

“IMAGINE” is Millersville’s e-newsletter for friends of the University. Its goal is to share stories demonstrating the diversity of student learning experiences on campus while emphasizing the positive impact that private support makes in the lives of our students. As you will read, the ripples of generosity can create a lasting impact to benefit students at Millersville University.



Celebration of Extraordinary Fundraising Success Concludes Historic ‘Imagine the Possible’ Campaign

As the record-breaking “Imagine the Possible” fundraising campaign to support student success recently concluded on June 30, the campaign’s exceptional fundraising total of **\$110,056,873** reached an incredible milestone, becoming the largest fundraising campaign in Millersville University history, and the most successful fundraising effort in the history of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Thank you to the **more than 12,000 gracious donors** whose gifts of all sizes contributed to this outstanding fundraising accomplishment that has made a transformative, positive impact in the lives of thousands of Millersville University students!

This remarkable fundraising result is the culmination of a six-year campaign that surpassed a \$90 million goal in March 2022 and topped \$100 million in January 2023, reaching a total of more than \$110 million, which exceeded the overall “Imagine the Possible” campaign fundraising goal by more than 22%. Campaign fundraising priority areas of the “Imagine the Possible” campaign, which is the first campaign in Millersville University history focused entirely on students, included Scholarships, Student Learning Experiences, Marauder Athletics and Campus Revitalization.

Continued on page 2



- 1
- 4
- 6
- 9
- 11
- 13
- 15
- 16

CELEBRATION OF EXTRAORDINARY FUNDRAISING SUCCESS
 Concludes Historic “Imagine the Possible” Campaign

GENEROSITY, HEROISM AND SACRIFICE:
 The Enduring Legacy of a Millersville Alumnus Transcends Generations

NEW MUPD POLICE TRAUMA K-9
 Brings Comfort to the Campus Community

WELCOME DENICE VELEZ:
 Director of the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY’S HONORS COLLEGE
 Welcomes New Director

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS JOURNEYS
 Highlight Exceptional Academic Achievements

PLACE YOUR NAME IN MILLERSVILLE ATHLETICS HISTORY
 Explore Naming Opportunities at the Morgan Athletic Complex

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Jillian Krings '26

Total Raised **\$110,056,873** 122% of Campaign Goal of \$90 million

TOTALS FOR CAMPAIGN PRIORITY AREAS



Scholarships

\$31M



Student Learning Experiences

\$59.7M



Marauder Athletics

\$7.7M



Campus Revitalization

\$11.6M



Over \$31 million was raised for scholarship support, which includes 118 endowed scholarships and 112 named annual scholarship awards, with \$9,440,416 in scholarship dollars awarded to students during the six years of the campaign.

In recognition of this amazing achievement, donors and friends gathered together for a special celebration of **An Evening at the Enchanted Pond** on August 15, to celebrate the campaign's success with exemplary students and alumni who are excelling in their lives and careers because of the "Imagine the Possible" campaign.

Through the **overwhelming generosity** of donors, the campaign has provided transformational opportunities for Millersville University students who are exceeding the imagination. With tremendous gratitude for the dedicated support from the entire Millersville University community, **thank you very much** to everyone who participated in the "Imagine the Possible" campaign for your valuable investment in the dreams, aspirations and success of Millersville University students.

Visit [Imagine.Millersville.edu](https://www.imagine.millersville.edu) to learn more about the campaign success. ♦

THANK YOU FOR MAKING HISTORY WITH YOUR GENEROSITY!

Experience the newly redesigned "Imagine the Possible" campaign website – featuring student success stories, a searchable donor list, campaign highlights, videos and the "Imagine the Possible" Campaign Report of Gifts at [Imagine.Millersville.edu](https://www.imagine.millersville.edu).

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a video celebrating the campaign's historic success and the life-changing benefits for students.

Continued on page 3



Marcus Adkison '19
Communications / Public Relations
Men's Basketball



Benjamin Fellman '21
Meteorology
Men's Tennis



Susan Lloyd '20
Secondary Mathematics Education

AN EVENING AT THE ENCHANTED POND

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Overlooking the beautiful campus pond, guests at the campaign celebration of **An Evening at the Enchanted Pond** enjoyed gourmet cuisine stations, live music and the exciting announcement of the final campaign fundraising total, with the illumination of glittering lights glowing brightly overhead during a memorable evening under the stars.



Above: A group of outstanding Millersville University alumni and students participated in the event program, including three alumni who reflected on the positive impact of the "Imagine the Possible" campaign in their student success journeys.



The 1942 Millersville
"Touchstone" yearbook
entry for Frank Peoples

Photo courtesy
of Millersville
University Archives
& Special Collections



FRANK PEOPLES

Known to his friends as "Larry." A four-letter man for Porter, Band Choir, Orchestra, and Music Committee. Chairman of Entertainment Committee as a Junior, and as a Senior presided over Student Council. Interested in both science and math, Larry joined both Mu Kappa Mu and Roddy. Member of Normal Literary Society, and a real upholder of the ideals of the "Skunk Hollow Boys."

GENEROSITY, HEROISM AND SACRIFICE: The Enduring Legacy of a Millersville Alumnus Transcends Generations

Throughout its rich history, Millersville has made a valuable impact in the lives of thousands of alumni who treasure their student experiences with gratitude for the opportunities that have shaped their life pathways immeasurably. These transformative student experiences at Millersville have encouraged many gracious alumni to leave a legacy through their generous contributions of estate gifts.

An exceptional Millersville alumnus with an enduring legacy of sacrifice and generosity is the late **Lt. Frank Peoples Jr. '42**. Born on April 10, 1920, and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Frank Peoples Jr., who was also known as "Larry," attended Millersville State Teachers College (M.S.T.C.) and graduated in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education – Secondary course.

As a Millersville student, Frank was an active participant in a variety of campus clubs and activities. According to the Millersville "Touchstone" yearbook in 1942, during Frank's senior year, he was involved in "Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Music Committee," in addition to serving as "Chairman of Entertainment Committee as a Junior," and he was president of the Student Council in his senior year. Through his interests in both science and math, Frank was a member of Mu Kappa Mu, a math club focused on teaching math, and the Roddy Scientific Society, in addition to the Normal Literary Society. Frank's yearbook entry notes that he was a "real upholder of the ideals of the 'Skunk Hollow Boys,'" which was a small, student-run dramatic club on campus. As demonstrated through his extensive engagement in the Millersville campus community, Frank made a valuable contribution to M.S.T.C. while a student, and his appreciation for Millersville made a positive impact in his life.

After graduating from Millersville State Teachers College in 1942, Frank served in World War II. Tragically, Lieutenant Frank Peoples Jr. was "killed in action on a bombing mission over Vienna, Austria, on July 16, 1944," according to the July 1946 edition of the Millersville College Journal. Frank died at the age



Lt. Frank Peoples Jr. '42

of 24, and he was buried in Nettuno, Roma, Italy.

Frank had a younger sister, Irma Elsie Peoples, and their family resided in the Frankford neighborhood of Philadelphia, which was still rather rural during their youth. Like Frank, Irma attended college to become a teacher, and she graduated from Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania. Irma dedicated many years of her life to a long and successful career as an educator through her work in the Pennsylvania School System.

To honor the memory of Frank Jr. and his father, the late Frank O. Peoples Sr., Irma and her mother, "Elsie," donated a stained-glass window that was placed in Emmanuel Resurrection Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Like the bright illumination of a stained-glass window, the memory of Frank was carried on by his sister, Irma, throughout her long life until she passed away peacefully at the age of 100 on March 15, 2023, at Southampton Estates, a continuing care retirement community located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Continued on page 5



Irma Elsie Peoples, Frank's younger sister

Following the conclusion of World War II, in honoring Frank's heroism on campus at Millersville, a memorial tree was planted in his memory. According to a May 1946 edition of *The Snapper*, an article with a headline of "College Honors Heroes" states, "Twelve young trees have been added to the college campus to honor each of the M.S.T.C. students who gave his life in service to his country." To memorialize the lives of Millersville students who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, the lives of these courageous students were commemorated by the memorial trees on campus.

Many years later in 2023, more than 80 years after his graduation from M.S.T.C., Frank's gratitude for his student experience was demonstrated through an estate gift to Millersville University. Through Frank's estate gift, his legacy of generosity continues for Millersville students long into the future. As an active and engaged student, Frank made a difference in the campus community at Millersville many years ago, and he was inspired to support student excellence in others – as reflected in his life story and in the remarkable lives of Millersville students throughout history. ♦

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Explore opportunities to make a positive impact for future generations of students through planned giving.

[**CLICK HERE**](#) to learn more.

FUND THE 'VILLE

A Crowdfunding Platform to Benefit the Millersville University Community

Across the Millersville University community, there are fundraising needs from students, faculty and staff that require support, and with the Fund the 'Ville crowdfunding platform, these fundraising efforts can be promoted online.

The Fund the 'Ville crowdfunding platform is designed to empower the Millersville University community to raise funding that is needed to support projects, events and initiatives that make a difference in the University community. Through an online application, fundraising organizers may submit projects for review, and those that are approved will be added to the Fund the 'Ville webpage. ♦

EXPLORE THE FUND THE 'VILLE PLATFORM

View the collection of fundraising initiatives in the Millersville University community at the Fund the 'Ville online platform.

[**CLICK HERE**](#) to discover Fund the 'Ville online.



NEW MUPD POLICE TRAUMA K-9

Brings Comfort
to the Campus
Community



Millersville University Police Department Officer
Ivan Gonzalez, Community Police Specialist,
with Brooks, MUPD Trauma K-9.

Brooks, a Police Trauma K-9, is a new member of the Millersville University Police Department (MUPD) and is warmly welcomed throughout the campus community. At a recent swearing-in ceremony at the Winter Center on campus in September, Brooks was officially sworn in by the Honorable Jodie Richardson '16, Magisterial District Judge, along with his handler, MUPD officer Ivan Gonzalez, community police specialist. Through his frequent appearances at many campus activities and events and his comforting and friendly presence, Brooks has become very popular on campus.

As Gonzalez explains, "Brooks has easily become the University's favorite MUPD officer. His presence is calming and unifying to the community. Over the past several months, Brooks has been able to visit several staff, faculty and students throughout different parts of the day. There is an excitement to have a warm, unconditionally loving companion roaming the campus. Brooks breaks down walls and barriers for many individuals and allows me to communicate with the community daily. This communication is impactful for community policing measures. Brooks has even made an impact on calls where students have been able to ground themselves during traumatic or stressful incidents."

The addition of a trauma K-9 to the MUPD is a first for Millersville University and presents a uniquely valuable opportunity to benefit the campus community. Gonzalez shares, "Brooks is the first of his kind at Millersville University or the PASSHE system of schools in general.... Brooks is a full-time presence at Millersville University, belongs to the University and is genuinely an integrated member of the Millersville University community at large." Through Brooks's service with the MUPD, his role is to build meaningful connections with students and within the campus community. "The inspiration came from understanding our community. Students make the majority of our community's population, and these individuals are oftentimes far from home. A friendly, loving canine can bring morale boosts. Often, students have pets themselves and a trauma K-9 can be there for those that miss their pets," says Gonzalez.

Continued on page 7

In an environment of campus life, a trauma K-9 can provide a positive influence that can have life-changing benefits for students. Gonzalez notes, "Over 60% of different forms of mental disorders onset before the age of 25 years. A trauma K-9 is an ideal tool for individuals that are experiencing mental disorders, often for the first time, for de-escalation and comfort. Students are also in an environment where parties occur frequently. These are unfortunate opportunities for devastating events, such as sexual assaults, where a trauma K-9 can be an advocate for those victims. Victim advocacy, in a singular phrase, can sum up the primary inspiration and motivation for having Brooks at MUPD."

As a trauma K-9, Brooks provides tremendous benefits to MUPD officers, in addition to the campus community members they serve. Through describing the work of trauma K-9s like Brooks, Gonzalez mentions a wide variety of situations in which their presence can be transformative in crisis situations and in daily community interactions. "Their main roles include responding to crime scenes to give support to both victims of traumatic/critical incidents, provide comfort to the officers – who often handle dangerous and traumatic situations, and deployment to community events and their debriefs." Certification and training are an important part of Brooks's professional role, and he will spend approximately two years training and completing all of his certifications. At 8 months old, Brooks successfully completed the STARS and Good Citizen (AKC) certifications for therapy dogs.

Because Brooks is a working dog and is dedicated to serving the Millersville University community, there is a need for donations to support the cost of his care. Through a Millersville University Fund the 'Ville crowdfunding webpage, gifts can be contributed online for the fundraising effort.

A focus on good health and safety is important for Brooks in his role with the MUPD, which includes purchasing high-quality food, leashes, collars and harnesses, in addition to funding modifications to the MUPD police vehicles. "We currently need a shock-proof dog kennel that can be placed in the cruiser. This secures his well-being in the event that a vehicle were to impact our cruiser. He also requires an independently operated fan/air-conditioning unit that is not dependent on the cruiser. This will ensure a safe and comfortable environment for Brooks in the summer heat. His multiple layers of fur, coupled with 90–100-degree days, makes for a heat risk if the cruiser were to ever shut off while at an incident. Currently, Brooks leaps out of the cruiser several times a shift. Ideally, a stepladder designed for dogs would be purchased in order to avoid joint or musculoskeletal damage to Brooks," Gonzalez says.

Through a generous donation of veterinary services from Pine Creek Animal Hospital at Manor, Brooks is receiving veterinary care to maintain good health and wellness. This gracious contribution is a valuable gift to cover the expenses of one of the largest consistent costs for a working dog. Brooks and the MUPD are grateful for the generous donation of free Nutro Ultra dog food from That Fish Place – That Pet Place on Centerville Road in Lancaster, and discounted non-food merchandise like collars, chew toys, etc. to support his care.

Supporting Brooks with donations for the variety of expenses associated with his care is an opportunity available to everyone. Donations can be made easily online, through a Fund the 'Ville webpage devoted to the MUPD Trauma Dog fundraising initiative. By contributing to Brooks's care, members of the Millersville University community can make a difference. Visit the Fund the 'Ville webpage at www.millersville.edu/mupdtraumadog to learn more about Brooks and to make a gift.

Continued on page 8

Brooks has a busy schedule, with appearances at various campus events, athletic competitions and activities, and members of the Millersville University community have many opportunities to meet him in person. In his off-duty time, Brooks lives with Gonzalez and his family and “is dearly beloved by my wife and daughter,” he says. Games and playing with toys are some of Brooks’s favorite pastimes. “His favorite toys include his deer antler, soft rubber ball and soft squeaky rubber ball. He really enjoys the feel of soft rubber chew toys. Plus, a fresh tennis ball isn’t going to go unnoticed. He is a fetch machine,” says Gonzalez.

At the Brooks Birthday Bash on October 18, the Millersville University community came together to celebrate the first birthday of Brooks on campus at Brooks Field. The birthday party celebration generated a great response from students and the campus community through a fun-filled event opportunity to visit with Brooks, meet Brooks’s siblings and receive official Millersville University Store – issued Brooks merchandise, with a portion of every purchase of Brooks

merchandise supporting the MUPD Trauma Dog Fund. As a special treat, Brooks celebrated his birthday by eating a small piece of birthday cake.

Through the comfort, happiness and safety that Brooks brings to the campus community, Gonzalez has aspirations for Brooks to make a transformational impact at Millersville University. “I hope that Brooks can be a force for victim advocacy and University school spirit. It would be amazing to have several individuals impacted by Brooks over the next six years of his service. Impacts that can change the course of their lives due to positive experiences that allow individuals to reduce self-harm, increase student retention and comfort those who experience traumatic events. If Brooks could be the reason that just ONE person opens up and allows us to give them the resources they need to prevent further harm to their lives ... I would consider his presence and all of our hard work and training absolutely worth it... This is an amazing form of community bonding that, in my opinion, acts like a glue that bonds the University community closer.” ♦

SUPPORT THE CARE FOR BROOKS

Your generosity to support Brooks and his care can help him to stay healthy, well-groomed and at his best to serve the campus community.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and support Brooks.



WELCOME DENICE VELEZ

Director of the
Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El
Intercultural Center



Millersville University
DR. RITA SMITH-WADE-EL
INTERCULTURAL CENTER

At the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center at Millersville University, **Denice Velez** recently was appointed as the new director in July 2023, and Millersville University proudly welcomes her to the campus community. Velez brings extensive professional experience to the role through her background in higher education. Explains Velez, “Both as a student and full-time staff member, I have dedicated my professional career to supporting various cultural centers, including a Cross-Cultural Center and Latinx Resource Center in Southern California. Most recently, I served as the associate director for the Dowdy Multicultural Center at West Chester University. In these roles, I have enjoyed empowering students to understand their role in social justice and affirming their diverse identities.” Through her academic experience, Velez earned a bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies and Chicana Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Public Policy (MPP) and a master’s degree in Higher Education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Velez has appreciated the opportunity to become involved in the Millersville University campus community through a variety of events and activities during the fall semester. “In my time with Millersville, it has been exciting to meet student leaders who care deeply about assuring that marginalized students are supported and cared for. They understand the importance of creating an environment where everyone is included and can truly live the EPPIC values. I have also enjoyed participating in EPPIC Weekend, where I got to see first-year students eagerly engage in opportunities and discussions.”

As an important campus space, the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center was renamed in October 2021 to honor the legacy of the center’s namesake, Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El, who was a professor of psychology and African American studies at Millersville University, and whose tremendous commitment to diversity and inclusion made an indelible impact at the University and in the Lancaster community. “The Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center provides the space for students to reflect

about their own identities and learn about others to eventually understand how they can serve the communities they will be a part of,” says Velez.

“The plans for the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center are to continue the amazing work that has been laid out by the previous director, graduate and undergraduate student staff. And we are also following the legacy of Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El of creating space for students to succeed. In addition, we plan to provide new forms of engaging in topics related to identity and social issues, and we plan to create space for marginalized students to feel a sense of community,” Velez states. “The opportunities offered by the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center encompass providing a physical space in the SMC 111 for students to feel a sense of community; providing programs and opportunities that support students to learn about their own social identities; and providing educational events to learn about various marginalized identities.”

Continued on page 10

Through her professional career experience, Velez has firsthand knowledge of the immeasurable benefits that appreciation for diverse communities can provide in supporting student success. “Centering marginalized students’ experiences can bring so much talent and joy to the campus communities. More concretely, the programs and services provided by not only places like the Intercultural Center, but other departments, have a great impact on how students feel seen and understood, which, in turn, allows them to fully realize their passions. The more we all collectively (students, staff, faculty) think about how our everyday practices inside the classroom and in the co-curricular experiences can create an inclusive environment, the more

marginalized students can feel a sense of belonging and thrive.”

With the enhancement of program opportunities available to students at the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center, the importance of fundraising support can make a valuable difference. Velez says, “Fundraising support can benefit growing the types of speakers and quality of program offerings. It can also enhance our ability to have more self-sustaining programs and initiatives to support marginalized students directly. Additionally, it can help expand staffing support to reach a larger community of students and provide more identity-specific services.”

In looking to the future at Millersville University, Velez has a vision for the

success and growth of the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center to foster inclusion in the campus community for marginalized students – and to “build a campus community where inclusive excellence is a part of our culture, and where marginalized students have a ‘welcoming campus community’ that allows them to thrive because of it,” she says. “In this role, I strive to increase the support for marginalized students while at MU. Also, I seek to educate and challenge our campus community to learn about social justice issues and about topics impacting the many diverse communities. This work can only be done in collaboration with students, staff and faculty, while centering and empowering those in the margins.” ♦

Learn About the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center

The programs, opportunities and experiences provided by the Intercultural Center create a culture of inclusion, equity and a sense of belonging on campus and beyond.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center.



Millersville University
#VILLEONEDAYGIVE

SAVE THE DATE FOR ONE DAY GIVE 2024

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**‘Give To What You Love’ with the
11th Annual One Day Give!**

Join the celebration of this exciting online giving event with the Millersville University community, and prepare to “**give to what you love**” and make a difference at the ‘Ville.

Learn about valuable opportunities to get involved and show your support during the 2024 One Day Give fundraising event.

Visit [Millersville.edu/onedaygive](https://www.millersville.edu/onedaygive) for the latest One Day Give event news and updates.

Millersville University's Honors College Welcomes New Director

Dr. Charlton Wolfgang, Director of the Millersville University Honors College



As the students in Millersville University's Honors College are enthusiastically participating in a variety of campus activities and events for the fall semester, **Dr. Charlton Wolfgang** is enjoying the start of the academic year in his new role as director of the Millersville University Honors College.

Wolfgang has spent more than 10 years as a faculty member at Millersville University, and he has multiple roles within the Department of Early, Middle, and Exceptional Education. He explains, "Through my work as the coordinator for the M.Ed. in Gifted Education, Graduate Certificate in Gifted Education, and Gifted Endorsement programs at Millersville, I have had the pleasure of working with hundreds of exceptional teachers from throughout Pennsylvania and beyond. As the largest graduate Gifted Education program in Pennsylvania, we have graduate students who teach in districts from a wide variety of sizes and geographical regions, ranging from the smallest to the largest. My interactions with these dedicated professionals have helped me to continually improve our programs and stay on top of the current trends and issues affecting high-achieving students."

Professionally, Wolfgang's background has focused on education and specifically gifted education in K-12 academic environments. The beneficial experience that Wolfgang has acquired through his work in K-12 education has been extremely helpful in his new role as director of the Millersville University Honors College. "One of the most important aspects of supporting high-achieving and high-ability learners is to recognize that students benefit from different work, not just more of the same. This is one of the reasons that our Honors courses typically involve teaching methods such as debates, Socratic dialogue and in-depth writing. These approaches provide students with multiple opportunities to wrestle with ideas, explore important questions and engage in scholarly discussions with their peers," Wolfgang says.



Among the many benefits of the Millersville University Honors College experience for students is the Honors College Living-Learning Community (LLC), located in the South Village of campus, which is the largest LLC at the University. "Each first-year student is assigned an upperclassman as a mentor to help them academically, socially and professionally. We have two peer advisors who help to plan events for the Honors College as well as provide registration assistance and advice to Honors College students. The Honors College also provides professional development activities, such as an alumni panel and resume workshops," notes Wolfgang.

The academic opportunities provided to Honors College students enhance the student experience tremendously. "As a community of scholars, Honors College students have the opportunity to take Honors courses that are designed to enrich, challenge and support their thinking and learning. These classes are typically of a smaller size, with a focus on discussion, collaboration and in-depth investigation of the discipline, providing greater depth and breadth of experience," says Wolfgang. "Central to these experiences is the capstone project for the Honors College: the Honors Thesis or Creative Project. Our students benefit throughout the process from inception to the final defense. They are supported by a thesis advisor and thesis committee, comprised of faculty members the student selects. Because the Honors Thesis/Creative Project topic is chosen by the student, they have the opportunity to conduct in-depth research and pursue an extensive project in an area of passion. Some of our students connect their thesis to an internship, service-learning opportunity or study abroad trip. This enables the students to gain real-life experiences while networking and making connections in an area of interest."

Additionally, participation in the Made in Millersville conference, the University's annual conference showcasing student scholarly and creative work, and at other conferences,

Continued on page 12

locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, provides Honors College students with valuable presentation opportunities.

As director of the Honors College, Wolfgang has a vision to increase the opportunities and experiences available to Honors College students. He states, "I want to build on this strong foundation by expanding service-learning opportunities both near and far.... Since students learn best by doing, my goal is to provide our students with many opportunities to engage in authentic learning experiences."

Placing an emphasis on high-impact practices, including study abroad opportunities, is an element of Wolfgang's vision for the Honors College. "Some of the most impactful experiences that I have seen students have and that I have personally experienced have come through travel and exposure to other cultures and perspectives. We led a pilot Honors College study abroad trip in May 2023 to Latvia, Estonia and Sweden, to explore the fascinating history of these three countries bordering the Baltic Sea. Study abroad is a high-impact practice that leaves a lasting and profound impression on students, as students on this trip can attest to. I am currently planning a trip for next year to the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and France, to explore the role of international organizations and how countries transcend borders to address shared environmental concerns. My goal is to offer these and additional trips on a consistent basis so that our students can plan these as part of their academic program."

Obtaining an advanced degree in a graduate program is an academic pathway that many Honors College students pursue. "Another goal for the program is to introduce our students to the many scholarship and fellowship programs that are available to them both now and in the future as graduate students," Wolfgang says. "Millersville has a long history of students going on to be successful in graduate programs and in their subsequent careers; many of these prestigious programs can help them get there."

An important element in supporting outstanding students in their academic journeys is through providing the financial resources to enable access to higher education. Scholarship opportunities and fundraising support are key areas of need for Honors College students.

"Our students who receive the Honors College scholarships appreciate the opportunity to offset some of the cost of attending Millersville University. However, we are looking for ways to increase the number of scholarships we are



able to offer, as well as the amount of the scholarships. By increasing the number of scholarships we can provide, as well as increasing the dollar amount of each scholarship, more students will be able to participate in the Honors College and benefit from all the experiences and opportunities the Honors College provides."

With the positive impact that Wolfgang aspires to make in the lives of Millersville University Honors College students, he plans to provide transformative opportunities to nurture student excellence. "The Honors College experience benefits students on many levels – academically, socially, emotionally and professionally – through the opportunities, experiences, projects and activities they participate in. My hope is that when they graduate from Millersville and the Honors College, they are prepared to make the world a better place in their communities, their jobs and their personal lives. My goals for the future are to increase the visibility and impact of the Honors College on campus, as well as in the broader community, focus on service-learning, attract students to MU through the Honors College, connect our students to opportunities via scholarships and fellowships, and expand our students' perspectives and worldviews through service and travel."

As the students of Millersville University's Honors College celebrate remarkable accomplishments in their student success journeys and in their academic pursuits and careers following graduation, there is exciting potential for the growth of programs, opportunities and visibility. Wolfgang proudly states, "The Honors College is one of Millersville's best-kept secrets. We are working tirelessly to increase our visibility on campus and in the community, building on the excellent work done by my predecessors." Through this endeavor, the Millersville University Honors College and its students will grow, thrive and prosper while expanding opportunities for the future. ♦

HONORS COLLEGE

Student Success Journeys Highlight Exceptional Academic Achievements



Kennedy Ross '24



Rebekah Holmes '23



Julia Glatt '24

Through the Millersville University Honors College, talented and motivated students receive an enriching and challenging educational experience. Transformational academic opportunities and student learning experiences are incorporated into the Honors College program, and the benefits are reflected in the outstanding accomplishments of Millersville University Honors College students.

To share the positive impact of the Millersville University Honors College, featured here are the success stories of several extraordinary students who are celebrating student excellence in the Honors College.

KENNEDY ROSS '24

MAJORS: Early Childhood Education and Special Education

HOMETOWN: Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

HONOR SOCIETIES: Millersville University Honors College; Cygnus Society; Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) International Honor Society in Education

.....

Millersville University Honors College Student Experience:

"I knew that by joining the Honors College, I would take more advanced classes, meet students with a similar mindset of academic and personal success, would get the opportunity to support my community and would grow myself through crafting an undergraduate thesis. I also knew that by

joining the Honors College and living in the Living-Learning Community, I would immediately have friends, and going into college, on campus, during the pandemic, that was more important than ever.

"There have been countless academic benefits of the Honors College that have bettered my academic growth and success at Millersville. By completing my undergraduate thesis, I met and crafted meaningful relationships with professors, grew my writing and research skills, spoke at conferences nationwide, taught in local elementary schools and have made a mark in the Educational Foundations department. I have also challenged myself through honors courses, which brought me lasting friendships with peers and lasting relationships with professors.

"I will be well-set for graduation and beyond in my professional career due to my involvement in the Honors College. Through the work on my thesis and the interactions I have had with Honors College professors, I have bettered my public speaking and networking skills, which are crucial in any professional career, especially teaching. My ability to work with others of vast interests and opinions has also been strengthened by my involvement with Honors College events and working with Honors College students through honors courses. I have also gained a further appreciation for supporting my community through engaging in community service, which I can instill in my future students. There are countless benefits, of which these are just a few, that the Honors College has supported [through] my growth as a student and a future educator."

Continued on page 14

REBEKAH HOLMES '23

MAJOR: Anthropology-Archaeology

HOMETOWN: Watertown, Connecticut

SCHOLARSHIP: Class of 1947 Endowment

HONOR SOCIETIES: Millersville University Honors College; Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK); Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society

Millersville University Honors College Student Experience:

"I chose to attend the Honors College at Millersville University for the academic challenge and community.... I enjoy the friendships I have made. My sophomore year was my first year on campus, and living in the Living-Learning Community gave me a chance to meet others in the Honors College, and since then, I have developed close friendships with those who I lived with and around.

"The most valuable benefit for me is the need to do a thesis/creative project. I intend to do graduate school, and possibly go for my Ph.D. one day, and the chance to do this at the undergraduate level, with guidance, is something I think will be very beneficial for the future.

"I consider my participation in the Archaeological Field School for the last three years being my greatest academic achievement and success. I was a student my first year, I ran the arch [archaeological] lab my second year, along with being a crew chief. This year, I am the head of the field crew. The field school is overseen by the professor but entirely student-run. The opportunity to do it for three years straight is very uncommon.... I chose my major back in the sixth grade, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with it. Here at Millersville, I have been introduced to the world of Historical Archaeology and have had so many opportunities to do hands-on research within the field."

JULIA GLATT '24

MAJOR: Environmental and Spatial Sciences

HOMETOWN: Freehold, New Jersey

HONOR SOCIETIES: Millersville University Honors College; Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK); The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS)

Millersville University Honors College Student Experience:

"I chose to attend the Honors College because it allowed me to have smaller and more focused views within my classes in order to succeed. I also was interested in the honors undergraduate thesis and what it would do for me in my future.... Some academic benefits have been honors-only classes, in which I have not only gotten to know my fellow Honors peers, but have had smaller class sizes and more of a one-on-one relationship with professors and mentors.... I would consider the most valuable benefit, again, just the professors' help in trying to make their students the best possible version of themselves. They are always willing to give me guidance.... I feel that my experience will allow me to put the skills from the Honors College into my future career and help me grow further into what I want to do with my life." ♦

Provide Valuable Academic Experiences for Students

With scholarship opportunities, exceptional students like Kennedy, Julia and Rebekah can experience the benefits of the Millersville University Honors College.

Learn about scholarship creation at www.millersville.edu/give or contact the Development Office at giving@millersville.edu or 717-871-7520.



PLACE YOUR NAME IN MILLERSVILLE ATHLETICS HISTORY

Explore Naming Opportunities at the Morgan Athletic Complex

As the exciting plans for the Morgan Athletic Complex at Millersville University are underway, there are many opportunities for the Millersville University community to contribute to the fundraising campaign for the comprehensive renovation of the locker rooms in Biemesderfer Stadium. Named individual lockers and team locker room naming allow you to become a part of the transformative impact that the locker room renovations will make in contributing to the success of student-athletes and teams at Millersville University.

The largest gift in Millersville Athletics' history of \$1.5 million from Lois Morgan '54 provided the valuable opportunity to begin the fundraising campaign in 2021, and your support can make a beneficial difference. Donors may reserve a named individual locker located in a locker room for any of the teams that will call the Morgan Athletic Complex home with a \$1,500 gift, including Field Hockey, Football, Women's Lacrosse, and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country.

Your gift will inspire competitive excellence and establish a championship experience for Millersville Athletics teams and student-athletes that will make a positive impact for generations to come. ♦

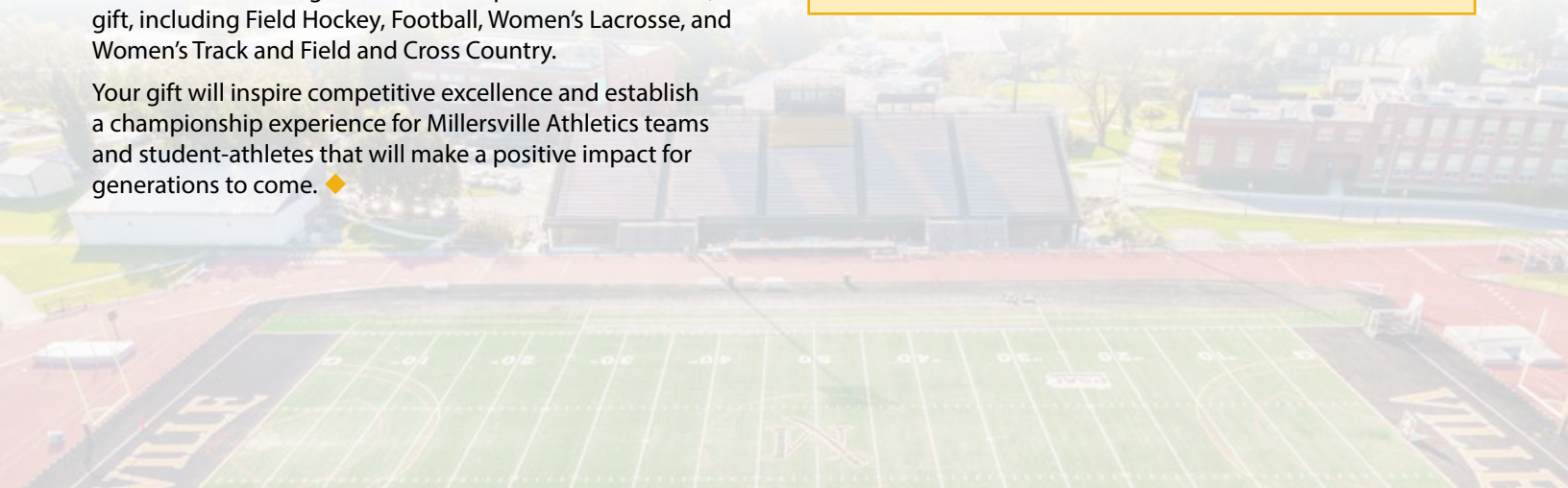


Reserve a Named Individual Locker with a \$1,500 Gift

With a donation for a named individual locker or a team locker room, your name will be placed in a state-of-the-art athletic facility where student-athletes and teams will achieve athletic success.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about **individual locker naming** opportunities at the Morgan Athletic Complex.

For information on **team locker room naming** opportunities, please contact the Development Office at giving@millersville.edu or at 717-871-7520.



'Ville Field Hockey Player Experiences Valuable Impact of Scholarship Support and Teamwork

Jillian Kringe '26

HOMETOWN | Drums, PA

MAJOR | Actuarial Science

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Behrens/Burrell Family Field Hockey Scholarship

Millersville University Scholarship Fund Scholarship (Field Hockey)



IMPORTANCE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

"The support of scholarships contributes to my academic success by pushing me to never settle for the minimum. I'm grateful for all opportunities that come my way, so I want to always put my best out there to proudly represent those opportunities, and I want to continue to move towards my full potential success as a student."

MARAUDER ATHLETICS TEAM EXPERIENCE

"The thing I enjoy the most about being a student-athlete is the support system offered at Millersville. Everyone is very understanding when it comes to games and practices; furthermore, faculty, staff, teammates, etc. help push you to be your better self on and off the field. Also, those same people are your biggest cheerleaders."

FUTURE PLANS

"My ultimate career goal is to reach the highest level possible in my career path. I want to coach field hockey at any level, travel the world

when I have free time and explore the natural beauty of the world I aspire to achieve my athletic goals of winning multiple NCAA Championships, having a stable job and being able to start my family life, graduating with a master's degree, and I want to accomplish the goal I've set to help my family, repaying them for everything they have done for me." ♦

MAKE A DIFFERENCE *for Student-Athletes*

Generous donor support allows outstanding student-athletes like Jillian to celebrate victories on the field and experience success in the classroom.

[CLICK HERE](#) to explore student success stories.

Millersville University
Office of Development

P 717-871-7520 **F** 717-871-7899 **W** millersville.edu/give

Millersville University, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551-0302