Millersville Embraces Arts Learning in the 21st Century

From a 41-unit Clavinova digital piano laboratory to a Disklavier performance-reproducing concert grand piano, to a state-of-the-art recording studio and performance spaces, Millersville University’s new Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center is a true, premiere performing arts center for arts learning in the 21st century.

The installation of the new Clavinova digital piano lab makes Millersville University’s Yamaha Piano Laboratory the country’s largest. “The Clavinova is a multipurpose platform providing traditional piano instruction, multi-track sequencing and Internet connectivity,” explains Laura Kendall, director of the Winter Center. “Elements of the new pianos replace traditional classroom pianos, while offering vastly wider access to 21st-century teaching methods and materials.”

The Yamaha DCFX Disklavier’s RemoteLive technology enables a pianist to perform in one location and have his or her keystrokes and pedal movements transmitted live, in real time, to other networked Disklavier pianos anywhere in the world. Combining perfectly synchronized video and audio plus MIDI broadcast from a single location to multiple locations.

“Millersville music students will enjoy the Disklavier’s numerous performance and practice benefits including its recording and playback capabilities, as well as accompaniment features that can even simulate a live orchestra,” explained Kendall.

Students from the theater and art and design departments will also learn to use the most current lighting and sound design equipment and how to display work in a climate controlled art gallery.

“Students will have the opportunity to interact with the visual and performing arts in one building, while being connected to the University’s Ware Center facility in downtown Lancaster. To succeed in the workforce of today and tomorrow, students need to be able to make non-linear connections, be empathetic, have a global understanding that encompasses different cultures, and be able to lead and work in teams,” said Kendall. “Students who engage with the visual and performing arts are building these skills daily, learning to become active and engaged citizens and productive members of society, regardless of their career path. The Winter Center becomes an interactive place for all students on campus and the community to participate, perform and experience the arts.”

After more than two years of renovations the 84,000-square-foot center opened its doors just in time to welcome students back for the start of the fall 2012 semester.
Back to School!

As summer comes to an end, the academic calendar begins at Millersville University. Listed below are important ‘back to school’ dates:

- **August 22**: Orientation check-in for new undergraduate students with fewer than 30 credits (9 a.m.-4 p.m.).
- **August 25**: Residence halls open for new undergraduate students with 30+ credits, transfers and returning students (check-in: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.).
- **August 26**: Residence halls open for returning students (check-in: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.).
- **August 27**: Classes begin.
- **September 3**: Holiday— NO CLASSES and University offices are CLOSED.

For questions regarding newly admitted students, orientation or classes, contact the admissions office at 717-872-3371 or visit the University website and find the “Newly Admitted Students” link. For questions regarding housing, contact housing & residential programs at 717-872-3162.

Millersville University Makes a Commitment to Solar Power

Millersville University has committed to purchasing solar power from Community Energy Inc.’s (CEI) Keystone Solar Project, a six megawatt ground-mounted solar project that will produce approximately 8,000 megawatt hours of electricity annually – the equivalent of powering 950 homes and avoiding 5,516 tons of carbon dioxide each year. This project is being constructed in Lancaster, Pa.

“We are pleased to participate in the Keystone Solar project with Community Energy,” said Roger Bruszewski, Millersville University’s vice president for finance and administration. “We are particularly excited about the educational enrichment opportunity for our students that Community Energy has developed.”

As part of the sponsorship commitment, Millersville University will have access to an online course, “Building Keystone Solar,” designed to invite students and professors behind the scenes of the real-world solar project development process with in-depth videos, documents, designs
and plans not otherwise available in the classroom. This course is being developed to help
expand experiential learning and create pathways to careers in renewable energy for students.

“This will give Millersville graduates a competitive edge in the emerging clean sector,” said
Brent Alderfer, president of CEI. “Millersville University has been a renewable energy leader for
many years. Voluntary purchases of renewable energy, like the one Millersville made, will help
grow the demand for new clean energy. We hope that more universities join with Millersville to
accelerate the development of solar power.”

This initiative is the most recent among the University’s continuous efforts to reduce its carbon
footprint. Millersville has taken many steps toward this goal such as the formation of its
sustainability committee and successful “zero waste” commencement ceremony held for the first
time this past May. Millersville was also included in The Princeton Review’s 2012 Guide to
Green Colleges.

For more information about the Keystone Solar Project, visit
communityenergyinc.com/keystone/.

Forbes Puts Millersville on Its Top-Ranked List

Forbes came out with its annual list of America’s best undergraduate institutions on August 1,
and Millersville University was the top-ranked state university among the 14 Pennsylvania State
System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities. The annual list focuses on
educational outcomes, not reputations. The
rankings are compiled exclusively for Forbes by
the Center for College Affordability and
Productivity in Washington, D.C.

The Forbes ranking system is based on five
general categories: Post graduate success (32.5
percent), which evaluates alumni pay and
prominence; student satisfaction (27.5 percent),
which includes professor evaluations and freshman-to-sophomore year retention rates; debt (17.5
percent), which penalizes schools for high student debt loads and default rates; four-year
graduation rate (11.25 percent); and competitive awards (11.25 percent), which rewards schools
whose students win prestigious scholarships and fellowships or go on to earn a Ph.D.

This year, Millersville University ranked 535 out of 650, compared to 535 out of 610 in 2010.
Two other PASSHE universities made it on the list this year: West Chester University at 554 and
Indiana University of Pennsylvania at 587.

The information was in the August 6 publication of Forbes. For the complete list of “America’s
Top Colleges” visit Forbes.com/top-colleges/.
Millersville’s 2012 International Policy Conference

Continuing Millersville University’s efforts to promote the importance of sustainability in the community, the Civic & Community Engagement & Research Project will hold its 2012 International Policy Conference on September 27-28. The Stewards of Sustainability Conference will feature two tracks: Economic Development and Social Equity and Environmental Preservation – The Three Pillars of Sustainable Development.

The two-day event will feature speakers from all dimensions of sustainability including Frances Moore Lappé, internationally acclaimed author and activist, who will present the opening speech on Thursday, September 27, and Gary Hirshberg, chairman of Stonyfield Farm, who will present the keynote address in Lehr Room, Bolger Conference Center, Gordinier Hall.

As part of Thursday’s conference events a Sustainable Business Expo will also be held from noon – 6 p.m. During the Expo, which will be held in the Student Memorial Center, participants will have the opportunity to talk with and purchase products from businesses that represent sustainable practices, products or services.

The Stewards of Sustainability Conference is bringing together faculty, staff and students to help with this event. The members of the Delta Zeta Sorority will serve as Millersville’s first “Green Ambassadors,” who will welcome guests, provide information and assist with the raffle of the sustainable gifts. They can be identified by their Stewards of Sustainability Conference t-shirts, which are made of organic and fair trade cotton. Millersville student Stephanie Holmes, a senior art major, created the conference logo and all of the artwork featured on the conference brochure, poster, postcard, flyer and yard sign.

The conference planning committee has created an exciting educational experience that is relevant to all members of the campus,” said Dr. Nadine Garner, associate professor of psychology and conference co-chair. “A common misconception is that sustainability relates only to environmental issues; we are hoping that conference attendees will see that all fields of study, from psychology to business, play a significant role in sustainability’s three interrelated pillars of social justice, economic development and environmental preservation.”

The Stewards of Sustainability Conference is free and open to the public. Online registration is requested. To register, or to view the full conference schedule, visit millersville.edu/ccerp/events/IPC/2012/.

Millersville University’s One Book, One Campus 2012-13

The One Book, One Campus program at Millersville aims to provide a shared experience for new students. Each fall, all incoming students arrive having read the same book. The goal of this program is to stimulate discussion and critical thinking around a common book’s theme, enhancing a sense of community among students, faculty and staff.
In this year’s selection, *The Influencing Machine*, author Brooke Gladstone covers a wide span of history to discredit the belief that the media exerts one-way control over the public. Instead of a machine that supposedly influences us, the media is just as likely to reflect the perspectives we already believe. Ultimately, Gladstone tries to give us tools to better navigate, consume and engage with the media.

The 2012-13 One Book, One Campus programming includes a Reflect & Connect series discussion, a panel discussion featuring the author and a themed comic strip contest, all of which are free and open to the public. Programming around the book will build upon campus events surrounding the fall 2012 election season and the opening of the Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center.

On October 10, the Reflect & Connect Series discussion will include passages from *The Influencing Machine* featuring students from the narrative workshop, “Telling Your Story,” to reflect on the role of storytelling in how we process understanding of the world. This event will be held at 5 p.m. in the Ford Atrium, McComsey Hall.

On October 23, a panel discussion, entitled “Understanding Media Today: Sorting the Truthiness,” will feature media experts from different disciplines discussing their perspectives on coverage of current events leading up to the election, as well as their broader insights into the role of media in our society. This event will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Reighard Multipurpose Room, Student Memorial Center.

The comic strip contest, which is open to the public, is accepting submissions that engage audiences through images and words, conveying a timely observation or relevant critique of our lives today. The winning entries will receive a $150 Millersville University bookstore gift certificate and be published in the University’s magazine, the *Millersville Review*.

There are no restrictions on the content or format of submissions, but they may not exceed 8.5” x 11”. One submission per person will be accepted. Include a separate cover sheet with the title of the piece, name, phone number, and email address. Scanned or digital submissions may be sent to Caleb Corkery or send a physical copy to: Comic Strip Contest; English Department; Millersville University; P.O. Box 1002; Millersville, PA 17551-0302. The contest deadline is November 1, 2012.

For more information, contact Corkery, assistant chair and associate professor of English, at Caleb.Corkery@millersville.edu or 717-872-3655.

**Alling Appointed Director of Corporate University**
Millersville University is pleased to announce the appointment of Jacquelyn Alling as director of the Corporate University. Alling, of Philipsburg, Pa., has an extensive professional background in customized training, organizational development, client development and retention and business-to-business outreach. Her previous experience includes positions as manager of the corporate training division at Maryland Transit Administration; development and outreach specialist for the Pennsylvania State University; and director of the Children’s Miracle Network for Penn State University Children’s Hospital. She holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism the Pennsylvania State University.

In addition to her significant client and business development expertise, Alling is a strong advocate for lifelong learning and professional development for multiple constituent groups.

The Asphalt Orchestra, Future of the Marching Band

On September 10, Millersville will welcome Asphalt Orchestra, a new street band, to perform its indoor stage show at 7:30 p.m. in the Clair Performance Hall at the new Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center.

The 12-member brass, woodwind and percussion ensemble consists of Jessica Schmitz, piccolo; Alex Hamlin, saxophone; Peter Hess, saxophone; Ken Thomson, saxophone; Shane Endsley, trumpet; Stephanie Richards, trumpet; Jen Baker, percussion; and Alan Ferber, percussion. The ensemble has two live performances: an outdoor guerrilla musical force, and “Unpack the Elephant,” the indoor experience. The ensemble has performed throughout the U.S. and Canada, at London’s Barbican Centre, at the TED Women conference in Washington, D.C., New York’s Alice Tully Hall, Metropolitan Museum of Art, among other venues.

This event is open to the public. Tickets cost $10 for general admission; $7 for students with MU ID and senior citizens and $5 for students with MU ID superstorer. 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.

For more information on Asphalt Orchestra, visit asphaltorchestra.com.
Need to Know: Millersville University ADA Committee

For the last 15 years, often behind the scenes, Millersville University has had an active Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) committee. The committee is composed of a diverse group of faculty, staff and students who work together and help to guide the University through compliance with the ADA law. The committee is also a place for members of the campus community to bring ideas, suggestions or concerns about ADA issues on campus.

Chaired by Lou DeSol, associate vice president for human resources, the ADA committee meets every month to discuss current ADA topics, discuss requests for accommodation and strategize on ways to make Millersville University a more ADA-friendly campus. The ADA committee is also involved in training and education to increase awareness of the importance of compliance with the requirements of the ADA law as well as taking steps to go beyond what the law requires.

Like most organizations with buildings and grounds that pre-date the ADA law (1990), Millersville University has many older facilities that need to be modified to comply with the ADA law and the many changes to the law since it was originally adopted. Typically, when older buildings are fully renovated (such as Osburn Hall, the Student Memorial Center, McComsey Hall, etc.), they are brought up to full ADA compliance for the law at that time. However, the ADA law continues to evolve and so the process of keeping buildings and grounds compliance is an ongoing effort.

In addition to facilities, there are many other adaptive and accessibility technologies and equipment that are purchased and installed that are less noticeable, but just as important. The following is a short list of some of the projects the ADA committee has completed, over the years, to make Millersville University a more ADA-friendly place to live, learn, teach and work.

**Wheelchair Lift**

In order to quickly and safely lift someone who uses a wheelchair from floor level up and onto a stage or platform, the University purchased a wheelchair lift. This is used primarily for commencement and special events. The lift is easy to operate, strong, durable and ideal for such applications. Should a lift be required for a special event, please contact housekeeping at 872-3200.

**Power Door Operators**

One of the ways you can see the work of the ADA committee is through the installation of power door operators. Though they are not required by ADA law, the University does, where
appropriate, add power door operators to specific buildings. Power door operators allow those with mobility issues to more easily enter and exit buildings.

**Training and Education**

Just this year, the ADA committee organized a day-long teaching and training seminar with an expert consultant, Cindy Brown. Brown met with groups of faculty, students and employees to discuss how the University can go beyond the basics of the ADA law and expand the potential of those with special needs.

**Assistive Technology**

All over campus, new assistive technology is being introduced. Accessible software has been provided for student computer labs to improve accessibility for students with visual impairments and print disabilities. JAWS, Zoom Text and Kurzweil are available in many labs across campus and also in the Office of Learning Services’ Assistive Technology Lab in Lyle Hall. A high-speed scanner to make digital copies of books, MyReader magnification system and Braille software and printer are also available in the Office of Learning Services.

The ADA committee championed the remodeling of a classroom at Hash Building/Bassler Hall as a hearing-impaired teaching laboratory. The committee has also provided accessible seating and test tables for students with physical disabilities. The Office of Learning Services has provided accessible testing tables suitable for wheelchair access as well as accessible seating for students with physical limitations who require specialized chairs.

**Access Ramps**

The ADA committee has been involved in making buildings and grounds accessible through the design and construction of ADA-compliant ramps. A few examples are the ramps at Biemesderfer Stadium, Brooks Hall and Huntingdon House.

**Handicap-Accessible Bathrooms**

The ADA committee has been involved in several building renovation and remodeling projects to bring older bathrooms into compliance with the ADA law. A few examples are Witmer, Brooks and Dilworth buildings.

**Curb Cuts and Sidewalks**

The committee has actively championed the addition of several new curb cuts on campus and borough sidewalks to better allow those with mobility issues to move around campus. In addition, some sidewalks have been remodeled to improve mobility.

**Assistive Crossing Devices**
Millersville University received an award from the Lancaster County Association of the Blind for installing state-of-the-art assistive crossing devices at the Frederick and George Street intersection.

**Handicapped Parking**

Parking at Millersville University is a finite resource and adding a new handicapped parking space in one of the parking lots means the taking away of a faculty, staff or student parking space. However, the committee tries to balance the needs of those with legitimate handicapped parking needs and others who need to use the parking lots.

**University Vehicles**

The University recently purchased several new seven-passenger mini-vans, one of which will be ADA (wheelchair) accessible.

For more information on the ADA committee, visit millersville.edu/hr/ada/index.php.

**Need to Know: Employee Wellness “Drop 10 in 10”**

Millersville University’s Employee Wellness Committee presents Highmark’s “Drop 10 in 10,” a 10-week program available to all employees to help you lose 10 pounds (or 10 percent) of your body weight through nutrition, exercise and behavioral changes. This program is confidential and may be done individually, or you can participate in group meetings. Participants will receive a toolkit which includes a guide book, food and fitness journal, tape measure, and resistance band. The cost of the kit is $20 per person. If you need a “Drop 10 in 10” kit, please send a check for $20 payable to Millersville University to the Office of Human Resources no later than September 2. If you have a kit, you do not need to order another one.

The program will begin on September 20 and end on November 29. Weekly meetings will be held on Thursdays at noon (doors open at 11:45 a.m.) beginning September 20 in Room 128, Caputo Hall. Please participate for the length of your lunch break. This program will count toward part of the next phase of “Healthy U” requirements for Highmark members only. This program does not count toward any requirement of the PEBTF’s “Get Healthy” program for AFSCME and SCUPA employees.

To register, email human.resources@millersville.edu or contact the Office of Human Resources at 717-872-3017 if you have any questions.
Here are the faculty and staff activities for August 16, 2012.

**Faculty and Staff Activities**

**Dr. Robert D. Vaillancourt**, earth sciences, recently contributed to three papers following an international program, Southern Ocean Gas Exchange Experiment (SO GASEX), a field study of the carbon cycle and the role the ocean plays in absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide in the Southern Ocean. The papers included, “Primary Productivity, New Productivity and Carbon Export During Two Southern Ocean Gas Exchange Tracer Experiments,” “Dissolved O2/Ar and Other Methods Reveal Rapid Changes in Productivity During a Lagrangian Experiment in the Southern Ocean” and “An Assessment of Optical Properties and Primary Production Derived from Remote Sensing in the Southern Ocean.” In addition, he contributed a section to the “Report of the U.S. East Coast Carbon Cycle Synthesis Workshop,” January 19-20, 2012, Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry Program and North American Carbon Program.” In addition, Vaillancourt attended the ocean sciences meeting in Salt Lake City in February to present results from the SO GasEx Program. His poster was “Time Scales of Photo Acclimation in Phytoplankton of the Western Antarctic Zone.” And, he attended the Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry Workshop at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in July and presented results from a research program titled “Resolving the Depth of the Ocean’s Productive Layer.”

**Obituary**

Samuel Jerome Ha, 77, died August 7. He was a professor at Millersville from 1971-1998. He served as chair of the biology department from 1985 to 1990 and chair of the Faculty Senate from 1987 to 1990. He was also a driving force in the development of the Marine Science Consortium.

Marilyn Louise Schick, 86, of Leesburg, Florida, died August 5. She was a former secretary to the Dean of Men at Millersville University
Who Makes Millersville Special

This issue of the Exchange features Dr. Erin Moss, assistant professor of mathematics.

**Q:** What made you want to become a mathematics professor?
**A:** I taught my own college math classes as a teaching assistant to pay for my master’s degree, and I quickly realized that I found teaching to be much more challenging and rewarding than my actuarial studies. As a result, I switched gears and pursued a Ph.D. in mathematics education.

**Q:** What did you want to be when you were younger?
**A:** A theater director, most recently. But if we were to go back a little farther, I’d answer with trapeze artist, snake charmer, taxicab driver or a competitive surfer. You know, the usual.

**Q:** Where did you attend college?
**A:** The University of North Carolina at Asheville. I have so many happy memories of that place and those people!

**Q:** What is the most challenging part about being a professor?
**A:** For me, it’s maintaining a balance and keeping perspective. It takes a lot of time and energy to teach well and be responsive to students. It’s also easy to lose yourself in that sometimes. But there are scholarship and service expectations to be met, along with trying to have a personal life too, and it can be a challenge to wear so many hats.

**Q:** Was math your favorite subject growing up?
**A:** No way! I was good at it, but it was rarely taught in a way that made sense and celebrated students’ creativity. A few great teachers prevented me from writing off math completely and teaching it myself helped me suddenly love the subject.

**Q:** What is your favorite course to teach? Why?
**A:** I was terrified and thrilled to teach my first graduate class, “Equity in Mathematics Education.” I care very deeply about the subject, and it was enlightening to brainstorm with a group of passionate students the ways we might address the pervasive educational inequities that currently exist in schooling practices in the U.S. That said, I also have a soft spot for “Math 104: Mathematics I for Future Elementary and Middle School Teachers.” Many students begin the class doubtful about their mathematical abilities. By the end of the semester, most students have become creative and persistent mathematical thinkers who are not afraid to share their solution methods or argue a key point.

**Q:** What tactics do you share with your students on how to teach in the real world?
**A:** Rather than viewing a teacher as somebody who delivers a product TO students, I encourage future teachers to cleverly design situations that force students to develop their OWN mathematics. This requires a teacher to have a great deal of mathematical knowledge and
confidence, so that he or she is able to understand multiple solutions to a problem and capitalize on students’ mathematical reasoning, even if it involves proceeding in an unanticipated direction. A teacher must listen very carefully and constantly be on the lookout for “teachable moments” and opportunities to help students notice and articulate connections.

Q: What is your favorite part about being in the mathematics department?
A: The colleagues. It’s nice that even though we are very different, we all get along well and respect one another, and we share a commitment to students. I was nervous when I first started that I would be viewed as the graduate student I still felt like on the inside, but I was immediately treated as if I belonged here and had a lot to offer the department. I appreciate that beyond belief.

Q: Is it possible to be an “artsy person” and a “math/science person”? Why is there such a defined line drawn between the two?
A: I double-majored in mathematics and drama at UNC-A, so of course! The sharp distinction between the two is completely artificial, but probably reinforced by the pedagogy most of us have experienced in those fields. There are creative, practical, imaginative and intellectual aspects to both, and to deny these aspects in either field not only mischaracterizes it, but closes your mind to potentially cool experiences. I gravitate towards people who have diverse interests and openness to learning and trying all sorts of things—whether it’s a new language, a musical instrument, a sport, a skill or even travel. I resist being put in a box, and I try not to put others in boxes. Life is too interesting for us to accept being “stuck.”

Q: Are you involved in any clubs and/or committees on campus?
A: The General Education Review committee and the Academic Standards Committee. I’m also very proud to be a Safe Zone Mentor.

Q: What was the most exciting project you’ve participated in on campus?
A: This summer, I will be living in Philadelphia for two weeks with Millersville students and Education faculty in the Philly Urban Seminar. The goal is for me to help brainstorm the design of a similar urban experience, especially for prospective math teachers, as part of the math department’s grant.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?
A: I love indoctrinating my three-year-old daughter into the world of musical theater and letting her “read” to me. I’m fascinated by her imagination and tickled by all the hilarious things she says. I’m especially excited to see Sunset Boulevard with my husband! If I had more free time (at this point, I’m just dreaming), I can imagine myself reading, practicing my guitar, traveling, throwing around a softball, playing ultimate Frisbee and exploring outdoors once it warms up.

Q: What are your favorite television shows, books and movies?
A: I don’t watch TV since becoming a parent, but I used to love it! I really appreciate a good sitcom like The Golden Girls and Freaks and Geeks. East of Eden by John Steinbeck is the best book of all time, but the Harry Potter series also deserves a mention. Some of my favorite movies are Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Moulin Rouge and National Lampoon’s Vacation (the Wally World one).