president of the Millersville Alumni Association for four years and was the recipient of the Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award in 2006.

The three recipients will be officially recognized April 24 at the annual Honors and Awards Convocation, 10 a.m., in Pucillo Gymnasium. The Alumni Association will also host the recipients at the Alumni Association’s Volunteer Recognition event April 27 at the Fulton Opera House.

University Makes the Honor Roll with Distinction

Millersville University has been honored by The Corporation of National and Community Service as one of 115 colleges and universities recognized for exemplary innovation and effective community service programs, receiving the Honor Roll with Distinction Award.

“Millersville University is proud of the students, faculty and staff that made this award possible. It reflects the high level of achievement we have in working together to meet the community needs and be civically engaged,” said Diane Fleishman, director of internships and civic service.

Jordan continued from pg. 1

a public performance featuring herself, a local quartet of jazz musicians and the Millersville University Jazz Ensemble. The concert will be on Wednesday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Reighard Multipurpose Room of the Student Memorial Center.

Jordan was raised in poverty in Pennsylvania’s coal mining country. She began singing as a child and by her early teens was working semi-professionally in Detroit clubs. Her singing career led her to New York, and she began to encompass jazz liturgies sung in churches. Her voice set led her to New York, and she began to encompass jazz liturgies sung in churches. She has traveled across the globe and released live albums of her performances.

Tickets are $10 for general admission. All students are free. There are a limited number of club seats available for $20, which includes table seating and refreshments. For tickets visit muticketsonline.com.

Spring Scoop

April 20, Stayer MPR Drop in between 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to learn how the upcoming library renovation will impact student learning & enjoy some ice cream! Contact library.outreach@ millersville.edu for more info.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of "Who Makes Millersville Special" features Dr. Richard (Dick) Fulmer, professor of social work. Fulmer will be retiring after graduation next month after 25 years of service to the University.

Q: You served as director of The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) for two years. How has this impacted your life?
A: It was a very important experience, and I came back a different teacher. What I found in Harrisburg was that a significant number of these "best and brightest" students knew a lot of things but were ill-prepared at figuring things out and "connecting the dots." When I returned to Millersville I became a much more "what do you think" professor and a much less "what do you remember" one.

Q: Tell us about THIS?
A: It is intended to "put our best and brightest students in front of legislators and other decision makers" as a way to help with appropriations. The program design is to have a top student from each of the 14 state schools register for 15 credits at their school and then spend the entire semester working at policy-making levels of state government. I did not know about the program until 1993, when I saw an announcement for the position of Resident Faculty Director. Two years later I applied and served in Harrisburg from fall '96 through May '98. Since 1998 I have served as MU's campus coordinator for the program.

Q: I was told you were one of the last few to work in the Eastern State Penitentiary (ESP). Can you tell us about your experience and its historic significance?
A: In 1967 I walked into the world’s first penitentiary, a building designed to rehabilitate rather than just house and/or punish convicted criminals. It was built in 1829, designed on Quaker principles of silence, study and work. By the mid-twentieth century it had pretty much become just another overcrowded prison, but, beginning in 1962, rapid change became the norm – intended to accomplish a return to its original purpose. I got caught up in a process, almost evangelical in its fervor, which was guided by professionals, academics and line workers with many years of experience. I was introduced to social work and, for the first time, had a real career focus instead of just a job. The combination of incredibly old surroundings and new programs made for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It ended abruptly in 1970 when ESP was closed and almost all of the inmates and staff were transferred to a more modern (1929) prison at Graterford, Montgomery County.

Q: Why did you decide to write a book about it?
A: In 1970 ESP was sold to the City of Philadelphia for one dollar, and they used it as a detention facility for less than a year. From 1971 to 1992 it sat vacant and deteriorated badly. In 1992 developers offered to buy the site and tear it down for housing and/or a shopping center. Philadelphia’s preservation groups came together and made a counter offer to turn it into a museum. I was part of the initial planning for this proposal as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Prison Society. (Several hundred thousand visitors a year now tour the ESP historic site.) 1992 was also the year my wife and I moved to Millersville. This made it easier for me to go to the State Archives in Harrisburg, and I spent many, many hours sitting at microfilm readers and poring over documents. While everything I gathered was shared with the ESP Task Force, I ended with two filing cabinets and an entire bookcase full of information about the twentieth century ESP. A book just waiting to be written.

Q: What was it like to be interviewed for a feature on Eastern State?
A: People came out of the woodwork in support of preserving ESP, including numerous media and research organizations. One of the first broadcast entities was MTV, which, in the mid 1990s, had a weekly haunted house show. There were TV, radio, newspaper and research interviews held at the prison on a regular basis, and, because of my research, I was one of several "alumni" regularly called to do these interviews. The History Channel came to Philadelphia for their Big House series. I was one of numerous people interviewed, and, for reasons only the producers know, parts of my videotaped interview were selected for use as their ending "feature." It aired in 1998, and I still hear from people who see it for the first time. It seems to be my 15 minutes of fame.

Q: Do you take your students on related field trips?
A: In the Corrections course there are, depending on the semester, four field trips to correctional facilities: two adult and two juvenile. The purpose of these trips is to give students the opportunity to have face-to-face conversations with inmates/residents.

Q: What does your job entail as field coordinator for undergrad social workers?
A: The spring semester senior field placement requirement is the social work equivalent of student teaching. Among my responsibilities is interviewing junior students to get their preferred areas of practice and career goals and then contacting appropriate agencies to determine if they are willing to take interns.

Q: Where did you get your education?
A: The schools I attended are Bloomsburg, bachelor’s, the University of Pennsylvania for my master’s, and Bryn Mawr College for my doctorate. However, my real education has always been, and continues to be, from inmates, mental patients, colleagues and students who have been willing to engage with me in the struggle.

Q: Looking back on all you have done here at Millersville, can you name one of your favorite memories?
A: Perhaps the most exhilarating was being selected to attend a PASSHE-sponsored week-long teaching academy at the Allenberry Resort and Playhouse. There were faculty from all 14 schools, with a wide range of specialties, and it was a real pleasure to actually have extended conversations about pedagogy.

Q: Do you have any plans for what you are going to do after you retire?
A: The only real plan I have is to finish the ESP book, the first draft of which was written during my sabbatical, and get it published. Beyond that, I hope to spend more time with my wife, family and friends. I enjoy playing golf, reading biographies and history, rooting for the Phillies and watching college basketball. I am happiest when with Jackson, our four (and a half)-year-old grandson, which is a much more active and strenuous hobby than golf.

Q: What is an interesting fact that most people don’t know about you?
A: I play the tuba and try to participate in TubaChristmas each year.