

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Oct.
2019

Fall appears to have finally arrived and as we enter the holiday season it is the perfect time to reflect on our blessings of having good people, engaging programs and a great community at Millersville University. In this month's issue, I will highlight two individuals who have made a significant difference in the lives of our students; Drs. Dennis Denenberg and William McIlwaine. Dr. Denenberg led the efforts for the very successful Breast-A-Ville earlier this month, an event that has quickly become one of my favorites as you might notice from my Instagram feed. At the September Council of Trustees meeting, Dr. McIlwaine was honored with a proclamation from the Pennsylvania State Senate, sponsored by Senator Scott Martin, for his long service to Millersville University as a faculty member, volunteer and trustee. These two long-time Marauders continue to inspire us at the 'Ville.

As you all know, affordability for our students is one of my top priorities. In this update I discuss a celebration of our first-generation students' accomplishments and how one of our corporate partners is providing financial literacy training for all our students. In addition, I share information on improvements that were made over the summer to our academic and athletic facilities.

During the past month, I have had the pleasure of participating in two Open House events, on Sept. 28 and Oct. 19, for prospective students and their families. I want to extend my thanks to our community members who came together to make these events successful. I appreciate our current Marauders who welcomed our guests along George Street and offered informative tours. I also appreciate our dedicated faculty and staff who highlight the excellent programs and services, and those that work behind the scenes to implement the event so smoothly. The energy and excitement on display during our Open Houses makes a real difference to our guests and I hear that from them quite often. We have one additional Open House planned for Nov. 9 – let's make it the best one yet!

Finally, Judith and I are excited to participate in the many events of the upcoming Homecoming weekend. Please join us for the festivities. I look forward to seeing you.

LASTING IMPACT

Millersville University is lucky to have such a wide range of impressive faculty who are dedicated to the success of our students. Many remain connected to the University long after they leave, and it is those kinds of lasting connections that contribute to the strength of our institution.

Two great examples of such lasting bonds are Dr. Dennis Denenberg, professor emeritus of elementary education, and Dr. William McIlwaine, professor emeritus of science education. Both contributed greatly as faculty members, but they have also expanded their impact since then.

Dr. Denenberg established the “Diana’s Dreamers” endowment in honor of his sister, Diana Denenberg Durand, who died in 2007 after a long battle with breast cancer. The endowment became the Breast Cancer Awareness Program which works to create on-campus awareness of breast health. The initiative includes the Diana & Marsha Breast Cancer Awareness Center, the Diana Denenberg Durand Spirit Garden outside Stayer Hall and the annual Breast-A-Ville health fair. Judith and I attended the 9th annual Breast-A-Ville on Oct. 2 and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The number of students, faculty and staff who attended was impressive.

Dr. William McIlwaine has had many roles at Millersville including the first chairman of the Department of Earth and Space Science, chairman of Elementary and Early Childhood Education, the first director for grants and awards, and a long-time member of the Council of Trustees. In 2009, following the death of his wife Melva, Dr. McIlwaine established the McIlwaine Masterclass for young musicians to hone their skills. On Oct. 9, the endowment brought Grammy Award-winning ensemble, Chanticleer, to campus. Through the McIlwaine Masterclass, students have the unique opportunity to perform for world-renowned musicians and hear critiques of their work.

Thanks to Drs. Denenberg and McIlwaine, who through their gifts, will continue to educate and encourage our current students for years to come.

FIRST GEN WEEK AT THE VILLE

In keeping with our mission to educate students from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, I’m glad that Millersville University will join the nationwide movement to celebrate our first gen students, faculty, staff and alums. Our inaugural participation will include a range of activities including a breakfast, yoga and a Tri Alpha Celebration.

In November 2017, the [Council for Opportunity in Education](#) partnered with the [Center for First-Generation Student Success](#), to launch the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration. The annual event, held each year on Nov. 8 to commemorate the anniversary of the Higher Education Act of

1965, encourages colleges and universities across the country to celebrate the successes of the institution's first-generation faculty, staff and students.

First Generation Week at the 'Ville includes:

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019

Honor First Gen students, faculty and staff at football game, 12 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 4, 2019

First Gen & Juice (Breakfast Celebration) SMC Atrium, 7-11 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019

First Gen Faith: Prayer all day @ Millersville University Community Church

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019 (Wellness Wednesday)

- Health Services: Free Flu Shots all day
- CHEP Wellness Celebration: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. SMC in front of University Store
- First Gen Yoga: SMC Group Exercise Room 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- First Gen Care & Wellness: 2-3 p.m. SMC 118 (Counseling services)

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019

- First Gen Forward: Graduate Fair 12-2 p.m. SMC Multipurpose room
- Tri Alpha Celebration: Winter Center 6-8 p.m.

First Gen Friday, Nov. 8, 2019

Photo Booth 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. SMC Atrium

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Our Courageous Conversation series is now in its third year and continues to provide our students an opportunity to learn and openly discuss tough topics like diversity, equality, inclusion and social identities in our society.

These free events take place twice a month and are sponsored by the School of Social Work's Learning Institute, the Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El Intercultural Center for Student Engagement and our Housing and Residential Programs. Some of the events include a screening of a film or documentary, followed by a discussion on how to handle those conversations in the real world. I believe these conversations give students a place to grow and learn; it is part of our holistic educational approach.

The series is also a great way to bring and develop leaders across our campus. The speakers can pass their wisdom to our student leaders, who in turn talk with their friends, classmates and student organizations. So far this semester, students have watched "Crossing Borders," a documentary about six young Americans confronting race through the use of dialogue. Following the screening, representatives from Crossing Borders Films facilitated a discussion.

Future topics include "Fostering Inclusion" on Nov. 1 and "From Self-Preservation to Coalition Building" on Nov. 5 - both in the Great Room in South Village. I look forward to our students joining the conversation and continuing to transform into leaders on campus and in our community.

FINANCIAL REALITY FAIR

It is important to prepare our students for success in all facets of life including personal finance. The Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU), which is located in the Student Memorial Center and has been a long-time partner of the University, did great work in furthering this goal on Oct. 10 with their Financial Reality Fair.

Our students were able to participate in a simulation of real-life, post-graduation situations that required them to make smart money decisions and lifestyle changes to remain within a set budget based on their intended career fields. This kind of real-world experience is vital in preparing students for success after graduation.

PSECU hosted a Financial Reality fair for the first time in 2017, and student surveys from that event were overwhelmingly positive. Students felt that they acquired skills at the event, and that is why I was so thrilled to see PSECU host the event again this year.

If you haven't seen PSECU's Center on campus, stop by the SMC and say "hi" to our friend, Kristyne Schonhaut, PSECU's Financial Education Center Manager. She can help you with everything from figuring out a checkbook to tips for becoming financially stable. I admire the time she spends imparting financial wisdom to our students and preparing them to be smart consumers for their futures.

STATE-OF-THE-ART METEOROLOGY CLASSROOM

Over the summer, one of our Meteorology classrooms received a state-of-the-art upgrade. Our students now have access to a cutting-edge learning environment that merges content, visualizations and virtual collaboration into a truly integrated classroom experience. This new capability was made possible through the combined vision of members of the IT department and the Department of Earth Sciences.

The new ©Oblong Industries Inc. Mezzanine 3™ System is software that controls eight seamless monitors, a smart screen known as the corkboard, and a white board with projection capability. The software was first created for director Steven Spielberg and used by Tom Cruise in the popular cyber-thriller “Minority Report.” A new desktop PC powers the whole system, which also includes two touchscreen monitors for console-level control by the instructor, and two remote wands for gesture-based control.

Dr. Richard Clark, chair of Earth Sciences told me that instructors and students can now share multiple streams of live content from multiple locations simultaneously. This pedagogical innovation is often found in graduate programs and enhances learning.

We’re all still fascinated by this new capability and I know Dr. Clark and his department will continue to explore new ways to excite students with this technology.

CARPENTER-TROUT WEIGHT TRAINING FACILITY

Millersville University's Carpenter-Trout Strength Center—a facility dedicated for the strength and conditioning of Marauder student-athletes—underwent a significant renovation during July and August. Earlier this month we held a rededication ceremony for the center with Marge Trout, former athletic director, coach and educator; and Sandra Carpenter, wife of legendary coach Gene Carpenter.

This project was a collaborative effort and I want to thank the Student Government Association for their support. It is part of a continued effort to enhance our strength and conditioning efforts and will provide our strength coaches a state-of-the-art facility to train our student-athletes. We worked with industry leader Hammer Strength to design a layout that maximizes the 5,000 square foot space to create more efficiency and safety for student-athletes.

The renovation includes installation of new flooring specifically designed for strength and conditioning. The flooring was constructed with exercise-specific surfaces at each station designed to take impact of various lifting techniques, eliminating the need for raised platforms. The new design includes removal of existing machines and the installation of all new Hammer Strength racks and benches on which two student-athletes can train simultaneously. Paint of the facility, general maintenance and a new water bottle refilling station were also included in the renovation.

The new upgrades and layout have enhanced the space tremendously. We now have space to train multiple teams without having to maneuver around each other, which creates a safer and efficient training environment. That has always been a top priority for me. With these new upgrades we have the ability to make sure that every student-athlete at Millersville University receives high-quality training that promotes overall health, wellness and increased performance.