

FALL 2025

Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW

Professor and students
uncover Lancaster history

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DEAR MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

October is a magnificent season at Millersville University. The turning leaves, crisp mornings, and steady rhythm of campus life create the perfect backdrop for one of our most cherished traditions – Homecoming. On Oct. 4, we marked our 92nd celebration with a day of sunshine and spirited gatherings, including the parade, reunions, football game, Maker's Market, Skully Shoppes and the 'Ville Block Party. It was a joy to welcome so many alumni and friends back to campus for this special occasion.

This issue of the Review highlights the excellence and impact that defines Millersville. Our students continue to engage in groundbreaking research and discovery. Meteorology major Nelson Tucker leads the OTUS project, advancing tornado warning systems to save lives. On the cover, you will find our archaeology students working with Dr. Timothy Trussell to uncover what may be the first tavern in Lancaster County – an endeavor that connects past and present through hands-on learning.

Our faculty and programs also continue to expand Millersville's influence and educational reach. The joint doctoral program in Educational Leadership with Shippensburg University – unique within PASSHE – celebrates a decade of preparing outstanding leaders for schools and universities. Together, these stories exemplify Millersville University's unwavering commitment to its EPPIIC Values and to creating meaningful impact both locally and globally.

In my State of the 'Ville Address on Sept. 5, I introduced our new strategic plan, Beyond Boundaries, which charts an ambitious path for Millersville's next chapter. This issue revisits that vision, along with a reflection on the accomplishments of our previous plan, Tradition and Transformation.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Review and share in the pride I feel for all that Millersville University continues to achieve as we shape a brighter, more connected world together.

Daniel A. Wubah

Daniel A. Wubah, Ph.D.
President, Millersville University

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Professor and Students Uncover Lancaster History

Archaeology professor Dr. Timothy Trussell leads Millersville students on a dig to unearth what may be Lancaster's oldest tavern.

By Kelsey Madas

Tucked away in the farmland of Lancaster County, just north of Marietta, lies history that is just now being uncovered. Dr. Timothy Trussell, tenured assistant professor of archaeology at Millersville, and a team of 36 students – most are archaeology majors or minors – are hard at work to preserve the remains of the former Galbraith Ordinary, which may have been the very first tavern in Lancaster County.

In old English, “ordinary” referred to a simple house that served food and drink to visitors. According to Trussell, it’s “basically synonymous with ‘tavern’ in today’s lexicon.” Historic documents show the license for this tavern was obtained from the proprietorship of Pennsylvania by a man named John Galbraith in 1725.

LOCAL HISTORY, NEW HISTORIANS

Now 300 years later, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday since Aug. 27, Trussell and his team of student archaeologists have been excavating the site to uncover valuable information about the past. “One of the interesting things about people in a pioneer situation is that they had to work hard and be extremely practical, and they didn’t have time to write down lengthy descriptions of how they lived their lives or what they were doing,” explains Trussell. “So, although we know this tavern was here because of the historic documents, we have no idea what food they served, what drinks they served or what daily life was like at this early tavern.



Top left: The only known surviving photograph of the Galbraith Ordinary, taken sometime around 1880 - 1890.
Bottom right: The group of students researchers and Dr. Timothy Trussell (back row, middle) pose for a photo at the dig site.



That's where archaeology comes in – to fill in the gaps and let us research exactly what was going on here during those early days through analysis of the physical remains of the artifacts, the bones and more."

The students will remain on site for the foreseeable future, weather permitting, and will spend the last third of the semester in the lab working with the artifacts. Thus far, they've uncovered thousands and located the original foundation of the building that was buried under two feet of modern soil deposition. "Broken ceramics, which are excellent dating tools, are the most numerous artifact type, but we've also found smoking pipes, wine bottle glass, vessel glass, tools and many animal bones which are the remains of meals once served at the tavern," shares Trussell. He notes that the appearance of oyster shells among the artifacts indicates that the tavern owners were importing and serving oysters from the Chesapeake.

"What makes this site unusual is that we have a single surviving picture from around 1890 showing this old stone building when it was still standing," says Trussell. "Though the building was destroyed around 1905, I

was able to use this and modern-day maps to calculate the location of the site, and that is where we have been doing our excavations."

After the tavern ceased operation, a German family purchased the property and built a stone mill and house for the millwright in 1804. Those buildings still stand today and helped Trussell to test the site for the foundation of the former ordinary. A stylized drawing from sometime during that period shows all three buildings, which lie along present-day PA 772. The last time the building shows up on a map is in the 1899 atlas, indicating that the ordinary was either torn down or possibly burned in a fire. Hopefully, Trussell and his team will be able to unearth what happened through their research.

LEARNING IN THE FIELD

Students participating in the dig as part of the archaeology program's field school are also completing a nine-credit course. The unique program has undergraduate students conducting every part of the

archaeological project. “They do it all, from the survey and testing phases through full block excavation,” states Trussell. After the fieldwork wraps up later this fall, those same students will clean, identify and catalog, and enter all of the artifacts that they excavated from the different soil layers into a database.

This setup is not the norm in the state, nor in higher education. “At many universities, graduate students will do all of the artifact analysis and will even take over in the field when something interesting is found,” Trussell explains. “Millersville is quite unique in that every position, even our field supervisors, are all Millersville undergraduates trained in our program. In this way, they receive an extremely comprehensive training that is unique at the undergraduate level in the entire state of Pennsylvania.”

Trussell says that the field excavations have two complementary goals: giving students hands-on training in their field and “researching unknown or little-understood aspects of early colonial history. In this sense, our students are all doing primary research in the field, trying to discover those aspects of history that are not in the history books.”

On a warm day in October during a site visit, archaeology and anthropology major Jillian Baumberger '26, a self-described bone enthusiast, talks about how these types of remains offer clues about the past. She points to a portion of a jawbone she found in the pit. “It’s really cool to see what kind of animals were there at the tavern, and it’s interesting to see what was popular to eat at that time.”

“I knew this course would be physically demanding, but I was surprised just how demanding it actually is,” shares Veronica Fox '26, a dual major in history and anthropology with a minor in archaeology. “I get a true workout every day we’re in the field and have been left quite sore after all of our field days.” This is the first dig she’s ever been on. “Dr. Trussell tells us that archaeology is an inherently destructive field; by digging up a site and its artifacts, we are removing all the contexts of that site, and thus the story of the people who were there. Therefore, it is our job to dig the site well, learn all we can and preserve that story.”

Julia Swan '26, who is also majoring in archaeology and anthropology, says the sheer number of artifacts surprised her. “I’ve always been a bit shocked at how much we can learn about a group of people from what they leave behind. Being able to look at a piece



of ceramic and know that it means someone of Dutch ancestry was here, or seeing the color of the soil change can tell us that there was a fire, it's just such an interesting thing to me!"

All of this experience in field archaeology, artifact analysis and historical research results in graduates who are well-prepared to enter a competitive job market and qualify for top graduate schools. Trussell says he has a long list of alumni who've gone on to work at archaeology firms, enrolled in graduate school, pursued related careers in museum studies or historic preservation, or landed paid contract work.

TURNING THE TROWEL ON TRUSSELL

Trussell's love of archaeology started when he was an undergraduate student and a history major at Oregon State University. While studying Civil War history there, he signed up for a dig the archaeology program was doing over the summer to excavate a U.S. Army Civil War artillery fort at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. "I went on the dig and fell in love with archaeology," he says. "It gave me the chance to research and study history from an entirely different perspective than documents alone offer." When asked about the most unexpected thing he ever found on an archaeological dig, Trussell says, "In more than three decades of field archaeology, by far the best thing I've ever found was my wife! We met on an archaeological dig in 1994, and she's been stuck with me ever since!"

Throughout his many years of research, Trussell remains deeply entrenched in his field of study and the answers to questions about history he can find there. "I love archaeology because it gives me an entirely different, and richer, perspective on history and historical research," he says. "It is intellectually satisfying and is great fun when we find something!"

What will Trussell and his team find at the site of the Galbraith Ordinary? Hopefully, something extraordinary.

Do you dig history? Learn more about Millersville's unique archaeology program here: millersville.edu/archaeology. ♦



PASSION FOR WEATHER LEADS TO HELPFUL TORNADO TECHNOLOGY



By Mary Dolheimer

Meteorology major Nelson Tucker has been interested in the weather since he was a young boy living in Vienna, Virginia. He became “deeply focused” on tornadoes during the next few years, and by high school, they became an obsession.

His passion for tornadoes and desire to help others has led him, along with his brother and two friends, to create the OTUS Project, which stands for the Observations of Tornadoes by Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems. The OTUS Project is an effort to gather reliable measurements of the environment within and surrounding a tornado to protect lives and property, according to theotusproject.com.

The Weather Channel

According to Tucker, much of his interest in the weather stems back to The Weather Channel. He even dressed as

meteorologist Jim Cantore one Halloween as a child. “I had an inherent interest in weather, so I started watching The Weather Channel a lot,” he says. “My general interest was first in storms and hurricanes. Hurricane Sandy came up through this area in 2012, and that event was big for me. My obsession with tornadoes developed after the [Super Outbreak in 2011](#) in the South, when I was 8. By 10, I was fully into tornadoes.”

At that same time, Tucker’s life was turned upside down when he developed PANDAS (pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections) syndrome and missed half of fifth grade. PANDAS is a rare condition where children suddenly develop obsessive-compulsive disorder or tic disorders or experience a worsening of existing symptoms following a strep infection. It’s thought to be an autoimmune response where the body’s immune system

mistakenly attacks the basal ganglia, a part of the brain, after fighting off the strep infection.

"I was bedridden and unable to walk for half the year," says Tucker. "It took another six months to fully recover." With nothing else to do but rest and heal, he began devouring all things weather- and tornado-related online, including research papers, damage reports and videos. This online research continued and intensified throughout middle school and high school, along with an additional focus on meteorology.

Tornado Talk

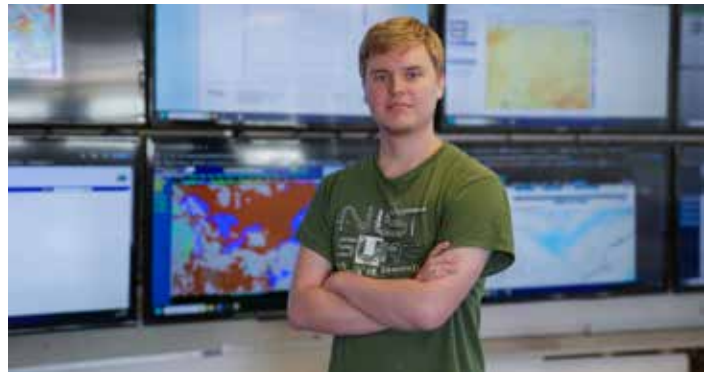
During his junior year of high school, Tucker began an association with [Tornado Talk](#), a website devoted to tornado history. There he met his mentor, Jennifer Narramore, the website's owner, who had worked as a radio broadcast meteorologist for more than 25 years. He joined the website's efforts to document the stories of people and communities affected by tornadoes as well as the tornadoes themselves.

According to Tornado Talk, at least 22,000 people in the United States have died from tornadoes, based on events that have been documented. Researchers and writers like Tucker have produced more than 550 summaries documenting those deaths, as well as meteorological details about the tornado events and recovery stories. In April 2020, he began writing summaries for the website; in June, his first summary was published on the Smithville MS-AL EF5 from the 2011 Super Outbreak.

"Three of us did cross-country trips to talk with people and document things," Tucker says. "I probably wrote at least half a million words of summary in four years."

His work with Tornado Talk had a significant impact on him in several ways.

As someone on the autism spectrum, Tucker struggled with socializing. "It took until high school for me to be comfortable talking with unfamiliar people," he says. "It was a huge leap when I began connecting with folks



Nelson Tucker '26

through Tornado Talk, especially talking with survivors. It was the scariest thing when I first started doing it, but it helped me develop and grow and overcome barriers."

Tucker also began to feel the strong need to help prevent such deaths from occurring by contributing to improvements in the warning process. "Tornado Talk became a huge part of my life," he explains, "and it gave me a lot of exposure to the human aspect. That was critical for what I am doing with OTUS. Part of my emotional response was wanting to mitigate harm from tornadoes due to the people I talked to."

Millersville University

Tucker is in his last year as a student at Millersville University. He expects to graduate in May 2026 with a bachelor's degree in meteorology and minors in journalism and emergency management.

"The biggest draw for me was the excellent meteorology program's reputation and good professors," he says. "It is a small enough department that you can connect one-on-one with professors, but still large enough to enjoy the benefits of a good program. I also found the size of the school and campus overall appealing." He says he has come to appreciate having helpful advisors, top-notch meteorologists and really good professors with whom he can interact and consult.





During the summer of 2024, Tucker was a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, one of the nation's oldest physical science laboratories, located in Gaithersburg, Maryland. After working to expand their database of critical facilities struck by tornadoes, he and researchers at NIST began a project that involved developing a better wind sensor, one that could measure the strength of the vertical component of a tornado. That's what pulls objects like cars and trailers into the air, according to Tucker.

"We developed an air sensor to measure wind speed with the drone," Tucker explains. "With NIST, the goal was to create an omnidirectional wind sensor."

That work is nearly complete, and Tucker expects a report to be released by NIST. The collaboration between Tucker, OTUS and NIST will continue, as they will partner to conduct tests on wind tunnel calibrations.

OTUS Project

Tucker, his older brother Louis and friend Tanner Beard are the founders of OTUS. "All three of us decided in February 2024 – on a midnight call – to do the project," Tucker says. They later added tornado chaser Erik Fox to the team. Their work has been featured in [Forbes](#) twice in the past few months.

Tucker serves as president and "was behind the mission/purpose/reason that we created OTUS," he explains, "but the brains behind the drone technology are Louis and Tanner. It is interdisciplinary, a combination of engineering from them and meteorology from me. OTUS would not exist or be possible without all three of us."

Louis, the drone builder and operations coordinator, learned about the challenges researchers face when gathering data near/inside a tornado and figured that the OTUS concept was possible with the right engineering expertise. So, he pulled in Tanner Beard, a friend he knew through drone racing who had recently graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Less than three months after OTUS was born, Louis flew the first drone inside a tornado.

"Drones get you measurements in places where you couldn't put a person or another instrument," says Tucker. "They aren't stuck on the ground. They can reach any part of a tornado, and nobody's in harm's way with the operator miles away."

What makes tornadoes particularly dangerous is that they are three-dimensional – they have that vertical component – and they can change fast. OTUS provides data that can be used in several different ways.

From a structural standpoint, OTUS is needed to get real-world observations for the effect of tornadoes on buildings so construction standards can be improved.

Regarding forecasting and providing adequate warning, there is still a lot of mystery around the genesis and dissipation of tornadoes, according to Tucker. "We have the general idea of how they form, with the main theories that are debated focusing on temperature, humidity and pressure," he says. "With a better understanding of what's going on inside and outside of tornadoes, we could create models to better predict them. Getting these measurements with OTUS allows us to understand tornadoes better and improve warnings."



Another important aspect of OTUS is that it provides a look at advancing technology: What's the world going to look like with drones?

"Drones are only getting cheaper with time, so the affordability of data collection is on track to keep becoming better. In the short term, we can get measurements in places previously impossible and inform the science. In the long term, drones could be so easily acquired and used in large numbers that it could revolutionize data collection on tornadoes in meteorology," says Tucker.

Tucker strongly suspects that collecting data through drones is something he'll do for many years to come. His plans after Millersville include graduate school; he's looking for places where he can continue his focus on tornadoes and meteorology. He'll work this fall on beginning the steps he needs to take to prepare for the future.

"OTUS has definitely inserted itself into my future plans," Tucker says. "I always wanted to go to grad school and get a Ph.D. OTUS is becoming the obvious focus of that work." ♦

JOINT DOCTORATE IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY



THERE'S ONLY ONE JOINT DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND IT'S CELEBRATING 10 SUCCESSFUL YEARS IN 2025.



The [Millersville University/Shippensburg University Joint Doctorate in Educational Leadership with Superintendent Licensure](#) will be lauded in November with events on both campuses – a dinner at Shippensburg on Nov. 14 and the annual Education and Poverty Conference at Millersville on Nov. 15, where current students will present their research.



Dr. Ann Gaudino



Dr. Wendy Kubasko

The joint doctorate is led by Millersville professor **Dr. Ann Gaudino** and Shippensburg associate professor **Dr. Wendy Kubasko**. The two co-directors work closely together to ensure students in the program enjoy the opportunities both institutions have to offer.

“This is a true joint program from a faculty perspective,” says Kubasko. “It was built such that all of the major checkpoints for students include both sides – interviews, orientation, candidacy exams and dissertation committees. We meet as a faculty twice a year to work through any issues, and Ann and I meet weekly during the year, because the program logistics can be challenging.”



Dr. Tiffany Wright '02M

That focus on collaboration has been in place since the program was created in 2015, according to **Dr. Tiffany Wright '02M**, professor of education and chair of the Department of Educational Foundations at Millersville, who helped create it. "Shippensburg and Millersville have relational approaches to leadership

education and value that aspect of the program," she says. "We've been very intentional about advertising and demonstrating a jointness between the institutions that's unmatched. That's on the faculty. They've been tried and true; both sides were present and integral parts of developing the courses."

TEN YEARS AGO - 2015

Wright, who was a second-year faculty member at the time, recalls being approached by the dean of the education school, **Dr. Jane Bray**, about working with Shippensburg University on a joint practitioner-oriented doctoral program. "She was a force," Wright says. "You're coming with me to talk about this program," she said, 'because you are the right person to start this.' At the time, I was coordinating the master's leadership program and was also a graduate of the program."

The joint Doctorate in Education program was a dream of Dr. Gerald Fowler at Shippensburg, according to Wright. Fowler is an emeritus professor of educational leadership who served as a teacher, principal, reading supervisor, superintendent and associate professor in a public education career that spanned more than four decades. "Jerry and I spent many, many hours working on this," she says, "alongside Dr. Victor DeSantis, who was at the time dean of graduate studies at Millersville, and people from all levels – deans, provosts, presidents, faculty. There was a lot of buy-in."

A needs assessment conducted by Fowler determined that the program should be a professional doctorate with courses offered through a hybrid structure (in-person and online).

The program proposal was submitted to PASSHE in January of 2015 and was approved quickly. Wright and her colleagues then needed to write the curriculum in time for the first cohort to start in mid-May of that same year. "Shippensburg had the superintendent's letter of



eligibility program that they were bringing into the program, and we created the doctoral courses," Wright says.

There was such a demand for the program that four cohorts were held in the first two years. "I was the only educational leadership faculty member at the time," says Wright, "So that was not sustainable. We moved back to one cohort per year, which is the current schedule."

TEN YEARS LATER - 2025

When the current cohort (#13), which started the program in August, completes their work, the joint doctorate will have produced more than 100 graduates, according to Kubasko. "That is amazing, in itself. We have also produced a number of current sitting superintendents and folks sitting at cabinet-level and state-level positions," she says.

Wright adds that a number of Millersville's adjunct faculty are alumni of the program. It has continued to thrive, she says, for several reasons: it draws from two geographic areas, alumni sell it through word-of-mouth marketing, and it's a great combination of "high rigor and high support."

Both Gaudino and Kubasko agree.

"Faculty give a lot of wrap-around care to each student, because they want students to succeed," Gaudino says. She adds that the cohort format also increases the likelihood of graduating from the program "because they make ties and encourage one another in moments of struggle."

Kubasko concurs, saying "Students become close to other cohort members, who help them push through and fight to the end. This program is intentionally a blended cohort model where we meet with students monthly. They are never alone on this journey. What makes it special is that we are right alongside them."



Most students are school leaders who are looking for a doctorate, according to Gaudino. "They are principals, special education leaders, or others who want to gain a superintendent licensure for a leadership role or for teaching at the university level."

They travel from locations up to four hours away; most are within two hours. They are ages 30 to 50, juggling full-time jobs and kids, and take about three to five years, on average, to complete the 52-credit program. The cohort meets in person at Central Penn College in Enola, Pennsylvania, once a month, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on a Saturday. This is a central location between Millersville and Shippensburg and has been key to attracting students.

The majority of those who enroll in the program – 93% – earn the degree, according to Gaudino. "Most doctoral programs have 50% completion rates," she says. "They know we're not giving up on them," adds Kubasko. "They

get the support throughout the program, and they get enough to cross the finish line."

Graduates are often invited back as panelists and guest speakers. "Any time we reach out to them, they are happy to help," Kubasko says. They also have the opportunity to offer their thoughts on the doctorate through a student/alumni advisory board. "Any feedback from students and former students we take seriously and talk about as a faculty," Wright says. Kubasko adds that "we have used feedback to make modifications to the program, to ensure we are serving them the way they need to be served. Their voices are valued, and they feel that."



Dr. George Ioannidis '19D, chief executive officer of the Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School in Harrisburg, is a graduate of the program. He was enrolled in Shippensburg University's superintendent certificate program while the doctoral

program was being developed.

"I very much wanted to be on the ground floor of the program and lead the way for future education leaders to continue their own journey," he says.

Completing the doctorate allowed Ioannidis, who at the time was the business manager at Spring Grove School District in York County, to apply to be superintendent. "I believe that the doctoral degree gave me the credentials that enabled me to attain the position and have the privilege to lead the organization on the heels of my predecessors and their successes," he says.

"More personally, I developed a greater appreciation for the leadership role of the superintendent through the instruction of scholarly professors and accomplished practitioners. I believe that these academic classes, dissertation work and collegial interactions helped shape my professional persona and prepared me for the challenges I faced during my tenure."

To learn more about the program, visit millersville.edu/edfoundations/doctorate-of-education-in-educational-leadership.php. ♦

FACULTY, STAFF *and* ALUM NEWS

Accounting Professor Wins Educator of the Year Award

By Kelsey Madas

Millersville University named Dr. Brian Trout '00, associate professor of accounting and finance, as the 2025–2026 Educator of the Year. The award was announced during the EPPIIC Weekend convocation, where Trout addressed incoming first-year students. He formally received his award at the 2025 State of the 'Ville Address held on Friday, Sept. 5, 2025.

Trout earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Millersville in 2000 before launching his professional career. He went on to earn a master's degree in accounting from Stetson University and a doctorate in business administration from Wilmington University. He returned to his alma mater in 2017 as a faculty member.

As a professor, his research focuses on accounting pedagogy and the career aspirations of business students. "Research grows out of what I encounter in the classroom, and what I learn from scholarship directly strengthens the learning experiences I design for students," he explains. One of his distinctive teaching contributions is a continuing case method. Students use the same fictitious business as a common frame of reference throughout the semester, enabling them to connect earlier lessons with new material and build a more comprehensive understanding.



Dr. Brian Trout '00, right, receives his award.

Equally central to Trout's teaching philosophy is preparing students for professional life. He emphasizes the habits and character traits that define trusted professionals, designing course structure, such as strict deadlines, to mirror professional environments and help students strengthen self-regulation, accountability and time management. Beyond the classroom, he mentors students pursuing professional certifications, organizes panels and coordinates industry visits to, as he says, "help them establish networks and

envision career paths."

"My efforts center on the student. But it's not just about who they are today. I'm thinking about the future version of that individual: the professional, the leader, the person who will contribute to their family and community. I want accounting students to experience education as a direct link to their professional futures, and I want that connection to begin right here at Millersville."

Regarding the award, Trout says, "I am honored to be recognized by colleagues I hold in high regard, and I am grateful for the freedom and support the Lombardo College of Business and the University have given me to do this work. As an alumnus, I know firsthand how a Millersville professor can touch a life. I want to empower my students like that." ♦

Outstanding University Faculty Service Award: Dr. Margaret Mbindyo

By Kelsey Madas

Dr. Margaret Mbindyo, associate professor in the Department of Exploratory Studies and Student Development at MU, was named the inaugural recipient of the 2024-25 Outstanding Faculty Service Award at the 2025 State of the Ville Address.

The new award recognizes and honors “the exemplary service of faculty who have gone above and beyond in their support of at-risk students in the University community.” In her role as an associate professor, the primary responsibilities of Mbindyo include advising students, supporting their academic needs and teaching first-year experience courses.

Mbindyo holds a Ph.D. with a specialization in curriculum instruction and comparative and international education from Penn State University. She has worked for Millersville University at various times since 2003.

Mbindyo believes the award acknowledges her efforts to encourage outcomes in the academic success of Millersville University students. “I am deeply honored to have been considered for this award,” she says. “It’s a motivation for me to look forward to every day as an opportunity to help someone.” ♦



Dr. Margert Mbindyo poses with President Daniel Wubah as he presents her with the first ever Outstanding Faculty Service Award.





(L to R) Dr. Megeara Mabry '10, '12M, Dr. Michele Chronister '14M, '20D, President Daniel A. Wubah, Dr. Molly S. Miller '13, '17M, Dr. Farhad Afzali

New Faculty

FOUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE JOINED MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY FOR THE 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR.

Dr. Farhad Afzali is an assistant professor of information technology in the Department of Management and Marketing in the Lombardo College of Business. He received his Bachelor of Computer Science degree from Kardan University and his Master of Science degree in management information systems and doctorate in information technology from the University of Nebraska Omaha. Afzali served as a visiting assistant professor of information systems and quantitative analysis at the UNO College of Information Science and Technology from 2023 to 2025 and as an adjunct instructor between 2020 and 2023.

Dr. Michele Chronister '14M, '20D joins the Wehrheim School of Nursing faculty in a full-time, tenure-track position, bringing a wealth of clinical and academic experience. She began her nursing journey at the University of Pittsburgh, earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1993. A two-time graduate of Millersville University, she received her Master of Science in Nursing in the family nurse practitioner program in 2014 and her Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2020. She has been a valued member of the University community, first as an adjunct faculty member and then as a part-time faculty member for the past five years.

Dr. Megeara Mabry '10, '12M is an assistant professor of literacy and Teaching English to Speakers of Other

Languages in the Department of Early, Middle and Elementary Education in the College of Education and Human Services. She joins Millersville from Temple University, where she taught in the undergraduate- and graduate-level teacher education programs and served as the director of a National Professional Development grant-funded program, partnering with linguistically diverse public schools in Philadelphia to improve the schooling experiences of multilingual students. Mabry earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Millersville University and holds a doctorate in literacy and learners from Temple University.

Dr. Molly S. Miller '13, '17M is an assistant professor of technology and engineering education in the Department of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology, College of Science and Technology. Miller spent the last 12 years serving as a high school technology and engineering educator in Lancaster County. She has bachelor's and master's degrees from Millersville University, as well as her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. She is involved in a number of student and professional organizations, including state leadership of the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association and the Pennsylvania Technology and Engineering Education Association. She is currently serving as the president for the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association. ♦



Cohort Completes Certified Public Manager Program

Millersville University is the sole accredited provider of the [Certified Public Manager® credential](#) in Pennsylvania. A cohort of eight adult students, including two alumni, presented their capstone projects and completed the program in June.

"This cohort was our largest and most impressive yet," says Hope Schmits, director of Millersville's workforce development program. "We want to build on this momentum."

A nationally recognized certificate program, the Certified Public Manager® equips public sector managers with the skills and tools necessary to lead more effectively, adapt to fiscal pressures and drive measurable improvements in organizational performance. CPM completers may earn up to six graduate credits in West Chester University's Master of Public Administration program and become members of the Keystone State Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

The capstone project is the key assessment mechanism of the program and requires participants to apply their learning to an identified need in their organization. Through research and analysis, the students develop an improvement plan within their sphere of influence that focuses on cost savings, revenue increase and/or customer satisfaction.

"To effectively navigate the increasingly complex landscape of public service and meet evolving citizen expectations, it's crucial to prioritize the growth and development of the next generation of state and local leaders," says Dr. Victor DeSantis, vice president for university relations and strategic initiative. "Our new CPM alums are well-prepared, passionate leaders."



Lovekin '01 and Dr. Victor DeSantis

Alumnus **Neil Lovekin '01**, who serves as township manager for East Marlborough Township in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, focused his capstone project on the need for the Township to undertake strategic planning.

Since 2000, he says, East Marlborough Township has experienced significant population and infrastructure growth with little to no forecasting to ensure future generations are not burdened by aging and failing township infrastructure. "Unless the elected officials start to think strategically and craft clear, result-driven goals and objectives, the Township will face insurmountable costs for emergency repairs and replacements to its infrastructure and the services it provides," he says.

A 2001 Millersville graduate, Lovekin earned a bachelor's degree in geography with an

environmental studies concentration. He also earned a master's degree in public safety management from Saint Joseph's University. Lovekin says he enrolled in the CPM program "to bolster my formal education in public administration, given that my master's degree is public safety management and not the more common focus of public administration."

Lovekin indicates that, in addition to being challenging and advanced, the online coursework (seven courses that last six weeks each) required him to self-reflect on his leadership skills, allowing him to realize where he needed to improve and grow. "The CPM program has strengthened my professional credibility by enhancing my communication skills, encouraging innovation in problem-solving and providing insight into my personality strengths and weaknesses," he says.



Garber '11M and Dr. Victor DeSantis

Diane Garber '11M has served for more than 13 years as assistant township manager/emergency services coordinator for East Hempfield Township. She earned a Master of Science in emergency management from Millersville University and returned for the CPM credential in 2025.

"My skills, knowledge and abilities are very diverse," she says. "This credential allowed me to add a certification specifically associated with municipal government and public sector work to my tool belt. It filled a void that I didn't realize existed."



Diane Garber '11M presents to her cohort.

Garber's capstone project examined the challenges facing the volunteer fire departments in East Hempfield Township, including declining volunteerism, rising costs and increased service demands. "It concludes that consolidating the Township's two fire departments is the unrivaled solution for ensuring the long-term success of fire services," according to Garber.

Garber appreciated the curriculum, "but the people, the networking and sharing of information and perspectives, the relationships were – no, are – the best part," she says. "The time I spent in this program has helped me grow as a person and as a municipal official, and I sincerely hope that I am able to put into practice the knowledge I gained to the benefit of everyone around me." ♦



New Editor of the "Review"

Mary Dolheimer began serving as Millersville's senior director of public relations on May 12. Her responsibilities include producing the "Review," managing media relations efforts 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 in Gettysburg College's Office of Public 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. ♦



Left: Kayla Mitchell '25 poses with a newspaper featuring her on the cover. Right: a cocktail made by Mitchell for a "MasterChef" watch party.

Mastering “MasterChef” Again

By Kelsey Madas

Kayla Mitchell '25 just graduated with a degree in communications and a concentration in public relations in May, but she's already experienced two big PR wins in her life. First, she was a contestant on season three of "MasterChef Junior" as an 11-year-old, and recently, she was invited back for another try on season 15 of "MasterChef: Dynamic Duos." The show aired on FOX in July 2025 and is now available to stream on Hulu or Tubi.

A busy student, Mitchell was a member of the Honors College, the Cygnus Society, the women's lacrosse team, the Millersville chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America and the Broadcast Education Association during her time on campus. And somehow, she managed to find time to film a cooking competition show and land in the top nine.

How did this Long Island native and Marauder end up on "MasterChef" the first time? "Some people grew up in an ESPN house, but I grew up in a Food Network house," shares Mitchell. After watching an episode of "MasterChef Junior," she saw that they put out a casting call for the next season. "I pulled out my iPod Touch, went online and filled out the application without even telling my mom." Weeks later, her mom got a call, and after flying out to Los Angeles and auditioning, Mitchell landed the gig.

Being raised in a "loud, stereotypical Italian family" with a mother and grandmother who were excellent home chefs, she says, inspired her to cook and bake from an early age. After placing sixth in "MasterChef Junior," she continued to cook, offering classes to kids with her mom, doing pop-up events at restaurants and constantly fine-tuning her craft. "My mom exposed me to so many things in the kitchen, and I wasn't afraid to try anything," she shares.

So, when her old friend Ryan Kate Brandenburg, her fellow contestant on "MasterChef Junior," reached out to share that a producer contacted her about joining "Dynamic Duos" and wanted her to join too, Mitchell jumped at the chance. The show was filmed from October to December of 2024, and the pair reunited in the kitchen. They earned their spot on episode two with a dish of pan-seared sea bass served over a bed of lemon garlic spinach with sautéed cherry tomatoes, a white wine beurre blanc and toasted breadcrumbs.

Mitchell says the show was intense, but she appreciated the feedback of the judges – even Gordon Ramsay. "I definitely am most proud of our dessert we made in the first pressure test of the season," she shares. "Everyone

knows making desserts on “MasterChef” can go one of two ways, and to make a complicated dessert with so many elements and get practically zero critique was amazing!”

She also learned off the set, too, noting how she and the other contestants would cook together. “I learned so many things through this experience, whether that be through cooking on the show or what I learned from my new friends and peers. We would always have potlucks or cook in the apartments that we stayed in, and I learned so many recipes, techniques and knowledge about new cuisines that I didn’t have before.”

“MasterChef” has shaped a lot of decisions in Mitchell’s life, including her major. “I was having a conversation with my mom where I was trying to explain to her the vibes of the type of job I wanted. She told me it sounds a lot like what the public relations people and producers did on “MasterChef Junior” and got me in touch with an old contact from the show, who was kind enough to take a call with me and help me out.”

Now that the show is over, Mitchell says she can look back at her work with a sense of pride. “I feel proud of my performance! Looking back on that time, there are so many ‘should’ve done, could’ve done’ scenarios I think about now,” she says. “It’s a super stressful and intense environment, so I give myself grace! To make it as far as I did and get all elements on the plate in each challenge is such an accomplishment.”

What’s next for Mitchell? She says she’s open to anything but wants to work in her field of study. “I am pursuing any and all opportunities within the culinary world, whether that be hosting private dinners for people in the area, meal prepping and doing catering gigs, all while searching for a publication or marketing job full-time,” she explains. Mitchell plans to pursue additional certifications as a personal trainer and hopes to establish an LLC for her own small business: a meal prep company.

“A lot of people could say this experience is a once-in-a-lifetime thing, and I’ve done it twice,” says Mitchell. “I’m taking all the opportunities I can get, and I want to thank everyone who helped to get me here.”



Kayla Mitchell '25, second from left, competes on “MasterChef Duos.”

A SEASONED CHEF SHARES HER SECRETS

- **FAVORITE COOKBOOK:** “My mom and I watched the movie “Julie and Julia,” and I bought Julia Child’s cookbook afterward. French cooking sounds intimidating, but there are so many good, basic and simple recipes in there.”
- **MUST-HAVE KITCHEN TOOL:** “A really good, sharp knife. Dull knives are dangerous and make your job harder. I have an excellent Japanese knife that was a big-girl purchase – and I got a knife sharpener – that I have an emotional attachment to.”
- **HER GO-TO MEALS:** “I’ll take any sort of protein, season it, roast potatoes in an air fryer, add broccoli with a little bit of olive oil and serve with half an avocado and lime. Another go-to is pasta, of course.”



Millersville University
HOMECOMING
2025



Continued on next page



Millersville University
HOMECOMING
2025

Nearly 20 Alumni Recognized Alumni Association Awards

Each year, the Scholarships, Grants, and Awards Committee of the Millersville University Alumni Association recognizes alumni and friends who exemplify the University's values through their careers, service and leadership. At the 2025 awards ceremony on Sept. 2, five honorees were celebrated for their accomplishments and ongoing commitment to Millersville.



(L to R) Jenny Engle '80, Mark Phillips '72, President Daniel A. Wubah, Sgt. 1st Class Allan Rivard, Dr. Pineal Bekere '16, Jordan Evangelista '13, '15M

Two Young Alumni Achievement Awards were presented. **Dr. Pineal Bekere '16** has dedicated her career to compassionate family medicine, shaped by her global health work and her service during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic at Lancaster General Hospital. Today, she practices in New Hampshire, combining academic excellence, global perspective, and patient-centered care. **Jordan Evangelista '13, '15M** was recognized for her entrepreneurial spirit and leadership. After starting in higher education fundraising, she co-founded HQ Water Solutions, a company honored with the SCORE Lancaster-Lebanon Small Business Award. She also manages a successful Airbnb business and lends her expertise to community boards, advancing local growth and advocacy.

The Outstanding Volunteer Service Award went to **Mark Phillips '72**, a retired middle school art teacher who dedicated 44 years to inspiring young minds. Beyond the classroom, Phillips has continued to shape his community through service on Millersville's Alumni Board, local historical societies and the Lions Club,

as well as by endowing a scholarship for future educators.

Sgt. 1st Class Allan Rivard received the Honorary Alumni Award for his transformative leadership with Millersville's ROTC and Veterans Resource Center. A retired Army veteran, Rivard continues

to mentor students, strengthen military-connected resources, and preserve treasured traditions like the Marauder Salute Cannon at football games.

The highest honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award, was presented to **Jennifer "Jenny" Engle '80**. A nationally recognized communicator, Engle's career spans leadership in public relations, entrepreneurship and mentoring. She has served as president of the Association for Women in Communications, built a thriving marketing firm and continues to guide the next generation through volunteer service.

"Together, these five honorees embody Millersville's EPPIIC values and the spirit of lifelong Marauders, showing how alumni use their talents to transform professions, communities, and lives," says Joshua Belice '08, director of alumni engagement.

To learn more about the Alumni Awards, contact Dr. Dan Sidelnick '75, chair of the Scholarship, Grants, and Awards Committee, at Daniel.Sidelnick@millersville.edu or visit millersville.edu/muaa-awards. ♦



Marvelous Marauders

(L to R) Dr. Amber Sessoms '06, Sunflower Greene '19, Mike Panarella '72, Jeremy Young '12, Dr. Brandon Danz '03, President Daniel A. Wubah, Jason Zimmerman '15 standing in for Dr. Donald Kilhefner '60, Sierra McNeil '15, Erin (Johnson) Baker '03, Doug Johnson, Esq. '74, Dr. Greg Koons '98, and Ken Heisey standing in for Jason Heisey '07.

Since its creation in 2023, the Marvelous Marauders program has become one of Millersville University's signature alumni recognitions, honoring those whose lives reflect dedication, achievement and an enduring commitment to their alma mater. At the Sept. 2 celebration, 12 alumni spanning decades and disciplines were named Marvelous Marauders for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Sierra McNeil '15, a statewide leader in behavioral health advocacy, has advanced mental health policy and workforce development while mentoring future social workers. **Erin (Johnson) Baker '03** has distinguished herself in corporate responsibility at PNC, shaping diversity and inclusion initiatives while giving back through community service. **Dr. Brandon Danz '03**, vice president of population health at WellSpan Health, serves on PASSHE's Board of Governors and the Millersville University Council of Trustees, guiding healthcare and higher education policy.

Other honorees include **Sunflower "Sunny" Greene '19**, record-breaking athlete and volunteer coach; **Jason Heisey '07**, board-certified art therapist and mental health advocate; **Doug Johnson '74**, lifelong public servant and legal professional; and **Dr. Donald Kilhefner '60**, historian, psychologist and nationally recognized LGBTQ+ activist.

In education and leadership, **Dr. Gregory Koons '98** has shaped inclusive practices across Pennsylvania schools, while **Dr. Amber Sessoms '06** has pioneered authenticity-based leadership through her consulting firm and service to Millersville. **Mike Panarella '72** has been a tireless advocate for alumni engagement and community memorials, strengthening the Marauder bond.

Rounding out the 2025 cohort are **Jeremy Young '12**, a rising leader in community and economic development at Lancaster City Alliance, and **Andrew Zvorsky '23**, already advancing manufacturing engineering at Volvo with innovative research and leadership.

"Together, these 12 alumni reflect the ripples of Millersville's legacy, from athletics and art therapy to healthcare, education, and social justice," says Joshua Belice, director of alumni engagement. "Their stories remind us that being a Marvelous Marauder is not just about past achievement but about a lifelong commitment to excellence, community, and the values that unite generations of Millersville graduates."

To learn more about the Marvelous Marauder Awards, contact Joshua Belice, director of alumni engagement, at Joshua.Belice@millersville.edu or visit millersville.edu/marvelous-marauders. ♦



Millersville University Ornament Available

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.

With a gift of \$25 or more to the Alumni Office now through December 31, 2025, you'll receive this exclusive ornament as a token of our appreciation for supporting alumni programs and student engagement at the 'Ville (while supplies last). Ornaments are available online and on campus at the Millersville University Store and Duncan Alumni House. Order yours at millersville.edu/ornament. ♦



Christmas Makers Market at Glorious Sounds of the Season

Upcoming Alumni Events



Millersville Wedding Expo

Sunday, Nov. 9 | 1 to 4 p.m.

Salute to Service: Veterans Appreciation Lunch

Wednesday, Nov. 12 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Glorious Holidays at the 'Ville

Saturday, Dec. 6 | 3 to 7 p.m.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Sunday, Dec. 14 | 1 p.m.

Questions may be directed to alumni@millersville.edu or 717-871-7551. Visit millersville.edu/alumni for the latest events and information. ♦

CAMPUS NEWS

EPPIIC Weekend Welcomes News Students



President Daniel A. Wubah was out and about greeting new students and families on Move-in Day.



Classmates gathered on the quad for a photo with President Daniel A. Wubah.



More than 100 student clubs and organizations introduced themselves to new students at the Organization Involvement Fair.



Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gail Gasparich addresses new students at Academic Convocation.



New students lined the pond for the traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony.

CCRL Fellowship Leads to Gov. Shapiro Commission



Hailey Peirce's fellowship with the [Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership](#), part of Millersville's University College, led to some great networking and an opportunity to serve on Gov. Josh Shapiro's Advisory Commission on Next Generation Engagement.

Through the fellowship, led by Dr. Laura Granruth, faculty coordinator for the center and associate professor of social work, Peirce was introduced to alumna [Ruby Mundok](#), a 2023 graduate who is the executive director of the commission. Mundok works with students, stakeholders and legislators across the Commonwealth to advocate for the next generation of Pennsylvanians. "I was able to meet Ruby and learn more about opportunities in our state government," Peirce says. "She told me about position openings

in the commission, and I applied by sending her my resume and participating in an interview with her."

Peirce is a marine biology major with minors in chemistry and environmental policy and management. She is a mentor for the [NSF S-STEM Program](#), which funds scholarships for academically talented, low-income STEM majors, and the Honors College. She is treasurer of the Ocean Science Club and vice president of the Entomology Club and is also working on her honors and departmental thesis with Dr. Carolyn Weaver, assistant professor of general biology, foundations of biology, concepts of botany, ecology and evolution.

"I was able to develop my thesis question and plan through the [McNairy Library Research Fellowship](#) last semester," Peirce explains. "Along with my thesis team, I am looking into the role of *Geukensia demissa* (ribbed mussels) in wetland conservation."

Peirce is eager to begin her work as "a voice for nature. Using my knowledge and passion for biology, I will be working with other young people to lead the charge in protecting our environment. I am really excited to work with people my age who share my environmental goals and make meaningful change in Pennsylvania!"



Right: Hailey Peirce, who was appointed to serve on Gov. Josh Shapiro's Advisory Commission on Next Generation Engagement, addresses new students at Academic Convocation.



What Others Are Saying About Millersville University

By Emma Einheber '26

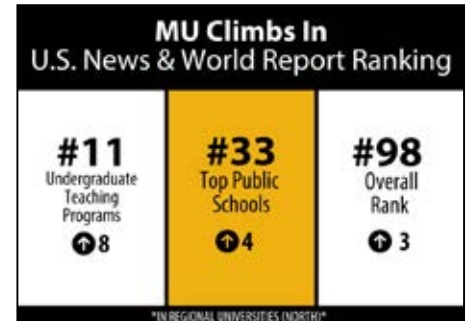
U.S. News 2026 Best Colleges Rankings

Millersville University continues its upward momentum in the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. The University climbed three spots in its overall ranking to tie for No. 98 in Regional Universities North. Additionally, a four-spot increase in the Top Public Schools category landed Millersville in a tie for No. 33.

Dr. Gail Gasparich, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, highlights what such rankings say about the Millersville community. "This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff and students. It validates our commitment to providing high-quality education and fostering a supportive learning environment."

The University also made progress in Best Undergraduate Teaching, advancing eight places to earn the No. 11 spot in Regional Universities North.

"Our faculty are deeply committed to student-centered learning, employing innovative teaching methods and personalized support," Gasparich says. "Our programs emphasize experiential learning through internships, research opportunities and community engagement projects. Additionally, our strong mentorship initiatives and robust assessment practices contribute to exceptional student outcomes, making Millersville deserving of national recognition for undergraduate teaching."



Other rankings:

#159 in Top Performers
on Social Mobility

#470-601 in Computer Science

#480 in Nursing (tie)

#629-682 in Psychology Programs

U.S. News Overall Score
(out of 100) – 52





National-Guard-Friendly

Millersville University was officially recognized as a 2024-2025 PNGAS Guard-Friendly School by the Pennsylvania National Guard Association. This statewide designation is awarded to institutions that meet or exceed 10 key standards in supporting members of the Pennsylvania National Guard and their families as they pursue post-secondary education.

According to the Pennsylvania National Guard Association website, the designation “serves as a beacon to PA National Guard members, signaling that your institution is not only a place where they can further their education but also one that understands and caters to their unique needs.”

“Public mission is one of our EPPIIC values, and we are honored to support members of the Pennsylvania National Guard, who keep our communities and country safe, as they continue their education at Millersville University,” says President Daniel A. Wubah. “They bring with them skills and experience that enrich our campus.”

“Millersville University’s selection affirms our continued efforts to create a welcoming, flexible and accommodating environment for our military-affiliated students,” says Allan Rivard, program manager of

the Army ROTC and the Veterans and Military Resource Center at Millersville.

Over 80 military-connected students and family members at Millersville received benefits last year, says Rivard. “While some may have used multiple benefits, the numbers reflect strong engagement and the University’s ongoing commitment to supporting the Guard community.”

HEED Award

By Marissa Farmer '24

Once again, Millersville University received the 2025 Higher Education Excellence and Distinction Award from “Insight Into Academia” magazine. This is the 14th year in a row that MU has been awarded this distinction. The annual HEED Award is a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to academic excellence, belonging and community-building across all levels of campus life.

“Fostering a sense of belonging among all of our students is critical to their success in the classroom, and the success of the campus community as a whole,” says Carlos Wiley, former executive director for the Office for Inclusive Excellence. “We strive to create a compassionate community that makes space for everyone to be their whole, authentic selves.”

One of two PASSHE institutions to be honored with this national award, Millersville will be featured in the October 2025 issue of “Insight Into Academia” magazine.

Millersville University was selected to receive the HEED award due to its

dedication to supporting inclusivity, as reflected in its EPPIIC Values of exploration, professionalism, public mission, inclusion, integrity and compassion. The University strives to create a place where every student feels valued and belongs.

Initiatives such as the preferred name policy, PrideFest, integrated studies program, inclusive research and the Land Acknowledgment demonstrate Millersville’s commitment to fostering a welcoming campus. Many student- and institution-sponsored clubs and organizations on campus contribute spaces for those looking for a place to belong.





(L to R) Steve Figueroa, Pete Anders, President Daniel A. Wubah, Chief Jim Adams of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, Art White and Bill Hickey

MUPD Accreditation

The Millersville University Police Department has achieved accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. Accreditation strengthens the professionalism of law enforcement and is a time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance.

"It is gratifying to see Millersville University's police department gain this recognition, which supports our focus on professionalism as one of our EPPIIC Values," says President Daniel A. Wubah. "This accreditation signifies that the department is following best practices as it works to continually improve upon the vital services it provides to our campus community."

The accreditation program involves a three-step process: application, self-assessment and formal assessment. Organizations analyze their operations to determine if they meet 136 professional standards. Necessary adaptations

and changes are made, then a team of independent professionals visits to verify that all applicable standards have been met. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.

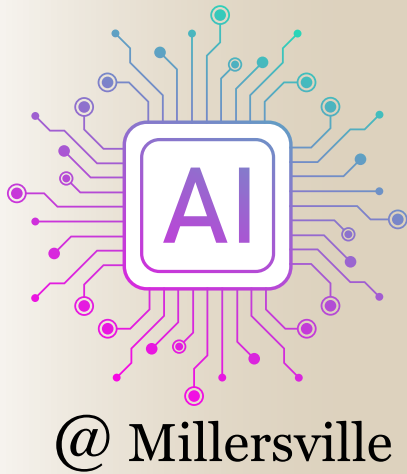
Led by Chief of Police Pete Anders, the Millersville University Police Department is comprised of 14 sworn full-time police officers, as well as three full-time staff and four part-time staff members. The department provides professional services to the student residents and visitors to the University 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through patrol and bicycle units. A proactive agency, it emphasizes a community partnership philosophy using community policing efforts.

"Our mission centers on community engagement and problem-solving," says Anders. "We work hard to build relationships and gain the trust of our students. Our recent accreditation reflects our commitment to consistently improve as a department, assisting and protecting our community. Our sights are now fixed on reaccreditation."

Anders credited several others who assisted with the process, including President Wubah, "who supported our department with our move to the Boyer Building in the summer of 2023," he says. "Our station was designed to comply with the rigorous physical standards required for accreditation."

In addition, Jeff Porter, associate vice president for the Office of Grants, Sponsored Programs and Research, helped Anders and the police department earn a Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency grant that allowed them to work with a consultant throughout the two-year process. And Vice President of Finance and Administration Dr. Nafez Alyan encouraged staff regularly and emphasized the value of accreditation for the University, according to Anders.

"Most importantly," he says, "all our officers and staff were engaged with the accreditation process, with Lt. Art White and records technician Steve Figueroa leading the department's efforts." ♦



Dr. Oliver Dreon, a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations, teaches a class.

Endorsement for K-12 Educators

Millersville University is among the first colleges and universities in Pennsylvania to offer a new [Artificial Intelligence Endorsement](#) for K-12 educators.

The endorsement can be completed in approximately seven months, with courses offered online and asynchronously. The first course will be offered during Winter Session 2026, Dec. 15 – Jan. 10.

Created by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Artificial Intelligence Endorsement is a four-course (12-credit) program designed to prepare educators to effectively and ethically integrate AI technologies within educational settings.

“We’re excited to be offering the AI Endorsement for teachers,” says Dr. Oliver Dreon, professor in the Department of Educational Foundations. “We recognize how this rapidly changing technology is impacting teaching and learning in schools. The AI Endorsement will help teachers across the state learn how to teach about and with artificial intelligence.”

The program will be taught by Dreon, who participated in the development of the program’s competencies, and Dr. Abdul Ibrahim, associate professor in the Department of Educational Foundations. Each course is structured to build competencies aligned with key endorsement domains, including the foundations and applications of AI, responsible and ethical use, instructional and assessment strategies, student AI literacy, and leadership for innovation.

Google AI Training

Millersville was one of five universities in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education to participate in a new initiative, the [Google AI for Education Accelerator](#), which provides students, faculty and staff with free access to [AI training](#).

Through the program, students learn the foundations of AI skills, techniques for effective prompting and responsible use of AI tools. These skills can help them study more efficiently, better understand complex material and prepare for their careers. Students can also apply AI training to build resumes,

practice job interviews or develop projects in their field.

“AI is not just for technology majors. I imagine a future in which every PASSHE university graduate will engage with AI as a tool in their future careers,” says PASSHE chancellor Christopher Fiorentino. “PASSHE is committed to innovation, and we’re proud of our partnership with Google. This new AI initiative will help give students the AI skills they need to succeed today and when they enter the workforce.”

In 2023, PASSHE was the first higher education system in Pennsylvania to partner with Google to offer [Google Career Certificates](#). The program offers skills training in cybersecurity, data analytics, digital marketing and e-commerce, business intelligence, IT support, project management and user experience design.

The online resources were made available to students in several undergraduate courses, allowing them to earn college credit and an industry-recognized credential at the same time. ♦

Upcoming Lecture

39th Annual Brossman Foundation and Ronald E. Frisbie Sr. Science Lectureship

Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. | *Student Memorial Center Multipurpose Room*

The program includes a competitive examination for high school sophomore, junior and senior science, mathematics and technology students; laboratory demonstrations; a special afternoon lecture for selected elementary and middle school students; and an evening presentation by Dr. Arthur Benjamin, Smallwood Family Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College and the visiting professor for public outreach at the National Museum of Mathematics. Benjamin has been repeatedly honored by the Mathematical Association of America for his teaching and writing and was selected by "Princeton Review" as one of the Best 300 Professors in America. He is also a professional magician and one of the world's fastest mental calculators, as well as a grandmaster in backgammon who is in the American Backgammon Hall of Fame.

Tickets are free and may be reserved by contacting the University's [Ticket Office](#). ♦



Dr. Arthur Benjamin

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY **STRATEGIC PLAN**

From Tradition and Transformation to Beyond Boundaries

STRATEGIC PLANNING AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Millersville University successfully concluded its 2020-2025 strategic plan, **Tradition and Transformation**, on June 30, 2025. Collaborative work on the next iteration of a plan, however, was well underway by that time. **Beyond Boundaries 2025-2030** was unveiled by President Daniel A. Wubah as his annual State of the 'Ville address on Sept. 5.

The two plans are separate, yet undeniably linked, according to Wubah. "Most strategic plans are linear," he says. "Our new plan, Beyond Boundaries, was built on

the foundation of the previous plan. Our planning for the future is sustainable because it is cyclical and focuses on sharing our values as we recruit the next generation of students. We exceeded our goals with Tradition and Transformation, and that makes me very optimistic about Beyond Boundaries.

Below is a look at some of the successes of **Tradition and Transformation**, followed by descriptions of each of the four strategic directions for **Beyond Boundaries**.



Tradition and Transformation *Takes Millersville to the Next Level*



Strategic Direction 1: Ensure Access, Affordability and Completion

Recruitment - A cohesive strategy for student recruitment was developed and deployed by Enrollment Management. With a new viewbook, revised messaging and new partnerships, enrollment rose above 7,000, and the University has a more robust prospective student pipeline.

Affordability - To reduce costs for students and their families, the University eliminated its per-credit tuition model and moved to a flat tuition model, which allows undergraduate students to take between 12 and 18 credits per semester – all at the same cost. This modification, along with seven consecutive years of freezing tuition, directly assisted students and their families in accessing affordable, high-quality education.

Endowment Value - A 61.7% increase in the market value of Millersville's endowment was realized during Tradition and Transformation, which can positively impact the University's ability to provide financial aid, attract and retain top faculty and fund cutting-edge research. In addition, 275 new scholarships were created to provide students with financial support.

Lombardo College of Business - As Tradition and Transformation was about to launch, Dr. Samuel Lombardo and wife, Dena, announced a \$3 million gift to name the Lombardo College of Business, making it the first named college in the history of Millersville University. Their support – a portion of the more than \$5 million they have given to Millersville to date – is being used where it is needed most: scholarships, internships, faculty development and equipment.

Wehrheim School of Nursing - Liselotte Wehrheim '74 first established an endowed nursing scholarship for nontraditional students with unusual or special circumstances affecting the completion of their education. Her posthumous gift of \$3.5 million brought her support of the University to \$4.8 million and led to the naming of the Wehrheim School of Nursing, the first named school of nursing within PASSHE.

PRIME Program - Master of social work and clinical psychology students learn about the needs and challenges of the behavioral health field thanks to a \$1.9 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The "Promoting Rigorous and Interdisciplinary Mental Health Education" program provides clinical training opportunities along with a \$10,000 stipend to students upon completion of their specialized training and internship.

Retention - The University's retention rate continues to improve. Our most recent first-to-second-year retention was up to 78% – the third highest in PASSHE. Continued progress in this area is a key component to our focus on student success, decreased time to completion and financial sustainability.

Degree Completion Programs – Millersville is meeting the needs of today's adult learners through the creation of new online degree completion programs that allow students to seamlessly transfer from an associate degree to a Millersville bachelor's degree. Eleven degree completion programs serve over 500 adult learners.

Campaign Outcome – As the first fundraising campaign in Millersville University history focused entirely on students, the "Imagine the Possible" campaign became the largest fundraising campaign in the history of the University. It is also the most successful fundraising effort in the history of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education – raising a final fundraising total of \$110,056,873 – thanks to the tremendous generosity of many gracious donors.



Strategic Direction 2: Transform Student Experiences and Foster Innovation

Made in Millersville Conference and Journal - The Made in Millersville Conference and Journal showcase the depth and diversity of our students' scholarship, insight, knowledge, creativity and professionalism. More than 420 students, representing 26 academic departments, presented at the 11th Made in Millersville, nearly doubling student participation from earlier years.

RN to BSN Concurrent Enrollment Program - With a recent agreement, HACC ASN students may concurrently enroll in the University's BSN program. This innovative partnership is a win-win for students as it allows for a seamless pathway toward a nursing career while addressing the Commonwealth's nursing shortage.

Workforce Development - The University continues to strengthen its commitment to workforce development across the Commonwealth by providing lifelong learning opportunities that align with high-priority occupations and in-demand skills in our region. We offer education and training for individuals as well as customized training to address the needs of our local employers, and we partner with community stakeholders to address local workforce needs through grant-funded initiatives.

Grow with Google - Nine industry-recognized Google Career Certificates are available to Millersville students and the public through a partnership between the multinational technology company and PASSHE.

HEED Award - Millersville University was honored with the prestigious Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the 13th consecutive year. The recognition, given by "Insight Into Diversity" magazine, highlights institutions dedicated to fostering equity, access, inclusion and diversity on their campuses.

Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Center for Intercultural Student Engagement - The rededication of the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Center for Intercultural Student Engagement reaffirms the Center's mission to foster a welcoming and inclusive campus and provide programming for students to explore their multiple identities and learn about the background and experiences of others.

New Academic Programs – Between 2020 and 2025, new academic programs were created at both the undergraduate and graduate level in areas of high student demand and regional workforce need. Among the new or reorganized bachelor's degree programs were business administration, emergency management, information technology, sports administration, and automation and robotics. Additionally, more than a dozen new graduate certificates and teacher certifications were developed to meet the growing demand for teaching specialists and health and human service professionals.

Adams Fellow and Endowed Professorship – Nancy C. Adams '73 and her late husband Gary Adams established funds that supported students and faculty with a focus on Occupational Safety and Environmental Health. In 2022, they created the N.C. Adams '73 and W.G. Adams Fellows Program for students majoring and minoring in Business or Occupational Safety and Environmental Health. Additionally, the N.C. Adams '73 and W. G. Adams Endowed Professorship was established, which creates a position for an endowed professor to oversee enhanced scholarship activities, such as fostering faculty-student research, organizing on-campus and off-campus co-curricular events, and establishing internship opportunities for students in the program.



Strategic Direction 3: Invest Strategically in People and Place

Employee Recognition - Two employee recognition programs were launched to acknowledge faculty and staff who best demonstrate the University's EPPIIC Values. The monthly Skully's Circle Award and Annual EPPIIC Value Awards are opportunities to thank the special individuals and groups who exemplify Exploration, Public Mission, Professionalism, Inclusion, Integrity and Compassion.

Senior Leadership Recruitment - Millersville University's ability to attract top talent for key positions on campus led to the naming of four new cabinet members: Dr. Gail E. Gasparich, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs; Carlos Wiley, Executive Director for Inclusive Excellence; Dr. Mary Beth Williams, Vice President of Student Affairs; and Dr. Nafez Alyan, Vice President of Finance and Administration. Additionally, three new deans joined our campus community: Dr. Marc Tomljanovich, Lombardo College of Business; Dr. Lara Willox, College of Education and Human Services; and Dr. Marc Harris, College of Science and Technology.

Imagine the Possible: Campaign for Students - In 2023, the University celebrated the results of Imagine the Possible, which ended with a record-breaking \$110 million raised - 22% above its \$90 million goal. The campaign yielded the highest outcome in Millersville University and PASSHE history. Imagine the Possible raised \$31 million for student scholarships, \$59.7 million for student learning experiences, \$7.7 million for Marauder Athletics and \$11.6 million for campus revitalization.

Fiat Lux Society - The Fiat Lux Society was established to honor the extraordinary contributions of donors of transformational gifts. The fellowship of distinguished donors, whose membership stands at 24, includes those whose generous gifts and pledges of \$1 million or more to the University create an enduring legacy that will benefit students for generations.

Chick-fil-A - Millersville University and Student Services, Inc. partnered to open a Chick-fil-A in response to student requests for more dining options on campus. The University handles all operations of the restaurant, which is housed in the former Galley space in the Student Memorial Center.

Infrastructure Upgrades - Numerous upgrades to campus facilities have occurred over the course of the Tradition and Transformation plan. Projects included adding lights to Cooper Park, installing a new HVAC system in Pucillo Gymnasium, renovations to Boyer and Lehigh halls and the conversion of Brooks Hall into Lombardo Hall.

Lombardo Welcome Center - The Lombardo Welcome Center, which opened in 2018, was the first building in Pennsylvania to be certified as a zero-energy building by the International Living Future Institute. Millersville University has garnered several awards for the Center, including a U.S. Department of Energy Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award, and an Excellence and Innovation Award under the category Sustainability and Sustainable Development from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. In 2020, the Center was awarded the American Council of Engineering Companies' Engineering Excellence Grand Award in Category B: Building/Technology Systems.

Divine Nine Plots - The Divine Nine and Cultural Greek Council Unity Plots on Memorial Walkway were dedicated during Homecoming 2020 weekend. The area located along Shenks Lane near the Student Memorial Center represents the physical and symbolic presence of each of the nine Greek sorority and fraternity organizations included in the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated, plus Greek organizations of the National Multicultural Greek Council Inc. and the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations, Incorporated. The Cultural Greek Council spearheaded the planning of the project with support from other internal offices. Millersville is the first predominantly white institution in the PASSHE system to have established plots on campus.

Strategic Direction 4: Communicate our Value

Leveraging the Lancaster Region - To unify messaging about the 'Ville experience, a task force comprised of faculty and staff examined how to better leverage our location and all that it offers. The group learned how the University currently engages with the region and began developing new opportunities to deepen that relationship.

Community Service - More than 1,000 students, faculty and staff participated in the United Way of Lancaster County's Day of Caring over the course of Tradition and Transformation. Marauders volunteered for 66 service projects at various organizations around the County.

Industry Partnerships - We strengthened our partnerships with Excentia Human Services, Church World Services and Willow Valley while developing new corporate partnerships with Climavision, Lampire Labs and Precision Cobotics. Along with other regional collaborations, these connections to industry in Lancaster County and the Commonwealth enhance academic programs across our four colleges, providing real-world experiences to students and assisting with their future employment.

MSCHE Accreditation - The Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed Millersville University's accreditation in 2021, indicating that the University had met rigorous standards in areas such as academic programs, faculty qualifications and student services. This accreditation not only enhances the University's reputation but also assures students, parents and employers of the institution's commitment to continuous improvement and accountability. MSCHE accreditation is often a prerequisite for eligibility to receive federal funding and grants, making it a critical factor in students' ability to access federal financial aid and in the financial sustainability of Millersville University.

Cygnus Society - The Cygnus Society recognizes students who have both the passion and purpose to lead and serve Millersville University and the community. Members embody the EPPIIC values and combine scholarship, integrity and maturity with university-wide awareness, participation and leadership. They serve as ambassadors of the Office of the President and participate at functions such as State of the 'Ville and Winter and Spring commencements.

Sustainability - This spring, the University hosted its 5th Annual Sustainable Development Goals Conference, "Building Safer Communities: Reducing Community and School Violence." This one-day event was held at The Ware Center and brought together policymakers, community leaders and advocates, agency heads and staff, and educators to address one of today's most pressing social challenges. The conference facilitated meaningful dialogue on innovative solutions, best practices, and resource sharing to promote peace, justice, and community safety in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.





Beyond Boundaries

Will Guide Millersville's Future

President Daniel A. Wubah introduced the 2025-2030 institutional strategic plan, Beyond Boundaries, during his annual State of the 'Ville address in September. Endorsed by the Council of Trustees in June, the plan is the result of a year of collaborative work by the Strategic Advisory Council, led by co-chairs, Dr. Laura Granruth and Dr. Marc Tomljanovich.

President Wubah, through his State of the 'Ville address, provides the descriptions for the four Beyond Boundaries strategic directions.



Listen Here!

"This is not just a strategic plan; it is our commitment to moving forward and rising to meet the challenges facing higher education. Over the next five years, these pillars will guide us to build a more accessible, distinctive and sustainable University that is connected to the communities we serve."

Strategic Direction 1: Ensure access, affordability and completion

Our commitment to making a Millersville education accessible and affordable remains unchanged. We will prioritize academic programs that meet workforce demands in Central Pennsylvania while simultaneously expanding our reach beyond the region. This means aligning our programs with what students need and what employers are seeking. We must expand online learning opportunities to create degree completion pathways that will work for students. We must provide micro-credentials that will allow students and working professionals to gain new skills quickly. And we must implement targeted success strategies, because different students have different needs and one-size-fits-all approaches do not work in today's diverse educational landscape.

- GOAL 1** Prioritize academic programming to meet workforce demands in Central Pennsylvania while expanding our reach beyond the region
- GOAL 2** Enhance student accessibility and financial literacy
- GOAL 3** Improve retention and completion rates for all students

Strategic Direction 2:

Advance a distinctive Millersville University student experience

We will leverage learning opportunities by creating deeper connections with industry partners to give our students direct pathways from the classroom to their careers. We must enhance our international education programs and cross-cultural experiences, because every successful graduate needs a global perspective. Most importantly, we must design a comprehensive framework that fosters belonging. This goal isn't limited to academic success but rather nurturing the whole person. It must align with our EPPIIC values while maximizing our wellness resources to support student mental health and wellbeing.

- GOAL 1** Leverage local, regional and global learning opportunities
- GOAL 2** Prepare students to meet career, professional and graduate school goals
- GOAL 3** Design and implement a cocurricular framework that fosters belonging and enhances holistic development

Strategic Direction 3: Align resources with priorities

We must improve employee engagement and retention, because our faculty and staff are the most important assets of our University. We must strengthen our culture of continuous learning and provide resources to keep our entire community growing. Because financial stability is a prerequisite for everything we want to achieve, we must optimize our resources and operational processes, using entrepreneurial approaches to generate new revenue, and launch a comprehensive fundraising campaign that will secure our future. In addition, we must utilize innovative technologies, such as AI to enhance both instruction and university operations.

- GOAL 1** Improve employee retention and engagement
- GOAL 2** Enhance institutional financial stability
- GOAL 3** Optimize physical and virtual campus spaces

Strategic Direction 4: Communicate our value

We must celebrate our signature programs, our rich traditions and our exciting future. As we approach our 175th anniversary in 2030, we must take this opportunity to showcase not just where we've been, but where we're going. We must strengthen our branding around the academic, cultural and experiential learning opportunities that make Millersville unique by increasing alumni engagement, because our graduates are our best ambassadors. And we must institutionalize digital engagement by making all our web pages and course materials universally accessible while improving our digital security and user experience.

- GOAL 1** Celebrate Millersville's signature programs, traditions and future
- GOAL 2** Institutionalize digital engagement and accessibility



(L to R) Bruce McKelvy '71, Martha MacAdam '83, Mike Panarella '72, George Wagenseller '74, Harry Buskirk '72, T. Greg Hall '71, Jan Bowman '69, Sandy Guilfoyle '68, Ed Snyder '74, Coach Cy Fritz, Ralph Batty '72, Curt Herneisen '73

A Gathering of Lasting Connections: Alumni Reunion Celebrates Decades of Friendship

A group of Millersville alumni have gathered at Shady Maple Smorgasbord in Lancaster County for more than a decade. What brings them together each year? They were football and wrestling student-athletes during the 1960s and 1970s, as well as members of the Mu Alpha Kappa fraternity. They get together annually to share memories of how legendary Millersville University football coach Dr. Gene Carpenter, often called Coach Carpenter, who coached from 1970 until 2000, impacted their lives.

This past May, their reunion included special guests – Carpenter's wife, Sandy Carpenter, and his two daughters. It also featured a video message from Col. William "Bill" J. Davis III '71, who shared a letter from Gene to the team dated August 5, 1971, in which he encouraged his players to prepare appropriately for the upcoming season. Davis then read a letter he wrote in response dated May 15, 2025, the date of

the gathering. It concluded with, "Coach, you gave us a playbook that had tools that went far beyond any season. They were tools for a lifetime and shall transcend generations to come. Feel confident that you taught us well, for we have lived our lives in always doing just a little bit more."

In addition to Davis, President Daniel A. Wubah addressed the group and extended greetings from the University. Former football head coach J. C. Morgan shared updates on the Marauder football program, with wrestling head coach Jerry Boland also in attendance. The Millersville University Office of Alumni Engagement, which was instrumental in event coordination, was represented by Josh Belice '08, '10M, director of alumni engagement, and Taylor McTigue '20, former assistant director of alumni engagement. Millersville Athletics was represented by

Chelsey Wirth '15, director of athletics advancement, who provided an update on Millersville Athletics fundraising during the event program.

Motivated and inspired by the memories of Gene Carpenter, the group supports fundraising efforts to benefit Millersville Athletics. As a result of this year's event, more than \$800 was raised to support student-athletes, especially in football and wrestling.

Mike Panarella '72 says he is proud to have been a member of the Millersville football program when Coach Carpenter began his leadership of the team. "Guys who I played with around my time feel really proud that we played for Carpenter's early years, and we turned the program around, and then he never looked back," he recalls.

Panarella was involved in organizing this year's event, along with Harry Buskirk '72 and Carl Borst '84, and has been active with the alumni gathering for many years. While a student, he was on the football team and a member of Mu Alpha Kappa from 1969 until 1972. What Borst has enjoyed most about the gatherings is learning about the success of his fellow alumni over the years. "The most important thing that I get out of it is that I learn about some of the fantastic things that the people of our group have done," he says.

Borst earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and excelled in a career in sales and marketing. Panarella worked as an educator for most of his career, which included teaching (and coaching) at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for three years, teaching psychology and history for 32 years at Shawnee High School in Medford, New Jersey, and teaching American Sign Language at Eastern Regional High School in Voorhees Township, New Jersey, and Haddonfield Memorial High School in Haddonfield, New Jersey, for a combined six years.

What keeps Borst coming back? Highlighting the lifelong benefits of the alumni connections, he values the "brotherhood, the camaraderie, the teamwork..." He arrived at Millersville from Clearfield, Pennsylvania, a rural area of the state, and appreciated the connections he made with fellow alumni from other regions and with various backgrounds. "It was a big swath of America," Borst recalls. Panarella was

from New Jersey, and he was from the Pennsylvania countryside, but their shared college experiences built a strong bond between them. Borst notes, "Mike's a great friend. For us to, years later, be fraternity brothers and doing things together is a wonderful thing."

Both Panarella and Borst noted the major changes in the campus culture and environment that have taken place since the 1970s. Panarella recalls that 55 years ago, in the spring of 1970, the Millersville campus was closed prior to the final exams, in connection with the Kent State protests in Ohio. This era, during which the Vietnam War was taking place, was a major period of transition in culture and society. "When you research that time period when we were there, there was a lot of transition going on," recalls Panarella. As a result of this change, the opportunities for students at Millersville University grew and expanded during the 1970s on campus, including an increase in students from underrepresented groups and the growth of women's athletics.

"I urge students to take advantage of the things that are there – Millersville provides a lot of activities; it's a diverse community," says Panarella. "You really want to immerse yourself in the college life to really enjoy it."

Despite changing times, the friendships between these alumni have continued to grow. The group would like to welcome other alumni to their gatherings and aspire to expand their participation with additional alumni from more recent years. As Panarella notes, "For this to continue, we need younger people to step up."

Panarella says, "When you know somebody when they're young, and then you grow old – and you know them when they are old and you remember them when they were young, it's a very, very special kind of relationship." ♦

IN MEMORY OF

1950s

► ELIZABETH A. (FALKENSTINE)

KAUFFMAN '52, '76M, Lancaster, died 7/21/25 at the age of 94. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Millersville University and later earned master's degrees from Millersville and Central Michigan University. She taught high school English, worked in corporate positions in New York City and served as director of development for the Community Hospital of Lancaster and the American Heart Association. A dedicated alumna, she was president of the Millersville University Alumni Association and served on the boards of the Millersville University Foundation and other local organizations. Kauffman enjoyed travel, the arts and family vacations in Ocean City, NJ. She is survived by her children, Karl, Kim and Kathy; seven grandchildren; two great-grandsons; a sister-in-law; and many cousins and friends.



SIGDA '54

► DR. EDWARD

J. SIGDA '54, West Grove, died 8/23/25, at the age of 97. Sigda earned a bachelor's degree in education from Millersville and later

earned master's degrees in secondary education from the University of Delaware and mathematics from the University of New Hampshire, as well as a doctorate from Temple University. A U.S. Army veteran, he served following World War II and received the Army of Occupation Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He taught mathematics at Ridley Township Junior High and Sharon Hill High School and served as director of technology and supervisor of mathematics for the Southeast Delco School District. Sigda was active in his faith, serving as a lector and volunteer at St. Madeline's Catholic Church and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Anne (Jim), Catherine (David), Michael (Pamela), Patricia (Robert), Jack (Kathleen) and Edward; grandchildren, Nicole, Christopher, Marien, Matthew, John, Paige, Max, Robert and Kaitlin; and sister, Josephine.



STUMPF '54

► ANNE J. (JOHNSTONE) STUMPF '54,

Phoenix, AZ, died 8/3/25, at the age of 92. Stumpf devoted her life to educating

elementary students in Philadelphia, Chicago and Arizona. She was passionate about music and choral performance, participating in church choirs and international choral tours. She is survived by her sons, Kurt (Susan) and Karl (Joanna), and grandchildren, Stephen, Alexander and Sydney. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack, her parents, siblings and grandson, Parker.



MCCOMSEY '55

► JOAN (NYE)

MCCOMSEY '55, Lancaster, died 7/10/25, at the age of 92. A graduate of Millersville State Teachers College with a bachelor's

degree in elementary education, McComsey taught fifth grade in the School District of Lancaster for 34 years, including six years at Lafayette Elementary and 28 years at Fulton Elementary, retiring in 1993. Known for her devotion to her students, she considered them her "children" and remained active with retired teachers throughout her life. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jay, with whom she shared 49 years of marriage. She is survived by her niece, Lauren, and her family; nephew, Tony, and his family; niece, Doris; and nephew, Larry.

► **CHARLOTTE J. (ZEIGLER)**

SNYDER '55, Dover, DE, died July 19, 2025, at the age of 91. Snyder earned a bachelor's degree from Millersville, where she was editor of the college yearbook. She taught for 31 years in the Central School District of York, serving as an elementary teacher, reading specialist and K-12 reading supervisor. After retiring in 1986, she continued as a substitute teacher and volunteered at the Dover Area Community Library. She and her late husband, Lee Russell, enjoyed fishing, attending fishing shows and spending time with family and friends. Snyder was a member of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dover; Delta Kappa Gamma; and Pennsylvania State Educators Association, Public School Employees' Retirement System and the York County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees. She is survived by her brother, Donald; nieces, Angie and Kerry; great-nephew, Patrick; and four stepchildren, Desiree, Leslie, Shane and Lance.

► **LEONARD "CHRIS" M. MELLEY '59**

Southampton, died 7/23/25, at the age of 88. Melley earned a bachelor's degree in science education from Millersville and later earned master's degrees in biology from Syracuse University and in science education from the University of Pennsylvania. He taught for more than three decades in the Neshaminy School District, serving as science department chair at Maple Point and Neshaminy high schools, and also taught as an adjunct faculty member at Trenton State College. A lifelong volunteer, Melley gave over 20 years in service to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia and taught English as a Second Language to adults in Bucks County. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine Turner Melley. He is survived by his children, Dr. Brian Melley and Janine Napoletano; four grandchildren; and sisters, Dorothy Erickson and Jean Marie Toth.

1960s

**WAKELAND '61**

in the Susquehannock School District. He was a proud Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. He also dedicated himself to his community through St. Jacob's United Church of Christ, the West York VFW Post 8951, the York New Salem Lions Club, and the Yellow Breaches Anglers and Conservation Association. He is survived by his sons, Douglas (Janet), Scott and Bryan; five grandchildren; and his sister, Holly. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois, and his sisters, Virginia and Barbara.

**CHURCH '62**

and earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh. Church had a long career as a children's librarian and library administrator in multiple states and was the first female commander of American Legion Post 593 in Prunedale, CA. She shared 37 years of marriage with her late husband, Ernest. She is survived by her children, Robert and Jennifer; grandchildren, Meghan, Kaden and Phillip; great-grandchildren, Hannah, Anthony, Breydon, Margaret, Brooklyn, Amelia and Teagan; and her sister, Jean.

► **LOWELL "DAVE" WAKELAND '61**

York, died 8/1/25, at the age of 91.

Wakeland taught middle school science while coaching sports

**BRUBAKER '64**

before retiring in 2000. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force and held a private pilot's license. Brubaker enjoyed hunting, beach trips and painting, and was a devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Columbia. He is survived by his wife, Kay; daughter, Stephanie; three grandchildren, Krispin, Daisy and Jerry; and sister, Patricia.

► **ROBERT "BOB" J. BRUBAKER '64**

Landisville, died 8/14/25, at the age of 87. Brubaker taught physics at Hempfield High School for 36 years

► **DAVID C. MARTIN '64, '70M**

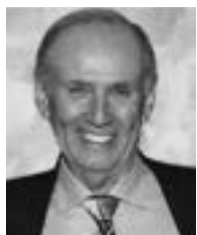
Ephrata, died 7/14/25, at the age of 82. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Millersville University and devoted his career to teaching at Garden Spot High School, where he also served as technical director for school productions. Martin was a cofounder of the Ephrata Area Community Theater and volunteered at the Ephrata Cloister, contributing to local arts and historical preservation. He also served on the Ephrata Zoning Board and helped renovate the Fox Fire House at Furnace Hills Girl Scout Camp. He is survived by his daughters, Wendy Bryden and Jane Baker; three grandchildren, Cody, Casey and Alexis; and a brother, Joseph Martin.



APPLEBY '65, '77M

► **LANDRY K. APPLEBY '65, '77M**, Annville, died 10/12/24, at the age of 80. Appleby retired as high school principal from

Lower Dauphin High School and previously coached and taught at Lebanon High School and served as assistant principal at Penn Manor. A U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, he was awarded the Purple Heart and later retired with 20 years of service from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. He was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and enjoyed collecting coins and toy soldiers as well as sharing his love of history with his family on summer road trips. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Aleysia, and is survived by his wife of 53 years, Carol; daughters, Deanne and Christiana (Savuth); seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



LIVELSBERGER '65

► **GLENN D. LIVELSBERGER '65**, Harrisburg, died 9/26/24, at the age of 82. Livelsberger earned his bachelor's degree in industrial arts from

Millersville University, where he lettered in football and baseball. He began his career as an industrial arts teacher at Lower Paxton Junior High and also coached football for Central Dauphin and several semipro teams. In 1979, he founded Heritage Builders/Glenn D. Livelsberger, Inc., which grew into one of Harrisburg's premier luxury custom home-building companies. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Andrea; children, Tegan (Kristin), Britt (Tom) and Tate (Dori); grandchildren, Keagan, Kayla, Thomas, Estelle and Ivy; and brothers, Allen, Errol, Brian, Gerard and Joseph.



BROOKS '67

► **DORIS A. (ZERN) BROOKS '67**, Georgetown, DE, died 8/3/25, at the age of 80. Brooks taught for many years at Oaks Elementary School

in the Spring-Ford Area School District before retiring. She loved to travel and enjoyed visiting destinations around the world. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert, and is survived by her daughter, Melanie (Christian).



NOBLE '67

► **ROBERT "BOB" D. NOBLE '67**, Manheim, died 7/17/25, at the age of 79. Noble earned a bachelor's degree in education from

Millersville University, where he also met the love of his life, Barbara. They married in 1968 and shared 50 years together until her passing in 2019. Noble began his career as a high school math teacher in 1967; he developed an early interest in emerging computer technologies, integrating them into his teaching. He later transitioned into administration and retired as assistant business manager for the Downingtown Area School District. Noble was also a devoted member of St. Richard Catholic Church and active in philately. He is survived by his children, Michael and Suzanne (Scott), and one grandchild, Phoenix.



SCHREFFLER '67

► **LYNNE (WINGENROTH) SCHREFFLER '67**, Everett, died 4/22/25, at the age of 80. Schreffler taught in the East Lancaster County

School District and served as an educational technology consultant for the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Apple Computer. She shared over 60 years of marriage with her husband, Dave, who she met at Millersville and with whom she lived on a farm and traveled to some of the most remote and wild areas of the world



SCALIA '68

► **SUSAN A. SCALIA '68**, Yardley, died 12/31/24, at the age of 78. She was a retired elementary school teacher with

Neshaminy School District, teaching fourth grade at Eisenhower and Walter Miller elementary schools for over 30 years. Scalia was an avid golfer, artist, gardener and animal lover, active in local garden clubs and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. She is survived by her sisters, Nora Jean and Donna, and two nieces.



EHRHART JR. '69

► **EUGENE L. EHRHART JR. '69**, Lititz, died 8/18/25, at the age of 78. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Millersville

University and worked at Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories for more than 30 years. Ehrhart served in the U.S. Army and Pennsylvania Army National Guard, including a tour in Korea, and received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and National Defense Service Medal. He enjoyed fishing, photography, model railroading and judging the Lancaster Science and Engineering Fair. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; son, Todd (Umay); daughter, Megan (Knut); and brothers, Stephen, Timothy and Robert.

► **LEILA B. (FERGUSON) HERR '69M**, Hershey, died 7/17/25, at the age of 92. She began her career as a teacher at Lebanon High School before earning a master's degree in secondary guidance from Millersville University. She later served as a guidance counselor at Middletown High School until her retirement in 1985. In retirement, she became a real estate agent in the Hershey area and enjoyed camping and traveling with her husband. She is survived by her husband, Paul; three nieces who were like daughters to her; and Paul's grandchildren and nieces.



KLEINFELTER '69

► **BARBARA (GRAFFIUS) KLEINFELTER '69**, Mount Gretna, died 6/20/25, at the age of 80. Kleinfelter worked as a dental

hygienist for the Central Dauphin and Harrisburg school districts for 25 years. She was deeply involved in her community, serving as head of the Middletown Food Pantry and later as judge of elections for Mount Gretna Borough. She enjoyed acrylic painting and decorative arts, but her greatest passion was her family. She is survived by her husband, Bill; children, Todd (Cristina), Brad (Allison) and Molly (Daniel); six grandchildren, Zachary, Nathan, Benjamin, Mathias, Nora and Isaac; two brothers, William (Ruth) and David; and two sisters, Kathy (Douglas) and Becky (Roy).



STEELE '69

► **PATRICK H. STEELE '69**, Westphalia, MO, died 2/10/25, at the age of 82. Steele earned a degree in secondary

education/art education from Millersville University. He taught art in Indianapolis before working in historic preservation at the Huddleston House in Cambridge City, IN, and later in Washington, D.C. He moved to Missouri in the early 1980s as director of the Missouri Heritage Trust, later owning Crossroads Preservation with his wife, Anne. Steele also served as historic preservation manager for the City of Independence, MO, helping save many historic buildings near the Truman Home, and later served as alderman and county clerk in Westphalia. He enjoyed gardening, outdoor activities, caring for pets and creating pencil sketches of houses and barns.

1970s



HOLT '70

► **SARAH "SALLY" J. (WOOL) HOLT '70**, Harrisburg, died 6/19/25, at the age of 76. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from

Millersville University and a master's degree in education from the University of Delaware. She taught high school math in Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York. A lifelong Girl Scout volunteer, she ran the cookie cupboard for Susquehanna Township for more than 20 years. She enjoyed knitting, cross-stitching and square dancing with her husband, Dave. She is survived by her husband, Dave; daughter, Suzie Bodnar; and sister, Kathy Ledzinski.



SMITH '71

► **TIMOTHY "TIM" E. SMITH '71**, Lancaster, died 6/16/25, at the age of 80. He earned his bachelor's degree in geography and

comprehensive social studies from Millersville University. Smith was an avid sports fan who enjoyed Penn State football, the Eagles and the Phillies, and he loved to travel, including living in Florence, Italy, and Hawaii. He is survived by his brother, Stephen (William Sharp).



STAMAN '71

► **WILLIAM T. STAMAN '71**

Elizabethtown, died 8/25/25, at the age of 80. Staman earned degrees in earth and space science from Millersville University

and a master's degree from Penn State Harrisburg. He taught at Lower Dauphin and Cedar Crest high schools and was known for his dedication to students. A Navy veteran, he served on the USS Guadalcanal and as a Naval Academy information officer, with tours including Iceland. Staman was a certified arborist and owned Timber Wolf Tree Services for 20 years. He was a longtime member of Abraham C. Treichler Lodge 682. He is survived by his wife, Jane; daughter, Emily (Anthony) Marino; son, James; and three grandchildren.



LUCEY '72

► **JAMES "JIM" E. LUCEY '72,**

Easton, died 8/12/25, at the age of 74. Lucey cofounded Exclusive

Transportation for Industry in 1977. He was active in his community, serving as Parent Teacher Association president, carnival chair and a longtime volunteer and chairman for the Burn Prevention Network. Known for his humor, generosity and love of family, Lucey enjoyed travel, cars and making milkshakes for friends and family. He is survived by his wife, Karen; daughters, Allison and Carolyn (Calvey); seven grandchildren, Aidan, Gavin, Connor, Bennett, Maggie, Quinn and Molly; brother, John; stepchildren, James and Alyssa (Clapp); and step-grandchildren, Chase, Emily, Cole and Ava.



SCHREINER '72, '77M

► **MARY F. SCHREINER '72, '77M,** Lancaster, died 8/7/25, at age 83. Schreiner taught at St. Joseph School and Resurrection for

42 years, educating students from second through eighth grade. A devout Catholic, she was active at St. Joseph Church, teaching Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, preparing students for sacraments and participating in parish organizations. She is survived by her sisters, Marie and Helen; brothers, John (Marian) and Edward (Linda); nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.



BIGLER '73, '76M

► **SAMUEL "SAM" L. BIGLER '73, '76M,** Millersville, died 7/1/25, at the age of 78. Bigler served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969, during which

he was stationed in Germany and competed on the German weightlifting team to promote international goodwill. He went on to become a member of the 1976 U.S. Olympic Weightlifting Team and is honored in several sports halls of fame. At Millersville, he earned his bachelor's degree in education in 1973 and his master's degree in education, with a reading specialist certification, in 1976, and it was there that he met his wife, Cynthia. Bigler taught at Penn Manor School District and spent 33 years at Thaddeus Stevens College, where he mentored many at-risk students. He also served his community on the Millersville Zoning Hearing Board and as a mentor with the Lancaster County Veterans Court. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; son, Evan; brother, Tom (Beth); sisters, Kate (Bill) and Mary; and extended family.

► **JOSEPH L. HELLER '73,** New Holland, died 7/27/25, at the age of 74. He worked for more than 40 years as a safety specialist with Horst Construction and served as a board member with Associated Builders & Contractors. He also taught science at Lancaster Mennonite High School and construction courses at Brownstown Vo-Tech. A member of Mellinger Mennonite Church, he was active as a Sunday school teacher and enjoyed writing letters to the editor, following sports and spending time with family. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Marilyn; a brother, Robert, married to Joanne Heller; sisters-in-law, Barbara Heller and Kitty Heller; and 10 nieces and nephews.



GARBER '74

► **JAY C. GARBER '74,** Lancaster, died 8/31/25, at the age of 92. Garber earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from

Millersville University. He was a social worker and human resources director for Philhaven Hospital and Eastern Mennonite Missions and served as lead pastor of New Danville Mennonite Church from 1966 to 1998. Garber served on numerous boards, including the Eastern Mennonite Missions board for 34 years, including 15 years as chair. He and his wife, Lois, traveled to more than 50 countries, many for mission work, and enjoyed biking, skiing and supporting community fundraisers. He is survived by his wife; children, Judy (Ron), Joe (Yvonne), Dave (Shirley), Elaine (Ed) and daughter-in-law, Nancy (Chuck); 15 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Ruth.



SMITH '74, '77M

► **PHILIP A. SMITH '74, '77M**, Collegeville, died 8/29/25, at the age of 72. Smith was a devoted teacher in the Norristown Area School

District, instructing in both industrial arts and fine arts. An advocate for conservation, he helped preserve the Stone Hill Wildlife Preserve Greenway and served on the Lower Frederick Township Planning Commission, Open Space Committee and Historic Resource Survey Committee. A former Boy Scout and talented artist, he was dedicated to mentoring youth and promoting creativity. He is survived by his wife, Gail Gosser-Smith, and siblings, Howard I. Smith, Dr. Roberta E. Smith and Richard J. Smith.



EUCULANO '75

► **BEVERLY A. (FREY) EUCULANO '75**, Wrightsville, died 7/8/25, at the age of 73. She and her husband owned the former Fresh

Market Deli in Columbia from 1981 to 1984, and she later worked for Walmart until her retirement in 2017. A lifelong and active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, she served in numerous roles, including as treasurer for more than 25 years. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Joe; sons, Tony (Missy) and Nick (Samantha); grandsons, Owen and Everett; siblings, Bea and Jim (Sharon); and many nieces, nephews and extended family.



SASSAMAN '76

► **DIANE J. (DILLMAN) SASSAMAN '76**, Reading, died 6/18/25, at the age of 82. Sassaman was a registered nurse at Reading

Hospital before becoming a nursing instructor at St. Joseph Hospital and Reading Area Community College, where she mentored generations of students. She is survived by her husband, Harry; son, Christopher (Lisa); granddaughters, Elena and Anna; and sister-in-law, Robin Prins.



COOPER '77

► **MIRIAM M. COOPER '77**, Millersburg, died 8/19/25, at the age of 92. She earned her degree from Millersville University while

raising four sons and began her full-time teaching career with the Capital Area IU, later retiring from Upper Dauphin School District. Cooper was active in Halifax Community Church, volunteering with the church food room and the Upper Dauphin Area Goodwill, and enjoyed camping, golfing, crocheting, needlepoint and time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by her sons, Kevin, Scott and Brian; daughter-in-law, Deborah; grandchildren, Donray, Cheryl, Shawn, Garrett (Maggie), Brian (Meghan) and Patrick (Kaycee); and great-grandchildren, Dylan, Kastan, Wyatt, Isaiah, Aliyah, Madison, Reagan, Greyson and Baylor. She was married to the late Donald Cooper and was preceded in death by her son Jack.

► **TIMOTHY N. HASSELL '77**, Lititz, died 7/31/25, at the age of 69. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Millersville University, where he also played football. He worked as a case manager with WellSpan Philhaven and Community Services Group, dedicating his career to supporting behavioral health in the community. Hassell enjoyed cheering for Philadelphia sports, family trips to the Outer Banks, hiking and exploring the American Southwest. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; sons, Corey (Ilana), Daniel and Joel (Brittany); grandchildren, Eden and Gabriel; his mother, Esther; siblings, Connie Lapp and James Hassell; and many nieces and nephews.

► **ROBERT "BOB" H. DEHAVEN '81**, Lancaster, died 7/30/25, at the age of 64. DeHaven served as a U.S. Navy officer before working as a store manager for Rite Aid and later in the food service industry. DeHaven had a lifelong love of history, enjoying museums and historical sites, and cherished time with family, pets and the beach. He is survived by his wife, Madeline "Lin;" his son, John; his siblings, Mary (Jeffrey), Joanne, Fred (Lisa) and Carol (James); numerous nieces and nephews; and honorary son, Elvis LaGuerre.

► **ELIZABETH "BETTY" S. (FISHER) JACOBS '81**, Millersville, died 12/22/24, at the age of 93. Jacobs earned her degree in social work from Millersville University and spent the last years of her career supporting the Lancaster County Office of Aging. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilmer. She is survived by her children, Jeanne (Steven) and Peter; grandchildren, Summerlee, Jedediah, Laura and Mark; two great-grandchildren; and sister, Rufina.

1980s



VAN WYK '83, '86M

► **JOSEPHINE (BURGER) VAN WYK '83, '86M**, Lancaster, died 6/30/25, at the age of 87. Born in South Africa, Van Wyk moved to

Lancaster with her family in 1966. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English – her second language – from Millersville University and later served as an adjunct professor of English at Millersville. She is survived by her husband, Peter, and children, Ingrid (Larry) and Kenneth (Caren).



SHIPLEY '85

► **JANE A. (DEHART) SHIPLEY '85**, Lakeland, FL, died 8/11/25, at the age of 72. She was an English teacher at John Harris High

School in Harrisburg, where she coached the debate team and served as teachers' union representative. Shipley enjoyed her roses, playing cards and her beloved dogs. She is survived by her daughter, Dorothy; son, Nathan; five grandchildren, T'Keyah, Tanner, Carter, Ashley and Dustin; two great-grandchildren, Logan and Madeline; and her sister, Molly. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wanda and Richard DeHart, and her sister, Kathryn.



JACOBS '86

► **PAUL E. JACOBS '86**, Mount Joy, died 6/21/25, at the age of 62. Born in Shirati, Tanzania, he was a graduate of Hempfield High

School and Millersville University. Jacobs was the owner of Paul Jacobs Photography and an avid outdoorsman, enjoying bicycling, hiking and backpacking. He is survived by his wife, Tammy; son, Evan; daughter, Elizabeth; mother, Anna Ruth; and siblings, Jane, David and Alan, along with their children.



LOGAN '87, '91M

► **JEAN L. (SCHNECK) LOGAN '87, '91M**, Lancaster, died 6/21/25, at the age of 81. She taught fourth grade at

Bucher Elementary for 17 years. Logan was a devoted wife to Eugene, loving mother to Christina (Robert), Greg (Alicia) and Pete (Laramie), and grandmother to nine, with one great-grandchild on the way. She was active in her church, volunteered with the Daughters of the American Revolution and the North Museum, and enjoyed entertaining, traveling and family time.



CARLEY '88

► **JOHN E. CARLEY '88**, Myerstown, died 8/23/25, at the age of 59. He earned a bachelor's degree from Millersville University and taught wood shop

at Eastern Lebanon County High School for 32 years, also coaching football for more than 30 years. Carley was active in his community as a member of the Richland American Legion, Mt. Aetna Fire Company, Goodwill Fire Company and Newmanstown Athletic Association. He enjoyed teaching, cooking, watching football and spending time with friends and his cat, Cutie. He is survived by his wife, Desaree; children, Zachary, Braden, William (Kaitlyn), Julie, Nicole and Tommy; grandchildren, Stella, William and Lorelai; and his mother, a sister and nephews.

► **MARY CATHERINE (MCGEE) MUNSTER '88**, Mountville, died 7/27/25, at the age of 58. Munster earned a degree in occupational safety and hygiene management from Millersville University, becoming the first female graduate in her field. She was an active member and past president of the Lancaster Liederkranz, volunteering on numerous committees. Known for her drive and dedication, she gave her all in everything she pursued. She is survived by her husband, Jeffrey; daughter, Kelsey (Marcus); sisters, Elizabeth (Drew) and Jennifer (Mark); and other family and friends.



ZALEDONIS '88M

► **EILEEN (WALLACE) ZALEDONIS '88M**, Lititz, died 8/22/25, at the age of 86. Zaledonis earned a master's degree in education from

Millersville University and completed certification as a Reading Recovery specialist from Ohio State University. She taught French and later served as a reading specialist at Lititz Elementary School for 20 years. She also mentored graduate students at Millersville University's Reading Clinic and taught as an adjunct professor in the Best Clinic master's program. Zaledonis served on the boards of Lancaster Dollars for Higher Learning and Lancaster-Lebanon Reading Council. She is survived by her husband, Edward; daughters, Ellen (Kevin) Milligan and Lynne Zaledonis (Boris Bakovic); grandchildren, Maeve and Griffin Milligan; and sister, Mary (Wallace) Love. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dawson and Miriam Wallace; brother, Bart Wallace; and sister, Dee Burrs.



GARLING '89

► **RUTH M. (FINKENBINDER) GARLING '89**, Shippensburg, died 8/23/25, at the age of 67. Garling earned a bachelor's degree

in nursing from Millersville University and worked at Lancaster and Harrisburg hospitals, visiting nurse services in Tyrone and hospice care with Residential Hospice. She served with Gospel Center Missions and Teen Missions, ministered in Niger, and volunteered as a Sunday School teacher and with Child Evangelism Fellowship. She is survived by her husband, Bill; children, Amy (Matthew) Rice and Dan (Rachel) Garling; grandchild, Micah; brother, David Finkenbinder; and sister, Lela Zimmerman.

1990s



MCCUE '91M

► **GEORGIANNE R. (SHATTO) MCCUE '91M**, Mount Joy, died 7/11/25, at the age of 90. McCue earned her master's degree in counseling from

Millersville University. Known for her devotion to faith, family and community, she was a longtime member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church and used her counseling expertise to support others. She is survived by her children, Andrea (Bruce) and Kristopher (Bonnie); grandchildren, Justin (Maria), J. Brandon (Amy), Tyler, Clint and Casey (Katy); and eight great-grandchildren.



SCHULTE '91

► **DR. DAVID M. SCHULTE '91**, Midland, died 8/22/25, at the age of 57. Schulte earned a bachelor's degree in biology, marine

and environmental sciences from Millersville University and later received a master's and doctoral degree in marine science from William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science. He spent 25 years with the Norfolk District Army Corps of Engineers as a regional technical specialist oceanographer/ecologist, pioneering oyster restoration methods in the Chesapeake Bay and receiving recognition that included the Coastal America Award from the White House. Schulte was also a professional bodybuilder and powerlifter, trained in martial arts and enjoyed archery, gardening and caring for his animals. He is survived by his wife, Yuqun Zhou Schulte; children, Zehao Wu and Halina Yiwen Schulte; siblings, Matthew M. Schulte, Jean L. Schulte-Tosh and Martin V. Schulte Jr.; and nieces and nephew.



KIRSCHT '92, '94M

► **MICHELLE "MICK" E. KIRSCHT '92, '94M**, Elizabethtown, died 8/10/25. Kirscht worked in banking and as a

certified massage therapist. She was known for her adventurous spirit and love of nature, enjoying hiking, biking and watching sunrises on the beach. She is survived by her partner, Donna; siblings, Rick and Patricia; and extended family. She was preceded in death by her brother, Ken, and sister, Jennifer.

2010s



BROWN-KISHBAUGH '11, '14M, '24D

► **DR. JAIMA LEE BROWN-KISHBAUGH '11, '14M, '24D**, Mechanicsburg, died 6/18/25, at the age of 48. She earned her undergraduate,

master's and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees from Millersville University. Brown-Kishbaugh served as a nurse practitioner at the Lebanon VA Medical Center and previously in UPMC's endocrine and emergency departments. She also taught nursing at Millersville University, mentoring countless students. She is survived by her husband, Steve; sons, Jensen, Liam and Ryker; stepson, Steve; parents, Ricky and Linda; stepmother, Jill; and brother, Neal. She was known for her devotion to family, her love of travel and the outdoors, and her cherished circle of friends and colleagues who shared in her life and legacy.

[Read more about Dr. Jaima Lee Brown-Kishbaugh from the spring issue.](#)



► **NOLAN E. MYERS '16**, Manchester, died 7/28/25, at the age of 33. Myers earned a bachelor's degree in graphic arts from Millersville University. He loved amusement parks, roller coasters and sharing his adventures with friends and family, from Florida's Disney and Universal Studios to Dollywood and Hershey Park. He is survived by his mother, Gail; father, Donald; brother, Donald (Lyndsay); nieces, Genevieve, Charlotte and Savannah; nephew, Ryder; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Faculty/ Staff



BEHRENS

► **JOEL P. BEHRENS**, Lancaster, retired faculty member, died 6/17/25, at the age of 80. Behrens was a longtime flute professor at Millersville University, teaching for 40 years. He directed the Music Preparatory Program, conducted the University Flute Choir and taught courses in American Music, Western Music, Popular Music and Fundamentals of Music. A former member of the West Point Military Academy Band and the 553rd Pennsylvania Air National Guard Band, he also performed with national touring companies and appeared as a recitalist across the United States and Europe. Behrens served as a soloist, conductor and principal flutist with ensembles including the Harrisburg Symphony, Harrisburg Choral Society, Shippensburg Festival Orchestra and Harrisburg City Band. He is survived by his wife, Lana Jean; sons John (Kim) and Mark; grandchildren Nathan, Keegan, Jaydan, and Sidney; and sister Paula (Kenny) Jackson.

► **FRANCES L. JONES**, Lancaster, former Millersville staff member, died 7/18/25, at the age of 98. She worked at Millersville, where she met her late husband, Richard. She later relocated and began working at Indiana University of PA. Colleagues from IUP remembered her calm spirit, skill in payroll, elegant style and signature hairdo. After retirement, she returned to Lancaster and enjoyed time with her grandchildren. She is survived by her brother, Harry; sons, Thomas and Robert; five granddaughters; and 12 great-grandchildren.



KANE

was recruited as the freshman football coach at Millersville in 1965 and spent more than 30 years at the University, serving as freshman and varsity football coach, offensive coordinator, track and swimming coach, and instructor in health and physical education. He is survived by his wife, Lana; daughter, Kimberly (Jan); grandson, Kennet; son, Carl Jr.; brother Walter (Lisa); and nieces, nephews and extended family.

► **CARL "CHICK" R. KANE**, Elizabethtown, professor emeritus of wellness and sport sciences, died 6/24/25, at the age of 85. Kane

► **NANCY M. (GEHR) LEED**, Washington Boro, retired staff member, died 7/18/25, at the age of 72. She worked in food services at Millersville University, where she proudly won Faculty Member of the Year twice after being nominated three times by the Black Student Union. A member of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, she served as a Sunday school teacher and on the church council. She cherished time with family and friends. She is survived by her husband, John; children, John (Lauren), Katie (Andrew), Andrew (Emily), Shelby and Patrick (Karissa); and 14 grandchildren.

STACEY M. FINK, MD, PhD

Stacey M. Fink '72, '77M, MD, PhD died on July 16, 2025, at the age of 75. A resident of Lebanon and formerly of Lititz, Stacey was born in Allentown to the late Ralph and Clarabel Fink, houseparents at the Milton Hershey School for 31 years, guiding 288 boys. He lived in their group home where teamwork and giving back were part of everything they did, an important lesson he carried throughout his life.

A 1968 graduate of Hershey High School, Stacey earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Biology from Millersville State College, where he was a student-athlete. He entered the University of Louisville's PhD Anatomy Program and subsequently earned an MD from their medical school. Further training in Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine was completed at the Medical College of Georgia.

As an Attending Neonatologist caring for premature and sick newborns, Stacey practiced in the Southeast for most of his career and finally at Lancaster General Hospital's Women and Babies Hospital, retiring in 2013. He loved his work and always said he wanted to do his best to give these babies a chance at life.

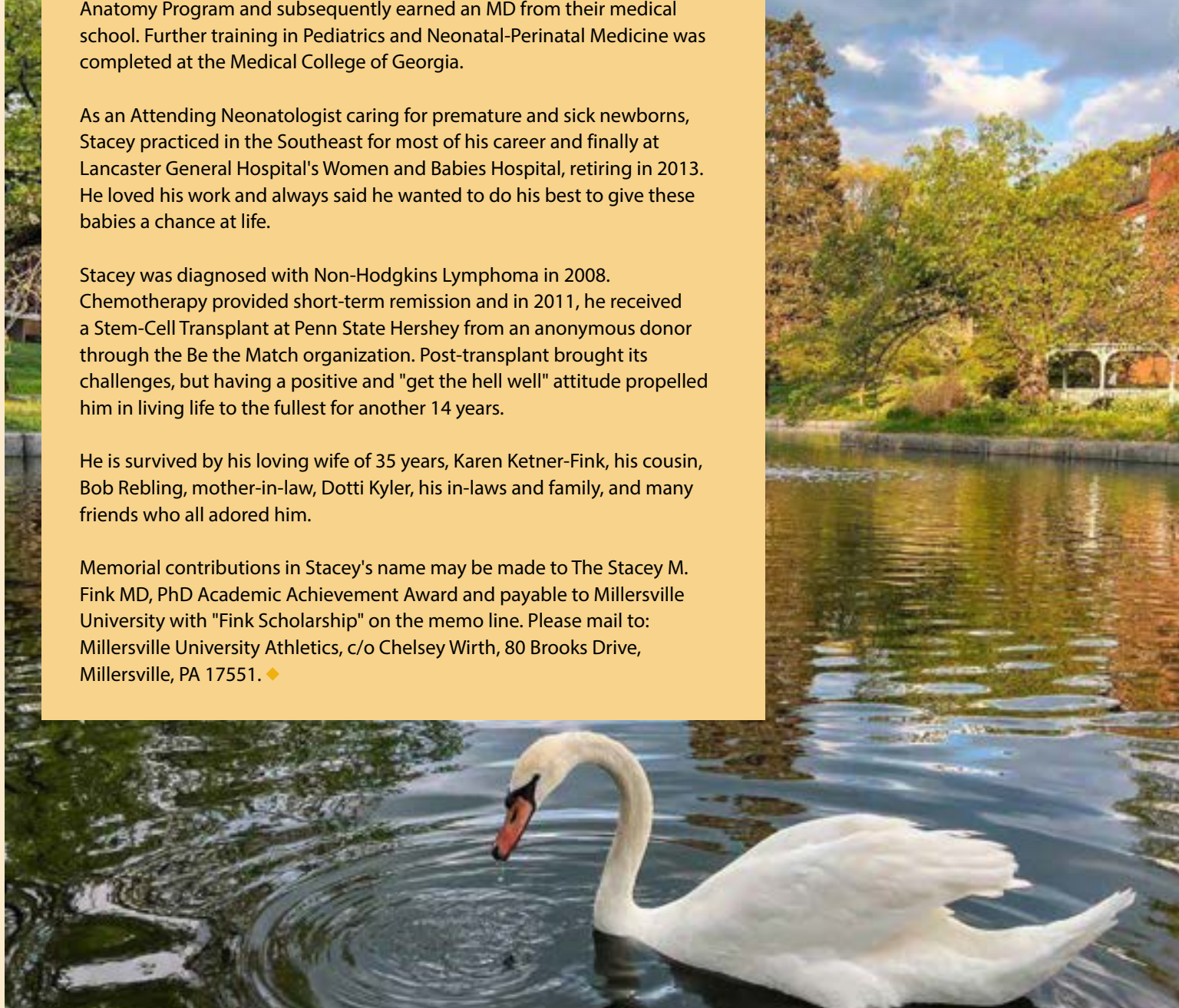
Stacey was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2008. Chemotherapy provided short-term remission and in 2011, he received a Stem-Cell Transplant at Penn State Hershey from an anonymous donor through the Be the Match organization. Post-transplant brought its challenges, but having a positive and "get the hell well" attitude propelled him in living life to the fullest for another 14 years.

He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Karen Ketner-Fink, his cousin, Bob Rebling, mother-in-law, Dotti Kyler, his in-laws and family, and many friends who all adored him.

Memorial contributions in Stacey's name may be made to The Stacey M. Fink MD, PhD Academic Achievement Award and payable to Millersville University with "Fink Scholarship" on the memo line. Please mail to: Millersville University Athletics, c/o Chelsey Wirth, 80 Brooks Drive, Millersville, PA 17551. ♦



To inform us of a passing, contact the Millersville University Office of Alumni of Engagement by email at alumni@millersville.edu, by phone (717) 871-7551 or by completing the Class Notes form here: millersville.edu/alumni/class-notes



ATHLETICS NEWS

Athletics Hall of Fame Inducts New Class



(L to R) front row: Kay Liebl and Sabrina Fusco; back row, Connor Sheehan, Amanda Myers Strack, Dr. Erin Madison, Brandon Miller, Donna Eshleman and Director of Athletics Kate Corcoran

By Ethan Hulsey

The Millersville University Athletics Hall of Fame officially inducted the 2025 and 31st annual class on Oct. 3 as part of Homecoming Weekend.

"This year's class epitomizes what it means to be a Marauder," says Millersville director of athletics Kate Corcoran. "Through record-setting achievements in competition, distinguished service to the campus and community, and success in their careers after graduating from the University, they have earned a rightful place in the Millersville Athletics Hall of Fame."

Donna Eshleman '82 (athlete and staff)

As a student-athlete, coach and staff member, Eshleman was synonymous with Millersville Athletics for 40 years. She was a two-sport athlete, a member of the University's first softball team and a captain for a basketball team that set a school record for wins and won an Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women regional championship during her senior season. She returned to campus shortly after graduation, and for the next 36 years, she impacted the daily lives and experiences of countless student-athletes as the department's equipment manager, overseeing athletic operations. Eshleman also coached the softball program from 1984-87 and still ranks second all-time in winning percentage.

Continued on next page.

Sabrina Fusco '18 (women's lacrosse)

The most productive offensive player in the history of the Millersville women's lacrosse program, Fusco shattered program records for goals in a season as well as goals and points in a career. Fusco is one of only two 'Ville women's lacrosse athletes, and the only offensive player, to be named All-PSAC four times. She set freshman records with 52 goals and 64 points on her way to winning the PSAC Freshman of the Year award in 2015, and as a senior, she etched her name in history with 71 goals and 86 points, finishing her career with 223 goals and 277 points, surpassing two Millersville hall of famers.

Kay Liebl '20 (women's soccer/indoor and outdoor track and field)

A rare, modern-day two-sport athlete, Liebl was a record-setting star for the women's soccer program and a key contributor to the track and field team, significantly impacting the success of both teams. Liebl led the soccer team to its first NCAA Tournament appearance and school records for wins in back-to-back seasons while also helping the track and field team to its best PSAC Championships finish in more than 20 years. On the pitch, Liebl earned All-PSAC selection three times and was the first Marauder named All-Atlantic Region First Team twice. She established program records with 39 goals and 96 points. As a track and field athlete, Liebl qualified for the PSAC Championships in the long jump six times and ran to PSAC titles with two 4x400-meter relay teams.

Erin Madison '16 (indoor and outdoor track and field)

A hurdler with no peer and three-time PSAC champion, "Shoes" Madison won the 400-meter hurdles at the PSAC Outdoor Championships in 2015 and pulled off the hurdling double with wins in the 100- and 400-meter hurdles in 2016 – a performance that made her the first PSAC Championships Athlete of the Meet in program history. Madison is one of only two Millersville runners to qualify for the NCAA Championships three times. She earned All-America honors in 2015 with an eighth-place finish and second team All-America status in 2016 by finishing 10th. Madison set the program's 400 hurdles record by more than a second, helped break the 4x400-meter relay mark, and still ranks in the top 10 in 10 indoor and outdoor events.

Brandon Miller '20 (baseball)

The workhorse for Millersville baseball's greatest team, Miller led the nation in wins, earned All-PSAC East and All-Atlantic Region first team honors twice, and was the first Marauder named American Baseball Coaches

Association and National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association All-America First Team before becoming the highest draft pick in Millersville history as a junior. Miller went 27-8 with a 2.08 ERA in three seasons as a starting pitcher, setting the team record for wins in 2015 and 2016. In his epic junior season, Miller set Millersville records with 115 strikeouts in 107.1 innings, posting an incredible 1.42 ERA while pitching against the nation's toughest teams. Miller, the consensus Atlantic Region Pitcher of the Year, helped the Marauders to a 53-7 record, a national No. 1 ranking and a runner-up finish at the NCAA Division II Championship. In his four postseason starts, including two at the NCAA Championship, Miller delivered three complete games and a 1.09 ERA. Later in the summer of 2016, the Seattle Mariners selected him in the sixth round of the MLB Draft.

Connor Sheehan '18 (men's golf/wrestling)

Sheehan balanced collegiate life as a two-sport athlete and became one of the most decorated golfers in the history of Millersville University. Golfing in the fall and spring and wrestling in the winter, Sheehan defined the term "full-time student-athlete." On the golf course, Sheehan became the first Marauder in 18 years to be named a PSAC Golfer of the Year. In that same 2018 season, Sheehan became the second Marauder to qualify as an individual for the NCAA Division II Championships. Sheehan earned two All-PSAC First Team selections, set the program record for scoring average in a season (72.8 in 2018), and graduated with the program's fifth-lowest career scoring average. A four-year member of the wrestling team, Sheehan competed at 125 pounds and posted 27 wins.

Amanda Myers Strack '18 (outdoor track and field)

Among Millersville University's javelin throwers, Myers Strack has no equal. She broke a 24-year-old school record and competed at the nation's highest level, qualifying for the NCAA Division II Championships four times. Myers Strack earned All-America honors three times, finishing 10th as a sophomore, sixth as a junior and fifth as a senior in 2018. Myers Strack, a five-time U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Atlantic Region performer in the javelin and hammer throw, became the program's first PSAC Freshman of the Year in 2015 and finished as the PSAC Outdoor Championships runner-up in the javelin twice and the hammer once. ♦

75 Years of PSAC

By *Ethan Hulsey*

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference recognized 300 of its most prominent contributors this September in celebration of its 75th anniversary in 2025-26. The conference lauded 75 “Made in the PSAC” alumni who have gone on to influential careers after graduation, its 75 Greatest Female Athletes and 75 Greatest Male Athletes, and 75 PSAC keystones, who were staff, coaches and administrators historically influential in the PSAC.

Millersville, one of the original 14 institutions in what was founded as the Pennsylvania State Teachers College Athletic Conference in 1951, had 18 honorees. All honorees were selected through a process that included nominations from institutions and selections by a committee of institutional and PSAC staff.

MADE IN THE PSAC

Will Lewis '80 (football, track and field)

A star defensive back with the football team and sprinter on the track and field team, Lewis was a Division III All-American in 1979 after leading the PSAC in interceptions. After graduation, Lewis played 26 games in the NFL with the Seattle Seahawks and also played in the United States Football League and Canadian Football League before embarking on a successful career as an executive, scout and coach in professional football. Lewis worked as director of pro personnel with the Seahawks, spent six years in the Kansas City Chiefs front office and is currently the general manager of the United Football League's Houston Roughnecks.

Scott Martin '02 (football, wrestling)

A three-time All-PSAC East First Team selection and an All-America First Team selection as a senior, Martin was a force on the Marauders' defensive line. He also placed third at the NCAA Division I East Regionals as a wrestler. Martin has gone on to a distinguished career in public service, serving two terms as Lancaster County Commissioner, and he has served as a Pennsylvania state senator since 2017, representing Pennsylvania's 13th district.



Gema Robles '03 (women's basketball)

Robles set the PSAC's all-time steals record, led Millersville in scoring twice and led the PSAC in assists as a senior, earning the PSAC East Athlete of the Year award in 2003. Robles, a graduate of the Millersville ROTC program, embarked on a 21-year career in the U.S. Army, becoming a Blackhawk helicopter pilot and training instructor, and serving as battalion commander in the 101st Airborne Division and aide-de-camp to the 39th vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Jon Shehan '06 (baseball)

Shehan earned All-PSAC East First Team honors and led Division II in doubles per game as a catcher for the Marauders. Just three years later, Shehan became Millersville's head coach, inheriting a team that had gone 9-37 the previous season. He promptly led Millersville to their first of 11 PSAC East titles. In his 18 seasons as Millersville's head coach, he has won three PSAC Championships and guided Millersville to 12 consecutive NCAA Regionals, with an NCAA runner-up finish in 2016. He has coached 10 MLB draft picks, and two of his former players have played in the World Series.

Ashley Moyer-Gleich '10 (women's basketball)

An All-PSAC East selection who helped Millersville women's basketball to the NCAA regional final in 2010, Moyer-Gleich has quickly risen through the ranks as a professional basketball official. After officiating in the ACC, Atlantic 10, Patriot League and Ivy League, Moyer-Gleich moved up to the WNBA in 2018 and then joined the NBA. Over five seasons, Moyer-Gleich has officiated 172 games, and in 2024, she became the second woman ever, and the first in more than a decade, to officiate an NBA playoff game.

Continued on next page.

75 GREATEST FEMALE ATHLETES

Linda Kreiser '74 (field hockey, women's lacrosse, women's basketball)

Kreiser was the first female athlete in Millersville history to have her jersey retired and was a member of the very first Millersville Athletics Hall of Fame class. She was a team captain in field hockey, lacrosse and women's basketball, and set the field hockey program's scoring record with 51 goals. She led that team to two undefeated seasons and went on to play seven years for USA Field Hockey. After graduation, she became one of the most successful high school field hockey coaches in Pennsylvania history.

Cherie Meiklejohn Spilis '90 (field hockey, women's lacrosse)

An All-American in field hockey and lacrosse, Meiklejohn Spilis had her No. 36 jersey retired by the Millersville Athletics department and was inducted in the first class of the Millersville Athletics Hall of Fame. She was a two-time PSAC Lacrosse Athlete of the Year, helping Millersville to three consecutive PSAC Championships. She was the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Division II MVP in 1990 and also led the field hockey team in scoring three years in a row.

Rachel Dickinson Latham '15 (field hockey)

Dickinson Latham is one of just three PSAC athletes to be named the Honda Division II Athlete of the Year and represent the entire division at the Honda Woman of the Year Awards. She was voted the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division II Player of the Year and Synapse Sports Division II Defensive Player of the Year as she led Millersville to the 2014 NCAA Field Hockey Championship. Dickinson Latham was the first Marauder named All-America First Team three times, and she was also the National Freshman of the Year and PSAC East Freshman of the Year in 2011.

Sunflower Greene '19 (indoor and outdoor track and field)

Among the most dominant athletes regardless of sport, Greene won the NCAA Division II Indoor Shot Put Championship two times and was the outdoor runner-up in 2018. She won 11 PSAC titles in five different events. Greene won the PSAC's Outdoor and Indoor Athlete of the Year awards a combined five times. She was an eight-time All-American and qualified for the NCAA Championships in five different throwing events. Greene graduated with PSAC records in four events.

Hannah Woelfling '23 (indoor and outdoor track and field)

Woelfling won the NCAA Division II Discus Championship as a senior in 2023 and set all-time and championship PSAC records in the discus and hammer throw. Woelfling totaled seven PSAC titles in her career, winning the PSAC Indoor and Outdoor Field Athlete of the Meet award a combined three times. She was named the 2023 PSAC Outdoor Championships MVP after leading Millersville to the conference championship.

75 GREATEST MALE ATHLETES

John Parker '57 (basketball)

A trailblazer in basketball and the first Millersville athlete to have his jersey officially retired by the University, Parker led Millersville to four consecutive "Saylor System" PSAC titles while setting conference records for scoring (1,748 points) and rebounds (1,587). Parker, a three-time All-PSAC First Team selection, also set the PSAC's single-game records for points (54) and rebounds (32), and single-season record for rebounds (483). His career rebounds record still ranks first.

Walter Kottmeyer '62 (wrestling)

Kottmeyer, a 2002 Millersville Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, won three PSAC Championships while wrestling at 167 and 157 pounds. He compiled a dominant 40-1-2 dual meet record, won the 1962 NAIA Championship and won 4-I titles in 1958 and 1962.

Phil Walker '77 (men's basketball)

Walker graduated as the most prolific scorer in the history of the PSAC, totaling 2,261 points in his career. He was a four-time All-PSAC East First Team selection and an NAIA All-America First Team pick in 1977. Walker was drafted by the Washington Bullets in the second round of the 1977 NBA draft and won an NBA championship in 1978.

Chas McCormick '17 (baseball)

McCormick, the 2017 PSAC East Baseball Athlete of the Year, set the PSAC hits record and still ranks in the top 10 in career runs, RBIs, doubles, steals and walks. He was a rare four-time All-PSAC East First Team selection. McCormick, drafted by the Houston Astros, went on to win a World Series ring with the team in 2022.



75 PSAC KEYSTONES



Dr. Daniel Biemesderfer

Biemesderfer served as the ninth president of Millersville University and was an instrumental leader of the State Teachers College Presidents' Board in the creation of the PSAC. Millersville's Biemesderfer Stadium is named in his honor.



Marge Trout

A trailblazer as the director of women's athletics, Trout was instrumental in expanding women's sports opportunities. She added six women's teams at Millersville, and she was the first female president of the PSAC, a position she held three times.



Dr. Gene Carpenter

A legendary football coach, Carpenter won 220 games and 10 PSAC East titles from 1970-2000. He served as the director of men's athletics from 1981-97. Carpenter was elected to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and College Football Hall of Fame.



Scott Vandegrift

Vandegrift has led the Millersville men's golf program for nearly four decades and has guided the women's program since its inception. A four-time men's golf Coach of the Year and the 2015 women's golf Coach of the Year, Vandegrift led his programs to a combined five

PSAC Championships. He is one of just three Division II coaches to win the GCAA Labron Harris Sr. Award and is a member of the West Chester Athletics Hall of Fame. ♦



Millersville University