Mascots to Invade Campus

While it is not uncommon to see Skully roaming around Millersville, don’t be alarmed when campus gets invaded by mascots, August 12-14, as Millersville University hosts the 2011 Keystone Mascots summer camp.

For three days, high school, collegiate, corporate, professional sports and individual mascots will be on campus learning the basics of character development, performance, costume care and cooperative skills. At the conclusion of the camp, on Sunday, August 14, the mascots will perform what they learned during a Lancaster Barnstormers baseball game.

“I’m really looking forward to three days of fun,” said Skully, Millersville’s mascot. “Apparently you can teach an old bird new tricks!”

This year’s camp will be run by Erin Blank, former mascot for the Washington Capitals; George Russo, former mascot for the Florida Panthers; Charlton Jordan, NCAA and minor league sports mascot and other mascot trainers.

Keystone Mascots is a locally run business that provides assistance and services to help mascots become a marketing tool. To learn more about Keystone Mascots, visit www.keystonemascots.com/about.html.

Students to Change the World: One Semester at a Time

Have you ever thought about changing the world? Millersville University students will have the opportunity to learn how to change the world through a freshman seminar course this fall titled, “A Different View: How Can We Change the World?”

Students enrolled in this course will participate in a United Nations simulation competing against teams from other universities around the world, each representing a different country. Dr. Ana Borger-Greco, associate professor of Spanish and class instructor, said, “A neat aspect of the simulation is that the students will not know what university is representing each country.”

Representing Spain, Millersville students will acquire an in-depth study of the country, learning its history, culture, past civilization, how it informs its present-day civilization,
politics and foreign policy. They will then work together in teams to investigate some of the major problems facing the United Nations, such as world health, the global environment, terrorism, conflict resolution, the refugee problem and world trade.

After the investigation process is finished, the students will enter the negotiation and decision-making phase. Here, the students will debate Spain’s position on the above topics against the other universities through an online communication system, ICONSnet. Using this program, the students can communicate with the other teams via messaging, conferences, writing and considering proposals.

Freshman seminar courses are provided by Millersville University for students in selected majors as well as for those who have not declared a major. For more information on this course, designed for exploratory students, contact Borger-Greco at Ana.Borger-Greco@millersville.edu.

**Millersville’s Farmers and Marauder Market**

Craving some fresh fruits and vegetables? Or maybe you’d like to get some homemade products, listen to live music and enjoy free samples? Millersville’s Farmers Market will continue to take place on the plaza of the University’s Student Memorial Center (SMC) every Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. through Sept. 28. Millersville’s Marauder Market will begin August 24 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and continue through May 2, 2012.

“The market is going very well,” said Amy Yocom, Millersville Farmers Market coordinator. “We are still getting the word out about the market to the community and Millersville University faculty, staff and students, so we hope to have even more people come by in the future.”

What originally started in the parking lot of George Street Café grew too large for the lot and now includes 12-15 vendors in its new location on the plaza of the SMC. Vendors offer fresh local and organic produce, fruit, vegetables, baked goods, meats, free range eggs, herbs, onions, jams and more. There are also eco-friendly vendors with cloth diapers, handmade baby items, natural cleaning products and live plants, along with jewelry and accessories. Drinks are also available for purchase and the SMC’s smoothie bar is open during market hours.

“Each week we offer live music, cooking demonstrations by local chefs and free samples,” said Yocom. “There is also a Millersville student assistant market manager and student interns and volunteers who help to set up and run the market. The students have been great assets to the market’s feasibility and sustainability.” Students involved are Caitlin Brady, assistant market
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manager; Caroline Singh, John Diehl and Kagiso Lekoa, market interns; and Patterson Taibi, student volunteer.

A new addition to the market is the ability to pay with debit cards as well as SNAP/EBT. Also new this year is prepared foods to enjoy at market or take home.

“I like the selection and recently I’ve gone specifically for blueberries, corn, cucumbers and tomatoes,” said Dr. Susan DiBartolomeis, biology. “I also bought things that I didn’t expect, such as pesto sauce and dandelion jelly, sold by the Yocom, and a lavender plant that is blooming beautifully and smells wonderful! I’ve eaten some very tasty free samples, and I enjoy the music. Sellers are very nice, and I don’t feel pressured.”

Shoppers are invited to walk or ride their bicycles to the market. Those who drive a vehicle are asked to park in the Ann Street parking lot, located off of Frederick St. Vendors who are interested in participating in Marauder Market should contact Angela Simmons, director of the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership, at 717-872-3506 or Angela.Simmons@millersville.edu.

**Pichini Makes History as New Board Chairman**

Guido M. Pichini made history when he was elected chair of the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) in June. PASSHE’s fourth board chair in 28 years, Pichini is the first to have graduated from one of the 14 State System universities, earning a degree in political science from what was then Kutztown State College in 1974.

“I am extremely proud to be the first alumnus to serve as Board chair,” he said. “It means a lot to me individually, and I think it’s a huge opportunity for the system. I’ve been to all of the campuses. I’ve worked for a number of years with the foundations and the trustees. I know all of the various constituencies.”

PASSHE is at a crossroads in its history, according to Pichini. Faced with unprecedented fiscal challenges, it will be incumbent upon the system leadership to find ways to help PASSHE “regroup, restructure and become stronger in the future,” he said.

Pichini is president and CEO of Security Guards, Inc., and its subsidiaries, WSK and Associates Consulting Group and Vigilant Security Services, Inc. He served two terms as a borough councilman and four as mayor of Wyomissing Hills, and has been appointed to numerous boards of directors of community and civic organizations and previously chaired both the Kutztown University Council of Trustees and the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees (PACT), which comprises the trustees from each of the 14 PASSHE universities.

“I truly believe the System reaches out and makes it possible for students who would not otherwise go to college, for financial or other reasons, to get a quality education and to become leaders,” Pichini said. “I’m a perfect example.”
Healthy Seafood Choices

Do you enjoy going to a restaurant to try its very best lobster, crab, shrimp or salmon? You may be surprised to find out how seafood is delivered to your plate or even grocery cart. According to Seafood Watch, a sustainable seafood guide created by the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, Calif., poor fishing and farming practices across the globe are destroying what was once a rich and plentiful resource.

Millersville University professor of oceanography Dr. Robert Vaillancourt is not a huge fan of fish but when it is available to him in environmentally friendly ways, he chooses to eat seafood. He does not consider himself the University’s expert on marine fish, handing the title instead to Dr. Dominique Dagit, biology, so, for proper selection of seafood he turns to his Seafood Watch Pocket Guide for advice. The guide puts seafood into three categories: Best choice, good alternative or avoid. “Best choice” includes fish from fisheries that are sustained, while “avoid” includes those that are in harm of severe limitation.

Two of Vaillancourt’s favorite dishes are Maine lobster and soft shell clams, both of which show up in the Seafood Watch as good alternatives. He tends to stay away from the seafood listed as “avoid” but loves the Chilean Seabass, calling it “delicious.” He said however, “It is one fish to avoid eating as it is caught faster than the rate it is able to reproduce itself.”

The issue Vaillancourt is speaking of is the lack of care fisheries have towards the marine environment. He said, “They are taking younger and younger fish to sell on the market. By doing so, they lose the potential offspring the fish could have reproduced had they been given more time to develop. This process then leads to an unsustainable fishery. For example, the salmon fishery in the Pacific Northwest is thriving, owing to well-regulated sustainable fishery practices.”

The seafood guide can be found online at: www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/download.aspx.

Photo credit: ©Monterey Bay Aquarium/Randy Wilder.

First Friday, August 5, at Millersville University Lancaster

On August 5, First Friday will include a unique array of talent and art forms at Millersville University Lancaster. Events include a performance by singer/songwriter and acoustic guitarist Amanda Wells, two art exhibits showcasing new and established talent, as well as a dance preview and a theater presentation.
Amanda Wells Concert – Wells is a long-time musician, retrieving her first guitar from a dumpster at a construction site where her dad was working, learning diligently anything she could from that point on. In 2004, her dad and true inspiration passed away, and she fell out of the music scene for a bit. She came back with a vengeance though, releasing a self-produced CD in 2005 and her first, full official album, Ebb and Flow, in October 2010.

"The album was a long time coming, and it took almost two years to complete,” said Wells. “It only seemed appropriate to title the collection Ebb and Flow because the songs are markers in my life, one song leading to the next. Hopefully they will linger somewhere as markings for the movement of moments in someone's life.”

“Exploring Traditions” Art Exhibit – Millersville’s Four Corners Summer Festival presents a unique art show, entitled “Exploring Traditions,” which focuses on the beauty in traditions, showcasing more then 250 years of heritage. Roughly 30 pieces have been on display since last month on Millersville’s campus in Dutcher Hall. This show has already been well-attended, and the winning pieces are unique three-dimensional artworks. Most of the artists will be present when the winners will be revealed at Millersville University Lancaster during First Friday on August 5.

Artist Honors Local Veteran Visual Artists – Bill Hoin, internationally honored artist, craftsman and author, will present several artists’ work including Lancaster favorite the late Charles X. Carlson, Congressmen Joseph Pitts, wood turner Ted Rasmussen and others. The multimedia artwork will include watercolors, pencil drawings, photography, sculpture, oil and acrylic paintings and hand weavings. Hoin’s own art will also be showcased.

The Veterans Art Project of Lancaster’s purpose is to recognize, support and promote the talents and skills of local veteran visual artists by offering opportunities to display their work including the work of two WWII and three female veterans.
“Exhilarating” and “Eye-Opening” Dance – Preview art, acrobatics, dance and theater all together behind the front windows of the Lyet Lobby in Millersville University Lancaster from 6-8 p.m. The Rev9 Dance Repertory gives a unique performance as a preview for their upcoming production, ‘77, directed by Kristin Pontz and Heather Bare.

The show focuses on the music and events of New York City in 1977. The preview highlights a few selections from the show. The dancers will perform during the breaks of Wells’ concert.

Creative Works Dramatist Platform – All good plays have to start somewhere – why not here? According to director Chet Williamson, “If we want theater to continue to speak for all generations, be relevant to modern audiences and attract new patrons, there must be writers today writing about problems, issues and characters of the 21st century.

It is for this reason that the Platform exists: To provide opportunities for playwrights in Lancaster and the surrounding communities, to give them feedback for improving their art and to help find venues for getting their work before audiences.”

All First Friday events on August 5 are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Harvey Owen, director of Millersville University Lancaster, at 717-940-1181 Harvey.Owen@millersville.edu.

Employee Wellness Committee: “Drop 10 in 10”

Attention faculty and staff: Millersville University’s Employee Wellness Committee would like to challenge you to lose 10 pounds in 10 weeks, as part of Highmark’s “Drop 10 in 10” initiative.

Available to all employees, this 10-week program, which will run September 21 through November 30, will help you lose 10 pounds (or 10 percent) of your body weight through nutrition, exercise and behavioral changes.

This program is confidential and may be done individually, or you can participate in group meetings. The weekly meetings will be held Wednesdays at noon in Caputo Hall room 128, beginning September 21. Participants will receive a toolkit, which includes a Guide Book, Food and Fitness Journal, tape measure and resistance band. The cost of the kit is $18 per person (if you have a kit, you do not need to order another one).

Contact the Office of Human Resources, no later then September 2 to register. The Employee Wellness Committee asks those who register to participate for the length of their lunch break.
Highmark Members Only: This program will count toward part of your Phase 4 “Healthy U” requirements.

*This does not count toward any requirements of the Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund’s (PEBTF) “Get Healthy” program for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and State College and University Professional Association (SCUPA) employees.

For more information, contact human resources at 872-3017.

8/4/2011 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for August 4, 2011.

Faculty and Staff Activities

Janet Kacskos, APR, UC&M, has been elected to the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) College of Fellows. The 2011 Fellows candidates will be inducted Oct. 15, at a ceremony at the PRSA 2011 International Conference in Orlando, Fla. The College of Fellows was founded in 1990 as a way to recognize individuals who have demonstrated superior capabilities as public relations practitioners or educators. According to the PRSA Bylaws, College of Fellows candidates must have 20 years or more of experience in the public relations industry and exhibit exceptional personal and professional qualities, while advancing the state of the profession.

Drs. Philip Tacka and Micheal Houlihan, music, presented a district-wide workshop on January 8 to the teachers involved in the Kodály Teacher Training Initiative in the Austin Independent School District, in Austin, Texas, and were “headliners” at the Texas Music Educators Association Annual Conference, the largest music conference in the world, in San Antonio, Texas, in February. Additionally, they presented their research, “Curricular Vertical Alignment,” from elementary through high school to more than 100 members of the Texas Music Administrators Conference. They also presented to the faculty of the Dalton School in New York City on February 22 and conducted a three-day program evaluation in May.
Tacka presented a workshop on rhythmic reading to middle and high school choral directors of the Austin Independent School District, Austin, Texas, on February 18 and served as a grant evaluator of the American Fellowship Panel during the 2010-11 academic year for the American Association of University Women, which evaluated and awarded more than $3 million to women scholars.

Between June and July 2011, both Houlahan and Tacka taught in three Kodály certification programs in Austin, Texas, at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., and Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

Retired

**Dr. Dennis Denenberg**, professor emeritus, elementary and early childhood education, continues to present keynote addresses to conferences and conventions for corporate, teacher and parent groups. Denenberg will be giving Hooray for Heroes presentations this month in North Charleston, S.C., Manheim Township, Pa., San Marcos, Calif., and Middletown, Del. In addition, the digital version of Denenberg’s book, *50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet*, was released on July 26.

The ebook is on Amazon’s website at: [www.amazon.com/American-Heroes-Every-Should-ebook/dp/B005ELN4YE/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1311707966&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/American-Heroes-Every-Should-ebook/dp/B005ELN4YE/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1311707966&sr=1-1).

Search for the Best Barbecue

Dr. John Wallace, biology, is searching for something this summer. Searching for what? The best places in the U.S. for some barbecue! The Wallace family has been on their barbecue adventure for the past couple of weeks and have visited a wide variety of barbecue joints.

The adventure began on July 17 when Wallace, his wife and sons Harrison and Max, left Millersville and traveled to Kansas City, Mo., stopping at rival establishments, Gates Bar-B-Q and Arthur Bryant’s Barbeque, each having a unique style and flavor.

Next on the list was The Rendezvous in Memphis, Tenn. However, before leaving Missouri, the Wallace family got some tips on barbecue at the Crosstown Barbecue. So they drove a few minutes and found “seasoning on the ribs and sausage that made this barbecue rank among the best we’ve had and definitely the best in Missouri,” said Wallace. They finally arrived at The Rendezvous and ordered a variety of dishes. “We opened up with a cheese and sausage starter that was sprinkled with dry rub. The food lived up to its reputation (amazing), while the atmosphere was very touristy and the food was incredible.”

The Wallace family’s next stop was in Texas, where they ate at Martin’s Barbecue in Bryan. “What was amazing about this place was well, everything; the food was incredible with some
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unique sides, the meat was amazingly tender and full of flavor. While everything in Texas is bigger, here the food was, but the price was not!”

Day seven of the adventure took them to San Antonio, Lockhart and Austin. They made it to Smitty’s Market in Lockhart, the capital of barbecue in Texas. Unfortunately, Smitty’s was out of ribs that day, so the Wallace family moved on to cross-town rival, Kreus Markets.

The journey continued as they made a pit stop to Cut N Shoot, Texas, to a family-owned barbecue pit, Jack’s. “Something we heard from bartender at The Rendezvous was the best barbecue is at small, roadside joints in the middle of nowhere. He was a right. These were the best pork ribs, the brisket melted in your mouth, just the right amount of smoke ring on the brisket, the sausage was amazingly tasty and the baked beans with jalapeño rings were jet fuel.”

The Wallace family was off their barbecue diet for a little, eating some crawfish, frog legs, gator and gumbo before leaving Louisiana. On July 25, they detoured to Pansacola, Fla., to save some time and driving. They hope to be on Florida beaches and then to the Carolinas before the journey home.

You can read about the Wallace family adventure and gets more tips on barbecue at wallacebbqadventureblog.wordpress.com/.

Who Makes Millersville Special

This issue of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. John Hoover, professor of neuroscience and physiology.

Q: How long have you been employed at Millersville University?
A: My first semester at Millersville was fall 1993.

Q: What made you want to work at the University?
A: Before coming to Millersville, I was in a full-time research position at a medical school. I came to MU because I enjoy teaching, interacting with college students and love the liberal arts environment with its many different disciplines. I was excited to join Millersville’s biology department because of the faculty’s collegiality and varied interests.

Q: What courses do you teach? Do you have a favorite?
A: I mostly teach Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Functional Human Anatomy, Neurobiology and Human Biology. I also contribute, as needed, to the General Biology and Zoology courses. My favorite course to teach is Human Anatomy & Physiology because it covers all the organ systems of the body in some depth.
Q: You are a sensorimotor systems neuroscientist. Could you tell us what that means?
A: I study the brain systems that control movement and the integration of movement with touch. These systems include parts of the cerebral cortex, thalamus, basal ganglia, cerebellum and spinal cord.

Q: What influenced you to become a biologist?
A: I love nature. I have as much interest in knowing the names of wildflowers and trees as I do bones and muscles.

Q: What studies have you done for the brain dysfunctions such as Parkinson’s and schizophrenia?
A: Dysfunction of the brain’s basal ganglia contributes to Parkinson’s disease and schizophrenia. My colleagues and I have mapped the neural circuits that connect the basal ganglia with sensory and motor areas of the cerebral cortex in experimental animals.

Q: What is your involvement with the Millersville Navigators?
A: Actually, the correct name of the group is The Navigators at Millersville but often this is just shortened to the Navs. I am the group’s faculty advisor and liaison between Millersville University’s chapter and the national organization. My main contribution is to mentor and advise the student leaders.

Q: What are the Navs? How did you get involved?
A: The Navs are a collegiate ministry. We are an interdenominational Christian fellowship that helps students “navigate” life with a strong spiritual focus. I first became involved with the Navs when I was a college student.

Q: Where are you from?
A: I grew up in the Navy so I’ve lived everywhere from the California coast to the Jersey shore. However, my family has its historical roots in Indiana County, Pa.

Q: What college/university did you attend? Major?
A: I attended college at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I majored in biology and completed a minor in chemistry.

Q: What was your first job?
A: While in college, I worked at the local Kmart in the Sporting Goods Department. Because of its rural location, I sold a lot of hunting and fishing items.

Q: What did you want to be when you were growing up?
A: At first, I wanted to be a veterinarian or a physician; however, when I was in college, I saw that my biology professors had a pretty sweet job. That observation led me to change career goals. It was a good choice for me.

Q: What do you like to do for fun?
A: I enjoy reading, hiking, biking, gardening and feeding the birds in my backyard.