

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027 and Shawn Gipe Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



Wayne L. Miller (1925-2016)

Wayne L. Miller was born in 1925 and was a native of Indiana. He sadly passed away quite recently in 2016. Miller was granted the following degrees in his lifetime: an A.B. degree from Manchester College in 1948, M.S. degree from Purdue University in 1950, B.D. degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in 1954, and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in 1961.¹ Miller was a Professor of Speech at Manchester College in from 1949-52, Instructor of Speech at Los Angeles College in 1960-51, a graduate assistant at Purdue University, and a graduate assistant at the University of Southern California.² Additionally, Wayne Miller was married to Gwendolyn Studebaker, and they had four children in total.³

Wayne L. Miller was named dean of the College Faculty on January 9, 1967, and his duties began on July 1.⁴ A committee representing the Faculty, the administration, the alumni, and the Church of the Brethren of Eastern and Southern Pennsylvania, had been looking for a successor upon the resignation of Dean Jacob E. Hershman. Miller had ultimately been employed and chosen due to the recommendation of President Mays of Elizabethtown College.⁵

¹ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 287.

² Schlosser, 288.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 228.

⁵ Schlosser, 287.

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When recommending Wayne Miller to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees on January 9, 1967, for the position of Dean of the Faculty for a period from July 1, 1967, to August 31, 1968, President Mays made the following comment:

*"We feel that Wayne L. Miller has the high degree of educational insight we are seeking in the man who will be principally responsible for directing the academic program... I know him and find him to be sagacious in his approach to academic planning. He has a sound concept of what Christian higher education's objectives should be, and he has ideas on how these objectives may be realized."*⁶

Responding to his appointment of Dean of the Faculty, Wayne Miller stated:

*"I look forward to working with the Faculty in a co-operative approach to developing the academic program. I will seek Faculty involvement in all phases of academic planning."*⁷

Then, upon taking office as Dean of the Faculty, Wayne L. Miller outlined his objectives and purpose for the College in an EPIC (Elizabethtown College Plots Its Course) report:

"The purpose of Elizabethtown College is personal. Its program is intended to free the student of his limitations of experience and ignorance, and to broaden the span of his interests. It seeks to develop in him critical and constructive habits of thought, a desire and capacity to know, clear and coherent means of self-expression, and an understanding of the world about him, natural, social and cultural....

In order to achieve these ends Elizabethtown College expects each member of the academic community to face the basic issues of his personhood, to be involved in a creative relationship with others in an academic community, and to pursue excellence in an atmosphere of responsible freedom. Within this context of general personal development Elizabethtown College expects each student to acquire the skills and knowledge of a specialization.

*The College is private, its student body coeducational, its academic program undergraduate. Its facilities are open, without discrimination, to all students who seek an education of the quality and kind which will prepare them for service in a free and democratic society. It seeks to offer this preparation in a setting of opportunity which will be exciting and challenging, exciting and rewarding."*⁸

Regarding these reports, Wayne L. Miller actually was part of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Elizabethtown College Plots Its Course program.⁹

At the time the Living Learning Center was being erected, Wayne L. Miller commented on how the plan for the center embodies the new "living learning" approach to College education:

⁶ Ibid., 288-289.

⁷ Ibid., 289.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., 308.

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“The approach would emphasize the common learning experiences inherent in small group relationships. Students would spend half their time in block education with a single professor and take other courses in tradition classroom settings.”¹⁰

The first two wings of the center were occupied by women in September 1970, a third wing was occupied by women, and the fourth wing contained men from the closed Fairview Hall dormitory. For this reason, Wayne Miller claimed that the new Living Learning Center was a “strictly residence hall.”¹¹

Additionally, on May 5, 1970, twenty-five students presented a list of eighteen demands from black students on campus. Wayne L. Miller met the students the next morning, however, stated that any actions or opinions on the demands should come from President Mays, who was absent at the time of the demands.¹²

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¹⁰ Ibid., 317.

¹¹ Ibid., 318.

¹² Ibid., 319.

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