

Millersville University

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Sept.  
2020

With a few weeks of the fall semester behind us, I am glad to share that we have had a relatively smooth start to the academic year. Courses have begun, programs have started and familiar faces have returned to campus. I am sure I am not alone in saying that I miss the usual hustle and bustle of campus, but I am also happy that our efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus by reducing campus density are going well thus far.

I am thankful for the role each of you are playing to keep our community safe. Our faculty rose to the challenge of continuing to teach through primarily remote instruction. Our staff flexed with the demands of reopening campus and starting a new academic year, and our students remained engaged and committed to learning in different environments. By and large the community remains vigilant. Maintaining low case numbers through the remainder of the semester requires that we continue to complete daily health screenings using the LiveSafe app, use face coverings, limit the number of individuals at gatherings and practice social distancing.

Last week was busy for MU. We completed a virtual site visit in support of our reaffirmation of accreditation. A detailed story of the Middle States site visit is included in this newsletter, but I wish to take this opportunity to once again thank Dr. Jim Delle, Dr. Laure Hanich and all who were involved in making that unique process a success. The week concluded with the release of the [2020 State of the 'Ville address](#). I hope you have had a chance to watch it to celebrate the successes of the past year and to share in the excitement of our plans for the year ahead. I would have preferred to share the address in person and to be with each of you at the Garden Supper. I am looking forward to do so in 2021.

If we had been able to be together, I would have asked you to join me in congratulating several individuals who retire this week. Our friends and colleagues Michele Bote', Ken Brent, Steve DiGuseppe, Mary Fleig, Matt Sellers, Anne Stehman, Ralph Wagner and Marie Zuflet have given a combined 250 years of service to MU! That is a remarkable achievement for eight individuals. Your work has benefited thousands of Marauders and immeasurably enhanced our institution. Thank you.

During the State of the 'Ville address, I announced the name of our new [2020-25 Strategic Plan, Tradition and Transformation](#). The Plan outlines our goals and objectives for the years

ahead organized according to four strategic directions, 1) Ensure Access, Affordability and Completion; 2) Transform Student Experiences and Foster Innovation; 3) Invest Strategically in People and Place and 4) Communicate Our Value. Thank you to the 85 member All University Council and the Strategic Advisory Council (SAC) for preparing the plan. The SAC will continue work this fall to prioritize aspects of the plan and develop key performance indicators. I encourage you to watch the Strategic Planning Process video available on the website if you haven't already.

In this issue of the monthly newsletter, we celebrate student awards and the 10th anniversary of the Ware Center. We learn fun facts about our students and receive an update from the Incident Management Team concerning temperature scan kiosks. We hear more about the Middle States site visit and are introduced to the new women's head basketball coach. We also learn about fun opportunities to stay engaged with MU athletics this fall, which is a reminder to celebrate your Marauder pride through the unique activities planned for [Homecoming 2020](#). I hope you enjoy the special moments, insights and achievements contained in these stories as much as I have.

Be kind, be safe and stay healthy.

## **AWARD-WINNING STUDENTS**

While our University has received several awards recently, I also want to acknowledge our many students at MU who have received scholarships and accolades. These awards vary from University-sponsored scholarships to nationally recognized awards.

Senior Mikeisha Mobely received the 2020-2021 Sally Chamberlain Scholarship. The award helps women who are seeking education to advance within their current careers. After earning her associate degree from Harrisburg Area Community College in 2018, she is now at Millersville, working toward a bachelor's degree in social work.

Another accomplished Marauder is junior biochemistry major, Rebecca Goldinger. Goldinger received the 2020-21 Krausse STEM Scholarship. The scholarship is given to a female student from Dauphin, Cumberland or Perry County who is currently pursuing a degree within the STEM field and has at least a 3.0 GPA.

And, senior Brynn Raub has been named a 2020 Newman Civic Fellow--a national award given to college students each year who are encouraged to advance their work within their community. Raub has completed work with the Walker Fellows, is a member of Color of Teaching mentoring and serves as an educational support coach on campus. Her dedication to community service and social justice has made her a role model for engagement.

I also want to thank our orientation leaders who helped get our new students off to a great start this fall; students like Michael Kleine, a music industry major, who navigated a hybrid orientation of in-person and virtual events to get the semester going.

I applaud all our students who are working tirelessly within their studies and have accomplished excellence during their time at MU.

## **CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE WARE CENTER**

I am excited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Millersville University's Ware Center. Since 2010, we've welcomed almost 500,000 visitors through its doors to enjoy performances from around the world. Over this past decade, the building has showcased different talents and cultures from near and far, with events happening almost daily in one of five performing spaces, present circumstances notwithstanding.

Opened in 2010, this stately building was named in honor of Paul and Judy Ware. The Ware Center has been a key part of promoting the arts at Millersville University by connecting the University as Lancaster County's home for the cultural arts and affirming the important role that the arts play in an MU education.

Although we are unable to hold a celebratory event at the Ware Center this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the building will still be adorned with banners featuring a special 10th anniversary logo and congratulatory billboards will be featured in different locations. We look forward with great anticipation to a larger, in person celebration next year to honor the impact of the Ware Center.

In the meantime, you can read more about the Ware Center in the latest [Review Magazine](#) and view the excellent [10th Anniversary Video here](#).

## **39 STATES REPRESENTED AT THE 'VILLE**

While 2020 has offered up many challenges to the University, and indeed, the world, I'm proud to say we're still offering an EPPIIC education in the face of exceptional circumstances. We have 6,519 undergraduate students and 1,006 graduate students currently enrolled for the fall semester, both online and on campus.

Here's a closer look at our student population:

- Our most popular majors by enrollment are Education, Biology, Psychology and Applied Engineering.
- Most of our U.S. students are from Pennsylvania, but we are proud to claim Marauders from 39 states this semester!
- Our international student's home countries include China, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Argentina, among others.
- 505 Marauders have a cumulative perfect 4.0 GPA from last semester. Way to go!
- The average GPA of our graduate students is an admirable 3.86.

We are grateful to all faculty, staff and students for showing your true Marauder spirit during all of the many changes over the past few months, and we can't wait to see you all back on campus in the future.

## **IMT WORKS AROUND THE CLOCK TO KEEP CAMPUS SAFE**

MU's Incident Management Team (IMT) meets every morning at 8 a.m. to monitor the campus' health indicators and discuss new ways to keep the campus safe during COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions range from what information should be displayed in the [COVID dashboard](#) to how to keep everyone safe [during an event on campus](#).

One item that is at the forefront of the IMT agenda is the LiveSafe App. Our goal is to have all faculty, staff and students use the app every day to do their COVID screening, even if they are not coming to campus. We will use the app when we all return, so it's good to get in the habit now. Answering the questions diligently and truthfully will help keep all of us as safe as possible and support a successful finish to the semester.

There are several ways to access the app: Download the [iOS app in the Apple App Store](#), download the [Android app in the Google Play store](#) or access it on the [web](#).

If your answer to any of the questions is "yes," do not report to class or your office. Students should contact Health Services at 717-871-5250 or [hservices@millersville.edu](mailto:hservices@millersville.edu) and employees should contact their health care provider.

Many of the symptoms of COVID-19 match closely with those from seasonal allergies or the common cold. Do not come to campus if you do not feel well. This will support the safety of our community. Always wear a face covering and follow the recommended social distancing guidelines.

I am also pleased to announce that seven temperature scan kiosks have been purchased and will be placed in academic buildings across campus for use by students and staff. *Temperature check is one part of the COVID screening. Students with temperatures greater than 100.4°F should contact Health Services and employees should contact their provider.* Other symptoms include: shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

If you have any questions please email [reportcovid@millersville.edu](mailto:reportcovid@millersville.edu).

Kindly help us keep our campus community safe. We are in this together!

## **MIDDLE STATES SITE VISIT**

It was a visit like no other. Delayed six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the long-awaited Middle States site visit took place virtually Sept. 13-16, and by all accounts, it was a successful visit.

Our University is currently accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, but we are required, every eight years, to show that we meet the commission's standards. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, non-governmental, regional membership association covering Pennsylvania and surrounding states. The commission holds institutions to a series of standards and conducts peer evaluations as part of the reaccreditation process.

Our process started in July 2017 with the formation of a steering committee focused on completing a required self-study. The self-study was developed from Sept. 2018 to Jan. 2020 and it included demonstrating that we met the following seven standards:

- Standard 1 – Mission and Goals
- Standard 2 – Ethics and Integrity
- Standard 3 – Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience
- Standard 4 – Support of the Student Experience
- Standard 5 – Educational Effectiveness Assessment
- Standard 6 – Planning, Resources and Institutional Improvement
- Standard 7 – Governance, Leadership and Administration

Our on-campus site visit that was planned for March had to be postponed due to COVID-19 and instead became a virtual visit conducted last week.

Special thanks go to the co-chairs, Drs. James Delle and Laurie Hanich, for their leadership over the past two years and for everyone on campus who contributed to our self-study report. I speak for the entire campus community by saying that we deeply missed the late Dr. Lisa Shibley's presence throughout the site visit, but also felt her lasting impact and know that she would be proud of what we accomplished.

The Middle States site visit team indicated that we met all the requirements of the standards. A final reaccreditation report is due in the next few months and will include the evaluation team's recommendations, collegial advice and commendations.

## **ATHLETICS UPDATE**

Join me in extending a warm Marauder welcome to Coach Sharay Hall! Coach Hall is our new women's basketball head coach. She takes over following the retirement of Mary Fleig after 30 seasons. We can't thank Coach Fleig enough for her success and impact on the University, and now, we are excited to see Coach Hall carry on that winning Marauder tradition. Coach Hall is no stranger to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC). She was an All-PSAC East player at Lock Haven where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. She also coached at Lock Haven and Clarion. Most recently, she was an assistant coach at Colgate. We wish Coach Hall all the best, and we hope to see her team on the court soon.

While our Marauder teams aren't competing on the fields this fall, they still need your support. With our [Miles for Marauders](#) virtual distance challenge and the [2020 Football Frenzy](#), we have some fun opportunities for you to participate and interact while helping our student-athletes. The Miles for Marauders challenge will end on Oct. 19, so there is still time to compete. The Football Frenzy pits great plays from Millersville history against each other in a bracket-style format. To participate in this seven-week contest, simply make a donation of any amount.