The 4th Annual Social Research/Social Justice Conference & The RJ Fellows Symposium
April 19-20, 2007
Muhlenberg College, Moyer Hall

Plenary Panel, Thursday April 19, 7:30 p.m. Miller Forum, Moyer Hall

"Perspectives on Poverty within the Lehigh Valley: A Panel Discussion with Local Advocates."

Dr. Margaret Hoffman-Terry, Medical Director, AIDS Activities Office, Lehigh Valley Hospital
Mr. Alan Jennings, Executive Director, Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley
Mr. Russell Valentini, Homeless Liaison, Allentown School District

Moderated by Rev. Peter Bredlau, Muhlenberg College

Friday, April 7, 2007: Research Sessions and FJ Fellows Symposium

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. BREAKFAST Mendham Gallery

8:30 – 9:20 a.m. RESEARCH SESSION I

PANEL ONE: Human Rights Moyer 201

Laurie Ann Sparta and Becky Amaya, Muhlenberg College, "Chained by Inequities: Breaking One Link at a Time."

Jillian Gaeta, Lafayette College, "Oil and its Effects on Human Rights Abuses in Nigeria, Sudan and Chad."

Vanessa Youngs, Lafayette College, "Rebuilding the Black Community with Inmate Rehabilitation: A Matter for Families, Careers and Community."

Moderator: Dr. Mohsin Hashim, Muhlenberg College, Department of Political Science.

PANEL TWO: American Media Moyer 209

Stephen Holden, Muhlenberg College, "The Impact of Dictated Relevance in the Field of Agenda Setting."

Lindsay Schoeneberger, Muhlenberg College, "Body Image at the Oscars: Do the Celebrities Even Fit the Mold?"

Danielle Losonci, Muhlenberg College, "The Nina, the Pinta and the American Media."

Kate Cassidy, Muhlenberg College, "The Portrayal of Feminism on Grey's Anatomy."

Moderator: Dr. Jim Brancato, Cedar Crest College, Department of Communications.
9:30 – 10:20 a.m.  RESEARCH SESSION II

PANEL THREE: Public Health in Local and Global Contexts  Moyer 214


Allison Silver, Muhlenberg College, "The Role of Dispositional Optimism in the Health and Well Being of Palliative Care Patients."

Moderator: Dr. Suzanne Schneider, Moravian College, Department of Sociology.

PANEL FOUR: Youth: Cultures & Communities  Moyer 209

Kristin Gialo and Rachel Goldstein, Muhlenberg College, "Peer Education Programs: The Construction of Hype at the Caring Place Health Center."

Alyssa Wisoff and Rebecca Kissane, Lafayette College, "Sleep-Away Camp and its Emergent Values."

Diana Skowronski, Muhlenberg College, "The Progress of the Princess: A Textual Analysis of Disney Films."

Moderator: Ms. Susan Clemens, Muhlenberg College, Department of History.

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.  RESEARCH SESSION III

PANEL FIVE: Social Capital, Community & Citizenship in the Lehigh Valley: An Assessment of Recent Trends  Moyer 314

Presenters: David Liskov, Muhlenberg College; Jennifer Malitsch, Muhlenberg College; Zen Shapiro, Muhlenberg College; William Sherman, Muhlenberg College; and Dr. Lanethea Mathews-Gardner, Muhlenberg College, Department of Political Science.

Moderators: Dr. Michele Deegan, Muhlenberg College, Department of Political Science; Dr. Jefferson Pooley, Muhlenberg College, Department of Media and Communication.

PANEL SIX: Documenting Freedom  Moyer 201

Presenters: Kim O'Brien, Muhlenberg College; Leah Rovner, Muhlenberg College; Timothy Popp, Muhlenberg College; and Jamie Schneider, Muhlenberg College.

Moderator: Dr. Kate Ranieri, Muhlenberg College, Department of Media and Communication.

11:45 – 12:15 p.m.  BUFFET LUNCH  Mendham Gallery
12:20 – 1:40 p.m.  RESEARCH SESSION IV

PANEL SEVEN: Community-Based Learning: A Panel Discussion with RJ Seniors on Change Beyond the Classroom.  Miller Forum

Matt Porpiglia, Muhlenberg College, “Emotional Quotience (EQ), or What I Learned as a Tutor and Learning Assistant.”

Emily Sutton, Muhlenberg College, “Get Fitt: One Pre-Med Student’s Experiences Promoting Health Awareness.”

Chelsea Meehan, Muhlenberg College, “Travail Bénévole: Service Learning and Cultural Understanding.”

Corey Herman, Muhlenberg College, “Learning about Patient Care Beyond Illness at the Caring Place Family Health Program.”

Matthew Loesch, Muhlenberg College, “Student Government: A Public Work in Progress.”

Richard Lucarini, Muhlenberg College, “The Value of Education Beyond the Classroom.”

Moderator: Dr. Bruce Wightman, Muhlenberg College, Department of Chemistry.

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.  EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION:

Perspectives on Change: A Multi-Media Exhibit by RJ Seniors  Miller Forum

This interactive multi-media exhibit invites participants to view the art, photography, writing and digital stories produced by the graduating class of RJ Fellows in the context of their capstone seminar, Cultures of Change. Students will be on hand to discuss the research and experiences that inspire and sustain their work.

Stephanie Wolfe, Muhlenberg College, “Representations of Gay Culture: A Photo Exhibit.”


Katie Malagna, Muhlenberg College, “The Functional Role of an Autism-Associated Gene: Investigated Through Biomedical Research and Showcased Through Art.”

Kendra James, Muhlenberg College, “The Accuracy of Visual Estimation of Herbivory: Can Scientists Determine Leaf Area with the Naked Eye?”

Laura Sheard, Muhlenberg College, “This is Your Brain on Steroids: A Molecular Study of Neurosteroid Action in the Central Nervous System.”

Laura Sheard and Heather Baylis, Muhlenberg College, “Broaching Issues of Poverty: A Conversation with the Muhlenberg Community.”

SRSJ Co-Directors:
Drs. Susan Kahlenberg and Lora Taub-Pervizpour

The SRSJ Conference is made possible through generous support from the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges, the RJ Fellows Program, The Public Health Minor Program, the Department of Media & Communication at Muhlenberg College, SHARE, and Community Service.