

A photograph of a student in an art studio, wearing a black face mask and a dark jacket, painting on a canvas mounted on an easel. The studio is filled with art supplies, including a table with paint containers and brushes. The background shows a wall with various artworks. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter.

ANNUAL REPORT

2020–2021

Millersville University

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

YEAR IN REVIEW

AHSS creates new programs

Faculty within AHSS developed several new programs over the 2020-21 academic year to meet student and workforce demands.

- Online degree completion programs in **Writing Studies** and **Interactive & Graphic Design**, benefitting students who need the flexibility of online delivery to complete their degrees;
- New minors in Ethics and Society, Pre-Law, and Media Arts Production;
- Pre-Law concentration in the Department of Government, Policy, and Law.

Students and faculty in hands-on studio courses adapted to COVID-19 restrictions during AY 2020-21.



College develops new Strategic Plan, Mission and Vision Statements

Over the course of the 2020-21 academic year, a team of faculty and staff in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences developed a new strategic plan, as well as mission and vision statements, informed by the newly adopted University strategic plan called *Tradition and Transformation*.

Developed with broad input from the College community, the new strategic plan lays the groundwork for the College to contribute to the University's goals of ensuring access, affordability, and completion; transforming student experiences and fostering innovation; investing strategically in people and place; and communicating our value.

To guide the College in its work toward accomplishing these goals, we have developed over 50 action steps to be accomplished over the next four years. These steps range from increasing funding for student and faculty research, to exploring new interdisciplinary programs and community building initiatives. We will also grow our "friends of the College" community and invest in expanding collaborative workspaces throughout the College's campus footprint.

Learn more about our Strategic Plan at millersville.edu/ahss.

Mission

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences provides a time-honored and innovative education in the liberal arts that develops critical thinkers and creative citizens.

Vision

Through our distinctive programs, the College will foster an inclusive and creative intellectual community that will set the standard among peers for educating prepared graduates.

From Dean Zake

I am delighted to share with you the accomplishments and highlights of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. It will not come as a surprise to the readers that this past year presented our faculty, staff, and students with some of the most difficult challenges of their professional careers.

AHSS prides itself on offering a wide array of hands-on learning opportunities, so we worked hard to replicate these experiences in our online courses. At the same time, our College was a leader in continuing to offer on-campus classes. Faculty in our Art, Music, Entertainment Technology and Theatre programs provided students with in-person instruction under strict virus mitigation regulations. For many students, AHSS courses were the only ones where they could meet their peers on campus and interact with faculty directly.

Through all of this, as you will read, our faculty and students still enjoyed many tremendous successes. Our students won prestigious national awards, and our faculty continued to publish and present high quality scholarly work. We made progress in upgrading our facilities and ensuring that we are good shepherds of the facilities and valuable equipment in the College. We also significantly expanded the network of our alumni supporters and industry partners.

Under the leadership of the AHSS Strategic Planning Committee, we created a compelling list of Action Items that will guide us as we implement the University's Strategic Plan *Tradition and Transformation 2020-25*.

This year truly tested our resilience, and I can say with full confidence that we have emerged stronger as an academically and artistically inspirational community. I could not be prouder of everything that we accomplished in the College and through the support of our friends, donors, and partners. Thank you!

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



Dr. Ieva Zake



New Department of English and World Languages created

As of Fall 2021, the College will add the new Department of English and World Languages to the rest of its academic units. The new department will bring together faculty and programs in English and Language and Culture Studies to create a vibrant and interdisciplinary community dedicated to the study of language, literature, text and writing.

The new department will enhance and develop further our faculty's cross-disciplinary scholarly and teaching expertise in areas such as linguistics, language pedagogy, translation, world literatures, film, English as Second Language and others. The students in English and Language and Culture Studies will be able to take advantage of broad knowledge, scholarship and training of a diverse group of faculty. They will also have access to academic programs in areas that they might not have considered in the past. The new Department of English and World Languages will reside in McComsey Hall.

Learn more about the new Department of English & World Languages at millersville.edu/enwl.

UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Newly upgraded editing suites provide students with cutting-edge media editing technology

The Department of Communication & Theatre's audio and video editing suites, located in Bassler Hall, received substantial upgrades during 2020-21 that will see students returning to campus to find industry-standard editing hardware and software.

Students in audio production courses will have access to new computers, speakers, microphones, and other specialty equipment including a vocal booth and two WhisperRoom isolation booths.

Students in video production courses will learn on upgraded computers and monitors running the latest Avid Media Composer software. Other updates include audio equipment and ergonomically designed tables and chairs.

In addition to editing room upgrades, new services like the network-connected Avid Nexis E2 storage system allow students to edit their projects on any computer in the Bassler Hall complex without needing to move files from one computer to another.

Other upgrades include additional workstations in the Digital Journalism lab, bringing the total to 25 fully-equipped workstations; and implementation of Sony Ci, a cloud-based collaborative file environment that allows students and faculty to work collaboratively on projects with real-time feedback.

As a whole, these and other investments in the Bassler Hall complex represent the most significant upgrades to the audio and video facilities in nearly a decade, and reflect a continued commitment to ensuring our students can learn their craft on the same technology they'll use in the workforce.

Submitted by Mark Mullen

Fabrication lab established in Breidenstine Hall

The newly renovated Digital Fabrication Lab (FABLab) in Breidenstine Hall is an interdisciplinary Art & Design makerspace that welcomes all students with interests in any artistic medium to explore the possibilities of computer-aided design in combination with their studio practice. The intentions and expectations of this generous studio space is to create a place for learning and innovation and to provide access to the skills, materials, and technology that allow students to create almost anything. Students will receive proper training on computer-aided design (Rhino 3D) and in the safe operation of the equipment from the staff Lab Technician and from trained student workers. Workshops will be offered on a regular basis.

The state-of-the-art facility houses:

- Two professional-grade laser engraving/cutting machines (Epilog Helix and Fusion Pro), which can cut and engrave on soft natural materials such as wood and fabric.
- A waterjet cutting machine (Wazer), which can cut dense natural and synthetic materials such as stone, steel, and plastics.
- A vinyl cutting machine used to create large- and small-scale vinyl appliqués.
- Three traditional plastic extruding 3D printers (Ultimaker)—two standard and one extra-large.
- Three resin-style printers and two wash stations for detailed micromodels, maquettes, jewelry design, and prototyping.

Submitted by Zach Mellman-Carsey

The Show Must Go On: University Theatre and Entertainment Technology adapt to COVID-19 mitigation protocols

For the 2020–21 academic year, Millersville University Theatre committed to producing an in-person performance each semester to continue its mission to provide the experiential learning that is vital to the performing arts. Safety was at the forefront of everyone’s mind and influenced decisions from script selection to performance venue to delivery method.

Knowing the challenges that would be faced in having an in-person production, Director of Dramatics Jonathan Strayer chose Anna Deavere Smith’s *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* for Millersville University Theatre’s fall production. The play is comprised of a series of monologues, making it an ideal choice when social distancing and the safety of the performers and the crew members is paramount.

The faculty and staff of MU Theatre worked closely with the Incident Management Team to discuss safety precautions and develop a workable plan to move forward. It was determined that each performer could safely unmask onstage for their monologue as long as all masked crew members maintained sixteen



Masks and social distancing allowed University Theatre to produce their 2020–21 season.

feet of distance. For the Spring production, *The Far Reaches: A Night of Comedy and Drama*, the play necessitated more than one performer on stage at a time. The decision to keep the performers masked allowed them to be on stage safely together with six feet of social distancing.

Due to restrictions on gatherings, University Theatre eliminated the in-person audience in favor of livestreaming the performances to a remote audience. Putting a camera in between the audience and the performers created its own set of challenges for the student designers and technicians. To allow the designers to see their work as the audience would see it, several monitors were set up around the theatre to display the same show feed that the audience would see during a livestream performance. Extra time was built into the production schedule to ensure adequate time for the designers and technicians to integrate the camera work into the production.

Over the course of the 2020–21 academic year, over fifty Entertainment Technology and Theatre concentration students participated in each of the two University Theatre productions. The season included nine livestream performances, three days of on-demand performances, and reached over 500 online audience members. Students completed six internships and two capstone projects in conjunction with University Theatre’s season. These hands-on learning opportunities are invaluable for Millersville students, who rose to meet the many challenges brought on by the pandemic.

Submitted by Alison Peoples



New technology allowed University Theatre to live stream their performances.

STUDENT & FACULTY TRIUMPHS

Glorious Sounds of the Season goes virtual with 12-day online concert

The Tell School of Music wouldn't let the COVID-19 pandemic keep them from holding their 15th Annual Glorious Sounds of the Season scholarship concert.

After months of planning, faculty and students premiered 12 virtual performance videos daily starting December 1, 2020, culminating in a 30-minute mini concert on December 12th.

Because of restrictions on gathering, rehearsals for the concert looked a bit different this year. "Smaller choral groups rehearsed in person with proper social distancing and PPE, though the larger ensembles were in a more hybrid format, with many members participating over Zoom" said Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell, assistant professor of Music and coordinator of choral studies. "Needless to say, the students are happy to be making music in whatever format is possible, and their positive attitudes and willingness to be flexible and cooperative, especially regarding safety measures, have been incredible!"

The series of Glorious Sounds of the Season concerts is one of the largest fundraisers for the Tell School of Music with over \$28,000 in music scholarship funds generated from ticket sales. While no tickets were required for this year's event, organizers asked that a donation be made by viewers to ensure the continued achievement of our talented and hard-working students.



Experience our virtual Glorious Sounds of the Season yourself! Scan here with your phone's camera app to watch.

AHSS Fellow completes Arts Management internship

Through the support of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Fellowship Program Mamie Covell completed an Arts Management Internship with Berks Arts. This 501(c)(3) Community Benefit organization serves the regions of Berks, Lancaster and Schuylkill Counties to support arts education, performance, community collaboration and grants for artists of all kinds. Mamie wore many hats during this hands-on learning opportunity, including assisting in donor management, developing and executing a digital marketing plan for Boscov's Berks Jazz Fest's 30th Anniversary, and collaborative efforts to foster community through the arts. Millersville shaped Mamie as a young professional through student leadership opportunities and professional development experience inside and outside the classroom.



Mamie Covell

Dani Grant inspires students as (virtual) Innovator in Residence

AHSS welcomed Dani Grant, a creative entrepreneur who transformed a deep passion for music into her life's work, as the 2021 Innovator in Residence. Grant owns and manages a historic music venue located in Northern Colorado.

Dani's virtual residency saw her meeting with classes across disciplines, including music, entrepreneurship, business, and more, as well as providing individual coaching for students developing business plans. She also served as a judge for the annual Shark Tank-like event.

Select Faculty Publications

- **Dr. Marco Antolin** (Language & Culture Studies). The Search for Inspiration and Poetic Apprenticeship: Philip Levine on Translating Antonio Machado and Learning from Garcia Lorca. *Five Points: A Journal of Literature & Art* XX (1)
- **Dr. Kirsten Bookmiller** (Government & Political Affairs). International Disaster Law in Practice: North America, Central and Caribbean Region. *Yearbook of International Disaster Law* (Brill Publishers)
- **Dr. Christine Filippone** (Art & Design). Desalineación: Open Systems as Social Transformation in Tucumán Arde. In *Nervous Systems: Art, Systems, Politics, Since 1960*. Johanna Gosse and Tim Stott, eds. (Duke University Press)
- **Dr. Leslie Gates** (Art & Design) & Bard, B. Autonomous Artists: Second Graders' Perspectives on their Artwork. *Art Education* 74(4)
- **Dr. Stacey Irwin** (Communication & Theatre). Digital Hermeneutics for the New Age of Cinema. *AI & Society*
- **Dr. Katarzyna Jakubiak** (English). Made of Sugar. *Blackbird*
- **Dr. Kirsten Madden** (Economics) and Nicholas Armstrong. The Design of a Virtuous Political Economy as inspired by "Unto This Last." *Review of Social Economy*
- **Dr. Kaitlin Mondello** (English). 'Of Toads and Men': Brutal Kinship in Emily Dickinson and Charles Darwin. *Journal of Literature and Science*
- **Dr. Mary Sommar** (History). *The Slaves of the Churches: A History* (Oxford University Press)
- **Dr. Osman Suliman** (Economics). Land Tenure, Ethnicity, and Desertification in Darfur. In *Environmental Sustainability and Development in Organizations*. Clara Pardo Martinez and Alexander Cotte Poveda, eds. (Taylor & Francis)

Music students win acclaim regionally and nationally

- The Tell School of Music's **Chromatic Expansion** (a student choral group) won the Mid-Atlantic Region of the 2021 International Championship of College Acapella competition.
- Several students from the Tell School of Music were selected to be a part of the first ever **CBDNA Intercollegiate Marching Band**, a group of 1,600 performers from 200 colleges and universities whose virtual performance was broadcast at the halftime show of the NCAA National Championship game in January 2021.
- **Ashley Torrance** (Music) took first place in the Boston Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions competition.
- **Nick Jensen** (Music) was accepted into Temple University's Master of Music program in viola performance.
- **MauveStrom**, a rock band comprised of current students and recent alums won the 2020 "Best Collegiate Rock Band" award from the Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame.

Select Student & Alumni Accomplishments

- MU's student chapter of the **National Broadcasting Society** won the Chapter of the Year award at the annual NBS/AERho virtual conference. In addition, students Shawn Delong and Abigael Martin won awards for Member of the Year, Best Drama Program Script, and Best Podcast.
- **Ellie Rohrback** (Sociology) was named a Newman Fellow.
- Under the direction of **Dr. Carrie Smith** (Criminology, Sociology & Anthropology) six students conducted a program evaluation of the MU Police Department's Student Police Academy.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tell School of Music hosts first annual International Piano Competition

In February, the Tell School of Music held its first International Piano Competition, with 60 competitors from 11 countries and 15 U.S. states participating. The participants competed in age brackets of 7-10 years, 11-14 years, 15-18 years, and 18-22 years.

Competitors participated in workshops, master classes, and question and answer sessions with Millersville faculty members Dr. Xun Pan and Dr. Amy Gustafson, and guest artist Spencer Myer.

Though the competition was conducted entirely virtually due to the pandemic, participants were highly engaged. Xingze Jiang, Tell School of Music student, received third place in the 18-22 age bracket, with three other students receiving Honorable Mentions. This event is a signature event for the Tell School of Music's keyboard studio and will be a key recruitment tool for the program.



Two new Industry Expert Groups Created

This past year, AHSS significantly expanded its connections and engagement with external industry partners, particularly in two academic programs – Music Industry and Media Arts Production. Faculty worked with the Dean's Office and put together two new Advisory Groups for each of the programs. These Advisory Groups are intended to keep our faculty informed about new developments in the fast-paced and changing industries of media and commercial music and ensure that the curriculum and learning experiences that we offer remain relevant. With the advice of these industry experts, our students will get the best preparation for their future professional success. In addition, the members of these Advisory Groups have also expressed willingness to mentor our students as they get ready to enter the job market.

The **Media Arts Production Advisory Group** consists of a diverse group of 11 industry experts who represent freelance businesses as well as regional and national companies such as Natural Light Films, A&E Networks, Glass Entertainment Group, WGAL TV station, NBC, SyFy Channel, TCmotion, KDJ Perspective, Aurora Films and ViacomCBS/MTV.

The **Music Industry Advisory Group** consists of 7 accomplished professionals in the live sound, studio recording and music management areas representing companies such as Cavallari Studios in LA, Clair Global at Rock Litz, Mishawaka Amphitheater in Colorado, the Blackbird Studio in Nashville, The CI Companies in Lancaster, Ivory Productions as well as educational partners from Montgomery Community College and the Blackbird Academy.

AHSS establishes its inaugural Advisory Board

The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is actively involved in articulating and building its identity as a unique scholarly and creative community that brings together an exciting combination of disciplines.

This past year, the College tackled another important element of this process and established its inaugural AHSS Advisory Board. This is the first time ever that the College has brought together a group of individuals who are active members of the broader community, committed donors, connected alumni and enthusiastic supporters of the College's mission.

The role and function of the Advisory Board is to provide input on the College's goals and strategies as well as give advice on fundraising priorities and opportunities. The Board also sees itself as an advocate of the College and its faculty and students to the external community. It is particularly exciting that six out of the seven Board members are alumni from the programs that constitute the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Board was established late in 2020 and met for the first time in March 2021. In its first meeting, the Board learned about the general characteristics of the College, met with the AHSS Fellow and talked to the members of the AHSS Strategic Planning committee. It is anticipated that the Board will meet twice a year to learn about the College's progress and discuss its future path forward.

The membership of the inaugural AHSS Advisory Board is:

Lyman Brenner – is a generous donor and a long-time friend of the University and the College. He graduated from Millersville in 1971 with a BA in History.

Elizabeth Garner – graduated from Millersville in 1991 with a BA in History. Over the years, she has been an active supporter of the University and a highly engaged member of the Lancaster community.

Kevin Harley – graduated from Millersville in 1986 with a BA in Political Science. After many years of managing communications for state-level political campaigns and serving as Communications Director and Press Secretary for Governor Tom Corbett, he is now the Managing Director of Quantum Communications. He is also a former member of MU's Council of Trustees.

Jerri Anne Johnson – is a friend of the College and active member of Millersville community. After teaching 5th grade in Lancaster, she entered the field of medical research and then worked as the Global Director at Women's Heart Health.

Megan Mercier – graduated from Millersville in 2001 with a BA in Art and a Minor in History. Having been involved in alumni relations at Millersville, she is now the Director of Alumni and Volunteer Engagement at Skidmore College.

Scott Alan Mitchell – graduated from Millersville in 1992 with a BA in Political Science and earned his law degree from Regent University's School of Law. He began practicing law in 1995 and is the Chair of the Trusts and Estates Group at the firm of Saxton & Stump, with offices in Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Malvern.

Andrea Shirk – recently received Millersville's Honorary Doctorate. Having worked previously at Lockheed Martin and Bose Corporation, she is currently the General Manager of the Rock Lititz live event production community.

FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

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

INDIVIDUALS

\$50,000+

Sylvia '71 and Robert Shellenberger

\$10,000-\$49,999

P. Alan and Linda Loss

Salvatore Micciche

Karen Murley '63

Emory '63 and Cynthia Phillips

MPA Sheaffer

Paul and Judy Ware

\$5,000-\$9,999

Andrew Appel

Susan Davis

Joseph '90 and Elizabeth '91 Garner

Micheal Houlahan

Darryl '85 and Suhaila Landis

Robert Shoener and Alan Wyand

\$1000-\$4,999

Gerald and Susan Eckert

Douglas and Patricia Keller

Marianne Kerlavage

Mark Phillips '72

Yvonne '79 and Dennis Reedy

Roma Sayre

Janet '65 and Georg Simon

Osman and Alawia Suliman

J. Terry Zeller '64

\$500-\$999

Dorothy Beam

Kharmia Delemos Powell

Dominick '53 and Helen DiNunzio

David Johnson

David '91 and Cheryl '78 Jones

Kimberly Mahaffy

Nancy Mata

Donna Matthews

Deborah Sigel

J. Samuel and Patricia Walker

Tracey Weis

ORGANIZATIONS

\$10,000-\$49,999

Ferree Foundation

Music for Everyone

\$5,000-\$9,999

Jewish Community Alliance of Lancaster (JCAL)

Max Kade Foundation

\$1000-\$4,999

Millersville University Alumni Association

PA Society of Sons of the Revolution

Lancaster Chapter

The Presser Foundation

Willow Valley Communities



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

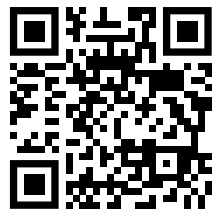
Loss Family gift establishes Keynote Lecture

During this past year, the College of AHSS was privileged to receive a generous gift from Mr. Alan Loss to establish the P. Allan and Linda Loss Keynote Lecture as part of the MU Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide. Mr. Loss had been a supporter of the Conference in the past, and he is deeply committed to ensuring that it continues to have a lasting presence at Millersville University. The gift was driven by his concern that the future generations are adequately educated about the Holocaust and its devastating impact.

Mr. Loss' gift is particularly important to the College in the context of our efforts to implement a new model for the Conference opening it up to a broader variety of events and audiences. The Conference was founded by one of Millersville's most distinguished faculty members, Dr. Jack Fischel, and preserved through tireless work of Dr. Victoria Khiterer. It will now be continued by a broader group of faculty across the College and University who will develop unique, engaging and educational events on annual basis.

With the help of supporters such as Mr. Loss, the Conference will provide teacher education workshops in October 2021. The following semester, the Conference will focus on the topic of remembrance through the arts with the world premiere of a play, a choral music concert, an exhibition in the Eckert Art Gallery, a poetry event and a culminating keynote by world-renown writer and artist Art Spiegelman.

We are deeply appreciative of Mr. Loss' contribution as it enables us to reinvigorate and preserve the Holocaust Conference as one of College's most important annual events.



Learn more about the Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide and the planned 2021–2022 programming! Scan here with your phone's camera app, or visit millersville.edu/holocon.

A detailed event poster for 'An Evening with Art Spiegelman'. The background is a dense, black and white illustration of various characters, including mice and men in suits and hats, reminiscent of the 'Maus' comic book style. The text on the poster includes: 'P. ALAN AND LINDA LOSS KEYNOTE LECTURE' in small white letters; 'AN EVENING WITH ART SPIEGELMAN' in large, bold, yellow and white letters; 'Thursday, April 28, 2022 • 7:00 p.m.' in yellow; 'Clair Performance Hall • Winter Visual & Performing Arts Center' and 'Tickets and More Info at millersville.edu/holocon' in small white text; and the Millersville University logo and 'CONFERENCE ON THE HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE' at the bottom. Two book covers, 'MetaMaus' and 'Maus', are also visible in the foreground.

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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