

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

May/June
2022

Generally speaking, the month of May signifies the end of the academic year. We began the academic year with a sense of optimism that we were prepared to return to full in-person operations but yet uncertain how the COVID virus would continue to evolve and impact our community. Thanks to the efforts and vigilance of our entire campus we were able to tackle challenges and successfully navigated our way to the end of the academic year.

During the past two years, our students have shown a rousing level of resilience and agility. Our graduates of the Class of 2022 and their families and friends had to display one final measure of patience as the volatile May weather of Central Pennsylvania altered our graduation plans and forced our campus to host multiple indoor commencement exercises. The extraordinary efforts of our staff and volunteers to overcome the seemingly impossible odds and brilliantly execute four events in less than 24 hours is another indication of the integrity and fortitude of our community.

I applaud the graduates and their families and friends for adjusting to a challenging weekend. Celebrating the accomplishments of approximately 1,200 graduates with well-earned doctoral, master's, bachelor's and associate degrees serve as the zenith of the academic year. Their success is our success, and we wish them well in their bright futures ahead.

As has become our tradition, the week following commencement culminated with the All-Employee BBQ event. I hope everyone enjoyed the wonderful food, fun and fellowship as we took a breath and relaxed for the afternoon. Almost 450 employees enjoyed the event and I was thrilled to have an opportunity to mix and mingle with many of you. As I often say, the greatest asset of our university is our people, not the buildings or the programs. Thanks to the planning committee for hosting a great event.

Finally, as you may have read in recent emails, we will soon be joined by two new Cabinet members in early July. Mr. Carlos Wiley will join us on July 1st as our new Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. Subsequently, Dr. Mary Beth Williams will join us on July 11 as our new Vice President for Student Affairs. I am excited about the arrival of these two talented and experienced higher education leaders and look forward to their contribution to serving our students.

The May/June edition of the newsletter highlights some of the exciting summer activities of our employees, as well as some upcoming programs and events. Enjoy learning more about these summer happenings. I wish you a relaxing and rewarding summer break.

SUMMER CONFERENCES IN KENYA AND SPAIN

Our faculty and staff do a great job of transforming student experiences and fostering innovation. We have two good examples this summer with trips to Kenya and Spain for international conferences.

Drs. Wanja Ogongi, Bertha Saldana DeJesus from the School of Social Work and Darlene Newman, Director of Student Access & Support Services are traveling along with an undergrad social work student, Bemnet Bekele and three MSW students: Abby Gabner, Shanta Mills, Madalyn Gordon to attend the first International Social Work Education and Practice Conference at Maasai Mara University in Narok, Kenya. The conference theme is Advancing Sustainable Development Goals through Social Work Education and Practice. Ogongi and DeJesus are part of the international planning committee. The conference is hosted by Maasai Mara University and the Association of Social Work Educators in Kenya. They will be keynote speakers and presenting workshops respectively as well as building partnerships with the two universities.

Bekele will present "Nourishing Minds: A study of food insecurity among Moi University students in Kenya." This is a collaborative study between Moi and Millersville students who are members of the Social Work Beyond Borders student organization. The MSW students will be presenting "Equitable Access to Higher Education, A Panel Presentation," and "A Sisters' Journey through the American Child Welfare System."

The group received grants and support from the Provost's office, the Graduate Dean, the Dean from the College of Education and Human Services and the Office of Grants, Sponsored Programs & Research.

In addition, Drs. Karen Rice, Laura Granuth and Jen Frank from Social Work and Dr. Deborah Tamakloe, from Early, Middle, and Exceptional Education, took three students to Salamanca, Spain for the 30th annual Global Awareness Society International Conference. The students who attended are Brittany Leffler (MSW), Carolina Hidalgo- Ahmed (BASW), and Niema Abdullah (EMEE). The group gave four presentations and Rice gave the conference keynote address.

The students shared results from their research and program development that fosters the realization of the United Nation's Global Goals. The theme for the conference was "Exploring Global Awareness and Sustainable Development to Build a Better World." Two of the students were part of a year-long Ubuntu Leaders Fellows program.

2022 GLOBAL GOALS CONFERENCE HELD AT WARE CENTER

The Office of Community Engagement, Governmental and Economic Development and departments across campus helped communicate our value to the community and region during the recent 2022 Global Goals Conference Series, which is inspired by the

UN Sustainable Development Goals. This two-day conference held at the Ware Center focused on a workforce issue of national and regional significance: shortages in the teacher and mental and behavioral health fields.

On May 17, educators and community leaders met to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to the national teacher shortage. The conference featured breakout discussions and workshops to answer the question of what changes in current structures and policies could help to alleviate the teacher shortage in Central Pennsylvania. Kelly Coash-Johnson, who currently serves as the executive director of the American Association of School Personnel Administrators, was the keynote speaker for the conference.

On May 18, the behavioral mental health conference focused on the current shortage of behavioral healthcare practitioners. The conference featured a number of experts who discussed various topics, including behavioral healthcare retention, diversifying the workforce and preventing burnout within the sector.

I appreciate the tremendous efforts of our faculty in the College of Education and Human Services and our community partners for planning this two-day event that attracted over 200 participants.

SUMMER RENOVATIONS AT MILLERSVILLE

Summer break on college campuses often brings construction and renovations, and Millersville University is no exception. Listed below are some of these projects:

Facilities

- Renovations to Lehigh Hall will begin to accommodate the relocation of the Athletic Department to Lehigh.
- Two of the domestic water heaters for East Village will be replaced to improve service for residents.
- East Village A and both West Village wings will be repainted this summer, including common spaces, corridors, bedrooms and bathrooms.
- The 'Ville Perk Café will be renovated with new flooring, furniture and other interior changes.

Exterior Projects

- Improvements to the intersection at Shenks Lane and W. Frederick Street will include the installation of rapid flashing beacons, activation buttons and signage.
- Both the main campus pond and the science research pond will be renovated this summer. Miller and S'Ville, the campus swans, are spending their summer elsewhere on campus.
- Pucillo Drive will be repaved starting May 24, from the gym to Biemesderfer Stadium. Access to Pucillo Gym will remain open from the south.
- Stormwater infrastructure will be repaired to fix flooding issues around Osburn and Breidenstine Hall.

Upcoming projects include work on transforming Brooks Hall into the new Lombardo College of Business and renovating the first floor of Boyer Building to house the campus police department.

SUMMER CAMPS AT THE 'VILLE

The University is excited to hold several upcoming summer camps on campus.

The College of Science and Technology will host the annual Summer Science Training Program, which focuses on various STEM topics. The program stresses advanced learning and providing students with college-level opportunities.

Each session is geared toward a different age group, with session one beginning June 27 and session two beginning July 11. Students will have access to the fully equipped lab facilities in the University's science and technology complex.

This year the University will host its 30th Tech Camp. These week-long sessions in June and July will focus on more specific activities in the STEM field. Activities include 3D printing, computer-aided design, advanced LEGO robotics and more.

The University will also host several athletic camps this summer:

- The MU Men's Basketball Team Camp takes place on June 11. Each team who registers is guaranteed to play three games.
- There will be four Coaches Clinics for baseball players looking to showcase their skills over the summer. A youth clinic will also be held for players starting July 18.
- A football camp will take place on June 23. This will be open to high school students interested in receiving individual feedback from the University coaching staff.
- Women's basketball will host several camps open to players interested in collegiate-level basketball, including sessions specific to players' positions.
- The Field Hockey Day Camp is open to players of all ages on June 26. Players will receive instruction from University coaches as well as coaches from other universities.
- Men's soccer is hosting a residential camp and a youth day camp for individuals and teams in July.

- Marauder volleyball is hosting several camps this summer, including a prospective Marauders camp starting July 18.

More information about these camps can be found at millersvilleathletics.com.

SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

As the weather is warming up, so is the competition for our spring sports! Our student-athletes are enjoying a banner spring, and I encourage you to get outside and cheer on our teams as they make a push for the postseason.

Our women's tennis team are the PSAC East champions for the first time, and the women's team and men's team both play in the PSAC Tournament today! We've seen the Millersville baseball team as high as No. 19 in the nation recently and it enters the weekend in first place in the PSAC East. There are some exciting series coming to The Coop soon as our baseball team plays for another PSAC East title! Mark your calendars for May 12-14 because our women's track and field team is hosting the PSAC Championships right here at Biemesderfer Stadium!

With record-breaking performances from our athletes already this spring, the team looks like a contender and can use all of our support. Our women's lacrosse, men's tennis and softball teams are also in the mix for PSAC Tournament appearances. We wish them the best of luck in pursuit of championships.

Finally, the sixth annual Dining with Champions is planned for Saturday, May 21. It is free to attend, but you must register in advance. Celebrate our best and brightest athletes with food, drink, a silent auction and great company. Find out more about the event at millersvilleathletics.com.

SUMMER EVENTS AT THE WARE CENTER

Children of all ages will fill the Ware Center this summer for a variety of events.

Expanded Visions

Starting June 3, the "Expanded Visions" photography exhibition will be open to the public, located in the Lyet Lobby. As part of the Lancaster Summer Arts Festival, this exhibition embraces all forms of photography and features work from local photographers.

Art Smarts

Parents are encouraged to register their young artists for this year's Arts Smarts camp at the Ware Center, where children in kindergarten through fifth grade can attend sessions focused on music, theater and visual arts.

Over the course of two weeks, the Ware Center will hold six unique camps for the young artists who attend, broken up into two age groups. The first week of Arts Smarts begins June 13, and the second week begins June 20.

Each day will contain a different morning and afternoon session. Activities include dancing, storytelling, creating artwork and more. Each Friday, family members and friends can attend performance showcases and art exhibits to see what their campers created.

M-Uth Theater

The nationally acclaimed M-Uth Theater program will begin July 5 and run through July 31. M-Uth Theater is a program comprised of teens and young adults who have faced significant life challenges. Its participants create and perform original dramas, often drawing on their own life experiences.

Enrollment is open to any teen, and there is no fee for participating in the program. If interested, please email Barry.Kornhauser@millersville.edu.