

FALL 2024

Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW



Celebrating **Mary Fleig**
~ A 'Ville Legend ~

Millersville

UNIVERSITY REVIEW

Fall 2024



DEAR MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY FRIENDS AND FAMILY,
Welcome to the second digital version of the Review Magazine. We have added two digital versions to the two printed versions each year. The next print edition is scheduled to be released in January 2025.

It's hard to believe we are almost halfway through the semester. Our fall break is coming up from October 12 through 15. That means we'll soon prepare for Thanksgiving, followed closely by winter commencement on December 14.

I was pleased to see many of you at Homecoming this year. We had a perfect day for our parade, block party and the new Maker's Market and Skully Shoppes. If you couldn't make it, we have photos of the events in the magazine.

This issue also features our alumni who are authors and our work to forge international partnerships and resources for underserved students. We also delve into the work that one professor is doing about homelessness.

I hope you enjoy reading this second digital edition of the Review Magazine. As always, thank you for your commitment to the 'Ville.

With warmest regards,

Daniel A. Wubah

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

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ALUMS WHO ARE **AUTHORS**



“Unchosen Bonds,” by the late Mary Iovino ’02

Submitted by Jana Farris ’02

My roommate in Gaige Hall, Mary (Maggio) Iovino ’02, was diagnosed with cancer and sadly lost the battle in 2021. Her book “Unchosen Bonds” was published posthumously by her husband.

During Mary’s struggle with cancer, she met and befriended Sue. Mary wrote about this life-changing relationship as she battled cancer, and her husband of 17 years, Brian, published her work.

Amazon’s description of “**Unchosen Bonds**” is “A shared journey through challenges inspires selfless giving, showcasing the strength of compassion and unity. Mary, a woman with a heart of gold, decides to help a stranger she meets through a church in Lancaster. Sue, a refugee from the Congo, moves into Mary’s family’s house, and Mary’s husband and daughters unselfishly welcome her. Mary guides Sue through the many intricacies of being successful in the United States. Sue provides Mary with



the love she needs when Mary is given a heart-wrenching health diagnosis. Their lives intertwine at a time when they need each other to survive the difficulties thrust upon them. These women inspire those around them to give of themselves and to stand up for those in need.”

Mary’s **obituary** included the following: “Mary graduated from Interboro High School and Millersville University, where she earned her master’s degree in educational leadership and attained her principal certification. She taught

seventh- and eighth-grade math for several years in the Penn Manor School District until 2009, when she became a full-time stay-at-home mom. She was an amazing wife, mother, daughter and sister and will be profoundly missed by those who knew and loved her.”

Continued on next page.

Teacher Helps Tackle the Vet

By Devin Marino



Millersville University alumna Sara Fitzpatrick has taken her passion for education beyond the classroom, crafting a children's book that

tackles social and emotional learning. Graduating with her bachelor's degree in middle-level education in 2016 and her master's in assessment, curriculum and teaching with an endorsement in STEM in 2018, Fitzpatrick has since become a dedicated fifth-grade teacher at Ephrata Intermediate School in the Ephrata Area School District. But her impact doesn't stop there; she also works part-time as an associate wedding coordinator for Alisa Marie Co.

Her debut book, "Hudson and Evie Conquer the Vet," was inspired by her beloved pets, a dog named Hudson and a cat named Evie. The story follows the duo as they navigate their fears of visiting the vet, providing young readers with relatable characters who face and overcome anxiety.



The inspiration for the book's storyline came from Fitzpatrick's experiences as a teacher. "Social and emotional learning is crucial, especially at the upper elementary and middle school levels," she explains. "As teachers, we're often tasked with helping students understand their emotions, but we don't always have the resources to teach them how to manage their feelings."

Her book serves as a tool to bridge that gap, helping students address their fears and anxieties through the pets' point of view.

Although balancing life as a toddler mom and educator leaves little time for new projects, Fitzpatrick has plans to continue writing stories that focus on social and emotional learning. For now, she's content with the impact her first book is making, but readers can look forward to more stories that resonate with young minds and hearts.

The book can be found here: [*Hudson and Evie Conquer the Vet*](#).

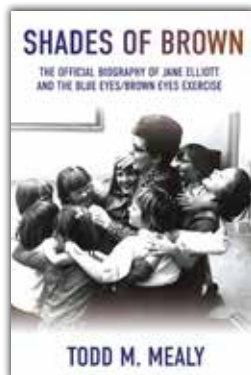
From Shades of Brown to Children's Books

By Devin Marino



Millersville University alum Todd Mealy has taken the education world by storm since graduating in 2001 with a degree in secondary education, specializing in social studies. Now a high

school teacher at J. P. McCaskey High School in Lancaster, an adjunct professor in the history department at Dickinson College and the executive director of the National Institute for Customizing Education, Mealy wears many hats, all while making significant strides as a writer.



Inspired by the ongoing debates about prejudicial tendencies in public schools across the country, Mealy authored "Shades of Brown," a book aimed at deepening the understanding of these critical issues. But the passion for storytelling doesn't stop there. Drawing from personal experiences with his children, Carter and Adeline, Mealy penned a children's book that reflects on their lives, capturing moments that resonate with young readers.

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And there's more to come. Currently, Mealy is delving into the life of Muhammad Ali, working on a book that chronicles the last nine years of Ali's boxing career through the lens of his training camp, Fighter's Heaven, in Deer Lake, Pa. This unique perspective is set to be published by Penn State University Press under the tentative title "Fighter's Heaven: A Biography of Muhammad Ali's Training Camp," with a release date expected in 2025.

In addition to these projects, Mealy is collaborating with his children on another children's book, showcasing his commitment to blending personal experiences with broader societal themes. With an already impressive career, Mealy continues to inspire both in the classroom and through his writing, making a lasting impact on education and literature.

You can find Mealy's books here: [Todd Mealy Books](#).

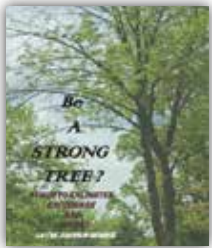
Alums Who Are Authors with a Sprinkling of Faculty and Staff

Compiled and edited by Janet Kacskos

ALUMS

Giles Wagner '75 recently wrote and illustrated a children's book titled "AntBee Saves the World."

Dr. Theresa Dozier-Daniel '77 has written five books and four anthologies. Her books include "[Unstoppable Leaders: Audacious First Steps to Live the Life You Want](#)" and "[The Hidden Hand of God: The Sovereignty of God](#)."



Jayne Johnson-Morris '78 has written a few short stories for publication and one book with two editions, "[Be A Strong Tree?](#)"

Dr. Rob McKenzie '84 wrote "Rounding Some Corners – Observing Life's Oddball Ironies." It is a book of columns he wrote for the Pocono Record newspaper while he was a professor and Chairperson of Communication at East Stroudsburg University.

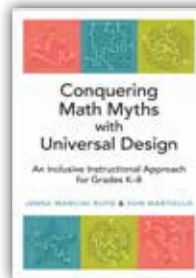


Edward Whitelock '88, '90M graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in English. He wrote "[Apocalypse Jukebox](#)," available through Penguin Random House.



Dr. Myava Hillery Clark '93 has written several books, including "HELP! Support for Parents of Children with Learning and Thinking Differences to Feel Confident, Capable, and Fulfilled." You can read more about her book [here](#).

Ron Martiello '97 recently coauthored a book for teachers and administrators. "My passion for teaching started in my MU classes 32 years ago. I hope this book helps teachers working so hard in the classrooms and ultimately the students in their care," says Martiello.



In "[Conquering Math Myths with Universal Design: An Inclusive Instructional Approach for Grades K-8](#)," Jenna Mancini Rufo and Ron Martiello set out to dispel each of these myths, illuminating the path toward more inclusive and accessible math instruction that empowers students to learn, understand and appreciate the value of mathematics in everyday life.

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Christian Bensing '99 wrote a wholesome, hilarious, heartwarming children's book series about the crazy antics of real-life rescue pets, "Lap Cat Deluxe." The series includes "The Bone War," "The Bath War" and "The Bed War." You can read more

about his books [here](#).

Alex Kaufman '99 has authored and edited several books on Robin Hood, Jack Cade and outlaws (medieval to modern). You can read more about his books [here](#).



Jana Farris '02 wrote "[The Chicken on the Moon](#)." The book shows readers the power of perseverance in a playful, sweet way. Tag along for the journey of one little chicken who dreams of going to outer space. Kids will be over the moon for it!

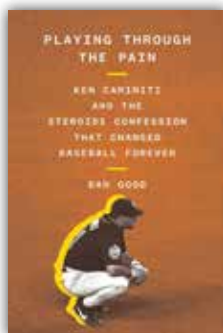
Dr. Nikole Hollins-Sims '02, '04M wrote "[Creating Equitable Practices in PBIS](#)" with two other authors.



Colleen Donahue '04 recently published a children's book about a pig named Scarlet who doesn't act like she's supposed to. Instead of forcing her to act like she was expected to, her owners embraced the pig she was and found a way

to let her shine just as she was! "[Scarlet the Pig is NOT Supposed to Dig!](#)" is available on Amazon.

Katie Ann Bean '05 wrote a memoir titled "[Fragile Thoughts: A Healing Memoir](#)." Bean says, "The book shares some of the tough stuff I've been through but focuses on how I overcame it using writing, yoga and vulnerable storytelling in the community – among other things. There are journal prompts and yoga-based activities at the end of each chapter to help the reader find healing too." Millersville University is highlighted in two chapters of Bean's memoir.



Dan Good '06 has written books of his own and has ghostwritten dozens more for other authors. His book "[Playing Through the Pain: Ken Caminiti and the Steroids Confession That Changed Baseball Forever](#)" was published in 2022 by Abrams Press. It received a starred review from Publishers Weekly and was nominated for a Casey Award as one of the year's best baseball books. Good says, "The book tells the story of Caminiti, the 1996 NL MVP, who rose to the top of the baseball world but struggled with addiction and died far too young, in 2004, at the age of 41."

Douglas Madenford '08M has authored multiple books, all dealing with the Pennsylvania Dutch language and culture. The publications range from textbooks to children's books to translations of 19th-century Pennsylvania Dutch prose and literature. You can read more about his books [here](#).



Gerald L. Jackson '10 joined the Army National Guard, served two tours and concurrently attended Millersville University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in social work. Jackson wrote and published two children's books, "[A Father's Message](#)" and "[A Father's Love](#)." More information on the books and Jackson is available [here](#).

Tyler Barton '13 has written two books, "[Eternal Night at the Nature Museum](#)" and "[The Quiet Part Loud](#)." "Eternal Night" is a short story collection, while "The Quiet Part Loud" is a flash fiction collection. More information on his books can be found [here](#).

Ginger Berndt '13 coauthored "[Body Art \(Arts for Health\)](#)," published by Emerald Books in 2023. "In our book, we explore body art as an underappreciated yet accessible source for mental and physical well-being," says Berndt.

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Erik Ballard '15, '21M self-published a horror anthology titled *"Between Light and Shadow."* The book consists of eight twisted tales ranging from an amnesiac who discovers that the most dangerous mind might be his own to a lovestruck teen who discovers the horrors that occur during Amish rumspringa. Ballard says "Between Light and Shadow"

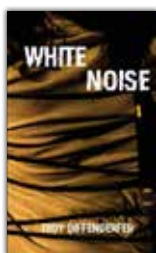
is a nightmare like no other.

Kate Kelchner '15 wrote a children's book about genetics, working with a biology professor at Bloomsburg University and a genetic counselor. "Our goal was to make an accessible and lighthearted way for kids to understand genetic variants and how genetic counseling works," says Kelchner. "The process of collaborating and creating the book was an absolute delight, and I'm really happy with how it turned out!" The book, *"Helix's Marvelous Muffins"* is available [here](#).



Sara Fitzpatrick '16 wrote a children's book, *"Hudson and Evie Conquer the Vet."*

Monica Williams '16 has written four books. *"How I Loved GOD and Her"* and *"The Unveiling"* are her two independent books. You can read more about Williams and her journey [here](#).



Troy Diffenderfer '17 wrote a collection of short horror stories inspired by classic and modern rock and roll songs. "White Noise" is available on [Amazon](#).

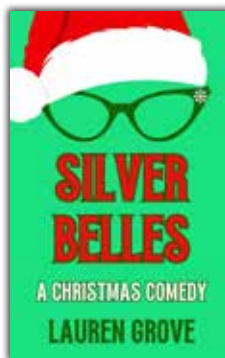
Jessica Betancourt Perez '17 wrote a picture book for young children, *"A Thousand White Butterflies."* As if being new to the United States wasn't hard enough, Isabella's first day of school was canceled due to snow! It's available [here](#).

Angela Prendergast Pucetas '17 had her collection of poems *"Overthought Thoughts of a 21-Year-Old"* published in 2017. "My book is a poetry collection of 140 prose poems from my first year at Millersville to my last. The poems outline the trials of youth – love, loss and identity," says Pucetas.



Jenna Martorana '18 wrote two books. *"Pearl's Purpose"* is about how one little girl learned it's okay not to be okay. The book takes us on Pearl's mental health journey. *"Pearl's Person"* deals with losing someone close to them.

Brittany Schenck '18 is a contributing author in the book *"Dear Migraine."* The book was part of a migraine advocacy initiative that started in 2021. The nonprofit Miles for Migraine published the book. It is a collection of works from those with migraines, family members and caregivers.



Lauren Burke Grove '20 wrote the play *"Come Celebrate the Holidays with the Silver Belles."* The ladies who reside at Silver Meadows Retirement Home are preparing for what may be their last Christmas together. Mr. Johnson, the owner of Silver Meadows, has sold the home to local mogul Frank Davenport. Frank sends his son Nick to survey the building and begin converting

Silver Meadows into a luxury hotel. Nick soon discovers that Kate, his former high school flame, manages the retirement home. Nick finds himself caught between his father and his conscience as he comes to care for these wise, witty, wonderful women. Will Kate and the Belles convince Nick to save Silver Meadows? Silver Belles is a hilarious and heartbreaking story about love, loss and the magic of Christmas.

Jan Javier-Worley '20 recently published a young adult fiction book, *"Wish You the Best,"* which is available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and Amazon Kindle.

Continued on next page.



Sierra Bedwell Bowers '21 has published five books. Three are poetry: *"Sonder," "Moments in Time"* and *"Tell Me the Truth."* She also wrote two fiction books; *"The Prophecy"* is fantasy, and *"The Maniacs"* is dystopian. Her author page can be found [here](#). Bowers says she published three of these during her time at Millersville. "College greatly influenced my writing and taught me how to write more academically. I would love to write a nonfiction book or participate in a research journal one day!"

Sarah Burns '21 wrote two books that are now available on Amazon and Amazon Kindle. "Polo on Sunday" is available [here](#), and *"Earthly"* is available [here](#).



Riley Morton '22 has written two self-published books. She published her first book, *"Sorcerers,"* when she was 14 and her second book, *"Discovered,"* when she was 15. Both can be found [here](#).

FACULTY

Dr. Dennis Denenberg, professor emeritus of education, has coauthored several books and recently released

"Toto's Memoir" – a look at "The Wizard of Oz" through the eyes of Dorothy's dog, Toto

"Toto's Memoir," <https://totomemoir.org/>, 2024

"60 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet," 2022, by Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe

"50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet," by Denenberg and Roscoe, 2016

"Hooray for Heroes!: Books and Activities Kids Want to Share with Their Parents and Teachers," hardcover, 1994



Dr. Timothy R. Mayers, associate professor of English and World Languages, wrote *"(Re)Writing Craft."* Mayers says *"(Re)Writing Craft"* is an analysis of disciplinary history and pedagogy focused on an argument that composition and creative writing teachers and scholars should attempt to overcome their differences and reshape the field. If creative writing and composition studies are brought together in productive dialogue, they can, in his view, succeed in inverting the common hierarchy in English departments that privileges the interpretation of literature over the teaching of writing.

STAFF

Barry Kornhauser, assistant director of Campus and Community Engagement, has written 14 books/plays.

"A Child's Garden of Verses" – a playful play

"A Christmas Carol" – musical

"Balloonacy" – has won multiple [awards](#)

"Bert & Ernie, Goodnight!" - included in the anthology "Igniting Wonder: Plays for Preschoolers"

"Better Angels"

"Corduroy" – was [performed in Chicago](#) this summer

"Cyrano"

"Last Minute" - included in the anthology "10 by 10: Ten Short Plays for Teens about Ethics & Values"

"Madeline Joins the Circus" – included in the anthology "KEY CHANGE: New Musicals for Young Audiences"

"Nobody Nose" – included in the anthology "The Bully Plays."

"Recipe for Disaster"

"Reeling"

"The Ten-Ton Accordion" included in the anthology "DUDE: Stories and Stuff for Boys "

"This is not a Pipe Dream"

Many of Kornhauser's books can be found on [Amazon](#). ♦



'VILLE SIGNS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

By Janet Kacskos

What do China, Uganda, Greece and the Philippines have in common? Millersville University.

Millersville has **multiple partnerships** with universities worldwide, and International Programs and Services is finalizing pending agreements with universities in China, Greece, India, Kenya and the United Kingdom.

Here, we highlight some of the newest and upcoming partnerships.

Ugandan Partnerships

One of the newest partnerships is with Uganda Christian University. On July 3, a Memorandum of Understanding between UCU and Millersville University was signed. President Daniel A. Wubah and Dr. Charity Alinda, associate director for International Student and Scholar Services, were on hand for the signing. Alinda is an alum of UCU.

Dr. Dan Kulmala, assistant vice president for International Programs and Global Engagement, says this is a robust partnership with an academic and nonacademic side. "On the academic side, the partnership will enhance student and faculty

exchange with learning and research opportunities. We're also connecting Millersville's information technology department with UCU's IT department so that they can help each other."

The U.N. says that Africa has the youngest population in the world, with 70% of sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. According to UN.org, "such a high number of young people is an opportunity for the continent's growth – but only if these new generations are fully empowered to realize their best potential."

Kulmala says one important way for young people to reach their potential is through higher education. "They also need jobs," says Kulmala. "So, having partnerships with a university in the U.S. gives them access to a degree from a U.S. university and job opportunities here in needed areas, such as IT."

Chinese Partnerships

The University has several partnerships with China in a 1+2+1 arrangement. Kulmala says that's where students from China take classes in China their first year, then come to Millersville for two years of classes and then take their final year back in China.

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Kulmala says Millersville works with the China Center for International Economic Exchanges and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to forge these partnerships. The students coming to Millersville are primarily interested in international business, computer science and biology.

The 1+2+1 programs will bring cohorts of students to campus by fall 2025. They include:

- Jiangsu Second Normal University – International Business with 20 students
- Jiujiang University – International Business with 30 students
- Nanfang College – International Business with 20 students
- Northeast Agricultural University – Biology with 10 students
- Huashang College – Computer Science with 30 students
- Xi'an Shiyu University – New partnership for 1+2+1 program

In addition to the 1+2+1 agreements, there are 4+0 partnerships with Shandong Sport University (pending) and Xianyang Normal University. Kulmala explains that's where the students from China stay in their home country but take their classes virtually from Millersville University.

Kulmala says Millersville doesn't have students attending universities in China primarily because of the language barrier.

Philippines Partnerships

"We're taking our 1+2+1 and 4+0 agreements from China into the Philippines and Thailand," says Kulmala. "The Philippines would like to be the hub

for international education, and Millersville is a good fit for their students. We're small enough that the students aren't overwhelmed, but we can still offer them multiple services at a good price point."

There is a pending partnership with Thames International in the Philippines. Kulmala and Anna Bradford, associate director of International Admissions, recently traveled to the Philippines and met with Thames president Joel Santos. Santos in a recent article said that Thames's mission and his personal advocacy is "to help more Filipinos afford to study abroad."

"One program that we'll be discussing with Thames is Emergency Management," says Kulmala. "A group of us will travel there in October to set it up."

Thailand Partnerships

"We're also working on an agreement with Rangsit University in Thailand," says Kulmala. "It's a top private university there, and we'd do a 4+0 partnership."

Study Abroad

For Millersville University students interested in studying abroad, Kulmala encourages them to look at universities outside of Europe. "For instance, Thailand is a beautiful country with lots of beaches, and it is an extremely affordable country, where rent and food are much cheaper than in the U.S. or Europe," says Kulmala. "And they offer programs Millersville doesn't have, such as hospitality and tourism degrees."

For information on International Programs and Services, [click here](#).

For information on Study Abroad, click [here](#). ♦

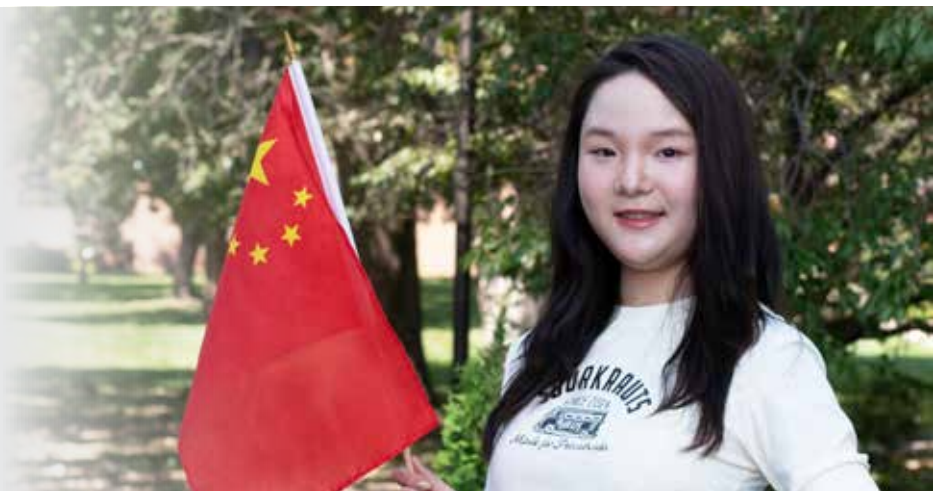


STUDENT FROM XYNUN

AT THE 'VILLE

Jing Xi Li (Lumina) is a student at Xianyang Normal University in China and is taking classes at Millersville University through a 1+2+1 agreement. That's where the students from China stay in their home country but take their classes virtually from Millersville University.

Lumina is an economics major and plans to graduate in May 2025. We asked her about the experience.



Q. Why did you decide to take classes at Millersville?

I chose to take classes at Millersville University because of its long history, excellent educational resources, strong faculty and inclusive academic environment.

Q. What classes have you taken?

Last semester I took courses such as Applied Statistics and Intermediate Microeconomics, which benefited me a lot. I will take compulsory courses like Seminar in Economics this semester, and I will also take elective courses like Introduction to Communication to increase my knowledge outside my major. I believe that these will have a lot of benefits to my future study, work and life.

Q. What do you like about taking classes at the 'Ville?

The best part of taking classes with Millersville is that I find that the way of college education in the United States is very different from that in my home country. Here, I feel the unprecedented atmosphere of freedom in the classroom, and I realize the practical teaching concept of Millersville University, which is the biggest difference from the education I attended before.

Especially during the course "Applied Statistics" I attended last semester, I deeply realized the importance of applying knowledge to practice. I think this is a very good thing, because the purpose of learning is application, and practical application will make us understand the knowledge in books more deeply, so it is a process of mutual promotion and virtuous circle.

Q. Anything else you would like to add?

Another thing that I am very happy with is that there are many rich community activities in our school, which provides a lot of possibilities to relax our extracurricular life. At the same time, it allows us to expand our social circle and become friends with like-minded people of all countries and nationalities. ♦



MEET THE WINNERS OF THE POSITIVE ENERGY FUND

By Reagan Gorham

From cultural education to solar energy, Millersville faculty, staff and students use the utility rebates from the University's zero-energy building to invest in the community.

Each year, Millersville University receives money from utility rebates created by the University's energy-conserving Lombardo Welcome Center. The Lombardo Welcome Center is the first building in Pennsylvania to be certified as a zero-energy building by the International Living Future Institute and only one of about 100 zero-energy buildings in the country.

The rebates fund faculty, staff and student-led projects that contribute positively to local and global communities using the Global Goals for Sustainable Development structure. Called the "Positive Energy Fund," faculty, staff and students are welcome to propose any project that addresses one of the global goals of sustainable development.

Up to \$2,500 can be awarded to the winning applicants for projects that advance one of the global goals. Applications must include a detailed narrative that describes the project's implementation and intent.

MU's sustainability manager, Kaitlynn Hamaty, explains how the fund aims to support a wide variety of academic programs while having local and global reach. "The Positive Energy Fund allows for innovation and community connection, as the 17 United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals are expansive and include many focus areas or degree concentrations. Millersville wants to put our energy savings back into the community and find ways to combat local challenges, whether environmental, economic, social, etc. The Office of Sustainability is excited to have this opportunity available to all students, faculty and staff and encourages everyone to apply."

Here are some of the recent Positive Energy Fund recipients:

Sustainability Through Native Perennials



Dr. Dominique Didier, professor of biology, had one of the recent winning projects, titled "Growing and Planting Native Perennials for Sustainable Landscaping." Her project works to meet the global need for conservation and environmental sustainability. Didier is partnering with Homefields, a local organic farm, and with their help, she will replace the blueberries grown there with Saskatoon berries, an extremely hardy species of berry able to adapt to drought and extreme temperatures. "The impact of planting native perennials includes providing a natural habitat for native insects and bees, which increases the sustainability of the entire ecosystem," she explains.

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Other native perennials will be available to the local community, and Didier plans to donate some of the plants to MU. These native perennials will be planted in campus gardens, both beautifying the University and conserving a threatened species of flora. Didier hopes that visitors to the school will grow their appreciation for natural sustainability plantings and further educate the public on the importance of conserving native species.

Didier's plans to use her grant money are as follows: "This spring, we purchased and planted 20 Saskatoon berry bushes, and in the fall, we will purchase 500–800 native perennial plants. These will be 'grown up' and tended until they can be explanted into gardens during the 2025 planting season. The grant money will also support the purchase of planting medium and pots for growing the plants, and an MU student intern to help plan gardens and plant perennials on the MU campus."

Solar-Powered Learning Opportunities



Winning applicant **Dr. Len Litowitz**, professor of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology, proposed a project called "5kW Photovoltaic Installation for Student and Community Education," which addresses the global goal of creating affordable clean energy, which factors into the global goal of

creating sustainable cities and communities. Litowitz's project involves the installation of a small solar array on campus, which will be used to teach students the basic mechanics of solar power, how to use the technology for collecting data, and how to install solar arrays themselves.

Litowitz plans to use his grant money to supplement the cost of the 5,000-watt solar array. While Litowitz acknowledges that the solar energy produced from the array is only a small contribution to the campus community, he hopes that his students who learn from the demonstration will use what they've learned to advance the goal of affordable and clean energy in their future endeavors.

A Nature Trail Educational Experience



Graduate assistant **Elizabeth Rickrode's** project, "Millersville Nature Tracks: Passive Education Within the MU Nature Preserve," addresses the global goal of environmental sustainability, specifically the goal of accessible

clean water sources. Rickrode plans to place signs along the nature trail next to the Watershed Education Training Institute, which will explain concepts of what makes an ecosystem healthy, from the amount of damage invasive species can cause to how vegetative zones on the edges of a stream can serve to prevent pollutants from entering the water, also known as a riparian buffer.

Rickrode hopes that her signs will provide a "passive education" opportunity for visitors to the trail and believes that by encouraging community members to learn about their local ecosystem, broader environmental awareness can be achieved. She will use the grant money to design, purchase and install her educational signs.

Bringing Cultural Activities Into the Classroom



Dr. Christina Williams, director of the Gateway Scholars Program, designed the project "Mi Orgullo Latinx," or "My Latinx Pride," to help provide Latinx students in the School District of Lancaster with ways to connect with their culture and learn about their heritage in an educational setting. Approximately

67% of students in the School District of Lancaster are Latinx. Williams saw an opportunity to advance the global goal of quality education by adding a cultural education to a traditional academic setting.

Williams plans to use her grant money to cover the cost of the cultural programs for students. "I am currently discussing the project with some college-bound organizations and a school in the School District of Lancaster that I attended as a student," Williams explains. They are interested in being the site where the project will take place. I am also looking to hire a Latin dance instructor who will provide dance classes and an art teacher who will expose students to Latinx culture and art."

For more information on the Positive Energy Fund,
[click here.](#) ♦



BEING HOMELESS IN AMERICA

Q&A with Dr. Jennifer Frank

Edited by Janet Kacskos



Dr. Jennifer Frank

The Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Grants Pass v. Johnson* earlier this summer. The ruling makes it easier for communities nationwide to fine, ticket or arrest people living unsheltered, even when adequate shelter is not available.

Dr. Jennifer Frank, an associate professor in the School of Social Work at Millersville University, watched the case closely. Because of her many years of work and research on homelessness in the U.S., she was invited to review and sign an amicus brief, a document intended to offer information and expertise on a subject.

After the ruling, we sat with Dr. Frank to discuss the case.

The Supreme Court's decision on homelessness was a huge disappointment for many. Are there any immediate consequences for people experiencing homelessness in Lancaster? In other areas?

We must wait and see exactly how this plays out in Lancaster. Even before this decision, a disregard for our unhoused neighbors persisted, evidenced by a \$100K fence around the county building pushing vulnerable

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people further into the elements, coupled with the closure of emergency shelter beds. At the same time, however, many citizens and social service providers have shown disdain for the county government's actions and continue to care deeply for the homeless.

How will you discuss this in your classes at Millersville?

The Grants Pass decision allows for the criminalization of homelessness even when no shelter beds are available. This is a prime example of how society attempts to further disenfranchise the already marginalized. We need to care for our neighbors with empathy and compassion. The reality is that homelessness can happen to anyone, given the right mix of unfortunate events. We need more compassion as a community. Criminalizing people for sleeping outside only adds more insult to injury. Breaking up encampments can also increase mortality rates (*Barocas et al., 2023*).

What does this mean for social workers? Does it put more burden on them?

Yes, it does. And social workers are already strained. Plus, their salaries are not competitive with those of social workers in neighboring counties and states. In Lancaster, we recently lost emergency shelter beds and instead added outreach workers. While more outreach workers are good for human connection, if they have no shelter beds to direct people to, it seems futile. We need the political will to care and put money into caring for people by developing sustainable and permanent solutions to house everyone.

Could this deter people from going into social work?

Nope. It will invigorate them! Social workers are in the practice of care and concern for the marginalized. If anything, it means that our work is not done here, and we need more people to go into social work, particularly macro work of social advocacy and social change. In fact, our Master of Social Work program, both our in-person and online options, are highly in demand.

What do you think the overall consequences of the court's decision will be?

Overall, I think people will be harmed, and mortality among our unhoused community neighbors will increase. Criminalizing homelessness like this gives political officials and the greater population the wrong idea about what homelessness is even about. Having swaths of residents without housing represents an extreme version of poverty where you have fallen out of the bottom of whatever social safety net exists. Because we do not have an adequate social safety net or affordable housing options for people, we have unsheltered homelessness. Criminalizing sleeping outside does nothing to fix any of the issues that caused people to become homeless in the first place, which could be loss of job, family issues, mental health concerns and medical problems.

Criminalizing homelessness makes it just even that much more difficult for people to stabilize, as they will be disconnected from any social network that they might have had, and if incarcerated, will have a criminal record and fines, which are additional barriers to employment and housing. The decision is morally and ethically unjustifiable.



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How will arresting homeless people impact our jails?

We will pay more to house our neighbors in jail than we would by supplying housing. If we are in the market for for-profit jails (privatizing jails and prisons for the profit of the elite), then maybe they see this as a new market. We already have more people incarcerated (1,767,200) than any other country in the world (*World Prison Brief*, 2024).

How will being jailed impact homeless people?

Incarceration is hard for anyone. For this population, incarceration will make life worse for them for a number of reasons, including a criminal record, fines and disconnection from social networks and resources. Many landlords will not rent to people with a criminal record, so we are setting our community members up for further challenges.

Is there anything citizens can do about this?

Of course! Policies and practices can change with residents speaking up and speaking out. It is never too late to get engaged in any policy issue. Yes, please write to your congresspeople, including local officials. Letters to the editor are a good idea. And get engaged online via TikTok, Instagram, Threads and other media!

Why is there such a shortage of homeless shelters?

We get what we pay for. The political will for adequate resources, shelter beds as well as affordable housing for the lowest-income renters, is necessary. We just lost 80 low-barrier shelter beds in Lancaster, leaving people with fewer options for where to get shelter. The existing shelters often have many barriers and requirements that do not allow them to meet the needs of our unhoused neighbors. It is expensive and challenging to operate low-barrier shelters (and it is desperately needed). We need county officials to allocate adequate funds to social service agencies that will operate such facilities.

Do homeless people have any other options if a homeless shelter is full?

Well, according to the Grants Pass decision, people can be arrested for sleeping outside even if no shelter beds are available. So I would say, no, they don't have other options. It is terribly unfortunate. I spoke to a homeless man recently who noted that he really doesn't sleep. Instead, he walks around all night so that he won't get arrested. ♦

Homeless encampment on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, CA.



RESOURCES MILLERSVILLE OFFERS STUDENTS

By Hannah Sutton '24

Students come from various backgrounds and circumstances, some of which make retention and success in college more difficult. Millersville is working to help these students by offering resources designed to fill gaps of opportunity and privilege.

1. MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Several types of mentoring are available to students, all designed to promote success by teaching skills and promoting confidence. General peer mentoring programs are designed for groups based on each student's year in college, catering to first-year, second-year, transfer and third-year students. Other opportunities offer students mentorship based on more specific criteria, such as concentration in an academic subject. Students can also opt in to be mentored by alums. There are both *in-person* and *online* programs.

Through data collection, mentoring at Millersville has proven to be impactful. "We have found that the more conversations that a mentor-mentee pair has, the more likely the mentee is to be retained from semester to semester and year to year," says Audrey Bare, assistant director of the mentorship program. We surveyed first-

year program mentees who indicated their sense of belonging is higher than that of nonmentored students.

Over 600 mentees participated in the First Year, Second Year, and Transfer and Alumni Career Programs last year, with a sizeable number being underrepresented students. "Last year, underrepresented students made up 29% of the alumni program, 28% of the first-year program and 39% of the transfer program," says Bare.

For more information, students can visit the Mentorship Office, part of the Career Center in Bedford House or visit *[mentorship page](#)*.

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2. VILLE FIRST-GENERATION

Ville First-Generation is a program designed to help first-generation students acclimate to college and promote long-term success by providing a sense of community and belonging to students who are the first in their families to attend college. This program currently encompasses First-Gems of the Ville, Tri-Alpha, First-Gen Connect and a yearly celebration. In fall 2024, the program introduced First-Generation Forward Affinity Housing, an on-campus student housing option.

First-Gems of the Ville is a student-run organization intended to promote community. First-gen students, as well as non-first-gen students looking to connect with others, are invited to get involved. The club runs its events and programs, does volunteer work and participates in campus events, such as the Homecoming parade. “They’re a staple on our campus,” says Dr. Christina Pantoja Williams, director of pre-college programs. For more information, visit their Instagram.

Tri-Alpha is an honor society based on the academic achievements of first-gen students. Requirements for admittance include completing 30 credit hours toward an associate or bachelor’s degree, a minimum 3.2 overall GPA and coming from a family in which neither parent nor legal guardian has earned a bachelor’s degree. First-

gen graduate students’ academic requirements include completing nine or more graduate credits and having a GPA of at least 3.5.

A yearly celebration of first-gen students typically occurs in November, aligning with National First-Generation Day on Nov. 8. This has included features like lunches, tabling events and wellness activities.

First-Gen Connect is a mentoring program that holds monthly meetings from October to April. Students can hear from first-generation faculty, staff, alumni and community members regarding their journey to college completion, and network and connect with each other through shared experiences.

The number of first-gen students attending college is on the rise. “More than 50% of students entering colleges or universities across the U.S. are identifying as first-generation, so universities are seeing these students enter their campuses more than any other identity group,” says Williams. “It’s really important for resources to be available because first-gen students are entering campus with specific needs.” For more information about Ville First-Generation, [click here](#).

3. DR. RITA SMITH-WADE-EL INTERCULTURAL CENTER FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Millersville’s Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center for Student Engagement is committed to providing programs and opportunities that support students’ learning about their social identities and various marginalized communities. The center is located in room 111 of the Student Memorial Center, and its open hours coincide with those of the [Student Memorial Center](#).

The ICSE is behind campus initiatives such as Heritage and History Month celebrations and affinity graduations. The center also supports student-run, [identity-based organizations](#).

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4. CENTER FOR HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

Students' wellness is multidimensional. Millersville's Center for Health Education and Promotion aims to reach students through education centered on the nine dimensions of wellness: social, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, physical, environmental, financial, occupational and multicultural.

"We want students to be educated so that they can make the best decisions for themselves and live healthy lives while they're here at college," says Margaret Thorwart, Center for Health Education and Promotion director. "We try to encourage students to make smart choices for their health, specifically as it relates to some of the higher-risk behaviors we see college students participate in." Topics that CHEP focuses on include safer sex practices and sexual assault, alcohol and drug use, and mental health wellness.

CHEP's events include, but are not limited to, the

Wellness Fair, Mental Health Matters, the Purple Carnival and the Red Flag Campaign. Select supportive services are available to students weekly. An advocate for sexual assault victims is present every Monday, as well as a domestic violence services advocate on Wednesdays. New last semester, the YWCA is providing a legal advocate through CHEP. "If a student is going through police reporting or a Title IX reporting, they can have that YWCA legal advocate with them to help explain the complex terminology and help walk them through some of the decision-making process," says Thorwart. CHEP also provides the opportunity for students to participate in [wellness coaching](#). Utilization of supportive services, legal advocacy and coaching are free for students.

Students can acquire safer sex kits through CHEP by submitting [this form](#) or visiting the office, located in the Cumberland House. Hygiene products are also available.

For more information, visit the [CHEP page](#).

5. MU HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services offers healthcare to students on campus for little to no cost. Services provided include:

- Same-day visits for acute illness or injuries
- Collaboration with primary care providers to manage chronic health concerns
- Mental and sexual healthcare
- Rapid testing for strep, mono, urinalysis, pregnancy, blood sugars, COVID and influenza
- Lab draw site for students needing routine labs ordered by a specialist or medical provider
- Access to over-the-counter medications and antibiotics
- Medical procedures such as suturing, abscess draining and wound care

Health Services does not bill health insurance. "We have students on campus who do not have health insurance or have insurance with very high deductible plans that they cannot afford to use," says Lauren Blevins, University

nurse practitioner and director of Health Services. There is no copay to be evaluated for an acute illness or injury, and over-the-counter medications, wound care supplies, flu vaccines and COVID tests are also free. There is a small fee for prescription medications, laboratory testing and procedures, which ranges from \$5 to \$15. These fees are not due immediately during service but are billed to students' MAX accounts.

Access to healthcare on campus prioritizes student health and wellness. "Our team at Health Services understands the unique needs of our students," says Blevins. "We have a shared vision with the University and can provide our students with a holistic and collaborative approach to treat their medical needs."

Health Services is located in the Witmer Building and is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the semester. During the summer and semester breaks, it is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit the [Health Services page](#).

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6. THE HUB

College campuses are seeing **significant numbers** of students experiencing food insecurity, leading to rising concerns about student wellness. Here at Millersville, the HUB is an independent nonprofit that works to feed students and provide a safe space away from home.

“The motivation for founding the HUB was to create a place where students could build community, have their needs met and establish relationships that can help them grow and develop through their time at Millersville,” says Jacob Marino, director of the HUB.

The HUB offers three **free hot meals** a week:

- Taco Tuesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Free Lunch Thursday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- French Toast Friday, 9 p.m.-12 a.m. Yes, you read that right! Every Friday night the Hub serves free French Toast and Sausage from 9 a.m.-Midnight in the HUB Cafe.

Grab-and-go breakfast items are available daily from 7:30-10:30 a.m. in the HUB Café. Students can also use the **Campus Cupboard**, a food pantry that allows choice. Unlike traditional food pantries, students are invited to “shop” for products versus being handed a box of items. Also, unlike most other food pantries, vegan, gluten-free and dairy-free items are available. The Campus Cupboard is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. and does not require an appointment.

“We believe that any student, regardless of their viewpoints or identity, can walk into the HUB and walk out with a full belly,” says Marino. “It’s hard enough trying to get through college, let alone if you’re hungry.”

The HUB is located at 121 N. George St. on the lower level. The entrance is at the back of the building, facing the Dilworth Building and the pond. Students can visit their site for more information.

7. COLLEGE ASSISTANCE MIGRANT PROGRAM

Millersville’s College Assistance Migrant Program aims to provide supportive and retention services to first-year students from migrant and seasonal farm worker families. CAMP works with campus faculty, student services and community-based organizations to help students fully make the most of their educational experiences. CAMP students can benefit from the following resources and services:

- Tuition scholarships
- Room-and-board scholarships
- Stipends earned for studying sessions
- Financial aid counseling

- Academic advisement
- Tutoring and mentoring programs
- Skills workshops
- Access to borrow books, laptops, calculators and tablets
- Access to the CAMP student center

Eligibility requires that students or their parents have worked at least 75 days in the past 24 months in migrant/seasonal farm work, which is not a constant, year-round activity.

For more information about CAMP, visit **their page**. ♦

STATE EDUCATION NEWS

Interim Chancellor Named

As the fall semester approaches its midway point, Dr. Cindy Shapira, Chair of the Board of Governors for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, announced updates regarding the leadership transition within the system.

Chancellor Dan Greenstein, who has led PASSHE since 2018, announced in July that he will conclude his tenure this fall. In response, Shapira says the Board of Governors is initiating a national search for a new chancellor, a process that will extend into the spring semester. This search will involve gathering input from students, faculty, staff, alums, and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive selection process. Updates on the search will be available [here](#).

Chancellor Greenstein will continue his duties through the October Board of Governors meeting. At this meeting, he will outline the system's priorities for 2024-25, recommend an appropriations request for the



Christopher M. Fiorentino, Ph.D.

upcoming year, and engage in discussions about PASSHE's evolving role in higher education in Pennsylvania.

To ensure a smooth transition and continuity of leadership, Shapira will recommend the appointment of **Dr. Chris Fiorentino** as interim chancellor during the October board meeting. Fiorentino recently retired from West Chester University, where he served in various roles over a distinguished 40-year career, culminating in his presidency from 2017 until his retirement. Fiorentino

has confirmed that he does not intend to seek the permanent chancellor position.

For more information on the chancellor search and updates, please visit the official PASSHE website at [Chancellor Search | Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education \(passhe.edu\)](#). ♦

Second BOG Term for Brandon Danz

By Janet Kacskos

When **Brandon W. Danz '03** was a student at Millersville University, he was appointed by then-Governor Mark Schweiker to serve as a student member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education **Board of Governors**. Fast-forward to 2024, when Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro appointed him to serve on the BOG again. His first meeting was on July 11.

The BOG is a 20-member board responsible for planning and coordinating the development and operation of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. Among other tasks, the board appoints the chancellor and university presidents, approves new academic programs, sets tuition, and coordinates and approves the annual State System operating budget.

"I am honored to have been appointed and confirmed to serve on the PASSHE Board of Governors," says Danz. Millersville University continues to be an anchor of our Lancaster County community. Its faculty, staff and administration have produced great value and a high-quality education for its students that we can all be proud of. This is a dynamic time of change for higher education in Pennsylvania. It is a privilege to participate in that change as both a Council of Trustee member at Millersville University and as a PASSHE Board of Governors member."



Brandon W. Danz '03

In his professional life, Danz is Senior Director of Value-Based Care at WellSpan Health, providing leadership for the development and management of value-based care models, payor partnerships, and population health strategies serving over 200,000 patients in south-central Pennsylvania. Before his work at WellSpan, he was Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the PA Department of Human Services. He has over 20 published works and conference presentations on healthcare policy, population health strategies and value-based care.

Danz is actively engaged in his community. He has served as the board chair for the Lancaster County Library System and on the board of the Lancaster County Convention Center. He serves on the Council of Trustees at Millersville University.

In addition to his bachelor's degree in history from Millersville, Danz also has a master's degree in public administration from Shippensburg, a master's degree in health administration from Penn State University and a Ph.D. in corporate leadership from Alvernia University. ♦



CAMPUS NEWS

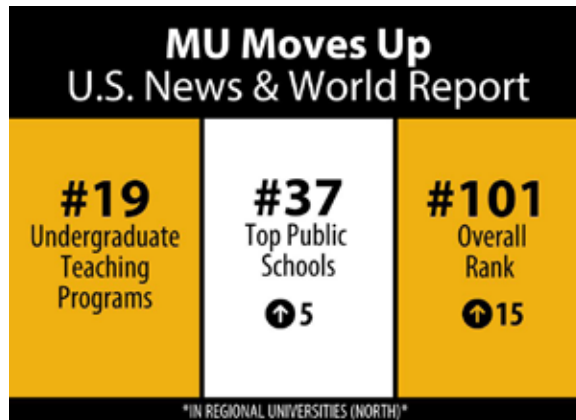
Moving Up in U.S. News Rankings

By Janet Kacskos

Millersville University is once again ranked among the Best Regional Universities in the North by U.S. News & World Report, moving up in overall rankings and among the top public schools. In a new ranking, Millersville ranked #19 in "Undergraduate Teaching Programs" among all regional universities in the North.

The University climbed 15 spots to #101 in the overall ranking of regional universities in the North. In addition, it climbed five spots to #37 in the ranking of top public schools among regional universities in the North, up from #42 last year.

"We are delighted with the uptick in the rankings," says Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, president of Millersville University. "Our ranking among the top 40 public universities in the North reflects our commitment to high-quality educational outcomes. Our current ranking gives the University room to grow. We have much to be proud of and much to which we can aspire."



A new category this year was for undergraduate teaching programs. Dr. Lara Willox, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, is thrilled with the ranking. "Millersville was founded in 1855 with the ideals that teacher preparation and learning are essential elements of public education and engaged citizenship. One hundred and sixty years later, these ideals still hold. Our goal is to provide students with the

knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to impact the lives of individuals, families and communities positively. To have our program ranked among the top 20 in the region is amazing."

One category that went up from the 2024 rankings was first-year retention by four points. "We are buoyed by those results," says Wubah. Last year, our first- to second-year retention rate climbed to 78.1%, which was the highest rate in about a decade. I appreciate the hard work of our faculty and staff for their support in advancing this important metric. Our commitment to

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holistic student success will continue to focus on persistence and graduation rates, as well as post-graduation outcomes.”

Now in its 40th year, the rankings evaluate nearly 1,500 national colleges and universities on up to 17 academic quality measures and emphasize social mobility and outcomes for graduating college students.

“Regional Universities” are defined as those offering a broad scope of undergraduate degrees and some master’s degree programs but few, if any, doctoral programs.

U.S. News publishes the Best Colleges rankings yearly to provide prospective students and their families with the comparative merits of the undergraduate programs at America’s colleges and universities. The rankings offer detailed information on the institutions and data on factors such as outcome measures—including graduation rates, graduate indebtedness and post-graduate earnings.

“For 40 years, Best Colleges has continued to evolve as a trusted companion to prospective students and their families during the decision-making process,” said Dr. LaMont Jones, managing editor for Education at U.S. News. “The rankings and editorial content offer crucial data, college advice, and informed reporting to all who seek a college education.”

Millersville University is a great option for all students, including undergraduates, graduate students, international students and those who want to learn online.

For all rankings, click [here](#).

For more information on applying to Millersville University, click [here](#).

Want to be a teacher? Click [here](#). ♦





National Rankings for the 'Ville

By Reagan Gorham '25

Millersville University has been recognized by various national organizations for the academic caliber and monetary value of its degree programs.

Study Abroad Aide

Out of 8,060 universities across 69 countries, Study Abroad Aide ranked Millersville in the top 21% of universities with the best value for international students. According to the site, rankings are determined based on the "academic quality, comprising 75% of the weight, and cost of education for the remaining 25%."

This ranking highlights the many benefits of Millersville's numerous degree programs, including cost-effectiveness.

Forbes Advisor

Millersville University's Emergency Management program has been recognized as one of the Best Online Emergency Management Degrees of 2024. The ranking is from Forbes Advisor Education.

Forbes Advisor's education editors are committed to producing unbiased rankings and informative articles covering online colleges, tech boot camps and career paths. Their ranking methodologies use data from the National Center for Education Statistics, education providers, and reputable educational and professional organizations.

Online Master's Degrees

Online Master's Degrees has ranked Millersville in the top 9% of U.S. universities with the best online and hybrid graduate-level degree programs. Online Master's Degrees determines their rankings by evaluating "which universities offer the best value regarding education quality, availability, cost, and flexibility."

Three different master's degree programs were specifically recognized for their merit:

- **13th place** in *"Best Online Master's Degrees in Emergency Management"*
- **20th place** in *"Best Nurse Educator Certificate Online Programs"*
- **31st place** in *"Best Online Clinical Social Work Programs"*

CounselingPsychology.org

CounselingPsychology.org ranked Millersville's Master of Social Work degree program as the third-best MSW program in Pennsylvania.

Counseling Psychology ranks programs "through a multifaceted assessment process encompassing several key criteria," where they evaluate "the overall quality, impact, and effectiveness of programs, ensuring a fair and accurate representation of each program's strengths." ♦



Micro-Credentials Aplenty

By Olivia Heilemann '25

Studies have found that organizational leaders value micro-credentials, and students say they are more likely to enroll in programs that offer them. Millersville University is now offering a host of **micro-credentials** to help students and the public build their workforce skills and expand their resumes.

“Micro-credentials can be a flexible and expedient way for an individual to fill skill gaps in their experience, stay relevant as industry trends create a demand for new skills, and remain competitive in the job market,” says Hope Schmits, director of the **Workforce Development Program** at Millersville. “Because these credentials are often affordable and readily available, individuals can explore a new skill before committing to a degree program or career change.”

Six of the new micro-credentials are offered through Focus EduSolutions.

Focus EduSolutions

Of the wide variety of micro-credentials MU offers, the Focus EduSolutions program has the most. From interpersonal skills to supply-chain management, there

is a little something for everyone to benefit from. Each credential is 100% online and self-paced, so there is no worrying about implementing a fixed schedule in your daily life. The micro-credentials offered include:

- Food truck entrepreneurship
- Insurance sales accelerator
- Retail
- Retail management
- Soft skills
- Supply-chain management

Schmits says that micro-credentials benefit individuals and organizations as well. “From an employer’s point of view, they can demonstrate a potential hire’s initiative, commitment to lifelong learning and willingness to develop their skills. A micro-credential also clearly communicates that the individual is proficient in a particular skill or competency,” says Schmits.

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Additional certificates offered by Millersville include Grow with Google and ed2go.

Grow with Google

MU *partnered with Google* to bring the *Grow with Google* program to the institution. This program includes nine different micro-credentials to build skills in IT, job mapping, data and business intelligence and more. Each micro-credential is available to “give you an edge as a tech-savvy consumer with insider knowledge and training from the professionals at Google.”

The programs include:

- IT Support Key Competencies and Job Mapping
- IT Automation with Python Key Competencies and Job Mapping
- Project Management Key Competencies and Job Mapping
- Data Analytics Key Competencies and Job Mapping
- UX Design Key Competencies and Job Mapping
- Digital Marketing and E-Commerce Key Competencies and Job Mapping
- Cybersecurity Key Competencies and Job Mapping
- Advanced-Data Analytics Key Competencies and Job Mapping
- Business Intelligence Key Competencies and Job Mapping

ed2go

Thanks to an agreement with ed2go, MU now offers *Online Career Training Programs* for its faculty, staff and students, leading to industry-recognized certifications. They offer various courses ranging from art and design to business and writing. There is a long list of opportunities to help people prepare for future careers or advance in their current occupations. To view a list of all the courses and apply, visit the *Online Professional Development and Career Training page*.

“While industry micro-credentials do not replace the value of degree programs, they can complement more traditional higher-education offerings,” says Schmidts. “From the higher-ed point of view, using micro-credentials can create ‘stackable’ credentials, which provide a record of competencies a student acquires within a degree program. This is especially valuable to adult learners seeking advancement within their industry. They can meet employers’ needs in quickly upskilling or reskilling employees affordably.”

Additional certificates are available at Millersville through MindEdge, the Pennsylvania Certified Public Manager Program, School Safety Preparedness Certificate and OSHA Training.

MindEdge

Those who struggle with a busy schedule can check out the *MindEdge* catalog. This program at MU allows people to expand their skill sets, earn professional credits or learn something new from the comfort of their homes. Some of the programs include building skills in project management, human resources, banking and business. Each course is self-paced and mobile, so it can be done anywhere at any time.

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Pennsylvania Certified Public Manager Program

The *Pennsylvania Certified Public Manager Program* is an eight-course program dedicated to helping managers build their leadership skills in the workplace. It is a rigorous 308 total contact hours designed to develop the individual's core leadership skills. Program content addresses key management and leadership development within the context of the unique structure of the Pennsylvania government. The program includes developing and completing a *Capstone Project*, where you will apply the skills you have developed to an issue within your department or agency.

School Safety Preparedness Certificate

Millersville University is excited to announce a unique partnership with the *Pennsylvania School Safety Institute* to develop and deliver an innovative School Safety Preparedness Certificate. This collaboration aims to enhance the ability of educational professionals to respond effectively to natural and man-made disasters, including active-shooter scenarios.

The pilot group is full, but those interested may join a wait list for the next cohort. For more information, click [here](#).

OSHA Training

Another micro-credential program is a partnership with the *Mid-Atlantic OSHA Training Institute Education Center*. Safety classes for OSHA trainers and other safety and risk management professionals are offered at Millersville's Ware Center in downtown Lancaster.

For a complete list of all of the micro-credentials, visit the *Workforce-Aligned Credentials* page on the MU website.



RN to BSN in as Little as 12 Months With New MU/HACC Program



According to the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, the state is predicted to face a shortage of over 20,000 nurses by 2026, the worst in the nation. However, a new agreement between Millersville University and HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College, offers a promising solution for Central Pennsylvania. The Millersville/HACC Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Concurrent Enrollment Program was announced on June 12 on Millersville University's campus.

"This innovative partnership between Millersville University and HACC is a win-win for everyone," says Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, president of Millersville University. "It allows us to create a seamless pathway for students to pursue their nursing careers, meets our EPPIIC value of serving the public, while addressing the critical need for more qualified nurses in our region."

Dr. John J. "Ski" Sygielski, HACC's president and CEO, says, "HACC is thrilled to partner with Millersville University on this initiative, which will give HACC nursing students a head start on their BSN program while completing their studies at HACC."

Students can take one Millersville course per term while working on their registered nursing degree at HACC. This concurrent enrollment means that once they complete their HACC degree, they can finish their BSN at Millersville University more quickly. Concurrent education students are expected to complete their BSN within 12–15 months after graduating from HACC. Some students can finish in as little as 6–12 months.

Sadie Hershey, a student in the program and a certified medical assistant who hopes to someday work in the NICU, shares that she chose to enroll because "I wanted to be able to do more and help more people. I love the feeling of knowing I'm able to do good for people! I chose this program because it gave me the opportunity to not only start my BSN but also to get a certification in telehealth."

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Students will be assigned advisors at MU and HACC, who will collaborate to help them achieve their academic goals. After earning their ASN from HACC, the MU advisor will continue to guide their academic progress through the BSN program.

All MU courses will be fully online and span seven weeks. Depending on students' credit needs, enrollees can take telehealth certification and other 300-level nursing courses, such as professionalism and environmental health. Concurrent education students will also have access to the Millersville University library and other MU resources and be eligible for undergraduate scholarship opportunities.

Any HACC student accepted into the HACC Nursing Program can apply for the Millersville RN to BSN

Concurrent Enrollment Program. Students must be accepted into HACC's ASN program before applying to MU. Participation in the Concurrent Enrollment Program is optional; HACC students may choose to complete their ASN before beginning their BSN.

Interested students are encouraged to apply in their first or second semester at HACC.

Joining the Concurrent Enrollment Program helps accelerate a student's path to earning a BSN or even an MSN degree. Additionally, depending on their HACC credit load, joining the Concurrent Enrollment Program can help students maintain their part-time or full-time status, making them eligible for federal financial aid. ♦

ATHLETICS NEWS

Millersville's Ogunbare Shines Representing Ireland

By Ethan Hulsey

Athletes from all over the world spent the summer of 2024 representing their nations in international competition, and Millersville University men's basketball redshirt freshman **Tobi Ogunbare** was no exception as he suited up for Team Ireland in the FIBA EuroBasket U20 Tournament in Pitesti, Romania. Ogunbare was a standout performer for an upstart team that won three games and finished 14th in Group B.

Ogunbare, a 6-8 forward who grew up in Dublin, spent his first year at Millersville learning and developing behind All-PSAC East performers **Matt Dade** and **Drew Stover**. That experience showed up in his play at the FIBA Eurobasket Tournament where he led Ireland in scoring and rebounding across the seven-game tournament with 12.9 points and 8.6 rebounds per game. After scoring five points in an opening-game loss to Great Britain, Ogunbare powered Ireland to a group-stage win over Azerbaijan with 15 points and 10 rebounds and continued to his team in scoring in each of the final six games.

Ogunbare scored 12 points in an upset of the eventual fourth-place finishing Netherlands. He totaled 13 points and nine rebounds against Portugal, 11 points against Croatia, and scored 12 points in the 13th-place game against Latvia. His shining moment came in his 18-point, 12-rebound effort in a placement-game victory over Kosovo. Ogunbare grabbed basketball headlines in Ireland and departed from

the EuroBasket championship a better and more confident player ready to make an impact at Millersville in 2024-25.

"I know I will go up against a similar level of player at Millersville, and after taking a redshirt year, the whole experience taught me how to be a leader on the team," said Ogunbare. "That is something my coaches and I have discussed. It helped me with the physicality of the game. In the latter stages of the tournament, teams were trying to be physical with me, and I know that's something I can bring back to Millersville. Having fun on the court, too. I learned that when you play the game that you love, good things can happen. That's what happened against the Netherlands. A lot of guys didn't think we had what it took to beat them, but we went out and had fun with it. That's something we preach at Millersville, too, is to have fun while you play." ♦





Honoring Coach Fleig



Mary Fleig

After winning 523 games in 30 seasons as the head coach of the Millersville University women's basketball team, **Mary Fleig** took her rightful place in the Millersville Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming festivities this year. On Dec. 7, as part of women's basketball Alumni Day, the legendary coach will be honored after the Marauders host Pitt-Johnstown in Pucillo Gymnasium.

The Dec. 7 Alumni Day begins with the Marauders' game at 1 p.m., and a ceremony recognizing Coach Fleig's accomplishments to the program immediately follows the final buzzer. From 5-6 p.m., alumni are invited to a gathering with food, drinks and a panel of players sharing their favorite Coach Fleig stories.

Millersville University Women's Basketball is excited to announce the **"Five for Fleig"** program. The program serves two purposes: to honor the 'Ville's legendary coach and to support the current team. **"Five for Fleig"** is a pledge of \$100 a month for five months to support student-athlete scholarships. A commitment to the campaign covers a ticket to the alumni event.

For more information on "Five for Fleig" and the Dec. 7 event, [click here](#).



Millersville University

HOMECOMING

2024



Cheerleaders had Biemesderfer Stadium rocking during the IUP/MU football game at Homecoming.



The Class of 1974 held their 50th Reunion gathering during Homecoming.



President Wubah and Dr. Judith Wubah enjoyed walking in the parade during Homecoming.



MU Cheerleaders during the Homecoming parade.



Millersville's mascot, Skully was in the parade and shook their tail feathers at many of the Homecoming events.



Members of the community, ROTC, Boy Scouts and Veterans helped carry the American Flag in the parade.



2024 Hall of Fame recipients with President Wubah. From left to right, Sunflower Greene '19, women's track and field; Joe Hollister '04, football; Shane Ruhnke, '19, wrestling; President Wubah; Sarah Bomberger Faus '15, field hockey; Mary Fleig, women's basketball coach; and Jay Dimler '88, baseball. Not pictured, Tim Mayza '18, baseball.

Jason and Therese Wicht, alums of Millersville, with President Wubah and Dr. Judith Wubah inside Studio One on campus. The Wichtes were honored for their significant donation to upgrade the broadcasting equipment and support student learning experiences.



Above: The Maker's Market was a new event at Homecoming this year, featuring crafts, vintage items, décor and more.

Right: A fan favorite at the Maker's Market were custom painted sneakers.



Above: President Wubah and Dr. Judith Wubah with alums and friends at the Block Party during Homecoming.



Millersville University