

The GRADUATE & Adult Studies NEWSLETTER



Millersville University
COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
& ADULT LEARNING



MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER 2021 edition of *The Graduate & Adult Studies* newsletter! This has been a truly remarkable year for us all. I am continually impressed by the determination and persistence that our community of learners—students, faculty and staff—has shown through this pandemic year. We have faced many challenges together since March of 2020, when the University quickly shifted to a fully remote class schedule.

I know this transition was difficult for many to make, and I thank you all for your perseverance and congratulate you on your successes. Our faculty, instructional designers, student support staff and admissions professionals moved heaven and earth to provide an excellent academic experience for all of our students under the most difficult of circumstances. We all have learned much along the way—lessons that will only help us to improve the Millersville experience as we transition our way back from the global pandemic.

This has truly been a transformative year for CGSAL. In May, we were able to gather together to celebrate a combined commencement ceremony for our graduate students who finished their programs in both 2020 and 2021; congratulations to everyone who graduated this year! We also want to extend our best wishes to Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, who after a distinguished 29-year career at Millersville, retired from the School Psychology program this year. This fall, we will be launching four new online undergraduate programs in Marketing, Writing Studies, Design, and Emergency Management. Our online graduate programming also continues to grow, with a new, fully online option now available for Master of Social Work students. Our online Master of Science in Emergency Management program continues to expand its reach; our alumni spotlight in this issue highlights the career of Orlando Bermudez, a weather forecaster in Texas. Orlando is just one of the many hardworking adults seeking to move their careers forward by completing an online degree with us.

Like many, I am looking forward to our campus fully opening back up for the fall semester. I look forward to seeing you in Lyle Hall—but in the meantime, have a safe and wonderful summer! ♦

Sincerely,

James A. Delle, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Graduate Studies & Adult Learning
Associate Provost for Academic Administration

IN THIS ISSUE

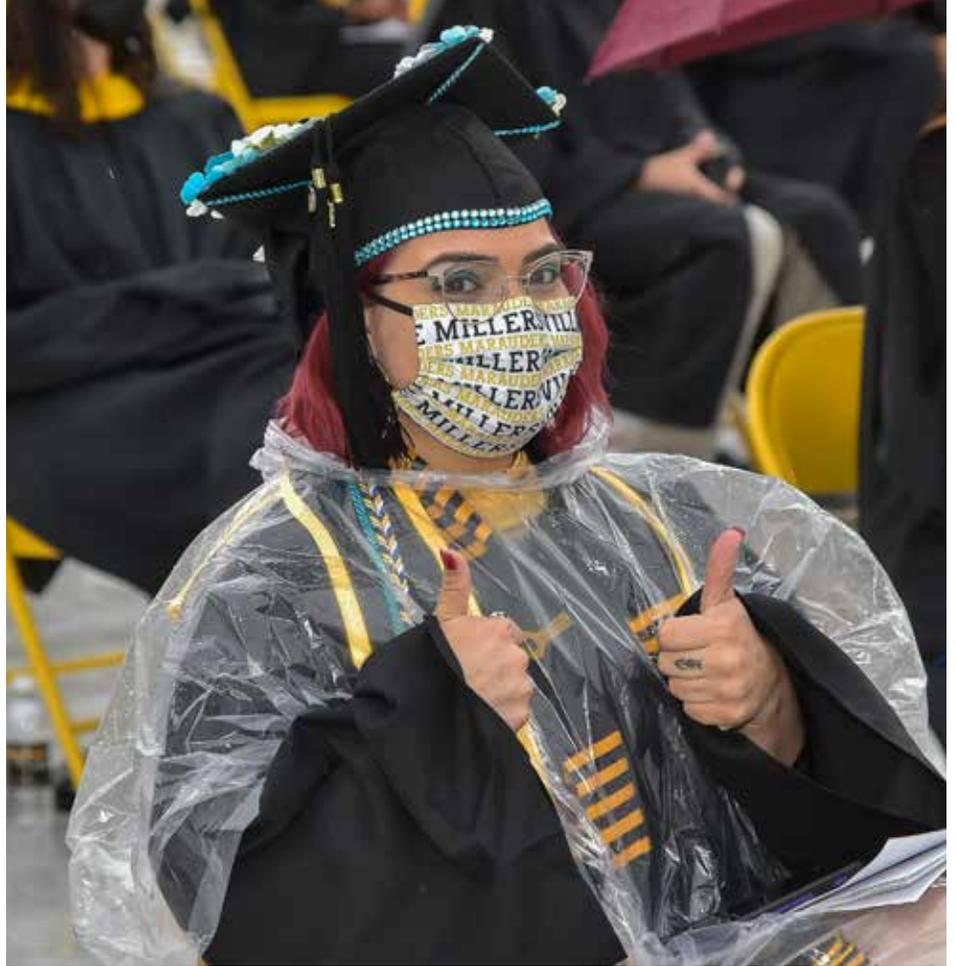
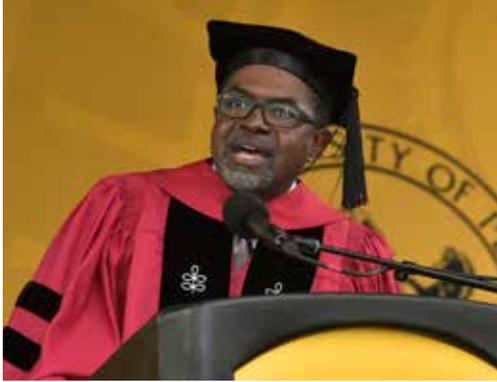
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Millersville
University

Congratulations, **GRADUATES!**



Congratulations, **GRADUATES!**



FIRST DUAL-DEGREE GRADUATE!

The Social Work and Sport Management departments are pleased to announce the first dual-degree MSW and M.Ed. Sport Management graduate this past May. More information about this program can be found here: [MSW/M.Ed.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

to Kathryn (Katie) Drudy, who completed her undergraduate degree in social work at MU!

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. NIKOLE HOLLINS-SIMS,

Millersville School Psychology Graduate Program alumni and undergraduate Department of Psychology alumni, for her recent honor of being awarded the American Psychological Association Division 16 Emerging Leader Award for Outstanding Commitment to Anti-Racism in School Psychology. She was also recently appointed as the Special Assistant to Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education as the Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. She was one of the architects of the Pennsylvania Department of Education's new Equitable Practices Hub:

www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/equityandinclusion/EPH/Pages/default.aspx.



This year's MU Graduate Student of the Year Award

was awarded to Bailey Gibson, majoring in School Psychology, and Channel Lowery, a graduate student in the MSW program. Congratulations, Bailey and Channel!



The 2021 Millersville EPPIC Values Award

was given to one student organization and one student leader this year. The student organization award was given to the Student Affiliates in School Psychology at Millersville University (SASP MU). SASP MU has been able to execute and operate many different events and continued to stay involved, despite the virtual year. Student Affiliates in School Psychology represents our EPPIC values through their commitment to their goals, values and overall making the community a better place for all students. This organization works to host as many professional development events as possible for their student members. SASP MU plans to advocate for better public policy in schools. This organization is also passionate about social justice and diversity through their signing of a call to action regarding hate crimes and

racism. They further plans to enact an advocacy and diversity committee to raise awareness of these areas within their pursuits going forward as a student organization. Overall, SASP MU has shown support for those who may need it and further advocates for those who are experiencing adversity.

Follow these links to get involved, or follow them on social media. Congratulations again, Student Affiliates in School Psychology at Millersville University!



Dr. Beth Powers was honored to be selected as MU's Teacher of the Year for 2020.

She was nominated by Dylan Mulrone, B.S.E. student in Early Childhood

Education, who stated, "Dr. Powers has been a great role model for me. She uses many strategies to assist her in communicating complex concepts and bodies of knowledge to her students."

Likewise, Dr. Shileste Overton-Morris, alumnus of the Millersville University/Shippensburg University Educational Leadership Doctoral Program, shared, "Dr. Powers is an enthusiastic and

generous professor who cares deeply about her students, inside and outside the classroom. I appreciate the gracious way in which she, as my professor, challenged me to push beyond my own level of comfort with conceptual frameworks and theoretical perspectives to examine new voices, new paradigms and different patterns of thinking."

Dr. Powers is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Early, Middle and Exceptional Education. Her teaching, scholarship and service focus on equity, diversity and access in and through education. She holds two Master of Education Degrees (one in Reading from Bloomsburg University and one in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Antioch New England Graduate School). Likewise, she earned her Ph.D. in Culture, Curriculum and Change at the University of North Carolina. She joined the faculty at Millersville in 2014 after serving as an Assistant Professor of Instruction and Teacher Education at the University of South Carolina. Currently, Dr. Powers is serving as Coordinator for both the Early Childhood Post-Baccalaureate and Master's programs. As a PASSHE alumni, she is extremely proud to serve you and our students here at Millersville University.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR. HELENA TULEYA-PAYNE'S RETIREMENT FROM MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

We would like to express our heartfelt best wishes to

DR. HELENA TULEYA-PAYNE on her recent retirement after her 29-year service as a faculty member and Graduate Program Coordinator of the School Psychology program. In

addition to her career, she has made public service and policy advocacy her mission through her involvement in the PA School Psychology Board and Governor Wolf's task force on school safety. Through these roles, she has prepared countless school psychologists for practice and has advocated politically on their behalf for their continued leadership.

Dr. Tuleya-Payne joined Millersville University in 1992. She chaired the psychology department from 2001 to 2013, and she served as Interim Dean for the College of Education and Human Services from 2013 to 2015. She held leadership roles in numerous committees and was a team member for both the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education Accreditation and Program Approval and the Pennsylvania Department of Education Self-Study for School Psychology Program in 2005. The students and faculty who have had the pleasure of working and learning with Dr. Tuleya-Payne describe her as "amazing!," caring, diplomatic, knowledgeable, available and helpful. The countless school psychologists who have gone on to state leadership roles are a testament to her skill and dedication as a graduate trainer.

Through her work as a PPA School Psychology Board member and the Communications Chair for the PPA Pennsylvania Psychologist newsletter, she has been a staunch advocate for



Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne

the profession of school psychology.

In 2006, Dr. Tuleya-Payne received the Pennsylvania Psychological Association Award for distinguished contributions to school psychology. She, Drs. Sam Knapp, Jason Pedersen, Tammy Hughes, Susan Edgar-Smith, Shirley Woika and other PPA members have met with PA. Dept. of Education representatives to argue for expanding the career ladder for school psychologists. She participated in preliminary hearings concerning

revisions to Chapter 49, served as a member of work groups organized by the PDE in revising the framework for training of school psychologists, met with officials from PDE to identify strategies for making changes to regulations, and assisted in developing a crosswalk document demonstrating the significant overlap in core competencies for teachers in special education and school psychologists.

Dr. Tuleya-Payne was an invited member of Governor Wolf's School Safety Task Force. As part of this task force, she not only advocated for the importance of school psychologists, counselors and social workers and stressed the larger public health needs and systemic role of school psychologists. She was quoted in a local newspaper article stating the following at a panel presentation to state legislators: "Creating a school that every student feels a part of, as opposed to isolated from, is a vital step in creating a safe, secure learning environment for everyone." An outcome of this task force was to form a Special Council on Gun Violence, of which she was a key member.

Dr. Tuleya-Payne has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the field of school psychology in Pennsylvania and will be sorely missed within the Millersville University community. ◆

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR. AMELIA LOPEZ'S RETIREMENT FROM MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

We would like to express our gratitude and warmest wishes to **DR. AMELIA LOPEZ** on her recent retirement! She is retiring this year after 20 years with the Millersville University School Psychology graduate program. She has served as both an Assistant Professor and as the School Psychology Graduate Program Coordinator. In addition to these positions, Dr. Lopez has also served an important role in various accreditation processes that are key to the School Psychology Program at Millersville University. Through these roles, she has helped to shape our program, maintain important accreditation status, and prepare many students for roles in the School Psychology field.

Dr. Lopez began her career in psychology shortly after moving to the United States at the age of 17. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from DeSales University, and a Master of Education Degree in Counseling Psychology with a Certification in Secondary School Counseling from Temple University. After this, she went on to earn her Ph.D. in School Psychology from Lehigh University, where she was trained by the late Dr. Edward Shapiro, who made many contributions to the field of school psychology.



Dr. Amelia Lopez

During her career, she was impacted by disparities, poor educational outcomes and overidentification of disabilities amongst diverse individuals. In these roles, she was able to continue working in the field, especially with children with limited English proficiency, while also working to train upcoming school psychologists.

Students describe her as passionate, knowledgeable, energetic and

determined, and often note her dedication to the field and passion for helping all students. Dr. Lopez indeed has a strong love for the profession, and a passion for raising awareness for diverse learners.

Dr. Lopez's retirement is bittersweet for us at Millersville University, where she will be sorely missed. We are happy to see her move on and continue her work in the field, but we will miss her passion and drive as both a professor and a faculty member. She has worked tirelessly and made a lasting impression on the field of school psychology in Pennsylvania and on the lives of the students that she has taught. ◆

Peer Mentors Needed

The Department of Athletics is looking to hire three to four graduate students to serve as academic peer mentors to student-athletes for the fall semester. The position pays \$10.00 per hour and requires five to 10 hours per week. Additional hours may be available.

Successful peer mentors must have updated background clearances completed and be approved to work by Human Resources. ◆

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Literacy Coaching Endorsement

The Language and Literacy Education Program of Millersville University is pleased to announce the addition of a Literacy Coaching Endorsement. Housed within the Department of Early, Middle and Exceptional Education, the Language and Literacy program offers a master's in language and literacy education leading to reading specialist certification. Reading specialist students and those with an existing reading specialist certification earned from any university will be able to add the Literacy Coaching Endorsement with the completion of four courses (12 credits). Those with a Literacy Coaching Endorsement have the knowledge and skills to help teachers recognize what they know and can do to assist teachers as they strengthen their abilities, and offer support to teachers as they incorporate literacy in the classroom. ♦

Certifications/Endorsements

CERTIFICATION/ENDORSEMENT students work directly with the Certification Office in completing certification requirements for PDE recommendation.

If you are completing a MU CERTIFICATE (Gifted Education, Nursing Education, Nursing FNP, Emergency Management, Expressive Art Therapy, Space/Weather Environment), please complete the "Application for Certificate Completion" by October 11. The form is found on the Graduate Studies forms page. ♦

The Department of Psychology welcomes three new faculty this year: two full-time faculty and one temporary part-time faculty.



Dr. Hannah Osborn

DR. HANNAH OSBORN joins our department as a full-time faculty, teaching general psychology, social psychology, and psychology of racism at the undergraduate level, as well as research design and statistics at the graduate level. ♦



Dr. Rachel McIntyre

DR. RACHEL MCINTYRE will be teaching undergraduate psychology courses such as Introduction to Psychology, and at the graduate level she will be teaching cognitive therapy. ♦

We are thrilled that **DR. CHARLES BARRETT** joined us this summer as an adjunct faculty member to teach our Assessment of

English Learners course in the school psychology graduate program. A nationally certified school psychologist, Charles is actively involved in the training and development of future psychologists through his roles as assistant director, internship supervisor, and chair of the Committee on Diversity for Loudoun County Public Schools' APA-Accredited Doctoral Internship in Health Service Psychology. His current and past leadership positions within the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) include co-chair of the Social Justice Task Force and African American Subcommittee; chair of the

Multicultural Affairs and Social Justice committees; member of the Publications and Nominations and Elections committees; and Virginia Delegate to the NASP Leadership Assembly. Charles is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *School Psychology Review* (published by NASP) and the Editorial Board of *School Psychology* (published by the American Psychological



Dr. Charles Barrett

Association). He is the author of two books: *It's Always About the Children* and *Today in School Psychology*.

For more about Dr. Charles Barrett, view his website: www.charlesbarrett.org/home. ♦

Best ONLINE Program



Intelligent.com listed Millersville's M.Ed. in Gifted Education program as the 4th-best in the country and the Best ONLINE PROGRAM. Check it out at www.intelligent.com/best-masters-in-gifted-and-talented-education-degree-programs.

Kudos

GRADUATE STUDENT JOURNAL

MUsings: The Graduate Journal showcases the academic work of graduate students at Millersville University. The journal invites students to present their work in a venue that bolsters career-building experiences and celebrates their scholarly efforts. Graduate students from the English department serve

on the editorial staff. Each issue features research articles, short stories, and seeks to encourage student creativity, commend innovative research and generate student engagement in academic and professional communities.

Submissions for the spring 2022 edition of *MUsings: The Graduate Journal* are NOW OPEN. Make submissions to the journal at millersville.edu/admissions/graduate/current-student-resources/graduate-journal.php.



KUDOS TO THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO PRESENTED AT MADE IN MILLERSVILLE 2021

KATHERINE SCHOENER - Using the Classroom Checkup Coaching Model to Increase Student Engagement During Virtual Learning madeinmu.education/mim2021-schedule

DANIELLE TAYLOR - Applying Classroom Checkup Through Teleconsultation mimjournal.com/paper-6

SADIE WENTLAND - Utilizing the Classroom Checkup Model via Teleconsultation to Increase Opportunities to Respond in Virtual and Hybrid Learning mimjournal.com/paper-31

SYDNEY MURPHY - A Systems-Level Approach for Mindfulness Training in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Their presentations can be viewed here: www.mimjournal.com.

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

KUDOS TO DR. LAUREN KAISER



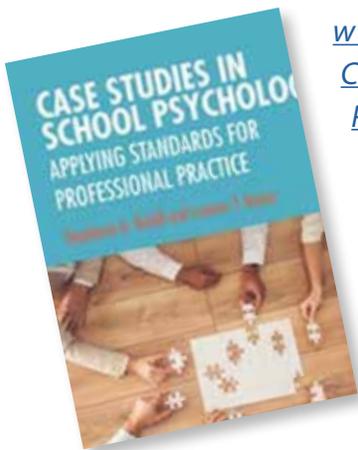
Dr. Lauren Kaiser

for her collaboration on a peer-reviewed manuscript published in April 2021 entitled *Deliberate Practice of Consultation Microskills: An Exploratory Study of Training* (Newman et al., 2021) and the

publication of her new book to be released in September, *Case Studies in School Psychology: Applying Standards for Professional Practice* (Rahill & Kaiser, 2021).

www.doi.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Ftpep0000368

www.routledge.com/Case-Studies-in-School-Psychology-Applying-Standards-for-Professional-Practice/Rahill-Kaiser/p/book/9780367636777



Research on Social Isolation in a Local Rural Area

BRITTANY LEFFLER, Specialization Year MSW student, presented at the March Millersville University Council of Trustees Meeting on research on social isolation in a local rural area. Ms. Leffler and MSW Generalist Year student Rachel Preibisch are research assistants for Dr. Jennifer Frank and Dr. Laura Brierton Granruth from the School of Social Work through the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change. ♦

From Hobohemia to Housing First: A Critical Reflection of Homelessness in the U.S.

In spring 2021, **DR. JENNIFER FRANK** created and taught a special topics MSW elective on homelessness in the United States. The course, *From Hobohemia to Housing First: A Critical Reflection of Homelessness in the U.S.*, provided students with a historical overview of homelessness as a social problem in the United States. Students examined the disparate conceptualizations of homelessness over time and the individual, community and policy approaches intended to address it. Students were eager to fully engage with the issue locally and in real time. After hearing from a guest speaker who shared his experience doing outreach with the unsheltered of Lancaster, students embarked on a project to study the best ways to attend to unsheltered homelessness in our community. The class invited the mayor's office and

Lanc Co MyHome, the homelessness coalition,

Continued on page 10



ACADEMIC PROJECTS

to participate in the project. Students formed three teams to research the local issue, recommendations of national organizations, and effective best practices. Further, students assisted in the development of an IRB protocol that was approved to survey individuals who had prior experience sleeping outdoors and to include their feedback to assess what is needed. Findings were disseminated at Made in Millersville and shared with the Mayor's Office and Lanc Co MyHome on April 26. Several students continued work on the project with Dr. Frank after the semester's end. As a result of this course, national connections have been made with other homelessness scholars as well as the National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services. ◆



Dr. Andrew Bland

DR. ANDREW BLAND and **DR. BRETT SWORDS** published an article in the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* titled "Eupsychian Versus Authoritarian Leadership: Existential-Humanistic Underpinnings and Empirical Support." ◆

Dr. Andrew Bland also published an article in the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, "Humanistic and Positive Psychologies: The Continuing Narrative After Two Decades," and was invited to join the editorial board for the *Humanistic Psychologist*. ◆



Dr. Brett Swords



Dr. Nadine Garner

DR. NADINE GARNER and **DR. JOE BEHUN** are advisors for two new student clubs on campus. Dr. Garner is the advisor for Aavidum U at Millersville, and Dr. Behun is the advisor for STAY. ◆

For more information on either of these new clubs, click on the links. **STAY** getinvolved.millersville.edu/organization/stay **Aavidum U** getinvolved.millersville.edu/organization/aavidumu ◆



Dr. Joe Behun

Dr. Joe Behun presented at The World Suicide Prevention Day as part of the Indian Academy of Psychology on September 10, 2020. He was one of two presenters from the U.S. He also published an article in *University & College Counseling* titled: "College Students and

Internet Pornography: Implications for Counsellors in Higher Education." ◆

Dr. Behun also coauthored a book chapter titled "Online career guidance systems for PK-12 school students: Compliments to a comprehensive school counseling program," L. Waller (Ed.), *Education at the intersection of globalization and technology* (1st ed). ◆

**REGISTER
TODAY**



SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for 2022!

Millersville University will once again offer our Summer Institutes during Summer 2022! See below a list of sessions being planned to help support your professional development needs.

- June 13 – 17 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)
- June 13 – 17 Understanding the Root Causes of Exclusion & Inequity in Education; Social Role Valorization
- June 13 – 17 Art of Choral Techniques
- June 20 – 24 Rocket Teacher Certification Institute
- June 20 – 24 The Art and Science of Teaching Literacy
- June 27 - July 1 Creativity and Education: Preparing Students for Any Future
- July 11 – 15 Teaching Across the Curriculum Using Problem-Based Learning (PBL)
- July 11 – 15 Coding Confidence for Educators
- July 11 – 15 Bibliotherapy, Arts, Music, and Movement: Using Expressive Arts to Respond to Individual, Group, and Community Trauma
- July 18 – 22 Modern Band
- July 18 – 22 Trauma Institute
- August 8 – 12

Dates and topics are subject to change.

**WATCH WWW.MILLERSVILLE.EDU/SUMMERINSTITUTES
FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



Millersville University

BSN TO MSN
ONLINE, BLENDED
HANDS-ON LEARNING

millersville.edu/nursing

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



ORLANDO BERMÚDEZ completed all program requirements for the Master of Science in Emergency Management program in May 2021. Orlando is a weather forecaster at the Austin/San Antonio Weather Forecast Office (WFO), located in New Braunfels, Texas. He has been awarded the National and Regional Isaac Cline awards for improving the understanding and dissemination of National Weather Service warning and public-service products for the Spanish-speaking community across the country.

Orlando is part of the National Weather Service (NWS) Multimedia Assistance in Spanish (MAS) team. The translation of information contained within critical products and services, whether in-text products, media interviews or social media posts, helps ensure effective messaging before, during and after life-threatening weather emergencies.

The MAS program utilizes the Virtual Operations Support (VOS) concept to request aid for Spanish television and radio interviews in addition to



virtual social media support in Spanish when NWS Weather Forecast Offices anticipate being overwhelmed due to high-impact weather events. MAS utilizes the expertise of fellow NWS meteorologists and hydrologists across the United States and Puerto Rico who have social media and interview experience and can speak and translate the Spanish language to deliver critical weather information to the

Hispanic community and partners.

In addition to his regular duties and as part of his work for the Field Practicum Experience course (EMGT 693) in the MSEM program, Orlando connected with several conference calls and sent invitations to the MAS team for the virtual conference calls. Throughout this process, he worked with a reporter from the *Washington Post* to discuss and elaborate on the efforts of NOAA/NWS in communicating weather hazards in Spanish. In addition, he recorded an interview with the Telemundo National Network based in Miami on the 2021 hurricane season and preparedness tips for the community. Lastly, Orlando will be publishing his work in one of the journals of the *American Meteorological Society* (AMS) on the MAS efforts and all that is being done to improve communication related to hazardous weather with the Spanish community in the United States. ◆



CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Amber Sessoms, Millersville School Psychology Graduate Program alumni and Undergraduate Department of Psychology alumni, for her recent honor of being named School Psychologist of the Year by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania. As the founder of Natural Inclination, LLC, Dr. Sessoms supports leaders in their efforts to provide environments within their organizations where people can feel comfortable being their true, authentic selves. Natural Inclination, LLC accomplishes this by way of providing an interactive learning experience that addresses how justice, equality, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) can impact important life and work-related skills. ◆



Millersville University

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
& ADULT LEARNING

If you are a Grad alumni and would like to be highlighted for your work or achievement, email Cynthia Darin at cynthia.darin@millersville.edu.

P 717-871-5154 | cynthia.darin@millersville.edu | **W** millersville.edu/admissions/graduate

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