

It seems like just yesterday that we kicked off the start of the semester at the State of the 'Ville. Yet, here we are at the end of the fall semester and getting ready to celebrate the holiday season. As I proclaimed in the State of the 'Ville speech, it is going to be a great year! I am proud to report that we are well on our way to fulfilling that pledge, and it is truly reflective of the efforts of our entire campus community. Thank you all for your unwavering support of our students and our university.

In this month's issue, I highlight our fall commencement ceremony that took place this past weekend. We celebrated the academic success of over 400 graduates and we honored six distinguished alumni for their hard work and dedication. It was a glorious day! In addition, I want to call your attention to our new degree program in Population Health and the promise of a new piece of scientific equipment, both of which will make a difference for our current and future students. Finally, my speci-

Another one of our stellar students crossing the stage was Steve Forsythe who graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in mathematics. Steve had a tough journey, but is now on track and already landed a job as an Actuarial Analyst in Lancaster.

I am excited to see these programs develop over the next year.

NEW MICROSCOPE

The hard work of our faculty in the College of Science and Technology has paid off with a National Science Foundation grant (\$287,234) to purchase a Scanning Electron Microscope. The instrument will be a strategic resource for our institution and the surrounding community because it will advance scientific inquiries and drive collaborative research among academic institutions and industry.

We have not had a microscope with this type of capabilities since 2012. It will allow our students to work with and understand the functionality of a state-of-the-art, advanced microscope while studying structures that previously couldn't be seen. Right now, the highest attainable magnifications with the light microscopes on campus are around 1,000 times. The new electron microscope can attain magnification higher than 300,000 times. Students and professors will soon be able to study tiny nanostructures. Previously, they had to travel to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington D.C. to use such equipment. Now, we have that right here in Millersville.

The microscope will also provide opportunities to work with our local schools and organizations. The grant proposal highlighted how Millersville would work with Lancaster County schools and non-profits, like the North Museum and Lancaster Science Factory, to use the instrument. We are excited about future collaborations with these organizations.

I would like to thank Dr. Maria Schiza, the Principal Investigator of the National Science Foundation Grant, along with co-PI's Drs. Christopher Hardy, Charlton Wolfgang and Jeremiah Mbindyo. We expect the new Scanning Electron Microscope to be in use by the 2020 fall semester.

UPDATE ON 2025 STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The fall semester has been a busy time for the countless members of faculty, staff and students who volunteered their time to participate in the 2025 Strategic Planning Design process. More than 80 members of our campus community are members of the All University Council (AUC), which has been charged with crafting our next strategic plan.

Through the hard work of the Phase Teams and under the leadership of Assistant Vice President for Institutional Assessment and Planning, Dr. Lisa Shibley; Interim Chief of Staff, Dr. Victor DeSantis; and Associate Professor of Communications & Theatre, Dr. Jennifer Wood, the AUC has examined the University's mission and vision statements and begun the work of crafting strategic issues that will guide goals and objectives for the University.

The AUC is currently seeking feedback on the mission and vision statements from our wider University community. Tomorrow is your last chance to [fill out this survey](#). Don't miss the opportunity. Dr. Shibley says that the AUC and Phase Teams have worked very hard this semester to lay the groundwork for a strong strategic plan that will see Millersville University into 2025. Recommendations from the AUC have been given to the Strategic Advisory Council for their review. When we return from winter break, the work will continue. Next steps for the group are moving, "from the conceptual to the practical phase," as Dr. DeSantis told the team at their last meeting.

STATE VISITS

Millersville received attention this fall from two state agencies; we had the pleasure of hosting both the Secretary of Human Services for Pennsylvania and the Auditor General for Pennsylvania.

On Nov. 20, Secretary Teresa Miller toured Millersville University's Campus Cupboard food

