Educator of the Year Award 2011

Students at Millersville who venture into the “Rat Lab” on campus often encounter Dr. Susan Luek, psychology professor. She helps them learn about human memory and animal learning. Her work on campus is being recognized, and she will receive Millersville University’s inaugural “Educator of the Year Award” May 7, at the undergraduate commencement ceremony. Luek has been an educator at Millersville for more than 39 years and is known for her strong compassion for her students and dedication to student learning.

“I am thrilled to receive such an honor,” says Luek. “This is the most wonderful recognition I have been awarded since I started my career at Millersville in 1972.”

Along with teaching psychology classes at Millersville, Luek currently serves as advisor for the Psychology Club and Psi Chi International Psychology Honor Society and the psychology department’s chairperson of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Undergraduate Awards.

Outside of the psychology department, Luek has served positions such as chairperson of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women, member of the faculty senate for more than 20 years, chairperson of the University Honors Program, co-founder of the Millersville Women’s Center, faculty advisor to Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Lambda Theta Honor Societies and vice president of the MEDAL board of directors. In 2009, during the 20th anniversary celebration of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women and Cultural Diversity, Luek was recognized for distinguished service as the commission’s chairwoman and outstanding service and vision in establishing the Women’s Center.

The Educator of the Year Award recipient must exhibit the following criteria: Involves students actively in the learning process; synthesizes complex concepts and bodies of knowledge into well-communicated material; is approachable to students through fostering an environment of personal and professional concern; serves as a role model to students and faculty members at the departmental, programmatic and University levels and with the larger communities with which he/she comes into contact in scholarly, personal and professional efforts and is committed to what is going on not only within his/her department, but also throughout the University.

Luek completed her graduate and undergraduate work in general experimental psychology at the University of Delaware.

The Educator of the Year Award Committee is composed of seven members: Jesse Holden, chairman, Ganser library; Tom Baker ’02; Dr. Sandy Deemer, educational foundations; Dr. Carrie Smith, sociology/anthropology; Dr. Yuan Zhong, biology; Patrick Hollowell, undergraduate student, economics and Rachel Rohland, graduate assistant working on her post-baccalaureate certification in elementary education.
Millersville University – Latino Community Mural Project

Students from Millersville University, in collaboration with Michelle Angela Ortiz, professional artist, arts educator and muralist, created two digitally-produced murals, one to be installed in the University’s newly renovated Student Memorial Center (SMC) and the second at Clipper Magazine Stadium, in Lancaster City.

The community mural at Clipper Magazine Stadium (pictured left) celebrates the contributions and cultural experiences of Latino community members in the city of Lancaster. The installation ceremony for this mural is open to the public and will be held May 5 from 5:30-7 p.m. The mural installed in the SMC atrium celebrates the contributions of Latino students to the University. The SMC installation ceremony will be held Wednesday, May 4 from 6 – 8 p.m. The SMC ceremony will feature a video and PowerPoint overview of the entire project. The artist will be present at both ceremonies.

To create these murals, Ortiz worked with students enrolled in Dr. Christine Filippone’s contemporary art course and students in Dr. Kimberly Mahaffy’s African American and Latino educational experiences course over the spring 2011 semester. As part of the community arts process, Ortiz led the Millersville students in the documentation of community stories through audio and video interviews. From civic leaders to abuelitas, the students interviewed community members who shared their stories as Latinos living in Lancaster.

"The goal was to have the students take a step out of the classroom and studio and interact with the community,” said Ortiz. “To break away from traditional academic structured lessons and challenge them to learn in a different way. I wanted the students to examine any stereotypes they might have of the Latino community and see themselves as the common thread to the community members they were interviewing. The murals are a culmination of the stories that the students collected. They are stories of survival, struggle, triumph and hope. The students were an integral part in the process along with the community members who opened their doors to share their stories. Overall, this project gives the Latino community a voice and presence in Lancaster, and the students an opportunity to learn the community arts process and see the true essence of the people with whom they connected."

Filippone and Mahaffy raised more than $10,000 in cash and in-kind support for the MU/Community Mural Project. The printing of the Clipper Stadium mural was supported in full by Lamar Advertising, York/Lancaster, Pa., and the printing of the SMC mural was supported in full by Sign-a-Rama, Columbia Ave., Lancaster. The project was also supported by the Society on Latino Affairs, the University Theme Committee, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Latina/o Studies Minor. The website was built by art major Aaron Chu, under the supervision of Professor James Pannafino, art and design. Poster design was provided by art majors Chu, Michelle Winey and Anthony Paparella, for the course Design for Social Equity taught by Nancy Mata (2011), art and design. Millersville honors student and art major
Gabi Kime supervised video and photographic documentation of the entire project and provided necessary assistance with many additional aspects of the project.

For more information about the Millersville University - Latino Community Mural Project, contact Filippone at Christine.Filippone@millersville.edu or 717-872-3912, or contact Mahaffy Kimberly.Mahaffy@millersville.edu or 717-871-2344. For further details, visit the project website www.millersville.edu/~latinomural.

**SMC to be completed by fall 2011**

In only a few short months, before the start of the fall 2011 semester, renovations to the Student Memorial Center (SMC) are scheduled to be completed.

Work will continue this summer on the downstairs area of the SMC. The Snapper, WIXQ and Touchstone can look forward to renovated offices, while meeting rooms will be revamped for various campus organizations.

In addition, the Copy Shop, Textbook Room and Club de ‘Ville will be under construction, while, on the main floor, the University Store and Reighard Multipurpose Room will also be renovated.

While the University Store, Copy Shop and Textbook Room are being renovated, their services will be relocated into room 118E in the SMC. They will return to their respective locations toward the end of July.

“The old fitness center is being turned into the intramural offices as well as group fitness rooms. Club de’Ville, meanwhile, is getting a major face-lift. There will also be an additional entrance to Club de’Ville facing Shenks Lane for students,” said Geoff Beers, interim CEO/general manager of Student Services, Inc., and Student Lodging, Inc.

In March, just after spring break, most of the main floor of the SMC was re-opened. Some of the most notable features include the information desk, student affairs office, banking center, ticket sales and the Galley.

For more information, check out the SMC renovation Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SMCRenovation.

**Fitness Center Re-Opens**

The Student Memorial Center (SMC) Fitness Center has re-opened and is now available to students, faculty and staff on two levels. The first level includes a cardio and weight area, and the second level includes basketball courts and a multi-activity court.
There are currently three basketball courts that can also be used for volleyball and badminton. This fall, another court will be opened. The multi-activity court will be used for other indoor sports, such as indoor hockey and soccer, but will not be open until the fall.

New equipment has been added to the center including three new treadmills, three new stationary bikes and three new stair-climbers. Three Olympic bench presses and additional weight plates, bars and dumbbells have also been added to the weight area.

Fitness classes are being held in the basketball courts. Classes offered include spin, Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, boot camp and butts and guts. In the fall, group fitness studios will be opened and the classes will be moved there.

The locker rooms are not currently open but will be back in service for the fall. They will be renovated and located in the lower level.

For more information on the fitness center remodel, contact Sara Burcin, fitness center manager, at sburcin@ssi.millersville.edu, or visit the fitness center website, www.studentservicesinc.com/fitness-center.

Chimes at Noon

Every Wednesday at noon, the outdoor mass notification system (siren system) will play several chimes. This automatic test is to ensure the system is functioning properly.

The speakers for the siren system are located on roofs of Lenhardt Hall, Ganser Library, the Prince Street parking garage and by Pucillo Gymnasium, facing the softball field. The outdoor siren system is part of the University’s emergency notification system to warn students, faculty, staff and visitors of an emergency on campus. In a real emergency, people outdoors will hear an actual voice message instructing them of the emergency and what they should do to protect themselves.

Other forms of emergency systems include the MU Alert (text/email) system, Millersville’s homepage information system and the reverse 9-1-1 phone system.

For more information on these emergency systems, contact Patrick Weidinger, director of safety and environmental health, at 717-872-3715 or Patrick.Weidinger@millersville.edu.
Fire Training on May 16

On Monday, May 16, emergency personnel from 10 fire departments will converge on Brookwood Court Apartments for a fire training exercise. Millersville fire Chief Keith Eshleman says the one night drill is scheduled from 6–11 p.m. Buildings 17 and 19 will be used for fire training purposes and will be torn down the following day. Streets around the area will be closed including parts of Hillview Ave., S. Prince St. and Lee Ave. during the event. There will be fire simulations and smoke in and around the area and people in the area will hear sirens and see emergency lights.

Millersville University Theatre Receives Certificates of Merit

Millersville University’s Theatre recently received numerous Certificates of Merit from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region Two. The productions acknowledged were Millersville’s “Earth and Sky” and “Heathen Valley,” each recognizing faculty and/or students.

“With each production, a theater reviewer came and watched the show, saw an area he was impressed with and made recommendations for the Certificates of Merit,” said Tony Elliot, associate professor of communication and theatre. “Victor Capece, (assistant professor of communication and theatre), and I do the same thing for other university’s shows. It gives a great learning experience to have a conversation with an outside reviewer and sit down with the cast and crew to discuss the production.”

“Earth and Sky,” shown in December 2010, recognized Dr. Jeffrey Cartwright, instructor of communication and theatre, for excellence in directing and Capece, for excellence in scenic design.

“There is a category for pretty much every major position on the show. Certificates are also given for individual acting, but ‘Heathen Valley’ was pretty much an ensemble production,” said Elliot. “The reviewer was very impressed with ‘Heathen Valley,’ so he gave certificates in almost every area possible.”

“Heathen Valley” recognitions went to Elliot for excellence in directing; the cast for excellence in ensemble acting; senior Alyssa Rader, English education, for excellence in stage management; senior Philip J. Vonada, theatre, for excellence in scenic design; Tish Smith, for excellence in costume design; Keith Henninger, for excellence in lighting design and senior Kevin Coyle, computer science, for excellence in sound design and operator.

“We are always pleased with the recognition of both students and faculty as they collaborate to produce high quality theater on Millersville’s campus,” said Elliot.
Millersville Community Parade Seeks Grand Marshal Nominees

Nominations are now being accepted for Grand Marshal of the 15th annual Millersville Community Parade, a joint effort between Millersville University, Millersville Borough and the surrounding community. The Grand Marshal has the honor of riding in the parade’s lead vehicle. The parade is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 29. The 2011 parade theme is “Our American Heritage 1761-2011 – Celebrating Millersville’s 250th Anniversary.”

The Grand Marshal is selected each year based on his or her significant contributions to the Millersville community. All nominees must live or work in the Millersville community. Nominations can be submitted in the form of a one-page letter explaining the nominee’s specific impact on the Millersville community. Nominations must include an address and phone number and be received by the July 1, 2011 deadline. The Grand Marshal is notified of the honor approximately two months prior to the parade date.

Nominations can be mailed to: The Millersville Community Parade, Millersville University, c/o Alumni Services Office, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, Pa., 17551-0302, or submitted by fax, to 717-871-5050. For questions about the Grand Marshal nominations, or to inquire about participating in the Millersville Community Parade, call 717-872-3352.

The Millersville Community Parade was established in 1997 by a group of volunteers dedicated to improving relationships between the borough of Millersville, Millersville University, Manor Township and surrounding communities. Since then, the Millersville Parade has quickly evolved into one of Lancaster County’s largest and most dynamic parades. Previous grand marshals include John Herr, Lynette Trout, Dorothy Bender, Jim Eshleman, Dr. William Duncan, Dr. Joseph Caputo, Steven DiGuiseppe, Harold “Skip” Rhodes, Ralph and Judy Anttonen, Benjamin F. and Polly H. Kauffman and David W. Patterson.

Looking For Artists

The Millersville University Four Corners Summer Festival and Millersville 250 are looking for artists of every media to join the celebration of the borough’s 250th anniversary by participating in a juried art show entitled “Exploring Traditions.” Winners will be displayed at Millersville University - Lancaster (42 N. Prince St.) in downtown Lancaster on First Friday, August 5, 2011.

The show is open to all media inspired by the heritage of Millersville and surrounding communities. Artists are encouraged to submit electronic images on CD and three-dimensional works no later than 5 p.m. on June 17 with a $5 entry fee for each submitted image.

Ben Cunningham, “Exploring Traditions” curator and Millersville art professor, hopes entries will include both traditional and abstract works that stretch the boundaries of the theme and offer artistic insight. Victor Capecce, coordinator for Four Corners and a Millersville communication and theatre professor, said, “Artists will be celebrating the passion of art and the heritage of Millersville’s traditions from all angles.”
Cunningham and a group of select judges will score submitted works on a variety of criteria including craftsmanship, relationship to the idea, overall concept, originality and other areas. Winners will be on display Tuesday through Thursday, from noon to 4 p.m., at Millersville University’s Dutcher Hall Studio Theatre, from July 8 through July 30. The show winners will then travel downtown for First Friday in August.

A walking tour hosted by the Millersville Area Historical Society for potential participants will start at Millersville’s Dutcher Hall on Saturday, May 21, at 10 a.m., to familiarize artists with potential subjects. For more information, contact Capecce at Victor.Capecce@millersville.edu. RSVPs for the walk will be appreciated but are not necessary.

Visitors to the exhibition will be asked to fill out a ballot for the “People’s Choice” awards. Artists are encouraged to tell their friends and family to visit the gallery in Dutcher Hall to vote and stay for one of the University’s Four Corners performances every Friday in July after the Fourth.

Millersville 250 is dedicated to showcasing Millersville Borough and its 250th anniversary by focusing attention on the people, schools, businesses and service organizations of the community while celebrating the borough’s history and heritage. Visit millersville250.org for more information on upcoming events and apparel.

A College Graduate – at 19

For many college students, graduating in four years is considered an achievement, especially in today’s tough economy. Lancaster native Christian Le, at just 19 years old, will join 1,099 of his fellow peers during Millersville University’s undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 7.

Le, who will graduate magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in English education, began his college career in 2006 taking courses at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) – at the age of 14 – thanks to a program through John Hopkins that allowed him to take the SAT’s early.

After graduating from HACC, he transferred to Millersville University where he turned his love of reading into a passion for teaching English. “I found that I loved explaining things to other people. I am energized by watching my students learn,” Le expressed.

Le has spent his last semester at Millersville student teaching in Texas, where he was able to experience life in a big city, in addition to teaching for a diverse school – both of which were
important to him. “Being from Lancaster, I never thought I’d see a class of 40 percent white, 20 percent Indian, 20 percent Asian, 10 percent African American, and then 10 percent un-categorizable,” he said. “Seeing a class like that makes every dream I’ve heard of America flash before my eyes.”

Throughout his college career, Le never wanted to rush through life by graduating super early. He served as president of the Commuting Student’s Association and was a member of the University’s Christian Fellowship organization. He also took a year off during his junior year at Millersville for what he said turned out to be a life changing experience. Le traveled overseas with his family, who served as missionaries, to third world countries including South East Asia; Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Singapore. “I had the great privilege of working with children who were at risk of being sex trafficked,” Le said. “Some of the time I worked with medical teams to give children their only medical care of the year.”

While he expressed his appreciation for the English education professors at Millersville, in particular Drs. Kimberly McCollum-Clark and Timothy Shea, both associate professors of English, it is his family who he attributes for getting him to where he is today.

Le hopes to teach middle school or high school students, possibly in Texas, where his family now resides, or wherever the next opportunity arises.

April 5, 2011 Activities

Faculty and Staff Activities

Dr. Leroy Hopkins, foreign languages, presented at the 71st conference of the College Language Association in Spartanburg, S.C., on April 8. Besides moderating a panel on African-Americans and Germany, he gave a paper titled "Race, Identity and Resistance: The Case of Mpundo Akwa and the Representation of Blackness on the Imperial German Stage." In addition, his article "In Search of Robert Boston: Race and Resistance in Antebellum Lancaster" recently appeared in the Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

Dr. Behnam Nakhai, business administration, had his latest refereed research article titled "Six Sigma for Services: A Service Quality Framework," published in the International Journal of
Productivity and Quality Management. The article is co-authored with Dr. Joao S. Neves, professor of management at the College of New Jersey.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, sang as an alto ringer in the spring concert of the Richmond Hill Chorale in Queens, N.Y. Under the direction of the Rev. Robert Sonnenberg, the program featured Dvorak’s “Te Deum” and John Rutter’s “Requiem.”

Congratulations

To Kimberly Flores, communication and theatre, who was married on April 9 to John Marini. They were married at In The Light Ministries in Lancaster.

Obituary

Albert B. Shiffler, 83, of Strasburg, Pa., died April 16. He was retired from Millersville University.

Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux, vice president for student affairs. She has been with the University since March 2008.

Q: Why did you choose to come to the University?

A: I believe that Millersville provides an excellent educational experience for its students and upon visiting the campus and meeting members of the student body, the faculty and administration, I was excited about the opportunity to bring my experience to the Division of Student Affairs, and it has been an extremely rewarding three years.

Q: What are your main job responsibilities?

A: I provide administrative oversight and leadership for a number of departments that are focused on helping students to achieve academic, professional and personal success. Among the departments within my purview are the following: Student Health Services, Student Programs, the Millersville University Police Department, Judicial Affairs, Intercollegiate Athletics, Recreation and Intramural Sports, WIXQ, Campus Ministries, Housing and Residential Programs, Greek Affairs, Financial Aid, the Counseling and Human Development Center and the Elsie S. Shenk’s Women and Wellness Center.

Q: What would be a typical day for you?

A: No one day is the same and the variety in the work, as well as the diversity of the students, are the most positive aspects of the work that I do. My day might include attendance at many meetings to discuss any number of future planning activities, or to resolve a challenge or problem. I meet regularly with the senior management of the division including the new associate vice president and the two assistant vice presidents, as well as the directors who manage the departments within Student Affairs; together we work towards the development of
programs and services in support of student development and success. My schedule can also include attendance at a variety of student-related events including athletic competitions, performances, lectures or meetings. It may include activities off of the campus to meet with community leaders or to attend meetings at the PASSHE offices in Harrisburg. The highlight of my day is when I have the opportunity to talk with a student about their experience at the University.

**Q: What skills help you the most in your position?**

**A:** To be effective as a vice president for student affairs, first and foremost, you need to have a genuine interest and passion about working with students—during the positive as well as not so great times that some students will experience. When students are facing less than positive events in their lives, it is important to have good problem-solving skills and good listening skills. There is also a tremendous value in having good problem-solving skills and strong analytical skills when facing the many complexities of a university. It is also important as an administrator to have a strong knowledge of finance, management and good written and verbal communication skills.

**Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?**

**A:** I enjoy the variety of the projects and programs on which I and the members of the student affairs division have the opportunity to work on behalf of the students and the institution, and I just enjoy the students. It’s wonderful to work with very capable, bright and creative students, and it’s exciting to have the opportunity to work collaboratively with the faculty and the other divisions at the University. I find it rewarding to know that the work that we do as administrators, faculty and staff can help students achieve their goals. There’s no better feeling than when you look out over the crowd at commencement and you see the graduates prepared to go out and make their mark in society. There is so much promise and joy in their faces.

**Q: What is your professional background/training?**

**A:** I have a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Temple University, a master’s degree in psychological services in education from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctor of philosophy degree in counseling psychology from Temple University.

**Q: What do you like the most about Millersville’s campus?**

**A:** The campus and the surrounding community are very picturesque, and the landscaping of the trees, shrubs and flowers throughout the campus during the year makes for a warm and welcoming campus. The pond especially adds a lot to the look and feel of the campus. It adds a peaceful and serene element that you don’t find on many other campuses. I am also excited about the completion of the Student Memorial Center and believe that it will offer a wonderful venue for students to eat, have fun, workout and just interact with one another and with other members of the campus community.

**Q: What type of advice would you give to new students?**

**A:** I would first suggest to new students that they take time to set their priorities and goals when they first arrive, and to stay focused on achieving those priorities and goals. The time will pass
faster than you realize, and before you know it you will be graduating. Remember to take time out to enjoy the process of education. Knowledge doesn’t just happen. It comes with hard work, and by being open to new perspectives and new ideas. If you have all of the answers you wouldn’t need to be here, so remember that there is so much in this life to learn if you open yourself up to new experiences, new people and new challenges. Not everything will go just the way that you planned, and so most importantly, I would remind students to accept their failings and to learn from them.

Q: Where are you from?

A: I am from Philadelphia—specifically West Philadelphia originally, but later moved to Mt. Airy.

Q: What did you want to be when you were a child?

A: Initially I wanted to be teacher, and then I had thoughts of becoming a ballet dancer.

Q: Who do you admire?

A: I admire my parents for their intelligence, strength and guidance.

Q: Where would you go on a dream vacation?

A: My dream vacation, especially today as I look out of my window at the ice and snow, is to travel to a nice hot tropical island where I can sit on a beach and just read and relax.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory about Millersville?

A: I have many fond memories in working with different individuals (the president, students and my colleagues) and getting to know them and just having good laughs from time to time about our respective choices in professional football teams (Fly Eagles Fly). I have especially enjoyed working with Student Senate and watching all that they do to support the student body. They carry out their responsibilities with great care and concern for meeting the needs of the students.

Q: What do you do to relax?

A: I like to read, listen to music and run on the treadmill.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I play golf, chess and occasionally enjoy ballroom dancing.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote you live by?

A: My father was an English teacher, but he also coached track and field, and early on he taught me and my siblings about The Five P’s: Poor planning prevents precision performance. It serves as a reminder to me of the importance of taking time to think and plan ahead and to do what is necessary to achieve your optimum performance. When I don’t hit the performance mark, I try to reflect on how I can better prepare for the next time, but, to never give up.