Professor’s Website Provides Tree-mendous Resource for the Campus Community

One thing about Millersville University that catches the eye of parents, students, staff and residents time after time is the campus’s aesthetic beauty. Although Dr. Christopher Hardy was hardly the only one to recognize this, Hardy has gone a step further by creating a website featuring an interactive map cataloging trees on campus that are “especially large, unique or otherwise noteworthy.”

The map currently houses information on over 20 trees, including information on the species, the tree’s location, why each particular tree is distinctive and a link to further information.

Hardy, keeper of the university’s herbarium and associate professor of biology, first had the idea for the website about a year ago, and only recently began work on it.

“I made the website because the trees on campus are invaluable assets to our institution in many ways,” said Hardy. “They provide subjects for educational and scientific study, they are objects of beauty in their own right and they have stories to tell.”

The trees marked on Hardy’s interactive map include the campus’s tallest tree, a sycamore located near the pond, a coconut palm and banana tree inside Roddy Hall, and a female ginkgo tree—the only such tree on campus.

“The ginkgo is…special because of its treemendous [sic] educational value, since female trees are hard to find,” said Hardy, “yet they offer students the opportunity to study the reproductive structures of a tree that evolved nearly 270 million years ago, before the dinosaurs, and is now virtually extinct in the wild.”

The interactive map and website can be found at http://www.wikiplantatlas.org/trees/. Hardy welcomes feedback, comments and suggestions as to which other trees on campus to add to the map, further expanding the wealth of information available to students and the campus community.
Strategic Plan Proposed to Cabinet

After months of intensive work; input from students, faculty, staff, alumni and the Council of Trustees (COT); after day-time meetings, night-time discussions and weekend retreats; and after rewrites, rewording and realigning, the strategic planning steering committee submitted the proposed strategic plan for years 2014 to 2017 to the cabinet. The plan includes many elements: new mission and vision statements, EPPIC values and goals with strategies.

“We want to acknowledge the collaborative and thoughtful work of the steering committee members to design this planning blueprint that will guide the future of Millersville,” said Dr. Victor DeSantis, co-chair of the steering committee. DeSantis, along with Drs. Laurie Hanich and Lisa Shibley, oversaw the plan’s formation. “We incorporated University-wide feedback to create a plan that reflects our community input and spirit while addressing strategic issues,” said Hanich.

You can view the entire plan by clicking here.

During the remaining weeks of the semester, the steering committee will finalize its work to design a communications and promotions plan to promote the new plan and will propose a new planning body for the University.

The plan will be presented to the Council of Trustees in June 2014 for endorsement. Over the summer, the cabinet will add action items to the plan, and the updated plan will be presented to the campus community at convocation.

Some elements of the plan include:

**Our Mission**
Millersville University provides diverse, dynamic, meaningful experiences to inspire learners to grow both intellectually and personally to enable them to contribute positively to local and global communities.

**Our Vision**
We will transform each learner’s unique potential into the capacity for successful engagement in career and life opportunities.
Goal Focus Areas with Prioritized Strategies

- To engage learners to contribute positively to contemporary and future workplaces and communities.
- To ensure long-term success of the University.
- To embrace agility within our culture of excellence.

Speech on “Invisible Children: When a Parent Goes to Prison” at MU

Children with parents in prison will be the focus of a keynote speech presented during Millersville University’s Civic and Community Engagement Distinguished Civic Leadership Awards. The event, which will be held on Monday, April 7 at 7 p.m., will feature Nell Bernstein, a nationally recognized authority on children with a parent in prison.

Bernstein’s keynote speech, titled “Invisible Children: When a Parent Goes to Prison,” will be held on Millersville’s campus in Lehr Room of Bolger Conference Center in Gordiner Hall.

The MU Civic and Community Engagement Distinguished Civic Leadership Awards publicly recognize notable civic and community contributions on the part of individuals and entities that have had a positive impact locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

Bernstein has addressed policy makers, grant makers and criminal justice professionals across the country about the impact of incarceration on families. She founded the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, which advocates a “Children of Incarcerated Parents’ Bill of Rights” that has been adopted by coalitions and legislative bodies across the country. For her advocacy on behalf of children of incarcerated parents, she was recently recognized as a “Champion of Change” by the White House.

She has made numerous radio and television appearances; her writing has appeared in numerous national magazines; and she received a media fellowship from the Open Society Institute and a Journalism Fellowship in Child and Family Policy from the University of Maryland School of Journalism.

Her book, “All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated,” was selected by Newsweek Magazine as a pick of the week, named a best book of the year by the San Francisco Chronicle and a top 10 book of the year by the Online Review of Books. She also authored a forthcoming
book on the juvenile justice system, “Burning Down the House: The End of the Juvenile Prison,” which will be released in May.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Mary Glazier, director of Millersville’s Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change Civic and Community Engagement, at Mary.Glazier@millersville.edu or 717-371-5663.

25th Anniversary Summit Empowering Millersville Women

The President’s Commission on the Status of Women has been instrumental in advocating and raising awareness regarding issues that impact women on campus and the surrounding community.

On April 9, the President’s Commission on the Status of Women is sponsoring the 25th Anniversary Summit: Empowering Women to Look Back to Move Forward, along with the generous support of the Office of Social Equity & Diversity, Student Affairs, the Office of Alumni Engagement and the President’s Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion. The commission strives to encourage dialogue surrounding issues such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, equal pay and ensuring that the voice of women is heard not only on the Millersville University campus but within the surrounding community.

The theme for the anniversary summit is to “empower women to look back to move forward,” which exemplifies the work of the commission for the last 25 years, to inspire, guide and move women forward.

“As we continue the work of the Commission, we face some challenges that are reminiscent of past struggles and some that are reflective of today,” said Jan Bechtel, student assistant in the Office of Social Equity and Diversity. “We are issuing a call to action fueled by the past and motivated by a desire to improve things for the generations of women here now and that follow as they strive for decent lives and decent work.”

The speakers for the event include women from the campus and surrounding community. There several University faculty, staff and students speaking, as well as community members:

- Jayme Trogus, chair of the commission
- Dr. Stacey Irwin, associate professor of communication and theatre
- Dr. Carrie Smith, associate professor of sociology and anthropology
Dr. Frederika Schmitt, associate professor of sociology and anthropology
Dr. Polly Rost, clinical director of Rost and Associates.
YWCA representative
Louise Williams, former district magistrate
Edquina Washington, director of community relations for Major Kim Bracey
Janet Jaccinor, Anastasia Kraus and Randi Chrismer, Millersville students

The conference will be held in the Student Memorial Center (SMC) from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lunch and afternoon events will be held in Marauder Court #1. Cost is free for students, faculty and staff but registration is required. To register visit, Millersville University - Women's Commission 2014 Summit RVSP.

Millersville to Host PASSHE Summit

Inclusive Excellence & International Education:
Passport to Success Through Innovation, Creativity, and Engagement

2014 PASSHE SUMMIT

Millersville University will be hosting the 2014 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Summit on Inclusive Excellence and International Education on November 12-14, 2014. The official summit theme is Passport to Success through Innovation, Creativity and Engagement.

“The PASSHE Summit provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight the University’s commitment to a diverse and inclusive campus community and to showcase the Ware Center and the limitless possibilities it provides to engage with the Lancaster community,” explained Hiram Martinez, assistant to the president for social equity and diversity and co-chair of the summit.

Dr. Vilas Prabhu, provost and vice president of academic affairs, is the other co-chair of the summit, which will include events and programming on campus and at the Ware Center. A planning committee made up of more than 20 administrators, faculty and staff began working on plans for the summit in mid-February. There will be nationally and regionally known keynote speakers, entertainment and performances provided by a variety of talented student groups and
organizations, and even “A Taste of Lancaster County Heritage: A Family-Style Dinner” to kick-off the conference.

Faculty and staff will be able to choose from programming that covers everything from Title IX/sexual violence and misconduct prevention, international/global affairs and study abroad to LGBTQ inclusion, student of color academic success models, ethnic/women’s/gender studies, disabilities, ADA compliance and much more.

Send questions to PASSHE.SUMMIT@Millersville.edu or for more information, visit the Office of Social Equity & Diversity.

Continuing the Mission of Academic Achievement

For a second year in a row, funding and support has been approved to continue Millersville University’s AmeriCorps VISTA Project Cygnet. The federal program designed to fight poverty in America has been a part of Millersville University's Office of Experiential Learning and Career Management (ELCM) since 2013.

Project Cygnet builds and strengthens partnerships between Millersville University, the School District of Lancaster and community partner organizations. By recruiting Millersville students to serve children at after-school programs in the community, Project Cygnet supports AmeriCorps’ mission of alleviating poverty through the goal of increasing children’s academic achievement.

Project Cygnet currently partners with four organizations: Scaling Walls a Note at a Time (SWAN), an organization that gives free music and voice lessons to children of incarcerated parents; Wheatland Middle School; The Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster; and The Mix At Arbor Place, after-school programs that provide tutoring, recreational opportunities and hot meals for children.

To read about the impact Project Cygnet had in year one on SWAN, visit blogs.millersville.edu/exchange/2014/03/06/theres-a-new-swan-on-campus/.

Millersville plans to continue these partnerships and grow the program in the years to come. Contact ELCM to learn how you can get involved in the program.
Spending Spring Break in Nashville

During Millersville’s spring break, 19 students and two faculty from the music business technology (MBT) department headed south to Nashville for a five-day educational trip, featuring live shows, tours and seminars with bands and sound companies.

Accompanying the students on the trip were Dr. Barry Atticks, director of music business technology, and Dr. Jose Garcia, vocal faculty. The faculty and students toured the famous RCA Studio B, where more hits have been recorded than any other studio in history, and attended the 40th anniversary show at the Grand Ole Opry. The group heard performers ranging from Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert to Green River Ordinance and the Dum Dum Girls.

The trip was the first that the MBT students and faculty have taken as a group, though Atticks hopes to make it an annual event. “Plans are underway for next year already,” Atticks said. “We are looking at various possibilities for locations including New Orleans, Miami or the Dominican Republic.”

Need to Know

New Shuttle Buses on Campus

For many years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, horse-drawn, then electric, trolleys ran between Lancaster and Pequea through Millersville. They passed over the Conestoga River on a bridge near the bottom of Creek Drive. Cumberland House, now on the MU campus, was the station. The Trolleys were garaged and maintained in the Trolley Barn on Frederick Street, now owned and used by MU as a storage facility.
Effective Monday, March 24, both the MU Xpress campus shuttle and MU Park City Xpress buses were replaced by a trolley-style vehicle as shown below. Operated by the Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA), schedules and routes remain unchanged. As always, passage is free with an MU ID. The RRTA Route 16 bus into Lancaster, also free with MU ID, remains unchanged. All vehicles are ADA accessible. Thank you for using these services provided for your convenience and enjoyment.

MU’s new bus design

Need to Know

Sonya Clark

Black and White and Thread All Over

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
1pm-7:30pm

March 4, 2014 – May 5, 2014

Artist Reception on April 3, 2014
Reception: 6:00pm
Art Lecture: 7:30pm
Location: Winter Center

For additional information please contact: Dr. Rita Smith Wade-El or Gloria Mast

Sponsors: the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Academic Themes and the President’s Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion.

The Frederick Douglass Black Culture celebration in conjunction with the Winter Center Gallery presents

Sonya Clark
Black and White and Thread All Over
Millersville Business Association Announces First “Saturday in the Park”

March 19, 2014, Millersville, Pa.—The Millersville Business Association is extremely excited to announce their first Saturday in the Park, scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2014, in the Borough’s Freedom Memorial Park from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. The event will be held rain or shine.

Saturday in the Park is free for all ages and open to the public. What hopes to become a strong community event held each year, this first year is sure to be a success. There will be several food vendors (including Urban Olive, Baron Von Schwein and Bricker’s Fries), where one can purchase a myriad of menu items and free carnival-style games/activities for children (i.e., bean bag toss, Plinko, face-painting, etc).
Musical entertainment for the whole family will also be provided. Critically acclaimed (and Lancaster County natives) Steven Courtney and the Suitcase Musicians will be playing two sets (11:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.), consisting of all original family-friendly songs. Closing out the afternoon will be original rock music performed by a regional act (and also Lancaster County natives), The Slackwater News (4-6p.m.).

The Millersville area community is invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets for a fun-filled afternoon. Parking is free and is available at the Borough’s Freedom Park on Shertzer Lane (adjacent to John Herr’s Village Market).

Gold Sponsors for the event include MBA members Agape Care, As Your Own Stewarding, Martin Insurance, Student Services, Inc., Oak Leaf Manor and Wiley’s Pharmacy.

About Steven Courtney: http://stevencourtney.com/
About the Slackwater News: http://www.slackwaternews.com
About the Millersville Business Association: http://www.millersvillebiz.com

4/3/14 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for April 3, 2014.
Faculty and Staff Activities

Batdorf Appointed Associate Dean for College of Graduate & Professional Studies

Millersville University is pleased to announce the appointment of Cheryl Batdorf as associate dean for the College of Graduate & Professional Studies. Batdorf, of Myerstown, Pa., has over two decades of experience in higher education.

Batdorf’s most recent role was as dean of academic affairs at Harrisburg Area Community College from 2004-2013. Prior to that, she was the assistant director of the MBA program at Lebanon Valley College for 11 years. In addition to serving as an administrator, she has been an adjunct professor since 1996, teaching both graduate and undergraduate students. Batdorf received a Bachelor of Science in business administration in accounting from Shippensburg University, a master’s degree in business administration from Lebanon Valley College and a doctorate of business administration in management from Argosy University.

As associate dean, Batdorf will oversee the winter and summer session programs and scheduling for classes at the Ware Center. She will also oversee several important outreach efforts, including the Educator Source programs and the non-credit programs of The Corporate University and the Nonprofit Resource Network.

Partnership Offers New Counseling Services

Millersville University and the YWCA Lancaster have partnered together to offer free and confidential services for students who have experienced sexual violence.

A YWCA Lancaster sexual assault counselor will be available at Health Services every Monday during the semester between 1-5 p.m. Services will include empowerment and trauma focused on sexual assault counseling for students, significant others and family members; legal and medical accompaniment if requested; 24-hour rape crisis hotline services; and information and referral services.

Students may contact health services at 717-872-3250 to schedule an appointment or if they have any questions.
Obituary

Kurt Rudolf Fischer, 92, died March 22, at Lancashire Hall, Lancaster, Pa. He came to Millersville in 1966 and was the first chair of Millersville’s philosophy department. He remained in that position for 15 years.

Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Dr. Sean P. Hendrick, assistant professor of physics. Hendrick has been with the University since fall 2005.

Q: Why did you come to Millersville?

A: I was raised in the Philadelphia suburbs but went to school in the south, first at the University of Virginia and then at North Carolina State University. One of my best friends from high school attended Millersville, and I would often road trip up to Millersville to visit during my college years. After finishing my graduate work, I wanted to be back in the area to be close to my family. After a one-year sabbatical replacement job at Drew University in New Jersey, the position at Millersville opened up, and I was excited to apply.

Q: Tell us why you decided on a career in physics and astronomy?

A: At a young age, my parents sparked my interest in astronomy. There was an alignment of planets in the late 70s, where several planets were visible in the sky at once. My parents got a telescope and took me and my brother out to see them early one morning. I was amazed by what I saw then and have been hooked ever since. It wasn’t until later in life I realized they actually pay people to look at the sky, and I wanted to be one of those people.
Q: Can you explain for us what an astrophysicist studies?

A: Basically, we study the nature of the universe. Observational astronomy is part of it, but so is the theoretical physics needed to explain what we see. There are many fields that examine the formation and evolution of planets, stars and galaxies. Then there is cosmology, which looks at the origins of the universe with the Big Bang Theory and the roles of Dark Matter and Dark Energy.

My area of expertise is supernova explosions and the remnants they leave behind. This is really the first step in evolution, creating and distributing the elements of the periodic table. Every atom in your body (besides any hydrogen) was created in a dying star. That explosion spread out, delivering that material to surrounding clouds of hydrogen and triggering the next round of star and planet formation.

Q: Do you have telescopes?

A: I still have the one my parents bought many years ago, but we also have several telescopes in the physics department. I try to take some of the physics majors out to do some observing several times each semester. We will also come to any group that invites us to set up the telescopes for some observations. I also keep one in my car at all times because you never know when conditions will be great for viewing.

Q: What has been your best experience(s) over your years here?

A: The best feeling as a teacher is that “eureka” moment. When you are trying to explain a concept to a student and you finally see their eyes light up, and you know that they understand. That breakthrough from confusion to comprehension is the most satisfying part of the job.

Q: What classes do you teach?

A: My main responsibility is the General Astronomy class (PHYS 117), a G2 block class, which serves over 300 students each year with two fall sections and one in the spring. It is designed for non-science majors, so I try to have fun with it as much as possible. I also handle some upper-level physics classes like Electromagnetism (PHYS 321 & 322) and Introduction to Astrophysics (PHYS 317). I teach our department’s only perspective course, Physics & the Evolution of Western Civilization (PHYS 302) which combines physics, history and philosophy. My other large class is Physics 2—with Algebra (PHYS 132), a course that mainly serves our biology program to give those students the basis in physics upon which chemistry and biology are built.

Q: Since physics is such a difficult subject for many, do you think students/other people are intimidated by you?

A: By me personally—I hope not, but the material can be intimidating. The main issue is the math phobia that is so prevalent with today’s students. I jokingly tell my students each year that
it is O.K. to hate math, but it is not O.K. to fear math. The first rule in Pythagoras’ school was “at its deepest level, reality is mathematical in nature” and that is so very true. Mathematics is the language of the universe, and we science and math professors are your translators. If you can learn it, you will see the beauty in the mathematics that we all appreciate.

**Q: What do you do in your free time? Any hobbies? Sports?**

A: Reading and video games are my main hobbies. I am also an avid sports fan, especially NFL football and college hoops. I play fantasy football during the season, and I filled out my brackets for March Madness. Despite my Philly roots, I am a Cowboys fan from a family full of Eagles fans. My brother and I traveled to Dallas for this year’s Eagles-Cowboys game the last week of the season, bad result for me, but he loved it, and it was a nice trip.

**Q: What was the last book you read?**

A: I am constantly reading, mainly science fiction and fantasy novels. My dad was always reading, and one day I asked him which was his favorite. He handed me “The Foundation Trilogy” by Isaac Asimov, and I began my love of reading. Recently, I finished a re-read: the “Malazan Book of the Fallen,” by Steven Erickson, a 10-volume epic fantasy series, which I can highly recommend to fans of the genre. For many years now, Dr. Tim Miller from the English Department has invited me to be a part of his Science Fiction class (ENGL 292), where I come in to discuss the science of science fiction and am available to help his students with any technical questions they have when writing their own stories.

**Q: What is your favorite food?**

A: A nice steak and a baked potato is the perfect meal.

**Q: What’s your favorite place to vacation?**

A: My family has a beach house on Long Beach Island (LBI), and I have spent all my summers there. For 10 years I worked as a lifeguard on the beach, continuing the family tradition of my uncles and cousins who have guarded. That was the best job ever, and I made some really good friends over the years. The Hendrick beach house really keeps my father’s side of the family close, since we all descend upon it in the summer. We’re a large extended family, often with 20+ people staying there over the summer holidays. I’ve been to many beaches on both coasts, but LBI means home and family to me, so I go there as often as possible,

**Q: Anything else you’d like to add?**

A: San Dimas High School football rules!