

FALL | WINTER 2024-25

# Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW



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UNIVERSITY REVIEW

Fall | Winter 2024-25 | VOLUME 147 | No. 3



## DEAR MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

Happy New Year from Millersville University to you and yours!

From move-in day in August to Glorious Sounds of the Season concerts and our winter commencement in December, the fall semester was an opportunity to shine the spotlight on our thousands of talented students. The semester included our annual events including athletic contests, Breast-A-Ville,

the Athletics Hall of Fame dinner and Homecoming Weekend festivities. We had perfect weather this year for homecoming and MU's Office of Alumni Engagement added two new events; a Maker's Market and the Skully Shoppes, which Judith and I, along with hundreds of alumni, enjoyed immensely.

In October, I traveled to Beijing for a triennial meeting of the International Association of University Presidents and continued to the Philippines to meet with leaders from the Philippines Department of Education and Thames International University. We had a meaningful discussion with Philippine Education Secretary Sonny Angara and Thames International President Joel Santos toward establishing a strategic partnership to advance education and public management in the island nation. Among the key topics we discussed were strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction Management System, building capacities of guidance counselors, as well as nursing and teacher upskilling programs.

Continuing our efforts to ensure the University remains affordable and accessible, the Council of Trustees at their quarterly meeting in December voted to hold the cost of housing and dining at Millersville University for the 2025-26 academic year. That, coupled with the University's move to a flat rate tuition, will help keep the total cost of attendance down for students and their families. I am thankful for their commitment to 'Ville students and their families.

My Listening Tour with the purpose of seeking and collecting ideas, data and information in preparation for our next strategic planning is well underway and will continue into the new year. All campus voices are welcome and encouraged. I hope to see you at one of the upcoming Listening Tour events and invite your input through our online portal. More information can be found on our Strategic Plan 2025-30 website.

In this issue we look at our students, faculty and staff's work in the community in "Healing Hooves," we take a glimpse into the University's "Treasures in the Archives" and a look back at "100 years of The Snapper." We also recognize our outstanding alums and donors through Marvelous Marauders and our new Fiat Lux Members.

I hope you enjoy reading the Review.

With warmest regards,

*Daniel A. Wubah*

Dr. Daniel A. Wubah  
President, Millersville University

**DR. HEATHER GIRVIN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK, FOUNDED LONE OAK.**



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# TREASURES *in the* Archives

By Kelsey Madas



L-R: CARL VAN VECHTEN, DR. BRUCE KELLNER, ELLA FITZGERALD AND LANGSTON HUGHES.

You'd never guess that deep in the archives of the McNairy Library on Millersville University's campus there are one-of-a-kind photos of key figures from the Harlem Renaissance. They include original portraits of Ella Fitzgerald, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, James Earl Jones and more. The collection from Carl Van Vechten is massive, and much of it is still being processed due to its size.

Presently, one of the photographs is on loan to the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. and is part of a traveling exhibit called "Brilliant Exiles: American Women in Paris, 1900 – 1939." It's a rare portrait of Nora Holt that could only be found in Millersville's collection and it will be on loan until December 2025. The exhibition showcases African American women artists who traveled to Paris seeking more rights and artistic freedoms.

How did the collection land at Millersville University? Late professor emeritus of English Dr. Bruce Kellner was a longtime friend and mentee of Van Vechten. He was also Van Vechten's biographer and the executor of the famous photographer's physical estate.

This renaissance was a flourishing of Black art and culture in Harlem in New York City during the late 1900s and early 20th century due to the diaspora African Americans leaving the South post-Civil War. Van Vechten was renowned for his work featuring figures of this era. Frank Vitale, assistant professor and archivist and special collections librarian describes it this way, saying, "It was a seedbed of African American creativity."

"Our collection may be unique because Kellner was the executor of his will. What we have in our archives may be from the artists' personal collection," says Vitale. "It's a legacy of Kellner's dedication to the institution that we have such a fantastic collection here for our students."

To support the work that maintains and processes incredible collections like this one, make a gift to Archives and Special Collections by visiting [millersville.edu/give2mu](http://millersville.edu/give2mu) and select Archives and Special Collections Discretionary Fund from the drop-down menu. ♦

## A VISIT TO THE ARCHIVES

Getting a behind-the-scenes look into the University Archives & Special Collections was a much more involved process than I originally thought. It was not a mere matter of opening a door. It also included the possibility of life-threatening danger.

To get inside, you need to know the right guy: **FRANK VITALE**, archivist and special collections librarian. He's Millersville's resident expert on the many interesting collections we hold in archives and works closely on the art history course that makes use of Van Vechten's collection.

The home of the archives is on the eighth floor of the McNairy Library with a great view. To access the space, Vitale uses a special key to open one set of double doors, which revealed a second set of doors that requires special access via a keypad.

"Now," says Vitale, pausing before we enter through the second set of doors, "If you see these lights flashing while we're inside, you have a short amount of time to leave before all the oxygen is sucked out of the room." I instantly suck in a breath. In case of a fire, turning on sprinklers isn't an option because the room is climate-controlled to protect the delicate materials and irreplaceable items therein.

We're headed inside to get a closer look at Van Vechten's images, but there's much more in the archives: rare, first-edition books; pieces of MU's history, like red glass globes that used to hang near the exits in Old Main; the personal papers of presidents, notable alumni, and local figures; and even 120-year-old cigars! Seeing the images of these famous faces and important historical figures in person was spectacular, and some of them may have never been distributed to the public by Van Vechten before.

If you're visiting campus, set up a visit to the archives and see the photos for yourself. Contact the Archives & Special Collections team located in the McNairy Library, a part of University College, with advanced notice by emailing [Special.Collections@millersville.edu](mailto:Special.Collections@millersville.edu) or calling 717-871-7134. ♦

# FACULTY DO MORE THAN TEACH

Faculty at Millersville University are working hard in the community and on campus to engage students. Here are just a few examples of their recent work:



GRANRUTH

**DR. LAURA BRIERTON GRANRUTH,**  
**Associate Professor/  
Coordinator,  
Center for Civic  
Responsibility and  
Leadership**

Dr. Laura Granruth spent the fall semester encouraging

faculty, staff and students to register to vote. The Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership guides students through the election process to make the task less intimidating. Granruth expands on why students need to vote and how it could impact their lives five to 10 years from now. "There are a lot of issues that undergraduates really care about," says Granruth. "Whether that be reproductive choice, the economy, immigration or other things, the level of awareness of the presidential election was very high." For her work, Granruth received the Public Mission EPPIC Award last fall.



HAGELGANS

**DR. DUANE HAGELGANS,**  
**Professor of  
Emergency  
Management**

This fall, Dr. Duane Hagelgans began teaching a training certificate, "School Safety Preparedness" for school district administrators and

safety professionals. The certificate is offered in partnership with the Pennsylvania School Safety Institute. The training gives participants strategies and tactics to handle natural disasters and active-shooter events. The students also gain practical skills in communication and coordination to manage emergencies more effectively, from

lockdowns and evacuations to handling communications with stakeholders and coordinating recovery efforts. The first cohort of 12 participants successfully completed the certificate in November, with another cohort slated to begin in February.



HAUGHERY

**DR. JOHN R. HAUGHERY,**  
**Assistant  
Professor, Applied  
Engineering, Safety  
& Technology**

Dr. John Haughey keeps busy with the Millersville University Robotics team and the new Robotic WorX program.

Haughey was crucial in the founding of the Robotic WorX program, which is a workforce development program in partnership with Precision Cobotics. The program already received a Business Education Partnership award from the Lancaster County STEM Alliance. This program allows high school and college students to gain experience working with robotics and develops their problem-solving abilities. For his work and dedication to the robotics program at the 'Ville, Haughey received the EPPIC Exploration Award this past fall.



MBINDYO

**DR. MARGARET N. MBINDYO,**  
**Associate Professor,  
Advisement  
Coordinator, Center  
for Advisement and  
Student Support:  
College of AHSS and  
Lombardo College  
of Business**

Dr. Margaret Mbindyo is a mentor for

students who come from challenging educational, economic, social and personal backgrounds. She has helped many

students to overcome their academic struggles, and not only take them to the point of academic completion but beyond. She is also a cofounder of the Academic Resilience Speaker series, a panel dedicated to discussing student success and resilience. Her area of research includes the academic resilience and academic persistence and success of low-income/first-generation and immigrant students. In the local community, she volunteers with Church World Services to help transition recent immigrants to the U.S. education system. For her work in mentorship and the fields of academic resilience and persistence, Mbindyo received the EPPIC Compassion Award at Millersville.



STRAYER

**JONATHAN E. STRAYER,**  
**Assistant Professor,  
Communication  
& Theatre**

Millersville's director of dramatics is Jonathan Strayer, who has directed a host of plays, including "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Carrie" and

"She Kills Monsters." This fall, alongside Kristin Sims and Kat Thorpe, Strayer directed "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." Strayer says Charlie Brown used swing actors, which are similar to an understudy playing multiple character tracks or roles. Strayer notes that "this is extremely challenging for all our actors but incredibly exciting because we are training them to operate in the same way that professional theaters use swing actors and understudies to cover roles on a regular basis. There are not many undergraduate programs our size doing this sort of thing. This type of training usually starts in professional graduate programs or at performing arts conservatories." ♦

# CAMPUS NEWS | Fall/Winter

## Enrollment Up at the 'Ville

The final enrollment numbers for the fall are in, and Millersville is up in all categories. Overall enrollment by head count increased from 6,752 last fall to 7,009 this fall.

- Graduate enrollment hit an all-time high of 1,157 – up 15% from last fall's 1,009.
- First-time students are up from 1,179 last fall to 1,218 this fall.
- The enrollment in Undergraduate Online Programs increased from 430 to 555, or 29%, from last fall.

"We're pleased to see our numbers increase," says Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, president of Millersville University. "Our Enrollment Management team developed a cohesive strategy and deployed new tactics for recruitment. We had a robust applicant pool that led to increased selectivity and yielded a strong first-year class."

Millersville University will continue its work on recruitment and enrollment. Wubah says the University will do that by expanding graduate and adult learner enrollments in addition to leveraging new partners. "Knowing that traditional-age undergraduate enrollments will be challenging as we approach the projected 'demographic cliff,' graduate and adult learners are crucial segments for sustaining our enrollments," says Wubah. "In addition, we will strengthen and expand international student recruitment. Millersville has a wealth of academic programs, state-of-the-art facilities and connections between faculty and students that make a 'Ville education a very smart choice. We're glad that more and more students are choosing to attend Millersville University." ♦

## \$1.2M Grant Addresses Teacher Shortage

Millersville University has been awarded a prestigious Track 1: Scholarships and Stipends Grant through the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program for \$1,199,953. The goal of the NSF grant is to address the national shortage of highly effective secondary mathematics and science teachers. The five-year project aims to recruit and train 15 STEM majors to teach in high-need schools



L-R: DRS. DAN ALBERT, ANN GAUDINO, TYRONE WASHINGTON, TALOR WALSH, LAURA RAMOS-SEPULVEDA AND CYNTHIA TAYLOR

within the School District of Lancaster and the School District of the City of York, both of which serve diverse and economically disadvantaged student populations.

Selected students will receive comprehensive financial support covering 97% of their tuition and fees, equivalent to \$48,000 over two years. In return, the scholars will commit to teaching in a high-need school district for four years following graduation.

The University will leverage the institutional support of the newly established STEM Education Advisory Board and a STEM education graduate assistant position, developed as part of a previously funded Noyce Capacity Building Grant. "This is an incredible opportunity for students aspiring to become science or math teachers for grades 7–12," says Dr. Nanette Dietrich, professor of Educational Foundations and Co-Principal Investigator on the grant. The PI on the grant is Dr. Cynthia Taylor. The other co-PIs are Dr. Daniel Albert, associate professor of chemistry, Dr. Tyrone Washington, associate professor of mathematics, and Dr. Robert Vaillancourt, professor of oceanography.

In addition to the grant, the state is also offering an additional \$10,000 stipend for student teaching.

"It's truly a fantastic time to enter the teaching profession!" says Dietrich.

For more information, contact Dr. Cynthia Taylor at [cynthia.taylor@millersville.edu](mailto:cynthia.taylor@millersville.edu). ♦

## MU Receives Grant to Train Robotics Students

A \$200,000 grant to Millersville University's Robotic WorX program will help train more than 2,000 students in robotics in Pennsylvania.

The grant is from the Department of Community and Economic Development. Director of Workforce Development

Initiatives Gwen Ross announced the Shapiro administration's investment in the Robotic WorX program at a news conference on campus this fall. The grant will equip high school and undergraduate students with the opportunity to address genuine manufacturing problems through automation and robotics.

The new Manufacturing PA Training-to-Career grant will create paid student internships and support training and supplies for the program in Millersville University's state-of-the-art Solutions Lab. The state's investment will help ensure that financial barriers do not prevent talented students from participating in the training program.

The program provides a link between STEM education and career pathways through internships, job shadow experiences, and tours in which participants engage with cutting-edge automation and robotics technologies.



DR. JOHN HAUGHERY ON RIGHT TALKS ABOUT THE ROBOTICS PROGRAM AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY.

A partnership between Millersville University and Precision Cobotics, the Robotic WorX program connects middle school, high school, undergraduate and community groups in Lancaster County with real-world STEM career training in manufacturing to meet the growing need of the region's industry.

"This hands-on experience, using the latest in AI and robotics technologies, creates clear career pathways in this exciting field," says John Bridgen, Robotic WorX Co-Founder and Director of Customer Satisfaction and Co-Worker Advancement at Precision Cobotics. ♦

## Alums Kick-Start Overhaul of Studio 1

The broadcasting instruction lab on campus has been renamed "Wicht Studio"



in honor of Jason '98 and Therese '01 Wicht. Their journey together began at MUTV – Millersville University's award-winning, student-run television station. Both are graduates of the University's Department of Communication and Theatre and have continued to stay connected to the program that brought them together. The Wichts were on hand during the 2024 Homecoming festivities to be recognized for their significant support to upgrade the equipment in TV Studio 1.

"The Department of Communication and Theatre is blessed with a wonderful group of alumni," says Dr. Ieva Zake, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. "After joining the College Advisory Board, Jason visited me, and we discussed the program's most pressing needs. I told him the truth is we need to make very big and expensive upgrades to the cameras and other equipment in the TV studio."

Jason Wicht recalled how their meeting led to the donation. "Given our history, our family had a shared desire to support the current and next generation of students benefitting, as we did, from the experiences with the studio and the broadcasting department overall at Millersville," says Wicht. "When we were presented with the opportunity to help, it was an easy decision, and we look forward to seeing the evolution of the studio and engagement from the students."

"Jason and Therese are truly an inspiration for us," says Zake. "And we are deeply grateful to them for entrusting us with their hard-earned funds." ◆

## Grant Aims to Reduce Dangerous Drinking

Millersville University was awarded a \$50,000 Reducing Underage Drinking and Dangerous Drinking grant from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. MU's Center for Health Education and Promotion will use the funds to develop, implement and evaluate underage drinking and dangerous drinking campuswide. CHEP will partner with University Athletics, the police department and the APPLE Training Institute to distribute the grant.

The APPLE Training Institute, a program of the University of Virginia, is designed for student-athletes to encourage their peers to make smart decisions and promote healthy lifestyles. MU's student-athletes will focus on promoting a Social Norms campaign that challenges the common media portrayal of college students as participants in reckless drinking, which is statistically inaccurate.

Margo Thorwart, director of the Center for Health Education and Promotion at MU, says that the grant will "help provide fun healthy engagement opportunities apart from engaging in drinking behaviors." The center will also educate students on some of the harm-reduction strategies that can be used if someone is choosing to go to a party or consume alcohol.

The grant is part of CHEP's goal to implement safety on campus while promoting awareness of mental health and suicide prevention, healthy relationships, dating violence and sexual-assault prevention. Thorwart is working on acquiring grants for each aspect of CHEP's values. ◆

## MU Earns 13th Consecutive HEED Award

Millersville University has once again been honored with the prestigious Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award, marking the 13th consecutive year of receiving this recognition. The award, given by Insight Into Diversity magazine, highlights institutions dedicated to fostering equity, access, inclusion and diversity on their campuses.

Carlos Wiley, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Millersville University, conveyed his pride in the University's accomplishment.



"Winning the HEED Award for the 13th year in a row is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our campus community," he says. "Building a welcoming and inclusive environment is a priority for Millersville, and this award validates our ongoing efforts."

Millersville University was selected for the HEED Award due to its dedication to supporting diversity, as reflected in its EPPIC Values of exploration, professionalism, public mission, inclusion, integrity and compassion. The University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion strives to create a place where every student feels valued and belongs. Initiatives such as the preferred name policy, PrideFest, Integrated Studies program, inclusive research, and land acknowledgments demonstrate Millersville's commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive campus.

In addition, many student and institutionally-run clubs and organizations on campus contribute spaces for those of various ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and others that create communities for students looking to belong. ◆

## Millersville Welcomes New Title IX Coordinator



PEREIRA

Millersville University is pleased to announce the appointment of Miguel Pereira as the new Title IX Coordinator. Pereira brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role, having previously served as the Title

IX Coordinator at SUNY Morrisville and York College of Pennsylvania.

In his new position, Pereira oversees the University's compliance with Title IX regulations, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities. He also works to create a safe and inclusive campus environment for all students, faculty and staff.

Pereira's vision for the Title IX office at Millersville University is to create a space where all members of the campus community feel respected and valued. He plans to increase awareness of Title IX among students, faculty and staff through various outreach efforts, including educational workshops and campus events.

"I am excited to join the Millersville University community and contribute to the University's commitment to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all," says Pereira. "I believe that the Title IX office plays a crucial role in fostering a positive and supportive campus culture."

Pereira's appointment comes at a time when Title IX regulations are undergoing significant changes. He is committed to staying up to date on the latest developments in Title IX law and best practices and ensuring that Millersville University is in full compliance with all applicable regulations.

More information about the Title IX program is available on Millersville's website. ◆

# 100 Years of THE SNAPPER

## A look through MU's century-old, student-run newspaper

By Olivia Heilemann '25

IN 1925, A GROUP OF STUDENTS CAME TOGETHER TO CREATE THE SNAPPER, MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER. THIS YEAR MARKS 100 YEARS OF THE NEWSPAPER ON CAMPUS, MAKING THE SNAPPER ONE OF THE LONGEST-RUNNING ORGANIZATIONS AT MU.

THE FIRST-EVER EDITION OF THE SNAPPER WAS RELEASED ON OCT. 1, 1925. BEFORE THEN, THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER WAS CALLED THE TIPSTER, WHICH BEGAN ON DEC. 20, 1923.

The name for The Snapper originated from a form of communication students used on campus, and the story has been passed down through generations of Snapper editors. Back in the early years when Millersville University was originally called the Lancaster County Normal School, it was against the rules for women and men to speak with each other on campus. Naturally, the students found a way to bend that rule by developing a code language through snapping their fingers. Each sequence of snapping meant something different and often signaled meeting at specific places on campus to



OLIVIA HEILEMANN '25  
CURRENT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE SNAPPER

talk after dark, when administrators were not around. The snapping language is now obsolete without any living students who remember the code, but the concept lives on through the title of The Snapper.

Many strong journalists began their career working as an editor at The Snapper. One of these notable journalists is Dan Good, a book ghostwriter who has worked for well-known companies like the

New York Post, ABC News, New York Daily News and NBC News. Good served as editor-in-chief of The Snapper, graduating from Millersville University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in speech communication/broadcast option. Good

recalled his time at The Snapper and how it helped him to become the writer he is today.

"I'm forever proud of and grateful for my Snapper experiences. I came to Millersville as a transfer student, and I found my career calling, and established some of

my best friendships, through my time with The Snapper. I miss those days. Our coverage had a real impact on campus," says Good. "My Snapper experiences taught me how to lead a team and how to dive deep on stories, and there isn't a week in which I don't use those skills. The Snapper is a vital part of Millersville's campus culture, and my tenure as The Snapper's editor-in-chief provided me with lots of lessons that shaped my personal and professional journey."

Making up a full century of the 170 years that MU has been around, it seems The Snapper is not going anywhere, as it has become a staple of the institution. The Snapper team plans to continue to leave a legacy of strong, independent journalists through a time capsule. Each current editor will contribute an object that symbolizes their time with The Snapper, and the capsule will be opened 50 years from now in 2075.

"The Snapper is an essential part of the character of Millersville," says Dr. Robert Spicer, associate professor of communication and faculty advisor of The Snapper. "It's part of the history of this campus and community. I consider it an honor to be the advisor for the newspaper and to be part of that history." ♦

Editions of The Snapper are released almost every Thursday during each semester. Official print schedules and other information can be accessed through

**Instagram @thesnappermu.**

For other inquiries, contact **editor@thesnapper.com.**





# COMMENCEMENT | 2024



Millersville University's winter commencement ceremony was held Dec. 14. in 'Ville Courts. There were 426 students eligible to graduate; 318 undergrads and 108 graduate/doctoral students.

This year's keynote speaker was the Honorable Judge Jodie Richardson '16, a distinguished alumna of Millersville University and a respected judge in Lancaster County.

Richardson told the graduates, "With love, kindness and compassion in your heart, I wish you resilience in times of challenge, relationships that enrich your life, and the courage to serve others with passion and purpose."









# Healing Through Horses

ONE HORSE, ONE HUMAN, A WORLD OF CHANGE

By Janet Kacskos

In the tranquil setting of **Lone Oak Animal-Assisted Therapeutic & Educational Services**, an extraordinary symbiosis unfolds between humans and horses. This unique sanctuary is dedicated to helping horses who have suffered from abuse, neglect or abandonment, and in doing so, offers profound healing opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds.

In a groundbreaking collaboration, Lone Oak has partnered with Millersville University to expand its reach and impact. Dr. Heather Girvin, associate professor at the School of Social Work at Millersville University, is the president/CEO and founder of Lone Oak. "The partnership between Lone Oak and Millersville aims to integrate academic research with hands-on therapeutic practices, providing students and faculty opportunities to engage in meaningful research and experiential learning. By leveraging Millersville's resources and expertise, Lone Oak enhances its therapeutic offerings and broadens its educational initiatives," says Girvin.

Students are one of the main benefactors of the partnership. Darlene Newman, director of Student Access and Support Services, has identified students through SASS, the majority of whom are first-generation, to attend programming at Lone Oak. She has also reached out to younger adolescents, who are potential future MU students. Lone Oak has worked with the University's financial aid office to establish Lone Oak as a work-study, community-service host site for students who qualify for aid. Biology and psychology students have also been offered internships at the site, and Girvin

says she hopes to expand and "offer internship opportunities more broadly and to diverse students."

Veterans at Millersville University benefit from the collaboration with Lone Oak through a variety of means. Lone Oak partners with the MU Veterans Center to host supportive and outreach events and was designated as a veteran-friendly service provider through the Veterans Center. Lone Oak has also hosted veteran interns on multiple occasions to support their learning and growth.

Millersville's School of Social Work offers a graduate-level certificate in Trauma-Informed Behavioral Health. The certificate has two tracks: Expressive Arts and Equine-Assisted Therapy and Learning. Girvin says that equine-assisted strategies are widely accepted and used to address a variety of mental-health issues, including posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression and substance abuse. Other departments are involved with classes for the certificate.

The connections of faculty and staff extend far beyond Girvin's impact. Dr. Abigail Wilson, a graduate of the DSW program and an adjunct faculty member, is the Vice President of Operations and



Development for Lone Oak. Dr. Karen Rice, professor and chair of social work, is a volunteer and Dr. Curtis Proctor, assistant professor, helps with data analysis. Dr. Marc Felizzi, associate professor and Dr. Bertha DeJesus, a DSW graduate and assistant professor, are clinical consultants for Lone Oak.

Girvin says several MU students and graduates are actively involved in the Lone Oak community, some in leadership roles. Marisol Santos, a graduate of the MSW program, is a consultant for Lone Oak.

“Horses at Lone Oak bring with them stories of hardship – each scar a testament to their past,” says Girvin. “Through careful, patient rehabilitation, these animals begin to trust again, learning to feel safe in their new environment. This journey is not just about physical recovery; it’s a profound emotional restoration. As they heal, these horses offer invaluable lessons to their human counterparts about resilience, trust and growth.”

Lone Oak has a more significant community impact through partnerships with other providers and individual community members. Lone Oak provides services across Lancaster, Berks, Dauphin, Cumberland, York and Lebanon counties.

“Lone Oak is 100% volunteer,” says Girvin.



TIM GAGEBY, MSW STUDENT

“Our overarching goal is to build a trauma-informed, inclusive community that reflects social work values and fosters inclusion, respectful discourse, healing and connection. This community care model and the philosophy and values that support it provide a scaffolding for all of our services and partnerships.”

Shannon Wittlinger is Lone Oak’s Barn Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. “She is such an important part of our ongoing work; we couldn’t do it without her,” says Girvin. Wittlinger is a graduate of Millersville’s MSW program.

Lone Oak provides trauma-informed individual, family and group services using the expressive arts, with particular reliance on nature-based strategies and equine-assisted therapies. Lone Oak partners with several different school programs, offering trauma-informed alternative education, emotional support, credit completion and skills training across all grade levels.

For those interested in continuing education units and credit, Lone Oak provides professional training and development to service providers, offering CEUs and graduate-level credits for educators and professionals in the helping professions. “We have provided training at local, national and international levels,” says Girvin. ♦

“Horses at Lone Oak bring with them stories of hardship – each scar a testament to their past,”  
says Girvin



CHRISTELE JEAN LAURENT, JUNIOR AT MU



TIM GAGEBY AND SAVANNAH GREGORIS



EMILY PACHECO-TORRES, FRESHMAN AT MU





JADEAN NICHOLAS, JUNIOR AT MU



DR. ABIGAIL WILSON



DR. HEATHER GIRVIN

# Horseshoe UP

“Okay, everyone, horseshoe up.” Those are the words that start most days at Lone Oak Animal-Assisted Therapeutic & Educational Services. Everyone in the area stands foot to foot, and the group talks about their expectations and needs that day for the horses and themselves.

“Some of the people who come here are introverts, on the autism spectrum, they may have had trauma or just don’t want to be touched, so this offers an alternative,” says Dr. Heather Girvin, founder of Lone Oak. “Not everyone wants to hold hands, so standing hoof to hoof is an easier option. We do breathwork in these sessions to get everyone calm and focused for the horses.” And although the horses benefit, so too do the clients, who are learning to self-regulate their nervous systems and emotions.”

On a Saturday this past fall, Darlene Newman, director of Student Access and Support Services, was on hand with some of her Millersville students. She has been to Lone Oak with students on multiple occasions. After the horseshoe, they were off to muck stalls, weed, walk the horses and do other necessary jobs.

“We bring students here from all majors,” says Newman. “Some have mental health issues; some don’t have any way to get off campus. They come here and see how a degree in social work or psychology can be put to use. They also have their eyes opened to other fields, like becoming a veterinarian.”

Students in the Master of Social Work program are often involved with the program at Lone Oak. Savannah Gregoris and Tim Gageby are both second-year students who graduate in May. Gregoris says interning there was her first time around horses, but she hopes to continue using animals in therapy going forward. “I want to go into

the field, get my license to work in a clinical practice, but I do intend to use animal-assisted interventions and therapy, with horses, cats and dogs. It’s so important the impact animals can have on people – it can open a lot of doors for them.”

This is also Gageby’s first time around horses. “I originally came to Lone Oak in the summer of 2023 for Dr. Girvin’s Summer Institute, and then I was hooked.” Long term, Gageby wants to teach at the college level.

Baby Huey is a favorite horse at Lone Oak. Girvin describes Baby Huey as “2,000 pounds of love.” “He was a logger and wasn’t pulling his weight. When we got him he wasn’t eating, but we took a chance on him, and it was the best chance we ever took. He is such a gentle giant and doesn’t mind three little kids on his back. Everyone can hug him and kiss him, and he eats it up. He gives everyone unconditional love.”

Another group that Lone Oak serves are veterans, through the Horses and Heroes program. Dr. Abigail Wilson, an alum of Millersville’s DSW program, is vice president at Lone Oak. “Veterans are used to camaraderie in the service and miss that when they return,” says Wilson. “We’ve found they want less structure in a program and more time to connect with the horses and each other. We’re hoping to expand our veterans program to first responders.”

At the end of the day, everyone at Lone Oak returns to their circle to give a compliment to someone or say what they are grateful for. “It can be something as simple as, ‘I liked the way you held the rake’ or ‘I’m thankful I didn’t die when I got on the horse.’ Through it all, we use trauma-informed therapy to care for each other.” ♦

# MILLERSVILLE'S Marvelous ALUMNI

By Devin Marino

The Marvelous Marauders program, which started in 2023 as a tribute to Millersville University's 40th anniversary as a university, recognizes distinguished alumni whose outstanding accomplishments have made a lasting impact on their fields and the University community.

"To even be considered for the award fills me with continued pride and motivates me to continue making personal and professional strides in the industry and community," says Maggi Barton '17, one of the winners. I think opportunities like this can remind us all of the ripple effects we can have on others. I hope to continue giving back as others have for me."

To be eligible for this honor, alumni must have earned an associate, undergraduate or graduate degree from Millersville University or Millersville State College. Each nominee was carefully evaluated on the impact of their professional or vocational work, as well as their ongoing service and contributions to the Millersville community.

"It was incredibly meaningful to be honored as a Marvelous Marauder," State Representative Justin Fleming says. "As a person who grew up in a low-income circumstance, Millersville University was an affordable option that allowed me to get a high-quality college education and enhance my employment prospects. I had outstanding professors who cared about me as a person and worked hard to put me in the best position to be successful."

#### THE COMPLETE LIST OF HONOREES INCLUDES:

##### MAGGI BARTON '17

Barton has distinguished herself as a leader in public relations. As the Media Relations Manager at WellSpan Health and former chapter president of the Central Pennsylvania Public Relations Society of America, she has made significant contributions to the field. She also serves on MU's Recent Graduate Council.



THE MARVELOUS MARAUDERS CLASS OF 2024

##### REV. DR. DEXTER DAVIS SR. '77

Davis is a respected figure in both education and community service. He has served as superintendent of the Chester Upland School District and has held numerous board positions.

##### AARON DREAD '94

Dread has successfully balanced a distinguished career in pharmaceutical sales with a commitment to giving back to Millersville University. His efforts to connect with alumni through events like Thrillersville have been invaluable to the University.

##### REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN FLEMING '02

Rep. Fleming has devoted his career to public service, championing the needs of his community in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. His tireless efforts in mental-health advocacy and public education demonstrate his unwavering commitment to a brighter future for all.

##### AMY HOFFMAN '94/'22M

Hoffman is a dedicated educator and community leader. Her work with The Pennsylvania Key and Millersville's alumni has demonstrated her commitment to service and education.

##### DR. TODD M. MEALY '01

Mealy is a distinguished educator and author specializing in history, civil rights and educational reform. His contributions to teaching and scholarship have made a lasting impact.

##### DR. RACHEL MOWRY '22

Mowry is a compassionate and dedicated nurse practitioner who has impacted her patients and community. Her tireless efforts, from saving lives to mentoring future nurses, exemplify the very best of the healthcare profession.

##### LUISA OLIVO-WOLF '09

Olivo-Wolf is a visionary leader in early childhood education. Her work at the Community Progress Council has created inclusive and accessible learning environments

that have profoundly impacted countless children and families.

##### JAMES PHIPPS '86

Phipps has had a valuable impact on countless young athletes through his four decades as a tennis coach. His dedication to excellence has shaped their lives and the sport of tennis.

##### EMILY REED '96

Reed's passion for literacy and education has made a lasting impact on countless students and families. Her work as a reading specialist and community member has been invaluable.

##### CARROLL (BUTCH) STAUB '72/'90M

Staub is a tireless advocate for education and community service. His steadfast dedication to improving the lives of others is truly inspiring.

##### EMMA WERTZ '18

Wertz is a talented professional who excels in both technical and community service roles. As a senior project manager and software engineer, she has made notable contributions to the tech industry. Additionally, her dedication to mentoring young girls in coding and volunteering in her community demonstrates her commitment to giving back.

**Nominations for the 2025 class of  
Marvelous Marauders are open  
and run through mid-February 2025.**





# Fiat Lux Society

## Welcomes New Members

By Devin Marino

Millersville University recently inducted four new members into its prestigious Fiat Lux Society. This exclusive group recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the University through their philanthropic support.



TOM DENSMORE, BETTY SNYDER AND DR. WUBAH



JOANNE AND BENNETT COOPER

department, leading to a wing being named in honor of Joanne Cooper.

The Coopers, members of the Millersville State College Class of 1967, both earned bachelor's degrees. Ben was a history and political science major and an accomplished athlete. He played

### NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED INCLUDE:

**H. THOMAS "TOM" DENSMORE '64**  
and **ELIZABETH "BETTY" W. SNYDER**

H. Thomas "Tom" Densmore '64 and Elizabeth "Betty" W. Snyder created the Team of '63 Football Scholarship. Inspired by his own experience as a student-athlete, Densmore understood the significant impact financial challenges can have on academic and athletic success. By providing financial support, this scholarship aims to help deserving student-athletes overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

Densmore graduated from Millersville State College with a bachelor's degree in industrial arts. He later earned a master's degree in counseling from the University of Delaware. He dedicated 28 years to teaching industrial arts, serving as department chair for 17 years.

Snyder became involved with her family's business, W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc., serving on the board of directors. In 1993, she founded Pizza by Elizabeths, a gourmet pizza restaurant in Wilmington, Delaware. After selling the restaurant in 2003, she joined W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. as a

full-time associate. At Gore, she worked in new business development and established a "Capabilities Center" to showcase Gore products. W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. is renowned for its GORE-TEX technology and produces a wide range of products, including industrial, electronic and medical items.

**BENNETT J. COOPER '67, '12H**  
and **JOANNE E. (WARGO) COOPER '67**

Bennett J. Cooper '67, '12H and Joanne E. (Wargo) Cooper '67 are dedicated alumni who have made a significant impact on Millersville University.

Cooper Park, the University's baseball facility, is named after Bennett J. Cooper, recognizing his dedication to the Millersville baseball program. Ben Cooper and his wife, Joanne Cooper '67, were key leaders in the Soar to Greatness Capital Campaign, which raised \$88 million. In 2012, Ben Cooper received an honorary doctorate for his outstanding service to the University.

The Coopers have been supporters of Millersville University since the 1970s. They have established multiple scholarship endowments, including those for baseball and global opportunities. Additionally, they supported the English and World Languages

both baseball and football for Millersville from 1964 to 1967. Joanne was a French major with a Russian minor.

Following his time at Millersville, Ben earned a Juris Doctor degree from Temple University in 1971. His distinguished career in financial services is marked by his leadership roles at prominent organizations. He served as senior distribution consultant and in-house counsel for Branca-Rampart Agency, president and CEO of Karlsberg International, and president of American General Life and Accident. He was also a senior vice president of John Hancock Insurance Company and a senior consultant with Tillinghast-Towers Perrin.

After graduating from Millersville, Joanne pursued a career in education. She earned a master's degree as a reading specialist from Temple University in 1972 and taught remedial reading and diagnosed reading disabilities in the Philadelphia area during the late 1960s and 1970s under Title 1.

The fellowship of distinguished donors includes those whose generous gifts and pledges of \$1 million or more to Millersville University create an enduring legacy that will benefit students for years to come. ♦



# FALL SPORTS UPDATE

## Peters Shines Again at PSAC Championship



TIMOTHY PETERS

Sophomore **TIMOTHY PETERS** became the first Marauder since Robby Rowe '16 in 2013-14 to record back-to-back top-three finishes at the PSAC Men's Golf Championship. Peters, the 2023 champion, finished third with a 54-hole score of 1-under par. He led Millersville to a third-place team finish. ♦

## Dade starring as pro in Argentina



MATT DADE '24

Men's basketball alum **MATT DADE '24** signed a professional contract to play for Lanus Buenos Aires of La Liga Argentina. As a Marauder, Dade averaged 18.6 points per game as a senior, was a two-time All-PSAC East First Team pick, an all-region performer, and finished his career with 1,424 points. Dade scored 19 points against La Union in his professional debut. After his first week, Dade was named La Liga Argentina Player of the Week. ♦

## Janiuk

## makes history in run to NCAA Championship

Cross country senior **MORGAN JANIUK** returned to Millersville for one final semester to qualify for the NCAA Division II Championship. Two weeks after finishing as the PSAC Championship runner-up, Janiuk realized her goal, becoming the first Marauder since 2010 to earn a trip to the NCAA Championship meet by placing second at the Atlantic Regional. Janiuk's time of 20:42.4 was one second off the school record set by Priscilla Jennings '09 in 2009.

"This this was something that was in the back of (Morgan's) mind for a couple of years now," said Millersville head coach Andy Young. "She's spent a lot of time rebuilding her confidence and getting stronger as an athlete. To see an athlete who works really hard and puts their heart and soul into it, it's satisfying to see." ♦



MORGAN JANIUK (Center)





EMMA LUDWIG

## Ludwig rewrites the record book

Marauder senior setter **EMMA LUDWIG** looked to take her spot atop the program's record books. It was an action that the three-year captain of Millersville's women's volleyball had done thousands of times before—3,580 to be exact. With a pass to Caroline Halsey, she recorded assist number 3,581, passing Missy Rauhauser for most in program history. It was a record that had stood for nearly 30 years and dated nearly all the way back to the inception of the team. After Halsey's strike hit the hardwood, Ludwig's teammates leapt from the bench and showered her with their praise and congratulations.

"Once I did it, I was happy for my teammates more than anything," Ludwig said of the moment. "They're the ones that got me here. I couldn't have done any of this without their hitting or their passing. I couldn't have done it without them and I'm immensely grateful that they were all here to celebrate it with me. It means the world to be back at home, for the first game back in Pucillo. It was just so special." ♦

## Men's Soccer



JAKE ALTIMORE

Seniors **JAKE ALTIMORE** and **RICHY VALVERDE** and sophomore **ROY PARKYN** led the men's soccer team to a 9-6-3 record, a second-place finish in the PSAC East and to a PSAC Tournament appearance. Altimore, a defender, was named All-PSAC East First Team for his third career postseason honor. He led the team in minutes played and finished his career with 59 starts. Parkyn led the team in assists and was also voted to the first team, and Valverde, who led the team in goals and points, was named to the second team. ♦

## Women's SOCCER

**ISABEL COY** was named All-PSAC East Second Team for the second time in her career while senior **KILEY MARANDOLA** and freshman **LIA FRANCIS** earned All-PSAC East honors for the first time. The trio helped the women's soccer team to a 6-6-5 record. Coy led the team with seven goals. Marandola was an outstanding performer in the midfield, finishing with two goals and four assists, and Francis, who also won the season's first PSAC East Athlete of the Week award, scored four goals in her rookie season. ♦



CAITLIN WASSERMAN

## Field Hockey

Field hockey players **CAITLIN WASSERMAN**, **EMMA RULEY** and **MORGAN LENNON** were named All-PSAC at the conclusion of the 2024 season. It was the first career honor for all three players. Wasserman was named to the second team while Ruley and Lennon earned third team honors. Wasserman

played all of the field for the Marauders and led the team in assists in defensive saves. Ruley finished the season with five goals, and Lennon, a team captain, was a key performer in the midfield. ♦



ISABEL COY

# After a Roller-Coaster Season, TIM MAYZA '18 Enjoyed the Ride to the World Series

by Ethan Hulsey

THE PROGRESSIVE FIELD VISITORS LOCKER ROOM WAS CELEBRATORY MAYHEM. WITH MUSIC BLARING, TEAMMATES DANCING AND BOTTLES POPPING, **TIM MAYZA '18**, HIS AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS T-SHIRT SOAKED WITH CHAMPAGNE, COULDN'T HELP BUT STEP AWAY FROM HIS TEAMMATES' REVELRY TO TAKE IN THE MOMENT. FOUR MONTHS EARLIER, HIS FUTURE AS A PROFESSIONAL PITCHER WAS IN DOUBT. BUT IN THE EARLY HOURS OF OCT. 18 IN CLEVELAND, HE WAS A MEMBER OF BASEBALL'S MOST FAMOUS ORGANIZATION, THE NEW YORK YANKEES, AND HIS FUTURE WAS A CLASH WITH THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS IN THE WORLD SERIES.

Locker room celebrations should be old hat to Mayza. He reached the playoffs in 2022 and 2023 with the Toronto Blue Jays – the team that drafted him out of Millersville in 2013. The Yankees donned their ski goggles and sprayed champagne after clinching a playoff berth in September, after winning the American League East, and again after beating the Kansas City Royals in the American League Division Series. But following the 2024 season that Mayza endured, he's not taking any celebration for granted.

"[I am] enjoying what the team has been able to accomplish," says Mayza. "For me personally, you remember the ride of the season. It's been a wild year."

That's putting it lightly. At the end of June, Mayza wondered if his seventh season in the big leagues would be his last. The 2023 season was Mayza's best as a reliever, as he set career highs in innings pitched (53-1/3) and appearances (69) while posting a career-best 1.52 ERA. He'd been the Blue Jays' most reliable reliever for years, ranking among the franchise's all-time leaders in appearances and holds. But early in spring training, Mayza knew something was not right. The velocity of his trademark sinker, which averaged better than 94 miles per hour in 2023, routinely dipped below 92. His strikeout rate over the first few months of the 2024 season



TIM MAYZA AS A MARAUDER



TIM MAYZA AS A YANKEE

plummeted from 24.7 to 14.4. On June 28, his ERA swelled to 8.03. The next day, he was designated for assignment. One week later, the longest-tenured player in the Blue Jays organization was released.

Not even the shredding of his ulnar collateral ligament, Tommy John surgery and 19 months of rehab could compare to the disappointment of being released by the Blue Jays.

"It was the lowest point," says Mayza. "In terms of performance, going through the designation and release, unsure of what the future held and what opportunities would come next."

For the first time since before his commitment to Millersville in 2010, Mayza's baseball future was in jeopardy. It didn't take long for other teams to start calling, however. Among the teams was a division rival and familiar foe, the New York Yankees. The Yankees, albeit adversarial, had long played a significant role in Mayza's career. The Yankees always seemed to be present for Mayza's few moments of professional misfortune. Mayza was pitching against the Yankees when his elbow ligament tore, ending his 2019 season. Mayza became the history book footnote by surrendering Aaron Judge's 61st home run in 2022. It was the Yankees scoring five runs on five hits that effectively ended his tenure with the Blue Jays.

"It was ironic to sign with the team that you throw your last outing against," says Mayza. "But they saw the potential. You play a team like that in your division over and over again. They would know me as well as anyone after seeing me pitch over and over again. It made sense that they were interested. There was a match there and an opportunity for me to contribute."

Mayza pitched against the Yankees 41 times, facing them more than any other opponent. He knew the Yankees well, but it turned out that the Yankees knew Mayza better.

"The Yankees have experience in getting guys right, getting the most out of guys, pitch usage, mechanically," says Mayza. "It always



felt like watching them that they had done a good job in finding what was wrong, fixing it and getting guys to take off. There was an opportunity for me that if I pitched well, they would take the best bullpen they could into the postseason, and they would give me a shot in the big leagues, which was appealing.”

The Yankees had a plan for Mayza. The organization shipped him to the spring training facility in Tampa for a week, running him through a pitching laboratory of video work, biomechanic scans, drills in the weight room and critiques and alterations to every aspect of his delivery. After diagnosing and providing remedies, the Yankees moved Mayza to Scranton.

After seven seasons of chartered flights and world-class everything, Mayza found himself a member of the Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders. The return to the minor league grind was humbling, but it provided a necessary “wake-up call,” according to Mayza. More than that, it proved to be a blessing, both personally and professionally.

After a rocky four months on the road, Mayza played his home games a short two-hour drive from his wife, Darian, and their two sons in Denver, Pa. He could see his family every Sunday evening and spend an entire Monday with them, thanks to the built-in off day in the minor league schedule. When the RailRiders played a six-game series against the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, Mayza enjoyed a week with his wife and boys, commuting the 60-mile drive to Coca-Cola Park in Allentown each day.

On the field, he benefited from routine, consistency and top-notch development provided by the Yankees. He made nine appearances from July 24 through August 13 and did not allow a single run over his last eight games.

“You get back to your roots,” says Mayza of the minor league experience. “You get back to getting consistent work – put your head down, not worry about the distractions that happen, focus on the work to get back to the big leagues. I felt very goal driven – driven to make the changes, compete and perform.... The Triple-A coaching staff was on the same page with the entire organization. There was communication for what I was working on and what they wanted to see.”

After hurling a scoreless inning against the Buffalo Bisons on Aug. 13, Mayza received the call. The Yankees needed bullpen reinforcements. He returned to the majors on Aug. 17 and fired a shutout frame in Detroit.

Mayza made 15 effective relief appearances for the Yankees and was rewarded with a spot on the postseason roster. He pitched the longest outing of his career – 3-2/3 innings – against the Red Sox, with his Millersville coach, Jon Shehan, sitting in the Yankee Stadium stands.

“His career has been built upon ebbs and flows of adversity and success,” says Shehan. “This has been another example of him overcoming. Tim Mayza being Tim Mayza, figuring out a way to reinvent himself and be successful.”

Mayza’s velocity jumped by two miles per hour on average over the last two months. A 95.6-mph sinker that struck out Kansas City’s Kyle Isbel in game two of the ALDS was the fastest pitch Mayza threw all season. He nearly topped it in the ALCS. A 95.4-mph sinker caused Guardians’ All-Star Steven Kwan to weakly ground to second base, ending the sixth inning of game three. Mayza was back, pitching in pressure-packed moments on baseball’s greatest stages, helping the Yankees inch closer to a 28th world championship.

The tribulations of 2024 hardened Mayza for his World Series moment. As a reliever, he didn’t know when, or even if he would pitch. He had to stay ready for the possibility of facing the otherworldly Shohei Ohtani, future Hall of Famer Freddie Freeman or the red-hot Max Muncy. The Dodgers won an MLB-best 98 games and were the betting favorite from the start of the season. Mayza could only prepare and seize every opportunity presented to him in the same way he went from winning an NCAA Atlantic Regional title at Clipper Magazine Stadium in 2011 to an American League pennant in 2024.

“The [Millersville] program holds such a high standard that you are prepared and practice the necessary things to compete in high-pressure situations,” says Mayza. “It’s a little bit different of a scale going from Millersville to the World Series, but you are still implementing the same strategies to slow the heart rate.”

Mayza recalls starting game three of the Division II World Series against Mount Olive as a true freshman. He’d never pitched in front of so many fans. The brand-new experience stirred up butterflies, yet he managed to retire the first seven batters of the game and pitch five shutout innings, thanks to what he learned from Shehan and his staff. He’s still using the same strategies in the MLB playoffs.

“We have mental goals for our pitchers,” says Shehan. “Be able to compete when you don’t have your A game. Compete in the present moment. Have a plan for adversity and be able to deal with varying levels of pressure and intensity. Hopefully you get nerves in every game. When you pitch in the World Series in front of 50,000 fans and millions on TV, the butterflies might change, but you have to get them to a level where you can perform optimally. That’s going to impact your performance in big games.”

“The [Millersville] program holds such a high standard that you are prepared and practice the necessary things to compete in high-pressure situations.”

*says Mayza*

Those tactics have worked well, not just for the Marauders in May in the NCAA Tournament, but for Marauders in October. With Chas McCormick ’17 and Mayza, a Marauder has played a role for three of the last five American League champions. McCormick won a ring in 2022. Shehan has won 597 games over 16 seasons, but seeing players who graduated from Millersville live out their dreams by competing against the best in the world is as special as it gets.

“Our program has been so blessed in so many ways,” says Shehan. “You don’t want to feel jaded. You have to take it all in. It may be the last World Series that we ever have a Marauder in. I do my best to take it in and enjoy it just like the first one.”

Mayza knows how quickly baseball can be taken away: a freak injury, a dip in velocity, a lackluster performance. After his roller-coaster season, he’s relishing every win. He’s celebrating every moment. When he was called from the bullpen in game four of the World Series, he pitched a scoreless ninth inning, helping the Yankees extend the series. He finished the playoffs with no runs allowed in 2 1/3 innings.

“Having a chance to win a World Series is all you can hope for,” says Mayza. “I have experienced a whole lot of emotion over the last six months, from the lowest of lows and highest of highs. It’s what this game will do to you. The lowest of lows is a learning opportunity...You focus on one pitch at a time. That holds true at any level.” ♦



## SPORTS | 2024-25

# PLEASE WELCOME HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024

By Ethan Hulsey

The Millersville University Athletics **HALL OF FAME** inducted its 2024 and 30th annual class of inductees as part of Homecoming Weekend on Friday, Sept. 20. The class included **JAY DIMLER '88**, baseball; **SARAH BOMBERGER FAUS '15**, field hockey; **MARY FLEIG**, women's basketball coach; **SUNFLOWER GREENE '19**, women's track and field; **JOE HOLLISTER '04**, football; **TIM MAYZA '18**, baseball; and **SHANE RUHNKE '19**, wrestling.

## **JAY DIMLER '88** BASEBALL

Pitcher of the first recorded no-hitter in Millersville history, Jay Dimler was a workhorse starting pitcher for the baseball program from 1985–1988. A three-time All-PSAC East starting pitcher and one of just six Marauders named to the first team three times, Dimler totaled 17 wins over four seasons, and his eight wins in 1988 established a program record that would stand for a decade. Dimler was the first Marauder and still one of just four to lead the team in innings pitched three times, and he is one of only three to lead the team in strikeouts three seasons



**JAY DIMLER '88**

in a row. He also set a single-season record for complete games and games started in 1988, and in 1987, he struck out 85 batters, establishing a record that would not be broken until 2013. Dimler graduated as Millersville's career leader in innings pitched and strikeouts, and his complete-game mark stood for 27 years. ◆



L-R, SUNFLOWER GREENE, JOE HOLLISTER, SHANE RUHNKE, DR. WUBAH, SARAH BOMBERGER-FAUS, MARY FLEIG AND JAY DIMLER



**SARAH BOMBERGER-FAUS '15**

as one of three three-time All-Americans in the history of the field hockey program. A steady presence in the midfield and team captain as a senior, Bomberger-Faus helped Millersville to three consecutive PSAC title game appearances, a PSAC

## **SARAH BOMBERGER-FAUS '15** FIELD HOCKEY

A clutch performer consistently delivering in games with the highest stakes, Sarah Bomberger-Faus graduated

Championship in 2013 and an NCAA Championship in 2014. Bomberger-Faus memorably scored game-winning goals in the 2013 PSAC Semifinals and NCAA playoffs. She was also a three-time All-PSAC selection, starting 82 of 84 possible games in her career. ◆

## **MARY FLEIG** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

As beloved as she was successful, Mary Fleig won 523 games in 30 seasons as the head coach of the Millersville University women's basketball program. Arriving in 1990, Fleig

earned a PSAC record six Eastern Division Coach of the Year awards while building the program into a regional power. Under Fleig's direction, the Marauders won seven PSAC East titles, a PSAC Championship in 2005 and reached the NCAA Tournament



**MARY FLEIG**

nine times. Among Division II coaches who led programs for at least 30 years, Fleig ranks 11th in career winning percentage. She ranks 14th all-time in career wins. Fleig also guided her





program to a PSAC record 18 consecutive postseason appearances. Fleig retired in 2020 with 645 total wins. ♦

#### SUNFLOWER GREENE '19 WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The most decorated track and field athlete in Millersville history, and quite possibly the most accomplished in PSAC history, Greene was a two-time NCAA Champion in the indoor shot put and piled up awards and records at the conference and national level, earning All-America status seven times and qualifying for the NCAA Championships in five throwing events. The PSAC's coaches voted



SUNFLOWER GREENE '19

Greene the Outdoor Field Athlete of the Year three times and the Indoor Field Athlete of the Year two times as she won 11 PSAC Championships. Greene broke five Millersville throwing records and set PSAC records in the outdoor shot put, hammer throw, weight throw and indoor shot put, as well as championship records in three outdoor events. ♦

#### JOE HOLLISTER '04 FOOTBALL

The only Marauder to win the PSAC East Defensive Player of the Year award, Joe Hollister was a playmaking linebacker for the Millersville football team from 2000–2004. Hollister was a three-year starter,



JOE HOLLISTER '04

a two-time All-PSAC East First Team selection and a consensus All-Northeast Region performer in 2002 and 2004. A shoulder injury wiped out Hollister's 2003



season, but he recorded 86 tackles as a sophomore, led the team with 98 tackles and three interceptions as a junior, and won the PSAC East's top honor in 2004 with 98 tackles and three more interceptions. Hollister served as a team captain in 2004 and was recognized on the Millersville Football Wall of Honor in 2022. ♦

#### TIM MAYZA '18 BASEBALL

Before his successful Major League Baseball career as a pitcher for the Toronto Blue Jays and New York Yankees, Tim Mayza starred as an All-American on the mound for the Marauders. Mayza made an immediate impact as a starter for the 2011 NCAA Atlantic Regional championship team and quickly became one of the most high-profile pro prospects in Division II. As a

junior in 2013, Mayza led the PSAC with a 1.55 ERA, ranked seventh in the nation with 11 wins, pitched the second-most innings in Millersville history and tossed three shutouts. Mayza was voted All-PSAC East First Team, All-Atlantic Region First Team by three organizations, and Daktronics All-America Third Team. In June of 2013, the Blue Jays drafted Mayza in the 12th round of the MLB Draft, and he appeared in more than 300 games for Toronto, pitching in the MLB Playoffs in 2022 and 2023. In 2024, he helped the Yankees win the American League pennant. ♦

#### SHANE RUHNKE '19 WRESTLING

The true definition of dominance, Shane Ruhnke stormed to Millersville's first NCAA Division II Wrestling Championship with a season for the ages in 2018–19. A two-time All-American, 165-pound Ruhnke won



SHANE RUHNKE '19

Millersville's first national title since 1980, going 27–3, pinning his way to the finals before overwhelming his championship match opponent, who was disqualified in the second period

for fleeing the mat five times. Coaches at the NCAA Championships awarded

Ruhnke the Most Dominant Wrestler of the Year and Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Championships honors. As a senior, Ruhnke became one of two Marauders to win a national title, a PSAC Championship and a "Shorty" Hitchcock Memorial Classic crown in the same year. He was the first Marauder to win a PSAC Championship since 1995 and earned the award for Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Championship. Ruhnke finished his career with 97 victories and a program-record 39 pins. ♦



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR KATE CORCORAN, DARIAN MAYZA AND PROVOST AND SENIOR VP DR. GAIL GASPARICH

# Words With FRIENDS

## TWO alumnae groups stay in touch across miles, decades through letters

By Suzanne (Holtzman) Lowe '63

IT WAS JUNE 1963, AND THE MILLERSVILLE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE CAMPUS WAS ABUZZ WITH EXCITEMENT FROM THE GRADUATING SENIORS. SMILING, PROUD PARENTS WERE EVERYWHERE.

### WE MADE IT!

Looking over the faces of my dear friends, I thought about how much I would miss them. Today, we would all receive our teaching degrees and go our separate ways – most of them to teaching careers, while I anxiously awaited my location assignment as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Not knowing where in the world or how I would be living was a disconcerting thought! Would I ever see these friends again? I wanted us to stay connected and thought a Round Robin letter would be the perfect way to do just that.

While handwritten letters have declined, Round Robin letters were one way to stay connected before the days of cell phones and social media. In this arrangement, a letter is sent in a specific sequence to a group of people. Each member removes her last letter and replaces it with a newly written one before sending it to the next person in the sequence.

Before we all dispersed that graduation day,



L-R, SUZANNE, ROSEY, SKULLY, LOUISE, NINA, AND LYNN

I had chosen our group of participants: Nina (Palmer) Wolff, Rosemary (Rosey) Bratton, Veda (Noel) Henry, Louise (Workinger) Julius, Lynn (Evelynn Miller) Wilmot and me: Suzanne (Holtzman) Lowe. WE CALL OURSELVES THE ROBINS.

Summarizing more than 60 years of friendship and correspondence is quite the task. In all that time, the letters were only lost once on their way to me in a remote rainforest in Costa Rica during a very muddy rainy season where the mail was delivered via horseback. Here are some of our comings and goings following graduation:

**NINA** went on to marry and become an airline stewardess for Trans World Airlines and eventually became the Director of

In-Flight Services Operations. In that role, she was responsible for in-flight services, procedures, equipment, communication and duty-free sales. During her career, she even served the Harlem Globetrotters, who barely fit into the plane, and was responsible for arranging the flight details of a pope!

**ROSEY** married before graduation and went on to earn not one, but two master's degrees and eventually became Superintendent of Schools in Longboat Key, Florida.

**LOUISE** married Glen Julius, a fellow member of the

Millersville Class of 1963.

She now resides in Texas and was an innovative kindergarten teacher for more than two decades.

**LYNN** went on to marry Peter, a student at Franklin & Marshall College. Like Louise, she taught kindergarten for more than 20 years.

I, **SUZANNE**, finished my service with the Peace Corps, where I'd worked in a remote village in the Costa Rican rainforest near the border of Nicaragua for two years, got married and spent five years teaching ESL in a multilingual classroom in Philadelphia. I then retired to a farm with my family and became a shepherd to a flock of Miniature Babydoll Southdown sheep and a potbellied pig breeder.





PRESIDENT DANIEL WUBAH AND DR. JUDITH WUBAH WITH THE ROBINS DURING HOMECOMING



THE ROBINS AT THE MARIETTA MUSEUM OF ART AND WHIMSY IN FL



L-R: LYNN, NINA, VEDA, SUZANNE, ROSEMARY AND LOUISE AT BUSHKILL FALLS

As for our dear friend Veda, she accomplished much in her life: After graduating from Millersville, she served as a volunteer for Volunteers in Service to America, and for many years of her life, she selflessly taught at a nonprofit that served adults earning their GEDs.

While we were all together sitting on a breezy porch in a bed and breakfast in Rehoboth, Delaware, at our last reunion in 2022, we received a text from Veda's husband, Sam: Veda passed away from cancer. None of us could speak for at least 10 minutes. We had lost a Robin. We decided, right then and there, to make a donation to the Adult Learning Center in her honor.

The loss of one of our own has made us reflect on how grateful we have been to Millersville for our education, memories and the lifelong friendships we have held so dear. There isn't much we've missed in each other's lives for the past 60+ years, despite the fact that we all live in different states now.

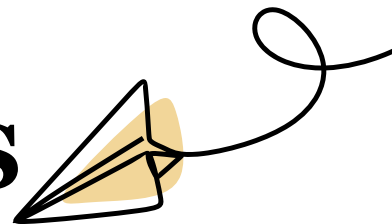
As far as we can remember, we have held 15 reunions since we graduated from Millersville. When we get together for these reunions, it's not like catching up with people at a high school reunion: We immediately know what to ask each Robin because we are always aware of the major happenings in each other's lives. We know whose grandchildren have graduated and

gotten jobs and all the rest, and so, we just settle in with comfortable, knowledgeable conversation.

Together, we had wonderful times, sad times and surprising twists and turns over and over again, but one thing is for certain: There's still so much to write about.

P.S. We really do still write and mail letters to each other, but we type them on the computer now – and we're looking forward to our next reunion in October 2025. ♦

# Millersville SISTERS



by Kelsey Madas

IT'S 10 A.M. ON A FRIDAY IN OCTOBER AS I PREPARE TO LOG ON TO A ZOOM CALL. THIS MEETING ISN'T A TYPICAL, RUN-OF-THE-MILL TEAM CHECK-IN WITH AN AGENDA TO FOLLOW, TASKS TO REPORT ON AND NEW ASSIGNMENTS TO DOLE OUT; IT'S A REUNION OF A CLOSE-KNIT GROUP OF ALUMNAE FROM THE CLASSES OF 1972 AND 1973 WHO'VE STAYED IN TOUCH PRIMARILY THROUGH LETTERS FOR MANY YEARS.

Almost as soon as the call begins, so do the jokes, laughs and talking over each other. There are just as many quick interjections, nicknames and cheerful greetings. Even after nearly 50 years of consistent communication, there is, evidently, a lot to catch up on.

This group of friends call themselves the Millersville Sisters: a name that captures the sororal affection that is so clearly present between them across the miles, time zones and screens.

While not everyone is on the call today, there are 13 Millersville Sisters in total: **MARILYN** (Deloplane) Barmore '73, **ROSEMARIE** (Tuscano) Dobbs '73, **JAN** (Musselman) Johnson '73, **SUSAN** (Border) Medasia '73, **JOY** (Hartman) Wolfe '73, **MARCIA** (Wenger) Kreider '73, **GAIL** (Weinman) Harker '73, **DONNA** (Johnston) Force '72, **MARTHA** (Henry) Wittstruck '73, **DIANE** (Fargo) Rug '73, **BETTY ANN** (Gardner) Young '73, **KAREN** "Peachy" (Souder) Smith '73 and **VICKIE** (Ober) Risser '73.

The initial girl group met while living together on the third floor of Gilbert Hall, now known as Lehigh Hall. "It might have been the cookies Marilyn had hidden in her drawer," says Wittstruck, adding, "And I wanted to escape my dorm room."

Whatever the case, slowly, friends of friends were brought into the fold. "We all really liked each other," says Barmore. "We laughed and joked and ended up in each other's rooms, and Rose would throw my boyfriend's picture in the wastebasket" – a quick pause for more giggles – "Can you girls put a finger on what it was that brought us together?"

"The mealtimes were something," interjects Young. "Because you didn't want to eat by yourself. I know for me, I probably wouldn't have eaten if I was alone. But having so much company made a difference."

Proximity and natural chemistry may have brought them together, but it wasn't the only thing they had in common. These remarkable women went on to find themselves working in education as teachers in elementary education, special education, English as a second language, in libraries, and at preschools and colleges. All the sisters claim at least two decades of service in education.

Another commonality they share is the desire to stay in touch. The frequency of the letters that began in 1986 has changed over the years, but their connection has not. Through their letters, reunions, vacations and, now, a monthly Zoom meeting, they've

poured their hearts out to each other. "It's so nice knowing we have the ear of everyone," shares Kreider. "When you get that letter, you can hear their voices come through. Everyone writes in their own voice. And sometimes it's easier to pour things out on paper than it is face-to-face. Over the years, several of us have supported spouses dealing with similar health issues, and it helped me to feel like I wasn't alone. It's just so comforting."

Through letters, they've shared their burdens and woes and, of course, good news. The arrival of new grandchildren is always an anticipated topic and, as Dobbs cheerfully chimes in, "I was the last of the bunch to get married at the age of 43, so that was a biggie."

Even during this Zoom call, there's breaking news. Joy Wolfe joins the call, and the sisters quickly chime in to let her know her microphone is muted and offer instructions on how to turn it on. "You'll have to come off mute unless you use sign language," quips Wittstruck. "Well, speaking of sign language, I must leave now because I have to go practice sign language because I'm taking a course on it," shares Harker. The happy exclamations, laughs and "You're kidding!" remarks begin anew. "Next time I'm on this Zoom, I'll sign to you," she promises as she logs off.

There is warmth between these friends that radiates off the screen, and Kreider says it best: "I don't feel like we've been separated by miles or years. Our friendship brings us together." ♦



THE MILLERSVILLE SISTERS OVER THE YEARS.



# Class Notes | 2024-25

## 1950s



ROSENTHAL '55

► **BERNARD ROSENTHAL '55**, Vestal, NY, is professor emeritus of English at Binghamton University and a former Fulbright Scholar. He is best known for his work on

the Salem Witch Trials, including his widely regarded book "Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt," lectures in the U.S. and abroad, and his television and radio appearances.

## 1960s



HOPKINS '66

► **DR. LEROY T. HOPKINS JR. '66**, Lancaster, was inducted into the Fellows of the Lancaster County Historical Society by LancasterHistory Museum during their

annual dinner on June 13, 2024, recognizing his significant contributions to the understanding of local history, particularly Black history and the history of African Americans and Germans in Lancaster. Hopkins taught German at MU for 36 years and worked in leadership at the Urban League of Lancaster County.

## 1970s

► **SAM WALKER '70**, Collegeville, majored in industrial arts at MU. He retired in 2014 after 35 years as an operating engineer with IUOE Local 825 and is enjoying his well-earned retirement.

► **WARREN WEAVER '70**, York, retired on Dec. 31, 2023, after a 53-year career in manufacturing and consulting. For the last 12 years, Weaver served as principal and owner of Energy, Materials & Sustainability Consulting, LLC. He sold his company in 2021. Warren credits his MU degree in chemistry as foundational to his success.



TAVELLA '71

► **MICHAEL TAVELLA '71**, published the book "Adriel Peregrine," which is available for purchase on Amazon. The story follows Adriel through trials of his journey to find spiritual renewal. Tavella raises profound questions about the nature of our journeys and the choices we make.



KING '72

► **KATHLEEN (WHISKEYMAN) KING '72**, Lititz, who studied secondary education and history at MU, published her first novel, "The Bomber Jacket," which is a World War II ghost story. Her work in the historical fiction genre blends her passion for history with compelling storytelling.



SUPSIC '72

► **ANNE (GROSS) SUPSIC '72**, Saylorsburg, published her first book, "The Bookmark," which is a work of historical fiction set in Bethlehem, PA.



MORGNANESI '73

► **LANNY MORGNANESI '73**, Doylestown, recently published a novel, "The King of Ningxia," partially based on his experiences living and working in China during the mid-'80s.

► **JEFF FELTY '77**, Daphne, AL, retired after 26 years as a project manager for ACE Hardware Corp.



KETTERING '77

► **CRAIG KETTERING '77**, Venice, FL, earned his MBA from Penn State in 1982 and retired after serving as the Emerging Markets IT Director at VWR International.



ERBE '78

► **PATRICIA (WALL) ERBE '78**, Downingtown, wrote "Building Bonds with Learners: The Teacher-Student Relationship Model" with Solution Tree Press, and her book made its debut in May 2024.

► **MICHAEL TRACY '78**, Millersville, retired after 17 years as construction manager at Milton Hershey School.

## 1980s

► **MARK SIGOUIN '80**, Camp Hill, retired in 2021 after 35 years as a licensed professional geologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.



SINGLETON '80

► **ELAINE (HALLOWELL) SINGLETON '80**, Sarasota, FL. After a 40-year career as an executive in supply chain management and sustainability leadership, she accepted a role with the University of South Florida as the executive director of the Monica Wooden Center for Supply Chain Management and Sustainability. Elaine earned a master's in supply chain management from the University of South Florida in 2022 and serves as an adjunct instructor and chairman of the Florida Supply Chain Summit.



MAHONEY '81

► **KEVIN B. MAHONEY '81**, Media, was named to the board of directors of the Team Pennsylvania Foundation, a nonprofit committed to accelerating Pennsylvania's economy.



**MENDEL '81**

► **SHARON (HILL) MENDEL '81**, Wyomissing, retired on April 7, 2023, after a distinguished 39-year career at Wells Fargo, where she served as the senior vice president and senior business execution consultant. She's now enjoying her time traveling with her husband and spending quality time with family and friends.

► **LISA A. MILLER '81**, Lebanon, retired after 36 years as a first-grade teacher in the Cornwall-Lebanon School District in 2018.



**REABOLD '82**

► **MATTHEW REABOLD '82**, Fallbrook, CA, retired after 40 years in the pharmaceutical industry, managing teams both in sales and business development. In his last role with George Clinical, he helped to lead the sales team in growing the annual sales to \$200M+ per year. During retirement, he will continue traveling with his wife, Shari, playing competitive pickleball, spending time with his children and remain active in his church.

► **CRAIG CURFMAN '85**, Roaring Springs, retired from Northern Bedford County School District as a technology education/engineering by design teacher after nearly 39 years.



**STRICKLAND '85**

► **CRAIG STRICKLAND '85**, Drexel Hill, recently shared a meal with his former Millersville psychology professor, Dr. Susan Luek. Luek taught thousands of students from 1972 to 2012 and is the professor for whom Luek Hall is named.



**FISHEL '86**

► **SHELLEY (SMITH) FISHEL '86**, Myrtle Beach, SC, retired after over 25 years of teaching biology in secondary education at Dallastown Area High School. She and her husband recently relocated from York to Myrtle Beach.

► **CHRISTINA "CHRIS" SCHELTEMA '86**, Washington, D.C., retired on March 31, 2024, after 33 years of service at the

Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. During her tenure, Scheltema worked as a risk assessor in the Health Effects Division, chemical review manager in the Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division, and risk assessor in the TSCA New Chemicals Program.

► **BRADLEY GROFF '87**, Wimberley, TX, was promoted to the role of senior manager of AppleCare Business Development & Solutions. He worked at Apple, Inc. for 22 years.



**NEIFFER '87**

► **DON NEIFFER '87**, Woodbine, MD, is the chief veterinarian at the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. Neiffer received the 2024 Distinguished Alumni

Achievement Award from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. The award honors alumni who have demonstrated exceptional innovation, leadership and dedication to the veterinary profession.



**SAYLOR '87**

► **THOMAS SAYLOR '87**, Altoona, retired from teaching after 37 years. He started his career at Bishop McDevitt High School before returning to the Altoona Area School District.



**VIRGILIO '87**

► **SAM VIRGILIO '87**, West Chester. Virgilio wrapped up his 36th year teaching at Peirce Middle School in West Chester, where he served as a math teacher and athletic director. He's

looking forward to spending time outdoors in his retirement.

► **BARBARA (FASNACHT) HEISTER '68**, Lancaster, recently retired from the School District of Lancaster after teaching for 34 years at Burrowes Elementary School.



**HENRIQUES '88, '91M**

► **DAVID HENRIQUES '88, '91M**, Millersville. After a successful tenure at MU as the Director of Academic Advising and the coordinator of the Exploratory Program, Henriques accepted a role as the Executive Director of

Student Success at the University of Southern Indiana.



**DONLEY '89**

► **MICHAEL DONLEY '89**, Lebanon, retired after 22 years as an elementary school teacher in the Hamburg Area School District. Donley is the only Hamburg Area girls

basketball varsity head coach to have a career winning percentage above .500. Prior to his education career, Donley worked in broadcasting and journalism.

► **CYNTHIA (HINNERSHITZ) MOGEL '89**, Wesley Chapel, FL, graduated in May 2024 with a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama. She works at Pasco-Hernando State College.

## 1990s



**BUCKWALTER '90**

► **MARK BUCKWALTER '90**, Lilly. In 2019, Buckwalter earned a Doctor of Criminal Justice from California University of Pennsylvania and is now an

associate professor of criminal justice at Saint Francis University.

► **AASIF CHANANDIN '91**, Kennett Square, started a new job with the Space Telescope and Science Institute as the branch manager for the Web Applications Services and Business Intelligence team.



**RICCIO '92**

► **STEVE RICCIO '92**, Carlisle, is the senior lecturer in international business and management program at Dickinson College. He was recently named the founding executive

director of the Burgess Institute for the Global Economy.



**BERGEY '94**

► **LAUREN (BRENSIGNER) BERGEY '94**, New Windsor, NY, was named assistant dean in Academic Affairs and Registrar Services at the United States Military Academy in

West Point, NY. Bergey is also an associate professor who teaches in the geology and



environmental engineering department while serving as an academic success and retention coordinator.

► **BEN MESSINGER '94**, Littlestown, recently retired after 30 years from Baltimore County Public Schools as a teacher of instrumental music.

► **STACEY (O'NEILL) ESPENLAUB '96**, Downingtown, earned a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2021. She works as the manager, repatriation and provenance, at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.



SANGUINITO '97

► **BRYAN SANGUINITO '97**, Ephrata, published more than 16 original compositions or arrangements for school orchestras, and his music is available for purchase

nationwide, including at J.W. Pepper, where he was recognized through their "My Score" program. Sanguinito is the orchestra teacher in the Reading School District.

► **SHANE SNYDER '98**, Point of Rocks, MD, has been a meteorologist for the National Weather Service since June 2022. He serves in the Center Weather Service Unit at the Air Route Traffic Control Center in Leesburg, VA, where he focuses on aviation weather.

## 2000s

► **CHERYL SWAIN '00**, McKinney, TX, is an advisor for Area Development for ALSAC/ St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the South Territory.



EGGER '01

► **STEPHANIE (SZERLAG) EGGER '01**, Philadelphia, joined the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory in 2022. In her role as a biologist, she

issues and administers federal bird banding permits, curates bird banding and encounter reports, and provides ornithological/scientific support for the lab's projects and operations.



BROWN '04

► **DR. JOSHUA R. BROWN '04**, Eau Claire, WI, is a Skwierzynski University Fellow in Languages and professor of German and linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Brown furthered his studies in Germany at Philipps University Marburg and Penn State University, where he earned his Ph.D. He recently gave a lecture, "Pennsylvania Dutch Studies: Past, Present, Future," at Kutztown University.



KLINE '04

► **DR. TINA MARIE (MAUREKA) KLINE '04**, Montoursville, received a Ph.D. degree in nursing education and administration from William Carey University in 2024.

► **CHRISTINA (WRIGHT) FIELDS '05**, Wappingers Falls, NY, was promoted to the rank of associate professor of education with tenure at Marist College.



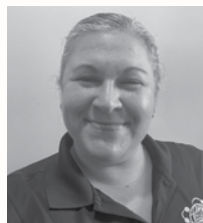
BYLER '06

► **RYAN BYLER '06**, Marlton, NJ, was promoted to senior vice president, head of operations, at ShopCore Properties, a Blackstone portfolio company.



LEININGER '07

► **DR. BRANDY (KLINE) LEININGER '07**, Ephrata. Leininger, Title III grant project manager at Kutztown University, earned her Ed.D. in higher education from Immaculata University. Her dissertation topic was "Persistence Factors of Latinx College Students at Four-Year Private, Predominantly White Institutions."



LENNON '08

► **SAMANTHA (KEMPF) LENNON '08**, Woodbridge, VA, earned her master's degree in school administration supervision from Averett University in 2021. She was

appointed specialty program coordinator for international studies and languages at Hylton High School.

► **NICHOLE (AVENT) SABIL '07**, Lancaster, is the director of events, conferences, arts and culture for Lancaster Bible College and The Trust Performing Arts Center.

► **KATEE WODARCZYK '08**, Lancaster, is a community education facilitator with IU13 after nearly a decade as a program specialist for adults with disabilities as well as a middle school learning support teacher with the School District of Lancaster.

## 2010s

► **NATE WARDLE '10, '13M**, Mechanicsburg, was hired in March 2024 as the director of communications for CSL Plasma.



BOYD '11

► **DEIGHTON A. BOYD '11**, Philadelphia, earned a doctorate in education in leadership and learning from Aspen University. He dedicated 16

years of his career to urban education and was featured on NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt for his efforts to recruit African American males into K-12 education.



BERNDT '13

► **VIRGINIA (HANDLEY) BERNDT '13**, Westminster, MD, is currently an assistant professor of sociology at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD, and was previously

an assistant professor at Texas A&M International University, where she was named the 2024 Faculty Advisor of the Year. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware and a master's degree from Lehigh University.



WRIGHT '11

► **KATELYNN WRIGHT '11**, Lancaster, was recently appointed as the director of events for the York Builders Association. She earned her degree in history from MU.

► **MADLINE (SEILER) FORSTER '16**, Lancaster, was promoted to vice president of marketing at United Way of Lancaster.

► **JENNIFER HANE '17, '19M**, assumed a supervisory fire weather meteorologist position at Chloeta, helping to forecast for firefighters protecting homes against wildfires across the country.

► **PEARL (HESS) BURPO '19**, Edwards, CO, celebrated her second wedding anniversary with her spouse, Colton Burpo, on July 23, 2024. She also became a first-grade teacher and grade-level team lead at Avon Elementary School.



JAGODIN '19

► **SERGEJ JAGODIN '19**, Harrisburg, works as a sales consultant for Enterprise and received three promotions so far.

► **KIMMAI TRAN-RUDY '19**, Lancaster, received a master's in

business administration from Shippensburg University in 2023.

## 2020s



GOODE '20

► **KAITLYN GOODE '20**, Ridgway, received her master's in geographic information systems from Penn State University. In April 2024, she became the data

visualization specialist for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

► **SAMANTHA (CARLSON) WATSON '20**, Olney, MD, earned her master's degree in applied space weather research and now serves as a meteorologist for the Federal Aviation Administration.



PAPAVASILIS '23

► **TERRY PAPAVASILIS '23**, Greenville, NC, is now pursuing her Ph.D. at East Carolina University in biology, biochemistry and chemistry.

## CELEBRATIONS



PHILLIPS '63

► **EMORY PHILLIPS '63**, Lititz, and wife Cynthia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

► **DAVE SCHREFFLER '65**, and **LYNNE (WINGENROTH) SCHREFFLER '67**,

Everett, recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. They met at Millersville State College and married in 1964.



MOSER '74

► **SUSAN (SUMMERS) MOSER '74** and **GARY MOSER '74** Brookville, PA, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 3, 2024. Earlier in the year, they marked

the occasion with a trip to New Zealand, Australia and Fiji.

► **ELAINE (HALLOWELL) SINGLETON '80**, Sarasota, FL, married Thomas Carnes on Oct. 14, 2023.



CHORONEKO '83

► **MICHAEL CHORONEKO '83**, Pottstown, and his wife, Janet, recently celebrated 40 years of marriage.

► **TIFFANY (BURROWS) '02** and Trae Vickers,

Stephenson, VA, welcomed Jacob Vickers IV to their family on Feb. 3, 2023.



SHARWARKO '07

► **SHERI (FISHER) '07** and **CHRISTOPHER SHARWARKO '07**, Alexandria, VA, are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Flint Perl Sharwarko, born on July 7, 2024.

► **NICOLE DOTY '08**, Dalarna, Sweden, married Lasas Lars Johan Matsson on June 22, 2018, in Sweden, where she has lived since 2009. After working as a teacher from 2010–2016 for

Internationella Engelska Skolan Nacka in Stockholm, Doty was promoted to assistant

principal. She and Johan welcomed their first daughter in 2019.

► **ASHLEY (HADSALL) HOFFER '08** and Robert Hoffer, Mechanicsburg, welcomed their son, Henry Robert Hoffer, on Sept. 23, 2023.



RHAN '08

► **SARAH (HAMMAKER) RHAN '08**, and Nathan Rhan, Dillsburg, welcomed their first child, Adelynn Rhan, in February 2022.

► **TETYANA (KORNILOVA)**

**KUNDER '10** and **JUSTIN KUNDER**

'10 Washougal, WA, were high school sweethearts who attended MU together and married on Sept. 23, 2010. They moved to Washington in 2019 and are now proud parents to their son, Odin, who was born on Nov. 10, 2020.



ERNO '11

► **JERROD ERNO '11**, Philadelphia, married Todd Erno on Aug. 15, 2022.

► **HARMONY (ADLER) TODD**

'12 and Kieran Todd, Trenton, NJ, welcomed their daughter Maeve on May 12, 2024.



PRENDERGAST/PUCETAS

► **ANGELA PRENDERGAST '14** and **BRENDAN PUCETAS '16**, were married on May 29, 2021. The couple had twins on Oct. 28, 2024. They reside in North Wales, PA,

and are looking forward to sharing their growing family's journey with the Millersville community.

► **LEXIS LIPKO '18**, York, married Jonathan Myer on April 15, 2023.



RANDISI/PIERRE

► **TERAS RANDISI '18**, Summerville, SC, and **JUSTIN PIERRE '18**, who met at Millersville, married on Sept. 16, 2023.





TRAN '19

► **KIMMAI TRAN '19**, Lancaster, married Nathaniel Rudy on March 3, 2022.

► **NICK FRANKS '19** and **BRIDGETTE MARCELLA '19**, Croydon, both graduates of MU's

music program, were married on Sept. 13, 2024. The couple first met at Millersville as alto sax musicians and are now both musicians in the Uptown String Band.



REBMAN/NITROY

► **MADISON REBMAN '20** and **MIKE NITROY '16**, Millersville, married on May 31, 2024, in Manheim. The couple shared their joy with friends and family, celebrating their

connection to Millersville throughout the event. Mike works at the University Store, and Madison is the department secretary of chemistry.

► **SAMANTHA CARLSON '20**, Olney, MD, married William Watson Jr. on March 29, 2024. Their wedding was held in Maui, HI.

► **CAROLYN BOLDEN '23** and **LOGAN SANTEE '23**, Pensacola, FL, recently tied the knot in PA before moving to FL.

► **SAVANNAH RENNIX '23** and **JAMES SULLIVAN '23**, Lancaster, were recently married. Both are former MU athletes, and the couple celebrated their wedding with many of their former teammates, coaches, trainers and classmates.

## DEATHS

### 1950s

► **JOHN F. DOUGHERTY '51**, died July 1, 2024, at the age of 100. A World War II veteran, he served in the China-Burma-India Theater and had a long career in education, teaching history and serving as a coach and athletic director at Chichester High School.

► **JOAN E. FEHL '51**, Lancaster, died Oct. 3, 2024, at the age of 94. Fehl grew up on her family's historic farm and graduated from Penn Manor high school before earning her degree in education from Millersville State Teachers College.

► **MARILYN (SYMINGTON) KRUGER '54**, died July 14, 2024, at the age of 92. A dedicated educator, she taught kindergarten at Nathan Schaeffer

Elementary School in Manheim Township. Kruger was active in several organizations, including the Red Rose Antique Auto Club and Hershey Region AACA.



PREMICH '54

► **ANDREW PREMICH '54**, Orwigsburg, died Aug. 20, 2024, at the age of 96. He spent many years teaching and coaching football at Blue Mountain Area School District. Premich will be

remembered for his love of education and coaching.



ROESELER '54

► **JACQUELYN (GINDER) ROESELER '54**, died July 3, 2024, at the age of 91. She was a trailblazer, initially admitted to Millersville's industrial arts program due to a mistaken

assumption that her name was "Jack Lynn" and proceeded to open a new world of opportunity for female students. She enjoyed a nearly 20-year teaching career in woodshop, metal shop, drafting and graphic arts.



WITMER '54

► **IRENE (DENLINGER) WITMER '54**, Lancaster, died July 8, 2024, at the age of 91. A dedicated second-grade teacher for 25 years at Smoketown and Fritz Elementary

Schools, Witmer continued to tutor and teach her grandchildren after retirement. She will be remembered for her love of teaching, faith and family.



HILL '55

► **RUTH (WORKINGER) HILL '55**, died Sept. 27, 2024, at the age of 91. Hill grew up on a family farm in Windsor, PA, went on to earn another degree from Penn State University and was dedicated to teaching.



HUMMER '55

► **JEAN R. (WOLF) HUMMER '55**, died Oct. 7, 2024, at the age of 95. She was a dedicated educator who worked as a reading specialist in

the Ephrata Area School District. Hummer loved spending time with her family and volunteering.



FOLLETT '56

► **EARL GILBERT "PUSKER" FOLLETT '56**, died Sept. 10, 2024. He was a Korean War veteran who went on to teach industrial arts for 30 years at Cedar Cliff High School. Follett

was a skilled woodworker, an avid tennis player and a dedicated family man.

► **LOUISE (WARREN) WILSON '56**, Collegeville, died Feb. 3, 2021, at the age of 89. Wilson began her career as a school nurse and later became a school counselor for the Perkiomen Valley School District. She was a people person who enjoyed gardening, flowers and birdwatching.



BOSSO '57

► **WILLIAM BOSSO '57**, Macungie, died Aug. 1, 2024, at the age of 89. He dedicated 40 years of his career to students as a teacher and elementary school principal in Kingston

and Wyoming Valley West and was known for his positivity and love for meeting new people. Bosso was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.



PLEIBEL '57

► **LEW WHITELOCK PLEIBEL '57**, died Aug. 22, 2024, at the age of 88. Pleibel taught first grade at Carrcroft Elementary School in Wilmington, DE, for almost 20 years and earned a

master's degree. She cherished time with her family, organizing pirate adventures at their Virginia cottage.

► **DR. MERVIN L. DISSINGER '58**, age 88, Glen Mills, died May 20, 2024. Dissinger earned his Ph.D. in psychology from Temple University and was a dedicated professor at Rider College. He loved traveling, riding motorcycles, classical music and was also a pilot.



MILLER '58

► **PHYLLIS (MYERS) MILLER '58**, Lancaster, died June 25, 2024.

► **RALPH W. "RIP" MILLER JR. '58**, Lancaster, died Aug. 8, 2024. Miller earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from Millersville and was also a professor of industry and technology at MU for 27 years.

► **DOROTHY (SIMMERS) ROHRBACH '58**, age 88, Manheim, died Oct. 27, 2024. She taught kindergarten for over 30 years in the School District of Lancaster. She loved traveling, antiques and fine arts, and was known for her appreciation of both sweet and salty treats.



KENEPP '59

► **EARL W. KENEPP '59**, New Holland, died June 25, 2024, at the age of 91. He earned a master's degree from Temple University and taught biology at Conestoga Valley High School from 1969 until 1993.



SMINK '59

► **DR. JAY SMINK '59**, Easley, SC, died June 5, 2024. He went on to earn a master's and doctorate degree in education from Penn State University. His career included classroom teaching in

public schools. He retired as the executive director of the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University.



STRICKLER '59

► **NINA ANNE (PETTICOFFER) STRICKLER '59**, Ephrata, died July 11, 2024, at the age of 86. She taught at the Gladwyne School and became a substitute teacher in Ephrata.

An active volunteer at Lancaster General Hospital and later at Dublin Methodist Hospital in Ohio, she also loved traveling, gardening and spending time with her grandchildren.



ZIMMERMAN '59

► **KENNETH G. ZIMMERMAN '59**, Lebanon, died June 30, 2024, at the age of 86. Zimmerman dedicated his career to teaching astronomy and earth and space science at Cedar Crest

High School and HACC in Lebanon, and served as the director of the planetarium. He was an avid coin collector and active member of the Pinegrove Historical Society.

## 1960s



BELL '62

► **BARRY B. BELL '62**, Lancaster, died Sept. 24, 2024, at the age of 83. He worked for 37 years as a lab technician at RCA and Thomson and was known for his passion for

basketball, coaching, birdwatching and his grandchildren.



ROBINSON '62

► **BRUCE ROBINSON '62**, Westminster, MD, died Sept. 9, 2024, at the age of 83. He completed a master's degree from Western Maryland College and after teaching for a few years worked for the federal government for 30 years until his retirement. Robinson had a passion for genealogy and was an active member of Redeemer's United Church of Christ.



MARSCHKA '63

► **LAURA AUDREY (MADEIRA) MARSCHKA '63**, Elizabethtown, died March 15, 2024. Marschka went on to earn a master's degree from Temple University. A devoted

nurse and educator, she worked in Lancaster County schools and later joined the Peace Corps, serving in Liberia. Audrey and her husband, Dave, participated in scientific expeditions and mission trips.



ZIMA '63

► **CONSTANCE GELDER (WILSON) ZIMA '63**, died Sept. 23, 2024, at the age of 98. Zima was a devoted nurse and educator, working in obstetrics at Lancaster General

Hospital for over 25 years. She enjoyed volunteering locally and traveling.

► **CAROLYN (CLAY) BEAMESDERFER '65**, Lower Paxton Township, died on Oct. 16, 2024, at the age of 80. Beamesderfer was a retired special education teacher from the Central Dauphin School District. She will be remembered for her strong connection to her community and family.



BOWMAN '65

► **CAROL (CRETER) BOWMAN '65**, Lititz, died Sept. 23, 2024, at the age of 81 shortly after celebrating her 60th wedding anniversary. A dedicated educator, she spent many years teaching elementary students and English as a second language.



HAUBER '65

► **GEORGE D. HAUBER SR. '65**, Philadelphia, died July 9, 2024. A dedicated educator, Hauber spent 34 of his 37-year teaching career at MU in the Industrial Arts department. He was

honored with faculty emeritus status upon retirement and received numerous awards for his excellence in teaching.



HAZLETT '65

► **WILLIAM R. "BILL" HAZLETT '65**, Lititz, died Aug. 16, 2024, at the age of 84. Hazlett was a dedicated civics and history teacher at Reynolds and Warwick Junior High Schools, and was active in community service.



WALLS '65

► **ROBERT "BOB" FRANCIS WALLS '65**, Media, died July 20, 2024, at the age of 82. Walls received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Millersville State College and had a 30-

year teaching career in the School District of Lancaster. A passionate Eagles fan, Bob also loved golfing, gardening and fishing.

► **RONALD LEE WOLAND '65**, died Oct. 2, 2024, at the age of 80. He went on to earn his master's degree from West Chester University and taught social studies for 31 years in the Central Bucks School District. He was a devoted coach, church volunteer and active community member.



BAHN '67

► **MARYELLEN (SCARBOROUGH) BAHN '67**, died Oct. 3, 2024, at the age of 81. After graduating from Millersville State College, she served as an elementary school



teacher, librarian and later worked in various roles in York County. Bahn was known for her volunteer work, including as an infant cuddler at York Hospital.

► **ANDREW "ANDY" GARDNER '67**, Philadelphia, died Aug. 22, 2024, at the age of 80.

► **SUSAN HAINES '68**, Media, died April 3, 2024. Haines spent 28 years as an elementary school librarian for the Haverford School District.



KEISER '67

► **CARMELITA "CARMIE" (DEGREGORIO) KEISER '67**, died Oct. 12, 2024, at the age of 79. Keiser was a dedicated educator who began her career teaching first grade

before transitioning to a 25-year career at Verizon. She was actively involved in community service.



MCVEY '67

► **JILL (WITMER) MCVEY '67**, died Sept. 9, 2024, at the age of 78. McVey dedicated her 35-year career to Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency, where she served

as executive director. A devoted educator, she also mentored graduate students as an adjunct professor at MU.



ZINN '67

► **JOYCE L. (DEHOFF) ZINN '67**, Quakertown, died Sept. 6, 2024, at the age of 79. Zinn dedicated 35 years to teaching in the Southern Lehigh School District.

She was known for her creative teaching style and love of helping students grow. A lifelong traveler, she and her husband Ed visited all 50 U.S. states, shared a passion for cycling and were avid golfers.



SCHOLLINS '68

► **CAROL ANN (KRUPER) SCHOLLINS '68**, Lancaster, died Aug. 19, 2024, at the age of 78. She spent three years teaching art at Fairchance Elementary School

and had a lifelong passion for the arts, gardening and staying active.



BITTS '69

► **ROBERT M. BITTS '69**, Bainbridge, a U.S. army veteran, died July 20, 2024, at the age of 81. Bitts was a talented painter with a passion for landscapes, particularly trees and water, who loved hiking, gardening and reading.



COLLINS '69

► **LINDA (ZWALLEY) COLLINS '69**, died July 3, 2024, at the age of 77. She was a dedicated teacher of 42 years, primarily teaching first grade, and retired in 2013.

► **PAUL J. EVANKO '69**, Millerstown, died July 6, 2024, at the age of 76. Colonel Evanko served as the 17th commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, retiring in 2003 after a 33-year career. He held leadership roles in the organized crime task force, drug law enforcement and was a key figure in the response to the 9/11 crash of Flight 93.

► **JANICE M. (HALLAHAN) KING '69**, Nesquehoning, died Oct. 20, 2024, at the age of 77. King dedicated her career to supporting the physician assistant programs at the former Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science and later at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She was known for her love of dancing, reading, piano, astrology and sports.



LITTLE '69

► **BRADFORD W. LITTLE '69**, died Aug. 18, 2024, after celebrating 55 years of marriage with his wife, Carol. Little spent his entire career at Central York High School, where he was

a teacher, assistant principal and associate principal. Brad had a passion for cars, especially Corvettes, and was a volunteer guide at the AACA Museum in Hershey.



NISSLEY '69

► **MARTHA J. (DOREMUS) NISSLEY '69**, Akron, died July 20, 2024.

## 1970s

► **JANELLE (MARKEY) PARRISH '70**, died Oct. 24, 2024, at the age of 76. She earned a master's degree from Penn State University, taught in several school districts and worked as a realtor. An accomplished artist and antique collector, Parrish was active with the Hershey Art Association and enjoyed painting with friends.



SHOWERS '70

► **JANE M. (KNABB) SHOWERS '70**, Lititz, died Sept. 30, 2024, at the age of 93. She was a kindergarten and second-grade teacher in Manheim Township schools and an active member of

Pi Lambda Theta. She cherished simple joys like gardening, walking and music.

► **TIMOTHY J. THUM '70**, Douglasville, died July 15, 2024, at the age of 76. He proudly served in the Pennsylvania National Guard, had a long career as an industrial arts teacher at Spring-Ford High School and was also a dedicated football and basketball coach.

► **SUSAN ANNE MILLER '71**, died Aug. 12, 2024, at the age of 75. Miller earned her master's degree in 1970, dedicated 37 years to teaching at Tyson Shaner Elementary School and retired in 2017.



PHILLIPPY '71

► **ARLENE G. (HITCHMAN) PHILLIPPY '71**, Lebanon, died July 20, 2024, at the age of 74. Phillippy was an elementary school teacher in Derry Township,

was involved in the Lebanon Community Theatre and had a passion for reading, dancing and caring for animals.



PLANTZ '71

► **CHARLES PLANTZ '71**, Cornwall, 85, died June 23, 2023. He was a teacher and work experience coordinator for the Lebanon city and county schools and retired after 35 years of service.

► **HILDA L. (ANTONACCI) TREASURE '71**, Springfield, VA, died Sept. 10, 2024, at age 96. A beloved fourth-grade teacher at Eshleman Elementary in the Penn Manor School District for over 25 years, Treasure was known for her commitment to family

and education, serving in leadership roles in Pi Lambda Theta.



WITMER '71M

► **BONNIE H. (HOOD) WITMER '71M**, died July 7, 2024, at the age of 79. Witmer taught in the Lancaster City School District for nine years and gave private piano lessons for over 40 years.

She was deeply involved in local music organizations and was devoted to using her musical talents in service of her faith.



WOTURSKI '71

► **ROSE M. (SKOJEC) WOTURSKI '71**, died in 2024. A beloved teacher in the Lower Township School District, NJ, she went on to earn her master's degree from the University of Delaware.

She was cherished by her students and received a Distinguished Teacher Award for her dedication.

► **TERRY ALLISON '72M**, York, died May 22, 2024. He completed his undergraduate degree at Elizabethtown College, his master's degree in mathematics at Millersville and worked at Penn State University for 50 years.



BAILEY '72

► **DORIS (SHENENBERGER) BAILEY '72**, Lancaster, died Sept. 24, 2024, at the age of 94. Bailey returned to college after the death of her first husband and earned her teaching

degree from Millersville. She dedicated 19 years to teaching elementary school, predominantly kindergarten, at Eastern York School District.

► **VIRGINIA "GINNIE" (BAXTER) MULLIN '72**, Lancaster, died Oct. 3, 2024, just shy of her 90th birthday. Mullin taught at a one-room schoolhouse and later in the Solanco School District as a reading specialist. Her passion for literacy was honored with the International Reading Association Literacy Award in 1984.



STAMM '72

► **HELEN (DANIEL) STAMM '72**, died Aug. 20, 2024, at the age of 78. Stamm dedicated over 50 years to education, teaching in both public schools and

synagogues across various states and was devoted to ensuring Jewish education for students with special needs.

► **NORMA JEAN (KREIDER) ACKER '73**, died Aug. 1, 2024, at the age of 94. A former resident of New Cumberland, Acker is remembered for her kind spirit and the love she had for her family.



MEEKER '73

► **EILEEN F. (THAYER) MEEKER '73**, died Oct. 6, 2024. A dedicated special-needs educator, Meeker earned her degrees from Millersville, Penn State and Temple.

She devoted her life to helping children, animals and her community, teaching for over 40 years.

► **ROBERTA "ROBBIE" (KRAMER) MIGDON '73**, died Aug. 15, 2024, at the age of 72. She dedicated over 45 years to teaching in both the York City School District and Cobb County School District, GA. Migdon was known for ensuring her students felt loved and supported and is survived by her family.

► **ERIC M. REED '73**, Slatington, died July 18, 2024, at the age of 74. While he earned a degree in elementary education, he transitioned to a career as a master plumber. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.



DRUCKENMILLER '74

► **RICHARD "RICK" LANGDON DRUCKENMILLER '74**, Williamsport, died July 18, 2024, at the age of 72. Druckenmiller was a master carpenter and beloved professor

of building construction technology at Pennsylvania College of Technology for nearly 30 years. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed fly fishing, hunting and spending time with his family.

► **JEAN R. (GROENE) PARKER '74**, died on Oct. 16, 2024, at the age of 90. Parker worked in public libraries and schools and instilled a passion for books in her family. She was a dedicated quilter, creating over 100 quilts for veterans, the homeless and her loved ones and will be missed by all who knew her.

► **VICTORIA L. (UBER) THIEME '74**, Hubbardston, MA, died May 30, 2024, at the age of 70. She was a dedicated German teacher for over 20 years and held multiple master's degrees.



LANDIS '72

► **PHYLLIS ELAINE FRITZ (MACE) LANDIS '75**, died Oct. 10, 2024, at the age of 87. She dedicated nearly 30 years to her work in mental health services and earned the Jefferson Award

and Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Landis's life was devoted to her family, her love for travel and her passion for community service.

► **SALLY SUTER (FOLTZ) LOWNSBERRY '75**, Conestoga, died July 4, 2024.

► **EDWARD MICHAEL MURIN '75**, Asheville, NC, died July 20, 2024, at the age of 73. Murin was a talented artist with a passion for landscapes and history and worked at the Crowne Plaza Resort.



PETERSHEIM '75

► **CARL R. PETERSHEIM '75**, died July 16, 2024, at the age of 70. He worked for Prime Computer and later as professor emeritus of interactive web media at HACC. He

was a baritone with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and Boston Pops Orchestra who loved camping, classic cars and his two dogs, Ira and Emma.



STECKLER '75

► **IRENE MARIE (KOROL) STECKLER '75**, Lititz, died June 24, 2024, at the age of 81. Born in Poland, she went on from Millersville to earn her master's and doctorate degrees in

Russian language and literature from Bryn Mawr College and served as the special assistant for Russian programs to the Librarian of Congress for 17 years.



BECKER '76

► **ANNE RADLEY (DARBY) BECKER '76**, Wellington, FL, died June 29, 2024, at the age of 87. She enjoyed a diverse career, working as a legal secretary before becoming a licensed

massage therapist and owning ABBA Muscle Re-Education Clinic. She was passionate about health, fitness, scuba diving and traveling.





PENTZ '76

► **DONALD H. PENTZ '76**, died June 27, 2024, at the age of 69. Pentz taught in the Elizabethtown School District before becoming a tour guide at the Amish Farm and House.

► **KRAIG A. WALKER '76**, Washington Boro, died Oct. 24, 2024, with his wife of 51 years, RoseMary, by his side. Walker served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and later built a career in computer technology, working for companies like RCA, Armstrong and IBM. A devoted family man, he cherished time with his children and grandchildren.



EVANS '77

► **LESLIE EVANS '77**, Manheim, died July 25, 2024. She received a degree in biology from Millersville and went on to have a long career in healthcare as an RN.



HARTMAN '77

► **JEFFREY R. HARTMAN '77**, Lancaster, died July 3, 2024, at the age of 74. Hartman earned his master's degree in education from MU and spent 38 years as a dedicated physical education teacher, concluding his career in the Eastern Lancaster County School District.



TIETJEN '77

► **SUZANNE MILDRED (HAMSHER) TIETJEN '77**, died Aug. 30, 2024, at the age of 69. A native of Berks County, she began her career as an elementary school

teacher at Hempfield School District, later transitioning to a role as a corporate trainer. Tietjen was a loving mother and enjoyed crafting, gardening and cooking.



SHEPPS '79

► **DEBORAH (HUDSON) SHEPPS '79**, died June 3, 2024. She was a proud member of Millersville's basketball team and was their three-point shooter. She

officiated basketball, field hockey and lacrosse in the Lancaster area for over 30 years.

## 1980s



KUMMERER '81

► **NORMA RUTH (BOYER) KUMMERER '81**, Media, died Sept. 1, 2024, at the age of 87. She was a devoted wife to Gene Henry Kummerer and served as a missionary in Africa and Europe, focusing on education, village evangelism and leadership development.



WATT '81

► **ESTHER (ARMSTRONG) WATT '81**, Willow Valley, died Aug. 11, 2024, at the age of 93. Watt had a distinguished career as a vocal music teacher and served

as the chairperson of the Ephrata Area School District music department. She was recognized in Who's Who in American Education and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association.



FRAME '82

► **RYAN LANCE FRAME '82**, died Aug. 29, 2024. A skilled dog trainer specializing in bird dogs, particularly English Setters, Frame authored a well-regarded book on training

pointer puppies and was active in the field trial circuit. He was known for his loyalty, gentleness and extensive knowledge of sporting dogs.



MCCASKEY '83

► **CURT MCCASKEY '83**, died Aug. 31, 2024, with his wife, Kathy, by his side. McCaskey found his passion in teaching and leadership within the Conestoga Valley and ELANCO School

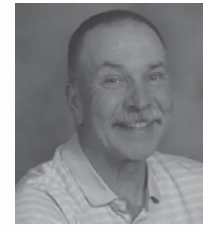
Districts. In retirement, he embraced the outdoors and his favorite sports in Beaufort, SC.



GOSHEN '84

► **BONNIE SUE (GILBERT) GOSHEN '84**, died Oct. 5, 2024, at the age of 79. A dedicated nurse and educator, she received a master's degree in nursing from Villanova

University. Goshen worked for over 30 years at Millersville's Student Health Center, eventually becoming a nurse supervisor and CRNP.



LAZAR '84

► **GEORGE LAZAR '84**, Millersburg, died Oct. 6, 2024, at age 67. Known for his kind and cheerful nature, he was passionate about fitness, nature and his love for trains. Lazar taught for 27

years at Upper Dauphin Area School District.



DORMINY '85

► **MELODIE A. (BLOUGH) DORMINY '85**, Collegeville, died Aug. 28, 2024. She went on to earn a master's in business administration from St. Joseph's University and worked at Pfizer

and as an adjunct professor at Villanova University. She loved spending time with family, cooking and visiting wineries.

► **KENNETH B. MCLAUGHLIN '85**, Lancaster, died Feb. 24, 2011, at the age of 81. He was a dedicated social studies teacher at Penn Manor School District for over 30 years. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Millersville Historical Society.



MYERS '87

► **DOUG ROBERT MYERS '87**, Smithville, TX, died July 2, 2024, at the age of 59. A marine biologist, Myers worked at the Washington Department

of Ecology and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and was an environmental educator, youth counselor and musician.



RODEBAUGH '88

► **KAREN E. (VANARSDALE) RODEBAUGH '88**, Lancaster, died Aug. 17, 2024, at the age of 81.

## 1990s

► **MARY JOYCE (LYDON) FULMER '91**, Elizabethtown, died Oct. 25, 2024, at age 73. Fulmer went on to earn a master's degree in health education from Penn State University. She was passionate about nature and animals, especially cats, and deeply valued her spiritual life and connection with God.



GALE '93

► **TONYA (ZIMMERMAN) GALE '93**, died June 14, 2024, at the age of 53. She was known for her love of cooking, especially Italian cuisine, and for her entrepreneurial spirit.

She cofounded Oby Lee Coffee Roastery in Rehoboth, DE, and created "The Best Places in Town" magazine in Sussex County.



GIBBS '93

► **KAREN L. (GILBERT) GIBBS '93**, Red Lion, died Sept. 3, 2024, at the age of 74. After earning her master's in school counseling, Gibbs dedicated her career to guiding students

at South Eastern School District until her retirement in 2007. A nature lover, she found joy in gardening, sewing and spending time with her family.



MARBERGER '93

► **AMY LEIGH MARBERGER '93**, died July 10, 2024, at the age of 53. She built a successful career at Martin Insurance Agency, where she eventually managed and

marketed commercial and farm accounts. Marberger was deeply involved in her community, serving as festival director for the Long's Park Art Festival and volunteering with the Sertoma Club of Lancaster.



CANNELLA '99

► **SHARRON M. CANNELLA '99**, died July 3, 2024, at the age of 47. Cannella served as a corrections officer, a York City police patrol officer and a special agent with the

FBI, specializing in fraud and crime scene investigations.

► **JOE KLINEDINST '99**, died July 27, 2024. Klinedinst was a beloved teacher at Dallastown High School, where he taught history and coached track and cross country. He was also a dedicated triathlon coach in York, PA, known for his passion for education, fitness and his positive impact on students and athletes.

## 2000s

► **JANICE (HANSELL) BICKEL '01**, Harrisburg, died Aug. 25, 2024, at the age of 45. Janice earned her bachelor's degree from MU and dedicated her life to serving others as a social worker with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

► **JOSEPH ROBERT FIORITO '01**, passed away on Oct. 8, 2024, at the age of 82. Born in Philadelphia, PA, he was a dedicated family man and enjoyed a career as a customer service supervisor with Burlington Industries. Fiorito was passionate about golf and basketball and played for MU in his younger years.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

► **DR. JILL B. HENKE**, a retired faculty member of MU, died Dec. 19, 2023, at the age of 70. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and dedicated her career to education before retiring to Holland with her husband, James Henke. Known for her love of gardening, reading and activism, she touched many lives both professionally and personally.



HENKE

► **DR. RONALD E. SYKES**, West Chester, former faculty member, died Aug. 19, 2024, at the age of 95. Known for his dedication to education and the arts, his legacy includes the establishment of the Ronald E. Sykes Artist-Teacher Award at MU, which continues to inspire future generations of artist-educators.



SYKES



STEVENSON

► **HAZEL MARIE STEVENSON**, New Providence, died July 20, 2024, at the age of 76. Stevenson worked for many years at MU's Galley, where she left a lasting impression on staff

and students alike. She cherished spending time with her family, especially during vacations to Rehoboth Beach. Her warm presence and dedication will be greatly missed by the Millersville community.



WISE

► **DR. R. GORDON WISE**, professor emeritus, Mount Gretna, died Aug. 12, 2024, at age 86. Wise joined the University in 1969 as a professor of art and served as the chair of the art

department for 27 years until his retirement in 1997. An accomplished artist, his work is held in more than 30 public and private collections. His impact on the art world will be remembered by the many students and colleagues whose lives he touched.



YELAGOTES

► **DR. GEORGE JAMES YELAGOTES**, professor emeritus of sociology, died July 20, 2024, at the age of 92. Yelagotes had a distinguished 35-year teaching career, including

positions at Millersville, Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania. A dedicated member of the faculty, he served as president of the faculty union, APSCUF, and was active in numerous University committees.



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[millersville.edu/alumni](http://millersville.edu/alumni)



# The Ripple Effect of Generosity:

## Celebrating the Legacy of Jerry and Susan Eckert in Philanthropy

By Janet Kacsos

**“JERRY ECKERT HAS BEEN A GUIDING LIGHT FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND PHILANTHROPY,” SAYS DR. SAMUEL N. LOMBARDO. “ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO, HE TOLD ME HE WAS GOING TO MAKE ME HAPPY BY LEARNING HOW TO GIVE BACK.”**

Lombardo made his comments after he and his wife Dena received the Susan and Gerald Eckert Philanthropic Service Endowment Award on Oct. 30, 2024.

Established in 2015, the Eckert Award is given to a recipient based on their exemplary service and philanthropy in advancing the mission of public higher education. The unique aspect of the endowment is the recipient(s) directs the annual interest from the endowment to a University program of their choice.

“Our objective in establishing the award was to recognize appropriately the impact of those giving of their time and treasure to improve the human condition and our community,” says Jerry Eckert.

In speaking to the group of past recipients and other benefactors, Eckert said, “What we learned and observed from all of you and wish to emphasize is that your philanthropy is a most worthy investment, having long-range impact. As investors, you may never know specifically those who have benefited, and you may never know the compound interest factor where many are impacted, such as family members and our community.”

“Philanthropy is about telling stories – the impact that giving has on students and our community,” says Eckert.

“We hope our interactions with many of you delivered on the promise that you will experience satisfaction, joy and happiness by giving. Your philanthropy is an investment, sometimes short range, but most times a longer one in advancing our society.”



L-R, DR. SAMUEL LOMBARDO, DENA LOMBARDO, SUSAN ECKERT, JERRY ECKERT

Susan Eckert, the former president of United Way of Lancaster County, is on the advisory board for the Eckert Art Gallery at Millersville University. Established in 2012 in honor of Susan and Jerry Eckert, the Eckert Art Gallery’s mission is to present diverse, dynamic and meaningful visual art experiences to inspire learners to grow both intellectually and personally. It is the University’s main exhibition space, dedicated to providing high-quality exhibits that feature nationally and

internationally recognized artists with the goal of infusing the local and regional art community with new perspectives and exceptional visual art.

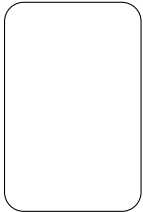
In addition, the Eckerts annually sponsor an art exhibit and the student intern for the gallery. And they established an endowed scholarship for a nontraditional student in honor of Susan’s mother, Dorothy Connolly.

Jerry Eckert was the first vice president for University Advancement at Millersville. He founded the division in 1985 upon his arrival at the University. During his tenure, Eckert propelled the University’s alumni, communications and marketing, special events, government relations and development programs. He guided the University through three highly successful capital campaigns totaling more than \$150 million. These efforts have greatly enhanced University scholarship and program offerings as well as facility improvements over the last 25 years.

The Eckerts have served on countless boards, including WITF, Hourglass,

Steinman Institute, Fulton Theatre, Prima Theatre, Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pennsylvania Governor’s Schools, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Linden Hall, and J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust. ♦

“Philanthropy is about telling stories – the impact that giving has on students and our community,”  
says Jerry Eckert



*By insisting on FSC-certified paper, Millersville University helps to expand the protection of water quality, prohibit harvest of rare old-growth forest and prevent the loss of natural forest cover.*

# GET READY for Millersville's 12<sup>TH</sup> Annual One Day Give

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025** AND GET READY TO BE PART OF THE EXCITEMENT!

Millersville University's **One Day Give** is an incredible opportunity to show your support and 'give to what you love.' This annual celebration is your chance to make a lasting impact by supporting students through a single day of online giving. Your ripples of generosity

provide transformative opportunities that foster student success on Millersville's campus and beyond.

To learn how you can participate and stay updated on One Day Give, visit [Millersville.edu/onedaygive](https://millersville.edu/onedaygive) ◆



## ONE DAY GIVE SOCKS RETURN IN 2025!

The Millersville One Day Give commemorative socks are back with a fresh new design for 2025! We know you've been waiting, and we can't wait to share them with you.

Stay tuned for the big reveal! Be sure to visit [Millersville.edu/onedaygive](https://millersville.edu/onedaygive) and follow MU on social media to see the new look and find out how to get your hands on a pair!

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW **MU** ON INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE 

