

“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, everyone can make a difference when we “Imagine the Possible.”



Achieving Academic Excellence *and* Athletic Success: Marauder Student-Athlete Profiles

Throughout the “Imagine the Possible” campaign for students, many exceptional student-athletes have exemplified athleticism and scored victories with the support of athletic scholarships. Millersville Athletics is proud of the academic and athletic accomplishments of its student-athletes, including an increase of PSAC Scholar-Athletes to 147, a department record, during the 2018-2019 academic year, recognizing more than 100 student-athletes on the dean’s list and



celebrating numerous athletic and academic awards and honors.

In highlighting the teamwork, determination and perseverance that student-athletes at Millersville University demonstrate in their athletic endeavors and in the classroom, the success stories of four student-athletes share the impact of the Marauder Athletics team experience here at the ‘Ville. ♦

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



ON THE INSIDE

- 1 Achieving Academic Excellence and Athletic Success: MARAUDER STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILES
- 5 FINAL YEAR OF IMAGINE THE POSSIBLE CAMPAIGN CELEBRATES PROGRESS
- 6 BUILDING A CAMPUS COMMUNITY LANDMARK: Divine Nine & Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on Memorial Walkway
- 8 WHERE IS KARAM IDREES '18 NOW? – IMAGINE THE POSSIBLE: Graduate Update



Destinee

Holloman '20

MARAUDER ATHLETICS TEAMS:

Women's Indoor Track & Field | Women's Outdoor Track & Field

MAJOR: Physics

MINOR: Mathematics

HOMETOWN: Lebanon, PA

MARAUDER ATHLETICS TEAM EXPERIENCE:

"My team has given me a strong foundation of support that I get to interact with every day. Being an athlete on top of the stress of classwork in an experience that is much better shared, and I am thankful for the excess of positivity within my team."

IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS:

"From the perspective of an athlete, scholarships have functioned as motivation for me to continue to work hard at what I love in conjunction with furthering my education. The money has allowed me time that I would otherwise be working a job to practice and enjoy my college experience more thoroughly."

GREATEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT:

"As a team, we have been the PSAC Outdoor Championship runner-up two years in a row. Individually, last season I was able to place in four different events, scoring points at the Indoor and Outdoor Championship meets."

James

Sullivan '21

MARAUDER ATHLETICS TEAM:

Men's Basketball

MAJOR: Business Administration: Accounting

HOMETOWN: Grottoes, VA

MARAUDER STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE:

"I love to compete. Millersville has given me the opportunity to compete in the classroom and on the court, which I will cherish for the rest of my life. I have also met so many great people here at Millersville, which has made my experience incredible."

IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS:

"I wouldn't be at Millersville if it wasn't for the scholarships I have received. Not having to worry about debt or getting a job to help pay for the costs of college has lifted a huge burden from me and my family and allows me to focus on the classroom."

POSITIVE IMPACT OF COACHES AND MENTORS:

"The Millersville Men's Basketball coaching staff is phenomenal, and I cannot thank them enough for all they have done for me and the program. Coach Stitzel and Coach Conway have been here for my whole time at Millersville and have helped me grow as a basketball player and person. They have believed in me from the beginning and a lot of my success can be attributed to them."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)





Courtney Dimoff '20

MARAUDER ATHLETICS TEAM: Women's Basketball
MAJOR: Sports Business | **HOMETOWN:** Red Lion, PA

MARAUDER STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE:

"My favorite part about being a student and a student-athlete is the challenge to do well, both in the classroom and on the court. I take pride in my grades and my performance on the floor, and to be able to be good at both can be difficult. However, it is very rewarding. It is great to work with other athletes on schoolwork and share a bond in more ways than just sports."

IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS:

"As with my education, scholarships have helped me to be able to concentrate on my sport, as well. Basketball has always been a huge part of my life and it is something that I take pride in. I have met so many wonderful donors through my athletic career. Their generosity to donate to student-athletes is unmatched."

GREATEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT:

"My greatest athletic accomplishment thus far has to be helping my team beat IUP in the PSAC Semifinals in 2018. We were definitely the underdogs that year, especially that game, and we fought the entire game to win. I had a hot hand that game, helping my team to beat IUP (#8 seed in the country) in triple overtime on their home court."

Benjamin Fellman '21

MARAUDER ATHLETICS TEAM: Men's Tennis
MAJOR: Meteorology

MINORS: Mathematics; EHEM (Environmental Hazards and Emergency Management)
HOMETOWN: Rockville, MD

MARAUDER ATHLETICS TEAM EXPERIENCE:

"My favorite part about this program is the passion and drive each member of my team has. Though we are competing individually in each match, we are always there for each other. Whether it be chanting, 'Here we go 'Ville!' or cheering our teammate on the court next to us, we are always there for one another."

IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS:

"As a student-athlete, these scholarship opportunities are crucial. Having a scholarship has allowed me to be able to solely focus on my academics and athletics."

GREATEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT:

"My greatest athletic accomplishment happened this past spring at the PSAC Tournament. I was awarded the PSAC Champion Scholar Award, an extremely prestigious award given to one player in each sport in the entire PSAC conference. I was the first male player to ever receive this award at Millersville and just the second in school history."



SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
MARAUDER STUDENT-ATHLETES

Your generosity provides opportunities for student-athletes to train, compete and win for their teams and excel in the classroom.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS, [Click Here](#)

SAVE THE DATE

for
One Day Give 2020!

Thursday, February 27, 2020

#VilleOneDayGive | millersville.edu/onedaygive



Millersville University

#VILLEONEDAYGIVE



FINAL YEAR OF “Imagine *the Possible*” CAMPAIGN CELEBRATES PROGRESS

This is the final year of the “Imagine the Possible” campaign for students and fundraising progress continues to make great strides toward the overall goal of \$32 million. There is exciting growth within each of the three campaign priority areas, along with the milestone achievement that the Student Learning Experiences funding priority has surpassed its \$16 million goal! Generous donor contributions during the three-year campaign are providing high-quality educational experiences allowing Millersville University students to excel and succeed as employees, community leaders and citizens. ♦

Visit [Imagine.Millersville.edu](https://www.imagine.millersville.edu) to learn the stories of Millersville University students who benefit from valuable scholarship support.

Percent toward goal as of October 2019: 95% overall

Scholarships:
\$10M

PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:
90%

Student Learning Experiences:
\$16M

PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:
107%

Marauder Athletics:
\$6M

PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:
68%





BUILDING A CAMPUS COMMUNITY LANDMARK

Divine Nine & Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on Memorial Walkway



A gathering place for alumni and students to unite, celebrate and reflect will be established on the Millersville University campus with the Divine Nine & Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on Memorial Walkway.

The Millersville University campus community and cultural Greek organizations celebrated a historic milestone during Homecoming weekend with the dedication of the Divine Nine & Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on Memorial Walkway. The area will represent the physical and symbolic presence of each of the nine Greek sorority and fraternity organizations that is included in the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated (NPHC), plus Greek organizations of the National Multicultural Greek Council Inc. (NMGC) and the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations, Incorporated (NALFO). At Millersville, the Greek organizations of all of these groups combine to form the Cultural Greek Council (CGC).

Twelve spaces will be established on Millersville’s campus with nine representing the organizations of the NPHC, collectively referenced as the “Divine Nine,” along with spaces recognizing additional Greek organizations that are included within the Cultural Greek Council at Millersville. NPHC plots are physical spaces or structures established



Alumni members from many Divine Nine Greek organizations return to campus each year for the University’s Homecoming festivities.

on college and university campuses that represent each fraternity and sorority with letters, colors and symbols.

Millersville University is proud to establish a location that will serve as a gathering place for alumni and current students to come together, celebrate, meet and reflect. With the Divine Nine & Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on Memorial Walkway, Millersville University will be the first predominantly white institution in the PASSHE system to have established plots on

campus. Cheyney University of Pennsylvania was not only the first institution to

establish plots in the PASSHE system, but one of the first in the nation.

There is a rich history of each of the fraternities and sororities of the Divine Nine. In 1930, the National Pan-Hellenic Council Inc. (NPHC) was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The stated mission and purpose of the organization was “Unanimity of thought

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

and action as far as possible in the conduct of Greek letter collegiate fraternities and sororities, and to consider problems of mutual interest to its member organizations." Here at Millersville University in the 1970s, several organizations of the NPHC established chapters on campus, including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. The presence of the NPHC groups grew on the Millersville campus in the 1980s with the founding of chapters of organizations including Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and Phi Sigma Sigma Fraternity Inc.

Membership in a Greek organization while a student can have a long-lasting positive impact on the lives of its members. Kemah E.P. Washington, Ed.D., '03 was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. from 2001 until 2003 as an undergraduate student at Millersville University. Currently, he is CEO and president of BRANDilly Marketing and Creative in Raleigh, North Carolina, and a member of the Millersville University Foundation board of directors.

When reflecting upon his experience in Greek life at Millersville, he states, "The experience played an immeasurable role in my development as a young man, entrepreneur and leader." As a member of the organization, Washington held leadership roles that provided valuable opportunities and beneficial connections. "I was fortunate



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. members reunite every year to celebrate Homecoming. In this photo from 2017, members of the sorority posed for a group photo at Duncan Alumni House.



Kemah Washington, Ed.D., '03 was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. at Millersville University where his fraternity involvement provided transformative experiences that positively influenced his career.

plots will be a constant reminder to undergraduates that they stand on the shoulders of great men and women." ♦

enough to be voted in as a three-time officer for the North Eastern Province (NEP) of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. I held the position of Lt. Strategus from 2001-2002, then Junior Vice Polemarch (the highest-ranking undergraduate in the NEP) from 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. This afforded me an opportunity to travel across the country, rub shoulders with great Kappa men, as well as highly influential politicians and Fortune 500 CEOs.

I cannot tell you how much it meant for me, someone people often called 'exceptional' and 'cream of the crop,' to be around other highly educated, successful and goal driven men. It humbled me and the experiences I had via Kappa gave me a reason to strive for more," he explains.

As a leadership donor supporting the Unity plots, Washington anticipates many positive outcomes from the project within the campus community. "For Black Greeks, membership extends beyond collegiate graduation and I think the Unity plots will be a bridge between old and new-school Greeks. The plots will give alumni looking back not only a tangible reminder of the 'good times at the 'Ville,' but a reason to ensure that current students have opportunities

to create similar memories (via giving to MU, becoming active as a Chapter Advisor, etc.) Simultaneously, the

JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

There's still time to become a leadership donor to have your name on permanent signage along Memorial Walkway. Visit www.millersville.edu/unityplots for more information.

Leadership donors can still make contributions through December 31, 2019, and be included on the permanent signage.

TO MAKE A GIFT AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT, [Click Here](#)



"Imagine *the Possible*"

GRADUATE UPDATE

Where is Karam Idrees '18 now?

Northwestern University Graduate Student's Journey of Success

At the launch of the three-year "Imagine the Possible" campaign for students, one of the students highlighted in the campaign's student success stories was **Karam Idrees '18**.

After graduating from Millersville University in the spring of 2018 with a B.S. in chemistry and a minor in mathematics, Karam was eager to continue his studies and research in the field of chemistry. Currently, Karam is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in the laboratory of Professor Omar Farha.

The journey of academic success that led Karam to Northwestern University began with his student experience at Millersville University. In reflecting on the impact of his undergraduate experience on his academic endeavors, Karam explained, "Over my four years at Millersville, I was blessed with opportunities I could never have imagined, both in and out of the



Karam's student-faculty research experience at Millersville University provided valuable preparation for future research endeavors.

classroom. I had the privilege of listening to stellar professors during lecture classes and access to state-of-the-art equipment and instruments during labs. Having such experiences has helped to improve my life and prepared me to pursue my own path as an independent scientist."

Providing inspiration and mentorship to Karam throughout his time as a chemistry student at Millersville University was Dr. Edward Rajaseelan, known as "Dr. R" by his students and colleagues.

Dr. R is a professor and chair of the chemistry department at Millersville, where he began teaching in 1990. For Karam, it was the positive influence and mentorship of Dr. R that motivated him to pursue an advanced degree. According to Karam, "His constant guidance and encouragement throughout my academic career made me more interested in chemistry and pursuing a graduate career. It was Dr. R that pushed me to set higher goals and ambitions for myself. He convinced me that I had been given certain gifts, and by combining those gifts with hard work, I could do anything I set my mind to. Yet, he never asked me to pursue these dreams alone; he gave me the necessary help, support and encouragement to achieve my goals every step of the way." A group of former students established the Dr. R. Edward Rajaseelan Chemistry Scholarship endowment with the Millersville University Foundation this year as part of the "Imagine the Possible" campaign, continuing to pay forward all the support and encouragement they received.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Research opportunities have been a key element of Karam's student experience at both Millersville University and Northwestern University. Establishing a solid foundation in organometallic chemistry and inorganic chemistry occurred during Karam's undergraduate studies at Millersville University. "During the course of my undergraduate studies, I was involved in three separate research projects. One of them was at Millersville, my home institution, and the other two were Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs at North Carolina State University and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Each developed within me a unique skill set and expanded my scientific knowledge," Karam said.



Karam is already imagining the possible for his future!

Scholarship support played a vital role in contributing to Karam's success as an undergraduate student at Millersville University. "Having the support of scholarship funding at Millersville University has helped me to focus my attention on

advancing my education and academic career. By focusing my attention on research and classes, I was able to achieve higher goals that helped to improve my life after graduation," he noted.

As he looks to the future, Karam aspires to continue his trajectory of academic excellence by incorporating the valuable experiences from Millersville University that have shaped his life into his future career. He explained, "The combination of conducting research and helping students learn has been immensely fulfilling for me – both personally and professionally – and supports my future career goal to be a university professor." ♦

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCES

With scholarship funding, talented students like Karam can participate in transformative research opportunities, gain hands-on work experiences and explore the world. | [Click Here](#) to make your gift of support.

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