Honorary Degree Recipients Announced

James E. Nevels, William J. Reuter and Carlos Graupera will be the recipients of honorary degrees from Millersville University at the spring commencement ceremony on May 12 at 10 a.m. at Chryst Field, Biemesderfer Stadium.

Millersville grants honorary doctoral degrees to individuals of extraordinary accomplishments. As an academic institution, Millersville confers its highest honor on those individuals who have shown remarkable creativity or distinguished themselves through service or scholarship. This year’s recipients are being recognized for extraordinary service as leaders in business, banking and public service.

Nevels, who will present this year’s commencement address, is the non-executive chairman of the board of directors of the Hershey Company. He founded the Swarthmore Group in 1991 and has nearly 30 years experience in the securities and investment industry. In 2004, he was appointed by the President of the United States to the advisory committee of the pension benefit guaranty corporation, where he served a three-year term and served as chairman from 2005-2007. Nevels presently serves on the boards of the Milton Hershey School, Tasty Baking Company and Pro Football Hall of Fame. In 2001, he was appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania as chairman of the Philadelphia School Reform Commission, which he served through September 2007, overseeing the turnaround of the Philadelphia School System, the eighth largest school district in the U.S.

Reuter serves as chairman and chief executive officer of Susquehanna Bancshares, Inc., a financial services holding company with $13.9 billion in assets and includes Susquehanna Bank, which operates 221 branches with more than 3,000 employees in the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as several additional financial service companies that include an asset management company, commercial financing, vehicle leasing and risk management insurance services. Reuter has held leadership roles in numerous professional and community service organizations throughout the Baltimore and Western Maryland areas including chairman of United Way campaigns in both Hagerstown, Md., and Lancaster, Pa. He has also served as vice president, director and chairman of the Maryland Bankers Association. Reuter is currently serving on Meritus Health, Inc., board and its governance, audit and business integrity committee, as well as the Economic Development Company of Lancaster and The Lancaster Alliance.

Graupera has served as the executive director and chief executive officer of the Spanish American Civic Association (SACA) in Lancaster since 1973. He has worked in the field of community development including areas of human services, housing, neighborhood revitalization telecommunications, economic development and charter school initiatives. He was the past chairman of the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs. Under Graupera’s leadership, SACA has expanded to include La Academia Charter School, WLCH-FM 91.3 radio station and SACA Development Corporation. His civic involvement
includes treasurer, Pennsylvania Association of Latino Organizations; board of directors, La Academia Partnership Charter School; president and board of directors, South Central Pennsylvania Sickle Cell Council; and board member for SACA Development Corporation, Tabor Community Services, Inc., Inner City Group and Lancaster Family YMCA.

Dr. Kathryn A. Gregoire to Give Graduate Address

Dr. Kathryn A. Gregoire, professor of social work at Millersville University, will be the keynote speaker for the graduate commencement ceremony at Millersville University on May 11 in Pucillo Gymnasium.

She is currently chairperson of the Department of Social Work, co-coordinator of the master of social work program and is on the faculty of the emergency management master program. After 33 years as an educator at Millersville, Gregoire will retire in June 2012.


During her career, she led the department through the growth of its baccalaureate degree program, maintaining Council on Social Work accreditation and the establishment of the master of social work degree. Gregoire developed and taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in social work and a graduate course in the interdisciplinary MSEM program.

Gregoire brought Native-American cultural programming to the University. She taught and served as a faculty advisor for Lakota Reservation Immersion Experiences in South Dakota and study abroad trips at the University of Nancy, France.

Her work on the connection between child abuse and drug addiction led to a Child Welfare Fellowship from the U.S. Children’s Bureau. Gregoire has received grants, conducted research and published extensively in this field.

She received her bachelor’s degree from University of South Dakota in 1967 and her master’s degree in social work from the University of Tennessee in 1969. In 1988, she completed her Ph.D. in social work from the University of Maryland.

Gregoire has served the local social service community as board president for the Halfway Environment for Alcoholics Recovering, Theater of the Seventh Sister, Recovery Environment Incorporated, and as board vice-president for Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency. She has also held professional leadership positions at the national, state and local levels, among them the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), president of the Pa. Chapter of NASW and president of the Pa. Association of Undergraduate Social Work Education.
MU to Launch Improved Homepage and Map

In an effort to improve Millersville University’s virtual appearance, modifications have been made to the homepage, which should result in a more positive user experience for both internal and external publics. The updated homepage is set to launch the week of May 7, and will feature subtle yet mindful changes for a cleaner, fresher look and feel.

“The website will offer a cleaner approach,” said Michele Spotts, UC&M. “Changes have been made to reduce the clutter, most notably towards the top – the slider and navigation links.”

The sleeker, less cluttered look and feel was accomplished by removing unnecessary words and images and expanding the width of the page, allowing all content featured on the homepage to increase in size and visibility.

In addition, the slider section will not only increase in size it will also be shifted to the left (switching places with the navigation section). Since January 2012, the slider has been used to feature outstanding Millersville University students; this change will highlight Millersville students even more predominantly, making them the first thing visitors see when visiting the homepage.

As part of website launch, the navigation, which provides quick links to some of the most visited pages, will draw visitors attention to the campus directions/map. The online campus map also received a makeover, and will be launched next week as well.

“The campus map has been redesigned to accompany the cleaner look of the homepage, and updated to allow people to search for locations on campus more easily,” said Ryan Griffith, IT.

Feedback on the newly improved website and/or map can be emailed to Millersville’s web team at webteam@millersville.edu.

Millersville Named Top “Green” College

Millersville University has earned a spot in The Princeton Review’s Guide to 322 Green Colleges for its sustainability efforts and environmental initiatives. Of 768 schools that were tallied for green rating scores in 2011, the 322 schools in this guide received scores of 83 or higher. The guide profiles 322 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability in their academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation.

“This achievement shows how hard Millersville University has been working in an effort to go green,” said Roger Bruszewski, vice president for finance and administration. “We will continue to improve our sustainability efforts as more students, faculty and staff get involved to improve our campus even further.”

One of the academic resources mentioned, Millersville’s Center for Environmental Sciences, is dedicated to research and education relating to the understanding, management and protection of the natural resources of the lower Susquehanna River region. The center promotes natural resource conservation and enhances the quality of life of citizens by acting as an intellectual resource to the regional community.

Millersville’s “green” facts also include the percent of food budget spent on local and organic food, waste diversion rate, percentage of school energy from renewable resources, percent of school cleaning products that are green-certified and more.


**Communication and Theatre Courses Get Revamped**

With a new emphasis on social justice, community organizing, negotiation, conflict management and health communication, the communication option in the Department of Communication and Theatre is the latest program at Millersville University to undergo a redesign of its curriculum. The first section of one of the newly designed courses, “Communication, Culture and Community” will be offered this summer.

The main goals of this course are to have students develop an understanding of how community life is created and maintained through communication, while investigating the complex tensions that exist between the needs of individuals and the communities they live in. Additionally, questions surrounding place and identity, conflict and cohesiveness, issues of class, gender, race and ethnicity will be observed as they inflect various dimensions of contemporary life. Lastly, this course will address questions of how one might rebuild a more satisfying community to live in while exploring the problems that arise in contemporary community lifestyles.

“It took about two years to put everything together for the new courses. I drew a lot of inspiration and ideas from friends who have taught similar courses in their institutions to incorporate in our syllabi,” said Dr. Gregory Seigworth, professor of communication.

In comparison to other communication courses, this one will have a broader social orientation and deal with political organizing and agitating, especially the history and impact. Also playing a key role is social media and its modern day role.

This course will connect students with the Lancaster County community through various projects that will take place during the semester. “Community and communication are shaped by context...
of locale,” explained Seigworth. Lancaster County will provide a unique setting in regards to how race and/or ethnicity impact participation in community service organizations.

While it may be too early to determine which groups within Lancaster County the students will work with, the course will require students to write journals about their community undertakings, response papers to the course readings and thought papers that engage conceptual issues. All of these assignments, including the final paper, are designed to make up for the writing requirement that the course fulfills.

“I think that the course will be very interesting to teach and to take. I am excited to think about the course in relation to the evolution of social media and correspondingly the changes in how communities and political/community organizing is done today,” explained Seigworth.

Additional new course offerings in the communication and theatre department include “Communication in the Nonprofit Sector,” “Gender and Communication,” “Small Group Communication,” “Communication and Conflict Management,” “Health Communication” and “The Body in Communication.”

For more information, contact Seigworth at Gregory.Seigworth@millersville.edu or 872-3874.

MU Students Mentor Penn Manor Comets in New Program

A bond has been formed between Millersville University students and Penn Manor High School students through a new mentoring program that began with the start of the 2011-2012 school year. On a weekly basis, Millersville University social work majors team up to provide 10th-grade students from Penn Manor with a connection that aims to increase school engagement, attendance and improve grades. Millersville alumna and Penn Manor school counselor Melissa Ostrowski began the program alongside Deb Meckley, a social worker for Penn Manor School District.

The program, which is funded by the Penn Manor Education Foundation and Lancaster County School Counselors Association, comprises 20 mentor/mentee pairs. The mini-grant awards are typically one-time opportunities, so the budget must stretch to cover supplies for training, field trips, snacks and books for the entire program. Activities include trips to Barnes and Noble, journaling circles, bowling and team-building programs.

“This is a great opportunity for the Millersville students to determine whether they may have a future working within a school system. Millersville University and Penn Manor benefit from collaboration that has evolved from this program,” explained Ostrowski. Meckley has students Megan Martin and Kevin Hurst interning from Temple University, who have worked with the Millersville Mentoring Alliance Program to establish the initial training workshop for mentors and their Penn Manor students. “The program truly has been a partnership between Penn Manor and a number of Millersville University resources,” said Meckley.
The pair believes that other schools should initiate a mentoring program similar to this one because it helps relieve some of the workload for the average public school counselor, which is about 495 students to one counselor. “The students at Penn Manor are gaining first-hand insight from a college student, which in itself can assist with how they envision their own futures. Likewise, the Millersville students are receiving long-term, regular contact with adolescents, which will further their experience in working with different age groups,” said Meckley.

Plans are being developed to determine whether or not the program will continue next year. From the start, Ostrowski and Meckley knew that they would have to monitor the effectiveness of the program by measuring attendance rates, academic grades and student perceptions of belongingness to the school community and disciplinary infractions. “We will have quantitative data to report out,” explained Ostrowski.

In order for Katy Ferrier, a graduate student at Millersville University, to complete her Secondary School Counseling certification, she is completing her practicum in the counseling office at Penn Manor High School. Working with the mentoring program is one of the components of her practicum experience. “The practicum is directly related to what I want to do career wise, because my goal is to become a school counselor at the high school level,” said Ferrier.

Ostrowski and Meckley have one social event each month to bring all of the participants together, and this month will include a geocaching event, which is a treasure-hunting game through the use of a GPS, around Millersville University’s campus. In addition, the mentors will be presenting a book written by Denzel Washington to their assigned mentee. The book, which contains essays about Washington’s own mentors, will have a note inscribed by each mentor on the inside front cover for their mentee. “This will be a nice memento of the relationship,” said Ostrowski.

**VPAC: New Look, New Director**

Along with the opening of the new Visual and Performing Arts Center (VPAC) at Millersville University comes the appointment of a new director, Laura Kendall, who started April 23.

Kendall holds a master’s degree in marketing, communication and advertising, in addition to a bachelor’s degree in theater from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. A few of her past positions include working at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland as the director of arts programming and an adjunct faculty member. Additionally, she was the assistant director of community engagement and learning at the Lied Center for Performing Arts and the director of family theater and programs at the Lincoln Community Playhouse, both in Lincoln, Neb.

Kendall’s professional affiliations include the Downtown Cleveland Alliance as a city advocates member in 2011 and co-chair of New Colleagues Sessions for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters from 2010-2011. Most recently she has served as a panelist and speaker for the League of Innovation for Community Colleges and presented on “Branding” at the Pennsylvania Presenters Conference, both in 2011.
New Assistant VP for Facilities

Thomas Waltz has recently been appointed assistant vice president for facilities at Millersville University, effective May 2. He reports to the vice president for finance and administration.

Waltz, who holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Maryland, comes to Millersville after his recent retirement from the United States Navy, having achieved 20 years of honorable service.

During his career with the Navy, Waltz served in various locations within the United States, as well as Fallujah, Iraq, acting as a public works department production officer, construction battalion officer, naval construction force liaison/planning officer, resident officer in charge of construction, civil affairs and information operations officer, director-regional facility service contracts, supervisory general engineer, and most recently, director of the facilities engineering and acquisition division in Bethesda, Md.

He has significant professional training in contracting and leadership including government contract law, architect-engineer, facilities service support, facilities engineering leadership, public work management, construction and services contract management, erosion and sediment control certification and management of medical waste facilities planning.

And the Award Goes to – A Millersville Student

Out of all of the students in the 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities, David Walton, a senior chemistry major with a minor in mathematics at Millersville University, recently won the 2012 Dr. Ali-Zaidi Award for academic excellence. The Ali-Zaidi Award, along with a $1,000 prize and a commemorative medallion, is presented annually to a graduating senior at one of the PASSHE universities. It recognizes outstanding academic achievement and participation in extra- and co-curricular activities. The award, which was presented to Walton during the April Board of Governors meeting, was established by Syed R. Ali-Zaidi, a founding member of the PASSHE Board of Governors.

Award candidates across PASSHE were required to submit an essay on how their institution has prepared them for the next stage of their lives. “My essay talks about how I did not apply myself in academia before I came to Millersville and how indebted I am to the inspiring and knowledgeable faculty who have made learning enjoyable,” said Walton.

Throughout his years at Millersville University, Walton has maintained a GPA of 3.99, while also running cross country and track. Holding more than 14 awards relating to chemistry, mathematics, research and athletics, Walton has also completed three years of independent
research within Millersville’s chemistry department. Additionally, Walton has been a tutor for chemistry and organic chemistry on campus since 2009. “It gives me an excuse to talk about chemistry,” said Walton.

To gain additional hands-on experience, Walton was selected to participate in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, funded by the National Science Foundation, which he completed in the summer of 2011 at North Carolina State University. “I gained a lot of experience using unfamiliar instruments, since I was used to working on different projects at Millersville,” explained Walton. “My days were dedicated to research, which is a lot like graduate school,” said Walton.

Post-graduation, Walton plans on attending the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, Calif., for the Ph.D. program in chemistry. “In the future, I aspire to be a professor teaching organic or inorganic chemistry at a university where I can conduct research but also teach undergraduates,” said Walton.

Photo caption (L-R): Dr. McNairy, David Walton, Syed Ali-Zaidi, Sarah Darling (who was also honored at the April meeting for her work on the Board of Governors) and Walton’s mother.

Yamaha Takes Center Stage

The arrival of new technology will allow music to be seen and heard in a whole new way for music education students and performers at Millersville University. The new DCFX Disklavier, a nine-foot grand piano, which the University plans to purchase, will offer a unique opportunity for interaction with international piano performances for the University.

According to the Yamaha Corporation of America website, the DCFX includes a visionary Internet-based application that allows teachers and students to collaborate in real time across any geographic distance. It can also synchronize a video recording of any performance with an absolutely precise reproduction by the piano for significant teaching and entertainment applications.

With this electronic technology students will be provided the capability to tutor with internationally famed Yamaha artists, as well as offer performances locally, nationally and internationally.

Selected internships will be available at Yamaha’s Artist Services Studio in New York City for students to learn both the art and business of music.

The nine-foot grand piano was recently unveiled during an event at The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster. Lisa Yiu, a Yamaha artist and music faculty from Manhattan College in New York, performed a piece in New York City to demonstrate the instrument’s capabilities. Millersville senior Paulino Contreras, the 2011 Vyner Award recipient, also performed.
“The DCFX grand piano is the first of its kind in the world and provides the newest technology that will add to the University’s excellence in musical performance, entrepreneurial programming and music education for our students and the region. This will provide students with opportunities to witness world class artist performances, as well as on site, real time distance learning,” said Micheal Houlahan, chair of the department of music at Millersville.

The online “Keys to Success” program is now available to support the purchase and operations of the disklavier at Millersville University. Black and white piano keys will be available for purchase for $300 and $600 respectively by visiting www.buyakey.com/millersville.

**Annual Economics Symposium**

The annual Economics Symposium hosted by Millersville’s economics department on April 24, was an opportunity for alumni, business leaders, parents, faculty and students to honor achievements of economics majors and to explore and discuss student and faculty research.

Students within the economics department presented on various topics: Michael Crescenzo on preservation of Amish culture; Kaleb Koons on Chesapeake Bay clean-up; Eric Moon on fracking; Brett Sawyer on Wikipedia; Chaney Hand on credit card debt; Ryan McCauley on Lancaster County’s Ready2Work program; David Robinson on New Jersey’s housing market; and Benjamin Shue on rising corn prices.

“It’s important for our department to honor the hard work and academic achievements of our majors,” explained Dr. Mike Gumpper, professor of economics, who was among the faculty members that made presentations during the symposium.

Gumpper presented on “Economics and Financial Literacy Standards Across the States”; Dr. Ron Baker, associate professor of economics, discussed “Using Laboratory Experiments to Investigate Charitable Giving”; Dr. Ken Smith, associate professor and chair of economics, talked about “Student Employment and Academic Performance: The Role of Financial Support”; and Dr. Sandy McPherson, assistant professor of economics, presented on “Evaluating and Forecasting Local Employment Trends.”

During the symposium, Millersville University alumnus Jan Graybill, class of ’80, a certified financial planner, senior partner and vice chairman of Legacy Planning Partners (LPP), an independent financial planning firm that provides financial advice and services to individuals and businesses, was this year’s honorary inductee into the Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) international honor society of economics. LPP is an independent financial planning firm that provides financial advice and services to individuals and businesses.

Graybill was not the only inductee into the Millersville University Alpha Sigma Chapter of ODE. Eleven Millersville University students were inducted including Matthew Croyle, Ashley Draper, Kimberly Goody, Joseph Hunter, Kaleb Koons, Courtney Lawson, Eric Moon, Phuoc Phan, Adam Schickling, Benjamin Shue and Dylan Steele.
In addition, three awards were given out. The Fulton Bank Award was presented to Phan, a dual major in business and economics with a cumulative GPA of 3.66, for outstanding academic scholarships in the fields of money, credit and banking. The Economics Endowment Scholarship, presented by the economics department to an economics major who demonstrated all around outstanding academic achievement with preference given to a student with financial need, went to Patrick Hollowell, a junior financial economics major with an overall GPA of 3.51. The Student Research Award in Economics, sponsored by Graybill and LPP, for the best research project as judged by the economics department faculty, went to Koons and Hand.


**Two Students Discover Bond Through Class Speech**

Last year the country recognized the 10th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, remembering the tragedy, lives lost, as well as the bonds formed between people and a country that came together. The attacks on 9/11 brought many people together, and for two Millersville University students a recent class speech revealed a bond neither knew existed.

The assignment, present an “About Me” speech to the class, was given as a way for students in the “Introduction to Speech” course to get to know each other. “I choose to speak on 9/11 because I know the day affected everyone but it very much so impacted New Yorkers and the families of respondents,” said Natalie Medina, Millersville University freshman. “The events from that day made me who I am today and that’s why I shared my perspective with the class.”

Although Medina was eight years old, vivid pictures and memories from that day are still fixed in her mind. At the time she lived in Queens, New York, and Medina said after her school was evacuated she could see the towers burning from the parking lot. When she got home from school, Medina’s mother informed her that her father, a detective with 16 years of service, was a second responder on the scene and was caught in the third tower about to fall. Fortunately, Medina’s father was able to escape and stayed for days looking through debris with the other rescuers.

Listening to Medina’s speech that day was freshman Lindsey Acevedo. “I was amazed that someone at Millersville, let alone in my class, had gone through the same experience as me,” said Acevedo, who was also eight years old living in Queens and had similar memories of 9/11. “It showed me that the world is smaller than we think and that someone out there can always relate to what you have been through.”

The two students, both biology majors, soon realized they shared yet another connection. After getting to know one another, they discovered that Medina’s mother and Acevedo’s aunt were high school friends, and the two had even met before when they were younger. “Our families
knew each other in New York but became disconnected during the move to Lancaster,” said Acevedo. “However, because Natalie and I met in a speech class, we were able to reunite our family friendship.”

Regional Call for Art Entries

Millersville University is seeking entries for a juried art exhibit being held as part of Millersville’s Four Corners Summer Festival. All artwork submitted is to be thematically related to the notion of “Intrigue.”

“The theme ‘Intrigue’ can be interpreted in anyway by the artist. Is it political? Is it social? It is mysterious? It is up to the artists,” said Victor Capecce, professor of communication and theatre at Millersville University and director of Millersville’s Four Corners Summer Festival.

The competition is open to all artists, amateur or professional, 18 years of age or older and can be any medium (including videos and photos). The work must be original and completed without professional supervision. The requirements for the artwork include: Two-dimensional artwork must be prepared for hanging; three-dimensional artwork must not exceed four inches in any one direction and may not exceed 50 pounds. Artwork must also have been completed within the last two years.

The winning artwork of “Intrigue” including the People’s Choice Award winner will be exhibited at The Ware Center, Millersville University Lancaster, beginning First Friday of August until August 24. The exhibit is sponsored by Millersville University and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

The deadline for entry submission of JPEG images on CDs is June 1. Entry forms are available on the Four Corners Festival website, www.millersville.edu/fourcorners/. For more information, or for entry forms, contact Capecce at Victor.Capecce@millersville.edu.

Need to Know: Millersville Upgrades IDs

Millersville University has announced a program to upgrade photo IDs for students, faculty and staff. The University is offering a sticker that has an expiration date, so that IDs comply with new voter registration laws in advance of the fall elections. In addition, the University is offering to have IDs issued prior to 2008 swiped to make sure they don’t contain social security numbers on the magnetic stripe.

If you need an expiration sticker and/or your card swiped, please bring your ID for upgrading at the following times and locations – no appointment necessary:
Thursday, May 3 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Student Memorial Center lobby by Juice Bar, Adams House, Stayer Hall lobby and Boyer Building ID office.

Friday, May 4 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at McComsey Hall lobby, Adams House, Lyle Hall and Boyer Building ID office.

Wednesday, May 9 from 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. in Boyer Building ID office.

Tuesday, May 15 from 6 – 7 a.m. in Palmer Building and 5 – 7 p.m. in Boyer Building ID office.

Thursday, May 17 from 6 – 7 a.m. in Palmer Building and 5 – 7 p.m. in Boyer Building ID office.

The Boyer Building ID Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. It will also be open May 19 from 8 a.m. – noon for Placement Testing IDs.

For more information, contact Ken Dearstyne at Kenneth.Dearstyne@millersville.edu or Veronica Longenecker at Veronica.Longenecker@millersville.edu.

Need to Know: Alumni & Friends Travel Program 2013

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Alumni & Friends Travel Program invites the entire Millersville community – faculty, staff, retirees, alumni, students and the community/friends and family to its 2013 Passport to Travel. Trips include:

- **Bali to Bangkok**, January 21 – February 10, 2013: 21-day cruise-tour with voyages to antiquity. Prices starting at only $4,995 per person including three nights pre-cruise in Bali, three nights post-cruise in Bangkok, plus two-day air excursion to Angkor Wat. For more information about Bali to Bangkok, visit alumnivacations.com/component/content/article/475.

- **San Francisco & Wine Country**, August 16-23, 2013: 8-day tour to San Francisco and the California wine country. Price is $2,079 per person. For more information about San Francisco & Wine country, visit alumnivacations.com/component/content/article/476.

- **Mosaic Masterpiece**, September 18-29, 2013: 10-day cruise from Barcelona to Lisbon on Oceania’s newest Ship Riviera. Prices starting at only $3,854 per person including roundtrip air from Philadelphia, prepaid gratuities and $100 per stateroom onboard credit. For more information about Barcelona to Lisbon, visit alumnivacations.com/component/content/article/478.

- **Splendors of South Africa & Victoria Falls**, November 3-14, 2013: An unforgettable adventure from Cape Town to Johannesburg. Price is $4,988 per person including all intra-tour air. For more information about Splendors of South Africa & Victoria Falls, visit alumnivacations.com/component/content/article/479.

For more information on the 2013 Passport to Travel program, contact Steven A. DiGuiseppi, PASSHE alumni travel coordinator and assistant to the vice president for alumni and community relations, at 717-872-3352 or Steven.DiGuiseppi@millersville.edu.
5/3/2012 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for May 3, 2012.

2012 Retirement Reception

University faculty and staff who recently retired were honored at a reception on campus April 5.

Retirees honored included (L-R) Dr. Colleen Stameshkin, associate professor in philosophy; JoAnne Kelchner, assistant bursar; Barbara Waltman, head women’s lacrosse coach in intercollegiate athletics; Michael Ondisco, director of communications and network services in information technology; Dr. Perry Gemmill, professor in applied engineering, safety and technology; Dr. Kathryn Gregoire, professor in social work and Robert Pfeiffer, automotive mechanic supervisor in maintenance operations, vehicle operations.

Faculty and Staff Activities

Drs. Kendra Saunders and Lisa House, counseling and human development, presented a workshop titled “Embracing our Differences” at the Global Psychology Conference at St. Francis College in Brooklyn on April 14. Saunders also presented “Re-Shaping Body Image” to junior high and high school students in local districts at the IU-13 Day of Peace Conference, April 13.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, presented a program of her original poetry in celebration of National Poetry Month at the Players’ Club in New York on April 19. On April 22, she sang as the alto ringer in the spring concert of the Richmond Hill Sacred Music Chorale in Queens, New York, featuring works by Mozart, “The Five Mystical Songs” with poetry of George Herbert, set by Ralph Vaughan-Williams and Gabriel Fauré’s “Requiem.”

Dr. John Wallace, biology, was awarded a continuation on his blackfly surveillance grant ($9,500) from the Hunterton County Vector Control Program in Hunterton County, New Jersey, for 2012. The grant is to continue surveillance and control of nuisance black flies on the Raritan
River in Hunterton County, N.J. Recently, Wallace (co-principal investigator) and collaborators (Eric Benbow, principal investigator, and Jen Picard, co-principal investigator, from the University of Dayton) were awarded a $3,000 grant from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences for the proposal titled “Aquatic Microbial Communities to Estimate the Postmortem Submersion Interval.” And, Wallace co-authored a paper titled “Assessment of Decomposition Studies Indicates Need for Standardized and Repeatable Research Methods in Forensic Entomology” that was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Forensic Research*.

**Retired Faculty**

Dr. Jack Fischel, professor emeritus, had his 10,000-word essay, “Recent Books on the Holocaust, 2000-2011” published as the feature article in the May issue of CHOICE.

**Congratulations to**

Ethan Hulsey, University Communications & Marketing, and his wife Trista, on the birth of their baby girl, Jocelyn Faith Hulsey, on April 20.

Damian Pitts, intercollegiate athletics, and his spouse Meredith, had a baby boy on March 10. His name is Samuel James Pitts.

**Obituary**

Paul S. Belgrade, 65, died April 15. Belgrade taught English and journalism at Millersville University for 25 years, retiring in 2005.

Charles Imbrie Kent, III, 98, died March 17. He worked at Millersville University as the director of student personnel and became the associate vice president for academic affairs for 23 years, retiring in 1977.

Myrtle S. Pugh, 89, of Lancaster, died April 12. She had worked for Student Services, Inc., at Millersville University, retiring in 1975.

**Who Makes Millersville Special**

This issue of the Exchange features Dr. Christine Filippone, assistant professor of art & design at Millersville.

Q: How long have you been teaching at Millersville University?
A: Two and a half years.

Q: In your professional opinion, what is the most aesthetically pleasing location on campus? Why?
A: The area around Swan Pond is very pretty, of course, but the late 19th-century neo-Gothic (with Romanesque elements) Biemesderfer Center most impressed me when I first arrived on campus. I grew up in a Victorian
house in Philadelphia, so it felt at once familiar and grand. I plan to incorporate Biemesderfer into discussions of architectural history.

**Q: Do you remember how old you were when you first caught the art bug?**
A: I started drawing obsessively before I can even remember—I have a flash of a memory from the age of two. My mother, who encouraged me, couldn’t keep enough paper in the house. A visit to the Rodin museum in Philadelphia when I was six or seven inspired my love of line and form. I took watercolor lessons for many years as a teenager with my aunt, Fuguet Filippone, who was also an important influence.

**Q: Why did you choose to specialize in contemporary art?**
A: As much as I love art visually, I am also fascinated by the ideas that art, and especially contemporary art, engages. One of the things I like best about art history is that it incorporates philosophy, history, religion, politics, language, science, etc.—all aspects of culture. I have too many interests to be limited to one knowledge discipline.

**Q: You did you dissertation on Science, Technology and Utopias in the Work of Contemporary Women Artists, which was supported by a number of fellowships. Why that topic? What was the most important thing you learned from it?**
A: The preceding answer helps to address this question. Also, I have been interested in science and technology for many years. My older brother is a nuclear physicist at Caltech in Pasadena. My siblings, cousins and I grew up watching Star Trek and all things sci-fi and we read all the sci-fi classics. When my brother was 12 he and my cousin built a planetarium in the basement using my uncle’s WWII parachute to simulate the night sky and a homemade star projector. When I was eight years old I helped my brother build a cosmic ray detector in the dining room! My interest in feminism grew from childhood concerns with inequality, gender, racial and otherwise. My best friend from grade school was African American (I grew up in West Philadelphia and went to school with Will Smith, in fact). I realized fairly early that girls/women do not have the same opportunities as boys/men and when I discovered that women are paid 77 cents for each dollar men earn for the same work, gender equality became an important issue for me. The most important thing I learned from my dissertation was that women artists in the 1960s and 70s, in the midst of the feminist movement and at the height of the Cold War, paradoxically embraced science and technology as symbols of progress, but they also saw these historically masculine domains of knowledge and power as cultural monoliths that needed to be questioned.

**Q: In the U.S., how many states have you lived, worked in or traveled to as an art professional?**

**Q: Which location and/or which job was your favorite? Why?**
A: My favorite job was my position as executive director of The Print Center, an arts organization dedicated to contemporary printmaking and photography in Philadelphia. It consists of three galleries and a store, which features work by more than 75 artists from around the world. It was an important responsibility to serve as director of this nearly 100 year-old institution. The
Print Center (formerly The Print Club of Philadelphia) donated its collection of 1,000 prints to the Philadelphia Museum of Art in the 1950s, forming the core of the museum’s now formidable print collection.

Q: You’ve also traveled outside of the United States for art, even extending the opportunity for students to study abroad. Where have those trips taken you?
A: I studied abroad for a semester in Italy during my master’s program, and conducted research for my thesis in Barcelona, Spain. I strongly advocate study abroad for all students, which I think is almost always transformative. I’ve led study abroad trips to Greece, Spain and I brought Millersville students to Peru earlier this year. I’ve also traveled to France, Germany, Switzerland, Guatemala, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

Q: What is your favorite part about leading study abroad trips for students? Is there a common reaction from students during those life-changing experiences?
A: I love when students are as excited as I am to see something they’ve learned about in class. Watching students marvel at the Parthenon in Greece or Machu Picchu in Peru makes me feel that I have successfully passed on the wonder of human accomplishment and a deep interest in culture and history.

Q: Do you have a favorite artist?
A: I really don’t have a favorite artist—it would be entirely too difficult to choose. Some favorite contemporary artists include Alice Aycock, William Kentridge, Martha Rosler and Wafaa Bilal.

Q: Do you have a favorite piece or collection of artwork?
A: This is also difficult. I will always love Rodin, but I grew up about a mile from the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pa., and was lucky enough to work there one summer years ago. The Barnes houses the most impressive collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings in the U.S., so this is certainly my favorite collection. I took Millersville University students there last year to see the works in their original location, which is about to close forever. I also love Spanish Baroque painting (i.e., Velasquez) and works inspired by those masters—paintings by the American artist John Singer Sargeant are a guilty pleasure.

Q: What was the most memorable part of your work on the Millersville University/Latino Community Mural Project?
A: The most memorable part of this project was learning about the experiences of immigration and cultural assimilation of members of the Latino community in Lancaster, and importantly, seeing students develop an awareness of people from other countries and cultures.

Q: What is the most difficult part of being professor?
A: The most difficult part of being a professor is the many administrative duties that take time away from students and from research.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of being a professor?
A: It is most rewarding to witness the moment of discovery of an idea. In my classes these often come from class discussions, interactions with other students and sometimes from conversations
with visiting artists or curators. Three students cried in my contemporary art class this term in response to works of art and the ideas behind them. This is certainly inspiring and rewarding.

**Q: Are you ever blown away by the talent of your students?**
A: Certainly. The talents I’ve witnessed in my students have come in many forms—intellectual curiosity, analytical skills, interpersonal skills, leadership, emotional intelligence. All of these impress me.

**Q: What is your favorite thing to teach students?**
A: Honestly, I love to help students think critically, not only about art, but about society and about their own opinions and assumptions. For me, this is one of the most important functions of higher education.

**Q: If you could describe yourself in one word, what would it be? Why?**
A: Driven… and funny. I was actually designated “Class Clown” in high school. I think perhaps my sense of humor is too dry for the classroom. I often intentionally miss-label slides of myself at important monuments, i.e., “Angelina Jolie at the Parthenon,” and students never laugh. Maybe they think it’s really Angelina. 😊

**Q: Do you have a favorite season? Why?**
A: Fall used to be my favorite season, but now as a professor, I prefer summer. 😊 It’s a great time to travel, read and cycle. I also have a pool—perfect for relaxing.

**Q: Do you remember what your favorite toy was when you were growing up?**
A: Naturally I had Star Trek figures, which were great for imagining far-away travels—consistent with my “on-world” travels.