DREAM Makes Dreams Come True for Intellectual Disability Students

When many high school students with an intellectual disability graduate, their options may be limited to sheltered workshops or staying at home. That won’t be the case for one student who will attend Millersville University of Pennsylvania, thanks to a grant from the Dreams Realized Through Educational Aspiration Model (D.R.E.A.M.) Partnership, a nonprofit organization located in Central Pennsylvania.

The pilot program begins this fall with one student and will expand to six students in the fall of 2015. The $50,000 initiative, led by Dr. Thomas Neuville, Educational Foundations professor at Millersville, will support people with intellectual disabilities to experience a high-quality, individualized postsecondary education that will lead to social and professional networks, careers and a bright future.

“Millersville is one of the first universities in the nation to admit a student with an intellectual disability,” said Neuville. “It means the student will have a chance to exceed typical expectations of poverty and unemployment.”

“This inclusive initiative is intended to strengthen our academic community and the broader community as well,” says Neuville. “When students with intellectual disabilities are included as typical college students, there are great benefits to the campus community: faculty, staff and students. We are interested in these students being full participants in all aspects of university life, rather than being a part of a “special” or separate program.”

The grant to Millersville funds the full development of a new “Career and Life Studies Certificate.” It includes hiring a graduate assistant and multiple student workers under the guidance of Neuville. Students completing the two-year program receive a 60-hour certificate.

Sheltered workshops, which have been declared unconstitutional in multiple states, are organizations that employ people with intellectual disabilities. The term refers to entities that pay their employees’ subminimum wage. U.S. public policy has shifted away from sheltered workshops in favor of programs and activities in an integrated setting. Sheltered workshops have been the subject of criticism for being exploitative, abusive and discriminatory.
“It is easy to see why our new educational program is important to those in need of viable options,” said Neuville.

VP of Advancement Named at Millersville University

Millersville University has announced that Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux has agreed to become the Vice President of Advancement at Millersville University, effective August 1, 2014.

Breaux has served as Interim Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations since February 1, 2014 and as Vice President for Student Affairs since 2008. She previously served as the Dean of Students at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and as the Assistant Provost of Drexel University in Philadelphia. She has her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Temple University. Her master’s degree is from the University of Pennsylvania, and her bachelor’s degree is also from Temple.

“I have confidence in Aminta’s ability to lead the Advancement division and help us successfully launch our new strategic plan this fall,” said Dr. John Anderson, president of Millersville.

The Advancement division includes development, alumni engagement and special events.

Michelle Pérez will serve as Interim Vice President of Students Affairs. She has been with the University since 2011 as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.

Previously Pérez worked at the University of Arizona, performing a number of roles within the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in physical education from Manhattan College and her master’s degree in higher educational leadership from Florida State University.

A national search for Vice President of Student Affairs will begin this fall.
Resolution Honoring Dr. William B. McIlwaine

On July 7, Millersville’s Council of Trustees (COT) member, Dr. William B. McIlwaine was honored by the Board of Governors (BOG) for his outstanding academic and military service. The resolution in his honor is reprinted below.

WHEREAS, Dr. William B. McIlwaine has had a long and distinguished association with Millersville University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, as both a faculty member and a university trustee; and

WHEREAS, as a professor at Millersville, Dr. McIlwaine served as the first chair of the Department of Earth and Space Science, as chair of the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education, and as the university’s first director of grants and awards; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McIlwaine has served as a member of the Millersville University Council of Trustees since 1995 and as the longtime treasurer of the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees (PACT); and

WHEREAS, prior to his attending Boston University, where he earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees, Dr. McIlwaine served in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Army’s 80th Infantry Division, Dr. McIlwaine fought in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, where he and his fellow troops contained an important
Exchange
August 7, 2014

crossroads during the six-week confrontation that was the largest and bloodiest land battle of the war; and

WHEREAS, later in the war, he participated in the liberation of Ebensee, a forced labor camp run by the Nazis in Austria; and

WHEREAS, for his service in the military, Dr. McIlwaine earned the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge and four Theatre of Operation Stars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education recognizes the many career accomplishments of Dr. William B. McIlwaine throughout his lifetime and honors and thanks him for his outstanding courage and commitment to defending freedom as a soldier in the U.S. Army nearly 70 years ago.

Unanimously adopted by the Board

July 7, 2014

Guido M. Pichini, Chairman

Millersville Rankings

Millersville University was recently named as one of America’s top 100 Best Value Colleges by Educate to Career, coming in at #78. In addition, Millersville was included in Money magazine’s list of top colleges.

The index used by Educate to Career measures the benefit students at a college derive in the professional world, in relation to the cost of attendance. According to the California-based nonprofit’s website, “the rankings results are determined by which schools did the best job of improving the earnings and attainment of quality employment of their students.”

Of the more than 1,200 four-year colleges that Educate to Career ranked nationwide, Millersville’s position places them in the top seven percent.

“I’m not surprised,” said Melissa Wardwell, director of Experiential Learning & Career Management at Millersville. “Education is a significant financial investment. Millersville
provides a high-quality, academic education and the opportunity to apply it in real-world settings, allowing our students to reap large-scale benefits, both professionally and financially.”

Educate to Career’s complete list of college rankings can be found at its website.

Meanwhile, Money magazine’s “Best Colleges” list was recently released online, and Millersville University is included on the list.

The magazine first looked at the nation’s roughly 1,500 four-year colleges to see which ones offer the most bang for your tuition buck. Money screened out those with a below-average graduation rate and then ranked the 665 that remained on 17 factors in three categories: educational quality, affordability and alumni earnings provided by PayScale.com. Also included was a “value added” grade that rated each college in light of the economic and academic profile of its student body and the mix of majors at that school.

Millersville ranked 389 on the list.

**Millersville University Catering Wins Gold at Loyal E. Horton Awards**

Standing among schools such as Yale, Harvard, the University of Michigan and Stanford, Millersville University’s Catering and Conference Services took home the gold at the National Association of College & University Food Service’s (NACUFS) Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards on Saturday, July 12.

Millersville won the gold prize award for medium-sized schools for the category “best online catering menu” at the annual awards conference. Joining them in that category were small and large school gold winners College of Saint Benedict and California Polytechnic State University, respectively.

Marketing and special programs manager Pat Benson helped prepare for the competition judgment by teaming up with then-intern Deanna Tully to redesign the layout and look of the online menu. Without altering what was on the menu, Benson and Tully edited the menu from a standard scrolling, document-based format to a more up-to-date design made to resemble a magazine.
“[Catering manager] Phillip Brandt came up with the menu items, that was all him,” said Benson. “Deanna and I just added the ‘wow!’ factor.”

After updating the design of the menu, Benson enlisted the help of Ed Nase, director of dining and conference services. Together, the two wrote an essay describing what makes MU catering so special, and what events they have hosted. From there, the newly designed menu was off and running to be judged by NACUFS.

“We’ve taken home bronze awards before, and we’ve won silver once or twice,” said Benson. “But this is the first time we’ve won gold in about five years.”

The award was presented to Benson at the Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards conference in Baltimore. In addition to the awards, the conference also included guest speakers and information sessions for those in attendance.

Benson plans to submit an application for a different category for next year’s awards. Between now and then, Chef Louis Logan plans to create a menu featuring more nutritious and healthy recipes.

Other categories offered at the award ceremony included best dining special event, best residential dining and best catering special event. In 2009, Millersville won gold in the “best residential dining special event” category for the Upper Deck’s “Mother Earth” night.

View Millersville University catering’s award-winning menu online.

**Next Steps AmeriCorps Program Comes to Millersville**

As part of its commitment to expand access to education and strengthen its ties to communities within the Pennsylvania region, this fall Millersville University will participate in the Next Steps AmeriCorps program. The program is an initiative administered by the Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) and funded by PennSERVE, the Governor’s Office for Citizen Service.

The University was one of nine Pennsylvania colleges and universities, including Drexel and Temple universities, selected to engage in a program that offers college sophomores and
juniors the opportunity to perform 300 hours of direct community service during the school year in exchange for an education award worth $1,195.

Selection is underway at Millersville to pair students with critical community needs. “We will enroll a number of MU student graduates of Philly schools in part-time AmeriCorps volunteer service in the Lancaster community during the 2014-2015 school year,” said Melissa Wardwell, director, Experiential Learning & Career Management at Millersville. “It’s another way to support students with financial need who are performing volunteer service in our community.”

In its first year of operation, Next Steps provides first-generation college students who graduated from Philadelphia high schools with extra support and guidance through community service, mentorship, supportive workshops and leadership development.

“Corps members can choose any kind of regular community service placement through Volunteer Central, while participating in one leadership development workshop a month and mentoring two incoming first-year students from Philadelphia as part of their service,” explained Wardwell. The education award will be in addition to any federally-funded work study program monies.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that has been providing volunteers with education awards in exchange for a year or more of community service, either part time or full time, since 1994. In addition to earning money allocated for education costs, members learn teamwork and leadership skills in real-life work environments. The organization welcomes any U.S. citizen 17 years or older as a member.

PHENND has grown since 1987 to a consortium of more than 30 colleges and universities in the greater Philadelphia area. Among its partners are the University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr College and Villanova University. The organization’s mission is to “facilitate campus-community partnership around the region, revitalize local communities and schools, and foster civic responsibility among the region’s colleges and universities,” according to phennd.org.

For more information about Next Steps, contact Volunteer Central (vcentral@millersville.edu) or 717-872-3774

For information on AmeriCorps Project Cygnet and other community service opportunities, visit  http://www.millersville.edu/elcm/volunteer
Millersville University and Music for Everyone Collaborate to Distribute Free Keyboards

When Millersville University replaced the keyboards in its music lab, the search began for a new home for the instruments. Music for Everyone (MFE), a Lancaster-based nonprofit took on that challenge, accepting the 40 donated keyboards and making plans to distribute them for free via their newly founded “Pianos for Everyone” program.

“As a general rule, Music for Everyone is not in the business of taking in instruments and finding homes for them,” said John Gerdy, founder and president of Music for Everyone. “But since we are celebrating the fifth season of Keys for the City, we took them thinking that we could figure out a good use for them, while at the same time creating an event that would raise some awareness for Keys.”

“Millersville has been able to connect with the Lancaster arts community in a deeper way than ever before,” said Laura Kendall, director of the University’s visual and performing arts centers. “We are pleased that we can be a conduit for great things to happen for people who want music in their lives.”

When MFE announced that the keyboards were available free to area residents, the applications began to pour in.

“The large number of folks who applied is an indication that there are a lot of people, young and old, who will jump at the opportunity to have an instrument in their home,” said Gerdy of the 120 applications they received. “None of this would have happened without MU’s generous gift.”

The keyboards were distributed on July 18 at the Ware Center, as a part of Lancaster’s Music Friday activities that take place in Lancaster.
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Lives on at Millersville

Each year, the One Book, One Campus committee at Millersville University chooses a book for its initiative. This year, the committee settled on “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” a nonfiction book by Rebecca Skloot detailing how the body cells of a poor, black mother of five children in Baltimore became an integral part in the development and advancement of the world of medicine and raised questions of ethical and racial standards.

The book, which was named by multiple critics as one of the best of 2010, tells the story of how Henrietta Lacks’s cells were taken without her consent or knowledge or that of her family. The cells were used in research, eventually becoming the basis for the polio vaccine, cloning and in vitro fertilization.

“Rebecca Skloot does a masterful job of telling stories and making medical research and issues related to bioethics understandable to the general public,” said Dr. Marilyn Parrish, associate professor in the library department and co-chair of the One Book, One Campus committee. “This book has wide appeal to all audiences, regardless of major.”

Past book selections have included “Enrique’s Journey,” “Einstein’s Dreams” and “The Color of Water.”

Students are encouraged to share with Millersville photos of themselves reading the book through Twitter and Instagram using #VilleOneBook and @MillersvilleU. Those who share their photos are eligible to win prizes.

“We’d love to see this book read widely by everyone in the campus community to truly make this a One Book, One Campus event,” said Dr. Jennifer Shettel, associate professor of elementary and early childhood education and co-chair of the selection committee.

A discussion session will be held on August 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the McNairy Library. To RSVP, contact Marilyn.Parrish@millersville.edu.

The program selects a book each year as a required reading piece for incoming freshmen and transfer students. The book, which is normally the centerpiece of multiple discussions at New Student Orientation, is selected based on criteria including length, learning opportunities, potential for engagement, themes and enjoyment.
Need to Know

To: Faculty and Staff
From: Employee Wellness Team
Date: August 5, 2014
Re: Meditation

medəˈtāSHən/
noun: meditation
  o The action or practice of meditating.
    "A life of meditation."
synonyms: contemplation, thought, thinking, musing, pondering, consideration, reflection, deliberation, rumination.

Life is getting busier and doing more means giving more time and more energy. There is a way to control the constant stress, fatigue and deadline tensions. Why not take some time to meditate? Benefits of meditation include clarity of mind, increased happiness, increased productivity and nurturance of creativity. The employee wellness team would like to share an invitation from Oprah’s Lifeclass and The Chopra Center to join them for their 21-day meditation journey. Why
not join us to experience the many benefits of meditation. You can register at
https://chopracentermeditation.com/

Employee Wellness Team

8/7/14 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for August 7, 2014.

Faculty and Staff Activities

Congratulations to:

Christina Williams, admissions, and her husband Brad, who recently welcomed a baby girl, Annalina Williams, on June 28, 2014.

Olivia Peters, global education, on her marriage to Aramis Cordero on June 14 in Lancaster, Pa.

Obituary

Bonnie M. Mellott Ottey, 86, died July 21. She had retired from Millersville University, where she worked in housekeeping for 16 years.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features a husband and wife who have been with Millersville for the past 12 years. Brigida (Brigitee) Murillo is the receptionist/secretary for both biology and computer science. She works in Roddy. Guillermo Murillo is a maintenance repairman, who works out of Palmer. They will be retiring soon and returning to their native home of Argentina.

Q: Where are the two of you originally from?

Brigitte: We are from Bariloche, a town in the Andes in the midwest portion of Patagonia, Argentina.

Q: How did the two of you meet?

Guillermo: We met through a mutual friend who introduced us.

Q: How long have you been married?

Brigitte: We have been married for 36 years.

Q: To what do you attribute your successful marriage?

Guillermo: I think we were both lucky to have met the right person.

Q: How long have you been working at Millersville?

Brigitte: We have been working for about 12 years at Millersville.
**Q: What brought you to the United States to begin with, and what brought you to Millersville specifically?**

Brigitte: We enjoyed being in this country all the times we visited as tourists. We love the different sites in the U.S. as well as the culture and the people. We noticed that Lancaster was a good place to live and be close to the University, where our son had enrolled.

After working at several other jobs before Millersville, we were lucky to find jobs here. I started part time in dining services, where I enjoyed working, but after some time, I changed for a job in the School of Science & Mathematics, first as secretary in the biology department and then as secretary in the computer science department (while still working for the biology department).

Guillermo: I came to Millersville to work in housekeeping, where I shared my job with an excellent team, and after a few years of working there, I changed to my current job as a repairman in maintenance operations.

**Q: What are your plans after your retirement?**

Brigitte: After our retirement, we plan to return to Argentina to meet our families and friends. We plan to come back to the U.S. often to visit friends! We are happy to have learned about the American culture, make friends all over and improve our English!

**Q: What are your favorite parts of your jobs?**

Brigitte: I enjoy working at the School of Science and Mathematics, with computer science and biology, where I share my job with faculty and work for students.

Guillermo: I like the environment where I work, the staff that I am surrounded by and the job itself. I am happy when I can solve problems at my job and repair something when I am asked to do so.

**Q: What are your favorite parts about Millersville?**

Guillermo: Our favorite parts are our work environments and the jobs we do.

Brigitte: I am very thankful to Millersville for giving me the opportunity to pursue a degree and graduate with a major in German and a minor in Spanish.

**Q: What will you miss the most about living in America?**

Guillermo: We will miss the friends we met here and Millersville University, which we consider our second home.

**Q: What do you miss most about Argentina?**

Brigitte: Most of all we miss our family and friends and also the landscape of our hometown.
Q: What was the biggest difference you noticed in the cultures when you first came to America?

Brigitte: There is not really a big difference between cultures, but what we noticed, is the difference in schedules (for example: dinner here is between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., while in Argentina dinner is between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.) and also the fact that you need a car to go places.

Q: What are your hobbies outside of work?

Brigitte: I love to surf the web, watch movies and read books.

Guillermo: I like plants, art and astronomy. Both of us like to travel and explore new sites.

Q: What were your dream jobs growing up?

Brigitte: My dream job was working for an airline because I like to travel.

Guillermo: I dreamed to be a botanist.

Q: Who or what has influenced you most in life?

Brigitte: My mother has had the most influence in my life.

Guillermo: Travelling has influenced my life the most because it opened my mind to different cultures.

Q: Is there anything else you’d like to include that hasn’t been mentioned?

Guillermo: It is a privilege to have come here and meet all of you. We are very thankful to Millersville and its people; we will always remember you. Thanks!

Brigitte: We are also grateful to have been given the opportunity to study and work at Millersville. We give our thanks to Millersville’s faculty, staff and students.