

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2018–2019

Millersville University

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Student in character during an American Revolution debate reenactment.

[millersville.edu/ahss](https://millersville.edu/ahss)

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## New programs meet industry and student demands

After several years of growth, our successful multidisciplinary studies program in **Entertainment Technology** was recently approved as a stand-alone Bachelor of Arts degree.

New minors in **Military Science** and **Strategic Public Relations** were added due to student demand.

The curriculum for the **B.A. in Music** was substantially revised and updated.

A new **Communication concentration** within the M.S. in Emergency Management is in development.

298

STUDENT & FACULTY PARTICIPANTS  
IN MADE IN MILLERSVILLE

2,504

VISITORS TO THE  
ECKERT ART GALLERY

40

BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS AND SCHOLARLY  
ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY FACULTY & STUDENTS

53

EXTERNAL GRANT PROPOSALS  
SUBMITTED BY FACULTY

>800

FACULTY CREATIVE WORKS  
(PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITIONS, ETC.)

#1

FINE ART PROGRAM IN PENNSYLVANIA  
FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS<sup>1</sup>

2017-18 2018-19  
144 152

STUDENTS TAKING  
INTERNSHIPS FOR CREDIT

2017-18 2018-19  
75 90

STUDENTS COMPLETING  
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS



Student in the Entertainment Technology program

<sup>1</sup>) Source: College Factual, <https://bit.ly/2YckrAA>



## From Dean Zake

I am excited to share with you our 2018-19 Annual Report. This past year marked the start of Dr. Daniel Wubah's presidency at Millersville, and his arrival generated enthusiasm for the future of our institution and energized everyone to envision new possibilities. As a College, we focused on three main areas this year — new program development and curricular innovation; promotion of faculty scholarship; and student success. I am pleased to say that the College made notable progress in all three areas, as demonstrated in this report.

Also this past year we worked on initiatives that laid groundwork for future success such as the creation of the College of Business, establishment of the AHSS center for academic advising, development of fundraising proposals for transformative ideas and enhancing connections with industry partners.

Strengthened by the generous support of our many friends and donors, we have solidified the position of the College of AHSS as the liberal arts foundation of the University. This coming year, we will build upon our record of success and continue to offer our students the highest quality education and to prepare them for productive and fulfilling careers.

**Dr. Ieva Zake**  
Dean, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences



Andrew Black

## Music Business Technology graduate to tour with Ariana Grande

Spring 2019 graduate **Andrew Black** will be heading out on tour this summer. The Music Business Technology major works for Clair Global and will be touring with Ariana Grande as a live sound engineer. He spent his last semester already working full time at Clair, while finishing up his senior thesis.

Black was introduced to Clair Global through work on FestiVille, Millersville University's spring concert, and a class at Clair in live audio. After an internship at Anderson Audio in Harrisburg he was hired as a touring audio engineer at Clair Global.

## Law School is next for College of AHSS graduate

Having achieved excellence in her academic career, **Amy Koss** graduated in 2019 *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in Government & Political Affairs and a minor in History. Koss is now on to the UPenn School of Law, a top-10 law school in the U.S.

Throughout her career at Millersville, Koss exhibited leadership abilities through involvement with Delta Phi Eta and her service as president of both Hillel and the College Republicans. These positions have allowed her to make a positive impact on her peers and the community. In reflecting on her time at Millersville, Koss notes that college is a once in a lifetime chance to discover who you are as a person.

*"The most valuable thing I've learned at Millersville is to trust your abilities to succeed, but work hard to get there."*

**AMY KOSS**



# UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Painting students with Noah Fecks



## Noah Fecks motivates students as 2019's Innovator in Residence

Internationally renowned food and lifestyle photographer **Noah Fecks** spent spring 2019 as AHSS' Innovator in Residence.

Noah's classroom visits included subjects across the disciplines in AHSS where he discussed the important ways the lessons students learn in class translate into important skills they need for work in a variety of industries. His personable and engaging nature led the classes to take away lessons that would be brought up again in class discussions throughout the semester.

During his first visit, Noah served as a special judge for the **Entrepreneurship** program's annual 60 Second Pitch competition, where students give elevator pitches for their business concepts. During his second visit, Noah coached the students as they refined their presentations with honest, constructive feedback.

Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, with one stating "[H]e made me think a lot about where I want my life to go and to get serious about pursuing my passions."

*Submitted by Dr. Stacey Irwin*

## Literary Arts Festival

This fall the **English Department** held the first Literary Festival with workshops and sessions that brought alumni, local writers, literary magazine editors and publishers to campus to discuss careers in writing and publishing. The festival culminated in a keynote address by Michael Deibert, author of *Haiti Will Not Perish: A Recent History* and *In the Shadow of Saint Death: The Gulf Cartel and the Price of America's Drug War in Mexico*, among other works.

## "Midnight Run" filmmaking competition

The **Media & Broadcasting** program held its second Midnight Run video contest in February. Seven student groups produced, wrote, shot, edited and submitted short films all in 24 hours. The films were judged by a panel of local film and television professionals.

## Middle Eastern Studies Organization attends Model Arab League in Washington, DC.

After placing in the regional competition, students in the **Middle Eastern Studies Organization (MESO)** were invited to participate in the National University Model Arab League in Washington, D.C. in April. The students represented Lebanon, a small country on the Mediterranean Sea north of Israel and west of Syria.



Students at the Model Arab League

## Oscar Award-winning screenwriter leads masterclasses

Academy Award Winner and University of Kansas Professor **Kevin Willmott** visited campus in November to inform and inspire AHSS' students.

Willmott and his co-authors, Spike Lee, Charlie Wachtel, and David Rabinowitz won an Academy Award in the category "Best Adapted Screenplay" for the 2018 movie "BlackKkKlansman." Based on the book "Black Klansman" by Ron Stallworth, the film is about the first African American police officer in Colorado Springs, Colorado becoming a member of the KKK as part of his detective work.

Willmott visited classes while on campus to speak on his areas of interest in writing, producing and directing films, as well as his interest in the history and representation of African Americans in film. Additionally, he spoke to faculty and students throughout the day, sharing lunch and dinner with faculty, students and alums in African American Studies, Media and Broadcasting, Public Relations, English, and Film Studies.

Willmott was invited at the suggestion of Dr. Rita Smith Wade-El, who found his "Confederate States of America" an important film for students in African American studies to see.

*Submitted by Dr. Theresa Russell-Loretz*



University Theatre Presents Jesus Christ Superstar

## University Theatre produces *Jesus Christ Superstar*

In November **University Theatre** presented a well-received run of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The production featured a cast and crew of students from disciplines across the University and sold over 1,300 tickets spanning its four performances.

*"Thanks to my experience in Jesus Christ Superstar, I ended my fall semester with a great GPA, a new circle of friends, a job opportunity, and a feeling of belonging at Millersville. Without University Theatre, I'm not sure if I would have had any of those things."*

**MORGAN HIGGINS**  
CAST MEMBER

## Noted painter Amy Sherald critiques student work

**Amy Sherald**, known for her stylized portraits of African Americans and her portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama, commissioned for the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, visited campus in February to meet with students and give the annual Conrad Nelson lecture.

Students in Advanced Painting cheered and gasped when they learned that Amy Sherald would be meeting with their class for a group critique. Sherald asked students to describe their intentions for the paintings. Following a lively and thoughtful discussion with Sherald, the students continued the critique and conversation, inspired by her story as an artist and woman of color. In Amy Sherald's words, "don't give up" even when it's difficult.

Sherald's visit impacted our students throughout the semester both technically and conceptually.

*Submitted by Prof. Dorothy Frey*

# STUDENT & FACULTY TRIUMPHS

Prof. Heidi Leitzke and Governor Tom Wolf



## Professor produces award objects for Governor's Awards for the Arts

**Prof. Heidi Leitzke**, Assistant Professor of Art & Design and Director of the Eckert Art Gallery, was commissioned by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts to produce six award objects for the 2018 Governor's Awards for the Arts.

Her project for the Governor's Awards for the Arts grows directly out of her recent work, inspired by the idea of what one might discover in a cross-pollinated secret garden.

Five of the awards were given out at a ceremony in Scranton. The sixth award became part of the permanent collection at the Pennsylvania State Archive.

## New books by AHSS faculty

**Dr. Ronald Frankum** (History), a nationally recognized expert on Vietnam War, completed work on his 7<sup>th</sup> book titled "Durbrow's Vietnam War" and 8<sup>th</sup> book titled "The Vietnam War." Both books will be published in 2019.

**Dr. Nivedita Bagchi** (Government & Political Affairs) published a well-received book titled "Human Nature and Politics in Utopian and Anti-Utopian Fiction" with Rowman & Littlefield.

Two more books by our faculty are under contract — **Dr. Lowery Woodall's** (Communication & Theatre) book in media studies will analyze representations of diversity in professional wrestling programming and **Dr. Tanya Kevorkian's** (History) work will use archival materials to uncover the centrality of music in the urban life in Germany during the Baroque period.

## AHSS Fellow named

Thanks to a gift from a donor, the College established a fellowship supporting a student engaged in a high-impact learning experience during summer. The selection committee received 12 applications and selected dual English and Anthropology major **Jordan Traut** for the inaugural fellowship.

As an AHSS Fellow, this summer Jordan will work toward completing her honors thesis on the development and influence of the universal flood archetype from ancient Mesopotamian literature. Research, partially supported by the fellowship, gives her academic freedom that can't be compared to any classroom experience, and she can focus her work on literature she rarely has the opportunity to study in school.



Jordan Traut

*"I feel that working on a research project, together with my favorite professors, in an academic area of my own choosing is an experience I know I could not find in any classroom. It is exhilarating to see how my initial research idea has manifested into a thesis project that the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences supports."*

**JORDAN TRAUT**



## PASSHE-wide student awards and prizes

**Brittney Brown** (Government & Political Affairs) and **Bevan Fields** (Government & Political Affairs) took 1<sup>st</sup> place and **Sheriece Smith** (Speech Communication) and **Marwann Alston** (Speech Communication) took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the PASSHE Frederick Douglas Debate Competition.

**Rendell Weaver** (Business Administration) received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the PASSHE Business Plan Competition with his concept called Clarae's Drive-Thru, a social enterprise coffee shop. Another student, **Kyle Narber** (Art & Design), placed as one of 15 semi-finalists with his concept called Knarbart Creative Services, a full-service creative agency.

**Drew Martin** (Philosophy) received an award for the Best Undergraduate Essay in Philosophy at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual PASSHE Interdisciplinary Association for Philosophy and Religious Studies Conference at Kutztown University.

## \$155,000 grant from the Red Cross

**Dr. Kirsten Bookmiller**, Professor of Government, received a \$155,000 grant from the American Red Cross' International Services division to support her work as a Project Lead with the North American Humanitarian Response Initiative (NAHRI).

In this capacity, Dr. Bookmiller evaluated Canada, Mexico, and the United States' legal preparedness for incoming post-disaster assistance, organized a February 2019 experts meeting at Millersville with the Red Cross, government and World Health Organization representatives, chaired a high-level working group and represented the Initiative at global meetings, including at the United Nations.

NAHRI's presence at Millersville has provided invaluable opportunities for students, as an interdisciplinary research team of five students produced a first of its kind North American mutual aid literature survey in English and Spanish that was internationally distributed within the humanitarian sector.

## Fine Art Metals student selected for prestigious exhibition

Art & Design major **Amy Edwards'** fine art metals work was accepted into the prestigious *Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemporary Crafts* exhibition, in Mesa, Arizona. This exhibition highlights the finest in contemporary crafts from across the country and has become a benchmark for innovation and quality. Only 53 pieces were chosen for the exhibit by artists representing 13 states.

## Additional faculty recognition

**Dr. Christy Banks** (Music) was invited as the headlining guest artist for the Louisiana Clarinet Day in Lafayette, LA.

**Dr. Robert Bookmiller** (Government & Political Affairs) received a 2019 Congressional Research Grant from the Everett Dirksen Congressional Center, the second time a PASSHE faculty member has received such a grant.

**Dr. Justin Garcia** (Sociology & Anthropology) was selected as to be a Fellow at the Japan Studies Institute in the San Diego State University.

**Dr. Gregory Seigworth** (Communication & Theatre) was invited to serve as visiting lecturer at Aarhus University in Denmark in summer 2019.



Dr. Kirsten Bookmiller in Mexico City

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## Eckert Art Gallery originates intriguing exhibit of local alumnus' work

When **Ralph Henry Eck, Jr.** '57, an unknown, self-taught artist, passed away at the age of 84, he left his private life's work behind, mostly unsigned, with no directive for it to be preserved, shown or shared.

Discovered accidentally by curators Sarah Noble and **Heidi Leitzke**, Eck's eccentric life and work were presented in an exhibition this spring titled "Joy of a Bird: The Art of a Solitary Life" with the cooperation of his surviving relatives. The collection of paintings, drawings, writings, cardboard objects, and sculptures tell the story of a man who created his work in secret, for his own enjoyment, in the basement of his childhood home.

The collection recently drew the attention of the Kohler Foundation, thanks to the exhibition and accompanying catalog and essay. The Foundation is in talks with the Eck family to acquire the entire collection, and intends to preserve the artwork and share it with generations to come.

## Language & Culture Studies holds in-service workshop for secondary school teachers

Faculty and students in the Department of **Language and Culture Studies** held their annual in-service conference for teachers from the region with 67 educators in attendance. The conference, themed "Keys to Communication," was presented in conjunction with the Association of World Language Educators.

## History takes note of professional development needs of area teachers

As they work to revise their curriculum, faculty in the Department of **History** hosted a forum with Hempfield School District History and Social Studies teachers to learn about their post-graduation professional development needs.

## Government and International Studies bring high-schoolers to UN simulation

**Government & Political Affairs** and **International Studies** collaborated with Penn Manor and Lampeter-Strasburg High Schools to host a one-day model UN Security Council simulation for 24 students. Planning is underway for expanded involvement with the simulation program to include additional high schools.

## Music students collaborate with Music For Everyone

**Tell School of Music** students collaborated with Music For Everyone, a non-profit Lancaster-based organization, to advocate for and support school music programs. Music Education and Music Industry students assisted public school K-12 music teachers with ensemble and studio instruction and provided the technical assistance to record school performances.



R.H. Eck, Jr., *Un arène cirque...* [A Circus Arena...]



## AHSS faculty undertake sustainability projects

Students in **Dr. Justin Mando's** (English) classes worked on a project called "Susquehanna Storytelling" with the Susquehanna RiverStewards. The series of blog posts and videos aims to educate people about the Susquehanna River's importance to the local economy, environment and culture. Dr. Mando also organized several river cleanups with the Lancaster Conservancy, and received a Sustainability Champion award for his work.

**Dr. Stacey Irwin** (Communication & Theatre) began working with a group of students to transition the focus of *Project Green Lancaster* from long-form written content to mobile videos and social interaction in order to highlight how Lancaster County is advancing global goals for sustainable development. Irwin received a grant from Millersville University's Positive Energy Fund for this project.

**Prof. Heidi Leitzke** (Art & Design) is collaborating with the City of Lancaster to offer a public lecture by internationally renowned environmental artist Stacy Levy. Levy will be sharing insights into her process for integrating art into sustainable storm-water management. Leitzke also received a grant from Millersville University's Positive Energy Fund to support this project.



Steel beams being placed in Dutcher Hall by crane.

## Improved theatre experience in Dutcher Hall

After considerable planning, Dutcher Hall's **Rafters Theatre**, underwent a significant facilities project to replace a major part of the theatre. The overhead rigging structure, where lighting and scenery hang for productions, was in need of immediate replacement. However, having a black-box theatre in the oldest building on campus posed many complexities in developing a solution that preserved the unique space and historical building.

A new custom overhead structure was designed and installed to modernize Rafters Theatre. In addition, the electrical system and lighting systems were updated to new state-of-the-art LED lighting,

which not only contributes to sustainability goals but allows for greater student engagement with the design process and the technologies themselves.

The project was completed in time for students in the fall semester's Lighting & Sound course to use the updated facility and resources for instruction and practical projects. University Theatre's sold-out spring production of *Almost, Maine* made heavy use of this new equipment, allowing students to experiment with lighting techniques they could never undertake before—much to the delight of the campus and community audience.

*Submitted by Prof. Adam Boyer*

# FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

*Includes gifts and commitments to the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.*

## INDIVIDUALS

### \$50,000+

Salvatore Micciche  
J. Eric '76 & Julie '78 Miller

### \$10,000-\$49,999

Lyman Brenner '71  
Joseph '90 & Elizabeth '91 Garner  
H. Sidney Long  
Paul & Judy Ware

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Robert Andriulli  
Andrew Appel  
Susan Davis  
Craig & Mate Hartranft  
Alan Schoener & Robert Wyand

### \$1000-\$4,999

Dorothy Beam  
Gerald & Susan Eckert  
Joyce '69 & Richard '67 Hibshman  
John '02 & Laura '04 Held  
Peter '85 & Deborah '92 Kroehler  
Kimberly Mahaffy  
Nancy Mata  
Mark Phillips '72  
Theresa Russell-Loretz  
Marilu Sieber  
Barbara Stengel  
Osman & Alawia Suliman

### \$500-\$999

Dominick '53 & Helen DiNunzio  
Mary & Penn Glazier  
Theresa Hay '79  
Albert Hoffman  
Micheal Houlahan  
Carl LaMastra  
Jonathan Light '14  
Rick & Jessica Rodgers  
Deborah Sigel  
Rita Smith Wade-El\*

*\*Deceased*

## ORGANIZATIONS

### \$10,000-\$49,999

Ferree Foundation  
Music for Everyone

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Max Kade Foundation  
Trout Ebersole & Groff LLP

### \$1000-\$4,999

PA Society of Sons of the Revolution  
Lancaster Chapter

### \$500-\$999

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc

## NEW FUNDS

Graphic & Interactive Art Design Awards  
John '02 and Laura '04 Held Family Scholarship  
McCollough Family College of Arts, Humanities  
and Social Sciences Scholarship  
Miller Art Education and English Excellence  
Scholarship  
Sal Micciche Music Scholarship  
The Eva Mae & James Edward Smith Scholarship  
in African American Studies

## MAKE A GIFT TO AHSS

Every gift, no matter the size, can make a difference in the lives of our students.

To make a gift, call 717-871-7520 or  
visit [millersville.edu/give](http://millersville.edu/give)



# OUR EPPIIC VALUES

Learn more about our EPPIIC values at [millersville.edu/eppiic](https://millersville.edu/eppiic)

## EXPLORATION

Millersville University embraces a culture of exploration, creating a dynamic learning environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, creative intelligence, innovation, forward-thinking ideas and exciting discoveries. Exploration serves as an intentional way to strengthen University culture. We place a high value on student-faculty research, scholarship and collaborative projects.

## PROFESSIONALISM

Millersville University is founded on a tradition of academic excellence, expert knowledge and professional collegiality. Our diverse community of learners is comprised of skilled and dedicated educators and staff who model maturity of thought and practice while exhibiting mutual respect.

## PUBLIC MISSION

Millersville University's mission calls upon us to respond to the urgent and emerging needs of our growing regional, urban and metropolitan communities. Through interdisciplinary learning, collaborative and cross-cultural experiences and a renewed focus on a liberal arts tradition, our students become well-prepared for meaningful participation in the broader society.

## INCLUSION

Millersville University is firmly committed to supporting and advancing the diversity and inclusion of its campus community. Inclusion is creating a campus community where differences are welcomed and respectfully heard and where every individual feels a sense of belonging. We affirm our shared values, and commit to foster a diverse, equitable and inclusive campus community.

## INTEGRITY

Millersville University steadfastly defends freedom of thought and ideas as core to authentic and honest scholarship. Our commitment to integrity is measured by action and responsibility and engenders a culture of trust, rich with opportunities for rigorous applied learning and meaningful civic engagement and public stewardship that are responsive to the needs of our region.

## COMPASSION

Millersville University's ethos of compassion permeates all of our endeavors and interactions. Learning about and being sensitive to the experiences of people and cultures whether nearby or afar, fosters individual, professional and institutional growth. Compassion moves the campus community towards focusing on each learner and their unique potential to impact the public good.



# WHERE DISCOVERY HAPPENS

The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is known for its broad range of majors and interdisciplinary programs. Our programs are built on a strong foundation of liberal arts education, which we believe prepares students for a wide variety of successful career paths.

We offer a transformative curriculum that enables our graduates to reason effectively, write clearly, speak persuasively, think critically and ethically, express themselves creatively, work collaboratively and have a broad perspective on diverse cultures and contexts. Many of our programs offer unique opportunities for hands-on learning in our state-of-the-art facilities.

All of our programs incorporate numerous opportunities for internships research with faculty, service learning projects, participation in professional conferences and competitions, and study abroad. Our graduates leave equipped with a wide array of transferrable skills as well as breadth and depth of knowledge that will allow them to adapt and evolve as life-long learners.

## Millersville University

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES  
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