

Millersville University

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Nov.  
2021

Dear Millersville University Community,

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and get ready to spend cheerful time with family and friends, it is time to be grateful for all the blessings bestowed on our community. Throughout the year, our students have served as leaders on campus and in the community, competed well on the field, and worked hard in the classroom.

I am thankful for our students who dedicate themselves to the high calling of leadership on our campus and in the community. On Friday evening, I participated in the induction ceremony of 35 students from various disciplines into Omicron Delta Kappa, the Leadership Honors Society. They all share the common values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship and service to others.

I am grateful for our students who train throughout the year for the opportunity to compete at the highest levels of their sport. On Saturday evening, I attended the Millersville ice hockey game at the Lancaster Ice Rink before heading back to campus to witness the exciting victory of our men's soccer team in the NCAA tournament. I have watched many sporting events over the years and this victory in a shootout following two overtime periods is among the most memorable soccer matches that I have ever watched.

I am thankful for the students who strive to excel in their disciplines and represent the best of the liberal arts tradition at Millersville University. On Sunday afternoon, I attended the Honors College Recognition Banquet to honor graduating seniors and graduates of the last three semesters. I am certain that these graduating honors students will make their mark on the world as our vision statement indicates.

To our faculty and staff, I am grateful for your continued dedication and demonstration of our EPIIC values in everything you do. From our facilities staff to our administrative managers, support staff and faculty members, I wake up every morning thankful to have you all as my colleagues.

Be safe and continue your vigilance as we all strive to keep Millersville University a healthy community through the winter months. During Thanksgiving break, I encourage you to take a moment and

reflect on those things in your life that bring you joy and happiness. I look forward to seeing everyone on campus for the busy final weeks of the semester.

Kind regards,

Daniel A. Wubah  
University President

## CELEBRATING FIRST GEN

November 8 is “First-Generation College Celebration Day” and that day and every day, we celebrate our first-generation students at Millersville University. Our Student Access and Support Services group puts together programming each year to honor our first-gen students and our first-gen faculty and staff.

The celebration is a time to recognize first-generation college students – those whose parents did not complete a four-year college degree. Being the first to do anything can present unique challenges and the students who are the first to head off to college are no exception to that rule. We chatted with a few of our international students who shared their experiences.

Cimone Weeks, a clinical psychology major, says the college application process can be difficult for students whose family members never attended college. Now that she has been through it, she is using what she learned to help her younger sister apply to college. Maylin Vazquez, a graduate student in the social work program, says that sometimes first-generation students need extra support and guidance. Gabriella Rodriguez, a double major in Spanish and sociology, says she hopes to set an example for the generations who will come after her.

We are so proud of all the MU students, and faculty and staff, who are the first in their families to go to college.

## ADVERTISING THE ‘VILLE

As I mentioned at State of the ‘Ville in September, communicating our value requires an intentional approach to telling our story. Again this year, University Communications & Marketing is developing and implementing several paid advertising campaigns to promote our offerings. These efforts include general brand advertising along with targeted efforts promoting undergraduate enrollment, key

college priorities and our eight online degree completion programs. Tactics include television, cable and streaming ads, billboards and web-based ads across numerous platforms.

This work is a result of the goals and objectives identified in the University's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan published last spring.

Ensuring that the right message is shared with the right audience at the right time, members of UCM meet bi-weekly with colleagues in admissions, the College of Graduate Studies and Adult Learning and International Programs & Services to track metrics and gauge our return on investment. For an example of our current work, here is the [University's current 30 second advertisement](#) produced internally by UCM.

## FACULTY ACCOLADES

Our faculty are an industrious, hard-working bunch and here we feature a few of their amazing recent accomplishments.

**Dr. Ximena Catepillán**, professor emerita of mathematics, was elected as chair of the History of Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of America and **Dr. Antonia Cardwell**, associate professor of mathematics, was elected as electronic resources coordinator for the same group. They will begin serving in their positions on January 1, 2022, three-year terms that will extend until December 31, 2024.

**Dr. Dennis Downey**, professor emeritus of history, recently gave a talk, "The Lynching of Zachariah Walker: Death in a Pennsylvania Steel Town." The talk was given for the Chester County History Center. More than 250 people attended.

**Dr. Leslie Gates**, associate professor of art and design, was honored as a storyteller by the PA Conference for Women which, "celebrate[s] women who are discovering new ways to infuse joy into their communities, their workplace, and their families." She's featured in the video for her Zoom sketches: <https://www.paconferenceforwomen.org/storytellers/>.

**Dr. Judy Halden-Sullivan**, professor of English & World Languages, recently published "A Three-Part Exchange on Stephen Ratcliffe's Poetry and Thinking," in *Dichtung Yammer*, an online journal of innovative poetics.

**Dr. Justin Mando**, associate professor and assistant chair of English & World Languages, recently published a book titled, "Fracking and the Rhetoric of Place – How We Argue from Where We Stand,"

which is available now. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793620873/Fracking-and-the-Rhetoric-of-Place>

**Drs. Karen Rice** and **Heather Girvin**, both from the School of Social Work, recently had their book on using a human rights-based approach to short term study abroad published. The book is the result of over 10 years of research and practice to identify and develop an approach to short term study abroad that empowers, respects, collaborates, and builds capacity in host communities rather than exploit, harm, and foster colonialism, imperialism, and ethnocentrism. The e-book and softcover print book, "Human Rights-Based Approach to Short-Term Study Abroad," are now available. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-87421-6>.

**Dr. Miriam Witmer**, assistant professor of Educational Foundations recently reported that Millersville University's Color of Teaching Mentoring Program and Project Teacher Development are both featured in the newly released PA Educator Diversity Consortium's Diversifying the Teacher Pipeline Toolkit. **Dr. Jeffrey Wimer**, associate professor of Wellness and Sport Sciences, worked with Witmer on developing the Project Teacher Development.

**Dr. Sepi Yalda**, professor of meteorology and director of the Center for Disaster Research and Education was recently elected fellow of the American Meteorological Society. The AMS is a professional organization of 11,000 members serving the public, private and academic sectors across the weather, water and climate enterprise. Yalda will be inducted, along with her colleague and friend, Dr. Everette Joseph, director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research at the 102nd Annual Meeting of the AMS in January 2022.

## ATHLETICS ROUNDUP

This has been an exciting season for our teams. After winning their third PSAC title on November 14, the men's soccer team can now add NCAA Tournament winners to their impressive lineup of accomplishments. The team will head to Rindge, New Hampshire to face Franklin Pierce University in early December. Stay tuned to the athletics website for more updates and good luck to our team.

Men's and women's basketball are also back, and you can see the men's team play against Virginia Union on their home court on November 29 at 7 p.m., while the women's team faces off against Clarion at home on December 3 at 5:30 p.m.

Our women's soccer team had an exciting finish the season, reaching the PSAC Championship game for just the second time in program history, and after a year away, the "Shorty" Hitchcock Memorial Classic returned to Millersville on November 20 with more than 300 wrestlers from all three NCAA

levels competing on eight mats in the Student Memorial Center. Millersville's top performances included Brandon Connor's team-leading four wins. Congratulations to all of our athletes!