Watching the Olympic Games from Millersville

Few events have the power to generate worldwide interest like the Olympics. Designed to bring nations together as a symbol of unity, the Olympic spirit is a captivating ideal. But well beyond the opening ceremonies and lighting of the flame, there are issues that host cities don’t like publicized.

As the 2014 Winter Olympics take place February 6-23 in Sochi, Russia, Millersville University professors Drs. Ying Wushanley and Jeffrey Wimer, wellness and sport sciences, will again be closely watching and studying the games for their research of the Olympic phenomenon.

“The loss of entire neighborhoods has become a fact for many host Olympic cities,” said Wimer. “Eminent domain is a frequently evoked legal strategy in the U.S. that has been used by the government to secure property from property owners in what seems for the public good, but which may later create hardships for families, especially in terms of fair market value. I have been conceptualizing and studying these connections as it relates to hosting the Olympic Games.”

Wimer traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to learn how thousands of people have been displaced in preparation for the games of the summer 2016 Olympics. “Large neighborhoods of people have been relocated,” said Wimer.

Wushanley, who attended the summer games in Sydney in 2000 and the 2008 summer games in Beijing, says the people living near the Olympic venues were also forced to relocate when Beijing held the Olympics. “Traditional Beijing neighborhoods were just bulldozed over—never to be seen again,” said Wushanley.

Through their travel and study, both men have researched and written about the Olympics. Wushanley, a sport historian has written eight articles on the Olympics and authored a popular

Wimer, a licensed athletic trainer, has published on Olympic sport injury care and traveled to several Olympic sites. “Many individuals have a romanticized idea of the Olympics and the global goodwill it will create. Certainly there is a degree of truth and hope in the enduring value of the games—but the investment necessary to pull together these events often shadow the legacy it creates,” Wimer said.

Wushanley’s research has focused on women’s sports, primarily women from the U.S. and China. He began his career studying the role of women athletes during the Cold War, which further developed his interest in the modern Olympic movement.

“While China and the U.S. are the primary countries of interest to me, I really look at issues rather than just countries. I’m interested in the environmental impact—not from a health perspective but from a global consciousness—things like ideology, culture, politics and socioeconomics. Often a country will say they care about the environment but then remove a rain forest to hold the Olympics,”

While both scholars say the Sochi Games will be very secure, in light of recent terrorist attacks in Russia, Wushanley doesn’t think they would have received the bid if the voting was done today. “Sochi was behind in the first round of voting in 2007,” said Wushanley. “It was a very close call. I think because of that if there had been terrorist attacks then, they likely would have lost the bid.”

“Sochi will be much safer than most other Olympics,” said Wushanley. “In Russia the government has more power to arrest people who protest. In a true democracy, that’s much harder. This will be the largest security force ever employed in the Olympics.” Wimer agrees. “In the past it was the local police who provided the security. Today the federal and international agencies are working together with local authorities to help to ensure a safe event. The sheer size of the security force will hopefully discourage possible threats,” he said.
Millersville Student Attends Winter Olympic Games

Millersville University senior Jean Casimir is in Sochi, Russia, as part of his internship with the television network NBC. Casimir is working as an NBC logger at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. His primary duties include screening videotapes and logging the videotape of events, as well as logging the event as it happens and indicating potential highlights to assist producers.

After high school, Casimir was accepted into the Emma Bowen Foundation, a program to prepare minority youth for careers in the media industry. Through the foundation, he was assigned to intern at NBC10 Philadelphia. Casimir, a broadcasting major and print media studies minor, has interned with NBC10 since June 2010.

For the past few years, a select few of Emma Bowen scholars, who are currently still in school and have worked for NBC stations, were interviewed for the Olympic Games internship. Out of the 20 students interviewed from across the U.S., Casimir was one of the seven students selected to be part of the NBC Olympics crew.

“The experiences that I have had with NBC10 Philadelphia, along with all of the things I've learned at Millersville University—from classes to co-producing a show and directing multicamera productions of Marauder football games for MUTV—have helped me be able to participate in such an incredible event,” said Casimir.

Graphic Communication Students Bring the Classroom to Life

This past fall, Millersville University students produced a 2014 calendar as part of a graphic communication class project. However, this isn’t your ordinary calendar. The class project incorporated augmented reality technology to create an interactive calendar. Augmented reality makes printed materials like labels, or pictures in magazines, come to life.
The graphic communication technology behind augmented reality enables normal print media to link with supplemental information using wireless systems,” said Dr. Mark Snyder, associate professor in applied engineering and technology. “The technology relies on digital image recognition applications and the ability to rapidly link to creative resources such as websites, databases or videos.”

The calendar can become interactive by downloading a free app that enables smart devices to recognize the images and make them come to life. To make this work, the students captured “poster” images of activities typically seen in the Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology building, Osburn Hall. Then, each picture is linked, through augmented reality, to a video of the students introducing themselves and the extent of their involvement in the project. The cover of the calendar also links to the Department of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology website.

“It is an excellent hands-on learning experience that relates well to how a product is completed in the printing industry,” said Snyder. “It also introduces graphic communication students to a contemporary printing technology. Students who are familiar with interactive print, using this new technology, will have a leg up on others seeking positions in the printing, publishing and packaging industries following graduation.”
Anyone interested in obtaining a 2014 augmented reality calendar can contact Snyder at mark.snyder@millersville.edu.

To demonstrate how the calendar works, follow the instructions to download the free app and point your smart device to the image below to enable the interactive video.

![2014 Calendar](image)

The Best for the Kids

![Performance](image)

Barry Kornhauser, playwright and theater arts educator at Millersville, spent part of winter break in Minneapolis working with the Tony award-winning Children’s Theatre Company on his play “Balloonacy,” a recent winner of the American Alliance for Theatre & Education’s...
Distinguished Play Award. Opening in March, it’s a wordless theater production for pre-school children as young as 15-months.

“When you create plays for very young children, it’s helpful to cultivate visual and physical vocabularies on stage, as spoken language alone can present a barrier to understanding and appreciation,” notes Kornhauser. “Non-verbal pieces also reach out to nontraditional, underserved audiences such as deaf youngsters and immigrant populations with limited English skills.” In fact, the piece was developed working with Somali and Hmong refugee pre-schoolers and Native Americans in an Ojibwa language immersion program, and later conducted workshops for children in a school for the deaf.

Family Arts Collaborative manager for Millersville University, Kornhauser’s accolades include the Charlotte B. Chorpenning Cup honoring “a body of distinguished work by a nationally known writer of outstanding plays for children.” He has written more than 30 plays, most for young audiences, three of which have been published since he’s come to Millersville: “Bert & Ernie, Goodnight!” “A Christmas Carol” and “A Child’s Garden of Verses.”

“Bert & Ernie, Goodnight!” was commissioned and produced by the Children’s Theatre Company by special arrangements with the Sesame Workshop and VEE Corp. “It’s the first time the iconic Sesame Street Muppet characters have been depicted as real-life people,” said Kornhauser. “Instead of puppets living in a human world, we get to know Bert and Ernie as humans living in a puppet world.”

“A Christmas Carol,” a musical adaptation of the Dickens’ classic, was written with composer Ron Barnett and was commissioned and first produced by the Fulton Theatre, but has since been performed from Hershey to Honolulu.

Kornhauser’s “A Child’s Garden of Verses” is a piece for very young audiences commissioned and first produced by another Tony-honored stage, the Alliance Theater in Atlanta. Kornhauser remains reluctant to have his plays published. “I never feel that they’re fully finished. I always see something in the text that could use improvement, and for all of its practical benefits, publication has the unfortunate aspect of incising a play’s words in granite.”

Right now, Kornhauser is also working on a stage adaptation of author Jane Yolen’s award-winning novel “The Devil’s Arithmetic,” which will premiere in Pittsburgh in May. Before its official opening, however, Millersville’s Tony Elliot will direct MU students in a reading at the upcoming 33rd national Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide on campus on April 2-4, 2014.

When he’s not writing plays, you can find Kornhauser busy with Fam Fun Fest days at the Winter and Ware Centers,
helping to develop MU disability arts programming, directing the M-Uth Theatre program, working with the social work department at Millersville on anti-bullying programs and with IU-13 school districts and various social service agencies on many other projects.


Millersville University Students Develop Websites for Local Organizations

Two Millersville University classes worked side-by-side last fall in order to design and develop websites for local organizations. Design students (taught by Nancy Mata, associate professor of art & design) and computer science students (taught by Dr. Stephanie Schwartz, professor of computer science) formed multi-disciplinary teams to tackle real-world projects. The classes completed a total of eight projects for their clients: two nonprofit organizations, five small companies and one internal University project.

The pairing of the two classes was designed to take many of the lessons learned from Mata and Schwartz’s five years of leading the Software Productization Center and make the collaborative opportunity available to a larger number of students by bringing it into the classroom.

“Most group project work involves putting multiple people on something big and having them divide it up,” said Schwartz, explaining the importance of the design and computer science pairing. “While valuable, this doesn’t necessarily rise to the level of true collaboration, which happens when something is accomplished that could not have been accomplished by any of the members acting as individuals. These projects would look quite different if they were developed only by computer science students, and they would function very differently if they were created only by design students.”

Dylan Leakway, a computer science student at Millersville, agreed. “It was great working with the design students to get a different point of view on things,” said Leakway “It was also great to work on such a huge product. This whole experience has been deeply rewarding.”
Millersville design student Rebecca Sallee added, “Just working together with the computer science students as a team was a real learning experience. Overall, the experience was a huge learning curve, but I am so happy that I was able to go through it. I learned to communicate with a client, as well as working with user experience and web development.”

The websites were developed using a content management system, Concrete5, which will allow the clients to maintain their own websites without needing technical support. The students trained their clients at the end of the project on how to maintain their websites.

“The team was instrumental in guiding me in both what to expect and what could be done with this website,” said Philip Biechler, one of the students’ clients. “They really sensed what I wanted and were knowledgeable about how to achieve it. The result turns out to be more than expected—user friendly, informative and great artistic approach.”

To view a sample of the classes’ work, visit any of the client’s websites listed below.

http://www.threefriendships.com/- (Micro-publishing Company)
http://www.operalancaster.com/- (OperaLancaster)
http://www.mthistoricalsociety.com/- (Manheim Township Historical Society)
http://www.legacylandscapematerials.com/- (Landscaping Materials Company)
http://www.aerialhdcam.com/- (Aerial HD Photography)
http://www.philipbiechlerdesigns.com/ - (Custom Furniture)

**OWLeS Team on the Move**

A team of MU meteorology students (l to r): Tim See, Andrew Henry, Mike Yalch and James Simkins) deploy a pod (foreground) to record atmospheric conditions. The students use the mobile mesonet trucks (background) to drive through snowbands during the lake effect events and take measurements.
The 24 Millersville meteorology students and two professors are back on campus after spending much of December and January in New York as part of the NSF-funded Ontario Winter Lake-effect Systems (OWLeS) project. The students assisted researchers based across the country with launching weather balloons, photographing ice crystals and recording atmospheric conditions.

In addition, many of the students went right from New York to the American Meteorological Society’s annual conference Feb. 2-6 in Atlanta, Ga. The theme for the conference was “Extreme Weather – Climate and the Built Environment: New Perspectives Opportunities and Tools.”

**MU Students Team with VITA to Offer Free Tax Preparation**

If you or someone you know is looking for a way to cut costs this tax season, look no further. Millersville University’s Office of Experiential Learning and Career Management (ELCM) will host a VITA tax preparation site on campus for the second consecutive year in Stayer Hall on Saturdays in February, March and April.

United Way of Lancaster County’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will offer free tax preparation service to any qualifying family or individual. This year, six Millersville affiliated volunteers will offer their services. These include Millersville budget analyst Amanda Flurry, accounting alum Mike Urbanik ’04, grad student in social work Ashley Ruhl, economics alum Jeremy Spangler ’11, junior accounting major Rangsey Viset and senior economics major Ryan Shultz.

The VITA program offers tax assistance free of charge at 14 sites across Lancaster County to anyone whose household income in 2013 was less than $50,000 and who is unable to afford paying a professional tax preparer.

“As a social worker, I'm always looking for small ways to help. I was also really interested in learning this new skill,” said Ruhl, who is an intern at United Way. “I set out to help these families receive the highest refund they are eligible because I know what it is like to struggle financially.”
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“[VITA] helps put hard-earned money back in the pockets of low-to-moderate income wage earners in the form of tax refunds and tax credit,” said Melissa Wardwell, interim director at ELCM. “Helping clients save an average of $200 in tax preparation fees can make a tremendous impact in their daily life.”

In addition to aiding families by offering free tax returns, the VITA program offers training to students at no cost, helping them learn new skills while becoming certified tax preparation.

“I am happy to help people who cannot do their own tax return,” said Viset. “The program provides the training without any cost. The only requirement is that you are willing to learn those materials.”

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call United Way of Lancaster at 717-291-5462 or visit The United Way of Lancaster Free Tax Preparation website.

New Strategic Plan for University on Schedule

The steering committee of the strategic planning process at Millersville has announced that the new plan is on schedule and they have planned several open forums for the campus community to give input.

The Steering Committee used the input provided last fall by students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees and community members to revise the planning elements. “Your feedback helped to shape the proposed mission, vision, common purpose, core values and goals,” said Dr. Laurie Hanich, co-chair of the steering committee. “Our work this semester focuses on refining the planning elements, reframing goals and prioritizing strategies to fulfill our updated mission, and aspire to our new vision.”

“Your participation in this input phase during the next three weeks is critical. Whether you are a student, work in catering, a faculty member, an alumni board member, a coach, a trustee, staff assistant or officer, we want your feedback,” said Dr. Victor DeSantis, co-chair of the steering committee. “Your input will help cabinet implement the plan, which involves identifying actions, success indicators and allocating resources.” The Steering Committee invites you to provide input on the current version of the plan available here http://www.millersville.edu/iea/planning/. The final draft will be submitted to President Anderson and his cabinet for approval in March 2014.
Open Forums will be held in McNairy Library’s Garden Room (Room 117):
- February 11 - 5 to 6 p.m.
- February 13 - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
- February 14 - 3 to 4 p.m.
For more information, contact Jen Lefever at ext. 2390.

Need to Know

New Homes for ELCM

PLEASE NOTE – Experiential Learning and Career Management has relocated. Academic Internships and Career Services is now located in Bedford House. Community Service, Volunteer Central and the AmeriCorps Project Cygnet are now located in Huntingdon House, along with the Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project (CCERP). Both houses are conveniently located across from the Student Memorial Center.
Need to Know

Dance Class With Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Offered by COBALT Dance Company and Millersville University

Contemporary Ballet of PA (COBALT) and Millersville University announce a new program, “Going Places,” open to children in grades three through nine who are deaf or hard of hearing. The program is designed to introduce boys and girls to the joy of dance and empower them to explore dance movement in ways that are stimulating and creative. Classes will be held six consecutive Saturdays starting March 15 and are offered free of charge, thanks to a generous National Endowment for the Arts grant. No previous experience with dance is expected or required. Millersville University is providing live percussion accompaniment and space for the classes on the main campus in Millersville. The class will be taught by Warkenda Williams Casey, a veteran performer, dance teacher and American Sign Language interpreter.

“My personal mission is to bring dance to kids in a way that they will blossom,” said Casey. “I love being part of the Deaf Community, and I love dance, and I know that given the opportunity, there are kids in the Deaf Community here who will dance as well. Kids who are deaf or hard of hearing already have a great ability to communicate and express emotion through movement.”

“‘Going Places’ will build on that strength. In this class, the dancers get to create what they feel. If you feel happy or silly, angry or confused, dance can allow you to get that out of your head, into your whole body and send it out into space. Of course, specific dance skills will be introduced too, but the ability to share and work together is key. For those kids who may spend
large parts of their school day learning words and struggling to communicate with words, dance classes can provide amazing freedom of expression,” Casey said.

Another goal is for the students to increase the recognition of rhythm and patterns of movement. Unlike recorded music, a live drumbeat can be felt through the floor. “Our percussionist, a Millersville music student, will move and breathe and respond fully to the dancers, so they able to truly connect and become the emotions they are expressing,” added Casey. Other major goals are to increase confidence about movement and dancing to help spark the imagination.

“We’re thrilled to be able to offer these classes in the Lancaster area for the first time with an experienced dance teacher who can communicate with American Sign Language and SimCom,” said COBALT Artistic Director Shari Vegso-Wilson, a former professional dancer. “Thanks to the support of Millersville University, children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the area now have a way to directly experience dance classes. We hope to build on the program over the summer and integrate it into a wider program of dance education.”

COBALT is a pre-professional dance company that creates, performs and educates through original choreography. Casey, a York County resident, is an experienced faculty member of Susquehanna Dance Center in Mountville, Pa, and an associate of COBALT/Contemporary Ballet of PA. She performs extensively with regional theater locally and has a degree in special education. She is the founder of “Kid’s DOT (Kids Deaf Outstanding Theater),” a performing company for children in the Deaf Studies program in Virginia Beach and the Baltimore-area “Hands in Motion,” a theater outreach program for hearing and deaf children.

According to Barry Kornhauser of the Ware & Winter Centers, “This dance program is part of a larger initiative by Millersville University to ensure that the arts are accessible to people with disabilities. Along with a new multi-disciplinary, Disability Studies program, the University is developing arts and arts-learning opportunities so that people in our community living with disabilities can become full participants in the cultural life of the region.
This work is being supported by the NEA and also by a major grant from APAP/Met Life Foundation.”

COBALT and MU also collaborate to offer a continuing Dance for Parkinson ’s Disease class, and there are ongoing music and theater programs for people of all ages with physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities. Millersville is also hosting professional artists with disabilities and increasing the number of performances offering accessibility services such as ASL interpretation, open-captioning and audio description.

Those interested in registering or finding out more information about the “Going Places” program can call 717-676-9039 or e-mail Sus quedance@gmail.com. Class size is limited and early registration is strongly recommended.

For more information:

Shari Vegso-Wilson
sharivegso@gmail.com
717-676-9039

Barry Kornhauser
Barry.Kornhauser@millersville.edu
717- 871-7812
Dear TEDxLancaster enthusiasts,

It is my pleasure to announce the theme for the first TEDxLancaster event on May 3 held at the Ware Center of Millersville University: Break New Ground.

The programming committee took in all of the feedback and worked it into a dynamite theme that will bring forth amazing speakers.

And now – the call is open for speakers until February 14– please visit the website at www.tedxlancaster.com to fill out an online application. This is the first part of a two-part process.

Please join the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/TEDxLancasterPA to stay in the loop.

Feel free to share with anyone who you think might be interested. I’ll be primarily using those two avenues for information – so check back to the website often and the Facebook page.

Laura Kendall
Director, Visual and Performing Arts
Ware Center, Lancaster / Winter Center, Millersville
Millersville University
Millersville, PA 17551-0302
717-871-2308
www.artsimu.com
Need to Know

You are cordially invited to the fourth annual

"Power of the Purse"

A scholarship benefit for the Women’s Giving Circle at Millersville University

Thursday, March 27, 2014
4:30-7 p.m.

4:30-5:30 p.m. ~ Reception and Silent Auction of Newly Donated Purses

5:30-6:15 p.m. ~ Remarks and Scholarship Presentation
Susan Connolly Eckert
Principal, the Eckert Group

6:15-7 p.m. ~ Silent Auction Conclusion and Networking

The Grand Salon and Atrium, Third Floor
The Ware Center
Millersville University Lancaster
42 North Prince St.

Please respond with your attendance plans by March 17, 2014. We invite you to donate a gently loved purse to benefit Milagro House, a venue that provides education, housing and counseling for women and their children experiencing homelessness. You are welcome to bring them with you that evening.

Contact Information ~ The Office of Special Events: 717-871-5926
Special.events@millersville.edu ~ www.millersville.edu/specialevents
2/6/14 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for February 6, 2014.

Faculty and Staff Activities

**Dr. Kazi Hossain**, elementary & early childhood education, made two presentations at the annual meeting of the Hawaii International Conference on Education (HICE). The titles of his presentations were “Muslims—as Scientists & Mathematicians, not Terrorists!” and “Immigration: How should we teach beyond Ellis Island?” Hossain's presentations focused on the strategies educators can use to teach these two topics, which are currently at the center of the national discourse. The conference took place in Honolulu, Hawaii, from January 5-8.

**Dr. Susanne Nimmrichter**, foreign languages, was recently elected to a two-year (2014-2015) term as the first vice-president of the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA). PSMLA is the statewide professional organization for foreign language educators whose mission is to enhance foreign language education throughout the state by promoting the study of foreign languages, providing educators with opportunities for professional growth and networking, recognizing excellence in the field and collaborating with local, state and national organizations. Nimmrichter has served PSMLA in a variety of capacities including a member-at-large, chair of Publications and Technology, Finance, and the 2014 Conference Committees, as well as an Act 48 Representative.

**Dr. M. P. A. Sheaffer**, English, sang with the St. Olave’s Singers for the annual Christmas service on December 23, 2013, of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers in St. Olave’s Church, the Guild Church of the Clothworkers’ Company in the City of London. The singers also performed after that service for the annual festive gathering of the company at the
Clothworkers’ Hall. In addition, she sang as an alto ringer with the Chorvereinigung St. Augustin on January 1 and 5, at the Jesuitenkirche in Vienna, Austria, in performances of Mozart’s Spätzenmesse and his Krönungsmesse, respectively.

**Dr. Ying Wushanley**, wellness and sport sciences, presented the paper “Capitalism, Economic Boom, and the Rising Profession of Female Golf Caddies in China” at the 17th International Congress of the European Committee for Sport History at Ramon Llull University of Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain, November 21-23, 2013.

**Retired activities**

**Patricia Hopson-Shelton**, Millersville’s emerita assistant to the president for social equity and chief diversity officer, has been installed as a trustee of the Lancaster Theological Seminary.

**Congratulations to:**

Employee Aaron Rohrer, dining & conference services, and spouse Shallon ’07 had a boy, Simon Grant Rohrer, on 1/5/14.

**Obituary**

**Mary Elizabeth Fisher**, 91, died January 10. She was retired as a secretary from Millersville University in 1987, where she served for a total of 19 years in Student Activities, Student Payroll and the Campus Book Store.

**Who Makes Millersville Special**

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Megan Jones, assistant registrar for degree audit & curriculum.
Q: Where did you grow up?

Q: What is your educational background?
A: I have a bachelor’s degree in journalism and mass communication from the University of South Carolina. Go Gamecocks!

Q: How long have you worked at Millersville University?
A: Six years.

Q: What does your job as assistant registrar for degree audit and curriculum entail?
A: I work to keep our degree audit system updated, so that what each individual student sees when they access their degree audit is an accurate reflection of their degree progress to date. This includes adding new majors, minors, concentrations and changing existing ones to reflect updates in curriculum requirements that are approved through the University curricular process.
This also includes processing the large number of “Exceptions to Graduation Requirements” that come through for students.

Currently, we are in the testing phase of preparing a new degree audit system called Degree Works, which will replace our current system (DARS). The new system is planned to go live for fall 2014. Planning, testing and implementing a new system at this scale takes a great deal of time and effort.

I also make sure that the online catalog is updated with new courses and course changes and help to keep the registrar’s webpage updated.

Q: What other positions have you held here?

A: I was previously the records and data assistant for the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. I started my new position in the registrar’s office in June 2013.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: I like the challenge of programming the degree audits to effectively enforce our curriculum rules. It’s like a puzzle, and some pieces are easier than others, but once you have it working, it’s a great sense of accomplishment!

Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

A: Knowing that all of the programming on my end of things is all to help a student successfully navigate their program and ultimately complete their degree. I love seeing “All Requirements Complete” when running a student’s audit! The new system we are working on for fall 2014 is going to be a great improvement for students to understand and navigate their programs. It’s a lot of work, but I’m confident that it will be very rewarding in the end!

Q: What is the most difficult part of your job?

A: Sometimes interpreting curricular requirements into an enforceable code within the audit system that works in all situations is difficult!

Q: If you could go into any line of work you wanted, what would you choose?

A: My former graduate assistant and I used to come up with a list of “fall back” career options that we thought sounded fun and interesting when we came upon them. The list included, cruise ship activities director and alpaca farmer. But, in “reality,” I like to bake, and I have a great affinity for cupcakes, so I would love to own a cupcake bakery.

Q: What work have you done with the Graduate Research and Creative Projects Symposium?
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A: In my former position in graduate and professional studies, we always set up this symposium in partnership with other Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education institutions in the spring to give graduate students a forum for presenting their research. Our role was generally to coordinate the initial planning of the event including the space reservations, setting up the website to accept proposals and to handle creating a marketing flyer.

Q: What is your favorite part about Millersville University?

A: I love working on a college campus in general. I was previously working in the “corporate” world at an advertising agency, and I didn’t have the sense of enjoyment that I do working on a college campus. There’s always a new sense of excitement in the fall with a new semester for new students coming in, and then there’s an equal sense of excitement and accomplishment that comes with the end of a semester and our graduating students. You don’t get that in other fields.

Millersville specifically is wonderful because of the people I’ve gotten to know and get to work with here.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: I like cooking and baking, and my husband is a chef, so we also enjoy going out to eat and trying new local restaurants and markets. I also very much enjoy physical activity, running, biking, swimming… that helps to offset the consequences of my first past-time of eating!

Q: How long have you been a runner?

A: I only started running about two years ago. I always worked out, but was never a runner and in fact always hated running. I decided it was going to be the best way to try to get into “wedding dress” shape for my wedding last year, so I forced myself to do it, and now I love it!

Q: What marathons or other big events have you participated in?

A: I’ve done the Hershey half marathon and the “Hands-on-House” half marathon, up next is a new half marathon this March in Philadelphia, “The Love Run.” 13.1 miles is my favorite challenge distance at this point. I’m not sure I’m ready to take on the full 26.2.

I also do the “Got the Nerve” triathlon in Mt. Gretna each year. That’s a sprint triathlon (500 meter swim in the lake, 16 mile bike, 5K run). My next goal is to find an Olympic distance triathlon to complete (1 mile swim, 25 mile bike, 10K run)… hopefully somewhere with warmer water than Mt. Gretna.

Q: What is one thing you’ve experienced that will stick with you forever?

A: Similar to my parent’s generation question of “Where were you when Kennedy was shot?” I think the events of September 11 will always stick with me, and I will vividly remember where I was as it unfolded. I was at the University of South Carolina, and I remember I had an 8 a.m.
class, didn’t have TV on that morning and as I left that class there was a buzz about a plane hitting the WTC, but the magnitude of what was happening hadn’t been solidified yet. I went straight to my next class, which the professor promptly dismissed. I went back to my dorm, and my roommate was already there with the news on, and we watched it all unfold. It was a completely surreal day.

Q: Who are some of the most important people in your life?

A: My family as a whole. I wouldn’t be who I am without them.

Q: If you could be anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

A: My grandmother. I would like to have access to the memories that she does of growing up and living through all the decades that she has. When I think of how much has changed in the past 85 years, and all the events that have occurred, it would be fascinating to have a first person perspective of that.