

Millersville University

IMAGINE NEWSLETTER

“IMAGINE” is Millersville’s e-newsletter for friends of the University. Its goal is to share stories demonstrating the diversity of student learning experiences on campus while emphasizing the positive impact that private support makes in the lives of our students. As you will read, everyone can make a difference when we “Imagine the Possible.”

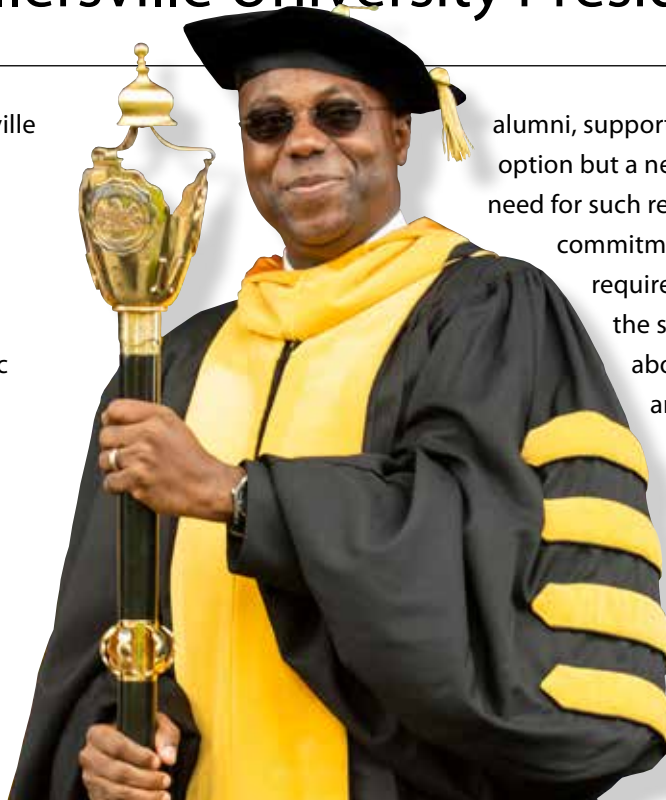
CELEBRATING THE INAUGURATION OF

Dr. Daniel Wubah

as Millersville University President

On Thursday, April 18, 2019, Millersville University formally inaugurated Daniel A. Wubah, Ph.D., as its 15th president. In commemorating the momentous occasion, the investiture ceremony incorporated musical performances and academic traditions. Hundreds of attendees including a delegation from Ghana gathered on the university quad to observe the historic event.

In his inaugural address Wubah emphasized the importance of engagement by alumni and friends of the university. “Engaging our



alumni, supporters and friends is no more an option but a necessity. We have a greater need for such relationships because our commitment to liberal arts education requires additional resources that the state cannot provide. With about 65,000 living alums, we are well positioned to benefit from engaging them,” said Wubah. ♦

For more Inauguration highlights, [Click Here](#)

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WUBAH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Supports Student Success

Through the Wubah Family Scholarship, 63 generous donors have contributed toward a scholarship endowment that will provide educational opportunities for Millersville University students. The Wubah Family Scholarship recipient must be a first-generation college student who is a rising sophomore,

junior or senior majoring in the STEM areas, who maintains a GPA of 3.0 or greater. With private support for scholarships, Millersville University students can excel in the classroom and make a positive contribution to the workforce and within the community.

*Donors as of June 7, 2019.



BECAUSE OF SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU, MILLERSVILLE STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO

“Imagine *the Possible*”



CAMPAIGN PRIORITY AREAS APPROACH GOALS

Millersville University’s campaign to raise \$32 million focused entirely on students is entering its final year. Private support for the three funding priorities of the “Imagine the Possible” campaign provides students with resources and opportunities for success. Significant progress has been made toward reaching the funding goals of the three priority areas by July 2020. ♦

[Click Here](#) to visit the campaign website! | [Click Here](#) to view the video!

Campaign progress as of May 2019

Percent toward goal as of May 2019: 78% overall

Scholarships:
\$10M

PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:
63%

*Student Learning
Experiences:*
\$16M

PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:
95%

*Marauder
Athletics:*
\$6M

PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:
57%



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES STUDENT

Shares Impact of *Millersville University* Experience

This edition of the Spring/Summer 2019 "IMAGINE" Newsletter features an article provided by student guest writer **Bojana Stankov '21** in early April. Stankov recounts her experience of coming to the United States, her academic studies at Millersville University and her plans for the future.

My name is Bojana Stankov. I'm a non-traditional student from Serbia. My country has gone through a troubling decade of wars, sanctions, inflations, institutionalized corruption and disintegration of what was known to be – Yugoslavia. The path that I chose resulted from the gloomy future that Serbia projected at the time, as a failed socialist, communist state. This is what drove me to start thinking outside the box.

In my early 20s I knew that there was something else out there for me and I began looking for ways and programs to go to the United States. Fast-forward few years, I'm currently in my



sophomore year at Millersville University. I've heard nothing but good things before I was admitted, which later turned out to be true.

I'm very grateful that I was awarded a scholarship. It tremendously helped me, since I have no financial support from my family due to the disparity of wages between US and Serbia and I also have to have a job. My whole family and relatives are in Serbia. When you're an immigrant, any financial aid means a lot.

My major is International Studies and I take Political Science, Anthropology, History, Economics and Geography courses. This is a perfect blend of information that I deem necessary

in order to fully understand the world. I became very passionate about the American foreign policy, why the US makes certain decisions and what strategic importance they represent. I am also interested in Russian influence in Eastern Europe. Dr. David Owen, my adviser, has made a difference for me, at MU. He is very knowledgeable in his field and I highly respect him.

I've been involved with the International Programs and Services office as a Global Ambassador and a Conversation Partner. I like to engage with the international students and make them feel welcomed. I am also able to learn from those students and compare my own experiences. All this contributes to my personal growth. It's been a great experience, so far.

Future, at this point, seems clear to me. I know my passion and I am looking forward to continuing my education at Millersville and potentially go for master's degree in either International Affairs or Russian and East European Studies. Right now, I'm looking forward to presenting my two research papers at Made in Millersville conference and publishing one of the papers by the end of the semester in MiM journal. ♦



Wrestling Team Resurgence

Inspires Endowment Donors

"Resurgence means there once was... We're showing that we're bringing it back," stated Millersville University wrestling head coach Kerry Regner. Inspired by the "resurgence" theme, seven Millersville alumni and friends are funding the "Resurgence Scholarship Endowment" to support student-athletes in the wrestling program. "To see these members of the Millersville wrestling family step up and give for the future success and current success of Millersville is very promising and very exciting for everyone involved in the program," Regner noted.

The former wrestling team members who are funding the endowment were part of the team nearly 20 years ago. The group shares a bond through the legacy of the late Millersville University head wrestling coach Floyd "Shorty" Hitchcock, explained former wrestling team member and endowment supporter Blaze Cambuzzi '02. "Everybody on there had a relationship or a connection with Shorty on that team at different levels. That's a big part of it," he said. Hitchcock led the team during numerous winning seasons and achieved incredible success as head coach from 1984 until he passed away in 2002 following a battle with cancer. According to Cambuzzi, the relationships within the Millersville wrestling community encompass a large circle of friends and supporters. "That is a short, short sample of some absolutely amazing, wonderful, great friends, great people that are tied to that program," he noted.



Millersville University All-Americans Colton Dull (left) and Shane Ruhnke (right) at the 2019 NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships.

The student-athletes of the Millersville wrestling team are currently reaching outstanding levels of success as part of the program's resurgence. Marauder wrestling had two All-Americans in the 2018-2019 season, Colton Dull and Shane Ruhnke, for the first time since 1980. Ruhnke recently won the 2019 NCAA Division II Championship, marking a tremendous achievement for the program. Millersville University Athletics giving has nearly doubled since 2016, and one of the three priority areas of the "Imagine the Possible" campaign is Marauder Athletics. The wrestling team's

resurgence exemplifies the essential role of private support in generating success for Millersville student-athletes.

With the Resurgence Scholarship Endowment, scholarships will benefit future student-athletes in the wrestling program and encourage their academic and athletic success. "I'm a coach who wants to praise and make sure that student-athletes are receiving what they deserve. If they reach pinnacles of the program, I want to make sure they're given what they deserve," affirmed Regner. As a former student-athlete, Cambuzzi emphasized the importance of supporting future students through scholarship opportunities. He noted, "I think we'd love to see more people recognize the role athletics played in their life...and recognize the things we can do to facilitate and sustain those opportunities for future generations, then we should do it, and we should do it in a profound, large way." ♦

SUPPORT MARAUDER ATHLETICS

You can make a positive impact on student-athletes at Millersville University and provide opportunities for championship experiences. | [Click Here](#) to make your gift of support.



CHEMISTRY STUDENTS & TEAMMATES

SHARE A BOND OF SUMMER RESEARCH

This summer Millersville University field hockey teammates and chemistry majors **Kyra Brakefield '20** and **Autumn Peters '21** will participate in a Research Experiences for

Undergraduates (REU) program, each at a separate REU site. Brakefield will conduct chemistry research at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, in her second REU experience, while Peters will travel to Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, for her first REU experience. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, acceptance into REU programs is a competitive process.

At Millersville University faculty encourage students to gain acceptance into research programs early in their undergraduate careers. "We've had a lot of

sophomores get into these programs, and a lot of schools would more likely get juniors, incoming seniors into their programs. But our students are just so much better prepared earlier on," Brakefield added. Autumn Peters is a Millersville University sophomore who will be embarking

on her first REU this summer. In describing the chemistry program's concentration for her summer research, Peters stated, "Florida State University, their chem department

for research focuses on photochemistry and photophysics... A lot of this is working toward better solar cells and photochemistry."



Kyra Brakefield '20 and Autumn Peters '21 at the Made in Millersville conference where Brakefield shared her research presentation on "New Green Chemistry Catalysts."

Millersville faculty mentors strongly promote the pursuit of REUs for their students. As Peters applied for REU programs, she received beneficial guidance from her advisor, Dr. Kathryn Allen. "The whole chemistry department is behind you. Everybody here wanted us to get the REUs," Peters explained. Brakefield attributes her REU readiness to her faculty mentor, Dr. Edward Rajaseelan. "He's always encouraged me to apply to everywhere and

do whatever I wanted to do in chemistry. I do my undergraduate research with him in his lab, and that's kind of where it started," she said. Last summer, Brakefield participated in a REU program at NC State University that made a significant impact on her future career plans.

"Last year, when I came out of it, I wanted to learn how to present. I wanted to learn how to be independent, and I think I really did that," she added.

As scholarship recipients, both students recognize the importance of scholarships in providing educational experiences at Millersville University and opportunities for undergraduate research with Millersville faculty. "I have a scholarship through chemistry and one through field hockey, and if I didn't have those scholarships I wouldn't even be here," Brakefield explained. Peters agrees that scholarships are an essential element of her Millersville University experience. "I have a field hockey scholarship, and then I have a scholarship from the chem department, as well. I wouldn't be able to afford coming here without my scholarships. They're really what keep me afloat," Peters said.

Regarding their career aspirations, both Brakefield and Peters plan to pursue advanced degrees after graduating from Millersville. "The plan right now for me is to go to graduate school in hopes of getting my Ph.D. That's my first step," Brakefield stated. In her career goals, she hopes

to work for the FBI as a lead researcher and eventually return to Millersville University to teach chemistry. Peters is planning to obtain a postgraduate degree and is considering options for attending graduate school to pursue either a master's degree or a Ph.D. or enrolling in medical school. Both students agree that the REU experience plays a major role in determining their career plans. "My summer last year really shaped what I wanted to do, and she's doing the same thing," said Brakefield.

As summer approaches, the students are excited to discover new skills in chemistry research in each of their REU programs. "Academically, my greatest accomplishment is probably getting into this REU for my first time," Peters said. When describing her greatest academic achievement, Brakefield stated, "Up to today, I would probably say getting two REUs... and it's all because of the chemistry department and the staff and my peers... they all pushed me to learn more and do more." ♦

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

With scholarships the best and brightest students like Kyra and Autumn have access to high-quality educational experiences at Millersville University.

TO LEARN HOW SCHOLARSHIPS HELP MILLERSVILLE STUDENTS ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE, [Click Here](#)

Millersville University
Office of Development

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