

SPRING | SUMMER 2024

Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW

COMMONWEALTH'S BUDGET BUILDERS Made at the 'Ville

Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, Millersville University President with
Rep. Jordan Harris '06, Chair of the Appropriations Committee for the House
and Sen. Scott Martin '02, Chair of the Appropriations Committee for the Senate



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Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW

Spring | Summer 2024 | VOLUME 145 | No. 7



Dear Millersville University friends and family,

It is with immense pride that I welcome you to this edition of the Review. Today, we shine a spotlight on a remarkable group – Millersville University alumni actively engaged in public service.

The spring semester was a whirlwind of exciting events and programs on campus, culminating in three graduation ceremonies on May 4. At the College of Science and Technology's graduation, our keynote speaker, Dr. Jon

Kauffman '85, spoke about giving back and mentioned examples of his classmates from Millersville who are doing so. They have created scholarships and mentored young people.

Public mission is one of Millersville University's core values. It means we identify community needs and use our work to address them. We do this by striving to make higher education accessible to all who seek it. Our move to a flat-rate tuition model in the fall of 2024 reflects that value. Going back to a flat-rate tuition model will reduce the cost of attendance for our students and increase their chances of graduating in four years.

We also do this by preparing the next generation of public servants who work in our region as teachers, nurses, mental health practitioners, in manufacturing and as elected officials.

In this issue, you can read about alumni who exemplify our public mission value by becoming elected officials. From the halls of our esteemed institution to the bustling world of policy and legislation, 'Ville graduates are making their voices heard. They are shaping local communities, influencing state-level decisions, and contributing to national discourse.

This issue is a testament to the well-rounded education we provide at Millersville. We foster critical thinking, encourage open dialogue, and equip students with the skills necessary to navigate the complexities of the political landscape. The stories within these pages showcase the diverse paths our alumni have taken, each one a testament to their unwavering dedication to public service.

You'll find compelling narratives of recent graduates taking their first steps on the political ladder, seasoned veterans working tirelessly to bridge partisan divides, and legal minds using their expertise to influence national policy.

These are just a handful of the many 'Ville alumni making a real difference. Their achievements inspire current students and demonstrate the enduring impact of a Millersville education.

However, this issue goes beyond mere celebration. We also have photos from commencement, preview homecoming and look at alums who hit it big in pop culture.

As you turn the page, take pride in the accomplishments of your fellow 'Ville alumni. They are a testament to the enduring legacy of Millersville University. I invite you to reflect on how you can serve, whether on your own or through volunteering with an organization already engaging in the hard work of service.

With warm regards,

Daniel A. Wubah

Daniel A. Wubah
President, Millersville University



Read about Alumni in Politics, Page 4

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Kelsey Madas, Copy Editor

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Ethan Hulsey, Sports News

Joshua Belice '08, '10M, Class Notes

Corinna Linn, Alumni News

CONTRIBUTORS

Mary Miller '22 '24M

Mia Bertoldi '25

Marissa Farmer '24

Joshua Gearhart '24

Devin Marino '25

Leah Reagan '24

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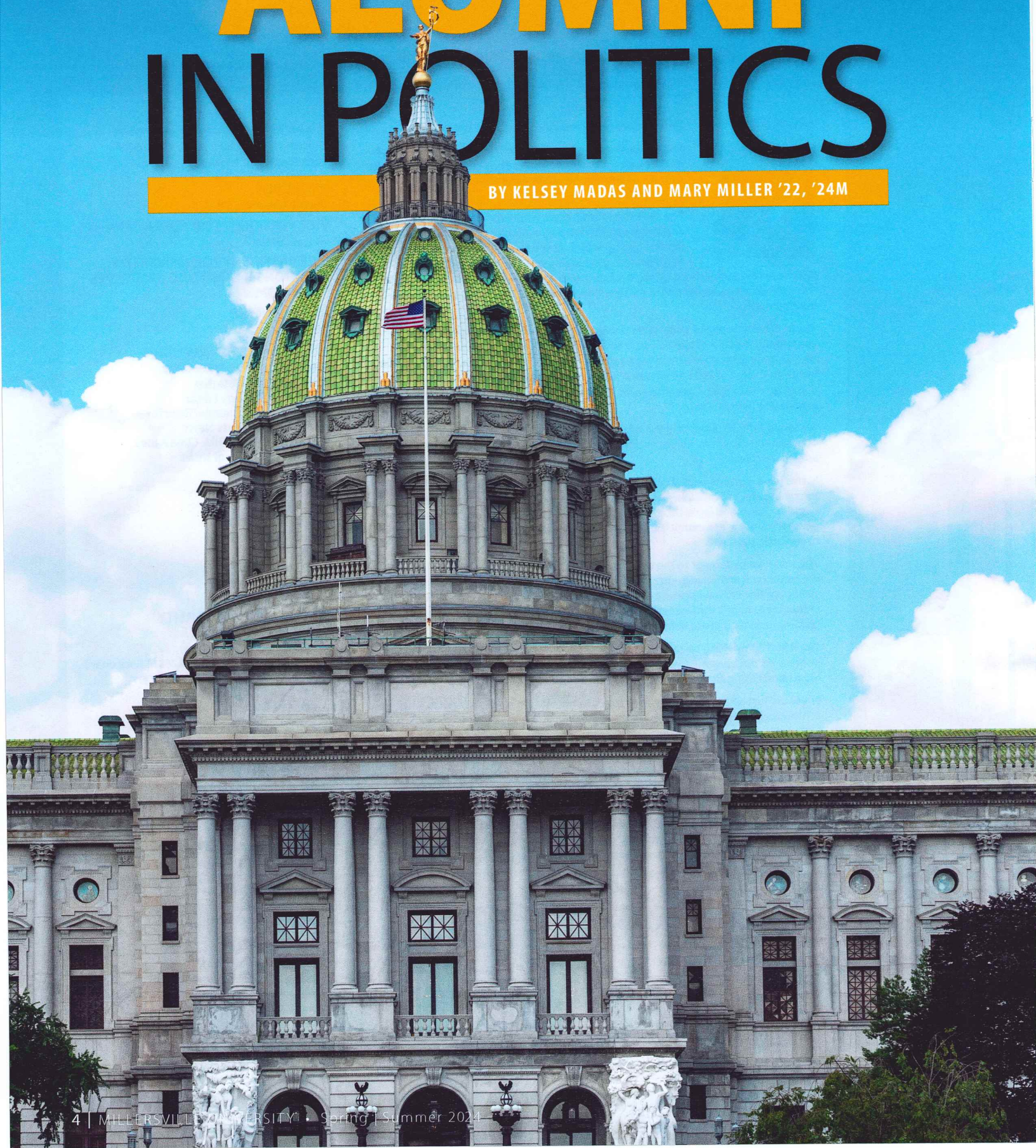
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ALUMNI IN POLITICS

BY KELSEY MADAS AND MARY MILLER '22, '24M



AMID THE ELECTION SEASON, WHEN TURNING ON THE TV OR RADIO OR WATCHING STREAMING CONTENT GUARANTEES THAT YOU'LL SEE POLITICAL ADS, WE'RE CHECKING IN WITH SOME OF OUR ALUMS WHO'VE PURSUED POLITICAL CAREERS. HERE, THEY TELL US WHAT SPARKED THEIR PASSIONS, HOW THEIR EDUCATION AT MILLERSVILLE PREPARED THEM FOR THEIR JOBS, AND WHY STAYING INVOLVED IS ESSENTIAL.



Tom Baker '02

TOM BAKER '02

Former two-term county councilman and a current trustee of Millersville University, Tom Baker is a familiar face to many. This 2002 graduate studied elementary education and has stayed closely connected to the University. He even met his wife and fellow alum, Erin, here. Outside of his work on campus, he's the chief executive officer of Variety – The

Children's Charity of Pittsburgh. Baker was elected as a county councilman on November 5, 2013, and reelected on November 7, 2017, to represent District 1 in Allegheny County and represented nearly 100,000 residents during his terms.

Baker's journey into politics began many years before his official governmental election. He served as MU's student body president from 1999–2001. "Millersville is truly what got me going on my journey in politics and government," explains Baker. "I had four highly competitive races to win freshman elections, vice president and my two terms. Some of the competitive nature of campaigns was instilled in me through those races." Baker credits his longtime friend and fellow trustee Brandon Danz '03 for getting him involved and showing up for him when he later ran for elected office. "He and some of our fellow Marauders even drove five hours in my most recent races to support our campaign," he shares enthusiastically. "Those are the relationships you make at our beloved alma mater!"

While it can be challenging, Baker explains why involvement in politics is important. "Government can work and, at its core, is inspiring and exciting to be a part of. I ran half-marathons, and the poster that always almost made me stop was, 'You're running better than our government.' I always wanted to stop to tell them the good stories and remind them that at the local level in many of the 14 communities I represented for those eight years, it runs remarkably well in a kind, thoughtful, bipartisan manner."



Patrick Blanch '02

PATRICK BLANCH '02

As a member of the Acacia Fraternity during his time at Millersville, Patrick Blanch '02 learned firsthand about the importance of community service and civic responsibility. Now, Blanch is a judge of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, and he has emphasized

those values while combining his strong beliefs in the importance of the law.

While majoring in history, Blanch remembers Millersville as a place with a sense of community. "By the time I was an upperclassman, I knew someone in almost every room I entered," he says. "I had some wonderful and long-lasting friendships and great mentorship from teachers like Dr. Richard Glenn."

Blanch knew from a young age that he wanted to be a lawyer. "My grandmother told me when I was very young that I had an obligation to stand up for other people, and especially for people who didn't look like me when they were facing hostility or unfairness," he says. "That stuck with me."

While first working as a public defender and then later as a pro bono and court-appointed attorney, Blanch felt that someone with the work and life experience he had would contribute a unique and helpful perspective to the court.

As a judge, Blanch helps serve the largest county in Virginia, with over 1 million residents. His court hears various cases, including jury trials, divorces, felony criminal cases and civil lawsuits. For Blanch, it's clear his work is meaningful. "It is about serving others and making others feel that, even when they are going through something difficult, they are still worthy of dignity and respect," he says.

He continues, "I think public service has an element of hope – the idea that things can improve if good people give their best effort on behalf of all of us."

Blanch acknowledges that the work is hard and not glamorous, but he encourages students interested in public service to keep pursuing their goals. "I would tell young people that if your intentions are good, and you care about your community, then give public service a try."

"My Millersville education helps me make better decisions when it comes to wisely spending the taxpayers' money,"

says Fee.



Mindy Fee '87

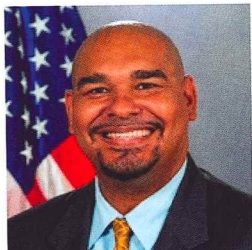
MINDY FEE '87

State Representative Mindy Fee graduated from Millersville with a degree in economics in 1987 and spent her early years watching her mother become the first woman to serve on the borough council in Manheim, Pennsylvania. But her first taste of political work came some years later. "I first dipped my toe in the political world when I married

Tommy Fee, who served as Manheim's mayor and then a district judge," she explains. "I became a Republican committeewoman and started learning about local politics to help Tommy and what he was involved in." Sadly, in 2011, Tommy passed away suddenly. "It left me reeling and in shock for quite some time."

Fee felt ready to take on a new challenge as time passed, even in her grief. "I knew I needed to focus on being an example for our kids by being willing to pick myself up and move on – no matter what life brings you." Several people approached her about possibly running for the open state representative seat on the 2012 ballot. After much consideration, Fee decided she would do just that. "That was a goal I wanted to shoot for in creating a new normal for my kids and me," she says.

Fee said her education at Millersville was paramount to her career success. "I'm grateful for my Millersville experience because my college time did a lot to shape me for future endeavors." Her degree in economics, she says, proved beneficial in both her career as a sales executive and as a state representative. "Much of the legislature's time is devoted to state spending. My Millersville education helps me make better decisions regarding wisely spending the taxpayers' money," explains Fee. "During my whole time at MU, I worked as a waitress to earn the money to pay for a portion of my tuition. I was blessed to have my parents' help, but I knew the onus was on me. I learned how to schedule my time, ensure I kept up with responsibilities, work hard, and take care of things independently without depending on lots of outside help. Those life lessons have helped me tremendously."



Justin C. Fleming '02

JUSTIN C. FLEMING '02

State Representative Justin C. Fleming graduated from Millersville in 2002 with a communication major and a government minor. He says the combination has served him well.

"I was always interested in government, but I thought I'd be a broadcast journalist," says Fleming. "I was the sports editor for the Snapper, anchor for MUTV

and provided the color commentary for basketball and football games on WLPA."

Fleming credits former professors like G. Terry Madonna and Berwood Yost (now at F&M) for providing a great political background. "I took a class with Bob Bookmiller about Middle East Affairs that has proved so helpful in understanding the current climate there."

After 18 years in state government, through his roles as a lobbyist for social workers and as a mental health and child advocate, Fleming's first elected position was with the Susquehanna Township Board of Commissioners. He served there from 2014-2022, when he ran for his current position as a state representative serving Dauphin County.

Fleming emphasizes the importance of registering students to vote: "For students who want to seek office, first get involved by registering to vote. Running is great, but live a life first; don't rush it. Get into the workforce; it will help inform your policy-making."

Justin Fleming is married to Lisa M. Fleming, also a Millersville alum from 2002 and a government major. "We got married a year before we graduated, and we both loved our time at Millersville," says Fleming. "We were taught by full professors who had practical experience, not by teaching assistants." Justin Fleming says the worst thing about being elected is the demand for his time. His wife is the Deputy Executive Director at the Senate of PA Appropriations Committee, so coordinating time together can be difficult.

Fleming says the most important thing he wants to convey is "Be involved in your community. Local government is as important as being in the state house. The local level is where taxes are set. School boards are all about tax policy. It frustrates me that more people vote in presidential elections, but other elections can have a greater impact on your life."

"The best part about politics is the opportunity to help people," says Fleming, "It supersedes politics. It doesn't matter what party someone is registered with; if they need help, we will help them."



Joyce King '83

JOYCE KING '83

As a self-described "lifelong learner," Joyce King believes in education. She graduated from MU in 1983 with a degree in biology, went on to earn a master's degree in chemistry and worked in various roles at a pharmaceutical company for 35 years of her professional career. "I feel my education gave me a lifelong love of learning and the skills to learn about new topics," she shares.

King has also worked closely with the University over the years. She's the immediate past president of the Millersville Alumni Association, where she helped establish the operating structure and long-range planning for alumni engagement, including things like homecoming. Continuing her dedication to education, King ran and was elected as a Quakertown Community School District Board of Directors member in 2011. "The general public thinks that school board directors are paid and don't realize it is a volunteer position in all but

a few Pennsylvania city districts," says King. So, why did she run for this school board?

"I wanted to run, as I saw many changes being made to the curriculum, scheduling, electives and more, with no firm plan for implementation." She notes that at that time, the administration made changes to their math program while simultaneously switching from block scheduling to a seven-period day, which may have disrupted some students' plans to enter senior-level math courses. "I knew they needed a better eye on planning. Using my process planning knowledge from

my work life allowed me to help guide some of the implementation of change."

Much of the work of local politics, says King, goes unnoticed, but that doesn't make it unimportant. "I learned that a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work and negotiation goes on, and the general public lacks awareness. But learning about the PA State Department of Education, the relevant laws, and the PA School Board Association was quite eye-opening."

JORDAN HARRIS '06



Jordan Harris '06

Jordan Harris's foray into politics began in high school when he became the president of his Student Government Association. The school administration of his college preparatory school wanted to close an annex building. Jordan and his peers disagreed and rallied support from a local politician who sided with their cause. "That's when I met Senator

Anthony H. Williams. He gave me an internship after that experience."

This chance encounter inspired Harris: "I gained tremendous interest in politics because of that internship, and I made it my major." At

"My experience at MU shaped who I am as a person, and I am a better person because of my time at the University,"

says Harris.

Millersville, Harris joined the Student Government Association, saying, "My education gave me a textbook understanding of politics. I didn't interact with Republicans until I got to Millersville, where I met people with different political ideologies."

Harris calls on all people, especially students, to participate in politics. "Politics are going to be involved in every facet of your life, whether you like it or not. If you're a student at a State System school, how much you pay depends on the money we send from the state legislature. The tuition is set by the Board of Governors, who are all appointed by the governor," he explains.

Professor of psychology Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El, who passed away in 2018, influenced Harris.

"I always talk about Rita and how much she meant to me," he shares. "She was instrumental in helping me develop my critical thinking skills and embrace what it means to be young, gifted, and Black and to be proud of my heritage." Harris also cites Dr. Richard Glenn, the department chairperson and government policy and law professor, as another important mentor. "He failed me twice in his constitutional law class," he says with a smile. "It was one of the best experiences of my career. It taught me that I must put some studying and hard work behind those natural talents and gifts."

Harris says he's grateful for his time as a student and the people he met. "My experience at MU shaped who I am; I am a better person because of my time at the University."



Scott Martin '02

SCOTT MARTIN '02

Many '90s alumni might remember Scott Martin from his time on the field as a football player from 1990 to 1993 or on the wrestling team. This two-time All-American became a free agent camp signee of the New York Giants. He had three stints in the Arena Football League before returning to complete his degree at Millersville in 2002 in sociology/criminal

justice with a minor in athletic coaching.

If you don't know him from his remarkable football days, you might recognize him as a former University trustee from his role on the Board of Governors. Perhaps you may know him from his time as a Pennsylvania state senator, representing the citizens of Lancaster County in the 13th District, which might include you.

Martin says his days at Millersville were formative to his life and career. "The late, great college football Hall of Fame coach Dr. Gene Carpenter taught me, my teammates and the coaching staff what Marauder pride was all about," he explains. "It was a brotherhood of respect, integrity and character in a disciplined system that was about more than football; it was a way of life that I cherish and carry with me to this day in every aspect of life." He also cites his advisor, former department chair Dr. Mary Glazier, former MU vice president and current trustee Dr. Rich Frerichs as impactful presences in his life, both then and now.

Being a football team member also taught him a thing or two about work and collaboration that would come in handy in his later career. "A strong work ethic; the discipline to strategize, prepare and execute; and your ability to collaborate and work as a team are as

essential in the workplace and your personal life as they are on the football field," explains Martin.

"The late, great college football Hall of Fame coach Dr. Gene Carpenter taught me... what Marauder pride was all about,"

says Martin.

Martin's interest in politics began in his late 20s when he was frustrated by things he saw happening on the state and local levels. "I shared my feelings with a friend, who challenged me by saying, 'What are YOU going to do about it?'" So, Martin ran for office at age 30 and said, "I'm a firm believer in treating all people with respect and approaching issues with a sense of purpose. I knew there had to be a better way that led to more prosperity for the people we serve." He also encourages people of all ages to engage in politics. "We have been given an incredible system of governance, but it only works

when good people who want to make a difference make a real effort to be involved."

Representing Millersville in his career has been a highlight for Martin. "It is one of the greatest honors of my life to be able to represent my alma mater through my job in the Senate," he says. "It not only allows me to apply the lessons I learned during my time there but also puts me in a position to ensure Millersville University can continue its outstanding mission to educate future generations of leaders."



Emily Snyder '10, '16M

EMILY SNYDER '10, '16M

As an academic advisor at the University of Pittsburgh, Emily Snyder '10, '16M loves working with students to help them navigate their collegiate careers. Education has always been a large part of her life, and between her work as an advisor and her background in government and social work, Snyder also volunteers as a school board member of

Keystone Oaks School District.

"School boards are distinctly different from many other elected offices because we function as a group of nine, or 10, including our superintendent," Snyder says. "No one member has any individual legal authority, and school boards work on everything together, usually starting in committees."

During her time at Millersville, Snyder earned her bachelor's in government and political affairs, then earned her master's in social work. She completed an internship with a congressional campaign during her senior year, which she mentions as her introduction to real work at the ground level. "It was eye-opening to see that there are many, many people from all different backgrounds and career paths involved in local politics," she adds.

She was also heavily involved in Greek life as a proud sister of Alpha Xi Delta. "I have many wonderful memories of fundraising for Homecoming, participating in the annual Millersville parade, and reuniting with alumni to celebrate the day," Snyder says. "I also met my future husband at a Greek life event!"

Her advice to students includes remembering that local political decisions often significantly impact an individual's life more than what's happening in Washington. "These are your community members, neighbors and friends who will benefit from your efforts," she says. ♦

CAMPUS NEWS | Spring/Summer

New Director of Alumni Engagement

JOSHUA BELICE '08, '10M, was named director for the Office of Alumni Engagement on April 15, 2024, after serving as interim director since December 2023. Belice's office is located in Duncan



Joshua Belice '08, '10M

Alumni House in the Advancement Division, and his responsibilities include engaging with alumni and friends to raise support for Millersville University.

Since 2015, Belice served at Millersville

University as Assistant Director of Admissions in Enrollment Management. Through his professional career in higher education, Belice has held positions in Residence Life at Shepherd University and at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

As a proud graduate of Millersville University, Belice has earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in German and English in 2008 and a master's degree in English in 2010, and he holds a master's degree in college student development and administration from Shepherd University.

Belice and his wife, Lauren '07, '14M, are raising their future Marauder, Emmett. ♦

Millersville a 'Refuge' for Refugees

In keeping with Millersville University's core values of public mission, inclusion and compassion, President Daniel A. Wubah



Representatives from Millersville and Church World Service Lancaster greet the incoming family at the airport.

signed an agreement with Every Campus A Refuge to make the University a partner that provides housing and resettlement services to refugee families, with assistance from Church World Service Lancaster.

ECAR's mission is to mobilize colleges and universities to host refugees on campus grounds and support their successful integration. Millersville became the first university in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education to sign on. Presently, the University is hosting one refugee family in a house that was vacant on the north edge of campus. CWS Lancaster provides direct support to the family by way of housing and living assistance. ♦

McNairy Library Introduces New Parent Workstation

Millersville is further pursuing inclusivity by introducing a workstation for student parents and their children in the McNairy Library and Learning Forum.



Students in the applied engineering, safety and technology program helped build this new, inclusive space.

This new workstation provides student parents with a dedicated space on campus to engage in schoolwork while having their children with them. The workspace is located on the first floor of the library in the Knowledge Commons, which has student computers and workstations. The project is led by assistant professor and communication librarian Kim Auger, who was awarded a Millersville EPPIC Micro-Grant of \$1,000 to fund the project, in collaboration with Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology assistant professor Dr. Justin Egresitz. Students in the Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology program helped to design and construct the workstation. ♦

Alumna Named Newest Eckert Honoree

Starting in 2015, the Susan C. and Gerald C. Eckert Service and Philanthropy Endowment Award has been given to a recipient to encourage others in philanthropic support and recognize a commitment of service to



Left to right - Susan Eckert, President Wubah, Jennifer Dowell '26 (artist), Karen Ashkar Murley '63 and Jerry Eckert.

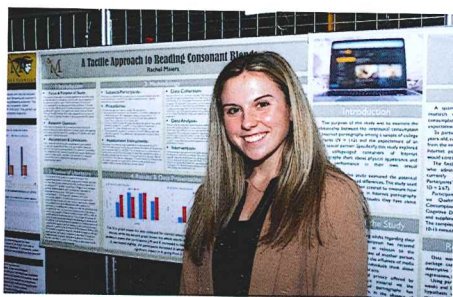
Millersville University. This year's recipient, Karen Ashkar Murley '63, was honored with an award ceremony on April 9 at the Eckert Art Gallery that celebrated her decades of support for scholarships, academic programs and more at Millersville.

The endowment award is selected based on exemplary service and philanthropy in advancing the mission of public higher education. Innovative ideas or practices assisting public higher education are considered a part of the selection criteria. Murley is a member of Millersville's exclusive Fiat Lux Society, which honors the contributions of donors whose gifts and pledges total \$1 million or more. ♦

Ten Years of Made in Millersville

2024 marked 10 years of celebrating student scholarship and creativity at the annual Made in Millersville Conference. The conference, which highlights student research at Millersville University, was held on April 9 in the Student Memorial Center with a record number of 265 presentations by 383 presenters. Alumni and the community attended the conference as guests, and many volunteered as reviewers.

Made in Millersville is open to all Millersville students and includes the work of recent graduates who completed their projects



2024 Made in Millersville presenter, Rachel Maier.

after the conclusion of the last conference. The conference accepts presentations that are either a product of a mentored experience outside the classroom or a requirement for a course. Nearly 100 faculty members served as mentors for the 2024 conference presenters. Students were encouraged to showcase their scholarly work by submitting posters, talks, performances, demonstrations and exhibits for consideration.

Students can also present the outcomes of their work in the Made in Millersville Journal, which is now available online and overseen by Dr. Tatiana Pashkova-Balkenhol and Dr. Kerrie Farkas.

Nate C. Wilson, a biology major with a concentration in animal behavior, presented two projects. The first was a continuation of their project from last year titled "Neuroendocrine Gene Expression and Aggression in the Polymorphic White-Throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). The second was a poster on Wilson's summer internship research titled "3D Analysis of Morphological Diversity in Hawaiian Hawks Across Time and Space, from Pleistocene to the Present." ♦

MU Joins Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Millersville University recently joined the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, a distinction that represents only 17% of all higher-education institutions nationwide.

"This association will contribute to the overall success and sense of belonging for our Hispanic students," explains Dr. Gail Gasparich, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Millersville University.

To become an associate member, a college/university must show that it has at least 10% Hispanic students. Using fall 2023 data, Millersville's undergraduate Hispanic enrollment was 10.71%.

Gasparich says joining the association will help promote a sense of community for Millersville University students. "We will be in a community of members focused on Hispanic student success, which benefits all." ♦

Millersville Continues to Be StormReady

When Millersville University initially attained StormReady certification in 2020, it joined an exclusive group as only the seventh university in Pennsylvania to achieve this designation. Fast-forward four years, and that distinction still holds true today. Recently, MU successfully renewed its designation, solidifying its commitment to storm preparedness. Moreover, the installation of Climavision weather radar



The University has successfully renewed its StormReady certification, after initially becoming certified in 2020. on campus last August further enhances the University's readiness to provide accurate and timely predictions of severe weather events. ♦

Sorority Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Members past and present of Millersville's Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Lambda Gamma chapter, celebrated its 50th anniversary in late February to commemorate the original chartering date of Feb. 23, 1974. The University's chapter made Millersville history as the first national African American sorority and the first national sorority chartered on campus. The festivities will continue throughout the year, including a reunion that will be hosted



Members of the Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at their 50th anniversary celebration.

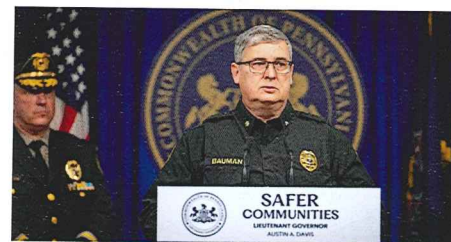
during homecoming this September.

As part of the celebration, the Deltas hosted an open event on the history of the sorority with a private reception and banquet that recognized the 10 charter members and Delta sorority sisters. They also held a free and public event that celebrated 50 years of membership, followed by "Paint the City Red," where members donned the sorority's signature colors – crimson and cream – and ended the night with a community service project at a local shelter for women.

Delta Sigma Theta is a core chapter that shares membership between Millersville University and Franklin & Marshall College, with F&M student Dejah Broadway serving as the current chapter president. Internationally, the sorority has a membership of over 300,000 and has more than 3,000 chapters worldwide with a focus on serving the community. The organization's core values are scholarship, service, sisterhood and social action. ♦

MUPD Receives \$25K Grant for Recruitment

A \$25,000 grant that was recently awarded to Millersville University's police department from the Shapiro-Davis administration is providing additional funding to recruit new candidates and keep officers. The police department will use the funds to provide a one-time \$5,000 stipend for qualified candidates.



MUPD Deputy Police Chief Howard Bauman spoke at Safer Communities event at State Capitol.

The University currently has 14 sworn officers, and two of those officers were hired in January, returning the force to a full staff. Millersville's chief of police, Pete Anders, says, "We sought the grant as a hiring incentive to bridge the gap in our patrol officer pay versus the pay of officers in neighboring departments." According to Anders, the department may have three additional job openings during the next two years and will use the funds to help fill those positions. ♦

COMMENCEMENT

SPRING 2024

Pucillo Gymnasium was packed full of happy families, friends and graduates all day on Saturday, May 4. Millersville University held three ceremonies, starting with the College of Education and Human Services. **DR. TAMARA WILLIS '99**, the Superintendent of Schools for the Susquehanna Township School District in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was the keynote speaker for the first ceremony.

The College of Science and Technology celebrated its graduates at 1 p.m. **DR. JON KAUFFMAN '85**, the Vice President of Biologics of Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories, Inc., was the keynote speaker.

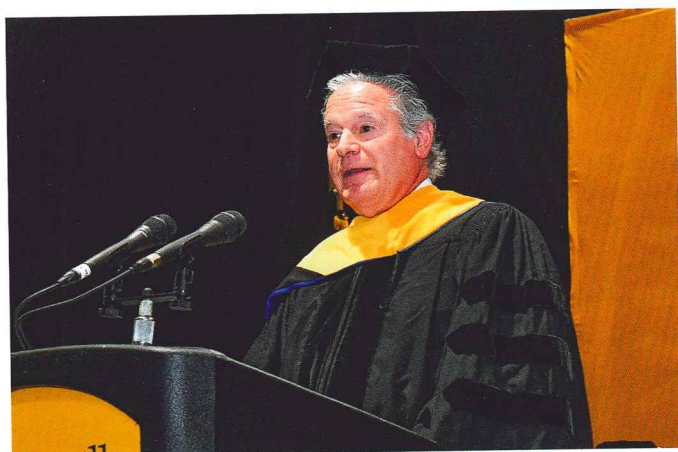
At 5 p.m., the graduates from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences along with the Lombardo College of Business were honored. **PRESIDENT DANIEL A. WUBAH** presided over all three ceremonies and gave the keynote address at the 5 p.m. graduation.

Each ceremony included both graduate and undergraduate degrees. Of the 1,070 students who graduated, 860 were undergraduates, and there were 210 graduate students.

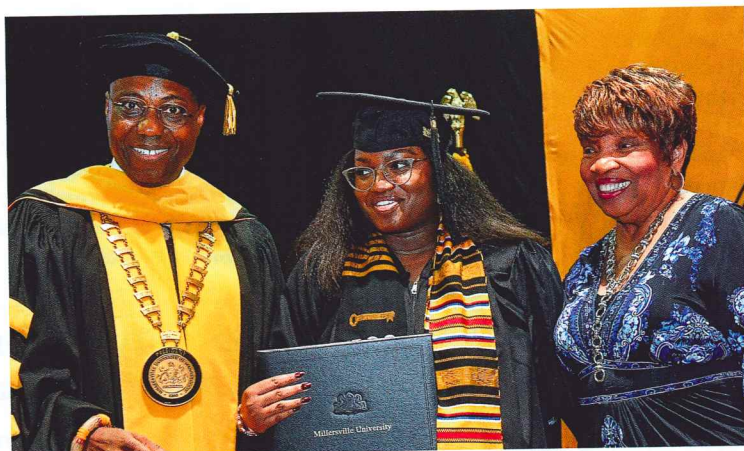
During his keynote address, Kauffman said Millersville University prepared him well for the doctoral program at the University of Delaware. "We were required to take proficiency exams in an array of chemistry disciplines such as organic, inorganic, physical and analytical to ensure that incoming students were ready for graduate-level courses. This occurred during my first week in graduate school and was terrifying. As it turned out, I was the only incoming grad student to pass all of them on my first try."

Kauffman's closing words for the graduates were, "One – you are well-prepared. You will be successful! Two – give back! Be a steward to your community, to your alma mater and to the next generation. Be a mentor, a leader or a volunteer. You can make an impact and will not regret it. Three – make it your goal to be the commencement speaker here at the 2064 graduation."

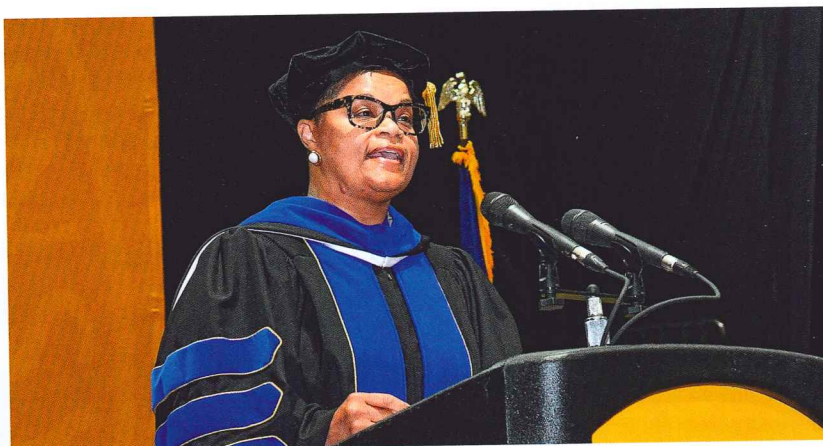
Want to watch a recap of this year's commencement ceremonies? Go to millersville.edu/commencement. ♦



Dr. Jon Kauffman '85, the Vice President of Biologics of Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories, Inc., was the keynote speaker for the College of Science and Technology's graduation.



President Daniel Wubah and former MU President Dr. Francine McNairy-Nelson celebrate Kennedy Clark's graduation. Clark is McNairy-Nelson's granddaughter and graduated with her bachelor's in occupational safety & environmental health.



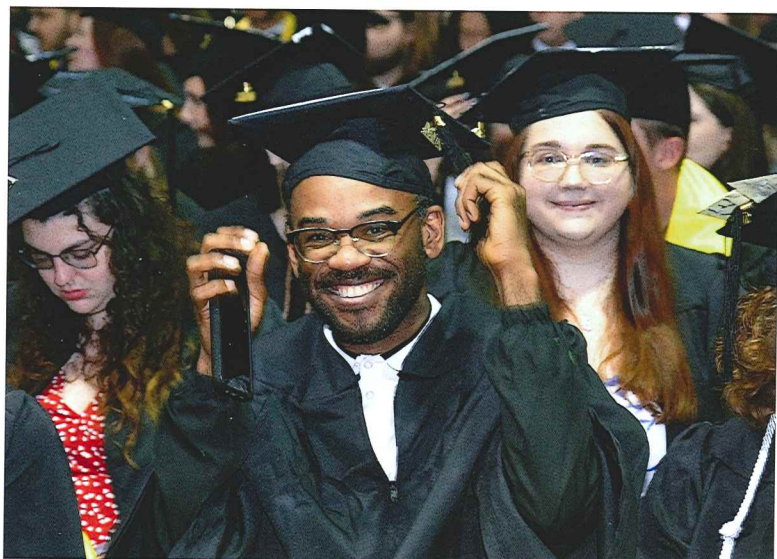
Dr. Tamara Willis '99, the Superintendent of Schools for the Susquehanna Township School District in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was the keynote speaker for the College of Education & Human Services.



Kristin Strijdom from Johannesburg, South Africa, graduated with a bachelor's in business administration. She attended Millersville University to play field hockey and was named All-PSAC 1st Team and a PSAC Scholar-Athlete. She was also inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society.



Qhayiya Nogoduka (on right) from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She attended Millersville University to play field hockey. Nogoduka is pictured with her mom and President Wubah.



Dominick DeLorenzo, a member of the Cygnus Society, embraces Nancy Adams '73. DeLorenzo earned his degree in business management with a minor in occupational safety and environmental health. Adams and her late husband created the N.C. Adams '73 and W.G. Adams Fellows Program, which was created to assist students majoring and minoring in business and or occupational safety and environmental health. DeLorenzo is an Adams Fellow.



Dr. Sepi Yalda, Director of the Center for Disaster Research & Education and professor of meteorology, hoods Timothy Coleman, who graduated with a Master of Science in emergency management degree.



Kayla Rivera was a Cygnus Society member and presenter of the senior class gift.

NEW DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



Joshua Belice '08, '10M

Welcome from the Director of Alumni Engagement

Dear Millersville Alumni,

I am thrilled to step into the role of Director of Alumni Engagement here at Millersville University after serving as interim director since December 2023. As a proud double major graduate in German and English in 2008 and having earned

my first master's degree in English in 2010, this opportunity feels like coming full circle.

During my time as a student, I served as a resident assistant in the former Gaige Hall for two impactful years. Following that, I had the privilege of being the graduate assistant of the former Hobbs/Tanger Hall, enriching my understanding of our campus community and student development before going into higher education professionally in 2010.

Professionally, I've worked in Residence Life at both Shepherd University, where I earned my second master's in college student development and administration, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. In 2015, I returned to Millersville to work in Enrollment Management as Assistant Director of Admissions for nearly 10 years.

Beyond my professional journey, Millersville holds a special place in my heart because my wife, Lauren, '07, '14M, and I were students here at the same time. Lauren is also a double Millersville alum, and together we are raising our future Marauder, Emmett.

Best from the 'Ville,

Joshua R. Belice '08, '10M

Director of Alumni Engagement

A MESSAGE FROM THE MUAA BOARD PRESIDENT



Matt Olphin '95

Get Involved with the Millersville University Alumni Association

Dear 'Ville Alumni,

As we continue to cherish the memories and values instilled in us during our time at Millersville University, it's paramount that we stay connected and involved in shaping the future of our alma mater. The Millersville University

Alumni Association serves as the bridge between past and present, fostering a vibrant community that thrives on the contributions of its members.

One of the most fulfilling ways to remain connected is through active participation in our Alumni Association Committees. Whether your passion lies in communications and technology, event planning, financial stewardship, membership outreach, or supporting the next generation through scholarships and awards, there's a place for you to make an impact.

Join us in shaping the narrative of our alma mater's future. Dive into the exciting initiatives of our Communications & Technology Committee, where innovation meets tradition. Help us craft unforgettable Homecoming experiences by joining the Engagement & Events Committee. Contribute to the financial stability and growth of our association by lending your expertise to the Finance Committee. Get involved.

Let's rally together as Marauders to ensure that the legacy of excellence and community endures for generations to come. Get involved today, and let's continue to make Millersville proud!

With Marauder Pride,

Matt Olphin '95

President, Millersville University Alumni Association



ONE DAY GIVE

Achieves All-Time Record

Millersville University's 11th Annual **ONE DAY GIVE** online giving day exceeded the all-time record fundraising total by raising **\$826,634** from 2,276 gifts in 24 hours from generous donors throughout the Millersville University community, achieving a tremendous fundraising success!

This exceptional celebration of giving on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, featured on-campus festivities, including One Day Give Celebration Stations across campus and a student celebration in the Student Memorial Center to conclude this year's historic event. A popular tradition of the annual fundraising event returned this year with the giving incentive of the exclusive One Day Give socks, featuring the University swans and highlighting the "ripples of generosity."

With gratitude for the outpouring of support from gracious donors throughout the University community, with gifts of all sizes, your generosity through One Day Give is making a lasting impact in the lives of Millersville University students. ♦

For more information and details, please visit millersville.edu/onedaygive and save the date for One Day Give 2025.

Thank you to the Millersville University community for an amazing day of giving!

Save the Date for One Day Give 2025 – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025!

Millersville University

**HOMECOMING
2024**

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate Homecoming 2024!

September 20 – 22, 2024

Mark your calendars to experience Homecoming Weekend with exciting events and activities to welcome Millersville University alumni back to campus!

Homecoming Weekend is a special celebration open to all alumni as a chance to reconnect with friends, enjoy treasured Homecoming traditions, commemorate milestones and create lasting memories! ♦

VISIT

Millersville.edu/homecoming for a full listing of events and updates!

Millersville.edu/alumni | alumni@millersville.edu

717-871-7551 | 1-800-681-1855

HOMECOMING 2024

WEEKEND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 30th Annual Millersville University Athletics Hall of Fame
- 'Ville Wrestling Golf Outing

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- The Millersville Parade
- 'Ville Visionary Society Porch Party
- 'Ville Block Party
- Millersville University Homecoming Football Game and Hospitality Area
- Class of 1974 – 50th Reunion
- Class of 1964 and Friends – 60th Reunion

Invaluable Impact of the EPPIIC STUDENT COMPASSION FUND Transforms Students' Lives

THROUGHOUT HIGHER EDUCATION, THERE IS A GROWING CONCERN FOR UNIVERSITIES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' BASIC NEEDS SO THEY CAN LEARN AND SUCCEED.

Through the **EPPIIC STUDENT COMPASSION FUND** at Millersville University, students with difficult personal circumstances can receive immediate and direct support for basic needs, including housing assistance, utilities, transportation, food, online learning resources and more. As the demographics of the student population continue to change to include a greater number of students for whom financial hardship is more prevalent, the need for this type of fund is growing. Fortunately, the generosity of donors whose support addresses these financial obstacles for students is making a transformative impact in the lives of students to remedy the increasing need.

Originally established in response to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund was created to meet the critical student needs that emerged from the pandemic. Initially funded by the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund continued in 2022 through the generous support of donors in the Millersville University community.



Dr. Mary Beth Williams

Presently, the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund is entirely donor funded, and the beneficial impact of the fund has been transformative for students in need.

DR. MARY BETH WILLIAMS, Vice President for Student

Affairs, notes, "To date, we have helped 109 students with financial support of over \$34,000."

Through increased awareness, donor support for the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund is gaining momentum and has resulted in doubling the amount of funding that has been distributed to students during the current academic year. Within the first fiscal year in which the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund was being administered with private funding, in academic year 2022-2023, there were 31 students who received support, and \$13,171 was distributed to benefit students. In the most recent academic year (2023-2024), support for the fund has doubled, and the amount of funding support has also increased, with 78 students receiving support as of March 2024 in a total amount of \$21,503.

Students experiencing financial hardship in need of immediate and direct support may apply to receive funding for emergency expenses from the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund. All full-time, currently enrolled graduate or undergraduate students in good standing with the University are eligible to apply for funding to cover expenses that include emergency housing assistance, unexpected medical

costs, educational products and services, temporary assistance with food insecurity, unplanned or additional childcare costs, and emergency personal expenses such as clothing, hygiene items, etc.

Williams explains, "Most of these are very small awards, and we ask them to provide some sort of reasoning, rationale, documentation for their needs. And it can be as simple as 'I need a tire' or 'I need medicine' or 'I need the online platform for my class' or 'I need this technology.'" A beneficial element of the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund at Millersville University is that there are no overhead administrative costs related to managing the fund. "We have 0% going to the overhead for the

EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund. If it goes in, it goes out. Everybody who is taking care of this is institutionally funded – not through the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund. So that's nice – that 100% of your gift goes to a student," says Williams.

**"Compassion
is a gift given
without expectation
of receipt,"**

says Williams.

As the need for support and donor contributions has increased, the services available to students through the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund are expanding. "The next layer of what we'll be doing with the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund next year is we'll have an MSW intern who will do case management for this. Any time a student asks for funding from the EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund, we'll be able to give them wraparound services – making sure that they're aware of all of the resources on campus, but also in the Lancaster community. Because if they need funding here, they need funding elsewhere," states Williams.

Addressing the basic needs of students is the overall goal of the EPPIIC Student

EPPIIC
Student Compassion Fund



Compassion Fund, and the beneficial impact of the fund for students facing financial hardship is immeasurable. "Even the smartest student in a difficult situation or an unsafe situation is not going to do well, so what we have to do is use this fund to begin to level out the playing field. If you think about it, it's an equity piece for us so that they can at least go to class and learn. So many of our students are living paycheck to paycheck and not being sponsored by your traditional family core," Williams says.

At the heart of the EPPIC Student Compassion Fund is the value of compassion, which is one of the Millersville University EPPIC Values that serve as guiding principles for the University. "Compassion is a gift given without expectation of receipt," says Williams. "If you think about what the EPPIC Values are at their very core – it's a fund like this that really just helps students be able to

"We hope that this act of compassion can help others act in compassion, and then, that is a ripple,"

says Williams.

move on. These small acts of kindness are monumental to students. Fifty dollars to a student in need will change their lives. It could easily change the course of their direction and then, it's also treating them with compassion and saying, 'We get it – life is hard.'"

In situations of financial hardship, receiving a relatively small amount of funding support can change the trajectory of a student's life tremendously. According to Williams, the

typical size of the financial distribution to a student from the EPPIC Student Compassion Fund is approximately \$200. "Seeing that process is very rewarding because you can see the weight just lift off of their shoulders," Williams says.

"And maybe that stress and anxiety that they've had over this, they can put that energy into their academic work."

Extending compassion to a student during a time of great need through generosity

and witnessing the life-changing impact of the gift is a rewarding experience. "It's just amazing – it's an honor to walk with those students when they have that small need, and they feel like somebody cares about them," says Williams. Through the EPPIC Student Compassion Fund, the compassionate support of donors generates positive impacts for students in meaningful ways, creating a dynamic ripple effect throughout a student's life. "This is where the need is greatest, and often this is the population that is invisible, so it's nice to help fund that," Williams states, "It's the whole idea of paying it forward. We hope that this act of compassion can help others act in compassion, and then, that is a ripple." ♦

To make a contribution to the **EPPIC STUDENT COMPASSION FUND** and to explore scholarship creation opportunities, please visit millersville.edu/give or contact the Advancement Division by email at giving@millersville.edu or call 717-871-7520.

Create a LASTING LEGACY Through Planned Giving

Your generosity can make a valuable impact at Millersville University for generations to come through Planned Giving and Estate Planning opportunities.

The Hobbs-Wickersham Society recognizes the generous contributions of individuals who ensure the long-term stability and growth of Millersville University.

Explore a variety of opportunities to support Millersville University through Planned Giving, request a complimentary Millersville University Estate Planning Guide and learn how you may join the Hobbs-Wickersham Society.

Learn more at millersville.giftlegacy.com or contact the Advancement Division by email at giving@millersville.edu or call 717-871-7520.

Thank you for graciously investing in Millersville University students!

Consult with your advisors about the best choice for your unique circumstances.



Hobbs - Wickersham
SOCIETY
Millersville University

MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE THROUGH THE Millersville University Scholarship Fund



The **MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND** is the heartbeat of campus generosity, sending out ripples of support that touch every corner of University life.

The Scholarship Fund fuels scholarships and athletics, innovation and growth, and supports transformative learning opportunities that make a lasting impact in the lives of students.

To learn more and make a gift today, please visit millersville.edu/scholarshipfund or contact the Development Office by email at giving@millersville.edu or call 877-872-3820 or 717-871-7520.


Millersville University
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Sustainability AT THE 'VILLE

By Leah Reagan '24



Food forest workers on Millersville University's campus

SUSTAINABILITY IS CONSTANTLY BEING IMPACTED BY HUMAN LIFE. FROM DRIVING CARS TO OUR DAILY ROUTINES, PEOPLE HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE EARTH'S LIFESPAN. MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES THIS ISSUE AND IS WORKING TOWARDS BECOMING MORE SUSTAINABLE EACH YEAR.

Being sustainable can come in many different forms.

Whether it is recycling or carpooling, everyone can help make a difference.

KAITLYNN HAMATY,

MU's sustainability manager, explains what sustainability

truly means. "Sustainability is the ability to maintain or support a process continuously over time. This is very often used in conjunction with natural resources and their depletion as well as their effects on the environment."

Hamaty also explains that Millersville University made a commitment to sustainability in various ways. From rain barrels and a food forest on campus to the Positive Energy Fund and the University's goal to be carbon neutral by 2040, the University is ensuring they are contributing to Earth's sustainability.

As the University's sustainability manager, Hamaty notes that she is working to help the University make progress. "One area I am currently pursuing is to get an updated greenhouse gas emission impact of Millersville. This will help us tailor our efforts and see where we can have the most impact. We also need to consider possible renewable-energy sources to decrease our emissions and work towards becoming carbon neutral."

One way MU has successfully reduced the University's carbon footprint is through the Lombardo Welcome Center. "The building and opening of the Lombardo Welcome Center helped decrease or limit our carbon footprint, as it is a zero-energy building. The center houses many offices and greets all hopeful students and their families as the starting location for all admissions tours and weekend events. Being able to produce all the energy the building needs and additional energy, the Lombardo Welcome Center is a great asset to reducing our carbon footprint," says Hamaty.

Students are also contributing to the University's sustainability efforts.

PAIGE GUINTHER, a sophomore dual-majoring in manufacturing engineering technology, and automation & intelligent robotics engineering technology, is part of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Club. The club is working on a recycling project by placing collection bins around campus in high-traffic areas for students to dispose of their

plastic bottles. Once the bins are full, they are cleaned in the Osburn building and sorted based on their color and plastic types. They are then shredded and dyed in different colors to be made into keychains, frisbees, bottle openers and a variety of other items.

Additionally, **DR. NADINE GARNER**, associate professor of psychology, chair of the Sustainability Committee and faculty advisor for the Sustainability Club, worked with students to create a food forest behind Huntingdon House. Garner explains how a food forest helps keep the campus green. "A food forest provides a natural, self-sustaining ecosystem that is comprised of multiple levels of vegetative growth, from a tree canopy to understory plants and vines. It mimics the multitiered layers of a naturally occurring forest, which sustains itself year-round with limited maintenance needed."

Stormwater Management students are also making an impact on sustainability. These students installed three rain barrels around campus, including one by the Cambria House and another by the Fulton House, to support the raised garden beds and food forest behind the Bedford House.

In addition to the Lombardo Welcome Center and student-led projects, Millersville University, West Chester University and Slippery Rock University are looking into partnering with Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute for a retail power purchase agreement for "green" energy. Hamaty explains what this partnership means. "Power purchasing agreements are long-term contracts between a consumer and a company to provide power or electricity to the consumer at a predetermined rate. The goal of these agreements is to find renewable energy sources and secure an agreed-upon fee for



From left to right: Farmer Tony, Dr. Dominique Didier, professor of biology; and Farmer Andrew

electricity usage well into the future. The energy produced by this renewable-energy infrastructure will go into the power grid and offset the energy we pull out from the grid."

One campus project is making an important local impact: the Positive Energy Fund.

This grant program is sponsored by building energy savings from the Lombardo Welcome Center and other energy-related savings. "The purpose of the fund is to raise awareness of the interconnected economic, social and environmental challenges confronting the world and to

accelerate local solutions. Faculty, staff and students can apply to receive up to \$2,500 for projects that advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," Hamaty explains.

The fund helps to support other local sustainability projects, in turn allowing faculty, staff and students to put their work into action at the community level. Since its start in 2020, the Positive Energy Fund has funded 22 projects.

"Sustainability is the ability to maintain or support a process continuously over time. This is very often used in conjunction with natural resources and their depletion as well as their effects on the environment,"

says Hamaty.

One notable project was completed by **DR. DOMINIQUE DIDIER**, a biology professor at MU. This project started from Didier's community service work with Homefields and Homefields Care Farm. Homefields is a farm located a half mile off campus and is the oldest Community Supported Agriculture farm in Lancaster County. As a CSA farm, it shares its produce with community members, including the University. Due to its proximity to MU, it realized it could help fight food insecurity on campus. With the Positive Energy Fund's help, the organization planted two early spring crops: native ramps, a type of wild leek, and asparagus to share with MU dining services and provide students with a healthy diet.

MU is also looking to help make a difference off campus. This year, the University worked with RegenAll to cohost the second annual Lancaster Climate Summit at the Ware Center. The conference focused on climate action at the local level and included six speakers from the University, including faculty and students.

Overall, Hamaty believes everyone can contribute to sustainability, not just on campus but off campus too. "Sustainability is important, as we have a responsibility to our community and to each other to do what is best for the environment. I believe we have the power, commitment and technology to preserve our world and make it better."

Next up for the Office of Sustainability?

Convening the Climate Action Plan Committee to revisit and determine whether to modify or update the goals in the 2019 Climate Action Plan. ♦

MARAUDERS

Welcome New AD

by Ethan Hulsey

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED **KATE CORCORAN** AS ITS NEW DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS IN FEBRUARY. AFTER COMPLETING THE YEAR AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR ATHLETICS AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AT CABRINI UNIVERSITY, CORCORAN ARRIVES ON CAMPUS IN JULY, READY TO LEAD THE MARAUDERS IN 2024-25.



Kate Corcoran

Throughout the interview process, the individuals whom I had the opportunity to meet and interact with made the institution feel very welcoming and a community that was one I wanted to join. Millersville provides an opportunity for personal and professional growth and development. I have always worked at Division III institutions, and this allows me to learn and grow at the Division II level with a department that has shown a commitment to providing their student-athletes with a well-rounded academic and athletic experience.

What should Millersville alums and the community know about you?

I am coming to Millersville following eight years at Cabrini University, starting as an associate athletics director and finishing this year as the vice president for athletics and student engagement.

I am a proud graduate and former women's basketball player at DeSales University, graduating with a sport management degree.

I believe the lessons learned through that experience are what fuels my passion to provide a similar experience to student-athletes today.

I am excited to get to know the Marauder alums as they tell the story of the past, which I believe will help to shape the future. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself when you see me at a game.

"The Marauders are set up to be highly competitive both regionally and nationally,"

says Corcoran.

Millersville from afar presented as an institution that can provide a student-athlete experience that aligns with my values and passion for college athletics. Intercollegiate athletics serves to educate our student-athletes through experiences outside of the classroom that round out the academic experience and prepare our students to be successful in their careers and future endeavors.

The Marauders are set up to be highly competitive both regionally and nationally. Competitive excellence and striving for championships are a pillar within the student-athlete experience that builds community for the athletic department and University as a whole. The academic success of our student-athletes and striving to excel in the classroom are pivotal to our department to achieve a well-rounded student-athlete experience. The students who I met while on campus have shown a commitment to their athletic and academic endeavors, and that excites me to work with student-athletes with that level of commitment.

You've been a student-athlete, a coach, a sports information director and an administrator. How have all those roles and perspectives shaped your leadership?

The experiences and roles I have had during my career have allowed me to touch all areas within college athletics. These experiences have provided me with a perspective to appreciate the challenges, opportunities and stressors that are facing our coaches and staff. This

provides me with a foundation to communicate with my colleagues in a way to support them while hopefully pushing the department forward.

The experience that pushed me to this career path is one that showed what a transformational experience college athletics can be for young adults. It set the groundwork for my passion and continues to drive my commitment to providing and leading the student-athletes at the forefront.

I know that coaches, sports information directors, athletic trainers and support staff share a similar passion to make an impact on the lives of student-athletes. My roles have allowed me to understand on a limited scale the pressure, stress and commitment each of those roles entails. It positioned me to be able to communicate and relate in a way that shows understanding and empathy, as well as someone to work through those challenges with as well.

What do you value as the leader of the Millersville Athletics department?

It is our job as educators in the athletics department to develop student-athletes of high character. We will strive for excellence on and off the fields of play and represent the University with pride.

Student-athletes are leaders on the campus and are expected to be strong members of the campus community and beyond. The student-athletes are the representation of our athletics department. I know that comes with a great deal of responsibility, so I value being able to provide resources to support our student-athletes to manage that responsibility.

I want to provide a space within our department that is committed to diversity and inclusion. It is essential that student-athletes and our coaches feel comfortable being their complete and authentic selves for the betterment of our athletics department and University. It is also important as it pertains to equity that we deliver our programs in an equitable fashion so that our student-athletes all have a similar experience and level of support from staff and our community.

I believe in our teams winning and losing in all areas with humility and grace. This approach begins with our coaches leading by example and holding the teams accountable to this standard.



Corcoran led Cabrini Athletics for eight years.

"I want to provide a space within our department that is committed to diversity and inclusion,"

says Corcoran.

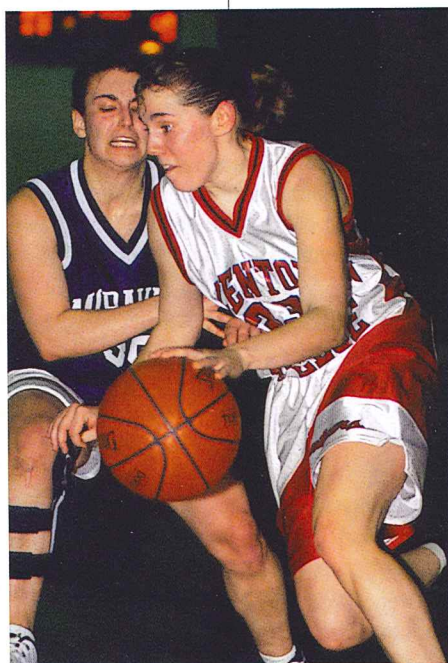
while not impacting DII institutions on a large scale, have the ability to make impacts that trickle down to our level. I have seen firsthand the impacts of the challenges facing higher-education institutions with the looming enrollment cliff that has been talked about now for the past five years.

It is essential for me to work across campus to communicate the trends and challenges that the NCAA and the collegiate model continue to experience. This information is vital for individuals to know as I advocate and navigate these challenges for our department. With the rising cost of operation along with higher education continuing to see budget challenges, it will be essential to continue to identify alternative revenue streams for the department, and working closely with our advancement team to continue to grow in that area is vital for the student-athlete experience to thrive. My experience working on NCAA committees has always allowed me to gain valuable expertise and knowledge of changing landscapes and potential impacts to student-athletes and the University. Once I get settled into my role, I will look for these opportunities within the DII landscape.

How will you support the student-athlete experience?

Supporting the student-athlete experience, I believe, starts with engaging our student-athletes. Communicating with our student-athletes and utilizing our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to get insight into their experience are vital to supporting the experience. This communication allows me to also share, from the department, conference and national perspective, issues that impact their experience as well.

I also believe in getting across campus to collaborate with other departments on campus to enhance the student-athlete experience. The development of our student-athletes means caring for the person as well as the athlete. ♦



Corcoran was a standout basketball player at DeSales and is now a member of the hall of fame.

SOFTBALL Standouts

BY WES CHAMPLIN '25

THE BATTERY OF CATCHER **ALEESE ANGELO** AND PITCHER **ALEX SCHAEFER** MADE HISTORY IN 2024. COMBINED, THE PAIR PLACED THEMSELVES ATOP THE PROGRAM'S CAREER LEADERBOARDS IN SEVEN CATEGORIES.

The records began to fall when Schaefer toppled Cassidy Pinchorski's mark of 331 career strikeouts on March 7. Angelo followed 10 days later, passing Faith Willenbrock for the most runs batted in in team history.

It was fitting that Willenbrock was the player she passed, as Angelo began her time as a Marauder behind the former All-American catcher.

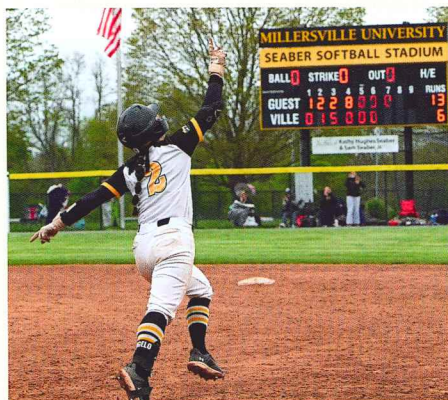
"I needed Aleese's bat in the lineup, so she learned a new position and played outfield her freshman year," says head coach Jen Probst. "She worked tirelessly to improve her catching skill set, which allowed her to smoothly transition to three strong years behind the plate."

That hard work translated to a 2023 season in which she led Division II in doubles and was named a National Fastpitch Coaches Association Third Team All-American for her efforts. It is likely that another All-America honor will follow in 2024.

The senior credited two main figures for her softball career: her father and grandfather, and that made 2024 a heavy-hearted campaign for Angelo. It was the first she played without both. Her

father passed away in 2013, while her grandfather did so last December. In a fitting tribute, Angelo dedicated her final year on the diamond to her grandfather. She finished among the top five in the conference in most offensive categories, in addition to becoming the program's career leader in hits, doubles, runs batted in and runs scored.

"They were my biggest supporters and the reason why I continued to play college softball," Angelo says. "I don't think I would be here without them."



Aleese Angelo



Alex Schaefer

Schaefer's desire to put in the time and effort came naturally to the now-ace pitcher, but Probst said it took time for Schaefer to become the fiery captain she is today.

"Alex went from quiet and soft-spoken to a strong leader that motivates her teammates and pushes the team to achieve more together," Probst says.

While watching her let out an emphatic "Let's go!" after a big strikeout, it is hard to picture the outspoken Schaefer as anything else, but she explained that it was all a part of her growth as a player and person.

"I learned a lot over four years how to physically manage my body and mind as well as kind of step into the leadership role earlier in my career, especially as a sophomore for the incoming pitchers," Schaefer says.

She had little choice, as the Marauders needed arms after the COVID-19 pandemic left just four pitchers on the roster in 2021. She began by closing games but eventually became a full-time starter in her sophomore season. Though Schaefer started 20 or more games in each of her last two seasons, Probst still trusted her as a closer, as Schaefer oftentimes reentered games that she started to finish the job. It has all culminated in a career where she finished in

the top spot in program history in appearances, strikeouts and saves.

The final regular-season game was emotional, as the team's postseason future was in the balance. Angelo stepped into the batter's box for the final time to lead off the bottom of the seventh and drilled the first pitch she saw over the fence. Rounding first base for the final time, she pointed heavenward to acknowledge those who got her to that point.

Tears cascaded down the faces of most as they rushed from the bench to congratulate and console their emotional leader. Only afterward did Angelo find out that she'd broken the team record for most hits in a season. ♦

A CHAMPIONSHIP *Legacy*

by Ashley Hudak '25

DEVIN FLANNERY had his hand raised 97 times in his Millersville career, but none was more special than the final time. The senior wrestler earned a third-place finish at the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships – a moment marking the culmination of his decorated career as a Marauder.

Over the course of four seasons, Flannery was a three-time NCAA Division II All-American (2022, 2023, 2024), a three-time NCAA Super Region 1 place winner and the 2024 champ, and a three-time All-PSAC selection. Flannery set the program record for the most technical falls with 23. He is one of just three three-time All-Americans in program history.

"Devin has left as big of an impact on Millersville wrestling as anyone ever has," says head coach Jerry Boland. "While he did not reach the ultimate goal of national champion, he left a championship legacy for sure. His consistent work ethic and discipline he had in all facets of his preparation and training were noticed by his teammates and can be emulated by the underclassmen."



We consistently preach a 'raise the bar' approach to everything we do. Devin certainly set that standard, and his results showed."

In 2023-24, Flannery boasted a 29-4 record while nearing perfection with a 14-1 dual record. He secured 19 bonus-point wins this season alone, including eight falls, with his fastest pin clocking in at 19 seconds.

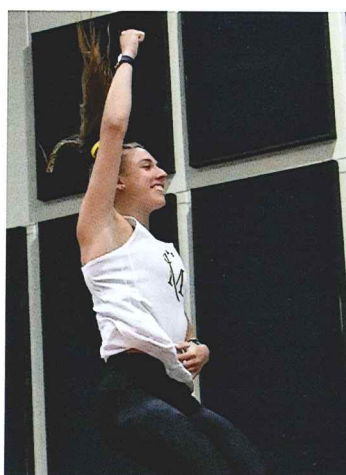
"Millersville wrestling has made me grow on and off the mat by never cutting corners and making sure I always do the right thing even when I don't want to," says Flannery.

Flannery was surrounded by high-achieving teammates, whom he referred to as his brothers. Brandon Connor, Craig Cook, Anthony Giampietro and Jonathan Parrilla all took the mat one last time in the Black and Gold at the NCAA Championships, giving the program a new record for national qualifiers at the Division II level. Connor was a three-time national qualifier, and Cook finished his career with more than 100 wins. ♦

SPORTS RECAP

HAUF reaches new heights

The Millersville women's outdoor track and field team treaded water this spring, firmly in the top three among PSAC teams. The Marauders got a handful of All-PSAC performances at the conference championship meet, such as **SEYA TRUJILLO** and **MADDY DOWNS** in the throwing events, **MORGAN JANIUK** in distance runs and **AUBREY SYDNOR** in mid-distance. But Marauder pole vaulters **DARIAN HAUF** and **MEGAN MALECKI** were the real strength of this squad. This year marked the first time 'Ville had two pole vaulters earn All-PSAC in the event, the third time for Hauf and first



for Malecki. But that was not all, as Hauf won the event for the third straight year, doing something no one in program history has done before: win three straight championships before her senior season. Hauf became just the seventh Marauder to win the same event at three straight conference championships and is headed to the NCAA Championships for the second time in her career. ♦

SPORTS RECAP

MEN'S TENNIS



The Millersville men's tennis team enjoyed a breakout season, returning to contention for the conference crown after their best season in 13 years. The Marauders were the PSAC Tournament runners-up after going 13–7 and defeating Mercyhurst in the conference semifinals. Led by its seniors **DYLAN TULL** and **ZACH PERNIA**, the Marauders counted on them to deliver at the top of their lineup consistently throughout the season. Behind them were returning upperclassmen **LINO MORIN** and **JASPER DE KONING**, filling in the middle spots. Millersville turned to its group of international underclassmen to anchor the lineup, and these players did so admirably down the stretch, settling into their role and stepping up in critical moments of the season. It was a season to remember, and hopefully build on, as the Marauders look to continue their success next year. ♦

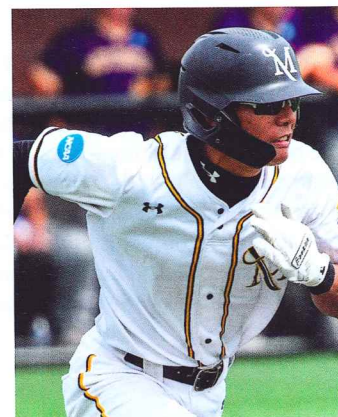
PSAC East Champs!

After their second PSAC East title in the last three years, the Millersville women's tennis team is making an argument as the team to beat on this side of the state. The Marauders went 15–7 this past season, including a perfect 7–0 in-conference record, to claim the division title. Their lineup got consistent play from each spot en route to another 15-win season under head coach Matt Helsel. The top half was made up of senior **NOELLE HTWAR**, the leader of the team both on and off the court, and juniors **HUI JEN SOO** and **CHLOE ABRAMOWITZ**. The Marauders counted on a trio of underclassmen to fill out the last three spots of their lineup, as freshmen **SIDO RAULT** and **LAUREN HAYES** and sophomore **SOPHIE LANIUS** proved to be up for the task. 'Ville also clinched an NCAA Tournament berth for the first time since 2007 and will look to continue to build on their winning ways next season. ♦



BASEBALL REACHES 11TH STRAIGHT REGIONAL

A season that began with a dramatic walk-off home run against No. 2 Central Missouri at the Houston Astros' Minute Maid Park turned into Millersville baseball's 11th consecutive trip to the NCAA Atlantic Regional. The Marauders hold the region's longest active streak (and the nation's third longest) of consecutive NCAA regional appearances. Millersville built its success on speed and pitching. The team set a school record for stolen bases in a season, and Jeff Sabater led the NCAA, regardless of division, with a PSAC record total of steals. **ALEX MYKUT** led the PSAC in ERA, and **CARSON KULINA** led the conference in strikeouts as both starting pitchers were named All-PSAC East First Team. It was the first time since 2015 that Millersville produced two first team starting pitchers in the same season. ♦



MEN'S GOLF: PSAC Champion and Winner of 6 Tournaments

The men's golf team's record-setting season began with a PSAC Championship in October, and the squad went on to win a school record six tournaments. Scott Vandegrift's Marauders played in the NCAA Super Regional for the 10th time in the last 11 seasons. **TIMOTHY PETERS** turned in one of the best freshman seasons in program history, winning four times with a 73.4 scoring average, which ranks second all-time. Peters also finished in tie for sixth at the NCAA Super Regional, missing a trip to the NCAA Championships by just one stroke. ♦

100th ANNIVERSARY of the Millersville Tunnels

BY MIA BERTOLDI AND MARISSA FARMER '24

Are there really tunnels under Millersville University's campus? Are the tunnels haunted? Have students held club meetings in the tunnels?

Not only are the tunnels that run under Millersville University's campus real, but they also turn **100 YEARS OLD** this year.

Patrick Weidinger, Director of Environmental Health and Safety emeritus, gave a tour of the tunnels to a small group of students and staff during the spring semester. He says he does not believe the hidden tunnels are haunted but has heard stories about students meeting in them.

Weidinger says, "They were once used as a shooting range for the Millersville rifle team. They were also designated as the emergency fallout shelters for Dilworth, Biemesderfer Executive Center, etc. in the early 1960s during the nuclear war preparedness efforts. The universal fallout shelter sign is still on the wall at the entrance to the tunnel in the basement at Dilworth. But the stockpiles of emergency supplies which would have been stored in the tunnels are long gone."

The tunnels were originally used to heat the buildings on campus, and the tunnels still house those historic pipes.

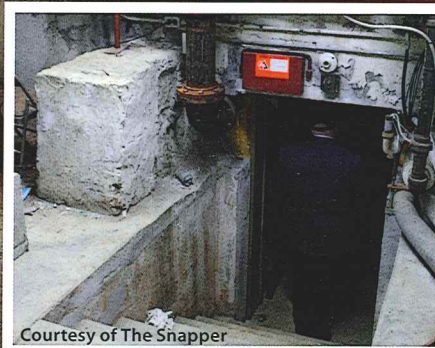
And the tunnels are now hitting the century mark. According to the precursor of today's student-run paper, The Snapper, The Tipster in 1924 reported, "After a lapse of a few months, workmen are resuming their work on the tunnel which connects the Main building with the Science building and (old) library."

The Tipster also wrote that the tunnels were built to "protect the delicate steam pipes from any undue exposure." The original water and sewer pipes still reside beneath Millersville's ground. As for the original steam pipes, Weidinger reports that those were probably removed in the late 1980s when the campus converted from steam heat to electricity.

Millersville's underground tunnels may no longer be an active fallout shelter or a meeting place for student activities, but they still have their use. "The tunnels are a great facility access pathway for all manner of utilities such as sewer, water, electricity and IT," Weidinger concludes. ♦



Snapper editor, Morgan Huber and Review editor, Janet Kacskos toured the tunnels.



A closer look at one of the entrances to the tunnels

The 'VILLE in POP CULTURE

by Kelsey Madas



MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN AROUND FOR 169 YEARS AND HAS PRODUCED OVER 75,000 ALUMNI, AND IN THAT TIME, THE UNIVERSITY HAS HAD QUITE A FEW CROSSOVERS INTO POP CULTURE AND HISTORY. WE LOOK AT MOMENTS WHERE MILLERSVILLE ALUMNI AND STAFF MADE IT BIG.



Eliphalet Oram Lyte

ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT

Did you know that the famous children's song "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" was penned by **ELIPHALET ORAM LYTE**, who taught at Millersville beginning in 1866? The Civil War veteran became principal of Millersville in 1887. He also designed and directed the construction of what are now known as Dutcher Hall, Biemesderfer Hall and the Charles and Mary Hash Building.

MU'S CONNECTION TO "OPPENHEIMER"

DR. WARD V. EVANS, a former Millersville student, was involved in the security clearance hearing of J. Robert Oppenheimer and portrayed as such in the blockbuster Academy Award-winning 2023 film. While serving as chair of the chemistry department of Northwestern University, Evans was one of just three people to serve on the panel, which was responsible for the final decision regarding Oppenheimer's clearance. After the lengthy process, a decision was reached: Two of the three panelists decided that Oppenheimer's clearance should be revoked. The lone dissenter was Evans, who found that Oppenheimer's affiliations didn't directly indicate disloyalty and felt quite strongly about this stance. He was quoted as saying that the failure to clear Oppenheimer would become "a black mark on the escutcheon of our country." ♦



Dr. Ward V. Evans

UNFORGETTABLE WORLD SERIES CATCH

In 2022, **CHAS MCCORMICK '17** faced off in the World Series with the Houston Astros against the Philadelphia Phillies. The Houston Astros had an undefeated run in the postseason against both the Seattle Mariners and the New York Yankees. In Game 5 of the 2022 World Series, McCormick secured an essential win for the Astros with his incredible ninth-inning catch that left an imprint of his jersey on the warning track. After a win in Game 6 of the World Series, McCormick and the Astros were named the 2022 World Series champs. ♦

SELENA GOMEZ TO PLAY ALUMNA IN FILM

None other than pop superstar and actor **SELENA GOMEZ** will portray one of Millersville University's own on the big screen: 1996 graduate **SILVIA VASQUEZ-LAVADO**. The film is based on the native Peruvian's award-winning memoir "In the Shadow of the Mountain." It tells the tale of how she found healing from childhood sexual abuse through mountaineering. Vasquez-Lavado was the first openly gay woman to complete the Seven Summits Challenge,



Silvia Vasquez-Lavado (left) and Selena Gomez (right)

a mountaineering challenge to climb the highest mountain on each continent. From detailing the early days of her work in the Silicon Valley tech world, battling alcoholism, and going on to become the founder and CEO of Courageous Girls, a foundation whose mission is to provide healing and empowering of sexually abused girls through physical endurance, creative, somatic and mindfulness techniques, Vasquez-Lavado's story takes many surprising turns. The upcoming film does not yet have a release date. After serving as a commencement speaker for the University in 2022, Vasquez-Lavado was also given an honorary doctorate and named a Marvelous Marauder in 2023. ♦

BLACK THOUGHT AND MALIK B. MEET AT MU

If you're a fan of late-night television, hip-hop or both, you've probably heard of The Roots. But did you know that two of the members, Black Thought (Tariq Trotter) and Malik B. (Malik Abdul-Basit Smart), were students together at Millersville in 1991 and when



Black Thought (far left)

Class Notes | 2024

1970s

► **RAYMOND JANIFER '71**, Chambersburg, was promoted to professor emeritus.

► **VINCENT COTTER '72, '79M**, Bradenton, FL, published an article, "Education: Democracy's Threat or Promise?" which appeared on Smerconish.com hosted by Michael Smerconish, noted CNN political contributor and radio host for a daily Sirius POTUS program. He has also authored three books on educational leadership, which were published by Rowman & Littlefield, and cofounded the Exemplary Schools Organization following 40 years of public school service, culminating in the position of superintendent of schools.

► **JIM HOWER '73**, Lexington, KY, coauthored the book "Inorganic Geochemistry of Coal," which was published by Elsevier in June 2023.

► **LAWRENCE JONES '73**, received his degree in elementary education.



Virginia Pleiss Young '73
and Michael C. Young '74

► **VIRGINIA PLEISS YOUNG '73**, and husband **MICHAEL C. YOUNG '74**, Lititz, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 8/4/23.

► **BRADLEY GATES '75**, Fredericksburg, VA, recently wrote

and published "The Last Great Banzai: Saipan, 1944."

► **JAY H. OWEN '76**, Shillington, has been retired from teaching for eight years.

► **PATRICIA W. ERBE '78**, Downingtown, wrote "Positive Relationships for Students."

► **KATHY MCCLELLAN '79**, Media, retired in June 2020 after 30 years as an elementary and special education teacher. She now enjoys traveling with her husband and spending time with her family.

► **KENNETH K. MILLER '79**, North Wales, retired from teaching at the School District of Philadelphia. He also worked for 20 years as a teacher and principal for a private institution.

1980s

► **PATRICIA "TRISH" DOLL '82**, Narvon, a Millersville Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and owner of an award-winning marketing-public relations firm, Publicity Works, was honored with the 2023 Central Penn Business Journal's Central Pennsylvania Women of Influence Award. The award recognizes high-achieving, exceptional women leaders for their accomplishments and who have influenced their companies, industries and communities. Recipients are selected based on their professional leadership, significant contributions to the community, and commitment to mentoring. Trish previously received this award in 2011.

► **OSCAR ARANGO '84**, San Jose, Costa Rica, is the director of the World Meteorological Organization for the United Nations.

► **ANITA FANELLI '85**, Treasure Island, FL, retired after 36 years as a certified athletic trainer for the University of South Florida. She began her career as a graduate assistant with Millersville Athletics in 1986 and was the first full-time assistant athletic trainer hired by MU in 1988.



Deborah Jordan '87

► **DEBORAH JORDAN '87**, Chester, retired after 35 years as a case worker with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

► **ERIC MEYERS '87**, recently retired after

34 years working with insurance claims. Meyers was a former wrestler at Millersville. In his career, he achieved his CPCU and AIC insurance designations. He is enjoying his early retirement by traveling and playing tennis.

► **SHERRY OSTROFF '87**, Lititz, has published her fifth book and fourth novel: "The Wall at the Sugar Factory."

► **GERALDINE "GERI" SULLIVAN '87**, Aston, retired on 6/13/22 after teaching kindergarten for 34 years in the Upper Darby School District.

1990s

► **JENNIFER CRAIGHEAD CAREY '90**, Lititz, has been elected managing partner and chief executive officer of Barley Snyder law firm for a two-year term starting in 2024.



Cathi Fuhrman '93

► **CATHI FUHRMAN '93**, Columbia, a school librarian at State College Area High School, is the recipient of the 2024 American Association of School Librarians Intellectual

Freedom Award. Established in 1982 and sponsored by ProQuest, the award is given for upholding the principles of intellectual



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We are proud of you! Share your professional achievements, personal accomplishments and life milestones with us so we can share them with fellow Marauders.

www.millersville.edu/alumni

freedom as set forth by the AASL and American Library Association.

► **DR. ARTHUR WILLIAMS '93**, Bowie, MD, assumed a new position with the Montgomery County Public School System in Rockville, MD, as Coordinator for Career Advising.

► **SHERRY KIJOWSKI '94**, Wyoming, DE, was promoted to assistant superintendent of human resources for the Caesar Rodney School District in Camden, Delaware. In 2014, she was named Delaware's National Distinguished Elementary Principal for her work at McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. In 2019, she was named Delaware's Secondary Principal of the Year. She is the only principal in the state of Delaware to be recognized for her leadership efforts at both the elementary and secondary levels.



Janet Grasso '96

► **JANET GRASSO '96**, Annville, named 2023 Leading Edge Society in REALTOR for Berkshire Hathaway.



Laura Lee '97

► **LAURA LEE '97**, Jersey Shore, received the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Award for "Scientific and Technical Contribution" on April 30, 2024. Lee, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and formerly with the

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, served as Chair of the Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee for several years and helped the commission develop several management actions for striped bass, including actions to stop overfishing and aid in stock rebuilding.

► **CAROLINE CAMPBELL '98**, received her Ph.D. in social work in 2023. She is an assistant professor of social work at Widener University.

► **KIMBERLY LONG '99**, Avon, NC, joined Constellation in October 2023 as a senior environmental specialist, providing environmental permitting and compliance support for development projects across the company.

2000s



Katie Bean '05

► **KATIE BEAN '05**, Arlington, VA, recently published "Fragile Thoughts: A Healing Memoir."

► **DANNY MILLER '05**, Sun Prairie, WI, graduated from the University of

Wisconsin-Madison on 8/27/23 and received his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction. He also holds the position of teaching faculty and program coordinator of secondary English education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

► **NATALIE SHAAK '05**, was promoted to associate director of communication and administration at the Center for Hunger-Free Communities in Drexel University's School of Public Health.



Joshua Belice '08, '10M

► **JOSHUA BELICE '08, '10M**, Lancaster, was named director of alumni engagement at Millersville University.

► **BRAD CONGELIO '09**, Wellsburg, WV, recently published "Introduction to NFL Analytics With R."



Brad Congelio '09

► **DEBORAH REPKO '09**, Lancaster, coauthored the article "Monitoring and Reporting the US COVID-19 Vaccination Effort," published in

Vaccine (the official journal of the Japanese Society for Vaccinology). As part of the COVID-19 Vaccine Data Ecosystem Team, she received the HHS Distinguished Federal Data Modernization Award. This award highlights best practices used to achieve creative, resourceful and collaborative solutions to agency data challenges.

► **MARILYN ZENKO '09**, Lititz, was named a Fellow by the Society of American Military Engineers Academy of Fellows. The SAME Academy of Fellows recognizes those members who have rendered dedicated and outstanding service to the Society, military engineering and the A/E/C profession.

2010s

► **HENRY GEPFER '10**, Lancaster, accepted a tenure track position that began in August 2023 as assistant professor in printmaking at the University of Arkansas.

► **MACKENZIE WROBEL '10**, was promoted to firm partner at Duane Morris LLP in Philadelphia. She joins the firm as an experienced trial lawyer, litigating corporate and commercial disputes and arbitral forums. While at Millersville, she served as an appointed member of the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

► **SCOTT KLEEBAUER '15**, Frederick, MD, is a meteorologist at the National Weather Service - Weather Prediction Center; excessive rainfall and National QPF division.

2020s



Nicole Burke '20

► **NICOLE BURKE '20**, Severna Park, MD, got engaged to Alex Bandarenko on 9/7/23.

► **JULIA CAO '20**, Lancaster, and **NATHAN STERRY '21, '23M**, got engaged on 3/10/24 at the MU pond after meeting at the library, where Julia worked as a student worker.



Julia Cao '20

► **DR. KELLI FOX '23**, Port Jefferson, NY, is Stony Brook Medicine's inaugural

director of the Center for Interprofessional Innovation. In this role, Kelli fosters new interprofessional education, research and clinical practice opportunities and builds a centralized presence to showcase and support interprofessional activities across the university. Kelli's passion for global health and wellness brings her annually to Ghana, Africa, where she, along with local and international practitioners and students, offers clinics in multiple rural sites through the Cross-Cultural Immersion to Ghana, a program that integrates Western health practices with local practices to provide culturally responsive health care to those they serve.

WEDDINGS

► **LAUREN BOLLINGER '12**, Lancaster, married Jonathan Hansen on 10/13/23.



Maddie (Seiler) Forster '16

► **MADDIE (SEILER) FORSTER '16**, married Adam Forster on 11/25/23 in Lititz, first meeting when Adam was visiting a friend at Millersville University.

► **CHRISTINE PERSUN '17, '22M**, Mechanicsburg, married William Svitko on 11/23/23.

BIRTHS

► **NATALIE SHAAK '05**, and William Holland recently welcomed a baby girl, Josephine Gray Holland, on 7/29/23.



Josephine Gray Holland

► **JOSHUA BELICE '08, '10M** and **LAUREN BELICE '07, '14M** welcomed their first child, Emmett Clark, in August 2023.



Emmett Clark Belice

► **LEA ELLER '17**, and Cameron Eller, Marietta, welcomed their first child, Denver Noah Eller, in October 2023.

DEATHS

► **BARBARA ROSS '55**, Virginia Beach, VA, passed away on 2/20/24. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Robert "Bob"; daughter, Emily; and sons, Robert G. "Bobby" and James K.

► **JAMES P. KOPF '61**, Lancaster, passed away in October, 2023.

► **GARY BOWMAN '64**, Langhorne, died on 4/3/24 at age 81. After MU, Gary went on to earn his Master of Education from Trenton State College and his Doctorate of Education from Nova Southeastern University. He retired in 2002 from Neshaminy School District, where he served as assistant superintendent of schools, deputy superintendent and superintendent since first being hired in 1975. Gary served on the boards of several nonprofit agencies in his community and was active in his church. He leaves behind two sons and four grandsons.

► **SALLY RINGLABEN WATKINS '64**, Jupiter, FL, died on 11/21/23. She taught in the Warwick School District and later was a dean at Linden Hall.

► **MARGARET GEORGE THOMSON '71**, Marietta, GA, passed away on 5/30/23 at age 76. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, James, and her cats, Sophia and Cinnamon. She was a retired certified financial planner in the Metro-Atlanta area.

► **ERIC MEYERS '87**, Mechanicsburg, passed away on 1/28/24 at his home. Eric had over 28 years in the insurance industry, retiring from Gallagher-Bassett Insurance Company at the age of 60 in 2020.

► **FAE MATTHEW GUERIN '91**, Bethlehem, passed away on 12/28/23 at the age of 75.

From FIRST GEN to SUCCESSFUL PRO

Thanks to the Research Mentoring Fellowship at Millersville University, **CHANTEL JONES, '19**, a first-generation college student, was afforded the tools she needed to help her excel in graduate school and in her career.

During her time at Millersville, Jones was inspired to participate in the 2016 Research Mentoring Fellowship. She wanted to seize an opportunity that would allow her to conduct her own research and give her valuable experiences as an ethnographic researcher. Jones' topic focused on "How Students of Color Self-Identify and Their Experiences at Predominantly White Institutions." During the fellowship, Jones was directly mentored by Dr. Justin Garcia, along with a team of staff and faculty.

After graduation, the Philadelphia native went on to work for the Pennsylvania College Advising Corps through Franklin & Marshall College. Jones was one of the first counselors placed in New Jersey schools. The PCAC places well-trained, recent college graduates in high schools across Pennsylvania to serve as full-time college advisors. PCAC is a division of the national College Advising Corps and is a partnership between Franklin & Marshall College, Gettysburg College and Millersville University.

The Fellowship prepared Jones for graduate school at Temple University and she now works as a college success and student engagement advisor for a nonprofit in Philadelphia.

Jones encourages students who are currently participating in the Research Mentoring Fellowship to dream bigger and communicate with more people. "Don't let the time commitment hold you back because, at the end of the day, it's for you. You'll be betting on yourself and creating an enhanced you."

All inquiries and applications should be directed to the PCCDI Research Mentoring Fellowship subcommittee via email at cdi.commission@millersville.edu.

CORRECTION: The Fall/Winter 2023-24 edition of the Review had an incorrect date for the marriage of Gina Ciallella '96. Gina and Daniel Sullivan were married on 3/17/23.

SHARE YOUR STORIES for the Millersville University Oral History Project

Starting this summer, alumni will be contacted to share their Millersville University stories for a Memory Book that will celebrate the impact of Millersville and preserve the rich history of the 'Ville.

Millersville University has collaborated with Publishing Concepts, Inc. and representatives will be connecting with alumni through phone outreach and communications this summer.

Stay tuned for more information about this exciting opportunity! To learn more, please visit Millersville.edu/alumni for details and updates.

How One Ace Alum Is Committed to **GENEROSITY**

By Mary Miller '22, '24M

D.A. ABRAMS '85 HAS HAD A BUSY AND VARIED CAREER, BUT THERE'S BEEN ONE CONSTANT – TENNIS. THE GENEROSITY HE WAS SHOWN WHILE PLAYING AS A KID WITH THE NATIONAL JUNIOR TENNIS & LEARNING NETWORK LED TO HIS TIME PLAYING MEN'S TENNIS AS A MARAUDER, WHICH LED TO FURTHER PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. NOW, HE'S COMMITTED TO GIVING BACK TO THE MU COMMUNITY THROUGH THE DAVID ANTHONY ABRAMS SCHOLARSHIP IN THE HOPES THAT HE CAN HELP STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE SAME GRATITUDE HE FEELS TODAY.

Abrams graduated from Millersville University with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a concentration in accounting. While he attended the University, he was able to gain an internship with Control Data Corporation in Minneapolis, where he got along well with one of the higher-ups over a mutual love for tennis. When he graduated, Abrams was invited to work for the company full-time.

"I felt that connection was one of the reasons why I was invited to return," Abrams says. "Having a successful internship I could come back to, with someone who was not just a mentor but a sponsor and a coach, has led to my success as an adult."

After spending four years as an accountant, Abrams knew it was time to make tennis his career somehow. He moved back to Philadelphia to work for the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis Center, now known as Legacy Youth Tennis and Education, where he helped coach. Then, he moved to the United States Tennis Association, where he spent 26 years in various administrative roles, starting as director of outreach and multicultural participation and finishing his time as chief diversity and inclusion officer.

Abrams is no stranger to volunteering. He has served as chairman and president of the Black Tennis Hall of Fame and president of the Diversity & Inclusion Sports Consortium, and today he serves on the board of directors for the National Association of Asian American Professionals as treasurer.

"One of the things that I have benefitted from as a young person was volunteers, folks that have volunteered their time and



D.A. Abrams '85

expertise, so it's important for me to give back as well," Abrams explains.

He notes these experiences have been particularly meaningful to him. "With the Hall of Fame, it was exciting to be able to recognize excellence and preserve the history of tennis among African Americans and acknowledge the role they played on and off the court. The sports consortium was a lot of fun as well because that included organizations beyond tennis – the NCAA, MLB, NBA, NHL. All these groups were attempting to leverage diversity, equity and inclusion in a positive way to improve social and business impacts."

Abrams has volunteered for the National Association of Asian American

Professionals for about 10 years. "As professionals, building communities is very important," Abrams says. "I witnessed as a young person that you don't have to be a part of one community to help build them up, and as a professional, it helps to build leaders."

The D.A. Abrams Scholarship is an endowed scholarship to benefit a full-time African American or Latino undergraduate student who has a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0, is a resident of an inner city and a graduate of a public high school.

"The primary focus of the scholarship is that we can contribute to the needs of underrepresented and underestimated youth who attend Millersville," Abrams elaborates.

Today, Abrams works as the chief operating officer at Groundswell in Washington, D.C., and he serves as the secretary for the MU Foundation Board of Directors. He was also named a 2023 Marvelous Marauder.

As for why he gives back, Abrams notes how much he enjoyed his time at Millersville, especially as a member of the tennis team. "Folks are really obligated to give back to other individuals who can benefit. Whether it's time, treasure or talent, give something. Time is the most valuable thing, or if you have some talent or some expertise you can share, you can donate that as well."

He concludes, "I'm extremely fortunate to have attended Millersville. As long as I can, as long as I'm able, I want to give back in any way I can." ♦

Millersville University

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