The Entrepreneurship Minor — New and Necessary

BY BENNETT J. COOPER ’67, JD, CLU, CHFC
Op-Ed Guest Contributor

Millersville University’s newest academic minor is now up and running on campus. Indeed, it may very well be the answer to the question that every student (and parent) feels compelled to ask: “Will I be properly prepared to earn a living after graduation?” The answer is, “Yes!” The Entrepreneurship Minor is exactly the program that will enhance a student’s ability to earn a living, think critically and connect with the 27 million small and medium businesses that are likely to employ a majority of our students after graduation. This developing program is designed to enhance all of our existing majors through a cross-disciplinary approach, and to encourage ethical decision making as part of a leadership model that values and rewards entrepreneurial thinking.

The Millersville Entrepreneurial Program is the only minor undergraduate program of its kind in the entire Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. It is truly a differentiator for our students and needs to be properly positioned and funded to make it as successful as it has become in many other prestigious and highly rated private universities. We must set ourselves apart as a public institution and support this program and its focus: TO LEAD, TO EDUCATE and TO SERVE all of our students and our supporting communities by better preparing them to join a workforce that is ever-changing.

Students at Millersville University receive a fine education from dedicated and knowledgeable professors who impart comprehensive subject matter in their

(Continued on next page)
disciplines. However, as with many endeavors, there often exists a gap between theory and reality. Many of our students who wish to start a business or work in a specific industry, may encounter difficulty embracing its culture, creating a business plan, networking, finding opportunities for support and marketing—all the basics that a business major would know but to which these aspiring entrepreneurs have not been exposed. The entrepreneurial minor fills these gaps and bridges the span between having an idea and actually implementing it successfully and competently. It can be the difference between success and failure on many levels and it can help our students realize their visions.

Recently I presented this program to our athletic department administrators and coaches. It was encouraging to observe their responses and to receive their enthusiastic feedback regarding the difference this program could make in attracting and supporting student athletes at the ‘Ville. Recognizing that less than two percent of these student athletes will professionally pursue their chosen sport after graduation, it is incumbent upon us to prepare them for life after college and college athletics. There was a strong consensus that coaches would present, support and discuss the entrepreneurial program with our athletes, a group that understands discipline and hard work, values strong leadership and who often look to their coaches for guidance on and off the field. The benefits of the program are equally valuable to all of our students across all inter-disciplinary majors including history, government, political science, sociology, psychology, art, music, science and technology. Consequently, students participating in the entrepreneurial minor will be better prepared to enter the work force and assume leadership roles in the businesses that grow out of their chosen disciplines. Many may wish to begin their own businesses and they can utilize the skills and principles learned in the courses comprising this minor.

As you can see, the growth and development of this program affords a unique opportunity for our students, our communities and our University. It will require an investment of time and money to properly ensure the viability of this program. If you agree that this is truly a home run and you wish to support this initiative, I would suggest that you visit the Entrepreneurship website or request more information about the essential components that make up this minor. Please consider donating toward our goal of $400,000 and explore the various giving levels that will allow you to participate at your comfort level.

New Name Clarifies Fund’s Purpose

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose / by any other name would smell as sweet.” –William Shakespeare

Alumni, parents, friends and members of the University community are asked to give to an unrestricted fund each year. These unrestricted contributions bridge funding gaps where the University has the greatest need. For several years that need has been to provide scholarships that enable students’ success.

To better convey the purpose these unrestricted gifts serve, this year the former “Impact Fund” was renamed the “Millersville University Scholarship Fund.” This new name clearly reflects that our students benefit directly from donor support given to this fund.

Thirty-five years ago, Commonwealth tax dollars covered 85 percent of students’ tuition. Today the state appropriation covers less than 25 percent of actual costs. Now eight out of 10 students qualify for financial assistance. Consequently, many depend on your private, gift-funded scholarship support to help pay their tuition and living expenses.

The name of the fund has changed yet the goal is the same: Support Millersville University student success through scholarships.

We hope that you will continue to impact our students’ lives for the better by giving to the Millersville University Scholarship Fund.
Millersville Earns Community Service Honor Roll Recognition A Perspective on Impact

BY MELISSA WARDWELL

Director, Experiential Learning & Career Management

On September 23, 2016 the federal government announced that for the sixth consecutive time, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) named Millersville University to the 2015 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, with distinction. Millersville University was one of only twelve Pennsylvania universities and the only school in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education to receive the noteworthy recognition of “with distinction” in the general community service category. Although the announcement was delayed from its usual timetable, it was a welcome one.

The award serves to highlight the importance universities play in aiding communities and promoting student civic leadership by recognizing schools that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships.

The exemplary projects highlighted in the honor roll application included a K-12 academic achievement project called Project Cygnet, which supports after-school programs in the School District of Lancaster and Penn Manor School District, the School of Social Work’s mentoring partnership with Penn Manor High School and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program partnership with the United Way of Lancaster sponsored by Experiential Learning and Career Management.

Angelina Demidovich, a senior business administration major, completed a credit-bearing internship with the United Way of Lancaster serving as the site coordinator of the Millersville VITA site in Stayer Hall.

“My experience with VITA at United Way has been nothing but wonderful,” Demidovich shares, “Being a site coordinator not only helped me learn about taxes, but it also helped me improve my Spanish, and now I am planning to go to graduate school for my Masters of Tax.

“The internship made me go above and beyond in using the skills I learned in tax law classes, along with using the tax software program and understanding the tax lingo,” she adds. “I also applied everything I learned through my internship to course work in other classes, understanding that for big and small businesses, taxes either make or break the company. I also really appreciate the fact that individuals can get their taxes done for free, because I was able to prepare tax returns for many of my friends and family.”
**Visit Campus April 18, 2017 for MADE IN MILLERSVILLE!**

**BY DR. MICHAEL JACKSON | Dean of the College of Science and Technology**

Want to learn about the cutting-edge work Millersville students are doing? Interested in engaging in exciting dialogue and discussion? Willing to help guide the next generation of researchers, performers and artists? If so, serve as a reviewer for the 4th annual “Made in Millersville” celebration!

“Made in Millersville: A Celebration of Student Scholarship and Creativity,” highlights the work of MU students. The event embraces traditional field and laboratory work as well as projects in the social sciences, humanities, and the visual and performing arts. This all-day event will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 in the Francine G. McNairy Library and Learning Forum at Ganser Hall. Join us between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., as your schedule permits.

Last year, more than 300 students participated in “Made in Millersville.” Along with the excitement of presenting their scholarly and creative work, students received valuable feedback from reviewers. Reviewers came from all walks of life and included faculty, staff, emeriti, alumni, friends of Millersville University and members of the surrounding communities. To serve as a reviewer, complete the volunteer form at: www.bit.ly/MIM_Reviewer_Form

If you have any questions about this year’s event, contact the Office of Sponsored Programs & Research Administration at 717-871-4457.

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**Men’s Marauder Madness**

Observers watched a fast-paced, mixed drill and scrimmage practice of the men's basketball team Thursday evening, Oct. 27. A group of fans initially listened to Coach Casey Stitzel and Athletic Director Miles Gallagher as they introduced themselves and provided an overview of the aspirations for the men's basketball program and for inter-collegiate athletics in general.

Coach Stitzel provided his blueprint for the program and discussed his priorities for the year. Additionally noted was the team’s need for $100,000 this year to provide for scholarships that will build for the future. Nearly $50,000 has been raised in scholarship gifts and efforts are underway to secure the balance.

Coach Stitzel noted the team is comprised of eight returning players, four of whom are seniors, and six new men: two freshmen and four transfer students.

Action soon moved to the floor where Stitzel and his assistant coaches drilled groups of players on fast, pressure-pass plays and shots as well as timed scrimmages. Whistles blew to stop action for corrective advice on both ends of the court.

To date, the men have played scrimmages against Philadelphia University on Oct. 23 and against Sheppard on Nov. 5. The team's first official game was against Goldey-Beacom in Wilmington, Delaware on Nov. 13. Additionally, the Marauder men were the guest team on Nov. 14 in a DI exhibition match against Loyola in Baltimore, Maryland. These tastes of competition against high ranking programs help sharpen our players as individuals and as a team. The first men's home game is against Edinboro in Pucillo Gym on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 3 p.m.

Check out the [men's basketball schedule](#) to find a date when you can watch the men in action. You can enhance scholarship support for the team [here](#).
Nominate 2016-2017 Millersville University Educator of the Year Award Candidates Now

The Educator of the Year Award is given annually to one faculty/staff member to recognize sustained outstanding teaching, counseling, mentoring and advising of the undergraduate and graduate students at Millersville University. Nominations by alumni as well as current students are welcome and encouraged.

CRITERIA FOR EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR:
Outstanding teaching and advising comes in many forms and thus it is difficult to list all the characteristics that would be worthy of an award. The criteria listed here are intended to be suggestions.

- Instill intellectual curiosity, a desire to learn and the importance of life-long learning.
- Stimulate learning through teaching, advising and/or counseling, modeling of scholarship, involving students in the learning process, expressing genuine concern for the student as a whole, setting of high standards, enthusiastic and passionate about their field.
- Demonstrate success and excellence through reference to the achievements of students.
- Encourage and demonstrate ethical behavior, integrated view of life, personal responsibility and integrity, leadership, clear and critical thinking and civic engagement.
- Influence on the way other colleagues teach, advise and/or counsel.
- Have an effect beyond the Millersville University community.
- Serious about academic excellence and meaningful life experiences of the students.
- Available to students, making them feel welcome and respected.
- Skillful in encouraging problem-solving techniques by helping students to think through issues and make decisions.

AWARD DETAILS:
- All full-time tenure-track and regular part-time faculty or staff members are eligible for this award.
- Educators can receive this award no more frequently than once every ten years.
- There will be no monetary reward associated with this award. The award will consist of a plaque along with the faculty member’s picture displayed in a common area, and a plaque given to the faculty member. The recipient will be entitled to a reserved parking spot on campus following the year of the award.
- The award will be presented to the Educator of the Year at the spring commencement ceremony.
- The recipient will be asked to speak at a University-sponsored event the following academic year.

Nominations should be submitted to EOYA@millersville.edu by December 19, 2016 using the nomination form found at: millersville.edu/fsenate/educator-of-the-year-award.php. Questions may be directed to Tatiana Pashkova-Balkenhol, Educator of the Year Selection Committee Chair at tpashkovabalkenhol@millersville.edu.
SAVE THE DATE

SAVING DATE

SATURDAY, NOV. 19
Women’s and Men’s Basketball Home Openers vs Edinboro
1 p.m. Women; 3 p.m. Men
Pucillo Gymnasium

FRIDAY, DEC. 2
Celebrate Scholars luncheon
Noon – 1 p.m. (invitation only)
Lehr Room | Gordinier Hall

SATURDAY, DEC. 3
10th Anniversary of Glorious Sounds of the Season
4 p.m. & 7 p.m. Clair Performance Center
Winter Visual & Performing Arts Center

SUNDAY, DEC. 4
10th Anniversary of Glorious Sounds of the Season
2:30 p.m. Clair Performance Center
Winter Visual & Performing Arts Center

SUNDAY, DEC. 18
Winter Undergraduate Commencement
2 p.m.
Pucillo Gymnasium

TUESDAY, JAN. 10, 2017
Home Wrestling Match vs Kutztown
7 p.m.
Pucillo Gymnasium

FRIDAY, JAN. 21
Swimming vs Kutztown
1 p.m.
Pucillo Natatorium | Pucillo Hall

MONDAY, JAN. 23
Spring Classes Begin

MONDAY, FEB. 27
Lacrosse Home Opener vs West Virginia Wesleyan
10:30 a.m., Chryst Field
Biemesderfer Stadium

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
Baseball Home Opener vs Shepherd
Noon and 2 p.m.
Cooper Park

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
Softball Home Opener vs Shepherd
2 p.m.
Softball Field (behind Pucillo Gymnasium)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
Men’s Tennis vs Caldwell
2:30 p.m.
McComsey Tennis Courts

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
Women’s Tennis vs Goldey-Beacom
2:30 p.m.
McComsey Tennis Courts

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
Spring Admissions Open House

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
30th Annual Glenna Hazeltine Women in Mathematics, Science and Technology Conference
9 a.m.
Student Memorial Center

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
Made in Millersville: Student Research & Public Presentation Showcase
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Free and open to the public
McNairy Library and Learning Forum

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!

Have any thoughts or comments about Insiders? Can you think of something you would like to know that was not included in this issue or is coming up? Send an email to giving@millersville.edu or call 717-871-7520.

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