Annual Scholarship Luncheon

On Saturday, January 28, 2012, Muhlenberg College trustees, scholarship donors, student scholars, faculty, staff and guests gathered for lunch in Seegers Union to honor individuals and organizations who have generously supported scholarships at Muhlenberg. The event also provided an opportunity for scholarship donors to meet and get to know their student recipients.

During the lunch, guests enjoyed remarks by President Helm, Karen White Wagoner ’71 and Anna Hill-Moses ’12. Karen is a trustee and donor, and spoke about what inspired her and her husband to establish The Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Scholarship Fund. Anna is the recipient of The Dr. Richard D. Williams Scholarship Fund, and she described how a Muhlenberg education has made a difference in her life. Read on for highlights from Karen’s and Anna’s remarks. You can view these remarks, as well as other highlights from the 2012 Scholarship Luncheon, by visiting http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main-devel/gallery.htm.

Karen White Wagoner ’71: It’s about providing opportunities

The Mingma Norbu Sherpa Scholarship that [my husband] Donald and I created grew out of a tragedy involving our dear friend Mingma Norbu Sherpa...who grew up in the Himalayas near Mount Everest and became a leading voice for conservation in Nepal and Bhutan as an official with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). He died at age 50 on September 23, 2006 in a helicopter crash in Nepal.

The idea for this scholarship was a marriage of our passion for wildlife preservation and for Muhlenberg. We probably would have supported a scholarship related to environmental science or biology...but this was the perfect opportunity to preserve the memory of Mingma...in combination with support for the College.

To say it’s about giving back or making a difference seems trite. Those words have become so over-used that we don’t give them much thought. From my perspective it’s about giving people – students – an opportunity. The four years we spend in college are crucial to finding a foundation for our passion, our life’s work. Maybe it all turns out differently than you thought it would when you first arrived on campus, but hopefully, by the time you graduate, you know what you’re passionate about and how you’re going to use that passion to serve society.

Supporting Muhlenberg is not really about giving to the institution, it’s about providing opportunities for outstanding students to find their way into the future. It’s about contributing to who they are going to be as people. It’s a responsibility to society that we all should expect of ourselves.

Scholarships at Muhlenberg

- The overall amount of scholarship awards made possible by donors this year totals $1,077,421.
- In total, 140 named scholarships were awarded this year and these benefited 195 students.
Anna Hill-Moses ’12: Your generosity has inspired me

Five years ago I first set foot on Muhlenberg’s campus. Victor’s Lament gleamed in the sunshine, and friendly similes shined on student faces despite the rainy day. I didn’t know it then, but Muhlenberg would grow to be a place that I call home.

Coming [to Muhlenberg] wasn’t a simple desire, it was a need. The cost of Muhlenberg, for me, was an obstacle until I received scholarships. Financial aid allowed me to attend college without causing hardships for my family. It allowed me to fulfill that need to attend the school that was such a perfect fit.

Your philanthropy has enabled me to learn well beyond the physical boundaries of Muhlenberg. There isn’t a day that goes by when I don’t reminisce about my life-altering semester abroad in Brisbane, Australia, or the Alternative Spring Break I spent with Hillel re-building houses in New Orleans four years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the St. Barnard Parish. If it weren’t for donors like you, I would not have been able to afford to go abroad, or to spend a week doing service in a city over a thousand miles away. Your generosity has inspired me to pay it forward and help those who are in need.

I hope that the students here today, myself included, can follow in your footsteps and become generous, thinking and contributing members of society. I know I want to allow another student to have the possibilities I had here at Muhlenberg. We all want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make our education a reality.

New Scholarships at Muhlenberg

New endowed scholarships that became fully funded last year include:

- The Rev. Dr. Ralph L. Alderfer ’41 Scholarship, established by Paul E. Bartlett ’71 and RuthAnn A. Bartlett ’71
- The Harry G. Batalin ’31 Scholarship Fund
- The Harold ’42 and Lorraine Benjamin Memorial Scholarship
- The Grotzinger-Shankweiler Endowed Scholarship Fund, established by Paul Grotzinger ’39
- The Anna and Ernest Doll and Verna and Charles Herman ’35 Scholarship, established by Paul Herman ’60
- The Robert S. Newhard ’41 Chemistry Scholarship
- The Ralph W. Schaffer Scholarship
- The Silber Family Scholarship, established by David Silber ’98
- The Donald L. and Dorothy B. Stabler Foundation Scholarships
- The Zuckerman Family Scholarship, established by Mark Zuckerman ’78
- The Class of 1961 Scholarship in Memory of Robert Allen Butz ’61
- The Frank and Carroll (“Coach and Mrs. Coach”) Marino Scholarship

View Anna’s and Karen’s remarks, as well as other highlights from the 2012 Scholarship Luncheon, by visiting http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/devel/gallery.html