Practical Skills for an Un-practical World

Upon high school graduation you should have learned about Darwin’s theory of evolution, the basic principles regarding human rights and about the twisted fiction of Edgar Allen Poe—but did you learn how to make your bed? A new book by Millersville University’s James Pannafino can help. Inspired through observing a variety of young adults’ lack of knowledge of basic life lessons, the professor of graphic and interactive design created a solution to fit student’s everyday needs; Common College Sense, a book composed to entertain and enlighten students of the basic information and skills necessary to enter the real world.

“Although many colleges and universities are successful in their mission to prepare students for the careers that lie ahead of them, students are finding they arrive and leave college without some of the basic skills necessary for life after college,” said Pannafino. “With the general public’s growing dependence on technology, basic skills seem to be forgotten or rather, untaught. University students are capable of many things, but when it comes to the bare essential life lessons, young adults seem to be helpless without technological assistance.”

“It is surprising to me,” said Pannafino, “in this day and age, machines have not been created to make beds or fold and iron clothes; technology has ultimately hindered our ability and time to teach the youth of today how to perform ordinary tasks manually. AAA has created learning how to change a tire appear to be obsolete, when in fact, the skill acquired will be more than helpful in the event of an emergency."

“Nowadays there is just so much to learn that it is so hard to know everything, especially when you’re young,” explained Pannafino. “There is so much expected of young adults—when would they have time to learn how to properly set a dinner table?”

Common College Sense is filled with both visual diagrams and written explanations to clearly describe each common sense tasks students should know by the time they leave college. Some of these entertaining yet educational skills include: How to cook pasta, how to clean a toilet bowl, how to write a check, how to throw a football and how to clean laundry.


Update on Budget Direction

On May 13 President Francine G. McNairy sent an email to the campus community regarding the “very serious issues we face in balancing the University’s budget this year and in the upcoming two years.” The entire email is available on Millersville’s website at: www.millersville.edu/services/budget/files/presidentbudgetupdate05.13.10.pdf.

In the email, McNairy said, “In our ongoing efforts to communicate about the budget, I want to let you know that while our goal is to prevent layoffs, it is possible that they might be inevitable for administrators and staff in 2010-11. In addition, retrenchment of faculty might be a possibility for the 2011-12 academic year.”

The president said additional communications will be sent after the University has had time to review participation in the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program. The deadline for eligible employees to accept the retirement incentive is May 28.

Biology Professor Works Towards Cure

Dr. John Wallace, biology, whose work on an emerging disease, Buruli Ulcer, a necrotizing skin disease common throughout the equatorial regions of the world, is featured in a new video. His work focuses on the role that mosquitoes and the environment play in the transmission and maintenance of this disease. He has field sites throughout southeastern Australia and has also done work in Ghana. And, he recently returned from Benin, West Africa, where he had been for field research from May 8 – 18.

The video was developed and distributed by the Buruli Ulcer Foundation, which was founded by Drs. Darlene and James McCord in 2008 to help eliminate the human suffering caused by the skin disease. The disease is easily and inexpensively treatable if addressed in its early stages. But left untreated, it can cause continued on pg. 2
Dr. Richard Clark, earth sciences, along with 12 students enrolled in his course, ESCI 440: Space Weather and Environment, traveled to Boulder, Colo., to attend the 2010 Space Weather Workshop sponsored by the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC). [See photo below.]

Dr. Alex DeCaria, earth sciences, and David Fitzgerald, academic consulting & tech services, have received a Unidata Equipment Award for $11,000 for their proposal titled “Millersville University Content Repository for Boundary Layer, Ocean Science and Cyberspace Initiatives.” This award will fund equipment to host computer servers that will allow Millersville to archive and distribute various atmospheric and ocean sciences data sets to other institutional and individual users on both a national and global level. The Millersville server will emphasize data sets supporting boundary layer meteorology, ocean sciences and cyber-education initiatives.

Dr. Leroy Hopkins, foreign languages, gave a paper on April 10, “Auf Flügeln des Gesanges: Marie Nejar, Fasia Jansen, and Race in Post War Germany’s Historical Landscape” at the College Language Association’s 70th anniversary conference at Brooklyn College. The paper dealt with two Afro-German performers and the problem of race in Germany after 1945.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, was an alto ringer for the Canterbury Choral Society’s spring concert at the Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York on May 9, featuring Zoldan Kodaly’s “Missa Brevis” and Leonard Bernstein’s “Chichester Psalms.”

Cure

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terrible open sores, loss of limb and bone cancer. In Africa the disease strikes mostly children, with more than 70 percent of the victims being under the age of 15, while in Australia, victims are typically over age 55. Editor’s note: The video contains very graphic depictions of the skin disease.

No SMC – Pucillo Open

The fitness center in the Student Memorial Center is closed for the summer while it undergoes expansion. It should reopen by fall semester. In the meantime the Pucillo fitness room is available for students, faculty and staff. There is no fee to use the fitness center, but there are limited space and hours. The hours for summer use are: Monday - Thursday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The gym will not be open on the weekends.

Millersville U(NITED)

Courtney Lewis, development, is working to unite Millersville University alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends through this year’s annual fund message, titled “Millersville U(NITED)”. Millersville U(NITED) is a call for all members of Millersville’s community to stand together and reaffirm their partnership by donating to the University’s annual fund.

The annual fund is vital to the success of the University and its students by enhancing scholarships, technology and student/faculty research. Those who donate $25 or more will receive a specially designed t-shirt, a value of $5, and a $20 gift receipt used for future taxes.

The message created for Millersville U(NITED) is three-fold: to establish a new and updated identity for Millersville University’s annual fund, to increase the level of personalization and relevance of messages to donors and prospects based on demographic profiles and to increase the use of social media, such as Facebook, as a means of soliciting a younger donor demographic.

“We are all part of the bigger Millersville picture, and united, we can make this an even better place to work and go to school,” said Lewis.

Donations can be made by visiting www.millersville.edu/services/development/givingforms/gift.php or by calling Lewis at ext. 5670.

Millersville University

Staff Activities

Dr. Dennis Denenberg, professor emeritus, elementary and early childhood, continues to present keynote addresses to conferences and conventions for corporate, teacher and parent groups. Denenberg gave a Teaching American History (TAH) grant program in Washington Township, N.J., in January and one in Ionia, Mich., in April. Earlier this month he gave a parent and teacher workshop at Pius X School in San Antonio, Texas.
Millersville softball bats for a cause

Millersville's softball team spent the spring raising money for the men and women who fight for our freedom. They sold t-shirts and held a fundraising event titled "Millersville softball goes to bat for our wounded soldiers."

Collectively, the team chose to raise money to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), which works to increase awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women, to help severely injured service members aid and assist each other and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of severely injured service members.

To raise money, Millersville's softball team set up a donation page on the WWP website (see link below), and then they reached out to their families, friends and community members for support. The team far exceeded its fundraising goal, raising more than $3,300 – and they’re not done yet. For those who wish to contribute to the cause, donations are still being accepted: Click here to make a donation.

The fundraiser on April 10 was during a doubleheader against Slippery Rock University. Not only was it Family Day, but local soldiers and veterans, as well as members from the community were invited to attend, bringing together a sizeable crowd for a good cause.

The event was held in conjunction with Millersville University’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), who contributed in numerous ways. Between games, Major Craig Walker of Millersville’s ROTC gave a touching speech about the military, recognizing and expressing appreciation for those who served, past and present.

Elizabethtown Sporting Goods sponsored the event, donating specially made t-shirts that have “Millersville” on the front and large yellow ribbons on the back, surrounded by the words “we support our troops.” The t-shirts cost $10 and are still available for purchase, with donations going towards WWP efforts.

For more information or to purchase a t-shirt, contact Kathleen Cummings, head softball coach, at Kathleen.Cummings@millersville.edu.

“This is the event that I am most proud of,” said Cummings. “We [the softball team] realized that we wouldn’t be where we are, working at or attending college, playing a sport we love and all the other freedoms we are allowed if it wasn’t for our men and women in the military who sacrifice and fight for that freedom.”

Millersville Says “No” to Cyber Bullying

Members of the community turned out in full force for the CyberSafe Partnership Conference at Millersville University on May 12. It brought together national experts, educators, administrators and families to discuss how to keep kids safe in a cyber world. The conference registration filled up quickly with members from the community who are concerned about Internet safety. Dr. Jon Landis from Millersville’s School of Education was interviewed during the conference about its importance.

Pie for a Scholarship

Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honors society, initiated a series of fundraisers last year to support the Dr. Robert D. and Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship. One of the events is a “Pie Your Professor” fundraiser. For a donation, students, faculty, and staff can “pie” one of the history faculty. The 2010 victims from left to right are Drs. Ron Frankum, Erin Shelor, and Frank Bremer.

Millersville Business Association 2010 Expo

The Millersville Business Association’s Third Annual Business Expo will be held on Friday, May 21, at John Herr's Village Market. The Expo will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will host businesses from the Millersville Borough and surrounding areas.

The Business Expo is free to the public and will include information and giveaways from local businesses. This is a great opportunity to meet and learn more about local business owners, their wide range of services and products in the Millersville community. Last year more than 25 businesses participated in this event.

For questions regarding the 2010 MBA Business Expo contact the Millersville University Alumni Services Office at ext. 3352. For details on the Millersville Business Association and its members, please visit their website at www.millersvillebiz.com.
Who Makes Millersville Special

Featured in this edition of “Who Makes Millersville Special” is Rachael Wywadis, associate registrar at Millersville’s registrar’s office. Wywadis has been involved with the University for more than 40 years.

Q - When did you graduate from Millersville?

Q - What sports did you participate in?

Q - How did you wind up working for Millersville?
A - I began graduate studies at Millersville due to family responsibilities that postponed my relocation for graduate studies in political science. My first employment was as a graduate assistant. After the first year as a graduate assistant I was encouraged to take the civil service exam, which was required at that time for support staff appointments. I was hired as an administrative assistant in the graduate studies office.

Q - Why did you choose to stay at Millersville for your entire career?
A - Although not part of my original career plans (politics and legal studies), I discovered an interest in and aptitude for administrative work. I elected to stay at Millersville because I found challenges and opportunity for professional development with each new assignment—and there were family considerations. My son was in high school when I first seriously considered other opportunities; however, I deferred relocating until he finished high school. I was surprised when he elected to continue his education and basketball career at Millersville, but I stayed, too.

Q - What do you like best about your job?
A - The opportunity everyday to interact with students, faculty and staff committed to the pursuit of knowledge.

Q - You’ve held numerous positions. What were they?
A - My first assignments as a graduate assistant, administrative assistant and assistant dean were in graduate studies. I served as acting director of affirmative action (social equity). I was interim director of student support services. I was appointed associate registrar in 1988; I also served as acting registrar for two years.

Q - What does the registrar’s office do?
A - The registrar’s office is responsible for the accuracy, security, confidentiality and maintenance of student records after admission to the University through graduation and beyond. Registration, grades processing, transfer credits, degree audit, graduation and transcripts are the main components of the student life cycle in the office.

Q - Outside of the office, what is your favorite activity to participate in on campus?
A - I have been a Marauder athletics fan for more than 40 years, especially football, basketball and baseball. During the last two years it has been even more fun to attend games with my grandchildren.

Q - What service improvements for students and the campus have you been involved with?
A - The most significant service improvement I was involved with was helping to implement a new student information system in 1999. This experience challenged me to look beyond the familiar, embrace change and tap into my creative energy.

Q - How have you been involved with commencement? Do you have any favorite stories from commencement?
A - Since 1988 I have been responsible for the student-centered aspects of commencement including everything from the application process through the verification of completion of degree requirements and printing/mailing diplomas. It has been my privilege to play a role behind the scenes to make the commencement ceremony at Millersville a memorable experience for all. My favorite commencement story is repeated at every ceremony—the smiles, shouts of joy and the faces beaming with pride.

Q - Do you feel Millersville has changed in most every way, shape and form. Most of the changes at Millersville since I was a student have been positive and significant—especially the increase in programs, special study opportunities and facilities. I believe that a big part of what makes Millersville second to none today is the tradition of innovation, commitment to excellence and dedication to developing an educated citizenry that began in 1855.

Q - What is the best piece of advice ever given to you?
A - Ask yourself – is this the hill you’re willing to die on?

Q - What advice do you share with the students you help?
A - I don’t offer advice to students; however, I always attempt to help them identify the issue or problem; outline options to resolve the problem; and encourage them to develop a plan of action that moves them forward.

Q - What is your most memorable experience/favorite memory from your time at Millersville?
A - Almost every day of my 40-plus years at Millersville is a piece of the mosaic of memories, big and small. The extra-special memories include: watching my son play basketball as a Marauder (1990-94); my son’s graduation day (May, 1994); and the many students who take the time to say ‘thank you.’

Q - What is one thing most people would be surprised to learn about you?
A - I only attended one day of kindergarten.

Q - What is your favorite thing to eat?
A - Ice cream, any flavor except coffee.

Q - Who has been your biggest influence?
A - My mother had the biggest influence on me in my personal development as a strong, loyal and compassionate woman. Professionally, there were two major influences during my tenure at Millersville: Dr. Edgar Thomas, dean of graduate studies, who mentored me through the early years of my career; and Dr. Joseph Caputo, whose leadership qualities inspired me to persist and excel.

Q - What do you see yourself doing after retirement?
A - No definitive plans yet, except to attend a Super Bowl, a World Series game and the NCAA Men’s Final Four Tournament.

Q – As you retire what would you like to say to the colleagues, staff or students you’ve worked with?
A - ‘Yasher Koach,’ Yiddish phrase translated as ‘May you continue to move from strength to strength’.