

NEWSLETTER for the College of Graduate Studies & Adult Learning



FALL 2023



MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the Fall 2023 edition of the CGSAL newsletter! This semester has been off to a tremendous start, and we know that this academic year will be a successful one for all the students, faculty and staff who call CGSAL home.

Autumn is a season of change, and we have several changes in the college to share with you. This year we have three faculty joining us as new graduate program coordinators. Dr. Clarence Maxwell will be coordinating our M.A. program in History. Dr. Maxwell has served in this role before, and so it is a great pleasure to welcome him back to CGSAL! Dr. Erin Moss has taken over the reins of our M.Ed. program in Mathematics Education. Finally, Dr. Deborah Tamakloe will be serving as graduate program coordinator for our M.Ed. program in Special Education. I would like to thank each of them for their willingness to assume these responsibilities, and I know that each will be successful in coordinating their programs. Of course, as new coordinators join us, others cycle off. On behalf of all of us in CGSAL, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Drs. Robyn Davis, Tyrone Washington and Rich Mehrenberg for their dedicated service and hard work on behalf of our graduate students and wish them all the best moving forward.

This fall brings tidings of a new public-private partnership in CGSAL. Since the beginning of the calendar year, faculty and staff in CGSAL and other campus offices have been working with a company known as Academic Partnerships (AP) to transform a select number of our online graduate programs into an accelerated, seven-week term format. Academic Partnerships supports program development, instructional design, and recruitment and retention initiatives for our online master's programs in Emergency Management, Integrated Scientific Applications, and Nursing. Our first students in these AP-supported programs have enrolled for fall classes, and we wish them all the best of luck in their first semester with us at Millersville.

Several other of our programs have also moved into online delivery this fall. Complementing the three programs supported by Academic Partnerships, and the excellent online graduate programs we have offered over the past years, new online programs include the M.A. and M.Ed. in English, M.Ed. in Language & Literacy and the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education. Millersville now offers 13 fully online master's programs, which collectively now educate almost half of our graduate student population.

Finally, I am happy to report that graduate enrollment has increased for the second year in a row. After two difficult pandemic years, our graduate student population (as of the enrollment census date) was 1,009 – higher than our last fully prepandemic population in 2018-19. Thanks to all who worked so diligently as our University recovered from the challenges we faced during that difficult time.

I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful achievements of our students, faculty and staff in this edition of the newsletter. As always, be EPPIC!

James A. Delle, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Graduate Studies & Adult Learning
Associate Provost for Academic Administration

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 2023 Spring Commencement
- 3 Certification and Certificate Graduates
- 4 Faculty Highlights
- 6 Graduate Highlights
- 10 Alumni Highlights
- 11 Features
- 12 Past Events

Millersville
University

Congratulations

SPRING 2023 GRADUATES



Congratulations

CERTIFICATION & CERTIFICATE GRADUATES

Art Instructional 1

Gabriella Everest
Haley Elise Janczuk
Kaitlynn Nicole Miller
Mary Grace Peters
Heather Rhea Stief

Biology Instructional 1

Amy A. Garber
Alexis Novalee Harmon
Jeannie Jinjun Showers

Chemistry Instructional 1

Jessica Jo Deiter

Curriculum and Instruction Supervisor

Samantha S. Armstrong

Earth Science Instructional 1

Elliot Thomas Cassel

Elem. and Secondary School Counselor PreK-12 Education Specialist

Tracy L. Adams
Samantha Leigh Baker
Stephanie Jo Courchesne
Jennifer Lee Dugan
Sydney Marie Hall
Samantha Paige Olewine

English Instructional 1

Kayla Joy Brown
Katelyn Lauer
Lucia Beatriz Paine-Chabert
Christina Marie Smith

English as a Second Language Program Specialist

Alisse Nelly Gasbara

Gifted PreK-12 Endorsement

Barrie Butler
Katherine Claire Przeworski
Maria Cristina Shroyer
Amber Trunfio
Jennifer Ann Wescoe

Mathematics Instructional 1

Benjamin Wesley Kegerise

Online Instruction Program PreK-12 Endorsement

Cassandra Elizabeth Buszta

PreK-4 Early Childhood Education Instructional 1

Adam Allen
Kirsten Olivia Gibson
Amber Lynne Lazer
Erika Manotti
Erika Royal Randolph

Principal K-12 Administrative 1

Mikaela Jo Masser
John Paul
Jenna E. Philo
Shelby D. Ryan
Melinda Marie Vazquez-Markley

Reading Specialist Instructional 1

Tara Lynne Katerman
Alicia D. King

School Nurse Education Specialist

Jessica Bossalina
Nichole LaRae Keeney
Alison Noelle Montagna
Stacie Lynn Randolph

School Psychologist Education Specialist

Hailey Morgan Butler
Ariana N. Chuprinsky
Jacey M. Dimaio
Alea M. Echterling
Rachel Elizabeth Fox
Kiersten Fry
Danielle Reese Gruber
Christina Rose Harris
Miles C. Iati
Julia Elizabeth Kane
Emily Ruth Klick
Hannah L. Linde
Jennifer Meghan Matthews
Jennifer R. Mendoza
Carlos Ricardo Morla
Sydney Marie Murphy
Panashe Millicent Zaranyika

School Social Worker PreK-12 Education Specialist

Danielle Dietz
Nichelle M. Rohrback

Social Studies Instructional 1

Lindsay Diem Bechtold
Lillian Alida Durbin
Adam Hubbard
Robert Michael Rondinaro

Spanish Instructional 1

Sandra Patricia Palacios

Special Education PreK-12 Instructional 1

Jill Marie Faulkner

Special Education-Supervisory Supervisor

Janelle Lynn Witter

STEM PreK-12 Endorsement

Susan J. Allen
Shelbie Ashley Berger
Jessica Lacey Hoover
Carolyn Ann LoVerdi
Brandon David Schaffer
Deborah Sommer
Paul Joseph Thom

Technology Education Instructional 1

Hannah Nicole Ellenberg
Dakota Skye Gonda
Robert Herbert Hug
Cole Douglas Lefever



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

DR. TIM SEVISON JOINS THE MSEM PROGRAM AS FULL-TIME FACULTY



Dr. Tim Sevison

The MSEM program is thrilled to welcome **Dr. Tim Sevison** as a permanent tenure-track faculty member. Dr. Sevison joins the program with a broad range of experiences, including his most recent position as the Deputy Director of

Operations for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). Prior to joining PEMA in 2019, Dr. Sevison was a military planner with the Pennsylvania National Guard, focusing on homeland response and domestic operations; Deputy Director with PEMA from 2007-2011; and the Senior Deputy Fire Chief and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Dr. Sevison has been involved with emergency and disaster activities at the local, state and federal level for over 40 years, including response to numerous state and federally declared disasters, most recently as the incident manager of the Commonwealth Response Coordination Center for the COVID-19 response as well as responses to the civil unrest incidents in Pennsylvania following the killing of George Floyd. He was active with the DHS/FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue Response System since its inception, serving as a task force leader for Pennsylvania, responding to major disasters that included 9/11 in New York City and Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi and Louisiana. His military service spanned over 40 years in the active and reserve components of the United States Air Force, and for the past 32 years with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, with primary responsibilities in fire and emergency services and domestic operations.



PRESENTATION

Dr. Sepi Yalda (MSEM) and Dr. Richard Clark (Emeritus) presented an invited presentation on May 24, 2023, in Coimbra, Portugal, titled *Tackling Wicked Geopolitical Problems: Applying Convergence Research Frameworks to Natural Hazards Mitigation* at the VI International Congress on Risks.

APPOINTMENT



Dr. Joe Behun

Dr. Joe Behun, an associate professor in the psychology department and graduate coordinator of the M.Ed. program in school counseling, was recently appointed by Governor Josh Shapiro to serve as a member of the

State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors. In their advice and consent role, the Pennsylvania State Senate unanimously confirmed Dr. Behun's nomination, and he was later commissioned by the Pennsylvania Department of State to serve a four year renewable term.



Dr. Lauren Kaiser



Dr. Charles Barrett

PUBLISHING

Two faculty members in our School Psychology graduate program were invited to be lead authors in the recently published *Best Practices in School Psychology, Seventh Edition*. **Dr. Lauren Kaiser**, associate professor and graduate program coordinator, cowrote the chapter "Best Practices in Instructional Consultation" with her colleague Dr. Danny Newman from the University of Cincinnati. **Dr. Charles Barrett**, temporary part-time faculty member, along with Dr. Monica Romero from the University of Texas at Austin, coauthored the chapter titled "Best Practices in Academic Services for English Learners."

This book series, published by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), is considered a prestigious and foundational publication in school psychology graduate training and practice. This edition emphasizes equity, diversity and inclusion; multitiered systems of support; and a problem-solving framework across all chapters. The series is available via the NASP website and is discounted for NASP members:

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/books-and-products/best-practices-in-school-psychology-7-\(print-and-digital\)](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/books-and-products/best-practices-in-school-psychology-7-(print-and-digital))



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

NEWLY APPOINTED GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATORS



Dr. Clarence Maxwell

Dr. Clarence Maxwell
(History)

Dr. Clarence Maxwell is presently assistant professor for Caribbean and Latin American History at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He is currently cochair of the Atlantic World

Studies major at Millersville University. He was formerly Registrar and Director of Historical Research at the Bermuda Maritime Museum from 1999–2005 and presently serves as coeditor of the *Bermuda Journal of Archaeology and Maritime History*, the academic journal of the National Museum of Bermuda. His research specialty is slavery and the African Diaspora.



Dr. Erin Moss

Dr. Erin Moss
(Mathematics)

Dr. Erin Moss is a professor of mathematics at Millersville University, specializing in mathematics education. She is a founding coeditor of DUE Point, a blog of

the Mathematical Association of America that features NSF-DUE grant recipients who are working to improve undergraduate mathematics education. As a member of the MAA's Committee on Faculty and Departments, she collaborates to develop and publish Best Practices statements that inform the work of mathematics departments nationwide.



Dr. Deborah Tamakloe

Dr. Deborah Tamakloe
(Special Education)

In her 28 years as an educator, Dr. Deborah Tamakloe has been privileged to work with students and preservice teachers in a variety of K-12 settings. She has

worked as a classroom teacher, a cross-cultural facilitator and a court-appointed special advocate. Currently, Deborah teaches and learns with preservice teachers and colleagues at Millersville University. Her goal is to create academically engaging learning experiences through an environment that fosters creativity, curiosity and kindness. Committed to sharing her passion in making the curriculum accessible for all learners, she recently assumed the role of special education graduate coordinator. Deborah is the 2023 recipient of the MU Educator of the Year Award.



GRADUATE HIGHLIGHTS

DOCTOR IN NURSING PRACTICE



*Kelly E. Williams
Doctor of Nursing
Practice (DNP)*

I have been working as a nurse practitioner on the intensivist team in the Heart & Vascular Critical Care Unit at Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center for over 10 years. I received my bachelor's degree in nursing from Penn State University in 1999 and completed the Critical Care Internship Program at Hershey Medical Center to begin my career as a critical care nurse. After a few years, I decided to do travel nursing and worked in hospitals all over the country while experiencing new cities and seeing many beautiful new places. When I returned to Pennsylvania, I completed a master's degree in nursing at Penn State to become a Clinical Nurse Specialist and became a nurse educator for the Heart & Vascular Critical Care Unit. While I enjoyed many aspects of this job, I realized that I really missed direct patient care. So, I returned to school at the University of Pennsylvania to become an acute care nurse practitioner. Since that time, I have been working with my current intensivist team, and I really love my job and love taking care of my patients. After hearing many great things about Millersville University, I decided to apply and work toward my terminal degree in the DNP program. My inspiration is always my patients. It is so important to strive to improve their care and outcomes, and I believe the DNP program is preparing me to do this.

ERNS Poster Summary

As a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, I was given the opportunity to do a poster presentation at the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) conference this year to highlight my DNP project and findings. The title of my poster and project is "Improving Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Caring for Patients with Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)." The poster includes a brief background highlighting the complex care required for critically ill patients on ECMO and the importance of the clear, effective and collaborative communication that is needed to manage this care. Details from the review of literature are described and emphasize the benefits of structured communication tools for use in critically ill patients, leading to the purpose of the project, which was to develop and introduce a structured communication tool for use on multidisciplinary rounds to improve interdisciplinary collaboration, staff satisfaction with the rounding process, and understanding of the goals of care in patients on ECMO support. The project was guided by Barnlund's Transactional Model of Communication as the theoretical framework as well as the Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle to develop the tool with multidisciplinary input. The communication tool was utilized on all patients requiring ECMO support for a period of 10 weeks. Nurses and providers were surveyed pre- and postimplementation using the Collaboration and Satisfaction About Care Decisions Instrument, as well as two questions to assess understanding of the plan of care. Overall results show general improvement in all areas, including a statistically significant improvement in collaboration and communication scores ($p < 0.05$) in the postintervention scores. Nursing implications include adjusting the tool for possible use in other critically ill populations as well as determining the effects of such tools on patient quality indicators and overall outcomes.

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS



Erica Devery

Erica Devery, second-year DSW student, presented at Medlogix in Hamilton, New Jersey, on July 19, 2023.

Title: "Neurological Manifestations of Psychological Symptoms: A Case Study"
A case study of an individual's journey with a brain injury and their challenges with psychological trauma/symptoms.



*Elizabeth Zimmerman
Clayton*

Elizabeth Zimmerman Clayton, third-year DSW student, had abstracts accepted to conferences.

- Aging and Social Change Thirteenth Interdisciplinary Conference September 14, 2023, at Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona, Italy
Presentation Title: "How Do Primary Health Care Professionals Recognize and Respond to Late Life Suicide Risk?: An Exploratory Study"

- 7th Edition: Aging and Gerontology 2024 – Valencia, Spain.
Poster Presentation Title: "How Do Primary Health Care Professionals Recognize and Respond to Late Life Suicide Risk?: An Exploratory Study."



Miranda Blackburn

Miranda Blackburn, third-year DSW student, was chosen to join the CSWE Task Force in revising the Military Curricular Guide for Specialized Practice.



Bethany Franklin

Bethany Franklin, second-year DSW student, was invited as a guest speaker on a recovery radio show called "Pushy Broad" in Bronx, New York, in June 2023. This show is also available on YouTube. In addition, she conducted a webinar for professionals on culturally competent practices with LGBTQIA+ individuals on behalf of Caron Treatment Centers in June 2023. She will be conducting the same session from the Caron Atlanta Office in October 2023.



Yechiel Benedikt

Yechiel Benedikt, LCSW, CASAC, second-year DSW student, delivered a two-part presentation titled "Part 1: Codependency, Shame, and Insecurity from a Developmental Perspective." "Part 2: Critical Analysis of Definitions, Perspective, and Etiology of Codependency." The presentation occurred at Door of Hope Outpatient Clinic in Brooklyn, New York.

GRADUATE HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT Ed.D. GRADUATES



Dr. John Black



Dr. Jill Neuhard

2023 GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kenesta T. Mack

DR. KRISTI ALBRIGHT WATERS SCHOLARSHIP

Kenesta T. Mack

Ed.D. in Educational Leadership student



Brooke Shimer

MCCOLLOUGH FAMILY COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND ADULT LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP

Brooke Shimer

M.S. in Clinical Psychology student



Rachel Preibisch

RICHARD CECIL TODD & CLAUDA PENNOCK TODD GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Rachel Preibisch

M.S. in Social Work student



M.ED. STUDENTS PARTNER WITH THE FUTURE EDUCATOR ACADEMY

This summer, graduate students in the M.Ed. in Language and Literacy with a reading specialist concentration, together with teachers seeking a reading specialist certification, had the opportunity to hone their literacy coaching and mentoring skills by partnering with the Future Educator Academy (FEA).

Rising high school juniors interested in becoming an educator spent a week on campus. On four of their days at Millersville University,



they shadowed, observed, then practiced teaching under the guidance of the graduate students/teachers who were participating in the final course of their program: a reading practicum/clinical experience. The elementary-aged students who attended the summer reading "camp" thoroughly enjoyed working with these teens and even learned some vocabulary words in other languages. They enjoyed hearing about the lives of the FEA students during morning meeting and being read to, by them, during read-aloud time as well. The graduate students/teachers were inspired by the energy, enthusiasm and passion of the FEA students. We greatly appreciate the graduate students'/teachers' willingness to become mini-mentors to these students while also completing their coursework at Millersville University. They are an outstanding group of future reading specialists.



GRADUATE HIGHLIGHTS

MSW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SHANECE BOWMAN



Meet **Shanece Bowman**, BSW, a Millersville Master of Social Work student and graduate assistant for the Doctor of Social Work program who is working to make the lives of parents and guardians in Lancaster County easier by giving them *A Moment to Breathe*. In partnership with the Touchstone Foundation X CAP, Shanece, a mother of three children herself, revamped a defunct postpartum depression group and gave it a new name. Bowman, the group's primary

facilitator, fueled by passion, infused new life into this project that focuses on the needs of parents and guardians to have the opportunity to pause the busyness of life and simply breathe for a moment.

Shanece Bowman: In early 2023, my passion for providing a support group for all parenting people in Lancaster County grew, especially after the pandemic. I knew we had to eliminate the barriers for it to be successful. I knew the need was great for the community to have a program that allows parents to have a moment to discuss the challenges, successes and everything in between of parenting. Still, I wanted the group to be inclusive and encourage not only the focus to be on mothers but also fathers, aunts, uncles, grandparents and anyone who was a guardian/caretaker.

A Moment to Breathe: Parent Mental Wellness aims to provide some much-needed free time for parents to connect with each other in a judgment-free, supportive, safe environment. All parents in Lancaster County are welcome to attend with their children. Parents may bring questions or topics for discussion or simply come to learn, listen and meet other parents in the community.

Shanece Bowman: "We will provide guest facilitators to discuss issues such as healing from trauma, parent and child advocacy in schools, self-care and more. This parent group also includes a simultaneous children's program. The children's program provides parents and caregivers with time for themselves and offers a quality educational experience for children of all ages. Many attempts have been made to help support parents in Lancaster County, but childcare and transportation barriers have proven difficult for parents to attend. By providing childcare, bus passes, gas cards and a light dinner, we hope parents can take advantage of this resource."

Along with the support group, participants can meet one-on-one (in-person, via Zoom, or TEAMS) with Shanece to work towards individual short-term and long-term goals in parenting.

The *A Moment to Breathe: Parent Mental Wellness* program held its first meeting on August 16 and will continue to hold meetings at the CAP office (601 S. Queen Street, Lancaster) on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To register or for additional information, please visit <https://touchstonefound.org/parents/>.



Millersville School Psychology students with alumni Dr. Erica Kaurudar (PaTTAN) and Dr. Amanda VanDerHeyden (SpringMath). From left to right: Kaley Michael, Kira Brubaker, Erica Kaurudar, Amanda VanDerHeyden, Alyssa Stephens and Allie Mack.

PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Over the summer, school psychology graduate students, Alyssa Stephens, Kira Brubaker, Kaley Michael and Allie Mack had the amazing opportunity to be apprentices with the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN). PaTTAN provides professional development and technical services targeted at improving students' lives. During their time with the School Psychology Initiative within PaTTAN, each of them worked on numerous projects related to the field of school psychology and attended many professional development sessions. Some projects included writing and editing publications, compiling research, creating and managing Schoology courses, designing presentations, producing a facilitation guide for the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) conference, helping design a new emotional support initiative and contributing to the Math Tiered Fidelity Inventory that will be used in K-12 schools. Professional development included trainings in evidence-based interventions and practices like SpringMath, Check-In/Check-Out, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and Response to Intervention. They also attended conferences such as the National Autism Conference, PaTTAN Math Conference, and Intensive Skills Bootcamp for Applied Behavior Analysis. These students gained a plethora of information and experiences that supplement their education in the School Psychology program at Millersville and are grateful to PaTTAN for having them!

SCHOOL COUNSELING STUDENT



Eva Tice

Eva Tice, a second-year M.Ed. student in the school counseling program, was selected to the inaugural cohort of Graduate Student Ambassadors with the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association for the 2023-2024 academic school year.

MILLERSVILLE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM ALUMNI AND GRADUATE STUDENT ADVOCATE AT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

School psychologists fill a dynamic role in schools, working with administrators, teachers, parents and students alike to create safe and supportive environments and to provide academic and behavioral supports in which all students can meet their greatest potential. Part of the school psychologist's role is advocating for equitable practices for diverse students and creating systems-level changes that are needed to better support each student and family. Each summer, the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) holds a Public Policy Institute (PPI) in Washington, D.C., with school psychologists from across the country to train school psychologists in advocacy skills. This year's PPI was a three-day conference focusing on this year's theme: "Advocate as if Public Education Depends on It: Supporting Civil Rights for All Students." Sessions focused on advocacy efforts such as increasing awareness of and personnel resources for expanded roles for school psychologists (i.e., beyond special education evaluations), protection of civil rights for LGBTQIA+ students and accurate representation of social emotional learning (SEL) in public schools. Participants were invited to Capitol Hill to meet with state senators and representatives. A group of Pennsylvania school psychologists (pictured below) were in attendance, three of whom were alumni of the Millersville University (MU) School Psychology Graduate Program and one, Madison VanPelt, is a current student. This commitment to professionalism, public mission and compassion is an example of our MU EPPIIC values at work!



Pennsylvania school psychologists attended the National Association of School Psychologists' Public Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. This group included three Millersville School Psychology Program alumni, – Ronnie Mitchell (2nd row, 1st person), Amanda Fontana, (1st row, 3rd person) and Rebecca Martin (1st row, 4th person), – and one current student, Madison VanPelt (2nd row, 4th person).



Millersville University

We're Enrolling!



Scan for more details!

M.Ed. Leadership for Teaching and Learning



Ed.D. Educational Leadership



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Ed.D. ALUM ACCEPTS POSITION AT FLORIDA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



Dr. Jill Freedman

Dr. Jill Freedman is a recent graduate of Millersville University's Ed.D. program in Educational Leadership. After her successful dissertation defense and earning her doctoral degree, Dr. Freedman accepted the position of assistant professor and coordinator of the Educational Leadership Master's in the School of Education at Florida Southern University. Previously, Dr. Freedman served as an eighth-grade science teacher from 2005–2014, a high school assistant principal from 2014–2017 and a middle school principal from 2017–2021.

"In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love." – Mother Teresa

Dr. Freedman started her collegiate educational journey by earning her B.S.E. in Biology from Millersville University. Dr. Freedman went on to earn a Master of Education in Teaching and Curriculum and an Educational Leadership Certification from The Pennsylvania State University before earning her Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership in the joint program from Millersville and Shippensburg universities. Dr. Freedman's dissertation topic was "School-Family Crisis Communication During the COVID-19 Pandemic," as her interests lie in school family partnerships, communication and how these factors relate to crisis management and school leadership.

"The Millersville Ed.D. in Educational Leadership not only helped me be a better scholar and practitioner but also opened doors professionally for me. Completing this program has ended up being one of the most professionally and personally impactful accomplishments of my life."

When asked why she chose the doctoral program at Millersville University, Dr. Freedman cites her undergraduate experience as a driving factor, stating, "I knew from my undergraduate experience that Millersville provides high-quality programming." Dr. Freedman went on to say that current students and alumni lauded the MU Ed.D. program as meaningful, relevant and providing a perfect balance between being rigorous but a manageable amount of time, commitment and work.

Dr. Freedman stated that one of her favorite things about the Ed.D. program is the cohort model because "you develop strong connections to the people in your cohort, and they become lifetime professional colleagues and friends." Dr. Freedman encourages those entering the program to lean into these relationships with peers. "This is an opportunity not just for scholarly learning, writing and research but also to develop lasting professional and personal relationships with a variety of amazing people. These relationships will end up being important in ways you did not anticipate." Dr. Freedman also highlights the excellent professors and the high-quality, relevant curriculum. "The professors are second to none. You form strong professional relationships with the professors, too, because they genuinely care about your success and the resulting positive impact that will have on others. The curriculum is another one of my favorite things about Millersville's Ed.D. program. It is comprehensive, focused on current issues and prepares you to be a scholarly writer and practitioner."

Dr. Freedman is dedicated to supporting educational leaders in leading successful schools for all students and families. As assistant professor and coordinator of the Florida Southern University Master's Program in Educational Leadership, she looks forward to developing strong relationships with local school districts and inspiring educational leaders to develop the skills, attitudes and knowledge necessary to be successful school leaders.

MSEM ALUM WITH FEMA



Bryan Knight

Bryan Knight (MSEM, '23) was officially onboarded as CORE on July 3, 2023, and is now an Emergency Management Specialist (Recovery) in FEMA Region II.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Rebekah Orlando

Rebekah Orlando, LSW (she/her) serves as a William and Hannah Penn Fellow at Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services. During her fellowship, she will be working on updating and implementing the first year of the DHS 5-Year Comprehensive Housing Strategy. Rebekah recently graduated from Millersville

University's School of Social Work, where she obtained her Master of Social Work degree. Upon her graduation this past May, she became a licensed social worker (LSW) in Pennsylvania.

Rebekah has held a previous role as a graduate policy intern with Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services (PCCYFS), where she played a key role in research and policy recommendations in the field of child welfare. Here, she focused on the topic areas of increasing access to juvenile justice services in Pennsylvania, the child welfare workforce shortage and the implications for higher education, and licensing requirements for kin vs. non-kin foster families. Rebekah has held other roles working with the Salvation Army of Harrisburg to assist in their initial implementation of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program in Dauphin County, where she created a streamlined training guide for providers to use during the intake process. She also participated in the weekly County-Wide Homelessness Call that included collaboration among key public and private stakeholders to address challenges and recommendations for providers serving individuals experiencing homelessness. Rebekah has previous direct experience working with Keystone Human Services as a rehabilitation specialist in an adult community residential rehabilitation program, where she worked with individuals in recovery from significant mental-health disorders. This program provided supported housing where it served participants in a community setting and promoted independence and self-determination in their mental-health recovery.

FEATURES

SUMMER INSTITUTES PROGRAMMING FOR 2023

Summer Institutes programming for 2023 welcomed more than 160 local teachers, social workers, mental health care workers and other professionals in weeklong intensive experiences. These three-credit graduate-level institutes are designed to provide educators and others with continuing professional development along with a chance to connect with colleagues from the region. Formats are varied, with some institutes offering opportunities to learn and connect online, while others are based on campus, and some even include outdoor time. Regardless of the format, our faculty institute leaders are experts at helping our graduate learners develop new skills and techniques to take back to their workplaces.



ARTS, MOVEMENT, EQUINE-ASSISTED ACTIVITIES, MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS

Using Expressive Arts to Respond to Individual, Group and Community Trauma attracted a diverse array of teachers, social workers, counselors and others. Students spent time in the classroom and at Dr. Girvin's farm. One attendee wrote that they appreciated having multiple opportunities to experience and put into practice therapeutic activities which could be used to support their clients.

Plans are already in the works to design Summer Institute programming in 2024! Please reach out to Barb Haverkamp (bhaverkamp@Millersville.edu) if you have any questions about the programs or suggestions for summer 2024 topics!



THE ROCKET TEACHER CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE

The Rocket Teacher Certification Institute, held June 26–30, gave participants insight into how they can incorporate model rocketry into their own classroom curriculum in a weeklong hands-on workshop to guide participants through the National Association of Rocketry's (NAR) Rocket Teacher Certificate program. Participants learned about model rocket safety, construction and finishing techniques by building two Estes level 1 rockets. Mini-lessons in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) occurred in between the building sessions. Topics included history of select space programs, such as Project Apollo and the space shuttle program. Participants also collaborated to design model rocket-inspired lessons that align to the new Pennsylvania Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability (STEELS) standards. The week concluded with a match missile competition, launching of the model rockets and awarding of the certificates.



NEW ONLINE UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

CGSAL recently launched a new online degree-completion program. The B.S.E. in Special Education will be available online for the Spring 2024 semester. Interested students can apply online at <https://applygrad.millersville.edu/apply/>.



WINTER COURSE OFFERINGS ARE OPEN.



**EARN CREDITS
DURING WINTER BREAK!**

millersville.edu/winter

PAST EVENTS

Doctor of Social Work

Intensive Residency Weekend – August 25–27, 2023



New Incoming Students – First Year



Second-Year Students



Third-Year Students

The DSW Intensive Residency Weekend is an event that connects new students with faculty, administrators and peers in their cohort. On August 25–27, 2023, new students participated in an orientation program that introduced them to the University's services and resources, program expectations, research refreshers and tips on how to survive a DSW program. They also met with their advisor and began their academic studies in a classroom setting. Existing students continued their academic programming, reconnected with their peers and faculty, and offered guidance to incoming students. This event provides a great opportunity for all students to connect with peers and faculty and start their academic journeys.



Millersville University

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
& ADULT LEARNING

**For more information, visit us at Lyle Hall,
2nd floor (205), or email for more information about . . .**

Graduate Admission: graduate.admissions@millersville.edu

Adult Learning: adultlearning@millersville.edu

P 717-871-4723 **W** www.millersville.edu/graduate

Millersville University, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551-0302

Millersville University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution. A member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. 8938-CGSAL-0923-JR