

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Feb.
2023

Dear Campus Community,

Last Thursday was a glorious day on campus; the bright sunshine and 70-degree weather were only part of the story. Our fundraising event was successful, and we nurtured a growing relationship with the University of Cape Coast in Ghana.

Millersville University's [One Day Give 2023](#), celebrating its 10th anniversary, raised \$582,465 from 2,026 gifts. This impressive amount will support student scholarships, athletics, the [EPPIC Student Compassion Fund](#) that assists students facing financial hardships that require emergency assistance, and so much more. Additionally, 15 new scholarships were created, including two new endowments.

The generous funds contributed during the One Day Give event will directly impact the student experiences. I am so grateful to our community for supporting our brilliant and deserving students here at Millersville University. Thank you to every person who made a gift.

To learn more about One Day Give, visit <https://www.millersville.edu/give/one-day-give/>.

In the midst of the One Day Give, our campus hosted a delegation from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. My wife Judith and I are alumni of UCC, having received our bachelor's degrees from the institution. Led by the Vice-Chancellor (equivalent to President), Prof. Johnson Nyarko Boampong, the delegation visited several institutions in the United States, and Millersville was the final destination on their journey. Our discussions focused on deepening ties between the two institutions and expanding faculty and student collaborations.

During their visit, the delegates met with various faculty members and administrators on campus. They had focused discussions on research and innovation, internationalization, student wellness and counseling, and alumni outreach and engagement. The group also toured various sites on campus, including the Lombardo Welcome Center, Caputo Hall, Osburn Hall, and the Biemesderfer Executive Center. I am excited about the growing list of opportunities to be explored as a result of their visit. Thanks to the individuals from across campus who supported this visit.

Finally, I am pleased to report that Millersville University has decided to participate in the Great Colleges to Work For® program, a national survey designed to recognize institutions that have built great workplaces. Regardless of the outcome, the data we receive would be helpful as we continue creating the best workplace possible. The survey will begin in early March, and I encourage your

participation. More detailed information about the project is forthcoming from HR in the days ahead. Thank you, in advance, for your participation.

In this monthly newsletter, you can read more about the noteworthy accomplishments of our students and faculty, who have gained national and international recognition. You can also read about recent successes in attracting grant resources and a recap of our winter athletics.

Spring break is rapidly approaching, and I wish you well as we progress toward that semester milestone.

'VILLE ROBOTICS SELECTED TO COMPETE FOR \$10,000 PRIZE



A trip to Germany and a cash prize may be in the future of the Millersville University Robotics team. The team has been selected as one of the 13 teams in the nation to compete in the TiM\$10K challenge. The competition is organized by SICK, one of the most prominent companies for sensor-based applications and sensor intelligence.

To be selected for the competition, teams first had to submit a proposal for the research they would conduct to develop new applications for SICK. Once selected, the

teams were sent a TiM-P LiDAR system for their projects. LiDAR, "light detection and ranging," uses a special combination of 3-D and laser scanning to determine ranges.

This technology is commonly used in surveying, forestry, and other geographical fields. Still, it has also been used in developing self-driving cars and NASA's helicopter "Ingenuity," which has made notable flights to Mars.

While each team selected to compete received the SICK LiDAR system, the winning team of the TiM\$10K Challenge top prize will receive \$10,000 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the SICK headquarters and manufacturing facility in Germany. Other schools competing include Drexel University, Northeastern University, Texas A&M and the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. John Wright, professor of Applied Engineering, Safety and Technology at MU and the robotics team co-advisor, says the robotics team has put in hundreds of hours of work that have paid off this academic year.

'Ville Robotics also [found success last winter](#) at the 2022 Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering Robotics Competition with their A.Li.E.N. bot. The team placed first overall and in the top three in all scoring categories.

"The team is currently fabricating the new chassis for A.Li.E.N 4.0, developing the new GPS autocalibration system and bench testing the LiDAR systems," concludes Wright. "The team will soon transition to the integration and testing phase of the development."

The leadership team for the SICK Challenge consists of six students including Ian Troop, the project manager & controls team lead; Benjamin Wright, the manufacturing team lead; Elizabeth Maschke, the electrical team lead; Dennis Nguyen, the team's mechanical engineer; Ben Ambler, the team's LiDAR Engineer; and Ermias Wogari, the team's GPS Engineer.

In addition to the SICK Challenge, Dr. John Haughey, advisor and coordinator for Automation & Intelligent Robotics Engineering Technology at MU, will take four students to Harrisburg on March 7. Ian Troop, Elizabeth Maschke, Zane Weaver, and Dennis Nguyen will present the students' robotics research at the Capital as one of two student/faculty research project teams nominated to present research from MU.

DR. DAWN LAMBERT – PA SCHOOL NURSE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

The [Wehrheim School of Nursing](#) is a source of pride for Millersville University, and our faculty have been recognized regionally and nationally. The National Association of School Nurses recently recognized assistant professor Dr. Dawn Lambert as the Pennsylvania School Nurse Administrator of the year for 2023. Lambert will receive the state award at the state school nurse conference in Hershey on April 1. She will then represent Pennsylvania at the national conference in Orlando this June.

"I'm humbled and honored to receive this award," says Lambert. "I work with so many wonderful school nurse administrators across Pennsylvania. Our job is to support school nurses in many ways, including quality education for school nurses so they can be successful in their roles and advocate for their students. I couldn't do my work without the support of the faculty team within the Wehrheim School of Nursing and the University as a whole."



Lambert credits the support of Dr. Kelly Kuhns, chair of the Wehrheim School of Nursing and colleagues in the College of Education and Human Services with moving the school nurse certification program to a fully online delivery, which has more than doubled the enrollment. In addition to

working with the school nurse certification program, Lambert also created the [School Nurse MSN Program](#) so that our certification students could continue their education.

Kindly join me in congratulating Dr. Lambert and celebrating her achievements as a School Nurse Administrator. She is a role model, demonstrating her passion for her profession for all certified school nurses in Pennsylvania.

DR. MAXWELL HONORED BY QUEEN FOR SERVICES TO CULTURE AND BERMUDA HISTORY



Dr. Clarence Maxwell is among the leading academic experts on the African Diaspora and Atlantic world history. He formerly worked for the Bermuda Maritime Museum as registrar and director of Historical Research. For his services to culture and Bermuda History, the Queen of England conferred a "Certificate and Badge of Honour" on Maxwell, who is an assistant professor of history at Millersville University.

The Queen or King of England has the sole right to confer titles of honor on deserving people from all walks of life in public recognition of their merit, service, or bravery. Maxwell was honored as part of Queen Elizabeth II's birthday awards in 2021. The awards are given out according to rank; KBE (knighthood), CBE (Commander of the British Empire), OBE (Order of the British Empire), MBE (Member of the British Empire) and Queen's (now King's) Certificate.

Our students have benefited greatly from Dr. Maxwell's work.

"I go back and forth to Bermuda for research purposes. " I will be taking Millersville students for a research and internship project this summer," says Maxwell. "The MU Atlantic World Center is undertaking a research project under the direction of Dr. Timothy Trussell on Red Sea piracy, and students will be involved in primary research related to it. They will also participate in internships, workshops and research at the National Museum of Bermuda."

An area of research for Maxwell was examining Bermuda's role in the Atlantic World's development. "This fitted in not only with the projects of external non-MU partners such as the National Museum of Bermuda, which is developing an Atlantic World institute but with the individual research projects of several students," explained Maxwell. "The projects range from examining piracy and privateering to Bermuda's role in the British American revolution. One of our students, Alexander Mairs-Kessler, joined Dr. Theodore Francis and me in writing "Prudent Rebels: Bermudians in the Age of Revolution," published in 2019 by the National Museum of Bermuda.

Congratulations to Dr. Maxwell on his honor.

GRANTS GALORE FOR MU

The Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education in Pennsylvania recently gave out its final round of grants under the Wolf Administration. Millersville was the only university to receive four of the five grants possible.

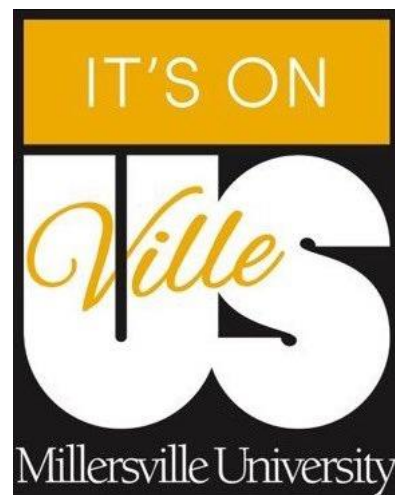
Our College of Education and Human Services received two grants to both improve and maintain the standard of education students are receiving. MU was granted the Innovative Teacher Prep 2 Practice award for over \$56,000 and received more than \$99,000 to support the Innovative Principal Prep 2 Practice program. The University also received \$60,000 for the Hunger-Free Campus program and \$30,000 to support the It's On Us campaign.

Drs. Aileen Hower, Abdulsalami Ibrahim and Miriam Witmer, associate professors of Education, explain that the **Innovative Teacher Prep 2 Practice** award is important to the University because it will support current and future students in the teacher preparation program in several ways. Through the grant, two highly respected education leaders will give the College of Education and Human Services feedback. The award also provides insight into relevant and up-to-date learning opportunities. Additionally, it will guide the University to attract more students, especially from under-represented groups.

The **Innovative Principal Prep, 2 Practice** award will also support the University in various ways. Tiffany Wright, professor of Education and Interim Department Chair, explains why the grant is important to the University, "As one of the premier institutions that prepares principals, Millersville will now have funding to expand a principal residency model into additional school districts. This model allows an educational professional to enter into a school-based administrative role while simultaneously learning to be a principal. They receive coaching and mentoring on-site and from Millersville faculty."

Millersville University's EPPIC Values guide the program says Wright, "In accordance with our EPPIC values, this program looks to prepare principals to serve traditionally underrepresented students within our geographic area, to build a more diverse set of school administrators that more closely matches the population of their students."

The **Hunger-Free Campus Initiative** is also essential to MU. With the help of the \$40,000 grant from the state, MU can increase the assistance we provide to food-insecure students. Over the past eight years, The Hub has provided over 6,000 free meals to students and distributes 1,200 pounds of food each month. With the help of the grant, The Hub plans to purchase food and upgrade the pantry.



MU has received the **It's On Us** grant for the seventh year to continue supporting and training students, faculty and staff. With the grant, the University will expand prevention programs and trainings, provide additional support to students impacted by sexual violence and implement the "Be The One to Speak Up" campaign.

PCSW HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS



March 8 is International Women's Day, and the President's Commission on the Status of Women is planning celebratory events.

This year's theme is #EmbraceEquity, and the celebrations will begin on Thursday, March 2, at 11 a.m. PCSW will host an International Women's Day student celebration in the Atrium of the SMC, featuring food, games and several on-campus organizations, departments and programs that will highlight what their group does to promote equity on campus.

"International Women's Day was started more than one hundred years ago and remains an important moment for working to advance women's equality," explains Dr. Christine Filippone, chair of the PCSW. "As early as 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding better working conditions: shorter hours, better pay and voting rights."

On March 8, the annual International Women's Day Theodora Talks will be held at the Ware Center. Guest speakers will include Dr. Amaka Nnamani, a board-certified general pediatrician and breastfeeding advocate, artist Keisha Finnie and Church World Services speakers, along with Millersville University student leaders Samickshya Subedi and Apsara Uprety. There will be performances throughout the evening by VilleHarmonics, Marauder Music and Aayusha Chapagain, performing two traditional dances, one Nepali and the other Hindi. [The event](#) begins at 5 p.m., where local women-owned businesses will sell items, and community organizations will share resources. The Theodora Talks event will start at 7 p.m. Free babysitting will be provided from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. by an MU student organization.

For more information on PCSW, visit <https://www.millersville.edu/wcomm/>.

ATHLETICS ROUNDUP

Winter sports at Millersville led to many achievements to celebrate, and we still have exciting opportunities coming up.

Swimming

The Marauders swim team made history this year with its best team finish at the PSAC Championships. The Marauders finished in seventh place after accumulating 534 team points in the four days of competition, outscoring their previous program record by 137. Highlights from the championship include:

- Jordan Plempel reached the podium with top-eight finishes in three events. She also set a school record in the 400-yard individual medley.
- The 800-yard freestyle relay team finished in fifth place—Millersville's top finish of the championships.



Head swim coach Eric Usbeck said it was a great meet. "The whole team stepped up and performed. There were great contributions from the whole team in the pool and out. The team scored the most points in team history by 137 points and achieved the highest team finish ever by getting seventh."

Men's and Women's Basketball



The men's and women's basketball teams played their final regular season home games this past Saturday against Mansfield University. Both teams won and will host first-round PSAC Tournament games at Pucillo Gym tonight, February 27, 2023.

The women's season included a six-game winning streak. [Taylor Langan](#), in particular, has had a strong season, first scoring a season-high 25 points against Bloomsburg only to score a career-high 32 points against Kutztown, 19 of which were scored in overtime and double-overtime in a comeback victory for MU. Langan was also named PSAC East Athlete of the Week twice for her

contributions to the team's success.

Men's basketball had an impressive winning streak of nine games. [Justin Nwosu](#) kicked off the season in an exciting way when in one of the first games, he had a record-breaking performance, becoming the first Marauder to take six 3-pointers without missing.

Wrestling

Some highlights from the Wrestling season included the team's ascent to No. 8 in the National Wrestling Coaches Association Division II rankings, the highest ranking for the program since its first inclusion in 2012.

Additionally, Millersville University's [Brandon Connor](#) and [Devin Flannery](#) are headed back to the NCAA Division II Championships for the second year in a row. The pair of Marauders both finished as

Super Region 1 runner-ups to punch their ticket to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In addition to the performance of Flannery (133) and Connor (165), [Craig Cook](#) (149) and [Jonathan Parrilla](#) (157) placed fourth in their weight classes, coming up one win shy of a berth to nationals. [Tim Uhler](#) (141) earned a fifth-place finish with a pin in his final bout, and heavyweight [Bishop McCoy](#) also scored a fifth-place finish.

Track and Field

Continuing her excellence in track and field, [Hannah Woelfling](#) was named PSAC Women's Field Athlete of the Week as the top-ranked weight thrower in the conference. Woelfling placed first in the shot put at the recent Princeton Invitational and earned her spot to compete in the PSAC Championships with an NCAA-qualifying distance. Other athletes who were successful at the Princeton Invitational and will compete in the championships are:

- [Arianna Kouakou](#), who placed first in the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.37
- [Mia Carson](#), who finished second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:00.89
- [Cora Heilman](#), who placed third in the 800-meter with a time of 2:25.15
- [Madison Stebila](#), who placed third place in the high jump
- Woelfling and [Maddy Downs](#), who placed second and third in the weight throw, respectively

With so many exciting athletic accomplishments this past winter, it's hard not to look ahead to see what spring may hold. Men's and women's tennis, baseball, softball, and lacrosse have all opened their seasons. [A full list of athletic events can be found here.](#)