

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Dec.
2022

While the weather on Dec. 11 may have been wet and dreary, similar to today, the celebration inside Pucillo Gymnasium was upbeat and full of smiles. Our winter commencement returned to Pucillo and I was excited and honored to share the special day with our graduates and their families and friends.

Our graduating class included 126 graduate students, 348 undergraduate students and two students receiving associate degrees. In addition, we honored Senator Scott Martin, Class of 2002, with the President's Medallion for his dedicated service and extraordinary contributions to the University and the region. Brent Frey, Class of 1983, was our commencement speaker. Brent is a retired Apple executive serving most recently as their Director of Global Education in the Apple Professional Learning.

The fall semester was a whirlwind of activity on campus. Among the highlights for me were opportunities to interact with students, families, donors and friends at events such as the Graduating Students of Color, the Celebration of Scholars luncheon, and our highly acclaimed Glorious Sounds of the Seasons concert.

As we look to the Spring semester, one of our University's signature programs, Made in Millersville, is gearing up for a great event in April 2023. Made in Millersville is a University-wide celebration of student creative and scholarly work. The application portal is open with a closing date of February 17, 2023. I encourage students from all disciplines to be part of this year's Made in Millersville conference. For Spring 2023, the conference will be in-person and online, allowing broader participation from across campus.

In this month's newsletter, you can read more about a new enhanced transfer partnership with Harrisburg Area Community College and Shippensburg University, and new opportunities to partner with higher education institutions in Ghana. As well, you can learn more about an employee professional development event in January and our club and recreational sports program.

THREE PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGES COLLABORATE FOR STUDENTS



Millersville University recently partnered with two other Pennsylvania postsecondary institutions to give students academic guidance and student success services for a seamless transition from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree.

On Dec. 5, 2022, I traveled to HACC's Harrisburg Campus to join their president, John "Ski" Sygielski, and President Charles Patterson of Shippensburg University to sign an enhanced articulation agreement that is the first multi-institution, multi-program study articulation for the three institutions.

The enhanced transfer pathways program between HACC, Millersville and Shippensburg will strengthen the already strong relationship that exists between our regional community college and PASSHE universities. Together, we are creating seamless transfer pathways for community college students looking to complete their bachelor's degrees. Through this renewed partnership, all three institutions are reinforcing our commitment to making a college degree accessible and affordable for every student in the Commonwealth.

Approximately 100 educators from the three institutions worked together for two years to iron out the details to ensure requirements will be met and combined wraparound services provided so that students can easily transfer from HACC to either Millersville University or Shippensburg University.

The enhanced articulation agreement expands on previous articulation agreements between HACC and Millersville University and between HACC and Shippensburg University.

GHANA TRIP EXPLORES PARTNERSHIPS

Earlier this fall, Dr. James Delle, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Adult Learning, and Dr. Marc Tomljanovich, Dean of the Lombardo College of Business, traveled to Ghana. The purpose of the trip was to explore and establish academic partnerships with several institutions.

They visited the University of Cape Coast, one of Ghana's largest and most prestigious universities. They also visited Academic City University, a new private university in Accra that focuses on undergraduate business, engineering and entrepreneurship programs. There, they met with administrators, faculty and students.



The plan is to build these partnerships over the next year by linking select academic programs and fostering collaborative research opportunities. Our MU administrators also met with high school guidance counselors and U.S. Embassy officials to build our pipeline of international undergraduate students. We look forward to the many exciting initiatives these partnerships will bring Millersville in the future.

FACULTY AND STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



In pursuit of Millersville University's strategic initiative "Invest Strategically in People and Place," the Office of Human Resources invites all faculty and staff to participate in a Professional Development Day opportunity on January 10, 2023. The lead speaker for the event is Tracy Knofla of High Impact Training.

Knofla will tackle four timely and relevant topics in separate workshops while engaging participants in conversation and insightful introspection. The day will begin with "Effective Supervision of Student Employees," recognizing the value

our student employees offer as contributors to our workforce while also identifying best practices for delegating, motivating and communicating effectively with this audience.

Other sessions include "Building Stronger Collaborative Relationships" on our campus, "Creating a Customer-Centered Action Plan" and "Finding the Meaning in My Work" which is a reflective session that helps participants identify elements of their roles that bring joy and professional satisfaction.

I encourage all faculty and staff to attend one or more of these workshops by visiting <https://www.millersville.edu/hr/training/>. Space is limited, so reserve your spot!

Knofla is the co-owner of High Impact Training. She has many years of experience in training and support, as she has worked as the Coordinator of Student Activities and as the Director of the University Center at Indiana State University. She also served as the Director of Therapeutic Recreation at many long-term care facilities.

INTRAMURALS AND CLUB SPORTS

If you have ever walked into the lower levels of the Student Memorial Center, you might find a racquetball court with mats, punching bags, and other martial arts equipment. You might not know that this is the primary meeting space for the Millersville University Mixed Martial Arts Club. The MMA club promotes the education and practice of various fighting techniques.

The club prides itself on the diverse backgrounds of its executive board and the different classes they teach to students. This semester they're teaching Kickboxing, Tang Soo Do, Tae Kwon Do, Self-Defense, Judo, and Mixed Martial Arts. Each class is structured differently, and no two styles are the same. You can often see instructors sparring and testing their skills against one another.



One of the exciting aspects of intramural and club sports is the inclusive and welcoming nature of the activity. In this case, everyone is invited to join the MMA club, and they do not expect members to have any experience before joining. The classes are structured to teach beginners the fundamentals of the respected class while also allowing people who are more advanced to continue and grow their skills. They are student-founded and operated, and the club leaders are gaining valuable leadership and teaching skills.

There is also a growing alumni connection where the club invites alumni who had previously taught with the club to continue teaching their classes. The current MMA instructor is Anthony Pellicone who is a former MMA club president and has taught for three years now as an alumnus. Thanks to current club leaders, Seth Worley, President, Kyle Smith, Vice-President, Donovan Martin, Treasurer, and Kate Vossen, Secretary, for making this a welcoming and vibrant campus activity.