

## Millersville Named Fifth Safest University in Pennsylvania

When it comes to safety Millersville University receives an 'A.' With a score of 93.95 out of 100, it was recently ranked as the fifth safest college in Pennsylvania.

StateUniversity.com, a leading website for college statistics, has compiled a list of the 450 safest colleges and universities on the state and national levels. This information is based on the number of incidents reported by campus safety officials, in which the University also ranked as 120<sup>th</sup> in the nation according to the Safe School Index.



“Providing a safe campus and community means having officers who are invested in the department and the University; it is the vast number of students, employees and residents who ensure Millersville as a nice place to live and visit,” explained Peter Anders, chief of police at Millersville University.

The number of aggravated assaults, robberies, burglaries, thefts, forcible rapes, arsons, motor vehicle thefts and murders that occur on campus are taken into account when calculating the final score. The reported crimes are then weighed based on the probability of each incident happening to each student, since larger campuses are expected to have a higher number of incidents. Violent crimes are given more weight in the ranking system and have a greater effect on the overall safety ranking than a non-violent crime such as theft.

The category that affected Millersville the most was theft, which only affected four people out of 1,000. There were no incidents of arson, murder, robbery or vehicle theft. Out of the 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education schools, 11 received notable rankings within the top 20 list. Mansfield University ranked as number two, California University of Pa., at number three and Slippery Rock received fourth place.

Millersville also places a large priority on the prevention of campus violence through the Threat Assessment Team (TAT). The TAT at Millersville uses University personnel in specialized departments like health services, human development and the police department to respond to threats of violence that pose risks to the students, faculty or staff. “It is difficult to measure what events are prevented, but there should be comfort in knowing that we have a group that can attempt to intervene before a concern becomes a tragedy,” said Anders.

Any member of the campus community who becomes aware of a troubling person or situation that is causing serious anxiety, stress or fear should call the TAT at 717-872-3717. In cases where a person may pose an immediate risk of violence to self or others, please call 911.

## Millersville Professor Discovers New Species of Fish

The world will soon learn about two new species of fish thanks to the work of Dr. Dominique Dagit, biology, and California graduate student Jenny Kemper. The two, along with Dr. James Cosentino, biology, recently traveled to New Zealand to study chimaeroids fishes. All three made the 8,000 mile journey to Wellington, New Zealand, where they spent two weeks examining an extensive collection of chimaeroids fish. These fish are in the Order Chimaeriformes and are closely related to sharks.



The work was funded by the National Museum of New Zealand Te papa Tongarewa and a “Tree of Life” grant provided to Dagit by the National Science Foundation.

In addition to studying this extensive collection of fish, Dagit completed the task of naming all of the unknown species of chimaeroids that live in New Zealand waters.

“This will bring the total number of new species of chimaeroids that I’ve named to 15, which is 31 percent of all known chimaeroids in the world. In other words, of this whole entire Order of fishes, I’ve described one third of them,” explained Dagit.

As a result of their research, Dagit and Kemper are co-authoring three chapters in a soon-to-be published book titled *Fishes of New Zealand*.

“We are also describing these two new species of chimaeroid fishes. One of the species will be named for Jim Cosentino who came along and helped out with our work,” said Dagit.

## Millersville to Deliver Classes at HACC-Lancaster Campus



Students who wish to earn a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education in Lancaster will soon have the opportunity to do so thanks to a recent partnership between Millersville University and Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC).

Millersville University, HACC-Lancaster campus’s newest four-year partner, will offer its accelerated bachelor’s degree program in early childhood education starting this fall.

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“HACC and Millersville University have many excellent collaborations already in place. This new partnership adds to our work together and provides a great educational opportunity for those who want to be teachers,” said Dr. Jane S. Bray, dean of education and associate provost at Millersville University.

The classes are taught by faculty from their respective institution in an accelerated format during the evening. The program also includes access to services such as admissions, financial aid and registration by the respective institution at HACC. Advising, tutoring and library services are available on the campus.

“HACC has partnered with four-year institutions to deliver degree-completer programs in careers in high demand in the region,” said Brad A. Wolf, executive dean of academic affairs at HACC-Lancaster campus. “In addition to early childhood education, the programs include health care management, nursing, business administration and crime and justice.”

### **Millersville's own “blue man group” conducts research in the Mojave Desert**

A group of scientists and Millersville University undergraduate meteorology students – all part of team Galactica – are photographed in the shortwave infrared creating this false color image. The Millersville team can be seen in their black Millersville University caps, which appear yellow in this image.

In late October 2011, Dr. Richard Clark, earth sciences, and seven undergraduate students with their trailer in tow, traveled 2,600 miles to the Mojave Desert to measure the concentration and size distribution of dust and other particulates in the lower



atmosphere. The project, funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), took place during intensive military training operations on Fort Irwin, Calif., just north of the Mojave Desert. Ft. Irwin is the National Training Center for U.S. Army troops deployed overseas. The main objective, says Clark, was to determine the number of particles over a range of sizes to an altitude of 1,000 meters.

Equipped with a 15-foot-diameter tethered balloon and suitable rigging to carry a 45-pound payload that included a particle sizer, GPS, batteries, onboard computer and ancillary electronics, the Millersville team profiled the atmosphere while research aircraft flew overhead surveying the landscape with downward pointing remote sensing devices. Knowledge of the concentration and size distribution of dust is vitally important to a satellite or aircraft's ability to recognize the spectral signature of chemical species at the surface. Dust tends to obscure the measurement making it difficult to pinpoint the

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location of potentially dangerous chemicals. By knowing the concentration as a function of the size of the particle scientists can develop algorithms that can subtract out the attenuation due scattering and absorption by dust.

The Millersville team was on site for about two weeks. The team was divided into two groups, and with the help of a locally rented RV, the groups alternated with one group staying at the site while the other would drive back each night to a hotel in Barstow, California. “It is truly a marathon effort,” said Rebecca Pauly, “but one well worth it. We were totally exhausted by the end of the day.”

“I can't think of a better way to learn science than by doing science,” added Gregg McCambley, “and fieldwork provides such a great opportunity for that.”

“Spending two weeks in the Mojave Desert was phenomenal,” said Tim Juliano, “there were amazing sunrises and sunsets, wispy Cirrus clouds, low humidity and an occasional coyote.”

“There is very little difference between the experiences that these undergraduate students receive and what might be considered graduate student caliber,” said Clark. “A case in point, Michael Charnick, traveled alone to Fort Irwin three weeks before the field project commenced to conduct a site survey for our operations and those of Johns Hopkins University. He met with project principal investigators and military officers, which in itself could have been daunting for some students, but not for Mike. He not only handled himself in a professional manner, but he added value to their discussions and later developed detailed maps of the area in Google Earth that were used to define our airspace, and which were used to gain authorization from both the civilian and military airspace operations centers.”

“These students and the remainder of the team, Erica Dolinar, Phil Falgoust and Matt King, gave 150 percent to this project,” said Clark. “On one occasion a 50 mph dust storm plowed through our site at night. Balloons don't respond well to winds like this. For nearly two hours, while being blasted by wind-driven sand, the students stood their ground, making sure that the balloon would not leave its mooring. When the wind finally



subsided there was an intense feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction in having pitted of oneself against the forces of nature and coming out on top. For me, it was also feeling of immense pride. Never was there a moan or a complaint as muscles tired under the balloon's continuous jostling. Six hours later we were again ready to start research operations.”

The balloons, ranging in size from a car to a school bus, a trailer and more than \$1 million in instruments and equipment are part of the Millersville University Atmospheric Boundary Layer facility.

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## Labant Elected President of PCSS

Dr. Joseph C. Labant, elementary and early childhood, was formally installed as the new president of the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies (PCSS) at the council's annual meeting in Pittsburgh, October 13-15.

As PCSS president, he will serve a two-year term. He had previously served a two-year term as president-elect and was responsible for co-organizing conferences in Lancaster and Pittsburgh.



In addition, Labant was involved in initiating mini-conference sessions and supporting PCSS public relations across the Commonwealth. Before taking on his executive offices, Labant served on the PCSS board of directors for five years.

In addition, he has been an active member in the Middle State Council for the Social Studies (MSCSS), a regional association involving the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, as well as the District of Columbia. While a member of MSCSS, Labant served as a Pennsylvania representative on the council's board of directors and was appointed the Pennsylvania news reporter for the council's newsletter, "For Your Information," published three times yearly.

Labant also serves as a Pennsylvania representative in the National Council of Social Studies' House of Delegates. In 2008 -2009, he served on the state committee for updating the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Social Studies and in 2010, he participated in the "Dialogue on Civics Education," an initiative sponsored by the former First Lady of Pennsylvania, Judge Marjorie Rendell.

Labant has worked with the staff at the Carter & MacRae Elementary School (School District of Lancaster) in developing a service learning project where students from his pedagogy classes volunteer their time to assist children in preparing their individual exhibits for the school's annual social studies fair, presently the only fair of its kind in the state devoted exclusively to exhibiting elementary-level social studies projects.

## Living the Promise

Millersville University President Francine G. McNairy recently presented Miguel Silva, dining and conference services, with a “Living the Promise” award.

Silva was honored for his dedicated work to the University.



## MU Student Boosts Life Back Into Decaying Cities

With a goal to revitalize America’s decaying cities, Jeremy Young, a senior geography major with a minor in history, is representing Millersville University in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program this semester.

Born and raised in downtown Lancaster, Young developed an appreciation for historic architecture in older urban areas. He will spend the next 13 weeks at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Bureau for Historic Preservation in Harrisburg. Young will work with the community, individuals, local governments, state and federal agencies to educate the citizens of Pennsylvania about our heritage and value to preserve our communities.

Young is also required to complete an individualized research project during the course of the semester. He has chosen to observe the area of uptown Harrisburg that has been deteriorating over the years due to severe crime and poverty. This particular site is adjacent to the site that served as a gathering point for union troops during the Civil War called Camp Curtin.



“This area once served as a gateway to the northern parts of the city of Harrisburg and with significant future reinvestment, has the potential to serve this same function again for future generations of Harrisburg residents and visitors,” explained Young.

Each week, Young and 13 of the other interns from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education universities attend seminars on public policy and lectures given by elected officials. “One of our assignments I am looking forward to is scheduling interviews with my hometown’s representatives in the Pennsylvania Legislative Assembly, Senator Lloyd Smucker (13<sup>th</sup> District) and Representative P. Michael Sturla (96<sup>th</sup> District),” said Young.

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Young is currently awaiting the results of his applications to graduate schools, but in fall 2012 would like to begin a master's degree in urban and regional planning with specialization in economic development. "This degree will help me to begin a career as an urban planner. My passion in life is to recreate vibrant, healthy and safe places in which people live, work and play," said Young.

"This internship will allow me to gain skills that I would not receive in a standard classroom environment on campus, such as witnessing the functions of state government first-hand, working on live policy and networking with state officials," said Young.

Students interested in applying for the THIS internship in a future semester may obtain information on the program by contacting their individual campus coordinator, Dr. Richard Glenn, department chair of government and political affairs, at [Richard.Glenn@millersville.edu](mailto:Richard.Glenn@millersville.edu) or 717-871-2279.

### **Need to Know: Become a Safe Zone Mentor**

Are you aware that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers? Would you like to help make safe spaces on this campus for such students, as well as for employees?

You are invited to become a member of Millersville University's Safe Zone mentoring program, which is being sponsored by the LGBTQIA Committee of the President's Commission on Cultural Diversity & Inclusion and the Office for Social Equity &



Diversity. This program trains University employees to provide support and resources for MU lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, queer/questioning, intersex, allies/androgynous/asexual (LGBTQIA) students and employees. The Safe Zone program has been developed to provide easily recognizable staff and faculty who will be available to students or colleagues for support, mentoring and information regarding helpful resources related to LGBTQIA issues. The goal is to have mentors in every department and every building on campus...you

can help!

**What: Safe Zone training session**

**When: Monday, February 13, 2012, 4 - 8 p.m. (includes dinner)**

**Where: To Be Determined**

**To Register: Fill out the application form at**

**[www.millersville.edu/social/eq/SafeZones.php](http://www.millersville.edu/social/eq/SafeZones.php)**

**Deadline: Application due **Monday, February 6.****

Because of the interactive nature of the training, space is limited. For more information, contact Blaise Liffick, computer science, at [Blaise.Liffick@millersville.edu](mailto:Blaise.Liffick@millersville.edu) or 717-872-3536.

## 2/2/2012 Activities



Here are the faculty and staff activities for February 2, 2012.

### New Employee Welcome

New Employee Welcome was held January 19. Back row from left: Heather Keck, Glenn Myers, Jennifer McManuels, Kay Oiler and Greg Hutchinson, dining & conference services; Ed Foehlinger, University services; Jim Smith, The Ware Center; Salvador Flores, dining & conference services; Melissa Williams, nursing; and Kayla Bowen, dining & conference services.



Front row from left: Renee Scholer, dining & conference services; Michele Spotts and Kelly Herr, UC&M; Wanda Doyle, art & design; Laura Micciche, The Ware Center; and Simone Heisey, dining & conference services.

### Faculty and Staff Activities

**Dr. Abdelhadi Halawa**, wellness and sport sciences, completed a peer review of two research proposals of the 2011 Eleventh Cycle for the Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP), which is a division of Qatar National Research Fund. The two research proposals are titled “An Epidemiological Study of Low-Back Pain and its Association with Anxiety, Depression and Somatization in General Population of Qatar” and “Health Conditions Among Young Qatari Adults.”

**Drs. Lisa House and Joseph Lynch**, counseling and human development, and **Thomas Richardson**, student affairs, presented “Ask A Question, Save A Life: Effective Partnering within Student Affairs on Suicide Prevention” at the 2012 NASPA - Student

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Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Mental Health Conference in Atlanta, Ga., on January 19.

**Dr. Blaise W. Liffick**, computer science, gave a presentation on “When Anti-Gay Protesters Come to Campus” at the National Conference on LGBT Equality, January 25-29 in Baltimore, Md. While at the conference, he also attended the day-long LGBT Campus Administrators Institute.

**Drs. Karen Rice and Heather Girvin**, social work, had their article titled “Building Relationships Across Systems to Enhance Resiliency and Improve Foster Care Outcomes” published in the *Contemporary Rural Social Work* journal. The article stems from an ongoing longitudinal program evaluation they are conducting for the CASA of Lancaster County program.

## **Congratulations**

To Brant Schuller, art and design, and his wife, Kristen Lefever-Schuller, on the birth of their baby girl, Hadley Tate Schuller on January 10.

## **Who Makes Millersville Special**

This issue of the Exchange features Dr. Caleb Corkery, associate chair of the English department, who is in his seventh year at Millersville.

**Q: Where are you originally from/ where do you live now?**

A: I was born in Rhode Island, but I really grew up outside of Detroit. I have mostly lived in urban environments. I now live in Lancaster City, which is a small city but I love it there.

**Q: What college/ university did you attend?**

A: I did my undergraduate at Carnegie Mellon University. They have a great program in rhetoric. I was an English major. I did my graduate work at the University of Maryland.



**Q: What did you want to be when you “grew up”?**

A: I always had my eye on writing. I wasn’t sure in what way I wanted to use it for work, but it always appealed to me.

**Q: What drew you into the English department?**

A: After working in Washington, D.C., as a researcher and writer, I realized I would need a law degree or some kind of policy specialty to continue there. I was more interested in literature and teaching, so I shifted my focus and started a graduate program in English.

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**Q: What is your favorite course to teach at Millersville?**

A: I love teaching the African American literature surveys. Students typically do not know the amazing books I can expose them to. There is so much to teach in terms of history, literary beauty and rhetorical power.

**Q: What is the most memorable moment you've had at Millersville?**

Bringing Emmanuel Agumah from Ghana into my classes and seeing how his perspective affected me and the class.

**Q: What's your favorite thing about Millersville University?**

A: I think the students here are great to work with. They are generally hardworking, interested in learning and down to earth.

**Q: What are you involved in on campus?**

A: I help out with the English Club and the George Street Carnival. I am on the Commission for Cultural Diversity and Inclusion. I like going to soccer games when I can.

**Q: What is the best part about being the chair of the "One Book, One Campus" program?**

A: I like trying to figure out ways to bring the campus together. I enjoy seeing students get into the issues of the book and make it part of their world.

**Q: What was the best part about meeting Sonia Nazario?**

A: Sonia Nazario was great to work with. She gave her all the whole time she was here. She clearly loves what she's doing and is passionate about connecting with people. When I picked her up at the Baltimore airport at 1 a.m., I was expecting her to want peace and quiet to get ready for the next day, but we had a stimulating conversation the entire hour and a half back to Lancaster.

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

A: I love rereading *If He Hollers Let Him Go* by Chester Himes every year, since I teach it every spring.

**Q: What is your favorite sentence structure?**

A: I do like the chiasmus structure, as in Tupac's, "They say money don't make the man but man, I'm makin' money."

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

A: I like to bike everywhere I need to go. I also love the theater and sports. They are much alike in many ways. You just don't get a workout sitting watching a play.

**Q: Do you have any children?**

A: I have a daughter at McCaskey High School and a son at Reynolds Middle School. I raised them to be my soccer teammates. We play in Buchanan Park whenever they'll give me a game.

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**Q: What was the worst job you've ever had growing up?**

The rancid smell of working in a kitchen as a dishwasher every summer sticks out to me.

**Q: If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

I like where I live, but I would like to try living overseas, maybe in Kenya.

**Q: Who was your role model as a child?**

My oldest brother was a hockey star and friendly guy who could pull people together.

**Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?**

Moving to Lancaster and fitting in. I never thought I would here.