It's Time for Commencement

The 2013 graduate and professional studies commencement will be held on Friday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium. The 2013 undergraduate commencement will be held on Saturday, May 18, at 10 a.m. at Chryst Field.

The graduate commencement speaker will be Dr. Cheryl Desmond, educational foundations, and the undergraduate commencement speaker will be Governor Tom Corbett, Governor of Pennsylvania.

No large bags will be allowed at either commencement ceremony. The University Police are committed to ensuring the safety and security of our campus community. Guests attending the commencement ceremonies this year are asked to help in supporting campus safety and security by refraining from bringing bags of any kind. As at other large events across the country, backpacks, gym bags and other similar large bags will not be allowed into the venues. The University Police reserve the right to inspect all bags entering the commencement venues.

Also, recycling bins and the Big Bellies trash compactors will be at both of the ceremonies.

For more information, visit the commencement website.

Dr. Cheryl Desmond to Give Graduate Commencement Address

Dr. Cheryl T. Desmond, an education foundations professor at Millersville University, will be the speaker at Millersville University’s graduate commencement ceremony in Pucillo Gymnasium at 6:30 p.m. on May 17.

“It is an honor to be asked to speak to our graduates and to have the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and their choice of selecting Millersville University, a public university where quality and value are second to none,” says Desmond. “They are graduating at a time of high expectations for them nationally and globally. They will be called upon to put their education to work, to invent their lives and their jobs and to imagine their futures into reality.”
Desmond has served as a professor for educational foundations, women’s studies, African-American studies, and the Honors College at Millersville University. She has also served as interim associate dean in the School of Education, interim associate dean in Graduate Studies, chair of the Department of Educational Foundations, graduate coordinator for the Master of Education Leadership for Teaching and Learning program, and as National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and Pennsylvania Department of Education coordinator for the School of Education. She has chaired and served on several committees at the University, including the Presidential Search Committee and as a delegate to the state Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties Legislative Assembly. She has authored and co-authored two books, numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and presentations.

Prior to coming to Millersville, she taught as an urban teacher in Teacher Corps in Louisville, Ky.; an urban teacher and principal in Syracuse, N.Y.; coordinator of the Urban Teacher Preparation Program at Syracuse University; director of the Upper Valley Teacher Training Program and Research Associate at Dartmouth College; an English instructor at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and an assistant professor at Dickinson College.

She received her bachelor’s degree from Muhlenberg College in 1970 and her master’s degree from Syracuse University in 1977. In 1990 she received her doctorate in cultural foundations and curriculum from Syracuse University.

Desmond is the mother of two children and the grandmother of two. She has been an active member in several community organizations in the Lancaster area. In the past she served as president of the Lancaster League of Women Voters and is currently president of Servicios Ecumenicos Para Reconstruccion y Reconciliation Siglo XXIII, a nonprofit organization dedicated to global and cultural peace and social justice.

From Inorganic to Bio-Inorganic Rajaseelan Educates

A professor who brings chemistry into the real world, Dr. Edward Rajaseelan, was named the 2012-2013 Educator of the Year. The award is given annually to a faculty member to recognize excellent teaching, counseling, mentoring and advising of the undergraduate and graduate students at Millersville University.

“It is a great honor, as I was nominated by one current student with supporting letters from former students. I am also humbled to receive this award as there are many outstanding educators here at Millersville,” said Rajaseelan. “Chemistry is a science of logic, and I try to present the material in a logical manner and show them the applications in their daily lives.”
Rajaseelan joined the chemistry department at Millersville University in 1990 and teaches a variety of introductory and advanced courses in chemistry and inorganic chemistry. He is widely known for his research in the areas of synthetic inorganic and organometallic chemistry.

Rajaseelan’s commitment to student learning is demonstrated by his supervision and collaborative efforts with students on research projects, many resulting in presentations, peer-reviewed publications and post-graduation success. Beyond his outstanding instruction in the classroom and laboratory, he has exemplified extraordinary commitment to Millersville’s vision of empowering students inside and outside the classroom.

“I have consistently observed over the past 20 years that there is a direct correlation between a student’s academic interest and performance,” said Rajaseelan. “My pedagogical ‘philosophy’ if one can even label it as such – is straightforward: Students will want to learn and want to work hard if they are truly interested in the material and its applications in the real world. My primary objective in every single class that I teach is to spark the students’ interest in the material they are learning. This is what propels them to study and succeed in the classroom.”

### Millersville to Offer Graduate Programs in Philadelphia

For those who are seeking to get their master’s degrees in the Philadelphia area, Millersville University will offer graduate programs on-site in Philadelphia starting with the fall 2013 semester.

Dr. Victor DeSantis, dean of the College of Graduate & Professional Studies at Millersville urges those who are interested in getting their master’s degree to take advantage of this opportunity. “This is a wonderful opportunity for Millersville to extend its reach into the Philadelphia market and more directly serve the needs of those students seeking an affordable and high quality education,” he says.

DeSantis says that these programs developed because the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) launched an initiative to better serve students in the Philadelphia area.

Millersville will be offering three graduate programs in Philadelphia: a master’s degree in sport management, one in technology education and English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher certification program.
The initiative included finding a suitable location in downtown Philadelphia and inviting PASSHE universities to start offering degree programs and classes at the new site in Center City,” DeSantis says. “This is a wonderful collaborative project between the state system, Millersville, Cheyney, West Chester and East Stroudsburg universities.”

Classes for the programs will be located at the PASSHE Center City on 701 Market St. in the heart of downtown Philadelphia. The site is easily accessible by public transportation and strives to be flexible in meeting the needs of students living in the area.

There will be an open house on Thursday, May 30, from 5-7 p.m. at PASSHE Center City. Students interested in these graduate programs can apply online at the Graduate Program webpage. For more information, contact DeSantis at Victor.DeSantis@millersville.edu or Dr. Angela Tekely at Angela.Tekely@millersville.edu.

Dr. Tuleya-Payne Appointed Interim Dean

After 12 years of dedicated leadership to the University, Dr. Jane Bray, dean of the School of Education and associate provost, will retire at the end of June. Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, psychology, has been appointed to serve as interim dean, School of Education, beginning July 1. A national search will be held to replace Bray.

Tuleya-Payne has been a professor of psychology at Millersville University since 1992. She served as chairperson of the psychology department since 2001 and assistant chairperson two years prior to that. She held a leadership role in numerous committees and participated in searches and University task forces. Tuleya-Payne also served as co-chair of the “Rediscover Millersville” 2010 Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee, held membership on the President’s Advisory Leadership Council and the University Planning Council and served as a team member for both the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Accreditation and Program Approval and the Pennsylvania Department of Education Self-Study for School Psychology Program in 2005. In 2006 Tuleya-Payne received the Pennsylvania Psychological Association Award for distinguished contributions to school psychology.

Tuleya-Payne received a bachelor’s degree in biology and psychology in 1972, her master’s degree in school psychology in 1977 and a doctorate in education in school psychology in 1983, all from the Pennsylvania State University. She holds professional licensure as a psychologist from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and has an education specialist certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
If You Are an Expert in Your Field, We Want YOU!

Millersville University is encouraging faculty and staff to become part of the "Experts List." The list is made up of Millersville faculty who are experts in a wide variety of topics and cutting-edge research. The list is compiled for radio, TV, newspaper and magazine reporters locally, regionally and nationally.

“One of the best things about the ‘experts list’ is meeting people in the local community,” said Dr. Stacey Irwin, communication & theatre expert. “I have met with community groups about some of the new media theories and research I’ve learned along the way. The outreach has been rewarding, and I have been able to connect local media with my students for internships. This is something we can do to connect with our local community, and I think it is a great resource.”

To view the current experts list, visit the UC&M webpage. To fill out the Experts List form, visit Expert List Registration. For questions about the list, please email Janet Kacskos, director of communications.

Honoring the Students Who Led this Year

The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) at Millersville University held its 11th annual Leadership Awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 30. CSIL presents awards to outstanding student leaders and student organizations at Millersville that recognize their exceptional contributions to the campus and community. The following organizations and student leaders were honored:

Best Residence Hall Program—“Think Pink Night”

Best Student Program—Healthy Relationships and Sexual Responsibility Week

Club Sport of the Year—MU Ice Hockey

Club Sport Officer of the Year—Zach Juliano, MU Ice Hockey

Community Service Project of the Year—United Christian Fellowship Winter Break Service in NYC
Exchange
May 16, 2013

Excellence in Diversity Programming—“Coming Out Day”- Marshall Hild

Intramural Athlete of the Year—John Rader and Jerika Volckers

Most Improved Student Organization—Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)

Most Inspiring Athlete—Erin Runyon, Lacrosse

Resident Assistant of the Year— Nicole Cousins, Harbold Hall

Silent Leader—Gina Masciantonio

Student Employee of the Year—Erica Haertter, College of Graduate and Professional Studies

Student Organization of the Year—Early Childhood Organization (ECHO)

Student Organization President of the Year—Olivia Hippensteel, Delta Phi Eta

Advisor of the Year—Jayme Trogus, Women’s and Wellness Center’s advisor

Freshman Student Leader of the Year— Anthony Ciliberto

Sophomore Student Leader of the Year—Ricardo Brens Matos

Junior Student Leader of the Year—Max Shirey

Senior Student Leader of the Year—Gregory Durham

Sleeping In Vs. Cooking Breakfast

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster City provides a hot breakfast every Sunday for 125 to 150 men, women and children of the downtown community.

Since February Millersville University students, sophomore Denise Focht and junior Margaret McCall, volunteered for the program as fulfillment of their community service learning requirement. Throughout the semester, they assisted regular church volunteers with food preparation and in serving the breakfast.

On May 5 they prepared the hot food component of the meal by cooking scrambled eggs, sausages and hash browns. The Millersville students were joined by their professor, Dr. Carol Heintzelman, serving...
the food.

Holy Trinity has been most fortunate to have Dr. Doug Frazer, accounting, lead this Breakfast Fellowship ministry for over 15 years.

Need to Know

Diana Morse is our new representative with Great West Retirement Services. She will be conducting a Lunch & Learn session on the Deferred Compensation Plan on **Wednesday, May 22 from noon - 1 pm in SMC Room 118**. Bring your lunch and learn more about how the Deferred Compensation plan can help you achieve your retirement savings goals.

Please consult with your supervisor if this session is outside of your normal lunch hour and you would like to attend. Seating is limited. RSVP to the Office of Human Resources at human.resources@millersville.edu or extension 3017.

5/16/13 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for May 16, 2013.
Faculty and Staff Activities

Dr. Cheryl Desmond, educational foundations, presented a research poster “The Effects of a Mindful Awareness Program on the Executive Functions of Early Adolescents in an Urban Middle School,” based on the collaborative research of Dr. Desmond, Dr. Laurie Hanich, educational foundations, and Ms. Wynne Kinder, Wellness Works, at the Learning and the Brain Conference, Washington, D.C., May 3-5.

Dr. Stacey Irwin, communication & theatre, presented the paper “Project Green Lancaster and Millersville University: A Civic Engagement Story,” at the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) conference in April. Additionally, she presented a paper titled “Outcomes and Rubrics: Getting Down to Brass Tacks” at the BEA Assessment Boot Camp short course. She also served as a judge for the “Documentary Pitch” contest.

Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer, English, sang as an alto ringer on May 5 in the spring concert of the Canterbury Choral Society, which performed Mozart’s “Great Mass in C Minor” at the Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York.

Dr. Todd D. Sikora, earth sciences, co-authored three refereed articles in the last year. One article is titled “Synthetic Aperture Radar Remote Sensing of Shear-Driven Atmospheric Internal Gravity Waves in the Vicinity of a Warm Front,” which was published in Monthly Weather Review. Another article is titled “Demonstration of the Use of Synthetic Aperture Radar-determined Wind Speed in Numerical Weather Prediction Error Detection,” and is in press at National Weather Digest. The third article is titled “Automated Discrimination of Certain Brightness Fronts in RADARSAT-2 Images of the Ocean Surface,” and is in press at the Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology. Sikora’s co-authors are from Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dalhousie University, Defence R&D Canada, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and Penn State.

In addition, Sikora co-authored three scholarly presentations in the last year. One presentation is titled “Toward Automated Classification of Brightness Fronts in RADARSAT-2 Images of the Ocean Surface.” That presentation was given by Chris Jones of Dalhousie University at the Advances in SAR Oceanography Workshop in Tromsø, Norway. Another presentation, titled “The Use of Synthetic Aperture Radar-Derived Wind Speed in Numerical Weather Prediction Error Detection,” was given by George Young of Penn State at the Seventeenth Conference on Air-Sea Interaction in Boston, Mass. The third presentation, titled “Precipitation Characteristics of Open Mesoscale Cellular Convection,” was given by Sikora at a Spaceborne Ocean Intelligence Network Workshop in Halifax, Canada. That presentation was co-authored by meteorology graduating seniors Robert Marter and Eric Wendoloski.
Retired

Dr. Karl E. Moyer, professor of music emeritus, will present a recital on the pipe organ in the Zion Church, Millersville. It was initially planned for the October 2011 Pipe Organ Walk, one of the events celebrating the 250 anniversary of the town of Millersville. The program takes place at 4 p.m. on May 19, opening with the famous Toccata and Fugue in D minor" by Bach and closing with the variations on "Veni Creator Spiritus" by the great 20th century French organist and composer Maurice Duruflé.

Moyer's grandfather, Samuel Moyer, a student at Millersville Normal School, recorded in his diary about attending church at Zion Church when the building would have been brand new. His diary also includes a small standard form to be signed by the Sunday School teacher, which would excuse Moyer from one day of required chapel attendance on campus in Old Main.

Congratulations to:

Dr. Ojoma Edeh Herr, educational foundations, and her husband, Lyall Edeh Herr, welcomed their son, Andrew Edeh Herr, into their family on April 25.

Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Ruth Sheetz, contract specialist since 2005.
Q: Take us through a typical day in your shoes.

A: My day-to-day activities vary depending on what phase the design or construction project might be in. I conduct pre-bid and pre-construction meetings and bid openings. I prepare construction contracts, change orders, process payment applications, issue work orders and review specifications and drawings. I talk to construction managers, contractors and answer questions during bidding. There is always something to do, because we typically have more than 20 maintenance or design projects active at any given time.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: There is no other job that could be more rewarding than working at Millersville because every part of what I do ultimately benefits our students.

Q: Explain what your goal is as contract specialist for Millersville University.

A: My goal is to maintain integrity in our procurement process and to protect the University’s interests. It is also important to provide positive customer service to our internal customers and outside contractors or vendors.

Q: Did you have a role in the construction for Millersville’s new library?

A: Yes, I worked with the project manager and design professional in putting together the bid documents. I am responsible for administering the construction contracts and change orders. I also assist with updating the project budget.

Q: You are in involved in many different areas on campus. What do you enjoy working on the most?

A: I have really enjoyed working on student housing renovations. Knowing that the students appreciate upgrades to these facilities makes all of the hard work worthwhile.

Q: What were you doing before you came to Millersville?

A: I was director of administrative and procurement services for a local engineering company.

Q: Why did you come to Millersville?

A: The operational functions of the construction and design department and contract specialist position mirrored my previous experience and background.

Q: What do you like doing outside of work?
A: I am a sports fan to my boys. Zach is a junior at Bloomsburg University, and he plays collegiate basketball. I go to all the games and support the team. Greg is a senior at the Boys’ Latin School, and I go to his football and lacrosse games. I like being outside and enjoy gardening and boating. My favorite hobby is shopping, especially for bargains.

Q: Do you have a favorite movie, book or quote?
A: The new James Bond movie, “Skyfall,” was fantastic.

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve?
A: Drivers who run red lights.

Q: Where are you originally from?
A: I was born and raised here in Lancaster.

Q: Have you ever traveled outside of the country?
A: Not yet, but I hope to this summer!