OMG! OMG! OMG! Can it really be four months since my last campus update (January 18th)? So much has been happening on this campus that it would take the rest of May to report it all. I guess we’ll have to satisfy ourselves with the highlights.

1. **February – Not so Dreary After All:**
   - The Reverend Callista Isabelle became our new Chaplain
   - Associate Professor John Sullivan (Media and Communication) was included in the Irish Education 100 [http://irishedu.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/pageview.aspx?issue=745120111201000000001001](http://irishedu.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/pageview.aspx?issue=745120111201000000001001)
   - Media and Communication kicks off its new study abroad program at Dublin City University in Ireland – a program combining classwork with internships. Associate Professor Jeff Pooley directs the program’s maiden voyage.
   - Muhlenberg was listed by “Inside College” in the Huffington Post as one of the nation’s 21 “Hottest Colleges” [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/27/the-hottest-colleges-in-t_n_1303791.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003&s726123&title=Muhlenberg_College](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/27/the-hottest-colleges-in-t_n_1303791.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003&s726123&title=Muhlenberg_College)
   - Muhlenberg was NOT included in the Huffington Post’s list of “Socially Awkward Colleges” ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/06/colleges-for-the-socially_n_1256435.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/06/colleges-for-the-socially_n_1256435.html))
   - Seniors Spencer Liddic and Alex Chili were both nominated for the Jostens Trophy, the most prestigious postseason award in Division III basketball and were featured on the NCAA website [http://www.ncaa.com/news/basketball-women/article/2012-02-24/chili-liddi-excel-and-court](http://www.ncaa.com/news/basketball-women/article/2012-02-24/chili-liddi-excel-and-court) and in the NCAA “Champions” magazine [http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/85f68cea#/85f68cea/20](http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/85f68cea#/85f68cea/20)

2. **March – Even better!**
   - Applications break the 5,000 barrier for the first time in Muhlenberg history, thanks to a great effort by Chris Hooker-Haring ’72, P’08, P’10 and his admissions team, not to mention the countless faculty, staff, and others who make the campus so appealing to prospective visitors! The Class of 2016 includes 20 students from California and will match or exceed the geographic diversity of the Class of 2015.
   - Jim Lentz ‘66 and his wife Debra pledge $1 million to endow scholarship support for Theatre and Dance majors.
• Muhlenberg is named to the 2012 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

• Sydney Yonak ’13 wins the Gilman Scholarship and a Critical Language Supplement for a semester’s study in Russia. She is an International Studies major and has minors in Music and Russian Studies.

• Hannah Oros ’12 wins the St. Andrews Award for a year’s study in Glasgow, Scotland. Hannah is a Media and Communication major with a self-designed second major in Global Health.

• Muhlenberg Scholar and Biology and Environmental Science major Amanda Meier ’13 is awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Nathan Crossette ’13 (Dana Scholar and Math and Physics double major) and Jaclyn Durkin ’13 (Neuroscience major and also a Dana Scholar) receive honorable mentions for the Goldwater.

• Dana Scholar Melissa Bressler ’12 (an English and Business Administration double major) receives a US Student Fulbright Award to Thailand for 2012-13. Thomas Bertorelli ’10 (a Neuroscience and Music double major who was a Fulbright Alternate in 2010) receives a Fulbright Award to Poland. Amanda Gavin ’12 (Biology major) is named a Fulbright Finalist with an expected destination of Vietnam. Jennifer Melis ’12 (an International Studies major and a Sustainability Studies minor) receives a Fulbright Award for study in Turkey.

3. April Showers Us with More Good News

• Jake Glass ’13, RJ Fellow and an environmental studies and international relations double major, is named a Truman Fellow (the second in Muhlenberg’s history) AND a Udall.

• Amanda Meier ’13 is awarded an honorable mention for the Udall.

• Meredith Colwell ’12 receives a Health Professions Scholarship from the United States Navy to attend the University of Maryland School of Dental Medicine.

• Kurt Herman, who fled Austria as a 10-year old boy in 1939, visits the President’s House at 339 N. Leh Street, the house where he was given refuge by a foster family. After touring the house with me, seeing his old bedroom, and reminiscing about the family who sheltered him, he participates in the IJCU’s Youth and Prejudice workshop.

• Professor Dan Wilson (History) is recognized at the Pennsylvanians with Disabilities Day Luncheon for his scholarly work on polio and for his service in multiple disability organizations. Three of Dan’s books have dealt with polio, including Living with Polio: The Epidemic and its Survivors (U of Chicago Press, 2009). He is a founding member of the Disability History Association. He served two terms as President of the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living and is currently on the board of the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital. He also serves on the national board of Post-Polio International.

• Jonathan Shikora ’12 (son of Susan Shikora ’81 and Dr. Scott Shikora ’81) goes to a hospital in Philadelphia, where he donates stem cells to help a 61-year-old gentleman fight leukemia. In his Mom’s words, "my son saved a life today."

• Nadeem Lodhi ’86 (Economics and Finance major) is appointed chief executive officer for Citibank in Pakistan.

• Rabbi Matthew Soffer ’02 of Temple Israel in Boston wins the “Real Top Rabbis” competition http://www.myjewishlearning.com/blog/general/and-the-rabbi-is/

• My op/ed in the Philadelphia Inquirer set the Federal Government straight on a thing or two, including how to determine which colleges are worth the cost http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/president/communique/essays/35.html
• Trustees approve the title “Dean Emerita” for Dean of the College for Academic Life Carol Shiner Wilson (to be awarded upon her retirement in August).
• Associate Professor Mike Huber (Mathematics) is appointed next Dean of the College for Academic Life.
• Spillman Farmer Architects are engaged to begin planning major renovations of 104 year-old East Hall.
• Nineteen new individuals and two organizations are inducted into the Lifetime Giving Society, which recognizes donors whose cumulative giving to the College exceeds $100,000. Check out the video that thanked our guests at: http://redesign.muhlenberg.edu/main/devel/gallery.html

4. And Then There Was May…
• Muhlenberg’s faculty approve Muhlenberg’s new Jewish Studies major, and vote in favor of new General Academic Requirements (GARs), featuring interdisciplinary course clusters, divisional distributionals, and a more robust diversity requirement. This replaces the “Skills and Perspectives” curriculum (approved in 1989) and joins the new Culminating Undergraduate Experience (CUE) requirement approved by the faculty in December as a way of adding rigor to the senior year experience.
• Another Doggie Destresser Day helped Muhlenberg students calm down in advance of finals!
• Kelly Kline ’14 is named Centennial Conference Player of the Year in softball.
• David Rosenwasser delivers the “Last Lecture” to the Class of 2012.
• At Muhlenberg’s baccalaureate service on a lovely spring evening, I tell the Class of 2012 not to pursue their dreams http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/president/communique/speeches/33.html
• On the most beautiful, sunny day of spring, SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro delivers a brilliant Commencement Address to 569 new Muhlenberg graduates, emphasizing the life of the mind and public service. Saint Bernard Project co-founders Zach Rosenberg and Liz McCartney, and alumna Jeannette Ickovics ’84 (Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health and Psychology at Yale University) also receive honorary degrees.
• Associate Professor Charlies Russell (Chemistry) posthumously receives the Empie Teaching Award and Associate Professor Keri Colabroy (also Chemistry) receives the Lindback Award.
• Rebecca Liben ’12 and Spencer Liddic ’12 receive the Future Alumni Leaders Awards from the Alumni Association.
• For the second consecutive year, the Senior Connections Campaign “Breaks the Brueck” by meeting the Muhlenberg Fund participation challenge issued by Board Chair, Rich Brueckner ’71.
• Muhlenberg icons retire: Professor Laureate Al Kipa (Modern Languages and Literatures), Athletic Director Sam Beidler, Health Professions Advisor Lori Provost, and Associate Professors Bill Abruzzi (Sociology and Anthropology) and Jamie Doran (Accounting).

5. A Spring Bouquet of Faculty Achievements (just a sampling):
• Assistant Professor Brian Mello (Political Science) published a chapter, “Islamic Political Mobilization in Turkey,” in History, Politics, and Foreign Policy in Turkey, published by the SETA (Political, Economic, and Social Research) Foundation in Ankara, Turkey.
Assistant Professor Stefanie Sinno (Psychology) and Samantha Silverberg '10 presented a poster at the Society for Research in Child Development's meeting on Positive Youth Development in Tampa, Florida: "Who gets what? Adolescents' distribution of school resources."

Professor Jim Bloom (English and American Studies) publishes his review of "Remapping American Literature" in the Fall 2011 volume of Philip Roth Studies.

Assistant Professor Amy Corbin, (Media and Communication / Film Studies) presented a paper entitled "Traveling through Cinema Space: The Film Spectator as Tourist" and participated in a workshop entitled "Teaching the City: Pedagogical Issues in Urban Cinema and Media Studies" at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual conference in Boston.


Assistant Professor Krista Bywater (Sociology), presented a paper "Reconceptualizing Environmentalism in the Global South: Lessons from India" on the Globalization and the Environment Panel at the Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference in San Diego.

Professor Joan Marx (Spanish) moderated two panels and presented the paper "Writing the Jewish Diaspora in Argentine Literature" at the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies Conference on "Latin America: Hopes, Dreams and Reality after the Washington Consensus" at American University.

Lecturer Mirna Trauger (Spanish) received the James Street Prize for the best article submitted for publication in the current volume of the MACLAS journal, Latin American Essays.

Assistant Professor Elizabeth Nathanson (Media and Communication) chaired a panel on “Teaching Film and Media Studies at Liberal Arts Colleges” at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in Boston. At the same conference...

Associate Professor Paul McEwan presented his paper, “The Birth of a Nation and the Development of Film Clubs, 1945-1975,” on a panel titled Dynamics of Film Viewing.

Now we have the rites of summer to enjoy, including June Advising and the Summer Music Theatre (Hairspray, the Musical, HMS Pinafore, and Harold and the Purple Crayon). And if you’re intrigued by the prospect of traveling abroad with fellow Mules, keep a lookout for the brochures promoting the Muhlenberg trips to Rome (October 2-10, 2012) and Egypt (January, 2013). Stay tuned!