McNairy Keynote for December Commencement

Millersville’s fall commencement ceremony will be held on December 16 at 2 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium. President Francine G. McNairy will be the keynote speaker. McNairy will retire from the University in January 2013.

Appointed as the 13th president of Millersville University in 2003, McNairy serves as the chief executive officer of the University with oversight of a $136 million budget, 1,000 employees and 8,700 undergraduate and graduate students. During McNairy’s tenure as president, she presided over a number of institutional accomplishments, which included a focus on securing new revenue sources through the $85 million Soar to Greatness capital campaign concluding on December 31.

Stephen Kepchar and Bennett Cooper, both Millersville alumni, will each receive honorary doctorate of humane letters degrees. Millersville grants honorary doctoral degrees to individuals of extraordinary accomplishments. As an academic institution, Millersville grants its highest honor to those individuals who have shown remarkable creativity or distinguished themselves through service or scholarship.

Kepchar, a 1970 graduate, is senior vice president for Morgan Stanley and chair of Millersville’s Soar to Greatness campaign. Cooper, a 1967 graduate, is senior distribution consultant for Rampart America and vice chairman of the Soar to Greatness campaign. For more information on December’s commencement, visit millersville.edu/commencement.

Millersville University Gauges Quality of Life

Residents of Lancaster County are satisfied with their overall quality of life and things are getting better. Conducted for the first time in 2010, Millersville University’s biennial survey, “Perceptions of Quality of Life in Lancaster, Pennsylvania,” represents an ongoing effort to better understand the degree to which Lancaster County residents are satisfied with their quality of life.

“The findings of the 2012 survey confirm that Lancaster County residents are generally satisfied with their overall quality of life, the educational opportunities available to them and the services they receive in their communities,” said Dr. Adam Lawrence (pictured right), research fellow. “The results offer valuable feedback to area leaders and decision makers responsible in various ways for the services and policy issues that are the substance of this survey.”

Not only are residents content, but in 2012, the percentage of residents who said their quality of life had gotten better (25 percent) was more than double the percentage of residents who said their quality of life had gotten worse (12 percent).
The results of this survey are based on computer-assisted telephone interviews with 445 adult residents of Lancaster County, conducted from April to May, 2012. Here are some of the results:

- A majority of residents reported an excellent or good quality of life (92 percent).
- Most residents felt that they had a strong sense of community where they lived (82 percent).
- A large proportion of residents felt that their health was excellent or good (88 percent).
- Large majorities of residents expressed favorable evaluations of the services they receive in their local communities (trash collection, fire, senior services, etc.).
- Substantial majorities reported that there are plenty of parks and open spaces (90 percent), as well as recreational facilities (83 percent), in the areas where they lived.
- Ratings of public elementary, middle schools and high schools were far more positive than negative.

This survey was completed in Millersville University’s Polling and Research Office (PRO), under the supervision of Lawrence and Dr. Kerrie Farkas, former director. The PRO is a nonpartisan research and polling organization dedicated to providing quality public opinion research and analysis serving the public interest. The PRO is housed within Millersville University’s Center for Public Scholarship (CPS), which provides services for researching perceived community needs, quality of services and attitudes of the public in order to help initiate and guide public policy decision-making.

To read the 2012 “Perceptions of Quality of Life in Lancaster, Pennsylvania,” report, or for more information about Millersville University’s PRO and CPS, visit millersville.edu/ccerp/cps/.

**The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: Glorious Sounds of the Season Concert**

Join Millersville’s Department of Music for a holiday music extravaganza: The Sixth Annual Glorious Sounds of the Season concert. Glorious Sounds of the Season is a scholarship benefit concert that features more than 250 students from the University’s music department.

There are three chances to see Glorious Sounds of the Season in concert:

**Friday, December 7, 7:30 p.m.,** Steinman Hall, the Ware Center, Lancaster. This performance will feature jazz and gospel inspired holiday music.

**Saturday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.,** Clair Performance Hall, Winter Center, Millersville.

**Sunday, December 9, 2:30 p.m.,** Clair Performance Hall, Winter Center, Millersville.

This event is open to the public. Tickets cost $16 for general admission. A special rate of $8 will be available for students with MU ID for the Saturday show only. Tickets may be purchased online, at [MUTicketsOnline.com](http://MUTicketsOnline.com), at the Student Memorial Center Ticket Office (Room 103), by
Doc Roc Retiring After 41.5 Years at Millersville University

From directing the exploratory program to advising WIXQ to running in hundreds of races and spreading Christmas cheer as Santa Claus, Dr. Ralph (Doc Roc) Anttonen is known by thousands in Central Pennsylvania. He and his wife are the voice of the “Doc and Mama Roc” radio show on WIXQ, and he announces at Marauder volleyball and basketball games.

Anttonen will retire after 41.5 years at Millersville University in January. “They say you ‘just know’ when it’s time to retire,” said Anttonen. “I know. It’s time to let someone else carry the ball.” Despite his plan to retire, he will continue volunteering at WIXQ, announcing at games and co-hosting the radio show.

“I never saw myself settling down in Millersville. I had full intentions of leaving. I was a young man with a young family and a world to explore,” said Anttonen. “This area grows on you though.” Anttonen also contributes his extended stay to ongoing support from University faculty; Dr. Gary W. Reighard, Dr. Joseph A. Caputo and Dr. Francine G. McNairy. “Location and faculty aside, none of this would have been possible without my wife Judy,” said Anttonen. “She is the glue and I am the rock.”

Anttonen has been director of the exploratory program since 1986. This program has helped support undecided students in finding a major course of study, meeting general education requirements, extracurricular involvement and campus services. “Developing programs to help these students is the reason I come into work,” said Anttonen, who has watched the exploratory program mature over the last 27 years, from 15 colleagues and 147 students to 100 advisors and 758 students.

As faculty advisor of WIXQ, the University’s student-run radio station, Anttonen believes that “streaming audio is only the tip of the iceberg.” He envisions a Millersville branded satellite transmitting signals from outer space in the near future. “Intellectual curiosity has never left me,” said Anttonen. “I have embraced technology as a tool.” Anttonen finds joy in bolstering his department with technologically adept student workers.

Along with helping students and embracing technology, Anttonen has enjoyed running races and spreading his Christmas cheer. “I haven’t run a race for more than 12 years because I have a hip replacement. Until then, I ran about 35 races a year,” said Anttonen, who designed the Millersville Mile and directed the race with his wife for 25 years. “I will be playing Santa Claus at the Turkey Hill Experience in Columbia, the Millersville Christmas tree lighting and on campus on December 14.”
Recently, Anttonen received the Dr. Tom Baker Community Leader Award as part of the Second Annual South Central Pennsylvania Service Summit. This merit is awarded to a passionate, energetic and positive community champion who has made an impact and helped others in a myriad of ways. He was also honored for his leadership as chair of the National Commission on Faculty Advising by the National Academic Advising Association, which promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students.

New Breast Cancer Center Dedicated on Campus

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Diana and Marsha Breast Cancer Awareness Center on campus was held November 27. The center is a place where students, faculty and staff can go to get information and ask questions about breast health. The center is dedicated to the memory of two exceptional women, Dr. Dennis Denenberg’s sister – Diana Lin (Denenberg) Durand and Marsha L. (Gullo) Frerichs, wife of Dr. Rich Frerichs, faculty emeritus of educational foundations. Both Denenberg and Frerichs are retired from the University.

“The center has been established to provide resources and guidance to students about breast health and breast education,” said Dr. Susan Northwall, medical director of health services. “We hope everyone will stop by to see the resources available.”

The new center is located in the Millersville University Health Services building.

Photo caption: (L-R) Dr. Dennis Denenberg, Diana's brother; Donald Durand, Diana's husband; and Dr. Rich Frerichs, Marsha's husband.

Marauders Hope for a Slam Dunk to Benefit Toys for Tots

The Millersville University men’s and women’s basketball teams will help spread holiday cheer this season by supporting Toys for Tots of Lancaster County, a foundation that helps less fortunate children experience the joy of Christmas. The mission of the Toys for Tots Foundation is to collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to these children in the community.

During the December 19 home game, any fan who brings a new, unwrapped toy will receive free admission to the women’s game at 5:30 p.m. or the men’s game at 7:30 p.m. Both games will be held in Pucillo Gymnasium.

The Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association will also be making 25 toys by hand to donate to the local Toys for Tots. During halftime of the men’s basketball game ‘Santa Skully’ and the Marauder will present the gifts to the representatives from the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation in Lancaster, Pa.
This is a family friendly event. For more information on the men’s and women’s basketball teams, visit millersvilleathletics.com. For more information on the organization Toys for Tots, visit www.lancaster-pa.toysfortots.org.

**TEECA Comes Home With Seven Awards**

![TEECA Logo](image)
The Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association (TEECA) chapter at Millersville received seven awards after competing in the annual TEECA Eastern Regional Conference in Virginia Beach from November 11-13. Millersville University’s chapter, which competed in nine events, was represented by 29 members and two faculty advisors. Additional opportunities at this conference included a job fair where students could speak with recruiters, a banquet and many opportunities to engage with peers and network with college faculty.

**Millersville students received the following awards:**

Tom Bacho, Greg Schneider, Robert Shirley and Sarah Wilson received first place in the category of communication. Shirley also placed third in the technology challenge.

Brian Souder, George Wagenmann, Anthony Burkle and Catherine Edwards placed first in the category of automated systems design.

Kevin Bond, Lester Davis, Ryan Haugh, Tyler Roth, Travis Bisbing and Kelly Wingert received second place in the manufacturing contest. Haugh also received third place in the technology challenge.

Thomas Larson, Dustin Keyser and Lauren Atkins placed second in the teaching lesson category. Larson also received third place in the technology challenge.

Molly Miller, Alisha Gerhart and Cortney Hauer placed third in the category of elementary design. Miller also received third place in the technology challenge.

Nathan Hanson, Josh Grannetino, Bryan Parrish, Korbin Shearer and Amanda Osbun received third place in the category of transportation.

For more information, contact Dr. Sharon Brusic, associate professor of applied engineering, safety and technology and Millersville’s TEECA co-advisor, at Sharon.Brusic@millersville.edu or 717-871-5548.

**YouTube and “What’s Happening Now”**

The video team at Millersville University has launched a new series of videos featured on Millersville’s YouTube channel. “What’s Happening Now” is a series of short, up-to-the-minute videos, sharing what is happening on campus and what people are talking/thinking about.
“This is a great opportunity for the video team to develop our interviewing skills while giving the campus an inside look on important, interesting and fun events,” said Becca Knier, video team member.

The team’s goal is to produce at least three a month and build a collection for alumni, current students and prospective students to watch for years to come. To view the Millersville YouTube channel, or to watch this new series, visit youtube.com/MillersvilleU.

New Foundation Officers and Directors Elected

The Millersville University Foundation has elected officers for 2013. The foundation is a separate entity from Millersville University, and its mission is to manage and invest endowed gifts for the University. Effective January 2013, the following individuals will begin their term on the board:

Dr. Daniel R. Biemesderfer ’70, visiting scientist, University of Connecticut Marine Science Lab, Guilford, Conn.;

Judith C. Carter ’60, ’76M, retired librarian, Penn Manor School District, Millersville Pa.;

Gerald S. Robinson, attorney, Robinson & Geraldo P.C., Lancaster, Pa.;

Dr. Richard A. Glenn, political affairs professor at Millersville;

Jan L. Graybill ’80, president, Legacy Planning Partners, LLC, Orefield, Pa.;

Eric G. Liddell ’71, retired president, Phillips Graphic Finishing Inc., Cheyenne, Wyo.;

David K. Thompson, community volunteer, Millersville, Pa.

In addition, Robert E. Patterson of Willow Street, retired chief investment officer for the Pennsylvania Department of the Treasury, was named a lifetime director and Sarah Holland, of York, Pa., was named as a student director.

Today, the Foundation manages nearly 400 scholarship and program accounts, and holds assets in excess of $20 million. The Foundation’s activities are managed by an independent board that includes leaders from the University, the community and the alumni body at large. For more information, email Francis.Schodowski@millersville.edu or call 717-872-3820.
Exchange
December 6, 2012

Need to Know: Dec. 10 Deadline
Educator of the Year Award Nominations

The Educator of the Year Award is given annually to one faculty/staff member in recognition of sustained outstanding teaching to include counseling, mentoring, and advising of the undergraduate and graduate students at Millersville University.

Criteria for Educator of the Year:
Outstanding teaching and advising comes in many forms and thus it is difficult to list all the characteristics that would be worthy of an award. The criteria listed here are intended to be suggestions.

- Instill intellectual curiosity, a desire to learn and the importance of life-long learning.
- Stimulate learning through teaching, advising and/or counseling, modeling of scholarship, involving students in the learning process, expressing genuine concern for the student as a whole, setting of high standards, enthusiastic and passionate about their field.
- Demonstrate success and excellence through reference to the achievements of students.
- Encourage and demonstrate ethical behavior, integrated view of life, personal responsibility and integrity, leadership, clear and critical thinking and civic engagement.
- Influence on the way other colleagues teach, advise and/or counsel.
- Have an effect beyond the Millersville University community.
- Serious about academic excellence and meaningful life experiences of the students.
- Available to students, making them feel welcome and respected.
- Skillful in encouraging problem-solving techniques by helping students to think through issues and make decisions.

Award details:

- All full-time tenure-track and regular part-time faculty or staff members are eligible for this award.
- Educators can receive this award no more frequently than once every 10 years.
- There will be no monetary reward associated with this award. The award will consist of a plaque along with the faculty member’s picture displayed in a common area, and a plaque given to the faculty member. The recipient will be entitled to a reserved parking spot on campus following the year of the award.
- The award will be presented to the Educator of the Year at the spring commencement ceremony.
- The recipient will be asked to speak at a university sponsored event the following academic year.

Submissions:
Nominations should be submitted using the appropriate nomination form, which can be found on the Faculty Senate website; additional information on the award can also be found on the Faculty Senate website. Submit nominations to EOYA@millersville.edu by December 10, 2012.

For more information, or for questions, contact Laurie B. Hanich, chair, at Laurie.Hanich@millersville.edu.
Need to know: Winter 2012 HR News

Professional Training & Development
Skillsoft is an online training program for staff and faculty. Skillsoft programs are modern, interactive and convenient. Faculty and staff can access programs 24/7 from any Internet ready device. Here are a few of the topics in the current Skillsoft/Millersville University Catalogue:

- Microsoft Office 2007 & 2010
- Excel
- XP
- Word
- Apple Mac OS X
- Customer Service
- Communication Skills
- Coping with Conflicting Priorities
- Critical Thinking Essentials
- Conflict, Stress, and Time Management
- Decision Making Tools & Techniques
- Ethics, Integrity and Trust
- Effective Team Communication
- Negotiation Essentials
- Problem Solving: Determining and Building Your Strengths
- Setting Goals
- The Value of Peer Relationships
- Time Management

Have your log-in, but haven’t had a chance to get online and check out courses? Need some time in a quiet spot to take a few courses? Join one of our open sessions held from 11 a.m. to noon in Boyer Building, room 235 on December 11, January 16, January 24, February 6, February 19 or March 14. To get your log-in information, or to sign up for an open sessions, email Melanie Desantis.

Employee Service Recognition
The Employee Service Recognition will be held on Thursday, December 13 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in Lehr Dining Room. Awards are presented to faculty and staff members upon their completion of five years of service and each five years thereafter.

Benefits

Update on Supplemental Retirement Plan Options
Contribution Limits: The 2013 contribution limit for the 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity and 457(b) Deferred Compensation plans is $17,500 for employees under age 50 and $23,000 for employees age 50 or over. Deferred Compensation Announces Roth 457 Account: This July, Great West Retirement Services announced their Roth 457 account, which allows you to contribute after tax money to your account. Qualified withdrawals from the Roth 457 account are not federally taxable. For further details, please see the following link: www.fascore.com/PDF/penn/plan_highlights.pdf.

PASSHE Health Plan Updates (Faculty, Managers, Police, Nurses and Coaches only)
Healthy U is now underway for the 2012-2013 year. To find out how to get started, follow this link: www.passhe.edu/inside/hr/syshr/Pages/Healthy-U-Getting-Started.aspx.

State Employee Assistance Program (SEAP)
“When the Holidays Give You the Blues: Coping with Seasonal Stress” (also in Spanish) provides information about the common signs and symptoms of holiday stress and provides eight suggestions on ways to reduce holiday stress and help beat the holiday blues.

SEAP is free and available to you and your family 24/7 to help you deal with emotional or family concerns, alcohol or drug abuse, depression and other behavioral health matters or financial and legal issues. Call 800-692-7459 or email RA-WorkplaceSupportServices@pa.gov (TDD 800-842-4306) if you have questions about SEAP. Read previous newsletters and find more information about SEAP with ESS (www.myWorkplace.state.pa.us). You can also learn more about many behavioral health topics by visiting the United Behavioral Health website and using “Pennsylvania” as your access code.

Announcement from PSECU
PSECU members enjoy instant credit on most deposits and can receive monthly FICO Score updates…want more information on PSECU membership visit or call the center room 110 in the Student Memorial Center, or call Kristyne Schonhaut at 872-6516.

ESS

Address Corrections for 2012 W-2 Forms
Check the address on your pay statement or ESS account to make sure you have your most up-to-date address listed. If the address is incorrect, please contact the HR office as soon as possible. Please use the link below to access a change of address form. Employees who did not sign up for electronic W-2’s will receive via U.S. mail their W2 statement at your address in ESS. The Chancellor’s Office will be mailing the W-2’s for 2012 near the end of January, 2013. If you signed up for electronic ESS, you will not receive a copy in the mail. If you did not sign up for electronic ESS, you will not be able to access your W-2 statement in your ESS account. You will receive one or the other not both. Electronic ESS will be available about a week earlier than the paper copy being mailed.

Is your degree information current?
To verify that your degree information is correct or to make changes, login to your Employee Self-Service (ESS) account (Internet Explorer browser) at portal.passhe.edu/irj/portal. (Your username format is firstname.lastname@millersville.edu and the password is your MU email password).

Choose the following:
- Employee Self-Service Tab
- Personal Information Tab
- Education Information from the Available Applications (last one listed)

For questions, contact the HR office at extension 3017.
Environmental Health & Safety

LED Holiday Lights Approved
The use of LED holiday lights inside all campus buildings (including resident life buildings) is now permitted so long as the use follows these basic safety precautions:

- Limit of no more than 50 LED lights on a string.
- The LED light strings must be UL listed (there must be a UL label on the string).
- The LED light string must be in good visible condition.
- Do not place LED light strings on sprinkler heads or other fire safety apparatus.
- Do not hang LED light strings from the ceiling, on walls or around door frames.
- No more than two to three LED light strings should be plugged into one another.

Lights must be turned off at the end of every day by a timer or by unplugging the lights. Use only UL-approved extension cords and timers in good condition. Avoid creating trip hazards with string lights. Non-LED holiday lights found inside campus buildings will be confiscated.

Tuition Waiver
Summer session waivers are due April 2, 2013. To access the online tuition waiver, click www.millersville.edu/hr/benefits/forms.php.

Employee Wellness
Organize your teams for the 3rd annual Take a Hike beginning on February 11, 2013.

Red Dress Luncheon: February 1, 2013, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lehr Dining Room, Gordinier Hall.
To register for Employee Wellness programs or for more information about HR News, email human.resources@millersville.edu.

12/6/2012 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for December 6, 2012.

Faculty and Staff Activities
Dr. Thomas P. Bell, applied engineering, safety & technology, was awarded the Exemplary Leadership Citation from the Technology and Engineering Education Association of Pennsylvania (TEEAP) Council for Leadership during the 60th Annual TEEAP Conference held in Camp Hill, Pa., November 8 & 9.

Dr. James Cosentino, biology, directed an initiative to promote the use of micro-scale science experiments in student laboratories throughout Africa. To do this, he arranged a partnership between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the African Academy of Science (AAS) and the International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD). This program proposes to enhance science education in low- and middle-income countries in Africa. Cosentino is exploring the use of micro-scale science laboratories in Kenyan secondary schools in order to enhance science education. He anticipates that this project will have value to science education by increasing the interest of young people in science to promote scientific literacy, gender equality and encourage students to choose a scientific career. Once the program has proved worthy in Kenya, Cosentino hopes to adapt the program to provide a new level of science education in many other countries throughout Africa.


Dr. Stacey Irwin, communication & theatre, presented “Data Mining in Journalism: A Posphenomenological Study,” at the Society of Phenomenology & Human Studies conference at Rochester Institute of Technology in October. She also received a teacher’s scholarship to attend the 53rd International Dyslexia Association Annual conference in Baltimore, to further research for her documentary project, Raising Faith: Stories About Dyslexia. To learn more, visit dyslexiastories.com.

Dr. Yuan Zhong, biology, published five peer-reviewed articles since 2008, two of which were published in reputable international journals in 2012. One of the 2012 publications was coauthored by Millersville biology student Jared Taylor (now earning his Ph. D. at the University of Florida), which has become the most downloaded publication in its series in the leading journal in plant biology The Plant Cell (online) and was considered as “a significant scholarly work” by the journal editor. Taylor drafted part of the manuscript and is the first undergraduate co-author in this series.
Retired

**Dr. Frank Bremer**, professor emeritus history, gave two talks in November. On November 4, Bremer, author of the just released *Building a New Jerusalem: John Davenport, a Puritan in Three Worlds*, delivered a public talk on “Who’s in Charge? The Debate Over who Runs the Church in the Division of First Church and the Birth of Old South Church” in Gordon Chapel of the Old South Church in Boston, Mass. A book signing followed the lecture. Then on November 11, Bremer delivered a public talk on “Pilgrims, Puritans and John Davenport’s New Haven Colony” at the Center Church on the Green in downtown New Haven. A book signing followed that lecture, too.

**Dr. Dennis Denenberg**, professor emeritus, elementary and early childhood education, continues to present keynote addresses to conferences and conventions for corporate, teacher and parent groups. Denenberg gave a Teaching American History grant workshop on November 17 in Richmond, Ind., and the keynote and four sessions at the Lutheran Educator’s Conference on November 19 and 20 in Las Vegas.

Congratulations to

**Megan Kauffman**, College of Graduate and Professional Studies, on her marriage to Jason Jones on November 3.

Obituary

**Shirley A. Bonawitz**, 79, formerly of Millersville, died November 12. She had worked as a checker at Millersville University.

Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. Ojoma Edeh Herr, associate professor in special education since 1999.

**Q: Where were you born?**

**A:** I was born in Kogi State, Nigeria, and came to the U.S. on September 16, 1987.

**Q: What brought you here?**

**A:** I came with a missionary as a caregiver to her daughter with severe intellectual disabilities. The missionary chose me because she was impressed with my work with disadvantaged members of my society.
Q: What was the biggest culture shock with your move from Africa?
A: One of the biggest cultural shocks was having too many choices, especially in food selection. For example, when we arrived we were taken to an all-you-can-eat restaurant, and I was so overwhelmed with too many choices that I ended up not eating.

Q: Where were you educated and what did you study?
A: I had a sixth grade formal education in Nigeria. When I came to the U.S., I studied independently and got my GED in Montana, but I barely passed. If I had missed one more question, I would have failed the exam. After that, I came to Pennsylvania where I started my college career at Delaware County Community College AP. I then transferred to West Chester University, where I graduated with my bachelor’s degree in 1992. I started my master’s degree program at West Chester, and after a year I gained admission to Teachers College, Columbia University. I obtained both my master of philosophy and doctor of philosophy degrees from Columbia University. My field of study has been special education throughout. My specialties are in cognitive processing, assessment and evaluation, behavior management, curriculum development and my population is multicultural.

Q: What inspired you to write Ojoma’s Song?
A: I had been mentoring many students at Millersville University, and I was inspired by their determination to succeed against all odds. In addition, I saw many parallels between the struggle women face and the struggle people with disabilities face. Therefore, I wrote Ojoma’s Song, in part, as a way to connect with my students and to let them know that I know what they are going through.

Q: What was the biggest obstacle in publishing a book about your own life?
A: Surprisingly, there were none. If anything, it makes many people understand my passion for education and interest in supporting my students, and my community work with women and children.

Q: Have you published any other books?
A: Yes, I published one other book, but it is 100 percent educational. I have received many requests to write a sequel to Ojoma’s Song focusing on my experiences in the U.S., but I have not started that yet.

Q: Do you have family in Nigeria?
A: Yes, most of my family members are still in Nigeria.

Q: How often do you get to travel back to Africa?
A: I used to go twice a year, but since starting a family in the U.S., I only go once a year.

Q: What organizations have you founded in Nigeria and what does that entail?

Q: Have you traveled to other countries?
A: Oh yes! I have traveled to many countries such as Japan, the Netherlands, Italy and the U.K., to name a few.
Q: What is your biggest accomplishment thus far?
A: I have to say my role as a mom to my two handsome boys.

Q: Who is your role model?
A: My mothers are my role models. I am blessed with two mothers, one in Nigeria and the other in the U.S.

Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of teaching?
A: My students.

Q: What is your favorite class to teach and why?
A: “Assessment” and “Research Methodology” are my favorite classes. I think it is because my knowledge and comfort level in those classes are the same. I love math, statistics, etc.

Q: If you could give one piece of advice to a student a Millersville University what would it be?
A: Focus on making a difference in one child’s life. If each of us can make a difference in one child’s life, our world will be a better place because children are more important than rank, position, money, prestige, etc.

Q: How many children do you have?
A: I have three children.

Q: When you aren’t teaching, what is your favorite thing to do?
A: Playing with my boys and gardening.

Q: How did it feel to receive the Human and Civil Rights Educational Leader Award for the Pennsylvania’s Educational Leader of the year?
A: I am blessed to have wonderful students at Millersville, especially to have the honor to be nominated by one of them. All I want to accomplish is to make a difference in one of my students’ lives and I am blessed to have the opportunity to attempt to do so.