Community Philanthropists Give $1 Million

Samuel N. Lombardo and his wife Dena both grew up in Lancaster County and have lived here their entire lives. They want to make a difference where they live and work and to that extent they have graciously given Millersville University of Pennsylvania a $1 million gift to help build a Net Zero Energy building on campus. The building will serve as the Welcome Center for the University, hosting thousands of prospective students and visitors each year.

Sam is a well-known insurance entrepreneur and is the chairman and CEO of the Lititz-based Benecon Group, which develops and administers self-funded health insurance products through the brokerage market in 15 states. His companies gained national recognition when they were listed four different times by Inc. Magazine as one of the “500 Fastest Growing Companies in America.”

“Sam and Dena are not only extraordinary friends of the University, but they have the foresight to see how their investment will impact thousands of people each year,” said Dr. John Anderson, president of Millersville University. “What a meaningful way to invest in a building that will provide educational opportunities for our University students as well as K-12 students about understanding the importance of sustainability and seeing it put into practice.”

“Having spent my early adult professional life in the Millersville area I became very familiar with the college,” said Sam Lombardo “And, I served on the Lancaster Symphony Board with Jerry Eckert [retired vice president of advancement at MU]. Jerry got me involved with Millersville during the renovations at McComsey Hall and the plans for the performing arts center. When John Anderson came on board, he told me about the new Net Zero Energy building coming into play and the whole idea of the welcoming center intrigued me. I’m flattered that our name will be on the building.” The official name of the building will be the “Lombardo Welcome Center.”
“My companies have been very successful and we are financially blessed. I like giving back. We want to share our blessings,” said Lombardo.

In 2007, the University presented Sam with an honorary doctorate degree of letters. The Lombardos have been generous contributors to Millersville’s Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center and the renovation of McComsey Hall. Additionally, Sam and Dena Lombardo have been benefactors of other community programs involving children and education in the region; giving to The Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, Schreiber Pediatrics, the Clinic for Special Children and Franklin & Marshall College.

The goal of the Net Zero Energy Building is to produce as much energy as it uses over the course of a year. The $7.5 million, 15,000 square-foot building will incorporate solar panels, water conservation and renewable materials. It is scheduled to be ready by January 2017 and will be constructed near the new residence halls on the south side of campus. The building will showcase Millersville’s commitment to sustainability and will relocate the Welcome Center for prospective students to a more centralized location on campus. The new building will also house the admissions office, administrative offices and will feature a sustainability-focused educational atrium, which will annually host more than 10,000 visitors.

Biology Student is Headed Out to Sea

When Sarah Way gathered supplies for the new school year, she didn’t reach for a binder or a notebook; she grabbed a snorkel.

Way was awarded a $31,645 scholarship to join a 17-week immersion program as part of the Williams College’s Maritime Studies Program in Mystic, CT.

The Maritime Studies Program is an “academic investigation of the sea.”

Way, an environmental biology major, will have the chance to study the science, history, policy and literature of the world’s oceans. It’s not rare for classes in the program to occur on boats and beaches, while hands-on field research will take students to the Great Lakes, the California coast and Louisiana.
“The program seems like a perfect fit for me because of the interdisciplinary approach they take to learning about the ocean,” Way said. “I am a science major and obviously interested in that aspect of the course work, but I am also an avid reader and very interested in history, so I was drawn to the maritime literature class and the fact that the campus is actually a museum!”

Prior to being admitted to the program, Way spent the summer taking classes at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station (CBFS) where she experienced hands-on fieldwork opportunities by trapping, fishing and more. She hopes to expand the knowledge and experience she gained from CBFS through the Maritime Studies Program.

“I got to learn far more about marine ecosystems at the field station than I would have [on a] campus,” Way said. “The classes were very interesting content-wise and were definitely enhanced by the field work.”

More information on Millersville University's biology program can be found at http://www.millersville.edu/biology/index.php.

Dr. McIlwaine Receives President’s Medallion

One of the highest honors Millersville University bestows is the President’s Medallion, which recognizes individuals, businesses or organizations who have demonstrated a commitment to the universal values of higher education. Dr. William B. McIlwaine, emeritus professor, will receive the award at the University’s Convocation in the Winter Center on Aug. 28.

McIlwaine, a member of Millersville’s faculty from 1958-91, is a distinguished educator and respected leader in the Millersville community and beyond. He is also a decorated veteran of World War II.

“Dr. McIlwaine, whose perseverance in the face of adversity, and whose far-reaching and trailblazing work in higher education has impacted thousands of students in Pennsylvania and across the country, is a treasure to Millersville
University,” said Dr. John Anderson, president of Millersville. “As a lifelong educator, Dr. McIlwaine epitomizes the spirit of this award.”

A member of what is referred to as “the greatest generation,” McIlwaine served in the 3rd Army, 80th Infantry Division, 317th Infantry Regiment. As a soldier, he fought across Europe including the Battle of the Bulge where he was wounded by artillery fire. In May 1945, his unit liberated inmates from the Nazi concentration camp in Ebensee, Austria. For his bravery and contributions, he was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and Four Theatre of Operation Stars.

After the war, he completed his education at Boston University—earning a bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees. In 1950, he married his sweetheart Melva. They had two sons and two daughters and made a wonderful life together in Millersville.

At Millersville, he was the first director for grants and awards—developing proposals and requests that brought more than $1 million to the University; chairman for the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education; and emeritus professor of science education. McIlwaine also served as chairman of the earth sciences department, where he taught geology. Through his leadership he fostered a joint effort with the geology department of Franklin and Marshall College. He also developed a program in student teaching for the Navajo Indian reservation.

He and his beloved wife, Melva, who passed away in 2009, established a geology scholarship at Millersville as well as the McIlwaine Master Class for young musicians to hone their skills and abilities.

Although McIlwaine has been retired for more than two decades, he remains an active member of Millersville University. He serves on the University’s Council of Trustees and MU’s Foundation Board. He also serves as treasurer of the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees (PACT).

On July 7, 2014, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s Board of Governors honored McIlwaine for his outstanding academic and military service. This fall, McIlwaine was selected to be the Grand Marshal of the Millersville Parade on October 24, an annual event held during homecoming festivities.

McIlwaine has received numerous accolades and awards over his lifetime. A few of those include being selected as a scholar to participate in the Diplomat/Scholar Program, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.; selected to participate in the First Inner-American Conference on Culture, Cognition and Science, Panama City, Panama; selected to be the science educator member of a delegation to visit China for a series of academic exchanges and he was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, National Association of Boards of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators.
In addition to Millersville, McIlwaine has dedicated his time to many other local, regional and national organizations. A few of them include Phi Delta Kappa, the National Collegiate Honors Council, the National Science Teachers Association, Boy Scouts of America, YMCA Board of Directors of Lancaster, Pa., Millersville Borough Council – serving as president 1972-74, and the National Association Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators– serving as chairman, budget and finance committee, treasurer, vice president and president.

East Is Open

The East Villages have opened. The completion of this 601-bed residence hall marks the end of Phase II of the housing project.

In the location of old Hobbs and Lenhardt Halls, East Villages is a U-shaped residence hall with two mirrored sides (A and B) and a beautiful courtyard in the middle. Housing options inside the East Villages include single occupancy semi suite, double occupancy semi suite and the all-new pod living.

The single occupancy semi suite and the double occupancy semi suite are exact replicas of those found in the South Villages (est. August 2014). Based on resident survey results, the double occupancy full suite found in the South Villages has been eliminated from the design of the East Villages and West Villages (scheduled to open August 2016).

Single occupancy suites include two single bedrooms that measure 111 sq. ft., one bathroom and a common foyer area. Double occupancy suites include two double bedrooms that measure 203 sq. ft., two bathrooms and a common foyer area.

A pod has 10 single bedrooms that measure 111 sq. ft. each and two large bathrooms with two toilets and two showers in each. Each pod has a large common living area equipped with couches, tables, a flat-screen TV and a kitchenette. The kitchenette comes with approximately eight cabinet spaces, a few drawers, a sink, a microwave and a full-size refrigerator.
There is a full kitchen and laundry room for use of all residents located on the second floor of each side. The kitchen comes with an oven, refrigerator, sink and microwave. The laundry room has eight washers and eight dryers. For the first few weeks of the fall semester, laundry in the East Villages will be coin-operated only. The Marauder Gold swipe machine will be installed during that time.

All windows found in the East Villages open up to four inches. Both semi suites and pod style living will have one thermostat that controls the temperature of the entire unit. All bedrooms are cable ready for residents that wish to bring a TV.

Each floor has a lobby area that will contain a recreational activity (i.e., pool or ping pong), couches and a flat-screen TV. Mailboxes and resident assistant offices are located in the first floor lobby.

The 2015-16 academic year will be the last year that Gilbert and Bard Halls will house students. Those buildings are set to be repurposed, while Gaige Hall will be demolished in May of 2016.

To accommodate the anticipated increase in volume of students eating at dining locations in Gordinier Hall, an extension project began on August 1, 2015. The Upper Deck and The Anchor will still be open during the renovation.

Lancaster County Colleges Unite to Improve Campus Safety

Millersville University, Elizabethtown College, and Franklin & Marshall College have joined efforts to promote greater campus security with the launch of LiveSafe, the leading mobile technology solution that is heralding a paradigm shift toward a campus culture of safety at colleges across the country. The three Lancaster County colleges have united not only in community support, but in increasing safety-related communication.
LiveSafe technology provides two-way communication between students, faculty, and staff with campus safety officials. Through a comprehensive safety app, campus community members can seamlessly share information – anonymously if they prefer – about sexual assault or harassment, mental health concerns, suspicious activity, and more. Additionally, a LiveSafe user is able to have friends and/or family members escort them virtually by sharing his or her location through SafeWalk.

LiveSafe was co-founded by Kristina Anderson, a campus violence survivor, who was shot during the 2007 Virginia Tech tragedy. In 81 percent of school shootings at least one person had information that potentially could have prevented the incident from occurring had they reported it. LiveSafe was established to break down communication barriers that can ultimately stymie violence.

“We were pleased to become the first university in Pennsylvania to offer LiveSafe to our students,” said Millersville University police chief, Peter Anders. “While we have a very safe campus, we’re always looking at additional tools our students will use to ensure their and others’ safety.”

Millersville has emergency blue light phones, patrol officers on bikes, and the University Police operate a late-night escort service. “Now we have the LiveSafe app that will help keep our students safe while they are on campus, at their homes, or even on vacation.”

Andrew Powell, director of Elizabethtown College’s Department of Campus Security, said that Elizabethtown College is pleased to be partnering with LiveSafe.

“Elizabethtown College has always been a safe campus, but it’s now even safer with this app,” he said. “The College recognizes the tremendous value of technology to create a safe campus environment. LiveSafe’s app is incredibly easy to use while at the same time very comprehensive.

“We are very excited to partner with LiveSafe to make this mobile safety app available to the F&M community. It places a tremendous amount of safety-related resources literally at the fingertips of students, most of whom carry some mobile device with them at all times,” said Bill McHale, director of Franklin & Marshall’s Department of Public Safety (DPS). “Users of this app will be able to reach out anonymously to DPS to report suspicious activity, or to request walking escorts, refer to safety procedures, and engage a feature referred to as SafeWalk, through which a user can call someone and maintain a conversation while that person follows the user on a map.”
“F&M chose to pursue this technology as another way to enhance the safety of our community. Mobile safety apps are becoming more popular across the country and we are proud to be in on the front-end of this initiative.”

LiveSafe is available to the Millersville University, Elizabethtown College, and Franklin & Marshall College communities to download for free on iPhone and Android devices.

**About LiveSafe, Inc.** – LiveSafe is a mobile safety technology that allows communities to connect on safety- and security-related issues via discreet and effective two-way communication. Through a smartphone app, individuals can report incidents and concerns to safety officials who monitor and respond via the real-time, web-based LiveSafe Command Dashboard. Individuals are able to share information about sexual assault, mental health concerns, violence, and more — preventing incidents before they occur. LiveSafe is being used at institutions across 27 states including colleges and universities, corporations, sports stadiums, military installations, and more. For more information, visit www.livesafemobile.com and follow LiveSafe on Twitter at @LiveSafeApp.

**Williams sets sights on Washington, D.C.**

Haley Williams is a senior majoring in government and political affairs, but she knew it was her passion long before she arrived at Millersville University.

Williams began her first internship in 2009 while still attending high school as a way to gain experience in the political field. Starting at the local level, she began working on campaigns for elected officials in her hometown of Toms River, New Jersey.

“My dad sat down with me and we developed a timeline that would potentially go through my years at college,” Williams said. “I figured to get the best opportunity to work for the United States government, I needed to explore all levels to really figure out where my interests lay.”
During her early years at Millersville, Williams interned at state level positions. In 2013, she worked in New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie’s Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

“Most interns were given the opportunity to be ‘on the road’ most of our assigned days, giving us the chance to witness the damage and allowing us to have personal interactions with residents and business owners,” Williams said. “Not many interns have the ability to say that the first week they began their internship, they had the opportunity to staff Gov. Christie and President Obama’s visit to Asbury, N.J., to officially reopen the Jersey shore [after Hurricane Sandy devastated the coast in November 2012].”

Before returning to Millersville for the fall semester of her senior year, Williams completed her first internship at the federal level working for U. S. Sen. Pat Toomey. Though she spent her summer analyzing current events and assessing grant proposals, the greatest lesson Williams has learned comes from a combination of all her political experiences.

“In all of my internships, there has been one consistent variable and that is constituent outreach,” Williams said. “I knew outreach was important, but I really didn’t understand how influential reaching out to constituents, personalizing a letter or making a phone call really can affect a person until I was the person writing a letter or making the phone call to a constituent.”

Outside of her political internships, Williams is a dean’s list student, a member of the Millersville women’s lacrosse team and has served as the Student Ambassador to Millersville Borough since January 2014, where she is responsible for reporting the news and activities of the University to the borough council. Looking towards the future, Williams believes her experiences have adequately prepared her for a goal of a career in the federal government within a department or agency, focusing on national security.

“A major takeaway is to start young,” Williams said. “The younger the better is how I picture it. There is more time to gain the experience that someone needs to decide on a career when they have the time to explore the different levels.”

MALAS Annual Conference at MU this October

The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS) will hold its 65th annual conference at Millersville University, Oct. 8-10, 2015.
Pedro Cortés, Pennsylvania Secretary of State, will be delivering the inaugural address at the reception on Thursday, Oct. 8. Carlos Graupera, executive director of the Spanish American Civic Association of Lancaster, is also speaking at the conference on Friday, Oct. 9.

“MALAS prides itself in being an interdisciplinary organization that brings together scholars, students, activists and policy makers interested in the many issues that concern Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Latino community in the United States,” said Dr. Orlando Pérez, vice president of MALAS and associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at MU.

The 2015 theme is “From Latin America to Latino-American: Building Bridges across Cultures.” The MALAS 65th Annual Conference provides opportunities for faculty, graduate and undergraduate students to present papers in many fields related to Latin American Studies and hone their academic and professional skills.

The conference is organized around presentations on topics including political change, immigration, sustainable development, literature, culture, history, sociology, anthropology, ethnic studies and much more. Faculty and students from all areas of study are encouraged to attend.

As a part of Our Bold Path, Millersville University strives to enhance international connections and engage learners in new ways. The MALAS 65th Annual Conference is an opportunity for MU faculty, students and staff to learn and engage with national and international scholars studying Latin America. This is the first time the conference has been held in Pennsylvania.

The conference is open to the public and requires registration. Registration fees are significantly discounted for students and Latin American nationals. For more information or to register for the conference, please visit www.malasnet.org.
8/27/2015 activities

A warm welcome to the new faculty at Millersville University.

The photo is of the faculty who recently participated in the New Faculty Orientation.

Left to right:
Ping Yang, Communication & Theatre; Baoling Ma, Mathematics; Michele Santamaria, Library; Charlton Wolfgang, Early, Middle & Exceptional Education; Deborah Tamakloe, Early, Middle & Exceptional Education; Mary Lou Mortimer, Nursing; Kathryn Allen, Chemistry; Nicole Sorhagen, Psychology

Absent from photo: John Seiders, Chemistry

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE**

Dr. Sandra J. H. McPherson will serve as Acting Director of the University Honors College for the fall 2015 semester, while Dr. Dennis Downey is on sabbatical leave. Dr. McPherson is currently Associate Professor in the Economics Department, where she has taught since 2008. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Indiana University.

Dr. McPherson's primary teaching responsibilities include macroeconomics, monetary economics, statistics, and econometrics. Dr. McPherson has taught several courses in the Honors College and has served as the chair of the University Honors College Committee since 2013.

Dr. McPherson's main research interest is macroeconomic issues as they apply to regional economies. Her most recent publication, published in Regional and Sectoral Economic Studies, examined structural unemployment disparities across Canadian
provinces. A secondary research interest is pedagogy, and she recently published an article in Teaching Statistics outlining a classroom game to teach probability.

The position of Director of the University Honors College reports directly to the Provost and provides administrative leadership to the Honors College.

**Faculty and Staff Activities:**


**Jennifer Mariacher, budget,** recently presented at the National Association of College and Business Officers (NACUBO) Annual Conference in Nashville, TN, “From Flat Rate to Per-Credit Tuition.” In addition, at the same NACUBO Conference, Mariacher, Melanie DeSantis, human resources; and Laura Kendall, Office of Visual and Performing Arts, presented “Simple Transition Planning That Works.” In addition, Melanie DeSantis is the secretary for the College and University Personnel Association (CUPA) Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter.


**Need to Know:**

**American Dream Scholarship Ride**

The Second Annual American Dream Scholarship Ride will take place at Millersville University on September 19, 2015. Sign up to walk or ride at this great event. There are a variety of levels to choose from. For additional information please contact the Office of Scheduling and Event Management at 717-871-5926.
Namaste is around the corner

On September 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Namaste will take place on the Promenade and at the Student Memorial Center at Millersville University. The festival will feature samples of Indian cuisine, various jewelry and clothing vendors, a cultural program showcasing Indian dance, a fashion show with regional wear, programs to educate attendees on Indian heritage and more. The festival will have activities enjoyable for the entire family. The event is free and open to the public, but some food and activities will require a small fee. The Indian festival is under the direction of Dr. Nazli Hardy, associate professor of computer science, along with Deepa Balepur, president of the Indian Organization of Lancaster County.

Walk-ins are welcome but prior registration is preferred. Please RSVP at admin@iolcpa.org with the number of individuals attending.

Read more information on Namaste here (http://blogs.millersville.edu/exchange/2015/05/13/indian-festival-planned/)

Who Makes Millersville Special: Jeri Robinson

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features Jeri Robinson, professor of art and design and co-director of the Entrepreneurship Minor.

Q: Where are you originally from?
Buffalo, New York

Q: How did you become interested in studying art and graphic design?
I was always interested in making things with my hands. I took every art class possible in high school and spent summers taking photographs and crafting. I was a huge fan of Andy Warhol. I was the first person in my blue collar family to attend college, so it was thought that I was going to major in something that would result in a job. The
The idea of learning for the sake of learning and becoming a person capable of higher-level thinking was not in our vocabulary. Therefore, I elected to major in graphic design.

**Q: From what school(s) have you earned your degree(s)?**

I originally attended Villa Maria College, a two-year school in Cheektowaga, N.Y., because a bachelor's degree seemed out of reach for someone from my family background. I then transferred to Buffalo State College and was completely lost in the system. Buffalo State had approximately 15,000 students, and as a transfer student, I did not feel comfortable in my choices. My advisor was relatively absent and I did not fulfill my requirements, so when it was time to graduate, I found out that I had eight credits in the wrong place. I decided to leave Buffalo State at that time. That sounds like a terrible idea, but it was the best thing that ever happened to me. I worked for a podiatrist as an assistant for the following year and realized that all I wanted was a career in the arts. I raced back to school as a transfer, yet again, to the State University College at Purchase, just 25 miles north of Manhattan. At that time, students were required to take two years' worth of course work at a school in order to graduate from that institution. That meant that I had another two years of coursework (rather than eight credits at Buffalo State). Since I had taken the majority of my required design and general education classes prior, I was able to focus on any art and design coursework that I wanted. I ended up taking an Offset Lithography course which changed my life. I started to learn about Artist's Books and started to combine my graphic design skills with printmaking and narrative art works. I earned my BFA from SUNY College at Purchase and then attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where I earned my MFA degree in printmaking.

**Q: How many years have you been at Millersville?**

I just completed my 23rd year at MU.

**Q: What classes have you taught during your time at Millersville?**

(Special Topics Course for Women’s Studies and the Entrepreneur Minor), Entrepreneur Practicum (for the Entrepreneur Minor), Independent Study courses in Fiber Arts (knitting, spinning, weaving, and crochet), Numerous Teacher Education Workshops for K-12 educators and I was chair of the department for nine years.

Q: Do you have a favorite class to teach at Millersville? Why?
I actually love the variety of courses I teach because it makes me keep my fingers on the pulse of a wide variety of topics in art and design and entrepreneurship. I like to mix things up and try new things.

Q: How did you get involved in the new entrepreneurial minor?
When the position became available for the director of the minor, I thought it would be something that interested me because I teach the business of art to students in our department. Additionally, in connection to my scholarly activities, I own a fiber arts business, and therefore I understand first-hand what it takes to run a business. Ultimately, my focus is on the creative side of entrepreneurial endeavors. Nancy Mata (art and design) and I make a great team as co-directors of the Entrepreneur Minor. I really enjoy helping the students turn their dreams into a reality. Our students continue to amaze me with their creativity, work ethic and desires.

Q: Do you still do graphic design outside of the classroom?
Yes. I pick and choose the jobs that I want since I don’t do this for the money. Instead, I work for nonprofit associations such as the Leicester Longwool Sheep Breeders Association. I also do the majority of design work for my business, Flying Fibers.

Q: What are your hobbies outside of work?
Working with my sheep, rabbits, horse, dogs and cats. My sheep are rare breed North American Wensleydale, which originated in England. They are a wool breed of sheep, and I use their wool for dyeing, spinning, knitting and felting. I love the fact that I know exactly where my products are coming from. The rest of the animals just make me happy.

Q: How do you want students to remember you?
First and foremost, I want my students to think of me as being compassionate and there for them, whatever their learning needs and desires.

Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?
The students. If it weren’t for the students, I would not be in higher education.

**Q: Do you have a favorite quote?**
“Wherever you go, there you are” – Buddha, Confucius. It reminds me to be happy in the moment.

**Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?**
My family. We came together from all over the world. My husband is from England, and my two daughters are from Russia and India. We prove that people from various backgrounds and ethnicities can all come together and love each other fully and wholly.

**Q: If you could do any job in the world, what would it be?**
In another life, I would have chosen to be a farmer and large-animal veterinarian.