



Maria Zaballa

High school: Santa Union de Los Sagrados Corazones

Hometown: Junin, Argentina

Majors: B.S. Chemistry

Activities: Field Hockey Team, International Teatime, and Bowling

Post-grad plans: Start my OPT experience post-graduation and then apply to an accelerated PhD program in

“Pili (Maria) is a confident, determined, and bright young woman. Her work has been consistently of a very high quality, despite needing to navigate online courses from Argentina during the pandemic. She has developed excellent lab and research skills through persistent hard work. She has performed exceptionally well in a very challenging chemistry curriculum, while being an important and talented member of the Millersville University Women’s Field Hockey Team. I have enjoyed having her in my classes and directing her undergraduate research and have always appreciated her graceful manners and exemplary character.”

— Dr. Edward Rajaseelan
Professor of Inorganic Chemistry

Why Millersville?

I was looking for a place that would be welcoming. When I talked to the field hockey team, I was sure that Millersville was the right fit for me. When I then got here, my teammates were so kind and nice I knew I have made the right decision.

Are you where you thought you’d be when you first came to campus?

When I first got here, I didn’t know what my future would look like. I am still not a 100% sure but now I know I want to get some experience and get my Masters or Doctoral degree and then maybe move to Europe to keep working on my career there.

Who helped you get to where you are now?

My family and my field hockey coaches, from here at Millersville and back home in Argentina.

Peak experience?

Competing in the PSAC finals last season. (The Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference is a college athletic conference affiliated with the National Collegiate Athletic Association at the Division II level.)

What surprised you?

How professors care about each student and how they take time to actually explain or be there for us. In Argentina, professors do not even know student’s names.

Which one(s) of the EPPIC values of Millersville do you most identify with? Or which of the values do you think best describes your time here at Millersville?

I would have to say I experienced compassion, inclusion, and exploration.

What will you miss the most?

I will miss my friends, my team and having more than 3 months of vacation.

Advice for the Class of 2026?

My advice for them would be to get out there, don't be shy, explore and take advantage of the opportunities available. Time flies.

