

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Oct.
2022

A couple of months ago, our campus became alive with a new academic year when our new and continuing students arrived, followed by academic reactivation and a plethora of athletic events. Shortly after that, summer heat started giving way to cooler temperatures. Like most people, I enjoy the beauty of autumn due to the changing colors of leaves and more comfortable temperatures. Across campus, as the chlorophyll in green leaves of shrubs and deciduous trees receded and the splendor of vibrant carotenoids and anthocyanins started showing, we are experiencing one of nature's gifts of brilliant hues of gold, orange, brown and red foliage. One of the best places on campus to enjoy the fall foliage is around the pond/lake. These changes signal decreasing daylengths coupled with lower temperatures that together make getting out of bed in the morning more challenging. All this is to say, October is a great month on campus because we cap it off with our Homecoming, which brings our alumni, family and friends back to campus.

In addition to Homecoming this month, we will host a Land Acknowledgment Unveiling Reception on Oct. 25. The Land Acknowledgment statement aims to recognize the indigenous people who were divested of their homelands by early European settlers. Institutions such as ours were then built on those lands. Sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the event's main goal is to acknowledge and pay respect to the native inhabitants of the land now home to Millersville University. I hope you can attend.

As a result of the pandemic, most of us retreated into our shells because we had to socially isolate for safety and health reasons. With our gradual return to a new "normal" operation, we now have opportunities for more in-person interactions. I missed the constraints placed by the pandemic to interact in person with faculty, students and staff, so I was glad to find out that one of the recommendations that came from the recent comprehensive presidential evaluation asked me to be more visible across campus. Hence, I have initiated a new Listening Tour (LT 2022-23), which is off to a good start, and I would like to thank the groups I have met during the past few weeks. I have a dozen more meetings planned for the fall semester with academic departments and administrative units. I invite you to learn more about the listening tour on the [President's website](#) and encourage you to leave feedback on my three questions. Your input is important to our University and me.

The articles in this month's newsletter include information on Homecoming and 'Ville Spirit Week, the cumulative money that our faculty have saved students by using Open Educational Resources, and an Employee Wellness Fair coming up on Oct. 26. We also take a look at our athletic teams.

I look forward to seeing you on campus during this beautiful month.

HOMEcomings AND 'VILLE SPIRIT WEEK

Homecoming is the largest and most exciting event to bring alumni back to campus each year. This year, Millersville's campus will once again be buzzing with special events and programs to welcome you back as you revisit the past among friends and classmates.

Spectators will once again line the two-mile stretch of George Street to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Millersville Community Parade. This year's theme is "Animal Kingdom" and will feature entries that range from the local Shriners and their mini cars, our local groundhog "Poppy," to handmade floats by Millersville students and local youth groups. The parade, a joint venture of Millersville University and the community, will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22. I am pleased to be joined by members of the Council of Trustees at the front of the parade lineup.

The parade is just one of the many events taking place during Homecoming. There are activities all week as part of 'Ville Spirit Week. These events are free with an MU ID. The MU field hockey team will also host a Pride Game on Friday, Oct. 21, at 3 p.m. against Slippery Rock. In addition, there will be Alumni Golf, the Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Banquet, an Alumni and Friends Block Party and more.

The Marauders football team will take on Shippensburg at 2 p.m. in the homecoming football game.

2022 Ville Spirit Week includes programming to celebrate Coming Out Week and Homecoming 2022.

For a complete list of homecoming events, visit [Campus Life](#) and the [Alumni page](#).

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES SAVE STUDENT MONEY

Millersville University is continuing to support the use of Open Educational Resources to lower the cost of attendance for our students. Since the Fall of 2019, the University and its faculty have saved students a grand total of \$1,547,820 by eliminating textbook costs.

OER is a movement in education that promotes free and open educational materials that students can access in their coursework. Among OER's benefits are expanding access to learning for students, enhancing and allowing customization of course materials and providing more cutting-edge content and pedagogy. By eliminating the cost of textbooks, OER can help lower the overall costs for students pursuing higher education. Over two years, OER has helped over 17,000 students at the University save money.

OER and Zero Textbook Cost resources include free textbooks and encourage students to engage with more library resources, like journal databases and other publicly published materials.

For more information about OER, visit <https://www.millersville.edu/cae/open-education/index.php>.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS FAIR

MU faculty and staff are invited to the [Employee Wellness Fair](#), held on Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Reighard multipurpose room in the SMC. Organized by the Employee Wellness Committee, the fair's theme is "Don't let your health scare you!" in the spirit of the Halloween season.

The fair includes internal and external organizations that will share information and experience based on the eight dimensions of wellness: emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social and spiritual wellness. Additionally, attendees are encouraged to attend up to four [workshops](#) during the fair.

These workshops include green dot training, "Treating Myself: Relearning Proper Self-Love," learning how to journal for wellness and basic self-defense. These events will be held throughout the day in SMC room 118. Registration is required for each workshop.

Finally, there will be 10-minute chair massages available at the fair, and registration is required for those as well.

The wellness fair is a part of the Employee Wellness Committee's [ongoing mission](#) to educate, encourage and inspire MU faculty and staff to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

The fall sports season is nearing an exciting conclusion, and we are rooting for our Marauders as they head toward the postseason. The men's golf team recently competed at the PSAC Championship, with Christopher Knox and Bobby Lugiano finishing in the top 10. The team brought home a third-place finish.

The field hockey team is again one of the top teams in Division II and recently defeated No. 1-ranked West Chester in a thrilling game at Biemesderfer Stadium. Forward Kate Strickland is the PSAC-leader in goals scored and is on pace for a record-setting season.

The men's soccer team is regionally ranked, and a recent winning streak has the team right back near the top of the PSAC East. The Marauders are the three-time defending PSAC champions, and we hope they can return to the title game again.

The football team has seen some strong performances in recent weeks, especially from running back Jaheim Morris, who scored a touchdown in five straight games and was named the PSAC East Offensive Athlete of the Week on Oct. 10.

The swimming season is also underway, and two earlier victories have given the Marauders a school record of 10 consecutive victories in dual meets!

The start of the basketball season is just weeks away. In November, the women's basketball team has a pair of exciting exhibition games against Division I programs. The team travels to play the University of Maryland on Nov. 2 and hosts James Madison in our Pucillo Gymnasium on Nov. 9. The first home game for the defending PSAC East champion men's basketball team is Nov. 16.