

# Millersville

UNIVERSITY **REVIEW**

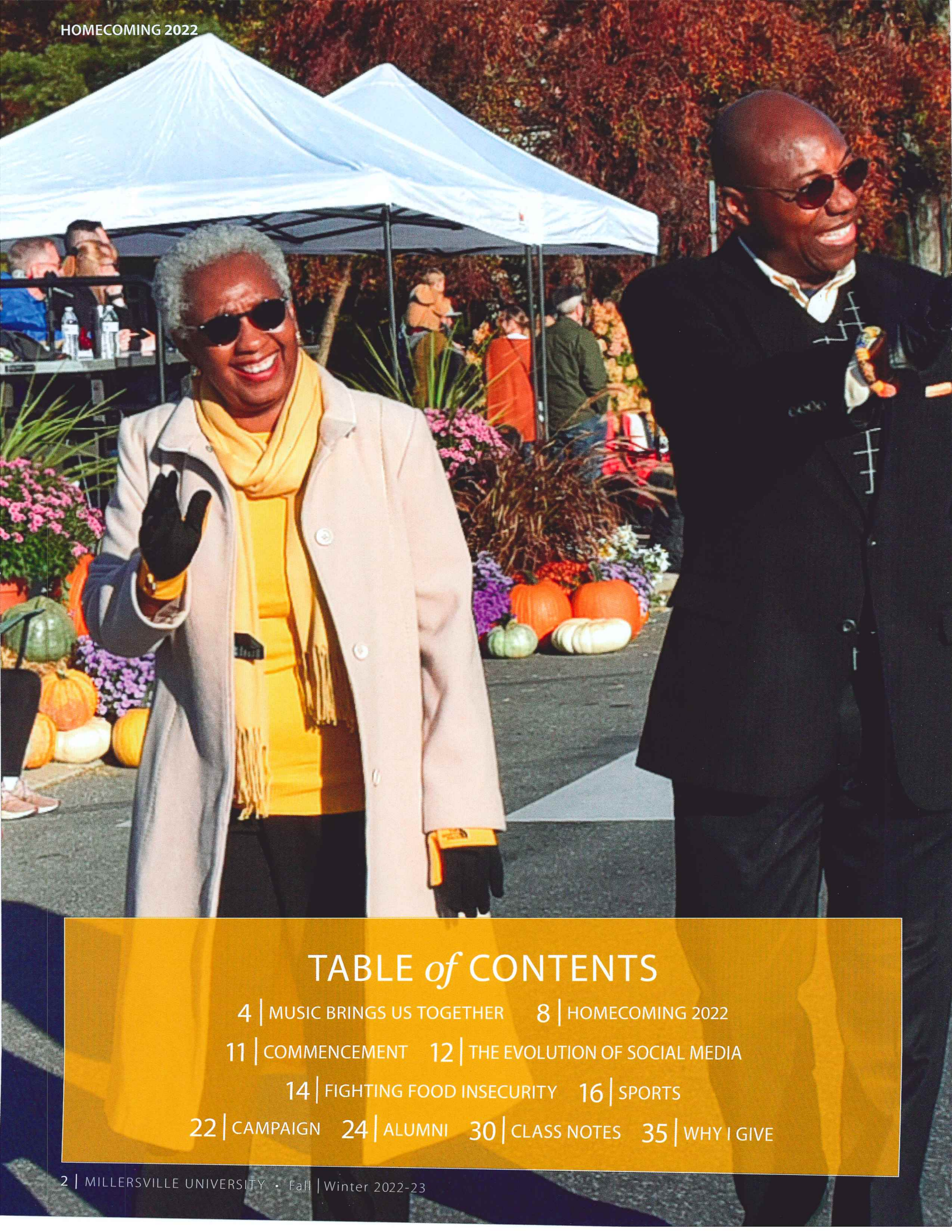
*Chas*  
**McCORMICK '17**



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# Millersville

## UNIVERSITY REVIEW

Fall | Winter 2022-23 | VOLUME 142 | No. 5



### TO OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

As we enter a new year and prepare for the spring semester, it is an excellent time to reflect on the fall semester. After two years of wearing masks and checking our students for Covid, the fall semester was a return to pre-pandemic times. While Covid is still with us, vaccinations have made it more manageable.

The fall semester saw a return to in-person events and lectures, ranging from "Carrie the Musical" to having Kwame Alexander speak about the experiences of young African Americans at the Hazel L. Jackson Lecture. Alexander won the Newbery Medal for "The Crossover," his book written in verse about 12-year-old basketball-playing twins. The 36th Annual Brossman Foundation and Ronald E. Frisbie Sr. Science Lectureship Program returned for the first time since 2019 and featured Dr. Tim Chartier discussing data analytics in sports. December was a busy month with our annual Glorious Sounds of the Season concert and a winter commencement held for the first time in two years.

While the year was uplifting, we also lost two significant retirees. Guilbert Brown, our Vice President of Finance and Administration, who retired in July, passed away in August. And longtime faculty member, volunteer and donor Ralph "Doc" Anttonen passed away in October.

As we look to the coming year, we have much to look forward to. Our annual One Day Give is coming up in February, we'll be wrapping up our Imagine the Possible campaign at the end of June, and we're taking nominations for 40 Marvelous Marauders to celebrate 40 years of Millersville University being a university.

This issue of the Review highlights faculty, students and alums from our music department, and we look at how social media has evolved at the University. You can view photos of the pond restoration, the Homecoming parade, football game, block party and reunions. You can also read about how Millersville is fighting food insecurity, get insight into our two new coaches and find out how a baseball game brought two of our alums together.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

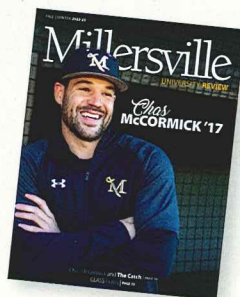
Warm regards,

*Daniel A. Wubah*

Dr. Daniel A. Wubah  
President, Millersville University

**CHAS MCCORMICK GREW UP A PHILLIES FAN BUT FOUND HIMSELF IN THE WORLD SERIES, PLAYING FOR THE HOUSTON ASTROS.**

*Photo by Mark Palczewski.*



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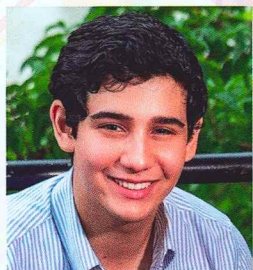


# MUSIC BRINGS US TOGETHER

Whether you want to be a music teacher, performer, work in the music industry, or have a better appreciation for music, the Tell School of Music at Millersville University offers three unique degree programs and a variety of certificates.

"THE **TELL SCHOOL OF MUSIC** SEEKS TO NURTURE AND PREPARE ITS STUDENTS TO LIVE IN AN INCREASINGLY MULTICULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGICALLY COMPLEX SOCIETY, PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN MUSIC EDUCATION, STUDIO TEACHING, MUSIC PRODUCTION, MUSIC MANAGEMENT AND LIVE AUDIO," EXPLAINS. DR. MICHEAL HOULAHAN, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT. "WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN ENRICHING ARTISTIC ENVIRONMENT. WE PROVIDE FREQUENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLO AND ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE, RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIVE SCHOLARSHIP BETWEEN FACULTY AND ALL STUDENTS. THE SYNERGY RESULTING FROM THE BREADTH OF FACULTY EXPERTISE COMBINED WITH STUDENT ENERGY CREATES A VIBRANT ARRAY OF CULTURAL EVENTS. ALL THESE SKILLS HELP OUR STUDENTS SUCCEED IN THE WORKFORCE."

In this article, we hear from two students, two alums and two faculty members.



MANNO '23

**NOAH MANNO '23, FROM BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY**

Many people became familiar with Noah Manno during COVID because

of his work with the group Chromatic, which provided songs for the masses via Zoom. Manno is a music education and vocal performance major at Millersville who is also working on his certificate in music technology. He plans to graduate in May 2023.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES IN MUSIC AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING HOW YOU STARTED CHROMATIC.**

Since starting my studies at the Tell School of Music at Millersville University, it has been incredible. The faculty truly care about every student's

individual success and growth. I have had many opportunities which would not have been possible without the support of the faculty. I have had the pleasure of being the music director, arranger and producer for Millersville's only a cappella group, Chromatic. This past year, we competed in the International Championship for Collegiate A Cappella and placed first in our regional quarterfinal. We then placed third in our semifinal. It was so rewarding to lead a group to such esteemed recognition and success.

Additionally, we were also able to create a huge online following on the social media app TikTok. We gained around 50,000 followers and over 13 million views in a few short months. We were proud to represent the talent of the student body here at Millersville.

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO MUSIC?**

From an early age, I was always surrounded by music. Throughout my schooling, many music educators in my life inspired me to grow and become the musician I am today. Music class was always a sanctuary for me, and I hope to inspire my own students to feel just as safe and supported as I have.

**TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE PERFORMANCES OR CLASSES AT MILLERSVILLE.**

Although I am a music education student, I have had the pleasure of being one of the first students to complete the new Music Technology in Music Education Certificate. Through this program, I was able to refine my technology skills and learn how I could incorporate 21st-century music technology skills into the classroom.



THE GROUP CHROMATIC

**WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT MILLERSVILLE?**

In addition to Chromatic, I am part of Millersville's Chorale, an auditioned vocal ensemble. I have participated in the drumline in Millersville's marching band for three years. I am a part



of the Honors College and have completed the Research Fellows program, a three-semester research fellowship. I am a member of our University's chapter of the National Association for Music Educators. I am also a member of Phi Mu Alpha, a music fraternity.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER COLLEGE?

I plan to spread the love of music throughout my community. This could be teaching at a school, teaching private lessons, or continuing to produce and create wonderful music. My goal is to inspire and bring joy to the people around me.



CLARK '24

#### ADAM CLARK '24, FROM LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Adam Clark is working toward bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Percussion Performance.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME AT MILLERSVILLE

My experiences in the Millersville music department have been interesting. From helping Dr. Barry Atticks shoot a music

video with snakes in the middle of a work-in-progress house from the 1700s to being the website editor for a year, I've worn many hats. I have participated in several ensembles; however, the one I have spent the most time in is Wind Ensemble conducted by Dr. Joe Cernuto. I have participated in the Millersville Chorale and University Choir as a singer and a percussionist, and I have substituted for absent players in both the Concert Band and University Orchestra.

#### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO MUSIC?

I began my "musical journey" when I was 6 at the recommendation of my mother's music friends. I played piano for several years until I got to third grade and started the trumpet, switching to percussion four years later. When I was in eighth grade, I was approached by a senior in the Hempfield High School Marching Knights to join the band. I joined the front ensemble, or pit percussion. I participated for five years, some begrudgingly, until I eventually found my home in it.

#### TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE PERFORMANCES OR CLASSES AT MILLERSVILLE.

Two immediately come to mind: Recording II with Dr. Atticks and The Art of Choral Techniques with Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell. Recording II allowed me to create music, whether recording it, mixing it or both in a studio environment. Dr. Atticks is a wealth of knowledge, and once he drinks his ninth cup of coffee, he'll tell you just about anything you need to know. Art of Choral Techniques with Dr. Gemmell has probably been my favorite education class. We learned lots of practical information about teaching voice and teaching music in general. In ACT, we learn through doing, so there was lots of singing, peer instruction and feedback. Dr. Gemmell is quite the personality and a genuine teacher who wants to see everyone succeed.

*"Where words fail,  
music speaks."*

*Hans Christian Andersen*

#### DO YOU HAVE MENTORS OR OTHERS IN THE FIELD WHO YOU ADMIRE?

Three of my mentors at Millersville are my studio professor, Paul Murr, and two professors I've had for classes, Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell and Dr. Joe Cernuto. I tend to get in my own head, and these three have been nothing but supportive.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER COLLEGE?

I intend to go to graduate school – the "where" of it is currently a big question.

#### ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

Millersville has allowed me to practice and perform my craft with like-minded individuals

and provided me with the skills to go out and teach others as well. I've taught front ensembles in local high school marching bands, including Penn Manor High School, Hershey High School and Eastern York High School.

Being a music student at Millersville is not for the faint of heart. It is a lot of work, and it is important to remember why you are going to school for it in the first place. Many try to bring others down by saying, "Music isn't going to get you a job," or other ridiculous, nonsensical jabs. Without music, the world is dull, and we'd do well to remember that.



MAZZURCO MUSCATO '13

#### BRITTANY MAZZURCO MUSCATO '13 FROM COLLEGEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Brittany Mazzurco Muscato has been teaching at New York University since 2019 and currently teaches data visualization and storytelling. She also works as a senior behavioral designer for the ideas42 behavioral design team that is embedded in the NYC's mayor's office.

Before moving to New York, she was an active member of Trinity Cathedral's choir in Miami, Florida.

#### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO MUSIC?

At the risk of sounding cheesy, I cannot remember a time in my life when music wasn't important to me. I was always singing and performing in some manner or another as a child. However, it wasn't until high school that I began considering a career in music. During my high school years, my love for music evolved into a true obsession. When college application season rolled around, I couldn't imagine being happy doing anything else.

One thing that endeared Millersville's music department to me was that they believed that musicians need to be skillful as performers, educators and entrepreneurs. As someone still figuring out what her nonperformance career in music would look like, this appealed to me.

*"When I hear music,  
I fear no danger.  
I am invulnerable. I see  
no foe. I am related  
to the earliest times,  
and to the latest."*

*Henry David Thoreau*

#### TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE PERFORMANCES AT MILLERSVILLE.

If I had to pick just one, I would say performing in the music department's performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's The Old Maid and The Thief. Not only was I able to perform alongside some of my most beloved classmates, but this was my first time performing in a fully staged operatic production.



## WHAT ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT MILLERSVILLE?

During my four years at Millersville, I was hyper focused on music and participated in many musical ensembles. I participated in several choirs (University Choir and Keystone Singers), played viola in the orchestra for a few semesters and held several positions within the music department's student-run recording studio/music label.

I also participated in a semester-long study-abroad program, where I studied at London Metropolitan University. While there, I still performed in my music classes, but I spent most of my free time trying to explore all of the sights and cultures of western Europe.

## WHY IS MUSIC IMPORTANT AT THE K-12 LEVEL?

The arts provide constructive, beautiful ways for young people to channel their emotions. Participating in music was life-changing and, at times, lifesaving. My mother struggled with illness and addiction throughout my middle and high school years. Music (and singing in particular) was my way to escape and express myself. It was the language of my heart when I didn't have the words.

## ARE THERE JOBS IN THE MUSIC FIELD?

Yes, there are jobs in the music field. The trick is that most music jobs are not exceptionally well-known, nor are they necessarily the ones we musicians might have aspired to as children. Throughout my life, I have taught private lessons, sung as a freelance soloist, been a counselor at a rock 'n' roll summer camp, served as an audio engineer, been paid section leader of a church choir, run public relations for an opera company and served as a freelance digital marketing manager for indie musicians.



CAI '20

## ANYI CAI, '20 FROM CHINA

Pianist and harpsichordist Anyi Cai was born and raised in Hubei, China. She went to the Wuhan Conservatory of Music Middle School and studied piano with professor Wu Man in 2010. In 2012, she started her musical journey in the U.S. with the acceptance into the Pre-College Advanced Music Division Program at Millersville under the guidance of Dr.

Xun Pan. Cai has given solo performances in venues including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C, Wiener Musikverein in Austria and the Ware Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO MUSIC?

I did not come from a musical family, but one of my cousins is a piano teacher in our home city, Wuhan, China. I took advantage of the only musical resource in our family and started having piano lessons with my cousin when I was 6.

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR EDUCATION.

My educational journey in the U.S. began when I went to Lancaster Mennonite High School as a freshman. I was enrolled in the Pre-College Music Division at Millersville University while I was at LMH. I later attended the Tell School of Music at Millersville for my Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in piano performance and harpsichord performance. I recently earned my Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in harpsichord performance. This fall I started my Master of Musical Arts degree at Yale University. It is a special two-year degree program founded at

Yale School of Music for students who already hold a master's degree and are seeking to further advance their training and education.

## DO YOU PERFORM AT YALE?

Students at Yale School of Music are required to perform in ensembles such as Yale Philharmonic, concerts and have their degree recitals. There are plentiful opportunities to perform within and outside of the school. For my degree program, I need to give a public recital every year, with one of them being a lecture recital.

## TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE PERFORMANCES OR CLASSES AT MILLERSVILLE.

One of my favorite performances at Millersville is surely the Winner's Circle concert in late February 2020. I performed Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor with the Millersville University Symphony Orchestra, conducted by maestro Volchansky. It was such a privilege and memorable experience.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT MILLERSVILLE?

I was in the Cantilena women's choir, University Choir, and orchestra during my time at Millersville. Choirs are always fun times with friends. Playing in orchestra as harpist on the keyboard and celeste player were wonderful experiences, too.



JESTER

## DR. JENNIFER JESTER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Dr. Jennifer Jester is a musician, educator, songwriter, entrepreneur and board-certified music therapist. She has a background performing around the world in low brass (trombone, euphonium, tuba) and as a vocalist and percussionist. She is in her seventh year at Millersville.

Jester was named a recipient of the

Modern Band Higher Education Fellowship in 2021 by the nationally renowned Little Kids Rock Program and, in 2022, a Neurologic Music Therapy Fellow.

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO MUSIC?

You could say it is in my DNA. My mom was a concert pianist and piano teacher, my grandfather a banjo player, and my dad a trombone player. I had great aspirations to be an astronaut in high school and even attended Space Academy but ultimately decided music made my soul happy. I just loved performing and making so many kinds of music that there wasn't any other option.

## WHAT GROUPS DO YOU PERFORM WITH?

The Lancaster British Brass Band is a professional organization made up of players from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland



and plays two concert series a year. I also have started playing with my newly formed jazz group – Dr. Jester and the Kings of Swing – a collection of American songbook jazz, bossa nova, funk and other favorites where I sing and play my bass trumpet.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE PERFORMANCES.

It was last fall when I played two euphonium solos with the Combined Wind Ensemble and Concert Band during our annual Brass Day. One of my favorite off-campus performances was for my commercial bands during fall 2021. I had booked preconcert showcase concerts at Phantom Power so the groups could perform before their final performances on campus. After COVID restrictions, this was a fun performance and happened to be the week before Halloween. I encouraged everyone to wear a costume and even showed up in one myself! Not only was it an incredible night of great music, but it was a very healing event for many of my students and myself included.

#### WHO WAS ONE OF YOUR MENTORS?

Sam Pilafian was my main teacher during my undergrad at Arizona State. He was an incredible human, performer and tuba player, and he helped guide me to be eternally curious and creative.

#### WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED IN ON CAMPUS?

This fall, I'm working with the instrumental musicians as part of the University musical Carrie. This is the first time for me to work with this ensemble type in a musical setting.

#### HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MUSIC CLASSES BEING CUT FOR K-12?

It is terrible. As a music therapist and someone who has presented on how songwriting helps boost mental health and wellness, and a proponent that every student needs to be making some kind of music, cutting a music program at this time is the most ignorant thing that could be done in the face of a mental-health crisis. Every class that comes in for the next several years will carry the scars of what COVID brought us. I hope to be one of the squeaky voices for these students who need a positive outlet. Music is the answer. Music education saves lives.

#### ARE THERE JOBS IN THE MUSIC FIELD?

Live audio? Yes. Especially on the touring side. They are desperate for qualified workers who are mentally and emotionally tough enough to handle the ups and downs of touring. For a young person right now, the sky is the limit – I would add that those with a college degree and some training will advance faster and fare better in the long run. And, oh my goodness, do we need more teachers. For those who love teaching, now is the time to dive back in. We need you!



**DR. PHILIP TACKA,  
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC**

Dr. Philip Tacka has been a professor of music at Millersville since 2002. He has performed in Hungary, conducted the choir at Georgetown University, and written dozens of articles and published 16 books with Dr. Micheál Houlihan, chair of the Tell School of Music. Two new volumes, "Choral Artistry: A Kodály Perspective for Middle School to College Level Choirs" and "Choral

Sight Reading" are scheduled to be published in 2023 by Oxford University Press. In March 2016, he was awarded the Organization of American Kodály Educators Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2017 he was recognized in the Hungarian Parliament as a distinguished alum.

#### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO MUSIC?

I grew up in a musical family. My father's side of the family was musical; he was one of nine children, all of whom played instruments. My father never had a lesson but played several instruments; piano and banjo were his favorites. One of his sisters was a professional violinist, and I loved watching her perform in orchestra concerts. I loved my elementary and middle school music teachers. My formal study began in fifth grade when I went to the Peabody Preparatory division in Baltimore.

#### DO YOU HAVE MENTORS OR OTHERS IN THE FIELD WHO YOU ADMIRE?

One of many would be my piano teacher at Peabody and, through my undergraduate years, Reynaldo Reyes. He could play anything and always gave me a choice in terms of repertoire. His performances always inspired me.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME IN HUNGARY.

My studies in Hungary led to numerous international presentations and my subsequent work in music cognition and perception. I began

active work in perception and cognition before I came to Millersville, at the Institute of Cognitive and Computational Science at my previous academic home, Georgetown University. That work took me to Finland many times over several years. At that time, musicological and ethnomusicological studies had expanded into neuroscience. I saw my art through an entirely different lens, which was pathbreaking.

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."

*Confucius*

#### HAS THERE BEEN A STANDOUT STUDENT IN YOUR TIME AT MILLERSVILLE?

Dr. Laura Petravage is probably our most interesting and unusual student. She came to us after already earning a master's degree from the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., an undergraduate degree from American University in Washington, D.C., and was completing her doctorate in conducting at James Madison University. Laura came to the Tell School of Music to get certification in music education. She observed Micheál Houlihan teach several theory classes and told him that she wanted to learn how to teach music theory using the Millersville approach. Much to her credit, she entered our program and got her second undergraduate degree in music education after she completed her doctorate at James Madison.

#### MUSIC CLASSES HAVE BEEN CUT AT THE K-12 LEVEL IN SOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS. HOW DOES THAT IMPACT STUDENTS?

While there are school systems that have made cuts to music programs, there are many that have not. I'm happy to report that all of our Tell School of Music education graduates are employed teaching in both public and private schools. It's been my experience that well-trained musicians and teachers are always employed. ♦

TACKA

Perspective for Middle School to College Level Choirs" and "Choral



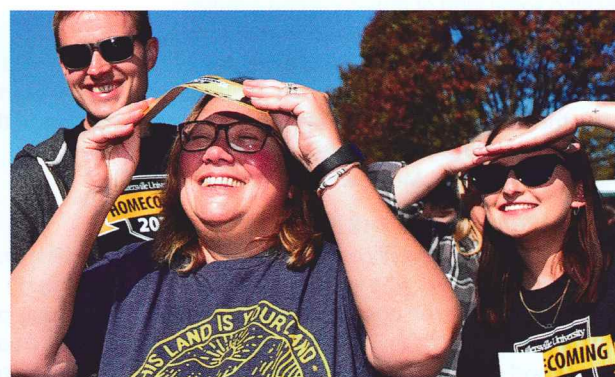
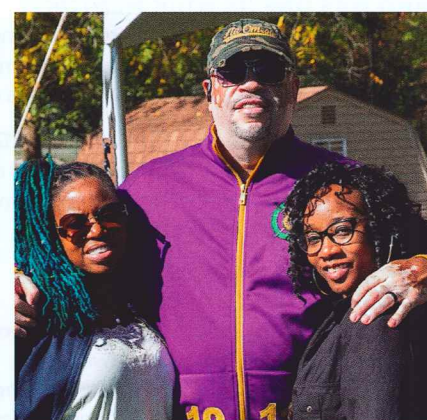


# HOMECOMING

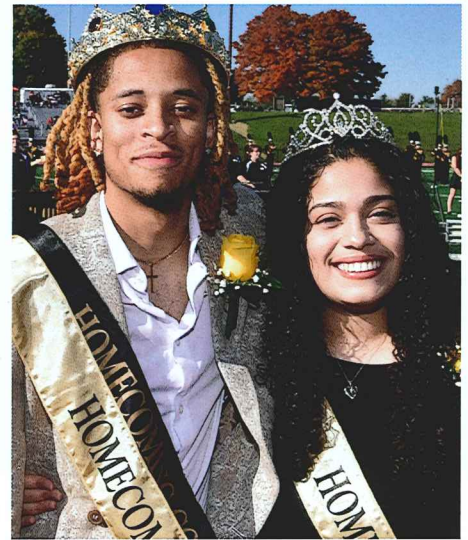
# 2022

SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING 2023 : OCTOBER 13-14

Millersville University's Homecoming 2022 was a special celebration filled with a variety of activities and events for everyone to enjoy. The weekend of beautiful weather provided a perfect backdrop for the Millersville Parade and the annual block party event, featuring food, games, live music, kids' activities and reconnecting with friends. At the football game, an enthusiastic crowd cheered the team to victory, along with the crowning of Homecoming royalty and appearances by Skully in an exciting weekend at the 'Ville. ♦









# ALUMNI | REUNIONS

**HOMECOMING 2022** was a time for friends to reconnect at a host of events and reunions.

From the 50th Reunion Celebration for the Class of 1972 to celebrating with alumni at A Divine Nine Collective Reunion, there was plenty of time for conversation and reminiscing.

Here are photographs from the weekend. ♦



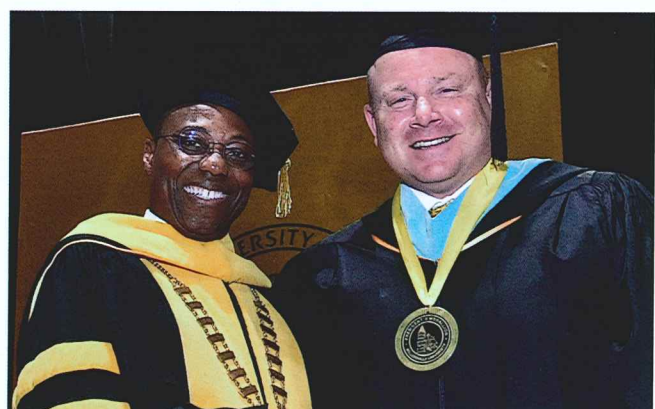
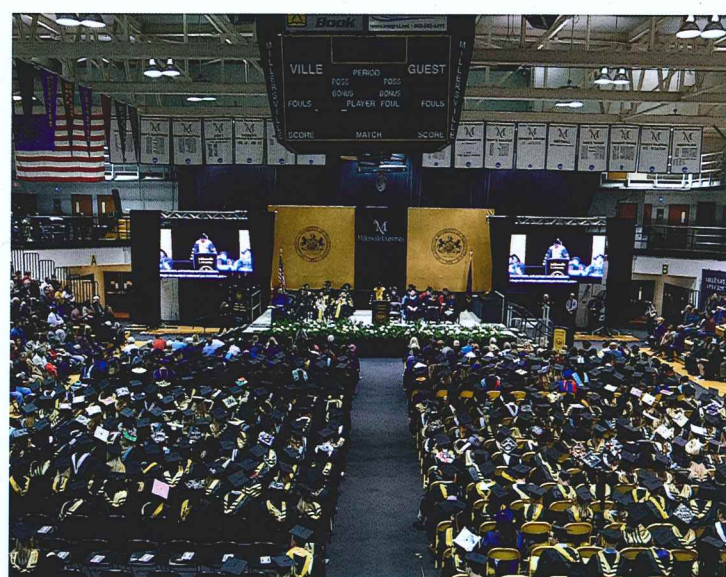
**CLASS of 1972** Left to Right **FRONT ROW:** Karen Mann, Priscilla Fias, Judith Jacobs, Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, Mark Phillips, Arlene Hassler, Cynthia Pagotto **SECOND ROW:** Marie Krosnick, Walter Ledzinski, Gary Hague, Carroll "Butch" Staub, Margaret Younger, Susan Nelson, Robert Jacques **THIRD ROW:** Sally Clark, Kathy Showers, Janet Hague, Gerald Pizzola, Wendy Adam, Rosemary Shellhamer, Virginia Carl **BACK ROW:** Stephen Gring, Dianne Hefter, Anita Thomas, Isabel Bentz, Mike VanBuskirk, Cynthia Uhrich, June Chamberlain, Dianne Hobson

## THE 'VILLE HOMECOMING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: A Divine Nine Collective Reunion



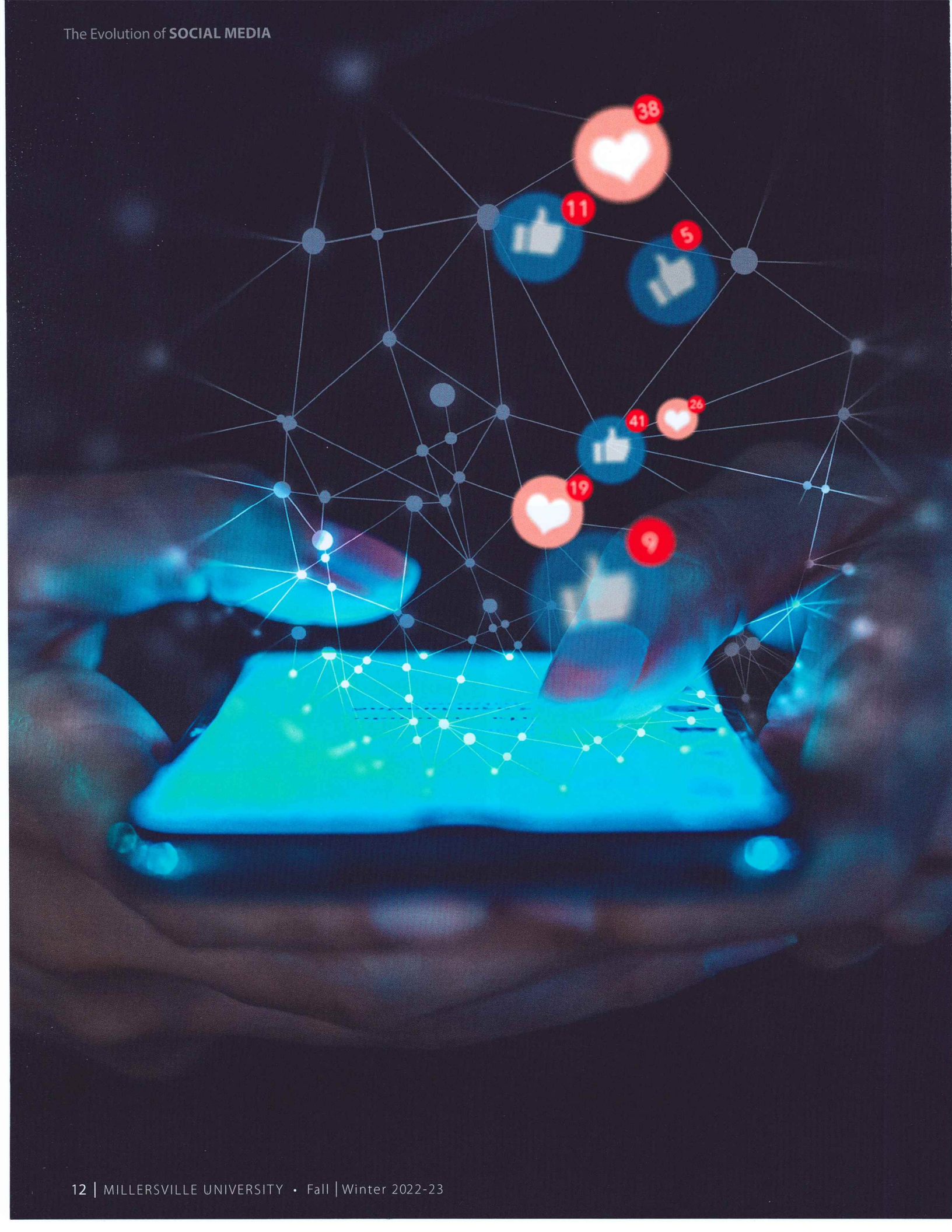


# COMMENCEMENT | 2022



**Clockwise Left to right;** Dr. Joseph Lynch served as the Mace Bearer at the December Commencement; President Wubah congratulates Delaney Bosworth. Madison Whitcomb, who served on the Council of Trustees graduated with honors; Pucillo Gym was a happy place on Dec. 11; President Wubah congratulates Senator Scott Martin '02 on receiving the President's Medallion; the rain stopped so families could greet their graduates outside and Brent Frey '83 presented the Commencement Address.







# The Evolution of Social Media

BY KELSEY MADAS

IN 2009, MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY MARKED ITS ENTRANCE INTO THE WORLD OF SOCIAL MEDIA WITH ITS FIRST FACEBOOK POST: A LINK TO AN NPR STORY ABOUT STUDENT RETENTION. IT HAD JUST ONE LONELY LIKE. TODAY, MILLERSVILLE HAS ACTIVE PROFILES ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, LINKEDIN AND TIKTOK AND A COMBINED FOLLOWING OF MORE THAN **100,000** FOLLOWERS.

If you spend any time on the internet, you also likely have one, if not several, social media profiles. Today, it's not uncommon for entire businesses to launch, grow and operate exclusively on social media platforms. Social media users found ways to transform their 15 minutes of viral internet fame into bona fide celebrity status.

Aside from launching aspiring stars' careers, these platforms also provide accessible ways to learn useful skills and knowledge. A quick search on YouTube or TikTok will reveal a near-limitless supply of tutorials on just about any subject. But what really makes these platforms valuable is their reach. In fact, a TikTok video posted by Millersville's own student-led a capella ensemble, Chromatic, racked up over 11 million views.

"Social media is part user-generated or re-created content, and part technology platform. How the two sides or two components complement each other, and how the users or content creators interact with the site, is important in developing patterns and trends," says Dr. Stacey Irwin, professor of Media Arts Production at Millersville University.

You've probably noticed that your newsfeeds are filled with just as many ads as it is posts of selfies, cute babies, adorable animals and comedy sketches – or whatever your corner of the internet looks like. Each person's experience on social media looks just a bit different. "One of the interesting trends that has developed in all kinds of digital technologies and media is the ability to target individual demographics more precisely," shares Irwin. "The algorithms can pinpoint habits and trends and time frames of consumer use and experience and potential consumers much more quickly and easily. Data mining has become very sophisticated." Looking for patterns in their users' data makes ads even more personalized, for better or for worse. "Companies can more specifically spread their advertising dollars more strategically than ever before, and consumer habits are more tracked than ever before. This impacts how companies conduct business."

One of the best ways to learn about the ever-changing world of social media is to go to the experts. To that end, Millersville recruited two new student workers this summer to help launch the brand on TikTok: Brooke Mathews and Armoni Stewart. "Being an avid TikTok user myself, I wanted to bring the fun, popular trends and relate them to our niche," shares Mathews. "Things that MU students can relate to, while also being a platform that visually shows what is happening around campus." With their combined expertise, they

helped to grow the account from 0 to 500 followers in the first three months of its launch. "My generation uses social media as a tool," explains Stewart. "It is vital that we can meet them where they are."

These platforms aren't just useful to connect with current and prospective students. Dr. A. Nicole Pfannenstiel, an associate professor of English, uses social media to teach. "I use Twitter instead of discussion boards," she shares. Pfannenstiel uses a hashtag to group the conversations together online. "I incorporate Twitter into 90% of the courses I teach." It was a practice she developed at another university and carried the work over to Millersville, where it continues to evolve. Pfannenstiel says most students appreciate the experience. "Most students are not familiar with Twitter, and that's actually good," she shares. "If your people aren't here, you're not going to use the platform, and that's fine. You'll notice the differences more, which will make all of the assignments easier." Many students also enjoy getting to select their name and identity. "Discussion boards don't allow that. I recently had a discussion with students on Twitter, and they said they appreciate the conversation element of Twitter more than the discussion boards."

It seems like social media is here to stay, though it will continue to change. "Part of the staying power of social media comes from the investment and interest of tech companies," explains Irwin, noting that not all social media platforms have staying power. "The big ones do now because they are well funded and have become ritualized and habits in many cultures. These companies learned how to monetize their investment before they ran out of financial resources." Case in point: Facebook, which acquired Instagram and several other companies, was invented almost 19 years ago and remains a competitive player in the space.

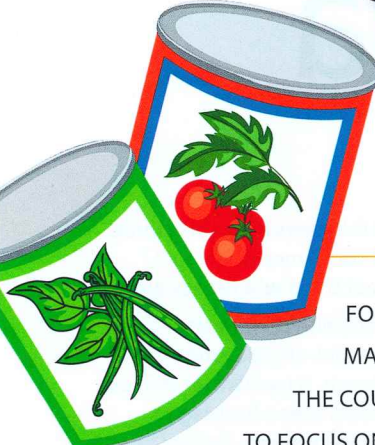
People, Irwin notes, have grown attached to social media. It's a part of their everyday lives. "A generation has grown up with this kind of platform and content," says Irwin. "Newspapers and magazines became a ritual. Radio became a ritual. Then television became a ritual. Each generation embraced these kinds of content. Now it is social media's turn. And social media uses that older content like movie clips, GIFs, memes and music and repurposes them into a new form. So, it is at once new and familiar." Irwin says that's another reason it has staying power. "It's the readily available, informing and entertaining, and frankly, comforting content at our fingertips that has become a consistent ritual and habit in the fabric of our lives. We wake up to it and go to bed to it and live with it in between."

What does the future social media look like? That remains to be seen, but Irwin has a few ideas. She predicts larger streaming files, quicker downloads and more immersive experiences like augmented reality – some of which are already happening. "I think there will always be some fringe socials and some more well-established socials," she shares. In the meantime, follow Millersville University on your preferred social media platform. We'll see you online. ♦



# Fighting FOOD INSECURITY

By Mary Miller '22 '24M



FOOD INSECURITY IS A PROBLEM THAT MANY COLLEGE STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FACE—IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO FOCUS ON EDUCATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNSURE HOW THEY WILL AFFORD THEIR NEXT MEAL. OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY HAS TAKEN STEPS TOWARD ALLEVIATING FOOD INSECURITY ON CAMPUS.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Two recent endowments made by alumni are targeted toward food insecurity. One of these donations created the *Seaber Athletic Meal Support Fund*, founded by alumna Kathryn Seaber '76. This endowment was created to help student-athletes through partial or complete meal plan funding.

Another award, the *Murley Meal Plan Support Scholarship Endowment*, was donated by alumna Karen Murley '63. This scholarship is meant to provide the recipients, students in good academic standing with demonstrated financial need, with a meal plan for both the fall and spring semesters.

## HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS INITIATIVE

Pennsylvania's First **LADY FRANCES WOLF** and acting Secretary of Education **ERIC HAGARTY** visited Millersville in August to announce the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative. This grant program is designed to help students at risk of hunger access free, healthy food on college campuses across Pennsylvania.

Many students have relied on free meals throughout their lives, but college students do not often have access to the same assistance provided by their grade schools and secondary schools. The Hunger-Free Campus Initiative seeks to help students financially as they balance the costs of housing, tuition, textbooks and more.

The initiative focuses on building a coalition of colleges and universities across the state in order to provide resources for campuses and support opportunities to apply for grants related to addressing food insecurity. Universities in the coalition will work to address student hunger and other basic needs.

Millersville University has been designated as a PA Hunger-Free Campus. That means the University will have access to the PA Hunger-Free Campus grant program. One million dollars of the 2022-23 state budget will be applied to this program, which will also help schools enhance food pantries and increase Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program outreach.

## CAMPUS SERVICES

The Food Recovery Network at MU is a student-run organization which, under the advisement of Dr. Jennifer Frank, has helped to eliminate food waste and food insecurity on campus since its inception in 2017. The club currently collects food and other prepackaged snacks that students donate from the Cove, and then gives that food to the Campus Cupboard, located in the HUB. Over the past five years, FRN has collected and donated 1,870 pounds of food.

"The FRN is a local chapter of a national organization and movement," explains Frank. "FRN's mission is to eliminate waste and feed people! I love that dual goal. It is a shame that there is so much food waste, especially when there are so many hungry people. We need to be more creative and figure out ways to do both."

As for the Campus Cupboard, the HUB's new director, Jacob Marino, plans to continue the food pantry. Here, students can shop for groceries at no cost, including frozen meals, dry and canned goods, specialty items and hygiene products.

The HUB has always been a place of service on campus, and Marino plans to continue the tradition. Free meals are served to the Millersville community every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Grab-and-go breakfast items are available in the HUB café every morning, where an assortment of snacks can often be found as well.

The University also encourages the use of Share Meals, a free app that helps students locate free food on campus. By creating an account with their Millersville email address, students are automatically enrolled in the Millersville community and can get notifications whenever an event with free meals occurs. Students can also use the app to indicate that they would like to share their dining funds with another student. This not only eliminates hunger but also allows students to create new friendships by sharing a meal together.

Additionally, a new orchard on campus will begin to produce fruit in about three to five years. The biology department is partnering with the HUB, and some of this fresh produce will be donated to the Campus Cupboard.

"This is a serious issue for many reasons," says Frank. "Hunger and food insecurity affect our health, our academics and our overall well-being."

"A study we conducted in 2019, which is now published in the 'Journal of Poverty,' found 36.5% of our students had low or very low food security," she concludes. "It is so important to focus on food security because this issue affects more students than you might think." ♦







# *The* CATCH



AP Photo/Matt Slocum



by Ethan Hulseley

**CHAS MCCORMICK** finished his postgame interviews and was the last player remaining on the expansive green grass of Citizens Bank Park. With his hands locked on top of his cap, McCormick exhaled and stared off into the emptiness of the stadium, relishing the silence that had been a fevered roar only a short time before. For the first time in a long time, his mind was clear. There were no thoughts of scouting reports and defensive alignments, no worries about arranging tickets for family and friends, and no more “tell us about the catch” questions. This ... was release. With his Astros headed back to Houston one win away from a World Series Championship, this was peace.

In the days leading up to game three of the World Series, much of the media focus was on McCormick, the West Chester native and 2017 graduate of Millersville University, who was headed home to play on baseball’s grandest stage against a team he had rooted for as a kid.

“Just playing in Philadelphia for the first time, there was a lot going on,” said McCormick. “Even my parents, after the series, sitting down having dinner, said, ‘Thank God it is over.’”

Well before the World Series and even before his Major League call-up in 2020, McCormick had already become a legend at Millersville’s Cooper Park, just 78 miles to the west. He was the 2017 PSAC East Athlete of the Year and set the PSAC record for hits. And catches? Millersville fans had seen McCormick make brilliant catches as the team’s right fielder. He ran into the wall and saved a run in the eighth inning against Mercyhurst in the 2015 PSAC Semifinals (Millersville went on to win the championship). There was the 2016 Atlantic Regional when he saved the season and started a run to the Division II World Series with a diving catch in the bottom of the ninth against Seton Hill.

Those catches only exist in the memories of those who were there—the faithful few in the dugout, the stands and the press box who saw McCormick’s relentless hustle and uncanny knack for the clutch moment live. When McCormick scaled the wall in right-center field and robbed All-Star catcher J.T. Realmuto of extra bases in the bottom of the ninth of game five and preserved a 3-2 win for his Astros, he created an iconic moment in the history of baseball—a highlight that will be shown as long as the game of baseball is played. The photo of his silhouette imprinted in the warning track went viral. The catch and the game-five victory made McCormick, a former 21st-round draft pick from a Division II school in Pennsylvania, a household name and legend in Houston.

Playing in the World Series was a childhood dream come true. Still, playing in Philadelphia for the first time against the favorite team of his family, friends and former Millersville teammates only intensified



MCCORMICK '17

**“I loved how quiet it was because that stadium had been rocking the past three days. There was no better feeling standing on that field in an empty stadium,”**

*says McCormick*

the pressure on McCormick. He received lots of (probably) good-natured ribbing before, during and after the series, and all of that made the three games in Philadelphia a precarious amalgamation of feelings for McCormick, who was desperately trying to stay even-keeled enough to play winning baseball.

“Oh, man. I got a couple of good lucks, a couple ‘you are headed into the jungle,’” said McCormick. “It was a mix of ‘good luck, but we hope the Phillies win.’”

“Being in that position is tough,” said McCormick. “You have to look at the other players who have been in the ALCS six years in a row and in the World Series a couple of

times. You see how they act. It’s very calm, cool, collected. Obviously, I’m playing in Philadelphia for the first time in a World Series. My emotions were even higher. It was a lot for my family, and a lot for my girlfriend. It was tough to stay in the middle ground. I was really looking forward to playing in Citizens Bank Park. I was super excited. The first time warming up before game three, seeing the Red October and the fans going crazy, thinking, ‘this is it.’ But I have to take it as another game. It’s the World Series in Philadelphia, but

it’s another game. ‘You’ve been playing in the big leagues for a couple of years, but nothing’s changed; just keep playing your game.’ But obviously, there were a lot of mixed feelings and mixed emotions with friends and family. I wanted to enjoy every second of this. The last time the Phillies and Astros played in the World Series was 40 years ago, so this might never happen again.”

When McCormick made the catch, that was simply McCormick being McCormick. He’s a baseball player who plays pitch to pitch. He’s a baseball player for which no

moment, no at-bat, no defensive play is too big, too pressure packed or too meaningful. It isn’t a coincidence that McCormick was a part of four straight PSAC East-winning teams, a PSAC Championship and an Atlantic Region Championship at Millersville. It isn’t luck that McCormick won a championship at every level of the minor leagues. He’s a baseball player—a winning baseball player. That game-five catch let McCormick forget about the week’s emotions in Philadelphia and let him be a baseball player just playing a game once again.

“After the game, the catch, they had me stay on the field for some interviews, and when I’m standing there, there are no fans in the stands, just a couple of Astros fans rooting me on. My family came down from the stands, so it was kind of hitting me all at once. It was full circle. My 12-year-old self would be upset with me making that catch, but I was just trying to soak it all in ... I don’t think it was one of my hardest catches, but it was a big catch at the time, so that’s why I loved every second of it. I loved how quiet it was because that



stadium had been rocking the past three days. There was no better feeling standing on that field in an empty stadium."

"When he timed it up on the warning track, I thought, 'he's got it,'" said Millersville baseball coach Jon Shehan. "Honestly, I wasn't surprised he caught it. He always has a sense of when the game is on the line and an understanding of when to sacrifice his body for the good of the team. We are used to him doing it because he's done it so often."

Shehan, now in his 16th season at Millersville, was in Houston, cheering from the stands in game one of the World Series when McCormick singled in his first at-bat. Right next to Shehan was Ryan McCormick, Chas's older brother and a 2011 Millersville University alum. Shehan became Millersville's head coach in Ryan's freshman season of 2008. Over the next four years, the two took a program from 9-37 to two PSAC East titles and a Division II World Series appearance. Ryan, a slick-fielding second baseman, later helped guide his younger brother toward Millersville.

"I wasn't recruited heavily, but I really wanted to play for Jon," said Ryan. "I joked with Jon after his 100th win and said, 'I've seen all 100 of them.' Coming out of high school, Chas got more interest than I did, but I told him that as long as Jon was at Millersville, it would be a good opportunity for him. There was familiarity. He would be in an environment with a work ethic to strengthen and build his game. We weren't even thinking about pro ball. It was 'get your education and go play for a great program and have a chance to go back to the NCAA World Series.'"

Ryan's advice proved correct as Chas played in four straight NCAA Regionals, reached the national championship series in 2016, hit .373 over his career and became the only Marauder named All-PSAC East First Team four times. What Ryan helped build and what Chas helped continue was an incomparable winning culture that sustains success.

From Ryan's first season to 2022,

Millersville has been the best team in the PSAC East nine times and reached the NCAA

Tournament 11 years in a row—a streak unmatched in the Atlantic Region.

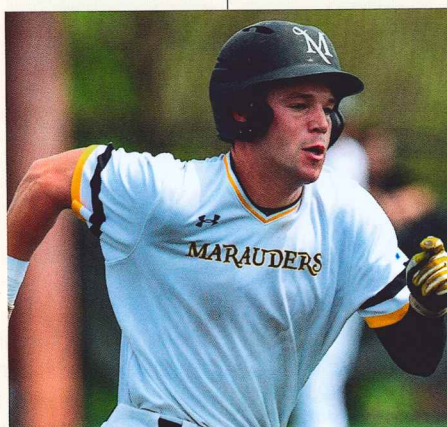
As great a player as McCormick was—arguably the best in Millersville's history—the team won before he arrived and has continued to win since his graduation.

Sustaining success is the trait that separates good programs from great

ones. For the last six years, McCormick has been a part of Major League Baseball's standard bearer. Since McCormick was drafted in 2017, the Astros have reached the American League Championship Series every year, played in the World Series four times, and have won it twice. Both Ryan and Chas see similarities between Millersville baseball and the Houston Astros.

"It's the winning culture," said Chas. "When I left Millersville and got to the Astros organization, it felt very similar. With the coaches we had, the dedication, willing every day to help make the guys better. That's what Shehan was always about. Every single day: 'How can we get you better in any way, on or off the field?'"

"It's comparable," said Ryan. "The two things are relationships and development. You see what the Millersville alumni base has become. It's a family. If you are around the Astros as much as I've been in the six years since Chas was drafted, the same things fit. It's relationships in that organization. The number of guys that Chas played with all through the minor leagues, all these guys are in the big leagues from moving through the system, and a lot of them aren't first-round picks. These are guys who have earned it. At Millersville, Jon always said, 'leave no doubt' if you want to play every day. He makes you earn it."



MCCORMICK WAS THE 2017 PSAC EAST ATHLETE OF THE WEEK.

Chas is one of four Millersville alums to play in the Major Leagues and the first alum to win a major sports championship as a player in any sport. While his path to World Series champion was unlikely, he was one of four PSAC alums competing in the MLB postseason in 2022. In that group was fellow Millersville alum Tim Mayza, a pitcher for the Toronto Blue Jays. Mayza, now 30 years old, has spent five seasons in the big leagues, and 2022 was the best of his career, going 8-1 with a 3.14 ERA. Mayza and McCormick played just one season together in 2013, but both are undeniably products of the winning culture,

relationships and development Millersville baseball offers.

"Millersville has always been a big family," said Shehan. "That's what college athletics is supposed to be. It's become too much of a business, and there is volatility in chasing wins instead of chasing culture that leads to wins. The game has changed so much. We can't have the same program today that we did when Ryan was here in 2011 or when Chas was here in 2016. We continue to learn, innovate and improve on the culture and player development."

The methods may change, but the relationships and the selfless and relentless core values endure and produce the same winning results. And those results were seen by millions on Nov. 5 when McCormick crashed into the outfield wall and fell to the warning track with the World Series hopes of two fan bases squeezed in his glove. McCormick may be an Astro now, but he'll be a Marauder forever. ♦

"The two things are relationships and development. You see what the Millersville alumni base has become. It's a family," says McCormick





# NEW COACH

## 'Ville Names **JERRY BOLAND** as Head Wrestling Coach

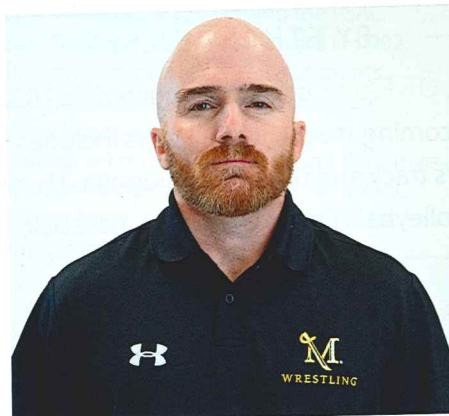
MILLERSVILLE WRESTLING NAMED **JERRY BOLAND** ITS NEW HEAD WRESTLING COACH ON JUNE 9, 2022. BOLAND HAS TRAVELED AN UNCONVENTIONAL PATH TO MILLERSVILLE WITH A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS A HIGH SCHOOL COACH, TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR BEFORE STARTING THE DAVIS & ELKINS COLLEGE PROGRAM FROM SCRATCH. BOLAND LED 10 WRESTLERS TO THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN JUST THREE YEARS.

### Can you share with us your journey to becoming Millersville's head coach?

"My journey to Millersville has been a very nontraditional one, to say the least. I've been involved in wrestling as a coach since graduating from Lycoming College in 1998. I always had the desire and dream of coaching at the collegiate level. I took my 14 years of high school coaching seriously in hopes of one day moving on to a higher level. However, in 2010, I made the professional decision to move into school administration. My high school coaching days were over, and I became a coach at the club level as well as a high school official. Both experiences gave me different perspectives of the sport. In 2018, after discussions with my family, I decided to pursue the possibility of returning to competitive coaching—this time chasing that dream I once had of being a college wrestling coach. Shortly following that decision, Davis & Elkins College, a Division II program in Elkins, West Virginia, made the decision to hire me as the head coach of their startup program. This past spring, I saw an opportunity that I could not pass up and pursued the position here at Millersville, as head wrestling coach. I feel extremely blessed to be here and thankful that my family has supported me along this journey."

### In what ways did your career as a teacher and administrator help you become a better coach?

"Spending 20 years in the New Jersey public school system provided me with plenty



**BOLAND**

of experiences and an invaluable skill set that I am able to utilize as a coach. First and foremost, the value I have on education has such an impact on my program and the expectations I have for our student-athletes. Second, the experience to see how differentiated education and learning can be provided me with a perspective to treat each of our student-athletes in their own unique way. They all have different backgrounds and personalities, wrestling styles, and learning/life needs. It's only fair that I understand each of them and figure out what I can do to get the best out of them. Finally, the relationships I built with students, staff and parents were experiences that are completely irreplaceable. Most were positive relationships, but even the ones that weren't so positive allowed me to see things through a different lens."

### With the success you were having at D&E, what made Millersville a destination for you?

"Honestly, I was not looking to leave D&E. We were becoming a successful program, and my family was excelling out there. However, Millersville is an amazing institution with a strong academic and athletic reputation. Lancaster County is a beautiful area to live and raise a family. It allowed my wife and I (as well as our children) to be much closer to our families. Clearly, this checked many important boxes in our lives, and we are very fortunate to be here."

### How do you plan on building on the program's recent successes?

"The program was in very good shape when I arrived here. I felt my job was to listen and observe what had been working for this group and figure out how to implement my style as seamlessly as possible. I do believe this was a successful step in the process, and the program will continue to move forward in a positive direction."

### Can you describe transitioning into a program as a new coach and how you establish your way of doing things?

"Transitioning into a new program is challenging for all stakeholders. Change can be good in many ways but can also be bad if not handled appropriately. To me, it's important to follow what I call the three Ls of leadership: look, listen and learn. This was the best way to get this team to buy into my style and successfully implement things that have worked for my teams in the past. It's not really my way of doing things; it's our way of moving forward together."

### What does a Millersville wrestling practice look like under your direction?

"That's classified information. Practices are fast paced, high energy and have a lot of intensity. There's very little downtime, and the athletes are engaged throughout the practice."

### What will fans see when they come to Pucillo Gymnasium to watch a match this year?

"Hopefully the description of our practice will translate to the type of team we will produce on the mat ... one that pushes the pace and brings a ton of energy on and off the mat."

### What coaching accomplishments are you most proud of?

"That's a tough question. Starting a college program with no college coaching experience and quickly establishing recognition as a reputable program was an amazing experience. I also know there's more to accomplish, so that's something that hopefully has different answers every few years." ♦



## ALUMNI NEWS | AWARDS

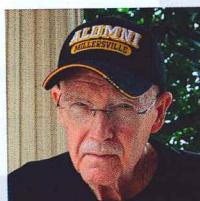
Alumni Honors **FOUR**

Millersville University is proud to have a very diverse and successful alumni body throughout the world. Each year the Millersville University Alumni Association recognizes and celebrates outstanding alumni achievements through the Alumni Awards program. To read the full biography for each of this year's award recipients, and to nominate other deserving alumni, visit [villealumni.com](http://villealumni.com). We'd love to hear from you.

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI** *Award***ARMENTA WASHINGTON '85****WASHINGTON '85**

Armenta L. Washington, M.S., is a research coordinator senior with Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Washington graduated from Millersville University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology in 1985 and received a Master of Science degree in health education from Saint Joseph's University.

In her role with the Office of Diversity and Outreach, Washington utilizes her expertise in building community partnerships to raise awareness, educate and innovate approaches to address cancer health disparities and decrease the cancer burden in underserved communities. In her role with the Office of Diversity and Outreach, Washington has co-developed a Clinical Trial Community Ambassador Program to increase African Americans' participation in cancer clinical trials. Washington and her colleagues developed an internationally recognized drive-by colon cancer clinic during the height of COVID-19. She served as an advisor on the President's Cancer Panel report, "Closing Gaps in Cancer Screening: Connecting People, Communities, and Systems to Improve Equity and Access." Washington was named the Philadelphia Magazine Be Well Philly 2021 Health Hero. She currently serves as a member of Penn's Center for AIDS Research Community Advisory Board where she is the co-chair of the Black Men's Health Initiative. ♦

**OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE** *Award***JOSEPH B. WILT '69, '72M****WILT '69, '72M**

Joseph B. Wilt graduated from Millersville State College in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education in English and a Master of Education degree in English in 1972. Wilt has dedicated many years to teaching and coaching, through his career of 42 years. For 36 years, Wilt taught English at Dover Area High School in York County, followed by teaching for six years at Harrisburg

Area Community College. As a basketball coach for 24 years at Dover Area High School, Wilt coached boys basketball teams at all levels. Wilt was awarded York County Coach of the Year for the 1989-1990 season by the York Daily Record.

Over the years, Wilt has enjoyed participating in a wide range of volunteer activities at Millersville University. He has served as a board member of the Millersville University Alumni Association and as a member of the MUAA Alumni Engagement Committee, volunteered as a campus tour guide, served as a spokesperson for students interested in careers in teaching and athletic coaching and actively supported Millersville University athletic teams. ♦

**YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT** *Award***MARY KATE LOWE '09****LOWE '09**

Mary Kate Lowe received a bachelor's degree in social work from Millersville University in 2009. She earned a Master of Social Work from Adelphi University in 2012 and in 2020, she completed a Volunteer Management Certification. In 2021, Lowe earned a master's degree in nonprofit management from Grace College and Theological Seminary.

From 2012 to 2017, Lowe worked as a mentoring manager with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, New York. From 2018 to 2021, she transitioned to being a foster care clinician. In January 2022, Lowe assumed the position of executive director, advocating for a mission that allows youth facing adversity with opportunities to achieve their potential through one-to-one mentoring relationships. Lowe is involved in her community as an associate minister for the Sisters of the Presentation and as a volunteer with Towns 4 Troops. ♦

**TARA L. O'ROURKE '06, O.D.****O'ROURKE '06, O.D.**

Dr. Tara L. O'Rourke graduated from Millersville University in 2006, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree under an accelerated program with an optometry focus in three years. She earned a Doctor of Optometry degree from Pennsylvania College of Optometry (aka Salus University) in May 2010, graduating

summa cum laude. O'Rourke then advanced her optometric training, focusing on primary eye care and ocular disease during her residency year at the Salem, Virginia, VA Medical Center.

O'Rourke currently works at the Penn State Eye Center at the Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. She specializes in ocular disease management, specialty contact lens fitting and primary care. O'Rourke is an assistant professor of ophthalmology, in which her role includes teaching lecture series for ophthalmology residents based on ophthalmic and clinical optics. ♦

Visit the Millersville University Alumni webpage at [villealumni.com](http://villealumni.com) to learn about our latest events and other news.



# CAMPUS NEWS | Fall/Winter

## New Donors Inducted into Fiat Lux Society

On August 3, 2022, President Daniel Wubah and Dr. Judith Wubah hosted a special event in honor of the newest members of the Fiat Lux Society. The Latin phrase "Fiat Lux" is translated as "let there be light," and the Fiat Lux Society name is inspired by a

historic stained-glass window featuring that phrase located in the Biemesderfer Executive Center on the campus of Millersville University.

The new members inducted are:

Nancy C. Adams '73 and W. Gary Adams

Karen Ashkar Murley '63

Steven R. Pomponi '89 and Lynn A. Pomponi '91

This recently formed fellowship of distinguished donors includes individuals who have given generous gifts and pledges of \$1 million or more to Millersville University to create an enduring legacy that will benefit students.

"The transformational gifts from Fiat Lux Society members provide incredible opportunities for Millersville University students to receive a quality education," says Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, president of Millersville University.

The inaugural celebration of the Fiat Lux Society was held in August 2020. ♦

## Student Success Network Becomes University College

On July 1, the Student Success Network officially became the University College. The College is comprised of Academic Advisement and Student Development, the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change, the Center for Civic

Responsibility and Leadership, Experiential Learning and Career Management, the Francine G. McNairy Library and Learning Forum, Integrated Studies, Multidisciplinary Studies, the Office of Learning Services, Starfish, Success Coaching, the University Honors College and the University Writing Center.

"This new college is designed for students – supporting their academic needs through coaching, mentoring, high-impact experiences and other like opportunities, as well as complementing the work and resources in MU's other colleges," says Dr. Rachel Finley-Bowman, associate provost for Student Success and dean of University College.

The offices and resources of the University College are centrally located in the McNairy Library, with additional college departments located in Lyle Hall and houses along George Street.

## New Microscope – Thanks to 300k Grant from NSF

Thanks to a \$287,234 grant from the National Science Foundation, Millersville University has acquired a scanning electron microscope. The 12-foot by 6-foot microscope arrived on campus in January 2021. According to Dr. Maria Schiza, associate professor of chemistry, very few small companies or universities have easy access to electron microscopy, which makes this microscope unique for the area.

"The primary goal for writing the NSF grant to acquire this type of microscope was



NEW SEM MICROSCOPE ON CAMPUS.

to give MU students, MU faculty and the surrounding community the opportunity to use this microscope for research and teaching," says Schiza.

The SEM is a multi-user microscope and will be used by different departments/

disciplines at Millersville for teaching purposes and research. The research projects range from investigating the features of newly synthesized nanomaterials to investigating biological samples or geological samples. Additionally, the SEM offers low environmental and high vacuum operation modes, which allow for samples that are nonconductive to be imaged without extra preparation. Also, since the microscope can detect X-rays, it can perform elemental analysis of a sample. ♦

## Café Opens with Sustainability in Mind

The grand opening of Millersville's newest café took place on August 31. Located on the first floor of Gordinier Hall, the Evergreen Café has both indoor and outdoor seating. In addition to a selection of coffees, teas and refreshers, the Evergreen Café also offers sandwiches, salads, bagels and other baked goods.

The theme of the café is sustainability.



THE NEW EVERGREEN CAFE.

It is set up to be a place for studying, hanging out with friends or getting some rejuvenation after a busy day. While the café is open now, there are plans to add more features soon, including a plant wall and student artwork.

"The Evergreen Café, which was designed by our students, is also run by our students for our students. It is intended to be a model for other inclusive spaces around our beautiful campus that draw in our students and make Millersville University such a valuable experience," says Dr. Marc Tomljanovich, dean of the Lombardo College of Business.

In addition to cash and credit cards, MU Meal Plan and Marauder Gold can also be used as forms of payment at the café. ♦



Millersville University  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



# How the Black Panther's Death INSPIRED the Work of this MU ALUMNA

By Kelsey Madas

## ARMENTA WASHINGTON '85

IS AN ACCOMPLISHED PUBLIC HEALTH WORKER WITH A KEEN EYE ON MEETING THE UNIQUE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF HER LOCAL COMMUNITY IN PHILADELPHIA. TODAY, SHE SERVES AS THE SENIOR RESEARCH COORDINATOR WITH ABRAMSON CANCER CENTER – PERELMAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND USES HER SKILLS TO BUILD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS WITH THEIR OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND OUTREACH.

She shines in both roles, and nothing makes that more evident than one of her most recent accolades. Washington was selected as Philly Magazine's *BeWellPhilly* 2021 Health Hero Challenge winner for creating a drive-through Fecal Immunochemical Test service at a church in Philadelphia. The test helped to screen at-risk community members for signs of colorectal cancer in a convenient, private and efficient manner during a pandemic. Participants could pick up a kit, take it home, administer it and then return it to the appropriate medical facility – all free of charge.

Washington got news of the win



WASHINGTON '85

when she stepped into her office and was greeted by an oversized check and balloons. "It was a huge honor," shares Washington. Of course, this is just one of the many impactful healthcare initiatives Washington has been a part of. Outside of her job and community work, she serves as a member of the Penn Center for AIDS Research – Community Advisory Board, where she is the co-chair of the Black Men's Health Initiative.

The *BeWellPhilly* award came with a prize of \$15,000 that Washington could award to the charity of her choice. It didn't take her long to make up her mind. The money, she decided, would go to Frontline Dads.

This Philadelphia nonprofit aims to facilitate the intellectual, emotional, spiritual and cultural development of African American men and vulnerable youth by providing

transformative programming to empower them.

Reuben Jones, the founder of Frontline Dads Inc., is a longtime friend of Washington, and Washington serves on the organization's Board of Trustees. "When I had the opportunity to be awarded and to select a charity to receive the money, I didn't hesitate to choose Frontline Dads," shares Washington. "I chose them because I know the impact that Reuben is having. All that money is going to the services that benefit the community."

## MAKING LIFELONG FRIENDS

Many years before Washington and Jones worked together, they studied together. While Washington was studying at Millersville, she met Jones, a fellow psychology major at Millersville University in the 1980s.

Millersville was a "whole new world" for Jones. "I was just a kid from North Philadelphia," he explains. "It wasn't a pleasant environment, so going to Millersville was like a culture shock to me."

Washington shares that she ended up at Millersville thanks to the urging of a friend. "She said if we took placement tests, we could start taking classes." Intrigued, Washington signed up and eventually settled on a psychology major, citing her curiosity about the subject. "I have always been fascinated by human behavior," says Washington.

The pair recounted many memories about their time together at the 'Ville. "We had a great time," she says. "We had a great social life . . . there was a very small Black population of students, but we were very close. We were like family because we had no choice on a campus that was predominantly white."

"I chose them because I know the impact that Reuben is having. All that money is going to the services that benefit the community,"  
says Washington



The two also have another shared connection: They were both impacted by the life, work and legacy of the late Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El, a professor emerita of psychology and African American Studies at the University. "Dr. Smith had a huge impact on me," shares Washington. "Rita told students to be unapologetically Black. She knew if you had a need financially, and she would employ you to do something for a few dollars just to make sure you had the money." Since Smith-Wade-El's passing, many others have shared similar stories of her kindness.

Jones echoes those sentiments, saying, "I [worked] in the psych department with Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El. She was a Black professor who brought all this culture and energy to the campus that we didn't have before. She was highly revered." For both, Smith-Wade-El was an inspiration. Jones says, "Dr. Smith [was one of the most positive influences from my time at MU.]"

## WORKING TOGETHER

The pair carried the lessons they learned at Millersville and from Dr. Smith-Wade-El with them into their lives postgraduation. Eventually, it led them both right back to North Philadelphia. "When Armenta first told me about the [drive-through colorectal cancer screening], I thought it was brilliant," says Jones. "I know [from] talking with Black men every day that there is a stigma about going to get checked for colon cancer. And we're losing way too many of them as a result. For [Armenta] to be that courageous and use her social capital to save those lives ...

553 participants and have saved 18 lives because of these tests. Eighteen people have been identified with a presence of blood in their colons,"

shares Washington. Before this, most similar screenings had a return rate of around 10%–15%. "We had an 80.5% return rate. This has never been seen before."

Her team made another crucial decision that contributed to the event's success: They

**"Dr. Smith had a huge impact on me. Rita told students to be unapologetically Black,"**

*shares Washington*

age 43 due to colon cancer. On the day of his passing, Washington received a phone call from a local church. "They said, 'If the Black Panther

can die, all of us can die.'"

According to cancer.org, colorectal cancer also disproportionately affects the Black community. African Americans are about 20% more likely to get colorectal cancer and about 40% more likely to die from it than most other groups.

In response, Washington and the team at Penn Medicine partnered with Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church and Einstein Healthcare Network in Philadelphia to create the drive-through cancer screening clinic held in October 2020. "People were very isolated," shares Washington. "They would go to drive-through clinics just for human interaction." So far, they have hosted seven similar events, with plans to expand and adapt the model elsewhere throughout the country, potentially saving many more lives.

There is a lot of work to be done in the Philadelphia communities that both Washington and Jones love so much, but one thing is certain: They'll have each other for support. "Had it not been for someone taking a chance on me, I would not be sitting here today," shares Washington. This, she says, is her way of giving back. And while she's gone on to rack up an impressive number of

accolades and accomplishments since her time at MU, Washington says the start of her success began at Millersville. "Graduating from Millersville was the start of my proudest accomplishments." ♦



WASHINGTON WORKS AT THE DRIVE-THROUGH COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING.



REUBEN JONES, LEFT, RECEIVES THE \$15,000 CHECK FROM HIS FRIEND AND FELLOW MILLERSVILLE ALUM, ARMENTA WASHINGTON.

is beautiful."

Those tests have gone a long way to improving the health of the Philadelphia community. "To date, we have registered

staffed the event with African American medical practitioners. "We have them see people that are like them, that are trusted, that can talk to them and assure them that they are doing the right thing. This is one of the most preventable cancers."

The inspiration for the screening, Washington says, came from an unusual source: On August 28, 2020, actor Chadwick Boseman, who famously portrayed the Black Panther, passed away at





# Class Notes | 2022-23

## 1970s

► **JULIE VANCE '70**, New Cumberland, recently published a book, "Dancing with the Divine: How to Free Your Inner Spirit and Live An Extraordinary Life."

► **JOAN DETZ '73**, Philadelphia, had a seventh public speaking book published internationally. Sunrise Press of Taiwan translated "How To Write & Give A Speech into Traditional Chinese." Joan's books have been translated into Spanish, Dutch, Japanese, Polish and Simplified Chinese.

► **THEODORE KNORR '73**, Harrisburg, on June 24 keynoted this year's APBA Games Conference in Alpharetta, GA, with a talk entitled "APBA Baseball, the Negro Leagues, and Me" before being whisked off to address the Kingston Women's History Center with a presentation on the great Negro League outfielder Rap Dixon, who was born in Kingston, GA. His day ended with his induction into the APBA Game Company Hall of Fame later that evening. A couple of months later on August 20, Knorr's baseball trivia team captured the Society for American Baseball Research Team Trivia title at the SABR Convention in Baltimore, MD.

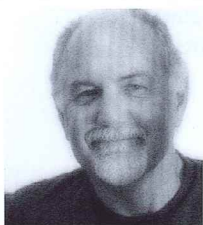
► **L. MARLIN EBY '73**, retired from his 43-year career in July 2021, 3 years at the University of South Carolina, 4.5 years at Infotech and 35.5 years at Messiah University.

► **BRADLEY GATES '75**, Fredericksburg, VA, recently published his first novel, "Two Good Men."

► **DEBORAH KUBIAK '75**, Hendersonville, NC, retired from Buncombe County Schools as a Reading Specialist - Title I, after 43 years, on 1/1/19.

► **VINCENT COTTER '79**, Bradenton, FL, published his third Rowman & Littlefield leadership book: "Leaning into the Future: Building Beyond the Post-Covid 19 New Normal."

► **DAVID WITMER '79**, Stuart, FL, received a Readers' Favorite award for romance fiction for his 2019 novel "Then Comes Evening."



WITMER '79

## 1980s

► **GORDON BEHM '80**, Wells, ME, was chief meteorologist at WMUR-TV in Manchester, NH, until 2000, then went into teaching at Manchester Central High before retiring. He is currently doing weather for Manchester Ink Link.

► **JOYCE KING '83**, Souderton, after a 35.5-year career that began as a maternity-leave replacement, retired as director of the office of advertising and promotion, working on oncology, adult vaccines and other products for Merck.

► **LOUIS GILL JR. '83**, Costa Mesa, CA, was recently promoted to the position of senior director of undergraduate housing and life at UC Irvine. He will oversee residential communities with over 7,000 students, 30 career staff and over 250 student staff.

► **ROBERT MACKLEY JR. '84**, Mansfield, TX, retired as director of logistics, distribution and transportation from Frito-Lay, Inc. a division of PepsiCo after 30 years. Additionally, in 2000 he retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves, where he served as a surface warfare officer.

► **TINA MACKLEY '84**, Mansfield, TX, enjoyed working for 15 years as a social worker in various roles following her MU graduation. She retired after 18 years as an HR professional in the healthcare field and has been married to a 1984 MU alum since 1983.

► **RICHARD CARNES '85**, Carlisle, retired from Carlisle Construction Materials after 36 years in the commercial roofing industry.

► **THOMAS DEVIVO '86**, Kunkletown, retired after 35 years of teaching Tech Ed in Stroudsburg Area School District.



**PENNELL '86**  
County authors to be highlighted in the Lancaster Newspaper. This is the first of her new "A Treadwell Mystery Series."

► **KATHLEEN PENNELL '86**, Lancaster, published her thirteenth book, titled "A Face in the Water." The Lancaster Sunday News chose her as one of the thirteen Lancaster

► **SHERRY V. OSTROFF '87**, Lititz, published her fourth book and third historical novel, "Expulsion: A Novel of the Spanish Inquisition."

► **Holly Snyder '87**, Durham, NC, retired after a 30-year career in public education.

► **CYNTHIA MCAREE '88**, Swedesboro, NJ, was promoted to vice president/scrum master for M&T Bank.

► **JEFF KIRK, CHFC, CEP '89**, Lancaster, is now the president and director of financial planning for Commonwealth Financial Associates. In spring 2022 he completed his full acquisition of the firm.

## 1990s

► **LORI JOHNSON-NEGRON '90**, Shillington, a certified Zumba instructor, was named the Centennial Zumba Class Instructor for the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Centennial Celebration held in Indianapolis, IN, during a special weeklong meeting of the sorority.



MAYOR '90

► **SHANE MAYOR '90**, Chico, CA, was recognized with the California State University Chico 2021-22 Outstanding Mentor Award.

► **VINCENT GARCIA '91**, Lebanon, was selected by the Community of Lebanon Association as 2022 CLA Merritt Marks Businessperson of the Year. For the 35th time since the award was created in 1989, the Community of Lebanon Association has chosen to honor one of its active members as their Businessperson of the Year. Vincent is president of CPA firm Garcia Garman & Shea PC.

► **REBECCA ROGERS '91**, East Petersburg, retired as secretary from Sweetwater Propane on 3/15/18.

► **AASIF CHANANDIN '91**, Kennett Square, assumed the role of application development manager for NextGen Healthcare.

► **DENISE WYATT '92**, Snohomish, assumed the role of transit employee and labor relations manager for King County Metro.



► **HEATHER CONLON-KELLER '93**, Lancaster, is an attorney with the Domestic Violence Legal Center, a program of the Community Action Partnership.



ALVAREZ '94

► **ANDREW ALVAREZ '94**, West Chester, earned his Master of Public Administration with a graduate certificate in sports management and athletics from Chester University.

► **LEANNE BEAGHAN '95**, Wrightsville, is the founder and CEO of Beaghan Health Group.

► **CHRISTOPHER RAHN '96**, Mechanicsburg, earned his Doctorate of Education from Immaculate University in May 2022.

► **ADAM PLOWCHA '96**, Papillion, NE, after retiring from the U.S. Navy in 2016, earned a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on August 13, 2022, and accepted a position as a research engineer at the Nebraska Intelligent Mobile Unmanned Systems Lab.

► Dale Jones '98, Sinking Spring, started a new position at Centri Business Consulting in Philadelphia.

► **BENJAMIN CULBERT '99**, Ronks, assumed a new position as senior designer for Kleinschmidt.



LONG '99

► **KIMBERLY LONG '99**, Morgantown, started a new job in May 2022 as principal consultant in the sustainability strategy and disclosure group of ERM. In her new

role, she supports companies in completing sustainability reporting and developing sustainability and climate strategies.

► **BRYAN BAKER '99**, North Wales, was promoted to manager for the billing and payroll department for A+ Home Care.

## 2000s



ZUCKER '00

► **JAIME ZUCKER '00**, Huntingdon Valley, has accepted a new full-time position at Gallagher, a global consulting firm. Her new role as the senior graphic

designer and communications specialist is to establish the Southeast Region with high-level communication strategies for clients in numerous industries. She manages and oversees other designers, print production, digital solutions and various global initiatives. Jaime also recently won an RFP submission and was awarded a five-year contract to work directly with Montgomery County, PA's Department of Health and Human Services to support their Office of Drug & Alcohol with graphic design services.

► **MIKE CHICK JR. '00**, Arlington, VA, was appointed by the Virginia legislature on March 10, 2022, to serve as judge of the Arlington County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court.



LEAMAN '01

most recently worked alongside the Associate Provost for Academic Support Services and Dean of Student Success, recently accepted the position of assistant director of alumni engagement at MU. Lori looks forward to meeting as many of the 70,000+ alums as possible and working together to share the "Ville for Life" motto, engaging in events and activities with fellow alums, assisting new affinity groups and classes, and creating a culture to give back in time, talents and resources to our alma mater.

► **ANTOINE RJ WRIGHT '02**, Laurel, MD, accepted a position as director of design for Alcor Technical Solutions in August 2022.

► **STACIE DEJESUS '02**, East Petersburg, after 15.5 years at Godfrey Advertising, joined RKL on May 2, 2022, as a client success manager. In this new role, she will provide strategic support surrounding client growth and retention.

► **EMILY TRANG '02**, Mechanicsburg, was promoted to senior associate, relationship manager for the Harrisburg office at Summit Trail Advisors.

► **DANIELLE PARKER '03**, Bensalem, earned her Doctor of Education from Capella University.



WEBER '04

before stepping into the executive role.

► **GRAHAM WATERS '04**, Quincy, MA, after 17 years working in town management, retired and started his own business, opening up a franchise Premier Martial Arts School in Randolph, MA, with two more opening in the future.

► **JEFFREY MOSES '04**, Seoul, South Korea, opened a new full-service recording studio in Seoul, South Korea, called Binary Studios.



HARRIS '05

► Mubarak Bashir '05, Rochester, NY, was named vice president for youth and community services at Action for a Better Community.

► **ERIKA BUTTS '05**, Fayetteville, assumed the position of director of operations, overseeing all collegiate chapter services and programming for Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority.

► **NATALIE SHAAK '05**, Philadelphia, completed her B.S. in Culinary Arts and Science at Drexel University in March 2022. For her senior project, she developed, wrote and designed her own cookbook focused on Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine, which she continues to develop after graduation. During her program, she worked with one of her professors, Dr. Jonathan Deutsch, on his cookbook, "The Anti-Inflammatory Family Cookbook," which was published in January 2021.



GOOD '06

of the baseball star, for which he interviewed 400 people.

► **NATHANIEL WEBER '04**, Lancaster, was named chief financial officer of Garden Spot Communities in June 2022. Weber served as controller at Garden Spot for eight years

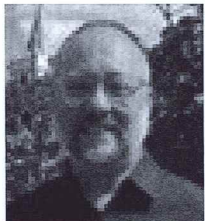
► **HEATHER HARRIS '05**, Lancaster, was awarded Honoree of Central Penn Business Journal's 2022 Top Forty Under 40. She is also vice president for Weaver Associates, Inc.

► **DAN GOOD '06**, Scarsdale, NY, recently published his book "Playing Through the Pain: Ken Caminiti and the Steroids Confession That Changed Baseball Forever," a biography



► **RYAN BYLER '06**, Marlton, NJ, was promoted from senior director of property management to vice president of property management for ShopCore Properties.

► **ELAINE BENNER '07**, Nottingham, MD, accepted the position of master trainer for WERQ Dance Fitness.



MADENFORD '08

Bockenheimer Verein, an organization that aims to protect the Paelzisch dialect and culture in Germany. Madenford was chosen in recognition of his work in the preservation of Pennsylvania Dutch, a language and culture that originates in this particular region of Germany. Madenford is the only non-German to ever win the award in its 50+-year history.

► **SONIA JONES '09**, Brooklyn, NY, was appointed executive director of Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn in Brooklyn, NY.

## 2010s

► **RICKEY BARNETT '12**, Mountville, was promoted to senior civil engineer with the Department of Transportation.

► **SIGOURNEY PORTNER '12**, Quakertown, was promoted to senior specialist, measurement and quality control for Buckeye Partners.

► **ALLISON YARROW '12**, Lancaster, assumed a new role as director of campus recreation for Millersville University.

► **RACHEL CICONI '13**, Lancaster, started her own private teaching practice; her business start-up is MyFrenchU.



MATHIESEN '13

be to assist the student organizations in developing programs and events that fit into their mission to learn about their career fields. She will also plan leadership, wellness and other professional development initiatives.

► **KELLY MATHIESEN '13**, Columbus, OH, assumed the position of program manager, student involvement for Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business. Her main role will



RIDGE '14

► **CHRISTOPHER RAHN '14**, Mountville, accepted a position as supply manager for The Wenger Group in Elizabethtown, PA, on 5/21/2022.



WRIGHT '15

Lancaster, was recently selected as a visiting scholar for Rutgers University's Proctor Institute.

► **ANNA PEDERSON '15**, Philadelphia, earned her Master of Education from Temple University in May 2022.

► **FAITH THOMAS '17**, Lancaster, is entering her fifth year teaching pre-k and was recently promoted to educational director of her program for Owl Hill Learning Center.

► **JEFFREY HARRISON '17**, York, assumed a new position as junior media buyer at Martin Communications.

► **REBECCA MCCARTY '17**, Chambersburg, after celebrating her five-year anniversary graduating from Millersville University, completed an internship with the National Park Service. She just completed special projects with the NPS Office of International Affairs.



ELLER '17

They are responsible for the secure systems development framework, which ensures cybersecurity best practices are embedded throughout the lifecycle of all United Airlines' applications and products.

► **MEGHAN WENTZ '18**, Denver, was hired on as a physical/electrical designer I for Tier 1 Utility Design, Inc.

► **TYLER RIDGE '14**, Hanover, was promoted in January 2022 to marketing and client relations manager for LifeBridge Health. In 2020 he was Employee of the Year.

► **KATELYNN WRIGHT '15**, Landisville, assumed the position of special programs and events manager for the city of Lancaster.

► **ALEXANDER ROHRER '15**,

► **KAYTELYN NAGLICH '18**, New Cumberland, earned her Master of Special Education at Millersville. She is transitioning into a new position and district. She will be a cyber-kindergarten teacher through the Central Dauphin School District.

► **AMBER LIGGETT '18 '20**, Camp Hill, started a new job this spring as a communications analyst with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's Climate Program Office. In her new role, she focuses on internal strategic communications to highlight and promote climate science research.

► **TREJON DINKINS '19**, Enola, was recently promoted to director of the Kathryn Hughes Seaber Raiders Academic Center for Student-Athletes after serving as a student success coach for student-athletes for 14 months.

► **JACKSON HOUSTON '19**, Lancaster, will be moving to South Bend, IN, to attend the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame to pursue a master's degree in nonprofit administration.

► **SARAH KLEINERT '19**, Mechanicsburg, earned her PA Grades 4-8 Teaching Certification (Science) from Wilson College. She works as an eighth-grade science teacher for West Shore School District.

► **SARDIS MELO '19**, Wyomissing, earned her M.S. in higher education/student affairs from Purdue University Global.

► **TAYLOR MCCLOSKEY '19**, West Chester, earned her master's degree in legal studies with a focus in criminal and employment law from Arizona State University.

► **ALEXANDRA BIELESKI '19**, Phoenixville, started her role as the assistant director of alumni relations about a year ago and plans homecoming, alumni weekend, and hall of fame for athletes at Ursinus College.

► **WILLIAM HOGE '19**, Hidden Valley, was appointed as environmental health and safety specialist for the University of Pittsburgh.



LICATA '19

► **GABRIELLA LICATA '19**, Hummelstown, was promoted to senior staff accountant at Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz, a regional premier accounting and advisory firm.



## 2020s



VAUGHN '20

► **ETHAN VAUGHN '20**, Lancaster, published his autobiography "The Inspirational Story of Ethan A. Poetic" on August 30, 2022, through Amazon & Ingram

Sparks; it chronicles his experiences with adversity, education, relationships, sports and resiliency.

► **NICOLE BURKE '20**, Severna Park, MD, received her Master of Education certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis from George Mason University.

► **ASHLEY JUDGE '20**, Coatesville, accepted a remote position with Geisinger as a behavioral health case manager with their new Medicaid expansion program.

► **KARLI ALLEN '20**, Harrisburg, began working with the local Girl Scout council as volunteer support coordinator. The job includes developing and implementing plans to recruit and retain both girl members and adult volunteers and supporting product campaigns, such as the famous Girl Scout Cookies drive.



REBMAN '20

► **MADISON REBMAN '20**, Millersville, and her boyfriend, Mike Nitroy '16, recently purchased their first home together in Millersville. Madison also started a new

position last fall at Millersville University as department secretary for the chemistry, physics and geography departments.

► **KENNA MELLINGER '20**, Hatfield, earned her master's degree in marriage and family therapy at La Salle University.

► **MADISON MONSCHEIN '20**, Hollywood, FL, assumed the new role of digital marketing coordinator at the University of Miami for all alumni.

► **EMILY BEHR '20**, Duncannon, is about to start her second year as a school counselor at East Pennsboro Area Middle School in Enola.



LIGHTFOOT '21

prevent abuse or neglect of children/youth within his area through different preventive measures with the child, their families and the justice system.

► **ZOE BERRIER '21**, Enola, in September 2021, assumed the position of marketing assistant for ASTM International. This standards organization develops and publishes voluntary consensus technical standards for various industries.



SMALL '21

husbandry, training, medical care, etc.

► **AMY JONES '21**, Elysburg, started a job as a program administrator for the hematology/oncology, hospice & palliative medicine, and medical physics fellowship programs at Geisinger Medical Center.

► **VICTORIA DUGGAN '21**, Baltimore, MD, assumed the position of studio painter for Holland and Sherry. She assists in the production of hand-painted wall coverings for a high-end interior design company.

► **ALYSSA ATKINS '21**, Millersville, assumed a new role as convention services coordinator for Hershey Entertainment & Resorts. She will be planning and coordinating events at The Lodge on a daily basis. In addition, she will help with billing and preparing amenities for the guests.

► **LINDSEY TURUNC '21**, Bear, DE, assumed the role of production assistant for film, TV and advertisements. She works on set to "make movie magic." She is part of the team that makes ideas come to life. There are many duties as a production assistant, such as keeping track of talent and keeping the set clean and tidy.

► **REBECCA PELACHICK '21**, Sinking Spring, along with graduating with her master's, got a job as a social worker for Senior Life.

► **JOSEPH LIGHTFOOT '21**, Lebanon, assumed the position of protective caseworker at Lebanon County Children and Youth Services, where his

main objective is to

► **SAMANTHA SITES '21**, Leesport, accepted a position as a third-grade, long-term substitute at Schuylkill Valley Elementary School.

► **TERIANNE RINEER '21**, Lancaster, was promoted to nurse practitioner for Lancaster Emergency Associates.

► **AMY NICHOLSON '22**, Owings, MD, got accepted into Palmer College of Chiropractic Florida.

► **DEVON LEWARS '22**, Reading, is furthering her higher education by attending WVU's Public History master's program while working as a graduate assistant for the West Virginia Regional History Center.

► **DYLAN BILODEAU '22**, Sinking Spring, assumed the roll of transport planner for IKEA Purchasing and Logistics Area Americas.

► **ALLISON LEONARD '22**, Camden, DE, accepted a high school mathematics teaching position at Caesar Rodney High School teaching geometry.

► **JULIA REIST '22**, Palmyra, took on the position of security officer for Londonderry Village a few months after graduation. She is helping to create and improve emergency management plans, along with other policy and plans.

► **FAYRA MOLINA NAVIA '22**, Lancaster, assumed a new position as associate publicist for EightSixtySouth.

► **MADISON SHARP '22**, Dallastown, assumed the position of admissions counselor for York College of Pennsylvania.

► **LEIZEL SCHLOTT '22**, Bar Harbor, ME, assumed the position of development operations and event coordinator for MDI Biological Laboratory. She serves as the event coordinator and assists in developing administrative tasks to promote the organization's research and financial goals by sharing stories about their faculty and students.

► **ABIGAIL PHILLIPS '22**, Leola, assumed a position as an HR rotational professional for Dormakaba.

► **SARAH COLEMAN '22**, Mineral Wells, WV, became a broadcast meteorologist with WTAP in June 2022.



## WEDDINGS & ANNIVERSARIES

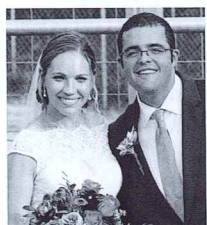
► **DAVID MILLER '79**, Stuart, FL, married Joy Gehman on 7/4/20.

► **TRACY OESTREICH '81**, Warrington, celebrated 39 years of marriage with her husband, James Oestreich.

► **BETH NEC '94** and Morgan Nec Hershey celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on 4/25/22.

► **LOLITA "MICHELLE" PULLIAM '94**, Silver Spring, MD, married Keith Pulliam on 7/23/22 in a small ceremony in Panama City, Panama.

► **ASHLEY HADSALL '08**, Mechanicsburg, married Robert Hoffer on 4/22/22.



**OREHEK '16**

They married almost 10 years after first meeting while MU freshmen. They hosted their wedding at a zoo in Norristown, PA. Many MU friends were in attendance.



**FISHER '16  
LANDIS '17**

► **ASHLEY OREHEK '16**, Glasgow, KY, married Anthony Rossi on 8/19/22.

They married almost 10 years after first meeting while MU freshmen. They hosted their wedding at a zoo in Norristown, PA. Many MU friends were in attendance.

► **TOM FISHER '16**, married **RENEE LANDIS '17**, Willow Street, on 6/4/22.

► **COLLEEN MOORE COBLE '16**, Lancaster, married **TREVER COBLE '16** on 10/23/20. They credit

Millersville for bringing them together.

► **ALLISON FERNANDES '18** and David Fernandes '18, Hatboro, met at Millersville University and got married on 12/04/21.



**MOSSAIDIS '19  
BIELESKI '18**

married on 9/27/22. They are thrilled to start their future together in Phoenixville.



**KLEINERT '19  
SCHAD '22**

► **KARA (GWINN) DUTTON '18**, Millersville, married **PETER DUTTON '19** on 4/23/22.

► **ALEXANDRA MOSSAIDIS '19** and **DAVID BIELESKI JR. '18**, Phoenixville,

married **SARAH KLEINERT '19**, Mechanicsburg, married **BENJAMIN SCHAD '22** on 5/22/22.

► **ELIZABETH DUCHESNEAU '22** and **ALEX HEISLER '21** married on 7/16/22.

## BIRTHS



**WATERS '04**

campus tour in 2037.

► **GRAHAM WATERS '04**, Quincy, MA, and Karen Conrad welcomed a boy, Grayson, born at CHA Cambridge Hospital on 8/26/20. Graham is looking forward to bringing Grayson on a

► **STEVEN PAULEY '06**, Douglassville, and his wife welcomed a daughter, Emma Alessia, on 11/03/21.

► **JAMES BOYER '11**, Chambersburg, and his wife welcomed a daughter, Sadie Grace, on 8/9/20.

► **JORDAN EVANGELISTA '15** welcomed a daughter, Venice Evangelista, 5/29/21.

## DEATHS

► **ANNA YERGER '36**, Lititz, died on 5/18/22 at age 107. She was valedictorian for Millersville State Teachers College in 1936.

► **DONALD KUGLE '56**, Willow Street, died on 6/13/22.

► **VIRGINIA HALE '57**, Norristown, died on 6/25/22 at the age of 83. She had a master's degree from Lehigh University and owned her own tutoring service, A+ Educational Advantage.

► **CAROLYN BLAKE '62**, Fredericksburg, VA, passed away on 4/14/22 at the age of 82. She is survived by her three daughters and four grandchildren.

► **EDWIN RESSER '64**, York, died on 2/7/22 at the age of 80. He was a longtime employee of West York Area School District as a teacher, principal and in various other positions in the administration. In 1979, he was hired as the personnel director for the West Shore School District and subsequently held numerous principal and administrative positions within the district before retiring in 1998.

► **RUSSELL PITMAN '72**, Teaneck, NJ, died on 5/11/22 at the age of 71.

► **KAREN MILLS '75**, Hamburg, passed away on 3/6/18. She was the head field hockey coach for Millersville from 1968 until 1984. In 1978, she became the first head coach of the women's track and field team.

► **MATTHEW SPENCE HELLMANN '13**, Hershey, died on 2/24/22. He is survived by his father, mother and twin brother.

► **MILDRED HENDERSON '80**, Lancaster, died on 6/29/22 at the age of 91. She earned a degree in English, with honors, in 1980. She also published a literary magazine, "Hob Nob." ♦

## Remembering Doc Roc



**DR. RALPH (DOC) ANTTONEN**

Many knew him best from his years spent advising students at the University's radio station, WIXQ. Even after retiring from his 41.5-year tenure at the University, Doc returned to MU to volunteer at the radio station and at athletic games. At WIXQ, he continued to cohost the "Oldies but Goodies" show with

**DR. RALPH ANTTONEN**, affectionately known as Doc Roc, died at age 82 on Friday, October 21. Doc was a former faculty member who spent many years on campus as the coordinator of the exploratory program, the voice of the men's basketball and women's volleyball teams, and as a staple of the Millersville University community at large. He also played Santa Claus on campus and for Millersville Borough events.

his wife, Judy Anttonen, also known as Mama Roc, as they spun songs spanning 1955 to 1962 every Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m.

Aside from investing his time into Millersville and its students, the Anttonens also created eight endowments with the Millersville University Foundation that support athletics and WIXQ. Thanks to these generous gifts, Doc's legacy will continue to impact students for years to come. Millersville University president

Dr. Daniel A. Wubah said it best: "Very few people in Millersville University's history have touched as many people as Dr. Ralph Anttonen."

A celebration of life ceremony was held on November 5 at Millersville's Pucillo Gymnasium, where Doc spent many years of his life cheering on Millersville students. ♦



# The 'Ville Brought this Couple Together

## NOW THE GARNERS GIVE BACK TO THEIR ALMA MATER

By Janet Kacskos

A young woman, who can trace her Lancaster roots to 1743, was looking out her Millersville dorm window at a baseball game when a young man caught her eye. The young woman was **ELIZABETH LAFFERTY** and the young man was **JOSEPH GARNER**, a first-generation college student. Elizabeth and Joseph have now been married for 31 years, have three children and are still involved with Millersville University.

Joseph is currently in his fourth term as a director of the **Millersville University Foundation**, dating back to 2004, where he currently serves as president. He is also Director of Research and a member of the small-cap growth portfolio management team for Leola-based Emerald Asset Management. Joseph graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in economics from Millersville University. Elizabeth graduated with a bachelor's degree in history and later worked as an archivist with the Pennsylvania State Archives. She currently serves on the Advisory Council for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Garners have created two endowments for the University: the **Joseph and Elizabeth Garner Marauder Fund Endowment**, providing a scholarship for the student CEO of the Marauder Fund, and the **Charlotte A. and Charles J. Lafferty History Scholarship**, which provides a scholarship for a history major studying applied history.

Joseph worked with Dr. Mike Gumper on the idea for the Marauder Fund, a student-led and student-managed investment fund. The work of dedicated members of the MU Foundation investment committee made it a reality. The Marauder Fund manages over \$250,000 of the Millersville University Foundation's assets. It offers hands-on investment experience in building and managing a portfolio of stocks identified and researched by the students. "Our intent was to provide a unique, real-world educational experience for the students," says Joseph. "Positive investment results were a secondary concern. As it turns out, the Marauder Fund has been a huge success in



JOSEPH AND ELIZABETH GARNER

both regards. The Fund ranks as one of the Foundation's top-performing investment managers, and students are gaining valuable experience as they progress through the ranks from junior analysts to the executive leadership team. Several students have told us how the Marauder Fund has changed their lives. We wanted to support the Marauder Fund and recognize the accomplishments and commitment of the students through our endowment." He also notes that there are over 30 students currently involved in the Marauder Fund, representing lots of opportunity for fellow alumni to create additional scholarships.

The **Lafferty Endowment** was created

in memory of Elizabeth's parents. "My mother loved history, my father was a history teacher, and that's why I became a history major," says Elizabeth. "Joe and I come from middle-class backgrounds. My dad went to college on the GI Bill. My parents stressed education. We came to Millersville and had

the opportunity to better ourselves. Without our education, we wouldn't be where we are today. The experience was truly transformational for both of us. We know how difficult it can be to finance an education, and we wanted students to have that same positive, transformational experience that we did. We really do believe it's important to give back to the University

that has given us so much."

Joseph also stresses the importance of giving. "Millersville University did so much for us. There are a couple of different ways to look at it; we wouldn't be sitting here together and wouldn't be where we are today professionally without Millersville. Neither of us came from wealthy families, but we benefited greatly from access to a high-quality, affordable education. On a smaller campus, like Millersville's, you get to know your professors and interact with them. The faculty stoke areas of interest in their students and become mentors beyond their time on campus. We want to enable others to benefit from all that Millersville University has to offer." ♦

"We want to enable others  
to benefit from all that  
Millersville University  
has to offer."





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## POND RESTORATION

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Thanks to a generous gift from our donors, the crown jewel of Millersville's campus has a new look. The pond – or lake, depending on when you graduated – was lovingly restored this year. The restoration included a complete drain of the pond and the removal of sediment buildup, which added depth. Additionally, the gabion walls were replaced with new concrete walls designed to match the look of the bridge, and the pond was restocked with native fish. Looking for a reason to visit campus? Stop by and enjoy the beauty of the pond and say hello to our resident swans, Miller and S'Ville. ♦

