

IMAGINE

Ripples of Generosity

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

Reflections and Gratitude *Highlights of an Extraordinary Year of Generosity*

A LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT



Victor Ramos,
Vice President
for Advancement

Greetings, Millersville University friends and family,

As we enjoy the summer season on campus at Millersville University and reflect on the past year, it is with great gratitude and pride that I welcome you to this edition of the “Imagine... Ripples of Generosity” newsletter and highlight a year filled with exceptional accomplishments and progress

from the Advancement Division – including valued connections and engagement with alumni and friends and generous fundraising support to nurture student excellence.

Through the introduction of the first edition of the rebranded “Imagine... Ripples of Generosity” newsletter, we proudly feature stories that demonstrate the “ripples of generosity” that extend and make a valuable difference throughout the University community.

As you read this edition, we hope you are inspired by the collective generosity reflected by the Millersville University community as exemplified through these stories highlighting the transformative benefits of support for the University and our students.

In this edition, we highlight the record-setting success of this year’s One Day Give event; a scholarship endowment to address food insecurity among students; a welcome to the new president of the Millersville University Foundation Board; the inspiring story of a ‘Ville Visionary Society member; the philanthropic aspirations of a young alumni donor; the historic journey of the chartering president of the Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and the story of a scholarship honoring a legendary coach.

We are extremely grateful to everyone in the Millersville University community for contributing to the “ripples of generosity” – in many ways – and making a lasting impact in the lives of students for generations to come.

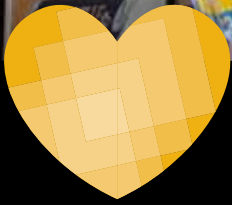
Warm regards,

Victor Ramos
Vice President for Advancement

On the Inside

- 2 All-Time Record-Setting One Day Give Event Celebrates Fundraising Milestone
- 3 Murley Meal Plan Support Endowed Scholarship Assists Students Facing Food Insecurity
- 4 ‘Ville Visionary Society Donor Spotlight: Steven A. DiGuseppe ‘82
- 6 Welcome Darryl L. Landis, M.D. ‘85: New Millersville University Foundation Board President
- 8 Building a Legacy of Excellence Through Leadership: Reflections on Inspirational Mentorship in Historic Journey
- 11 Giving Back for the Love of ‘Ville Tennis: Alumni Friends Honor Coach With Scholarship Creation
- 14 Make a Positive Impact for ‘Ville Student-Athletes by Placing Your Name in Millersville Athletics History
- 16 Young Alumni Donor Spotlight: Doug Kyle ‘17 Nurturing Success for Future Generations of Students

One Day Give Celebration Stations across campus generated engagement and excitement during the fun-filled day.



ONE DAY GIVE

Give To What You **LOVE**

2 • 14 • 24

Millersville University
#VILLEONEDAYGIVE

All-Time Record-Setting One Day Give Event Celebrates Fundraising Milestone

Thanks to the exceptional generosity from the entire Millersville University community, the **11th Annual One Day Give** online giving event raised an **all-time record-setting fundraising total of \$826,634** from **2,276 gifts** in 24 hours on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, to benefit Millersville University students.



To celebrate the One Day Give 2024 message of “**Give To What You Love**,” highlights of the day included videos, social media posts, giving challenges and matching gifts – and the tradition of the famous commemorative One Day Give socks that motivated support as a popular giving incentive. At the 'Ville, the campus community experienced a day of excitement at the One Day Give Celebration Stations across campus, and students enjoyed a special on-campus Student Celebration in the Student Memorial Center, including food, music and festivities, to mark the conclusion of the incredible fundraising event.

Through this year’s outstanding success and the return of the ever-popular Athletics Giving Leaderboards, Marauder Athletics reached a record fundraising total for Athletics gifts for One Day Give 2024.

With great appreciation for the amazing participation of thousands of donors and the outpouring of contributions with gifts of all sizes, your remarkable support achieved historic One Day Give success that will make a transformative impact and nurture student excellence for years to come.

Learn more about One Day Give 2024 at millersville.edu/onedaygive and mark your calendar to celebrate One Day Give 2025!

Thank you for making a valuable difference in the lives of Millersville University students!

Save the Date for
ONE DAY GIVE 2025
Thursday,
February 20, 2025!

MURLEY MEAL PLAN SUPPORT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Assists Students Facing Food Insecurity

Among the students at Millersville University, the issue of food insecurity is affecting a growing segment of the student population. For students who face financial challenges that limit dependable access to healthy food, this challenging situation impedes the ability to succeed in their academic journey. As this issue has become more common for students, a generous Millersville alumna learned of the situation and was inspired to make a difference by establishing a scholarship endowment focused on this specific area of need.



Karen Ashkar '63 – Millersville State College "Touchstone" yearbook photo.

Photo courtesy of Millersville University Archives and Special Collections.

For alumna **Karen Ashkar Murley '63**, her student experience on the Millersville campus 60 years ago was much different than that of current students today. "Sixty years ago, we had a very small day population of commuters – very, very limited. It was a boarding situation. And everybody went to the dining room three times a day, and nobody was without winter coats. If somebody had a need, it wasn't apparent. Now, of course, that is not the case at all. It's just such a very different world – and being able to see that, and being told point blank that there are students who can't afford to go to school and eat or drive a car – it's just a very sad situation," states Murley.

Through learning about the issue of food insecurity among students, Murley was motivated to assist students who were struggling with basic needs by establishing a scholarship endowment in 2022 that was named the **Murley Meal Plan Support Endowed Scholarship**. "This is exclusively for the day students who come two or three days a week, so they don't need to worry about nourishment. That's one of the costs that they don't have to think about," she explains. In reflecting on the goal for the scholarship to address food insecurity among students, Murley notes, "They need to have the basics covered, and eating is one of them.... Addressing the basics is not glamorous, but it's necessary."

With the creation of the scholarship endowment that assures that students will receive support for basic needs, Murley's vision and generosity are leading the way by establishing a unique type of scholarship that provides support for the necessities of student life. "This is not something that others have considered.... I think we sometimes overlook what is so essential for students' lives and being practical," explains Murley.

As a dedicated donor and member of Millersville University's Fiat Lux Society, which honors donors whose gifts and pledges total more than \$1 million, Murley has generously supported the University through



Karen Ashkar Murley '63 has established many scholarship funds to benefit Millersville University students. Student scholarship recipients Betel Erkaló '23 (left) and Alexander Kee '24 (right) attended the 2022 Celebrate Scholars Luncheon with Karen Ashkar Murley '63 (center).

an extensive collection of scholarships and gifts over the years. At the recent award presentation ceremony of the Susan C. and Gerald C. Eckert Service and Philanthropy Endowment Award on April 9, 2024, a special event honored Karen Ashkar Murley '63 for her tremendous contribution to Millersville University through exemplary service and philanthropy.

In light of the many ways in which her support has benefitted Millersville University students, the **Murley Meal Plan Support Endowed Scholarship** addresses a distinct and essential need – to alleviate hunger among students. "The basics. Addressing a real personal need," says Murley. Through her upbringing, Murley was raised with a focus on the importance of extending kindness and compassion to those in need. This emphasis on altruism has become a guiding principle for Murley, as she actively seeks opportunities to make a lasting impact in the lives of students and provide them with the resources to succeed academically and achieve their dreams. "As my upbringing was – be as kind and generous as you can be," Murley recalls.

According to Murley, a favorite inspirational quote that epitomizes her intention to demonstrate generosity is by Leo Rosten, an author and humorist, who said, "The purpose of life is not to be happy, but to matter, to be productive, to be useful – to have it make some difference you have lived at all." As Murley expresses her aspiration for making a valuable impact in the lives of students, she states, "Whatever I can be of help to make this, what I consider, essential higher education experience successful is my goal.... I hope to be able to continue. As much time as we have on this Earth is to do the best you can." ♦

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

Through the Murley Meal Plan Support Endowed Scholarship, students facing food insecurity can receive vital support for basic needs to nurture success in their academic journeys.

[CLICK HERE](#) to make a contribution to the scholarship fund to benefit students in need.



'VILLE
VISIONARY
SOCIETY

'VILLE VISIONARY SOCIETY DONOR SPOTLIGHT STEVEN A. DIGUISEPPE '82

Alumnus Proudly Marks Decades of Generosity to Benefit Millersville University Students

Through the Millersville University giving societies that highlight generous donor support, the 'Ville Visionary Society was recently established as the newest giving society in 2023. Formerly the Old Main Society, the 'Ville Visionary Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who have supported Millersville University with annual giving of \$1,000 or more during the most recent fiscal year. A visionary is defined by their imaginative forward thinking, and the 'Ville Visionary Society reflects the innovative vision of Millersville University supporters that leads the way for a successful shared future that will nurture students in their journeys of achieving excellence.

In celebrating the valuable impact of 'Ville Visionary Society members and the inspiration for their generosity, the story of 'Ville Visionary Society member Steven A. DiGuiseppe '82 highlights his continuous dedication to the Millersville University community and his decades of commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of students in the past, present and future.

Steven A. DiGuiseppe '82

Steve DiGuiseppe is a proud Millersville University alumnus with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, with an area of interest in mathematics, whose longtime involvement at Millersville extended into his professional endeavors, as he served in a variety of administrative roles at Millersville University for decades throughout his career.

Through his tremendous contributions to the Millersville University community, DiGuiseppe's professional leadership made an indelible impact during his career at Millersville University, beginning in 1991 and through the years until his retirement in 2020. In June 2022, DiGuiseppe was granted emeritus status with the honorary title of Assistant Vice President of Advancement Emeritus with a resolution by



Steve DiGuiseppe at Millersville University Homecoming 2022.

the Millersville University Council of Trustees, marking the culmination of his outstanding career of service to Millersville University.

As a generous donor to Millersville University, DiGuiseppe has established the **Steven A. DiGuiseppe '82 Scholarship Endowment**, and he is a member of the University's Hobbs-Wickersham Society, the 1855 Society, the Golden Swan Society, and the Black and Gold Club in addition to membership in the 'Ville Visionary Society. DiGuiseppe has an exceptional dedication to his alma mater at Millersville, and he continues to be involved at Millersville University as an active alumni member and donor, with a passion for supporting students that inspires and motivates the Millersville University community.

Continued on page 5

'Ville Visionary Society Donor Highlights

"In 2020, the year of my retirement from MU, I started giving \$1,000 or more to the University, primarily to establish a new scholarship in my name for perpetuity.... I have been a donor to MU for over 40 years. I have my undergraduate degree from Millersville and was employed by MU for almost 30 years – so my love and dedication to my alma mater is extraordinarily strong.

"'Every dollar truly counts' has often been my motto. Seeing and working with students firsthand was truly an inspiration to me to give to support various initiatives, be they academic, activities, housing, athletics, etc. I put myself through college, which is another reason why I want to help others who may need financial assistance. I worked part-time on campus and off campus for four years, as well as all breaks/vacations, to support my years at MU."

Reflections on His Millersville University Student Experience

"I had a wonderful experience while attending Millersville; I was active in several undergraduate activities, including serving as editor-in-chief of the University yearbook, officer of Student Senate, member of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity and the Society for Collegiate Journalists. I was also a resident assistant in the former Burrowes Hall (all-male dorm). These experiences helped me develop many professional and people skills that helped me in the business world, community relations and personal relationships/encounters."

Rewarding Aspect of Giving Back to Millersville University

"Throughout the year, I visit campus and/or interact with students at events, where I hear and see how scholarships and awards truly make a difference in so many lives. To hear students say, 'this scholarship has helped me in ways to support all the costs of an education,' which plays over in my mind repeatedly, and which motivates me to give, even be it in small ways of donating to multiple initiatives each year."

Inspiration for Giving

"A few years ago, the development staff developed the theme of 'Give To What You Love,' which I believe embodies the aspiration of why I continually give to MU. I know the dollars raised do make an impact on students and their future at MU and beyond!"

Vision and Aspiration for Creating a Lasting Impact

"I know that gifts of any size do matter and create a 'ripple effect' to students today and into tomorrow. I will continue to give and ask others to support higher education, which will truly make an impact on one's future.... Helping these students today, whereas these students are *our* future." ♦



JOIN THE 'VILLE VISIONARY SOCIETY

Explore the Millersville University giving societies and learn how your vision and generosity can create a positive transformation in the lives of students.

For more information, please visit millersville.edu/giftclubs or contact the Advancement staff at giving@millersville.edu or 717-871-7520.



Darryl L. Landis, M.D. '85

Welcome

DARRYL L. LANDIS, M.D. '85

New Millersville University Foundation Board President

At Millersville University, the beneficial impact of scholarship support for students is transformative, and the process of investing and managing endowed gifts for the University is the mission of the Millersville University Foundation (MUF), which is a separate entity from Millersville University. The MUF is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt public foundation incorporated to receive gifts which benefit Millersville University and to administer those funds in perpetuity in a manner prescribed by the donors. An independent board of directors manages the Foundation's activities.

Millersville University Foundation Board President: Darryl L. Landis, M.D. '85

Through the most recent election of the Foundation, **Darryl L. Landis, M.D. '85** was appointed as the president of the board of directors, with a two-year term that began in January 2024. Landis has been an active member of the MUF Board of Directors, with 10 years of board member service that began in 2014.

The MUF Board of Directors features a board structure with committees that include the Executive Committee; Audit Committee; Committee on Directors; Investment Committee and the Spending Committee. This year, the MUF Board appointed six new members who are elected for a three-year term. "These new members are highly qualified and are already making extremely positive contributions to our board," notes Landis.

As a proud alumnus of Millersville University, Landis earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry in 1985. Landis obtained a medical degree from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Business Administration from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

Landis explains, "I joined the Foundation Board in 2014 at the request of Development Office staff, although my interest in supporting my alma mater began several years prior to that with various small, unrestricted gifts to Millersville University. My student experience at Millersville University was transformative for me and, in retrospect, was a very high-value

investment of my time and money, opening the door for me to launch a career in medicine and private equity."

In his professional career, Landis is managing partner of Mustard Seed Venture Partners LLC, a boutique advisory and investment team committed to transforming healthcare delivery through clinical innovation, personalization of care and precision health.

Investment Goals and Success: Millersville University Foundation Board

With the goals that Landis aspires to achieve as board president, he notes, "My goals for the Foundation are as simple as **A, B, C...**" The simple goals of A, B and C represent the following: **A** – Asset Enhancement; **B** – Best Practice Execution and **C** – Community Engagement. "I hope to deepen the sense of connection and community among members of the Foundation board and University, internally between the board and the University and local community, as well as externally between the University and our global community, to whom, I believe, the Foundation and University have a responsibility to live up to our EPPIIC values in both policy and practice," Landis says.

"The primary role of the Foundation Board is fiduciary in nature: to prudently manage endowed funds so that the needs of our students and the University are met both today and into the future, in perpetuity.... Secondly, Foundation Board members assist the Development Office with raising additional funds for the Foundation, both with personal gifts and with identifying and developing relationships with donors," says Landis.

According to Landis, "At the end of the quarter ending 12/31/2023, the Foundation assets totaled \$62,826,644, representing an increase in assets of over 13% year over year." As a measure of investment performance success, NACUBO (National Association of College and University Business Officers) compares the investment performance of the Millersville University Foundation with other higher-education institutions and the performance of the MUF Board has been impressive. "Relative to the most recent NACUBO

Continued on page 7

peer performance data as of June 30, 2022, our investment performance... ranks us (Millersville University Foundation) among the top quartile of our peers," Landis states.

Scholarship Endowment Creation: A Lasting Investment in Student Success

Through the investment success of the MUF Board, the endowed gifts to the University grow and increase in value over time, providing additional funding to support scholarships and funds to benefit Millersville University students. As Landis explains, "That's really the goal – to increase the amount of money every year that we can distribute on behalf of spending for students.... Because the purpose is to deliver this dollar support in perpetuity – with no end in sight."

Landis is proud to have a scholarship endowment established at Millersville University. He explains, "My wife, Suhaila, and I established the **Landis Family International Scholarship** in 2014 to enable international students to attend Millersville University.... We are pleased to note that our scholarship has provided partial tuition support for nine international students from seven different countries to attend Millersville University."

Extending educational opportunities to international students through the **Landis Family International Scholarship** makes a meaningful impact in the lives of international student scholarship recipients and for all Millersville University students, according to Landis. "My personal and professional development has been greatly impacted by international relationships and experiences, and my wife, Suhaila, and I believe that supporting international students to live and study here on the Millersville campus is a highly efficient strategy to enrich the campus experience for thousands of American students as well as to propagate the EPPIC values of Millersville University around the world," says Landis.

Through his upbringing that emphasized the importance of cultural appreciation, Landis reflects proudly on his family history that encouraged the values that have shaped his life in positive ways.

"In 1712, Jacob Landis, the great-grandson of Hans Landis from Herzl, Switzerland, immigrated to a small log cabin in Lancaster County – this log cabin is now on display at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.... While growing up on a small dairy farm in Lebanon County, I have many memories of the 'open door, open home' policy my parents practiced towards visitors and strangers in our community and church. I cannot begin to name the many dozens, probably hundreds, of individuals who joined our dinner table, some of whom spent weeks, months and, in some cases, years living with us. Many of these visitors were culturally and ethnically different to my family, and this exposure created a sense of curiosity and appreciation for the diversity that is part of our global human family," he recalls.

For Landis, his student experience at Millersville was tremendously valuable in contributing to his professional success and motivates his generous support for Millersville University students. "Millersville was a very, very important part of my life experience and got me set on my career, and I had just such a great time at Millersville," Landis says. "Some people may think it takes a lot of money to set up an endowment scholarship, and, actually, Millersville has a very reasonable threshold of \$25,000 to establish an endowment, so I think that's very achievable for many people.... You can give \$1,000 a year for 25 years, and then that's it; or you can put the \$25,000 in up front, and 25 years from now, that \$25,000 is probably going to be more like \$75,000 or \$100,000 in terms of its size, and you're going to see forever the income from that gift going to students.

"The most rewarding aspect of giving back to Millersville University is to see its direct impact on students, and with an endowed fund, to see that impact grow over time, in perpetuity," Landis says. "That's very powerful – it's a gift that keeps on giving, both ways. As a donor, you get the benefit of seeing that happen after you initially set it up. Students in perpetuity – forever – are going to see a benefit from that." ♦

Welcome to the New Members of the Millersville University Foundation Board for 2024

- Nancy C. Adams '73
- Dexter L. Davis, Ed.D. '77
- Jason S. Long '12
- Elizabeth "Betty" A. Luke '81
- Miriam M. Witmer, Ph.D. '83, '92M
- Brian E. Worrell '76

For additional information about the MUF Board of Directors and its mission, please visit millersville.edu/mufoundation.

To explore scholarship endowment creation opportunities, please contact the Advancement staff by email at giving@millersville.edu or call **717-871-7520**.

Building a Legacy of Excellence Through Leadership: Reflections on Inspirational Mentorship in Historic Journey

Sandra Brown '76

CHARTERING PRESIDENT OF LAMBDA GAMMA CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC., AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY



Sandra Brown '76

As a young girl growing up in Mobile, Alabama, **Sandra Brown '76** was inspired by women in her community who were members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. This valuable experience during her youth ultimately guided Brown to make history as a transformative leader and founding member of the Lambda Gamma chapter, which was established 50 years ago on February 23, 1974, at Millersville State College.

"I became engaged with women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority with involvement at my church youth group for young girls. The group focus was developing leadership, organizational skills, lifting young girls' self-esteem, being a good citizen and providing public service within the community. I became aware of the national organization from the women who led the group's activities that belong to the local Delta chapter where I grew up. The women were so inspiring, caring and nurturing. Over the years, one particular Delta woman became such an inspiration in my life. She took a special interest in my educational endeavors," Brown recalls. "She was one of the Deltas that I remained in contact with over the years."

Through her involvement with the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at a young age in the early 1960s, Brown established a lifelong connection with a member of the Mobile, Alabama, chapter who later went on to become the 19th national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., from 1988 until 1992. This inspirational mentor for Brown was the late **Dr. Yvonne Kennedy**, who was an influential leader in Mobile, Alabama, serving as president of Bishop State Community College from 1981 until 2007, and as an elected official in the Alabama House of Representatives, serving in the legislature from 1979 until she passed away in 2012.

The valuable mentorship from Dr. Kennedy as a leader in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., guided Brown on a path that ultimately led to the establishment of the Lambda Gamma chapter at Millersville in 1974. "Graduating from high school, heading to college, I was reminded to seek out Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at the college that I would be attending.... I came to the Millersville campus, (and) I asked about Deltas on



The 10 original charter members of the Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at Millersville State College in 1974.



Members of the Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at their 50th anniversary celebration.

campus, only to find that the national organization of Deltas was not on campus at the time," reflects Brown. "I relayed the info, then she said, 'Okay, then. If there's no chapter, then you have the challenge of creating one.' She planted the seed, I took the challenge. So the journey began to establish a chapter on the Millersville campus. She guided me through the necessary steps that were needed and established one."

Brown's vision to establish a chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at Millersville connected her with key figures on campus and in the community, including the late Ms. Hazel I. Jackson, who was the first African American professor at Millersville University. "She was my very first contact because she was one of the African American females on campus, and, of course, I went to her," says Brown.

Continued on page 9

Local members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., connected with Brown through the process of creating the Lambda Gamma chapter, including the late **Juanita Wright**, a counselor at J.P. McCaskey High School in Lancaster, and the late **Dr. Julia Hines (Muldrow) Harris '70M** from York, who was an alumna of Cheyney University.

After gathering a group of at least seven Millersville students to form the chapter, the size of the initial group included 10 student members who became the original charter members to create the first chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at Millersville. "Delta would be the first for the administration endeavor of this kind to navigate this process of becoming the first African American sorority of its kind on Millersville University campus," states Brown. The Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was also the first national African American sorority at Millersville and the first Divine Nine Greek organization included in the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC) to become established on campus at Millersville.

Through the group's successful efforts, the process resulted in the creation of the Lambda Gamma chapter, and initiation was coordinated with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. "Initiation was conducted on February 23, 1974, that established Lambda Gamma as a chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.," says Brown. As Brown recalls, the regional director in 1974 who guided the charter members through initiation with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was the late **Dr. Brin D. Hawkins**.

Guiding Brown through this journey was her mentor, Dr. Kennedy, who nurtured the creation of the Millersville chapter

and served as a source of inspiration. "She was definitely walking me through the whole process," says Brown. Dr. Kennedy's exemplary leadership motivated Brown to model the values and guidance that she received over the years from Kennedy in her own leadership experience. "My involvement as Lambda Gamma chartered president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was charged with implementing the sorority's principles and values of the sorority – sisterhood, scholarship and public service. To focus on the fundamental principles of our organization, establishing a nurturing environment among chapter members that is supportive."

Throughout the 50 years since her time as a student at Millersville, Brown has been actively involved with the Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. "After I graduated, I became advisor to the group, and I have been, in some fashion, over the last 50 years, been involved with students at Millersville – the Deltas at Millersville," says Brown. Her decades of service and involvement with the chapter have made a profoundly positive impact on Brown's life. "The realization of it all – all came forth when we celebrated 50 years.... First of all, I was in amazement that we had sustained for 50 years on the Millersville campus from the date of this inception, and that many, many young women – exceptional women – have come through that process.... The bond that we have established at Millersville exceeds my wildest imagination – that after graduation, it reaches across the globe."

Brown's professional career following graduation from Millersville was in the field of education as an elementary

Continued on page 10



The Lambda Gamma chapter 50-year celebration event in February 2024.

school teacher in the School District of Lancaster, where she taught for 35 years until her retirement.

Reflecting on her life as a Delta, she has treasured Lady Fortitude as an inspirational guiding post as she serves the organization. As referenced by Brown, “Fortitude” is a sculpture commissioned by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in 1979, located on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., created by sculptor James King. “It’s a guiding principle for me as an individual. That’s my goal – always pull your sisters forward in whatever way you can.”

Through her decades of transformative leadership and involvement with the Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Brown has made history and established a lasting legacy at Millersville that continues through the student members of the chapter today. “The legacy ... for students on campus is academic excellence, leadership development, public service and sisterhood. That’s the legacy. And if they follow those principles, it’s stood the test of time up until today, and I think it will stand the test of time in the future.”

The timeless value of mentorship emanates throughout the lives of those who are impacted in tremendous ways. Through

her mentorship connection that grew from her youth in Mobile, Alabama, to the campus of Millersville University in 1974, and spanning 50 years to the Lambda Gamma chapter’s Deltaversary 50-year celebration in 2024, the powerful benefits of mentorship have been a guiding force for Brown. “We were persistent, determined and, of course, I had a mentor who knew the struggle. She laid the path, so I am so grateful for her.” ♦

CELEBRATING HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY AND IMPACT AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY: Lambda Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Learn about the rich history of the Lambda Gamma chapter at Millersville through stories celebrating highlights of milestones and events.

CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW:

- [Sorority Celebrates 50th Anniversary](#)
- [Alumni Reflect on Inspirational Legacy of New Campus Landmark: Divine Nine & Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on Memorial Walkway](#)



On campus at the Divine Nine & Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on Memorial Walkway, a plaque recognizes the Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated at Millersville University in the 12 spaces representing traditional Black Greek-lettered organizations and other Latinx fraternities and sororities.

Giving Back for the Love of 'Ville Tennis: Alumni Friends Honor Coach With Scholarship Creation

The 2001 Millersville Men's Tennis Team: Coach DeWitt Boyd (back row, right), Ryan Mellinger '02 (front row, left)



More than 20 years ago on the tennis courts at Millersville University, a lifelong bond of friendship was formed among three student-athletes who were guided by **Coach DeWitt Boyd**, and whose lasting connection led them to recently establish a scholarship fund in his honor with the **DeWitt Boyd Tennis Scholarship**. For the group of alumni friends, including **Abbey (Neff) Anderson '01**, **Lauren Witmer '01** and **Ryan Mellinger '02**, the years they spent together competing with the Millersville University tennis program led by Coach Boyd were transformative, and they treasure the memories of this valuable time in their lives.



Coach DeWitt Boyd

Celebrating outstanding athletic accomplishments during their time as student-athletes coached by Boyd was an extraordinary opportunity that the alumni fondly remember with great pride. Boyd was inducted into the Millersville Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019 and was recognized for his exceptional coaching success, which includes holding the all-time wins record for men's tennis and women's tennis, leading the men's tennis program to nine NCAA Tournament appearances and guiding the women's program to a total of nine NCAA Tournament berths and winning five PSAC Championships.

Lasting memories of the alumni friends are highlighted by their experiences of competing in PSAC Championships and NCAA Tournaments and traveling together to tennis competitions throughout the East Coast and Midwest with Coach Boyd. Through these positive, life-changing achievements, they were inspired to create a scholarship fund to honor their beloved coach and to make a difference in the lives of Millersville University student-athletes who aspire to celebrate victories and excel in their academic journeys. ♦

REFLECTIONS FROM MILLERSVILLE TENNIS ALUMNI DONORS AND FRIENDS

Featured here are reflections from the three alumni donors to the **DeWitt Boyd Tennis Scholarship**, with warm memories of the past and their goals for the positive impact of the scholarship for student-athletes in the future.



Lauren Witmer '01, Millersville Women's Tennis Team

DR. LAUREN WITMER '01 Millersville Women's Tennis Program – Years of Competition: Fall 1997–Spring 2001

"My time on the women's tennis team at Millersville was certainly the highlight of my college career. In addition to my teammates, Coach DeWitt Boyd was an integral part of that. DeWitt is extremely knowledgeable as a coach, and his sense of humor is unmatched. Coach was a calm and subtly hilarious presence during our practices, matches and team trips. He always had good advice and the ability to inspire and unite us both on and off the court. I will always remember the encouragement he gave during

match changeovers that typically had the sole purpose of reducing tension and creating laughter during a stressful situation. Many of my teammates have echoed the sentiment that we could not have asked for a better coach.

"Some of my favorite memories of college are my times with my tennis team. What I treasured most, besides the competition, was the travel with my teammates. We traveled via plane or van to places like Florida, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Missouri and other nearby states and towns. These trips resulted in numerous wonderful memories that I will hold close to me forever.

"Some of the athletic accomplishments achieved during my time at Millersville was being part of a team that won the PSAC Conference Championship and East Regional Championship each year, which resulted in berths to the NCAA Championships all four years. I also played

Continued on page 12

No. 1 singles and doubles and hold the record number of wins with my doubles partner and dear friend, Abbey (Neff) Anderson, which resulted in a Hall of Fame induction for us both.”

Positive Impact of the DeWitt Boyd Tennis Scholarship

“My hope is that the DeWitt Boyd Tennis Scholarship will benefit future tennis players by attracting strong student-athletes with great character to come to play at Millersville. DeWitt was an excellent recruiter and created the strong desire to play for MU in many of us. I think it is important for alumni to give back to Millersville University to help continue the legacy and add to our proud Marauder athletic family.”

Millersville University Academic Experience and Professional Career:

- Millersville University Degree Major/Minor: Biology (major); Psychology (minor)
- Advanced Degree: Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Professional Title/Career: Dr. Lauren Witmer – Urogynecologist/Pelvic Reconstructive Surgeon

ABBEY (NEFF) ANDERSON '01

Millersville Women's Tennis Program – Years of Competition: Fall 1997–Spring 2001

“Our tennis coach at Millersville, DeWitt Boyd, inspired us as collegiate tennis players to reach the best of our potential. He created a team and an environment where we wanted to win while having experiences that would last a lifetime.

“While attending Millersville, I had two main priorities – areas where I devoted and focused my time: academics and tennis. As for tennis, DeWitt made our time on the tennis team so enjoyable through creating a purposeful schedule of matches that won us high rankings, took us to new destinations up and down the East Coast and into the Midwest, and fostered lifelong friendships between teammates. Many of my teammates and myself never wanted to stop playing tennis while in college – we could not get enough! I credit DeWitt for creating such a positive experience for us.

“Spring break trips with the tennis team and making it to the NCAA Championship Tournament every year were definitely experiences that created lasting memories for me.



Abbey (Neff) Anderson '01, Millersville Women's Tennis Team



The 2001 Millersville Women's Tennis Team – Coach DeWitt Boyd (back row, right), Abbey (Neff) Anderson '01 (front row, second from right), Lauren Witmer '01 (front row, right).

“My tennis teammates not only made up the tennis team with me, but we also made up each other's social groups. Even when we were off the courts, we were together socially – eating meals together in the dining hall, taking classes together, hanging out on the weekends together, spending time together over semester breaks.”



Abbey (Neff) Anderson '01, Millersville Athletics Hall of Fame 2021

Positive Impact of the DeWitt Boyd Tennis Scholarship

“My hope for this scholarship is to give a new student-athlete the same or even better experience than I had at Millersville. I look back at my time on the tennis team and feel so fortunate to have experienced all that we did as a team. Helping to give another student-athlete this opportunity makes me really happy.”

Millersville University Academic Experience and Professional Career:

- Millersville University Degree Major: Elementary Education (major), Millersville University Honors College
- Advanced Degrees: Master's degree – Villanova University; Principal certification – Temple University
- Professional Career: Former West York Area School District Teacher – Elementary School – 13 years

“Now I stay home helping to raise our three children: James, Wills and Emi.... And I still try to play tennis regularly. (I even get to play competitively with some former Millersville teammates – we still cannot get enough of tennis!)”

Continued on page 13

RYAN MELLINGER '02

**Millersville
Men's Tennis Program –
Years of Competition:
Fall 1998–Spring 2002**



Ryan Mellinger '02

"DeWitt is the primary reason I chose Millersville over other schools, and he was the perfect tennis coach for me. I loved my time there playing for Coach Boyd.... Coach Boyd definitely helped me mature as a student-athlete. He understood there was a balance between studying for classes and trying to be a top-level athlete at the same time.

"I recall my tour of the campus when I first met him, and he had me laughing the entire tour. He talked about the swans on the pond and made some joke about maybe this is why you want to come here, or something to that extent. He had a very dry, sarcastic sense of humor that I really enjoyed.

"I won the Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship during my sophomore year when we reached the round of 16 at Nationals in Pensacola, Florida. This award was given to one tennis player in the East Region each year. It was an award that looked good on my resume because the votes were from other coaches on other teams who had seen me play.... My best memory was qualifying for Nationals my sophomore year and going to the final 16 in Pensacola, Florida.

"It was a great way to make new friends, and many of the former tennis players from the men's and women's teams are still some of my closest friends to this day."

Positive Impact of the DeWitt Boyd Tennis Scholarship

"Hopefully keep costs down for future tennis players at the 'Ville."

Millersville University Academic Experience and Professional Career:

- **Millersville University Degree Major:** Elementary Education
- **Advanced Degree:** Law degree from Widener University Commonwealth Law School – Harrisburg, PA
- **Professional Career:** *"I started my own business 12 years ago and own a title company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I was a tennis pro at a country club in Harrisburg while teaching eighth grade math for five years. I then went to law school and worked for an attorney friend of mine, who I knew through tennis, for three years before starting my own company."* ♦

CREATE AN ENDURING LEGACY

For more information about the **DeWitt Boyd Tennis Scholarship** or to contribute to the scholarship fund, please contact **Chelsey Wirth** at Chelsey.Wirth@millersville.edu or **717-871-7691**.

Honor or memorialize a loved one or an individual who has made a lasting impact by establishing a scholarship fund to benefit future generations of students.

To explore opportunities for scholarship creation, please contact the Advancement staff by email at giving@millersville.edu or call **717-871-7520**.



Make a Positive Impact for 'Ville Student-Athletes by Placing Your Name in Millersville Athletics History



Explore Naming Opportunities for Individual Lockers and Team Locker Rooms at the Morgan Athletic Complex

A record-setting \$1.5 million pledge from Lois Morgan '54 in 2021 marked the largest gift in Millersville Athletics history and began the Biemesderfer Stadium renovation campaign for the Morgan Athletic Complex. Comprehensive renovations of the locker rooms in the Morgan Athletic Complex are a key area of the renovation campaign, and there are still opportunities available for the Millersville University community to make a difference and etch their name in Millersville Athletics history.

Valuable opportunities are available to reserve a named individual locker located in a locker room for any of the teams that will call the Morgan Athletic Complex home with a gift of \$1,500 that will feature your name on a commemorative locker plaque, with the option for individual donors to pay over two years in installments of their choice.

Team locker room naming opportunities are available for the Millersville Athletics teams that will train and compete at the



Morgan Athletic Complex, including Football, Field Hockey, Women's Lacrosse, and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country.

Through the Morgan Athletic Complex naming opportunities, your generosity can make a meaningful impact by nurturing competitive excellence and creating a championship experience for Millersville Athletics teams and student-athletes far into the future. ♦

Continued on page 15



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

A donation for a **named individual locker** or a **team locker room** will place your name in Millersville Athletics history and motivate student-athletes to celebrate athletic victories.

Click here for more information about **individual locker naming** opportunities at the Morgan Athletic Complex.

To learn about **team locker room naming** opportunities, please contact the Advancement staff at giving@millersville.edu or at **717-871-7520**.



Young Alumni Donor Spotlight:

Doug Kyle '17 Nurturing Success for Future Generations of Students



Doug Kyle '17

When Millersville University students graduate and become young alumni, the valuable opportunities they have experienced as students remain with them long after graduation and shape their lives in immeasurable ways.

Doug Kyle '17 is a proud Millersville University alumnus who treasures the connections, friendships and high-quality educational experience that he acquired as a Millersville student, which have inspired him to give back through financial support to benefit future students at the 'Ville.

Professional Journey Home to His Alma Mater

Kyle's transformative student experience was incredibly positive and led him on a pathway of professional success. In his career journey, after graduating from Millersville University with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a marketing concentration, Kyle worked at LNP Media Group as an inside sales representative, then became a realtor and showing agent with the Craig Hartranft Team at Berkshire Hathaway Homesale Realty in Lancaster, and joined the Millersville University Advancement Division staff in July 2023 as a major gift officer.

"Once I started working at Millersville and saw the work that had gone into supporting current students, I thought it would be great to be a part of that. I loved my time at Millersville, and I think that by supporting students, you give them a shot to have a similar experience. Making education even more affordable allows students to take advantage of other opportunities while not worrying as much about finances," Kyle states.

Scholarship Endowment Creation Through Estate Giving

As an alumnus and an employee of Millersville University, Kyle has an affinity for his alma mater that motivated him to explore gift planning opportunities that led him to establish a scholarship through an estate gift with the **Douglas Kyle '17 Business Scholarship**.

"An estate gift allowed me to make a significant contribution to the University and allowed me to create an endowed scholarship. Now that the fund is created, I am able to make gifts to the endowment principal if I wish to have it reach the \$25,000 minimum early, or I can make gifts that allow the scholarship to be awarded until the estate gift would be received by Millersville. It is likely that in what I hope is a long life ahead of me, I should hopefully have more than enough in assets to fulfill the commitment," says Kyle.

With gift planning through an estate gift, donors have the opportunity to include Millersville University in their will by making a bequest gift that will make a difference for students in the future. "A planned gift is a great way to set up a large scholarship without the large payments. Most young alumni do not have the means to pay \$25,000 in a lump sum or even to make the traditional \$5,000 payments for five years. With an estate gift, the appropriate accounts are created and waiting until the estate gift is received. Since these accounts are established, this makes it very easy to make a pledge or a one-time gift to the scholarship or the endowment principal itself," explains Kyle.

Reflections on 'Ville Student Experience

While a student at Millersville University, Kyle was actively involved with the campus community and appreciated the caring approach of the faculty in fostering his success. "I made countless friends and have probably had some of the best mentors from the staff I worked for at MU. It allowed me to highlight my strengths by working different campus jobs as a student. I also appreciated the individual focus by the professors for students," he notes.

With his aspiration to support future generations of Millersville students, Kyle shares three reasons highlighting the importance of alumni support. Kyle says, "I think for three reasons:

1. You loved your experience here so much that you want to pay it forward so other students can feel the same way;
2. You identified areas for growth to benefit current and future students; and
3. You have heard of exciting initiatives at the University that you hope for others to experience."

Through his contributions to Millersville University, Kyle values this opportunity to give back and expand educational access to a greater number of students. "I want education to be even more affordable so students do not need to worry about incurring as much debt for education.... I see how students today face challenges with the cost of education. By giving back, I feel like I am helping to make education more accessible, even if it is to one student." ♦

DISCOVER GIFT PLANNING

Create a lasting impact through a variety of gift planning opportunities at Millersville University to benefit students for generations to come.

To learn more, please visit millersville.giftlegacy.com
or contact the Advancement staff by email at
giving@millersville.edu or call 717-871-7520.

Millersville University

Office of Development

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