

Millersville University

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Nov.  
2020

This week is the last of the fall semester to include face-to-face classes. Soon, students who have been on campus will return home to celebrate Thanksgiving. While I will be sad to see them go, I am also very grateful that we have reached this point in the semester having kept incidents of COVID-19 on campus relatively low. The personal responsibility and community care that has been demonstrated these past weeks has been nothing short of inspiring. You have continuously demonstrated that we are a community committed to taking care of each other's well-being and success.

November brings reasons to be grateful. I am genuinely thankful for our faculty and the time they have invested this semester to support our students. I am excited to learn of a new project, Pedagogy+, which will help faculty further create engaged online learning spaces in the months ahead and I encourage all faculty members to participate. I am also thankful for our veterans and was proud to recognize our more than 100 veterans this past [Veterans Day](#). I am also sincerely thankful for our staff and appreciate all that you are doing to help keep us safe, including the recent [installation of seven temperature scanners](#) in our most used campus buildings. Lastly, I am most thankful for our students. Their energy and excitement has been a constant source of renewal as we navigate the pandemic.

In this issue of the monthly newsletter, we learn about familiar activities that are taking a new approach in response to the pandemic, including a virtual job and internship fair and a virtual Glorious Sounds of the Season event. We hear from Dr. John Wallace on the progress of his research sabbatical and welcome our new Women's Basketball Coach, Sharay Hall. We also learn how the Campus Cupboard continues to support our community during the pandemic and catch up on the excitement of our Intramural eSports League.

In closing, let me remind our community that the final day of face-to-face classes is November 20, classes will resume remotely beginning November 30 and in just a few short weeks we will conclude the fall semester. I encourage everyone to remain conscientious with wearing face coverings, limiting gathering size and practicing social distancing.

Be kind, be safe and stay healthy.

## JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS

Each semester, [Experiential Learning and Career Management \(ELCM\)](#) at MU hosts a [career and job fair](#) for students searching for internships and jobs in addition to meeting potential employers. Such opportunities allow Marauders to ask employers questions, gain insights into what key skills are needed to enter their profession and often secure a job before graduating.

This year, ELCM held three virtual job and internship fairs. The first fair featured positions in business, communication and the arts; the second included positions from engineering, science and technology; and the last fair featured careers in health, public and human services.

While she initially planned to attend the fair to gather information, junior Kylie Stoltzfus recently was hired as a communications assistant for MU after meeting with a representative from the University Communications and Marketing (UCM) department. This event provided Stoltzfus with interviewing experience before she graduates and gave her insight into what employers may be seeking. Based on her experience, Stoltzfus encourages her fellow students to attend events like the job fairs to understand their future fields better.

ELCM hosted a virtual graduate school fair on Nov. 11 and they will participate in [three virtual fairs in the spring](#). I encourage students who are interested in internships and jobs to attend. It is important to take advantage of these opportunities MU provides to help you plan for the future. As I often say, my aspiration is for all our graduating Marauders to know their next steps in life as they walk across the stage.

## Q&A WITH DR. JOHN WALLACE

*[Dr. John Wallace](#) serves in many roles at MU. Primarily, he's a professor of entomology and began his research sabbatical this semester. Here, he tells us more about how COVID-19 changed his plans and how he's adjusted.*

**Q. What were your plans for sabbatical research and has the pandemic changed them?**

My sabbatical game plan involves several initiatives, but I'll focus on these three initiatives:

- continue my research on *Buruli* ulcer in southeast Australia on the role of mosquitoes as potential mechanical vectors of the mycobacterium that causes this neglected tropical disease;
- develop a certification workshop in forensic entomology and;
- develop curriculum and pursue funding for the MU Watershed Education Training Institute (WETi).

My sabbatical is only in its second month, and I have already surpassed what I expected to do, so, it hasn't really slowed things down or significantly impacted it. It may affect my international travel plans but time will tell.

**Q. How have you adjusted?**

I learned a long time ago as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala to monitor and adjust. There, I learned to have plans B, C, D and E ready if, and most likely, when plan A did not work out. While I take the pandemic quite seriously, I simply monitor and adjust [my plans accordingly].

**Q. What does this sabbatical mean to you?**

During this very difficult time, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have been awarded a sabbatical and greatly appreciate [my colleagues in the Biology Department](#) and across MU for the herculean efforts they are making so that I can be away and contribute to my research field, professional training curricula and to future [MU student experiences at WETi](#).

## **NEW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH**

I know we're all looking forward to the day when our Marauders can safely return to athletic competition. I am excited for our campus community to meet our new women's basketball head coach, Sharay Hall. Coach Hall follows in the footsteps of the legendary Coach Mary Fleig, who retired this past summer after 30 years at MU.

Coach Hall has big shoes to fill by carrying on the great Marauder basketball tradition while giving the team her own winning strategy and approach. Coach Hall knows Millersville University and the PSAC well because she grew up in Philadelphia and later became an All-PSAC East player at Lock Haven University while playing for Millersville alum Jennifer Smith. After earning a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2012, Coach Hall earned a master's degree in sports and exercise psychology from Lock Haven in 2014. She coached at Lock Haven and Clarion as well as several other Division II and Division III schools. Most recently, she helped Division I Colgate to one of the most successful seasons in its history.

Of historical significance, Coach Hall is believed to be the first minority head coach of a women's sport at Millersville University. Join me in welcoming Coach Hall to Millersville University and in supporting the program by showing our Marauder Pride every chance we get.

## THE 12 DAYS OF GLORIOUS VIRTUAL SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

One of the uniquely Millersville traditions that I look forward to each year is the “Glorious Sounds of the Season” concert. For me, it signifies the beginning of the holidays and a time for us to be with our family, friends and the campus community to enjoy songs and festivities. While we can’t be together in person this year because of COVID-19 restrictions, the show will still go on! Our dedicated students and faculty have been diligently working on a virtual concert.

The concert will consist of a series of videos which will begin airing December 1. The videos can be watched via a webpage that will go live on November 25. The first set of 11 videos will be short performances displaying different facets of the Tell School of Music. On December 12, Glorious Sounds of the Season will conclude with a 25-minute performance featuring students, faculty soloists, large ensembles, and small ensembles. I can’t wait to experience the energy, variety and fast-paced sequence that audiences have come to enjoy on this special occasion, which is a Millersville tradition since 2006.

The series of Glorious Sounds of the Season concerts are normally one of the largest fundraisers for the Tell School of Music with over \$25,000 in music scholarship funds generated from ticket sales. While there are no tickets required for this year’s virtual event, the website will have a donation button and we ask all viewers to consider making a donation to support music student scholarships.

Students and faculty involved in the concerts have practiced over Zoom and in-person following social distancing and mask-wearing protocols. Their willingness to be flexible and cooperative, especially regarding safety measures, has been incredible.

The 12 Days of Glorious Virtual Sounds of the Season is a remarkable opportunity to showcase our talented students and faculty, and also an excellent example of the resilience our campus community has shown during 2020. I invite you to join me for these performances!

## CAMPUS CUPBOARD CONTINUES AID THROUGH PANDEMIC

One of the bright spots of these challenging times is watching how our community has pulled together. The Campus Cupboard, located in The HUB on the lower level of the Millersville Community United Methodist Church on George Street, continues to provide meals for anyone experiencing food insecurity.

The Campus Cupboard staff stock shelves weekly or biweekly with varieties of food and drinks. Students facing food insecurity can shop through the food pantry free of charge. Additionally, the Campus Cupboard serves hot meals, including lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays and French toast, often with games or live music, on Friday evenings. A breakfast club will be introduced over the next few weeks to provide breakfast and a safe place to study in the mornings with finals quickly approaching.

With Thanksgiving approaching, it is the goal of the Campus Cupboard to ensure that all those who need a Thanksgiving meal can get a Thanksgiving meal. They will host a Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., while adhering to social distancing guidelines. The Campus Cupboard will also distribute Thanksgiving-in-a-box care packages with Thanksgiving essentials.

The Campus Cupboard, which opened in fall 2013, remains crucial to our students and members of the community. To limit physical contact, monetary donations are requested so staff can shop to restock food supplies. Anyone who wishes to donate can do so by visiting [CampusCupboard.org](http://CampusCupboard.org). Staff can also be reached at (717) 584-4204 or through the organization's [Facebook page](#).

## ESPORTS CONNECT MARAUDERS ONLINE

While we still don't know when we will be able to safely resume large-scale in-person activities on campus, the Campus Recreation team at Millersville has found creative ways to connect online. [Our Intramural eSports League](#) is just one way Marauders can stay in touch. The team planned to host an in-person video game tournament just before COVID-19 became a serious concern in Lancaster County, and pivoted quickly to roll out an online Intramural eSports League. The eSports League is open to current students, faculty and staff.

If you are a trivia nut, they also introduced a weekly family-friendly trivia night into the rotation of events that is open to alumni and their family members. Gamers can join or play against fellow Marauders in popular games like FIFA, Madden, MLB The Show, NBA 2K, Rocket League and Super Smash Bros through tournaments and more.

We've teamed up with our colleagues from our fellow PASSHE institution, West Chester University, and Bucknell University to offer a friendly competition between the schools on Rocket League. Those interested in joining can register at [IMLeagues.com](http://IMLeagues.com) or through the Ville Rec app.

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving break, I wish all the members of community a happy and joyous time with your family, friends and loved ones. Have a relaxing break.