

**Connecting the Past, Present, and Future:
Muhlenberg College**

Fourteenth Edition



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*Revised in 2012 by
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Connecting the Past, Present, and Future is dedicated to the memory of Linda L. Bowers (1943—2007), College Librarian, whose deep love of the College and remarkable knowledge of its history inspired faculty, staff and students alike.

Foreword

The following is a brief history of Muhlenberg College, presented to you in anticipation of your arrival as a matriculated Muhlenberg College Student. It has been especially written for you by a College with over 160 years of commitment to excellence in education.

We hope that you will keep the booklet as a memento of your first days at the College and that you will refer to it in the future as you continue to explore the campus and reflect upon your role here. Like any history, especially one so brief, it has had to be selective. We urge you therefore to take the opportunity to explore more and to add notes and comments in the back.

We have called this history *Connecting the Past, Present, and Future*. We hope that you start to make those connections yourself as you learn about the traditions of the College and think about how you will participate in those traditions over the next four years. Many of those traditions are connected to our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, inside the classroom and beyond, and to leadership opportunities in many realms for our students.

Over the next four years, you will find infinite possibilities for your education inside and outside the classroom, laboratory and studio. You will grow and develop in ways that you'll never experience again. Seek the challenges. Investigate new areas. Reflect upon your experiences. Learn from mistakes. Commit yourself to being a significant member of the college community and beyond.

As you embark upon your career at Muhlenberg, we hope you will remember those involved in sharing with you their stories and attachment to this place. You will be adding your own important chapter to the Muhlenberg story.

Carol Shiner Wilson, Ph.D.
Dean of College for Academic Life,
Emerita

Muhlenberg College

Mission Statement

Muhlenberg College aims to develop independent critical thinkers who are intellectually agile, characterized by a zest for reasoned and civil debate, committed to understanding the diversity of the human experience, able to express ideas with clarity and grace, committed to life-long learning, equipped with ethical and civic values, and prepared for lives of leadership and service. The College is committed to providing an intellectually rigorous undergraduate education within the context of a supportive, diverse residential community. Our curriculum integrates the traditional liberal arts with selected pre-professional studies. Our faculty are passionate about teaching, value close relationships with students, and are committed to the pedagogical and intellectual importance of research. All members of our community are committed to educating the whole person through experiences within and beyond the classroom. Honoring its historical heritage from the Lutheran Church and its continuing connection with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Muhlenberg encourages, welcomes and celebrates a variety of faith traditions and spiritual perspectives.

This history is designed to acquaint you with Muhlenberg traditions during your first weeks at the College. It is also, we hope, a keepsake you will look at from time to time over the next four years and even after graduation. As you read this short history of the College that highlights traditions, people, and activities past and present, consider that you are now an intrinsic part of the continuing story and mission of Muhlenberg College. The booklet aims to help you connect with the past as you begin to shape the future. For example, can you identify Doc Shankweiler: the person and the building? What beautiful landmark at Muhlenberg was designed after a tower at Oxford University? And why? What is *Victor's Lament*? Which First Lady of the United States received an honorary degree from Muhlenberg and dedicated a Peace Garden here? What is a "dink"? What was the mascot before the Mule? This booklet answers these and other questions for you so that you are able to link the past with the present to prepare you for the next four years at Muhlenberg College.¹

Best regards to you all as you begin what will be an exciting four-year journey.

Susan Clemens-Bruder
Senior Lecturer, History

*“Thus the past, with all its traditions
so dear to the old college student,
would be linked with the future
with all its hopes and possibilities
of development.”*

Dr. Theodore L. Seip
Muhlenberg College President
1892

Precarious Beginnings: Establishing the College

It's difficult to believe, as you look around and see over 2,000 students and numerous academic, residential and athletic facilities, that Muhlenberg once had just four students and one all-purpose building. The College began as an institution to train teachers. One of the men fostering the plan, the Rev. Samuel K. Brobst, also envisioned a school that prepared ministers, doctors, and lawyers.² The new school, named Allentown Seminary, occupied the property known as Trout Hall at Fourth and Walnut Streets, Allentown. The first term began in 1848 with four students. At the end of the year the student population grew to eleven and continued to grow so that by 1853 reports assured the public that enthusiastic applicants had to be turned away. The new school was a success.³



Allentown Seminary

To ensure continued success, the seminary nurtured good relations with the community by opening some school organizations to the public. Students and local citizens joined community at church services and planned excursions. The seminary was becoming an integral part of the growing Allentown community.⁴

Within a decade, financial strains led to administrative restructuring of the school. The new board of trustees included many prominent men from Allentown. In 1864, they changed the name of the institution to the Allentown Collegiate and Military Institute (during the Civil War it was stylish to be military).⁵ The Board of Trustees secured a charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for all the rights and privileges of a college and the ability to award a new A.B. degree at the successful completion of a three-year curriculum.⁶

The military nature of the College intensified. Its all-male population was required to participate in military drills. The staff included a Professor of Military Tactics, an Assistant Instructor in Drill, and a Professor of Military and Civil Engineering, and Polytechnics. Official U.S. infantry army tactics became part of the prescribed course of study. But this period was short-lived. The institute closed in 1867 and was offered for sale.⁷

Rev. Brobst continued to be an ardent supporter of the institution in both its manifestations. He saw a new possibility for the campus of the defunct college. As a Pennsylvania German, a Lutheran minister, and a supporter of the newly formed Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, he believed that the College should respond to the increased need for German Lutheran clergy in the eastern part of the state. Although Gettysburg College and Theological Seminary had been adequate in the past, the new seminary in Philadelphia made another Lutheran-sponsored college desirable.⁸

Brobst sought the support of the local Lutheran synod, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States. Another Board of Trustees was elected and the property of the defunct military college was bought. It is not surprising, after the history of the institution's financial difficulties, that the Synod became squeamish over the financial obligation of the new undertaking, so a joint stock company formed to spread the risk.⁹

To give the new college a decidedly Lutheran association, the name Muhlenberg was chosen. The name commemorated the acknowledged eighteenth-century patriarch of Lutheranism in America, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (1711-1787).¹⁰ To tap further into the illustrious Muhlenberg family, the Board of Trustees approached Henry's great-grandson, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, D.D. to serve as president of the College. After first declining, the Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg accepted the position.



**The Reverend Henry Melchior
Muhlenberg, Patriarch of the
Lutheran Church**

On September 1, 1867 the College opened, and two days later the Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg was inaugurated. On that day the administra-

tion and faculty convened at St. John's Lutheran Church, South Fifth Street, Allentown, where the Allentown Band led the academic enclave to the Court House for the inauguration ceremony and another hopeful beginning.¹¹ This band, established in 1822, is the oldest civic band in the country and continues to play for Muhlenberg College commencements.



Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, D.D.
the first President of the College

Muhlenberg College continues its affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The student profile of religious affiliation has changed over the years, however. In the fall of 2011, 6.6% of the student body identified themselves as Lutherans, 17% were Protestants other than Lutheran, 31.3% were Catholic, 32.3% were Jewish, and 7% Other Faith Traditions. The balance were nonaffiliated or did not submit a response to the questionnaire.¹²

Fitting Setting for the Life of the Mind:

The Campus

The ideal college campus provides a setting conducive to reflection. Except for the rumor that the first site of Muhlenberg College was haunted, it seems that the location provided the necessary atmos-

phere for calm study. Allentown Seminary was located in a mansion known as Trout Hall, still situated at Fourth and Walnut Streets. This distinguished fieldstone building had originally belonged to James Allen, son of William Allen, the founder of Allentown. A sweeping lawn extended from the house to the south, and a grove of trees bordered the property to the north. All around the property were vacant fields. Several streams filled with trout flowed nearby (hence the name).¹³ All of this is hard to imagine if you stand today in the center of downtown Allentown.

The bucolic imagery of mid-nineteenth century Muhlenberg College is somewhat tarnished by other realities of the period. For example, coal oil provided night lighting for the students. Coal oil is notoriously dirty and smelly, especially when many students stayed up late and literally burned the midnight oil.

In addition, the Muhlenberg campus housed hogs until 1869. In this pre-refrigeration era, people stayed close to their source of food. Since the meat of choice for Pennsylvania Germans of the Allentown area was pork, the College raised pigs. Pigs also served as living garbage disposal units, roaming freely and gobbling up refuse to keep streets clean.¹⁴

The central Allentown campus sufficed in the early years of the College, especially since the finances of the College were at times rather shaky. Substantial donations helped to create a stable endowment base. In 1879, the President of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, Asa Packer, donated \$30,000 for a professorship in natural and applied sciences, and in 1881, James K. Mosser and Thomas Keck provided



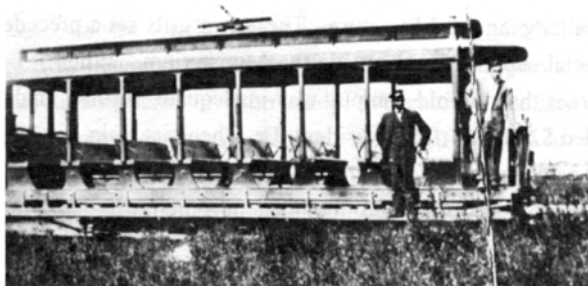
THEO. L. SEIP, D.D.



G. T. ETTINGER, PH.D.

\$20,000 for a chair in Greek language and literature. These two gifts set a precedent for financial support from outside the Ministerium. When it became apparent that the old campus was inadequate, further fundraising yielded \$200,000. The president, Dr. Theodore Seip, envisioned a large campus west of Allentown where buildings could be added as necessary. He then promoted the idea of purchasing such land¹⁵

In 1900, Allentown Borough ended at 17th Street, but one trolley line continued on to Albright and Chew. Another traveled through the valley to Dorneyville and on to Kutztown. This meant that the extreme western suburbs of Allentown were accessible to day students. Amid some grumbling and argument, the Board of Trustees agreed to buy fifty-one acres of land known as the Ephraim Butz farm. The limits of the property ran from the Cedar Creek to Liberty Street. It was bordered on the east by Henry Leh's farm and on the west by the Dorney brothers' property.¹⁶



One of the trolley cars that served the western suburbs of Allentown in 1905. One trolley line went as far as Philadelphia.

The decision to move was brilliant. The suburban setting provided ade-

quate space for new buildings and room to construct the park-like atmosphere that we presently enjoy. To blend the old with the new, the cornerstone of the former college was placed in the main building (1903) of the new campus and read "Muhlenberg College Founded 1848." The building was gutted by a fire in 1947, the night before Commencement. Rebuilt, it was named the Ettinger Building.¹⁷

Other early structures were East Hall (1903) and West Hall (1916). The latter housed a college preparatory school and then served as a men's residence hall. Renovated for the first class of women students, West Hall was later renamed Brown Hall.

In addition to these structures, the John Peter Gabriel House was built in 1905 as the President's house. It currently houses the Wescoe School of evening and summer studies, which celebrated its hundredth year of existence 2009-10. One time-honored story asserts that officials of the College planned for the house to be on the south side of Chew Street. It has been reported that work began while the President vacationed. When he returned, significant construction had been completed at the current location so the house remained there. As you stand in front of the John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg House, you may wonder, "Why did they put it there?" Others have asked the same question which, may explain the story.¹⁸

In January 1905, the College officially began its new term on the new campus with ten faculty members and ninety-four students.¹⁹ The facilities served the structural needs of Muhlenberg College for two decades, but after World War I, more young men and women became interested in attending college. By 1928, enrollment at Muhlenberg increased significantly to 438 students. The facilities also served nine hundred extension students, some of whom were female. Increased enrollment severely stressed existing facilities.²⁰

A planning committee determined that three new buildings would be essential to modernize the campus. Fund raising began to finance the proposed library (currently the remodeled Haas College Center), a science building (now the Trumbower Science Building), and

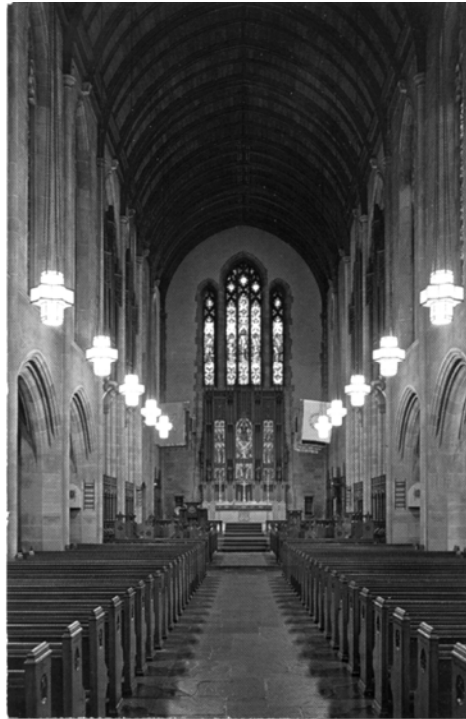


Main part of campus in 1930 showing the Science Building, the Library, and the Administration Building.

a chapel (the Gideon F. Egner Memorial Chapel, partly financed by Mrs. Annie J. Egner Hartzell in memory of her parents).²¹

Egner Chapel (1929-31) is a gem of Gothic architecture. The structure connects with the Christian architectural past but also celebrates the rich secular and ecumenical traditions of intellectual life. The visitor walking deeply into the one hundred and ninety-four-foot sanctuary sees artistic renditions commemorating the sacred past. The ascendant Christ depicted in marble inlaid with gold adorns the middle entrance to the nave. Stained-glass windows of rich blue, reminiscent of the blue in Chartres Cathedral, commemorate saints and key figures of the Protestant Reformation and memorialize leaders of Lutheranism in America.

The windows and other art closer to the main door and the outside world fittingly depict secular life, such as scenes from colonial America and twentieth-century student life. The last stained-glass windows to view before leaving the building portray the traditional arts and sciences studied at the College. In the hallway at the back, on the way to the Chaplain's Office, the visitor can see a stained glass



**Interior of the Gideon F. Egner
Memorial Chapel**

window depicting a football player from the early days at the College. The magnificent structure communicates the sacred and secular, the traditional and modern, and it invites the visitor to pursue the future renewed by the chapel's beauty. Music has always been important here, the first organ was a 2,381-pipe organ comparable to organs at Yale and Princeton, donated by the Woman's Auxiliary in 1931. The Auxiliary, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2015, has

funded not only the organ but several student scholarships over the years. The Chapel continues to be a fitting structure for Opening Convocation, Honors Convocation and other important gatherings of the college community.²²

Building campaigns tend to occur in waves of intense activity followed by financial retrenchment. The Depression and World War II slowed recovery from the flurry of construction that ended in 1930. After the war, the demand for a college education soared partly because of benefits provided by the G.I. Bill.²³ By the early 1950s operating costs rose, and the stated tuition charges became inadequate. To cover increased operating costs and increased stress on the physical plant, the administration and Board of Directors considered another building program. Once again the problem of insufficient finances threatened to thwart the plan because the College incurred a sizeable deficit each year. Officials appealed to the Ministerium for more support. Lutherans from within and outside the synod offered significant support. The U.S. Steel Foundation, General Foods, and the Ford Foundation



The first year Muhlenberg was co-ed, there was only one female enrolled in this chemistry class.

gave generous grants. A terrifying crisis abated; a new building program ensued, and confidence allowed the College to raise tuition and faculty salaries.²⁴

The one and a half million dollar building program yielded Memorial Hall, a health center, Martin Luther Residence Hall, and renovations to West Hall. The new structures allowed the college community to catch its breath before the next, perhaps most dramatic change occurred – women as full-time, on-campus students. Financial support by the Ministerium for construction had come with the additional price of admitting women. Lutherans wanted their daughters educated as well as their sons. Pastor Luther Schlenker was a driving force in the campaign to admit women, including his daughters, which mobilized

women in parishes to raise the sorely needed funds for the College. Hearty supporters of coeducation were faced with just as adamant resisters to the change. The College was the first in the Lehigh Valley to admit women (1957).²⁵ Women had already attended the so-called extension school of continuing studies established in 1915. Many of them sought teaching credentials, and the very first woman to receive a Muhlenberg bachelor's degree did so in 1920.



Barbara Fretz Crossette '61, held several distinguished positions with the *NY Times*

An article in the *Muhlenberg Weekly* commented that an all-male student body treated women like “toys to be put away until work was done.” The documentary evidence shows that, to the contrary, female students were not toy-like. Reviews of records show that women consistently earned high academic honors and held positions of importance in student government. Barbara Fretz Crossette '61, the first woman to serve as features editor of the *Weekly*, went on to hold several distinguished positions with the *New York Times*, including Bureau Chief of the United Nations and Chief Correspondent in South Asia and Southeast Asia. (Ms. Crossette's son and grandson were to attend Muhlenberg College.) Today, women continue to excel in academics, athletics, and service within and outside campus borders. Early female faculty were English professors, Dr. Janet Stamm and Dr. Bessie Michael, and historians, Dr. Joanne Stafford (later Mortimer) and Dr. Katherine Van Eerde. An early administrator was Dean of Women, Ann Nugent.²⁶ In 1996, Dr. Carol Shiner Wilson became the first female senior academic dean at the College, and Dr. Marjorie Hass the first female Provost in 2004. Dr. Hass left Muhlenberg in June 2009 to become President at Austin College in Texas. The Senior Academic Officer position at Muhlenberg was held by Dr. Robert C. Williams, an African American, in the mid-1980s. Most recently, Karen Green, an African American, became the first female Vice President for Student Affairs.

With an increased student body, new spaces for coeducational interaction were needed which in turn contributed to the need for a student center. In 1963, the J. Conrad Seegers Union (now called the J. Conrad and Hazel Seegers Union) opened and provided the central space for the expanded social life of the 1960s.²⁷ President and Mrs. Seegers delighted in entertaining hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the College. Mrs. Seegers is reputed to have been a particularly warm and gracious hostess. Their hospitality lives on as an important part of the welcoming spirit of the College.

During Dr. Erling N. Jensen's tenure as president, the John V. Shankweiler Biology building was constructed (1968 - 1970). Dr. Jensen was a scientist who focused on strengthening the sciences at the College. Dr. John V. Shankweiler—"Doc" Shankweiler—was a beloved member of the Biology Department, noted for his untiring advancement of the sciences, excellent teaching, and Pennsylvania Dutch hu-



The College Library in the 1950s, now the Haas College Center.

mor and accent. The building was the first academic structure to be added in forty years. Construction of Shankweiler was quickly followed by renovations to the old science building that was dedicated to the memory of Peter S. Trumbower, a noted college supporter and trustee.²⁸

A former English professor, Dr. John H. Morey succeeded Dr. Jensen as president. His interests lay in the arts, and President Morey

strove to strengthen the arts on campus. Renowned architect Philip Johnson designed the new Center for the Arts (1976), which then housed Music, Art and English. Johnson boldly articulated modernism. The CA, controversial at the time, pulls us into the landscape surrounding it. The glass ceiling of the Galleria sparkles in the sun and glistens in the dark, inviting people passing through to broaden their perspective. This Galleria is situated as a continuation of the walkway from Seegers Union. On the way, walkers can stretch intellectually as they contemplate the red, modernist sculpture titled *Victor's Lament* (1979) by Mark Di Suvero. The Dorothy and Dexter Baker Center for the Arts contains the Martin Art Gallery, the Paul C. Empie Theatre, a lecture/recital hall, and art studios.²⁹

Di Suvero's monumental *Victor's Lament* is a "powerful construction of steel and cable" that, according to the sculptor and others, "is a collection of relationships, which speak a language of weight, tension, size and balance" and can "mean" something very different as one interacts with the sculpture over time.³⁰ Like much art, it teases us with questions: If, for example, the Victor is a victorious person, why should s/he "lament"?

During Morey's administration, significant additions to the Life Sports Center were accomplished, including a twenty-five meter swimming pool, racquetball and squash courts, weight training rooms, and a 32,000 square-foot, multipurpose field house. The setting supports healthy lifestyles, the Principles of Fitness and Wellness course, and electives that enhance the community's physical, spiritual, and intellectual well being.³¹

The Harry C. Trexler Library, dedicated in 1988, was a project that began during the presidency of Jonathan C. Messerli. Replacing the Haas Library, the new library was designed to provide much needed space for an expanding student body and an exploding information environment. Designed by Robert Geddes, the library combines classical and medieval influences with the beauty of rich, cherry Thomas Moser furniture and comfortable leather couches. It exemplifies Moser's hope for "a quiet place, crafted of natural materials catering to all the senses and providing access to that storehouse of words."³²

Over the past 25 years the Trexler Library building has stood the test of time by adapting to a rapidly changing information world. At its opening, a ceremonial passing of several books took place as a human chain stretched from the old library to the new. No longer solely a storehouse of books, the library of today offers spaces for active learning, interaction, and collaboration along with quiet reflection and study. Recently added is an Information Commons that combines current journals and cutting edge technologies with innovative information and technology literacy programs. Faculty, staff, students, and community are enjoying programs including visiting author receptions, art exhibits with Cultural Corridor collaboration, and wireless access to a wide variety of information resources. A Writing and Information Consultation Center, opened in the fall of 2008, brings Writing Center tutors and Public Outreach librarians together to assist students on each step of the publishing process. These activities, along with expert guidance to complete the circle of information from research to presentation, make the library the vibrant place it is today. Through time the Trexler Library continues to serve as the academic heart of the greater Muhlenberg College community.

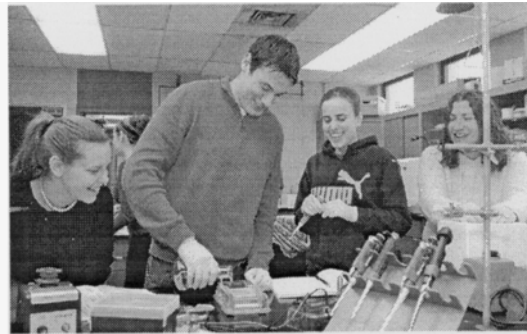
The 1990s decade opened with major renovation projects to create the Haas College Center from the former library and to renovate the Ettinger Building. The facade of each building was untouched to preserve the traditional appearance, but the interiors were refashioned to become modern, spacious offices and classrooms with state-of-the-art equipment.³³

Ettinger accommodates modern pedagogy with the ready availability of multimedia presentations in classrooms. Its renovations celebrate the creations of the human mind with centers of advanced technology. They facilitate engaged learning without losing the relationship between professor and student. The interior renovation of Haas College Center preserved open spaces and visual access to helpful staff as soon as the visitor enters the building.³⁴

Arthur R. Taylor succeeded President Messerli in 1992. His presidency ushered in a period of intense building. In 1996, because of increased enrollment, College officials decided to construct a new, four-story residence hall. Kathryn P. Taylor Hall complements the surrounding buildings with brick and trim similar to Brown Hall. The new

structure retains the traditional flavor of the College and combines tradition with modern amenities. Large classrooms, a kitchen, and lounges are housed in the building.³⁵ When you walk around the campus, notice the blending of the past and the present with an eye to the future.

A generous gift from a Friend of the College and vigorous fund raising efforts resulted in several major projects. In 1998, soccer fields were upgraded for practice and play of men's and women's soccer. The same year a multipurpose turf field and state of the art track facility were completed; the Scotty Wood Stadium was named for food service entrepreneur whose first account (1947) was Muhlenberg College. It houses the Frank Marino football field, which honors the memory of the late and beloved football and women's volleyball coach.



Students doing scientific research in the College's facilities.

Another project, the Trexler Pavilion for Theatre and Dance, linked to the current Center for the Arts, was completed in January 2000. Celebrated dancer Gregory Hines performed at the opening, inviting Muhlenberg College students to dance on stage with him. The Pavilion houses rehearsal and performance spaces for theatre and dance, as well as faculty offices. The Pavilion is "one of the most innovative and exquisite examples of contemporary architecture in the region and a great companion to the Baker Center for the Arts." Note the impressive "cascading exterior glass curtain wall which rises 45 feet into the air in a giant curve embracing the lobbies and public spaces."³⁶

Construction finished in April 2000 on Moyer Hall, an academic building named for 1935 graduate Forrest G. Moyer, M.D. and situated between Ettinger and Egner Chapel. Academic programs of

Psychology, Religion, Philosophy and Education are located alongside the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding. Every classroom has advanced technology to facilitate effective teaching and learning. But remember, technology never replaces the human engagement and knowledge in teaching and learning.

In 2002, the newly renovated John and Margaret Walson Communication Hall was dedicated. The Commons, as it was originally known, was built in 1912 and once served as the college dining hall, theater, and entertainment center.

In January 2002 the doors opened to two new residence halls, South Hall and the Lois M. and Edward H. Robertson '42 Hall. Located west of the Trexler Pavilion, they offer a spectacular view of the Cedar Beach park. Able to accommodate 140 upperclass students, these new buildings are comprised of 35 suites, each containing four single rooms, a small living room, bathroom, and galley style kitchen. The Village, a cluster of handsome brick residences, was opened in 2007 and houses 145 students. The Village replaced Mac Gregor Village, "temporary" and popular suite-style housing that was built in 1981. Another residence hall, added north of Chew Street in 2007, houses 48 students.

Building momentum continued during the tenure of Interim President James Steffy as construction began on an expansion to the Life Sports Center. Opened in August 2004, the Center significantly increased recreational, intramural, and intercollegiate opportunities. The Brueckner Family Wing houses locker rooms, additional coaches' offices, and a juice and coffee bar. It was provided through a gift from Rich '71 and Laurie Brueckner '72. Adjacent to the Wing is the John and Barbara Heffer Health Center, housing Student Health Services and Counseling Services. The Heffer's daughter, Alison J. Heffer, graduated in 1996.

President Randy Helm continues the tradition of capital projects and new academic programs to strengthen the College. The sciences and student support are just two of many areas recently enhanced. Seegers Union was expanded to provide spaces for the Academic Resource Center, the Office of Disability Services, the Career Center, Student Activities, Leadership and Greek Affairs, Community Service and Civic Engagement, and Student Government. Student pub-

lications such as the *Ciarla* will take advantage of a Media Center. Included are testing spaces for students with disabilities a career library, and pre-health and pre-law advising resources. Seegers dining facilities were dramatically expanded and modernized to house beautiful spaces where students may choose from a wide variety of meals—traditional burgers and fries or Bagel Bombs, kosher, vegetarian, organic and more. The Ilene and Robert Wood Dining Commons, a grand welcoming space that is flooded with sunlight during the day and graced by a flickering fire at night, honors two beloved Friends of the College. Bob Wood, now deceased, was the son of Scotty Wood(see pg 13).

A gracious, comfortable and vibrant site, the Multicultural House includes space for socializing, studying, and exploring issues of diversity. It’s a popular destination for many students, and includes opportunities for enjoying ethnic foods. The International Programs Office is situated upstairs in this facility, which opened in 2006.

Two other areas were recently expanded or renovated: Hillel House and the Rehearsal House. Hillel enjoys a Shabbat Dinner Hall, a dedicated sanctuary, a kosher kitchen, and a student-designed lounge. Hillel is a vibrant student organization comprised of students from a wide range of Jewish affiliations, from secular to Orthodox. The 10,360 square foot Rehearsal House, formerly a fraternity residence, adds much needed practice space, studio space, and faculty offices for the College’s nationally celebrated Theatre, Dance and Music programs. The Princeton Review, in fact, rated the Theatre program #1 in the

ROSTER FIRST TERM

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00	Religion				
8.40	German History	German History	German History		
9.40	Business	Business	Phys. Cult	Business	Religion
10.40	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
11.00	Math higher		math B	German	Student Body
Noon					
1.00	English		English		English
2.00	Economics	Economics		Economics	Phys. Cult
3.00					

Student schedule from the 1922 "M" book.

country in 2011-2012. Greatly enhancing faculty and student collaboration, the New Science building provides classrooms, research and teaching laboratories, and informal “hang-out” spaces conducive to studying and discussion for programs in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Neuroscience, and Environmental Science. The renovation of Shankweiler was completed in April 2007 and includes additional classrooms and student-faculty research spaces, a Science Reading Room, the Acopian Center for Ornithology, a renovated greenhouse, and new animal research facility.

Compulsory Chapel, Dinks, and Tug of War

The Rules

During the early years of Allentown Seminary, the College paid significant attention to the moral and religious lives of the students. In a fashion consistent with the times, administrators carefully molded students with daily devotional exercises, Bible study, and character building lessons. The faculty and administration sought to substitute for parents’ guidance in nurturing the intellectual, social, and moral well being of the student. In fact, one faculty position was titled Professor of Mental and Moral Science.³⁷

Once the Seminary changed its focus to include military training, physical development became as important as moral and spiritual development. Key parts of the curriculum included military drills. Military discipline demanded “a ready and cheerful obedience to superiors; ...an erect, manly and graceful carriage and politeness of demeanor; and ...health, habits of order, exactness and punctuality....”



President Haas as he appeared in the “M’ Book

The College wanted to ensure good health to the student “who is often apt to neglect regular exercise until his constitution is fatally impaired.”³⁸

After 1867, the emphasis of the College changed from military training to training young men for the ministry with a curriculum to promote a “high literary and religious standard.” Compulsory chapel and church attendance continued, and the College recommended that students volunteer for Sunday School teaching. College officials discouraged town amusements and promoted leisure activities that included writing, oratory, theatrical productions, and tasteful music performances. Initially, all students were required to belong to one of the literary societies; later, approximately three-fifths of the students participated. In the early years, the College discouraged secret societies. Students sometimes fell short of the lofty social and moral goals of the institution, and billiard parlor owners requested that the College keep the students out of their “establishment.” Occasionally, students released water-bags on unsuspecting pedestrians passing by the residence halls.³⁹

Since the 1920s, and consistent with the trends of the culture at large, Muhlenberg has documented community policy – hence the *‘M’ Book* (now the *Student Policy and Information Guide*). Early renditions of the handbook were a tiny pocket-size booklet with minuscule print that instructed the student on proper behavior. One of the first included a friendly, fatherly address by Dean George T. Ettinger. He wrote:

You’ve moved to college. You’ve broken off from the familiar planet. You are part of a new world – a world of greater freedom. You are rather stunned by the change. Humanity has suddenly contracted from the globe to the college campus....⁴⁰

The Dean wanted to advise the students how to accomplish the transition smoothly.

In the same *‘M’ Book*, President Haas’s address was more stern than friendly and fatherly. He warned the students:

Our common life entails common duties. There is no place with us for a self-centered individualist; Muhlen-

berg wants no know-it-all Freshmen who will not strive for the common good; no obstreperous law-breaking Sophomores; no socially intoxicated Juniors; and no proud we-run-the-college Seniors, but only just men, honest, upright, pure, strong....⁴¹

The College assumed that publishing rules of proper behavior would be enough to assure compliance. But just in case, stiff penalties accompanied infringement. For example, while at meals in the Commons and elsewhere, students were to behave like gentlemen. They had to wear starched collars (attached by buttons to shirts), coats, and ties until May 15, when coats could be eliminated because of warm weather. Unnecessary noise was prohibited, and the rules forbade throwing food, water or "other articles". Fines of one dollar accompanied the first offense and two dollars thereafter.⁴²

The general rules covered many aspects of college life. The '*M*' *Book* noted the maximum sets of tennis that could be played before giving way to other players. The rules required attendance at Stunt



Students participating in the required obstacle course during the 1940s

Day. They forbade climbing on dormitory roofs and fined those tampering with automobiles and bicycles. Often the rules were merely common sense reminders of living in a small community. Freshmen rules, on the other hand, seem capricious and demeaning by today's standards. For example, the button on freshmen headgear, a dink (beanie with small brim), had to be touched with the right hand when

an upperclassman said “button.” The rules required that freshmen carry stamps for the convenience of upper class students. Stipulations barred freshmen from putting their hands in their pockets. Freshmen



Dink/Beanie

also had to show their socks or give matches to upperclass members on demand. The penalty for a matchbook infringement was to wear a matchbook cover on their lapel.⁴³ Just what purpose did these rules serve? Was it their intent to occupy the minds of freshmen so that they forgot

they were adjusting to college life? Perhaps, but they served another function based on the traditions of British boarding schools. In these schools, recognition of and acquiescence to authority was thought to be conducive to academic rigor and preparation for work life.

By the 1930s the language of the rules had softened, but freshmen regulations continued

to single out beginners in less than dignified ways. Freshmen had to memorize the Alma Mater within one week. They could not cut across the grass and had to enter all buildings from basement steps. Participation was required in a weeklong orientation to acclimate new students to college life that included



**Student in the pose of the
John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg statue**

completion of an obstacle course. They had to wear a dink until Christmas break, and they still had to carry matches.⁴⁴ By the 40s and 50s, freshmen could earn the right to remove their dinks at Thanksgiving if they were successful in defeating the sophomores at three out of four contests: a Tug-of-War over Cedar Creek, a Flag Rush up a greased flagpole, a touch football game, and a push ball game.

Some of the traditional rules continued throughout the 1940s, even in the midst of World War II, but the number of rules increased. In addition to the regulation dink and button, freshmen ties had to be red, and students' socks had to be black. Their pants had to be rolled

up ten inches from the ground to display the proper socks. First-year students continued to provide matches, but in addition, pipe cleaners became a necessary item for freshman to furnish on demand. Upper-classmen smoked inside buildings, but freshmen were not allowed to smoke in any building except their dormitory.⁴⁵

In 1942, the College acquired the statue of General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg (1746-1807) from the Capitol building in Washington, DC. A new rule stipulated that all freshmen when asked the time must assume the pose of General Muhlenberg and answer, "There is a time to fight, and that time has come. It is now...". General Pete, the statue, arrived on campus during the two-hundred anniversary year of his father Henry's arrival in America. The real John Peter, as a minister and patriot, grappled with the appropriateness of volunteering to serve in the Revolutionary army. One Sunday he was reputed to have announced to his congregation in Woodstock, Virginia: "There is a time to preach and a time to pray. But there is also a time to fight, and that time has come now." With a dramatic flourish, he supposedly whipped off his clerical robes and displayed an officer's uniform under his gown.⁴⁶ A statue of General Pete is located in front of the Haas College Center.

The commemoration year of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg provided other fresh topics for the ever-increasing freshmen regulations. Students had to know pertinent details of famous Muhlenberg family members. Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg (1750-1801), for example, was the very first speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Gotthilf Henry Ernest Muhlenberg (1753-1815) was a celebrated scientist and the first President of Franklin (later Franklin and Marshall) College. In addition, freshmen had to recite a memorized speech that recounted the apocryphal story of John Peter Gabriel's sermon in favor of the American Revolutionary Cause.⁴⁷

During the early 1950s the *M' Book* had a friendlier tone, but the rules for freshmen continued. Many of the traditional freshmen rules remained, but one new regulatory invention should be noted. The freshmen had to participate in the Pajama Parade on the night prior to the homecoming game. Pajama-clad freshmen wound through the center of Allentown led by the college band.⁴⁸

After 1957, when the College became coeducational, social regulations took a new turn. For example in the 1961 *'M' Book* under Rules of Social Conduct:

Student riots, “pantie raids,” and demonstrations resulting in the commission of physical violence are strictly forbidden. Participants in such incidents are subject to suspension or expulsion from the college.⁴⁹

The men’s dormitory rules dealt with noise and social conduct, but the women’s dormitory rules concerned houseguests, telephone call limits, and strict curfew hours. Skirts and dresses were mandated attire for coeds; slacks were forbidden on the front campus.⁵⁰ One stipulation for special permission events held on campus stated that “girls” (1960s *'M'* book language for women) had to be back in their dorms fifteen minutes after any event. If the dormitory directress deemed a woman overdue, the offender had to write to the Dean of Women explaining the specific details of her lateness.⁵¹

The men’s dormitory rules noted specifically that alcohol possession in rooms was illegal, but the women’s dormitory rules never mentioned alcohol since it was presumed that women would not use alcohol. Campus rules warned students about their use of the campus for leisure and recreation. For example:



Muhlenberg in the snow

Snowballing is not permitted near the dormitories or near other campus buildings. Sunbathing as well as sports is not permitted on the front campus. Golfing is allowed only on the soccer field.⁵²

Consistent with a nationwide move away from strict control of behavior—colleges had acted *in loco parentis*, or in the place of parents—the most onerous of freshmen rules ended in the late 1960s. By the early 1970s the remaining regulations used softer language to give them an aura of cooperation rather than obedience. The rules noted that students “may not use illegal drugs or narcotics.” Alcohol was allowed on campus, but only by those of legal drinking age and only in residence halls.⁵³ Such latitude was before the strict regulations of the Commonwealth laws.

During the 1960s and 1970s college policy gradually changed from dictums to cooperative codes. Students in the 1980s were considered citizens of the college community. In 1980-81, the College established, in consultation with students, faculty, and administrators, policies of self-government and self-responsibility.

The tenor of the *M' Book* during the eighties reflected the belief that students could be responsible for themselves. Policies and procedures replaced mandates. Language became impersonal and lacked the admonishing character of the past. The rules have become based on everyone's right to equality, dignity, and privacy. They validate diversity such as race, religion, and sexual identity.⁵⁴

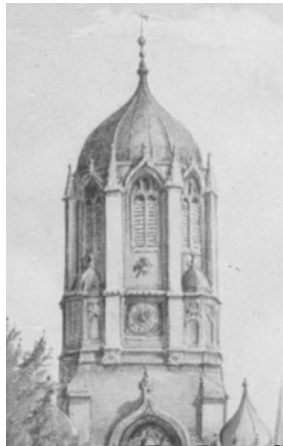
Beginning in 1962, the College had been under a strict Honor Code, whereby students were exclusively responsible for policing academic honesty and required to report offenders. Any infraction would lead to expulsion from the College. Upset by the amount of unchecked cheating that went on, students initiated action to bring in an Academic Behavior Code with shared responsibility between faculty and students for identifying and dealing with academic dishonesty. Faculty, students, and administrators are committed to the 1980 Code, voted in by the faculty, and most recently updated in 2009. Penalties are severe for violating trust and community inherent in the Code.⁵⁵ In 2011, to focus on quality of character and mind, faculty renamed it the Academic Integrity Code.

Touchstones, Traditions, and Landmarks

An article in the Fall 1993 issue of Muhlenberg's alumni magazine noted that it was sad to see the elimination of many fine Muhlenberg traditions. The article spotlighted Dean of Freshmen Haps Benfer who actively preserved the survival of many Muhlenberg observances from 1925 to 1965.

Benfer himself became a beloved institution, and forty years of graduates recall his "positive, vigorous" manner and close, paternal oversight of his boys. He is reported to have performed a bed check at night. He exerted tough love at times, but even if he chided a student for doing poorly, he worked hard with that student to see he succeeded.⁵⁶ You will see a plaque in his honor near the east entrance to Seegers Union.

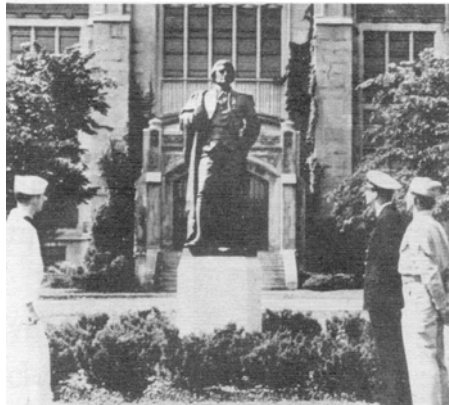
The article's author mourned the loss of customs such as the water fight, touch football, the flag rush, banner scrap and most especially the freshman and sophomore tug of war. The author noted that the Vietnam years and a rapidly changing society diluted time-honored customs. This may be true, but traditions have a life span and go through an evolutionary process. Although some traditions fade away, others continue, if only in spirit. That spirit can be seen in the college's symbols, reference points, and customary practices.



**Tom Tower, Christ Church College,
Oxford University and the
David A. Miller Bell Tower, Muhlenberg College**

College Symbols and Ceremonies

The Muhlenberg catalog usually features two touchstones of the College on its cover. One is the David A. Miller Bell Tower on top of



Statue of General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg during World War II

the Haas rotunda. Its structure evokes the distinguished British university traditions by echoing Tom Tower at Christ Church College, Oxford University and continues to be an Allentown landmark. It looks particularly impressive when you walk toward it from the library on a snowy or foggy evening.⁵⁷

The second touchstone is the statue of General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg in front of the Haas College Center. General Pete has a long, colorful history as a center of activity and symbol of college life. In 1957, students dressed him in women's clothes to protest the decision to admit women.

When women arrived on campus, he was dusted and cleaned by the new coeds for the cameras of *Life* magazine. A decade later, against college regulations, students adorned him with signs to protest U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia. In 1996, he had a wreath placed in front of him by the Lutheran Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania to commemorate the two hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of his father's arrival in America.⁵⁸

As you walk into Trexler Library toward the stairs, you will notice the college seal imbedded in the floor. The seal is the oldest existing symbol of Muhlenberg College and was designed in 1867 when the College was named. No explanation accompanied its design, but Robert C. Horn, Emeritus Professor of Greek Language and History, later analyzed its content and meaning. The word *Trinitati Sanctissimae* inscribed on the middle ring of the emblem means "To the Most Holy Trinity." On a ribbon in the inner circle is written *Crux et Patria et Calamus*. This means "Cross and Country and Pen" signifying "Christ,

Patriotism, and Literary Culture.” On the bottom half of the inner circle in a band is written *Instit 1848-Reconstit 1867*. It notes the establishment of the college as Allentown Seminary in 1848 and its renaming as Muhlenberg College in 1867. The symbols in the center of the emblem include a cross and book entitled *Biblia*, which means Bible or book.



Seal of Muhlenberg College

These references point to the founding of the college as a Christian institution. The eagle, a symbol of the United States representing strength, stands on the Bible, but it has an olive branch in its claw representing peace and a feather pen in its claw representing literary pursuits.

The similarities to the Great Seal of the U.S. are evident and timely since our seal was created two years after the Civil War ended. The Seal is displayed at official college processions. To honor the celebration of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary in 1998, two Muhlenberg staff carpenters volunteered to carve a beautiful new seal out of fine cherry.⁵⁹ They carved another seal in 2006 for the Great Room in Seegers.

The College mace is another powerful symbol. Carried by the Faculty Marshal at academic ceremonies, the heavy mace is a symbol of authority and has its origins in the medieval weapon of the same name (French *massé*). Over 4½ feet long, the Muhlenberg College mace was handcrafted in 1966 by C. Leslie Smith, a distinguished local silversmith. Several significant symbols appear on the mace, including the College seal, the Luther Rose, Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, Trout Hall, the dome of the Haas College Center, the chapel, and the lamp of knowledge.

Opening Convocation and the Candle lighting service during Orientation Weekend anticipate two events of your graduation weekend four years from now. Opening Convocation takes place Sunday evening after the all-College Barbecue. You will be seated in the lovely chapel and see a dignified procession of faculty, led by the Faculty Marshal, in academic regalia whose design dates to the garb of Oxford and Cambridge University scholars in



Mace of Muhlenberg College

the Middle Ages. An explanation of the shapes of the hood, design of the sleeves, and color of hood will be in your program. For example, the wearer of a gold robe with black stripes and a dark blue facing in the hood earned his Ph.D. in History from Johns Hopkins University. Look also for crimson (Harvard), blue and white (Columbia), and others. President Helm wears red and gray regalia specially designed for College dignitaries and a medallion to be worn only by the current College president. As a link to his advanced academic studies, he also wears the hood he earned when he finished his Ph.D. in History at the University of Pennsylvania. Provost John Ramsay, who speaks at special events in the chapel and who will read your name at Commencement, also wears the signature red and gray Muhlenberg robe. Note the College mace and three banners: the Muhlenberg College Coat of Arms, the Luther Rose, and the College Seal. You may be honored one day at a Dean's List Ceremony or Honors Convocation in the Chapel.

Four years from now, on the College Green, you will receive your diploma at Commencement. You, the Faculty, Trustees, and honorary degree recipients will wear academic regalia. You will follow the lead of the Faculty Marshal and see the College seal and Muhlenberg banners hang proudly. It will be a thrilling day for you, your family, the friends you made at Muhlenberg, and the faculty and staff who taught you. At Baccalaureate, the night before, you will have engaged in a beautiful candle lighting ceremony which will recall that event from Orientation Weekend.

Links to the Wider Community

Muhlenberg students have traditionally sought links to the wider community in a variety of ways. During World War I, many students delayed completion of their degrees by volunteering for organized farm service work in conjunction with wartime food needs. During World War II, the College facilitated flight training efforts by offering the campus for training to the Army and Navy.⁶⁰ From July 1, 1943 to June 30, 1945, the College was a training site for over 900 men in the armed services. In the Orientation booklet for Naval Aviation cadets, part of the V-12 naval refresher course, the college campus was called

their “ship”. Rhetoric in the manual linked the “time to fight” speech of General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg and the World War II fight to preserve freedom.⁶¹

Today, many individual students and over forty 'Berg student organizations participate in community service opportunities assisting 142 local, national, and international organizations.⁶² They often schedule events to raise funds for specific organizations such as Turning Point or volunteer in settings such as the Caring Place or the Sixth Street Shelter. Alternative Spring Breaks have included building houses in New Orleans and rural areas of the South and Pennsylvania. Faculty and staff assist students in finding opportunities to better the community in which we live. Many classes have a service-learning component that highlights civic awareness, social justice, and obligations to community.

Since the late nineteenth century, the College has provided speakers whose lectures were shared with the Muhlenberg community and the Allentown community. As in the nineteenth century, lectures are held in the 1933 college chapel. A chapel was once located at the east end of the Ettinger building but that section was destroyed in a fire in 1947. In addition, the Miller Forum and Lithgow Science Auditorium currently serve as lecture sites. The variety of speakers has been impressive. Some talks have specifically included the wider community, some have been held at Commencement, and some have been enjoyed by the inner Muhlenberg community. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt spoke at the College and received an honorary degree in 1942. Just after World War II, in 1947, journalist Edward R. Murrow spoke at graduation. In 1988, civil rights leader, Corretta Scott King gave a moving presentation at Commencement. Vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro spoke at Commencement in 1990; comedian Bill Cosby shared wit, and warmth with those assembled at graduation in 1995; Senator Arlen Specter spoke in 2003; and African American author Lorene Cary held the crowd in awe of her rich poetic eloquence and wisdom in 2005. In 2007, famous “Doonesbury” cartoonist, Garry Trudeau spoke about living life with imagination and vigor. In 2011, playwright Tony Kushner, known especially for the prize-winning *Angels in America*, delivered a wise, fast-paced Commencement speech on life and the liberal arts. All received Honorary Doctorates from

Muhlenberg, as did world champion boxer and philanthropist Muhammad Ali in 2009.

Literature has long been prominent at the College. An early literary landmark at the College was the editing by returning veteran, student, and poet, Thomas Cole '50, of the distinguished modern poetry journal, *Imagi*. Cole developed close relationships with many poets over the years, including Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams. In the early 1960s, a number of counter-culture writers spoke on campus, invited by Professor William Kinter. Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti are perhaps the most notable, but one, Denise Levertov composed a poem to Kinter entitled "A Letter to William Kinter of Muhlenberg." Black activist Leroi Jones spoke on campus amid controversy. President Erling Jensen showed courageous support of freedom of speech in the face of fierce criticism for allowing Jones to speak.

In the 1970s, "big name entertainment" reached out to the community in song rather than commentary. Among others, folk singer Arlo Guthrie; folk ensemble Peter, Paul and Mary; and rock groups including Traffic, the Guess Who and Billy Joel have performed.

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader visited campus, and we have enjoyed, among others, authors Maya Angelou, Joyce Carol Oates and Adrienne Rich; comedy team Franken and Davis; oral historian Studs Terkel; author of *Schindler's List* Thomas Kenneally; and Michael Moore, the creator of the documentary *Roger and Me*.⁶³ Alumni authors,



A 1928 baseball uniform shows the Cardinal mascot.

including novelist Frederick Busch '62, and poet Theodore Weiss '38, have also read their works at the College.

Athletics as a tradition evolved slowly and, consistent with the times, revolved around football. Allentown residents and alumni flocked to the games. The team inspired school spirit and community support. Two landmark athletic events occurred in 1946 when the football team won the Tobacco Bowl in Lexington, Kentucky, and the basketball team participated in the NIT (National Invitation Tournament) at Madison Square Garden.

These victories occurred when many World War II veterans filled team rosters, and opponents included Villanova and NYU. In 1964 the College completed the transition to Division III status. The football team, under the leadership of Coach Mike “Duke” Donnelly, had an undefeated 10-0 season in 2007 and won the Centennial Conference title in 2009, advancing to the second round of NCAA Division III championship games. For the first time in Muhlenberg history, the 2008-09 women’s basketball team, undefeated in the Centennial Conference and Centennial Conference Championship, made it to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen Championship.

During the evolution of Muhlenberg’s sporting programs, an additional change occurred. It is reported that the original mascot, the Cardinal, became the better known Mule of today, in part because local newspapers shortened “Muhlenberg” to “Mules” over time. The team with the strongest four-year win record at the College was the Field Hockey team, started as a women’s club in 1958, that had enjoyed 30 wins, 0 losses by 1962.

The College now fields twenty-two varsity sports. Football, soccer, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, baseball, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, lacrosse, golf, and tennis comprise the men’s roster; field hockey, volleyball, cross-country, basketball, softball, lacrosse, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, tennis, and soccer compose the women’s teams. Intercollegiate sports now supplement the college focus on wellness and lifelong fitness. In addition, the College hosts the popular Scotty Wood Basketball Tournament as an outreach to the community each fall.⁶⁴ Also in the fall, students enjoy Homecoming celebrations and the athletic events surrounding it.

Two facilities that reach beyond the immediate physical confines of the campus foster experiential education for students and put the Muhlenberg community in touch with the wider community. First,



**Rachel Jakubowicz '12 and
Kelly Kirkley '12
Homecoming Queen and King 2011**

the Conrad W. Raker Biological Field Station and Wildlife Sanctuary, a forty-acre wooded area, provides biology classes with useful field study opportunities. Second, the Lee and Virginia Graver Arboretum, located in Bushkill Township, provides myriad opportunities for study and research. The Arboretum is also the site of quiet walks and of training for groups such as Student Advisors.⁶⁵

Mind, Body and Spirit

Although the College has consistently sought to educate the whole student, the life of the mind comprises the core of Muhlenberg's



Dr. John V. Shankweiler in front of a painting of Trappe Church, one of the churches served by Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. The painting hangs in the Miller Room, Haas College Center

experience. Academic emphasis has changed to some extent since Muhlenberg's founding. At its inception, Muhlenberg concentrated on a strictly prescribed curriculum of classics, including the study of Latin and Greek. As interest in the liberal arts increased, the College incorporated a diverse curriculum across the spectrum of liberal education. Recent additions are Neuroscience, Film Studies, Jewish Studies, and Finance majors and a

Public Health minor. The Environmental Studies minor has been renamed Sustainability Studies, and African-American Studies is now Africana Studies. Numerous programs that enrich academic life include: First-Year Seminars, Self-designed Majors, Self-Directed Inquiry, honors programs, semesters in Washington, DC and abroad, the Dana Associates Program, the Muhlenberg Scholars Program, R J Fellows Program, and the Presidential Assistants Program. Faculty also teach semester-long MILA courses culminating in study trips to Costa Rica, Bangladesh, China and Turkey. These programs assist and expand academic life at the College.⁶⁶

Mentoring is a tradition at Muhlenberg. It occurs every day by faculty, administrators and support staff, and other students. Mentoring has in fact been characteristic of the college since its inception. In the nineteenth century, the school was so small and personal that interaction among the members of the college community happened automatically. Mentoring has continued, even though the College has grown to around 2150 students. Although former students have noted many individuals for their concern and encouragement, one couple, cited by many, will serve as an example.

John V. Shankweiler and his wife Lelah committed much time to the College. Serving for forty-three years from 1921 to 1964, “Doc” Shankweiler, Professor of Biology, founded the Pre-Medical Society in 1931 and continually strove to put his students in touch with the medical field. He was reported to be patient and enthusiastic for his entire career; he stayed late in the lab to assist students who needed extra help; he even personally drove students to medical school interviews. His fatherly advice was delivered in a heavy Pennsylvania Dutch accent. His wife Lelah nurtured the students, often baking cookies for them. She is commemorated in the J. Conrad and Hazel Seegers Union in the dining space called Lelah’s Room.⁶⁷ The tradition of hosting students, alumni and others continues as faculty and staff open their homes and other sites throughout the year.

To nurture the whole person - mind, body, and spirit - physical activity is a must. This philosophy is consistent with classical and Renaissance authors who articulated the importance of the “healthy mind in a healthy body” going hand in hand. In the early years fitness often meant unorganized activity. One of the most creative occurred when Dean Ettinger was a student. A heavy coal wagon was disassembled where it lay in front of a residence hall and reassembled on the fifth floor of the building.⁶⁸ Most fitness efforts since those days have been more positive. Intramurals have continued through the years. Students and faculty now may be seen running at the Life Sports Center and in the neighborhood. In the fall and spring, Frisbee golf aficionados reemerge to test the time honored course across the campus.

Selected Shorts

All histories are selective, and historical renditions should not be construed as representing everything that happened in a given period or even the most significant events of any period. Landmark events are reported at the discretion of the person reporting, which of course means that agreement over what is most noteworthy varies. With that disclaimer in mind, the following events should have some relevance to your years at Muhlenberg.

In 1893, the College published the first *Ciarla* (yearbook – the title is Italian for “chat” or “conversation”). Current student-managed editions have been the envy of other liberal arts colleges in the area.⁶⁹ In 1933, a formal plan to open the College’s regular sessions to women was proposed but avoided until 1957, when one-hundred and three first-year women students enrolled and nineteen transfer students arrived. The National Council granted accreditation to Muhlenberg in 1965 for the Teacher Education program. In 1967, the College successfully sought the establishment of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the most prestigious academic honor society in the country.

In 1989, student services were extended as offices of Minority (now Multicultural) Affairs and Academic Support Services (now the Academic Resource Center) were strengthened. The Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding (IJCU), established the following year, promotes interfaith dialog. Each year the Institute sponsors interfaith study groups, invites distinguished scholars to campus, and coordinates an annual program on “Youth and Prejudice” for students from 20 area high schools. Since then, its reputation and scope have expanded internationally under the leadership of director Peter Pettit. In 1990, the London Theatre Studies Program extended Muhlenberg’s Study Abroad offerings. Students in international business now study regularly at the Center for European Studies, Maastricht, in the Netherlands, and many other students enrich their education by studying in countries as diverse as France, South Africa, Argentina, and India. Media and communication students can study for a Muhlenberg program in Dublin. Faculty have led short-term study programs to China, Spain, Bangladesh, Paris, Rome, and Turkey. Dr. Rich Niesenbaum, Professor of Biology and director of the Sustainability Studies minor, pioneered

the MILA (Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad) programs with his trip to Costa Rica in 1998.)

Other programs intellectually enrich Muhlenberg students. For example, the First-Year Seminar Program introduces entering students to “the life of the mind – to what it means to think deeply, to talk and write critically about ideas...” with an emphasis on writing and thinking analytically.⁷⁰ There are also four value-added programs for cohorts of students, beginning at their freshmen year and lasting through the senior year: DANA Scholars, RJ Fellows, Muhlenberg Scholars and, most recently, Emerging Leaders. The Living Writers series brings to campus outstanding poets, essayists, and writers of fiction to conduct workshops with students and give public readings. The Center for Ethics and other groups have regularly sponsored opportunities for campus-wide discussion on themes such as, “Hunger in the Midst of Plenty,” “Politics of Identity,” and “Science and Sensibility.” The Institute for Public Opinion, established in 2001, polls individuals nationwide on current issues of importance to the public good — political races, environmental or health care policy, for example. The founder, Dr. Christopher Borrick of the Political Science department, is frequently quoted in the regional and national press.

These symbols, traditions, and landmark events help define what the College has been in the past and is in the present. But it is you who will help direct its future.

In the 1990s, the College gained in visibility and prestige, with articles in Forbes, Time, U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. Barron’s, an influential guide to colleges and universities, pushed Muhlenberg’s ranking up to “Highly Selective.” Applicant pools continue to be strong in both number and quality.

Students are also increasingly competitive for graduate and professional school placement and for prestigious awards. Because of the Prestigious Awards Initiative, Muhlenberg students have competed successfully for awards including the Harry S. Truman Scholarship in studies for public service, Barry Goldwater Scholarship in science and mathematics, the William J. Fulbright award for teaching or study overseas, the Rotary International Fellowship, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute award, the Jack Kent Cooke undergraduate

award, the National Science Foundation Scholarship, the James Madison Fellowship, the Medical Scientist Training Award, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency NNEMS Fellowship, the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship, the St. Andrew's Scholarship, the Morris Udall Fellowship, the Jacob Javits award, and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering & Technology. "The Prestigious Awards Initiative is keen evidence of Muhlenberg's commitment to helping students identify and realize their dreams during or after undergraduate study," notes Dean Carol Shiner Wilson, who created the program in 1998. Foundations for these highly competitive scholarships subsidize postgraduate study for up to \$50,000 per year.

Student research has become increasingly important at the College. Typically, around 400 students a year engage in research or independent study. Some of that research is funded through foundations such as the National Science Foundation or funds from generous alumni and other Friends of the College. In addition, the College established undergraduate summer research grants, available by competitive application, to deepen a student's knowledge in a particular area of interest. Grants have been awarded across the curriculum in areas including biology, chemistry, photography, psychology, theatre, communication, and literature.

Because tuition covers only 85% of the rest of a Muhlenberg education, the College Development and Alumni Affairs Office works hard to solicit gifts from generous donors — individuals, foundations, and corporations — in order to pay for everything from student scholarships (\$28M in 2011-2012) to zebra fish for scientific research to MACs for the Media and Communication program. Every student, whether a full-payer or not, receives a subsidy of at least 15%. Donors give their gifts because they know that these gifts are an investment in the future of our students our communities, and our country.

Transitions

A new era began on July 1, 2003 when President Peyton Randolph (Randy) Helm began his tenure as Muhlenberg's eleventh president. He came to Muhlenberg from Colby College, where he served as Vice President for College Relations. A graduate of Yale, where he majored in Archaeology, President Helm earned a Ph.D. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980. He is unabashedly in love with history and with teaching and has taught *Homer and the Homeric Epic*. His wife Pat, teaches in the Music Department. The Helms have two sons, Burt and Alec.

It is fitting that this volume ends with heartfelt words from President Helm.

A Message from the President

By this point, your eyes are tired and your mind is crammed with information about your new alma mater. I empathize! As President, let me reassure you that you are going to love your years at Muhlenberg. This is an extraordinarily warm, welcoming community, full of interesting people from whom, if you make the effort, you will learn a great deal. If you embrace this opportunity, embrace this community, you will undertake one of the most stimulating, satisfying, and rewarding periods of your life. Make it a point to meet people different from yourself, throw yourself into your classes, experiment with new ideas and extracurricular activities, volunteer in the community, offer your friendship to others on campus. In short, pack as much as you can into every single day. You will be astounded, as I have been, by the opportunities that await you. See you around campus!



Peyton R. (Randy) Helm, President

NOTES

- ¹ Dr. Carol Shiner Wilson contributed significant time and effort in editorial consultation for all editions of this booklet. Many thanks! Others contributed significantly to the recent revisions: Michael Bruckner, Rich Brueckner, Kelly Cannon, Barbara Crossette, Ed Davis, Michael Falk, Lona Farr, Connie Kunda, Ted Lithgow, Frank Marino, Tom and Harriet Mendham, Joanne Mortimer, David Nowack, Phil Secor, Scott Sherk, James Skidmore, James Steffy, Nelvin Vos, and Harold Weiss.
- ² James E. Swain, *A History of Muhlenberg College, 1848-1967* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1967) 6. Dr. Swain, professor of history and political science from 1925 to 1967 resided at 23rd Street next to the student parking lot. Robert Chisolm Horn, "Muhlenberg College: History of One Hundred Years, 1848-1948" (Unpublished manuscript, c. 1948) 8-9.
- ³ Horn, 20-21. A brief chronology of Muhlenberg College history can be found in the rotunda of Haas College Center. Check it out!
- ⁴ Horn, 23-25.
- ⁵ Swain, 6.
- ⁶ Swain, 6-7; Horn 25-26.
- ⁷ Swain, 6, Horn; 26-28.
- ⁸ Swain, 6-7; Horn, 32. In addition to the increased demand for college educated Lutheran men for the ministry, the Lutherans had split over issues of doctrine. The Philadelphia seminary adhered more to German cultural and confessional Lutheran traditions, while the seminary at Gettysburg continued a movement to embrace the more homogenized American Protestantism of the Second Great Awakening.
- ⁹ Swain, 7-8; Horn, 32-34.
- ¹⁰ Other famous members of the Muhlenberg family include: General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, who wintered with George Washington at Valley Forge; Gotthilf Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, who was recognized as a famous early scientist and first president of Franklin and Marshall College (a species of turtle was named for him, a statue of which may be found between New Science and Seegers); and Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, who was first U.S. Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- ¹¹ Swain, 8; Horn, 32-36.
- ¹² *Muhlenberg College Source Book*: 2008 ed. by Nicole Hammel, (October 2008)
- ¹³ Horn, 29-31
- ¹⁴ Horn, 43-47. Now street-sweeping machines patrol the Allentown's roads. Watch the signs to tell you when not to park on 23rd Street.
- ¹⁵ Swain, 17; Horn, 50-51.
- ¹⁶ *Muhlenberg*, Winter, 1986, Vol. 8 Num. 5 (taken from *Daily City*, January 3, 1905); Swain, 32-35; Horn, 60-61.

- ¹⁷ Swain, 78.
- ¹⁸ Word on the street and hearsay from people who work in the building.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.; "Muhlenberg College Fact Book," ed. by Roland W. Dedekind, (October, 1996) 4.
- ²⁰ Ibid. 5.
- ²¹ Ibid. See also Michael Salvatore Tripaldi Muhlenberg's Living Stones, (2003).
- ²² Swain, 151-2.
- ²³ The G.I. Bill provided financial aid for returning World War II veterans, since they had delayed their careers and education for up to four years. Congress passed the G.I. Bill to give them a head-start in resuming their lives.
- ²⁴ Swain, 85-91.
- ²⁵ Ibid., 90-94.
- ²⁶ Ibid., 93.
- ²⁷ Swain, 80-84; *Fact Book*, 6.
- ²⁸ *Fact Book*, 7; Conversation with Dr. Edwin Baldrige, Professor Emeritus of History, July 3, 1997.
- ²⁹ Ibid., 33.
- ³⁰ Scott Sherk, email May 29, 2003.
- ³¹ *Fact Book*, 8, 35.
- ³² Thomas Moser, "Dedication of the Harry C. Trexler Library," pamphlet, October 1, 1988, 10.
- ³³ *Fact Book*, 9.
- ³⁴ Ibid.
- ³⁵ "Muhlenberg Annual Report, 1995-1996," 19; Brochure for the Dedication of New West Hall, Friday October 11, 1996.
- ³⁶ Conversation with Curtis Dretsch, January 2000.
- ³⁷ Horn, 27.
- ³⁸ Ibid.
- ³⁹ Swain, 24-27; Horn, 44-62.
- ⁴⁰ *Cardinal and Grey Annual of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 1922-1923*, Volume III, Horace S. Mann, Editor (Young Men's Christian Association, 1922) 8-10.
- ⁴¹ Ibid., 7.
- ⁴² Ibid., 61.
- ⁴³ Ibid., 62-63.
- ⁴⁴ *The Students' Handbook of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA*, Volume XVI. Frederick J.C. Gregorious, '37, Editor (Muhlenberg Christian Association, 1936) 53-54.
- ⁴⁵ *The M Book: The Students' Handbook of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, 1942-1943*, Volume XXII, Edward O. Lukens, Jr., '44, Editor (Muhlenberg Christian Association, 1942) 70.

- ⁴⁶Ibid.; *The Students' Handbook of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 1971-1972*, Volume XLVIII (Office of the Dean of Students, 1971) 13.
- ⁴⁷Ibid.
- ⁴⁸*The 'M' Book: The Students' Handbook of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa., 1951-1952*, Volume XXVIII, David H. Black '53, Editor-in-Chief (Muhlenberg College, 1952) 48-49.
- ⁴⁹*The 'M' Book: The Students' Handbook of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa., 1961-1962*, Volume XXXVIII. Robert Karl Bohm, Editor (Muhlenberg College, 1961) 23.
- ⁵⁰Tom and Harriet Mendham, letter June 8, 2003.
- ⁵¹"M" Book 1961-1962, 30-31.
- ⁵²Ibid., 23.
- ⁵³*The 'M' Book, 1971-1972*, 80-81.
- ⁵⁴*The 'M' Book: The Students' Handbook of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 1981-1982*, Volume LVIII (Office of Students, 1981); *Muhlenberg College Student Handbook, 1990-1991*, Volume LXVII (Muhlenberg College, 1990).
- ⁵⁵*Muhlenberg College Weekly, February 23, 1961*, Ibid, October 12, 1961; *M Book, 1961-1962*, pp. 40-42.
- ⁵⁶*Muhlenberg Momentum*, Office of Development and Alumni Relations, May, 2003.
- ⁵⁷*Fact Book*, 34.
- ⁵⁸*Muhlenberg*, Winter 1992. Framed pages of the Life Magazine rendition of Muhlenberg coeducation may be found in the hallway just past the rotunda of Haas as you walk down the right-hand steps.
- ⁵⁹Horn, "The Meaning of the Seal," 1-2. Dennis Gambler and Barry Herman, Plant Operations, carved the seal.
- ⁶⁰Horn, 75.
- ⁶¹[On Board at Muhlenberg College](#), July 26, 1945.
- ⁶²*Muhlenberg College Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement website*, <http://www.muhlenberg.edu/studorgs/service>, June 30, 2005.
- ⁶³Horn, 53; *Muhlenberg*, Volume 1, Number 1(Fall, 1989); Ibid., Volume 5, Number 2 (Winter, 1994); the M Book, 1971-1972; *Muhlenberg Door to Door*, Volume 11, Number 1(Summer, 1988); Ibid., Volume 12, Number 3 (Winter, 1990); Ibid., Volume 12, Number 4 (Spring, 1990); Ibid., Volume 13, Number 3 (Winter, 1991); Ibid., Volume 17, Number 1 (Fall, 1994).
- ⁶⁴*Fact Book*, 3-9. *Muhlenberg College Catalog*, 26-27; Swain, 133; "Scotty Wood Tournament Catalog," November 22-23, 1996. Scotty Wood, founder of the food service Wood Company and a Muhlenberg College Honorary Degree recipient.
- ⁶⁵*Muhlenberg College Catalog, 1996-1997*, 208-209. Conrad Raker received an honorary doctorate of divinity in 1956; the Gravers received honorary doctorates of science in 1995.

⁶⁶*Fact Book*, 14. One turn of the century anecdote highlights the fact that enthusiastic intellectual query may have fallen short at times. Professor Dowell, during chemistry class, while performing an experiment stated “Now add hydrochloric acid and watch the results.” He expected the students to report the spectacular details of the experiment’s outcome in their carefully kept notebooks. Instead they all wrote, “Now add hydrochloric acid and watch the results.”

⁶⁷“Muhlenberg Door to Door”, volume 16, Number 3 (Summer, 1994); Conversation with Grace Schneck, retired secretary, July 12, 1997.

⁶⁸Horn, 95.

⁶⁹*Fact Book*, 4.

⁷⁰First-Year Seminar booklet, 2012, 1.

Places to Know

Dorothy and Dexter Baker Center for the Arts (1976)
 Paul C. Empie Theatre
John D. M. Brown Hall (1916)
D. Florence Butz Memorial Garden (1942)
Gideon F. Egner Memorial Chapel (1930)
George T. Ettinger Building (1903, 1948, 1991)
John Peter Gabriel House (1905)
John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg Status (1942)
Graver Arboretum (College Gift 1993)
John A. W. Haas College Center, former Library (1929, 1990)
Hillel/Sociology/Anthropology (2010)
Life Sports Center (1982, 1991, 2004)
 Brueckner Family Wing
 John & Barbara Heffer Health Center
Martin Luther Hall (1957, 1977, 1989, 1994)
Memorial Hall (1954)
Forrest G. Moyer, M.D. '35 Hall (2000)
The Muhlenberg Turtle (1991)
Multicultural House (2006)
New Science Building (2007)
The Raker Wildlife Preserve (College Gift 1989)
Rehearsal House (renovated 2010)
Lois M. and Edward H. Robertson '42 Hall (2002)
J. Conrad and Hazel J. Seegers Union (1963, 1998, 1999, 2006, 2010)
Serenity Garden, donated by the class of 1999
John V. Shankweiler Building (1970, 2006, 2007)
South Hall (2002)
Kathryn P. Taylor Hall (1996)
Harry C. Trexler Library (1988)
Trexler Pavilion for Theatre and Dance (2000)
 Dorothy Hess Baker Theatre
Peter S. Trumbower Science Building (1927, 1971)
Victor's Lament (Mark DiSuvero sculpture) (1979)
Vigilance (Victor Riu sculpture), donated by the class of 1973
The Village, student residences (2007)
The John Walson, Sr. and Margaret Walson
 Communications Hall (1912, 1977, 2002)

**Can you find all the MCs on buildings?
And where is there a Green Man?
Where are the rosewood College Seals normally displayed?
What other questions would you ask?**

Presidents of Muhlenberg College

Peyton R. Helm (2003-present)
James B. Steffy (Interim President 2002-2003)
Arthur R. Taylor (1992-2002)
Jonathan C. Messerli (1984-1992)
John H. Morey (1969-1984)
Erling Jensen (1961-1969)
J. Conrad Seegers (1953-1961)
Morris S. Greth (Acting President 1952-1953)
Quintity (Five-Man Committee 1951-1952)
Levering Tyson (1937-1951)
Robert C. Horn (Acting President 1936-1937)
John A.W. Haas (1904-1936)
William Wackernagel (Acting President 1903-1904)
Theodore Lorenzo Seip (1886-1903)
Benjamin Sadtler (1877-1885)
Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg (1867-1876)

Early Members of the Muhlenberg Family

**See their names in the Muhlenberg Room, just to your
left as you come in the Trexler Library.**

Eve Elizabeth 1748-1808
John Peter Gabriel 1746-1807
Maria Salome 1766-1827
Gotthilf Henry Ernest 1753-1815
Margaret Henrietta 1751-1831
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg 1711-1787
Anna Maria Weiser 1727-1802
Frederich Augustus Conrad 1750-1801
Maria Katharine 1755-1812

Muhlenberg College Alma Mater

I love to sit and think and dream,
And oft conspire.
And yet amid the swelling stream of fond desire,
My heart still ever turns to Thee,
Alma Mater, Alma Mater.
Thee will I ever sing,
To Thee my heart shall cling.
Of Thee my praises ring
O Muhlenberg, Alma Mater,
O my Muhlenberg.

E. H. Kistler, 1895