COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

This spring, Millersville will be hosting two graduation ceremonies celebrating graduate and baccalaureate achievements.

The graduate ceremony will be held on May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium for students graduating with a master's degree and/or post-bachelor's teacher certification.

The undergraduate ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 8, at 10 a.m. at Biemesderfer Stadium for students graduating with a baccalaureate degree from December 2009 and spring 2010.

The speaker for Saturday's undergraduate commencement will be alumnus Brian Gladden '87, who serves as senior vice president and chief financial officer at Dell, Inc. A $60 billion company, Dell is the global leader in providing technology solutions for commercial and consumer customers.

Due to the snow storm that resulted in the cancellation of the December 2009 commencement ceremony, students who were expected to walk in December are invited to join graduates this spring at the May commencement ceremonies.

For more information about graduation please visit, www.millersville.edu/commencement.

NO HEELS AT COMMENCEMENT

For your safety and the integrity of Biemesderfer field, please wear flat-soled shoes to Commencement.

A GREAT EDUCATION WITH A BARGAIN PRICE TAG

In January, Millersville University was named to Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine's list of “100 Best Values in Public Colleges of 2010.” The publication, in releasing the list, said, “Our definition of value begins with academics: No school is a bargain if it skimps on quality. All of the schools in our rankings perform well on measurable criteria, such as student-faculty ratios, academic competitiveness and on-time graduation rates.”

Millersville University was among six schools in Pennsylvania to make the list. Also on the list were University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University at University Park, West Chester, Bloomsburg and Shippensburg universities.

“Our ranking reflects our commitment to providing a high quality, accessible and affordable education for the citizens of the Commonwealth,” said Francine G. McNairy, president of Millersville.

TUITION TAX CREDITS AND DEDUCTIONS

Millersville is encouraging parents to take advantage of all the tax credits and deductions that students and their families are entitled to in order to reduce tax liability.

According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), over the past few years many changes have been made to modify existing credits and create new deductions and credits, making the process more complicated and time consuming.


The IRS has two micro-websites [www.efile.irs.gov and www.freefile.irs.gov], which explain the benefits of filing electronically for free.
Jessica Do, a sophomore at Millersville University majoring in speech communication with an option in broadcasting, is getting closer to her dream of working in a television station. She is spending spring semester in New York City, interning at NBC's "Today" show and taking classes at New York University.

Living, going to school and working in the Big Apple has been exciting. She keeps a blog, http://crumbsofsourdoughbread.blogspot.com, which she uses to "keep all my friends in touch with my daily adventures in the city." In the blog, she refers to her 19 years of innocence being over as she hailed a cab and took her first ride in a taxi.

The great thing about Do's experience is that it is not unique to her; there are many other students who have obtained interesting internship opportunities with sports teams, local amusement parks, on political campaigns, nonprofit organizations, etc. Having an internship gives your student "real world" knowledge in their chosen field and adds experience to their resume as they pursue a career and/or graduate studies.

Millersville's Office of Internships & Civic Engagement Services, part of the Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project, offers an outstanding internship program, and, through Volunteer Central, supports students, faculty and community organizations with community service opportunities and support for service-learning.

For more information about internships, visit www.millersville.edu/ices.

Kiel Sigafoos '09 knows what it is like to have his family far away during the holidays. This was the first Christmas without his father, Senior Master Sgt. Alan Sigafoos of the Air Force's 449th Air Expeditionary group, who is stationed at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa.

"It's an honor to have my dad in the military," says Sigafoos, "I really look up to him for his time and commitment to keeping us [Americans] safe." Growing up with a parent in the military, Sigafoos witnessed family members sending care packages to his father and became determined to contribute on his own accord. "I decided that for the holiday season, no one should be left out."

As a member of Millersville University's Student Senate and College Republicans, Sigafoos enlisted the help of these organizations as well as the Activities Board to create handmade cards for the troops. His job working at the Student Memorial Center's Information Desk helped him to recruit more students to participate.

The more than 200 handmade cards with personal messages of appreciation and support arrived at the camp just in time for Christmas. According to Sgt. Sigafoos, the men and women were thrilled to learn that the cards were sent from Millersville University students. The soldiers were deeply touched and amazed by the time and effort the students put forth to reach out to the soldiers during the holiday season. He said that the card he received from senior Mackenzie Wrobel "will always be something that I hold onto."

Djibouti lies in Northeast Africa on the Gulf of Aden at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. Kiel Sigafoos said, "Knowing that myself and others helped to put a smile on a soldier's face is one of the best feelings in the world."
Make the Most of Summer—Take Classes

Summer sessions at Millersville University are a great way to earn credits toward a degree. The classes and course work is concentrated into a five-week term.

The dates for the three terms are:
- Summer session I: May 17- June 11
- Summer session II: June 14- July 16
- Summer session III: July 19- August 20

Both undergraduate and graduate courses are offered in a range of topics such as Business Writing, Introduction to Elementary Education, Organic Chemistry, Sociology of the Family and Modern Algebra for Teachers.

For more information, click on www.millersville.edu

Snow Jumping: Not an Olympic Sport, Yet

A few Millersville fellows were willing subjects for a student’s photography assignment—but, they warn, “don’t try this at home.”

Covered the streets of Millersville University as my roommates and I began walking to the dining hall for breakfast. Conversation led us to discover our neighbor and friend needed pictures of people ‘jumping’ for her photography class, and she only had the weekend to take them. In her mind, the snow would hinder her ability to take the pictures outside, but in my head, this was a perfect opportunity to have a blast in the snow.

A second floor window in my house leads to a back porch roof, ideal for jumping off into the snow. An hour later, a four-foot mound of snow was awaiting our leap of faith into the snowy white powder. Successful jumps led my roommates and I to do a combined jump with nothing but our shorts on, to hopefully offer our friend a little ‘artistic value’ to her project. My friend captured a picture of guys eight feet in the air with snow-covered landscape and trees in the background, and we made a memory we’ll never forget.

Helping Haiti

The devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12 brought an outpouring of compassion and aid throughout the world. On Millersville’s campus, students, faculty and staff members teamed up to respond to the tragedy by bringing relief, hope and a sense of community.

Dr. James Cosentino, professor of biology, worked with Lancaster Regional Hospital and clinics to gather donated medical supplies that were airlifted to specific areas of need in Haiti. Student volunteers helped provide the manpower. They also set up tables across campus and sold pottery and baked goods to raise money. Donation bins were placed throughout campus to gather supplies to help Haiti.

A native of Haiti, Mackenzi Vernat, a Millersville student majoring in international studies, had a hand in raising more than $2,000.

“I think Millersville has done a great job. 100 percent of the money that we raised will go to Haiti. I encourage students to do the same [donate]. If you are walking around and see a table set up for Haiti, donating a dollar, 50 cents or even a penny could save a life,” said Vernat.

For more information, visit www.millersville.edu.

While record snowfalls made most adults grumpy and stressed, it was refreshing to see students playing and enjoying Mother Nature’s winter gift. Here’s one story from senior Lucas Neiderer:

“What better way to enjoy the biggest snow storm of the new century than hanging with roommates, friends and jumping off of porch roofs? Snow began to fall and quickly covered the streets of Millersville University as my roommates and I began walking to the dining hall for breakfast. Conversation led us to discover our neighbor and friend needed pictures of people ‘jumping’ for her photography class, and she only had the weekend to take them. In her mind, the snow would hinder her ability to take the pictures outside, but in my head, this was a perfect opportunity to have a blast in the snow.

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Friday, May 7 - Commencement for master's degrees at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 8 - End of spring term; Undergraduate Commencement at 10 a.m.
Monday, May 17 - Summer 1 classes begin
Monday, June 14 - Summer 2 classes begin
Monday, July 19 - Summer 3 classes begin
Monday, August 30 - Fall classes begin

Renowned jazz singer Sheila Jordan will be Millersville University's 2010 Artist-in-Residence. Jordan will work closely with Millersville students, faculty, and staff during her three-day residency on campus.

There will also be a public concert featuring a quartet of jazz musicians as well as a performance by the MU Jazz Band on Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for Millersville students and senior citizens - $5; general admission - $10. www.muticketsonline.com.

Marauder Gold is the way for your Millersville student to pay both on- and off-campus. By making deposits into your son or daughter's account through MAX, their student ID card becomes Marauder Gold and provides them with fast, easy and cashless purchases at numerous locations.

Visit www.maraudergold.com for information and a list of participating businesses.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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