

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024–2025



Millersville University

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES  
& SOCIAL SCIENCES



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## From Dean Zake



The 2024-25 academic year in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was filled with exciting new learning opportunities and events along with important changes. As you will read in the presented Annual Report, our faculty made sure that AHSS students were able to take advantage of numerous hands-on and experiential learning opportunities on and off campus.

This year brought notable international, national and state-level recognition to

AHSS faculty and students, especially in the areas of University Theatre and Music. Curriculum-wise, our faculty actively engaged in implementing the new General Education program. This process required them to review the current offerings, make adjustments and submit the courses for approval within the new General Education framework. Our work in this area will continue into next year as well.

As far as changes were concerned, we addressed some necessary revisions to the array of programs offered in the College. Arguably, the biggest change affecting us this year and beyond was the decision of quite a few legendary faculty to embark on new chapters in their lives. These were long-serving faculty members who helped shape the College, developed new programs and curricular innovations, and educated generations of students.

Among this year's retirees were such beloved full-time faculty as Dr. Marlene Arnold (Anthropology), Dr. Theresa Russell-Loretz (Public Relations), Dr. Philip Tacka (Music Education), Professor Jeri Robinson (Interactive and Graphic Design), Dr. Jill Craven (English), Dr. Osman Suliman (Economics), Dr. Duckhee Shin (English) and Dr. Kimberly Mahaffy (Sociology).

In May, the College celebrated the accomplishments of these outstanding faculty and thanked them for the many years of hard work they devoted to the University. The College and the entire institution will be forever indebted to them for their transformative and impactful legacy.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the College this past year, and, as always, do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to learn more about our programs or connect with the faculty and students in AHSS!

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



## Recognitions, Awards and Special Appointments

- **Dr. Kirsten Bookmiller** (Government, Policy, and Law) was the sole academic invited by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to speak at the Think Resilience Dialogue VIII, held at the UN Headquarters in New York. She addressed diplomatic representatives from 40 countries on the importance of incorporating disaster risk reduction provisions into a new treaty draft on international disaster assistance.
- **Dr. Stacey Irwin** (Communication and Theatre) became a coeditor in chief of the academic journal *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology*.



Dr. Cernuto directs Wind Ensemble practice.

- **Music Department's Wind Ensemble**, under the direction of Dr. Joseph Cernuto (Music), was awarded third prize at the prestigious national competition American Prize in Music: Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music.
- **Prof. Robin Spielberg** (Music) won a Grand Prize at the Intercontinental Music Awards.
- **Dr. Justin Mando** (English and World Languages) accepted a position on the board of directors of Bay Journal Media, which publishes the *Chesapeake Bay Journal*.
- **Dr. Nicole Pfannenstiel** (English and World Languages) was appointed as cochair of the Play Studies area and the Rhetoric and Composition in a Global World area of the Mid-Atlantic Pop Culture Association conference. She also chaired the Lancaster Learns conference planning committee.

## Select Alumni Achievements

- **Rebecca Knier** (Communication and Theatre) was awarded a regional Emmy for the National Capitol Chesapeake Bay Region for her work as photographer/editor in the Crime/Justice – News (No Production Time Limit) category for “‘I Snapped’: A Jailhouse Interview with Shanteari Weems.”
- **Donald Yeager** (Communication and Theatre) was awarded a regional Emmy for the National Capitol Chesapeake Bay Region for his work as producer in the Evening Newscast (Larger Markets) category for “Fox 29 News at Five – Manhunt Ends.”
- **Chelsea McMaster** (Art and Design) graduated from the top ceramics graduate program in the US: New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. At the time, she was on a Fulbright Scholarship researching Afro-Caribbean pottery.
- **Jesse Krimes** (Art and Design) had a solo show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and was the Spring '25 Conrad Nelson Visiting Artist at Millersville University.



Jesse Krimes shared his story with art students during the day and presented a lecture about his work in the evening as the Conrad Nelson Visiting Artist.



# AHSS 2025–2026 FELLOW



This year's recipient of the donor-funded College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Fellowship is **Morgan Scott**, a Fine Arts major concentrating in Fine Art Metals with a minor in Advanced Manufacturing Technology. The Fellowship allows Morgan to pursue a summer internship opportunity through a public art project with Professor Line Bruntse.

Professor Bruntse has been commissioned to create a large outdoor sculpture mural for the Spanish American Civic Association (SACA) on the side of their Tech Centro building. Morgan has been selected to participate in creating this artwork.

SACA provides workforce training to individuals who are currently unemployed or underemployed. Professor Bruntse's project takes the major facets of SACA's educational work to give the Tech Centro building character and allow the community to get a sense of the activities inside the building. The project utilizes bronze-cast pieces to create representations of the types of training programs offered at Tech Centro. These bronze pieces will be placed on different sections of the wall and surrounded with rings of glazed ceramic tiles, creating a look of ripples.

The opportunity to participate in creating this large-scale artwork allows Morgan to learn and develop lifelong skills in metals and ceramics as well as gain a better understanding of the entire process of commissioned public art installation. From the perspective of technical skills, Morgan is becoming more proficient in craftsmanship, TIG welding bronze, patina finishes on bronze, mold making and modeling.

From the perspective of navigating the artwork commissioning and understanding steps required to become a self-employed artist, she is learning project management, logistics, client interaction, professional business practice as an artist and collaborative teamwork.

*Prepared by Morgan Scott*



# STUDENT AND FACULTY TRIUMPHS



## Select Faculty Publications

- **Dr. Victoria Khiterer** (History) published a book, *Bitter War of Memory: The Babyn Yar Massacre, Aftermath, and Commemoration* (Purdue University Press).
- **Dr. Lowery Woodall** (Communication and Theatre) coauthored a textbook, *Audio Production Worktext* (Routledge).
- **Dr. Ron Frankum** (History) published a book, *Ambassador Frederick Reinhardt and America's Relationship with Vietnam, 1955–1957* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing).
- **Dr. Greg Seigworth** (Communication and Theatre) coedited a book, *Capacities To: Affect Up Against Fascism* (Imbricate! Press).
- **Dr. Nicole Pfannenstiel** (English and World Languages) coauthored a book, *Information Literacy and Social Media: Empowered Student Engagement with the ACRL Framework* (Association of College Research Libraries Press).
- **Dr. Justin Mando** (English and World Languages) coauthored a book chapter, "Counterpoint: Why Not Intellectual Risk?," in *If at First You Don't Succeed: Writing, Rhetoric, and the Question of Failure*, ed. by St. Corbett (WAC Clearinghouse; University of Colorado Press).
- **Dr. Nicole Pfannenstiel** and **Professor Becca Betty** (English and World Languages) coauthored a book chapter, "Building Playful Mindset," in *Professors at Play Online Playbook* (open access publication).
- **Dr. Stacey Irwin** (Communication and Theatre) published a book chapter, "Leveling Up: A Postphenomenological Perspective on Gamification," in *Postphenomenology and Technologies in Educational Settings*, edited by M. Bohlmann and P. Breil (Rowman & Littlefield).
- **Dr. Ping Yang** (Communication and Theatre) published a book chapter, "Capacities to Combat Anti-Asian Violence: Affects, Entanglements, and Potentialities in the Digital Age," in *Capacities To: Affect Up Against Fascism*, edited by G. J. Seigworth, M. Arthur, W. J. Truran, & C. Shomura (Imbricate! Press).
- **Dr. Marco Antolin** (English and World Languages) published an article, "Ernest Hemingway en la Guerra Civil Española: De la creación del mito de la 'causa justa' al 'carnaval de traición'" ("Ernest Hemingway in the Spanish Civil War: From the Creation of the Myth of the 'Just Cause' to the 'Carnival of Treason'"), in *Hispanic Journal*.
- **Dr. Ping Yang** (Communication and Theatre) published an article, "Depression, Affect, and Racial Embodiment: A Critical Analysis of Asian American Food on Media," in *Glimpse: Society for Phenomenology and Media*.
- **Dr. Joshua Rea** (English and World Languages) published an article, "Social Problems and Racial Agendas: Analyzing the Structural Racism of Historical Urban Planning Documents," in *Technical Communication Quarterly*.
- **Dr. Sascha Skucek** (English and World Languages) published an article, "Blood and Burden: The Enduring Mystery of Betsy Aardsma," in *State College Magazine*.
- **Dr. Ron Frankum** (History) published two book reviews in the online source H-Diplo on Mark Moyer's *Triumph Regained: The Vietnam War, 1965–1968* and Nguyễn Phi Vân's *A Displaced Nation: The 1954 Evacuation and Its Political Impact on the Vietnam Wars*.
- **Dr. Tim Mayers** (English and World Languages) published a book review, "Rebel Without a Home: The Figure and Fate of the Creative Writer in Academia," in *Papers on Language and Literature*.

## STUDENT AND FACULTY TRIUMPHS *continued*

### Select Faculty Presentations, Performances and Exhibitions

- **Prof. Dorothy Frey** (Art and Design) had a solo exhibition, "Close to Home," at the Bowery Gallery, New York, N.Y.
- **Dr. Tim Mayers** (English and World Languages) presented a paper, "'Crisis? What Crisis?': A New End(ing), a New Beginning," at the 9th Annual Creative Writing Studies Conference.
- **Dr. Victoria Khiterer** (History) presented a paper "Let My People Go: The Struggle of Kyivan Jews for Immigration to Israel," at the 35th Annual Symposium on Jewish Civilization and the 56th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.
- **Dr. Marco Antolin** (English and World Language) presented a paper, "The Role of Poetry Translators During the Spanish Civil War," at the Association of Literary Critics, Writers, and Scholars Annual Conference.
- **Dr. Marco Antolin** (English and World Languages) presented a paper, "The Controversial Involvement of Spanish Writers in the Spanish Civil War," at the Bridges Across Cultures International Conference on the Arts and Humanities in Viterbo, Italy.
- **Dr. Ping Yang** (Communication and Theatre) presented a paper, "Raising Voices for Greater Regard: Narratives of Asian Communities to Combat Anti-Asian Violence," at the National Communication Association's 110th annual convention.
- **Dr. Joshua Rea** (English and World Languages) presented a paper, "Striking Out in Ybor City: Affordable Housing and Rhetorical Violence in Cigar City," at the Rhetoric Society of America's biennial conference.
- **Dr. Nicole Pfannenstiel** (English and World Languages) copresented a paper, "Soliciting and Implementing Midcourse Student Feedback: The Value of Course Mapping," at the Elon Teaching and Learning Conference.



Professor Brant Schuller guides students in a Print Making class.

- **Dr. Leslie Gates** (Art and Design) made three single-author and coauthored presentations – "Feedback That Fuels Learning," "Advocacy in Increasingly Polarized Contexts: Responsibilities and Opportunities for Art Educators" and "Preparing Teachers as Advocates: What Do the Standards Say?" – at the Pennsylvania Art Education Association's annual conference.
- **Dr. Yufeng Zhang** (English and World Languages) made a presentation at the International Conference for the History of Rhetoric in Vancouver, Canada.
- **Dr. Christy Banks** (Music) performed two pieces at peer-reviewed international conference Music by Women.
- **Dr. Stacey Irwin** (Communication and Theatre) presented a paper, "Phenomenology and Participation: A Social Media Reflection," at the Society for Phenomenology and Media Conference in the University of Savoie Mont Blanc – Chambéry, France.
- **Dr. Kirsten Madden** (Economics) and Joseph Persky presented about their recently published book, *Building a Social Science: 19th Century British Cooperative Thought*, at the annual Allied Social Science Associations Meeting.
- **Dr. Robert Spicer** (Communication and Theatre) presented two papers, "Teaching American Comedy Production in the Age of Cancel Culture: History, Structure, and Inclusive Pedagogy" and "More Perspectives on the Vilification of Journalism," at the Broadcast Education Association Conference.
- **Dr. Sascha Skucek** (English and World Languages) presented a paper, "Narrative and Nondiscursive Rhetoric to Teach English Composition in an AI World," at the College English Association Conference.
- **Dr. Stephanie Jerstad** (Criminology, Sociology and Anthropology) presented a paper, "Individuals Forced to Register: Obstacles Finding Housing," at the annual Connecting 4 Justice International conference.





Students perform *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] [again]* at the 57th KCACTF, Region 2 Conference.

## Student Awards

- **University Theatre (UT)** received a rare and competitive official invitation to perform the spring 2024 production of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] [again]* to open the 57th Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 2 Conference in PNC Theatre at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, Point Park University. UT was also invited to perform the “Blanket and Me” scene song from the musical production of *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the Invited Scene Showcase. The technicians, performers and staff who made the spring 2024 production possible earned multiple highly coveted commendations for Distinguished Achievement in a variety of areas.
- **Seven students in the BEA Student Media Chapter** were named Radio Advertising Bureau Scholars and invited to attend the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Convention and National Association of Broadcasters Trade Show.
- **Kylie Calogero** (Music) was Millersville’s finalist for the PASSHE 2025 Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence.
- **Sarah Gehret** (History) was accepted by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania for participation in the Center’s 16th annual Undergraduate Student Workshop.



## STUDENT AND FACULTY TRIUMPHS *continued*

- **Julia Fallows** (English and World Languages) was honored with the PAC-TE Executive Directors’ Scholarship. She also represented Millersville as a Newman Civic Fellow and attended the Newman Civic Fellowship Annual Convening in Chicago.
- **Niya Zurcher** (Art and Design) was awarded the Clyde S. McGeary Scholarship from the Pennsylvania Art Education Association at their 75th anniversary conference in Hershey.
- **Two Fine Art Metals students** were juried into the Emerging Visions exhibition at the Creative York venue in York, Pa. Morgan Scott received “Best in Show,” and Ryan Moyer received the jurors’ “Award of Distinction.” Emerging Visions is a statewide juried exhibition of top student artists who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate arts program.

## Select Student Presentations and Publications

- **Saramia Matos-Rodriguez, Itzel Hernandez Ortega, Amir Muhammad, Kenton Briggs, Morgan Schultz and Devlyn Theurer** gave a panel presentation, “Respectful Communication: Transforming Debate to Dialogue,” during the 2024 PASSHE Summit “Uniting for Inclusive Student Success.”
- **Justin Deibler** (History) presented “Presidents as Commander-in-Chiefs,” and **Sarah Casler** (History) presented “Benedict Arnold: A Push Towards Treachery” at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference at West Chester University.
- **Bradley Johnston** (Government, Policy, and Law) published three case studies with the US Army War College’s Strategic Studies Institute. The case studies covered conflicts in Cameroon, Malaya and Northern Ireland.

# PROFESSIONAL GROWTH FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS

## Multifaceted Professional Development Opportunities for Faculty

During the 2024-25 academic year, the University-wide Vilas A. Prabhu Center for Academic Excellence underwent some significant changes. This center had been the primary source of faculty professional development on campus before. In an effort to continue to resource faculty and offer professional growth, AHSS took the initiative and offered a number of college-wide workshops, gatherings and mentoring opportunities to its faculty.

At our college-wide meeting in February 2025, Dr. Justin Mando (English and World Languages), Dr. Ollie Dreon (Educational Foundations) and Greg Szczyrbak (Library) led a discussion about artificial intelligence and its impacts on teaching and learning in higher education. To support faculty success in the tenure and promotion process, Dr. Leslie Gates (Art and Design) offered a workshop to help AHSS faculty who were interested in applying for promotions in the upcoming year. She also worked with three AHSS faculty (at their request) to improve the quality of their promotion applications, and with one faculty member who wanted strategies for increasing student engagement in his courses.

In addition, AHSS faculty viewed or read in-progress and published works by other scholars in the college as part of the Faculty Scholarship Reading Group. During the 2024-25 academic year, this group met four times to discuss the work of eight faculty members: Katarzyna Jakubiak, Greg Seigworth, Stephanie Jerstad, Nicole Pfannenstiel, Christine Filippone, Jess Hughes, Barry Atticks and Leslie Gates.

*Prepared by Dr. Leslie Gates*

## Benefits of Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship

On March 20, 2025, Theresa Russell-Loretz (Communication and Theatre), Heidi Leitzke (Art and Design) and Angela Cuthbert (Interim Director of the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change) hosted a workshop on Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship. Faculty from the departments of Art and Design, English and World Languages, History, and Music attended the event. The workshop introduced participants to the principles of community-engaged teaching and scholarship, highlighting how these approaches can enrich both educational and research practices. The facilitators shared examples from their own work and offered practical guidance, while attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback on potential community-based projects.

Community-engaged teaching involves students collaborating with community partners to address real-world challenges, enhancing learning through hands-on experience and civic engagement. Community-engaged scholarship, similarly, is a collaborative effort between scholars and community members to tackle community-identified needs. These approaches offer reciprocal benefits: Communities gain access to academic resources and support while the university strengthens its teaching, research and service missions. Students develop practical skills, faculty deepen their academic work and communities receive meaningful assistance.

The workshop concluded with suggestions for getting started and emphasized the ongoing support available through the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change, with the hope of encouraging more faculty in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences to engage in this impactful work.

*Prepared by Dr. Angela Cuthbert*





Dr. Glenn's GOVT 412 Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties class practicing Supreme Court proceedings.

## Government Students Attend Statewide Policy Simulation at Penn State University

At the end of February into early March, six students from the Department of Government, Policy, and Law were invited to attend a multiday Policy Simulation activity for undergraduates hosted by the Pennsylvania State University's School of Public Policy.

The goal of the event was to introduce students across the Commonwealth to public policy by immersing them in a dynamic, experiential learning environment designed to test their ability to address a real-world policy challenge. Students worked in groups alongside peers from other institutions to gather data, create policy, evaluate their success and adjust to a changing social and political landscape.

According to student Rachel Lamb, "Our group role was to act as a government to control a refugee crisis, managing our citizens' expectations while working with other governments to determine the best course of

action for our region as a whole. Each person was responsible for a different aspect of the public policy in each group, so as Prime Minister, I got the opportunity to lead my group and make final decisions regarding the policy. I learned how to manage a budget and juggle competing ideologies to produce the best outcome for the country. It was an unforgettable experience, and I enjoyed getting to network and meet new people!"

Government, Policy, and Law student Ethan Demler said, "The public policy simulation was an incredibly insightful chance to learn how exactly choices are made on local and national scales. I was incredibly fortunate to be chosen to go and to be able to meet amazing local decision-makers. The simulation had an engaging structure that made you feel like you were truly at the helm of a country and its people. While the content itself was on a large national scale, it still educated me on how local policy is made and the importance of making decisions to benefit your constituents."

*Prepared by Dr. Richard Glenn*



Students enjoyed Dr. Timothy Trussell's ANTH 233 Topics: UFOs in American Culture class taught for the first time in spring 2025.

## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS *continued*



Display of student work outside of the Eckert Art Gallery.

### Best Student Work Exhibited at the Student Showcase in the Winter Center

The Eckert Art Gallery launched the Student Spotlight to celebrate student artwork and activate an underutilized space in the Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center.

In spring 2025, the gallery presented **WINDOWS**, an exhibition curated by Gallery Director Heidi Leitzke, featuring eight painters who explore the artistic possibilities of the window through color, light and mark-making.

Students in Professor Dorothy Frey's painting classes visited **WINDOWS** and were challenged to create their own window-themed paintings. Eight works were selected by Gallery Director Heidi Leitzke for the inaugural Student Spotlight exhibition. The student artists were honored at a special reception.

We are excited to continue this program in future semesters, fostering creativity and engagement within our student community.

*Prepared by Professor Heidi Leitzke*



Work of student Isabel Díaz-García.



Work of student Tianna Frate.



### Students Participate in Filming an Award-Winning Music Video in Iceland

In November, the **Lilla Jul Rockeband** – a rotating studio band composed of current Millersville University students – traveled to Iceland to film a music video for the original song “Jólaötturinn” (Icelandic Yule Cat), inspired by a haunting tale from Icelandic folklore. The composition was written by Dr. Barry Atticks, a faculty member in the Music Industry program, who envisioned and led the entire project from concept to production.

The idea for producing a music video originated during Dr. Atticks's initiative to provide students with hands-on learning experiences in sound mixing and technical crew support at the Iceland Airwaves Festival in 2023. Dr. Atticks led the students back to Iceland in 2024, where they not only participated again in the festival but also worked on filming the music video across stunning Icelandic landscapes. A local talent scout and location manager assisted with on-site logistics, ensuring a smooth international production. The project featured a collaborative team of student vocalists, instrumentalists, film crew and production assistants led by internationally renowned director Dan Herzog. Seniors Kaitlyn Meyers, Zoey Noble, Em Hass and junior Aden Getz were featured on-screen as the core band, with freshman Dylan Gehring contributing drums on the track. Behind the scenes, students Jessica Rowzer (producer), Isabella Dayton (actor) and others contributed to roles in scoring, production and post-production.

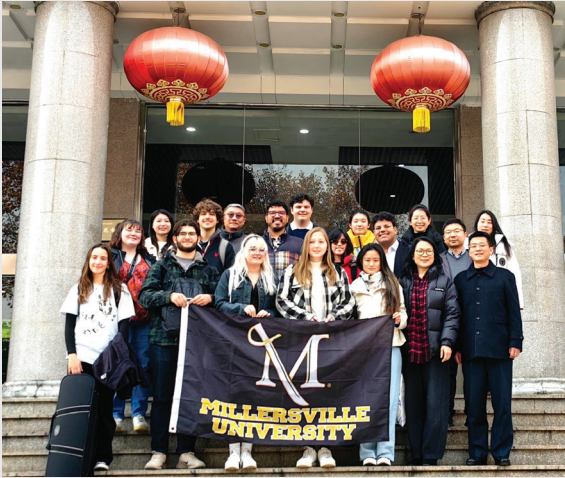
In total, more than two dozen students participated, gaining invaluable experience in cross-disciplinary creative work on an international scale.

*Prepared by Dr. Barry Atticks*



# CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

## Music Students Visit and Perform at a Music Conservatory in China



Students visited the Wuhan Conservatory of Music in China.

This past year, **Tell School of Music** was honored to be invited to participate in the performance season of the eighth international exchange of music institutions, Melody of Yangtze River, at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music in China.

This prestigious event took place in December and featured 26 renowned music schools and orchestras from 10

countries. Among the featured institutions were the Juilliard School, Royal College of Music, Moscow Conservatory, Tokyo University of the Arts and Paris Conservatory.

The event encompassed high-quality concerts, master classes, academic lectures and workshops. Our faculty, Dr. Xun Pan and Professor Brandon Martinez, performed and gave master classes, while Music Education, Music Industry and Music Performance students presented a concert featuring both commercial and classical repertoire.

During the same trip, our students also performed at the Central China Normal University, while Dr. Pan and Professor Martinez met with the officials of CCNU to discuss future collaborations.

*Prepared by Dr. Xun Pan*

## Writing Studies Students Learn to Edit and Publish an Online Journal

The ***Engage for Change Journal*** ([blogs.millersville.edu/engageforchangejournal](https://blogs.millersville.edu/engageforchangejournal)), a peer-reviewed, community-based journal that focuses on social, political and economic issues in Lancaster and the surrounding areas, serves as a platform to capture key public issues to extend their lifecycle, work toward potential resolutions and create connections between the University and surrounding communities.

Coedited by Professor Kerrie Farkas and librarian Tatiana Pashkova-Balkenhol, the *Journal* published its third issue on Equity and Justice in Education in the spring of 2025. For each issue, the coeditors aim to offer experiential learning opportunities for students, which include robust mentoring and rigorous training to develop students' professional identities and career readiness skills and to engage students in the community.

Six students from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences served as interns to help publish the issue, which includes articles discussing the causes and effects of inequitable school funding; the possibilities and danger of arming teachers; the impact of teacher burnout and teacher shortages, particularly teachers of color, on student learning; and discrimination and sexism in education.

The articles advocate for creating a welcoming, accepting and inclusive learning environment for all students, including students with dyslexia, English language learners and minoritized groups spanning K–12 to higher education. The next issue, which will be published in spring 2027, focuses on mental health and well-being.

*Prepared by Dr. Kerrie Farkas*



Celebrating the launch of the spring 2025 *Engage for Change Journal*.

### History Faculty Share Research With the Community

During this past academic year, a number of faculty from the Department of History delivered lectures as part of the Richard Keller Memorial Series in History. The lectures were facilitated through the Quest for Learning programming. Dr. Ronald B. Frankum presented “A Heart of Gold: Looking Back at Operation Passage to Freedom in Vietnam Seventy Years Later.” Dr. Tanya Kevorkian presented “Mennonite Arrival Stories as a Source for Colonial Lancaster History.” Dr. Onek Adyanga presented “China and the Recolonization of Africa Debates: A Post-Colonial Perspective.” Finally, Dr. Victoria Khiterer presented “KGB Against Jews: How Babyn Yar Turned Into a Place of Protest and Struggle for Jewish Rights in the USSR.”



### Music Department Strengthens Relationships With Area High School Teachers

The music department hosted the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association’s District 7 Professional Development Day, during which over 150 music educators from throughout the region gathered for workshops, presentations and discussions that covered teaching methods, technology and creativity in the classroom.

In addition, the music department hosted close to 20 high school and middle school bands for the Lancaster Lebanon Music Educators Association’s adjudication festival during spring break.



### AHSS Hosts the 40th Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide

Under the theme of the Children of Survivors of the Holocaust and Genocide: Remembrance and Reflection, the MU Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide marked its 40th anniversary with an array of events throughout the 2024-25 academic year. In these activities, the Conference continued to fulfill its mission as a vital regional center for Holocaust examination, a site of rigorous and compelling conversations about this genocide, and a model for the critical importance of continuing that examination in the world today. The Conference this year was again made possible by generous donations from Alan and Linda Loss, the Jewish Community Alliance of Lancaster, Ms. Eleanor Isaacson and multiple other private donors from the Lancaster community.

The first two events of the Conference were a public lecture and a teachers’ workshop in September. Dr. Victoria Aarons (Trinity University) and Dr. Alan Berger (Florida Atlantic University) delivered a presentation, “‘We Do Not Live In the Past, but the Past Lives in Us’ (Elie Wiesel): Post-Holocaust Generations and the Extension of Holocaust Memory,” in which they made a case that today – 80 years after the atrocity – it is essential that the testimonies of the Holocaust survivors are being preserved. They discussed the ways in which authors who are third-generation Holocaust survivors use literature to reflect the narratives about the tragic experiences of their grandparents.

The presenters noted that while the children of Holocaust survivors attempted to distance themselves from the traumatic past of their parents, the grandchildren were more committed to keeping the memories of the Holocaust survivors. Before the public lecture, Dr. Aarons and Dr. Berger led a workshop



on teaching about the Holocaust through literature and film. They provided helpful insights on how to incorporate Holocaust narratives into teaching by allowing the students to do their own analysis through guided questioning. The workshop and lecture were attended by many student teachers and faculty members. The Conference continued in the spring semester.



Yossi Klein Halevi and Rabbi Jack Paskoff.

On April 1, the well-received Alan and Linda Loss Keynote Lecture featured the address entitled “The Commitments of the Son of a Survivor: How the Holocaust Has Shaped My Moral, Political and Spiritual Commitments” by Yossi Klein Halevi, prominent author, journalist and son of a Holocaust survivor. The talk was followed by an impactful onstage dialogue between Mr. Klein Halevi and Rabbi Jack Paskoff of Lancaster’s Congregation Shaarai Shomayim.

In addition to the keynote lecture, Mr. Klein Halevi met with the editorial staff of MU’s student newspaper, *The Snapper*. As a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and cohost of “For Heaven’s Sake” – the number-one Jewish podcast in the English-speaking world and a bestselling author – Mr. Klein Halevi was able to offer much advice and inspiration to the student journalists.



Director Steve Brand gave insights and answered student questions during his two-day residency on campus.

A few weeks later, on April 22, the Conference hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary *Kaddish*, which its director Steve Brand described as Yossi Klein Halevi’s “origin story.” Brand’s film explores the psychological ramifications of history, inviting its audience to follow a young Yossi as he struggles to navigate a complex relationship with his survivor father and come to terms with his family’s trauma and his role in bearing witness. The screening was preceded by a panel discussion led by individuals from the campus and community, followed by a Q&A with director Steve Brand, who during a two-day residency on campus also visited multiple classes.

*Prepared by cochairs of the Conference, Dr. Victoria Khiterer and Barry Kornhauser*

# FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

## Largest Gifts to AHSS in 2024–2025

### **\$45,000+**

C. Ray & Francine R. Shaw  
Jason R. '98 & Therese A. '01 Wicht

### **\$15,000–\$44,999**

P. Alan & Linda K. Loss  
Steven R. '89 & Lynn A. '91 Pomponi  
Alan K. Wyand and Robert L. Shoener

### **\$7,000–\$14,999**

Gerald C. & Susan C. Eckert  
Music for Everyone  
Oak Tree Development Group, LLC  
Michael F. & Andrea Shirk

### **\$3,000–\$6,999**

Jewish Community Alliance of Lancaster (JCAL)  
Max Kade Foundation  
Janet A. Simon '65

### **\$1,000–\$2,999**

Edith O. Ateng '23 • Barry G. & Amie A. Atticks • Robert E. Field  
Elizabeth J. '91 & Joseph W. '90 Garner • John A. Hargleroad  
Eleanor D. Isaacson • Nancy R. Mata • Timothy C. Miller • Eric & Anita Parker  
Jeffry B. Porter • PA Society of Sons of the Revolution – Lancaster Chapter  
Rely Security Company • Sylvia '74 & Robert C. Shellenberger

### **\$200–\$999**

Brant D. Schuller • Mary J. Arnold • Merle S. Arnold  
Lee & Judith Atticks • Janet E. '96 & Don Butterfield  
Samuel E. & Lorraine Casselberry • Bradley A. '09 & Kathryn M. '09 Chandler  
Kerry E. '88 & Tracy A. Cunningham • Scott A. '90 & N. Katherine Deisley  
Kerrie R. Farkas • Fiduciary Trust International of PA – Radnor  
Earl B. '69 & Theresa A. Frederick • Leigh Ann & Joseph M. Fulford  
Phyllis A. '67 & Steven C. Giberson • Judith A. '76 & Edward J. Halden-Sullivan  
Theresa B. Hay '79 • Timothy J. & Debra S. Herrlinger • Elaine B. Jones  
Andrew S. '14 & Brett '25 Lloyd-Green • Andrew & Debbie L. Martin  
Mark W. Phillips '72 • Helene J. '90 & James A. Robinson  
Jeri L. & Matthew R. Robinson-Lawrence • Roma J. Sayre  
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2024 Glorious Sounds of the Season concert.

## Enhancing a Beloved Holiday Tradition

In the spirit of Millersville University's EPPIIC values, the Office of Alumni Engagement partnered with the music department's Glorious Sounds of the Season (GSS) planning committee to deepen community connections through inclusive and purposeful programming this year. Recognizing a pattern of lower ticket sales for Saturday's performances, we worked collaboratively to reimagine the event in ways that would create a greater sense of belonging and engagement for alumni, donors and the surrounding community.

Our efforts led to the introduction of a festive Maker's Market featuring 35 student, alumni and friend vendors; photos with Santa hosted by the Alumni Association; and a VIP alumni reception that fostered meaningful conversation and reconnection with guests between the shows. We also coordinated with alumni from 27 to 94 years old to trim Stayer Hall for the season and ensured food access on the typically quiet north end of campus by welcoming three local food trucks.

The impact was significant: Saturday's 4 p.m. concert sold 600 tickets, and the 7:30 p.m. show welcomed 546 guests – an impressive increase from the previous year. These results reflect not only strategic outreach but a values-based approach grounded in inclusion, compassion and integrity. By honoring diverse forms of participation, creating a welcoming atmosphere and transparently aligning our efforts with institutional goals, we helped transform Glorious Sounds into more than a concert this year – it became a celebration of community and connection, where all Marauders could feel at home for the holidays.

*Prepared by Joshua Belice, director of Alumni Engagement*

All proceeds of the Glorious Sounds of the Season concert go directly to supporting scholarships for the best students in the Tell School of Music.

We are grateful for the continued support of the GSS concert and our talented Music students.  
***Order your tickets soon – they sell out quickly!***

*Glorious  
Sounds*  
of the Season



# 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.

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COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES  
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