

circumstances, this saying applies but not in our current turbulent times. Due to the uncertain times in which we find ourselves, it has become necessary to come up with creative and experimental solutions to address unexpected challenges that appear to emanate from nowhere on a daily basis. Hence we seem to be removing thorns from our clothes while standing in the middle of thorns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That is when our core value the pandemic have been rooted in being resourceful. I am glad to say that our community what the Marauder community is all about?

for their beautiful music. And we recognize the faculty, staff and students who are partnering with a local school district to support students and families in need. Our campus community never ceases to amaze me and our EPPIIC values continue to shine brightly.

Be kind, be safe and stay healthy.

On May 9, nearly 1,200 undergraduate and graduate students became alumni of our University. While our spring 2020 commencement was far from typical, in true Marauder fashion, we found many ways to celebrate this important milestone for our graduates.

Our student [a cappella group dedicated a song](#) to the graduates online, our caring [alumni sent in recorded messages](#) of well-wishes and encouragement for our newest alums, many students posted photos of their own celebrations online using the hashtag [#villegrad20](#) and much, much more.

[Amber Liggett](#)

At this time, I am proud to graduate you this May. As a proud Marauder, she says Millersville really shaped her into the professional she is today.

I am so proud of each and every one of our students who earned their degrees this spring. Allow me to reassure you once more that we will hold an in-person celebration for the class of 2020 in the future. Our graduates and their families will receive at least 45 days notice ahead of the ceremony.

Nearly every aspect of normal life has been affected by the coronavirus. Our students felt the enormity of the impact, for example many lost their on-campus jobs, they had to move home or with friends, and some did not have the tools or resources needed for remote learning. It quickly became clear that as a university we needed to support our students during this difficult time by providing emergency funds for basic needs.

The EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund was established and has awarded more than \$23,000 to help students with rent, groceries, laptops and other immediate needs. Generous alumni,

Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Champion Scholar Award for the second year in a row. Every year only 23 athletes, one in each sport, receive this prestigious award. Although the spring season was canceled and no championship was held, PSAC still recognized its top student-

e conference.

As an epitome of a student-athlete, he is the only Marauder to ever win the award twice. Not only does he achieve at a high level in the classroom, but he also excels on the court. Ben was 7-1 in singles and 5-1 doubles pairing this season. His play has helped the Marauders go from 2-14 just two years ago to a regionally ranked program. Additionally, Ben represents his fellow student-athletes by serving as the treasurer of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Ben's incredible improvement and how Ben represents Millersville University as a student-athlete.

While the sudden transition to remote learning was challenging for many individuals on campus, it was especially difficult for our student a cappella group, Chromatic Expansion. How do you translate a complex activity like singing without instruments, an exercise that requires in-person and real-time collaboration and feedback, into an online environment?

noticed a lot of people were lamenting the loss of activities and events in which they expected to participate. So, he thought about how he could use music to bring some light to this dark time. He worked quickly with the members of Chromatic Expansion, getting them to submit recordings of themselves singing their individual parts of an a cappella arrangement compiled into a video.

followers. To date, that video has reached nearly 90,000 people on Facebook alone. Noah says they wanted to remind people they are not alone, that there are people who care about them even though we may not be physically together.

I would like to express my appreciation to Noah, the student members of Chromatic Expansion and all of the faculty members of the Tell School of Music for their continued support of this group and others. Your work has brought joy to our Millersville family and others across the globe.

Supporting our family, friends and neighbors has never been more important than during these challenging times created by the pandemic. In that spirit, a group of Millersville University students have volunteered to support our neighbors, the students and families of the Penn Manor School District (PMSD), in their transition to online learning.

A new partnership between MU and PMSD connected our students with more than 50 local

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Millersville students do not provide teaching-specific services, they are helping families with a variety of online learning platforms including Zoom, Google Docs, Google Hangout and Google Classroom. This partnership was made possible by the teamwork of Dr. Nazli Hardy, computer science; Allison Yarrow, Campus Recreation and Lori Leaman, Civic & Community Engagement, in collaboration with the senior leadership at Penn Manor.

I am thrilled to see our students reaching out in creative fashion to support our neighbors during this unsettling time. This program demonstrates two of our EPPIIC Values, Public Mission and Compassion, and I am proud of the hard work that is being done by all members of our University community. Our hope is that this partnership will help to strengthen the existing bonds between Millersville and Penn Manor, and let local students and their families know that they can find new support systems in this difficult time.