The books are back, the offices are manned and the library is ready for the first day of the semester, August 26. While the doors will open for the beginning of the school year, the official dedication of the Francine G. McNairy Library and Learning Forum will be held on October 24.

While the building that houses the library is reopening after being closed for a two-year, $25 million renovation, the library services were accessible in Gerhart Hall and across campus. Beginning on August 26 all the services and items will be available in McNairy Library and all library services will cease to operate from Gerhart.

Formerly named Ganser Library, the library will be dedicated as the Francine G. McNairy Library and Learning Forum to honor the former Millersville president, who retired in January. The overall building will retain the name of Ganser Hall.

The project includes additional and renovated study rooms, bathrooms, elevators and computer labs, as well as new furniture and an improved heating and cooling system. The changes will make the library compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. There also will be a new cafe serving Starbucks coffee and a 24-hour study room.

Ganser Library opened in 1967 and has not been renovated until now. It was named for Helen Ganser, the school’s first librarian.

**New Global Well-Being and Social Change Institute Housed in Social Work Department**

“We want students to get their hands dirty and be involved.” That helps describe the new Institute of Global Well-Being and Social Change at Millersville University. The chair of the social work department, Dr. Karen Rice, says the new institute, which will officially get underway this fall, will give Millersville students the opportunity to delve into global social issues and help be positive social change agents. In addition the institute will provide resources and programs for the community and for social work practitioners.
“The institute has been in the works for a couple of years,” explained Rice. “It is grounded in the core value of our profession—to bring about social change. There is a service learning component in many of our courses, and the institute will provide meaningful, authentic service learning opportunities as well as educate our students, practitioners and the community on global issues. We want students to take a stand on social injustice and help bring about change.”

This fall the institute has chosen youth violence as its issue, and there will be a variety of speakers and programs to give students a knowledge base of that issue. In the spring, there will be programs and activities where the students can apply that knowledge.

One of the spring programs will involve a community project working in collaboration with a local school district. “Gangs have been a problem in their area,” said Rice. “There is a coalition within that school district to look at the gang issue, and the institute will be working with youth on changes needed to offset gang activity. For example, they may decide to beautify a park or paint a mural—the project will depend on what comes from the youth.”

Rice already has a plan in place to measure outcomes of the institute by surveying participants on their social justice advocacy skills and their interaction with individuals.

Funding for the institute comes from a variety of sources. Social work practitioners will be able to receive continuing education credits for many of the speakers and programs, and there will be a fee for attending. Additional monies will come from grants and from the 38th Annual National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas conference that the social work department hosted on campus in July.

**Fall Semester 2013**

**September 19** – Sergio Argueta, director of the social work program at Delphi University will present “Gangs and Alternatives to Incarceration.” Ford Atrium, McComsey Hall, 6 – 9 p.m.

**October 23** – The documentary, “Voices of Youth Violence” will be shown at the Ware Center 6 – 9 p.m.

**November 6** - “Mental Illness and Youth Violence: What We Know.” Speaker and location TBD.

**December 6** – Dr. Adam Brown, a licensed clinical psychologist and professor at the NYU Child Student Center will speak on “Trauma Systems Therapy: Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents” at the Student Memorial Center, 6 - 9 p.m.
**Spring Semester 2014**

**February 7** – Dr. Jennifer Clements from Shippensburg University will present “Art-Based Treatment with Youth Exposed to Trauma.”

**March** – Barry Kornhauser and MUth Theater will present “Pieces,” and there will also be a bullying photo exhibit at the Ware Center.

**June 7-16** – Global Service Learning trip to Northern Ireland.

Additional information on the events will be posted to the [University’s calendar](mailto:). For more information, please contact Rice at [mailto: Karen.Rice@millersville.edu](mailto:Karen.Rice@millersville.edu)

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**New Commission on Gender and Sexual Diversity**

In an ongoing effort to continue to foster a university climate that promotes equity, inclusion and affirmation for persons who are sexually and gender diverse, Millersville University has formed the President’s Commission on Gender and Sexual Diversity. The commission will “actively support policies, practices and programs that pursue this goal for students, staff, faculty, administrators and the general public with respect to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.”

The commission will support the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender/transsexual, questioning/queer, intersex and allies/androgynous/asexual (LGBTQIA) community and will focus on advocacy of LGBTQIA rights and issues for all students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Blaise Liffick, who has served on the LGBTQIA committee, will chair the commission.

“This commission will look at ways to ensure LGBTQIA equity and inclusion in the areas of employment, recruitment, academic life, student life and academic offerings,” said Hiram Martinez, assistant to the president for social equity & diversity.

The new commission will serve as an important partner to the President’s Commission on Cultural Diversity & Inclusion and the President’s Commission on the Status of Women.

The commission will also continue its support of the Safe Zone Program, Sexuality and Gender Institute, and MU Allies. The Safe Zone Program is a visible network of University employees who wish to be supportive of members of the campus community who are LGBTQIA; the Sexuality and Gender institute focuses on event programming; and MU Allies is a group for all
students regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression and a place for students to come together and socialize without fear of persecution or discrimination.

**New Degree Program and Appointment of Program Coordinator**

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Board of Governors (BOG) has given its unanimous approval to Millersville’s proposal to offer a bachelor of arts degree in multidisciplinary studies (BA-MDST) starting this fall.

Dr. Dennis Downey, professor of history and director of the University Honors College, will serve as coordinator for a three-year term. He chaired the University task force on multidisciplinary studies and has been a member of the University community for more than three decades. As coordinator of the program, Downey will oversee and work with faculty, students, administrative offices and departments to ensure the program requirements are satisfied. BA-MDST will be housed in the University Honors College.

“The new Multidisciplinary Studies major provides a structure for collaborative research and learning that expands the range of academic and professional opportunities available to students. This major simplifies the curriculum process while increasing the University’s ability to respond to new and creative student and community needs,” said Downey. “In many respects this is a truly student-centered program that fulfills the transformation initiative begun several years ago. My hope is this major will provide many students with a clearer pathway to a baccalaureate degree and future professional success.”

**University Co-Hosting Regional User Conference**

On Friday, Oct. 18, Millersville University and Desire2Learn (D2L) will co-host a Desire2Learn Ignite Regional User Conference at the Ware Center in Lancaster. The conference will allow users of D2L to learn about the technology to enhance teaching and learning.

"The Desire2Learn Regional User Forum will be a great opportunity to learn more about the benefits of using D2L, as well as meet other individuals from local institutions who are using or have an interest in using D2L," said Veronica Longenecker, assistant vice president of information technologies.

For additional information visit the Desire to Learn website.
Millersville University Employee Advantage

Employees and retirees of Millersville University are eligible to participate in the Millersville University Employee Advantage Real Estate Program. Several of our employees have taken advantage of the benefits and services provided through our partnership with Prudential Homesale Services over the past several years, and we wanted to remind you of this benefit.

The agreement between Millersville University and Prudential Homesale Services Group provides for a variety of benefits for our employees and retirees looking to purchase or sell a home including:

1. Personalized service
2. One stop shopping for all real estate needs
3. Mortgage application credit through Homesale Mortgage (Value of $500.00)
4. CASH BACK BONUS UP TO $2,500.00
5. Concierge Services
6. Real estate assistance Nationwide
7. And much more!

To find out more about the program including how to enroll, please contact Alicia Motter, MU Employee Advantage manager at the Prudential Homesale Services Business Development office, at 717-358-1645 or via email at amotter@prudentialhomesale.com. To be eligible, you must enroll in the program prior to contact with a real estate agent.

8/15/13 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for August 15, 2013.

Faculty and Staff Activities

Dr. Kevin Robinson, mathematics, presented the talk "Statistics – What’s So Hard?" at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Mathematics Association conference at Clarion University, April 19-20. He also presented a peer-reviewed poster, "Statistics Education - An

**Dr. Gregory J. Seigworth**, communication and theatre, presented a talk in late May titled “Affect Theory as Pedagogy of the ‘Non” at the National Symposium on Deleuze Scholarship, hosted by the Theory Department in Delft, the Netherlands’ School of Architecture. The paper will be published in their journal “Footprints.” In early June, Seigworth participated in a two-day “Timing of Affect” symposium held at the Academy of the Media Arts in Cologne, Germany. He also organized and chaired three panels on “The Soul at Work and in Debt” at the London Conference in Critical Thought 2013, hosted by Royal Holloway, University of London, June 6-7.

**Dr. Ying WuShanley**, wellness & sport sciences, presented the research paper "Linda Estes – A True Warrior for Gender Equality in American College Sports" at the 41st annual convention of the North American Society for Sport History at Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, May 24-27.

**Retired**

**Sy Brandon**, retired music professor, was a finalist in the 2013 American Prize for chamber music composition competition and a semifinalist in the band music composition competition. His composition, “Meditation and Festive Celebration for Clarinet and Organ,” was included in the July 29 American Public Radio's nationally syndicated program, Pipedreams. The program can be heard online at the [American Public Media website](http://theamericanpublicmedia website).

**Dr. David Zegers**, emeritus, biology, and Dr. J.F. Merritt, Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois, recently published a peer reviewed paper in *Mammalia-International Journal of Systematics, Biology and Ecology of Mammals* concerning the behavioral and metabolic responses of the least shrew (Cryptotis parva) to cold. Their research confirmed the hypothesis that huddling in communal nests by this shrew provides significant energy conservation in winter, which makes them, in this respect, more like the shrews of Africa, Middle East and the Orient than their more genetically and evolutionarily similar relatives in North America and Europe.

**Obituary**

Beth H. Greenough, 83, died July 9 in Lancaster. Greenough worked at Millersville University from 1963 to her retirement in September 1989. She worked in human resources.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. Ryan Orr, assistant professor of sociology.

Dr. Ryan Orr

**Q: How many years have you worked for Millersville?**

A: I will begin my fifth year in fall 2013.

**Q: Where are you from?**

A: I am from Mattoon, Illinois, which is located near the center of the state. It has a population of approximately 19,000 people. It is best known for being the home of the original Burger King. I was lucky to be raised in Mattoon. I had a wonderful childhood, and I made best friends for life.

**Q: Which college/university did you attend?**

A: I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas, spending a semester at Sydney University in Australia. I received my M.A. at DePaul University. I earned my Ph.D. at Iowa State University, concentrating in social inequality and social psychology.

**Q: What would you say are your biggest accomplishments this far in your life?**

A: I think my biggest accomplishments have been making my family proud and being a good family member. I don’t want to give off the impression that this is difficult to accomplish, but receiving my family’s sincere pride and being recognized as a good son, brother and husband mean the world to me.
Q: Sociology is a very broad field. What is your favorite aspect of sociology?

A: In my opinion, sociology is most useful when it reveals how all the pieces come together. In other words, sociology is at its best when it highlights and explains aspects of reality as a product of social forces, including institutional, cultural and social psychological forces.

Q: What about sociology do you find most interesting?

A: I find sociology to be most interesting when it allows people to see social life in a new light and when it allows people to see an already familiar aspect of social life in a new manner. For the former, you think, “I’ve never thought about that before.” For the latter, you think, “I’ve never thought about it like that before.”

Q: What made you want to become a professor?

A: My parents are teachers, so they were influences. Throughout my formal education, I had many positive experiences with my professors, experiences which made becoming a professor an attractive possibility. Additionally, the potential to foster such positive experiences with students made being a professor an attractive option.

Q: What is the hardest part about being a professor?

A: Similar to most occupations, the hardest part about being a professor is juggling the multiple duties and responsibilities.

Q: Why did you decide to teach at Millersville?

A: The sociology/anthropology department made Millersville a very attractive opportunity. From the get-go, I felt strongly connected to department members. Speaking and meeting with Dr. Schmitt, Dr. Glazier, Dr. Smith and Barb Dills early in the interview process, I knew Millersville would be an excellent fit. This impression only strengthened as I continued to meet the rest of the department faculty.

Q: What classes do you teach at Millersville? Which is your favorite to teach?

A: Typically, I teach “Social Theory” and “Introduction to Sociology.” I also teach “Sociology of Gender,” “Sociology of the Family,” and “Postmodern Society.” In fall 2013, I will be teaching a new course, “Craft of Sociology.” My favorite course is “Postmodern Society.” I created the course with my ‘dream class’ in mind. The course’s goal is to systematically recognize the cultural ways of contemporary society (fragmentation, (dis)connection, (in)security, total commodification, and nostalgia) as, at once, reflected in and produced by our current economic and technological realities.
Q: This spring you were a facilitator for the event, “Social, Cultural, and Financial Ties: Innovating Economies through the Arts.” How do things like financial ties and art fit into sociology?

A: Of many potential examples, we can concentrate on the relationships among finances, art and community life. More than ever, people are employing the arts as a mechanism of community development. Facing deindustrialization and its many consequences, community members are turning to the arts to help rebuild the socio-economic fabric of the community. Sociologically speaking, we can examine this situation from a variety of points—Is the activity successful? Why or why not? What happens to community members during the process? Are they all on the same page or are they marginalized?

Q: You also took part in hosting a Sexuality and Gender Institute Brown Bag Session: “Teaching Sexuality and Gender in University Courses.” Why do you think it is important to educate students on sexuality and gender?

A: Like other social characteristics, such as age, class and race, sexuality and gender shape numerous aspects of everyday life. Unlike other social characteristics, one could argue, sexuality and gender often operate more invisibly, going unseen and undiscussed during everyday interactions. When we begin to make visible how sexuality and gender shape the social world, we can begin to better understand and address inequalities directly and indirectly connected to the characteristics.

Q: You got your Ph.D. at Iowa State University. How different is Iowa from Pennsylvania?

A: Looking at the Lancaster area in reference to central Iowa, we are much closer in distance to major cities. I really have enjoyed frequently visiting New York City and Philadelphia. Culturally speaking, people in Iowa usually welcome you with open arms. Here, people are more likely to welcome you with a handshake—a kind of warming-up process is involved.

Q: You were a guest speaker at a program hosted by Women’s Leadership Retreat Committee. How do you think the program benefited the undergraduate and graduate female students of Millersville?

A: Speaking at the retreat was so much fun. We had interesting and insightful discussions, primarily fostered by the thoughts of the students. When students take full advantage of the retreat, they take away higher levels of confidence and a reinforcement of personal goals and desires. For men, it is easy to have ambitious goals and lofty dreams because it matches social and cultural expectations of men. For women, on the other hand, such expectations are not as strong, not as salient. Consequently, it is important to strengthen the idea that even though women are not as expected to become the leaders of tomorrow, they can be ambitious and aim for the stars.
Q: When not working, what are your favorite things to do?

A: Spending time with my wife, dog (little Miss Shiloh) and family. Also, I am a big fan of horse racing. I love spending time (and, hopefully, not too much money) at the track, especially Delaware Park, Saratoga Race Course and Keeneland.

Q: What do you want your students to take away from your classes?

A: I always stress that I want students to take away a larger understanding, an applicable framework from my courses. I realize students will not remember every reading and important concept from class, but I hope they will leave with an ability to critically recognize the social world through a sociological lens.

Q: What is your favorite book?


Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: Superstitiously, I don’t like to think about 10 years in the future. For better or worse, my future predictions are, usually, not very good predictions.

Q: If you could have lunch with anyone (living or deceased) who would it be? Why?

A: My grandmother, Mimi. She recently passed. Mimi was one of the nicest and loving people in the world. I would enjoy the chance to tell her what she already knew, regarding how much she meant to me. It would be great if my mom and dad, Mindy and Bob, and sister, Allison, could be there, as well. We would get together at Mattoon’s Burger King—one of Mimi’s favorite.

Q: Please complete this sentence. People would be surprised to know that I ______________.

A: Am my age.