Spring Commencement Abundant with Notable Graduates

From robot enthusiasts and future educators to award nominees and meteorology students who have studied under some of the most extreme conditions Mother Nature has to offer, the spring 2014 graduating class of Millersville University is full of students prepared to make the leap into the workforce or graduate school. On May 10, at 10 a.m., the 1,038 newest graduates of Millersville will receive the baccalaureate degrees they have worked so hard for.

Members of Millersville’s 2013 National Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) Robotics Competition Championship Team will graduate this spring: Chris Jones, Gilbert Ramos, Zach Stone and James Mathis worked on the Semi-Autonomous Marauder with Sensor Optimized Navigation, known better as SAMSON.

“I was tired of going to college,” said Mathis, the leader of the Chassis Development Team. “The daily struggle to complete assignments, study and apply myself in classes that I didn't care about was draining. The robotics team brought a new perspective to my career at Millersville.”

Mathis credits much of his success, motivation and “introspective life lessons” to Dr. John Wright Jr., professor of automation and electronics technologies.

“His focus and drive is nothing short of inspiring,” said Mathis. “I felt challenged when I worked alongside him. The opportunity to learn from him has been so valuable to me.”

Also graduating are former robotics members: Jon Ellis, Scott Espenshade, Joseph Jeffries and Brandon Lalli.

Joining the men of the robotics team will be five notable meteorology graduates. Five seniors accompanied Dr. Richard Clark to Smith Point, Texas, enduring the almost unbearable heat and
humidity to study air pollution and regional air shed. Joey Markowicz, Michelle Serino, Ricardo Uribe, Felicia Guarriello and Megan Buzanowicz spent the month of September 2013 there, going without hot water and Internet in the name of science.

“One can never gain too much experience making decisions and overseeing students,” said Serino. “I plan to use those skills into my graduate and professional career.”

In addition to their time spent in Texas, Serino and Uribe also traveled to Geneva, N.Y., to launch weather balloons as a part of the Ontario Winter Lake-effect Systems project.

Millersville is known far and wide as a teachers’ school. Two students planning to graduate in May, Julia Smith and Jesse Shenk, have been recognized as distinguished graduates. Shenk, a nontraditional student decided to return to school in 2008 to pursue a degree in English, hoping to become a secondary English teacher.

Smith, a transfer student, has spent time studying abroad in France and was given the opportunity to participate as a member of the Professional Development School cohort in an internship with a double placement in both French and English. Both she and Shenk presented at the Pennsylvania Council of English Language Arts Conference in State College in October 2013.

Two Millersville students were nominated for the Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for academic excellence. The annual award is open to seniors in one of the 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education schools; this year Heather Gochnauer and Brian Luckenbill were nominated.

Luckenbill, a physics secondary education major, was honored by the nomination from his professor.

“Although I was not selected to receive this prestigious award, I am still greatly honored to have been a nominee,” said Luckenbill. “The nomination is recognition of all the hard work I've done throughout my time here at Millersville University.”
Baccalaureate commencement will be held in Biemesderfer Stadium. For more information, visit [http://www.millersville.edu/commencement/](http://www.millersville.edu/commencement/).

**Robotics Videography:**

**NAO (Humanoid Research)**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ78uCwjY-8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ78uCwjY-8)

[http://www.millersville.edu/~jwright/Reading%20with%20friends.mp4](http://www.millersville.edu/~jwright/Reading%20with%20friends.mp4)

**SAMSON (2013 Champion Robot)**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1z5k_PQ-ik](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1z5k_PQ-ik)

**MARM (Tele-operated Riding Mower Project)**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY8i85VEqFw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY8i85VEqFw)

**SAM (2010 Champion Robot)**


---

**Ground Breaking on the New Turf Fields**

Work is now underway on the new artificial turf fields for Millersville University. The University Student Senate approved the use of student fees earlier this year. The fields will be paid for by funds remaining from the Student Memorial Center renovations in 2011.

The Student Senate approved $2.5 million for the project, which will include two turf fields located behind Pucillo Gymnasium. The fields will be used by both campus recreation sports and intercollegiate athletics. The turf will cover an area nearly 800 feet in length and include a regulation soccer field and an 80-yard football field. The facility will provide campus recreation sports with flexibility of use and a variety of options including three flag football fields, two side-by-side Ultimate Frisbee fields and two softball fields.
“These new fields will provide better opportunities for our students to be able to utilize our facilities,” said Justin Miller, president of the Millersville University Student Senate. “We currently only have one turf field, and it is difficult having all of our athletic teams trying to use the fields…Students who are involved with intramurals and club sports will greatly benefit from these fields, since it will be a greater area for them to compete on, especially at night since all of the lighting is going to be upgraded. Overall, the fields will become NCAA official, which will allow for students to have better experiences and possibly recruit more students to become involved in any of those areas.”

Ground breaking on the project is set for later this month, and the facility is expected to be completed in August of this year. The University contracted LandTek Group Inc. from Amityville, N.Y. to oversee the project.

The primary turf field will also serve as a competition stadium for the Millersville University soccer programs. A press box, with seating for 700 fans and a permanent scoreboard are set to be constructed. Intercollegiate athletics plans to use the fields not only for Division II competition but also additional practice space.

“Athletics could not be more excited about this project, and we are extremely grateful for the cooperation with student senate and campus recreation,” said Millersville director of athletics Peg Kauffman. “This is a tremendous endeavor by the University and its students. It promises to be a first-class facility that all of the University's students can enjoy.”

Millersville Student Goes Capitol

Millersville University’s motto is to “Seize the Opportunity,” and student Hope Foy will definitely be doing that this summer at her internship with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) in Washington, D.C. Foy will be living in Washington, D.C., for the internship and will work in the office of Congressman Chakka Fattah, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the U.S. representative for Pennsylvania’s 2nd congressional district.

Foy is a junior majoring in government and political affairs with a minor in African-American studies. During the internship, Foy will learn about the legislative process in Congress and will attend professional development events and work on leadership projects.
“My experience will be second to none; not too many college students that have a passion for legislation are able to spend nine weeks in Washington, D.C., and learning the ins and outs of policy making on Capitol Hill,” said Foy “I am looking forward to learning new things and my experience.”

According to the CBC website, the CBC provides a voice for the African-American community and vulnerable communities in Congress and utilizes the full constitutional power and financial resources of the government to ensure that everyone in the United States has the opportunity to achieve success.

“My education at Millersville has provided me with the knowledge I need to thrive in my internship and future career,” said Foy. “My government professors have equipped me with the things I need to know for my internship, such as the legislative process, knowledge of laws and different policies. I am going into this internship with the proper knowledge, so that I will perform on an excellent level—all thanks to my education at Millersville.”

The Ware Center Plays Host to Teaching Artists Fair

On Thursday, May 1, regional teaching artists (TAs) from across numerous fields including dance, music, creative writing and theater will gather at the Ware Center for Lancaster’s first Teaching Artists Fair to showcase their skills to potential hosts from across the region.

At the fair, approximately 20 teaching artists from the area will set up a booth and present what they have to offer to businesses, schools and other professional organizations.

Teaching artists are practicing professionals who also possess the social and interpersonal skills of an educator. They are artists first, often invited into classrooms or workshops to act as supplemental aid to students on specific or in-depth projects, who have experience publishing or exhibiting their work. While a typical art teacher may or may not be a professional artist, teaching artists must hold the distinction of being a professional in their field.
“Recently, businesses and other organizations have been hiring teaching artists to work with employees,” said Ty Clever, arts in education coordinator. “Many schools understand what TAs have to offer. Businesses, however, are just beginning to see their value.”

Barry Kornhauser, family arts collaborative manager of the Ware and Winter centers came up with the idea of hosting the fair in an effort to expand the audience for the wealth of talented teaching artists from the area. Kornhauser partnered with Clever, who is involved with South Central PaARTners, to give the teaching artists an opportunity to showcase their talent.

“It celebrates creativity and education and engages the community…we hope that it benefits all involved,” said Clever. “It’s ‘one stop shopping’ for potential hosts, and it allows teaching artists to reach a wide range of potential clients in the span of an evening.”

Though the first fair includes a modest 20 or so teaching artists being featured, Clever and Kornhauser plan to expand and allow the fair to grow in the future, opening up the potentially annual event to all who are interested.

Save the Date!

On Saturday, May 17, 2014, Millersville University will host the annual Four Corners Family Arts Festival. The festival will include hands-on activities and performances in art, dance, theater, puppetry and more. Attendees will also have the chance to enjoy a picnic. The festival will take place beginning at 11 a.m. by the Millersville University pond. This event is free and open to the public.
New Alumni Board of Directors Announced

The Alumni Board of Directors convened to announce the new members

The Millersville University Alumni Association recently elected 10 new members to the board of directors. All 10 alumni will serve a two-year term which will begin on July 1, 2014, and will end on June 30, 2016.

The newly elected board members include:

- Jennifer Bertolet ’92, Arlington, Va.
- Chad Bolt ’08, Washington, D.C.
- Nathan Claycomb ’01, Lancaster, Pa.
- Bill Dewan ’93, Lancaster, Pa.
- Kitty Glass ’53, Millersville, Pa.
- John Held ’02, Hatboro, Pa.
- Matthew Hepler ’83, Conshohocken, Pa.
- Carroll Staub ’72,’90M, Millersville, Pa.
- Matthew Storm ’12,’14M, Hanover, Pa.

Additional board members include:

- Lori Dierolf ’91, president, Millersville, Pa.
- Scott Bailey ’98, president elect, Millersville, Pa.
- Steve Focht, ’70, treasurer, Willow Street, Pa.
- Jerri Anne Johnson ’76, ’78M, immediate past president, Santa Clara, Calif.
The Millersville University Alumni Association, founded in 1861, consists of 62,000 alumni.

“The Alumni Association gives our thousands of alumni a voice to assist the University to accomplish its goals,” said Michael Saraka, director of alumni engagement. “The association sponsors events such as homecoming, senior send-off and alumni awards programs, and it provides scholarships to students. Now more than 150 years old, the MU Alumni Association continues to support and serve the University’s mission and all its efforts as it positions itself to new levels of excellence now and into the future.”

For additional information on Millersville alumni events, programs and services, visit millersville.edu/alumni/.

2014 Day at the Capitol

Great day for the MU RN to BSN students! Thirty students enrolled in Dr. Kuhns' Issues and Trends classes participated in PSNA’s Day at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg. They participated in the press conference and visited their senators and representatives.
Need to know

ARTS SMARTS Summer Camps
June 16-20 and 23-27

Registration is now open for the ARTS SMARTS CAMPS that Millersville University is offering at the Ware Center, 42 North Prince St., Lancaster, Pa. These are high-quality low-cost programs in music, theater and visual arts for young people entering Grades K – 8 and are designed to encourage artistic expression, foster knowledge and skills, and inspire the imagination. They’re also just plain fun! We hope you will consider enrolling your child(ren). Please view the digital brochure of the offerings and registration material at http://www.millersville.edu/muarts/files/ArtsSmartsCamp.pdf

Thanks and best wishes,
Barry Kornhauser
Barry.Kornhauser@Millersville.edu
Need to Know

From: Jeanie Pflugrad, Director of Payroll

Recently, Dr. Christopher Hardy, biology, created Millersville University’s Trees of Distinction (www.wikiplantatlas.org/trees/), an interactive website that catalogs 21 campus trees that are unusually large, unique or otherwise noteworthy. Dr. Hardy has agreed to lead us on a tour of those trees. Most times we rush across campus and don’t have time to enjoy the beauty of the trees and flowers. If you would like to participate in the walking tour of the mapped trees, please send me a reply to jeanie.pflugrad@millersville.edu, so we have an approximate number of people who want to participate.

The tour is planned for:

Monday, May 5, 2014 at 4:45 p.m. at the iron bridge over Miller and Seville’s Pond.

We expect the tour to take around one hour, but anyone is welcome to leave earlier or stay later with Chris. Depending on the number of questions and the time it takes the group to walk, we may not make it to all 21 trees. We look forward to seeing you then. Until then, you can visit the site and print out a “Parksia” article (under the “Printable Map” tab) that Chris has written about the trees.

5/1/14 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for May 1, 2014.
Faculty and Staff Activities

Millersville’s Employee Recognition Program

A Celebration of 30 Plus Years at MU

President John Anderson (right) celebrated with faculty and staff who have been a member of the University family for 30-plus years. Left to right they are: Dr. John(Doug) Frazer, Ms. Lori Read, Ms. Frances Axsmith, Ms. Doris Conlin, Dr. Leroy Hopkins, Mr. Barry Walton, Dr. Ronald Umble, Ms. Marcia Englar, Ms. Sally Levit and Ms. Deborah Sowers.

A Celebration of Retirement at MU

President John Anderson (third from right) also celebrated the retirement of (left to right): Mr. Gregory Schmalhofer, Mr. Louis DeSol, Ms. Kathryn Warwood, Dr. Lillie West, Ms. Diane Duell, Mr. Kimberly Marini, Dr. Dominic Scot, Dr. Linda McDowell and Dr. Patrick McCaskey.

A message from Melanie DeSantis, interim director, human resources:

Thank you for participating in this year’s Employee Recognition Program, “A Celebration of Years of Service and Retirements.” If you did not have the opportunity to attend, we would like
to share photos from our **Gallery Dropbox** and our **Zenfolio Gallery**. Please feel free to download photos from the Gallery Dropbox free of charge.

The Office of Human Resources would also like to extend an invitation to you if you did not get an opportunity to sign the Retirement Guest Books. The Retirement Guest Books are your opportunity to write a special note to the 39 retirees for the 2013-2014 academic year. A table will be set up on Thursday, May 1, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Stayer, Multipurpose Room. Please stop by during this time to sign the Retirement Guest Books for your retired and retiring colleagues.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall for the All Employees Recognition Breakfast. The breakfast will recognize all University employees for their dedication and commitment to Millersville University.

**New Marketing Director**

**Adam Owenz** joined Millersville University as the new director of University marketing on April 28. With the recent restructuring, the marketing office is now part of enrollment management.

Owenz comes from Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, Fla., where he served as director of business development and recruitment for its online division (FIU Online) for four years. Owenz developed FIU’s online marketing and recruitment operation, which produced substantial growth and revenue for the university.

“Adam brings with him a wealth of experience from several top universities and a proven track record delivering success. Adam's marketing experience from FIU (United States 7th largest university) makes him a huge asset to Millersville,” said Brian Hazlett, vice president of enrollment management. “I am thrilled to have Adam as part of my senior leadership team within Enrollment Management.”

Owenz also has experience in managing integrated marketing campaigns, as well as traditional print and outdoor advertising. He has overseen website redesigns at both Pepperdine University and FIU. He has designed e-newsletters and developed marketing strategies for fundraising, internal faculty and staff communications and student recruitment. He has experience in university advancement, where he has developed successful fundraising and alumni engagement campaigns at Albright College, FIU and Pepperdine University.
“Leading the marketing efforts of Millersville University is an extremely exciting proposition. This institution provides countless unique and tangible benefits to its students and the community,” said Owenz. “I truly look forward to helping Millersville share its story with the world and stimulate growth and support for this amazing place.”

Owenz earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a focus in marketing from Albright College and a Master of Business Administration from Kutztown University.

**MU Education Dept. Goes to Philly**

On April 12th, Dr. Rich Mehrenberg, elementary and early childhood (center), and Millersville students (from left) Denali Menge, Marissa Kaufman, Jessica Rokowski, Heidi Wilson and Lauren Schmickle presented at the 2014 National Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference in Philadelphia. The title of their presentation was “Service Learning and CEC College Chapters.” The members discussed the logistics, benefits and challenges associated with the Saturday Recreations program that the Millersville chapter runs for adolescents with disabilities in the community.

**Drs. Sandra Deemer & Laurie B. Hanich**, educational foundations, presented a paper in April at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association called “Creating an Issues-Based Course in Educational Psychology: Utilizing Case studies and Current Events as a Catalyst for Learning.” The paper was presented as part of an invited symposium session. Hanich also presented “The Effects of Mindful Awareness on the Executive Functions of Early Adolescents in an Urban Middle School” with Millersville professor emerita Cheryl Desmond, and “Motivational Predictors of Mathematics Growth: An Examination of Children with and without Mathematics Learning Disability” with colleagues from University of Minnesota and College of Notre Dame.
Retired

Dr. Dennis Denenberg, professor emeritus of elementary education was recently honored by the Lancaster-Lebanon Reading Council for his service in promoting literacy at their spring breakfast April 26.

Dr. Cheryl T. Desmond, professor emerita, educational foundations, presented the paper “Privilege, Politics and the Personal: Examining the Biographer's Biases” at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, April 2014, Philadelphia, Pa. The paper examined the issues of truthfulness and validity in the choice of the subject of a biography and in the research and representation of the various political, economic and social forces that shaped the subject's life as well as the biographer's biases.

Dr. Karl E. Moyer, professor emeritus of music, played the final Friday noontime Lenten organ recital at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, on April 11. Likely at least his tenth appearance at the organ there, he offered major organ works by Charles Marie Widor and Johann Sebastian Bach. He'll return to the organ on June 12 as one of the members of the Lancaster chapter, American Guild of Organists, to close the chapter's annual organ recital for the Lancaster Summer Arts Festival, playing movements from Sonata 5 in C minor of Alexandre Guilmant, leading 19th-century French organist/organ composer.

Obituary

Audrey Ann (Burie) Kirchner, 76, died April 16. She worked for a number of years as an early education professor at Millersville University until her retirement in May 2001.

Who makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Shaun Cook, assistant professor of psychology.
Q: What is your educational background?
A: A bachelor’s degree in psychology and biology from Bridgewater State University, with a Spanish minor; master’s degree in perception and psychophysics from Brandeis University; and Ph.D. in cognition and neural systems from the University of Arizona.

Q: How long have you been at Millersville University?
A: Since the fall semester of 2008.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Millersville?
A: First, the people; the students. I attended an undergraduate institution much like Millersville, so I feel as though I can relate. I am continually impressed with the students’ drive and enthusiasm. Second, the faculty; I am honored to be part of such a dedicated and effective group of professionals.

Q: What influenced you to study psychology?
A: I have always been interested in helping people. After my freshman year in high school, I transferred. My second school would not allow me to play sports because I had played varsity as a freshman. So, I joined the peer leadership group that included trainings by psychologists. That pretty much hooked me.

Q: Who inspired you to become a professor?
A: My undergraduate biology advisor, Dr. Walter Morin.

Q: Can you tell us about your work with the Strategic Planning Committee?
A: It has been a rewarding and learning experience. I have never served on any committee like this one. It is intense and meaningful with amazing contributions from really great minds. I really like the transparency that the committee has achieved, and I am pleased with the progress.

Q: Why do you have such an interest in the idea of memory?
A: Daniel Schacter stated “Memory is life.” By that he meant that all we are is from our memories. This is particularly evident when you meet someone with amnesia. It is difficult to
imagine losing significant chunks of your past (called retrograde amnesia), but it unfortunately happens. For instance, I have tested an individual who, at age 37, lost his memory for everything that happened after the age of 30. So, he can correctly tell you that he is married, but not to whom because he divorced and remarried after the age of 30. He also cannot understand why his daughter looks so old. These human experiences fascinate me, and I hope that, through my research, I can add something helpful.

**Q: What research or studies have you done on dreaming and brain waves?**

A: I have looked at dreaming really in the context of memory consolidation. Memory consolidation is the process of memories being edited and packaged into a form that can be stored long term (i.e., for a lifetime). Dreaming is the psychological correlate of memory consolidation.

My work with brain waves was mostly done at Carnegie Mellon University, where we looked at the brain wave signatures related to recognizing faces in different (i.e., familiar and unfamiliar) contexts.

**Q: You refer to yourself as a “cognitive neuropsychologist,” what exactly does that mean?**

A: Neuropsychology is a misunderstood term. It technically refers to understanding the mind and behavior through investigations that involve brain damage. So, neuropsychologists work with people who suffer from some kind of brain damage. There are two types of neuropsychology: cognitive neuropsychology and clinical neuropsychology. Clinical neuropsychology focuses on assessment and treatments for those who suffer from brain damage. Cognitive neuropsychologists also assess, but do not administer treatments, although they can develop treatment plans. Cognitive neuropsychology also focuses on understanding cognition (i.e., mental/brain functioning) with neuropsychological methods.

**Q: Are you currently involved in any studies/projects in the world of psychology?**

A: Yes, I am currently active in a number of them, some with students here at Millersville and some with researchers at other institutions. For instance, I am working with a graduate student, Clair Sube, on a project investigating whether people with synesthesia process meaning as effectively as people without synesthesia. Incidentally, synesthesia is a condition where one experiences a perceptual blending of the senses. For example, a synesthete might taste shapes or see music.
Q: Do you have any controversial opinions in the field of psychology that you believe to be true?

A: I try to let the data shape my opinions, so I am not sure I have many controversial opinions. However, there are some. One that likely qualifies is my opinion is that we should not be using the “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders” (DSM). I think we need an empirically-validated set of criteria for diagnosing purposes. Another controversial one is that dissociative identity disorder (or what used to be called multiple personality disorder) is not real.

Q: If you could give one piece of advice to those seeking a career in psychology, what would it be?

A: If you are planning on a career (not a job), then plan on graduate school and become friendly with statistics.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Spending time with family/friends, reading, traveling and chess.

Q: What is something that people would be surprised to learn about you?

A: My sister and I dated the same woman (not simultaneously).

Q: As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A: I wanted to be a teacher and a lawyer.

Q: What accomplishment(s) are you most proud of?

A: Professionally, my position at Millersville, earning my Ph.D. and my publications.

Q: If you were offered a one month paid vacation, how would you spend it?

A: Bouncing around Italy, France and Greece.

Q: Is there anything else about you or your job that you would like people to know?

A: If I weren’t a cognitive neuropsychologist, I would likely be a physicist examining the nature of time.