Millersville is creating a one-of-a-kind support system for students on campus who are blind or vision-impaired thanks to a grant from the Susquehanna Foundation for the Blind (SFB). SFB matched a $25,000 grant from the Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trusts, totaling $50,000.

“The money from the grant will go towards screen reader software, mentoring software and adaptive services for blind students,” said Rene Munoz, director of foundation and government support at Millersville, who wrote the grant proposal in 2009.

Millersville brought in former SFB president Stephen Patterson as a consultant on this project. “SFB has a mission to create breakthrough opportunities in education and employment for America’s blind or vision-impaired students, and Millersville was very interested in supporting that mission,” said Patterson. “This program will make Millersville University a first-choice institution for students who are blind or vision-impaired.”

The grant was used to provide at least one computer in each computer lab with accessible technology for students who are blind or vision-impaired. In addition to collaborating with the Office of Experiential Learning and Career Management to create internships for spring and summer, the University expects to see an increase in internships as well as job placement in subsequent years.

“The core of this program is to prepare students who are blind for the unique challenges with which they are presented when seeking internships and employment,” said Megan Soflika, vice president of SFB.

“Currently, the University has six students who are blind, and they are being surveyed so they have a voice in how the program is designed,” explains Patterson.

Through this partnership, the students will have access to educational and teaching technologies in computer labs that will increase productivity with various forms of media including print. Updated technologies include Braille printers and text-reading software, more online course offerings, Braille books, and even optimizing the University’s website for easy access.

“Not only will these students have the tools to succeed, but they will also feel a sense of community with counseling, mentoring with other students who are blind or vision-impaired, and the expansion of support services that will be available to them on campus,” said Patterson.
Faculty and staff on campus will also benefit: Specialized equipment will be set up in their offices, and training will be provided to create a hospitable environment for the students who are blind or vision-impaired, as well how to learn to accommodate their unique needs.

“The overall goal of this project is to create a stand-out program for these students that is second to none, while creating a comfortable environment on Millersville’s campus for current and future students who are blind or vision-impaired,” says Patterson.

For more information, contact Patterson at 717-587-4943 or Stephen.Patterson@millersville.edu.

Geiger Awarded for Lifetime of Work

On Nov. 4, Dr. Charles Geiger will be acknowledged for his longstanding dedication to and advancement of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS is the use of sophisticated computer software to create maps, manage data about any entity that can be assigned map coordinates, and analyze patterns, movements and networks of those geographical entities. GIS software and data have developed in the last 25 years to the extent that massive quantities of data are now available for use, and more is being created or collected all the time. For his excellence in teaching GIS at Millersville University, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) GIS Consortium and affiliates group has distinguished Geiger with the Outstanding Contribution to GIS education in Pennsylvania award.

“The award is to honor a lifetime of work with GIS and that is something for which I’m very grateful,” said Geiger. The GIS Consortium is a group of GIS professors at the affiliated state universities working to fulfill the needs of GIS educators. “It’s an honor to be recognized by my colleagues at the other universities.”

“GIS is basically a complex collection of maps in computer form,” Geiger explained, “that allows for many ways to combine the mapped information. The computers make that data storage much more efficient than on traditional hand-drawn maps, and make it possible for those maps to be much more immediately available and interactive.”

Geiger, who currently teaches the geography department’s advanced GIS course, created the entire catalogue of GIS-based classes taught at Millersville. “Even with the down economy, a lot of our students are still being hired because of their GIS skills,” Geiger said. “The outlook is improving; a lot of GIS-based companies are still growing.”

Geiger has also furthered the study of GIS at Millersville University through the creation and co-management of the geography department’s Geo-Graphics Lab. Out of what was once a workroom for manual cartography, Geiger, together with recently retired Dr.
Stephen Thompson, oversaw the conversion to a computerized GIS laboratory; Geiger now manages the physical hardware and software in the lab. “I am grateful to the University for supporting it with software and computers over the years; it is a significant investment, but it has meant a huge benefit to the students,” he said.

In addition to teaching, Geiger has undertaken several significant GIS projects. In the mid-1990s, he worked with the local chapter of the American Lung Association to map the locations and results of homes tested for potentially deadly radon gas. He also brought more than $100,000 to Millersville through his work for the Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of a project to convert their paper maps of soils into digital form.

Geiger’s current endeavor is to create a comprehensive GIS of Millersville’s campus, which can serve a variety of purposes. The project, begun in 2008, is expected to be functional by the end of the fall 2011 semester. Other projects will follow including a potential collaboration with other members of the PASSHE GIS Consortium. As Geiger says, “Many organizations are really just beginning to see the potential in GIS.”

**Hands-On Urban Teaching Experience**

Pre-service teachers at Millersville University are gaining first-hand experience about teaching in urban schools and communities thanks to the Philadelphia Urban Seminar. This program gives students the unique opportunity to teach in an urban setting, “which provides them with a realistic view of what teaching in an urban setting is like and then enables them to make decisions about where they would like to teach upon graduation,” said Dr. Timothy Mahoney, assistant professor of educational foundations.

The Philadelphia Urban Seminar, which began 18 years ago, includes the 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) schools, in addition to some private schools and Penn State University. Millersville has participated in the seminar for the last eight years, and the program has increased in size each year.

Mahoney has been running the Millersville chapter of this program for the last five years. He had extensive experience teaching in urban schools before coming to Millersville and has been successful in increasing the amount of applicants from 10 students in 2007 to 80 applicants in 2011 by spreading the word from classroom to classroom in the education department. Their best recruiting tactic has been having previous students recommend the program to other students.
“That’s some pretty significant growth, and I think it’s all due to the students in the program. What an incredible group of people we have been able to recruit, and they are really effective ambassadors after they return,” said Mahoney.

Also coordinating the program is Dr. Marcia Nell, assistant professor of elementary and early childhood education, who joined the program two years ago. “I jumped at the chance to work with young, pre-service teachers heading to work in high poverty schools,” said Nell, who has 12 years of experience being an educator in a high poverty elementary school.

The seminar works well because Mahoney and Nell work well together. “First, we are an awesome team, not only because she brings elementary focus, while I have the high school focus, but because we share the same goals for our students, and do a great job supporting and extending each other in the seminar meetings,” said Mahoney.

“Through the Urban Seminar program, our students are able to become aware of their own perceptions and assumptions regarding urban life,” said Nell. “The group really digs deep within the neighborhoods of Philadelphia, where they complete service projects, and through attending Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, where they see how social structures outside of school influence the lives of their students, and see how engaged places like church are in student success,” explains Mahoney.

This program also shows beginning teachers at Millersville the different options they have upon graduation, especially with a first-hand experience in urban life and culture.

“Many of the students begin the seminar with some fear about urban schools, and most are unable to imagine themselves as urban teachers. After the seminar, many students can not imagine teaching anywhere else but in urban schools,” states Mahoney.

For more information on The Philadelphia Urban Seminar program, contact Mahoney at 717-871-7202 or Tim.Mahoney@millersville.edu.

**RT Program Excels in Career Placement**

Two years ago, Millersville University made the decision to establish a new degree program, Allied Heath and Technology, for students interested in pursuing a career in respiratory therapy (RT). This fall, for the first time, students will enter the professional phase of Millersville’s program in RT with a degree other than biology.

“We are the only program in the country with a biology major,” said John Hughes, RT program director. “Now, with the recent addition of the allied health technologies major, it has been
exciting to see the program enrollment grow within the past two years.”

There are two paths students can follow before applying to the University’s RT program. First, students spend three years at Millersville earning a bachelor’s degree in biology with a RT option. In the second path, the newer option, students can complete two years of undergraduate liberal arts and science coursework and receive a bachelor’s degree in allied health technologies. Upon completion of either degree, students apply for acceptance to the professional phase, which is a 16-month clinical training program at Lancaster Regional Medical Center.

Previously, class size averaged about eight students per class. Now, with the new degree option, class size is expected to double by May 2012. The RT program can only accept up to 15 students to accommodate clinical experience needs. As a result, the program will likely become more competitive.

“Our program holds a valued reputation across the country because of the quality students who graduate each year,” says Hughes. “The program is difficult and requires strong academic performance and has a reputation for producing desirable therapists.”

One of the oldest and most established programs in the nation, Millersville’s RT program holds a 100% career placement rate for its students every year. In addition, it’s accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, and graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care examination, which successfully certifies candidates for licensure as respiratory therapists.

Once graduates pass the credentialing examination, they are encouraged to seek employment in an acute care hospital setting that offers a broad range of practice opportunities. Many pursue specialties within the profession, such as prenatal/pediatrics, adult critical care, cardiopulmonary diagnostics and trauma care.

For more information on the program, contact Hughes at 717-291-8457 or John.Hughes@millersville.edu.

MU Football Game Site for Military Appreciation Day

To show appreciation to local veterans, Millersville’s athletics department and ROTC have teamed up to host a Military Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 5, during the home football game at Chryst Field in Biemesderfer Stadium.

Veterans with a military ID will be admitted free to the game, where the Millersville Marauders will take on the West Chester Rams. In addition, two Millersville T-shirts celebrating veterans will be sold during the game. One shirt is black
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and features the “M” spirit mark in camouflage; the second shirt is camouflage with a black Millersville spirit mark. All proceeds from the T-shirt sales will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), an organization that raises awareness and enlists the public’s aid for the needs of injured service members.

“Our softball team hosted a military appreciation event a few years ago, and it was a great success. They chose to donate their funds to the WWP and were very happy with the process. This year we chose to donate our funds to the WWP to assist in helping injured service members,” said Steve Roach, Millersville University’s associate athletic director.

The black Millersville athletics T-shirts will cost $10; the camouflage T-shirt is $15. For more information, contact Roach at Steve.Roach@millersville.edu or 717-871-7210, or contact CPT Joe Ocheskey, ROTC, at Joe.Ocheskey@millersville.edu.

Millersville to Host Marching Band Championships

Later this month, more than 1,500 people will fill Biemesderfer Stadium – but not for a sporting event. What do they all have in common? They all belong to a marching band. Millersville University and the Millersville University Marching Band are hosting the Cavalcade of Bands, Liberty Class Championships, on November 13.

High school marching band contests are held each weekend throughout fall and end in four championship classification contests: Independence, Yankee, American and Liberty. The Liberty Class, defined as bands having 59-83 members, will be competing on Millersville University’s campus from noon to 9 p.m.

Normally the Hersheypark Stadium holds the bands for the championship weekend; however, because of time and noise and light ordinances, Hershey can only accommodate 90 bands for the weekend of November 12 and 13. Independence and Yankee will continue to be held at Hershey on Saturday, along with American on Sunday, while Liberty comes to Millersville.

“The Millersville University Marauder Marching Band and the music department are proud to partner with Penn Manor School District and the Cavalcade of Bands to provide this unique opportunity to so many deserving students,” said Josh Decker, Marauder Marching Band director. “These students put in countless hours of time to perfect their craft and deserve every ounce of support we can provide. I trust that all of our guests will have an outstanding experience during this championship event.”
Marching bands performing at Millersville will include Cheltenham, Coatesville, Governor Mifflin, Hatboro Horsham, Kennett, Lampeter Strasburg, Manheim Central, Marple Newtown, Penn Manor, Penn Wood, Red Lion, Ridley, South Western, Southern Regional, Springfield (Delco), Sun Valley, Unionville, and York Suburban High School, along with our very own Millersville University Marauder Marching Band.

“I would like to thank and congratulate all of the participants, staffs, directors, parents, and schools for their support of music education,” said Decker.

Tickets for Liberty Class are $18 for adults and $15 for students or senior citizens and can be bought at the gate on the day of championships. For more information, contact Decker at Joshua.Decker@millersville.edu or 717-871-5364.

**Students Place Third at Design Competition**

Four students at Millersville placed third at the 12th Annual Student Packaging Design Competition for their entry into a contest sponsored by the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters (AICC). The competition was judged at the AICC Headquarters in Alexandria, Va., this summer.

The contest challenged students to design a packaging solution based around a given problem typical of industry needs for corrugated packaging. The project, “The Last Marauder,” was created by technology education majors Aaron Krause, junior, of Lancaster, Pa., and Brian Ruth, senior, of Harleysville, Pa., and industry technology students Andrew Reardon, senior, of Wyomissing, Pa., and Daniel Weber, sophomore, of Dover, Del., in the spring of 2011, as part of their packaging and specialty printing course.

“The Last Marauder” design placed third in two separate categories. The first was the “Structural Challenge,” where students were to design a structure that accomplishes a given task while accounting for converting challenges. For the second category, “Graphics Challenge,” students were to design graphics using one of the following processes; line or screen art, screened images, process or modified process color or digital printing.

The students received a plaque and monetary award of $300 for their winnings. This marks the second time that Millersville University students have placed in this contest in the three years they have competed.
Guitar Prodigy Performs at Benefit Show in Lancaster

Enjoy the sounds of classical guitar? World-renowned guitarist Ernesto Tamayo will be performing at The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster, on November 3. The 7:30 p.m. performance will be part of a benefit show for the artistic season at The Ware Center.

“The goal is to raise funds to help underwrite the 2011-2012 artistic season at The Ware Center,” said Harvey Owen, director. More than 160 different performances have already been scheduled for the upcoming season.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Tamayo was a musical prodigy who began studying guitar at the age of five. His first public performance and TV appearance came a few years later at nine. He later received a full scholarship to The Peabody Conservatory with renowned guitarist Manuel Barrueco.

Tamayo stays busy on the road, performing in 98 concerts last year alone. He has toured extensively throughout North and South America, Asia and Europe. He has also appeared in Carnegie Hall in a sold-out performance, in addition to just completing his sixth CD.

Tickets are $20 and can be purchased online, at www.muticketsonline.com, by calling the Ticket Office at 717-872-3811 or in person at the front desk at The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster.

Panel Discussion: “The Fire Still Burns: Religion and Censorship in LGBTQ Art”

A panel discussion, “The Fire Still Burns: Religion and Censorship in LGBTQ Art,” organized by Dr. Christine Filippone, art and design professor, will take place on November 9, at 7:30 p.m., in Steinman Hall, The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster.

Open to students, faculty and staff, as well as the Millersville and Lancaster communities, the panel will focus on the content and subsequent censorship of the first ever major U.S. museum exhibition examining expressions of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) sexual identity and desire titled, “Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture,” held at the National Portrait Gallery in fall 2010.

The panel will include Dr. Jonathan D. Katz (pictured right), co-curator of the exhibition, and law professor Nancy J. Knauer, author of the book Gay and Lesbian Elders: History, Law, and Identity Politics in the U.S.

The panel was organized to provide context for a bus trip for students to the Brooklyn
Museum on December 2, to see “Hide/Seek” (with Wojnarowicz’s video). The panel is supported by the following from Millersville University: Department of Art and Design, Academic and Cultural Enrichment Funds, the Office of Social Equity and Diversity, Ganser Library, the Noonan Endowment Fund and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. It is also supported by the Center for Liberal Arts & Society and the Phillips Museum of Art, both at Franklin & Marshall College.

Need to Know:
Trees Leave

In the last few months, 12 trees have been planted on campus and more are planned to be planted in the spring. Four were planted at Marauder Park, the baseball stadium, this past summer, and another 20-24 are planned for spring; five were planted in the area near Osburn, Breidenstine and Byerly Halls in September and three were planted in the Palmer Hall area in October.

According to Leonard Aurand, director of housekeeping, grounds and moving, workers cut down 12 trees on campus October 25 and 26. Nine trees were dead or dying, and the other three posed problems for pedestrians and buildings. Aurand explained that one tree by Lyle Hall was too close to the building and limbs were hanging on the roof. A walnut tree near Gerhardt was cut down because over the last couple of years branches have been dropping and Aurand was worried one of them could have gone through the roof of the building. The third tree was near Gilbert Hall and had to be moved because of construction on the visual and performing arts center. “That one pained me the most because it was a beautiful big tree,” said Aurand. “However, it was located exactly where construction workers needed to put in lighting. I asked if they could move the lighting and I was told there were measurements made to put the lighting in exact locations to cover the most ground.”

CEMBOO Software Launch Tonight

Join the Millersville University Software Productization Center (SPC) and Haydenfilms for the launch of Cemboo tonight, Thursday, November 3. The launch will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster.

The event will feature a demonstration of the unique new software product, an explanation about how Cemboo works, and comments from others in town specifically to celebrate the creation of this software as a service. The launch will also be a celebration of the collaborative efforts of SPC and Haydenfilms, the students, staff and entrepreneurs who made Cemboo.

For more information, and to RSVP, visit www.millersville.edu/asp.
Faculty and Staff Activities

Dr. Richard Clark, earth sciences, was a co-organizer and presenter at a panel discussion at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) annual meeting in Boulder, Colo., October 3-6. The purpose of this panel was to solicit ideas from the members on whether UCAR should be considering alliances to tackle the kind of workforce and training issues being raised by the keynotes and fellow panel members. Some of those issues included how to make the nation more resilient to severe weather and a changing climate, support for a community-focused effort to partner universities and stakeholders to work on severe weather and climate adaptation, and how to engage students to enter Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

Dr. Sam Earman, earth sciences, was a lead author on two presentations at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Minneapolis, “Development and Initial Results of an Exam to Assess Learning Outcomes for Geology Majors,” with co-authors Drs. Lynn Marquez and Jason Price, both earth sciences, and “Stable Isotope Applications in a Study of Potential Climate-Change Impacts on Hydrologic Systems—Sagehen Basin, California.” In addition, he was a co-author on another presentation at the meeting “Using Dissolved Gases to Observe the Evolution of Groundwater Age in a Mountain Watershed Over a Period of Thirteen Years.”

Hiram Martinez, social equity and diversity, recently received an ADELANTE award for his contributions to educational excellence, at a forum sponsored by the Lancaster Latino Education Committee. Martinez was first hired by Millersville in 2001 and serves on various University committees and on the board of directors for the Spanish American Civic Association in Lancaster. The fourth annual education forum was held October 23 at The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster, where four other educators were also recognized.

Drs. Enyang Guo and Gary Leinberger, accounting and finance, were selected for one of the Silver Wheaton Best Paper Awards in International Finance at the September 2011 Applied Financial Research Conference in Atlantic City, N.J. Their paper “Firm Growth and Financial Choices in Pennsylvania Firms – An Empirical Study about the Pecking Order Theory” was presented by Guo.

Dr. Behnam Nakhai, management & marketing, had his latest refereed research paper titled “Attitudes of Business Students Toward Corporate Social Responsibility,”
published in the Proceedings of the 48th Annual Conference of the Eastern Academy of Management in Boston. The paper is co-authored with Brenda E. Ghitulescu and Joao S. Neves from the College of New Jersey.

**Dr. Karen Rice**, social work, had her article titled “Child Welfare in the Court: A Collaboration Between Social Work and Law Faculty to Prepare Social Work Students for Work with the Courts” published in the *Journal of Public Child Welfare*. The article was co-authored with colleagues from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and is based on an innovative interdisciplinary short course in which social work students work with law and social work faculty and law students in a simulated child welfare court experience. In addition, Rice and **Dr. Heather Girvin**, social work, presented a workshop titled “Utilizing Focus Groups as a Means for Program Evaluation” at the annual National Association of Social Workers-Pennsylvania conference held October 13-15 at Willow Valley.

**Dr. Dominic Scott**, educational foundations, made a presentation titled “Understanding Religious Diversity: History, Conflict and Acceptance” on October 22 at the 2011 Lancaster Latino Education Forum held at The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster.

**Dr. E. Elliott Seda**, educational foundations, presented a paper titled, “Characteristics of Effective Urban Teachers,” at the 4th Annual Lancaster Education Forum in The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster, on October 22.

**Retired**


**Obituary**

Victor J. “Vic” Ruth, Jr., 76, of Lancaster, died on October 11. He was retired from Millersville University where he worked as an electronic technician for seven years.

**Who Makes Millersville Special**

This issue of the Exchange features Marie Zufelt, administrative assistant to the associate provost for academic administration.

**Q: What are some of your responsibilities?**

**A:** The Office of the Associate Provost has a far-reaching portfolio, but to hit a few highlights, we track and maintain administration of all University curriculum and academic policy, maintain the academic section of the University and Governance
documents, are responsible for the undergraduate catalog, hear academic appeals and violations of the academic honesty policy, are responsible for the new faculty orientation program and coordination of the Freshman Year Experience Program, to name a few.

Q: How long have you been working at Millersville?
A: 22 years

Q: How did you come to work at Millersville?
A: A job opportunity for my husband brought my family to the Lancaster area in 1989. I signed on with a temp agency until I could get myself into the job market. My first assignment was at Millersville University in the Legal Department, since relocated to Harrisburg. Another secretary in that department, an amazing woman named Roma Sayre, encouraged me to apply for two vacancies that were currently posted on campus. As fate would have it, shortly after I applied, the human resources office also found themselves with a vacancy, and I was asked if I would consider that position as well. I agreed, interviewed, got the job and worked in HR for over six years. It was a great way to learn about all the departments on campus and meet employees you might not otherwise get to know.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?
A: The variety of people from all across campus that I get to work with and the fact that no two days are the same. I also especially look forward to running the new faculty orientation program each year and getting to know all the new faculty. Many of them have become very good friends.

Q: If you could have another job on campus for one week, what would it be?
A: Admissions tour guide.

Q: What do you do outside of work?
A: I am a very blessed grandmother to five, ages one to 10 years. They keep me engaged, in awe, and quite frequently, in stitches – out of the mouth of babes! I also have seven siblings, and it is a full-time job keeping up with them and their families. In addition, I have a role to play at another institution of higher education, where my husband serves as a vice president.

Q: Do you have any hobbies or interests?
A: I used to do a lot of needlework and gardening, but surgeries on my hands don’t allow for that pleasure anymore. When we do have free time, my husband and I are enthusiastic participants in the theater and arts community in the Lancaster area. Our newest interest is wine! We recently have been introduced to the world of wine by great friends who own a vineyard in Oregon and grow grapes that make an amazing pinot noir. They have appointed themselves our mentors and we are enjoying the education.
Q: What do you listen to on your way to work?
A: My commute is very short, so I only get to hear small snippets of National Public Radio on WITF.

Q: What is your favorite television series of all time?
A: That is an impossible question to answer. There are many that I have enjoyed at different times for different reasons. But a favorite of the family’s, many moons ago, was a little known Disney series called “Five Mile Creek” that introduced a young Nicole Kidman in a minor role called Annie, the goat girl. Use that as a trivia question sometime.

Q: If you could take a road trip anywhere in the country, where would you go, what would you ride in and who would you bring along?
A: A tour of all the National Parks with my husband in his little two-seater with the top down (obviously in the summer with no rain in the forecast) and stopping at little town diners along the way to try the regional specialty and talk to the locals.

Q: Can you cook/bake? If so, what is your favorite recipe to make?
A: As I am at the older end of my siblings, my mother required a lot of assistance. Luckily I loved cooking and baking and I believe I have some aptitude in that area. My Mom taught us well. Even my five brothers are all excellent cooks! I have a lot of cookbooks, subscribe to many food publications and tend to read cookbooks like novels. My favorite recipe is the next one I want to try.

Q: Would you rather stay in for the night and relax or go out with friends and have a good time?
A: I’d rather have a good time staying in and relaxing with good friends.

Q: How does it make you feel knowing that you are someone who makes Millersville special?
A: I feel inspired that I am but one of hundreds of people who make Millersville special, especially all those unsung heroes of the campus that work in maintenance and trades, housekeeping, food services and other support roles that rarely get the recognition they deserve. They have my respect and gratitude for the jobs they perform every day on our behalf.