



# Alumni Spotlight

## Aubrey Laity '21



By Devin Marino

October 3, 2022 -- Millersville University alumna **Aubrey Laity '21** was instrumental in helping Millersville University secure a \$45,000 Digital Literacy Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry in 2021. Now, she is one of three people accepted to the University of Rhode Island's Ph.D. in Physics program. Laity was the first student offered acceptance into this cohort and is the only female student. We talked to Laity about what she's currently up to and her future plans.

Q. What are you currently doing?

*A: I am currently attending the University of Rhode Island in a Physics Ph.D. program with my research area being astrophysics! In addition to taking graduate courses and working on research with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory Scientific Collaboration, I am a teaching assistant for several undergraduate-level physics labs.*

Q. What are your future aspirations?

*A: Future aspirations of mine include receiving my Physics Ph.D., publishing research in the field of gravitational wave astrophysics, and continuing with a career in astrophysics research.*

Q. What has your time at Millersville University taught you?

*A: Millersville University taught me the fundamentals of physics needed to pursue a graduate degree in the field. Additionally, I gained perspective on what area I wanted to pursue within research by attending APS conferences.*

Q. Any faculty/staff that made an impact on you during your time at MU?

*A: Dr. Uy, a professor within the MU Physics department and my undergraduate academic advisor, impacted me greatly by supporting my research interests and academic aspirations and helping me attend national APS conferences. In addition, Hope Schmids has been a mentor as both a boss and coworker - she has the kindest heart and her intelligence is well-rounded; I aspire to be like her. I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunity I had to work with both of these women and learn from them.*

Q. Any advice for current/future Marauders?

*A: To any current and future Marauders - your degree program and experience in academia will be unique to you; don't compare yourself to others' expectations or standards. Make sure you attend classes and keep on top of notes and homework. Taking general education courses during the summer/winter sessions is a great way to get ahead. Utilize [The Career Center](#) for summer traineeship and campus jobs for working during the semester with a student-friendly schedule. Don't forget about the school's scholarships, grants, and funding - it's all there for a reason! Also, if you're like me, don't sweat the social life - you can find friends in clubs or within your major, or just become closer with your family.*