MU Creates Direct Pathway to Careers

Millersville University’s Council of Trustees approved a new master’s level program at its June 15 meeting. The Master of Science in Integrated Scientific Applications (MSISA) is an interdisciplinary program that combines a specialization in an applied science with pre-professional training in business, finance and accounting and organizational communication, management and leadership. The overarching goal of the program is to build national capacity in workforce sectors that are exhibiting current or emerging demand for a highly-qualified, technically-competent, scientifically-astute workforce.

“The MSISA program is intended to provide a direct pathway to careers in the private, public, nonprofit and government sectors where the expertise of a scientist is needed to add value to the decision-making process,” said Dr. Richard Clark, chair of the earth sciences department and sponsor of the proposal. “What we are seeing today is an opportunity for scientists with business savvy; an individual who not only understands the science but the economy of solution strategies and can communicate that to management in a way that they can comprehend and assimilate.”

The MSISA program will initially offer specializations in the area of environmental systems management, geoinformatics, weather intelligence and risk management (known as business weather) and climate science applications. However, the MSISA is more than just a set of ala carte specialization. The 33 credit-hour program is intended to serve as an academic and administrative framework for future scientific concentrations by providing a set of core courses focusing on pre-professional training information management and analysis and culminating in a rich, real-world immersive internship experience.

“The MSISA will enhance regional economic development efforts by creating and supporting professional and applied programs and expand partnerships with businesses, industries, governments, communities and educational entities,” said Dr. Victor DeSantis, dean of graduate and professional studies.

While earth sciences will be home to the MSISA, collaboration with academic partners across the University and other PASSHE institutions is necessary for both specialization content and the development of professional/technical skills. “We expect to entice interested faculty in biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, industry and technology, geography, communication and the Millersville University Center for Environmental Studies as participants in the development of the MSISA curriculum,” said Clark. Millersville is one of the lead institutions in the PASSHE Professional Science Master’s (PSM) Degree Program Coordinating Committee and will contribute to and benefit from business, organizational management and other skill courses that will be part of the inter-university collaboration.
“Students in the MSISA program will be involved in real-world problems, scientific research and public service,” said DeSantis. “Students will gain critical management and technological competencies fitting the workforce needs of today.”

The program will begin in spring 2012, if approved by the Board of Governors, and will consist of 33 graduate credits including 27 credits in the interdisciplinary core curriculum and professional specialization area, and a five-credit internship or research activity. Students can find information about the new degree program and graduate school admission on the College of Graduate and Professional Studies website.

For more information about the MSISA program, contact DeSantis, by phone, at 717-872-3099 or by email, at Victor.DeSantis@millersville.edu.

**COT Action:** At their regular meeting on June 15, Millersville’s Council of Trustees (COT) held a reception to honor trustee Paul Wedel who is retiring from the board. The COT approved a resolution of appreciation for Wedel’s contributions. In other action, the COT voted to have Michael Warfel remain as chairman, Abram W. Diffenbach will serve as vice chair and Caroline M. Hoffer, Esq., will serve as secretary. The COT approved naming an area within the Student Memorial Center in honor of Robert L. Slabinski who served as CEO and general manager of Student Services Inc., and retired in 2009 after 40 years of service. And, the COT approved emeritus status for Dr. Melvin Allen, the executive director of the Civic & Community Engagement & Research Project who recently retired, and they approved emeritus status for Dr. Jane Alden who died in 2008.

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**“Pretzel Dog” on the Menu for Fall 2011**

“Pretzel dogs” will soon be available in local grocery stores after surviving a taste-test by Millersville University students. Kunzler Fine Meat Products launched the pretzel dog, a hot dog wrapped in fresh pretzel dough this spring at Millersville University. Dining Services plans to have them available for purchase at campus retail locations in fall 2011.

“The pretzel dog is a Kunzler all-beef premium deli frank surrounded by crispy pretzel dough,” says Sarah Wilson, Kunzler’s senior foodservice sales representative. “They are precooked, only needing to be reheated and are the perfect hand-held snack.”

Kunzler held a test-run of the product at Millersville to see the students’ response. A table was set up in the Anchor with free samples of the pretzel dog. Kunzler representatives brought 1,000 pretzel dogs, cut in half for the sampling. The product was well received by students and dining services felt it would be a great addition to the growing menus on campus.

Kunzler will have retail packages of the pretzel dog available in local grocery stores by the beginning of July 2011.
Student Trustee Appointed

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett appointed Shane P. McGrady, of Harrisburg, Pa., to the Council of Trustees (COT) for Millersville.

McGrady is 20 years old and a junior business administration major at Millersville University. His concentrations are in accounting and international business. McGrady applied for the position and was interviewed by a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) representative in March 2011. He will be the undergraduate student member of the council at Millersville until the end of May 2015 or as long as he is a full-time undergraduate student at Millersville.

“Receiving this position is a great honor, and I am very excited to have been selected,” says McGrady. “The COT is a very important part of Millersville University, and I am thrilled to be a member.”

Each PASSHE university has a COT of 11 members, two of whom must be alumni of the university they are appointed to. One member must be a full-time undergraduate student, other than a freshman, and must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours.

The COT has the responsibility of advising the governor of the appointment, retention and dismissal of the university president. The council also has the authority to approve academic programs, make changes to room and board costs and approve contracts and university purchases.

Appointed: Associate Provost for Academic Administration

Millersville University Provost Dr. Vilas Prabhu announced the appointment of Dr. Jeff P. Adams as the new associate provost for academic administration, effective August 1, 2011.

At Millersville, Adams will provide leadership and direction for the general education program, the First Year Experience program and the Center for Academic Excellence. He will also work with programs that support the mission of the University including new student orientation, the recruitment and retention of students and multicultural events and programs on campus.
Adams previously served as the assistant vice provost for undergraduate education at Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman, Mont. During his time at MSU, he participated in the creation and implementation of MSU’s current core curriculum, the creation of an Academic Advisement Council and directed MSU’s summer sessions, among many other programs that enhance and encourage the academic environment.

Adams received a bachelor’s degree in engineering physics in 1988, a Ph.D. in physics in 1991 and a bachelor’s degree in education in 1992. All three degrees were received from Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

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**Library Now Open in Gehart Hall**

The library, now located in Gerhart Hall (22 E. Frederick St.), is open and operating. The space in Gerhart Hall contains the reference section, the DVD and VHS collection, a collection of graphic novels and a large subset of the general collection. Students can request other texts, such as curriculum kits and large textbooks, from storage areas located on campus by completing the request form on the library website. The library asks that you allow 24-48 hours for the request to be available in Gerhart Hall. Interlibrary Loan and EZ Borrow are still available to students. A small collection of computers and printers are also located in Gerhart Hall for research and writing purposes.

For more information, please visit blogs.millersville.edu/newlibrary/ or email new.library@millersville.edu.

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**250th Anniversary Celebration Continues**

The Millersville Borough community invites residents and friends to join in a 250th anniversary celebration at Freedom Memorial Park, 5 Blue Rock Rd., Millersville, on Sunday, June 26, starting at 3 p.m.

People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for the whole family to spend the afternoon into the evening enjoying packed picnic lunches, historic exhibits, children’s games, family entertainment and community service vehicles. Food vendors will also be attending to add to the picnic experience.

In a special tribute to the 250th anniversary of Millersville, the celebration will include several 17th- and 18th-century exhibits.
Children’s games will run throughout the day and include classics like Goldfish Pond and Ring the Duck. Kids can also enjoy a Moon Bounce all day. A peanut and candy scramble will be held at 6:30 p.m.

What would a celebration be without cake? Anniversary cake will be served to picnic attendees starting at 6 p.m.

Family entertainment will include the Malta Band and Cupcake the Clown at 3 p.m. Steven Courtney will perform at 5 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. Millersville University mascots Skully and the Marauder are scheduled to be on hand during the picnic as well.

Millersville Borough Police Department, Public Works vehicles, Blue Rock Fire Rescue, Lancaster County Firemen’s Safety Trailer and Lancaster EMS are also scheduled to attend.

This event is sponsored by the Borough of Millersville. Millersville 250 is dedicated to showcasing Millersville borough and its 250th anniversary by focusing 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.

Four Corners Summer Festival

Experience the “four corners” of the arts: Dance, music, art and theater, this summer, at the Four Corners Festival. The festival has free events running every Friday from July 8 – 29 at 7:30 p.m., on the shores of the Swan Pond. In addition to new performances and exhibits, this year features the first area Shakespeare production to use “open captioning” performances for the hearing impaired.

“This festival was made to offer a variety of fine and performing arts for people to experience,” said Victor Capece, director of the Four Corners Festival. “Each year brings new performances and we are eager to see the public’s reactions and involvement with the arts at every event.”

Scheduled events include:

Friday, July 1 – The People’s Shakespeare Project presents Camp Will for middle school students. Students will participate in a three-week camp for acting, concluding with a final abridged performance of Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night.” The performance will be held at 2 p.m. in Rafters Theatre, and at 7 p.m. at Millersville University Lancaster, with open captioning.

Friday, July 8-31 – “Exploring Traditions” art exhibition is located in Dutcher Hall, second floor, Studio Theatre and is open Tuesday-Thursday from 12-4 p.m., Friday’s show at 10 a.m. The exhibit runs through the entire month of July.

Friday, July 8 – Jazz Ministers Big Band. Experience the full sound of Big Band Music from 18 talented, dedicated, professional musicians, well-known in the region for their rousing concerts,
under the direction of Dr. Keith Wiley. One performance only. Rain location: Grace United Methodist Church, Millersville.

**Friday, July 15** – Four Corners Festival Musical Theatre will feature members of the Ephrata Performing Arts Center (EPAC), Opera Lancaster and Popovsky Performing Arts Studio and Millersville’s All Campus Musical Organization performing musical numbers from the Grandeur of Opera to Broadway Pizzazz. The second performance will be indoors Saturday, July 16 at Millersville University Lancaster for $5 a ticket.

**Friday-Sunday, July 22-24 and 31** – The People’s Shakespeare Project presents the comedy “Twelfth Night,” continuing the tradition of presenting the glories of Shakespeare to an outdoor venue accessible to the entire community of families eager to share the experience, under the direction of Laura Howell. Open Captioning will be used Sunday, July 24 at the Swan Pond; non-captioned performances are July 22 and 23, at the Swan Pond. The final performance will be indoors Sunday July 31 at Millersville University Lancaster at 7:30 p.m. for $5 a ticket.

**Friday, July 29** – Cobalt Dance Company features Lancaster County’s best-known collection of both established and young, upcoming choreographers and performers bringing their artistry under the stars for a mix of dancing styles for every passion. A second performance will be indoors, Saturday, July 30 at Millersville University Lancaster at 7:30 p.m. for $5 a ticket.

“I love having people get involved and realize how much they enjoy each ‘corner’ of the arts. People may not know how much they like Shakespeare or Big Band music until they hear and see what the Festival has to offer,” said Capecce. “It’s so fantastic to have the community share new arts experiences. In this area, we are blessed with an incredible variety of talented musicians, actors, dancers and fine artists of all media. Thanks to the support of Millersville University, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and local businesses, we offer these opportunities for families to share. It’s great to see the full spectrum of audience members: From toddlers to grandparents, sharing their picnics by the Swan Pond before the shows!”

Outdoor performances are free admission. Tickets for the indoor performances can be purchased at the door or in advance at Millersville University Lancaster and at the SMC Box Office or by calling the Ticket Office at 717-872-3811.

For more information about the Four Corners Summer Festival, visit www.millersville.edu/fourcorners, contact Capecce, at Victor.Capece@millersville.edu, or by phone, at 717-872-3128.
Faculty and Staff Activities

Dr. Heather Girvin and Karen Rice, social work, recently developed the Family Arts Collaborative (FAC), a joint project between Millersville University Lancaster and Millersville's social work department. FAC creates connections among families, institutions of higher learning and the arts by offering opportunities for social transformation through exposure to Lancaster’s vibrant arts community. They sponsored the first event in May and hosted families at an event in June. They are also working on the Campaign Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE), a county-wide initiative to raise awareness about the sexual exploitation of children and educate individuals on how to protect children. Rice is a member of the task force, and FAC will be sponsoring a poster exhibit in June that features the artwork created by children in Lancaster that depicts the "I Only Get One Childhood" theme. The exhibit will run June 20 – June 29.

In addition, Girvin and Rice are collaborating on two projects related to pedagogy and the social work curriculum. These interests have yielded one paper and one presentation to date. "Using a Strengths-Based Perspective to Change Perceptions: An Exploratory Study" appeared in a recent Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work. And, the pair will give the presentation, “Writing across the Social Work Curriculum: Facing Challenges, Assessing Need, Planning Strategies” at the 57th Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting in Atlanta, Ga., during October.

Dr. Sandra Deemer, educational foundations, and Millersville student and recent graduate, Meghan McLain, gave a presentation titled "Practicing What We Preach: Creating Meaningful Learning Experiences" at the April 2011 Teachers Evolve and Change with Help Conference in Harrisburg.

Drs. Lisa House and Joseph Lynch, counseling and human development, presented “An Evaluation of Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention of College Students” at the PASSHE Student Affairs Conference at Cheyney University at the end of May. In addition, they presented “Effective Partnering: An Innovative Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Program for College Students” at the National Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Region II Conference in Baltimore, Md., on June 6.
Dr. Stacey Irwin, communication & theatre, recently met Beverly Steinman at the awards ceremony for the Steinman Family Foundation Scholarship. Irwin serves on the scholarship committee.

*Photo caption (L-R): Beverly Steinman and Dr. Irwin.*

Drs. Kendra Saunders and Lisa House, counseling and human development, presented “Embracing our Differences: An Inclusion and Diversity Education Workshop” at the 2011 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Drs. Roger Webster, computer science, Tom Bell, industry & technology, Jeff Wimer and Ying Wushanley, both wellness & sport science, won the annual “Egghead Open” golf tournament at Crossgates Golf Course on May 9. Millersville administrators, faculty and staff took part in the annual event, which was sponsored by Student Services, Inc. and MU Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties.

*Photo caption (L-R): Drs. Ying Wushanley, Jeff Wimer, Roger Webster and Tom Bell.*

**Congratulations**

To Roland Antes, housekeeping, on his marriage to Shannon M. Antes on June 9 in Lancaster, Pa.

**Who Makes Millersville Special**

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Fred Thompson, men’s head basketball coach.

**Q:** How long have you been working at Millersville University?

**A:** This is my 13th year.

**Q:** Why did you choose to coach at this University?

**A:** It’s a great University and it was a good opportunity for me to get back involved with college coaching.

**Q:** How many years have you coached basketball?

**A:** Twenty years.

**Q:** What is your favorite thing about coaching at Millersville?

**A:** Teaching young men responsibility and accountability and watching them grow into mature young adults.

**Q:** What do you think makes a coach ‘coach of the year’?

**A:** Good players.
Q: When did you first come across the game of basketball?
A: I think I was about five or six years old and I would watch my older brothers and some cousins play in my grandmother’s backyard; I picked it up from there.

Q: How and when did you realize you wanted to become a coach?
A: I really cannot remember the exact time that I decided that I wanted to be a basketball coach, but I knew I wanted to be involved in basketball at some capacity, so I decided to coach.

Q: What is the most important thing you’ve learned from coaching?
A: Discipline, maturity, sportsmanship, just to name a few. Coaching, along with basketball, has taught me so much about life.

Q: Do you have any pre-game rituals?
A: I pace back and forth and pray a silent prayer before every game.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: In the south, South Carolina.

Q: What college/university did you attend? Major?
A: I attended Northeast Louisiana University, with a major in health and physical education.

Q: Did you play basketball or any other sports there?
A: Just basketball.

Q: What was your first job?
A: I was a counselor for the Boy’s Club during my high school years and after high school graduation I joined the U.S. Army.

Q: Tell us about your children.
A: I have three kids: Quenton, 21; Ahrehon, 11 and Asonti, 7.

Q: Your wife is currently a public relations student at the University. How do you like having her close to you on campus?
A: I have been truly blessed to have someone like Javita in my life, so every moment we spend together is always great.

Q: Does your family inspire you in your coaching?
A: Yes, they are my inspiration in everything that I do.

Q: What are your favorite activities to do with your family?
A: Fishing. I have a passion for fishing and so does the family.

Q: What is your favorite NBA team?
A: I do not have a favorite NBA team, but the Pittsburgh Steelers are my favorite football team.

Q: Which would you prefer to watch, collegiate or professional?
A: College basketball. I have always been a huge college basketball fan.

Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?
A: Marrying my wife Javita and having the kids.