Keeping the Lights On

Over the next two years, there will be power outages on campus as the University replaces and upgrades its electrical infrastructure. Thomas Waltz, Jr., assistant vice president for facilities, says the communication is critical to ensure the entire campus community is aware of pending outages.

“There will be inconveniences,” said Waltz, “but our goal is to mitigate impacts to students, faculty, staff and visitors as much as possible. Everyone expects the electrical infrastructure to work when needed. You flip a light switch and the room is illuminated. There is a lot of infrastructure underground and in the building walls to make this happen. Just like any equipment, with time the infrastructure deteriorates for a number of factors (environmental elements, wear and tear, etc.). The life expectancy of our underground electrical conductors (wires) is 30-40 years. We are on the cusp of this timeline.”

Also, the codes and laws have changed over time requiring more stringent, safer installation methods. This project will bring the existing infrastructure up to current standards. The entire project will cost approximately $15 million and is being managed by the facilities department.

When the project is completed, each major University building will have its own utility meter. Currently the University receives a lump-sum bill from our electrical provider. Once buildings are individually monitored, the University will have the capability to assess loads and develop energy saving initiatives resulting in reduced electrical costs. Each building will also have the capability to be individually isolated, whereas today we would have to secure power to several buildings to work on the one building.

Waltz says the campus community needs to anticipate a lot of outages. The various athletic, conference, academic and event schedules are being incorporated in the contract documents to minimize impact during large events—but there will be impacts. Facilities will communicate the outages as best as possible; however, if one phase takes longer than anticipated, it will impact the sequence.

“We will not be able to avoid impacts,” said Waltz. “When power is secured, buildings will not have lights, HVAC, convenient outlets, etc. The critical life safety (fire alarm systems, emergency lights, etc.) will be supplied via the emergency generators. We will also be making alternate plans if classes need to be rescheduled or relocated.”
Millersville Is a “Safe” Campus

“Feeling safe in our environment is one of our most basic needs, and the Millersville community should feel comfortable that they are living, studying, working and visiting a campus that cares about safety,” said Millersville University Chief of Police Pete Anders.

BestColleges.com agrees that Millersville University is a safe campus and recently named the University one of the safest college campuses in America. The website ranked Millersville number eight out of 23 schools listed for excellent campus safety. Anders was honored to receive this recognition for the effort that he and his staff put in to ensure that Millersville remains a safe campus.

“For our officers, it provides a sense of value to their work for the community we serve,” he said.

The University is equipped with 29 emergency phones, also known as “Blue Light Phones,” and has a 24-hour police patrol and camera surveillance, active shooter training seminar and a threat assessment team that will assist Millersville University police with any high-level threats. Anders notes how important community involvement and cooperation is to the execution of Millersville’s safety protocol. “Our officers connect on a daily basis not just with students, but with housing, counseling, health services, student services and facilities staff. It is a collective effort,” Anders said. “Community policing relies on the community trusting and engaging our officers. We are ahead of the curve because we have that at Millersville.”

To read more about Millersville’s Campus Safety ranking, visit Best College Campus Security.

Creepy Crawlers—More Ticks, Fewer Cicadas

It doesn’t surprise Dr. John Wallace, biology, that there has been an increase in ticks around Lancaster County this summer. “We had a mild winter, and we didn’t get the die-off of deer ticks that we normally get,” said Wallace.

And while the ticks seem to be in abundance, the Lancaster area really didn’t see too many of the 17-year cicada. Periodical Cicada Brood II, one of the largest, emerged after 17 years underground to mate and die earlier this
summer, but Wallace said while Dauphin and Halifax Counties had an influx, we really didn’t see many in the Lancaster area.

“When cicada come out, rodents feed on them, so more mice and then, more deer ticks. The mouse is the host for the ticks and allow them to flourish. The positive thing is that fish benefit from cicada falling into streams,” said Wallace.

Ticks can have several hundred eggs according to Wallace, so they can become pesky quickly. And if there is a boom in the mouse population by fall from eating all the cicadas, we may see even more ticks.

NeverWet Chemist Credits Millersville Professors

He’s an accomplished chemist, a competitive singer, a pianist, guitarist and a workout aficionado. Ger Lor is also a junior at Millersville University, majoring in chemistry with a concentration in bio-chemistry. He attributes much of his success to his professors at Millersville.

“The professors are great,” said Lor. “They’re very enthusiastic about their teachings. Dr. Edward Rajaseelan, my professor for inorganic chemistry, is very enthusiastic—I’ve used what I learned from him at work. And Dr. Steven Bonser in organic chemistry taught me reactions that I now use every single day at work.”

As a chemist, Lor works at NeverWet in Lancaster, which has developed a coating that completely repels water-based materials. It’s an easy-to-use coating that caught people’s eyes, and Rust-Oleum recently brought the NeverWet product to market. A video done on the product received two million hits in two weeks: NeverWet Arrives, YouTube “It’s very exciting. It’s a product we worked on for almost a year, and it’s finally out. We had no idea it would be this big,”

Lor’s brother, Boon Chan, graduated in bio-chemistry from Millersville in 2010 and helped convince Ger that Millersville was a good place for him. “I was interested in any science—chemistry and biology. My brother said I could get both biology and chemistry with a bio-chem degree at Millersville and do something in the medical field or have a lot of opportunities.”
The Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) approved a $194 tuition increase for the 2013-14 academic year—$97 per semester—virtually ensuring PASSHE will remain the lowest-cost option among all four-year colleges and universities in the Commonwealth.

The three percent increase also means the total cost of attendance at Millersville and other PASSHE universities—including tuition, fees, room and board—likely will remain below the national average among all public colleges and universities in the United States and significantly below the average in the Middle States region, which comprises Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

“It is very important to our students and their families that we keep our tuition affordable,” said Board of Governors Chairman Guido M. Pichini. “With this action, PASSHE universities will continue to provide outstanding value, combining high-quality educational opportunities with the most affordable cost available.”

The new annual tuition rate for full-time, resident undergraduate students attending Millersville University and the other 13 PASSHE universities beginning this fall will be $3,311 per semester, or $6,622 for the full academic year. Nearly 90 percent of PASSHE students are Pennsylvania residents and about 85 percent attend full time.

PASSHE will receive $412.8 million in state funding this year, the same amount it received in 2012-13. That will cover about one-fourth of the operating costs of the 14 PASSHE universities.

Those costs are expected to increase in several areas, including salaries, pension contributions, healthcare and utilities. Some of those increases will be offset by the impact of a voluntary retirement incentive program offered to PASSHE faculty and coaches earlier this year.

Other cost-reduction efforts implemented over the last 10 years have resulted in overall budget reductions of approximately $285 million. Those reductions have helped keep annual tuition increases at or below the rate of inflation in most years since the cost-cutting efforts began.

The board also approved new tuition rates for resident graduate students and all nonresident students. The resident graduate tuition rate in 2013-14 will be $442 per credit, an increase of $13. Nonresident graduate tuition will increase by $19 per credit to $663. Full-time, undergraduate tuition for nonresident students will range from $9,934 to $16,556, depending on
a variety of factors, including the university and program in which a student enrolls. All the increases average approximately three percent.

The tuition technology fee will increase by $5 to $184 per semester for full-time resident undergraduate students and by $8 to $279 a semester for full-time nonresident undergraduate students. All funds raised by the technology fee are used to directly benefit student learning.

Gates Receives Grant for Art Education Research

Dr. Leslie Gates, assistant professor of art and design at Millersville University, will conduct a year-long art education research study, thanks to a grant from the National Art Education Foundation (NAEF). Under Gates’ supervision, five grade-school visual art teachers in the Lancaster area will conduct an in-classroom study on the relationship between post-modern art education and student learning during the 2013-2014 school year.

The highly competitive grant program awarded $7,600 to Gates’ study, a significant portion of the total $32,134 that NAEF distributed in grants this year. The grant program receives requests for funding of over $200,000 annually, according to the foundation’s summer newsletter.

Current art education majors at Millersville University may benefit from this grant as well. “This award brings national attention to Millersville University,” said Gates. “I think any positive attention that a program gets will help its overall reputation, which is a benefit to students who will be considered for jobs in art education.”

Workshop: Teaching the Arts to Students With Autism

South Central PaARTners is hosting “Teaching the Arts to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder,” a workshop for art, dance, theater, media arts educators, classroom teachers and teaching artists on August 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ware Center. Millersville University entered into a partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and created South Central PaARTners in 2001 to make a bigger impact on arts education.
This workshop will provide professional development training for educators and teaching artists to improve their skills when teaching to students who have autism spectrum disorder, pre-K through 12th grade. The workshop will provide an overview of these developmental disabilities and strategies for using universal design for learning.

“In response to greater awareness of the unique challenges faced by those with autism spectrum disorders, this workshop takes the logical next step: providing educators with a set of tools and techniques to help them address these students’ needs,” said Tyler Clever, arts in education program director at Millersville.

Co-presenters for the workshop are Lynne Horoschak, graduate program manager of art education with an emphasis in special populations at Moore College of Art, and Ermyn King, director of the art program at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Act 48 credit will be available. Cost for the workshop is $25 per person, which includes the all-day conference, breakfast and lunch. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to have registration material sent, please contact South Central PaARTners: 717-871-2186 or email Ty Clever: tyler.clever@millersville.edu.

This program was made possible by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the VSA, Pennsylvania’s organization on arts and disability.

**Need to Know**

**Millersville Borough Street Announcement**

Barbara Street will be closed from Wabank Road to Spring Drive for construction (of the new Millersville Commons) starting July 8 and will remain closed until August 16.

Signs will be posted accordingly on the alternate travel route.

The Borough of Millersville has posted the above information on their website: www.millersvilleborough.org
Plan extra time when travelling in and around these areas for this period.

Please share this note with your friends and associates.

7/18/13 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for July 18, 2013.
Faculty and Staff Activities

Promotions:

Promoted to full professor:

Dr. Judith A. Halden-Sullivan  English
Dr. Daniel F. O’Neill          Counseling & Human Development
Dr. Stephanie M. Schwartz     Computer Science
Dr. Janet A. White            Mathematics

Promoted to associate professor:

Dr. Judith Cebra-Thomas       Biology
Dr. Oliver Dreon              Educational Foundations
Dr. Timothy E. Mahoney        Educational Foundations
Dr. Marcia L. Nell           Elementary & Early Childhood Education
Prof. James A. Pannafino     Art & Design
Dr. Elizabeth A. Sell        Mathematics
Dr. Timothy P. Shea          English
Dr. Jennifer W. Shettel      Elementary & Early Childhood Education

Promoted to assistant professor:

Prof. Erin E. Dorney         Library
Tenure:

Granted Fall 2013:

Dr. Hosein Atharifar  Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology
Dr. Nivedita Bagchi  Government & Political Affairs
Prof. Victor P. Capecce  Communication & Theatre
Dr. Shaun P. Cook  Psychology
Dr. David J. DiRusso  Management & Marketing
Prof. Erin E. Dorney  Library
Dr. Oliver Dreon  Educational Foundations
Dr. G. Anthony Grant  Intercollegiate Athletics
Dr. Lisa A. House  Counseling & Human Development
Dr. Jessica J. Kelly  Geography
Dr. Sandra J. McPherson  Economics
Dr. Richard L. Mehrenberg  Elementary & Early Childhood Education
Prof. James A. Pannafino  Art & Design
Dr. Timothy P. Shea  English
Dr. Jennifer W. Shettel  Elementary & Early Childhood Education
Dr. Mary E. Sommar  History
Dr. Robert B. Vaillancourt  Earth Sciences
Dr. Wilfredo Valentin-Márquez  Foreign Languages

Granted Spring 2013:

Dr. Lisa M. Schreiber  Communication & Theatre
Dr. Elizabeth A. Sell  Mathematics
Sabbatical Leaves:

Dr. Judith A. Cebra-Thomas  Biology
Dr. Persida Himmele  Elementary & Early Childhood Education
Dr. André G. Moine  Foreign Languages
Dr. Anita L. Renfroe  Music
Dr. Lyman H. Rickard  Chemistry
Dr. Norma A. Rivera-Hernández  Foreign Languages
Dr. Elba I. Rohena  Elementary & Early Childhood Education
Dr. Karena S. Rush  Psychology
Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El  Psychology

Reflections From the 14th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition

Written by Dr. Anita Boyle Renfroe, director of Keyboard Studies

The greatest young performers of our time compete every fourth year for one of the most treasured honors in the musical world—to win the Van Cliburn. Sitting in Ft. Worth’s beautiful Bass Hall on June 7, there was a tingle running through the audience, for we all expected to hear excellence at work. We were not disappointed. After the Ukrainian pianist Vadym Kholodenko’s breathtaking performance of Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 3, shouts of joy, bravos and whistles, and ecstatic ovations echoed repeatedly calling the brilliant pianist back to the spotlight. We were on our feet shouting to honor both this soon-to-be 2013 Van Cliburn winner and the Ft. Worth Symphony under the masterful direction of Leonard Slatkin.

Although Kholodenko garnered the top prize, he had fierce competition from two other pianists. The Silver Medalist, Beatrice Rana, an Italian prodigy, excelled in all aspects of the repertoire. Following the awards ceremony she said, “I know that I’m below a great pianist [Kholodenko], and when you know someone is a great pianist, you cannot be disappointed [with second place].”
Her performance of Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 2 was riveting, with relentless, powerful octaves and bravura passagework.

Sean Chen, the Bronze Medal winner, garnered one of the most enthusiastic ovations in the 17 days of performances following his rendering of Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3. The performance was at times, subtle, bold when needed, sensitive and charismatic, leaving the audience breathless and enthralled. Incidentally, Chen is a pupil of Hung-Kuan Chen, one of the Lancaster International Piano Festival Artists for 2012.

Attending the final round of the 14th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition was electrifying, energizing and inspirational. It was my honor to represent Millersville University at this prestigious event. In addition to afternoon and evening programs of concerti, we enjoyed receptions with the finalists, dinners with the host families, and big-hearted Texas hospitality at every event.

Millersville’s music department, on behalf of the Ware Center and the Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center, is proudly looking forward to hosting Beatrice Rana during October. The Melva S. McIlwaine concert will be October 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Winter Center’s Biemesderfer Concert Hall. Tickets are $23 for adults, $20 for seniors and $5 for MU students. All reserved seating. The master class, also sponsored by the Melva S. McIlwaine Fund, will be held on October 23 at 3 p.m. in the Biemesderfer Concert Hall. Admission is free.

For more information on the competition, go to the website of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for the history of the competition.

From Russia With Inclusion

Dr. Thomas Neuville is back from a conference in Moscow, Russia this summer, where he was a keynote speaker and conducted sessions at the second International Scientific-Practical Conference: “Inclusive Education: Practice, Research, Methodology.” The educational foundations professor was invited to the conference, which was held the end of June, to give a keynote address to an international audience interested in inclusive education development. He plans to apply what he learned from his experience to help design better learning environments for current students majoring
in education at Millersville.

Neuville contributed his expertise on the inclusion of children with disabilities in typical schools in the U.S. as well as abroad. His interest in this topic stemmed from his work with Keystone Human Services as a consultant with its many organizations for the past 25 years. Keystone Human Services is an organization that provides comprehensive community-based services for children, young people, adults and families who deal with intellectual disabilities. They also offer their services internationally in locations such as Russia and Moldova.

“My partnership with Keystone Human Services strengthens the link between higher education and international service organizations,” said Neuville. “I have long been associated with the disability rights movement. What lead me to the movement is having witnessed abuses in institutions of the 70s and 80s and seeing the abuses repeated in schools today. When one stands with friends, family and neighbors who experience inhuman treatment, one knows there is no room in a just community for segregated schools, classrooms, camps or communities,” said Neuville.

When asked how it felt to be invited to such an internationally focused event, Neuville stated, “I hope that what I had to offer is in some small way helpful to the professionals who joined me in Moscow and serves children with disabilities and their families well.”

The conference was held at Moscow State University of Psychology and Education.

You can listen to Neuville’s keynote, which includes interpretation, at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPFQuPqsX0I.

**Dr. Stacey Irwin**, communication & theatre, presented her paper “Theoretical Confluence and Interdisciplinary Intersections with Media Ecology” at the 14th annual Media Ecology Association Conference at Grand Valley State University, Michigan, in June.

**Congratulations to:**

**Dr. Jessica J. Kelly**, geography, and her husband Carlos Santos, who welcomed a baby girl, Nayeli Karina-Lola Santos, on June 20.

**Lucia M. Baldwin**, development, on her marriage to Gordon S. Lehr on October 6, 2012 in Lancaster.
Dr. Elizabeth Sell, mathematics, and her husband, Devin, on the birth of their son, Patrick Dillon Sell, on May 25.

Obituary

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael G. Kovach, of Millersville, died July 12. He spent 26 years on the faculty at Millersville University. He came to Millersville College in 1959, and as the local co-chairperson, he engineered the conversion of Millersville from a state teacher's college to a liberal arts college in 1962. In this conversion, he personally established two degree programs, one in philosophy and the other in Russian Studies. When Kovach retired from Millersville University, he was serving as dean of the graduate school.

Stanley B. Snyder Sr., 91, died June 20. He retired in 1984 from his position as a security police officer at Millersville University.

Gordon P. Symonds, Jr., 78, died June 25. In 1963 he was hired as an instructor in the English Department at Millersville University, where he taught for 35 years until his retirement as an associate professor in 1998.

Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Pauline Trinkle Diaz, fiscal technician, who has been with the University since 1993.

Q: What is a fiscal technician?

A: If you would have asked my daughter when she was younger, she used to tell people that, “My mommy takes people’s money.” LOL! We have fiscal technicians and fiscal assistants in our office. I started out as a fiscal assistant in December 1993 and was promoted to fiscal
technician in November 1999. When you use the term fiscal, it’s mostly associated with finances and revenue. The fiscal assistants in our office are primarily responsible with the cashiering duties on a daily basis. The fiscal technicians in our office handle more of the detailed work: billing, collection, reconciliation.

**Q: What are your main responsibilities as a fiscal technician?**

A: As a fiscal tech, I mostly work in the back of the office and handle the telephone calls. A few of my main duties, other than handling student accounts and payments, are banking, waivers, non-student accounts and the monthly installment plan. Non-student account is the term we use for accounts that are set up for customers other than our students. These accounts would include organizations holding events on campus or at the Ware Center, as well as individuals having weddings/receptions on campus or at the Ware Center. I coordinate all aspects of creating accounts, monthly billing and collection. In addition, I deal with the monthly payment plans for students and make sure that process runs as smoothly as possible.

**Q: What is an average day like for you?**

A: I take care of the bank deposits first thing in the morning. Other than that, it depends on the time of the year. During fall billing, I’m mostly answering phones all day and trying to “clear” accounts. It is an extremely busy time of the year in here. When we are not in a billing phase (fall, spring, winter and three summer billings), I work more with the non-student accounts and making sure those accounts are resolved. I am in the process of learning new programs and trying to master them. On a daily basis, I deal with students, other offices and external customers.

**Q: What is most stressful about your job, and what is most rewarding?**

A: It’s never fun having to collect money, especially during hard economic times. So I would have to say that the most stressful part of my job is fall billing. In a three to four week span, we are trying to clear over 8,000 accounts. As we get closer to the due date, there are many students whose bills we are unable to clear for different reasons; some are waiting on financial aid that isn’t approved or processed yet, and others simply cannot afford to pay or are not prepared to pay by due date. During that time, we have a lot of frustrated callers, and we do our best to try to help them resolve their accounts. It can be difficult sometimes dealing with bills, money, due dates and deadlines.

The most rewarding part of my job is when I am able to spend the extra time and really listen to someone’s needs and when I am able to help them find a solution. Over the years, I’ve been able to have conversations with students and parents who have shared some intimate stories. I have
laughed with some students and parents and I have cried with some as well. It’s not always the bill that is making them cry, but something else and the bill was just “one more thing.” When I can listen, be sympathetic, let them vent, and then help them find a solution that is going to work for them and for us, it is really rewarding.

**Q: What quality, virtue or skill would you account for your success?**

A: I am very detail-oriented. I am also very honest and loyal.

**Q: What made you choose MU for employment?**

A: I am very grateful MU chose me. I saw an ad in the paper, and the job description was perfect for me. It allowed me the opportunity to combine two of my favorite skills: working with numbers and working with people.

**Q: What do you like most about MU?**

A: I love the fact the Millersville is so culturally diverse. I love the fact that there are so many different races, religions and groups here that anyone should be able to find a “place” to fit in.

**Q: What is your fondest memory of MU?**

A: My daughter graduating in May 2012.

**Q: If you could change one thing about MU’s campus, what would it be?**

A: Parking! Although it does seem a little better this year. A little! Nothing personal MUPD. I love you guys!

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

A: I was born in West Chester, Pa., lived in Oxford, Pa., until I was in seventh grade and have been in Lancaster County ever since.

**Q: Will you ever go back to school?**

A: I’ve raised my daughter on my own since she was 3 years old. Now that she has graduated from college and is recently married, I plan to start focusing on me, which includes going to school and pursing a degree.
Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I am a movie fanatic. I love all genres, especially romantic chick flicks and dramas. I also love to read and I love to act. In the past, I was very involved in the drama team at the church I attended. I like to get together with friends and family and play cards and/or trivia games.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: This one is sooooo easy! I am a huge Twilight fan, so my answer will be the Twilight series by Stephanie Meyers. Team Edward! =)

Q: What’s your favorite quote?

A: Someone once sent me a quote that really stuck with me. I’m not sure who wrote it, but I keep a copy of it posted at my work station. “Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results.”

Q: If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would you choose to go?

A: Jerusalem. I would love to walk where Jesus walked.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I have an older sister and three younger brothers. My family is really close.

Q: What would people be surprised to find out about you?

A: I wrote a book a few years ago called “Humbled Treasure.” It is not published yet, but I have shared it with people, and they seem to enjoy it. I’m really proud of it. It’s Christian Chick Lit that’s part fiction/part non-fiction. My book’s tagline is: “That’s what I asked for but can I get a refund? Talia Sloan’s life was boring and blah, but it was about to take a turn for the… best? Join Talia and her friends as she reinvents herself, rediscovers love and recharges her life. With this single Christian mom in the driver’s seat, you never know what to expect as she navigates through obstacles from her past and present. In the midst of life’s twists and turns, she realizes that sometimes it’s better to let someone else take the wheel.”
Also, I was married May 25, 2013, to my old high school sweetheart. In 1987 he went off and served in the Army for 23 years. Life went on for me too. We reconnected on Facebook in March 2011. If I would have known 27 years ago what I know now, my life may have been so much more different. Everything happens for a reason, though. I am at a really good place in my life right now.

Q: Is there something you would like to mention that we missed?

A: Friends and family call me Joy. That’s been my nickname since I was born. When my mom saw me, she said, “Oh what a Joy.” LOL! My nickname actually came from my paternal grandmother.