Members of the Strategic Planning Commission gathered recently with President Anderson at Tanger House. The commission includes: Dr. Jeff Adams, Dr. Thomas Bell, Dr. Ana Borger-Greco, Victor Capecce, Dr. Richard Clark, Nathan Claycomb, Dr. Shaun Cook, Dr. Jill Craven, Melanie DeSantis, Dr. Victor DeSantis, Dr. Dennis Downey, Dr. Jim Fenwick, Dr. Robert Frick, Dr. Laurie Hanich, Brian Hazlett, Dwight Horsey, Janet Kacskos, Carol Kirsch, Veronica Longenecker, Jennifer Mariacher, Hiram Martinez, Deb Miller, Justin Miller, Rita Miller, Dr. Rebecca Mowrey, Dr. Marilyn Parrish, Michelle Perez, Dr. Aaron Porter, Dr. Lisa Shibley, David Thompson and Brielle Valle.

Fall Convocation was held on August 30 at Millersville University, and President John Anderson presented his state-of-the University address, which is presented in its entirety below. You can watch a video of the president’s Convocation address at http://youtu.be/dnbT1YRNZko

Drs. Victor DeSantis and Laurie Hanich are the co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Commission. Watch their discussion at http://youtu.be/XvE5-RXkDqg.

View the Fall 2013 Convocation Program PDF.

Additional information on the Strategic Planning Commission can be found at the Strategic Planning webpage.

Challenge, Opportunity and Renewal:

Strategically Planning for a Brighter Future

Good afternoon. I want to add my warm welcome to faculty, staff, students, trustees and other guests who are gathered here today as we put a spotlight on the beginning of the 2013-14
academic year. Vivien and I wish to express our great appreciation to the members of our community, on campus and off, who have been so kind and supportive to us since our arrival in April. We are delighted to be here, and I am genuinely excited to be Millersville University’s president.

As I look ahead, I believe this will be a pivotal year for MU; one of challenge, opportunity and renewal.

The Challenge

Higher education is being bombarded with questions that challenge the long-accepted primacy of our role in providing access to affordable, quality, educational opportunities. We all know that a post-secondary education will be essential in supporting our competitive economic and leadership position in the world. The higher education community has not turned a deaf ear toward the criticism that has been leveled by policy makers and shapers. In the past eight years the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, AASCU, has empaneled two important work groups of national public higher education leaders in direct response to the public-confidence issue in higher education.

In 2005 AASCU’s Commission on Public University Renewal published a report “Renewing the Promise, the Public’s Universities in a Transforming World.” This June AASCU’s Task Force on Making Public Higher Education a State Priority published a report “Creating a New Compact Between States and Public Higher Education.” The heart and soul of both reports is recognition of the challenge we face in addressing policy makers, and the general public’s, misperceptions regarding higher education - our efficiency, effectiveness and value as an enterprise and our poor reputation as change-adverse organizations.

Dr. Muriel Howard, AASCU President, has accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker at my inauguration in October. I suspect she will have much to say about the most recent report and the “Grand Paradox” it notes public higher education must solve. The report defines the “Grand Paradox” as the perplexing contradiction of many state lawmaker’s strong rhetorical support of public higher education and accompanying belief in our central role in creating a better future, contrasted with the lack of a political will, albeit in the throes of structural budget
deficits, to provide sufficient financial support for the very institutions that are critical to creating that better future. I have recently experienced this “Grand Paradox” at MU, with vocal support from government leaders with whom I have interacted as to this university’s performance and then the lack of overall state and tuition support needed to serve our students well. These, along with other issues outlined in my recent budget message to the university community, have necessitated making some very difficult decisions this summer.

Many are the voices calling for change within higher education. I believe our best hope for a positive outcome rests with our own creativity in rethinking higher education. In a book discussed by the Transformation Advisory Council’s General Education Action Idea Team entitled *We’re Losing Our Minds, Rethinking American Higher Education*, Richard Keeling and Richard Hersh state the hard truth that the necessary rethinking will be neither easy nor incremental. Keeling and Hersh pointedly note that we need to question everything we do; all of our, quote, “assumptions, principles, priorities, values, organizational structures, reward systems, and usual and customary practices…” end quote. To my thinking, these authors are neither alarmists nor doomsayers; they are realists.

What is called for is a critical self-examination of our value as a public university. Keeling and Hersh postulate that the real concern in this rethinking of higher education should focus on the value-added aspects of our enterprise. Instead of asking if higher education costs too much, Keeling and Hersh pose the following questions as the salient points of inquiry:

1. Does the quality and quantity of learning by students justify the cost?
2. Are students leaving college prepared for the challenges of the twenty-first century?
3. Will the public and society at large benefit from their investments in our institutions of higher education?

We should all be prepared to answer these questions with credibility.

The answers we discover for the questions we develop and examine will emerge from the university-wide strategic planning process that we are about to embark upon and a critical self-examination of our programs, policies, practices, and structures. This is how we will turn the
challenge that confronts us into an opportunity to redefine and revalidate who we are, what we need to be, and what we will become to meet the needs of our students, the region, the Commonwealth, the nation, and the global community.

The Opportunity

Out of all the challenges we face emerge opportunities – this is what I find exciting! And, the good news is that we do not have to start from the beginning. We are fortunate to have recently completed our Middle States accreditation, and the Middle States inquiry approach is fresh in our experience. We have also completed an ambitious transformation inquiry process, initiated under President McNairy, and the final reports of the Transformation Advisory Council’s ten Action Idea Teams are due September 16. The reports, along with an executive summary highlighting the outcomes of the transformation initiative, will be posted to our website for the university’s reference, guidance and use. Will members of the Transformation Advisory Council and Action Idea Team leaders here today please stand to be acknowledged? Thank you for the important work you have done. I want you to know that the recommendations advanced through the Action Idea Team reports will aid the Strategic Planning Steering Committee’s work.

The best news is, when we have completed this self-examination the university will have produced a new Strategic Plan with an updated mission, a new vision, a delineation and affirmation of our core institutional values, as well as new goals and the strategies to achieve those goals. This plan will serve as the roadmap for where we want to go as a nationally-recognized, comprehensive, public university and how we want to get to that desired place. The plan, initially for at least the next three years, will be structured so that the university will have the opportunity to annually review and revise goals and objectives as appropriate. The plan will also be the vehicle for our continuing work to address the recommendations of the 2010 Middle States visitation team and our collective efforts to improve university-wide planning, assessment, and resource allocation processes.

Before I delve more deeply into the details of the strategic planning process, I think it is important to speak to the principles that will guide strategic planning at MU. First, the planning process must be framed through the perspectives of the students and constituents we serve. The process will be inclusive and observe shared governance practices while ensuring that the
responsibility for action plans remain with the division, unit or department that is accountable and responsible for meeting goals and expected outcomes. The executive leadership will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the strategic plan. Current policies, programs, practices and resources will be reviewed in context of how they meet and are aligned with a revisited university mission and vision, and the goals and core values embraced within. Communication must be frequent, consistent and clear.

The plan will be evaluated annually with strategies and action plans revised and/or updated as needed in response to the evaluation. Finally, although the strategic planning process will encompass a holistic view of the university to help us address the challenges and opportunities we face today and in the future, the primary focus of our planning process must be strategic enrollment management because of our significant dependence upon tuition as a primary revenue resource.

As you may know, we soon will be conducting campus interviews for a founding vice president for a Division of Enrollment Management. The new vice president and the new division structure will help guide the implementation of the plan aspects focusing on student recruitment, identifying new markets, reconsidering the mix of students we serve, and enhancing student retention. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee will provide valuable assistance to the new vice president in identifying the best answers to questions about our size, quality, diversity and inclusion, and distinction.

Now I would like to provide some details on the preparation that has taken place for the Strategic Planning initiative and the process moving forward. Last spring I asked Drs. Laurie Hanich and Victor DeSantis to serve as co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and Dr. Lisa Shibiley to coordinate the process.

To help the Steering Committee successfully launch the initiative, the summer months were used to align critical issues that emerged from the year-long enrollment management environmental scan with those from the April Strategic Enrollment Management mini-retreat. Work during the summer months also focused on the logistics of the planning process – finalizing the student membership and external community members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and outlining a tentative timeline. Laurie, Victor and Lisa have done an exceptional job!
The Strategic Planning Steering Committee – composed of appointed and elected faculty, staff, alumni, trustee members, and students – is in place to begin the work of crafting proposals on mission, vision, values, goals, and strategies for the administration’s consideration. Will the members of the Strategic Planning Steering committee here today please stand to be recognized? I thank you for taking on this important assignment and responsibility.

We envision an ambitious timeline for the planning process. To help meet this aggressive timeline the Strategic Planning Steering Committee will rely on Working Groups to develop draft language for the mission, vision, core values, goals, and strategies during the Fall Semester. Early in 2014 the Steering Committee will seek additional input from you, your staff or faculty colleagues, and other members of the university community on the draft planning document. The Steering Committee will consider how best to harmonize and integrate this input into a revised plan that will be presented to Cabinet by the end of March 2014, and ultimately submitted to the Council of Trustees for endorsement at their June 2014 meeting.

There are a myriad of potential questions that the working groups and steering committee can consider. As an example, I can imagine – and hope! – that some might include:

1) What strategies, beyond the creation of an Enrollment Management Division, present the best opportunities for countering the decline in the traditional high school graduate market that has been our mainstay?

2) How might we increase the yield within this group while maintaining, or even improving, the general academic profile of that entering class of students? At the same time, how do we fulfill our obligation of access for the more vulnerable, less well-prepared high school graduates coming from historically underrepresented populations who will be an increasingly larger proportion of high school graduates nationally?

3) In what new student markets should we invest?

4) The adult student market is the fastest growing segment in higher education. Do the degree completers and post baccalaureate that need career-oriented updates and/or changes, for example, present the best opportunity for growth?
5 To what extent should we expand our enrollment of international students, and what support structures would we need to assure success?

6 We are very close to the borders of three states. How aggressive should we be in recruiting students from out of state?

7 Should, and if so how, do online course options and online programs, either totally online or through some combination of online, weekend, or other hybrid mix of on/off-campus programming, add to overall enrollment stability and yet remain congruent with our mission?

8 We have entered into a brave new world where students will increasingly seek a multi-university educational pathway.

9 How do we ensure that pathway leads to, and through, Millersville University?

10 What about academic program review and development?

11 Will our current academic program offerings meet the future needs of our society?

12 How do we assure that we remain true to the liberal arts mission of the university as we adapt to rapidly changing needs of our students, businesses, and industries?

13 How will we support our faculty in transitioning to new pedagogies that our students are expecting – using finger-tip technology?

14 What can further distinguish Millersville University from our competitors – publics, including PASSHE; privates; for-profits; online providers; and, yes, even corporate in-house initiatives?

15 How can we improve our distinctiveness through our wonderful civic engagement initiatives?

16 We are about to become a signatory to the President’s Climate Commitment; will this and other green and sustainability commitments be another marker of distinction and
provide a competitive edge in addition to being an environmentally responsible institution?

17 What untapped possibilities does the Marine Science Consortium facility – soon to be renamed the Chincoteague Bay Field Station – present for Millersville University to expand unique, signature, off-campus, residential semester-away programs that build institutional identity and reputation beyond our immediate, traditional service areas?

18 While we significantly exceed national retention and graduation rates for students overall and for historically underrepresented students, we cannot be satisfied.

19 What can be done to increase graduation rates among all students and, in particular, narrow the gap in graduation rates for minority students?

And these are only a few examples of the many critically important questions that will engage and challenge the Steering Committee and the working groups that will help it in its crucial task. It will be up to the Steering Committee and the working groups to develop the most important questions to which we need answers and to propose strategies for achieving the goals that will sustain our place as a premier, comprehensive, nationally-recognized, public university. The pathway we will have to travel will sometimes be difficult, and we will sometimes feel uncomfortable along the way; but this is a necessary task that I believe will lead to renewal and a bright future for Millersville University.

Renewal

I cannot overstress that the expected outcome from this process will be far more than a planning document to guide strategic planning and resource allocation. The ultimate outcome is to drive institutional renewal by turning daunting, but surmountable, challenges into opportunities. The university’s renewal will grow out of the organic process that unfolds as we work as an engaged community to find answers to the questions we must address in the immediacy of the 2013-14 academic year and through the strategies that we deploy, some during this academic year and more in the ensuing years.
Our collective labor and resolve will confirm the authenticity of the assertion that Millersville University is a high-quality comprehensive public university, and that our students’ experiences are distinguishable from those at other universities. The initiatives we undertake through this new strategic plan will secure our position as a “destination university” and an “institution of choice.” We will emerge confidently from the exploration upon which we embark, secure in a commonly-held understanding of where we currently stand, with a vision for where we want to go, a plan for how we want to get there, and a process for assessing how well we are doing. It might not be exactly clear where we are headed just yet - however, by the end of this process it will be very clear.

This is our time, to bravely embrace the promise of a bright future for Millersville University and the generations of students who look to us to provide the thoughtful leadership and careful stewardship that is our privilege and obligation. I ask that you join me in this endeavor. Together we can chart a plan that builds on a tradition of excellence; that provides necessary pathways to reshape our programs, identity and presence in the Commonwealth, the nation and yes, globally; and, ultimately, that secures our future as a “destination university.”

I look forward to working alongside you as we chart our new course. Thank you.

Now, it is my pleasure to introduce to you the co-chairs of our Strategic Planning Committee – Drs. Laurie Hanich and Victor DeSantis.

Millersville on “Colleges of Distinction” List

Millersville University has yet another achievement under its belt. The website CollegesOfDistinction.com has named it as one of the 2013-2014 Public Colleges of Distinction. Millersville is one of only two Pa. public universities featured on this year’s list; the other is Slippery Rock University.

“To make the Colleges of Distinction list, schools must demonstrate a strong track record of preparing students for post-graduate success,” said Melissa Wardwell, Millersville’s interim director of experiential learning and career management. “In addition to excellent classroom teaching, Millersville offers students a wide
variety of high-impact experiential learning opportunities such as internships, service-learning and study abroad. I am excited that Millersville’s excellent reputation for student success has been recognized by our inclusion on the list.”

CollegesOfDistinction.com is an online college guide that helps students, counselors and parents find the best colleges to learn, grow and succeed. For each college nominated and featured on its website, they consider the four distinctions of colleges: the engagement of the students, the quality of the professors, the atmosphere of the college and the success of the students following graduation. According to the website, a college of distinction is “nationally recognized by education professionals as an excellent school, an active campus with many opportunities for personal development and highly valued by graduate schools and employers for its outstanding preparation.”

When considering which colleges to feature on its website, Tyson Schritter, operating partner for CollegesOfDistinction.com, says, “We interview administrators at other colleges and high school counselors across the country about nominated schools. We also use a range of quantitative data such as graduation rates, classroom size and other key stats that speak to the four distinctions. We recognize it is more important to understand where the college is going and not where it has been, so we look for trends in data as opposed to viewing each school as a static institution.”

Along with meeting the four distinctions, Schritter adds, “Millersville University was recognized for its commitment to student engagement centered programs including its experiential learning, service-learning, living/learning communities, study abroad and undergraduate research program experiences.”

For more information about Colleges of Distinction, visit CollegesOfDistinction.com.

**Ground Breaking/Beam Signing for New `Ville Housing**

Work is underway on the first phase of the new living-learning communities on the Millersville University campus and the official groundbreaking ceremony, which will include a beam signing, is set for September 11, 2013 at 4 p.m. The first phase will be complete in time to accommodate 709 students in two buildings for the fall 2014 semester.

According to Dr. Aminta Breaux, vice president for student affairs, “The Millersville University living-learning communities will further engage students in an active co-curricular learning environment. The message that we
give to our students from the first day they arrive to the University is that learning opportunities are everywhere—in the classroom, on the campus and in the community; and the living-learning communities will provide a rich and deep learning experience to help students connect their areas of study to their important role as a member of a community.”

Crews began demolishing a parking lot on the south end of the residential quad of campus following the May commencement to prepare for the actual construction. Phase One includes 188,272 square feet and will be 267 units with a mix of single and double occupancy semi-suites and full suites. The project is being financed through tax exempt bonds issued by Student Services, Inc. Ambling University Development Group, LLC is managing the project and the development team, which includes Benchmark Construction and Lord, Aeck and Sargent Architects.

“Each wing of the community was closely coordinated to create living clusters which range from 24 to 44 resident beds around a centrally located resident assistant (RA),” said Jeremy Doss, vice president at Ambling. “Each of the clusters has a unique unit mix and bed capacity and allow for maximum flexibility in accommodating varying types of living/learning communities.”

“Resident safety and security were key elements in the facility’s design,” said Roger Bruszewski, vice president finance and administration at Millersville. “We listened to our students closely through multiple focus groups and surveys when we were in the preliminary design stages.”

Highlights include central points of access into the community with adjacent reception desks, multiple electronic access control points and camera monitoring. Phase One includes a 150-person Great Room, which overlooks the South Quad, and recreation rooms, a community kitchen, laundry rooms with adjacent lounges, as well as central gathering lounges with separate meeting rooms on each floor.

Students are reminded that Hobbs Residence Hall will be demolished immediately after the conclusion of the fall 2013 semester. Students who are assigned to Hobbs Hall during the fall 2013 semester will be reassigned to another residence hall for spring. Those students who need to be relocated will have priority in selecting a suite in the new/replacement housing facility for the 2014-2015 academic year.

This project marks the first phase of Millersville’s commitment to replacing all 2,200 on-campus beds with modern, suite-style accommodations while maintaining a consistent bed capacity.

Keep up-to-date on the project at New `Ville Housing.
Millersville Student Attends
The Harrisburg Internship Semester

Tyler M. Barnett of Holtwood is working in the policy office of the state Department of Labor and Industry as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).

Barnett is a senior government and political affairs major and economics minor at Millersville University. He is one of 14 students participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program, which provides students with the opportunity to work in all areas of state government while earning a full semester of credits.

A 2010 graduate of Penn Manor High School, Barnett and the other students participating in the program will attend several academic seminars during their fall semester internship. Each of the students also will complete an individualized research project as part of the program’s requirements.

More than 500 students from PASSHE universities have participated in THIS since the program began in 1989, each gaining valuable insight into the workings of state government at the policy-making level. Interns have worked with dozens of state agencies, as well as in the offices of the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives and the attorney general.

Winter and Visual Performing Arts Center Receives Award

Millersville’s Winter and Visual and Performing Arts Center received an “Excellence in Construction Award” from Keystone Associated Builders and Contractors. The award ceremony and dinner was held on July 16. Millersville’s Steve Strock, Capital Construction, Contracting & Design, was on hand to pick up the award.

The Winter Center, which opened on Oct. 12, 2012, is 84,000-square-foot center that features a concert hall, recital hall, performance hall, classrooms,
recording studio, piano lab, music library, faculty offices and more. The Winter Center project began in March 2010 and has previously received the 2013 Project Recognition Award from CMAA Mid-Atlantic Chapter, which was presented to both the University and Heery International Inc., the construction manager for the project.

**One Book, One Campus 2013**

The new freshmen at Millersville spent part of their summer reading *How Does It Feel to be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America* in preparation for discussion groups and a variety of events surrounding the book.

“The orientation leaders and peer mentors were trained to discuss the book with the students during orientation week,” explained Dr. Caleb Corkery, who has been part of the One Book, One Campus committee. “We’re trying something a bit different this year—the book group discussions took place in the residence halls with other students. They were less formal with no agenda. We’re hoping this method will appeal more to the students.”

Corkery says the book this year was selected to discuss the power of differences. “Understanding differences is important for all of us,” said Corkery. “We’re not a heterogeneous population with one perspective and this book helps explore different perspectives. The book discussions will be followed by a ‘Dialogue,’ on September 19. It is a more directive discussion about difference in our community, and we’re hoping to bring out a variety of voices to bring a broader understanding for all of us.”

Events on campus this fall in connection with One Book include:

**September**

Ongoing: Open Space Project. An opportunity for students to create and curate artistic expressions (visual and performance) for the public in a space on campus, based on the question “How Does It Feel To Be A Problem?” and receive a $500 stipend. For more information, and to register, visit the [Open Space Project website](#).
5: “American Qur’an: Works by Sandow Birk” opens at the Winter Center Gallery. In response to travel to various Islamic regions and research into Islam, American artist Sandow Birk created a large series of codex–like paintings adapting the techniques and stylistic devices of Arabic and Persian painting and albums, blending the past with the present, the East with the West, creating his “American Qur’an.”

12: Moustafa Bayoumi, author of How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America. 7 p.m. in Lehr Room, Gordinier.

19: Deliberative Dialogue on “How Does It Feel To Be Different In Our Community?” 7 p.m. in Lehr Room, Gordinier.

23: “Muhammad – Legacy of a Prophet” film screening followed by reception with Q&A. 7 p.m. in Myers Auditorium, McComsey Hall. Sponsored by the Office of Social Equity.

25: “Muhammad – Legacy of a Prophet” film screening followed by reception with Q&A. 1 p.m. in Myers Auditorium, McComsey Hall. Sponsored by the Office of Social Equity.

27: Attend services at Islamic Center of Lancaster County from 1-2 p.m. Sponsored by the Office of Social Equity. Contact Yasir Mohamed


November

5: “Sounds of Desire.” Heather Raffo, Iraqi American playwright and actress, performs a concert version of her award-winning “9 Parts of Desire,” which details the lives of nine Iraqi women. The play was described by The New Yorker as “an example of how art can remake the world.” 7:30 at Ware Center ($5 for students; $18, general).

9: “American Qur’an” exhibit closes at end of day.

10-21: Student Open Space Projects. Student artistic work and performances featured in the Winter Center’s art gallery, Biemesderfer Concert Hall and Clair Performance Hall. Work will also be displayed in the McNairy Library and the Student Memorial Center. Consult the Open Space Project website for more information and registration.
ATZILUT “Concerts for Peace.” A 10-member, high-energy Middle Eastern ensemble that features Arab and Jewish musicians in concert together to make a powerful statement for peace through shared music. 7:30 p.m. at Winter Center ($5 for students; $20, general).

For questions or additional information, contact Dr. Caleb Corkery, English Department, 872-3655.

**Ricki’s Promise—Soon to be a Reality**

Comments are rolling in from around the world, everyone from friends and family to people involved in the film industry, for the rough-cut screening of “Ricki’s Promise,” a documentary about Chinese adoption by Millersville University professor and filmmaker, Dr. Changfu Chang.

“Creating this film is my joy,” said Chang. “I thoroughly enjoy the creative process to get the human side of life, the laughter and the tears. I believe this film will be a launching pad for me.”

“Ricki’s Promise” is the story of an 18-year-old Chinese girl, Ricki, who was adopted by American parents. It includes excerpts from Ricki’s 43-day visit to her birth parents, as well as footage when she was quite young.

Chang began working on the film in 2011 and hopes to have it wrapped up in early 2014. “Putting a documentary together is a long process,” said Chang. “You start with research and ideas, and then begin gathering footage. We have hundreds of hours of footage to go through, get a rough cut, start scripting, get comments, revise, get another rough cut…”

A peer of Chang’s wrote, “I viewed ‘Ricki’s Promise’ this weekend and was blown away…this is the most intense and most powerful documentary you have done yet, I believe. Thank you for allowing me to see it. I think that any American adoptive parents who might doubt the strength of the bond between biological parents and the children they lose—through a variety of circumstances—will forever change their attitudes after watching this.”
Millersville students have played an integral role in the film. “I used students in every aspect,” said Chang. Ricki was on campus this year for part of the video shoot, and I took students with me to film her in Seattle and in China.”

Much of the film has been paid for by Chang. “I haven’t taken the time to apply for grants, so we’re on a shoestring budget, where I’ve been using my own money.”

Past productions by Chang include “Daughters’ Return,” “Embracing World Cultures: The Legacy of Pearl S. Buck and International Adoption,” “The Willow Trees” and “Embracing World Cultures.”

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**Education on Location--National Issues at Home**

Millersville University will host the third annual Education on Location—National Issues at Home community dialogue on October 7 through October 10. The School of Education has planned for various speakers to discuss local education issues during the series.

The series will feature Dr. Jay Smink, author of *Helping Students Graduate: A Strategic Approach to Dropout Prevention*. This keynote presentation will be held on Monday, October 7, at 12 p.m. in the Lehr Room at Bolger Conference Center. A panel discussion will follow.

Dr. Milton Chen, author of *Education Nation: Six Leading Edges of Innovation in our Schools*, will present the Anna Funk Lockey Lecture on Thursday, October 10. This lecture will be held in the Clair Performance Hall at the Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.

To stay up-to-date on the complete programs of events, as well as links for tickets or to RSVP, visit the [Education on Location website](#).
Need to Know

Visit us in our NEW location at Jefferson Hall

The Costume Rental Shop, formerly located in the basement of Hobbs Hall, has moved to Jefferson Hall on Cottage Avenue. It is now open to the public for costume rental needs (costume parties, birthday parties, murder mystery parties, theatrical shows, dances, classroom projects, events, themed conventions, themed cruises, weddings, proposals, prom/formal dresses, tuxes, camps, Halloween, Santas, Easter bunnies, chicken barbecues, singing telegrams, etc.).

The hours this fall are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon – 6pm or call for an appointment. (Evening and Saturday hours will be added in October.)

MU Costume Shop on Facebook
MU Costume Shop Website

Need to Know

The University community is invited to attend a presentation concerning the University Budget 2013-14.
Tuesday, September 24, 2013 – 2 to 3 p.m.
Student Memorial Center --Room 118

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 – 10 to 11 a.m.
Student Memorial Center---Room 118

Thursday, September 26, 2013 – 2 to 3 p.m.
Student Memorial Center—Room 118

Supervisors should encourage employees to attend this presentation.
Multiple sessions are offered in order to accommodate attendance and office coverage.

9/5/13 Activities
Here are the faculty and staff activities for September 5, 2013

Faculty and Staff Activities

Welcome New Faculty
Millersville University welcomes the new faculty, joining the campus community this fall. The following participated in New Faculty Orientation, August 13 – 16.
Left to Right include:

Dr. Steven Kennedy, chemistry; Dr. Kelly Banna, psychology; Dr. Leslie Gates, art & design; Dr. Jessica Smeltz, chemistry; Dr. David Owen, government & political affairs; Miriam Witmer, educational foundations; Dr. Alexandra Hutto, management & marketing; Dr. Jack Ogutu, applied engineering, safety & technology; Dr. Laura Granruth, social work; Dr. Vasim Shaikh, applied engineering, safety & technology; Dr. Justin Garcia, sociology/anthropology. Absent for photo: Dr. Marc Felizzi, social work; Jenny Monn, nursing; James Hartman, applied engineering, safety & technology.

James Armstrong, music, recently completed a two-week residency in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, and Itabaiana, Sergipe, Brazil. This was part of the ongoing Partners of the Americas project “Music Without Borders,” developed by Armstrong. While in Salvador, Armstrong worked with the famed Ilé Aiyé youth program, Banda Meninos da Rocinha do Pelô, and taught classes at Oficina de Investigação Musical in Pelourinho, as well as at Casa de Oxumaré, one of the oldest candomblé houses in Salvador. Armstrong also taught classes and presented a concert at Universidade Federal da Bahia, featuring Grupo Percussão da UFBA, directed by Jorge Sacramento. In Itabaiana, Armstrong was in residence at Sociedade Filarmônica Instituto de Música, giving master classes on orchestral percussion techniques to the Filarmônica percussion section (directed by Angelo Rafael Fonseca) and young percussion students involved in the music program. Apart from his music activities, Armstrong made connections for the partnersCAMPUS initiative, of which MU music students are involved, and further strengthened networks for future exchanges.
Dr. Natalia Dushkina, physics, co-authored a chapter titled “Structural Colors” for the book “Engineered Biomimicry,” which was published at the end of July. Her co-author was Akhlesh Lakhtakia from the University of Pennsylvania, State College. Drs. Christopher Hardy, biology, and Joseph Grosh, physics retired faculty, contributed pictures to the chapter. Biomimicry is an interdisciplinary research area and the book will be of interest also for biology, chemistry and mineralogy majors and faculty. A detailed preview is available at: http://www.amazon.com/Engineered-Biomimicry-Akhlesh-Lakhtakia/dp/0124159958/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1370129117&sr=1-1&keywords=Engineered+biomimicry#reader_0124159958.

Dr. Cynthia Taylor, mathematics, presented a paper at the 37th Conference of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education in Kiel, Germany, at the end of July.

Retired

Dr. Dennis Denenberg, professor emeritus of education, recently added a new plaque, called Diana’s Creed, to the Diana Denenberg Durand Spirit Garden, located on the grounds at Stayer Hall. Denenberg’s sister, Diana Lin Denenberg Durand ’67, lived her life to the fullest and never gave up over the course of her 18-year battle with breast cancer. That fighting spirit is portrayed in a statute also located in the Spirit Garden. “It is for students to remind them how wonderful life is and that we all need to strive to maintain it,” said Denenberg. “I hope it will encourage students to stop and think about life. And I also want to bring the discussion of breast cancer and awareness to college-aged females.”

Dr. Jack Fischel, professor emeritus of history, had his 10,000 word essay on Herman Wouk accepted for publication by Scribner's/Gale “American Writer’s Series.”

Dr. Karl E. Moyer, professor emeritus of music, played the re-opening recital on the newly-restored pipe organ in Zion Lutheran Church, East Germantown, Ind., on August 4. Moyer has been involved with the instrument for about eight years, including his role as demonstrating organist for the organ to the 2007 national convention of the Organ Historical Society. He helped to advise the congregation about its restoration. Built in 1897 by the M. P. Möller firm of Hagerstown, Md., Möller organs before 1900 are quite rare, and the restored organ, now 116 years old, can be expected to serve another 116 years.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Aaron Rohrer, cook in the dining and conferences services.

![Aaron Rohrer and family](image)

Q: When did you first start working at Millersville University?

A: I was hired by chef Gerry Shehan for the Gordinier dining hall in 2001. Back then the Upper Deck was known as Gordinier, the North Side Bistro was known as Lyle and the Anchor was known as the mail room.

Q: What does your typical day at work consist of?

A: I get to play with dough all day. First I press it. Then I flour it. Next I stretch it. Then comes the sauce, cheese and toppings. I then scrape it off the board with a peel and slide it into a 600 degree oven. I check it, turn it and move it. Then I check it, turn it and move it again. It comes out of the oven and on to the cutting board. Then, I slice it and slide it onto a pizza pan, and then
it is ready to serve. I do that about 30 times for lunch and 20 times for dinner, with preparation
and cleaning between the meals.

**Q: Where did you grow up/where do you live now?**

A: I grew up and for most of my life lived in Conestoga Township. I graduated from Penn Manor
class of ’97. I now live with my wife and three children in East Hempfield Township.

**Q: What are some of your past employment experiences?**

A: My very first job was hoeing weeds in the tobacco field of my Uncle Mel’s farm. My most
interesting job was building motorcycles at Harley Davidson in York. It was a temporary job, but
over the three months I was there, I got to work at many different stations, from crating bikes
going overseas to putting decals on gas tanks.

**Q: What is your favorite part about being a cook for the Galley at Millersville?**

A: Being able to develop professional relationships over many years with my co-workers. The
hospitality business is notorious for high turnover. Millersville provides a much more stable and
peaceful work environment.

**Q: Are you the main cook at home? Does your wife like to cook as well?**

A: Yes, I am. But when I’m not there she prepares all the meals, and she does all the shopping as
well. When I am available, we both prefer that I prepare the meals.

**Q: What is your favorite kind of pizza to make?**

A: At Millersville I like making Buffalo chicken pizza. At home I like to make a pan pizza with
smoked sausage.

**Q: What are a few of your favorite dishes to prepare at home?**
A: For my wife and me, it is salad and rice, but for the children it is either pasta, pizza or hot dogs with baked beans and potato salad.

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

A: Receiving the free gift of forgiveness of sin, imputed righteousness and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

**Q: When not working, what are your favorite things to do?**

A: I like to walk, read with the children and read with my wife. I do listen to news and commentary radio.

**Q: What are some of your favorite movies?**

A: I like documentaries, especially about food, such as Supersize Me, Food, Inc. and Forks over Knives.

**Q: Tell us about your family.**

A: I have been married to my wife, Shallon, for six years. Every day is better than the one before. She is an MU alumni class of '07. She is from Towanda, Pennsylvania. We met in the dining hall. She made sandwiches in the morning for the retail stores on campus, and we would pass as she was leaving for class and I was starting my shift. Our oldest daughter Gretchen is 5. Our youngest daughter Delaina is 3. Our son Toby is 1.

**Q: If you could travel to any place in the world, where would it be and why?**

A: If you’re buying the plane ticket, I would like to go to Alaska to visit my brother-in-law, who is stationed there, and maybe see the sights also.
Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: Teaching Gretchen to drive and explaining why she’s too young to be dating.

Q: What is most gratifying part of being a father?

A: That God would entrust me with the care of his creation.

Q: Do you collect anything or have any interesting hobbies?

A: I really like to bake, but it comes with so much guilt. I’m trying my hand at organic gardening. The weeds and I have come to an understanding, but the bugs just don’t seem to listen.

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

A: We are expecting a new baby in January.

Q: What made you interested in the culinary arts? What age did you become interested?

A: I enrolled in culinary school after trying a year in college here at Millersville. I was 18. My interest in the profession has slowly been growing ever since then.

Q: If you weren’t in your current position, what career would you like to have?

A: I would like to be a professional athlete, but that is not my gifting. I have considered being a butcher like my father-in-law.