Spring 2012 Commencement Ceremonies

Two commencement ceremonies will be held at Millersville University this spring. The graduate ceremony will be held on Friday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium for students receiving a master’s degree and/or post-bachelor’s teacher certification. The undergraduate ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 12 at 10 a.m. at Biemesderfer Stadium for students receiving a baccalaureate degree.

The keynote speaker for the undergraduate commencement ceremony will be James E. Nevels, founder and chairman of the Swarthmore Group. He will also receive an honorary degree at the ceremony.

Nevels was appointed by the President of the United States to the advisory committee of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. He served a three-year term as chairman from 2005-2007. Nevels was also appointed by the governor of Pennsylvania as chairman of the Philadelphia school system, the eighth largest school district in the United States.

For more information, visit the commencement website at millersville.edu/academics/commencement.

Educator of the Year Recipient

Through his scholarly expertise and commitment to student learning, Dr. John Wallace, professor of biology at Millersville University, has been a role model to his students and his fellow faculty since he came to Millersville in 1998. For his dedication to the University, Wallace has been selected to receive the second annual Educator of the Year Award. He will be honored at the undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 12, 2012.

“Dr. Wallace was an outstanding nominee for this award,” said Dr. Laurie Hanich, educator of the year award committee chair. “Dr. Wallace’s commitment to student learning is demonstrated by his constant supervision and collaborative efforts with students on research projects, many resulting in presentations and peer-reviewed publications.”

As a medical and aquatic entomologist, Wallace teaches a variety of courses at Millersville, such as entomology, aquatic biology, ecology and evolution and forensic entomology. He works closely with his students in laboratory settings, studying a wide range of topics and generating important scientific data, which many of his students present at international, national, regional and local scientific conferences. Wallace also advises students on co-ops and internships, as well as serves as the faculty advisor for the Entomology Club at Millersville University.
“Being selected as Educator of the Year is humbling because I know of so many faculty doing amazing things across all disciplines here at Millersville University,” said Wallace. “I believe that we do not sign up for these positions for such accolades; however, these awards validate that we are on the right path in terms of both our own raison d’etre as professors but also in terms of producing well-rounded, critically thinking Millersville University graduates as productive citizens in society.”

His work and passion go beyond Millersville University as well. “My research and service life takes me to all parts of the world on projects such as one that deals with a neglected tropical disease, Buruli Ulcer,” said Wallace. In addition, Wallace is one of 15 Board Certified Forensic Entomologists in North America, a Diplomate with the American Board of Forensic Entomologists and a Fellow in the American Academy of Forensic Science.

The Educator of the Year Award recipient must exhibit the following criteria: Involves students actively in the learning process; synthesizes complex concepts and bodies of knowledge into well-communicated material; is approachable to students through fostering an environment of personal and professional concern and committed to what is going on not only within his/her department, but also throughout the University.

The Educator of the Year Award Committee is composed of seven members: Hanich, educational foundations; Dr. Carrie Smith, sociology/anthropology; Dr. Michelle White, academic advising; and Dr. Yuan Zhong, biology, as well as Millersville alum Kathy Brabson and graduate student Candace Williams.

**New Campus Arts Center to Honor the Winters**

When the new Visual and Performing Arts Center officially opens this fall on campus it will be called the Dr. Charles R. and Mrs. Anita B. Winter Center. The Winters have been long-time benefactors of the University and contributed a major gift in 2008 to the renovation and expansion of Lyte Auditorium into the University’s Visual and Performing Arts Center. Dr. Winter is a world-renowned medical surgeon, practicing for more than 40 years in Lancaster County.

Several areas inside the building will be named in recognition of University donors. They include:

*Dr. and Mrs. Sam Lombardo; The Elva Biemesderfer Family; John Frederick Steinman Foundation; Millersville University Alumni Association/E.O. Lyte; Student Services, Inc.; Brossman Foundation; Karen Ashkar Murley; Eleanor Isaacson; Dr. Bernice Rydell; Carol Scheifele-Holmes; Berk-Tek; PPL; and Renee Genbauffe O’Leary, Ph.D.*
Millersville Takes Steps to Become ‘StormReady’

When it comes to severe weather, ask yourself: “How prepared am I?” Millersville University asked that question in the spring of 2011, and since then, the University’s Center for Disaster Research and Education (CDRE) has been working to become one of only four universities in the state to receive StormReady certification.

A nationwide, voluntary initiative designed by the National Weather Service (NWS), the StormReady program helps to better communicate and prepare citizens during severe weather.

Efforts towards the certification process have gone beyond determining better preparedness and planning measures for the University as a whole. “A group of undergraduate students has been involved with this project from the beginning, and they are interested in sharing the benefits of this information with their fellow students,” said Dr. Sepi Yalda, professor of meteorology, coordinator of Millersville’s master of science in emergency management program and director of the CDRE, through which this certification is being completed.

The students are working on developing targeted training that will provide students, faculty and staff on campus with information about severe and hazardous weather and safety issues associated with these events.

“We have seen a lack of weather awareness on campus,” said Kasey Voges, senior occupational safety and environmental health major at Millersville who is one of the students involved. “This is a problem when the community does not understand the risks of severe weather and unknowingly endangers themselves and others during an emergency. The StormReady certification for Millersville University will help make our campus be more prepared to handle weather emergencies.”

Having filled out the application and completed the verification visit last summer, which brought a team from the NWS to Millersville to determine potential deficiencies, the group collaborating on this project at Millersville worked to respond to items identified in the summary statement post-visit.

Pete Anders, Millersville University’s chief of police, who was asked by Yalda to serve as emergency management coordinator from the University’s Emergency Management Team for the StormReady project, expects to have the application process completed by the end of April.

“This certification will be a statement to the commitment the University has made toward keeping our students, staff and visitors safe from weather emergencies, as well as families in our neighborhoods through joint University/community communication and preparedness,” said Anders. “Projects such as StormReady give us a foundation to plan, respond and recover from weather crises.”
Once Millersville’s application is approved the University will receive official recognition as a StormReady community – a status that lasts for three years from the date of the formal announcement.

For more information on the StormReady program, visit www.stormready.noaa.gov/.

MU Alumni Award Recipients Named

The Millersville University Alumni Association (MUAA) has announced the three individuals to be honored on Saturday, April 28 during the University’s annual Honors and Awards Convocation. This event will be held at 10 a.m. in Marauder Court of the Student Memorial Center on campus.

Patricia DeGrandis Doll, of Lancaster, has been named the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. This award is given to a graduate of Millersville University. Doll, who graduated in 1982 with a degree in speech communication, distinguished herself as a successful entrepreneur, businesswoman, volunteer and humanitarian. In addition to founding Publicity Works, an award-winning advertising and marketing agency, she has been mentioned as Top Forty Under 40 and the Governor’s Pa. Best 50 Women in Business. She has also received numerous honors and awards including the “Volunteer Spotlight Recognition” from the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce; a Pa. Governor’s Proclamation for her “SOS – Save our Strings” outreach initiative; the David Rockefeller distinguished BCA Award: Top 10 Companies Supporting Arts in America and a nomination for the national Mr. Holland’s Opus Board.

Dr. George F. Stine, of Lancaster, has been named the 2012 Honorary Alumni Award recipient. This award is presented to a living individual (non-Millersville University alumnus) who has performed continuous exemplary service to the University or made significant contributions of time, talent or wealth to the University. Stine, a Millersville University professor emeritus (1966-2004), served as assistant dean of men and a faculty member of the sociology/anthropology department, was one of the founding members of the sociology department and played a significant role in the gerontology program at Millersville by offering courses and supervising student internships at local retirement communities. Stine has chaired the Millersville Employees Dedicated to the Advancement of Learning Fund program and worked with the University’s annual fund campaign, the Millersville University Foundation Board and the Noonan Endowment Fund Committee. He also assists Millersville’s alumni services office in keeping alumni, retirees and friends connected within the Lancaster and Naples, Fla., areas. He and his wife Helen have also established a freshman sociology scholarship.
William Martin, of Lititz, has been named the 2012 Outstanding Volunteer Service Award recipient. Martin, a 1981 graduate of Millersville University, served as president of the MUAA from 2009-2011, providing exceptional service to his alma mater in various capacities including serving as an advisor to the Millersville University Council of Trustees. He currently serves as an alumni representative to the Millersville University Foundation Board of Directors and is a member of the MU Black and Gold Club; he continues to be an active member of the Alumni Board of Directors. He previously served as chairman of the Association’s Student Advancement Committee, where he rejuvenated a program that advocates the positive influences of Millersville students, events and alumni in area businesses and was the impetus to the establishment of the Association’s Information Technology Committee. One of Martin’s major efforts was to increase the amounts of the Association’s athletic and legacy scholarship endowments to provide meaningful help to deserving students, in addition to his funding support to other measures on campus including the library renovation project and erecting the bronze Marauder statue on campus in 2011.

These three awards are sponsored annually by the MUAA. For more information on the 2012 Honors and Awards Convocation, contact the alumni services office at 717-872-3352.

**Green Efforts on Campus: An Update**

Millersville University’s Sustainability Committee, a group of concerned students, faculty and staff, is currently drafting a sustainability policy for the University to help foster sustainable decisions. After an on-campus pilot of the Big Bellies “green” trash compactors, ongoing since last fall, Millersville is continuing to partner with Waste Management, Inc., to establish this May’s commencement as “Zero Waste.”

With a mission to serve as a unifying force for the sustainability efforts on Millersville University’s campus, the sustainability committee has been implementing projects and education since its formation in spring 2010. The committee recognizes and promotes efforts that are already in place to operate a sustainable campus. They also educate the campus and community about environmental and social issues connected to sustainability strategies.

Upcoming projects for this semester include a possible membership in a “green energy” consortium. This could provide “green” energy for the University, in addition to educational opportunities and resources. The idea is still in the conceptual stage, and so far no commitments have been made. According to Dr. Joseph Revelt, institutional research, “Millersville University has the option to purchase some of its energy from ‘green’ sources, as do the rest of us. Frequently these sources are consortiums or companies that generate renewable energy. ‘Green’
electricity is typically more expensive than older forms of electricity that often generate more pollution.”

Other projects on campus will include those within the University’s dining services as they collaborate with other facilities. “We will be working with our grounds crew to collect and transport all food waste off campus for composting. Our previous off-campus vendor could not sustain the service, as it was no longer financially viable,” said Edward Nase, director of dining and conference services. The “Zero Waste” commencement will focus on using “green” single service supplies like cups and plates.

The members of the committee include: Roger Bruszewski, finance and administration, and committee chair; Geoff Beers, student services; Michele Bote, registrar's office; Frederick Eddinger, physical plant and technical operations; David Errickson, purchasing; Dr. Nadine Garner, psychology; Elizabeth Karevicius, finance and administration; Veronica Longenecker, information technologies; Edward Nase, dining and conference services; Revelt; Tom Richardson, student affairs and housing; Dr. Kathleen Schreiber, geography; Patrick Weidinger, human resources; Dr. Daniel Yocom, biology and two student representatives.

For more information on Millersville’s Sustainability Committee contact Revelt at Joseph.Revelt@millersville.edu or 717-871-2390.

**Millersville to Participate in New Study of College and University Policies**

In an effort to assist institutional policymakers, Millersville University will participate in a new study entitled Linking Institutional Policies to Student Success (LIPSS), a project run by Florida State University (FSU) that seeks to determine whether – and which – institutional policies might be leveraged to improve college student persistence and graduation rates at colleges and universities.

Millersville University will receive national visibility and recognition as a foundational participant in the LIPSS project. In addition, Millersville will receive a campus report that compares policies at Millersville University to those at other institutions, as well as free participation in a web-based presentation of the project’s results including a discussion of implications for institutional policies, programs and practices.

“College and university administrators have long struggled to implement institutional policies that foster student success in a way that is both cost effective and consistent with the latest research findings,” according to a news release issued by LIPSS.

Over the past 30 years, hundreds of specific initiatives have been designed to facilitate student engagement during their first year of college – a time during which four-year colleges and universities lose an average of 26 percent of their beginning students. Although these efforts have improved outcomes at countless institutions, such initiatives are often costly and typically serve only a small group of students who participate directly in a given program.
Therefore, the LIPSS project seeks to identify specific institution-wide policies that can be leveraged to increase college student engagement—a key predictor of student grades and persistence that is especially beneficial to underrepresented and academically underprepared students. In collaboration with the National Survey of Student Engagement and the Center for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Innovation at Florida State University, the LIPSS project will survey chief academic officers and chief student affairs officers at 57 bachelor’s degree granting colleges and universities in five state including California, Florida, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Texas. The survey will address institutional policies and practices related to issues, such as assessment, faculty/staff hiring practices, curricular offerings and student services. Data collection will begin in spring of 2012.

For more information on the LIPSS project, visit CHERTI.fsu.edu/LIPSS, or contact Dr. Bradley Cox, assistant professor of higher education in FSU’s College of Education, at 850-644-6446 or COE-LIPSS@fsu.edu.

The University’s IRB is Here to Protect You

If you wish to conduct research on the university level, and either the researcher or the participants are from Millersville University, you will need approval from the Millersville University Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB team of University faculty members and one community member appointed by the Provost that ensures researchers do not place human participants at unnecessary risk during research projects.

“Board members are selected according to the University’s research needs and the individual’s expertise. The IRB is composed of seven volunteer faculty members, one community member and one member of the University administration. These hardworking, dedicated members serve for three-year terms,” said Dr. Michelle White, director of academic advisement and chairperson of the IRB.

The researchers submit to the IRB if they are conducting surveys, interviews or focus groups with human subjects. Faculty, as well as undergraduate and graduate students conducting research, presenting more than minimal risk involving protected populations, dealing with sensitive topics or receiving University funding, must get approval from the IRB. The IRB is also guided by principles laid out in the Belmont Report, Millersville’s adopted statement of ethical principles and guidelines for the protection of human subjects.

If you are designing a research study, here are some important facts you should consider. Survey research is exempt if it is anonymous, does not involve protected populations and does not deal with sensitive topics. Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices is also exempt. Research that is minimal risk can be approved by an expedited review process that takes at least two weeks. Proposals that require full IRB approval will be reviewed at the board’s monthly meetings and in most cases the decision will be made within a week following the meeting.
“The IRB is primarily concerned with the welfare and consideration of the best interests of all participants participating in research within the University and society,” said White.

For more information about the IRB, visit millersville.edu/irb or contact White at michelle.white@millersville.edu.

Third Annual Herbarium Open House

Undergraduate research will be the highlight of Millersville University’s Third Annual Herbarium Open House event, which will take place on April 27 in Roddy Hall room 270, from 7-9 p.m. Millersville students Nate Hartley and Nanette Raczka will be presenting, in addition to Dr. Christopher Hardy, associate professor of biology and keeper of the Herbarium. This event is free and open to the public.

Millersville University’s James C. Parks Herbarium is considered a regional leader in biodiversity research and informatics and contains more than 15,000 preserved plant specimens for research and teaching purposes. Some of the species date back to the beginning days of the University.

“In classes, even in the dead of winter, students can study flowers and leaves of magnolias or spores on ferns preserved in the Herbarium. The specimens here also help to document how the Pennsylvania flora has changed in response to natural or anthropogenic causes,” explained Hardy.

Talking about her work with the impact of climate change and the spread of invasive trees is Raczka, a senior biology major. “An important note about the spread of invasive plants is that they can be a threat to the native biodiversity and can have detrimental impacts ecologically and economically,” explained Raczka, who will also be explaining her upcoming field work, which will take place in the Peruvian Andes, studying the ethno-botany of native Andean potatoes. “The purpose of this trip is to gain an ethnobotanical understanding of such an economically important plant and relay that information to a general audience,” she said.

Hartley, a junior biology major, will be explaining the results of his plant collection project that he completed as part of the “Plant Systematics” course. “I was given the opportunity to find the plants that students pinpointed on the Herbarium’s digital atlas and determine the accuracy of the atlas with regards to the reported locations of the plants. I used a Fischer’s exact test [statistical analysis] to determine the effectiveness of the digital atlas tool,” said Hartley.

The digital plant atlas is published as a combination of a book and a website, which allows for easy access to full-color photographs of seeds, fruits, buds, leaves and flowers. This tool is meant for people from all around the world to input their findings into one atlas, as opposed to just a handful of professional botanists exclusively. “Since the conception of this project we have made 18 new county records and one new state record,” explained Hartley.

For more information on the third annual herbarium open house, visit herbarium.millersville.edu or contact Hardy at Christopher.Hardy@millersville.edu or 717-871-2312.
Fashion and Dance through the Ages at The Ware Center

What better way for a costume shop to celebrate an anniversary than with costumes? That is exactly how Millersville University’s Costume Rental Shop will celebrate on May 5 as they join together with Kinetics Dance Theatre to present “Fashion and Dance through the Decades.” This event, a cavalcade of costumes and parade of dance styles, will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Millersville University Costume Rental Shop through five centuries of costumes, music and dance at 7:30 p.m. at The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster.

Come and be entertained by costumed dancers in Queen Elizabeth I’s court, enjoy the artificial behavior of the minuet and the playfulness of a jig, while being shocked by the ‘scandalous’ waltz! This evening also showcases the changes in social dance styles and the concurrent changes in musical trends and clothing fashions throughout the 20th-century in Kinetics Dance Theatre artistic director Priscilla Kaufhold’s ever popular “Dancin’ through the Decades.”

This event is open to the public. Tickets cost $15 for general admission, $10 for seniors and students and $5 for children 12 and younger. Tickets may be purchased online, at MUTicketsOnline.com, at the Student Memorial Center Ticket Office (Room 103), by calling the Ticket Office at 717-872-3811 or at The Ware Center Box Office (42 N. Prince St., Lancaster). Ticket Offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Proceeds will underwrite the MU Costume Rental Shop’s educational outreach programs including the Historical Fashion Shows, presented at schools and social clubs. For more information, contact Kaufhold, costume shop manager, at Priscilla.Kaufhold@millersville.edu or 717-872-3767.

MU Student Places in Top 25 of PASSHE Competition

Last year students from the 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities interested in becoming entrepreneurs were invited to showcase their talents by developing a start-up business plan as part of the first PASSHE Student Business Plan Competition. Daniella Singleton, a senior broadcasting major at Millersville University, did not win the overall competition but did place in the top 25 out of 236 total entrees.

Singleton received a plaque at the award dinner, which was held at the Capitol in Harrisburg on April 2, 2012. Twenty-eight Millersville students entered the competition and the overall winner of the competition received a grand prize of $10,000.

Singleton’s proposed plan involved a promotions company centered on entertainment, music and performing arts. The company, entitled “Anchor Promotions,” and its plan, outlined what the company stood for including a mission and vision statement, as well as its goals and objectives for the future. The business plan was also Singleton’s final project in her “Theatre Management Class,” taught by Victor Capece, assistant professor of communication and theatre.
“A large part of the business plan was the budget and financial breakdowns of salaried employees and staff and how much money all of the proposed goals would cost,” said Singleton, whose plan also consisted of a realistic business proposal, in which all contestants were required to state why her plan should be chosen and what unique elements it would offer.

The idea came to Singleton after she pictured her life post-graduation. “I love working in promotions and hope I will be able to someday, even if I don’t necessarily own my own company. I tried to incorporate everything I am passionate about including music, performing arts, musical theatre and giving back to the community through charity,” explained Singleton.

Having interned with Harvey Owen, director of The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster, Singleton credits her experience with Owen as a smooth transition into formulating this business plan. Through her responsibilities, she learned how to format the actual plan and knew what needed to be included, while also applying the skills she used to promote events at The Ware Center to the business side of her idea.

“Mostly, I had an actual, real-life idea of the types of promotions I wanted to be doing, how much they actually cost to implement and what it actually entailed to do so,” said Singleton.

For more information on the PASSHE Business Plan Competition, visit passhebiz2011.istart.org/.

**Need to Know:**

**Camp FLEIG Kicks Off in Summer 2012**

Having the wellness component of a sports camp while enticing students in other subject areas, like building teamwork and confidence, is Camp FLEIG, the newest camp to hit Millersville University’s campus this summer 2012. Mary Fleig, head coach of the women’s basketball team at Millersville, is teaming up with Student Services, Inc. (SSI), to develop the camp.

FLEIG stands for fitness, leadership, eating healthy, integrity and great times, and is geared toward making certain that each child has the ability to make individual decisions when it comes to peer pressure and setting a certain standard of behavior. The camp was originally founded in March 2011 but will be implemented for the first time this summer with staff who are leaders in the coaching, management, business, fitness, nutrition and youth programming fields.

“There is a strong need in society for young kids to eat healthier and participate in high levels of fitness. I feel strongly about nutrition and exercise at a younger age,” said Fleig.
“SSI is delighted to be able to facilitate additional ways we can become more involved on campus and promote our state-of-the-art facilities, nationally recognized coaching staff and second-to-none academic resources,” Lydia Yeager, SSI.

“Camp FLEIG campers will experience a suite-style residential facility in Shenks Hall for a more up-scale summer camp experience,” said Fleig. The nutrition team for Camp FLEIG has been working with dining and conference services on campus to provide customized daily meals and snacks that fit the camp’s philosophy of eating healthy and making good choices.

Other Millersville University sports camps include Millersville Baseball Camp, Cross Country Camp, Field Hockey Camp, Football Camp, Fred Thompson Basketball School, Soccer Camps, Softball Camp, Coach Fleig’s Basketball Camp, Elite Technique Track & Field Camp, Volleyball Camps, Swimming Programs and Wrestling Camps. For more information on Millersville’s camps, visit the athletic website at millersvilleathletics.com/.

The early bird registration for Camp FLEIG ends on May 1, while the final deadline is June 8. For more information on Camp FLEIG, contact Josh Scholtes, camp director, at 717-871-5831 or info@campfleig.com.

Need to Know:
The Scholarly Publishing Dilemma: What Can Millersville Do?

On Thursday, May 3 the Millersville University Library will present “The Scholarly Publishing Dilemma: What Can Millersville Do?” This event will be held at 3 p.m. in the Ford Atrium, McComsey Hall.

Journal subscription costs have skyrocketed at the same time that library budgets at many universities have decreased. Traditional models of scholarly communication are no longer sustainable. Find out what is causing this dilemma, learn about some alternative models and be part of the discussion about what Millersville University can do to address the problem.

This event will feature the following panelists:
Dr. Rich Clark, professor/meteorology/chair, earth sciences; Jessica George, assistant professor/chair, library; Dr. Stacey Irwin, associate professor, communication & theatre; Dr. Lyman Rickard, professor, chemistry; Dr. Chuck Ward, associate professor/chair, philosophy; and Dr. Marjorie Warmkessel, professor, library.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the MU Library Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/319904604739732 or contact Library.Outreach@millersville.edu.
4/19/2012 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for April 19, 2012.

**Millersville Presents the Annual Excellence and Equity Award**

For her distinguished service to the President’s Commission on Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PCCDI) Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El, psychology, was presented the Excellence & Equity Award on March 28 during the annual Hazel I. Jackson Lecture, which featured best-selling author Terry McMillan.

Smith-Wade-El was selected for her commitment to student success, equity, diversity and community programs. She has been actively involved in the PCCDI since 1997, serving as commission chair from 2001-2005. Smith-Wade-El’s commitment to student success includes serving as faculty advisor to the NAACP College Chapter. She is the chair of the Frederick Douglass Black Culture Celebration and an active member on the Commission of Cultural Diversity. She was pivotal in the early development of the Undergraduate Research Conference and most recently coordinated a group of approximately 50 students to visit a variety of historical and educational African American landmarks in Atlanta. She is directly responsible for founding the African American Studies minor at Millersville, currently serving as the programs director, and was the catalyst for the development of the Latino Studies Program.

**Distinguished Civic Leadership Awards**

The fifth annual Distinguished Civic Leadership Awards, presented by Millersville University’s Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project (CCERP), was held on April 12. The 2012 winners included Tabor Community Services, nonprofit; Community Action Program of Lancaster County, nonprofit; Joe Vulopas, founder of AEVIDUM, a suicide prevention group for teens and young adults; Ashley Christman, Millersville University student with leadership roles in the Boy and Girl Scouts of America; Dr. Kimberly Mahaffy, associate professor and director of Latino studies at Millersville University, for her work on the “We Belong” mural project in Lancaster; Dr. Stacey Irwin, associate professor of communication and theatre, for her creation of “Project Green Lancaster”; Dr. Melvin Allen, founder and director emeritus of CCERP, received the lifetime achievement award for his work with Project Forward Leap and CCERP; and “Auntie” Anne Beiler, of Auntie Anne’s, who received an award based on her national and international community contributions. Beiler was also the event’s keynote speaker.
The purpose of the Distinguished Civic Leadership Awards is to publicly recognize notable civic/community contributions on the part of individuals and entities that have had a positive impact locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

**Faculty and Staff Activities**

**Drs. Leonora Foels** and **Karen Rice**, social work, presented a workshop entitled “Diversity and Social Justice: A Journey of Self-Discovery” at the annual PA-NAME Conference: Transformative Multiculturalism: A Paradigm Shift to Create, Innovate and Engage, which was held March 30-31, 2012, at Millersville University.

**Dr. Blaise W. Liffick**, computer science, has been reappointed as Commission Member of the ABET Computing Accreditation Commission for 2012-2013. Responsibilities of commissioners include acting as Team Chair for on-site accreditation evaluations of college and university computing programs.

**Dr. Ying Wushanley**, wellness and sport sciences, recently had three articles published: “Tiger Woods” in *Sports in America from Colonial Times to the Twenty-First Century: An Encyclopedia*, “Basketball China” and “Yao Ming” in *Sports Around the World: History, Culture and Practice*.

**Who Makes Millersville Special**

This edition of the Exchange features Holly Ott, assistant director of internships, experiential learning and career management at Millersville.

**Q: How long have you been working at Millersville University?**
A: I have been employed at Millersville since 2010.

**Q: Where did you attend college? What degree(s) did you earn?**
A: I received a bachelor’s degree in communication/journalism (public relations emphasis) and a master’s degree in communication studies from Shippensburg University.

**Q: What services does the Office of Experiential Learning and Career Management offer? Why is this type of office important for a university to have?**
A: Our office, commonly known as “ELCM,” houses Career Services, the Internship Office and Volunteer Central, all of which work to prepare students to be successful, professional and civically engaged alumni. We play a vital role in assisting students with career development, obtaining internships and connecting with the community through volunteer and service-learning opportunities.
Q: What does your role as director of internships entail?
A: I am responsible for overseeing and facilitating our academic internship and co-op program, which includes developing and maintaining strong partnerships with businesses and organizations in the community, assisting students with internship searches and career development and connecting Millersville University students and faculty with businesses, government and human service agencies. My role is to illustrate the value of completing an academic internship and to emphasize the experience that students gain through an internship related to their academic studies here and abroad.

Q: How many internships did you complete when you were in college? What were they?
A: As a student, I completed three academic internships. Two of my internship experiences were completed at the Chambersburg Public Opinion (one in layout and design and one in copy editing) and the third was completed at the Daily Local News in West Chester, Pa., where I was responsible for writing articles for the news and features sections.

Q: Which one was the most memorable? Why?
A: While all my internship experiences contributed greatly to my academic and career goals, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at the Daily Local News because it was my first opportunity to apply the knowledge I gained from the classroom in a new, real-world setting that was outside my comfort zone. I was given the opportunity to cover hard news stories and truly experience a day in the life of a journalist. My workday consisted of anything from covering community events to person-on-the-street interviews to on-the-scene coverage of a car accident. I even got to interview some athletes at the Philadelphia Eagles training camp. Through the internship, I gained valuable, applied experience in my field and for that I will always be grateful.

Q: How often do internships turn into job opportunities for Millersville University students?
A: According to our most recent data, approximately 30 percent of our student interns receive an employment opportunity following the completion of an internship. Recent trends suggest that number will continue to increase.

Q: What advice do you have to ensure students select the right internship for them?
A: Our motto in the office is to encourage students to “do what you love and love what you do.” Internships are an excellent way for students to explore career interests and prepare for post-graduate employment or graduate school. I would encourage students to connect with our staff and also faculty members to discuss their goals and interests prior to selecting an internship.

Q: Has there been a student horror story (internship experience went awry) from your time at Millersville that stands out?
A: Fortunately, I have not encountered any “horror story” experiences throughout my time at Millersville University. I attribute this to our office’s thorough processes/protocol and the strong, ongoing relationships we develop with our community partners.
**Q:** What’s the worst mistake you can make when it comes to obtaining an internship?

A: Aside from not completing an internship at all, I believe the worst mistake one can make is not utilizing the resources our office provides. Our office offers an academic internship program where students receive course credit for completion of an internship. We ensure that our students are gaining valuable, applicable experience in their respective field of study with strong employer partners who are committed to our mission. It is important to choose an internship that will enhance your experience and further develop your skill sets.

**Q:** Where did you grow up?

A: Lebanon, Pa.

**Q:** What do you enjoy most about working closely with the students here on campus?

A: One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is contributing to a student’s development, maturity and professional growth. I enjoy motivating students to take positive steps toward achieving their goals and dreams, and challenging them to “think outside of the box” as they begin building the bridge between college and a career.

**Q:** What’s your favorite color? Why?

A: Black. It matches everything!

**Q:** Do you have a favorite quote? If so, would you share it with us?

A: “Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.”

**Q:** What’s the first thing you do at the end of a long workday?

A: I have a very energetic miniature dachshund that loves the outdoors, so I enjoy taking long walks/runs with her after work.

**Q:** Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: In addition to working at Millersville University, I would love to enroll in a Mass Media and Communication doctoral program.