

As daylight grows shorter and the air a little colder, I am reminded that finals week and Winter Commencement are upon us. I often ponder how the fall semester can defy the calendar and seemingly pass us by in the blink of an eye. It feels like just a moment ago that we welcomed our students to campus during EPPIIC weekend in the warmth of the summer sun.

Judith and I were excited to kick off the festive season at the Glorious Sounds of the Season concert this past weekend at the Winter Center. This is one of our signature Millersville events and reaches so many members of our community who come back to the show each December. Our students were sensational, and our faculty designed a wonderful show from the opening number to the final sing-along. It's a pleasure to see our students and faculty create an unparalleled musical experience for the entire family. Thank you to all those individuals who played a part in the production on stage and behind the curtain.

I am equally excited to celebrate the success of our December graduates at the Winter Commencement on Saturday, December 9. Our commencement exercises are the culmination of years of hard work and sacrifice by our students and their families. Our graduates have diligently completed their degree requirements and earned their special moment walking the graduation stage. I extend my hearty congratulations to the graduates and their families and offer my thanks to the faculty and staff who helped prepare them for bright futures ahead.

In this edition of my monthly updates, you can learn more about two recent grant awards that move the

The five-year \$3,448,451 grant from [NSF's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation program](#) is a joint effort of Millersville, East Stroudsburg University, Slippery Rock University and West Chester University. Dr. Gail Gasparich, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Millersville, is the primary investigator.

The goal of the Keystone LSAMP program is to increase the number of students graduating with a STEM bachelor's degree by at least 20%, from 70 graduates a year to 84 or more. "To meet this goal, we will increase the recruitment and retention of STEM majors

The reception area allows visitors to contact the police department in a safe, welcoming environment.

The conference room adjacent to the reception area allows students and visitors to meet with officers in a semiprivate location.

A copy and records room near the parking office increases the security of confidential material and streamlined workflow.

The department added an interview room which is a safe environment for trauma informed interviews or discussing sensitive topics, including sexual assault, stalking, and dating or domestic violence situations. The furniture and colors of the room were designed to provide warmth and care to survivors and advocates.

The patrol area of the station provides officers, supervisor and management with a work area that also streamlines workflow. CCTV monitors provide an easy ability for officers to review reported concerns.

A climate controlled, evidence processing and secure storage area was added that meets accredited law enforcement standards for police evidence.

The locker room facilities allow for separate male and female locker and restroom space for the officers. A shower and separate restroom for detainees is also available.

A secure section of the building that features an interview room and a soft detention room.

There is a processing area for fingerprinting and photographs of detainees.

There is a storage room for police bicycles and a K-9 rest area for Brooks. Bauman notes the importance of the police station being closer to the students on campus.

Bauman notes the importance of the police station being closer to the students on campus. "MUPD was housed in a 100+ year old building that exceeded its service life. The location was also at the edge of campus and was a standalone location. Moving to Boyer has the department in the middle of campus, reducing response time to most areas of the campus. Additionally, being housed in a building where other student activities take place improves the engagement between officers and the student community we serve."

IT Renovations

The renovations also have a positive impact on the IT department too. Josh Hartranft, executive director of technical solutions at MU, notes how the renovations improved the space the department works in. "IT was displaced for a little over a year while the renovations occurred. New windows and lighting were added to improve the visibility in the spaces. The proximity also improves collaboration between the departments. Not only do the renovations impact the IT department and the MUPD, but students also get to make use of the improved space. Students taking IT classes have the opportunity to tour the new building and learn all about the network systems that are housed there.

Hartranft explains how the renovations will positively impact the campus. "The renovations have helped improve the department. The Help Desk location is in the center of the building right by reception, so students will not need to wander the halls for help."

Overall, Hartranft notes that the renovations have improved the work life of the IT department. "The

With their new and improved space, the MUPD thanks the leaders of the project for providing them with a closer location to the campus community. "The new station should allow MUPD to serve the Millersville University community for many years to come. This could not have happened without the support of many in the community. We would especially like to thank President Wubah and former vice president for finance Gilbert Brown in spearheading the effort to complete this project," Bauman said.

CONESTOGA CLUB CLEANS CAMPUS

The Conestoga Outdoors Club at Millersville University was quite busy beautifying campus by cleaning up trash recently – over 460 pounds of it, in fact. Thanks to the club's efforts and the help of volunteers from other organizations, Millersville University is maintaining its goals for sustainable development.



Dominick DeLorenzo, a senior business major with a minor in occupational safety and environmental health, is vice president of the club. He explains that the trash collection helped clean up both the University's grounds and the surrounding community. "Our volunteers collected trash from all around our campus and from the surrounding community. We had volunteers collecting trash on Student Lodging property, Penn Manor property and from private property around the parking garage and Sugar Bowl."

He continues, "We also had members from our club in the University's biological preserve and members of the Angler's Club in the Conestoga River collecting trash."

The club had over 100 volunteers helping out, including many from other clubs and organizations on campus, such as the MU Honors College, the Sustainability Club, the Student Business Association, several club sports and teams, the American Society of Safety Professionals and even the current 'Perspectives in Environmental Awareness' class, just to name a few.

After the COVID-19 epidemic, the club restructured and now offers a wider variety of activities like hiking, rock climbing, caving, backpacking, camping, kayaking and canoeing, as well as its community service projects. The club also hosts about one social event a week, using the time to educate members on topics like outdoor safety, hunting and trapping safety, backpacking and more.

"We have a ton of activities planned for the upcoming semester and next," says DeLorenzo. "Our members just completed a two-day, one-night 14-mile backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail this past weekend, a camping trip to Hickory Run State Park over fall break and will be continuing to host at least one social event and/or hike a week. We will be doing more camping, backpacking and hiking trips next semester; last spring break our members camped at Shannondoah State Park for four days."

DeLorenzo acknowledges the help the club received not just from students but from outside organizations as well. "We would like to give a very special thanks to all our volunteers from every club and organization that sent their members, but a very special thank you to our two sponsors, the Lancaster

The freshman has been red hot this season for the Marauders. In 10 games played, Sensenig leads Millersville in total points with 18. So far this season, Sensenig scored 11 goals while posting 7 assists.

Millersville looks to rally back from their six losses. One of which they just came up short against a team that was projected to dominate them in every aspect of the game. On Nov. 4, Millersville squared off against Montgomery, where they fell 4-3 in over

A noted scholar, Desmond's research in international education and the culture of schooling has been published in books and more than 30 articles. Along with Dr. Laurie Hanich, a Millersville professor in the Education Foundations department, she recently completed "Wellness Works in Schools: The practice and research of a mindfulness program in urban middle schools," a chapter in the "Handbook of Mindfulness-Based Programs."

Additionally, Desmond served as a program chair for the American Educational Research Association biennial conference and chair of the Biographical and Documentary Research Special Interest Group.

Desmond shares her commitment to DEI in the Lancaster community, serving as an elected member of the School District of Lancaster school board and on its equity committee.