

Millersville University

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

November  
2018

In the second issue of this newsletter, I want to share a few highlights of what has transpired in the past month on our campus, and to express my gratitude to all who strive to make our community a great place to be. During my first homecoming celebration as a Marauder, I had an opportunity to meet a cross-section of our alumni and friends, including those who celebrated their 50th and 60th anniversaries.



Our efforts to provide innovative academic programs for our students appear to be yielding fruits due to the hard work of our faculty. For example, we have seen enrollment growth in our MDST programs. We are blessed to have a strong relationship with the community, which is exemplified by the recent collaboration between MU and several local partners to establish a STEM-focused pre-school classroom on our campus for the children of our students. In collaboration with LNP and the Lancaster Chamber, we hosted a congressional debate at the Winter Center. Our student athletes excelled on the field this semester, with four teams making it to their respective playoffs. Finally, I hope you are getting used to the new telephones that were installed during the fall break.

For all of the above reasons and more, I am grateful during this Thanksgiving holiday season for our Millersville University community. As you head out for this break, kindly drive carefully, have fun with your families and friends and return safely to campus. May your Thanksgiving be filled with harmony and gladness.

## HOMECOMING 2018

A big thank you to everyone who made Millersville University's Homecoming 2018 a huge success! Thank you to all of the volunteers, students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members who made this a fun and memorable Homecoming for everyone. From the golf outing to the parade, the tent party and numerous reunion festivities, I enjoyed meeting our alums and families and learning more about their Marauder experiences.

Photo albums from Homecoming:

- [Alumni & Friends Golf Outing](#)
- [Alumni & Friends Tent Party](#)
- [Class of 1958 Reunion](#)
- [Class of 1968 Reunion](#)
- [WIXQ 50th Year Reunion](#)

- [Community-University Parade](#)
- [Greek Life Reunions](#)

## STEM PRE-SCHOOL COMING TO MILLERSVILLE CAMPUS

Work is now underway on Bard Hall to transform it into an early learning classroom for the children of Millersville University (MU) students. Last month Millersville University faculty and administrators gathered with the Community Action Partnership (CAP), Eurofins, The Steinman Foundation and High Foundation to break ground on what will soon be an innovative Head Start STEM classroom that will be operated by CAP. The initiative will be an exceptional school readiness program with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Lancaster County Head Start is slated to open the STEM prototype classroom for the spring semester with up to 18 children. The classroom for children aged 3 and 4 years old will be open Monday through Friday.

## 2018-19 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Educator of the Year Award is given to one faculty/staff member in recognition of sustained outstanding teaching, to include counseling, mentoring and advising of the undergraduate and graduate students at Millersville University. We are pleased to recognize Dr. Hepfer as the Educator of the Year for 2018-19.

Dr. Carol Ely Hepfer is the epitome of many of the faculty members I have met at Millersville University. She is engaged with her students both in and out of the classroom. Since joining our biology department in 1982, Dr. Hepfer has shared her love of biology with thousands of students; both majors and non-majors. She has taught scores of classes, advised hundreds of students, and co-written numerous papers and made presentations with our students. The Millersville University Faculty Senate and the Educator of the Year Award Selection Committee did a fine job in selecting Dr. Hepfer. | [Read More](#)

## MDST PROGRAM GROWTH

One of the areas of impressive program growth over the past year is our Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies (MDST). The MDST program builds on the University's existing strengths in the liberal arts and sciences to offer students new and creative opportunities to integrate and synthesize knowledge. Using existing curricula (majors and minors) and academic strengths, this major, which began in fall 2013, challenges students to think beyond traditional departmental boundaries and disciplines while acquiring academic, social and professional skills that better prepare them for diverse career opportunities. Currently, our MDST program has 190 students enrolled, up from 150 in fall 2017 and 82 in fall 2016. This high level of interest shows the increasing importance of providing opportunities that span complementary areas of study so that students can pursue high quality academic preparation that meets their unique needs. Among the most popular faculty-initiated MDST options are Sports Business with 77 students enrolled, followed by Sports Journalism (27), Entertainment Technology (22), and Environmental Hazards and Emergency Management (20). Students may work directly with a faculty advisor to develop individual plans of study following the MDST program guidelines. It is very exciting to see the continued growth of this cutting edge Millersville program that serves our students. | [Read More](#)

## WALKER CENTER SPONSORS DEBATE, HELPS GET OUT THE VOTE

On Oct. 8, the Walker Center and MU partnered with Lancaster Newspapers and the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor an exciting and well-attended congressional debate. The race between the two congressional candidates running in the 11th district, Democrat Jess King and Republican incumbent Lloyd Smucker, drew national attention. The debate in Clair Hall in the Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center on MU's campus, sold out within hours. A second viewing location was added in Biemesderfer Hall, also in the Winter Center. What a fantastic experience for our students and campus community to get to see a live congressional debate.

Throughout this election season, the student fellows of the Walker Center organized "Get out the Vote" drives before elections in an effort to engage students and the entire campus community in civic engagement and democratic participation. Then, during the recent election on Tuesday, Nov. 6, the Walker Center ran vans to the polls from campus and served as volunteers at the polls. The Walker Fellows also transported about 60 students throughout the day to one of three different polling locations in Millersville Borough and Manor Township through the "voter van." Students were especially happy for the rides during the torrential rain that day. | [Read More](#)

## SAY CHEESE! YOUR NEW TELEPHONE IS HERE

Over the fall break weekend, the Millersville University Information Technology team replaced the NEC cloud hosted VoIP telephone system with a new CISCO on-premise VoIP system. From Friday evening to Sunday evening, over 1,300 handsets, blue light phones and conference room phones were deployed, activated and tested. Not only will this system ultimately be more economical for the University, more importantly it will allow IT to provide better service to customers needing additional phones, moves and changes since it will now be under the University's control. The CISCO phones have several new features including cameras so you can see the person you're talking to. The new system has been performing flawlessly, but if you do need help, there is a [Quick Start – First Time User Guide](#) available on our website.