

Notes from your Student Advisor:

# Allie Schall '08

To my first group of advisees,

I remember when Sean and I learned that we were going to be partners...we were so nervous because we were both first-time advisors and we were going to be in charge of an entire group of incoming freshmen all by ourselves. We made plans about how we wanted to spend our time with you and were so excited when you all turned out to be really great freshmen! I can't believe that you are seniors now...time goes so fast, right?! I hope that these past years have been the most amazing ones of your lives and that you have gotten everything out of college that you wanted. Don't take any one of these last months for granted! I think that the best "last advisor advice" I can give regarding your senior year is just to have fun. Don't stress, don't make things worse than they need to be, don't let small issues with friends turn into large drama, etc. Just have an absolutely amazing time and cherish every moment of it.

Good luck with everything in your future, whether you are traveling, applying to grad schools, interviewing for jobs, etc. Try not to settle so that you can find the best possible think for you in life. I can tell you first hand that that can be very difficult! It's September and I am still looking for a job because the thing I truly want to do is Entertainment Public Relations — with this economy and in such a competitive industry, I'm finding it near impossible to get an entry level job. So right now, I'm doing an internship with a PR firm in their talent division. And one thing it has shown me is that even though it totally sucks to not have a job, I'm happy that I'm still holding out and looking for the type of work that will truly make me happy. I hope each of you will find the thing that makes you smile, too.

I'm moving to Hoboken in a few weeks and am always around (contact info below) if any of your have post-grad questions or want advice on finding apartments in the NYC area.

Have SO MUCH FUN this year!

Your advisor,

Allie Schnall

Notes from your Student Advisor:

# Genevieve Cheng '06

To the Class of 2009:

Congratulations on your pending graduation!

As I reflect on my own choices after college and those that you will have in the years ahead, the word "opportunity" comes to the forefront of my mind. If you thought college was supposed to be the path of self-discovery, just wait to see what happens after you graduate! The experiences that I have gained and the lessons that I have learned in the past two years are priceless.

Because I think these next few years are so significant in furthering your path of self-discovery, I encourage you to continue exploring and to continue developing through all of the opportunities that will be afforded to you. At the end of my senior year, I was faced with a life-changing decision: to immediately follow my dream to become a doctor, or to defer medical school for two years to join the Teach For America movement. Against popular opinion and even though I thought I knew what I wanted out of life, I made the choice to join Teach For America to teach ninth grade physical science in Houston, Texas. I was nervous and scared to pursue this opportunity, but this was an amazing opportunity to commit to community service, a love that had been fostered through years of service at Muhlenberg. Two life-changing years later, I learned that while I love teaching my students, my passion is still to change communities through great and accessible medical care. I am currently a first year medical student at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and many years from now, I will be a better doctor and leader because of my teaching experience.

Coming out of college, you will all have amazing opportunities to pursue because of the outstanding education that you received at Muhlenberg. You will have access to more choices than many other young adults because of your education. Only approximately 300 seniors in an original class of 1100 students (when they were freshmen) graduated from the high school at which I taught. Never forget that not everyone has the opportunity to be a part of the class of 2009. Because of your education and your experiences in the past four years, you will have access to more choices than many other young adults. I hope that you will take advantage of these next few years to explore as many opportunities as possible. These next several years make up the best time you have to take chances and to follow many paths.

Good luck on your future endeavors and paths of exploration. You all have the skills and the heart to leave the world a better place than you found it.

Best,

Genevieve Cheng

## Notes from your Student Advisor: Teri Jacobs '07

Dear Advisees,

Congratulations on making it this far! In just a few months you will walk out the red doors and into the real world as Muhlenberg College Alumni! I can't believe that my favorite freshman are about to graduate! I have watched you guys grow and mature throughout the past three years and have been lucky enough to form lasting relationships with many of you. You guys have made me proud and I am excited to hear what the future holds for all of you! I wish I could give you the secret to success after college but I haven't figured it out yet!

Currently I am living at home and working part time at my local theater, South Orange Performing Arts Center, selling tickets at the box office. As many of you know, I spent the spring of '07 and fall of '08 studying abroad in Australia. Coming back to Muhlenberg for my last semester was a bit challenging. With all the post-college lectures and opportunities offered by the career center, it was all very overwhelming for me! I choose to postpone the inevitable and didn't make it down to the career center until March. I didn't take full advantage of the informational sessions because I wasn't searching for jobs. Tomorrow I have my first interview with a photographer. I am regretting my decision not to attend the 'Interviewing like a Pro Workshop' because I have no clue what to expect! Luckily, I have my Job Search Guide from the Career Center which has been really helpful.

Some of you may already be applying to jobs and others may have no clue what they want to do. Whatever your position, make sure it is what you want! In the next few months people around you will be stressing out over getting a job but don't let that fool you into thinking that you are expected to have a job as soon as you graduate. If you do need to start earning a paycheck ASAP than make sure you start early so that you can perfect your resume (which took me more than a month!) and speak with the career center to help guide you through the process.

As graduation approached, the only plan I had was to travel. I didn't (and still don't) know what I want to be when I grow up so I decided to take advantage of the free time and go to Mexico, Belize and Guatemala for 6 weeks. It was terrific! I figured that once I get a full time job I won't ever have that much time to travel. I had a graduation party, made some money, and set off with my backpack and Spanish/English dictionary! Since I have been home I have been assessing my options and trying to figure out what I want to do. I am lucky that I was able to move home and my part-time paycheck supports my needs. I don't think I would have gotten anywhere had I tried to apply for jobs while trying to finish up college. I had a great semester, working hard and getting the most out of my education. I choose to wait till after I graduated to seriously start my job hunt. This was the right decision for me.

Whatever your situation and your career aspirations, make sure you are doing what you need to do to stay sane! I am in no rush to begin a life of 9:00am-5:00pm so I have taken my time. If you are excited to join the work force, more power to you!, just don't let the process take over your life! I wish you all the best luck on this exciting year ahead of you and all that follows! Make sure you follow your own head (and heart) and don't get caught up in the craziness that may surround you. This is an exciting time in your lives.

Don't forget that you have your whole lives ahead of you! Whatever you choose to do upon graduation, doesn't mean you will be stuck with that job for the rest of your lives. The opportunities are endless so get to know your options but you have the rest of your lives to figure out what you want to be when you grow up!

I would love to hear how you are doing. Feel free to e-mail me anytime about anything or call me. Good luck and enjoy it!!

a proud student advisor,  
Teri Jacobs '08

Notes from your Student Advisor:

# Emily Yudkovitz '06

Hello Advisees!

I am writing you from my 4th grade classroom in Westfield, NJ! I have just started my 3rd year teaching and am loving every moment of it. I hope your years at the 'Berg have treated you well. I have most definitely missed it.

Graduation day seems like it is far away, however...it will creep up on you. My senior year was tough, I was student teaching in the spring, but it was GREAT. I feel like 'Berg prepared me for the "real world". Although, you may not feel that way now...you will realize how much you have learned.

Life after college can be tough at times, but make sure you keep your 'Berg Buddies close by...phones work! Retelling silly college stories can make any day at work, a good one.

Have a wonderful senior year! I can't believe you are seniors! CRAZY how time flies! If any of you are going into the teaching field...e-mail me! I would love to help!

Hope all is well!

Emily Yudkovitz  
Class of '06

PS: One of my students said this to me this morning, "Miss Yudkovitz, yesterday at soccer practice...I threw up. It was gross." They say funny little things all the time.

***Emily Yudkovitz***

"Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire." -- W. B. Yeats

## Notes from your Student Advisor:

# Jason Bonder '07

Hi guys!

I can't believe it has been four long years since we met at your orientation. So much has happened in my life since then, and I am sure so much has happened in yours as well! I am old and grey and living in a retirement home in Boca. Things go by quick once you leave Muhlenberg. Ok, so I'm not that old yet, but I did feel really old when I realized you guys are seniors already. I am actually finishing up my MA this year in Jewish Studies and I am applying for Ph.D. programs for next fall. Hopefully I'll get in somewhere and become a college professor one day! That's my goal right now anyway.

So all of you are graduating! Congratulations! I hope you made the most out of your experiences at the 'Berg! I am sure you all have mixed emotions about leaving. You might be sad, or thrilled, to leave Allentown. You might be excited, or nervous, to start a job or grad school. Or, you might have a mix of all those emotions jumbled up inside. My advice to you regarding this upcoming transition is to remember that you have successfully made a major transition before! You can't tell me you didn't, because I watched it happen!

After Muhlenberg, I found that "first-year orientation" is not specific to Muhlenberg College. Muhlenberg does orientation better than it is done anywhere else, of course. Nevertheless, other orientations await you. You will be introduced to new people, places, and challenges, all the time. When you arrive at these new obstacles, remember that you already made the most of orientation at Muhlenberg. So why not make the most of one more, and one more, and one more after that? You all left your homes four years ago, submersed yourselves in a new environment, and you are still standing today. Not only are you still standing, but you are standing with best friends, favorite professors, great memories, and in a few short months, a college degree. Just think, all of this started with a bunch of ice breakers and one heck of a student advisor :).

Regardless of whether you are really excited, or scared out of your mind, make the most of your new experiences! Take it one orientation at a time. I hope each new experience leads you down paths filled with happiness and success. As always, advising does not end at orientation. So, if you have any questions, concerns, or want to say hi, feel free to e-mail me or send me a facebook message. Enjoy every minute of senior year. You guys deserve it!

Best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

Jason Bonder

Notes from your Student Advisor:

Lindsay Schoeneberger '07

To my advisees,

Congratulations on your pending graduation! Enjoy your senior year; it will go by too fast. I hope you have all enjoyed and continue to enjoy your time at Muhlenberg. I can't believe that I've been done over a year.

Good luck with what ever you do after graduation, whether it be getting a job, continuing your education, traveling, or whatever. I am sure you will do well in what ever you do.

Best of luck,

Lindsay

Notes from your Student Advisor:

# Caitlin Grzybeck '07

Hi All!

I can't believe you're SENIORS! Doesn't it feel like just yesterday we were sitting on the lawn next to the Chapel talking about transitioning into freshman year? I know at first you all doubted that Muhlenberg would be all I said it was-but I was right, wasn't I?!?! Now you're probably a little reluctant to leave, and at the same time, anxious to get out into the real world and see what happens next. Well, don't worry! No matter where you are headed, this next chapter will be as exciting as the last.

After graduation, I travelled around Spain for a month, then helped my mom to fulfill her dreams and open a pre-school. I didn't start a full-time job until November-so don't stress if you don't have everything figured out just yet-everything always seems to fall into place. In November I started working for artnet.com-a laid back art research website. It took me a few month of job searching to find such a great fit so don't feel like you should settle for any job that comes your way. You are interviewing these companies as much as they are interviewing you. I don't know where everyone got the idea that you have to hate your first job—it's just not true. I encourage you to be picky! Be selfish! Find something you love! With that said, whether you're grad school bound or job hunting, I wish you all the best of luck! Make the most of your senior year-it's the best year yet.

Please don't hesitate to email me with any questions or just to keep me posted on what your plans are. I would love to hear from you.

-Caitlin Grzybek  
Muhlenberg Class of 2007

Notes from your Student Advisor:

# Neil Freedman '06

I'm supposed to provide you with some of my thoughts about leaving Muhlenberg, but honestly, the most important thing I would like to tell you is you shouldn't be worrying about that now. You've only been there for three years, and you have another entire year ahead of you. But since this is what was requested of us, I have a couple tidbits to pass along to you that I wish I didn't have to learn on my own. I'll just ask you to take some mental notes now, pack them away, and unlock them again once the weather starts getting warmer.

Have a plan. Nothing too elaborate, but start to lay some mental groundwork on what you'll be doing after graduation. Then realize that plan will most likely be blown out of the water. Whether it's due to unplanned external forces or changing internal forces, things rarely work out exactly as you expect. Be ready to adapt.

The only person looking out for you is you. And ultimately, you have to do what makes you happy, even if that means zigging when all logic tells you to zag.

Your GPA won't get you a job or get you into grad school. Nor do you want to be somewhere that only looks at that number. When interviewing, be yourself, and that's how you'll find the perfect fit for your post-Muhlenberg life.

Leaving Muhlenberg sucks (even if you are ready to graduate), but it's one of the most important things you'll do in your life. Really, really cherish your senior year.

Finally, even now more than ever, don't forget to "get your feelers out there!"

I was recently on the hunt for a new job, and as you are about to learn (and probably already know), that requires interviewing. And phone screens. And talking with 5 or 6 people a day. Whether it was over the phone, a conference room table, or lunch, I mentioned Student Advising in every interview I had. Almost 3 years after we first met, I was still excited talking about that weekend. And I have you guys to thank for making it such a great experience and by far my favorite activity at the Berg.

On my end, I just bought a condo in Philly, have been with my new company for 2 and a half months, and still keep in touch with many of my Muhlenberg friends (even some of my fellow SAs).

I sincerely wish you all the best and would like to hear updates from you.

Neil

Neil Freedman '06

Notes from your Seminar Instructor:

Paula Irwin

Hi, Everyone!

I'm sure that your senior year is off to a wonderful start! As the year progresses, I hope that you enjoy reminiscing about how you felt and what you did three years ago, as first year students. I can still visualize where each of you usually sat during our FYS in Ettinger 214, and I was actually looking at your "final revision papers" just a few weeks ago, thinking about how your writing changed from that first paper about how you, personally, overcame individual odds! Your writing and speaking skills have certainly developed during your years here at Muhlenberg, and I am certain that you are putting them to good use in your chosen fields.

It's incredible to see how you have changed during these years -- for those of you I don't see regularly, I am always somewhat startled when I see you around campus. The adventures you have undertaken and the challenges you've overcome make me very proud to know you and to be part of your Muhlenberg experience.

I'm sorry that I am unable to be here for your reunion picnic, but my thoughts are with you. I'm sure that you all are looking forward to the taking advantage of all that Muhlenberg has to offer during your final months here.

If you have a little extra time when you're in Ettinger, stop in to say hi and give me an update on your plans after graduation.

Best wishes for an exciting senior year!

Paula

## Notes from your Student Advisor:

# Betsy Woerner '06

Hey FYS Alice and Beyond Muhlenberg Grads of '09:

I'm sorry this can't come on yellow legal paper, but I suppose email will suffice: you have good imaginations.

I hope that your senior year is off to a great start and that you are thoroughly enjoying your final year in Muhliworld! It's a fun year (and things only get better)!

Muhlenberg has written to those of us who were student advisors for your graduating class to take part in your "Senior Year Experience." (It strikes me as funny that nothing just *is* any longer; things are "an experience." I didn't go on a cruise to Alaska with my mom a year ago; we had a *cruise experience*. Go figure.) I have a little sister who is graduating from Stone Hill this upcoming May, so I'll tell you what I have told her. But first, **let me fill you in a smidge on my life** the last couple of year, so you have some context: After graduating in May 06, I spent a month traveling with a friend from high school. If you have the opportunity to do something like this, I recommend it: it's a great point in life to do so, and is really good decompression time. I did a lot of reading and writing while traveling, and have enjoyed looking back on my notes. They've helped remind me of my aspirations immediately following graduation, which is a useful thing to hold on to.

I moved to Philadelphia in September (without a job) and lived with three other people from Muhlenberg: this had its ups and downs (learning to manage your life while other people are around is both supportive and infuriating, in my experience) and worked for a contract law project for about 10 months. It was BORING (but paid well, taught me a few useful computer skills, and gave me the opportunity to see what a large scale legal project is like. If you're actually interested, I would be happy to detail this for you at a later date). Then I moved to Boston, and am currently working at Harvard School of Dental Medicine in Admissions. It's funny to be on the receiving end of applications after so relatively recently being on the sending end. People write bizarre things: one of my favorites is an applicant who claimed "My Family" as an extracurricular activity, said he allotted 999 hours (the most possible to enter) to this activity, and described his role as "taking out the trash, minding the dog, playing chess with grandma." I don't know to what extent he was serious, but it was certainly memorable. Life in academia is both great (free classes! Lots of autonomy! Good benefits!) and strange (I am the only 25 year old here with the exception of the students. They like teeth. I don't give two hoots. Or even one) – but it's been a good place to land for a few years. So – school's out for summer! And indefinitely... which is awesome, but also scary, especially when September rolls around again and Muhlenberg is no longer an option (or mandated obligation). (And at that point, congratulations will be in order! You made it!) **So here's my list of the top three list of life changes before-to-after college:**

(1) Responsibility changes from go-to-class-when-I-feel-like-it-and-talk-to-my-profs-if-I'm-going-to-be-late/hand-in-a-paper-late/need-extra-time-on-an-exam to paying monthly bills and being held immediately accountable for your work... but

(2) Work ends at 5 (or really, just ends)! Leaving work at work gives you time to do all sorts of other things, explore new interests, etc. BUT these opportunities aren't at a student fair (or recently-graduated 20-something fair), waiting for you to sign your name to a list. Life is a lot less structured – unless you make it structured. Put another way, your time at work is not your own, but your time outside of work is ALL YOURS (sometimes this is daunting as well as freeing). It took me a while to figure this out.

(3) Making friends is different: unless you're headed off to grad school (congrats!) or will be working for Google (I'm told they have personality tests to match potential employees with current ones), your pool of similar and like-minded individuals is probably smaller than the one you experienced at Muhlenberg (these people are wonderful and worthwhile; HOLD ON TO THEM!). On the down side of this issue: making friends isn't as easy as chatting up the person next to you. Even if you're simpatico, chances are they have a life, and you're not part of it. The up side? You meet and become friends with people the likes of whom you never would have imagined while at Muhlenberg.

### **And an abbreviated list of retrospective thoughts:**

#### Things I miss most about college:

- (1) Lion's Head beer + Woody's
- (2) Wearing my favorite jeans whenever I wanted
- (3) Being constantly intellectually stimulated – and sharing that environment with smart people

#### Things I love most about post-college life:

- (1) My independence
- (2) Leaving work at work

-- Both claims are too broad and sweeping to add a (3), but here's an example of what I mean: taking a vacation, when I want, to wherever I want, with (or without) whoever I want is great. Paying bills sucks, but saving up to buy a new computer is exciting. You get the picture.

Thing I'm most fearful about: Not knowing what I want to be when I grow up (a fear I think about a lot, one that causes me a lot of consternation, and one that's probably completely normal, even for being out of college for a couple of years).

I guess, when it comes down to it, I preach ambiguity about graduation/ entering the "real world." I think it's a hard thing to do, but I've learned a lot about myself in the process – things I couldn't have learned at Muhlenberg – and have had a lot of fun. If you recall any of our time together three years ago (wow was that fast!) you'll know that this is one of my biggest values, and I don't think fun has to stop after college... so live it up, then keep living it up!

Have a great year! And I would be so thrilled if we could email – if you have questions, amazing stories, or thoughts on any of the above.

I will look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers to the max (and hello to Muhlenberg for me) –

Betsy