New Sustainability Committee Website: Coming Earth Day

From the thin client computers on campus to dining services’ recent partnership with Oregon Dairy Organics and Edie Waste Systems to develop an organic-waste recycling program, the campus has been deploying many sustainability ideas. While these many initiatives helped put Millersville University on “The Princeton Review’s Guide to 286 Green Colleges,” there has not been a unified force for sustainability on campus – until recently.

Millersville University’s new Sustainability Committee will make its debut April 22 with the launch of its website, blogs.millersville.edu/sustainability/2010/12/09/hello-world/, to coincide with Earth Day.

“Sustainability involves everyone. It is being mindful of environmental as well as social justice issues,” said Dr. Nadine Garner, associate professor of psychology, who proposed the idea for a Sustainability Committee and an accompanying website to President Francine G. McNairy in the fall of 2007. Garner now chairs the Website Committee portion of the University’s Sustainability Committee.

“College campuses should serve as models of sustainability, in which all facets of the institution are integrating sustainable practices as an intentional and ongoing process, versus an isolated set of finite activities,” she said.

The new Sustainability Committee adopted three objectives, which now serve as the committee’s tenets:

- Recognition and Promotion.
- Education.
- Enhancement, Initiatives and Maintenance.

The Sustainability Committee will recognize all efforts – faculty, staff and student – through the committee’s website. In addition, the website will promote new initiatives and announce events, upcoming workshops and conferences.

Faculty and staff who participate, contribute and/or endorse sustainability initiatives on campus, whether inside or outside the classroom, are encouraged to contact Garner. Also, faculty and staff should encourage students to contact Garner if they are taking strides to make the University more sustainable.

The Sustainability Committee includes the following members: Roger Bruszewski, finance and administration, who is serving as committee chairman; Garner; Elizabeth Karevicius, finance and
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administration; Michele Bote, registrar’s office; Fred Eddinger, facilities; David Errickson, purchasing; Veronica Longenecker, information technologies; Edward Nase, dining and conference services; Tom Richardson, student affairs; Dr. Kathleen Schreiber, geography; Patrick Weidinger, human resources; Dr. Daniel Yocom, biology; Dr. Joseph Revelt, institutional research and two Millersville students, Sarah Darling and Sara Bowman.

“I am excited that with the formation of the Sustainability Committee and the website, we now have a way to begin including all campus stakeholders in the conversation of sustainability,” said Garner. “I am looking forward to recognizing and celebrating all of the sustainable actions that the campus already practices.”

For more information about the University’s Sustainability Committee, or to share your contributions, contact Garner at Nadine.Garner@millersville.edu or 717-872-3097.

Photo Caption: Garner is nearly hidden by more than 400 pounds of bottle caps that fill her office, which will eventually be donated to raise money for a local charity. Garner started this sustainability initiative in 2009 with two sections of her Development of the Child and Adolescent course. Because caps are not usually recycled in conventional recycling facilities, this project diverted the caps from ending up in the waste stream. Garner continues to receive caps that people drop off to her office.

2011 Annual Alumni Award Recipients

Millersville University’s Alumni Association has announced the recipients of the 2011 awards. The Distinguished Alumni Award goes to Dr. R. William Field ’77, ‘85M, and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award goes to Stephen Focht ’70. They will accept their awards at the Honors and Awards Convocation on April 30 at 10 a.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium.

Field (pictured left) is a professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health and the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Iowa. He is also an internationally renowned expert on the health effects of radon gas. Field started his research on radon gas after the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania in 1979. He serves on the World Health Organization’s International Radon Project and the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (U.S. EPA) Science Advisory Board, Radiation Protection Committee. Field also received the U.S. EPA’s National Environmental Health Association’s Individual Achievement Award for Excellence in Radon Risk Reduction, the EPA’s Children’s Environmental Health Recognition Award. He is married to alumna Elizabeth Field ’74, who also received this highest-accolade alumni award in 1984.

Focht (pictured right), of Willow Street, currently serves as the alumni association’s treasurer and financial planning committee chairman. He was a member of the alumni association’s board of directors from 1985-1995, serving as president from 1991-1993. He is employed by Fairfax
Compliance Group, Inc., where he is an environmental health and safety consultant and at the American Red Cross, where he is a trainer and instructor. His current and past community service includes the Willow Street Lion’s Club and the Quarryville Masonic Lodge. While he was a student at Millersville, he participated in intercollegiate band, the Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity and the American Chemical Society.

For more information on the Honors and Awards Convocation, contact Alumni Services, at 717-872-3352.

**Millersville’s spring 2011 Commencement Ceremonies**

Millersville University will be holding two commencement ceremonies this spring. The graduate ceremony will be held Friday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium for students graduating with a master’s degree and/or post-bachelor’s teacher certification. The undergraduate ceremony will be held Saturday, May 7 at 10 a.m. at Biemesderfer Stadium for students graduating with a baccalaureate degree.

Dr. Thomas P. Bell ’83, ’85M associate professor of industry and technology at Millersville and current president of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, will give the keynote speech, “Technological Literacy and the Need to Anticipate Change,” at Friday’s graduate commencement ceremony. Bell currently serves on the board of directors for Epsilon Pi Tau, the international honor society for professionals in technology. He is also a trustee for the local Beta Phi chapter at Millersville and has held academic positions at the University of Maryland-College Park and Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

Bell graduated from Millersville with his bachelor’s degree in industrial arts education. He taught graphic arts at a high school in Cranford, N.J., before returning to Millersville to start his master’s degree, which he earned in 1985. He later earned his Ph. D. at the University of Maryland-College Park in technology education in 1992.

The keynote speaker for Saturday’s undergraduate commencement ceremony will be Dr. Hugh Herr ’90, who is considered one of the top biomechatronics researchers in the world. As a teenager, Herr was an avid rock climber. After losing both legs in a rock climbing accident at age 17, he began to focus more on his academics, receiving his bachelor’s degree in physics from Millersville, his master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and his Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University.
While at MIT, as a postdoctoral fellow, Herr began working on leg prostheses and devices to mimic a human leg. He designed prosthetic legs and feet, using metal, plastic and rubber, so that he was able to continue climbing after his accident. Herr is currently an associate professor and director of the biomechatronics lab at the MIT Media Lab, where his focus is on the development of technologies that will act as extensions of body limbs that are similar in structure and dynamics.

Herr is the holder or co-holder of 14 patents including a computer-controlled artificial knee, an active ankle-foot orthosis and the world’s first powered ankle-foot prosthesis, produced by iWalk, a company using bionics to imitate the purpose of limbs to improve their function.

The computer-controlled knee was named one of TIME magazine’s Top Ten Inventions in 2004, followed by the robotic ankle-foot in 2007. He has also received the Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Leadership Award and the Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment.

He is also founder and chief scientific officer of iWalk. Herr first produced the PowerFoot BiOM by iWalk, which is a leg system replacing the functions of the foot, ankle and calf of the body. After much research and testing, the PowerFoot BiOM is clinically available and can replicate normal functions of a leg.

For more information on commencement, visit the Commencement website.

**Having Problems with Your MU Alert?**

Have you signed up for the MU Alert but didn’t receive emergency cell phone text messages during snow delays this winter? Millersville is currently having difficulty with MU Alerts getting to Verizon users. The problem should be resolved early this summer.

“The problem seemed to be more than a ‘once and done’ technical glitch impacting Verizon customers, so we looked into it with our text messaging provider for the MU Alert system, Cooper Technologies,” said Patrick Weidinger, director of safety and environmental health.

“The problem appears to be between Cooper and Verizon. We have tested our system here at Millersville and it appears to be functioning fine,” said Weidinger. “For some reason, Cooper is receiving our MU Alert text messages, sending them along to Verizon and Verizon is not passing them along to MU Alert subscribers with Verizon accounts. This is a problem we have asked Cooper to resolve with Verizon, ASAP.”

Although the text messages may not work for Verizon users, until the problem is solved, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to subscribe to receive email MU Alerts, which will go through to the email address provided when signing up. The University website should also be checked for updates on emergencies or weather delays for events, such as graduation, and listen for emergency announcements made on the outdoor public address system. Also, people should
listen for emergency information broadcasts that may come over their land lines through the reverse 9-1-1 system.

No emergency alert system can get the message to every student, faculty, staff or visitor at the University. The goal is to achieve a “critical mass” of notification so enough people are informed and can share the information with others who may not have a cell phone, text messaging, or have not heard the outdoor announcement or are away from a computer.

“We will continue to work on resolving this problem as quickly as possible and we will notify the campus community of the resolution,” said Weidinger.

For more information, or for questions about the MU alert, contact Weidinger at Patrick.Weidinger@millersville.edu or 717-872-3715.

Baseball Coach Goes Above and Beyond

President Francine G. McNairy and Aminta Breaux, vice president for student affairs, presented the Living the Promise award to Head Baseball Coach Jon Shehan on April 11 for aiding two injured baseball players during a game with the North Georgia team.

According to the father of one of the players, Shehan ran to help the two players, who collided into each other chasing a pop up. Both were knocked out and suffered mild to serious injuries. Shehan’s actions were described as “…one class act – something in this day and age may never happen again,” according to the coaching staff at North Georgia. “You have one heck of a coach for baseball at Millersville and we thank you for it down here.”

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 second to none.”

Millersville 250 Exhibit to Open

Millersville is celebrating its 250th anniversary during 2011. In celebration, the Millersville Area Historical Society invites the public to a new exhibit entitled “Milling about Millersville” at the Conestoga Area Historical Society, 51 Kendig Road, Conestoga. The “Milling about Millersville” exhibit will be open on Saturdays and Sundays, April 30 through December 11, 2011, from 1-4 p.m.
Artifacts and memorabilia for this sesquicentennial celebration include bottles, furniture, oil paintings, garden equipment, WWII items, Boy Scout items, police badges, historical records, trolley items, cigar boxes, publications, postcards, ribbons, photos, clothing, business ads/marketing items and so much more.

The Millersville 250 exhibit is sponsored by the Millersville Area Historical Society, the Millersville Lions Club and the Millersville Woman’s Club.

For more information, contact Ken Hoak, curator at the Conestoga Area Historical Society, at 717-872-1699 or Phil Gerber, Millersville Area Historical Society president, at 717-872-8837 or pge8507@aol.com.

MU Hosted Student Research and Visual & Performing Arts Conference

Millersville hosted the 2011 Student Research and Visual & Performing Arts Conference, Friday, April 15 in McComsey Hall to allow students to showcase their research or creative work at Millersville.

“Most of the research was presented either in poster format in the McComsey Atrium and lobby or as paper sessions in McComsey classrooms,” said Dr. Ken Smith, associate professor of economics and chair of the faculty committee that organized the event. “In recent years, we’ve also had a number of presentations of creative works and musical presentations.”

The keynote speech, “The Virtual Autopsy & Post-Mortem Management,” was given by John Getz, ’99. Getz is the program manager of the Virtual Autopsy Program for the U.S. Dept. of Defense and received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award last year. The Virtual Autopsy program is designed to assess soldier wounds in order to provide equipment that better protects U.S. military personnel.

Graduate Student and Former Professor Combine Efforts

Millersville University graduate student Ann Schober, and former Millersville University professor Barbara Stengel, will combine their efforts in Nashville, Tenn., to give back to underprivileged students this spring.

Schober’s class of “freedom writers,” from Lancaster Catholic High School (LCHS), will travel to Nashville to give back to Kirkpatrick Enhanced Option Elementary School, where the average
income of children’s families is $5,000. Stengel, who currently teaches at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and her students, will work with Schober’s class to provide school and gym supplies, as well as paint a mural and perform other community service in the area.

Schober is the English department chairwoman at LCHS. She is also the only private school teacher in the nation qualified to teach a “freedom writers” class. Schober studied with Erin Gruwell, the founder of Freedom Writers, before teaching her class at LCHS. The students in her class were not expected to finish high school and are now graduating this spring.

As a graduate student at Millersville, Schober facilitates Millersville’s summer writing workshops. She is an LCHS graduate.

Stengel is also an LCHS graduate and was a professor at Millersville for 25 years.

For more information on Schober’s class or their trip to Nashville, visit www.lchsys.org, or contact Schober at aschober@lchsys.org.

**National Broadcast Society Achievements**

Five students from Millersville’s Chapter of the National Broadcasting Society (NBS) were recently recognized at the 69th convention of the National Broadcasting Society-Alpha Epsilon Rho in Los Angeles, March 16-19. Twenty-five students from Millersville University attended the conference.

Kimberly Landis (pictured left), a junior communications and theatre major with an option in broadcasting, was named national student of the year in Alpha Epsilon Rho (AERho), the nation’s oldest broadcasting honor society. Landis serves as vice president of the University’s NBS chapter. She is currently the program director of MUTV-99, Millersville’s student-run television station, and the executive producer of “In the Zone,” a weekly sports talk program. She also announces sporting events, anchors news programs and co-produces location shoots throughout the school year.

The following students were also inducted into AERho:

Jessica Do, a junior communications and theatre major with an option in broadcasting, has been an active member of NBS for three years. She was recently elected as NBS president for the fall 2011 semester and is also the public service announcement director of MUTV-99.

Jessica Doudrick, a sophomore communications and theatre major with an option in broadcasting, has been an active member of NBS for two years. She currently serves as treasurer.
for NBS and is a member of MUTV-99, serving as a news anchor, production assistant and production mentor for new members of the organization.

Jordan Kuhns, a junior communications and theatre major with an option in broadcasting, has been an active member of NBS for two years. As the chief field producer for MUTV-99, Kuhns coordinates location shoots at various campus events. He is also the primary voice of Millersville University’s sports coverage and has been nationally recognized for his work with Millersville’s ice hockey team.

Danielle Singleton, a junior communications and theatre major with an option in broadcasting, has been an active member of NBS for three years. She has previously served as the communication coordinator for NBS and is currently a news producer for MUTV-99. Recently, Singleton was named station manager for Millersville’s radio station, WIXQ.

Millersville was also one of five schools recognized as a Model Chapter in the AERho society.

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First Row Seated (left to right): Emiyaril Andino, financial aid; Anne Pryzbylkowski, health services; Brenda Alexander, dining and conference services; Alice McMurry, development and Alison Hutchinson, registrar’s office.

Second Row Standing (left to right): Theresa DiPaula, accounting; Joanne Esposito, dining and conference services; Joanne Ocasio, health services; Ruth Salinkas, information resources; Holly
Kalbach, experiential learning & career management and Corrine House, dining and conference services.

Third Row Standing (left to right): Paul Young, graduate and professional studies and Derek Hoffman, development.

Faculty and Staff Activities

Dr. Robert Carballo, English, presented a paper, “Macbeth as Dramatization of an Anti-Machiavellian Polity and Sensibility,” at the 42nd annual conference of the Northeast Modern Language Association in New Brunswick, N.J., in April. The conference, an international gathering of scholars from several countries and various disciplines in the humanities, was sponsored by Rutgers University.

Dr. Sandra Deemer, educational foundations, and Melissa Ostrowski, Penn Manor High School, presented their paper “Students “Perceptions of a Program for Exploring Postsecondary Options,”” in a featured session at the American Educational Research Association conference in New Orleans. Deemer also co-organized the Teaching Educational Psychology Special Interest Group program at the meeting and has been elected co-president of the Teaching Educational Psychology group for 2011-2012.


Dr. Laurie B. Hanich, educational foundations, presented a paper “Cognitive Correlates of Mathematics Disabilities: Numerical and Working Memory Skills Differentiate Students with vs. without Mathematical Learning Disability” at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, in Montreal, Canada. The paper was co-authored by her colleague, Dr. Michele M.M. Mazzocco, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. John R. Wallace, biology, was an invited panelist to the Pennsylvania Water Education Association (PWEA) special conference on Marcellus Shale Gas Mining at Mansfield University on March 9 and presented a talk titled “Environmental Monitoring: Urgency, consistency and sustainability to protect our aquatic systems for natural gas mining.” He also co-authored an article in PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases in December 2010 titled “Ecology and Transmission of Buruli Ulcer Disease: A systematic Review.” And, Wallace co-authored two presentations at the 2011 World Health Organization Annual Meeting on Buruli Ulcer. The first presentation was a plenary talk titled “Highlights and Review of Transmission and Related Research on Buruli Ulcer Disease in 2010.” The second presentation was titled “Micro-geography of Mycobacterium ulcerans and epidemiology of Buruli Ulcer in Tandjii village, Benin, Africa.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Kathleen (Kat) Walsh, assistant professor of social work, who has been at Millersville since the summer of 2007.

Q: Why did you choose to work at Millersville?
A: There were many factors related to my decision to come to Millersville. Most importantly, I observed a feeling of “home” among the students, faculty, administrators and other MU team members. I really appreciated how dedicated everyone seemed to be. I also wanted to be in an academic institution that valued education and teaching as the top priority for faculty members.

Q: What classes do you teach here? Do you have any favorites?
A: I teach several classes in the bachelor’s and master’s social work program. I love the range of being able to teach the very first social work class to both majors and non-majors and then go to teaching experienced and hard working social work professionals in our master’s program. I love them all—it is hard to pick a favorite.

Q: What do you like most about your job?
A: I like so much about my job at Millersville—the thing that I value the most however, is the diligence, hard work and commitment of everyone who goes to school and works here. I value the dedication to social work values and ethics that is embodied in our department and the institution at large.

Q: Is there a reason why you chose to social work?
A: I chose social work, and in particular, social work education, because I am passionate about people doing the right thing including promoting social justice. I have always been a macro-thinker and I want to promote positive social change—I chose education because I believe that we can touch many people who will in turn positively influence others, and the chain continues.

Q: Do you have any specific areas of interest in the field?
A: I am interested in workforce and social equity issues, social work values and ethics, macro social work practice including community organizing, administration and supervision.

Q: Do you work with the joint degree program with Shippensburg? If so – how does that work?
A: Yes. This is a collaborative program, and for the master’s of social work program, we have a joint faculty. Students can apply to either campus and will be able to take courses at Millersville or Shippensburg (depending on their home school), online, via videoconferencing and at the
Dixon University Center. The program is tailored so that people are able to complete their degree by taking courses through a variety of means; courses are offered primarily in the evening and there’s even some weekend electives.

Q: What’s the long-term forecast for social work jobs?
A: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, social work is a growing field. I think that nationally, there is an increase in those pursuing social work education and employment. I do believe that students need to continue to find ways to “distinguish” themselves from other social work majors to ensure that they are able to compete for the jobs of their choice and in their field/area of interest. Some ways that I think they can distinguish themselves is through academic achievement, extracurricular and volunteer service, field experience and leadership.

Q: Social workers are often portrayed by the media as “do-gooders” who think they can make all people better. What’s your opinion of that portrayal?
A: On the first day of SOWK 102, I ask my students to ask three people their opinion about what it is that social workers do. Interestingly, being a “do-gooder” is not among the most commonly referenced opinions. Therefore, in light of some of the other comments that I have heard, this characterization does not seem so bad. I believe that social workers are not accurately portrayed in the media and in Hollywood (if at all). In many cases, we are unable to defend ourselves against allegations due to confidentiality and privacy concerns and in many cases, the activities that social workers are accused of are not actually under the purview of the profession. For example, contrary to popular belief, we do not typically make “welfare”/public assistance financial determinations, and we cannot decide to “snatch” babies or other children without due legal processes.

Q: What college/university did you attend?
A: I attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Q: What was your first job?
A: I worked at a radio station and obtained my FCC license to go “on-air” prior to obtaining my driver’s license.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: Southern Maryland.

Q: What did you want to be when you were growing up? Why?
A: A drama queen. When you meet me, you will understand.

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
A: Free time?? I enjoy taking and teaching aerobic and fitness classes and most importantly, spending time with my family and friends.

Q: What is your favorite book, movie, music genre?
A: Good question, I had to think the most about this one. My favorite musical artists of all time are Michael Franti (and Spearhead), Janis Joplin, Willie Nelson and The Almighty Senators (Baltimore Band). Obviously, there is no unifying genre. If I have a babysitter and an
opportunity to go out and watch a movie, I typically chose to go dancing instead; sadly, the same is true when it comes to reading a book.

Q: Did you have a role model as a child?
A: My grandmother! Oh, and Madonna.

Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?
A: Before I had children, I would say my career and my dedication to helping others including working post-9-11 as the executive director at an emergency services agency (and keeping the doors open). But now, it’s potty training my daughter, getting my kids out the door and to school in the morning and hopefully teaching them to leave the earth and the world better than they found it.

Q: If you could travel to any place in the world, where would it be and why?
A: First, I would like to overcome my fear of flying; then, I can consider the world of possibilities. Probably Ireland because my father’s family is from there and I would love to learn more about our heritage.