MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY | PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Dear Millersville University Community,
As I look through my office window this summer, I often see groups of parents and
prospective students walking across our beautiful campus. Their presence is a reminder of
the energy that our campus emits when the sidewalks and pathways are filled with thousands
of students. I can’t wait to see this level of energy return to our campus in a few weeks. I
hope that you are finding time to fit in some well-deserved rest and relaxation this summer,
but I also hope that, like me, your mind is beginning to turn to the fall and the renewed
energy that it will bring.

A few reminders for the fall; remember that we want you to Be Safe, which begins
with getting vaccinated. We also want you to Be Empowered, which includes having a plan
for our employees to return to campus and, for our students, your continued success at
Millersville. We want you to Be Innovative at work and in the classroom by leveraging the
return to campus to learn, grow and inspire others. Most of all, we want you to Be EPPIIC
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SUMMER RENOVATIONS AT MILLERSVILLE
One of the constants on most university campuses during the summer is a cacophony of
construction noise. As we prepare for the return of students for the fall semester, our campus
is buzzing with such noise due to several ongoing projects. Below, I share a few of these
projects.
Facilities
x

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x The Fiat Lux Society will have a donor recognition wall and walkway northeast of the
Francine G. McNairy Library and Learning Forum that runs parallel to George Street.

FILM DIGITIZATION PROJECT GIVES STUDENTS GLIMPSE INTO THE
PAST
This summer, WGAL and Millersville University are continuing our partnership to preserve
history-making moments of the past. The digitization project, first announced in the fall of
2019, involves converting films from old footage that made the headlines on WGAL from
1949 to 1979 into electronic files. It is likely that this film archive contains rare footage of
historical events in central Pennsylvania that may have been forgotten.
Once digitized, the film clips will be put on a cloud server for long-term storage. As the
project advances, the collection will be searchable and curated clips will be available to the
public to view via the University’s digital collections at https://millersville.tind.io/.
Thousands of film clips were examined by the MU Archives and Special Collections
Department to select those that need attention. The films contain footage of local interest,
such as the Farm Show in Harrisburg and the York Fair. These films also provide a regional
lens for important national movements such as a Vietnam prisoner of war’s homecoming and
the 1969 York, PA protests against racism and police violence. We expect the film archive to
provide critical insight into the history of our region.
Recent MU graduate Adam Omar was hired to work on the project as his first job out of
college. He is using a specialized film scanner to digitize the film to ensure that these
moments are preserved.
Student learning is at the center of the project. MU plans to create an interdisciplinary project
team of student interns to work on the preservation and digitization of the archive. Students
will help with everything from inventorying the film to developing a scanning process and
preparing the film for the in-house digitization process.
For more on the project, click here Digitization Project.

NEW PROGRAM PROMOTES EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL
EARTH AND OCEAN SCIENCES

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Millersville University recently announced the creation of a new Bachelor of Science degree in
Environmental Earth and Ocean Sciences (EEOS) with concentrations in Environmental
Geology, Environmental Ocean Sciences and Environmental Earth Sciences. Students will start
enrolling in the new degree this fall. The new EEOS degree replaces five traditional earth
sciences programs with a contemporary curriculum that will engage students in hands-on
field and laboratory-intensive activities that will train them to solve today’s complex
environmental problems.
EEOS students will gain technical expertise in investigative methods and practical experience
in communicating environmental science to both novice and professional audiences.
Graduates of the environmental geology concentration meet the necessary curricular
requirements to be eligible for professional licensure; graduates of the BS EEOS program will
be able to immediately step into a variety of careers, including:
x Environmental Scientist
x Environmental Monitoring Specialist
x Geologist/Field Geologist
x Oceanographer
x
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recommended that students in the program have at least three years of special education
teaching experience.
The program was officially updated two years ago after the University recognized the need
for a program for special education teachers looking to continue their education after already
being placed in a career.
Many of the new classes within the program focus on advanced topics such as leadership,
collaboration and research. The classes use a hybrid approach to give students time to
implement their new skills in their own classrooms.
One of the biggest changes to the program is that rather than completing a thesis or field
placement, students in the program will experience a specialized capstone activity.
Dr. Richard Mehrenberg says the program is designed to foster excellence in the special
education classroom. He explains that the thesis is a culminating activity more beneficial for
someone pursuing a career as a professor or formal researcher.
For the capstone activity, each student is paired with an advisor who works with them to
identify strengths, interests and goals. Together, an individual plan is written and created to