

Millersville University

IMAGINE NEWSLETTER

“IMAGINE” is Millersville’s e-newsletter for friends of the University. Its goal is to share stories demonstrating the diversity of student learning experiences on campus while emphasizing the positive impact that private support makes in the lives of our students. As you will read, everyone can make a difference when we “Imagine the Possible.”



Transformative Gift

Establishes Lombardo Hall as Campus Space for Innovation and Collaboration

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At the groundbreaking ceremony: From l-r, Dena Lombardo, Dr. Samuel Lombardo, Dr. Daniel Wubah (president of Millersville University), Mike Warfel '84 (chairman of the Millersville University Council of Trustees) and Dr. Marc Tomljanovich (dean of the Lombardo College of Business).

At a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, August 20, 2021, outside the historic Brooks Hall building on campus, Millersville University proudly announced the largest single gift in its history — a \$5 million gift from Dr. Samuel Lombardo and his wife, Dena, toward funding the complete renovation of Brooks Hall to become the Samuel N. and Dena M. Lombardo Hall. The building transformation will provide the future physical home for the Lombardo College of Business to become a collaborative and inclusive campus space that brings together business, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The generous support from the Lombardos at Millersville University over the years has nurtured the success of thousands of students and will benefit generations of students in the future. The Lombardos' transformative gifts include a \$1.2 million gift in 2015 that made the Lombardo Welcome Center a reality, and a \$3 million gift in May 2020 that established the first named college in the history of Millersville University as the Lombardo College of Business.

Dr. and Mrs. Lombardo joined Millersville University President Dr. Daniel Wubah, Mike Warfel '84, chair of the Millersville University Council of Trustees, and Dr. Marc Tomljanovich, dean of the Lombardo College of Business, for the milestone

occasion. During the event press conference, Dr. Lombardo expressed his pride for Millersville University and its students. "This is a very profound moment for my wife and me. We have a lot of family that have benefited from an education at Millersville University, friends, myself — I employ quite a few Millersville graduates, and we're very happy to have them. We love what Millersville University does to educate their student body, and the type of people they turn out to be for our community. I'm so privileged and, as I said, profoundly moved by this moment," says Lombardo.

The tremendous impact of the generosity from the Lombardos is making a difference in the lives of students at Millersville University through the "Imagine the Possible" fundraising campaign. At the August groundbreaking ceremony, Millersville University introduced an additional campaign priority area of the "Imagine the Possible" campaign for "Campus Revitalization" and a new overall fundraising goal of raising \$90 million in private support by 2023. Thanks to the generous support for the "Imagine the Possible" campaign from donors over the past four years, the campaign has already raised more than \$81 million and reached more than 90% of the overall fundraising goal.

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"To be able to help business students realize their dreams is very important to me."

— Dr. Samuel Lombardo



At Lombardo Hall, students from the Lombardo College of Business will pursue academic study of traditional business programs like marketing, management, finance and accounting, along with interdisciplinary offerings such as data analytics, with flexible workspaces designed to foster creative transformation. Lombardo Hall will also provide opportunities for hands-on learning experiences, networking and interaction with the local and regional business community by hosting alumni, professional and community events and acting as a hub to engage faculty, students, local companies, startups, nonprofits and government agencies.

The historic building of Brooks Hall will be reimagined and renewed to maintain the tradition and legacy of the building while incorporating the latest technology. The building renovation project aligns with Millersville University's new strategic plan — "Tradition and Transformation." "As we implement our strategic plan — 'Tradition and Transformation' — there is perhaps no better project that fits this theme than the complete renovation of and addition to Brooks Hall to be the future home for the Lombardo College of Business, the University's first named college," says Dr. Daniel Wubah, president of Millersville University. The building's transformation into Lombardo Hall will begin a new chapter for the Brooks Hall building, which was constructed in 1938, to include new spaces that will prepare students for rewarding careers and future success. New spaces at Lombardo Hall will include Innovations Court, in the original location of the basketball court, a business lab for the Marauder Fund and

other student groups, an incubator space, a student lounge, Brooks Hall Museum, classrooms and student study areas.

In the building where legendary athletic victories were celebrated, Millersville University students will explore, innovate and collaborate. Lombardo Hall will become an integral part of the Millersville University campus and a space that will benefit the entire University community. In Lombardo Hall, Millersville University students will achieve greatness and discover new aspirations. The generosity of the Lombardos will allow Millersville University students to excel in business and in the community to become successful employees, leaders and citizens. As Dr. Lombardo says, "To be able to help business students realize their dreams is very important to me." The dreams of students will come true in Lombardo Hall, and their academic journeys will lead to life-changing careers and extraordinary accomplishments. ◆

REVITALIZE CAMPUS FOR THE FUTURE

Learn about the exciting plans to rejuvenate the campus landscape and create spaces where students will gather to innovate, explore and excel.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



MORGAN ATHLETIC COMPLEX

to Provide Championship Experience for Student-Athletes

Millersville Athletics recently announced a historic gift of \$1.5 million from Lois Morgan '54 that kick-started the fundraising campaign for the comprehensive renovation of Biemesderfer Stadium to become the Morgan Athletic Complex, in honor of Morgan's generous gift. The record-setting gift brought the campaign more than halfway to its initial \$2.5 million goal and is the single largest gift in the history of Millersville Athletics. Morgan has been a loyal supporter of Millersville Athletics for many years, and the Morgan Athletic Complex will be a top-notch athletic facility that will provide Millersville University student-athletes with a championship experience. "It's hard to put into words how generous Lois Morgan has been, not only with this gift but over the years. She truly understands the value of being a student-athlete and she understands the importance of giving them state-of-the-art facilities. We're so fortunate to have her behind this," says Miles Gallagher, Millersville University's director of athletics.

Renovation plans include an overhaul and expansion of the locker rooms and athletic training rooms at the stadium, with future phases of the plan to include the installation of a video scoreboard to replace the existing scoreboard from 2003, and a new press box. Biemesderfer Stadium was built in 1968 and named in honor of Dr. Daniel Luke Biemesderfer, Millersville's ninth president. The stadium is home to Millersville Athletics teams for football, field hockey, women's lacrosse and women's track and field. Additionally, the stadium hosts major events for the University and the community, including the annual spring undergraduate commencement ceremony, high school football games for neighboring Penn Manor High School and various camps and tournaments.

Modernization of the stadium will implement an intensive refresh that corresponds with advances in technology. Challenges with the existing locker room space include the physical layout of the area that is not configured efficiently, with some locker rooms designed in an "L" configuration that creates challenges in addressing the entire team at one time. The stadium renovation will improve inclusion and ADA accessibility, security and safety, and enhance efficiency that

will resolve issues with ventilation, tight corridors and small spaces in the existing stadium facility.

A beneficial impact of the Morgan Athletic Complex for Millersville Athletics will be enhanced athletic recruitment opportunities. "This is going to be a huge recruiting tool for our coaches to be able to walk a prospective student and their family through it, to know that they're going to have the type of facilities to have a championship experience," says Gallagher. Millersville University student-athletes and coaches will experience the benefits of improved team building in a top-notch facility that will foster competitive excellence. Gallagher explains, "For our current students, it gives them a space where they can function properly, where every student-athlete has a state-of-the-art locker room, the ability to get health care right there, as well as for us to modernize our process from an equipment perspective. It should give our student-athletes and coaches an unbelievable space to make their own and be able to operate the way they need to."

The renovation project to establish the Morgan Athletic Complex is part of the University's facility master plan and

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aligns with Millersville University’s new strategic plan, “Tradition and Transformation.” The fundraising effort is part of Millersville University’s ongoing “Imagine the Possible” campaign that recently introduced an additional campaign priority area of “Campus Revitalization.” The entire renovation project will be privately funded, and Morgan’s gift made a tremendous impact in supporting the project. In addition to Morgan’s historic gift, an additional \$1 million is needed for the initial phase of the renovation plan for the locker rooms.

To continue the fundraising momentum that began with Morgan’s gift, additional support is needed, and there are many opportunities for the Millersville University community to contribute to the renovation project. Gallagher states, “We’re going to need all of our Millersville family to be engaged and want to support this. There are all types of naming opportunities, the first being the locker rooms. We’re looking for people who would want to put their name behind our football or field hockey or lacrosse locker room. We also have corporate opportunities for naming. There’s going to be an opportunity for just about everyone to make an impact. We’re going to have opportunities for naming individual lockers — whether that’s an individual, an alum or maybe a group of alumni that are passionate about what they experienced here at Millersville. There’s going to be a way, no matter if you can give \$10 or \$1 million, that you can get involved. We’re just really thankful for everyone supporting it and rallying behind Lois’s gift to make this a reality for our student-athletes.”

FOOTBALL

Head Coach: J.C. Morgan



“Our student-athletes will benefit greatly from the renovation project at Biemesderfer Stadium. An enhanced facility will be a part of providing them the ultimate college football experience. The locker room renovation will also increase the potential to provide further interaction among each other, strengthening the brotherhood that the game can provide.

For our football family in general, this will give us another recruiting tool that will help us continue to attract quality student-athletes to Millersville.

“The support that our athletic department has received from Mrs. Morgan is incredible. It is great to have someone who continues to step up during these times. I know that her support has inspired other alumni to give back to Millersville Athletics and that momentum that we are gaining in fundraising will have a great impact for our student-athletes here at Millersville.

“This project will provide a tremendous boost in morale for our student-athletes... They completely understand that they will receive support here at Millersville and that a lot is being done to help them be the best that they can be. As they see the improvements take place at Biemesderfer Stadium, all they have to do is continue to show up every day, give their best effort and be a part of the great things that are happening here at the ‘Ville.”

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Head Coach: Cindy Wilson



"The creation of the Morgan Athletic Complex at Biemesderfer Stadium will provide a championship experience for Marauder student-athletes by providing a safe space for athletes to prepare for practices and competition as well as easy access to athletic trainers.

"The generous support by Lois Morgan has made a positive impact on our team by showing the continued commitment to growth and improvement of our athletic department. We consistently talk about providing a championship experience for our student-athletes, and her support allows us to put that into action.

"We have faced challenges in the configuration and space for storage as well as practice preparation both in our locker room and the athletic training room. All of these aspects will be improved through the renovation project.

"Looking to the future, our program continues to aspire to winning a PSAC Championship and competing in the NCAA tournament. The renovated, top-notch facility of the Morgan Athletic Complex will allow us to attain new levels of competition and experience."

FIELD HOCKEY

Head Coach: Shelly Behrens



"We have some amazing facilities at Millersville — but our infrastructure needs updated and with this we can now create that identity of championship experience in the short and long term.... When you are in an environment that allows you to thrive, you stretch beyond the thresholds of what you can achieve! This will be a

first-class center, thanks to Lois's and the athletic department's vision!

"Lois has met with our players in the past, and I am certainly excited to have her in front of this group. She takes to heart that our student-athletes are achieving in the classroom as well as on the field. Her generosity is a testament to our ability to create greater opportunities for our student-athletes to learn, grow, thrive and excel. 'Thank you' just does not seem like enough. Lois is an amazing teammate to Millersville Athletics.

"I love being the Millersville field hockey coach, and any time we get to have an opportunity to showcase Millersville

and showcase Millersville Athletics with our first-class facilities and infrastructure, you can show that this is a place that breeds success and that truly is invested in the students and student-athletes. We as a program always have high aspirations



and standards for ourselves personally as Millersville field hockey. Competing for and winning both PSAC and NCAA Championships is always in our eyesight and horizon. Having the total environment to support these visions is what the Morgan Athletic Complex will bring to field hockey and all our programs competing at Biemesderfer Stadium!"



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WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY

Head Coach: Andy Young



"Currently, the locker room space we use is also the visiting team locker room from football, field hockey and lacrosse, along with Penn Manor football. We often don't have access and have to clear our gear out. Having a secure space that we can use regularly will give our program a sense of home.

"Having a dedicated meeting space, a secure area to change, hang out and study space between classes and a sense of home will allow for a better sense of team, support academic success and will be a recruiting resource.

"We didn't have enough lockers for our whole team.... With no storage space, we have had a hard time securing our equipment, as the locker room is used over 30 times per year for visiting teams for four other sports....

"We have been battling to be one of the top teams in the PSAC for seven years. We have had two runner-up finishes, along with three third-place finishes. We hope to get over the hump. The improved space will allow us to better develop our culture along with recruiting future student-athletes to our program."



MAKE AN IMPACT *with your support*

Join the Millersville University community in creating a championship experience for student-athletes at the Morgan Athletic Complex.

[CLICK HERE](#) or visit Imagine.Millersville.edu for more information.



Alumni INVEST in Student Success

Scholarship Endowment Supports Students in Art and English

For Millersville University alumni **Eric '76, '99M, and Julie Miller '78**, making a difference in the lives of students by establishing a scholarship endowment is a valuable opportunity to invest in student success. In the 1970s, Eric and Julie attended college at Millersville and met during that time. "I transferred to Millersville State College from Shippensburg in January 1974 so I could earn a degree in art education. I received my B.S. in education in 1976. I earned my M.Ed. in art from Millersville University in 1999," says Eric. "Julie attended Millersville from 1974 - 1978, earning her B.A. in English. We met during our time at Millersville and have been together ever since."

After graduation, both Eric and Julie had successful careers in their respective industries. Eric explains, "In August 1978, I was hired as an art teacher in the Conewago Valley School District. Initially, I taught a mix of elementary and junior high classes, eventually teaching only grades 7-9. In 1992, I was reassigned to the high school, teaching art in grades 9-12. I was the art department chairperson (K-12) for nearly half my career. During my tenure, I oversaw the expansion of the art department as the district grew and I helped update the art curriculum at all levels. I retired in 2010 after 32 years of service."



Julie '78 and Eric Miller '76, '99M

In 2012, Julie retired from BAE Systems as director of logistics engineering. She began her career in 1985 at BMY (now BAE Systems), a defense contractor based in York, Pennsylvania, as a technical editor. "Julie rose through the ranks in various technical and management positions where documentation was a key element," Eric notes. "Her background in English proved to be essential in her career development and advancement."

The career success that Eric and Julie experienced motivated them to give back and support students at Millersville University by creating a scholarship endowment. "Julie and I both had long and rewarding careers. We believe that our success and good fortune is largely a result of the education we received at Millersville. This scholarship is just our way of giving back in a way that will help future students as they work toward their careers."

In 2019, Eric and Julie established the **Miller Art Education and English Excellence Scholarship** to be awarded to a rising sophomore, junior or senior who is either an art education major or an English (B.A.), alternating years between the two disciplines. As Eric explains, "Julie and I hope that our scholarship is able to lighten the financial burden of deserving students working toward degrees in art and English."

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We structured the scholarship to support the recipients over multiple years, recognizing that financing college doesn't get any easier as a junior or senior. We want future students at MU to have the same opportunities we did, and we hope that a scholarship will encourage the recipients to continue to pursue their dreams."

The Millers were inspired to establish a scholarship from their knowledge of outstanding students with the ambition to attend college who did not have the necessary financial resources. Eric states, "In my career in public education, I became very aware of the financial burden a college education can create for a family. This, of course, increased dramatically over time. I knew some talented students who wanted to attend college but just couldn't do it because the money wasn't there for them. Julie and I both believe that scholarships can help make a college education affordable and possible for students who might otherwise find it difficult. Young people are our future, and it's extremely important to make sure that all those who want a college education have the opportunity to pursue it."

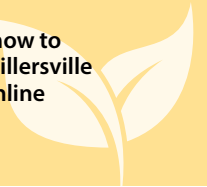
Now that Eric and Julie are both retired, they serve on the board of directors for the Hanover Area Arts Guild, where Julie is the board secretary and Eric is chair of the show planning and scholarship committees. Eric shows his paintings in the Arts Guild gallery, as well as several other area venues. He is a

signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society and a member of the Adams County Arts Council and the Franklin County Art Alliance.

As Millersville University has grown in recent years, Eric and Julie are proud of the changes that they've seen on campus. As Eric notes, "Over the past several years, Julie and I have been very impressed by the growth and improvements we've seen at MU, not only to the buildings and campus, but in the programs and curriculum. The leadership at MU since Julie and I attended has done an amazing job of making Millersville a top-notch institution."

In looking to the future, the Millers feel strongly about making a positive impact in the lives of students through education. Eric and Julie shared that because they have no children of their own to send to college, they wanted to do something to help other young people who are pursuing an education in the fields in which they studied at Millersville. "It's an investment in the future, and what could be a better investment?" ♦

If you are interested in learning more about how to create a **scholarship endowment** with the Millersville University Foundation, you can learn more online at www.millersville.edu/give or contact the Development Office at 717-871-7520.





Celebrate

Millersville University's **SWAN DROP** at Homecoming 2021



Support the restoration of our beloved pond/lake by donating to Millersville University's Swan Drop!

In the center of the Millersville University campus, the historic and iconic campus pond/lake is the site of treasured memories for alumni, students and friends, and home to the University's two resident swans, Miller and S'Ville. Currently, an algae bloom in the pond water has created a critical need for restoration to maintain a healthy habitat. These vital environmental improvements require financial support and donations from the University community.

To address this need, Millersville University has introduced the Swan Drop event that will take place this year on Saturday, October 16, as part of the University's Homecoming celebration. The event will highlight the campus pond restoration project. Everyone is welcome to participate in this special event by making a donation to receive a rubber swan that will be dropped from a crane onto a target on the nearby Brooks Field. Prizes will be awarded for the swans closest to the center of the target, including gift certificates to the Millersville University Store and Millersville swag. The top three prize-winning swans will receive personalized pavers around the pond.

There are already nearly 2,000 swans included in the Swan Drop from donor gifts. There is still time to give, and plenty of swans are up for grabs! Every swan has a chance to win a prize. It's easy to participate by making a donation and receiving a rubber swan that will be included in the Swan Drop. With a gift of \$10, donors will receive one rubber swan in the Swan Drop, with opportunities to receive greater numbers of swans, including a Drift (5 swans) or a Regatta (10 swans) with gifts of larger amounts.

The campus pond/lake holds a special place in the hearts of many alumni and friends, and there are personalized pavers available to donors that will be installed and displayed around the pond. This is a perfect way to commemorate warm memories from Millersville University in the personalized paver inscription. There are more than 70 pavers that are planned to be installed around the campus pond already, and there is still time for donors to make a gift to receive a paver.

Donations to receive swans and pavers can be made online at www.millersville.edu/swandrop. Swans will be available until the time of the Swan Drop event on October 16, at a stand where donors can make last minute gifts.

We hope that many alumni and friends will come out to watch the **Swan Drop at Homecoming on October 16, 2021**. In addition to the Swan Drop, there will be lots of other fun activities! **Visit www.millersville.edu/homecoming** for a full list of events happening throughout the weekend, and for registration. Please be aware that registration is required for all events this year during Homecoming weekend. This includes the Swan Drop, which is part of the 'Ville Block Party. ♦

PARTICIPATE
in the Swan Drop with a Gift

You can receive swans or pavers with donations to the Swan Drop, and your support will help to restore a healthy habitat at the campus pond.

[CLICK HERE](#) to make a gift and learn more.



“Imagine *the* Possible”

CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENT

New Goals and Campus Revitalization Priority Area

Last year, Millersville University announced an extension of the “Imagine the Possible” campaign to support student success during an unprecedented period of challenges, to provide essential funding for students and enhance the student experience. After exceeding the original \$32 million campaign goal over a three-year period and raising more than 165% of the fundraising goal, the University is proud to announce a new overall campaign goal of \$90 million and introduce an additional campaign priority of **Campus Revitalization**. The new priority area will revitalize campus with state-of-the-art physical spaces, top-notch facilities and equipment to allow students to innovate, explore, compete and excel. ♦

[Click here](#) to learn more about the campaign or visit Imagine.Millersville.edu

Campaign Goal: \$90M in private support by 2023

<p><i>Scholarships:</i></p> <p>\$17M</p>	<p><i>Student Learning Experiences:</i></p> <p>\$50M</p>	<p><i>Marauder Athletics:</i></p> <p>\$8M</p>	<p><i>Campus Revitalization</i></p> <p>\$15M</p>
<p>PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:</p> <p>103%</p>	<p>PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:</p> <p>101%</p>	<p>PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:</p> <p>79%</p>	<p>PERCENT TOWARD GOAL:</p> <p>45%</p>

'VILLE FOOTBALL PLAYER ACHIEVES *Game-Changing Success with Scholarships*



Stephen Sweeney '22

HOMETOWN | West Chester, PA

MAJOR | Construction Management

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

Football Game Changer 1960s Decade Scholarship
Gabriel J. Geiger Jr. '52 Memorial Football
Scholarship Endowment

"I chose Millersville because I felt it was the best place for me to excel at academics and athletics. The thing I enjoy most about being a student-athlete is being able to make memories with my friends and teammates.

"The support of scholarships has allowed me to really focus on academics, with less stress about financial aid. These scholarships have made a positive impact on my life because they allow me to play confidently. They allow me to play football, and I am able to say my coaches have confidence in me. The scholarships have made a difference in my life and my family's life by helping financially but also having that feeling of being valued by my coaches.

"My greatest athletic accomplishment here at Millersville University would be earning PSAC East Defensive Athlete of the Week of Week 1 during the 2019-2020 season. Also, winning most improved player my freshman year. The thing I enjoy most about being part of the football team here is playing the sport I love with great teammates and coaches. Having all of that allows me to make memories that will last a lifetime. The coach who has had the most positive impact would be Coach Sutjak. Every day since I started as a freshman here, he has believed in me and encouraged me to step up as a leader.

"I chose to study construction management because it is a unique program most other schools do not offer that will present many job opportunities later in life. The most valuable learning experiences I have had are when I am out of my comfort zone. I used a lot of machines and software that are new to me, and being able to have the facility and proper equipment is beneficial. My greatest academic achievement here at Millersville is making the dean's list every semester since I began here. My career goals and plan for the future are to work hard and pursue happiness." ♦

SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS *for Student-Athletes*

Your generosity allows outstanding student-athletes like Stephen to experience success on the field and in the classroom.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Millersville University
Office of Development

[P 717-871-7520](tel:717-871-7520) [F 717-871-7899](tel:717-871-7899) [W millersville.edu/give](http://millersville.edu/give)

Millersville University, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551-0302