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OCTOBER 2009

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Cover image: A heartfelt moment from Commencement 2009
Photo credit: Amico Studios

WANT MORE MUHLENBERG NEWS? If you want to see more news about Muhlenberg College, please follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/muhlenberg. Keep up-to-date with all happenings at Muhlenberg at http://www.muhlenbergweekly.com – the online version of the most authoritative source for campus news since 1883. Register online and receive e-mail notices for every new issue published. Every article available in print, is now only a click away. The College's online newspaper, *The Advocate*, is also available at www.muhlenbergadvocate.com.

What We're Learning About Learning

The "first day of school tablet," a small lump of clay jabbed repeatedly by a reed stylus in the hands of a young Sumerian boy from Uruk some 4,500 years ago, tells us most of what we need to know about ancient Mesopotamian pedagogy. Students learned the elements of cuneiform script by rote and repetition. Motivation was administered with a stick. With the exception of Socrates, who challenged his students' comfortable assumptions with uncomfortable questions (and was put to death for his efforts), teaching hasn't changed all that much through the centuries – until recently.

Throughout most of human history the straightforward delivery of information has been at the core of teaching. Look at the number of large lecture courses, assigned readings and standardized tests in most college and universities today and you will find that they are the most common and most fundamental form of teaching still. "Here is what you need to learn," most professors say. "Now learn it." Motivation still comes from a stick – albeit a metaphorical one in the form of grades. When most of us think about how we studied in college, we remember cramming – intensely reading and rereading class assignments and lecture notes, hoping to commit, at least to short term memory, whatever essential facts might be on the next test.

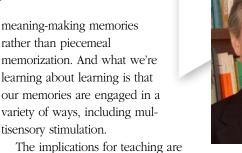
In my own college days I utilized an exciting new technological study aid – the highlighter pen – but I never really understood how it was supposed to work. At the time I thought by marking key passages of the assigned reading in bright yellow it would be easier for me to find them again if I had time to re-read the book once more before the test. Somehow I knew that the more I highlighted the less it helped, but I didn't know why. Now I do.

What neuroscientists and psychologists, including faculty right here at Muhlenberg, have discovered is how the brain learns.

We know now that active learning involves a cycle of mental processes, beginning with observation of a phenomenon or a concrete experience, followed by reflection and the development of abstract hypotheses as the learner attempts to connect and integrate the newly encountered phenomenon with what s/he already knows. The learner actively tests and refines his/her hypotheses, struggling to fit the new experience into some sort of logical pattern. In short, active learners try to "make meaning" out of what they encounter. And at each stage of the learning cycle, functional MRIs tell us, different sections of the brain spring into action, trying to integrate new knowledge into old in a way that "makes sense." Learning is actively catalyzed when the learner is engaged in the process - presented with experiences or information that don't have a clear answer, that do not fit into his or her established patterns of knowledge, when s/he is forced to question the validity of what s/he thinks s/he knows, refine hypotheses, retest them and continue to reintegrate new knowledge with what is already known.

In other words, knowing and understanding require active,

President's MESSAGE



huge. Utilizing what we now understand about information processing, instructors can present students with a wide variety of inputs into the sensory cortex (vision, hearing, touch, taste, smell and body position), assign out-of-classroom projects that require the application of classroom theory to real world problems and deliberately structure classroom activities to stimulate and strengthen each phase of

structure classroom activities to stimulate and strengthen each phase of the learning cycle (reflective observation, development and testing of hypotheses, active testing, integration). This kind of pedagogy puts much greater demands on both teachers and learners. It is highly interactive, it is rooted in a genuine, real-time relationship between professor and student. It is the kind of teaching that large lectures simply cannot deliver, but that can thrive at small colleges like Muhlenberg.

Our College, I'm happy to say, is ahead of the curve. Our strategic plan has greatly expanded opportunities for experiential learning through study abroad, independent research, internships and service learning courses. Psychology Professors Laura Edelman and Kathy Harring, sponsored by our Faculty Center for Teaching, have already led workshops for faculty and have been invited to other institutions to share their insights. Muhlenberg is one of 55 institutions nationwide participating in the "Bringing Theory to Practice" initiative that will work to integrate such practices into the curriculum. We have already received a grant that will help us jumpstart this process.

Whatever slight benefit I derived from highlighting passages in my assigned reading all those years ago doubtless can be credited to the effort I put into understanding what I was reading so that I could prioritize some sentences as "key" and others as less important. It was a crude form of meaning-making, and when I highlighted a greater percentage of the text, making fewer essential distinctions, the less thinking/struggling/meaning-making I was engaged in and the less I remembered.

Fortunately, today's students can do better. And Muhlenberg will be at the forefront of this new approach to learning. \blacksquare

Peyton R. Helm

President, Muhlenberg College

My thanks to Professors Laura Edelman and Kathy Harring, and to Provost John Ramsay for their advice in the development of this essay.

Door to DOOR

NEWS FROM MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

John Ramsay Named Provost at Muhlenberg College

John Ramsay, Ph.D., has been named Provost of Muhlenberg College. Ramsay was most recently the Hollis L. Caswell Professor and Chair of the educational studies department at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. He was also an associate dean at Carleton from 2004-2007.

Ramsay earned his bachelor of arts degree from Bucknell University and received his Ph.D. in educational studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo. From 1984-1989 he was the chair and director of the teacher education program at Dickinson College. He taught at Carleton College since 1989.

During his tenure as associate dean, Ramsay coordinated Carleton's efforts to recruit and retain a talented and diverse faculty. He worked on the renewal of major institutional grants from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. His own teaching and scholarship were supported by grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council on Education and the American Council of Learned Societies.

"This is an exciting challenge for me," says Ramsay. "The quality and breadth of the liberal arts opportunities for students are two of Muhlenberg's many distinguishing features and are what attracted me to the College."

Ramsay's term began July 1. He replaced Dr. Marjorie Hass, who left the College to become the President of Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

"John Ramsay brings experience, integrity and vision to this position and I look forward to working with him," says President Randy Helm. "I have been tremendously impressed with his thoughtfulness, energy and intelligence, and am confident that he will provide Muhlenberg with outstanding academic leadership."

In his capacity as Provost, Ramsay will manage all fiscal and personnel aspects of the academic program and oversee all academic department heads. The Provost also

oversees the deans of academic life, international programs and the Wescoe School; the registrar's office, the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding, the Martin Art Gallery, the Entrepreneurship Institute, the Center for Ethics and the RJ Fellowship Program.

Ramsay and his wife Michele have three sons. Nicholas is a first-year student at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, Jacob is a second-year student at Muhlenberg, and Luke is a junior at Northfield High School.



FACULTY MEMBER RECEIVES FULBRIGHT-NEHRU GRANT

Clif Kussmaul, associate professor of computer science, has received a Fulbright-Nehru grant to spend Fall 2009 at the University of Kerala, in Thiruvananthapuram, India. He will teach graduate courses and collaborate with researchers in computer science and the Centre for Bioinformatics, as well as with industry colleagues at the TechnoPark.

The Fulbright Program was established by the United States Congress in 1946 to promote "international goodwill through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture and science." Now six decades old, it remains the U.S. Government's most prestigious scholarship program, operating in 155 countries. Since its signing on February 2, 1950, more than 9,800 Americans have gone to India and 5,000 Indians have traveled to the United States as Fulbright scholars.

'BERG STUDENTS RECEIVE ACADEMIC AWARDS

Nine Muhlenberg students and alumni were either chosen as recipients or named honorable mentions for prestigious academic awards over the course of the 2008-2009 academic year.

- Ryan Chapoteau '08, of Jamaica, N.Y., received the Minority Corporate Council Association Lloyd M.
 Johnson Scholarship, which awards \$10,000 and is intended to assist outstanding individuals from minority
 backgrounds in their first year of law school. While at Muhlenberg, Chapoteau majored in political science, and he currently attends Boston University Law School.
- Steven Epting '09, of Yorktown Heights, N.Y., was given the Pennsylvania Chapter of Wildlife Society Frank Felbaum Scholarship, which is awarded to students with a distinguished academic record and who demonstrate a commitment to wildlife. Epting was an environmental science major and a French minor.
- Patrick Fligge '10, of New Ringgold, Pa., majors in environmental science and is a Muhlenberg Scholar. He earned an honorable mention by the Morris K. Udall program, which rewards students who exhibit a strong commitment to pursue a career in environmental science.
- David Gasalberti 'II, of Stirling, N.J., and Jake Herb 'II, of Honey Brook, Pa., each received honorable mentions from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, a program that rewards students who have performed
- independent research and plan to pursue a Ph.D. in science or math. Gasalberti is a Dana Scholar who majors in biochemistry and minors in economics. Herb is a chemistry major.
- Sara Imperiale '10, of Hillsborough, N.J., received a \$5,000 undergraduate scholarship from Udall. She is an R.J. Fellow, a political science major and a French minor.
- Beth Irwin '07, of Lancaster, Pa., was granted a National Science
 Foundation Graduate Research
 Fellowship, which includes a \$30,000 per year stipend and a \$10,500 costof-education allowance. Irwin was a biology major at the College and currently studies chemical ecology at Pennsylvania State University.
- Ben Mervis 'II, of Merion, Pa., was awarded a \$17,000 scholarship from the St. Andrew's Society to study abroad in Scotland at the University of Glasgow. Mervis is a philosophy and history double major.
- Laura Sheard '07, of Jim Thorpe, Pa., received an honorable mention from the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. At Muhlenberg, she was a neuroscience major and an R.J. Fellow. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Washington.

Moody's and Standard & Poor's Re-affirm Muhlenberg College's Long-Term Bond Rating

Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Rating Services have both re-affirmed Muhlenberg College's bond ratings. The College has now maintained an A1 rating with Moody's since January of 2002. Standard and Poor's has rated the College A+ since April 2001.

These ratings apply to \$20 million of new debt, Series 2009 College Revenue Bonds, issued through the Lehigh County General Purpose Authority, and also to the College's existing Series 2008 bond issue.

"Muhlenberg College has always been vigilant about its finances," said Kent Dyer, the College's Chief Business Officer. "We are pleased to receive this recognition from two highly respected third parties."

According to Moody's, the A1 rating is based on the agency's expectation of manageable debt levels, an excellent senior management team, continued strong operating performance leading to comfortable debt service coverage and stable enrollment in the context of strengthening student demand. S&P also noted that enrollment was in line with the strategic plan and that there was an experienced and proactive management team in place.

COLLEGE WELCOMES ALPHA TAU OMEGA RE-COLONIZATION EFFORT

Alpha Iota to Re-colonize This Semester

Established in 1881, the Alpha Iota chapter of Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity was among the earliest Greek organizations organized at Muhlenberg College. In the fall of 2009, the national fraternity began the process of re-establishing this chapter, due in large part to a dedicated alumni base and the organization's renewed commitment to academics and leadership development.

"ATO has had a strong alumni base over the years, and we were impressed with the leadership of the group that is spearheading the re-colonization efforts," remarks President Randy Helm.

An agreement between the College and the national fraternity was reached in late March after the organization responded to the College's invitation to participate in its Greek life expansion process. The Committee on Greek Life, a multi-constituent group composed of students, faculty and staff, made the recommendation for re-colonization after reviewing materials from the fraternity and hosting a site visit by national office staff and local alumni.

Alpha Tau Omega began the re-colonization process in conjunction with the traditional Fall Recruitment Week at the College. In addition to considerations regarding character, leadership and service, men chosen for the colony class will be required to have a GPA of at least 2.80.

The national fraternity owns the chapter house, located at 2302 Chew Street in Allentown. Plans are for the colony to complete the requirements of receiving a charter and to demonstrate organizational effectiveness before the chapter house is made available to the members. The earliest this would occur would be the fall of 2011. In the meantime, the colony will go through a fraternity education process, which will enable them to meet the accreditation requirements of the College and national.

The Alpha Iota chapter was in continuous operation from 1881 through 2000, when a series of violations of College policy led to the loss of recognition from the College.

The addition of Alpha Tau Omega will bring the total of active fraternities and sororities on campus to eight – four fraternities and four sororities. Approximately 24% of eligible students at Muhlenberg choose Greek life; there are currently over 400 Greek members. In 2008, Greeks contributed nearly \$15,000 to charitable causes and conducted over 9,000 hours of community service.



Center For Ethics Announces Series, Ethics of Space: Power of Place

This year, the Center for Ethics will sponsor *Ethics of Space: Power of Place*, a series of programs that will examine three different sub-themes that relate to the concept of "space:" BOUNDARIES, including the invisible, the visible and the geopolitical; CONTROLLING SPACE, which will challenge us to consider the differences and overlaps between public and private space, and physical and metaphorical space; and SPACE IN BODIES, which will tackle issues of shared identity, constructing differences and the spaces between people.

Each year, the Center for Ethics sponsors an intensive series designed to encourage discussion and reflection on a timely, pertinent topic. Center for Ethics programs are free and open to all members of the Muhlenberg family and the local community. For more information on the series, visit www.muhlenberg.edu/cultural/ethics.



Dance Theatre X Residency at Muhlenberg

Summer 2009 marked the inaugural year of the dance theatre X residency. The company physically resided on Muhlenberg's campus for approximately four weeks while developing new work. Associate Professor of Dance Charles O. Anderson worked with members of his Philadelphia-based dance company to develop choreographic material for a new work entitled World Headquarters, a multi-media dance theatre work which will premiere in 2010. Anderson spent the four-week residency working with two student interns (current Muhlenberg dance majors), who served the residency as rehearsal assistants and understudies. All involved were immersed in intensive physical training, as well ascreative process workshop sessions that are reflective of dance theatre X's afro-contemporary aesthetic and the company's artistic mission of creating work that synthesizes African-derived spiritual and communal movement practices with critical analysis of contemporary culture. 00



College Receives Gift from Trexler Trust for New Rehearsal Space

Muhlenberg has received a \$500,000 leadership gift from the Harry C. Trexler Trust, which will assist the College in opening a \$3.5 million practice and rehearsal house to serve the College's music, theatre and dance departments.

The new rehearsal house will occupy a 10,000 square foot existing structure, the former Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity house, located on the western edge of the campus facing Allentown's Cedar Beach Park and Lake Muhlenberg. It will provide 3,600 square feet of new practice and studio space for students, along with faculty offices.

Muhlenberg College President Randy Helm says, "As Muhlenberg continues to grow in national stature and reputation as a mecca for performing arts education in the context of the liberal arts, our rehearsal facilities have been overstuffed to the bursting point. This creative repurposing of a former fraternity house will provide desperately needed rehearsal space for musicians and actors, while refurbishing a derelict property facing one of Allentown's most beautiful public parks. A win-win for the College and the public."

Muhlenberg College's academic theatre and dance programs are ranked nationally among the top 20 small colleges in the 2008 Fiske Guide and fourth by Princeton Review. With 199 students declaring majors in theatre and dance, there has been a 132% increase in the dance department and a 156% increase in the theatre department over the past five years. The College's music department has experienced a 165% increase in majors over the past five years as well. For many students, including those majoring in areas such as biology, business and psychology, the opportunity to study the arts is an important component of their liberal arts experience.

The Trexler Trust has been an important contributor to the College over the years, providing donations to dozens of projects across campus, including the Trexler Library and the Trexler Pavilion for Theatre and Dance. This year, the Trust awarded grants to more than 80 Lehigh County organizations, totalling more than \$4.5 million.



THE TALENTS ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE

The Campaign for Muhlenberg College

Rebecca Liben '12 and Alison Heffer '96 have more than 15 years between them, yet their Muhlenberg experiences share a common thread: Muhlenberg College Hillel. Both think of Hillel as "a home away from home" and Patti Mittleman, Jewish chaplain and director of Hillel, as a surrogate mother to all who enter Hillel House.

Becca Liben is a sophomore and Ali Heffer has been out of college for more than a decade, yet it is a testament to how strong their bonds are to Jewish life at Muhlenberg that both of their parents have made six-figure gifts to the Hillel expansion and renovation project, naming key spaces in what essentially will be the new Hillel House.

John and Barbara Heffer have made a pledge to name the director's office. Barry and Sindy Liben have pledged to name the new lobby of Hillel, which will be called the Liben Lobby. "My family likes the alliteration," jokes Becca.

Becca, who is from Livingston, N.J., looked at 15

A Home Away from Home

John M. P'96 and Barbara S. Heffer P'96 and Barry H. P'12 and Sindy L. Liben P'12 Pledge Leadership Naming Gifts to Hillel House Project



schools, though she knew Muhlenberg (the second school she visited) was the place for her. "I went to a small Jewish day school and wanted a place where the professors would know if I wasn't there," she says. "Obviously, Judaism was a part of my school experience from an early age, but I didn't know how important it would be for me in college. One of my high school teachers was Patti Mittleman's mentor so I already had a connection. When I got to Muhlenberg, I just fell in love with Patti and Hillel."

Becca's plan is to pursue a major in psychology and minors in Jewish studies and sociology. She has already committed to being a Hillel volunteer and frequently goes beyond her set hours to work there or just hang out. "Hillel is very much a home at Muhlenberg. I would rather be involved in one thing in a big way than 10 things in a small way." Becca is so passionate about Hillel and the project to build a larger space that she was asked to give a presentation to Muhlenberg's Board of Trustees while still a first-year student.

"My first Shabbat I ate outside," she says. "My second Shabbat I ate in the hallway. When you go to Hillel, so many people are involved, but there is no room. I saw a list of things that the new Hillel House needs on the website and talked with my father. I knew we needed a big boost. My dad met with President Helm and Patti and decided to name the lobby area of the new House."

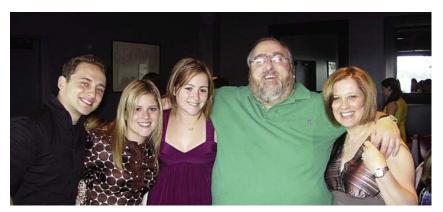
"I made the gift for two reasons," says Barry Liben.
"First, I believe very strongly in supporting anything that is important to my children, and Becca has made it clear that Muhlenberg and Hillel are extremely important to her. She just soaks it all in – she loves Muhlenberg. Second, my family has deep Jewish roots and I have always been involved in doing Jewish work. A working, effective Hillel like the one at Muhlenberg is exceptional. It just doesn't exist at other schools.

"But the bottom line is: Rebecca believes in it, therefore I have to support it."

One of Becca's favorite Hillel activities is Oneg-Shabbat – telling stories and singing songs after dinner. "It's so important to my parents that this place is on campus," she continues. "It's so important to me to never separate people or say they can't come – whether people are Jewish or not. We just want people to feel at home there."

Becca says she looks forward to staying involved with Muhlenberg College Hillel in years to come. "When I come back with my kids, they'll say to me, 'Mom, that's the lobby that Grandpa and Grandma built. This is where you worked.' That will be a very special moment."

An artist's rendering of the new Hillel House



The Liben Family: Michael, Daniella, Rebecca '12, Barry P'12 and Sindy P'12

Ali Heffer, of Chappaqua, N.Y., was sure she was going to Ithaca College after high school. Then her guidance counselor suggested she visit Muhlenberg. "I went to a Muhlenberg Open House and fell in love," she says. "Everyone said hello – everyone! I had a fabulous interview and got accepted."

At freshman orientation, Ali attended a Bagel Brunch, one of Hillel's most popular activities. "It was such an open, warm environment," she says. "Patti became a second mother to me."

Ali was diagnosed with a learning disability at Muhlenberg, but it didn't slow her down or keep her from achieving her dream. Through help from the Academic Resource Center she was able to pull her GPA up from a 1.8 to a 3.4. While a student, she was heavily involved in Hillel both serving on the board and volunteering for things like doing the shopping for Shabbat Dinners and Bagel Brunches. Because of her service and leadership in Hillel, she was a recipient of the Morton and Myra Levy Leadership Award. A stipulation of the award is that students give back, so Ali taught at the JCC in her spare time. She also babysat for Patti's sons, Ari and Joel.

Ali graduated with a bachelor of arts in psychology and now works as a child life specialist with the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital in New York City. She also continues to serve Hillel as a current member of the Advisory Board.

In the years since her graduation, her parents have made

gifts in support of the Academic Resource Center, The Muhlenberg Fund and Hillel. They also named The John and Barbara Heffer Health Center of the Life Sports Center.

"Both Patti Mittleman and Hillel were an important part of our daughter's undergraduate experience," say John and Barbara Heffer. "Because we feel close to Patti on a personal and professional level, we chose to acknowledge her contribution to Muhlenberg and our family with a

leadership gift."

"Hillel wouldn't be what it is without Patti," says Ali.
"She has literally done things like drive to New York City to see me if I'm having a bad day. I'm so happy that Hillel is the focus of a fundraising initiative and that my family can name Patti's office. She encourages people to dream; we truly are part of each other's families."

For more information on Muhlenberg's Hillel House renovation and expansion project, visit Hillel House on the Talents website (www.muhlenberg.edu/talentscampaign/hillel.html) or contact Patti Mittleman at 484-664-3244 or pmittlem@muhlenberg.edu.





left: John P'96 and Barbara Heffer P'96 above: Ali Heffer '96



The Places Entrusted to Our Care Muhlenberg's Building Projects Offer: Naming Opportunities

There are several expansion/renovation projects on campus that offer donors a variety of naming opportunities. Projects include Hillel House, Seegers Union, Parents' Plaza and the new Rehearsal House (formerly the TKE House). For more information, visit www.muhlenberg.edu/talentscampaign/places, call 484-664-3247 or email development@muhlenberg.edu.

Alumni **NEWS**

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A Welcome from the New Alumni Association President: Dr. Harry J. Lessig '67, P'93, P'00, P'01, P'03

I am honored to be addressing my fellow alumni and friends of the College in my first column for the *Muhlenberg Magazine!* My son Louis '93 left very big shoes to fill because of his outstanding four years of dedicated service as President of our Alumni Association. Many exciting activities have occurred in the past few months, and I would like to share with you some of these changes:

Alumni Board

At the April 2009 meeting, the Alumni Board elected several new members for 2009-2010. The new board members represent a wide range of class years and varied backgrounds. Please join us in welcoming:

Jeffrey Berdahl '85 Jack McCallum '72

Kent Brustler '92 Stefan Miller '99

Sheryl Leblanc Guss '81 Carolyn Nurnberg '00

Arthur Hill '43 Carol Ekizian Papazian '79

Richard Jacobs '63 Carol Taylor Winkie '64

Re-elected to another term on the Board is our Outstanding Young Alumna Jennifer McKee '02.

All new members attended the September Alumni Board meeting on campus where they received a formal introduction to the workings of our Alumni Association.

The Alumni Board also would like to recognize and thank departing Board members for their dedicated service to Muhlenberg as well as remind them that they will probably be called upon to continue their service to the College in many ways. The contributions made by Bob Buzzard '62, Brian Fishbone '98, Eileen Collins Neri '87, Lauren Shanahan '87, Jenn Tran '93, and Nicole Wentz '98 have been invaluable in helping to promote the mission of the Alumni Association and the College.

Alumni Achievement Awards

Since 1952, the Muhlenberg College Alumni Association has annually honored individuals whose activities and achievements in life are a significant benefit to the College and the Alumni Association.

I have been privileged to serve as chair of the Alumni Achievement Awards committee for the past two years and can tell you that the committee takes its job very seriously. Alumni Achievement Awards are the highest award given by the Alumni Association and they have been established in categories for both achievement and recognition.

The achievement awards include Alumni Service to the College, Alumni Lifetime Achievement, Alumni Leadership and Service to their lifetime work on behalf of the College and the positive light each individual's professional achievements sheds on Muhlenberg College as their alma mater.

The recognition awards are Outstanding Young Alumni, Heritage Alumni Recognition and Future Alumni Leader. The individuals who receive these awards are recognized for their direct involvement, dedicated commitment to Muhlenberg and the impact they have made or will make as alumni. The 2009 Alumni Achievement Award recipients are as follows:

Lee A. Kreidler '59 Alumni Service to the College Edward H. Bonekemper III '64 Alumni Lifetime Achievement Leonard I. Zon '79 Alumni Lifetime Achievement Jeffrey R. Porphy '89 Alumni Leadership Curtis Dretsch Service to the College by a Friend Jennifer A. McKee '02 Outstanding Young Alumna Mahlon H. Hellerich '40 Heritage Recognition Award Ashlev C. Rider '09 Future Alumni Leader Award Robert J. Janowitz '09 Future Alumni Leader Award

I would like to join the entire alumni association in thanking and commending all of the award recipients for their continued commitment to our Alma Mater.

Looking to the Future

As your new Alumni Association President, I am excited about the year ahead! If you have any comments or questions, please email me through the Alumni Office at bergalum@muhlenberg.edu.



A Reunion... and then some!

By Jenny McLarin '86 Director of Alumni Relations

If a "happiest couple" award had been given at Reunion 2009, Stewart Abrams '79 and Jackie Bernstein Weisman '79 would have been clear winners. Those who attended the Reunion and know Jackie and Stewart saw their classmates strolling around campus, frequently hand in hand. Although their relationship began at Muhlenberg over 30 years ago, Jackie and Stewart did not leave 'Berg as a couple. Many asked: "What's your story?" Little did they know, Jackie and Stewart's story is one that took 34 years to reach where it is today.

Ask Stewart about when he and Jackie first met, and without hesitation he will answer: "Sunday, August 24, 1975." At the time, the two had just graduated from rival Philadelphia-area high schools: Jackie from Abington and Stewart from Cheltenham. "We didn't know each other yet," says Stewart, "but we probably went to the same football games!" That Sunday afternoon in 1975, each traveled to the home of alumnus Hans Peckmann '55 for a gathering of students who planned to attend Muhlenberg in the fall. Jackie attended the event solo, while Stewart came with future roommate Steve Walker '79. "I had a long talk with Jackie," recalls Stewart, "and afterwards I said to Steve 'if I could get to know that girl at school, it could be one heck of a four years!""

The couple's next encounter was on campus, shortly after moving in to their respective dorms. At a gathering in Memorial Hall, Jackie's mother noticed Stewart looking at her daughter. "That guy is smitten with you! I can see it!" she told Jackie. "Yeah, yeah!" Jackie replied.

know each other" square dance in the Garden Room, Stewart looked for Jackie. "She showed up in a white top with a bubble gum machine on it," recalls Stewart. "We were square dance partners and hung out." The couple discovered that in addition to geography, they had some other things in common: at that time, both were pre-med (Stewart switched to business during sophomore year), and they had renowned professor Dr. Charles Mortimer '42 for chemistry. They also shared Dr. Edwin Baldrige as their freshman advisor.

That evening, at a "get to

During their first semester at 'Berg, Jackie and Stewart dated occasionally. "I was about #19 on her list!" he recalls. When spring semester arrived, "we didn't see each other much," says Jackie. "We weren't in class together anymore, and I was dating other people. Stewart was a friend, funny and nice."

The summer after freshman year, Jackie and Stewart's dating picked up again. "We went to Great Adventure," remembers Stewart, "and I camped out for tickets to the Eagles – got seventh row at the Spectrum!" They also got to see Gordon Lightfoot. "When we hear any of their songs now, it still brings back memories!" Stewart says.

For the one-year anniversary of their meeting, Stewart wanted to take Jackie somewhere special. They went to New Jersey, to the historic village of Smithville and then Atlantic City. "After that he invited me to his Sig Ep formal in the fall, and then - that was it! We stopped dating," remembers Jackie. Once junior year started, Jackie announced her engagement - but not to Stewart. She had met someone else, and went to Penn for senior year so she could be near him. Other than seeing each other briefly when Jackie came back for graduation, the couple parted ways... but not forever!

Flash forward to 1998: Jackie is part of her class's 20th Reunion committee.

"We divvied up names of classmates to contact," she remembers, "and Stewart's was the first name on my big green computer printout! I sent him an email, and he answered right away – a long response!" The two met up at Reunion, both married and with 3 (Stewart) or 4 (Jackie) children. "We stayed in touch for a couple of years by email, but family commitments took precedence and we lost touch again," Stewart recalls.

Almost 8 years later, in 2007, fate, life circumstances and impeccable timing brought Jackie and Stewart together again. Jackie registered for a conference in Miami, where Stewart lived at the time. ("It had nothing to do with him," she insists. "Yeah right!" teases Stewart.) "We got together for dinner," recalls Jackie, "and it was as if no time had gone by. It was so comfortable and easy!" Soon after, the couple decided to embark on a serious relationship, and commuted back and forth between the Philadelphia area and Miami for a year. In September 2008, Jackie moved to Florida, and the couple now resides near Ft. Lauderdale. Stewart, who always impressed Jackie by remembering every detail of their relationship, confirms that becoming a couple was no quick process. "We got together 31 years and 51 weeks after we first met!" he states proudly.

Flash forward again: this time to June 2009 at their 30th Reunion. What was their classmates' reaction to seeing Jackie and Stewart together? "I think everyone at 'Berg really liked our story," Stewart says, "and for us, being back at 'Berg as a couple felt fantastic!"

Jackie's mother, who – as only a mother can – sensed Stewart's devotion to her daughter 34 years ago on Move-In Day, passed away before Jackie and Stewart got together. "My mom would be so happy," says Jackie. "And it all started at Muhlenberg!" .



SEEGERS UNION EXPANSION

Originally designed in 1961 when approximately 1,200 students were enrolled, Seegers Union quickly became the heart of Muhlenberg's beautiful campus. Increased enrollment and over-use of facilities over the last decade have made the need for expansion critical.

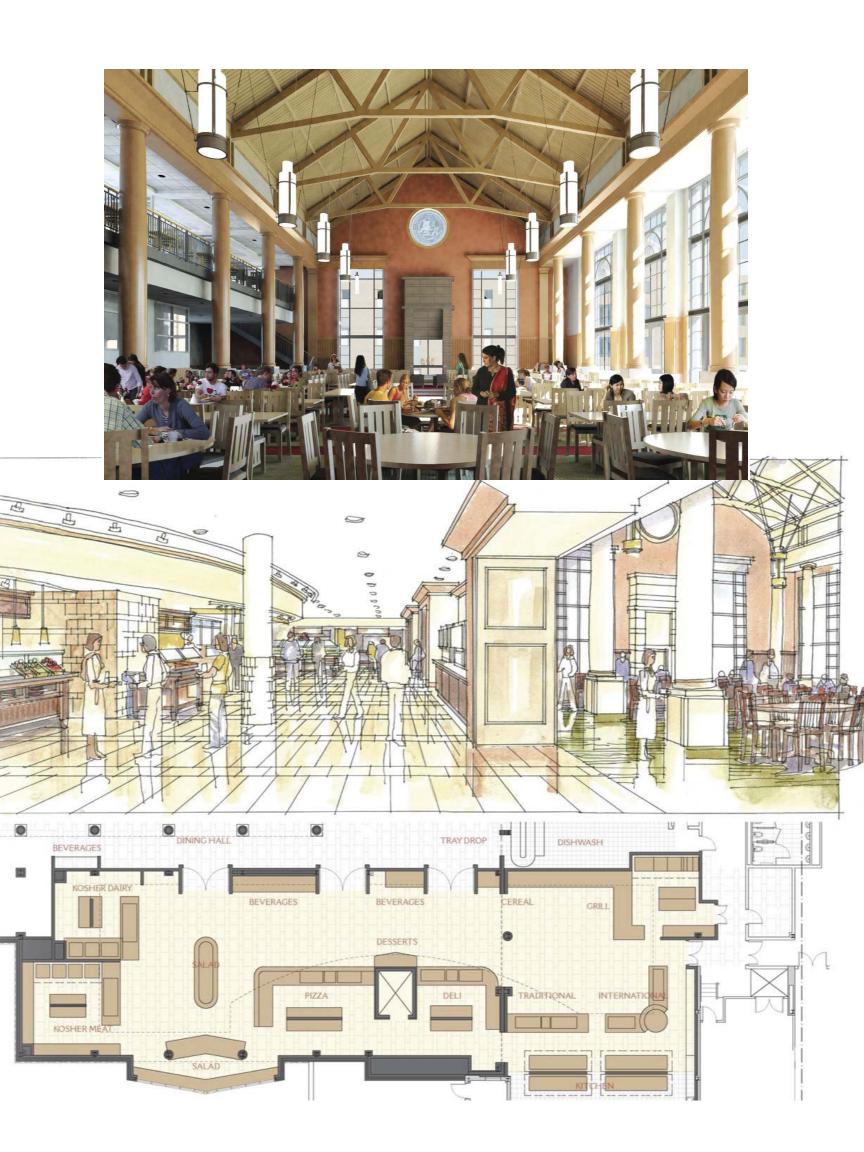
On April 24, a small group of faculty, staff and students gathered along with members of the Board of



Trustees for an intimate groundbreaking ceremony for the new Seegers Union expansion.

Highlights of the expansion include a full Student Life suite with offices and conference spaces for the Student Government Association, as well as a Media Center to house publications such as the Ciarla, the Weekly and the Advocate. The new dining room and enhanced food preparation areas will provide a more congenial dining atmosphere and more robust offerings of kosher, vegetarian, international and organic cuisine – all increasingly important to Muhlenberg

students. This project will also convert the existing Garden Room into a much needed event and performance venue, expand the bookstore and complete the campus' West Quadrangle (bordered on its other three sides by Brown and Taylor Halls and the New Science Building). Construction is scheduled for completion by fall 2010. For more information, visit www.muhlenberg.edu/talentscampaign/seegers/html. \bullet





"Contact" Sport

In college athletics, communication is the name of the game. Whether it's opening up a conversation with a prospective student athlete or keeping in touch with alumni, technology gives college-level coaches easier access to rising stars and veteran players alike.

As recently as a decade ago, when a coach recruited students, he or she mailed letters to hundreds of prospects on a weekly basis – a process that was both time consuming and expensive. Today, with the help of e-mail lists and databases, sending that same communiqué is as easy as clicking a mouse. And thanks to streaming games on College's website, an alum or a prospective who lives far from campus can still watch a game as it happens – or catch up at his or her convenience with the Muhlenberg College Athletics page on Facebook.

Women's basketball coach Ron Rohn, who has been at 'Berg since 2001 and coaching since 1980, marvels at how technological advances have helped him to better recruit and stay connected with alumni. Over Rohn's tenure as a coach, he's seen the switch from massive mailings to e-mail blasts,

by Jillian Lovejoy Lowery '00
Director of College Communications



left: Coach Ron Rohn
below: The 2008-2009 Women's Basketball Team



from sending a VHS tape via "snail mail" to forwarding a YouTube link.

"It's really important to keep on top of what can be done," explains Rohn. "Just like a form letter with the salutation 'Dear Recruit' is no longer acceptable, neither are generic e-mails without photos or graphics. Each one has to be a little different, each has to hold the recipient's attention." Rohn is also in the habit of e-mailing alumni after each and every game or whenever there is exciting news to share, keeping former student athletes informed and engaged.

From a college's perspective, the recruiting game is all about making your athletic program stand out among many – for coaches, the competition begins here, long before students hit the playing field. It's an extensive process, ascertaining which students are truly interested and attainable. And it can be hard to determine how to properly convey enthusiasm with out overstepping bounds.

There are boundaries in place, however. The NCAA has regulations that dictate that prospective students cannot be recruited on social networking sites like Facebook, nor can recruits receive text messages from coaches. Even phone calls are limited to one per week.

These regulations make perfect sense to Rohn, who views the process as something of a delicate balance. "You want to show your interest, but you don't want it to be too much. The regulations were instated to protect the students. Too much contact is overwhelming."

Even the use of the telephone has changed drastically. "Phoning students and having a direct conversation is a

really important way to show interest," said Rohn, "and it used to be that we'd have to make educated guesses as to when students would be reachable at home. Now, with cell phones, accessibility is much greater. It's incredibly rare that I'll call a recruit on her land line anymore."

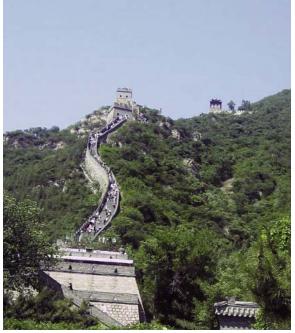
Rohn is quick to point out that, throughout this process, he and other coaches are not merely recruiting athletes; they are recruiting members of the college community who must fit academically as well as athletically. It's not just about who will help to win games, it's about finding students who are a perfect fit at Muhlenberg. "In that respect, what we're doing as coaches is an off-shoot of the efforts of the admission staff," muses Rohn. "We're searching to find the right students to bring to campus, and constantly changing our methods in order to attract the right ones."

Certainly, a picture is worth a thousand words – so therefore, being about to link students to a website that captures the feel of the College, or send an e-mail with engaging visuals is invaluable. Nevertheless, personal touches, like a well-timed hand-written note, can still make all the difference. "Technology allows us the opportunity to reach out to more and more students – but we have to remember that we're not the only ones e-mailing and sending links. That's why, after a certain amount of mutual interest has been established, nothing beats a thoughtful letter."

After all, in a time when inboxes are overflowing with messages, when communicating via text message is rampant and when significant conversations are being carried out over instant messaging programs, there's something nice about actually getting a letter in the mail . •

Exploring the States of







top photo: The Great Wall of China
bottom photo: Students and faculty members pose together at the Great Wall

How do people interpret our way of life? How much of this do we control? What do the clothes we wear, the music we write or the way we cut our front lawn say about us as a nation? These are questions I was asking myself by the end of my two-week abroad program in China, where we were trying to determine "What is Chinese-ness?" I was previously oblivious to how everyday activities or building structures can frame the way people interpret your world until I was fully submerged in another culture, trying to analyze it from the outside in. Art is often a medium for social commentary and is analyzed to determine its "meaning," but we often walk through life blindly not making similar connections: "Why are these doors red, what is that saying to someone, what are we trying to say?"

This past spring I was in Dr. Chi and Dr. Emmons' States of China course. We explored how art reflects social change in China and how it could be used as a lens to explore the term Chinese-ness. At the semester's end, we had a two-week abroad session in China spending a week in Beijing and a week in Shanghai. During this time we did some touring, visiting key places such as the Forbidden City, The Temple of Heaven and The Great Wall interspersed with artist hotspots visits in the two cities. It was breathtaking to be in such monumental places where history was frozen in architecture and people were traveling from around the world to capture their photo memories to take back home and have as a souvenir. I was also interested in analyzing how the two cities preserved and constructed their identity. Shanghai, originally a colonial city, had diverse architecture influenced from international design.

While abroad, we all engaged in photo projects centered around the theme of space. Topographically this is an obvious choice because of the vast difference in the amount of people living in Chinese cities – Shanghai has 18 million residents! We were cataloging images that seemed to tell a story when you read into the details. For example, my project focused on the privatization of public space and how this was reflected in everyday life. This idea emerged because we were all very aware of how private space was not a common belief in China. While in Beijing, I noticed there were subtle hints of marking private space. I created a photocatalog of images that showed how people used architecture and decoration to claim space in a city where everything is public.

After this experience I was intrigued about the preservation of history and how framing things can be a strategic way to tell a certain story. My experience can be summarized with a quote by the artist Qui Zhyis accompanying one of his exhibits in Shanghai: "If memories can only rely on medium to exist where can we find such a permanent medium? And if a kind of medium can seal and thus preserve the memory then it also possesses the capacity to forget." \bullet

By Gabriel A. Procaccino '10 Presidential Assistant, Public Relations

I wake up abruptly, shivering. The sun has yet to rise, and my body is riddled with mosquito bites. My ears are suddenly filled with strange sounds coming from across the river. I sit up slowly and let out a groggy yawn. My eyes begin to focus as I scan over my dim surroundings; momentarily I forget where I am, and as I crawl out of my sleeping bag I look over to see my waking companions as befuddled as I am. It is a quarter past four in the morning, and though the sky is still dark the river is already crowded with fisherman heading out for a day's work.

As the sun creeps up over the trees from the east, we begin to see the vastness of the Meghna River from the boat's roof, where we have spent the night. Dotted with fishing boats, the river stretches out in every direction like an ocean. We hear the same strange sounds once again, however, this time the sounds are more recognizable – the high-pitched voice of a man. The man is chanting loudly in a foreign tongue and his voice is oddly spooky, yet beautiful. This is the Islamic "call to prayer." This is Bangladesh.

On May 19, a group of 17 Muhlenberg students led by political science professors, Dr. Jack Gambino (dept. chair) and Dr. Mohsin Hashim, left for Bangladesh for a two-week study abroad trip. This part-class/part-excursion is one of Muhlenberg's Integrated Learning Abroad (MILA) programs. The course, Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Bangladesh, is co-taught by Gambino and Hashim. Beginning in January, it is a semester-long course concluding with a two week trip: an academic and cultural immersion program that delves students into the heart of Bengali culture and the key issues surrounding the developing country, specifically focusing on topics relating to sustainable development and climate change.

The group spent about half of the trip traveling throughout the country by riverboat and tour bus and the other half based in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital city. During our days we met with university students and professors, collaborated with aid workers and policy makers from various non-profit groups and interacted with rural villagers, farmers, and fisherman—discussing everything from gender rights and river-floodplain management to goat herding and cricket, the country's most popular sport. In the evenings we would explore; wandering through the marketplaces, going by rickshaw to the public parks and monuments, watching soccer and cricket matches in coffee shops and trying the local cuisine at restaurants where the silverware was as scarce as our ability to speak Bengali.

With over 150 million people, Bangladesh is the seventh most populous country in the world, and among the most densely inhabited. Highly impoverished, Bangladesh is often described as the "largest poorest" nation in the world, with over 80% of the population surviving on less than \$2 USD a day. It is still considered a "developing nation" by the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index.

Still a relatively young country, receiving its independence from Pakistan less than 50 years ago, Bangladesh is still coming into its own. Although best-known throughout the global community for its many natural disasters covered by the international news media, Bangladesh is much more. It is a land rich in





top photo: The group in Dhaka

bottom photo: Dr. Jack Gambino engages with a group of children

biodiversity, laced with gargantuan rivers and breathtaking landscapes. It is a land of deliciously spiced cuisine, strong national pride and full of the most genuine and hospitable people I have ever known. Though oft-overshadowed by its larger and more accessible Asian neighbors, Bangladesh maintains a fascinating quality that is both unique and untainted.

A slogan used by Bangladesh's Tourism Board reads, "Come to Bangladesh before the tourists." Each day spent in Bangladesh became a new adventure. After two-weeks of trekking through the jungle swamps of the Sundarban forest, getting lost in the ancient alleys of urban Dhaka, drinking Cha tea in the pouring rain, leaping into the swirling currents of the Meghna river, riding rickshaws, bartering for lychee fruit with vendors on the street, our group built a tight bond. For now, the memories of an amazing trip will have to last through photo albums shared on Facebook, phone calls and traded stories over coffee or a few beers at the Allentown Brewworks. I'm not sure that the tourists will ever come to Bangladesh, but I am sure glad that we did.





Strategic Plan

In 2003 a group of Muhlenberg faculty, staff and students began work on a new strategic plan for the College. Ratified by the College Trustees in October 2004, The Talents Entrusted to Our Care (TETOC) was designed as a ten-year plan with detailed goals and objectives for the first five years and, realizing the impossibility of predicting the future with great accuracy, a less detailed "sketch" of our priorities for the subsequent five years.

The world has changed dramatically since the Strategic Plan was completed. It is now time for us to begin thinking about the College's next strategic plan – a plan that will guide us through a time of severe economic turbulence, dramatic demographic changes and a rapidly evolving technological environment. But before moving on, we thought it important for the Muhlenberg family – alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends – to reflect on what the College has accomplished during the past five years as TETOC reaches completion. Highlights include:

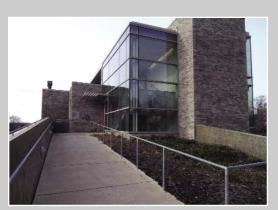
- The construction of a new LEED-certified science building and the total renovation of Shankweiler – 56,000 square feet of new and renovated space – enabling Muhlenberg to secure its reputation for pre-eminence in undergraduate science education and restoring biology to its former place as one of the top three undergraduate majors.
- The creation of six new residence halls, resulting in I37 additional beds on campus (and the replacement of the crumbling MacGregor Village).
- The expansion of Seegers Union to include new meeting rooms and expanded offices for Career Services, Academic Resources and Disability Services, with construction now underway for a new kitchen, servery, dining hall, student offices and an expanded bookstore.



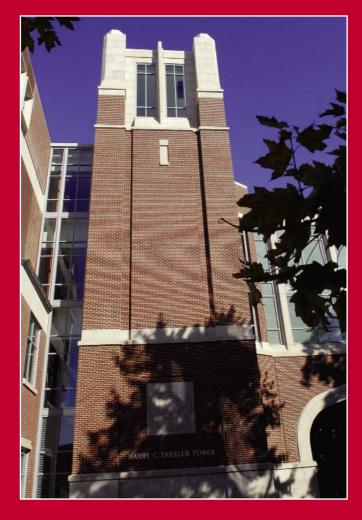








U P D A T E











- Development of a landscaping and tree maintenance plan for the campus, including the removal of approximately I4 sick and dying trees, the planting or replanting of 36 trees and the renovation and re-landscaping of Parents' Plaza.
 - The addition of eight tenure-track faculty lines (thus far) to strengthen existing departments – art, music, political science, biology, sociology/anthropology – and to catalyze the development of new interdisciplinary programs such as neuroscience and film studies,
 - The creation of other interdisciplinary programs such as public health and African-American studies, as well as the creation of a finance major in ABE, and curricular innovation in philosophy, religion studies, and other departments.
 - Significant expansion of summer student research opportunities (from 7 fellowships to 29 over the past five years) and the creation of student research assistantships.

Strategic Plan U P D A T E

- Creation of a robust service-learning curriculum, now providing 23 courses spanning the full range of the curriculum, which affords students opportunities to apply classroom theory to practice in service to the community.
- · Dramatic expansion in study abroad opportunities (from 35 to 153 programs over the past 5 years) and a correspondingly dramatic increase in student utilization of such opportunities (from 32% to 52% of graduates over the past five years).
- The creation of 43 new Techwalls (for a current total of 73) for new and existing classrooms, strengthening of the campus technology infrastructure and expansion of the wireless network to 38% of campus building spaces.
- Strategic acquisition of real estate on or near the campus to provide additional housing for faculty and staff families.
- The creation of a student-faculty-alumni guided Multicultural Center and the recruitment of a new director in support of the College's diversity goals.
- The public launch of an ambitious \$105 million comprehensive campaign in support of the Strategic Plan, with fundraising efforts on track for a successful completion by June 30, 2010.
- The creation of a "West End Theatre District" initiative, working with local merchants and others to revitalize the restaurant, entertainment and shopping environment within walking distance of the campus.

These additional strategic projects are underway or are ready to launch in the next 12 months pending the success of our fundraising efforts:

- The expansion of our overtaxed Hillel facility and creation of new academic facilities for sociology/anthropology; and
- The conversion of the former TKE fraternity house into a Rehearsal House for the use of the music and theatre departments.

It is important to note that, throughout the five years of the plan, we have consistently balanced our budget and our AI/A+ credit rating was recently upheld by Moody's and Standard & Poors - a claim that many educational institutions can no longer make.

The College posts an annual update on our progress toward each of the Plan's 29 initiatives; you may view this year's update at http://www.muhlenberg.edu/ committees/stratplanning/update.pdf.























Campus Safety-

Then and Now

By David G. Boelker '99

Ten years ago, if I were walking into the Campus Safety Office at the bottom of Prosser Hall, I likely would have had an uneasy feeling in my stomach – as if my hand were not only caught in the cookie jar, but that the jar was still stuck there. This time, an odd feeling of curiosity prevailed. "Boy, things sure have changed," I thought. Little did I know exactly how much they had, and similarly, little did I realize they hadn't.

I was headed to meet 14-year Campus Safety veteran and newly appointed director, Tom Dougherty, and hopefully later, to go on a ride-around with assistant director, and also long-time veteran of the department, Brenda Lakis. Before this, I thought I would write a simple behind the scenes piece, to give this department a bit more recognition than they receive otherwise. However necessary the existence of the department is, the promotion and recognition of it is a bittersweet thing. Without it, prospective parents may feel their children are unsafe – however, actively promoting and advertising the capabilities and emergency response training of the department, some might infer that the campus is not a safe place in the first place. Quite a tightrope to walk.

Trying to develop some questions for these two, I spent time thinking back about my time at Muhlenberg. I wondered how much things had changed in the 10 years since I had graduated. I found that there were indeed changes, though not in the way I had imagined.

Rewind to the late '90s, and the hot topic of the semester in *The Muhlenberg Weekly* is the fact that Campus Safety officers will be armed. Come to think about it, things changed before we even realized it. The weekend I visited Dougherty and Lakis happened to be the ten-year anniversary of the tragedy that occurred at Columbine High School, and two years had just passed since the Virginia Tech massacre. Indeed, things are different.

Given that, I decided to tell the story more from the perspective of the Campus Safety department, understanding this side is not opposing the student. Campus Safety is on the students' side, whether realized or not. Not to oversimplify, but just look at the name of the department. It's not Campus Police, but Campus Safety. It is not simply arbitrary or softer-sounding, it's quite deliberate. Their job is to keep the students, the institution and their respective assets safe – from outsiders, and from each other – and that is an around-the-clock and around-the-year job.

While the situations that this department must train for have certainly increased in their intensity, the core focus of all the other hours of the job, remains exactly the same.

"This job is still about communication, says Dougherty. "Those talks outside a situation help all the other interactions. It's easier to deal with a problem when it's not going on, by stopping by to talk to them [students.]"

Lakis echoes these efforts, "I challenge each officer to talk to 10 students on their shift. Not just responding to a call. Just talk to them. Learn their names and faces."

This is a department that must constantly adapt and prepare for unknown situations, in a changing environment, on a nearly daily basis. Any advantage they can have to better serve their customer needs to be cultivated. If weapons are the generally-accepted tools of the trade, communication is their most effective weapon.

The constant goal of the department is to communicate with students in order to have a relationship of sorts, and hopefully a level of trust, making any situation easier to handle and extinguish.

While this effective tool as a student-staff relationship builder, there are some additions to the department that are more recent developments. One example of this is simple in nature, but effective. The newly adapted emergency text messaging system is "reserved for major incidents, versus other schools that also use it to promote social events," says Dougherty. The only disadvantage to this system, however, is the fact that it is a voluntary system that students must sign up for, and supply their cell numbers. To supplement

this, a campus alert siren has been obtained, and will sound in case of an emergency.

Another notable addition is the presence of approximately 40 cameras around the campus, most with night vision and zoom capabilities, constantly collecting information. It is important to note that these cameras are not actively monitored, but used rather as evidence-collectors in the event of a disturbance. If an event happens, in the coverage area of one of the cameras, the department can refer to the digitally stored footage to help identify or document evidence against a suspect. This technological advantage has already been utilized in a number of various cases on campus.

Increasing the utilization of technology is a major goal of Dougherty's who believes that "better integrated technology can help supplement staffing." Despite a marked increase in the number of facilities and acres to monitor, not to mention students to serve, the total number of officers has not changed in a decade, adding more emphasis on the department's need to utilize the technology at hand.

Though much has changed, one important thing remains a constant: 'Berg's Campus Safety Officers work tirelessly to protect students, and to be a part of their college experience -- without invading their privacy. After all, the reason "I challenge each officer to talk to IO students on their shift. Not just responding to a call. Just talk to them. Learn their names and faces."

-Assistant Chief Brenda Lakis

I am riding in the Campus Safety vehicle this particular night is solely due to the fact that Brenda had done what she preaches now – she made an effort to get to know me (and countless others ten years previous) and never forgot me. Nor did she forget many of the old stories that my friends and I relive from time to time, by the way. But that's a story for another time. Campus Safety was an ally in a common cause for me, then. Could they get us in a lot of trouble for doing dumb things? Yes, but not without our help. It seems now, they have to work both harder and smarter in order to achieve the same result.



Chief Tom Dougherty with assistant chief Brenda Lakis.

Commencement 2009

The I6Ith Commencement of Muhlenberg College was held on May 17, 2009.

Director and producer Gilbert Cates, former president of the Directors Guild of America delivered a speech to the Class of 2009. He received an honorary doctorate of arts.

Other honorary degree recipients were: humanitarian and former boxer Muhammad Ali, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Galway Kinnell and Kathleen A. McGinty, former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Robert Janowitz and Ashley Rider were honored with the Alumni Association Future Alumni Leader Award, and Andrew Brown delivered the address for the Class of 2009.



























I believe there is an assumption with a commencement address that the speaker knows something that the graduating class doesn't know or should find either helpful or at least interesting.

I would like to respectfully disagree with that premise. I think you graduates are the ones that know something important and unique...

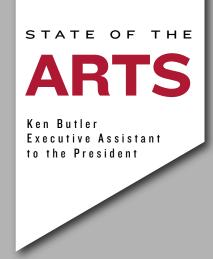
You definitely know something that I do not... You know who you are. You know how you look, you think, what you know, what's important to you. That is an important start in your post college experience.

—Gilbert Cates









Faculty and students collaborate on works that fuse text, movement and music in exciting new ways

In a series of interviews about the department of theatre and dance's new focus on dance theatre, I spoke to James Peck, associate professor and department chair; Karen Dearborn, professor and dance program head; Charles Anderson, associate professor of dance and head of the African-American studies program; Troy Dwyer, assistant professor of theatre; two department alumni: Chris Shepard '07 and Lindsey Howard '08; and student Elle Barks '10.

Ken Butler: Tell me about dance theatre. James Peck: Speaking narrowly, dance theatre is a hybrid genre combining theatre and modern dance. It's on the leading edge of new forms of performance emerging throughout the world. However, in a broader sense, dance theatre has been around for millennia. The standard narrative of western theatre history starts with the Greeks and there's evidence that tells us the text, the movement, the highly-choreographed choral dance pieces and the musical accompaniment were completely integrated throughout the entire experience. It's actually the western academy that has separated the departments of theatre, music and dance; if you look across the world's performance forms, it's much more common that those modes of expression are taught, studied, practiced and analyzed as an integrated unit.

Karen Dearborn: Indian and Asian performance traditions incorporate all three modes of expression into their performances. Even in the Biblical tradition, we find examples of song, dance and text integrated into worship.

Jim: Consider the work of Cirque de Soleil. How do you think about that? Is it circus, modern dance, clowning, theatre, popular entertainment? None of these categories is adequate to encompass everything that's going on. Though it is quite different from the work we're doing, it could be considered dance theatre.

Karen: In concert dance, choreographers like Bill T. Jones use dance, text and narrative story-telling to convey ideas. Even *West Side Story*, which was conceived as a work that would tell its story through dance as well as music and text, might be considered a dance theatre work. Jim: One of the seminal figures in the dance theatre movement is the late Pina Bausch, a German choreographer whose work, which she called Tanztheater, incorporates text, acting, virtuosic and difficult dance sequences, majestic, drop dead gorgeous scenic design, and also a notion of character that is highly theatrical. Karen: What we're talking about here is largely a European tradition, as artists in Europe haven't

drawn lines between modern dance or ballet or theatre or text or music in the way that we have in America. What we're attempting to do in the department is much more aligned with a European aesthetic.

Ken: And what does this emphasis on dance theatre offer our students?

Karen: This kind of training and performance experience makes them more complete performers. The notion that they should focus only on theatre or only on dance is very limiting; our best performers are those students who are studying all the forms of expression, and understand how performance operates differently within a variety of sociocultural and historical contexts. Inviting them to engage in cross-disciplinary study is the foundation of the liberal arts – you learn through multiple modes that complement and enhance each other.

Jim: I very much think that dance theatre is a future of live performance. The theatre is learning that it can no longer compete with film and television in the arena of realism and narrative, linear storytelling. What the theatre is re-discovering as its great strength is the encounter between the performer and the audience, and that magic, extraordinary thing that happens when the performers are doing fantastic, virtuosic stuff that the audience can't do themselves. That experience is the central exchange that's going to keep live performance a vital part of our culture. Dance theatre, because it draws on the full expressive potential of what performers can do, is at the vanguard of where we're headed.

Karen: The immediacy of all three forms is what we have to give people that moving images on a screen don't.

Jim: Right. That's where we're going to lay claim to being culturally important and unique in future

Ken: What kind of dance theatre has the department produced?

Jim: Probably the first full-scale dance theatre work the department produced was *Corps*, a work conceived, directed and choreographed by Chris Shepard '07.

Karen: But you can go much further back to find examples of integrated performances. [Former Associate Professor] Devon Allen's original pieces – works like *The Kafka Project* and *Ophelia's Tattoo* – utilized integrated music, text and movement.

Ken: Let's talk about Corps.

Troy Dwyer: Corps came out of a conversation



left: David Bass-Clark '09 as Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Erik Fiebiger '10 as Gaëtan Dugan, and Kate Thompson '07 as Lilith in Cares

below: Troy Dwyer, Charles Anderson and Baker Guest Artist

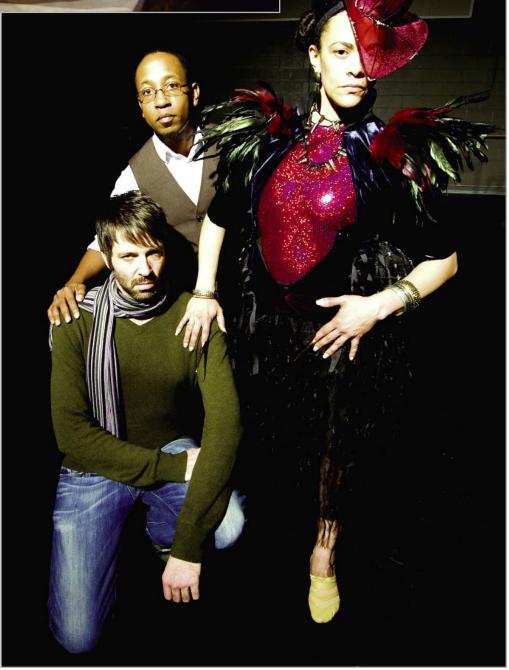
Chris and I had. He was drawn to several different stories, and was trying to figure out which one to tell. I said to him, "Maybe there's something that connects all these ideas, something new that needs to be uncovered. What if you weave the stories together, so you can reveal the hidden ways they call to each other?"

Chris Shepard: I did have two separate ideas, and knew that the piece would be mostly self-generated and not rely on an existing text. One idea was an exploration of the story of Gaëtan Dugas, known as Patient Zero, who was identified as one of the first persons in the United States with AIDS; another idea was staging a piece about the creation of "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," with Coleridge as the main character. I knew from the beginning that whatever I did would involve this blend of dance and theatre, though I didn't know the extent to which they would be integrated.

I worked over the summer of 2006 and when rehearsals began in early 2007 I had a more or less complete version of the script, though sections of the script were simply paragraphs of images and ideas, words that represented what I thought the movement or staging could look like, or possibilities of what the audience could perceive from the action. I knew that I was going to create movement sequences from those ideas and images.

Having Charles Anderson and James Peck as mentors for the project was amazing.

continued on next page



State of the Arts; continued from previous page

They gave me a huge amount of support. I met with Jim every other week to talk about the script. Corps was the first time I'd written a full-length script and his advice was invaluable. Charles helped me by reminding me that I could and should use my choreographic skills to tell more of the story through movement; at that point in my career, it was easier for me to tell the story through text and more difficult for me to commit to using movement to communicate ideas. There is no way I could have completed the piece without them. Ken: Lindsey, what was it like to be a member of the ensemble in Corps? Lindsey Howard: It was an incredible experience that pushed my own boundaries as a performer and artist. As a dancer, acting never came easily to me. Because of the way acting and dancing were intertwined in Corps, I gained more confidence in myself as an actor and also learned how to use that emotion when I dance.

Ken: Chris, you were a theatre major and completed two minors, one in dance and one in English. Lindsey, you were a double major in theatre and dance, and Elle, you're completing that double major, as well. How do you feel your academic work has prepared you for lives as working artists?

Chris: The heart of the liberal arts education is that everything connects in one way or another. The more areas you study, the more connections you're able to make between disciplines. You're sitting in an English class and your professor is making a point about a poem and you suddenly find a connection to a point that your professor made in your directing class this morning, which leads to another connection a teacher made during your modern dance class yesterday afternoon. Things keep criss-crossing and supporting the artistic work you're doing. It feeds on itself in good ways. It's also a way of looking at the world that isn't specified: it's fine to learn a lot about one thing, but if you learn a

great deal about a lot of things – well, how much better off will you be?

Lindsey: My studies in both dance and theatre intersected constantly. In dance technique and composition classes, I was learning how to perform. What was the intention of each movement? What was going on in my head when I danced? Those were questions my acting classes helped me answer. At the same time, my acting classes were pushing me to break away from certain insecurities I had, which also freed me when it came time to choreograph.

The ultimate intersection of these two majors was when I choreographed my senior dance solo. I decided to work with the stories my grandmother had told me before she passed away. I combined them with movement to represent her physical state and played with how I used her words to show her mental state. Throughout the solo, those two separate worlds collided.

Elle Barks: The relationships you create at Muhlenberg are amazing. The theatre and dance communities here are small enough that you can have really tight relationships with your professors and your classmates. The classroom and performance experiences that are offered allow us to constantly experiment and cultivate our minds as creative artists. In our acting classes, we are given freedom to follow our own path and not merely follow our professors' techniques. They all urge us to find our own way.

Ken: Charles, I've seen a fair amount of your work here at Muhlenberg and you have always incorporated original music and text into your dances.

Charles Anderson: While my work is not traditional African dance, is it rooted in Africanist idioms of expression and performance. In that context, the notions of speaking, moving and singing always go together.

Therefore, I've always approached my work from that perspective. I've always been very interested in the dramatic aspects of movement, not

just what it evokes in the abstract, but how you can take what it evokes to then speak more specifically around an idea or issue.

Ken: Troy, how did your training lead you into this kind of work? Troy: My training background is rooted in non-realism and Asian movement traditions, so much of my acting and directing work prior to coming to Muhlenberg followed those veins. My collaboration with Charles wasn't far afield from those projects, except that I had more direct authorship on Caw. Ken: Press for Caw stated, "As native Southerners – one black, the other white - Anderson and Dwyer are collectively reaching to inspire dialogue with their creative view of an inclusive American culture - one that is fully aware of difference, race, sexuality and the South's contribution to American history and culture." How did the piece come about? Charles: We were having a conversation about our southern backgrounds, and our shared relationships with Uncle Remus folklore, as well as issues of race and difference. By the end of that conversation, we knew we wanted to make a work based those ideas, but the timing wasn't right for Troy. I created a work called Tar, which re-fashioned ideas surrounding the character of the Tar Baby in the Uncle Remus stories, using it as a metaphor for the for the inextricable historical link between black and white Americans created by race and racism. But we always knew we'd come back to the ideas of that first conversation. And that's how we

Troy: Some audience members, and even some artists who weren't involved with the project, assumed that I directed *Caw* and Charles choreographed it. Or, that because I wrote the text, I was the "real" creator and Charles merely interpreted my words. These perceptions are understandable but not accurate; they apply more to traditional theatre than to a project like *Caw*. *Caw* was truly

finally came to create Caw.

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Popular events and activities at this year's Reunion included the Donald Rothfeld '59 Art Collection Wine and Cheese Reception; trolley tours around campus and the surrounding area; an interactive panel discussion on the economy by Muhlenberg faculty; President Randy Helm's State of the College Address; and a Reunion Brunch held in the Multicultural Center. In addition, the Alumni Achievement Awards Luncheon was a big draw. (For more on the Alumni Achievement Awards, please see article on p. 8.)





CLASS Notes

1935

Hubert H. Bury was honored as the oldest Eagle Scout in his council. He earned the rank in 1938 and was the third Eagle Scout in Lehigh County.

1947

John R. Bogert traveled to Venezuela as an exploration geologist from 1950–1953, roaming the jungles between the Orinoco and Amazon Rivers.

1957

On the evening of June 11, 2009, E.H. Midlige was one of four individuals honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Patriots' Path Council - Boy Scouts of America. James R. Bloomfield writes, "I have retired after 48 years of college teaching, the first two of which were at Muhlenberg (1959-1961). I remain active on the Thiel College campus doing research, reading and writing."

1967

Mary Jane Karger, who for over 30 years was a school social worker at Carmel Central School District in Patterson, N.Y., was honored as the Educator of the Year at the 6th annual Respect Awards-New York. The gala dinner benefitted GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. This year, Karger will also be honored by the National Education Association with the prestigious Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights. The award is presented to a nominee whose activities in human rights significantly impact education and the achievement of equal opportunity for those facing sexual orientation discrimination.

1968

Joanne (Strehle) Bast had a felted wool portrait of her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Ben, accepted into the juried Creative Crafts Council Exhibit at Strathmore Hall in Rockville, Md. It won the Hand-Weavers of America Award. She also does agility trials with both of her spaniels, Ben and Jerry. ■ Jack DeVries



Matthew R. Sorrentino '70



John R. Bogart '47 (third from left) in Venezuela, 1952

writes, "We had our annual 'Berg reunion with friends at our house in West Chester. Lots of good times and story telling and reminiscing about Muhlenberg and various professors and experiences."

Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP is pleased to announce that Telisport W. Putsavage and his science-based and regulatory pesticides practice have joined the firm's Washington, D.C. office. He will be a partner in the Pesticides and FIFRA

Practice Group. Putsavage was previously a Partner at Keller and Heckman.

1970

Matthew R. Sorrentino, managing partner and president of Lehigh Valley law firm Tallman, Hudders & Sorrentino, has been named a Pennsylvania "Super Lawyer" for 2009 by Philadelphia Magazine and Law & Politics. ■ Bethlehem Attorney Lawrence B.

Fox has recently completed the writing of a humorous law-related play entitled "There's No Justice – Just Court Costs." The Pennsylvania Playhouse presented the world premiere of this original comedy, live on stage August 27, 28, 29 and 30. This play is composed of a distillation of some of the stories found in Fox's four humorous books, which are described at www.lawrencebfox.com.



Friends congregate at the annual DeVries reunion.

Top Row - Dr. Wayne Muck '68, Nancy Muck '69, Wiley Raab, Ron Henry '68,
Donna Henry, Steve Fellows '68, Hank Raab '68, Merrie Fellows '67.

Middle Row - Peter Zimmer '69, JoAnne Halschied, Ed Halschied '69, Lee Seras '68,
Carol Seras '70, Roger Luckenbill '68, Mari Luckenbill, Bob Reiter '68,
Ann Fusco Reiter, Jack De Vries '68.

Bottom Row - Carol Zimmer '67, Kaetra Pletenyik, Andie De Vries '67, Margaret Van Guilder, Ken Van Guilder '69, Jenny Roeper '69, Carl Pletenyik '68

1975

Rev. Sally Dolch was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church on June 13, 2009. She is currently senior minister at Bethany & Salem United Methodist Churches in Pocomoke City, Md. Her husband, Ron '73, head of the Business Department at Wor Wic Community College, was present for the ordination service.



Rev. Sally Dolche '75

1976

Laura Duvall recently moved back to Washington, D.C., not far from the Statue of General Pete. Her daughter, Amy, just graduated from Michigan Law School and will be working in New York City. Her son, Sam, graduated from Maryland and works for ESPN. Her other son, Tom, is a senior at University of Michigan.

1979

James Benson recently accepted a position as parish administrator at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, located in Brockton, Mass. James recently was employed at Advanced TrimWright, Inc. as vice president/operations. ■ Thirty-four years ago Darla Heivly, Becky Riti, Laura Castor, Betsy Burnham Alspach and Linda Robbins Barrington met at Muhlenberg. In March of 2009, they spent a weekend together in Lenox, Mass. They hope to make it a yearly event.



Aaron J. Gorovitz '80

1980

Aaron J. Gorovitz has been selected by The Best Lawyers in America® 2009 in the area of real estate law. This publication chooses the attorneys and areas of practice based on



Members of the Class of '79 Darla Heivly, Becky Riti, Laura Castor, Betsy Burnham Alspach and Linda Robbins Barrington

recommendations from clients and other attorneys. Inclusion in Best Lawyers is based entirely on peer review.

1981

After selling his company to Mellon Bank, **Brett Studner** started a new firm in September 2008. He lives in Radnor, Pa., with his wife, Bethany, and two children, Taylor and Gavin. He is still very involved in various community and charitable organizations.

1985

Robert Debbs, D.O., was elected president of the American College of Osteopathic Ob-Gyn's and promoted to associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. ■ Jan R. Jurden was presented with the Sylvia H. Rambo Award by the Women's Law Caucus of the Penn State Dickenson School of Law on February 26, 2009. The award recognizes a woman in the legal profession who "has had a distinguished career and who, by example, has made the professional success of other women more likely." Judge Jurden is currently serving a 12-year term on the Delaware Supreme Court.

1987

Brad Fischer writes, "The picture below was taken on June 5 and this outing will continue to take place on the 'first Friday in June for the rest of our lives.' Ex teammates, coaches, fraternity brothers and friends get together for good times at the annual Mules and Friends Golf Outing."

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Present at the Third Annual Mules and Friends Golf Outing were:

Front Row (I to r): Richie King '88, Chris Lutz '88, Brad Fischer '87, Danny Bierals '9I, Charlie Voorhees '87, Tim Finnegan '88, Mike Bertram '87, John Biondi '95, Ed Della Valle '87

Second row (I to r): Ron Binn '89, Kevin Mei, Andy DeFonso '87, Mike Lawless '86, Dave Kells '87, John MacDonald '89, Brian O'Dowd '90, Rob Paessler '9I, Larry Feinstein '89, Alfonso Petrillo '89, Jon Keller '87, Coach Ralph Kirchenheiter.

Third row (I to r): Charlie Kelly '86, Tom Murdock '86, Mark Bisbing '84, Art Kopacz '87, David Nye '87, Eric Abrams '87, Jerry Haggerty '84, Darin Petro '90, Tom Moyer '87, Tim Walbert '89, Dave Pfund '88, Tom Neumann '86,

Brian Halligan '99, Chuck Dougherty '89, Tom Lukasiewicz '97, Coach Tony Cocca.

Not pictured: Charlie Antell '90, Bill Cronin '87, Chris Esier, Nick Leno '84, Angus McDonald '86, Joe McGuinness '89, Jim Murphy '90, Eddie O'Connell '89, Chris Peischl '86, Mark Roberts '89, Jack Schwinn '86, Andy Smith '89, Jeff Yaughan '89. Chris Zatorski '89



Mira Naomi Rubin



Heather (McLean) Buckley '97 with her daughter, Grace Irene



Julia Rose Murphy-Peterson

1990

Brenda and **Joseph Maselli** are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Julia Kathryn. She was born on April 26, 2009, and weighed 8 lbs, 2 oz.

1995

Melissa (Fischbein) Rubin announces the birth of her daughter, Mira Naomi Rubin, on May 27, 2009.

1997

Heather (McLean) Buckley and her husband, Wayne, proudly announce the arrival of their daughter, Grace Irene Buckley, on December 4, 2008. Grace weighed 8 lbs, 7 oz. Heather, Wayne and Grace live in Raleigh, N.C.

Courtenay (Cooper) Hall is proud to announce the birth of her baby boy, Chase Daniel. He was born on November 3, 2008, in Staten Island, N.Y., and weighed 9 lbs, 11 oz.. Chase's two older sisters, Lindsay and Lauren, are absolutely thrilled to have a baby brother!

Allison (Cornish) Perrucci writes, "We welcomed our third child, Roman Michael, on November 20, 2008. Roman joins big sisters Ava, age four, and Angelina, age two. He was 7 lbs, 14 oz and 19 ½ inches long. The family currently lives in Bethlehem, Pa.

2000

Christine Murphy and Michael Peterson '99 announce that their daughter, Julia Rose Murphy-Peterson was born July 14, 2009 at 4:23 p.m., 7 lbs 12 oz.

Andrew Wurzer and Lindi (Wilhelm) Wurzer '01 announce the birth of their daughter, Autumn Josephine Wurzer, on May 29, 2009. She weighed 7lbs, 10oz.



Ava, Angelina and Roman Perrucci '97

M-U-E-S



Autumn Josephine Wurzer

2001

Rebecca (Mathis) Bollam and Jeremy Bollam announce the birth of their first child, William Owen Bollam. He was born on April 15, 2009, and weighed 7 lbs, 5 oz. Proud grandparents include Carol (Berger) Mathis '69 and Ward Mathis.

2003

Adam Marles announces the birth of his son, Nathaniel Frederick Marles, on September 23, 2008.

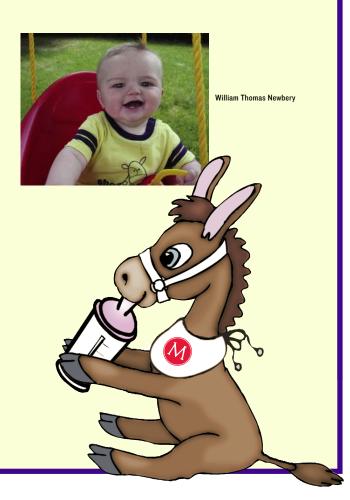
Stephanie (Ahrens) Newbery is proud to announce the birth of her son William Thomas, born on December 14, 2008. He weighed 7 lbs, 12 oz and was 21 inches long.



Nathaniel Marles



William Owen Bollam



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Alumnae present at the wedding of Dina Andresen '91

1988

Ken Spiegelman is pleased to announce the publication of his first novel, Standby. He is hard at work on his second, A Bird Named Fish. Ken is a teacher of advanced placement American government and macroeconomics and advanced placement European history at Miami Beach Senior High School, where he also serves as an assistant football coach.

1991

Dina Andresen and Christopher Maxwell were married on October 4, 2008, at Old First Church in Huntington, N.Y. The reception was held at the Hamlet Wind Watch Golf and Country Club in Hauppauge, N.Y. Alumnae in attendance were Kristen Fleming Cummings, Kristin Hillestad Licata, Meredith Miles Flanagan and Adrienne Waintraub.

1993

Emilie Jane Conroy was a finalist in a recent national essay competition sponsored by Woman's Day magazine. Additionally, her new media project, Vampgeist, has successfully been launched and is now combining pop culture with cultural anthropology.

1994

Nancy (Donofrio) Chiaravalloti, Ph.D. is the director of the neuropsychology and neuroscience laboratory at Kessler Research Center, an associate professor in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School, and a licensed psychologist in the States of New Jersey and New York.

1995

Jennifer (Perry) Mossburg and Gregg Mossburg are overjoyed to announce that they were married on March 28, 2009, in Wilmington, N.C. The wedding party included alums Dave Perry '92, brother of the bride, and Michelle Izmirly '94. Other Muhlenberg alumni in attendance were Kaitlin Small Duffy '96, Kevin '96 and Elizabeth (Moskaluk) Collins '94, Prody '91 and Arden (Teurfs) Borboroglu, John '96

and Rebecca (Strothers) Angelo, Emily Gleason, Beth (Meagher) Evans, Daria (Schibbe) McHugh '94, Beth (Regan) Jacobs. After a glorious honeymoon in Aruba, the couple returned to their home in Gainesville Va., a suburb outside of Washington D.C. Gregg and Jen both work at CGI, an IT consulting firm, where Gregg is a vice president and Jen is an executive consultant.

2001

J. Michael DeAngelis writes,



Alumni present at the wedding of Jessica Drennan 'OI to Paul Carriero were, from left to right: Andrea Gleckler 'OI, Melissa McDonough 'O2, Valerie Condron 'OI, Brian Condron 'OO, Jessica Drennan- Carriero; Jennifer Mckee 'O2, Kenyamo McFarlane 'OO, Jennifer Leitzel 'OI, Christopher Rogers 'OI, Lennard Schaefer 'OO, Jennifer Kahn 'OI and Sarah Domis 'OI,

"A play that I co-wrote with fellow Muhlenberg alum Pete Barry '97 has been selected as a finalist in the 34th Annual Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival in New York and will be performed in competition as part of the festival. The production will star myself and Mr. Barry, along with John Dowgin '97. If selected as a winner of the festival, the play will be published and



Alumni present at the wedding of Jodi Siegel 'Ol and Dustin Stein 'Ol were:
Top Row: Joshua Silverman '12, Brad Rosen (Attended), Andrew Elstein '03,
Chris Rodgers 'Ol, Jennifer Kahn Rodgers 'Ol, Rebecca Kleinhaus Trajchtenberg '03,
Eric Trajchtenberg '03, Nick Bianco 'Ol, Gideon Javna '02, David Jennings 'Ol,
George Wagenhoffer '00

Middle Row: Sophie Pizem '02, Carolyn Nurenberg '00, Elliot Gerard '02, David Cohen '01,
Adam Evans '01, Stephanie Carvallido McHoul'01, Greg Silvesti '02, Brad Scheller '03
Bottom Row: Andrea Rosen; Samantha Schnell Elstein '03, Maren Conway '01,
Natalie Rosenthal Moser '01, Lynsey Grady Silvesti '01, Giovanna D'Orazio Peterson '01,
Jodi Siegel Stein, Dustin Stein, Jacob Lazinger '01, Josh Cohen '03,
Dougl McHoul (Attended), Scott Norville '02



Alumni and faculty present at the wedding of Megan Richwine '03 and David Utley

licensed for performance by the Samuel French company." ■ Jessica Drennan was married to Paul Carriero. Many alumni were present for the event. ■ Jodi Siegel and Dustin Stein were married in December at the Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, N.J. Many alumni were in attendance.

2002

Pam Neumann received a master of science in nursing with her family nurse practitioner from Quinnipiac University on May 10, 2009. Pam is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society for nursing, Tau Rho Chapter at Quinnipiac. She also received the award for the highest GPA in the nurse practitioner class of 2009. She is currently working at Hartford Hospital as an R.N. as she prepares to take her nurse practitioner licensing boards. She hopes to obrtain a job as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Pam also purchased her first home in Middletown, Conn., in July of 2007 and lives there with her two chocolate labs, Chelsea and Kodi. Friends are welcome to email her or contact her via facebook.

2003

Megan Richwine met her husband David Utley while performing in West Side Story and High School Musical. The couple was married in Egner Memorial Chapel on Muhlehberg's campus, where many alumni



Tyler and Jenna (Belisonzi) Papaz '05

and faculty were present. TJ O'Connell, Christina Spring and Sara Richwine '09 were in the wedding party, and Justin Brehm '06 provided the piano accompaniment as O'Connell sang at the ceremony.

2004

Christy Barnes is pleased to announce that on July 19, 2008 she married Christopher

Alumni present at the wedding of Joe Stefanelli '05 and Bonnie MacDonald '07 were:

Top Row: Megan DiPaolo '07, Amie Lytle '07, Stephanie Lauren '07, Christopher Shepard '07, T.J. O'Connell, Cara Restaino '02,

Jeffrey Simno '01 (Best Man), Nicholas Carriere '02, Phil Haas '05, Jenny Peters '05, Ryan Richter '04

Middle Row: Rebecca Schneider '01 OR '06, Leah Goldstein '05, Lydia Brubaker '05, Lindsay Quinn '05, Jennifer Lifson '01,

George Psomas '05, Jen Taylor '05

Bottom Row: Frankie James Grande '05, Cheryl Galaga '01

DiFiori. The ceremony was held in West Point, NY and the reception was at The Sheraton Crossroads in Mahwah, NJ.

2005

Jenna Belisonzi and Tyler Papaz are happy to announce that they were married on September 5, 2008, in Franklin Lakes, N.J. They currently reside in Bethlehem Pa., with their dog, Bernie. ■ Joseph Stefanelli married Bonnie MacDonald '07 on December 12, 2008. Many alumni were in attendance.



Michael Engels '06 and Sharon Smid '06

2006

Sharon Smid and Michael Engels, both of whom majored in biology at 'Berg, are happy to announce their engagement. Sharon continued her studies at Seton Hall University, where she obtained an M.S. in microbiology. Currently, she works as an embryologist. Michael is a fourth year medical student at University of Massachusetts and plans to specialist in internal medicine and gastroenterology. They are planning a May 2010 wedding in Aruba. ■ Jessica Morreale married Andrew Steedle in November 2008.



Alumni present at the wedding of Andrew and Jessica (Morreale) Steedle '06 were Lauren Tatz '07, Andrew Mason '07, Janette Tucker '07, Tanya Carpenter '07, Michael Capawana '08, Carey Heller '07, Madeline Kaplan '07 and Samantha Borah '08.

In Memoriam

- 1936 Karl M. Lehr died on February 19, 2009. He is survived by his cousins, Marjorie Hoffman, Charles Durner and Richard Durner. He was predeceased by his sister, Jean Lehr.
- 1937 John F. Keller died on April 28, 2009. He is survived by his sons, David '70 and Henry. He was predeceased by his wife, Virginia. Alfred W. Schaeffer died on March 10, 2009. He is survived by his daughters, Barbara Schaeffer and Suzanne Bamonte and son, Bill. He was predeceased by his wife, Mae and daughter, Bette DeAvalos.
- 1938 Rev. Dr. Donald R. Pichaske died on April 18, 2009. He is survived by his sons, David and Peter '70; and daughters, Ann Pickin '67, Rev. Susan Gerow, and Joanne Pichaske. He was predeceased by his wife, Martha. He received an honorary doctorate from Muhlenberg College in 1979.
- 1939 Dr. Harold Schaden died on April 6, 2009. He is survived by his son, Michael; and daughters, Jenny McGinnis and Sally Schwartz. He was predeceased by his wife, Anna.
- 1940 **Dr. George Julio** died on March 24, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Anna Louise; and daughter, Patricia Gallagher. **H. Bruce Kuntz** died on April 3, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Anna Kuntz; daughters, Barbara Huebner and Judith Mellman; and daughter-in-law, Mary Geschel.
- 1941 Capt. Harold E. Rice died on June 10, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite; daughter, Phyllis DeMaio; and sons, Harold Jr., Michael and Christopher.
- 1942 **Rev. Robert Z. Wuchter** died on May 25, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; and sons, Timothy and Stephen. He was predeceased by his son, Rev. Dr. Michael Wuchter.
- 1943 **Joseph Windish** died on February 25, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Florence; son, Dennis; and daughter, Mary Schnupp.
- 1944 **James A. Hemstreet**, former Muhlenberg College Trustee, died on

- April 5, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; and daughters, Gretchen Fegley, Kathy Weber '76, Peggy Cochran, and Heidi Jurgens '92. Arthur C. Hemphill died on April 22, 2009. He is survived by his daughters, Marilyn Prado and Sandra Zeus. He was predeceased by his wife, Irene.
- 1947 Richard D. Miller died on March 28, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; daughter, Nancy Gromel; and son, Richard. Mervin J. Shuman died on March 20, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Blanche; daughter, Cindy Price and son, Robert.
- 1948 **Arthur R. Borger** died on April 17, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Lois.
- 1949 Stephen J. Mittl died on February 18, 2009. He is survived by his sons, Stephen Jr. and Christopher; and daughters, Patricia Mittl and Sally Herbine. He was predeceased by his wife, Nancy. Edward M. Sullivan died on March 27, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Helen; sons, Michael, Peter and Mark; and daughters, Patricia Dillon, Nancy Helm and Marrianne Sullivan.
- 1950 Gail B. Koplin died on April 21, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Betty; son, Carl '79 and daughter-in-law Chrisie Koplin '79; and daughters, Susan Overmiller and Nancy Koplin. He was predeceased by his son, David. Luther H. Smith died on May 20, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; sons, Luther Jr., Michael, and Bruce; and daughters, Diane Smith and Kim Smith. Dr. George J. Zebian Jr. died on March 10, 2009. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Theresa Zebian; and nephew, Robert.
- 1951 Otto R. Wirth died on May 31, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Marie; sons, Thomas and Steven; and daughter, Diane.
- 1952 S. Louis Serban died on March 29, 2009. He was predeceased by his wife, Emma.
- 1954 **Louis W. Cardell** died on June 1, 2009. He is survived by sons,

- Thomas and David. He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy.
- 1955 George O. Lea died on June 17, 2009. he is survived by his sons, George Jr., and Victor '83; and daughters, Virginia Neuman and Cynthia Ryan. He was predeceased by his wife, Eleanore.
- 1956 Adrian J. Corneliess III died on May 4, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; and daughter, Dale Marcino. He was predeceased by his sons, Glenn and Kevin.
- 1957 Robert W. Andrews Jr. died on February 6, 2009. He is survived by his wife Gloria; daughters, Deanna Bushner, Karen Fisher and Nancy Marx; and brother, Ronald '64. He was predeceased by his son, David.
- 1958 John T. Coughlin died on April 30, 2009. He is survived by his daughter, Kathleen; and sons, Michael and Coleman. He was predeceased by his wife, Susan; son, Brian; and brother, Thomas '56.
- 1964 Sandra Bower Rice died on May 25, 2009. She is survived by her sons, Douglas and Jonathan; and by her exhusband, Dr. James Rice. Daniel T. Poust died on April 23, 2009. He is survived by his daughter, Leigh Perone; son, Kevin; and step-children, Jeff and Barry Greg and Susan and Alex Afflerbach.
- 1965 **Joseph G. Karo** died on March 20, 2009. He is survived by his cousins, Jane Zednik and Richard Frick; and uncle, Richard Frick.
- 1972 Elizabeth "Bette" Hummer died on February 25, 2009. She is survived by her husband, Ron.
- 1974 Michael B. Boyle, Jr. died on April 29, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; sons, Michael B. III and Shaun; and daughter, Julia Boyle. John W. Dean IV died on May 18, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Lucy; and son, John W. Dean V.
- 2004 John L. Boutsikakis died on May 27, 2009. He is survived by his parents, John and Allison Boutsikakis; and sisters, Nicole and Carina.

State of the Arts; continued from page 26

co-devised at every level, a constant dialogue between Charles and me. I can't point to anything in the piece that was "only mine." And then we brought in the cast, and included them in that dialogue.

Ken: How did the students react to making a work in this collaborative manner?

Troy: It was a challenging journey at the beginning, but transformative by the end. Indeed, when we opened, we saw students doing things on stage we wouldn't have thought possible at the start of the process. They grew to engage with Caw as artists and thinkers, not just as performers. They understood why the piece was happening and why it was necessary. They started to intuit ineffable things about embodiment, ritual and expression - things that would be tough to grasp for many professional actors and dancers. It was inspiring. This helped us gain immense creative momentum as we finished the devising process in the studio. I admit, it was hard going in the beginning, dealing with the content; many of the students resisted interrogating their relationship to privilege and power. Talking about race, class and gender is hard. But by the time the production opened, there was this shared conviction that it was deeply important for each of them to be a part of Caw. Charles: It was interesting to see that students were actually able to make connections to how Caw, which was informed and influenced by other disciplines and modes of thinking, can inform something that they understand as a concert performance. To see them approach a theatrical production with a liberal arts mindset was very satisfying. Ken: Elle, you were a member of the company of Caw. Tell me what it was like to walk into the rehearsal hall with no idea of what to expect.

Elle: I'll be honest: I was scared out of my mind in the beginning. We were cast in November and we thought that we might get a script draft over the holidays, but we didn't. I had worked with Charles before and I knew his process, so I wasn't too worried about dancing. But the issues that we going to discuss in rehearsals were issues I'd never confronted before. We learned that Troy didn't create the script in advance because he wanted it to be a collaborative effort; he wanted to know how the ensemble and cast felt about the issues before he began to write. Charles stressed that there was a dance language that would be equally important to the success of the piece as the spoken language would be. We worked hard to create this marriage of language.

Ken: What was it like to create a character who's never lived on a stage before?

Elle: Creating Lori was really interesting. Every character in the show had a specific purpose in the framework of the piece, and I wanted to get it right for Charles and Troy, or my piece of the puzzle wouldn't "fit." Because we didn't get the entire script at the same time, I would find information in a new scene that would inform my actions or expression in an earlier scene, so I'd have to go back and reconsider what I was doing in that earlier scene. They were always there to answer questions, or to talk to us about the characters.

Ken: What kind of projects will the Department produce in the future? Jim: We'll certainly continue to produce the American musical, which has long combined theatre, dance and music in ways very familiar to American audiences. But we'll also continue to expand into the cutting edge area of dance theatre. Next year, two projects will integrate

dance, music and text in new ways: one is *The Other Shore*, by the Nobel Prize winning Chinese playwright and novelist Gao Xingjian. I'm going to direct and Karen will choreograph, though I anticipate that the typical boundaries between those roles will break down totally once we begin to work on the production in earnest. Troy is acting in the piece and will also serve as vocal director. Doug Ovens, professor of music, will compose original music.

Karen: When I read that script, I kept seeing visions of what it might look like. I immediately realized that this script does what dance does: it's not a linear narrative progression; it feels like you're in a dreamscape, which is often a feature of dance. People are going to come to what they think is a theatre piece, but it's going to treat them like they're at a dance performance.

Jim: We're also mounting a production of Federico Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, one of the great twentieth century tragedies, which will be directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Francine Roussel. We're in the process of hiring a flamenco choreographer and guitarist to create dances and compose music.

There are not many programs in the country which have the intellectual, artistic and physical capacity to pursue dance theatre aggressively. As chair, I think it's one of the most artistically viable arenas and I want our students to work in that arena and learn from it. It's also a way that we distinguish ourselves as a national program, and something we can accomplish at a level that even some BFA and graduate programs don't have the personnel to match. And it's exciting to look for ways for the two programs to braid around each other and make something new out of that braid. @

The Last WORD



By Andrew Brown '09

The following was Brown's speech to his fellow graduates on May 17, 2009.

There are a lot of ways I wanted to spend my time in front of you today. First I considered recreating Britney Spears' 2001 VMA performance of "Oops...I Did it Again," but the sequined jump suit was on back order. Then I thought, my parents, along with at least 3,000 other people here, might not appreciate having that image burned into their memory of today.

So I ask myself, "How are we to remember this day?" Which, in effect, is an attempt to remember the past four years in a two-hour ritual, repeated year after year.

Maybe one way to remember Muhlenberg is to hang onto nostalgic keepsakes like the sand art you made in Seegers that night you were too drunk to remember anything else, or the Stuff-a-Plush Mule with a t-shirt pro-

claiming "Somebody at Muhlenberg Loves You." Or maybe it's the booty-shorts that share an inside joke between you and your best friend with the rest of the world, via your ass.

This is a tempting way to remember, because it is nostalgic in the same way that remaining that satin square of your blanket from infancy is nostalgic. In this version of remembering, we get to play the infant, while the grown-ups, Student Activities, our deans, our professors continue to make decisions for us. By doing this, we attempt to endow memory in material.

And yet, the tricky thing about memory is that it's not material at all. And, in fact, we are not four-year-olds hanging onto our blankies. In about 6 hours and 57 minutes we're going to be evicted from our intellectual and physical home – we have to leave by 6, right? – into a world where the unemployment rate is the highest it's been in over twenty years, there is a toxic garbage island the size of Texas in the Pacific Ocean, and I could get swine flu at any minute.

The blankie isn't going to cut it.

A memory is different each time we recall it. The brain, to be simplistic, is a neuronal web. It used to be thought that, in the brain, one neuron equaled one memory. Now we know that memory is, in fact, an action. Memory is the synapses, the activity, between neurons. Memory is slippery. The very word "remember" speaks to us of remembering something – to make it a member again, to embody it, which, makes remembering a creative or at least constructive act. It is alive and restless. Our memory shapes what we believe in the present and imagine about the future.

There's an artist named Andy Goldsworthy who creates these natural sculptures that are intentionally designed to deteriorate over time. It's sort of like: imagine the time and energy it took to make Victor's Lament. Now, imagine the same amount of time and energy put into a Victor's Lament made of tissue paper, so that the first rain or strong wind would bring it down. It's something like that. Delicate. Transient. Fleeting. Much like our time here.

One of Goldsworthy's creations is particularly pertinent to me in this moment: He

has been watching this point where a river meets the sea and forms a small whirlpool when the tide is up. He watches until the rhythm of the rise and fall of the tides resonates within him. And then, when the tide is down, he replicates the motion of the whirlpool with a sculpture made of branches that, when the tide comes back up, is picked up by the water, floats for just a while and then falls apart. To many, his art seems ludicrous, frustrating and futile in its transience.

But Goldsworthy says, quote, "It doesn't feel at all like destruction, it's being taken into another plane. Seeing something you never saw before that was always there, but you were blind to it. The sea has taken the work and made more of it than I could have hoped for."

Goldsworthy reframes the idea of an ending, of destruction, as a process of recreation. The sculpture, our tissue paper Victor's Lament, is not destroyed, it is born into a new form. It is re-membered, so to speak, as a floating cyclone of branches, or, in our case, shreds of transparent paper. By reframing the act of destruction as an act of recreation, Goldsworthy's art serves as an example of the fact that our memory of these past four years is not stagnant, but fluid. We must not see it as a thing of the past, our friendships, the Muhlenberg community, our education exists most effectively in the moment as something that is always adapting to our present in order to best serve our future.

However, by bestowing memory onto a material artifact and not the process of transformation, we place the power of the memory outside of ourselves when the action of remembering comes from within us. The danger of pedantic nostalgia is that you trick yourself into thinking there is only one way of remembering. And so, with stuff-a-plush for instance, the nostalgia for our youth has been colonized by the nostalgia for this place. We become passive observers. But, if we, as educated agents of this world, remember Muhlenberg actively, it has far greater potential for external effects and productive realizations. If remembering becomes an activity, it simultaneously empowers you as the rememberer and allows memory to have real possibility.

But perhaps the most important thing I want to take from the example of Goldsworthy's sculpture is his attribution of the generative characteristics of endings to the sea. He alone was blind to the potential of his art. Its potential was only realized once put into a dialogue with, in his case, the sea.

Classmates, Colleagues, and my dear friends:

May I suggest that, just like Goldsworthy's art, our memories realize their fullest potential only when acknowledged as a communal activity. And so, rather than capturing the past four years in some stactic monument, our memory can be evidenced by our accomplishments – both past and future.

We can choose to put on the booty shorts and cuddle our stuffed Mules as we lie in fetal position in our childhood beds tonight. Or we can take responsibility for remembering the past four years actively, empowering ourselves by putting our memory into practice.

The more empowering way to remember might be volunteering, teaching, keeping our Muhlenberg community alive by helping one another as we struggle through this transition and the following transitions to come.

Many people closely link time to the rise and fall of the tides – rhythmic, patterned, predictable. But, there's a lot to be learned about time from the river. The relentlessness of it. The continuity of change, the leaving of one place to join another.

And so as we enter this morose world, we cannot flee to the comfortable, infantile memory of Muhlenberg. The neuronal web must be mirrored by our communal web and the activity that takes place therein.

How will we act?

What will our community's action be?

And now, the ellipsis of uncertainty... ♥





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Christina Wtulich '94 A Leader in Annual Giving

"Attending Muhlenberg provided the foundation for my future. My job as client services manager in immigration law requires strong writing skills, a knowledge of different cultures and the ability to think under pressure, which I attained at Muhlenberg. One of the most memorable experiences of my undergraduate years was studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. While there I was an intern at the U.S. Embassy where I was first able to put into practice both the International Studies and Spanish language skills that I learned in Muhlenberg's classrooms.

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