

SPRING | SUMMER 2025

Millersville

UNIVERSITY **REVIEW**

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Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW

Spring | Summer 2025 | VOLUME 148 | No. 4



Dear Millersville University friends and family,

The closing of the 2024-25 academic year offers an opportunity to reflect on the year's accomplishments and look ahead with optimism. On May 10, we celebrated 1,110 Millersville University graduates at three ceremonies in Pucillo Gymnasium, which, for the first time in its history, was air-conditioned for the comfort of those who came to enjoy our commencement exercises. Three esteemed alumni, from three different decades, shared their experiences as students and how their alma mater prepared them for the challenges in the real world. They also gave messages of inspiration to our graduates, family members and friends. It was a joyful day on campus, and the weather was glorious. We are proud of our students' accomplishments and confident that they are well prepared for the next chapter of their lives. Their hard work at the 'Ville will pay off as they seek employment or continue their studies, guided by the principles of our EPPIC values.

In addition to my salutatory remarks at our spring commencement, I had the distinct pleasure of serving as the guest of honor at the commencement ceremony at Academic City University in Ghana, where I have been a member of the Governing Council since 2018. I have watched ACU blossom, nourishing brilliant minds and shaping future African leaders. I reflected on my journey to becoming the first Ghanaian-born president of an American university and shared my thoughts on servant leadership to the 122 business, engineering, informatics and communication arts graduates of ACU.

As you read the stories in this issue of the Review, you will learn more about the ways in which we bring life to our commitment to Exploration, Professionalism, and Public Mission, three of our EPPIC values. Through Robotic WorX, our ongoing collaboration with Precision Cobotics and a new project with sister organization PrecisionForm, students are actively engaged in manufacturing innovations that impact local, regional and global businesses. The profiles of Millersville interns illustrate how these values are part of the hands-on experiences where students gain skills and knowledge while they contribute to our partnering organizations. We are fortunate to have many businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations that welcome our students and support their career preparation.

The end of our current Strategic Plan, "Tradition and Transformation," is June 30, 2025, and this issue contains some highlights of the accomplishments of the plan. Significant progress has been made during the past five years, and together, we have moved Millersville forward. Watch out for the next issue of the Review, which will include the new strategic plan for 2025-2030. During the annual State of the 'Ville address on September 5, I will unveil this new plan, which was endorsed by our Council of Trustees at their June meeting.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

With warmest regards,

Daniel A. Wubah

Daniel A. Wubah
President, Millersville University



Jacinta Bravo Mosso poses with a firetruck outside of Blue Rock Fire Rescue, where she serves as a volunteer firefighter.

The Review is published by Millersville University, a member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

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PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Benefit Students and Businesses

By Mary Dolheimer

WITH A NEW BUILDING ON THE HORIZON, THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS SHORING UP SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAMS BY ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT BENEFIT BOTH MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY AND REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES.



Dr. John Haughery, assistant professor, advises students in the Robotic WorX program.

“These relationships are the best way to educate students,” says Dr. Marc Harris, dean of the College of Science and Technology, “and they provide a set of deliverables to both partners. Millersville students from various programs are serving as interns and getting hired, ensuring the businesses’ workforce needs are being met.”

PRECISION COBOTICS AND ROBOTIC WORX

Created in 2023, **ROBOTIC WORX**, a Workforce Development and Career Exploration in Robotics Engineering program, is run out of the Solutions Lab at Millersville. With the goal of connecting middle school, high school, undergraduate and community groups in Lancaster County with real-world STEM career training in manufacturing, it is helping to meet the growing needs of the region’s industry.

The program is a collaboration between the applied engineering, safety & technology department and Precision Cobotics LLC, a

Lititz-based company that provides robotic automation solutions for manufacturing. In its first year, Robotic WorX guided 600 interns on tours, mini job shadows and internships related to manufacturing, automation and robotics. In year two, the total number of impacts has increased to more than 2,100, including 22 high school internships, 40 undergraduate internships and two full-time positions. And 49% of students engaged were underrepresented minorities in STEM.

Robotic WorX recently received a boost from a \$69,999 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The funding will support a student-led research project that Millersville and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology will undertake with Precision Cobotics and sister organization PrecisionForm.

The grant will be used during the 2025-26 academic year to fund internships and support services for two Thaddeus

“Today we’re solving a technical problem for a local manufacturer; tomorrow we’re working toward solving a broader STEM workforce problem for Pennsylvania,”

says Haughery.

Stevens College of Technology and four Millersville students as they develop an automated inspection system for a manufacturing process at PrecisionForm, according to Dr. John Haughery, assistant professor in Millersville University’s Department of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology and principal investigator on the grant.

“This grant gives students the experience of innovating new technologies with the potential for far-reaching impacts across industries,” says Haughery. “Today we’re solving a technical problem for a local manufacturer; tomorrow we’re working toward solving a broader STEM workforce problem for Pennsylvania.”

Industry partners PrecisionForm and Precision Cobotics will benefit from the grant funding by engaging with an emerging talent pipeline and gaining innovative, practical solutions to their problems. They will provide matching funds to support the project.

“This will be a win-win as the students learn about critical inspection processes and the capabilities of technology while PFI improves our employee engagement and delivers continuous improvement for our customers,” says PrecisionForm President Joshua Horvath.

The project provides students with access to leading-edge technologies, such as an AI-enabled vision system, collaborative robots and other state-of-the-art industry tools. “We are also providing access to our professional automation engineering staff, who will work with students and guide them on the many aspects of developing, building and deploying a successful automation project,” says John Bridgen, Precision Cobotics president.

GSK AND MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Twenty-five Millersville graduates currently work for GSK at its Marietta, Pa., location. Founded in 1882, it is the oldest

vaccines manufacturing site in the United States. Marietta has been a part of GSK, a multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company headquartered in London, since 2005.

The connection between Millersville and GSK Marietta began more than 20 years ago, according to Harris. Of note, GSK offered internships in 2023 to the first cohort of the N. C. Adams ’73 and W. G. Adams Fellowship. Through a partnership between the occupational safety and environmental health program and the Lombardo School of Business, it covers the cost for business or management majors to minor in OSEH or OSEH majors to minor in business or management. Fellows enjoyed a shadowing experience at GSK, which hosted them for a full day of tours and visits through administrative and manufacturing departments, as well as an opportunity to meet GSK leadership.

“We were also talking already then about expanding the opportunity for a formal relationship,” says Harris. “We would like to build upon that connection with a major expansion that provides them with talent and our students with opportunities.”

President Daniel Wubah and Dr. Victor DeSantis, vice president for university relations and strategic initiatives, toured the Marietta location in May to learn more about the site and lay down the groundwork for a formal relationship between Millersville and GSK. “During our visit, we had an opportunity to chat with the head of GSK Marietta, site director Matteo Leonardini,” says DeSantis. “We discussed developing an internship program, creating courses and curriculum specifically based on their needs, and collaborating to develop a workforce pipeline.”

RYAN GREEN ’04, ’09M knows the value of a GSK internship. He worked for the company in Philadelphia before graduating



The Marietta location of GSK.

from Millersville with a bachelor’s degree in OSEH and minor in environmental hazards and emergency management. The experience “exposed me to the world of pharmaceutical research and



Ryan Green '04, '09M

manufacturing, an industry I enjoyed and was interested in returning to.” After earning a master’s degree in emergency management from Millersville, Green did return to the industry and to the company, this time at its Marietta location. Currently a member of the Site Leadership Team with responsibility for Environment, Health, Safety, Security and Emergency Response, he has four direct reports who are also alumni.

The collaboration between Millersville and GSK can foster a strong pipeline of well-prepared graduates who are ready to contribute to the innovative and impactful work being done at GSK, he says.

“It also allows graduates a great opportunity to work at a world-class biopharmaceutical company while remaining right here in Lancaster County – a wonderful area with a

“We would like to build upon that connection with a major expansion that provides them with talent and our students with opportunities,”

says Harris.

high quality of life and a great place to raise a family.”

KRISTEN (FELLER) LEIK ’96, an Honors Program graduate with dual majors in biology and environmental science and a minor in chemistry, “feels incredibly positive” about the growing relationship between Millersville University and GSK Marietta. She currently serves as site quality director at GSK.

“I provide strategic leadership and direction to the organization and supporting functions to ensure successful quality and site strategy deployment for a large group of people with decision-making authority and responsibility for representing GSK in health authority inspections,” Leik says.

After graduating from Millersville, she worked in the microbiology lab at a pharmaceutical/vaccines company in



Kristen (Feller) Leik '96

Lancaster County. She went on to earn a master’s degree in biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University and continued in the pharmaceutical and vaccine industry, starting at GSK Marietta in 2008. “I felt drawn

to the mission of protecting public health and enhancing the quality of life worldwide through vaccination,” she says, “which is one of the most effective public health interventions in human history. It is inspiring but also technically challenging from a scientific perspective, which I love.”

Leik believes her Millersville education laid a strong foundation for her career, and she’s eager to be part of a collaboration that helps shape the next generation of industry professionals. “By working together to develop curricula that align with the evolving needs of the pharmaceutical and vaccine sector – especially here in the same county – we’re building a meaningful pipeline that connects education directly to opportunity,” she says. “It’s an exciting time in this field, and I’m proud to help support students as they prepare to step into such a dynamic and impactful industry.” ♦

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Internships
Provide Hands-On Learning

By Marissa Farmer '24 '26M and Kelsey Madas

Learning in the classroom is an essential part of preparing students to work in a professional setting, and internships are an ideal way for those blooming preprofessionals to get hands-on experience and supervision in their field. Each spring the Career Center hosts a job and internship fair, connecting current Marauders and alumni with potential employers across the Commonwealth and beyond. With more than 400 students and alumni in attendance and 123 hiring businesses and organizations present at the event, the 2025 fair represented a 10-year record-high participation for the University. Read on to find out more about some of MU's recent students and graduates who count their internships among the most impactful parts of their education.



Aaron Reese '26

AARON REESE '26

Aaron Reese, a senior construction management major, secured an internship with Allan Myers, a heavy civil construction and paving contractor in Virginia.

Reese's role as a field engineer intern included assisting project managers in paving installations. Through his internship, he now has experience working on

construction sites, completing paperwork and managing quantity reports.

Reese credits his time at Millersville with preparing him for the responsibilities of navigating the workforce and meeting the expectations of the construction career field. "A lot of the professors in the engineering program organize their classes so that they translate to the workforce. The professional expectations at Allan Myers are the same as my engineering professors," Reese says.

Every summer since high school, Reese has worked at construction companies as a laborer. Along with his father's encouragement, this sparked Reese's interest in an internship with Allan Myers. His first encounter with Allan Myers was a chance meeting with a recruiter in Osborne Hall. Unfortunately, without a resume, he could not apply for any opportunities with the company that day. He turned to the Career Center the next day and was assisted with crafting a resume that he could submit. "If it were not for the Career Center having an internship fair and Allan Myers attending, I probably would never have gotten a second chance to get my job offer," he explains.

While he was with Allan Myers, Reese acquired interpersonal and job-specific skills such as dedication, time management, perseverance, problem-solving and using software like Excel.

Reese advises students currently searching for an internship to make an effort to connect with companies and to network. "Don't be afraid to put yourself out there," he says. "You should start searching for an internship the summer before your junior year. Go to the internship fairs. One of the best things that I did was get a LinkedIn profile. Additionally, have a resume before you talk to these companies, because that's one thing I didn't do and I had to play catch-up, and that's where the Career Center came in and helped me."



Andrew Macbeth '25

ANDREW MACBETH '25

A newly minted graduate of Millersville's integrated studies program, Andrew Macbeth made the most of his college experience.

The integrated studies program at MU provides students with intellectual disabilities access to full-time, inclusive postsecondary education and an integrated

residential experience. It was the perfect fit for Macbeth. "I wanted to be independent," he shares. "I've been in special education throughout my whole life because I have autism. I chose the four-year program option. I got to meet incredible people and make new relationships that grew at MU."

A Christian who says he's "passionate about his faith," Macbeth searched for ways to integrate his faith into his experience at MU. "My cousins who attended MU told me about the Christian student organization The Navigators, and I joined a men's Bible study. I made closer relationships with other students, and I got the chance to help plan a retreat."

"As a student, I utilized the Career Center a lot to do things like do mock interviews, create cover letters and refine my resume," says Macbeth. That prepared him for his next big step: an internship.

Macbeth completed an information technology internship at Water Street Mission that he says gave him the confidence to build new skills and work in a collaborative workplace setting. "My passion is IT," he explains. "They had me take baby steps. One of the first things I learned how to do was to image computers with step-by-step, numbered instructions. I was relatively new to IT, but I had great supervisors and coworkers. I definitely highly recommend that anybody interested in working at a shelter try it. It was an eye-opening experience."

The extra support from his colleagues, along with the hands-on training, made the learning experience memorable for Macbeth. "What I learned from my experience at Water Street Mission is that supervisors and coworkers can work with me to further my IT knowledge, and I got to learn how to do certain things that I never did before. I loved working with my coworkers. There are nice

people out there who don't judge you for how fast or slow you are at problem-solving."

Now, Macbeth is on to new things, including pursuing additional IT credentials, applying for jobs and interviewing, and, someday soon, finding a job.



Maddux Drager '27

MADDUX DRAGER '27

Maddux Drager, a second-year chemistry major, secured a competitive internship as a laboratory technician at the alumni-owned Fontana Candle Company in Lancaster.

Katie Roering, co-owner of Fontana and a Millersville alumna, made it her mission to produce nontoxic candles for scent-sensitive consumers. Drager, sensitive to candle emissions, was drawn to Fontana's initiative.

"I was inspired to apply for this internship in part because when I was younger, my twin sister and I did a research project in the fourth grade about candle combustion rates and won the science fair together," Drager shares. As a lab technician, he studied candle combustion and emissions, researched blends and experimented with wick types and pouring techniques to improve safety and appearance.

"My work at Millersville has ensured that I understand analytical chemistry techniques and instrumentation," Drager explains. "All my coursework so far has helped me understand how the world around me works through a chemistry lens, as well as how I can apply this knowledge to improve aspects around me.

"I pushed myself to understand concepts on a deeper level because I felt that Fontana and what the company aims to do not only benefit me but the community around me," Drager adds.

Drager gained valuable skills at his internship, including proper lab notebook-keeping, summarizing peer-reviewed literature effectively and operating laboratory equipment.

"I am confident that I can rise to any challenge I may face because Millersville and my opportunities ensured that I have experience and a strong foundation of key concentrations of chemistry that would set me up for success," Drager says.

Drager shared that Fontana was the perfect experience because it challenged him while helping him gain confidence in a supportive lab environment. "I took the time to allow myself to blossom into a better student, classmate and assistant, which I cannot thank Fontana enough for," he adds.

Drager advises students currently searching for internships to connect with professors who may be familiar with opportunities that are not advertised. "Strive to put your best foot forward, and take that time to make connections, as it will pay off. Also, don't be afraid to advocate for yourself, because you are worthy of these opportunities even when you don't feel like you are. Sometimes, you need a little push to become something great," he concludes.

JACINTA BRAVO MOSSO '25

For international student and allied health technology major Jacinta Bravo, the internship experience was a return to something familiar: serving as a volunteer firefighter.

Back home in Chile, Bravo was introduced to firefighting at 13 years old by her mother's then-boyfriend, a volunteer firefighter himself. "He knew I was interested in it, so he invited me to go with him during a training day," she shares. "It was a trap because he knew I

wanted to join. It was such a fun day, and they gave me a uniform to try on." She was hooked.

Bravo went on to join her hometown firefighting company and only stopped volunteering when she earned a field hockey scholarship to Millersville University. When the time came for her to find an internship, she joined Blue Rock Fire Rescue, located near campus. "It's interesting to learn about how firefighting works in other parts of the world," she shares. "There are a lot of things the public doesn't see. We have training once a week, and even if there's no official training, there's always someone around who's willing to teach you something. It's been interesting to learn from different techniques than the ones I was taught. There are different ways to roll hose or stabilize a car. Back home, they taught one way to do that, but here, I've learned other ways of doing it."

Bravo spends a lot of time at the fire station, stopping by most days after class. "There's family in the fire station," she explains. "You have to trust them, literally, with your life. You basically live with them – you share meals, you go on calls at 3 a.m., you spend a lot of time together."

What makes her want to continue her service as a volunteer firefighter? "It's a way of giving back to this community I've been living in the past four years," shares Bravo. "I am really grateful to be able to have this experience. It's like having a little piece of Chile with me all the time." ♦



Jactina Bravo Mossso poses in her gear at the fire station.

CAMPUS NEWS | Spring/Summer

\$50K Grant for Special Ed Certification

Millersville University's **DR. DEBORAH TAMAKLOE**, associate professor and graduate coordinator for the Special Education Program, was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Accelerated Special Educator Certification Program by the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network. This grant allows individuals with bachelor's degrees in any subject to apply to an accelerated program with the required college coursework, field experiences, mentoring, coaching and student teaching opportunities to obtain their PK-12 special education teaching certification within 18 months.



Dr. Deborah Tamakloe

“By providing financial support, the grant helps us to recruit local talent to pursue a career in special education at MU. This award is particularly valuable because of the teacher shortage in the area. It also helps expand our program, increase enrollment and puts MU in the limelight as one of only three schools funded in Central PA,” Tamakloe says. With the grant’s help, Tamakloe aims to recruit, train and retain participants from low- and moderate-income communities to ensure equitable access. ♦

Reducing Community and School Violence Conference

Millersville University hosted the 5th Annual Sustainable Development Goals Conference on June 5, 2025, focusing on “Building Safer Communities: Reducing Community and School Violence.” The one-day conference,



Dr. Victor DeSantis, left, and Jill Stemple, director of the Bureau of Policy, Planning and Program Development, at the conference.

held at the Ware Center in downtown Lancaster, brought together policymakers, community leaders and advocates, agency heads and staff, and educators to address pressing social challenges. “Our annual SDG Conference has become a vital platform for cross-sector collaboration on urgent social issues,” says Dr. Victor DeSantis, vice president for university relations and strategic initiatives. “This year’s focus on building safer communities reflects our institution’s commitment to fostering environments where everyone can live, learn and thrive without fear of violence.” ♦



Abby Norman '27

New Student Liaison to Millersville Borough

ABBY NORMAN '27, a government major concentrating in pre-law, is the student liaison to Millersville Borough. In her new position, Norman is responsible for conducting monthly reports for the Borough Council representing the student body at Millersville University. This includes information about events, student opinions on campus life and aspects of the University that may impact the residents of the borough. “Essentially, my job is to make sure student voices are heard by the Borough Council or by the right people so we can make improvements,” Norman explains.

Norman was inspired to take this role because she enjoys helping others and representing different groups and constituencies. In her previous role as a district office intern for Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-El, Norman helped to connect people to the office’s services. “We didn’t just provide services; we directed individuals to the right place when we couldn’t help them directly. Being able to help constituents with important services made the internship truly wonderful and worthwhile,” says Norman. ♦

24/7 Ambulance Facility Opens

Millersville University is the first state system school to have a 24/7 ambulance facility on campus. On Friday, March 21, representatives from Millersville and Lancaster EMS gathered outside of the Lebanon House, the new home of the station, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to



President Wubah, center, and police chief Pete Anders joined representatives from Lancaster EMS for the ribbon cutting.

celebrate the opening of the station. This North George Street facility will provide emergency response to the campus and local community. In attendance were David Aichele, the mayor of Millersville Borough, and C. Robert May, the executive director of Lancaster EMS, along with Dr. Victor DeSantis, vice president for university relations and strategic initiatives, and Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, all of whom offered remarks. To learn more about LEMSA, visit lemsa.com. ♦

University Theatre Earns Commendations

Millersville University students garnered five national commendations for excellence at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 2 Conference. The commendations were for work on the spring 2024 production of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] [again] by University Theatre. The technicians, performers and staff who made the production possible earned commendations for Distinguished Achievement in Performance Ensemble and in Audience Interaction.



Student work featured in the spring 2024 production earned several commendations.

- Individual commendations for Distinguished Achievement went to:
- **Charlie Duvall '25, B.A.** in Media Arts Production, in Performance
 - **Katherine Sadowsky '25, B.A.** in Entertainment Technology, B.S. in Management; Honors College, in Properties Design
 - **Rachel McFadden '25, B.A.** in Entertainment Technology, in Head Carpentry and Scenic Charge ♦

MU Students Collaborate With Rock Lititz

Millersville University’s Commercial Music Ensembles did not miss a beat as they partnered with the Pennsylvania College of Art & Design and the Academy of Live Technology to conduct two noteworthy performances at Rock Lititz, a live-event production facility. Dr. Jennifer Jester, co-organizer of the partnership and associate professor of music business technology at Millersville



Millersville students perform at a Rock Lititz event.

University, and Sharon Huizinga, the current program director of the Live Academy of Technology at Rock Lititz, worked together to bridge the gap between classroom learning and professional practice. The two were inspired by a shared desire to provide authentic, professional-level performance experiences for students at both schools. The collaboration involved several companies from the Rock Lititz community. The production partnered with Main Light, 4Wall, Clair, Tait, Fuse Technical Group, Disguise, Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, Tell School of Music at Millersville University and the Academy of Live Technology at Rock Lititz. ♦

Sports Info Director Wins Four Writing Awards

Millersville University Sports Information Director **ETHAN HULSEY** won four awards in the 2024-25 College Sports Communicators Fred Stabley Sr. Writing Contest. From 2019-2024, Hulsey’s writing and design work has garnered wins in four different categories and runner-up designations three times. Members in eight districts submitted nearly 500 articles in seven categories. The contest was split into University and College divisions. Representing District 2, Hulsey was recognized in the following categories: **Athlete Profile** – College Division Winner “Putting life on hold, Sweda returns to run with purpose” **Event Coverage** – College Division Winner “Dade’s epic Senior Day performance propels Marauders past No. 15 East Stroudsburg” **General Feature/Blog** – College Division Winner “After a roller coaster season, Tim Mayza ’18 is enjoying the ride to the World Series” ♦

Vice President of Student Affairs Chosen for Millennium Leadership Initiative



Mary Beth Williams

DR. MARY BETH WILLIAMS, vice president for student affairs at Millersville University, is among 26 higher education professionals chosen by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to participate in its 2025-26 Millennium Leadership Initiative cohort. Established in 1999, the Initiative is a premier leadership development program designed to prepare senior-level education leaders for the rigors of college and university presidencies or chancellorships through workshops, discussions, and practical training. By connecting them to the expertise, experiences, and resources they will need to thrive, participants become equipped to navigate the unique challenges presidents face in today’s complex higher education landscape. ♦

MU Names Senior Director of Public Relations

MARY DOLHEIMER began serving as Millersville’s senior director of public relations on May 12. Her responsibilities include producing the Review, managing the University’s media relations and crisis communications, and supporting President Daniel Wubah’s communications work. Dolheimer has spent more than 30 years working in marketing and communications at several South Central Pennsylvania colleges. She began her career at Gettysburg College’s Office of Public



Mary Dolheimer

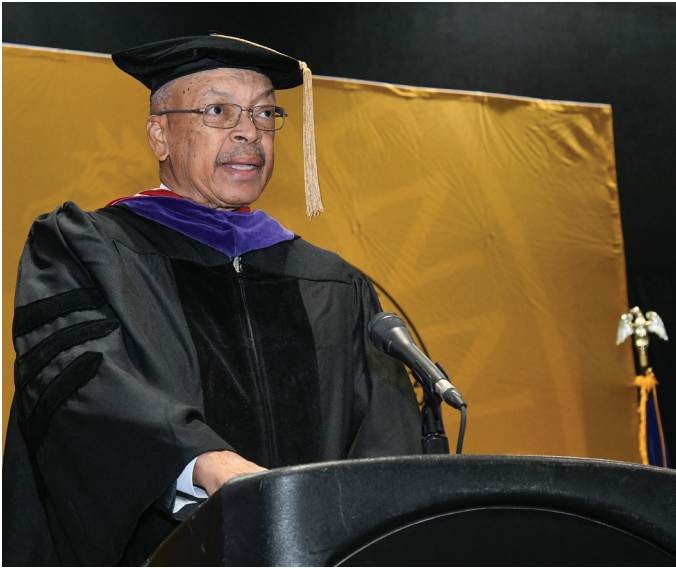
Relations. Thirteen years later, she moved to Elizabethtown College as the director of marketing and media relations in the Office of Admissions. Before coming to Millersville, she served at York College of Pennsylvania as chief communications officer. She retired from York in July 2024. ♦

COMMENCEMENT

SPRING 2025

Millersville’s Class of 2025, family and friends celebrated commencement at three May 10 ceremonies presided over by President Daniel A. Wubah. Speakers included Dr. Melvin Allen ‘69, faculty emeritus at Millersville; Dr. Kemah Washington ‘03, founder and president of BRANDilly Creative Group; and Deborah Willwerth ‘88, president of UPMC Lititz.

Millersville’s 1,110 students were among 21,000 who graduated from PASSHE schools in May. Nearly 70% of PASSHE graduates pursued degrees in high-demand fields — like STEM, health care, business, education, and law enforcement — helping to fill workforce gaps and boost Pennsylvania’s economy. ♦



Dr. Melvin Allen '69 looks out at the crowd while delivering his address.



Dr. Kemah Washington '03 addresses the graduates.



Deborah Willwerth '88 offers remarks to the College of Science and Technology graduates.



A Message from the Director of Alumni Engagement



Joshua Belice '08, '10M

Dear Millersville alumni,

As we enjoy the summer on campus, we reflect with pride on the ways that alumni and students have come together through campus events, mentorship and more to be a part of the University's progress and growth. This spirit of collaboration, reflecting our EPPIIC values, defines the 'Ville community and demonstrates our commitment to creating a sense of belonging for all alumni.

Spring commencement was a memorable celebration that welcomed more than 1,000 graduates into the alumni community. Distinguished alumni speakers at all three ceremonies proudly represented the 'Ville alumni network, bringing together past and future generations in a meaningful experience of connection.

We invite alumni to stay engaged and continue making a difference – starting with our upcoming events, such as the MU After Work events, the Candle Lighting Ceremony, Homecoming Weekend, Millersville Wedding Expo, Salute to Service and Glorious Holidays at the 'Ville.

Thank you for your support in guiding today's students to become extraordinary alumni of the future and leading our alumni community to represent the 'Ville at its very best.

Sincerely,

Joshua R. Belice '08, '10M
Director of Alumni Engagement

Welcome from the New President of the MU Alumni Association Board of Directors



Derrick McCutchen '98

Dear fellow Marauders,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I greet you as the new president of the Millersville University Alumni Association. As a proud 1998 graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science, I am both honored and humbled to serve in this role – and I'm excited about what we can accomplish together.

My journey at Millersville began in the old Burrowes tower, a place filled with great memories and even greater friendships. During my time on campus, I became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., an experience that shaped my values of leadership, service and lifelong brotherhood. Today, I continue to uphold those values as a dual member of both the Chester and Harrisburg Alumni chapters, and I'm proud to give back to our undergraduate brothers on Millersville's campus by serving as their chapter advisor.

Professionally, I work as an assistant vice president for Newmark, a multifamily/capital markets company specializing in loan servicing and tax escrow management. While my day job keeps me busy, my passion for Millersville has never faded. Since 2020, I've been involved with the Alumni Association. I started as a general board member and moved into roles as secretary, then president-elect and now president. Each role has been a stepping stone in personal growth, pulling me out of my comfort zone and helping me discover the leadership qualities within myself.

As we look to the future, I'm eager to collaborate with the Alumni Board, University partners and all of you to continue advancing our mission. A few goals I'm particularly excited about include:

- Diving into the strategic planning process to help shape our alumni engagement vision for years to come.
- Exploring the creation of a digital platform that includes job boards and networking resources for alumni and recent graduates.

- Launching a comprehensive alumni survey to better understand what matters most to you. Your feedback is vital to guiding our efforts.
 - Reviewing our bylaws by forming an ad hoc committee to ensure they reflect the evolving needs of our alumni community.
 - Streamlining the process for funding requests, making it easier for alumni groups and initiatives to access support.
- This association belongs to all of us. Whether you graduated decades ago or just walked across the stage, your voice and involvement matter. I look forward to hearing your ideas, celebrating your successes and working alongside you to make Millersville stronger than ever.
- Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Let's make this an incredible chapter in the MUAA's history – together.
- In service and spirit,
- Derrick McCutchen* '98
President, Millersville University Alumni Association

Welcome to the NEW Members of the MU Alumni Association Board for 2025

- Danielle M. Croft '15
- Patricia "Trish" M. Doll '82
- Susan "Sue" K. Ellenberg '71
- Rachel E. Mark '25

- Ruby M. Mundok '23
- Shani K. Robinson '12
- Jeremy R. Young '12



MU After Work GATHERINGS



Alumni and friends came together to celebrate an enjoyable evening of networking and connections at MU After Work events during the spring semester in Malvern and Lebanon. We welcome all alumni to join us for upcoming gatherings!

JOIN US for MU After Work in Lancaster!

Loxley's Restaurant

Thursday, August 14 | 5 – 7 p.m.

500 Centerville Road | Lancaster, PA

To register and learn more – visit millersville.edu/alumni or call the Office of Alumni Engagement at **717-871-7551**.

We hope to see you there!

Thank You to the MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY Alumni Association for the Generous Gift to Lombardo Hall

The Millersville University Alumni Association generously committed \$200,000 to create an exhibit space to commemorate the rich history of Brooks Gymnasium in the soon-to-be-renovated Lombardo Hall, the future home of the Lombardo College of Business.

Outstanding athletic achievements from Millersville history will be highlighted within an exhibit space in the original campus building where they took place. Brooks Gymnasium was constructed in 1938 and served as the

main athletics venue on campus until Pucillo Gymnasium was built in 1971. The exhibit space will celebrate decades of legendary athletic competitions and thrilling victories and rekindle treasured memories from years of Millersville Athletics success.

The completely renovated and revitalized building, formerly the historic Brooks Hall, will bring together business, entrepreneurship and innovation in an inclusive campus location that will incorporate the latest technology.

Valuable opportunities for collaboration and exploration will enable Millersville University students to thrive and grow at Lombardo Hall, in a transformative learning environment that will nurture leadership, ingenuity and student excellence.

Thank you to the Millersville University Alumni Association for their generosity in making another feature of Lombardo Hall a reality to benefit the 'Ville community in the future. ♦

An EPPIIC Commitment to STUDENT WELL-BEING



AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY, CARE, COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION AREN'T JUST OUR EPPIIC VALUES – THEY'RE ACTIONS.

Today, the path to success in college isn't always a straight line. For many students, it's shaped by uncertainty – circumstances outside the classroom that make academic success harder to reach – and navigating that path takes more than academic support alone.

With your gift, you can help keep a student housed, fed, enrolled and empowered to succeed – inside the classroom and beyond.



YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT STUDENT WELLNESS AND MAKE AN IMMEDIATE DIFFERENCE

- **Counseling Center & Mental Health Fund**
Provides therapy, counseling and other mental health care support for students in need.
- **EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund**
Helps students navigate unexpected emergencies – like medical expenses, loss of income or family hardship – without having to choose between their education and their stability.
- **Millersville Hunger Action Fund**
Provides food, hygiene products and break meals through the SNAP Station and student-led initiatives, helping to combat food insecurity on our campus.
- **Millersville University Scholarship Fund**
Not only scholarship support, this fund also provides flexible resources to meet students' most pressing needs.

HOW YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS STUDENT WELLNESS AT MILLERSVILLE

- Over **1,150 counseling appointments** were provided just in the spring

- 2025 semester alone, including urgent mental health support and telecounseling access.
- The **EPPIIC Fund** provided **emergency financial assistance to 58 students** in the spring 2025 semester, helping them stay enrolled and stable.
 - The **SNAP Station** in the SMC provided almost **\$3,000 in nonperishable food items and hygiene products to students** in the spring 2025 semester – and was depleted by the end of the term.

Behind every number is a student whose life was changed by care, compassion and your generosity.
Thank you for believing and investing in Millersville students. Your generosity helps make Millersville University a place of care and compassion. ♦

To support students with your gift, visit millersville.edu/give2mu or email giving@millersville.edu or call the Office of Development at **717-871-7520**.

Amazing ONE DAY GIVE Raises More Than \$1 Million

Millersville University's **12TH ANNUAL ONE DAY GIVE** on Feb. 20 was an extraordinary day that achieved an all-time fundraising record – raising more than **\$1 million** in the 24-hour online-giving-event celebration.

Across campus, Celebration Stations were set up for the Millersville community to make gifts and participate in the day's festivities. Giving incentives included commemorative socks featuring the Biemesderfer Executive Center for faculty, staff and alumni and a special commemorative T-shirt for students. Athletics giving thrived with the popular leaderboards as teams competed to top the charts.

The valuable fundraising support generated on One Day Give makes a difference in the lives of students now and for generations to come. Millersville University greatly appreciates the overwhelming support of donors, who contributed gifts of all sizes; you have made a lasting impact on the lives of students during this historic day of fundraising success. ♦

Thank you to the Millersville University community for an exceptional celebration of generosity!

To learn more about the results of One Day Give, please visit millersville.edu/onedaygive.

Save the Date for One Day Give 2026 – APRIL 17, 2026!

JOIN US as we celebrate **ONE DAY GIVE** on Millersville University's birthday with a gala dinner and exciting new event experiences.

Establish an ENDURING LEGACY

Millersville University supporters have various meaningful ways to leave a lasting impact.

Giving through an IRA, a bequest in your will or a donor-advised fund allows you to shape the future of education while aligning with your financial goals. Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs are a tax-smart way for individuals aged 70½ or older to support Millersville directly from their retirement accounts.

Including the University in your will or trust ensures your values live on through scholarships, academic programs or campus initiatives. Donor-advised funds also offer flexibility, allowing you to recommend grants that support the University's mission.

Each of these creates a powerful legacy for future generations of students.

We invite you to visit the Millersville University Planned Giving web page at millersville.giftlegacy.com to learn more about gift and estate planning that benefits MU students.

If you have committed to support Millersville University in your estate plans, please let us know to ensure your gift will benefit the University according to your requests and wishes and for your recognition as **Hobbs-Wickersham Society** members.

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



Become a 'Ville Visionary Society Member

The 'Ville Visionary Society is Millersville University's giving society recognizing individuals who have made gifts or commitments of \$1,000 or more each fiscal year. Becoming a member of the 'Ville Visionary Society reflects the vision of donors whose generosity makes a meaningful impact on students' lives with their visionary support.

To learn more about the 'Ville Visionary Society and giving society opportunities, please visit millersville.edu/giftclubs, or contact the Office of Development at giving@millersville.edu or **717-871-7520**.

Thank you for generously supporting Millersville University students!



Brick by Brick

DR. LEN LITOWITZ BUILT A LEGACY IN STEM AT MU

By Kelsey Madas

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, **DR. LEN LITOWITZ** HAS BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN TO MILLERSVILLE'S CAMPUS TO TAKE PART IN SUMMER CAMPS THAT FOCUS ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS, AND IT ALL STARTED WITH THE HUMBLE LEGO BRICK.



Dr. Len Litowitz

Litowitz was a professor in the applied engineering, safety & technology department and worked at MU since 1986. He retired in June 2025 and has taught everything from the basics of electricity, automotives, energy

conservation, technology and engineering education to alternative energy.

The latter subject, alternative energy, captured Litowitz' interest from a young age – something his father, a commercial electrician,

noticed and nurtured. His father purposefully took him on jobs that used solar energy, a developing technology at the time, so that Litowitz could get up close and personal with the tech.

"My dad didn't share my interest in alternative energy, but he knew I was curious about it," shares Litowitz. Perhaps it was that early exposure that pushed him to study technology as an



A camper attends a LEGO camp.

undergraduate student and later as a graduate student. He earned his doctorate in Vocational & Technical Education from the University of Minnesota in 1986 and landed his job at Millersville University shortly thereafter.

Early on in his career at Millersville, Litowitz met 1970 alumnus John R. Brown. "He was a legendary technology and engineering teacher," explains Litowitz. Brown went on to work for LEGO's U.S. educational division. The company was expanding their educational offerings and began producing pared-down gear and mechanisms kits, and later, a computer control kit. That kit interested Litowitz, he notes, because of its similarity to other programmable logic controllers he used. Litowitz understood that the LEGO kit would be ideal for teaching early, simple concepts of computer control and automation to children. "LEGOs and kids just go together," shrugs Litowitz.

Together with Brown, they launched Millersville's first LEGO summer camps, which eventually became the Millersville Technology & Engineering Camp program of today. Over the years, the camps have grown and changed, with topics reflecting the trending interests of the campers. Some of those campers went on to become Millersville students, like Tommy Kuhns.

When Kuhns was about 10 years old, he attended a LEGO robotics camp taught by Litowitz. "It was a really

great hands-on experience that exposed me to STEM subjects early on, which was invaluable," says Kuhns. "It's what led me down that path I'm on now." He is studying technology and engineering education with hopes of becoming an innovative teacher someday. He also works as a lab assistant in the energy and power lab, the exact location where he first attended the LEGO camp that Litowitz taught. In a full-circle moment, he'll teach a camp with Litowitz this summer.

"Being a part of the camps today means the world to me," says Kuhns. "I'm getting to impact kids in the same way I was impacted. It's so cool to introduce kids to these kinds of technologies in a way kids aren't often exposed to at that age. When they're introduced to STEM subjects early on, they're more likely to think they can do it, too."



Dr. Len Litowitz and John R. Brown '70.

This year's Technology & Engineering Camp, which runs from June 23 to July 18, includes sessions on everything from making your own comics, LEGO robotics, Dungeons and Dragons-themed technology camps, 3D printing, video game design, a YouTube Studio camp and more.

"Of all the things I'm proud of, the thing I'm most proud of is that people trust me with their kids," says Litowitz. "The camps allow students to be creative, and to explore ideas about what could be – inventions, innovations, you name it. There are so many things that have yet to be explored."

For more information, visit millersville.edu/summercamps and select Technology & Engineering Camp. ♦

Health Services Relocates to Lyle Hall

BY MARISSA FARMER '24 '26M

THIS SUMMER, MILLERSVILLE'S HEALTH SERVICES WILL RELOCATE TO LYLE HALL; THE TEAM ANTICIPATES BEING FULLY OPERATIONAL IN THEIR NEW LOCATION BY EARLY AUGUST. THIS MOVE AIMS TO FOSTER A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES ON CAMPUS.

The Witmer Building, built in 1967 and current home to Health Services, originally served as a 24/7 infirmary. Over time, dedicated medical physicians, nurse practitioners and registered nurses have worked to support students by creating an affordable and accessible resource on campus.

Alumni who attended Millersville from 2009 to 2015 may remember Dr. Susan Northwall, former director of Health Services. Northwall helped shape today's Health Services during her tenure by uniting the team, providing a caring environment for students and improving the quality of the University's health care.

Today, Health Services offers urgent care and preventive services, including same-day visits, mental health support, lab testing and women's health care, such as screenings and education. With the move, Health Services will continue a collective relationship with other services on campus to create a comprehensive location of all things health for students.

Lyle Hall is currently occupied by student-centered services such as Counseling Services, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, the Registrar's Office, Learning Services, and International Programs and Services.

Lauren Blevins, University nurse practitioner and director of Health Services, shares what Health Services means to her and her team. "Caring for the physical and mental health of students in this environment is a privilege, a chance to be a steady presence during a pivotal time of growth and self-discovery," Blevins says. "Our team builds genuine connections with our students and is provided the opportunity to guide them toward healthier habits and well-



Members of MU's Health Services team will relocate their services this summer to better serve students.

being. We all feel fortunate being silent witnesses and supporters of their academic and personal journeys here at Millersville University and hope that their growth continues and that they become successful, meaningful contributors to the broader community."

Health Services previously mentored nurse practitioner students but has not done so since 2020. Blevins hopes to resume preceptorship opportunities after the move. "It is important for medical professionals to be invested in the growth and learning of the next generation of medical providers to enter the workforce. Health care is an ever-growing and evolving field; it challenges us as providers to continually grow and develop our skills by training and educating others," Blevins says.

Health Services also works closely with the Counseling Center. They anticipate that having the two offices in the same building will create a more accessible experience for students who use both services.

One Millersville student, Grace Locke, shares how Health Services assisted with her recovery from anorexia nervosa, a life-threatening eating disorder. After receiving what she describes as "inadequate treatment" by other medical professionals, Locke turned to Health Services when she felt herself beginning to relapse.

"I owe my life to the staff there. I was desperate and did not know what else to do. I was seen for who I was, and they understood my unique situation," she shares.

"They worked with me in developing a recovery plan and guided me toward the Counseling Center. I cannot express how grateful I am for them; they went out of their way to help me. For the first time in five years, I am myself again, and I could not have done it without their support. I have nothing but good things to say about the staff; they are wonderful and truly care for the students." ♦

Learn more about Health Services here:
millersville.edu/healthservices



STRATEGIC PROGRESS:

Highlights *from the*

2020–25

University Plan



There is a tremendous amount of good news to share about the progress made in accomplishing the goals and objectives of “Tradition and Transformation,” the University’s Strategic Plan for 2020-25. The official end of the plan came on June 30. On the next few pages, you will find a few select highlights of achievements. A more detailed report will be presented in the next issue of the Review and through the University’s website. You may scan the QR code to see the original plan.



OUR **VISION**, **MISSION** AND **EPPIIC** VALUES

- Vision:* We will inspire learners to change the world.
- Mission:* We are a community dedicated to high-quality education at an exceptional value.
- Values:* Exploration, Professionalism, Public Mission, Inclusion, Integrity and Compassion.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR 2020–2025

- Ensure Access, Affordability and Completion
- Transform Student Experiences and Foster Innovation
- Invest Strategically in People and Place
- Communicate Our Value

Strategic Direction 1

ENSURE ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY AND COMPLETION

GOAL 1: INCREASE OVERALL HEAD COUNT TO 7,000 STUDENTS

- ✓ **OBJECTIVE A:** MAINTAIN THE NUMBER AND QUALITY OF INCOMING FRESHMEN
- With a new viewbook, revised messages and new partnerships, the University realized a more robust applicant pool that led to increased selectivity and yielded a strong first-year class.
- On opening day of fall 2024, our total head count was more than 7,000.

GOAL 4: INCREASE COURSE SUCCESS AND 4-YEAR GRADUATION RATES

- ✓ **OBJECTIVE A:** INCREASE STUDENT RETENTION RATES
- Last year, our first- to second-year retention rate climbed up to 78.1%, which was the highest rate in nearly a decade.



Strategic Direction 2

TRANSFORM STUDENT EXPERIENCES AND FOSTER INNOVATION

GOAL 1: PROVIDE INNOVATIVE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

✓ **OBJECTIVE A:** INCREASE THE INTEGRATION OF HIGH-IMPACT PRACTICES IN THE CURRICULUM

The Made in Millersville Conference continues to grow year over year in terms of the number of presentations and number of presenters and co-presenters. Of course, sheer volume is not a goal of the conference, but growing participation is an encouraging indicator for the level of engagement by our students and faculty in mentored and other experiential learning activity inside and outside of the classroom.

2025 MADE IN MILLERSVILLE IN NUMBERS

298
CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

More than 25
JOURNAL ARTICLES with
over 33 AUTHORS

420
Conference
Presenters &
Co-Presenters

35
Majors
REPRESENTED

OVER 110 Faculty
Mentors, Reviewers,
Peer Editors &
VOLUNTEERS

26
ACADEMIC
Departments



GOAL 2: PREPARE STUDENTS TO MEET FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS

✓ **OBJECTIVE A:** LINK ACADEMIC PROGRAMS TO EMERGING WORKFORCE NEEDS

Millersville University continues to be a cornerstone of the local workforce and our graduates continue to be in high demand, particularly in education and nursing. Our recent graduates are already making an impact in the county and commonwealth.

GOAL 3: ENHANCE SENSE OF COMMUNITY

✓ **OBJECTIVE A:** INTEGRATE INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE IN INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES

Over the course of the past five years, we have integrated the Inclusive Excellence model across campus. Our EPPIIC commitment to make our campus a welcoming place has led to being recognized 13 years in a row with the prestigious Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award.

Strategic Direction 3

INVEST STRATEGICALLY IN PEOPLE AND PLACE

GOAL 2: ENHANCE STEWARDSHIP OF CURRENT RESOURCES AND NEW REVENUES

✓ **OBJECTIVE D:** EXTEND THE “IMAGINE THE POSSIBLE” CAMPAIGN

The Imagine the Possible fundraising campaign for student success raised a State System-breaking \$110 million in support of scholarships, student experiences, athletics and campus revitalization.

Strategic Direction 4

COMMUNICATE OUR VALUE

GOAL 1: ASSESS AND REFINE OUR UNIVERSITY’S KEY MESSAGES

✓ **OBJECTIVE A:** DEVELOP A COMMON IDENTITY AND UNIFIED MESSAGE ABOUT THE ‘VILLE EXPERIENCE

We are weaving our Lancaster location into our narrative to tell our story and promote our brand.

'NO ONE IS IN THE
SAME CATEGORY AS HIM'

The Story of Bren Taylor's Hitting Brilliance

by Ethan Hulsey



WITH MILLERSVILLE LEADING BY TWO RUNS IN THE TOP OF THE SEVENTH INNING AND A RUNNER ON SECOND BASE, MANSFIELD COULD ILL AFFORD TO SURRENDER ANOTHER RUN. THE SECOND BASEMAN LINGERED CLOSE TO THE BAG, LIMITING KEEGAN SOLTIS' LEAD OFF SECOND BASE. WITH HIS EVER-RELAXED HITTING STANCE – LEGS STRAIGHT BUT READY, HANDS LOW AND CLOSE TO HIS CHEST WITH THE HEAD OF HIS BAT RHYTHMICALLY TICKING LIKE THE PENDULUM OF A CLOCK – **BREN TAYLOR** EYED THE EMPTY EXPANSE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE INFIELD. IT WAS TOO EASY.

With expert bat control and situational awareness, Taylor guided a fastball precisely where the second baseman should have been, allowing Soltis to score. While it was just one single on another Sunday afternoon at Cooper Park, that hit epitomized the rarity of Taylor's hitting talent. That ground ball connected Taylor to West Chester's Matt Cotellese (2005–09) and Millersville's Chas McCormick (2014–17) as the only players in PSAC history with 300 career hits. Six days later, in a pivotal PSAC divisional game against East Stroudsburg, which trailed Millersville by two games in the standings, Taylor, in typical Taylor fashion, collected his PSAC record-setting 307th hit on a line drive through the left side of the infield as ESU's shortstop shaded the middle at double-play depth.

Taylor departed Millersville as the only player in program history with four PSAC East titles and two PSAC Championships. He spent his career making the impossibly difficult seem impossibly easy. He totaled 315 career hits – nine more than McCormick in four fewer starts and 24 fewer at bats, all while posting an on-base percentage 50 points higher. Taylor scored a PSAC record 233 runs, set a single-season PSAC record for runs in 2022 and set Millersville records for triples and total bases.

Taylor came to Millersville as an unheralded recruit with average tools. He honed his swing not in the competitive travel ball circuit or with private hitting lessons but as a teenager playing 20-, 30- and 40-year-old men in the York men's league. No one can figure out where or how Taylor developed his off-the-charts baseball IQ, but everyone agrees: Taylor is a hitting genius. It is his uncanny ability to adjust in a moment, to seemingly telepathically understand the catcher-pitcher's silent back-and-forth, to see the flick of the pitcher's hand, the spin of the ball, a late shift by the fielders – all in a blink – and process that and use a baseball bat to redirect a baseball precisely where he wants it to go. Taylor is the most unlikely of record-breaking hitters, and his brilliance in the box can only be understood (even then only somewhat) by the coaches and teammates who've seen and marveled at his every swing.

THE STORYTELLERS

• **JON SHEHAN '06**, Millersville head coach in his 18th season, who has led the Marauders to more than 600 wins and 12 consecutive NCAA Regional appearances.

- **DAVID BAKER**, Millersville's longtime assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, who has been a part of the program since 2009.
- **JIMMY LOSH '22**, now an assistant coach but once Taylor's teammate and leadoff hitter whose career records for runs and triples Taylor broke this season.
- **DAN DEVINNEY**, Millersville's Fellowship of Christian Athletes leader and former baseball coach, who attends nearly every practice and has sat in the dugout every game for the last eight years.
- **CONOR COOK '24**, a pitcher and teammate of Taylor's for four years, who has often tried and often failed to retire Taylor in intrasquad scrimmages.
- **EVAN RISHELL '25**, a Millersville pitcher for the last four seasons and a high school teammate of Taylor's. Taylor helped Rishell get noticed by Shehan, and Rishell has become an all-region reliever.

'WHO IS THIS KID?'

Bren Taylor's first game as a Marauder displayed the skills that brought him to the brink of history. Playing at the Houston Astros' Minute Maid Park, Taylor worked a full count in his first at bat, doubled and scored his second time through the lineup, then earned a six-pitch walk and scored again. He saw 20 pitches in four plate appearances. He has since recorded at least one hit in 173 of 219 starts and two or more hits 88 times. Taylor, Losh, Luke Trainer (2018–22) and Tyler Orris (2013–16) are the only Marauders to record at least 230 hits and 100 walks. Taylor has the best career batting average among the 17 active Division II players with at least 400 at bats and 160 hits. Across all levels of NCAA

baseball, only Augustana's Jack Hines and Virginia Tech's Ben Watson totaled more hits, but Taylor played in fewer games and recorded a higher batting average than both. Taylor's career, from game one, has been the stuff of legend.

SHEHAN: "His high school coach called me and said, 'Hey, we've got a guy who had one strikeout his junior year, and it was on a foul tip.' I said, 'OK, I need to see this kid.' I asked, 'What travel team does he play for?' His coach said, 'He doesn't play travel ball. He plays in the men's league, and he's been doing it since his freshman year.' I took my lawn chair, sat in center field, and there were no other coaches there because it's a men's league game. He missed one barrel in three games."

BAKER: "He's the only guy I've ever heard of (playing men's league). Everyone is playing travel ball. He was a junior in high school and came to camp. He showed up in Sperrys and Rec Specs, no shoelaces, and you are just like, 'Who is this kid?' It was interesting. Even with the shoes and the glasses, he just barreled everything. You don't see that kind of bat-to-ball skills."

SHEHAN: "There were a bunch of college coaches who missed him at that camp. He ran a 7.1 60. He didn't throw it great from the outfield, but he squared up every single ball in batting practice. He's very quiet, so it was a hard read from a recruiting side of things. But when I watched him for a couple of games, I could tell he was really competitive, and that's why we offered him."

"He showed up in
Sperrys and Rec Specs,
no shoelaces, and
you are just like,
Who is this kid?"

says David Baker.

BAKER: “We had an intrasquad at Keystone in the preseason of his freshman year. He was facing Aidan Welch. Aidan made him look really bad on a changeup. The next pitch was a fastball right down the middle, and Bren just took it. The next pitch, Welch went back to the changeup, and Bren hit a line drive that almost knocked his hat off. Bren was setting him up to get back to that changeup.”

LOSH: “My first clear memory of him was in Houston at the start of the 2020 season, first weekend of the year. He struck out, came into the dugout and said, ‘That’s the last time I’m striking out the rest of the year.’ Everyone was like, ‘All right, who is this freshman?’ Turns out, he’s one of the best strikeout-rate guys we’ve had in the program.”

‘HE’S BASEBALL BRILLIANT’

Taylor’s career stacks up against the best of the best. Taylor and Cotellese are the only players in PSAC history with two 90-hit seasons. Taylor set the PSAC’s single-season runs record in 2022, and he is one of four players in PSAC history with two seasons of 60 or more runs scored. That group includes West Chester’s Nick Spisak, Nick Ward and Joey Wendle. Ward, who played his final season at West Chester in 2018, is currently playing his eighth season of pro ball. Wendle played nine seasons in Major League Baseball, with an All-Star selection in 2021.

Since 1970, the PSAC has produced six Major League position players. Of that group, only McCormick, Shepherd’s Brenton Doyle (currently the Colorado Rockies’ center fielder) and Slippery Rock’s Matt Adams hit .400 even once as a collegiate hitter. Taylor accomplished the feat twice, batting .426 in 56 games (216 at bats) in 2023 and .425 in 55 games (214 at bats) in 2022. Oh, and Taylor hit .399 as a sophomore in 2021 and is currently hitting .387 after a full year away from the game. Adams hit the mark three times at The Rock before hitting .258 in 10 seasons in the big leagues and playing in two World Series.

Taylor was not blessed with the incredible bat speed and elite athleticism possessed by McCormick and Doyle, or the imposing stature and sheer strength of Adams (listed at 6-3 and 263 pounds on the Baseball Reference website). Taylor was a hitting savant – a baseball detective, solving pitchers using a variety of clues gathered through careful and tedious observation. He analyzes his approach and fixes his swing through countless hours in the cage.

BAKER: “It’s his intelligence and the things he sees that others don’t, finding tips off of pitchers. It’s so far more advanced than the other great hitters who have come through here. I’ve been here 15 years, and there is no one in the same category as him when it comes to intelligence, what he sees and how he sees it.”

SHEHAN: “Baker called Zach Stone ‘15 (Millersville alum and former All-American) up and said, ‘This kid’s going to be a .400 hitter. He’s the real deal.’ You could see it early. Most guys who play early have a lot of physical talent. Bren has one of the slowest bats on our team when you look at the raw data. But his mind is so much more advanced than most.”

DEVINNEY: “He’s baseball brilliant. He’s so

“Taylor was a hitting savant – a baseball detective, solving pitchers using a variety of clues...”

a future at bat. He comes back and tells all the hitters what he sees from the pitcher. He is really good at picking up grips. He shares his knowledge with his teammates.”

LOSH: “One of the alums talked to the team about passing along information to the next hitter. Bren and I took that and ran with it. We got pretty good at it. We sharpened each other with that. He was looking for how the ball came out of the pitcher’s hand. How the ball was spinning, if the breaking ball pops up, if the fastball is a two-seam or four-seam, if the changeup spins the same as a fastball or if the pitcher pronates it with

even-keeled. He never bangs his helmet. You would never know if he hit a home run or struck out. There are no highs and lows. Very steady.”

BAKER: “There was one game where he took two straight curveballs right down the middle. It was 0-2, but the next pitch, he hit it out to right-center because he knew he wouldn’t get the same pitch three times in a row. He was waiting for one pitch the whole at bat and got it.”

DEVINNEY: “His mental game is amazing. He sets up pitchers by taking pitches, sometimes by swinging and missing so he can use it in a future at bat. He comes back and tells all the hitters what he sees from the pitcher. He is really good at picking up grips. He shares his knowledge with his teammates.”

LOSH: “One of the alums talked to the team about passing along information to the next hitter. Bren and I took that and ran with it. We got pretty good at it. We sharpened each other with that. He was looking for how the ball came out of the pitcher’s hand. How the ball was spinning, if the breaking ball pops up, if the fastball is a two-seam or four-seam, if the changeup spins the same as a fastball or if the pitcher pronates it with side spin. He was pretty much the guy who got that rolling.... He helped me grow as a hitter in that aspect. It made me look really closely at what I was seeing.”

RISHELL: “He’s really smart, and he’s a huge team guy. So he’s always looking for things that will help the team. I sit with him at the end dugout and talk about what we can pick up from a pitcher or catcher. He does it to help the team.”

‘THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT MAKE HITTERS GREAT’

For Taylor, hitting is innate. He graduated in 2023 after winning the PSAC East Athlete of the Year award for the second time and worked full-time as an educator. But he had one year of eligibility remaining, and despite already winning a PSAC Championship and NCAA Regional, he had unfinished business. He enrolled in graduate school and joined the team in January. Even after more than a year away from the game, Taylor started 2025 with a 10-game hitting streak and finished his season ranked in the PSAC’s top-10 in hitting. He joined McCormick as the only four-time All-PSAC East selections in Millersville history and became the first Marauder named All-Atlantic Region First Team four times.

COOK: “He’s one of those guys who could not touch a bat for five years, wake up and go find a way to get a hit.”

LOSH: “I was little skeptical about how he would come back after a year off. It’s hard when you are away from the game, and even if you are swinging it, it’s getting back into game situations. He came back in training camp, and it was about a day or two before he got right back into it. He was born to hit. You see him in the box, and it doesn’t look like he’s super hitter-ish. But he gets a barrel on everything, and that’s never going to change.”

BAKER: “There might have been a weekend where he was a little behind. There’s a grace period of if he’s ready to go, having not seen live pitching in over a year. There was an intrasquad

“He’s baseball brilliant. He’s so even keeled... There are no highs and lows. Very steady,”

says Dan DeVinney.

about a week in. I was standing next to Jon in the third-base coaching box. After a couple of barrels in a row, it was like, ‘He’s good to go.’ He can roll out of bed and hit.”

DEVINNEY: “There was a game recently where Matthew (Williams) was on first base. Matthew gave a fake steal, so the shortstop broke for second. Bren, just like he was playing pool, shot it through the shortstop hole. How did he see that guy breaking? I don’t know. No one can do that.”

RISHELL: “You have to have your best when you face him. If it’s the No. 9 hitter, maybe you can get away with throwing a fastball down the middle. But with him, you can’t make one mistake pitch ... you have to throw your best at all times. I feel like he’s a guy I should be able to get out, but I feel like I never can. He always finds a way to get a hit.”

SHEHAN: “He walked off a couple of years ago on a team that was playing him in the six-hole. He went up to the plate with a plan to hit the ball down the left-field line, and he doubled on the first fastball on the outer half. Those are the things that make hitters great.”

‘HE’S THEIR LEAST FAVORITE GUY TO FACE’

On March 28, Millersville trailed Shippensburg 3–2 in the bottom of the seventh inning. Taylor stepped in with the bases loaded and one out. He lined the first pitch from Shippensburg closer Jack Robinson into center field for a walk-off, two-run single and a 4–3 Millersville win. Taylor’s been a menace to the PSAC East and simply outstanding in games that matter most. His career batting average against division opponents is .431. His on-base percentages border on absurdity: .463, .542, .531, .491.

Taylor is clutch, delivering a walk-off hit in each of the last two seasons. He was at his best against the best, producing 47 career postseason hits and hitting over .400 in the postseason. In the 2022 PSAC Tournament,

“You can’t make one mistake pitch... you have to throw your best at all times,”

says Evan Rishell.

to face.”

LOSH: “A couple of years ago, we were down against Shippensburg. We always have tight games with them, and it can get chippy sometimes. I got hit by a pitch, and I took a little exception to it and had a couple of words with the pitcher. I went to first base, and Bren was chirping from the on-deck circle. He went up, backed me up, and hit a two-run home run to give us the lead. That’s just one of those times where he has my back, talking for me and backing it up with a home run.”

DEVINNEY: “He rarely hits home runs, and that one was perfect timing. It was almost like he just decided he was going to hit a home run.”

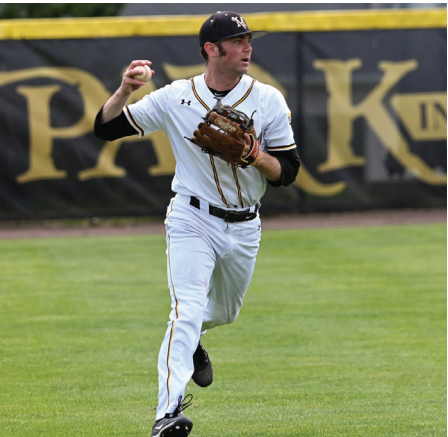
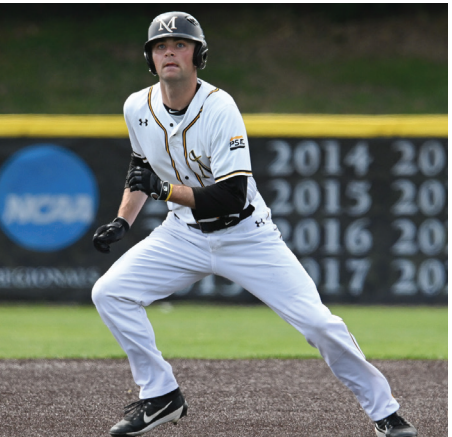
COOK: “You can’t tell it, but he’s super competitive – a gamer. He doesn’t show his emotions, but in a big spot, he’s a guy you want up. Every time he’s up to bat, you feel like he’s going to get a hit, but in those situations where you need to get a run in, move a guy over, there’s nobody better than him. You know he’s going to find a way to hit a ground ball to the right side or hit a fly ball, whatever it needs to be.”

RISHELL: “You have 100% confidence in him. The whole team, when he steps in, goes to the front of the dugout. We believe in him.”

Often, the legend outshines reality. Not with Bren Taylor. It’s all true and undeniably documented in cold, unembellished numbers. There is a story in every hit, all 315 of them. ♦

he went 8 for 19, leading Millersville to the championship, and recorded two or more hits in five of the team’s seven postseason games. In 2023, he hit .500 (18 for 36) in nine tournament games, recording five hits against Seton Hill in the NCAA Super Regional and six hits in three games at the Division II World Series.

COOK: “He was always a pain to face. He doesn’t chase any pitches outside the zone. If you throw him a pitch inside the zone, he will hit it hard somewhere. He doesn’t swing and miss. I’ve talked to pitchers from other PSAC teams, and they always say he’s their least favorite guy





SPORTS UPDATES

PSAC Baseball Champions

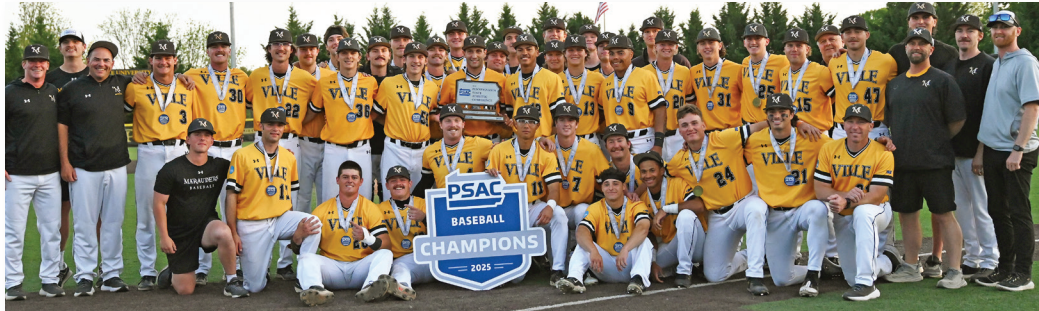
By Ethan Hulsey

A championship is always special. It's just a little extra special when it is won at home. Millersville, which won a program-record 29 home games in 2025, hosted the PSAC Tournament at Cooper Park for the first time and conquered the grueling four-day, five-game tournament with an epic 13-inning win over rival Seton Hill and a resilient 8–3 victory over California in a do-or-die championship game.

MATTHEW WILLIAMS, who set Millersville single-season and career records for home runs during the season, earned PSAC Tournament MVP honors after hitting two home runs, including a dramatic ninth-inning home run against Seton Hill. The Marauders' bullpen allowed just one run in 20 innings of work.

The Marauders finished the season with 44 wins, the No. 1 seed in the Atlantic Regional and the fourth PSAC East title in the last five years. Head coach **JOHN SHEHAN** won his 600th game in March, and he was voted the PSAC East Coach of the Year for the seventh time. Only two other coaches in PSAC history have won more Coach of the Year honors.

"I told the team it's probably one of the most selfless teams I've coached," says Shehan. "They came to the ballpark every day ready to play for each other. A lot of guys come to the ballpark to play, but they came to play for each other. It's a special group." ♦



KIRBY leads golf team to record season

Women's golf player **CHARLEY KIRBY** recorded a senior season to remember. Her third-place finish at the PSAC Championship was the best by a Marauder since 2017, and Kirby closed the season with three wins, 12 top-10 finishes and four PSAC Athlete of the Week honors. Kirby's performances, which included the fifth-lowest scoring average in program history, led Millersville to a program-record six tournament victories and a third-place finish at the PSAC Championship. ♦

A Team on the RISE



Mike Faith

MIKE FAITH knows how to win. Before arriving at Millersville, he'd already won seven conference championships in women's lacrosse with two Lancaster County universities. He made an immediate impact for the Marauders, leading a six-win turnaround and taking the team back to the PSAC Tournament for the first time since 2022. Along the way, Faith earned the 300th win of his career. The team's wins included an upset of No. 14 Kutztown in the penultimate regular season game and a playoff-clinching win over Shippensburg three days later. Millersville went 5-2 down

the stretch to rally into the postseason. Under Faith's guidance, **KATLYN KREBS**, **RACHEL KEENEY** and **MARY MORACA** earned All-Atlantic Region honors.

"It usually takes a few years for the team to buy into a system, but I was very proud of how we played this season," says Faith. "The team played with a lot of heart and pride, and I can't wait to see what the future holds." ♦

A SEASON AMONG THE BEST EVER

SCOTT VANDEGRIFT has coached the Millersville men's golf program for 39 seasons, so when he floats phrases like "best I've seen," it holds weight.

Vandegrift led his Marauders to their 10th NCAA Super Regional appearance in the last 11 seasons in 2025, and leading the way from September to May was **TIMOTHY PETERS**. The sophomore sport administration major is mature beyond his years. That was evident when he won the PSAC Championship and was named the conference's golfer of the year as a freshman. Peters followed that brilliant freshman campaign with a sophomore season that was just as impressive, setting the Millersville record for scoring while winning four events and finishing second in a playoff in an All-Division I tournament.

"He's never satisfied," says Vandegrift. "He wants to be better. He comes to practice every day wanting to get better, and it is noticed by everybody. I tell the younger players, 'Watch how Tim goes about his practice.' He has a purpose every day. He works on the things he isn't as strong in, and that's rare for athletes his age."



Timothy Peters

Peters has already won eight tournaments, more than any Marauder on record, but more incredible is his consistency. He finished in the top four of each of the season's first nine events and finished seventh or better in all 12 events before the NCAA Super Regional. He won the PSAC Men's Golf Athlete of the Week award four times, including three weeks in a row from March 26 to April 9.

"He takes pride in (his consistency)," says Vandegrift. "That's one of the driving forces. He doesn't show up expecting to win, but it

is his desire. That's what gives him an edge when he is playing. There are players who are very good players but look at winning like if it happens, it happens. Tim wants to push that and remain in the top 10 all the time. His level of concentration while competing surpasses everyone."

Peters finished the season ranked third in the Atlantic Region. He shot even-par or lower in half of his tournaments. His strength is on the greens, where Vandegrift puts Peters in rare company with, not coincidentally, the last Marauder named PING All-Atlantic Region twice.

"There is only one player I've ever coached who can putt like him," says Vandegrift. "Connor Sheehan. They excel in competition. That's the key thing, under pressure, he's one of the best I've ever seen."

Vandegrift calls Peters, even as a sophomore, the leader of the team. And with Peters in the number-one spot, the future remains bright for a team that recorded eight top-two finishes this season. All five golfers in the lineup at the Super Regional are expected to return in 2025-26. ♦

Record-Setting Championship Performance

Behind record-setting runs from **KATELYN MURPHY** and the 4x400-meter relay team, the Millersville women's track and field team finished as the PSAC Outdoor Championships runner-up. The Marauders



Katelyn Murphy

had finished third in each of the previous two seasons, and it is the team's fourth finish of second or better since 2018.

The present and future stars of the team shone during the championships. Murphy, a sophomore, tied a program-record time and became Millersville's first PSAC champ in the 100-meter hurdles since 2016. Freshman Aasly De Leon placed fifth in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Four Marauders placed in the top eight in the 400-meter dash, including runner-up Jillian Sydnor and eighth-place finisher Milan Snell, who were both freshmen.

"We got some great contributions from our first-year athletes," says Millersville head coach Andy Young. "Jillian Sydnor, Aasly and



The championship 4x400-meter relay team (Top to Bottom, L-R, Jillian Sydnor, Milan Snell, Shelby Derkosh, Aubrey Sydnor)

Milan had a great impact. The future is bright for the team, and we appreciate our large group of seniors and their contributions." The 4x400 team, running in the final event, clinched the runner-up finish as it has done in previous years. The team of **AUBREY SYDNOR**, **JILLIAN SYDNOR**, **MILAN SNELL** and **SHELBY DERKOSH** set a PSAC Championships record time and became Millersville's third 4x400 team since 2018 to win gold.

"The 4x400 winning and setting the championship record was definitely a cherry on top of this championship," says Young.

Millersville finished the championships with nine All-PSAC (top-three) finishes. **MADDY DOWNS** and **SARAH HESSLER** continued Millersville's dominant legacy in the throwing events. Downs won the discus and finished as the runner-up in the hammer throw. Hessler placed second in the discus, third in the hammer and third in the shot put. She joined Sunflower Greene (2018-19) and Hannah Woelfling (2023) with All-PSAC finishes in three throwing events.

"Coach (Brittany Hartman) and our throwers have done an amazing job of developing one of the strongest throws groups in the PSAC over the past decade," said Young. "To see Sarah put together a season where she is mentioned with (Sunflower Greene '19 and Hannah Woelfling '23) is a testament to how much work she has put in both athletically and with her brain game this year." ♦

Millersville University

Homecoming
2025

SAVE THE DATE Celebrate Homecoming!

OCTOBER 3 – 4, 2025

Get ready for an unforgettable Homecoming Weekend filled with cherished traditions and exciting events for all Marauders to enjoy! It's a special time to return to the 'Ville, reconnect with friends, reminisce and create new memories together.

Join us for a weekend of fun-filled events designed for alumni, friends, and family of all ages to celebrate with Marauder pride!

VISIT millersville.edu/homecoming for a full list of events and the latest updates.

Homecoming 2025 Weekend Event Highlights

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

- 31st Annual Millersville University Athletic Hall of Fame

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

- Millersville Parade
- 'Ville Visionary Society Porch Party
- 'Ville Block Party
- Maker's Market and the Skully Shoppes
- Homecoming Football Game and Hospitality Area

Contact the Millersville University
Office of Alumni Engagement
for more information.

717-871-7551 | alumni@millersville.edu

Alumni EVENTS

At the Office of Alumni Engagement, we invite all 'Ville alumni from across the decades to recent graduates, to participate in special alumni events throughout the year. We look forward to connecting with you at our upcoming events!

NEW STUDENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, August 22
7:30 – 9 p.m.

Join us for this beautiful ceremony at the campus pond that is a highlight of the EPPIIC Weekend celebration for incoming students, as we continue a cherished tradition of uniting new students and alumni.

Homecoming Weekend

Friday, October 3 – Saturday,
October 4

Celebrate an exciting weekend filled with events and festivities as 'Ville alumni return to campus.

MILLERSVILLE WEDDING EXPO

Sunday, November 9
1 – 4 p.m.

Say "I Do" at the 'Ville. Experience an afternoon of campus venue tours, alumni vendor connections, and wedding planning inspiration for alumni and friends ready to celebrate love at Millersville.

SALUTE TO SERVICE: VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCH

Wednesday, November 12
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

In collaboration with the Office of Alumni Engagement and the Veterans Resource Center on campus, this special luncheon is free and open to all active and retired military members of the University community.

GLORIOUS HOLIDAYS AT THE 'VILLE

Saturday, December 6
3 – 7 p.m.

Millersville University transforms into a winter wonderland full of festive sights, sounds, and tastes to celebrate the season with a holiday maker's market, photos with Santa, and more, in connection with the popular Glorious Sounds of the Season concert.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Sunday, December 14 | 1 p.m.

This meaningful ceremony, coordinated in partnership with Wreaths Across America, honors the sacrifices of Millersville's veterans and fallen soldiers by placing a wreath at the Civil War Monument on campus.

FOR QUESTIONS, please contact us at
alumni@millersville.edu or call 717-871-7551.

VISIT millersville.edu/alumni
for the latest events and information.

Millersville University ORNAMENT

Bring the 'Ville to your home for the holidays with this intricately designed brass ornament – a timeless gift that is perfect for students and alumni family and friends.

The ornament cost is \$25 each, plus \$4.95 shipping for the first ornament and \$.95 for each additional ornament.

Ornaments are available for sale online starting on October 4, at Homecoming, and on campus at the Millersville University Store and at Duncan Alumni House.

Visit millersville.edu/ornament to order online or call the Office of Alumni Engagement at 717-871-7551.



Class Notes | 2025

1970s



James H. Stamm '70, '74M

► **JAMES H. STAMM '70, '74M**, Reinholds, was presented with the Silver Beaver Award from the Pennsylvania Dutch Council in Aug. 2024 for his years of service

to the Boy Scouts of America.

► **HELEN L. (WALTON) EBERSOLE '73M**, Lancaster, was named the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society's 2025 Member of the Year.



Curtis L. Herneisen '73, '76M

► **CURTIS L. HERNEISEN '73, '76M**, Columbia, was inducted into the PA Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in recognition of his

lifetime of service to the sport as a wrestler, coach and official. He is an active official with more than 50 years of service as a PIAA wrestling official, and he also works as a table official at many NCAA tournaments.



Daniel J. Sidelnick '75

► **DANIEL J. SIDELNICK '75**, Lebanon, was inducted into the Lancaster-Lebanon Wrestling Hall of Fame in Jan. 2025 for his lifetime of service as a coach, referee, administrator and

father of three wrestlers. He was honored at the league wrestling tournament, which began during his tenure as league wrestling chair.



Ronald D. Milligan '77

► **RONALD D. MILLIGAN '77**, Miami, FL, retired on Feb. 21, 2025, from his role as facilities project manager at Miami Dade College.

1980s



Scott M. Hower '87

► **SCOTT M. HOWER '87**, Conestoga, is the founder of WriteFace, a local nonprofit that helps veterans and their families transition to civilian life through creative expression. WriteFace

offers free workshops in creative writing, songwriting, storytelling and art to assist veterans in overcoming the challenges of military service. **ROBERT WAGNER '75**, fellow fine arts alumnus and veteran, facilitated many of these workshops, providing guidance and support to participants. The Ware Center hosts an annual Veterans Day event and a month-long art gallery showcasing the creative works of veterans involved in the program.

► **SCOTT L. RICKERT '88**, Mechanicsburg, retired on Oct. 4, 2024, after 35 years of service at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Department of the Auditor General, where he audited county children

and youth agencies and volunteer firefighter relief associations.

1990s



Lars Dieter Preusser '92

► **LARS DIETER PREUSSER '92**, a Marburg exchange student from 1991 to 1992, has spent the past 25 years in business as an international security consultant based in

Berlin, Germany.



Tammy L. Spevak '93

► **TAMMY L. (STERANKO) SPEVAK '93**, Pottsville, has been selected as one of three Penn State Administrative Fellows for the 2025-26 academic year. Spevak is currently

the associate director of academic services and retention at Penn State Hazleton.

► **JEFFREY W. PALMER JR. '95**, Redding, CA, was named vice president of operations at Satya Capital.



Kimberly A. Pfeffer '97

► **KIMBERLY A. (GRAHAM) PFEFFER '97**, was named president of the National Association of Campus Card Users for 2025-26. NACCU is the only educational association serving professionals in the campus card industry.

2000s



Mark A. Magyar '02

► **MARK A. MAGYAR '02**, Marietta, completed the FBI National Academy in Dec. 2023. In Dec. 2024, he earned a master's degree in public safety from the University

of Virginia. In Jan. 2025, Magyar was promoted to major in the Pennsylvania State Police.



Peter C. Sydorko '03

► **PETER C. SYDORKO '03**, Clermont, FL, was promoted to national director of construction at Mattamy Homes, the largest private homebuilder in the U.S.



Stephanie M. Good '06

► **STEPHANIE M. GOOD '06**, New Holland, launched a virtual assistant business, Servant Heart Virtual Assistant LLC, providing remote administrative

support to help business owners and leaders improve productivity. Her services include light bookkeeping, proofreading, inbox and calendar management, and email newsletters. She has more than 20 years of professional experience in education, human resources and hospitality.



Walter P. Parrish III '07

► **WALTER P. PARRISH III '07**, Baltimore, MD, began serving as assistant vice provost for faculty affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in Jan. 2025.

He supports initiatives related to faculty success and leads recruitment, retention and advancement efforts.



Melissa A. (Hanzl) Purnell '08

► **MELISSA A. (HANZL) PURNELL '08**, Middletown, RI, was awarded the 2024 and 2025 Armed Forces Insurance Base Spouse of the Year at Naval Station Newport.

► **LINNHE K. SVENSSON '09**, Millersville, completed the Criminal Investigation Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia in May 2024 and received the Director's Leadership Award. She is now a special agent with the Environmental Protection Agency. In Dec. 2023, she advanced to Petty Officer First Class in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

2010s



Cristina Castillo '11

► **CRISTINA CASTILLO '11**, Oxford, was promoted to staff II accountant at Belfint Lyons & Shuman, P.A. Castillo earned her Bachelor of Science in Business

Administration with a concentration in international business and a minor in Latino/a studies. She is continuing her education at Cecil College.



Morgan Lee Gordon '16

► **MORGAN LEE GORDON '16**, Lancaster, founded Wildflower Tutoring after eight years as a teacher. The business helps students thrive in a supportive and encouraging

environment. Gordon credits her Millersville education as key to her success.

► **NATHANIEL HEINTSCHEL '18M**, Richmond, VA, serves as the alumni communications specialist for Virginia Commonwealth University's College of Humanities and Sciences. In this role, Heintschel supports fundraising and alumni engagement by crafting messaging that aligns with institutional priorities for alumni, student and parent engagement, stewardship and development.



Gabriella J. Licata '19

► **GABRIELLA J. LICATA '19**, Hummelstown, was promoted to audit supervisor at Brown Plus, an accounting and advisory firm. She holds a Bachelor of Science in

Business Administration with a concentration in accounting.

2020s



Cassidy S. Huhn '20

► **CASSIDY S. HUHN '20**, Lancaster, owns Cassidy Suzanne Designs, an Etsy business she began in 2019. Huhn created the brand for a visual communications class when she used

a laser cutter in class, sparking her interest in laser cutting and engraving.



Ethan A. Poetic '20

► **ETHAN A. POETIC '20**, Lancaster, received the NAACP Award for Community Engagement at the NAACP Lancaster branch's 45th Commemoration

Service and Celebration.



Marcy L. Yeich '20

► **MARCY L. YEICH '20**, Annville, earned a school nurse certification from Slippery Rock University in Dec. 2022 and is pursuing a master's degree in school nursing.

She is a certified school nurse at Lebanon Junior High.



Caitlin M. Westerholm '21

► **CAITLIN M. WESTERHOLM '21**, Larksville, was promoted to chief meteorologist at WJAC-TV, becoming the station's first female chief meteorologist in its 75-year history.



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.
millersville.edu/alumni



Niamh M. Lotty '22

► **NIAMH M. LOTTY '22**, Ambler, received a master's degree in international relations from Queen's University Belfast in 2023. She worked as a consular immigration

associate at Vialto Partners in Belfast until Dec. 2024. Lotty now works in the International Student and Scholar Services department at the University of Pennsylvania.



Jordan E. Traut-Jellad '20, '22M,

► **JORDAN E. TRAUT-JELLAD '20, '22M**, Binghamton, NY, a Ph.D. student in English at Binghamton University, was awarded the prestigious Provost's Summer Fellowship for her continued research in indigenous feminisms. Her work honors the resistance and resilience practices of Amazigh women in North Africa.

► **MARLI SCHREINER '23**, Lancaster, a former MU softball player, was named director of softball at In The Net, where she manages camps, clinics, showcases and tournaments.

► **DAVID T. KAHLER '25**, earned a Bachelor of Science in occupational safety and environmental health from Millersville University on May 10, 2025. He is now working as a safety and health consultant with High EH&S Consulting Ltd.

CELEBRATIONS



Christine Barger '74 and Martin Barger '74

► **CHRISTINE (CRIPPS) BARGER '74** and **MARTIN BARGER '74**, Conover, NC, celebrated 50 years of marriage in March. Originally from Lancaster, they spent 30 years in Hawaii before retiring to North Carolina. They have two happily married sons and three grandchildren. Marty worked in automotive sales management, and Chris was a preschool teacher.



Richard A. Klinedinst '88

► **RICHARD A. KLINEDINST '88**, Coatesville, and wife Rebecca celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 24, 2025. Their son, James, graduated from MU in May 2025.

James is the third of their quadruplets to graduate from Millersville, following sisters



Pamela Michael '84

Kerri Anne (Dec. 2023) and Jessica Angel (May 2024).

► **PAMELA (UMBENHAUER) MICHAEL '84**, Lancaster, married Barry Rowan on Oct. 4, 2024.



Erick Macek '02

► **ERICK MACEK '02** and Laura Macek, West Chester, OH, welcomed twins, Teresa Sarah Ann and Jakob Anton Macek, on Nov. 6, 2024.



Oliver Leo

► **EMILY CHRISTMAN '17**, and Kevin String, Mount Ephraim, NJ, welcomed their son, Oliver Leo, on March 5, 2025.



Shannon Hamblin '18 and Ryan Anton '19

► **SHANNON HAMBLIN '18** and **RYAN ANTON '19**, Lancaster, who met in Harbold Hall, were married on Oct. 19, 2024. All of their college roommates were in the bridal party. The couple co-own Haven Studios in Millersville.



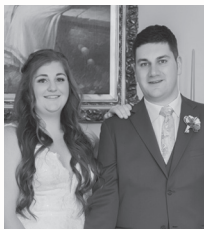
Samantha Carlson '20

► **SAMANTHA CARLSON '20**, Olney MD, married William Watson, Jr. on March 29, 2024. Their wedding was held in Maui, HI.



Taylor Chambers '20 and Liam McTigue '20

► **TAYLOR CHAMBERS '20** AND **LIAM MCTIGUE '20**, Lancaster, married on Oct. 20, 2024, in Lititz. They met in Reighard Hall and got engaged at the pond exactly one year before their wedding.



Peyton Powell '20, '24M and Patrick Lewis '20, '24M

► **PEYTON POWELL '20, '24M** and **PATRICK LEWIS '20, '24M** were married May 17, 2025. The couple attended Millersville together, earning their undergraduate degrees in 2020 and graduate degrees in 2024. Powell earned a B.S.E. in earth science and a B.A. in environmental hazards and emergency management, and Lewis earned a B.S.E. in biology. Both received a master's in assessment, curriculum and teaching of inclusive practices.

Deaths



Clark E. Taylor '56

► **CLARK E. TAYLOR '56**, Lancaster, professor emeritus in mathematics, died April 19, 2025, at the age of 91. Taylor taught at Millersville University for 26 years. He previously taught at Ephrata High School. Taylor served as a cryptographer in Germany with the U.S. Army's Signal Division from 1957 to 1959, and later with the PA National Guard. Survivors include two children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a sister.



Dolores S. Pastva '58

► **DOLORES S. PASTVA '58**, Conshohocken, died July 28, 2024, at the age of 87. She earned a degree in early childhood education from Millersville and a master's in education. Pastva taught kindergarten for over 25 years in the Norristown Area School District. She is remembered as a devoted educator, wife, mother and grandmother. She was predeceased by her husband, Theodore J. Pastva.



Frederick L. Indictor '59

► **FREDERICK L. INDICTOR '59**, Philadelphia, died Sept. 25, 2024, at the age of 87. Indictor was a history major and social studies teacher for 37 years in the Deptford School District. He met his wife, Shirley, in the reading room of the Old Library. He was a proud gardener and avid boater.



Robert Allen Todd '59

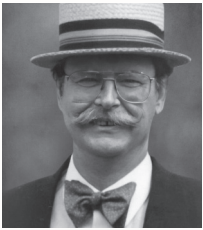
► **ROBERT ALLEN TODD '59**, Tallahassee, FL, died Feb. 24, 2025, at the age of 92. Todd served in the Air Force as an air traffic controller. He later worked as director of data processing for the Monroe

County School Board in Key West, FL. Todd is survived by his son, Richard Todd, and his wife, Kathleen. He was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Mary Jane, and siblings, Evelyn, Paul and Gerald.



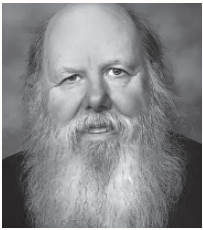
Evan B. Douple '64

► **EVAN B. DOUPLE '64**, Manassas, VA, died April 14, 2025, at the age of 81. An expert in radiation biophysics, Douple held senior research roles at the National Academy of Sciences and in Japan. He was also a dedicated educator, mentor and world traveler. He is survived by his wife, children, stepchildren and grandchildren.



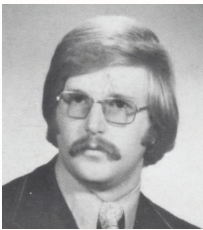
Ralph B. Singer Jr. '66

► **DR. RALPH BENJAMIN "BUZZ" SINGER JR. '66**, Cornelia, GA, died March 2, 2025, at the age of 79. Singer was a history professor at Piedmont College for 48 years, where he also coached tennis. A passionate educator and outdoorsman, he is survived by his wife, Nancy Lawrence Singer; son, Rafe Weston Singer; daughter-in-law, Emma Malatesta Singer; grandchildren, Charlie and Millie Singer; and sister, Sheila Singer-Preston.



Phillip C. Hill '69 '75M

► **PHILLIP C. HILL '69, '75M**, Gettysburg, died Feb. 22, 2025, at the age 77. A lifelong farmer and industrial arts teacher in the Gettysburg Area School District, Hill taught for 30 years. He was deeply involved in FFA, 4-H and church life. He is remembered as a skilled craftsman, devoted husband, proud father and grandfather, and faithful follower of Christ.



Richard Nickel '76 '79M

► **RICHARD NICKEL '76, '79M**, Pine Grove, died March 24, 2025, at the age of 70. Nickel was an industrial arts and technology education teacher at Pine Grove High School for more

than 30 years, a dedicated member of Sigma Tau Gamma and a founding member of the Sigma Tau Gamma Alumni Association. He was an ardent traveler and accomplished photographer. Nickel is survived by his wife, Christine, as well as stepchildren and a grandchild.



William F. Tolton '81

► **WILLIAM FARON TOLTON '81**, Horsham, died May 13, 2024, at the age of 66. He is survived by his wife, Alice; daughters, Tanya (husband, Lance) and Lisa; brother, Lee (wife, Connie); sister, Terri (husband, Steve); and other extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his sister Christena.



Emily T. Garber '19

► **EMILY TAYLOR (OTT) GARBER '19**, Lancaster, died Feb. 23, 2025, at the age of 28. Garber was a summa cum laude graduate of Millersville University who dedicated her life to teaching and caring for others with kindness and grace. Despite life's challenges, she faced each day with courage, hope and an unwavering spirit. She will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.



Roxannah B. Hunter '23

► **ROXANNAH B. HUNTER '23**, Lancaster, died Feb. 23, 2025, at the age of 40. Hunter was a devoted educator and lifelong learner, earning a graduate certificate in writing from Millersville University. She taught English in the Conestoga Valley School District and, most recently, the Hempfield School District, where she was an advisor to the National Honor Society and led with integrity and heart. A proud member of the Lancaster community, Hunter loved Central Market, Square One and hiking the local trails.

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FACULTY & STAFF



► MARSHALL DEAN ANDERSON, Millersville, professor emeritus of mathematics, died April 28, 2025, at the age of 86. He taught at Millersville University from 1967 until his retirement in 2004. Anderson is survived by three children, Jennifer Larkin (Shane), Brian Anderson (Allison) and Kristi Raugh (Steve); eight grandchildren, Matthew, Jeremy, Kira, Genevieve, Georgia, Julie, Dana and Adam; and a sister, Barbara Johnson. He is preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; his parents, George and Edith; and a brother, Winston.



Ronald M. Benson

► RONALD M. BENSON, Las Cruces, NM, professor emeritus of history, died Feb. 8, 2025, at the age of 86. He taught in the history

department at Millersville University from 1967–1997. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine; three children, Polly Khater (Sam), Rose Padmanabhan (Ajit) and Clare Benson; three grandchildren, Hannah, Arun and Mychal; two sisters, Janice Potter and Paula Daniels; three nephews, Arik, Mark and Walt; and one niece, Raeghan.



Marvin Richard Donner

► MARVIN RICHARD DONNER, Sun City Center, FL, retired staff, died Feb. 13, 2025, at the age of 93. In 1967, Donner became the director of student activities at Millersville. After nearly 30 years at MU, he is remembered for his impactful relationships with students, many of whom served as orientation guides (leaders). In recent years, Donner loved the many cards, emails, phone calls and visits from his orientation guides.

► JOHN EDWARD GROUND, Holtwood, retired faculty member, died Feb. 16, 2025, at the age of 85. Ground joined Millersville



John E. Ground

University’s art department staff, where he remained for more than 25 years and rose to the position of professor. As a professor, Ground shared his passion for the arts, inspiring countless students and advisees with his creativity and knowledge.



Jane L. Reinhard

► JANE L. REINHARD, Lancaster, retired faculty member, died April 10, 2025, at the age of 95. Reinhard taught in the Millersville University art department from 1958 until her retirement in 1991, where she also supervised student teachers. Known for her commitment to excellence, she enriched the lives of students and faculty throughout her career and left a lasting impact. ♦

University’s art department staff, where he remained for more than 25 years and rose to the position of professor. As a professor, Ground shared his passion for the arts, inspiring countless students and advisees with his creativity and knowledge.

’Ville Alum’s Inspiring Foundation for GIVING BACK

By Corinna Linn

THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, **KEMAH E. P. WASHINGTON ’03** HAS BEEN SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AND MENTORS WHOSE GENEROSITY MADE AN IMPACT. “I GREW UP IN A FAMILY WHERE GIVING BACK WAS JUST A PART OF LIFE,” WASHINGTON SAYS. “FOR ME, I CAN HONESTLY SAY IT STARTED WHILE I WAS A STUDENT AT MILLERSVILLE.” FROM HIS TIME AS A STUDENT IN THE HONORS COLLEGE TO JOINING THE MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GIVING BACK HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN A PRIORITY FOR WASHINGTON.

Washington has dedicated the past five years to serving on the Foundation board and assumed the role of board president in January 2025. In that role, he leads the Foundation’s management of more than \$70 million in assets, which provide support for more than 1,100 scholarships and awards. Through his leadership, Washington aspires to generate record-setting financial growth. “I want to see the foundation grow its endowment to at least \$100 million in assets before I leave,” he explains. “I want the work that we do to have an impact far beyond my years on the board or anyone who comes after me.”

The generosity that Washington models in his own life is inspired by the support that was shown to him by Millersville mentors while he was a student. He shares, “When I think about my time in the Honors College and having mentors like Dr. John Osborne, Dr. Steven Miller and Dr. Beverly Skinner – people who took time out to push me and, in many cases, went the extra mile to ensure I was going to make it – that’s why I give back.”

He recalls how Osborne found scholarship funding for him. Miller provided an opportunity for him to do yardwork to earn much-needed funds. Skinner hired him as a counselor in the same program that introduced him to the ’Ville, the Summer Minority Honors Program, which gave him not only a paycheck but a rent-free room to stay in for a month. Washington reflects on how much he benefited from joining Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., working with the Upward Bound program under Dr. Doris Cross and being a student leader on campus.

His inspiration to become engaged with philanthropy began at Millersville with several service-oriented projects. During his junior year, he participated in a sleep-out for homelessness



Kemah E. P. Washington ’03

to raise awareness and funds for people without housing in Lancaster. In his senior year, Washington helped to host an AIDS awareness basketball tournament in Pucillo Gymnasium, where the University donated a portion of the proceeds to the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross. These student experiences launched Washington on a trajectory of philanthropy following graduation and for years to come.

Washington’s support for scholarships and funds includes the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (Lambda Tau Chapter) Memorial Scholarship, to which he has made a planned gift, and the Divine Nine & Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on

Memorial Walkway project, for which he is a leadership donor. He has also contributed to the Millersville University Honors College, the Pond Restoration Fund and the Thrillersville Scholarship Annual Award.

In his recent commencement address to Millersville’s Class of 2025, he shared the story of growing up in Philadelphia as an academically talented student who arrived at Millersville through the Summer Minority Honors Program and went on to graduate cum laude in 2003, with departmental honors, from the Honors College with a bachelor’s degree in public relations. Washington then studied at North Carolina State University, where he earned a master’s degree in student affairs and completed a doctorate in higher education.

Professionally, Washington is the founder and president of BRANDilly Creative Group, a full-service creative agency in Raleigh, North Carolina. He and his wife, Brandi, and his two daughters, Kennedi and Parker, reside in Raleigh, North Carolina. Washington and his family moved to Ghana in 2011 to start a high school at the Baptist School Complex and Orphanage. Today, he continues to support that work and volunteers with several faith-based and missions-based organizations.

Washington’s commitment to giving back and making a difference for students is incredibly meaningful to him. He says, “I just want to see our students thrive. I know firsthand how much of a difference having the right support can make for a student at the ’Ville. No matter what a student may look like, where they may come from or what their aspirations are, I want to ensure that they not only have a place at Millersville but that they are supported and are primed to succeed.” ♦

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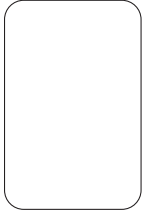


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