

Millersville Alumnus Gives Back to Environment Through Community Service & Business

Ben Miller, a 1989 Millersville University graduate, has always cared about the local environment and has poured his environmental passion into all areas of his life from community service to business. One place that has been particularly close to his heart is the Swatara Creek and surrounding watershed. He has dedicated many years as an active volunteer with the Swatara Watershed Association (SWA) and even opened a business that utilizes and benefits the creek.

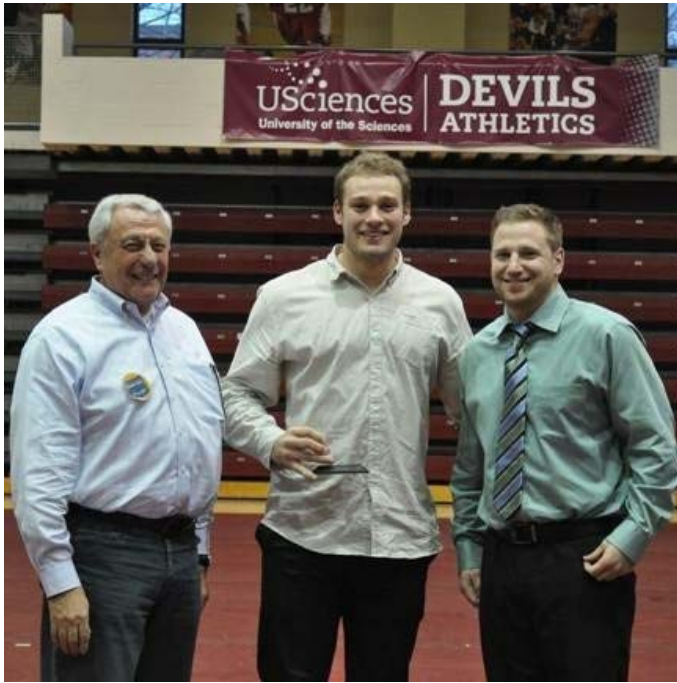
In 2012, Miller and his wife opened a local kayak business called [Cocoa Kayak Rentals of Hershey](#).

“We really loved kayaking for a number of years, but realized there [were] no outfitters or kayak rentals on the Swatara Creek,” he explains. “Given the number of visitors to Hershey every summer and the outdoorsy locals, we saw an opportunity to provide rentals, shuttles and coordinated kayaking tours on this scenic

local waterway.” Miller has also incorporated his love of kayaking into his volunteerism. He leads the shore support for the [Swatara Sojourn](#), an annual two-day volunteer kayak and canoe event to clean the creek of debris and refuge. He has also organized fundraisers, assisted Eagle Scouts with their projects and helped restore the Bordner Cabin in Swatara State Park.

Prior to opening Cocoa Kayak Rentals of Hershey, Miller, who ran distance events for the Millersville track team, worked in human services with mentally ill and disabled youth and spent a number of years as a stay-at-home dad to his two children, Ellie and Riley. He currently lives in Palmyra with his wife, Debra.





Marc Caserio '99 (on right) presenting the DII player of the year Garrett Kerr with his MVP award along with Marvin Samson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (on left)

Dreams Do Come True

Just ask **Marc Caserio '99**.

Marc Caserio purposefully chose to work in the field of education so that he would have the opportunity to mentor students and have a positive and influential impact on their lives. His self-directed plan included becoming a high school guidance counselor and an assistant Athletic Director. During his time as an undergrad at Millersville, he was advised to pursue a master's degree and potentially a doctoral degree in order to attain the goals he had set. As much as he was enjoying his experience at MU, to say he was enthusiastic about the need to continue his education would be a stretch of the imagination.

But he persevered. And after receiving a BA in history with a minor in coaching from Millersville in 1999, Caserio went on to earn a master's in education from Temple in 2002 and began his career at University of the Sciences (USciences) in Philadelphia in 2003. During

his tenure he has held numerous positions and spearheaded many different projects. In 2006, Caserio was promoted to Interim Director of Fitness and Wellness and then to Director of Campus Recreation in 2007 where he carefully aligned the University mission and vision with operational planning to be able to provide programs such as club sports, intramurals, student leadership development, and community service initiatives, which raised more than \$54,000 for nonprofit organizations.

In 2014, Caserio was named interim Athletic Director and has been serving in the role of Athletic Director since March of 2015. Described as being a "capable and dedicated leader" and having "infectious enthusiasm", he shares key messages that he uses in mentoring staff, coaches and student-athletes and that have helped him to attain his own goals (including a doctorate in higher education leadership and innovation from Wilmington University in 2015):

"Never say Never!"

"Never allow mistakes or failures to hold you back!"

"Never give up on your dreams!"

Because dreams do come true. At least they have for Marc Caserio.

When not cheering on the USciences Devils, as a native of South Philadelphia, Caserio enjoys spending time with family and friends rooting for the Eagles, the Phillies and Temple basketball and football.



Making a difference for students at Millersville for 27 years!

After 27 years at Millersville University, Martha MacAdam is stepping away from the university and calling it a day.

The senior development professional will retire on January 3 after a long career in the University's development department.

Martha's relationship with Millersville began long before she started working here in the Alumni House. She earned her BA in Philosophy as a non-traditional student in 1983. She particularly enjoyed her chemistry coursework, and spent many hours discussing chemistry with classmates who would become lifelong friends.

Martha began her career in the Development office at Franklin and Marshall and quickly moved up from an Admissions Assistant to the Director of Annual Giving. She then joined Brethren Village as Director of Development before joining Millersville's staff in 1989.

Martha has had experience in almost every area of development at Millersville, from annual giving to supervising the data analytics team to stewardship to working with major gift donors. She created the annual giving program at Millersville from the ground up, coordinating the alumni mailing and running the MU Phonathon program. She oversaw the data team through a time of transition and modernization to bring industry best practices to the fundraising and alumni data analytics program. She was with Millersville through three major fundraising campaigns and was directly responsible for raising millions of dollars to support Millersville students and programs. Martha's work has touched many lives through student scholarships, new equipment for laboratories, resources for student athletes, funds for student-faculty research, and much more. As the senior major gift professional at Millersville, she often served as a role model to newer major gift officers, bringing them along on visits with donors and prospects and providing thoughtful feedback on project ideas and initiatives.

In addition to her work in philanthropy, Martha is a true philanthropist herself. She established the Predmore-Cornogg Geography Scholarship Endowment to support a rising junior or senior majoring in Geography who demonstrates a strong commitment to the discipline of Geography, with first preference to a student with an interest in land planning. In addition, she has provided significant gifts to over 30 different funds across the university - from chemistry scholarships to cheerleading to baseball to renovating the music performance hall to student faculty research.

While Martha is an accomplished development professional, what truly sets her apart is her continued commitment to students. In addition to her regular work, Martha took time to become a mentor with the then newly created Lancaster Partnership Program connecting students at the School District of Lancaster with opportunities for a college education. She also served as a Judicial Advocate helping students who are going through or involved in the judicial process at Millersville University. She was also the driving force and continued champion of the successful effort to fully endow the first endowed scholarship to support students of color - the African American Latino Alumni Scholarship. Most recently, she has worked closely with student athletes, parents, and alumni in the baseball program to support their efforts to renovate and modernize Cooper Park. Often when walking past Martha's office, you would see her listening to a student - offering tips to get through a stressful exam period, help with challenges at home, offering advice for securing a job after graduation, and occasionally dog-sitting assistance!

Martha was always willing to go the extra mile, pitching in to help fold and stuff a 1,200 piece mailing for alumni or driving across the state to pick up a donation of several taxidermy samples for the biology department, including a 60 pound stuffed Black Bear.

"When I joined Millersville six years ago, Martha was the first person to encourage me in a fundraising idea I had to rejuvenate a scholarship for French majors and has always been someone I can count on to talk through ideas and help argue the angles as we explore new ways to help alumni and friends support students and programs at Millersville," says Alice McMurry, Associate Vice President for Advancement.

We wish Martha all the best in all of life's adventures following her retirement from Millersville University!





Nathan Claycomb Named A Top 10 Next Gen in the Group Travel Industry

Nathan Claycomb '01 was nominated and selected as one of the top 10 people of the next generation who are making a difference in the group travel industry with their creative ideas and entrepreneurial spirit. Nathan is featured in the [January/February 2017](#) issue of Groups Today magazine, read by more than 20,500 group travel planners throughout the country.

The Groups Today Top 10 Next Gens, now in its fourth year, honors those under age 40 who make an impact in their position and the group travel market as a whole by approaching the industry with a fresh, progressive perspective.

"I'm thrilled with this year's class of Next Gens and having the opportunity to put these up-and-comers in the spotlight," said Kasie Smith, President and Publisher of Groups Today. "Each person on this list was nominated by their peers and deserves this great honor."

Nathan serves as business development manager for [Sight & Sound Theatres](#)® (Lancaster, PA and Branson, MO), which welcomes more than one million guests annually. Nathan began his career with Sight & Sound in 2001, shortly after graduating from Millersville University (PA) with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech Communications/Broadcasting. He currently sits on the Millersville University Alumni Association Board of Directors, where he serves as Events Committee co-chair.

Nathan is responsible for building and maintaining relationships with the tourism and travel industry both domestically and abroad. He has played an integral role in connecting Sight & Sound to the international tourism market through initiatives such as language translation services. For more than a decade, Nathan worked "behind the scenes" at both theatre locations. Nathan's extensive knowledge of technical theatre, excellent communication skills, and love for serving people ensures an exceptional guest experience beyond the stage.

Nathan currently resides in Strasburg, PA with his wife, two energetic young boys, and their Labrador. Learn more about Nathan by viewing his [LinkedIn profile](#).