



MILLERSVILLE

History Department Newsletter
September 2020 Issue #7

The Marauding MU Historian

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

By John McLarnon

The past Spring semester was an unprecedented one for the students, staff and faculty of Millersville. Due to Covid-19, the university transitioned to remote learning modalities in mid-semester. Offices, dorms and dining facilities were shut down in an effort to comply with Governor Wolf's directives. A small handful of mostly international students remained, but with students all taking classes online while staff and administrators worked from their homes, the campus, which is typically bustling with activity, was turned into a virtual ghost town. Student activities were curtailed, intermural and intercollegiate sports were cancelled, public lectures were re-scheduled and, in some cases, re-scheduled again, club trips were postponed, as was our decennial visit from the Middle States Commission of Higher Education Peer Review team.

This state of affairs carried on through the Summer sessions and, after a lot of discussion and planning, into the Fall 2020 semester as well.

Many of my colleagues were anxious to return to the classroom in the Fall. Synchronous on-line teaching, while quite effective if done properly, is terribly unrewarding. Even the most sophisticated technology to interact with students and peers cannot really do much to address the sense of isolation that develops after months of communicating in a "virtual" classroom.

In a totally different, but not unrelated issue, the Chancellor ordered each of the schools in the System to develop what he calls "financial sustainability" plans that will provide the basis for his "re-design" of the entire system. He imposed rigid student-faculty ratios and, in some cases, draconian financial responsibility mandates. At the same time, the state legislature enacted new legislation that gave the Board of Governors the authority to close or merge entire universities.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Faculty News

- This year our Faculty published and prepared for publication seven Books, three Articles, and two Book Reviews. We gave several Presentations and held a Special Event.

Students' News

- Our most accomplished students won History Department Awards and other Honors and Awards.

Alumni News

- Our alumni tell us about their experiences and give advice for current students.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Nobody can predict how long the Pandemic will continue or how long before an effective vaccine can be developed and distributed.

That is when campus life will begin to return to what President Harding called “normalcy.”

There are a few things, however, that will not return to normal – pandemics and system re-designs not withstanding. The longest-serving member of the Department – Maggie Eichler – finally decided to retire

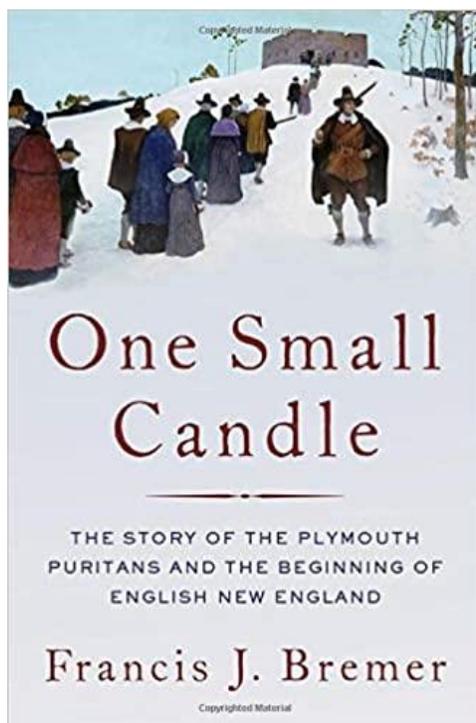
after working for thirty-five years in the History Department. In last year’s letter I wrote about Maggie and what she has meant to the faculty, her peers and students who have passed through the Department during her tenure. So now I will say only this: I have attended a lot of retirement dinners during my time at Millersville, but I have never received so many phone calls from former faculty members who want to insure that they receive invitations to Maggie’s dinner.

“The past Spring semester was an unprecedented one for the students, staff and faculty of Millersville ...”

Some feared that, due again to the Pandemic, there would not be a dinner. But be assured, we will host one as soon as we can do so safely, and we can find a venue large enough to accommodate all who want to attend.

Along with Maggie, we will be losing our senior professor, Tracey Weis. Tracey started in the Fall of 1992. I know this because she was my Honors Thesis Advisor. Over the years, she has taught classes in (among other things) 19th century American history, African American history and Women’s history. More recently she has functioned as the academic advisor to all the departments in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. She has mentored thousands of students and directed hundreds of Masters’ and Undergraduate Honors theses (come to

think of it, mine might have been her first!). In any event, Tracey decided to take advantage of the System’s new phased retirement program. Her final year of teaching will be the 2021-2022 academic year. The Department will host a dinner for Tracey as well, when the health situation in the county and the state allows it. I am sure I speak for the entire Department in wishing both Tracey and Maggie many years of relaxed retirement living.



DR. FRANCIS J. BREMER, PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Published a book *One Small Candle: The Plymouth Puritans and the Beginning of English New England*, (Oxford University Press, 2020)

In *One Small Candle*, Francis J. Bremer focuses on the role of religion in the settlement of the Plymouth Colony and how those values influenced political, intellectual, and cultural aspects of New England life a hundred and fifty years before the American Revolution. He traces the Puritans' persecution in early seventeenth-century England for challenging the established national church and the difficulties they faced as refugees in the Netherlands in the 1610s. As they planted a colony in America, this group of puritan congregationalists was driven by the belief that ordinary men and women should play the deciding role in governing church affairs. Their commitment to lay empowerment and participatory democracy was reflected in congregational church covenants and inspired the earliest political forms of the region, including the Mayflower Compact and local New England town meetings. Their rejection of individual greed and focus on community, Bremer argues, defined the culture of English colonization in early North America.

DR. DENIS B. DOWNEY, PROFESSOR EMERITUS

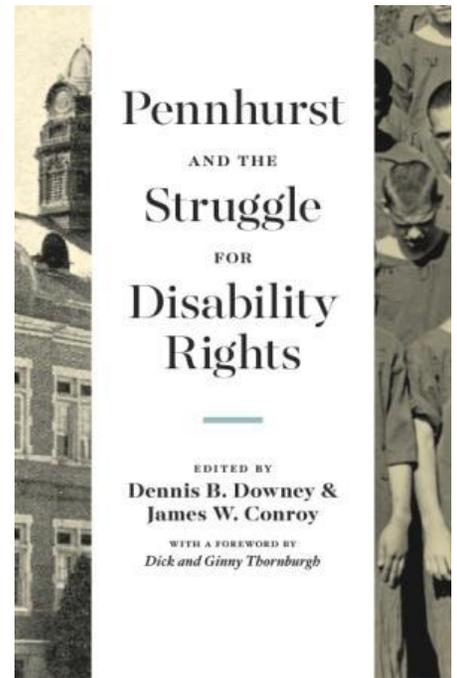
Co-author, *Pennhurst and the Struggle for Disability Rights* (Penn State University Press, 2020). Downey has also published numerous op/ed commentaries in the past year in: *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Harrisburg Patriot-News*, and *Lancaster Sunday News*. In late July he will appear on an hour-long WITF Radio Smart Talk interview program covering his new book on Pennhurst and also the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990-2020). He has consulted with WITF, Media on a disability history project, and he and his wife, Traci, appeared on air and online in the WITF program "Corona Diaries" to discuss disabilities and the pandemic.

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DR. DENIS B. DOWNEY

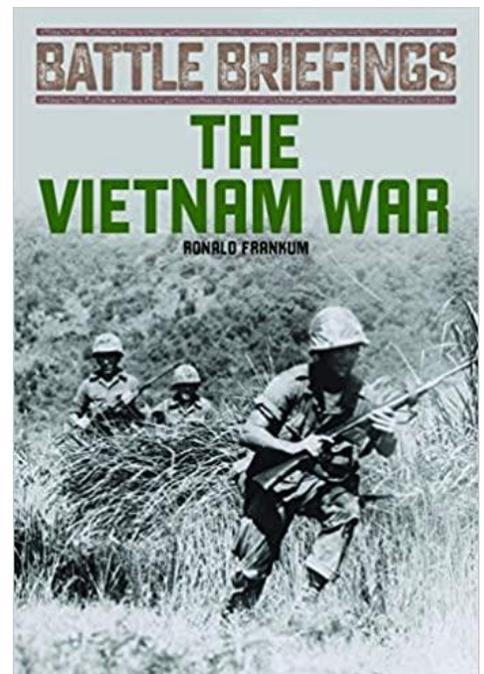
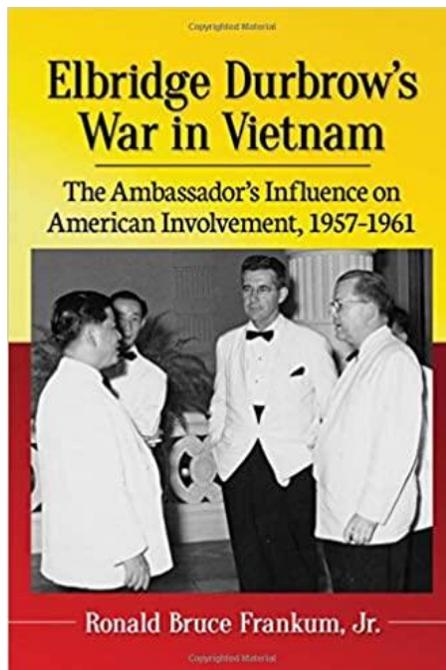
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He continues to give scholarly and public presentations on the history of disabilities, race relations, and other topics of interest. Downey is working with a New York producer/director on a documentary based on his book *No Crooked Death*. In June Downey was named to chair the new Disability Policy Circle at the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia. He will work with attorneys and advocates to create a strategic plan for future litigation and policy initiatives.



DR. RONALD FRANKUM

In the past academic year, Dr. Frankum published two books, *Elbridge Durbrow's War in Vietnam: The Ambassador's Influence on American Involvement, 1957-1961* (McFarland 2019) and *Battle Briefings: The Vietnam War* (Stackpole 2019). Dr. Frankum was nearing completion of a second volume for the *Battle Briefing* series on the 1968 Tet Offensive when COVID-19 struck, delaying the project for several months.



DR. TANYA KEVORKIAN

As part of her ongoing interest in environmental history, Dr. Tanya Kevorkian incorporated an oral history project on the history of the environment on Millersville's campus into her History 218: People & the Environment course in Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. In the spring, students were scheduled to present at Made in Millersville, the campus showcase of student research. After the live event was cancelled due to the pandemic, students pivoted and pooled their research into an article for the *Made in Millersville MU Journal*: "The MU Campus and Environmental Awareness: Expansion from the 1960s to Today:" (QR Code 1)

The project contributes to the awareness of the environment at Millersville University, to the observance of the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day at MU, and is a good example of how a service learning project can be linked to the acquisition of a skill (in this case, doing oral history). Thanks to three history alums who agreed to be interviewed for the project in the fall and spring. Tom Hassler, B.S.E. '71, Joseph (Mike) Herman, B.S.E. '74, and Dr. Dennis Simmons, B.S.E. '64 all contributed their memories and perspectives. Dr. Kevorkian also gave a lecture on "Colonial American Environmental History: People, Plants, and Farm Animals" for the Quest for Learning senior citizens' series in Lancaster in October 2019.

In 2019, Dr. Kevorkian was a member of the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize Selection Committee of Friends of the German Historical Institute. This year she is serving as the chair of the committee. Her second book, *Weddings, Rumbles, and Tower Guards: Music and Urban Life in Baroque Germany*, is forthcoming with the University of Virginia Press in 2021. Her review of Andrew Talle, *Beyond Bach: Music and Everyday Life in the Eighteenth Century* (University of Illinois Press, 2017) appeared in the August 2019 issue of the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*. In November 2019, she attended the American Musicological Society annual meeting in Boston and participated in the American Bach Society's advisory board meeting held during the conference. Also in November 2019, the Bach Society Houston interviewed her about her current and past research for a podcast in its "Notes on Bach" series. The podcast is available from the second QR code.

DR. VICTORIA KHITERER

Dr. Victoria Khiterer coedited with graduate student Erin Magee and published the book,

Aftermath of the Holocaust and Genocides (Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020).

The volume includes thirteen chapters, which are based on selected presentations at the 2016 and 2018 Millersville University Conferences on the Holocaust and Genocide. The scholars used in their articles recently discovered archival materials

and provided new approaches to research of the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide and the Holodomor (the famine in Ukraine in 1932-33). This book illuminates unknown aspects of the aftermath of the Holocaust and genocides and discusses trials of Holocaust and genocide perpetrators, commemoration of the victims, attempts to revive Jewish national life, and outbreaks of post-World War II anti-Semitism. The volume also analyzes the representation of the Holocaust and genocides in literature, press and film.

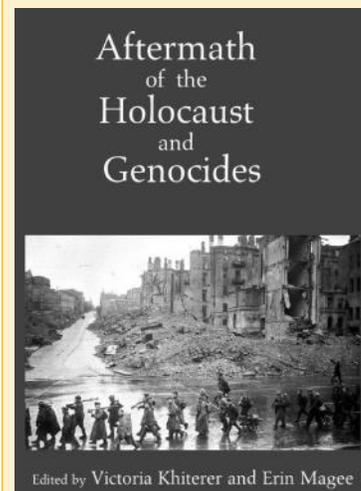
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The MU Campus and Environmental Awareness: Expansion from the 1960s to Today:"



"Notes on Bach" podcast



Faculty Professional Membership:

Tanya Kevorkian, Member of the Advisory Board of the American Bach Society

Victoria Khiterer, Founding member of the Scientific Council of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center (BYHMC) in Kiev, Ukraine

Victoria Khiterer, Member of the Executive Board, Western Jewish Studies Association (WJSA)

Victoria Khiterer, Member of the Board of The American Association for Ukrainian Studies (Member of the Communications Committee)

DR. VICTORIA KHITERER

She published a book chapter “Life in the Ruins: Jewish National Revival in Kiev after the Holocaust (1944-48),” in Victoria Khiterer and Erin Magee, eds. *Aftermath of the Holocaust and Genocides* (Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020), 2-37.

Dr. Khiterer published a peer-review article “The Holodomor and Jews in Kyiv and Ukraine: An introduction and observations on a neglected topic” *Nationalities Papers*, 48, no. 3 (2020): 460-475.

She also published a book review on Omer Bartov, *Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2018), *Nationalities Papers*, 48, no. 2 (March 2020): 422-424.

Dr. Victoria Khiterer presented the following papers at national and international conferences:

Presented “In the Shadow of Babi Yar: the Betrayal and Rescue of Jews during the Holocaust in Kiev” to the 51st Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS).

Presented “Not So Silent: Jewish Religious

Life in Kiev, 1945-1970s” to the 51st Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES).

Presented “The Rise and Fall of Jewish Scholarly Institutions in Kiev in the 1920s-1940s” to the Symposium in Russian-Jewish History, University of Pennsylvania.

Presented “Ilya Galant’s Works on the History of Jews in Ukraine and the Jewish Historical-Archeographic Commission of the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (VUAN)” at the Round-Table “End of History? Beginning of History? The Genesis of Jewish and Non-Jewish Historiography in Eastern Europe, 19th-20th Centuries” at the Russian State University of Humanities, Moscow, Russia.

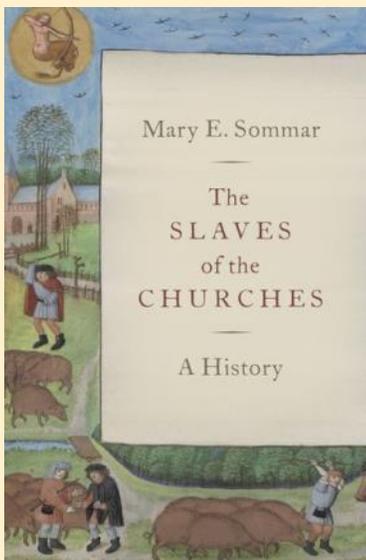
Presented “Kiev as a Center of Soviet Jewish Culture in the 1920s-1930s” to the 26th Annual International Conference on Jewish Studies, The Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization “Sefer,” Moscow, Russia.

Victoria Khiterer also peer reviewed an article for *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* and a manuscript for *Oxford Bibliographies in Urban Studies*.

DR. MARY SOMMAR

Dr. Mary E. Sommar published the book, *The Slaves of the Churches* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Mary E. Sommar examines how the church sought to establish norms for slave ownership on the part of ecclesiastical institutions and personnel, and for others' behavior towards such slaves. The story begins in the New Testament era, when the earliest Christian norms were established, and continues up to thirteenth-century establishment of a body of canon law that would persist into the twentieth century. Along with her analysis of the various policies and statutes, Sommar draws on chronicles, letters, and other documents from each of the various historical periods to provide insight into the situations of unfree ecclesiastical dependents. She finds that unfree dependents of the Church actually had less chance of achieving freedom than did the slaves of other masters. The church authorities' duty to preserve the Church's patrimony for the needs of future generations led them to hold on tightly to their unfree human resources. This accessibly written book does not present an apology for the behavior of past Christian leaders, but attempts to learn what they did and to arrive at some understanding of why they made those choices.



THE CAREERS FOR HISTORIANS ALUMNI EVENT

By Dr. Tanya Kevorkian, Event Organizer

On October 17, 2019 the History Department sponsored the third annual Careers for Historians Alum Panel, preceded by a reception. Guests included President and Mrs. Wubah. This event again was helpful for current students and enjoyable for the participants. Panelists this year were Brandon Danz, B.A. '03, Director of Value Based Programs at Well-Span Health and MU trustee, Katie Fichtner, B.A. '05, Ar-

chives Assistant at LancasterHistory, Rebekah Foulds, B.S.E. '12 & M.Ed. '16, Social Studies Teacher at Hempfield High School, Justin Neideigh, B.S.E. '12 & M.A. '19, Social Studies Teacher at Donegal High School, Samuel C. Slaymaker, M.A. '05, Executive Director of Rock Ford, Lancaster PA, and Mary Wallick, B.A. '04 & M.A. '08, Library Specialist at Harrisburg Area Community College. The moderator was Dr. G. Terry Madonna, B.S.E. '64, Director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs, Director of the F & M College Poll, and Prof. of Public Affairs at Franklin & Marshall College. A big thanks again to the participants!



Top: the nights panel featured, (from left to right): Meaghan Shirk, Rafael Diaz, Sarah Alberico, Patricia Haverstick, Joseph Michael Herman, Greg Szczyrbak, and G. Terry Madonna.

Bottom left: students had the opportunity to speak one on one with panelists regarding their experiences after graduation.

Bottom right: faculty and students alike gathered for refreshments following the panel session.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

MCNEIL CENTER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Meagan Shulman and Hannah Davis were both selected for the prestigious McNeil Center Undergraduate Research Workshop last spring. Forced to present virtually because of COVID-19, Hannah spoke about her research on “The Heyser Girls and their Peers: Rural Antebellum Needlework in Montgomery County, PA” and Meagan presented her project, “‘They were Good and Honest Men:’ Bermuda Governors’ Early Relations with Smugglers, Pirates, and Privateers”



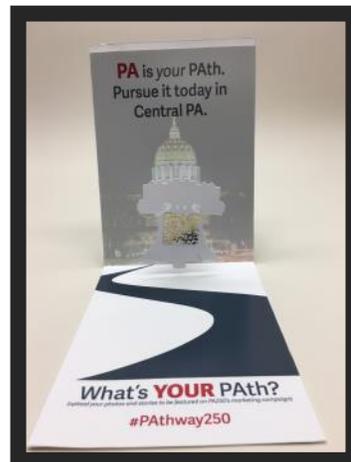
From left to right, Sidney Miller, Angus McMillin, Victoria Pappas, Meagan Schulman, Niamh Lotty

AMERICA 250 PA

Several department students participated in the America250PA project in Fall 2019, reaching the final round of the competition at Wilkes-Barre in October. History and Atlantic World students Niamh Lotty, Angus McMillin, and Meagan Shulman competed (along with Sidney Miller, PSYC, and Victoria Pappas, SPCM) and designed a multi-media direct marketing campaign - “Pennsylvania is your PATH - to begin the statewide celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

AFTER GRADUATION

- Hannah Davis, BA 2020, will begin her graduate studies in Public History at Rutgers-Camden, where she received a full fellowship.
- Jessica De Palma received a graduate assistantship with full funding for her graduate studies in the Archival Preservation and Digital Curation specialization at UMD’s MLIS program.
- Meagan Shulman, Atlantic World MDST 2020, will begin her MA studies at Millersville with a full fellowship.
- Elizabeth Root, MA 2018, has been accepted into the doctoral program in History of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma.
- Tucker Stokes, BA 2020, and Shane Moran, BA 2020 will begin their MA studies in History at MU this fall.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS CONT.

Student Award Winners

Maxwell and Edna H Myers History Award – Hannah Davis	John W. Loose History Research Award –Joseph Blauberg
Dr. Abram Foster Scholarship for Excellence in History award – Michaela A. Mills	Joseph E. Walker American History Scholarship – Avery Frank
Dr. Richard C. Keller Award in American History – Shane Moran	Lyman R. Brenner '71 History Scholarship – Sarah Davis
Dr. Robert D. & Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship – Ryan Dunkle	The Joan M. Williams Scholarship Endowment – Samantha Holmes

YOU DID IT!
Congratulations

Congratulations

To Our New Graduates

Congratulations on your graduation. We regretted not being able to congratulate you in person at commencement but wish you all the best as you embark on your post-baccalaureate careers in this challenging time. You are welcome to email your former advisor and other professors if you have questions.

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI SHARE THEIR STORIES

Elliott Kyle Bollinger, Bachelor of Arts in History, May 2020

Current position: I am a grocery clerk at the Target at Wyomissing. There I am to fill produce, dry goods, frozen, and other food products in the shelves. I also aid in taking apart the shipping pallets that come in. I act as cashier if needed due to shortages of staff or other reasons.

I have not found yet a job in my desired field due to Covid-19. I believe I would have gotten a job in my desired field except for Covid-19.

Advice to Students: Work hard, and always be prepared to take chances in exploring new opportunities.

Samantha Borry, Bachelor of Arts in History, May 2020

Current position: I am a special education paraprofessional at Adamstown Elementary School in the Cocalico School District. I supervise groups of students during the school day. This includes supervising lunches, recesses, and loading students on buses at the end of the school day. I also work in classrooms, helping teachers and individual students per their needs, throughout the school day. While I am still looking for a job in public education in a museum, I wanted a job exactly like this while I complete graduate school. I received this job three months after my graduation.

I do feel that my education at Millersville University gave me an advantage in my job search. Many of the supervisors who interviewed me were familiar with Millersville and commented on what a good reputation it has. In addition, my professors helped increase my confidence about my skills, which helped me greatly in selling myself during the interview process.

Advice to Students: Learn time management. I know numerous people who struggled to meet deadlines and completed assignments mere hours before they were due. You can save yourself a lot of stress by sitting down and creating a weekly schedule or work plan for yourself. These skills are essential to have for any career field and especially if you are considering graduate school.

Elisabeth Walker, Bachelor of Arts in History, December 2015

Current position: Foreign Affairs Specialist, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office International Division, Federal Aviation Administration. I am co-pilot lead for our Africa, Middle East, and Western Hemisphere Regions. I also handle travel planning for my division. While it was not my original desired field, I entered my current field (unmanned aircraft) in August 2016. My education at Millersville University helped me in my job search. I use the writing skills I learned at Millersville every day at work.

Advice to Students: Do not be afraid to venture outside your major when searching for your first post-grad job. There are so many interesting paths life can take you with the skill sets you developed at college!

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Mission: Millersville University provides diverse, dynamic, meaningful experiences to inspire learners to grow both intellectually and personally to enable them to contribute positively to local and global communities.

Vision: We will transform each learner's unique potential into the capacity for successful engagement in career and life opportunities.

ALUMNI SHARE THEIR STORIES (CONT.)

Jessica De Palma, Bachelor of Arts in History, May 2020

Current position: Graduate Assistant in the College of Behavioral and Social Science Academic Advisement Center for Undergrads at University of Maryland. I advise undergrads, approve graduation plans, process and review degree audits, approve or deny major changes, and other administrative duties.

I am a graduate student studying Archives and Digital Curation at the University of Maryland and my GA position is not necessarily in my field, but it pays my tuition and living costs. Ultimately my current position will help me get a future position in my desired field of archival/museum work. I was offered my current position about one week after graduation.

My education and overall experience at Millersville has given me confidence in my work ethic and research skills to apply for graduate school and the GA position I currently have. I believe my coursework, classes, and professors in the History Department have provided me an excep-

tional foundation to allow me to truly excel during my graduate school career and beyond.

Advice to Students:

- Apply for every opportunity you can, even if you think you may not get it!
- Take full advantage of campus resources and the expertise your professors offer during office hours.
- If you plan to go to graduate school, try and take as many writing-intensive history courses as you can.
- Allot a certain amount of free time away from academics to decompress throughout the semester!
- If you have an idea for a project or opportunity, let your professors know!
- Study abroad if you can.

“My education and overall experience at Millersville has given me the confidence in my work ethic and research skills to apply for graduate school...”

Samantha Moore, Bachelor of Arts in History, May 2020

Current position: seeking employment.

My education at Millersville University gave me a feeling of how to be flexible and how to do a wider range of tasks that would be easy to put into place in nearly any job.

Advice to Students: Always be prepared for things to not go as planned and be ready to alleviate those plans with new plans.

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The Marauding MU
Historian,
The History
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