

The University RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

The University Research Newsletter is published twice a year by the Office of the Provost.

President

Dr. Francine G. McNairy

Provost

Dr. Vilas A. Prabhu

Newsletter Staff

Dr. Dennis B. Downey, Editor
Alyssa Leister, Managing Editor
Dan Lipson, Associate Editor
Jessica Jones, Associate Editor
Amy Parker, Associate Editor

Changing Lives and Excavating Trans-Atlantic Connections

Plying the open seas for sunken vessels, wading through ankle deep mud in the pouring rain, interpreting buried artifacts in the sandy soil, and line dancing in a heritage parade! These were all part of one of the most unique research experiences ever offered by Millersville University. For three weeks, 28 students from across the PASSHE network of University Honors Colleges excavated trans-Atlantic connections in an arduous program of classroom study and field research. More than a few students summed up the challenge with the exclamation, "This experience changed my life!"

In the summer of 2011, Millersville University's Honors College hosted the annual PASSHE Summer Honors Study Abroad program, a competitive program open to honors students. This year's program focused on "The Atlantic World in an Age of Revolution." Coordinated by Dr. Dennis B. Downey with lead instructors Drs. Clarence Maxwell (History) and Timothy Trussell (Anthropology), the for-credit experience

included a week of intensive classroom preparation on the MU campus followed by a 10-day field school in Bermuda. The Bermuda Maritime Museum and the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences served as headquarters and research centers, placing students out in the field to explore historical and archaeological sites each day.

Maxwell and Trussell were ideal instructors, as each has directed student interns in Bermuda for the past six years. Furthermore, each has collaborated in a research project on slavery, commerce and maritime trade that is quite literally redrawing the map on historical understanding of Bermuda's role in trans-Atlantic commerce and political economy. Maxwell, a native Bermudian, continues to serve as a Trustee of the Bermuda Maritime Museum and shepherds summer interns who assist in his ongoing research on trade and slavery in the Atlantic World. Trussell has directed several ground-breaking (literally and figuratively!) archaeological digs in Pennsylvania and Bermuda. 2011 summer program students were the

continued on page 8 Changing Lives

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Changing Lives and Excavating Trans-Atlantic Connections
- 2 School of Science & Mathematics
- 3 School of Education
- 4 School of Humanities & Social Sciences
- 5 Faculty & Student Collaboration
- 6 Non-School Faculty and Centers and Institutes
- 7 Commentary
- 8 A Message From the Provost

Millersville University
SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

Millersville University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution. A member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. 4225-1211

SCHOOL OF Science & Mathematics

BY DAN LIPSON

Dr. Robert Vaillancourt (Earth Sciences) presented the results of his research in the northern Atlantic Ocean at the Aquatic Sciences meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in February 2010. His work, entitled “Control of Photosynthetic Maximum Quantum Yield by Zeaxanthin in the



Sargasso Sea,” was presented again at the Ocean Carbon and Biogeo-

chemistry Workshop in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, in July 2011.

Dr. M. James Cosentino (Biology) was awarded \$16,000 by the Organization for Chemical Sciences to fund shipment of large volumes of books, journals and computers to universities in the developing countries of Morocco, Ethiopia, Liberia and Rwanda.

Drs. Janet White (Mathematics), **Jane Bray** (Dean, School of Education), **Delray Schultz** (Mathematics), **Robert Smith** (Dean, School of Science and Mathematics), and **John Ward** (Educational Foundations) received a \$1,199,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to establish a program to produce mathematics teachers for high-need school districts.

Dr. Jeremiah Mbindyo (Chemistry) was the recipient of a \$10,000 award from



Cephalon, Inc. to continue research on the development of a nanotechnology drug delivery system.

Atmospheric Boundaries

Dr. Richard Clark (Earth Sciences), working with students Michael Charnick, Phillip Falgoust, Erica Dolinar, Rebecca Pauly, Gina Mazzuca, Scott Kacelowicz, Christopher Prebish and Lindsay Blank, used an instrumented tethered balloon, acoustic Sodar, micropulse LiDar, and ground based sensors to collect data to characterize the atmospheric boundary layer from the surface of the earth to 750 meters in the air. Their research supports the “Delivering Information on Surface Air Conditions from Column and Vertically Resolved Observations



Relevant to Air Quality” campaign. Research results are being integrated with measurements from other investigators to provide a detailed description of this evolving boundary layer. Clark submitted an abstract of their research to the American

Meteorological Society for a presentation in January. Clark recently was awarded a \$110,928 NASA grant to continue his research.

SCHOOL OF Education

BY AMY PARKER



Dr. Thomas Neuville (Special Education) collaborated with teacher candidates and the Citizen Advocacy Office of Savannah, Georgia, on the “Robust and Good-Life Project.” The project is aimed at building a library of stories about people with disabilities living the robust life in a civil society. He collaborated with colleagues across campus to create a workshop entitled “Working with Students with Disabilities,” that was delivered at the Center for Academic Excellence.



Dr. Timothy Mahoney (Educational Foundations) was awarded a \$3,000 grant to develop a community park and playground with the School District of Philadelphia.



Drs. Richard Mehrenberg, Ojoma Edeh-Herr, and Lucinda Ridley (Special Education) presented at two separate state conferences with teacher candidates.

Dr. Anne Papalia-Berardi (Special Education) attended the annual conference of the National Council for Exceptional Children’s Conference in Washington, D.C., in April 2011. She presented research findings about a rare visual impairment called Duane’s Syndrome.

Edeh’s book, “*Workbook: A Simple Guide for Writing Educational Theses and Dissertations*,” will be released in fall 2011.



Dr. Laurie Hanich (Educational Foundations) received a \$20,000 grant from the Spencer Foundation for her research entitled “Metacognitive

Influences on Children’s Mathematics Achievement.” She is also conducting research on self-regulated learning in collaboration with Hambright Elementary School in the Penn Manor School District.

Surveys Safe Environment



Dr. Tiffany Wright (Educational Foundations) contributed a chapter entitled “The Role of Leadership in Providing Safe Environments for LGBT Staff and Students” in the new publication entitled *Defining Social Justice Leadership in a Global Context: The Changing Face of Educational Supervision* (Information Age Publishers, fall 2011). Wright examined lesbian, bisexual,

gay and transgender (LGBT) educators’ perceptions of school and workplace climate, and the impact of school leaders on that climate.

The findings were based on data collected through the 2007 *National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) k-12 Educators Survey*. Wright and Dr. Nancy Smith collaborated to release the survey from May 1-August 31, 2011, to which 377 people responded. The National Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network posted a link to the survey on the organization’s Facebook page.

SCHOOL OF Humanities & Social Sciences

BY ALYSSA LEISTER



Drs. Ronald Baker and Kirsten Madden (Economics) co-authored a presentation entitled “Buy the Seat of Your Pants: Does Increasing the Stakes of a Classroom

Experiment Increase Learning Outcomes?” The paper was presented at the 2011 National Conference on Teaching Economics in Palo Alto, California and is under review by the *Journal of Economic Education*. The article analyzes the effects of classroom experiments on student learning.



Dr. Victoria Weaver (Art & Design) participated in an academic exchange between the National Art Education Association and

university faculty, artists and educators from Havana, Cuba, during the first week of October 2011. The group met to define and compare the role of art in the United States and Cuba. Weaver will present her experience at the Rosario Caminero Latino Celebration in Spring 2012.

Dr. Dennis Downey (History) published *The Peopling of Pennsylvania: Creation of a Multicultural Society* on the website www.ExplorePAhistory.com. A history of immigration to Pennsylvania, the publication includes 300 pages of narrative, documents and lesson plans, and more than 150 images. He also co-authored a book with Raymond Hyser entitled *Coatesville and the Lynching of Zachariah Walker: Death in a Pennsylvania Steel Town* (The History Press) that was published in July 2011.



Dr. Mary Sommar (History) continues her research on medieval slavery with several presentations at international scholarly conferences. Sommar recently published *The*

Correctores Romani: Gratian's 'Decretum' and the Counter-Reformation Humanists (Vienna, 2009).

Dr. Christine Filippone (Art & Design) published the peer-reviewed article “Cosmology and Transformation in the Work of Michelle Stuart” in the Spring/Summer 2011 edition of *Woman's Art Journal*. The article argues that Stuart's use of sky charts referenced the constrictive rationalization of Cold War society and evoked alternative cosmologies that illustrate more flexible possibilities.



Food in the Public Sphere



Carole Counihan (Sociology and Anthropology) has continued her work in food anthropology with her recent publication *Taking*

Food Public: Redefining Foodways in a Changing World. Co-edited with Psyche Williams-Forsen, the book was released in October 2011. *Taking Food Public* is

an anthology of 43 articles that examine the production, consumption, and distribution of food in the United States and around the world. The articles examine sustainable farming, globalization surrounding food, Slow Food and fair trade movements, farmers markets and a variety of other food-specific topics.

Counihan has previously conducted research surrounding food in Sardinia and Florence, Italy as well as in Antonito,

Colorado. Her work in these areas produced three books that utilized interviews gathered during field research. Counihan plans to continue her latest research on the alternative food movement in Italy, which looks at restructuring the food system to be more equitable and democratic. She will present her findings in November in Montreal and again in June 2012 in New York City and Perugia, Italy.

Faculty & Student Collaboration

BY ALYSSA LEISTER & DAN LIPSON

Recognizing Differences



Samantha Wendling
Facial Recognition Differences Between Majors

Samantha Wendling, under the direction of Drs. Shawn Gallagher and Shaun Cook (Psychology), investigated whether a student's major--in this case Computer

Science, Art, and Psychology--affects her or his ability to recognize faces. The study showed statistically significant differences between students in the three majors studied. Wendling presented her research at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg, Pa., in October 2011.

Steven Sherman

Environmental Perception Survey

Steven Sherman, a May 2011 graduate of Millersville University, under the direction of Dr. Adam Lawrence (Government & Political Affairs), created a survey to examine Lancaster County residents' perceptions of environmental change. The survey was conducted through the Polling and Research Center at Millersville University. Sherman presented his findings at the April 2011 Millersville University Student Research Conference.

Brian Ruth, Daniel Weber, Andrew Reardon and Aaron Krause
Packing Solution Challenge

Brian Ruth, Daniel Weber, Andrew Reardon and Aaron Krause, with Dr. Mark Snyder (Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology), participated in a

contest sponsored by the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters. They created a packaging solution that earned them third place in the structural and design categories. Their research was conducted in their course ITEC 356 taught by Snyder.

Tia Kordell
Marine Science Consortium Research Cruise

Tia Kordell, under the direction of Dr. Robert Vaillancourt (Earth Sciences), participated in a research cruise on the Marine Science Consortium's research vessel *Parker* in September 2011. Kordell and Vaillancourt studied the impact of increased river water flow from Hurricane Irene on the transport of dissolved organic carbon to the continental shelf ocean.

Matthias Miziorko & Nate Murry
Digital Terrain Model

Matthias Miziorko and Nate Murry, under the direction of Dr. Ajoy Kumar (Earth Sciences), worked together to develop a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) from data collected from a NASA aircraft. They intend to use the data to map the current distributions of important habitats at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia and to identify areas that may become important wetlands as the coastal systems attempt to migrate inland.

Nancy Korycinski
Researching Rural Poverty

Nancy Korycinski (M.A. student, History) traveled to Ulster County, New York, to research land records from 17th-19th century as part of her ongoing research on how local governments dealt with their homeless poor populations over three centuries. Her investigation is supported by a University Research Grant and will form the basis for a History master's thesis.

Michael Parker
AMGEN Scholar's Research

Michael Parker (Biology and University Honors College) participated in the Summer 2011 AMGEN Summer Research Program at the University of California, San Diego. Supported by a grant from the AMGEN Corp. and UCSD, Parker researched the pathogenesis of Human Cytomegalovirus (HCMV) in collaboration with Dr. Deborah Spector in the Skaggs School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Non-School Faculty

BY JESSICA JONES

Prof. Erin Dorney (Library)

co-authored the peer-reviewed article “The Use of Space: Unintended Messages



of Academic Library Websites” in the August 2011 issue of the *Journal of Web Librarianship*. The study investigates what messages are communicated through the content and design of an academic library’s homepage. The article was co-authored by faculty member Sheila Kasperek of Mansfield University and 2011 Millersville alumnus Michael O’Brien.

Dr. Joseph Revelt

(Institutional Research) contributes statistical research and data analysis to Millersville University and



PASSHE. Topics of his research include initiatives, campus enrollment projections, federal and state mandated reporting, and campus and State System assessment. His publications include the annual *Millersville University Fact Book*. Revelt also serves as an adjunct instructor in the Business Administration program.

CENTERS & INSTITUTES

Millersville University has several centers and institutes working to promote research, leadership, education, community involvement and overall civic engagement.

The Center for Economic Education is offering several workshops and training sessions for K-12 teachers. In addition to The Business Plan Competition (December 7, 2011), the Center will offer “New Advisor Training” for the all-popular Stock Market Game of Pa (January 25, 2012). The high school regional Economics Challenge is scheduled for March 28, 2012. Visit the Center’s website for more information: www.economicspa.org.

Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project (CCERP) sponsored a two-day conference (September 16-17, 2011) on “Securing Our Future.” Former governor of New Mexico, Bill Richardson was featured as the keynote speaker while a host of activists and dignitaries addressed issues related to global security and stability in the post-9/11 world community.

The Walker Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership is sponsoring a year-long policy forum that brings distinguished elected officials to campus. The Center hosted Representatives Peter Torkildsen (R-MA) and David Minge (D-MN) on October 3 for a “Pizza, Policy and Politics” session.

The Center for Disaster Research and Education (CDRE) is offering the CDRE Virtual Seminar Series in the fall 2011 (www.millersville.edu/cdre/virtual-seminar-series.php). They are collaborating with the Regional Business Preparedness Campaign and the Business, Industry and Infrastructure Subcommittee of the South Central Pa., Task Force and area Chambers of Commerce on programs of business preparedness.

Commentary: The MU/Latino Community Mural Project

BY CHRISTINE FILIPPONE

In spring 2011 Dr. Kim Mahaffy, professor of sociology and director of the Latino Studies Program at Millersville, and I worked collaboratively with students in our classes to create two digitally-printed public murals addressing experiences of immigration and cultural assimilation within Lancaster's rapidly growing Latino population. Our objective was to engage students in a genuine community arts process through which they would develop personal relationships of respect, openness and common purpose with members of the Latino community in Lancaster and with Latino students on campus. The project was led by professional muralist and artist-in-residence Michelle Angela Ortiz.

The students, who had been paired in teams of two, first met their community partners at a series of workshops, led by Ortiz, intended to establish a level of trust and to frame themes common to the process of immigration, including loss of family, friends, home and adaptation to a new life and culture in Lancaster. The students deepened these preliminary relationships with their community partners by conducting a series of audio and video-taped interviews. Students were encouraged to hold these interviews in the home or office of their partner and to carefully observe visual details including photographs, patterns of furniture, of

dress. They were also trained to ask questions that would solicit in-depth responses centered on personal memories.

The students then transcribed these interviews and presented them to the class, along with a visual symbol the team identified that captured their partner's personality and story. Andre Brown, a student at Millersville who was interviewed by Jennifer Hoppe and Eric Lloyd, shared a photograph of his grandparents that he treasured as an important connection to them and to his family home in Puerto Rico. The student team Wil Langelius-Thompson and Tyler Ritchie identified a white lace pattern, typical of a pollera, the traditional dress of Panama, shown to them in a picture that embodied for the students their partner's sense of pride in her personal and cultural identity—her mother was a seamstress. Students also shared quotes from their interviews, some of which were incorporated into the murals including, "I belong here," spoken by Millersville student Laura Brito, who was interviewed by Lauren Ricapito and Gabrielle Kime.

As part of her honors project for the course, Gabi Kime worked directly with Ortiz as a project leader. She was charged with documenting the entire community arts process, including community meetings, classroom workshops,

PROFILE



Christine Filippone, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Art History. Her research interests include conceptual art practices and the impact of science and technology on contemporary art. She recently published an article in *Woman's Art Journal* and will chair a session at the national College Art Association meeting in Los Angeles.

interviews, mural theme development and design. Kime sorted through many hours of footage to create a comprehensive narrative of the process for the project website, designed by graphic design student Aaron Chu, under the supervision of art professor James Pannafino: sites.millersville.edu/latinomural/

The culmination of this community arts process were two digital murals: one comprised of images and text derived from interviews conducted with Latino students at Millersville, titled "We Belong Here: Paths of Inspiration" (2011), and "Nosotros pertenecemos: Caminos de inspiración," which now hangs in the atrium of the Student Memorial Center (SMC). A third mural reflecting the stories of community members, titled "Finding our Place,"

continued on page 8 Mural Project





A Message From the Provost

In the inaugural issue I wrote that research is the “life blood of the university.”

Subsequent issues have elaborated on that theme and the diverse ways Millersville University is establishing a vibrant research culture that includes a range of professional achievements. This issue is no different, documenting new and significant faculty and student-faculty research initiatives.

Whether collaborating with a local artist on an urban mural, excavating the buried treasures of Lancaster County and distant Bermuda, or exploring the frontiers of knowledge in the laboratory, archives or in

our communities, Millersville University recognizes research as a sustaining ingredient in our commitment to be “Second to None.” In its many and varied forms, research brings new insight and energy to the academic mission of this regional comprehensive university. To our students, to our community, and to the citizens of the Commonwealth, research remains part of the Millersville Promise.

Sincerely,

Vilas A. Prabhu, Ph.D.

*Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs*

Changing Lives, continued from page 1

beneficiaries of their collective experience, getting a hands-on and occasionally rain-soaked introduction to field research. Visiting lecturers like underwater archaeologist Cliff Smith and BMM executive director Edward Harris supplemented Maxwell and Trussell's encyclopedic knowledge and deep familiarity with history and historic sites.

Every student completed a major research project and a series of minor group projects for their grade. Students spent a day aboard a BIOS vessel exploring sunken shipwrecks, made detailed assessments of several historic buildings, and routinely labored to connect written documents with the lived experience of the people in Bermuda at the time of the American Revolution. Off- hours were often spent exploring island locations or sitting at the ocean's edge contemplating trans-Atlantic connections of one kind or another! All came away with a deeper appreciation for scholarship, research, and the folkways and ambiance of the island nation whose history and commerce are tied to the Commonwealth and trans-Atlantic systems of trade and peoples in motion.

Mural Project, continued from page 7

was installed at the Barnstormer's Clipper Magazine Stadium. Students and community partners together celebrated the completion of each mural in early May. The process of documenting oral histories and representing them visually broadened the cultural and generational perspectives of all involved and fostered in students an appreciation for the struggles and accomplishments of individuals they may not otherwise have encountered. The murals are a culmination of stories of survival, struggle, triumph and hope and function as testament to cultural barriers bridged and new relationships formed.

