

Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW



IN THIS ISSUE:

Twists and Turns
Alumni Took | PAGE 4

The First Lady of
Millersville | PAGE 16

Emergency Management
Alumni | PAGE 18





Elder **SHEILA HANFEN** at White Pine Tree Ceremony held on campus to honor Millersville's Land Acknowledgment and Native American Heritage Month.

Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW

Fall | Winter 2023-24 | VOLUME 144 | No. 6



DEAR MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

Happy New Year from Millersville University to you and yours!

The fall semester was a whirlwind of exciting events and programs on campus. We had a smooth move-in day and launched new traditions, including the first EPPIIC Weekend. It was filled with events from an all-student

quad photo to glow/dance parties to a new student academic convocation. As the semester progressed, Judith and I enjoyed attending a full slate of activities, including athletic competitions and several annual events such as Breast-A-Ville, the Athletics Hall of Fame dinner, and Homecoming Weekend festivities. The wet weather on Homecoming did not dampen the spirits of our Millersville community. We adapted to the weather by moving our block party to 'Ville Courts, and the Millersville Parade delighted the crowd.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our "Imagine the Possible" Campaign. This summer, we announced that this fundraising campaign to support student success reached a record-breaking \$110,056,873. Our generous donors established 118 new scholarship endowments and 112 newly named annual scholarship awards. These new scholarships, coupled with contributions to existing scholarships, totaled \$31,051,928 with \$9,440,416 awarded to Millersville University students during the six years of the campaign.

To further help our students and their families, starting in fall 2024, we will eliminate the per-credit tuition model. That means in-state undergraduate students will pay a flat-rate tuition. The cost will be the same for students to take between 12 and 18 credits. We expect this change to help increase enrollment, thus helping to meet the workforce needs of our region.

In this issue, you can read more about the campaign and hear from our alumni on the twists and turns they took to get to where they are today. We also feature our emergency management graduates, many of whom are first responders and other important contributors in their local communities. And we look back at our fall Homecoming and recent December commencement through photos.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Review Magazine. As always, thank you for your commitment to the 'Ville.

With warmest regards,

Daniel A. Wubah

Dr. Daniel A. Wubah
President, Millersville University

**FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION BY
GILLIAN GURNEY '23, REPRESENTS THE
TWISTS AND TURNS THAT OUR ALUMS TOOK
TO GET TO WHERE THEY ARE TODAY.**



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Ethan Husley, Sports News
Corinna Linn, Development News

CONTRIBUTORS

Writer – Mary Miller '22, '24M
Writer – Joshua Gearhart '24
Writer – Leah Reagan '24
Photographer – Kevin Nash
Illustrator – Gillian Gurney '23

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TWISTS & TURNS

The Winding Road to Finding Your Path

College is an important time of self-discovery. Some students know right from the get-go what they want to study and who they want to be: a nurse, a teacher, or maybe even a meteorologist. For others, the road is a bit more winding. Here, Millersville alumni share how they started out on our campus and where they ultimately ended up in their professional careers. From getting a degree in anthropology to becoming a candlemaker or going from therapist to owning a business, it's been quite a journey for this group of grads.



JORDAN EVANGELISTA '13, '15M

JORDAN EVANGELISTA '13, '15M:

I received my undergraduate degree in psychology in 2013 and a master's degree in clinical psychology in 2015. Since then, my career path has taken many twists and turns. I started out utilizing my degree as a mental health therapist. Although I was putting my degree to good use, I felt drawn to the higher education world, which I was exposed to during my graduate assistant position in the registrar's office at Millersville. I eventually made the transition to higher education and started working at Lebanon Valley College. Several years later, life took another turn. My husband and I started a family in March of 2019

"We are now the proud owners of HQ Water Solutions, a water treatment company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania."

Jordan Evangelista '13, '15M

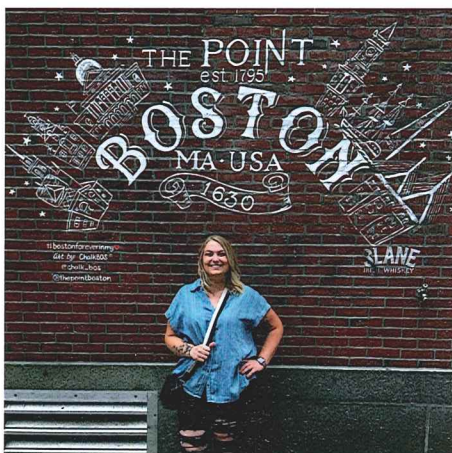
and decided to start a business soon after in order to provide more flexibility and possibilities for our daughter. We are now the proud owners of HQ Water Solutions, a water treatment company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I left the higher education world and joined the business full-time in 2023, and we just reached \$1 million in sales. We now have two daughters, business is booming, and we live a life full of purpose and joy. Although it wasn't the path I envisioned, it's a path I am beyond grateful for. It's a path that wouldn't have been possible without my education at Millersville University. ♦

BECKY FUNK '99, '04M: I graduated with my bachelor's degree in math education in 1999 and earned my master's in math education in 2004. I had wanted to be a teacher all my life and loved every minute of working with the students at my first job

at a local high school. From there I taught for several years at a local college. I quit my teaching job to stay home and focus on my own boys but knew I wanted to get back into the workforce when they were older. When that time came, I wanted a career that gave me flexibility while allowing me to work with teens. A friend of mine suggested life coaching. I never saw myself owning my own business, but being a certified confidence coach allows me to do what I truly love: helping teen girls and young women love who they see when they look in the mirror. The educational and psychological components of my degrees still help me in this new career path. ♦



BECKY FUNK '99 '04M



CATHERINE HOGUE '13

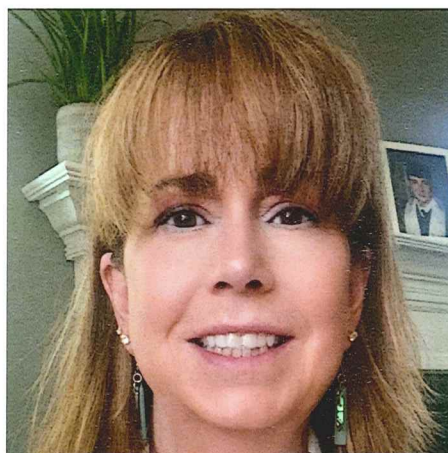
CATHERINE HOGUE '13: When I first became a Marauder, I had high hopes of being a high school English teacher. However, two years into my college education, I realized that teaching was not the right path for me, so I dropped the education portion of my degree and completed my B.A. in English, thinking I would go the reporting and journalism route. While I did a bit of reporting for some local newspapers during college and after graduation, I fell into a digital and social media marketing role with a professional sports team in Charlotte, North Carolina. It turned out to be a slippery slope because I have stuck with that career, going from professional sports to a small family business and now, into higher education, serving as the digital ad and social media content creator at Lancaster Bible College ♦

SANDIE KRAMER '89: As a freshman, I entered MU as an early education major and quickly learned that being a teacher was not for me, but I did enjoy reading and writing. I majored in speech communications with a minor in public relations. I graduated and was offered a

"I have been a tax accountant for 20 years now at the same company and have loved every minute of it."

Sandie Kramer '89

job at a local Bucks County radio station, making \$5 an hour. As much fun as that was, I could make \$9 an hour as a temp at a pharmaceutical company in their accounts payable department. I did not want to work in finance the rest of my life – my degree was in communications, so I went on and worked to get my master's in instructional design (adult education), which felt kind of full circle. Then life got in the way; I had two kids and became a stay-at-home mom. One day my husband spoke with our tax accountant, and she explained that she was



SANDIE KRAMER '89

opening her own business and was looking to hire someone. My husband said, "Sandie is looking for a job!" and the rest is history. I have been a tax accountant for 20 years now at the same company and have loved every minute of it. ♦

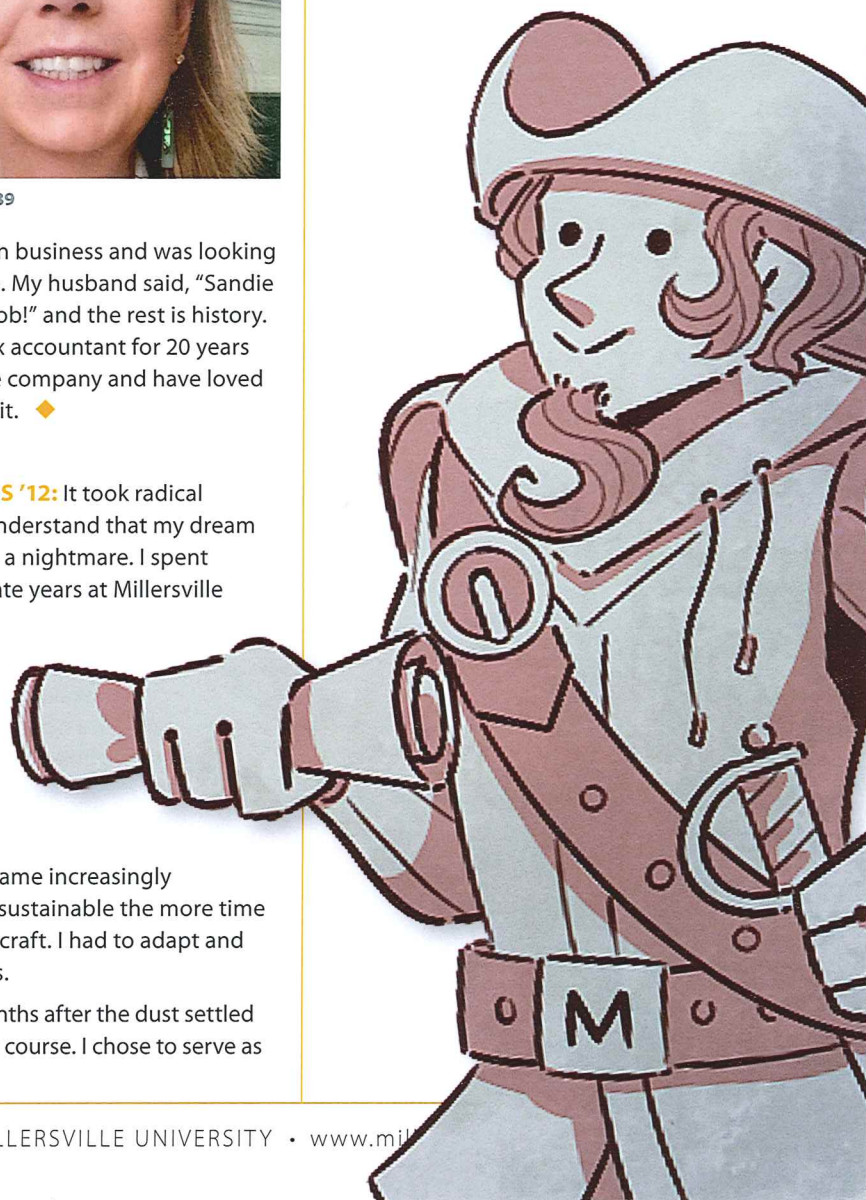
JORDAN KUHNS '12: It took radical acceptance to understand that my dream job spiraled into a nightmare. I spent my undergraduate years at Millersville preparing for a career in the sports broadcasting field. All told, I spent 10 years in the industry. The lifestyle became increasingly unstable and unsustainable the more time I devoted to the craft. I had to adapt and change my goals.

I spent a few months after the dust settled charting my new course. I chose to serve as



JORDAN KUHNS '12

a multimedia professional for a behavioral school. I knew I possessed the qualifications to take this position and run with it. One year into this life change has proven that my decision was the right one. ♦





TYLER LONGENECKER '11

TYLER LONGENECKER '11: I'm a 2011 Millersville graduate with a degree in secondary education (social studies & economics). I was initially drawn to connecting with struggling students and fostering interactive learning, and Millersville empowered me to teach various social studies subjects to diverse age groups.

"The relationships and support from several Millersville professors challenged me to lead with energy and passion."

Tyler Longenecker '11

The relationships and support from several Millersville professors challenged me to lead with energy and passion. Eventually transitioning to the sales industry, I found similarities between teaching and selling, adapting to different products and audiences. Millersville underscored the significance of interpersonal connections in my career, and my time on campus proved to be an enormous building block for the career I didn't know I would follow. With several promotions, I discovered my passion and now serve as a sales leader in an infection prevention company prioritizing healthcare safety. I've been mentored, mentored others, and now lead a national sales team for a community-oriented organization. ♦

MISSY MCKELVEY '93:

After getting married and moving to Philadelphia, I knew I did not want to teach. I was hired for customer service. With my degree in math, they put me in charge of accounting items such as credit memos and chargeback clearing. This led to my getting an MBA in accounting from La Salle University.

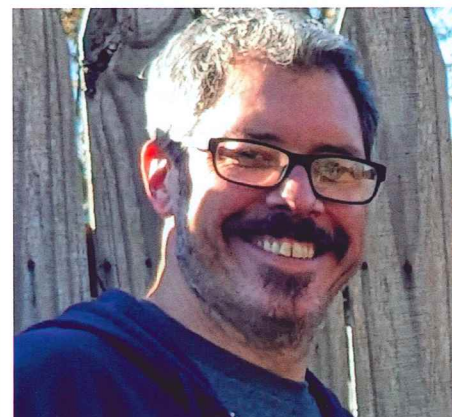
I took time off to have kids and moved to Reading, Pennsylvania. I went back to work as a staff accountant with Brentwood Industries. They were converting their system and found themselves in need of a financial person who understood the computer side as well. I transitioned into an IT role, where I learned the backside of a software



MISSY MCKELVEY '93

package used to track and plan resources called Enterprise Resource Planning. I now work as a consultant implementing and training on the SyteLine ERP system. It uses both the teaching side and the logic side from my original degree in secondary mathematics education. ♦

ADAM MENTZER '05, '09M: I obtained my license in social work in 2013 and worked as a school social worker for a private school until the pandemic shutdown of Pennsylvania schools in March 2020. In August 2020, I started my own handyman business, and in April 2021, I made it an official LLC. I now have a crew of eight, and we serve three counties as Adam's Handyman and Contracting. I absolutely love the change from social work to home improvement contractor. I am able to better provide for my family, and having a crew of skilled workers in their respective fields allows me more time off than a social worker would have. ♦



ADAM MENTZER '05, '09M



ANDREW NEWELL '12: After graduating from Millersville in 2012 with a computer science degree, I briefly ventured into website design and Android app development. However, when I relocated to Richmond, Virginia, in 2013 with just \$50, necessity led me to thrifting. Balancing retail jobs, I reinvested my earnings from reselling thrifted items. By 2015, I committed full-time to this enterprise, later diversifying into selling unclaimed mail. My passion project "Smalls" emerged in 2021 as a retail store echoing Millersville's black-and-gold color scheme. Today, in 2023, we flourish in a 10,000-sq.-ft. space. My Millersville education was pivotal in my ability to adapt and seize diverse opportunities. Moreover, my store, while a hub for unique finds, also showcases my love for nature photography, particularly from my national park explorations. Every photo sold supports

"My Millersville education was pivotal in my ability to adapt and seize diverse opportunities."

Andrew Newell '12

the National Park Foundation. From computer science to "Smalls," my journey epitomizes the versatility a Millersville education offers. ♦

HARMONY TODD '12: I graduated from Millersville University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology with a focus on archaeology. I went on to graduate school at Arcadia University, where I received my master's in international peace and conflict resolution in 2014. It was that summer after I finished college that I began exploring old hobbies, including candlemaking. What started as a hobby grew into a small business and a table at the Trenton Farmers Market in New Jersey. My plan to continue on with my doctorate in international relations was completely blindsided by all the fun I was having while challenging myself to

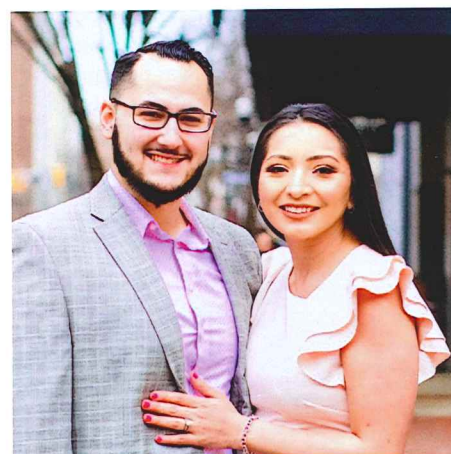


HARMONY TODD '12

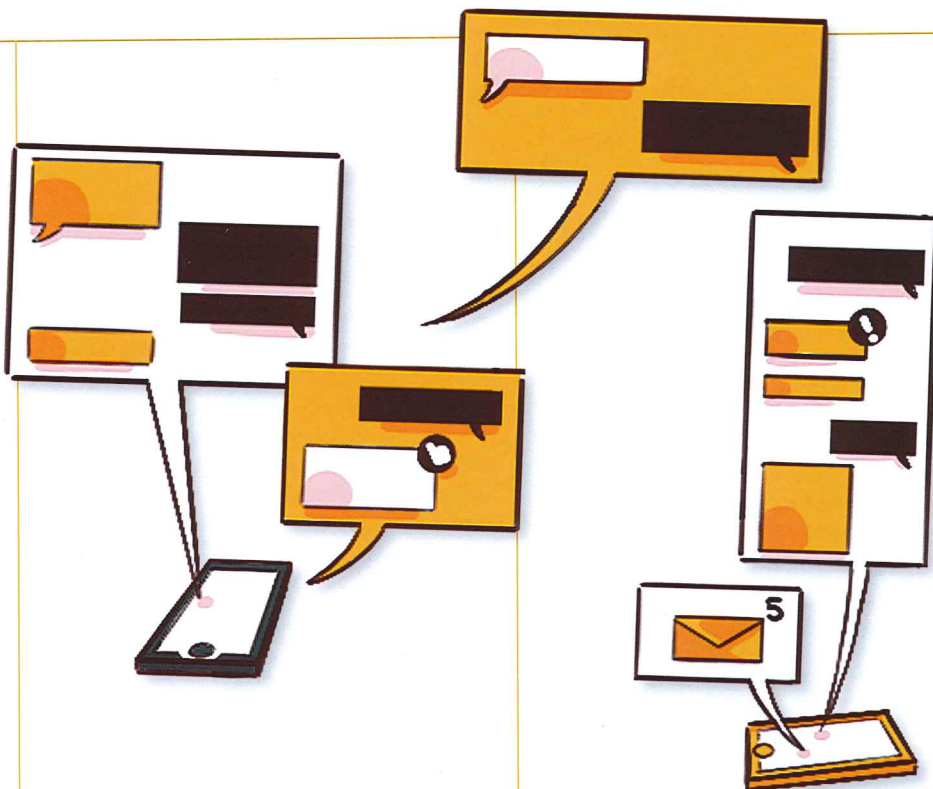
learn business and marketing skills. My company, Old Soul Artisan, eventually grew into a thriving candle business, where I now spend my days developing candle fragrances inspired by literature, folklore and fairy tales. Entrepreneurship is challenging, but the artistic freedom it allows me is worth all the hard work. ♦

NELLY VELEZ '13: I am forever #MUPROUD. I graduated in May 2013 with a bachelor's in English education. I was unable to find a local teaching position that year but was blessed with

the opportunity to work for a foster care agency while studying finance in the evenings and getting licensed for financial services. I became very curious about how my 401k and investments worked, since I never had the opportunity to take a financial course. I met my husband in 2015, and together, we opened up our own financial branch with over 65 licensed agents who we mentor and work alongside each and every day. We've helped the families we serve become debt-free, invest for retirement, get preapproved for mortgages as well as become properly protected to be able to leave a legacy for generations to come. ♦



NELLY VELEZ '13



CAMPUS NEWS | Fall/Winter

Google Partnership

To help expand workforce development efforts, Millersville University has partnered with Google to offer nine Career Certificates. Governor Josh Shapiro was at Millersville University on August 29 to announce the new public-private partnership. The partnership makes industry-recognized Google Career Certificates available to Millersville students and the public to help them secure good-paying jobs.



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

Millersville students can now earn a Google Career Certificate during their regular undergraduate programs, allowing them to earn college credit and an industry-recognized certificate at the same time. Credentials can also be offered to the public through noncredit courses and workshops.

Millersville will reach students and workers across the Commonwealth to provide them with skills for some of the state's most in-demand jobs. ♦

Amazon Career Choice

Amazon announced a new partnership with Millersville University on October 24. Provost Dr. Gail Gasparich was on hand at the new Amazon distribution center in York for the announcement of the Amazon



PROVOST DR. GAIL GASPARICH

Career Choice program. Amazon will fund eligible employees to complete their bachelor's degrees at Millersville.

Amazon will prepay tuition and reimburse books and fees up to an annual maximum. All undergraduate majors are included in this partnership. Applicants will need to apply to Millersville University and submit their payment request through the Amazon Career Choice Portal. ♦

HEED Award

For the 12th time, Millersville University received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

"This is a testament to the commitment of the campus community to increase awareness of the beauty of human differences and the benefits of engaging with those differences," comments Carlos Wiley, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Millersville University. ♦



Grants Galore

Millersville University received several major grants this past year. Here are some highlights:

NSF GRANT

Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation, Millersville University will be the lead institution working to increase the recruitment, graduation and post-baccalaureate success of students from underrepresented groups in STEM graduate school and/or the STEM workforce.

The five-year \$3,448,451 grant from NSF's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program is a joint effort of Millersville, East Stroudsburg University, Slippery Rock University and West Chester University. Dr. Gail Gasparich, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Millersville, is the primary investigator.

The goal of the program is to increase the number of students graduating with a STEM bachelor's degree by at least 20%,

from 70 graduates a year to 84 or more.

"To meet this goal, we will increase the recruitment and retention of STEM majors from underrepresented groups and build a strong culture of STEM identity, community and practice with our Keystone scholars," explains Gasparich.

FEMA GRANT

Interested in going to college and serving as a volunteer firefighter? Thanks to a \$296,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, MU students who volunteer for Blue Rock Fire Rescue may receive \$2,500 a semester.

Millersville's Dr. Duane Hagelgans, professor of emergency management, was awarded the grant by FEMA to aid the Blue Rock Fire District. A large portion of the grant, \$200,000, will go toward recruitment and retention. The goal of the grant is to recruit 12 new student volunteers per year for the fire company.



BLUE ROCK FIREFIGHTERS

SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT

The Pennsylvania Department of Education awarded \$100,000 to Millersville for its work with school districts to expedite the process for students to become special education teachers.

This grant will help expand Millersville University's online post-baccalaureate teaching certificate in special education. The University plans to commit 80% of the funds to scholarships and financial assistance for deserving candidates, making the certification more accessible to aspiring educators. The rest of the grant will be used for instructional materials and faculty development to improve the program further.

MANUFACTURING PA GRANT

The Pennsylvania Department of

Community and Economic Development announced earlier this year that Millersville will receive \$68,860 as part of the Manufacturing PA Initiative.

The initiative will fund student research projects focused on developing new technologies and advancing manufacturing innovation. Four Millersville University chemistry students will work with the locally owned Fontana Candle Company, providing technical assistance and researching how the ingredients of environmentally friendly candles interact to optimize production. ♦

Honorary Degree for President Wubah



DR. WUBAH RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE AT UCC.

Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, president of Millersville University, was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana during the summer of 2023.

Wubah received his bachelor's degree, with honors, in botany and a Diploma in Education from UCC. UCC is the top-ranked university in Ghana and West Africa, the fourth in Africa and among the 400 top-ranked universities worldwide. ♦

New AVP

Dr. Dan Kulmala has been hired as the Assistant Vice President for International Programs and Global Engagement at Millersville. Kulmala reports to the provost.



DR. DANIEL KULMALA

Kulmala was the Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Engagement at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke since 2021. ♦

MU Students Present at National Research Conference

Art and design, biology, communications and journalism, computer science, earth



ALLISON CONNELLY AT THE CONFERENCE IN WISCONSIN.

sciences, and English and world languages are all fields in which MU students presented research at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research. The conference was held last April at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The conference is held annually by the nonprofit Council for Undergraduate Research. It showcases undergraduate innovation, scholarships and creativity on a national stage. ♦

Faculty and Students Research Unhoused People in Lancaster Park

Millersville University faculty members and graduate students from the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change and the School of Social Work released a report on the use of Lancaster's Binns Park. The report, titled "People & Places: Community Needs and the Use of Public Space in Binns Park," is a 31-page paper that reflects 18 months of research and takes a closer look at the populations who frequent the park.

Graduate students in the social work program conducted much of the research through interviews, observation, creation of the survey and qualitative data analysis. The team looked to Dr. Mary H. Glazier, professor emerita of sociology, and Dr. Jennifer Frank, associate professor in the School of Social Work, for guidance as they began and implemented their research. ♦

New Honors College Director and Integrated Studies Coordinator

Two professors stepped into new roles this past semester to lead students toward success. Dr. Charlton Wolfgang was announced as the new Honors College Director, and Dr. Ojoma Edeh Herr stepped in as the new Integrated Studies Coordinator.

Wolfgang has held a variety of responsibilities and positions as a part of the early, middle and exceptional education department. He administers the Gifted Education Listserv for Pennsylvania, a tool that puts him in contact with over 100 gifted education teachers and administrators in the state.



DR. CHARLTON WOLFGANG



DR. OJOMA HERR

Wolfgang takes over for Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum, who served as director for six years.

Herr is just the second faculty advisor of Integrated Studies. She took the reins from Dr. Thomas Neuville, who started the program, which has grown to 40+ students. ♦

Dual-enrollment Programs

Earning college credits while in high school is a great way for students to get a head start on their college career. This fall, students from McCaskey High School, Penn Manor High School and Ephrata High School are earning college credits at Millersville University.

McCaskey High School and Millersville's Color of Teaching program created a partnership, Future Educator Pathway, that allows juniors and seniors to take classes for credit toward the University's education program.

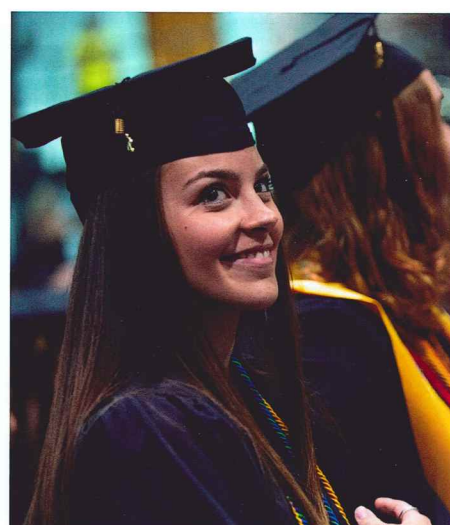
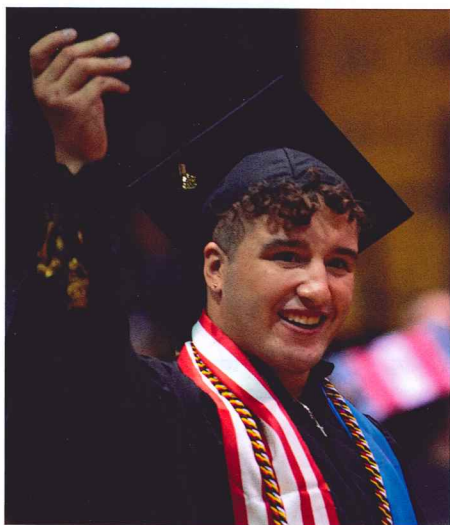
Penn Manor High School and the Lombardo College of Business have partnered to provide high school juniors a chance to earn credits towards an MU business degree.

And, the College of Education and Human Services started a partnership with Ephrata High School for future educators funded through a Dual Credit Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. ♦



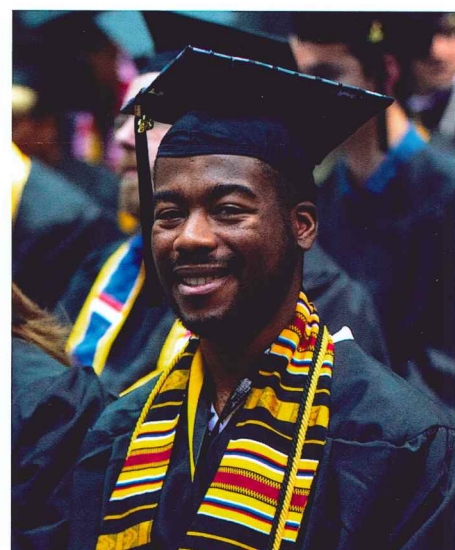
PENN MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

COMMENCEMENT | 2023



More than 400 graduate and undergraduate students received their diplomas on Dec. 9, 2023.

Addressing the graduates, President Daniel Wubah said they showed resilience, adaptability and courage in the face of a global pandemic that started when most were first-year students. Alumna Jennifer Craighead Carey, '90, a partner and attorney at Barley Snyder, was the keynote speaker.



STEM Partnerships Provide Hands-On Experience

By Mary Miller '22 '24M

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR FIELD OF INTEREST IS THROUGH REAL-WORLD, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES. THANKS TO CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS, MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY STEM STUDENTS NOW HAVE ACCESS TO EVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND LEARN.

Last spring, the University announced its partnership with Lampire Biological Laboratories, an international biotech life science firm that creates and supplies biological reagents for the diagnostic and pharmaceutical industries. In addition to providing MU's biology, chemistry and biochemistry faculty with opportunities for educational programming, two students were selected as interns to help with Lampire's work.

DANIELLE NIETUPSKI, a junior biology major with a concentration in molecular biology, and Sarah Abraham, a junior biology major were the two students selected as Lampire interns. Nietupski was interested in the opportunity after a campus visit from Lampire. "I found out about this internship by attending a colloquium where Lampire shared what their company was about as well as their new partnership with the University. There was an application process, which consisted of an interview and then a walkthrough of the lab space."

Much of her work with Lampire involves performing ELISA tests, a laboratory technique that detects and counts different antibodies, antigens, proteins and hormones in bodily fluid samples. "As an intern, I run ELISA tests on different samples, sometimes testing the reactivity of antigen to an antibody, or looking to see if an antibody can neutralize its target."

Additionally, Nietupski works closely with Lampire's **DR. DONNA CARTLEDGE-WOLF**, as they conduct neutralizing tests with



DANIELLE NIETUPSKI, DR. DONNA CARTLEDGE-WOLF AND SARAH ABRAHEM IN THE LAMPIRE LAB.

infectious particles like influenza and HSV-1. "We will also be creating a DNA vector that expresses a green fluorescent protein in mammalian cells for an upcoming project."

Nietupski says her work with Lampire varies day to day, and combined with her previous courses at Millersville, she's learning a lot about her field. "Taking cell biology has helped me in understanding how different biological components interact with each other. For example, when moving cells to another flask, an enzyme must be added to release the cells by cleaving proteins that

hold the cells to the flask and to each other.

"The most rewarding aspect of the internship is getting to see into the biotechnology industry," Nietupski says. "Not only have I learned a lot about different techniques and procedures from Dr. Cartledge-Wolf, but I have also seen how different experiments are translated into services for clients of Lampire."

Nietupski adds, "I am very grateful for this opportunity; I am excited to be a part of this partnership with Lampire and Millersville. I have learned a lot so far from Dr. Cartledge-Wolf, and I am excited to continue gaining knowledge about the biotechnology industry."

DR. MARC HARRIS, dean of the College of Science and Technology, adds that these kinds of partnerships align with the core mission of the College. "The SCTE educational promise is to provide all students with the depth and breadth of education and the hands-on learning needed for success in contemporary fields of science and technology," he says.

Harris concludes, "Industry partnerships, like with Lampire, will enhance our abilities to conduct cutting-edge research with students, leading to phenomenal student learning outcomes for students across several programs." ♦



HOMECOMING 2023

SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING 2024 : SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2024

Celebrating 90 Years of Homecoming Festivities

Since it was first held in 1933, Homecoming has always been a highly anticipated and extravagant event celebrating the culture and accomplishments of Millersville University students, alumni, community and athletes.

Over a thousand alumni and friends returned to campus for Homecoming Weekend 2023, October 13–15. This weekend, organized by the Office of Alumni Engagement, in conjunction with many campus partners and MUAA, is intended to connect alumni with each other and with the University to further build tradition and pride. The weekend was filled with excitement and school spirit, which provided a perfect backdrop for the Millersville Parade and the annual Block Party event, featuring food, games,

music, kids' activities and reconnecting with friends.

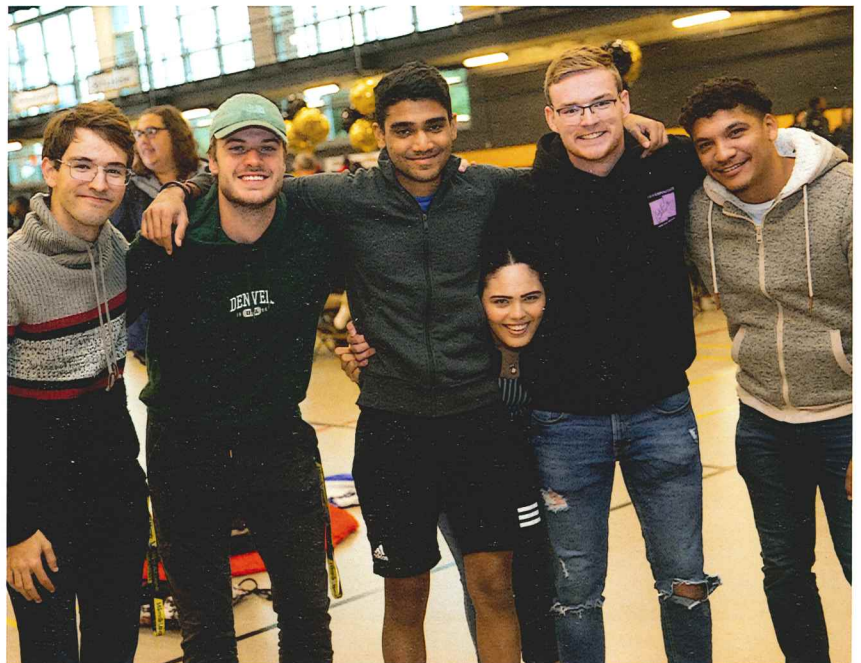
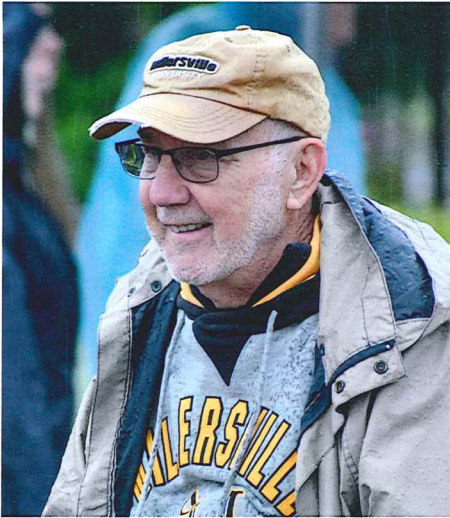
For the first time, Homecoming featured a Friday Welcome Home party, at which alumni, students and friends filled Raney Cellars. The Saturday annual Block Party was the best-attended weekend event despite the rain. The Millersville University Library and Archives hosted an open house, which provided the perfect setting for engaging conversation with other Marauders while strolling down memory lane.

Homecoming included several milestone events, such as the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1973 and the celebration of our inaugural class of Marvelous Marauders. ♦



Experience Homecoming
Weekend 2023
in photos and videos at
www.millersville.edu/homecoming23

Thank you
to our Block Party sponsors:
Garman Builders and MUAA.



From the Millersville Parade
to Block Party in
'Ville Courts, everyone enjoyed
HOMECOMING 2023.



IMAGINE *the* POSSIBLE

Campaign Concludes with Record-Breaking Success

The extraordinary **"IMAGINE THE POSSIBLE"** campaign concluded by achieving remarkable success with a total of **\$110,056,873** on June 30, 2023, as the six-year fundraising campaign surpassed the \$90 million campaign goal by more than 22% to become the largest fundraising campaign in Millersville University history, and the most successful fundraising effort in the history of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. As the first fundraising campaign in Millersville University history focused entirely on students, the campaign priority areas included Scholarships,

Student Learning Experiences, Marauder Athletics and Campus Revitalization.

A special event of **An Evening at the Enchanted Pond** took place at the beautiful campus pond on August 15, 2023, for donors and friends to celebrate the campaign success in an unforgettable evening under the stars. At the event's conclusion, the campaign fundraising total was revealed during an exciting presentation, including shimmering lights in vibrant colors, music and special effects.

With tremendous gratitude to the **more than 12,000 gracious donors** who

contributed to the "Imagine the Possible" campaign with gifts of all sizes – **thank you so much** for making a valuable difference for Millersville University students!

As a result of the Millersville University "Imagine the Possible" campaign, thousands of students are experiencing the transformative impact of generous donor support as they are fulfilling their dreams and exceeding the imagination.

Visit Imagine.Millersville.edu to explore the newly redesigned "Imagine the Possible" campaign website. ♦

"IMAGINE THE POSSIBLE" CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

Campaign Summary from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2023

TOTAL RAISED \$110,056,873

122% of Campaign Goal of \$90 Million

Many thanks for the incredible generosity from the Millersville University community!

TOTALS FOR CAMPAIGN PRIORITY AREAS


SCHOLARSHIPS
\$31M


STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCES
\$59.7M


MARAUDER ATHLETICS
\$7.7M


CAMPUS REVITALIZATION
\$11.6M


118 SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS ESTABLISHED
112 NAMED ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CREATED



An Evening at the Enchanted Pond celebrated the successful conclusion of the "Imagine the Possible" campaign with a special campus event for donors and friends.



Alumni and students who experienced the benefits of the "Imagine the Possible" campaign returned to campus to share their success stories, connect with guests and celebrate the special event.

Introducing the 'Ville Visionary Society



The 'Ville Visionary Society Porch Party and Brunch at Duncan Alumni House during Homecoming 2023 was a special opportunity to enjoy the Millersville Parade and connect with alumni and friends.

An exciting update to the Millersville University giving societies is the introduction of the recently established **'Ville Visionary Society**, formerly the Old Main Society, which recognizes the generosity of individuals who have supported Millersville University with a gift of \$1,000 or more during the most recent fiscal year. A visionary is defined by their imaginative forward thinking, and 'Ville Visionary Society members make a meaningful impact through their giving by providing an exceptional academic experience for Millersville University students.

Learn more about the Millersville University giving societies and special benefits available for members at millersville.edu/giftclubs. ♦

Make a New Year's Resolution to EXPLORE PLANNED GIVING

Resolve to make a valuable difference to benefit Millersville University students by considering planned giving opportunities.

Learn about various planned giving options, including IRA charitable rollover gifts, charitable bequests, gifts of stocks and bonds, life insurance, and more.

For more information or to request our **FREE WILLS GUIDE**, please contact us at Giving@millersville.edu or **877-872-3820**, or visit millersville.edu/giftlegacy.com.

The Inspirational Journey of a Scientist and University First Lady *Dr. Judith Wubah*

By Janet Kacskos

WHEN DR. JUDITH WUBAH ARRIVED IN 2018 AS FIRST LADY OF MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS SHE REALIZED WAS THAT THE ROLE OF A FIRST LADY DOES NOT HAVE A JOB DESCRIPTION. AFTER WORKING AS A FACULTY MEMBER AND ADMINISTRATOR IN HIGHER EDUCATION, SHE HAD A MINDSET THAT THE FIRST THING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT A JOB IS WHAT IS REQUIRED OF YOU.

"The first year was challenging," says Judith, "because PASSHE regulations do not allow presidential spouses to work at the same institution. I had to figure out what to do. I can tell you it is a difficult but fulfilling job. I travel with the president to numerous events on and off campus and act as an ambassador for the University at all times. That first year, we traveled to Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Texas and China to meet with alums. I take care of professional and personal matters so Daniel does not have to worry and can focus on his role as president."

Judith was born in Winneba, in the Central Region of Ghana and met Daniel in 1980



DR. JUDITH WUBAH

at the University of Cape Coast. "It was not love at first sight. He talked too much," says Judith. "He sat in front of me in class, and I knocked him on the head during class because he was so talkative."

During the Wubahs' time at UCC, there were constant political upheavals in Ghana. In 1983, while preparing for their final comprehensive exams, students at all three

universities demonstrated against the government. In retaliation, the universities were closed, and students were sent home for 10 months.

"When we came back for our final exams in March 1984, Daniel and I formed a study group with our cohort for botany. At our first meeting, I began to see Daniel's leadership skills based on how he structured the group. At our next meeting, it was obvious that the student scheduled to present had not prepared. We had been given only two months to prepare for exams, so there was no time to lose. That is when Daniel and I decided to meet on our own to study. We were both middle-class kids and more studious than some – and I had the smarts! Daniel was meticulous in his preparations and studying skills, an attribute I liked about him. We were studious, to the point that we could answer every question on the final exams and crushed it! We graduated at the top of our class."

Daniel left for the U.S. in August 1984 to pursue his master's degree in biology at the University of Akron in Ohio. Judith followed in August 1985, where they worked with the same professor, Dr. Don Ott. She received her master's degree in biology in 1989.

They were married in 1993 in Baltimore.

"Our wedding in the U.S. was at the courthouse with my sister-in-law and a family friend as witnesses," says Judith. "We returned home to Ghana for a full-blown wedding – which was for our parents – the following year. My parents were the ultimate event planners, as this wedding was for their only daughter! I can tell you that my mother had a blast! To this day, I celebrate our first wedding date, and Daniel celebrates our second wedding date."

As the daughter of an Anglican bishop, Judith is a lifelong Episcopalian. Therefore, faith is important to her, and she believes in angels. "Angels have played a large part in my life," she says. "One angel, Jessie Pervall, saved a spot for me in the Ph.D. program at Thomas Jefferson University when I had to delay acceptance for a year to become a legal U.S. resident."

"The program is designed to train molecular scientists to undertake research in how humans are formed from conception to birth and what cellular or metabolic pathways are disrupted, leading to birth defects," says Judith. "It's mind-boggling how many processes can go wrong during pregnancy, but most of the time, we end up with a healthy human."

She then started a two-year postdoctoral program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Working in the lab of Dr. Chuck Bieberich, whom Judith calls another one of her angels, she studied the molecular aspects of prostate development



DR. JUDITH WUBAH ON MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS.

and prostate cancer. In the second year of her postdoc, the Wubahs moved to James Madison University.

The Wubahs continued to move as Daniel climbed the academic administrative ladder. "I was a faculty member at JMU and later at the University of Florida Medical School. I loved working with students in the lab," says Judith.

From Florida, the couple moved to Virginia Tech, and Judith became the founding director of the Office of Health Professions Advising. The office focused on advising

and preparing students interested in health-related careers. "We arranged mock interviews on campus, where I got retired VT professors and local health professionals to serve on panels. It was the most rewarding job I have ever had."

Fast-forward to 2013, when Daniel became provost, and the family moved to Washington and Lee University in Virginia. At W&L, Judith was appointed the Associate Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, responsible for the management of externally funded grants.

While at W&L, Daniel became a tribal king (Toapentenhene) at Breman Asikuma in the Central Region of Ghana. "I never knew he was going to be king," says Judith. "I had some inkling of his royal lineage, but his mother was initially against his ascending to the throne. When his uncle died, the throne passed on to Daniel. My other title, therefore, is Nanayere (literal translation: "the king's wife"), where my role is similar to first lady responsibilities, ensuring that everything is carried out as needed in order for Daniel to perform his duties as the king. I also have the responsibility of leading the women in the tribe, and so we have set up a microfinance program for them."

Judith says they both consider the U.S. as home. "We've lived here longer than our birthplace of Ghana. Both daughters and our two grandchildren were born and raised here - this is home." ♦



RESPONDING *to* EMERGENCIES

By Kelsey Madas



EVERYONE IS FAMILIAR WITH EMERGENCIES. BUT WHAT, EXACTLY, IS AN EMERGENCY MANAGER, AND WHAT DO THEY DO? “EMERGENCY MANAGERS DEAL WITH ALL THINGS DISASTERS,” EXPLAINS **DR. DUANE HAGELGANS**, PROFESSOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. “THIS CAN BE NATURAL DISASTERS, TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS OR ACTS OF TERRORISM. THE MAIN ROLE OF AN EMERGENCY MANAGER IS TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE THROUGH PROPER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.”

In addition to teaching at MU, Hagelgans serves as the fire commissioner and emergency management coordinator for Blue Rock Regional Fire District. He is able to give his students current examples of the work of emergency managers. Recently, he has advocated for railroad companies to be more forthcoming with the materials they haul so first responders know what they’re dealing with in the case of a derailment.

“The work of emergency management professionals is essential to the well-being of communities, explains Dr. Tim Sevison, assistant professor of emergency management. Sevison has an extensive background in emergency and disaster preparedness and response and most recently served as the deputy director for operations for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

“The primary role of the emergency manager within the community is in the building of resilience and capacity.” While the job is tough, the work is important. “What makes me stay in the field is seeing and working with a new generation that has a passion for helping others and a desire to effect the necessary changes to build resilient communities,” says Sevison.

Dr. Sepi Yalda, director of MU’s Center for Disaster Research and Education and coordinator of the master’s program in emergency management, echoes his sentiments, saying, “I love interacting with the students and helping them in their journey to expand on their knowledge, skills and experiences. Watching students be successful and grow as individuals and professionals is the best part of teaching and mentoring.”

Here, alumni and faculty members share their experiences in the

field and why they continue the difficult but important work of managing emergencies.

DENNIS MERRIGAN ’15M

Dennis Merrigan hated school. It wasn’t that he hated learning or did poorly on tests – in fact, he frequently got top scores on standardized tests – but something about school and Merrigan spelled trouble. Between lagging grades (“I got mostly D’s on report cards,” he says) and an accumulated number of offenses, he finally got kicked out of high school during his junior year. This may have suited Merrigan just fine; after all, he describes his experience in those early years as “brutal.” It may come as a bit of a surprise to learn that, today, Merrigan is earning a doctorate in emergency management and, before that, earned a master’s in emergency management from Millersville University.

Much of Merrigan’s career was, and is, as a firefighter and fire officer, which is something of a family legacy. Both his father and uncle were firefighters. For the past four years, Merrigan has served as the chief fire marshal for the city of Philadelphia, where he oversees the fire investigation unit. “Taking arsonists and people who start fires intentionally off the street is a victory because they hurt innocent people,” he explains. “When you start a fire,

you have no idea where it’s going to end.”

Around 2003, he was transferred to Center City Philadelphia and started thinking about earning a degree in emergency management. That’s when he found Millersville University. He and his wife were in

the early years of raising a family, so the online program worked well for him. “I would put my kids to bed at night, get a cup of tea, write until 3 a.m., and then go to work,” he shares. “The program showed me that there are a lot of different angles to fire service. Dr. Sepi Yalda, the program head, Dr. Duane Hagelgans, and everyone were really friendly. Academically, it was my best experience.”

While the job is rewarding, says Merrigan, it comes with

“The primary role of the emergency manager within the community is in the building of resilience and capacity.”

Dr. Tim Sevison



DENNIS MERRIGAN ’15M

a cost. Sometimes you can't save everyone. Even your own coworkers. "The first time that I experienced somebody that I knew dying on the job was at my very first station. Reality comes crashing in on you. People get killed in this job. Really good people." Those tragic experiences taught Merrigan the importance of continual learning. "You study and you study, and you can never learn enough about emergencies and disasters because they're unpredictable by nature."

Today, Merrigan's role has him removed from the front lines of crises, and he takes great pride in his role of helping to keep the city safe and mentoring the next generation of emergency managers. "There's a lot of learning that goes into becoming an investigator, so I'm constantly pushing my people to stay in the books and stay on top of their trade."

JEFF JUMPER '16M

You could say that Jeff Jumper's career in emergency management began at the age of 14. That's when he first began his role as a volunteer firefighter near his hometown of Shavertown in northeastern Pennsylvania. "My grandfather was a fireman in the city of Scranton and used to take me to the firehouse as a kid, and I was hooked," says Jumper. "My older brother joined the local fire company when I was 8, and I counted the days until I could join, too."

Jumper earned a degree in meteorology and while working in the field, he had a chance encounter with a group of volunteer



JEFF JUMPER '16M

firefighters who were students enrolled in Millersville's emergency management program. "I talked to Dr. Sepi Yalda, the coordinator of the emergency management master's program. I was like, 'This is the way to go,'" shares Jumper. "Since then, I've had a lot of friends in television that were like, 'Hey, what's the deal with this program?' and a number of them have joined the program since."

What is it that makes the path between firefighting, meteorology and emergency

management so closely connected? Jumper says it's the overlap in skills. "I often say having a background doing something like volunteer firefighting is a gateway in. Having a meteorology background seems to excite the community because so much of what we do involves natural hazards. Those three things – being a first responder, broadcaster and meteorologist – tend to work well together because you get the experience of actually going to events firsthand along with the education," explains Jumper.

While he loved his career in meteorology, the schedule eventually became a conflict when he and his wife began raising their two young children. "I started in the program at Millersville, hoping to start a five-year exit plan from television, and then the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency created a state meteorologist position that I applied for." Jumper accepted the job in 2015 while still enrolled in MU's program, where he was able to use his new role

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done, but I'm proud to do my part to help make Pennsylvania a little safer."

Jeff Jumper '16M

as his capstone project for his master's degree. He crossed the stage in 2016 and came back to his alma mater in 2017 to become an adjunct professor at the Center for Disaster Research and Education. "Giving back to my community has long been a part of my life, and there's no better way to give back than sharing knowledge and wisdom I have gained through my experiences with those looking to enter the field," says Jumper. In late September of this year, he served as a guest

speaker at the University's annual Preparedness Day, an educational event that aims to help students be prepared for emergencies.

In 2022, Jumper became the resiliency program manager at PEMA. In this role, he says he's "... been tasked with developing a new program to help build a more disaster-resilient Pennsylvania. It's recovery after disaster, but it's also hazard mitigation." Education is a key component of his new role. "We're trying to find ways to help people understand how to be more resilient at the individual level, starting with their homes," he explains. "We're looking at the municipal level, including counties, the private sector, state agencies and more – how can they become more resilient? Some of that's planning, some of that's education, some of that's just having conversations with people."

One small change that Jumper was able to enact that has the potential for big change came in a surprising way: an update to the Pennsylvania Driving Manual. Flooding, flash flooding and snow squalls are some of the most common disasters in the state. "We've seen the devastating effects of property damage all the way to lost lives," he says. Jumper suggested adding the weather events to the driving manual when he was in a meeting with other emergency managers. They gave him the go-ahead to contact PennDOT. The educational material was approved and added, and now new drivers all across the state might be just a little more prepared. And that, explains Jumper, is the goal of all of his work. "There's a lot of work that needs to be done, but I'm proud to do my part to help make Pennsylvania a little safer."

CHRIS SOELLE '16M

Weather and emergencies touched Chris Soelle's life at an early age. In 2001, an F3 tornado barreled through his native Wisconsin and



CHRIS SOELLE '16M

caused extreme damage to the neighboring community. "At first, we didn't know anything happened," he recalls. "The power went out, and so we went to the basement with our pets for the rest of the night." The next day, his mom took him over to his grandparents' neighborhood to assess the damage, and the young Soelle took note of the many voluntary agencies on the scene. That formative experience, paired with a memorable unit on weather



in sixth grade and his favorite movie, "Twister" ("I loved it, but it gave me nightmares," shares Soelle), solidified an early interest in weather and emergency preparedness.

Soelle went on to earn an undergraduate degree in meteorology. "While I was studying for that degree, I heard about these people called emergency managers and how they help people prepare for extreme weather and also help them recover from those events," he explains. "It really grabbed my attention, and I realized I wanted to help people by going into that career." After a talk with his college advisor, who suggested Millersville's program, he applied and got accepted – and even took on a teaching assistant position with the Center for Disaster Research and Education. "I loved the program and the people at Millersville."

Soelle shares that his professors emphasized the importance of internships. "It's something I'd heard in my undergrad, but it came into play even more in grad school, where there's a big emphasis on getting experience. It's helped me to have more opportunities in my career."

Today, Soelle is the executive officer for the recovery division at FEMA in Kansas City, Missouri. "I've learned that I really thrive in helping leaders make informed decisions," he explains. "The mission at FEMA is to help people before, during and after disasters, and it keeps each one of us going, day in and day out."



In addition to his primary role at FEMA, he's also part of the hurricane liaison team, which means he can be deployed to the front lines of disasters. "That's where I can bring my experience with meteorology and emergency management together. You work as a liaison between forecasters at the National Hurricane

Center and emergency managers to interpret the forecast and what the impacts in communities will be based on that forecast." The role, says Soelle, is primarily to help emergency managers understand what it means to their community, and in times of crisis, it's important to get that information to them quickly. "They're going through so much on the ground that they don't have time for that noise. They need to be able to make decisions and don't have room for error when it comes to something like an evacuation."

As for advice for students, Soelle has this to say: "If anyone is interested, there's a role for you in the emergency management community. It's a big field and a rewarding career path, especially if you like helping people. Yes, you can travel a lot, and you can also be there for people on some of their worst days and make a difference in the community."

MONICA WARD '22M

From an early age, Monica Ward knew she wanted to use her career to help others. She comes from a long line of veterans and decided to join the Army National Guard. "The big selling point for me was the fact that the National Guard responds to disasters here in the U.S.," she shares. "Katrina had just happened, and I wanted to be a part of the solution."



MONICA WARD '22M

"The master's program definitely helped me understand what focus area I'm most passionate about and where I can have an impact in this field."

Monica Ward '22M

Her work with disaster response in the National Guard began in 2014, and in 2017, she was deployed to the Virgin Islands in the wake of hurricanes Irma and Maria. "I saw the breakdown in the failures within the response," shares Ward, noting the experience reminded her of her desire to study emergency management. When the pandemic paused Ward's work travel, she took the opportunity to pursue her dream at Millersville.

"The master's program definitely helped me understand what focus area of emergency management I'm most passionate about and where I can have an impact in this field," says Ward. "I don't think I would have figured that out without Millersville's program."

What is her passion? "I advocate for rural communities and the disproportionate resource allocation, funding and support to those rural communities," explains Ward, who credits her interest in the subject to a course on social vulnerabilities that she took in the program. Today, in her role as an emergency management program coordinator–zone liaison in King County, Washington, she does just that.

Ward supports 17 jurisdictions, a tribe and additional partners with the development and implementation of their emergency management programs. Many of those partners are understaffed, undersupported and in rural jurisdictions. "I've been to communities where no one ever came in to help them with recovery from a wildfire," she says. "And years later, we are still fighting with their insurance company because no one came."

Ward hopes to start a mentorship program among her jurisdictions to improve collaboration, professional development and resource coordination to continue her advocacy work for rural communities.



ALANNA BEZAS '22

ALANNA BEZAS '22

Not everyone enters the emergency management field with an extensive background in the profession. Take Alanna Bezas, a 2022 graduate of Millersville's undergraduate program. She began her freshman year as an undeclared major and first read about the program online. "At the time, it was a multidisciplinary studies program called environmental



hazards and emergency management, and the required courses combined a lot of my interests. There were many different paths you could take after graduation, which I found appealing." During a meeting with Dr. Sepi Yalda, Bezas says, "She painted a perfect picture, explaining the major and the opportunities available to me. I remember scheduling a phone call with her before I had even met her – she then became my thesis advisor in a full-circle moment!"

To enhance her educational experience, Bezas became the emergency response and enterprise resilience intern at NYU Langone Health in New York City and attended annual conferences with MU's International Association of Emergency Managers. "Those conferences were excellent professional development for us; networking with professionals from around the country gave us a better understanding of what the industry entailed," she shares.

Bezas is now a few months into her role as the regional planner at Providence Emergency Management Agency in Providence, Rhode Island, a position focusing on FEMA's Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant. "The grant project focuses on building disaster resilience in areas ranked high on the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index in Providence and Boston by building stakeholder relationships and collecting data." She says she's learning a lot on the job by participating in flash flood activations, a full-scale active shooter exercise, emergency shelter-in-place exercise and more. "My proudest academic moment is simply the growth I've had in my field.

I went from not knowing this career existed, to building my own connections and successes in emergency management, and Millersville's opportunities played a huge role in that." She says she's appreciative of the industry's focus on mentoring. "I'm grateful to everyone who lent their time to have a conversation with me during my job search process. I look forward to giving back to the up-and-coming emergency managers whose shoes I was once in!" ♦



KAT WALSH Makes an Impact with the American Red Cross

By Leah Reagan '24

Disasters, whether natural or human-made, are inevitable and being experienced more frequently and with greater severity. The devastation and aftermath often leave hundreds or thousands of people traumatized and unable to cope with the emotional impact of the event and personal loss. Understanding this, and seeing it through a social work lens, Dr. Kathleen (Kat) Walsh, professor of social work, realizes the importance of responding to disasters.

This is why she felt compelled to complete her yearlong sabbatical as a disaster mental health responder with the American Red Cross to use her knowledge and experience to assist people affected by disasters.

After living through the COVID-19 pandemic and seeing and feeling the effects it had on many people, including herself, Walsh decided to take a break from her job as a professor and chase her dream as a disaster mental health responder. "Through all the feelings of helplessness, one thing kept rising to the top and helped me to persevere and be more at ease with being still and staying put. It was the promise that as soon as I was able to, I would get back out and do more direct service in the world and make meaningful contributions. It was then that I decided to pursue my lifelong dream of being a disaster mental health responder."

Walsh worked with the American Red Cross from 2020–2022, gaining experiences and different types of training locally that she would eventually apply to her work nationally. Throughout her time with the American Red Cross, while on sabbatical, Walsh worked in Fort Myers, Florida, with Hurricane Ian, in Selma, Alabama, with tornado recovery and in Pajaro/Watsonville, California, with flood recovery.

While providing direct services for the organization, she also provided expertise to her team. "In addition to the direct services provided, I worked with statewide, regional and local chapters to enhance my skills as a volunteer and offered my expertise to the leadership to enhance our local capacity, increase community partnerships and build field opportunities/volunteer opportunities related to the local community and university," Walsh says.

Walsh explains that she learned many things during her experience as a disaster mental health responder. "It is almost impossible to convey with any degree of brevity the breadth, depth and meaning these experiences have had for me. I deployed four times during the last six months, and each experience was a unique gift to my lifelong learning. I have made lifelong connections with fellow volunteers and community members."



She notes that this experience gave her many new goals and outlooks on life that will stick with her forever. "I have a new outlook on life, new professional goals and a desire to make positive change in ways I had not ever envisioned before. This was the most significant life experience I have had, and I feel honored and blessed with gratitude that I was able to do it." ♦



MEN'S SOCCER WINS PSAC!

by Ethan Hulsey

FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN THE LAST FIVE SEASONS, **THE MILLERSVILLE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM** IS THE PSAC CHAMPION. THE MARAUDERS CAPTURED THE TITLE IN ERIE WITH A 1-0 WIN OVER PSAC EAST RIVAL WEST CHESTER.

A streak of three consecutive PSAC titles from 2018–2021 was broken up by missing the postseason entirely in 2022, but the Marauders triumphantly reclaimed that championship – the fifth in program history – using a goal from **AARON MAYNARD** in the 16th minute of play and an outstanding defensive effort in which **TRAVIS HOLIDAY** made four saves for a fifth-straight shutout. Fittingly, **STEVE WIDDOWSON**, the Marauders' coach for all five of their conference championships, earned his 200th career victory as well.

Millersville earned a spot in the championship match after dismantling Seton Hill in the semifinal, tying a PSAC record for postseason goals in the 6-0 win. The final – the third match-up of the season between the Marauders and Golden Rams – was far more evenly matched.

"As expected, the final was a lot closer, more physical and more competitive,



AARON MAYNARD (NO. 15) SCORED THE ONLY GOAL AS MILLERSVILLE BEAT WEST CHESTER FOR THE PSAC TITLE.

as these two teams know each other very well," said Widdowson. "I think we played well, and we showed enough to get our noses ahead and then defended like warriors to make sure we could see the game out. Overall, I think we deserved it just slightly more. West Chester was great, and they pushed us all the way, and I could not be prouder of the two performances we put on this weekend."

The two familiar foes were scoreless until a pair of senior defenders combined for the game-winner.

CHRISTIAN VORCHHEIMER drew a foul on a hard tackle 40 yards from the goal. **MIKE KREIDER** took the free kick, and PSAC East Defensive Athlete of the Year Aaron Maynard sprinted into the center of the box, outleaped his defender and placed a header just under the crossbar.

In the final 45 minutes, the Marauder defense and Holiday remained dominant, preventing the Golden Rams from finding their way onto the scoreboard. Holiday made three saves in the match's final 20 minutes.



MILLERSVILLE WON ITS FOURTH PSAC CHAMPIONSHIP IN FIVE SEASONS WITH COACH STEVE WIDDOWSON EARNING HIS 200TH WIN THE SAME DAY.

For the second time in his career, **BOB HENNESSEY** was awarded PSAC Tournament MVP after tallying four goals in the semifinal victory over Seton Hill. ♦



EPPIIC Golf Season

Speaking with stoic confidence as if he already knew the outcome of the 2023 PSAC Men's Golf Championship, Millersville men's golf head coach **SCOTT VANDEGRIFT**, in his 38th year, addressed his team, which held a one-shot lead over four-time defending champion IUP with 18 holes to play. The message was simple: finish. The resolute and undeniable lineup of three seniors and two freshmen carried their coach's confidence through each of their 296 shots in the final round and delivered Millersville and Vandegrift a fifth PSAC Championship.

From tee to green, the Marauders steadily executed while teams slowly buckled against a wind-beaten Iron Valley Golf Club course that punished every team in the field except the Marauders, who refused to falter. Even with the pressure of starting the day with a one-shot lead, the Marauders fired the best team round of the tournament, and in doing so, no other team in the field came within 12 shots of them.

Millersville finished as the only team to post two sub-300 rounds and ran away with the team title by 14 shots. Defining the day's mission to finish, Millersville's four counted scorecards – turned in by **TIMOTHY PETERS**, **BOBBY LUGIANO**, **CARL ERNST** and **JAKE SPEERS** – saw a combined 3-under-par score over the final four holes.



TIMOTHY PETERS, TY MORRAL, BOBBY LUGIANO, JAKE SPEERS AND CARL ERNST CELEBRATE MEN'S GOLF'S FIRST PSAC TITLE SINCE 2013.

"We wanted to reproduce the intensity," said Vandegrift. "The word was to finish the job. We didn't spend much time looking at the live scoring. We stuck to the plan, played holes and it worked out.... These fellas play in all types of weather. It didn't affect them. They became more determined to stay in the hunt. They finished yesterday, and they came out today to finish the job, and they did."

With an even demeanor and maturity far beyond his years, freshman Timothy Peters held off a hard-charging Lugiano for medalist honors. After four bogeys on the first five holes, Peters settled and played the final 13 holes at 1-under-par, finishing the championship at 3-over-two shots clear of Lugiano. Peters was remarkably consistent

for three days, shooting rounds of 73, 72 and 74. He's now won two of his last three starts and shot five consecutive rounds of 74 or lower.

Also key to the Marauders' win was the performance of senior Carl Ernst, who finished ninth by playing his best golf of the tournament on Sunday's back nine. Freshman Jake Speers provided an emotional lift and a gutsy final 18 holes for his team. With an injured hand that prevented him from gripping a club and playing in the second round, Speers spent Saturday night receiving treatments and courageously inserted himself into the lineup Sunday morning.

Not eligible for an individual finish, Speers shot a 3-over-par 75—one of the lowest rounds of the day. Senior Ty Morral tied for 20th, finishing the tournament at 23-over-par.

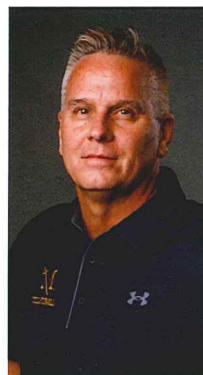
"It was very inspiring considering we had two freshmen and three seniors," says Vandegrift. "I can't say enough about [Jake], who couldn't even play yesterday because of a hurt hand, and he led the charge today. He shot 75 with the worst hand in the world. The whole team rallied yesterday to keep us in the tournament and take the lead. They were determined to finish it today, and they did." ♦

200 WINS for Behrens and Smith

The winningest coach in program history added another accolade to her resume this season, as **SHELLY BEHRENS**, Millersville field hockey head coach, achieved 200 wins with the Marauders this season. "This is truly a reflection of our respective teams that all contributed during my time here. I am blessed to have some of the best young women that I get to coach. It is a true testament and thanks to each one of them for their time and efforts here, as this is as much their accomplishment as mine," says Behrens. Behrens has won PSAC Coach of the Year three times, Division II Coach of the Year twice and has led the Marauders to two PSAC championships.



SHELLY BEHRENS '21M



BRIAN SMITH '87

Millersville volleyball head coach **BRIAN SMITH** became the first coach in program history to reach 200 career match wins with a 3-2 upset over Shepherd on Oct. 27, 2023. Smith, a 1987 graduate of the University, guided the team to its first NCAA playoff berth since 1995 and set a school record with 26 wins. "What I hope it says about me is that I care for the young women I have been entrusted to coach, mentor and develop and that the University also values that about me and my staff members. [...] It's my hope that this is not looked at as my accomplishment but rather as a success for everyone who's been a part of it, from the top down." ♦



SPORTS | 2023-24

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Impressive athletes honored during Homecoming weekend

BY ETHAN HULSEY

As part of Homecoming Weekend, Millersville University Athletics recognized its 29th annual **HALL OF FAME** class.

"The phrase that comes to mind with this year's Hall of Fame class is 'history-making,'" says Millersville director of athletics

Miles Gallagher. "These Marauders set records, won championships and exemplify what it is to be a Millersville student-athlete both on campus and after graduation. We are excited for this class to take its rightful place in the Hall of Fame."

SARA BURCIN '01 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

A sharpshooter with no comparison in the history of Millersville women's basketball, Sara Burcin scored 1,543 career points, establishing a scoring record that stood for nearly 20 years. Burcin set a Millersville record by making 78 more 3-pointers than any other Marauder and sank an incomparable 39% of her shots from deep. Burcin is one of just four Millersville women's basketball players named All-PSAC East First Team three times and the only player to win the PSAC East Freshman of the Year Award. Burcin helped Millersville to three 20-win seasons, a PSAC East title in 1999–2000 and played on two NCAA Tournament teams. ♦

CONOR GILBERT '15 MEN'S GOLF

A true leader and a champion, Conor Gilbert is considered by longtime Millersville golf coach Scott Vandegrift as his program's most influential team captain. In that captaincy, Gilbert led his team to a PSAC Championship in 2013 while earning medalist honors, becoming just the second Marauder in program history to finish first at the conference championship event. Gilbert landed All-PSAC East First Team honors twice and owns Millersville's seventh-lowest career scoring average. Gilbert's play helped the 2014 and 2015 teams to the NCAA Super Regional, and the ninth-place finish in his senior season is still the best in program history. ♦

KRISTEN MAZE MANDERACHI '06 WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Millersville's only lacrosse player named All-PSAC four times, Kristen Maze Manderachi made an impact on defense and in the



midfield with her tenacity and toughness. Maze Manderachi landed All-PSAC First Team recognition and team MVP honors three years in a row. She also served as a team captain during her junior and senior seasons. Maze Manderachi led the PSAC in draw controls and groundballs as a senior and ranked second in both categories in 2004. An outstanding student as well, Maze Manderachi graduated magna cum laude from the Millersville Honors College. ♦

CHAS MCCORMICK '17 BASEBALL

Before he won a World Series ring with the Houston Astros, Chas McCormick set the PSAC hits record with 306 while also finishing among the all-time conference leaders in runs scored, RBIs, doubles, stolen bases and walks. Voted the 2017 PSAC East Athlete of the Year, McCormick graduated as the only Marauder named All-PSAC East four times and the only position player named All-Atlantic Region First Team three times. McCormick hit .373 with a .441 on-base percentage while playing 223 games. His four-year career resulted in four school

records. A winning player, McCormick helped Millersville to three PSAC East titles and four NCAA Tournament berths. His ninth-inning home run and walk-off triple in the 2015 PSAC Semifinals helped Millersville to its first conference championship in 17 years. In 2016, McCormick was voted the NCAA Atlantic Regional's Most Outstanding Player as the Marauders finished as the national runner-up. ♦

MARK UDOVICH '82 FOOTBALL

In 1981, Millersville deployed the most dominant rushing attack in the NCAA, smashing PSAC records as the offense ran over opponents. The heart of that unstoppable running game was Mark Udovich, who paved the way for 3,552 yards – a mark that still ranks first at Millersville. Udovich is Millersville's most decorated offensive lineman, holding the rare distinction of earning All-PSAC East First Team honors in all four seasons of his career. Udovich blocked for two different All-American running backs, and Udovich earned that lofty status himself in 1981 as he was voted a Kodak First Team All-American. Udovich's unsung work on the offensive line led Millersville to three straight PSAC East titles from 1979–1981, and he started at center in Millersville's first NCAA Playoff game. ♦

JAIME VAZQUEZ '16 MEN'S SOCCER

A game-changing and supremely skilled forward, Jaime Vazquez dazzled Millersville fans and the opposition alike by scoring 39 goals and 94 points on his way to three straight All-Atlantic Region selections and All-America honors as a sophomore in 2013 and as a senior in 2015. In his final



season, Vazquez tallied 19 goals and 42 points, leading the PSAC in seven major offensive categories and landing the PSAC Athlete of the Year Award. Vazquez helped the Marauders to two NCAA Tournament appearances, including a trip to the regional final in 2013. ♦

LOIS MORGAN '54 CHAMPION OF ATHLETICS

Lois Morgan's impactful contributions to Millersville Athletics are unmatched, and

she is the first individual elected to the Hall of Fame under the special distinction of "Champion of Athletics." A 1954 graduate of Millersville University, Morgan established scholarships for women's athletics and the Morgan Academic Center in 2018. The academic center provides technology upgrades and a study space exclusively for student-athletes. Following the challenges of COVID-19, Morgan came to the aid of student-athletes by establishing general

scholarships with a gift of \$500,000. Morgan then started a campaign to build new locker rooms and athletic training spaces at Biemesderfer Stadium with the largest single gift in the history of Millersville Athletics. Morgan's generosity and care for the student-athlete experience has touched the lives of countless Millersville student-athletes. ♦



2014 FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

The 2014 field hockey team holds a special place in the history of Millersville Athletics as the first women's program to win an NCAA title. Each of the team's eight seniors started over 20 games, and five earned All-America honors. The team, led by PSAC and NFHCA Division II Coach of the Year Shelly Behrens, won a school record 20 games while leading the nation in

shutouts and goals-against average. Outstanding on the field and in the classroom, the squad produced a 3.24 team GPA, earning an award from the NFHCA. The team also produced the NFHCA Division II Player of the Year and the NCAA's Elite 89 Award winner. ♦

MILES GALLAGHER *Departs*



GALLAGHER '10, '12M

Following eight years of dedicated and outstanding service to Millersville University, during which the athletic department flourished, director of athletics Miles Gallagher, '10, '12M moves on to a new career opportunity with Teamworks as a senior business development executive.

"Millersville has been home to me for almost 16 years," says Gallagher. "It's not just my alma mater, but the place I've been able to grow both personally and professionally. I'm incredibly proud of what our student-athletes and coaches have accomplished during

my tenure. What I will miss most is the relationships. We have an incredible group of coaches, administrators and faculty who dedicate themselves tirelessly to our student-athletes."

During Gallagher's tenure, Millersville Athletics excelled in competition and academics while setting fundraising records and making significant facilities improvements. Millersville teams won seven PSAC Championships and three individual NCAA titles while setting records for PSAC Scholar-Athletes eight years in a row. Under his direction, \$7.7 million was raised for athletics as part of the Imagine the Possible campaign, and a Biemesderfer Stadium renovation campaign has generated nearly \$5 million. ♦

Where are they NOW?

Checking in with Former Athletic Communications Students

by Joshua Gearhart '24

FROM INTERNSHIPS TO STUDENT WORKERS AND GRADUATE ASSISTANT POSITIONS, MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OFFERS A PLETHORA OF WAYS FOR STUDENTS TO PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE. WORKING IN ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS HAS BEEN A GATEWAY FOR STUDENTS TO ENTER THE WORLD OF SPORTS.

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR **ETHAN HULSEY** HAS BEEN IN HIS POSITION FOR 15 YEARS AND HAS HAD DOZENS OF STUDENTS WORK FOR HIM IN POSITIONS RANGING FROM GAME-DAY PREPARATION AND KEEPING STATISTICS ON 19 TEAMS TO PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY, GRAPHIC DESIGN, SOCIAL MEDIA AND WRITING.

HERE, WE MEET SOME OF THE INTERNS, STUDENT WORKERS AND GRADUATE ASSISTANTS FROM MILLERSVILLE'S ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT WHO HAVE STAYED IN THE BUSINESS.



BOBBY BADER JR. '19, '21M

BOBBY BADER JR. '19, '21M: ASSISTANT SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR AT PENN STATE HARRISBURG
Bader began his second year

as Penn State Harrisburg's assistant sports information director in 2022-2023. He studied sports photography at Millersville University and worked as the photographer for the Millersville ice hockey team.

What lessons did you learn as a student worker?

I truly learned the importance of balancing an athletic schedule while also having a full course load. You learn how to manage your schedule when most of your evenings and weekends are filled with different events. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions. There are a ton of moving parts to run a successful athletic communications department, and most of them are confusing at first, but once you ask the questions and start to understand, everything becomes a breeze.

What skills did you learn that you still use now?

During the year and a half I worked with the Millersville athletic communications staff, I learned more than I could have ever imagined. Coming from a digital media background, I was more than willing to learn about what it took to be in athletic communications. From streaming games to keeping statistical information ("stating") for a wide variety of athletic competitions, I was set up for success when I moved into my current role. The opportunities I was given at Millersville truly helped me become successful at my job.

Advice for current students?

Learn as many tasks as you can, whether it be running a camera or stating a game. Do not be afraid to try things that might scare you as well. As a sports information director, I've encountered many opportunities to learn things I never thought about trying while I was in college. Learning as much as you can sets you up for success in athletic communications once you graduate. ♦

ALLY CADENHEAD KERR '20: SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR AT COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

Cadenhead attended Millersville University from 2016-2020, where she was extremely involved with intercollegiate athletics. At Millersville, she competed on the softball team and was a member of the student-athlete advisory committee. She gained experience in the athletic communications department, assisting with game-day operations, social media content creation



ALLY CADENHEAD KERR '20



and design, and managed the student-athlete spotlight articles and teammate challenge videos. Cadenhead Kerr was named sports information director in November 2022 and has entered her fourth year in the Columbus State University sports information department.

Tell us about your current position.

As the sports information director at Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga., I am responsible for all athletic communications for our 13 varsity sports teams. I am responsible for overseeing the athletics website and social media maintenance; athletic communications and marketing; content creation and graphic design; communication game-day operations; our athletics broadcast and production; reporting and writing articles; and statistics, archives, technology, photos and videos. I also serve as a member of the Girls In The Game planning committee, overseeing communication and marketing materials.

How did you land your current role?

I graduated from Millersville in May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. I received a bachelor's in speech communication, with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in journalism. I knew I wanted to work in athletic communications/sports information, and since a lot of employers paused hiring during the pandemic, I started researching graduate assistant positions. I had a few interviews with a few different colleges, and nothing was working out. Finally, a family friend of ours forwarded me a sports information graduate assistant position at Columbus State. I applied right away, had an interview and was hired within a week. I was a graduate assistant for two years, assisting the director with all athletic communications duties. I received my master's in organizational leadership with a concentration in leader development from CSU in May 2022, and in November 2022, I was hired as the sports information director.

Advice for current students?

My advice is always to have a positive attitude and a strong work ethic, be driven to do an excellent job and be ready to work over 40 hours a week. I try to stay cool, calm and collected and maintain a positive attitude (like Ethan Hulsey!). In this field, individuals need to be driven to do the best

job they can and always to work hard. There is always something you can improve on. Student workers also need to realize that this job is not your typical 9–5. Your day-to-day is never the same, especially if games are involved, but that is one of the things I love the most about it. ♦

AMANDA GRAHAM '21: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION AT DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY



AMANDA GRAHAM '21

From 2019–2021, Graham was enrolled at Millersville University, where she graduated with a 4.0 from the College of Education and Human Services' sport

management program with a focus in administrative management.

How did your work at Millersville prepare you?

Millersville's athletic communications and Ethan Hulsey prepared me greatly for my current role as an assistant sports information director. I spent time honing my graphic design skills, writing, and learning everything related to game-day operations. The most valuable thing I was able to learn from my time at Millersville was that I could do it all myself. It instilled confidence in me that I could handle my own teams and my own games. My time was cut short because of COVID, and for the second year of my graduate assistantship, we worked from home with no sports playing. This really tested my creative ability and allowed me to find new ways to engage with our audience outside of in-season games and practice content.

Tell us about your current position.

We oversee the athletic communications and game-day operations for about 20 collegiate sports teams. I also assist in overseeing about 20 or so student workers. Day to day, the tasks change, but I handle all our video-editing and graphic-making for social media. Additionally, my coworkers and I work together to cover game-day operations with regard to stats, public address, music, broadcast, etc. This also includes writing game recaps and any other

press releases necessary.

Advice for current student workers?

Try everything. Certain jobs may seem intimidating, but everyone must learn at some time. You do not want to find yourself in a full-time role having to say you don't know how or at least have no familiarity with something. Ask questions and observe everything. This job is really hands-on, and sometimes the best way to learn it is to do it. So, watch, learn and ask to try it for yourself. ♦

NATHAN HEINTSCHEL '18M: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL MEDIA AT RICHMOND KICKERS SOCCER CLUB



NATHAN HEINTSCHEL '18M

Heintschel is entering his fourth season with the Richmond Kickers and his second season as the club's director of communications and digital media. He serves

as the primary media contact for the club's front office and first team. Heintschel is also responsible for the direction and production of online content for the club and the club's social media platforms. Previously he served as the club's manager of digital content and merchandise and as a communication and digital media contractor.

Heintschel holds a master's degree in sport management from Millersville University and was a graduate assistant with the athletic department from 2016–2018.

What skills did you learn at Millersville?

Just about everything I did in the Millersville athletic communications department is something I do now for the Richmond Kickers: operating events, writing postgame recaps, helping with stats, creating digital assets, website management, player and coaching staff interviews, etc.

The Kickers are a smaller professional organization that requires being a jack of all trades. It's not dissimilar to working in Division II sports. We have to be adaptable and do a lot of things at a high level so that the quality of experience for fans isn't hindered.



What lessons did you learn as a student worker?

As a graduate assistant, I learned what my leadership style was going to be and how I wanted to operate a communications office as a director.

Ethan Hulsey did a great job of guiding us in our roles, empowering us in our positions, and being there to support us when something didn't work quite right. He pushed us to improve the caliber of our work and did so in an environment where we were still able to enjoy the sports events we were hosting. Those are traits I've tried to exemplify in my current position.

Advice for current students?

The best ways to find success in the field are to be dependable and to be a sponge. More opportunities will be presented to those who can be counted on for their leadership. Having the willingness to take on challenges and learn new skills is an integral part of further ingratiating yourself with an organization. You always have to be ready to be the next person up for a task. Also, make sure you're always networking. You never know what door is going to open because you're known to be personable and dependable. ♦

BRYAN KAST '21M: DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



BRYAN KAST '21M

Kast completed a graduate assistant position at Millersville where he helped with livestreaming and was the main contract for Millersville women's and men's soccer, wrestling and baseball.

Kast joined the PSAC as director of strategic communications in February 2023. Previously, he was the assistant director of athletics media relations at Gannon University.

What lessons did you learn as a student worker?

One thing I learned is the importance of networking. No job or position I have ever acquired has been in a vacuum ... there is always a component of "who you know"

involved. Learning to be service-oriented, friendly and a hard worker never goes unnoticed. When you apply for a job, the hiring managers won't just call the references you list – who will, of course, have great things to say about you – they will also call the people at your old places of employment you did NOT list to find out "the truth" or how you worked with them and presented yourself on a daily basis.

Tell us about your current position.

Being director of strategic communications with the PSAC puts me in almost daily contact with all of the athletic communications professionals and their staffs at all of the PSAC's 18 institutions. I manage the PSAC's social media accounts, website, and troubleshoot any issues – with statistics, schedules or any number of things – that may arise. I work daily in graphic design, video production, and write dozens of emails.

Advice for current students?

Be very aware of how you come across to everyone you deal with, whether that be coworkers, fans of your athletic programs, student-athletes, coaches, media members or anyone else. It is truly all about who you know and form positive working relationships with. ♦

FRANK MAIRA '16M: ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AT



FRANK MAIRA '16M

ITHACA COLLEGE

Maira received a master's degree in sport management from Millersville University in 2016. He is now in his third year as the athletic communications

specialist at Ithaca College.

How did your work with Millersville prepare you?

It honestly was such a great experience being a graduate assistant in Ethan Hulsey's office. I have fond memories of just being able to closely cover some of the teams that were able to make runs through NCAA's or experience the ultimate success with a PSAC Championship. Overall, I was able to gain a

more well-rounded knowledge of different sports that I had not previously followed or had an interest in as an undergraduate student, and it really set me up for my career beyond Millersville.

What lessons did you learn as a student worker?

I learned many great skills that I'm able to apply to my current position here at Ithaca College. The experiences also taught me about the timeliness needed to post social media graphics or even previews/recaps, as it's our role as athletic communicators to tell the story of the successes and triumphs of our student-athletes and to spread the word in the local community as well as with alumni and potential future student-athletes.

Advice for current students?

My best advice is to find a school or an athletic department that supports the work and coverage that you provide for athletic programs. Burnout within the industry is pretty typical, and I think being in a position where you feel appreciated helps avoid that. Also, I think being willing to adapt and learn new things is essential to athletic communications, as this field is continually evolving. ♦

PHILIP MARCELLO '17M: ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR EXTERNAL OPERATIONS AT VIRGINIA



PHILIP MARCELLO '17M

MILITARY INSTITUTE

Marcello earned his master's degree in sport management in 2017 and went on to work as a media relations assistant for the Southern Conference from

2017–2018. Marcello was recently promoted to associate athletic director for external relations, adding oversight of marketing and corporate sponsorships to his duties.

What lessons did you learn as a student worker?

From the sports communications side, I gained experience in a multitude of sports that I had never covered before. I learned the ins and outs of those respective sports, which would set me up for the future. From



a people perspective, it helped teach me how to handle various personalities.

How did your work at Millersville prepare you for your current role?

It taught me many facets of the athletic communications industry. Whether it was game operations, in- and out-of-season coverage or managing of teams, coaches and student-athletes, I learned in a hands-on environment.

Any advice for current student workers?

If you are passionate about what you do and willing to put in the work, it will be challenging at times, but rewarding. ♦

CASEY SAUSSAMAN '18: MARKETING COORDINATOR FOR THE HERSHEY BEARS



CASEY SAUSSAMAN '18

Saussaman graduated from Millersville in 2018, and during her time at the 'Ville, she was heavily involved with extracurricular organizations and professional clubs. Saussaman

was the publicity chair for the Public Relations Student Society of America, a committee member of 'Ville Gives Life, and the head copy editor of and a writer for The Snapper, the student newspaper. In Millersville's athletic communications, she was a communication assistant from September 2016 to May 2018, where she created social media graphics and video content to promote Millersville Athletics, wrote material for the athletics website and photographed sporting events to create photo galleries.

Prior to her current full-time position with the Hershey Bears, Saussaman interned with the hockey team twice. Her first internship placed her in a media relations role, where she carried out duties such as distributing game notes and promotional items and developing monthly newsletters for Coco's Kids Club. From September 2019 to March 2020, she interned with the Bears for a second time as a marketing intern. Her duties included managing Instagram and Snapchat accounts on game day and creating social media graphics. From August

2021 to April 2023, Saussaman worked with the Harrisburg Senators baseball team as their digital marketing coordinator, and in April of 2023, she transitioned into her current role with the Hershey Bears.

Tell us about your current position.

I am responsible for the procurement of promotional items, web updates, marketing emails, various aspects of game-day operations, as well as our Coco's Kids Club. I also participate in social media content creation, photography and public relations efforts.

What skills from MU's athletic communications are you using today?

Working in athletic communications is where I found my love for graphic design and photography. While not the main aspect of my current role, I still find great joy in projects where I get to apply those skills. In a much broader sense, my ability to multitask – and feel comfortable doing a wide array of tasks – is something else I gained from working in athletic communications.

Advice for current students?

Accept every opportunity. Embrace every experience, good or bad, as a chance to learn and grow. Don't be afraid to take chances, express yourself or try something new. And most importantly, make genuine connections. Get to know the people around you – from coaches, trainers and equipment staff to administrators – and treat all of them with kindness and respect, no matter their title. Those courtesies go a long way. ♦

COOPER WEIDENTHALER '15M: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR MEDIA RELATIONS AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



COOPER WEIDENTHALER '15M

at Davenport University and the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. There,

Weidenthaler joined the Wayne State University athletic department on Jan. 2, 2023, after three and a half years as the assistant manager of athletic communications

he was the primary contact for 12 sports. Weidenthaler also assisted the assistant AD for communications in coverage of the Panthers' 40+ teams. Weidenthaler was in charge of interviewing, hiring, scheduling and overseeing the student workforce.

The Panora, Iowa, native earned a master's in sport management at Millersville while serving as a graduate assistant in the athletic communications department. During those two years, Weidenthaler served as the primary contact for women's volleyball, women's cross country, women's basketball, women's golf and softball. In the summer of 2016, he was a volunteer for the Marauders during their play in the NCAA Baseball Division II National Championship.

What were some highlights and challenges of working in athletic communications?

One highlight was working with the student-athletes and seeing them grow over the years, but then getting to meet new ones every year. The most difficult challenge was probably the hours. In the heat of the season, the nights can be long, and the mornings come quickly.

How did you balance being a student worker with a full course load?

Separation of work life and personal life. There's a time for work, and there's a time for everything else. When it's time for class, focus on that and everything that comes with it. Time management is important at every stage of life, not just grad school.

Advice for current students?

Get as much experience as you can through as many different outlets. Before my first full-time job in this field, I had already worked in all three divisions of the NCAA, done an internship for the Oakland Raiders and an internship for a wooden-bat collegiate baseball league team. Try things and see what you like the best. In any field, trial and error is the best way to find out what it is that best suits you for the future. ♦

Class Notes | 2023-24

1970s

► **DAVE HOLCOMBE '76**, Shermans Dale, after 17 years of employment as a transportation planner for the Department of Transportation, retired on 5/15/19.

► **JOHNNY SHEPPARD '77**, Clarksburg, MD, earned his Doctor of Strategic Leadership degree from Regent University, with a specialty in servant leadership. He graduated on 12/17/22 and is currently a teacher in the Montgomery County Public Schools.

► **R. J. RYCHLESKI '79**, Lewes, DE, assumed the position of special teams coordinator/tight ends coach for the Houston Gamblers of the United States Football League.

1980s

► **JOSEPH RYAN '82**, Dallas, retired after 35 years as a special education teacher. He spent 32 years in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and three years in the Frederick County Public School District, Maryland. He earned two master's degrees in education from Bloomsburg University and Penn State University.

► **JEANETTE ROSENBERGER '83**, Columbia, MD, retired on 7/1/2018 after 29 years of teaching. She taught grades 1-3, sometimes taught ESOL students and taught one year of second/third-grade combination classes.

► **MARC BURKHARDT '86**, Mechanicsburg, marked a career achievement by working 20+ years in the Defense Logistics Agency under the U.S. Department of Defense.



GAUS '88

► **BONNIE GAUS '88**, Newark, DE, after 35 years as a school librarian grades K-5 in Newark, DE, retired from Christina School District.

► **JANIS SLOKA III '89**, Garrison, ND,

celebrated his 30-year ordination in the ELCA church as pastor for St. Paul Lutheran Church.

► **KRISTIN YARNELL '89**, Cortland, NY, published her first children's book, "Let's Count, Sum Critters."

► **MELISSA EVANS '89**, Lewes, DE, after 32 years of employment as a second-grade teacher in the Solanco School District, officially retired on 6/9/22.

1990s

► **KIMBERLY ALLOWAY '90**, York, received the Silver Level for Pennsylvania's Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Awards. The Office of Child Development and Early Learning honors the work of the early childhood education programs and professionals on behalf of Pennsylvania children and their families through embracing diversity and full inclusion of strengths, upholding fundamental principles of fairness and justice and working to eliminate structural inequities that limit equitable learning opportunities.

► **JENNIFER CRAIGHEAD CAREY '90**, Lititz, has been named to City & State PA's Law Power 100 list. The special digital issue highlights top leaders in the Pennsylvania legal community.

► **MELISSA GAINES '90**, Pottstown, was promoted to the position of senior vice president of clinical operations at Annovis Bio, Inc. She oversees and supports all clinical project activities for the late-stage clinical drug platform company, developing transformative therapies to treat neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

► **STEVE RICCIO '92**, Carlisle, senior lecturer in international business and management at Dickinson College, was selected by Dickinson's Class of 2023 as the recipient of the annual Constance & Rose Ganoe Memorial Award for Inspirational Teaching.



WAGNER '94

► **STACY WAGNER '94**, Mountain Top, was appointed as associate vice president of facilities management and as chief facilities and

safety officer of Commonwealth University of PA in Oct. 2022.

► **JEN FILBERT '96**, Middleton, WI, was promoted to IT project and portfolio manager for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She will be responsible for developing and maintaining the PPM framework and its integration across the agency.

► **FRANK SPENCE '99**, Dover, retired after 26 years at Dover Area School District. He was a K-5 art teacher and educator for 30 years.

2000s



BUCHER '00

► **JONATHAN BUCHER '00**, Millerstown, earned a doctorate in educational leadership and wrote his dissertation on school principal retention. He was also appointed the assistant superintendent for secondary education at State College Area School District.



BRUBAKER '01

► **HEIDI BRUBAKER '01**, Enola, currently works as a Christian image consultant after establishing her styling business more than 10 years ago. She was recently invited to speak on campus at the Newcomers and Neighbors of Lancaster County, PA. She works one-on-one with women and presents to groups. She and her 15-year-old daughter launched Lovely Hues, a mobile boutique.



FARRIS '02

► **JANA FARRIS '02**, Hickory, NC, wrote and illustrated a children's picture book, "The Chicken on the Moon."



MACEK '02

► **ERICK MACEK '02**, West Chester, OH, was promoted from VP, Creative to Sr. VP, Creative at BSB Group International. He is the first senior vice president in the company's history.



MARTIN '02

► **DANIELLE MARTIN '02**, Harrisburg, is proud to announce that on 5/18/23, she successfully defended her dissertation. Her dissertation was on educational decision-makers and access to college support programs.



SILLIMAN '02

► **JENNIFER SILLIMAN '02**, Wellington, FL, started her own podcast, "Hearts of Stars," in Feb. 2022, and it was picked up by streaming network Revel Entertainment to be produced

as an on-location television show. Her conversations with celebrity guests occur outside the studio in an intimate, casual setting. Her guests range from leading men and ladies to those who are behind the scenes directing or writing. Andrew Walker, Melissa Peterman, Ryan McPartlin and Cindy Busby are just a few of the actors who've been featured.

► **WALT LINDBERG '03**, Crofton, MD, was recently appointed to the "Teaching Music" Magazine Advisory Committee. "Teaching Music" is published quarterly by the National Association for Music Education. The Advisory Committee, composed of music educators across a broad spectrum of levels, specialty areas and geographic regions, provides input and oversight for the magazine's content.

► **HEATHER CARROLL '03**, Marietta, earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Neumann University on 12/21/22.

► **KIRSTEN EDWARDS '04**, Columbus, OH, recently published a romance book series under the pen name Libby Kay with Inkspell Publishing. The series is called "Buckeye Falls."

► **KATELYN MCMANAMON '04**, Jefferson Township, was recently honored as one of the Top 25 Women in Business by the "Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal." In her capacity as special projects coordinator at the University of Scranton's Small Business Development Center, McManamon is responsible for identifying and engaging participants and coordinating projects within the eight-county service area of the center. Some projects include marketing the center's services and the university's Women's Entrepreneurship Center.



MACNAMARA JR. '05

► **DR. JOSEPH MACNAMARA JR. '05**, Royersford, was named by the Radnor Township School Board as the new principal for Radnor High School. He served as assistant principal at Radnor High School for the past three years, overseeing aspects of curriculum, discipline, school safety, and working with teachers to develop their craft and professional development.

► **NATALIE SHAAK '05**, Philadelphia, was promoted to associate director of communication and administration at the Center for Hunger-Free Communities, a research center in Drexel University's School of Public Health focused on economic and food insecurity. She was also selected for Drexel University's alumni board of governors.

► **ALLISON WILLIAMS '06**, Lebanon, was named to Jewelers of America's "20 Under 40" in Jewelry Retail list. The recognition program, initiated in 2022, lauds young professionals demonstrating leadership skills and a commitment to shaping the future of jewelry retail. An industry panel selected Williams from JA Retail members nationwide, highlighting her leadership, innovation and ability to enhance her store's success while maintaining professional ethics.

► **AIMEE SKEE '06**, Mount Joy, won second place in the Trail of Painted Ponies 20th Anniversary Art Competition in 2021. Her winning design, "Voices of the Wilds," was chosen to be crafted into a figurine for the Trail of Painted Ponies Winter 2023 release.

► **MICHAEL HOFFMAN '06**, Derry, NH, accepted the position of senior technical producer at DraftKings in Boston, MA. He previously spent the last 17 years with NBC.

► **MICK ISKRIC JR. '07**, Harrisburg, earned a Principal Certification in Education Administration from Temple University in 2009. In 2015, he earned a Superintendent Letter of Eligibility from California University of Pennsylvania, and in 2023 he earned a doctorate in education from Pennsylvania Western University. He is currently the superintendent of the Steelton-Highspire School District.

► **STACEY SEITZ '08**, Felton, earned her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Indiana University of Pennsylvania on 5/5/23.

► **AUGUSTA NISSLY '09**, Lancaster, earned her master's in public administration from George Mason University on 5/9/20. She is the global marketing and business development lead, technology and telecoms, for Hogan Lovells.

2010s



BERNDT '13

► **DANIEL BERNDT '13**, Laredo, TX, aided Texas A&M International University in obtaining StormReady certification from the National Weather Service. TAMIU

now becomes the first higher-education institution in Webb County and the sixth university in the Texas A&M University System to secure StormReady certification.

► **CATHERINE HOGUE, '13**, Emigsville, after working in the professional sports industry in Charlotte, NC for a few years, has now taken on a new role at Lancaster Bible College as the digital ad and social media content creator.

► **SCARLETT MCMULLAN '13**, Womelsdorf, earned her M.S. in communicative sciences and disorders at New York University on 8/20/18. She assumed the position of speech-language pathologist, early intervention, for Berks County Intermediate Unit.



NANKERVILLE '14

► **TASHA STOLZFUS NANKERVILLE '14**, Lititz, was named to the board of directors with Advoz. She currently works for Barley Snyder.

► **ELIZABETH SCHASZBERGER '16,**

Aspers, earned her master's in education/instructional media from Wilkes University on 5/19/18.

► **DOUG KYLE '17,** Lancaster, accepted a position as major gift officer for Millersville University. He secures major gift support for priority projects and endowments and secure general annual support for Millersville University advancement initiatives.

2020s



MATCHETT '21

► **ALYX MATCHETT '21,** Phoenixville, started a newly created position as the college and career advisor at PA Leadership Charter School, a K-12 cyber charter school based out of West Chester.

Matchett works with high school juniors to help them prepare for life after school by assisting them with college applications, financial aid, scholarships, resumes, career pathways and more.

► **MACKENZIE HADFIELD '22,** Perkasio, was named head coach for field hockey at Mercyhurst University in Erie. She played field hockey for Millersville from 2018-2022 under coach Shelly Behrens. She spent the last year as an assistant coach for field hockey and lacrosse at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. This makes her one of the youngest coaches in NCAA athletics at 23 years of age.

► **BRIANNA PARTICELLI '23,** Philadelphia, accepted a position as a behavioral health technician at NeurAbilities Healthcare. She will engage with a neurodiverse group of children and adolescents in a clinic, school or home setting while under the supervision of a board-certified behavior analyst.

WEDDINGS

► **LYNN GAILEY '91, BETHLEHEM,** married Joseph Gailey on 3/15/23.

► **GINA CIALLELLA '96,** Swedesboro, NJ, married Daniel Sullivan on 5/17/23.

► **ADRIA FOLK '12,** Lancaster, married Joe Folk on 7/15/22.

► **SCARLETT MCMULLAN '13,** Womelsdorf, married Andrew Foreacre on 10/6/18.

ANNIVERSARIES

► **CHERYL YOUTZ '69,** Millersville, and her husband Don recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with a cruise to Canada.

► **JEANETTE ROSENBERGER '83,** Columbia, MD, and her husband Robert celebrated 30 years of marriage.

► **LINDA SMITH '91 and JEFF SMITH '91,** Schuylkill Haven, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on 6/19/23.

BIRTHS



SHAAK '05

► **NATALIE SHAAK '05,** Philadelphia, and William welcomed baby girl Josephine Gray Holland on 7/29/23.

► **THERESA MONSERRAT-BROWN '12,**

Harleysville, and her husband Patrick welcomed a son, Nathaniel Monserrat-Brown, who was born on 5/12/23.

► **ADRIA FOLK '12,** Lancaster, and her husband Joe welcomed a daughter, Lainey Rose, on 7/8/23.



MCCAULEY '13

► **VANESSA MCCAULEY '13,** Ephrata, and Ryan McCauley welcomed their daughter, Eleanor Grey, on 8/12/23.

► **ELIZABETH SCHASZBERGER '16,**

Aspers, and Brett Schaszberger had a baby boy, Caleb, on 1/12/19.



WEIDINGER '14

► **PETER WEIDINGER '14,** Millersville, and his wife, Afasen Igyor Weidinger, welcomed a son, Maxwell Carter Weidinger on 8/31/23. The couple was married in 2022.

Peter Weidinger is the son of Patrick Weidinger, MU Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Emeritus. Afasen Igyor Weidinger is the daughter of Dr. Gerard Igyor, MU Professor of Communications, Emeritus.

DEATHS



LOVE '36

► **F. PERRY LOVE '36,** Mountville, died on 5/5/23. After being named associate provost, he initiated the Credit and Non-Credit Continuing Education Program (which included Millersville's first Elderhostel) and was directly involved in establishing the Governor's School for Teaching at MU. He also initiated the exchange program between Aichi University, Japan, and Millersville University.

► **LARUE N. MORGAN, '52,** Southport, N.C., died on 11/5/23.

► **ELISE FREY HANN '54,** Palmyra, died on 4/27/23.

► **DONALD J. KUGLE '56,** Elizabethtown, died on 6/13/22. He taught social studies in the Eastern Lebanon County School District for 45 years. He also served on the Donegal School Board for more than 20 years, serving as president for two.

► **SUSAN PILLION '72,** Lancaster, died on 2/8/23.

► **LORI A. SMYTH '91,** Reisterstown, MD, died on 5/20/23. An avid animal lover, she was inspired by several incidents of animal abuse to co-launch Show Your Soft Side in 2011. The nonprofit enlisted the support of celebrities who appeared on their posters as part of a public service campaign against cruelty to animals. Their first campaign raised over \$200,000.

FACULTY

► **DR. GEORGE FREDERICK STINE, 82,** of Naples, FL, died on 1/2/23. He was a professor of sociology at Millersville University and retired in 2003, after 37 years.

CORRECTIONS

The Spring/Summer 2023 Review Magazine print edition had an incorrect entry for Joanne Arcangelo '64. She has lived in Arizona since 1974 and is not associated with the state of Maine.

The Fall/Winter 2022-23 Review Magazine print edition erroneously listed Karen Mills '75 as passing away. Karen Mills is alive. She submitted the death notice for her field hockey coach, Sandra L. Peters, who died 3/6/18.

We regret the errors.

From Breast Health to Beautiful Gardens

Dr. Dennis Denenberg

By Janet Kacskos

THERE ARE TWO TOPICS THAT ALMOST ALWAYS SURFACE WHEN SPEAKING WITH **DR. DENNIS DENENBERG**: HIS PASSION FOR BREAST HEALTH AND HIS GARDENS. BOTH TOPICS STEM FROM HIS LOVE OF HEROES. DENENBERG, WHO HAD A LONG CAREER IN EDUCATION, INCLUDING AS A PROFESSOR AT MILLERSVILLE, SPENT ALMOST 20 YEARS AS A NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKER, TALKING ABOUT REAL-LIFE HEROES AND THEIR IMPORTANCE TO KIDS AND ADULTS.

Two of his real-life heroes include his sister, **DIANA DENENBERG DURAND**, who graciously fought a battle with breast cancer for 18 years, and former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson.

Diana was the impetus for Dennis to start the Breast Cancer Awareness Program at Millersville University through an endowment. The program includes "Breast-A-Ville," an annual event to educate students of the importance of breast health and breast cancer awareness and prevention. It also includes the Diana Denenberg Durand Spirit Garden and Statue, located at the University's Stayer Hall, which was dedicated in 2007 in honor of Diana. And "Diana's Dreamers: Determined to Defeat Breast Cancer" is an endowment set up through the Millersville University Foundation to raise awareness among young women and men about breast cancer and breast health.

In 2016, Denenberg received the "Honorary Alumni Award" from the University's Alumni Association. In honoring him, they said, "Dr. Denenberg has earned the title of a hero in influencing hundreds or maybe thousands of Millersville education students over his 15-year tenure (1987-2002) as a professor in the School of Education. Many of these students have benefited from the groundbreaking 'Hooray for Heroes' program he initiated while at Millersville."

"Everyone needs a hero, someone to look up to. There are heroes all around us, in our communities and throughout history," says Denenberg.

One of his Millersville students, Lynette Leaman Brenneman '97, went on to become a teacher and recently spoke about Denenberg's impact on her.

"Dr. Denenberg taught us how he wanted us to teach our own students," says Brenneman. "I still remember one day he came to class wearing a historical hat. More than almost any other professor, Dr. Denenberg influenced me in how I taught day to day during the 12 years I taught in my third-grade classroom."



DR. DENNIS DENENBERG

I focused on the heroes of Lancaster when I taught my Lancaster County unit in third grade."

The Hilda and David Denenberg Student Lounge in Millersville University's Stayer Education Building was established by Denenberg to honor his mom and dad, "who kept their vow never to say an unkind word to one another in front of their children." The lounge features memorabilia from the Denenberg family history.

Dennis Denenberg is now at the stage in his life where he is deciding who he wants his belongings to go to. One of the reasons Thomas

Jefferson was a hero to him is because he loved to garden. Denenberg has an acre of gardens that he lovingly devotes to flowers and special features.

Denenberg has put in his will that the acre of gardens and his house will be given to the Millersville University Foundation. The Foundation is a separate entity from the University, and its mission is to manage and invest endowed gifts for the University.

Many visitors consider the all-pink garden dedicated to breast cancer survivors to be their favorite spot. The sign, designed by Matt Patek, displays a quote from the song entitled "Fighter" by Millersville alumna Liz Fulmer. "You won't ever see her giving up 'cause she is a fighter" was written to honor Diana.

Of course, the Gardens of Oz showcase the owner's love of "The Wizard of Oz." There's the yellow brick road leading to Emerald City and Toto's dressing room – you can peer in through the roof to see what the movie star has in his personal canine collection.

There are many other features: two ponds, the Mardi Gras tree, "Mama" Jade (65 years old) and her family, the shade sails over the hosta bed, the succulent tree and huge beds devoted to particular types of flowers.

In addition to his house and gardens, Denenberg's extensive collection of childhood toys will go to The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York. His massive collection of things from "The Wizard of Oz" will go to the Schreiber Center for Pediatric Development, which helped him with a speech impediment decades ago.

Sitting in the midst of his hundreds of flowers, Denenberg, who is now fully recovered from a stroke two years ago, says, "I was blessed with two incredible parents, an amazing sister and a wonderful life. I want to continue to honor Diana and my family through perpetuity, and donating my treasures is one way I can do that. Life is good." ♦



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JOIN THE CELEBRATION of One Day Give and “Give To What You Love!”

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

GET READY TO BE A PART OF THE EXCITEMENT AND “GIVE TO WHAT YOU LOVE” DURING THE 11TH ANNUAL MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY **ONE DAY GIVE** ON **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024!**

This outstanding celebration of generosity is a valuable opportunity to make a positive impact by proudly supporting Millersville University students through the annual one-day online giving event.

Generous contributions from the gracious members of the Millersville University community provide transformative

benefits and opportunities that nurture student excellence – and every gift makes a difference!

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In continuing the special tradition of the Millersville University One Day Give commemorative socks – a new style of socks will be available for 2024!

Stay tuned for more information and visit **[Millersville.edu/onedaygive](https://millersville.edu/onedaygive)** to learn how you can receive a pair of One Day Give socks! ♦