

# MUHLENBERG

FALL 2011

THE MAGAZINE

## 10 Things We Love About Muhlenberg



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www.muhlenberg.edu

phone: 484-664-3230

fax: 484-664-3477

e-mail: bruckner@muhlenberg.edu

#### Credits

Dr. Peyton R. Helm  
PRESIDENT

Michael Bruckner  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jillian Lovejoy Lowery '00  
EDITOR  
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Falk  
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Tanya Trinkle  
DESIGN

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cover photo: One of our favorite things about Muhlenberg is the amazing artwork. When looking for a place to tackle homework or collaborate on a group project, students seem to gravitate to this beautiful spot by the mural in the New Science Building.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

### Some Things Never Change (But Some Things Do)

Everything is constantly in flux: you cannot step twice into the same river.

*Heraclitus of Ephesus, c. 550 B.C.*

How many alumni does it take to change a light bulb? A hundred – one to screw in the new bulb and ninety-nine to reminisce about how great the old one was.

*Anonymous, c. 2011*

Wise alumni care about the current health and future prospects of their alma maters – not just because they are nostalgic about their youth, and not just because they know the prestige and value of their degree will appreciate or decline depending on how their old college is doing. There are also purely altruistic reasons to care – and these may be the most important. Those who understand how their lives have been enriched by a liberal arts education provided in an intimate community want to ensure that experience for the generations to come.

So, assuming you are a wise alumnus, what do you need to know about what has and hasn't changed at Muhlenberg over the past generation or so?

#### Fiscal Responsibility

We've never been a wealthy institution and we're not rich today. Our endowment per student is about one-third that of the institutions with which we compete. We charge slightly less too (about \$3,500 less per year than our competitors). That means we have to be frugal – and we are. The College has balanced its budget every year for the past 56 years. We compete successfully with better-funded institutions because we are better at focusing our resources where they matter: on the student experience. Having said that, we need to do better in our alumni fundraising. Alumni participation dropped from about 35 percent to 25 percent during the recession. Muhlenberg alumni need to give their alma mater a higher priority in their philanthropic planning.

#### Teaching (Still) Comes First

Excellence in teaching has always been and will continue to be our highest priority. This is what we do. Faculty are also expected to excel at College service and in professional activity. Of course, excellence requires innovation. Muhlenberg faculty today are much less likely to deliver lectures and more likely to engage students in active learning through collaborative research, group projects, service learning, and other means of ensuring that students combine theory with practice. As I write this, Muhlenberg students are working in labs on campus, excavating a pioneer village in Maine, pursuing marine biology research on the coast (also in Maine), and packing their bags for international study experiences in dozens of countries.

#### We're Better at More Things

A generation ago Muhlenberg was known as a good liberal arts college, but its main claim to fame was as a pre-med powerhouse. We're still strong in the life sciences but we also boast the nation's best (according to the Princeton Review) undergraduate theatre program; our psychology department is booming, our accounting majors are snapped up by Deloitte and other national firms; and the Muhlenberg Polling Institute consistently garners national press. Everywhere you turn on our campus, academic departments are raising the bar. This is true outside the classroom as well. Traditional athletic powerhouses like football and men's basketball are still strong, but other teams are winning championships too – especially women's



teams like basketball and softball.

#### Outcomes are Still Powerful – but Different

Muhlenberg grads still enjoy a phenomenal acceptance rate at medical and dental schools (93 percent for the class of 2011), but increasingly our science majors are also pursuing academic and corporate careers in scientific fields. Our annual career survey of graduates one year out consistently shows more than 95 percent of recent alums employed or in graduate or professional school. Clearly, advanced degree programs and employers alike are eager to welcome each year's new crop of Mules.

#### We are a Lutheran College – But Maybe Not the Way You Think

Yes, more than a third of our students are Jewish, and almost as many are Roman Catholic. Nationally, only six percent of Lutheran high school graduates attend Lutheran colleges. Coincidentally, that's slightly less than the percentage of Lutheran students at Muhlenberg (seven percent). Financial support from the Church amounts to less than one-tenth of one percent of our annual operating budget. But we still have three Lutheran bishops on our Board of Trustees, and Lutheran values continue to shape campus culture and values. Foremost of those values is a spirit of welcome to those of other faiths, an openness to new ideas, and the humility to admit that none of us can grasp the totality of wisdom.

*continued on page 27*



## Rebekkah Brown: Dancing As Fast As She Can

Rebekkah Brown has always been known for her fancy footwork. A 1999 graduate of Muhlenberg's theatre and dance program, Brown is a founding member of the Shelley Oliver Tap Dancers, and performs and teaches

throughout the Northeast. Now, she's taken on a new role that's bound to keep her on her toes. In May, the College named Brown vice president for development and alumni relations. "It feels like coming home," Brown says.

After earning an MBA from St. John's University in 2007, Brown worked in development at Columbia Business School at Columbia University in New York, most recently as executive director of development. "I knew I wanted to come to New York City for a portion of my life, but not my whole life," says Brown, who is a native of Pennsylvania.

"We are delighted to welcome Rebekkah back to Pennsylvania and to our campus," said Muhlenberg College President Randy Helm. "Among a very talented pool of finalists, she distinguished herself through her broad experience in both corporate and higher education settings, her sophisticated understanding of the development profession and her deep knowledge of and her passion for the College. She is well suited to lead the very talented and experienced development team that we have assembled in recent years."

Brown's track record at Columbia is impressive: she played a key leadership role in the Business School's \$600 million fundraising campaign, part of the University's \$5 billion capital campaign. And, she notes, the Business School showed an annual increase in both donations and donors throughout her tenure; even during the worst of the economic recession.

Brown plans to increase giving and participation at Muhlenberg by reaching out to alumni on a personal level. "We need alumni to know how important it is to stay involved with the College and how important it is to give every year," she says. "A lot of our outreach has to be done on a peer-to-peer basis. Development can't be one message to everyone. People look back fondly at their Muhlenberg experience for a variety of reasons, and my goal is to find those ways for people to connect to Muhlenberg today."

Her own reconnection with Muhlenberg is a good example. About a year ago, Brown received a postcard from the theatre, dance and music faculty announcing the development initiative for the new rehearsal house being constructed at the theatre school. "That request really resonated with me; it made me recall all the great experiences and teachers I had at the school and the professors that had a profound impact on my life. It made me want to help." Brown chose to name an office in the rehearsal house in honor of her mother, Carolyn J. Brown.

At Muhlenberg, Brown will oversee the entire alumni and development operation, including alumni relations, The Muhlenberg Fund, leadership gifts, corporate and foundation relations, records and research, communications, donor relations and planned giving. The College recently completed a capital campaign that secured \$110.4 million.

In her spare time, Brown plans to continue dancing. "Muhlenberg College gave me the tools I needed to have a successful career in the development and alumni relations industry, while still pursuing my life-long passion for dance," Brown says. "I am delighted to be back on campus and to have the opportunity to give back to a place that means so much to me."



Brown (front) practices her hobby

### MEET THE CLASS OF 2015

60% Female 51% Graduated in the top tenth of their class  
 33 states of origin (plus Puerto Rico) 40% Male  
 10 salutatorians 9 valedictorians  
 224 National Honor Society members  
 5 Sets of Twins

*Other data:* The class also includes a student who acted in the national tour of "Annie," a student who started his own film company and another who started his own tech firm, two students who have won awards for playwriting, a student who is a SAG member and has appeared in episodes of "Law and Order CSI" and "Miss Congeniality 2," a featured vocalist in the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a competitive figure skater for Israel, a student who performed on piano at Carnegie Hall, and a student who competed in the World Championships for Irish Step Dancing in 2011.

## Preserving History

The old cliché is true – a picture is worth a thousand words. But what happens when the picture (or in this case, painting) begins to deteriorate?

That's exactly what was happening with the oil painting "Muhlenberg Arrives at Trappe Church," created in 1930 by Louis Ewald, which was given to the College in memory of Rev. George F. Eichorn, Jr. '49.

According to Kathy Burke, director of the Martin Art Gallery, "It appears the painting was commissioned precisely for the space above the fireplace in the Miller Room. The back support of the canvas is arched and exactly matches the proportions of the space in which it hangs. In my opinion, this is a very fine example of illustrative/narrative history painting—beautifully composed and expertly painted."

But the years had taken their toll on the work of art, which features Lutheran patriarch Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the man for whom the College is named. Paint was flaking away; this historical piece was slowly disappearing.



Not if Trustee Emeritus John W. McConomy '71, P'99 had anything to say about it. McConomy learned about this painting's plight and was moved. He donated the funds necessary to restore the piece to its original vibrance.

Steven B. Erisoty, who worked to restore the piece said, "The paint layer was detaching from the canvas in most areas. If this restoration had not been carried out the

painting would have continued to lose chips of paint until there was nothing left." "Muhlenberg Arrives at Trappe Church" is back where it belongs – hanging in the stately Miller Room of the Haas College Center, a beautiful reminder of the College's Lutheran roots.

## Faculty On the Rise

The following faculty members have been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Keri Colabroy  
*chemistry*

Dr. Steven Coutinho  
*philosophy*

Amze Emmons  
*art*

Dr. Hartley Lachter  
*religion studies*

Dr. Paul McEwan  
*media and communication*

Dr. Jefferson Pooley  
*media and communication*

## Godspeed, Chaplain Bredlau

The Reverend Peter S. Bredlau, College Chaplain, has resigned.

Bredlau said that after an extended period of thought and reflection about his call to ordained ministry and the vocation of his life and work, he has decided to pursue a career in the business world that allows him to use his talents as coach, speaker, motivator and organizer.

Bredlau arrived at Muhlenberg on Jan. 1, 2000, after serving a Lutheran congregation in Reading, Pa. During his time at Muhlenberg he has worked with Religious Life, the RJ Fellows honors program, the ice

hockey team and a number of other campus initiatives. He also served as a source of advice and guidance to the faculty of the College.

Bredlau will continue to serve as the adjunct instructor for an RJ Fellows First Year and Senior Seminars for the 2011-2012 academic year and has agreed to temporarily act as Chaplain while the College searches for a replacement. President Randy Helm says he will consult with Bishop Zeiser, Trustees and members of the campus community in an effort to define what Muhlenberg will be seeking in its next College Chaplain.

## 'We Need You Desperately,' Kushner Tells Class of 2011

By Jillian Lovejoy Lowery '00, Director of College Communications

The anticipation of the people sitting under a leaden gray sky was palpable as Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner (who also has an Emmy, two Tonys, three Obies and an Oscar nomination under his belt) began his speech at the College's Commencement ceremony on May 22, 2011. A big name in the theatre and entertainment communities, Kushner is known for his timely, edgy works and his pointed wit. The New York Times describes him as "one of the most linguistically luxuriant dramatists of our time.... Kushner makes words sing, swoon and somersault."

In a rapid-fire speech to Muhlenberg's Class of 2011, Kushner delivered on expectations. He urged graduates to remain thoughtful, to actively pursue their passions and to share their talents with the world – a world that, in Kushner's opinion, is very much in flux. "Everywhere, the world is in need of repair. Fix it. Solve these things. You need only the tools that you have learned here, even if you didn't pay as much attention as you should, even if you're a mess and broke and facing a future of economic terror. Who isn't? Who doesn't?" he told the students receiving degrees.

Best known for his two-part epic, "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," Kushner also has a Muhlenberg connection – his cousin is Roland Kushner, an assistant professor in the department of business.

Kushner's other plays include "A Bright Room Called Day," "Slavs!," "Hydrotophia," "Homebody/Kabul" and "Caroline, or Change." Kushner also wrote the screenplays for Mike Nichols' film of "Angels in America" and Steven Spielberg's "Munich." His books include "But the Giraffe: A Curtain Raising," "Brundibar: the Libretto, with illustrations by Maurice Sendak," "The Art of Maurice Sendak: 1980 to the



Present," and "Wrestling with Zion: Progressive Jewish-American Responses to Palestinian/Israeli Conflict," co-edited with Alisa Solomon. His latest work includes "The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism & Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures," which premiered at the Guthrie Theatre in May 2009.

Recently, Kushner garnered a certain amount of notoriety when the City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice rescinded its offer of an honorary degree after critics on the school's board described him as "anti-semitic." A storm ensued, and Kushner received his degree.

Despite that controversy, Muhlenberg never once gave second thought to their invitation to Kushner to receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters and to ask him to address the class of 2011.

**"D**uty calls. The world calls. Get active. No summer vacation, no rest for you. We have been waiting too long for you. We need your contribution too desperately, and if they tell you your contribution is meaningless, if they tell you the fix is in and there's no contribution to be made, if they tell you to contribute by shopping your credit card into exhaustion, if they tell you to surrender the brilliant, dazzling confusion your education should have engendered in you, exchange that quicksilver prolificity for dull monotone certainty, productive only of aggression born of boredom and violence, born of fear, born of stupidity. They're lying. Don't trust them; get rid of them. You know who they are. Shout down the devil."

– Excerpted from Tony Kushner's address to the Class of 2011

## Tops in Their Class

Since the Prestigious Awards Program was created in 1998 by Carol Shiner Wilson, Dean of the College for Academic Life, some 90 students have been honored with fellowships and other ongoing-study awards. Interested students work closely with a team of faculty advisors, who help them in the process of self-reflection and preparing multiple drafts for application.

Here are recent awardees:

**Christopher Alvaro '10**

*National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention)*

**Thomas Bertorelli '10**

*Fulbright (Alternate)*

**Joshua Cohen '11**

*Medical Scientist Training Program/MDPhd at the University of Alabama-Birmingham*

**Eirinn Disbrow '10**

*Fulbright (Finalist)*

**Miriam Eisenberg '07**

*National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention)*

**Scott Kanner '12**

*Goldwater (Honorable Mention)*

**Amanda Meier '13**

*Goldwater (Honorable Mention)*

**Jessica Nesmith '09**

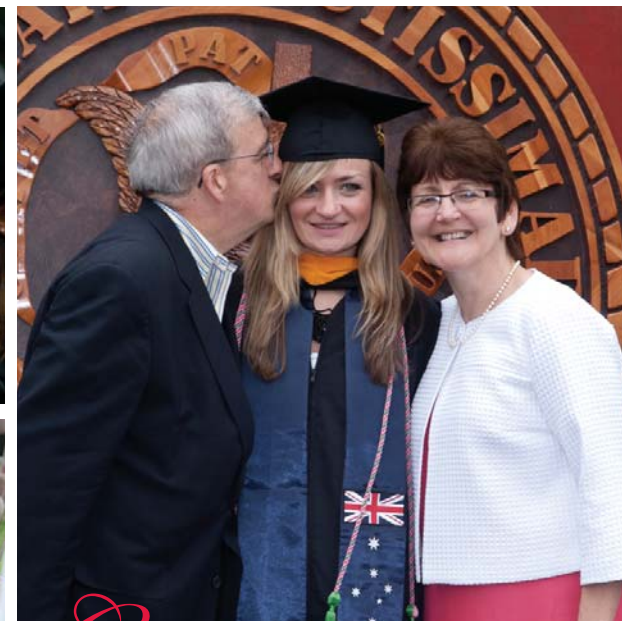
*National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship*

**Ethan Simon '11**

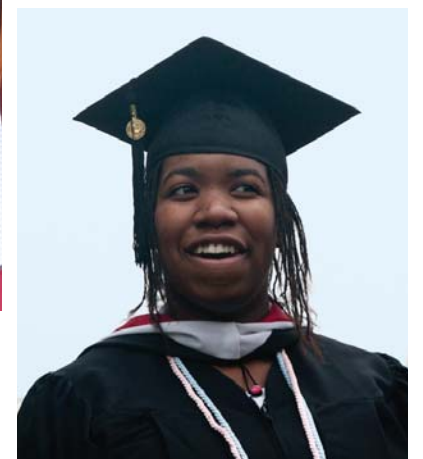
*Fulbright (Finalist)*

**Robert Torphy '11**

*National Collegiate Athletic Association*



*Commencement  
2011*



To see more photos from Commencement 2011, please visit [muhlenberg.edu/commencement](http://muhlenberg.edu/commencement)

## American Hero: 1st Lt. USMC Bobby Butz '61 Honored by Country and Classmates

By Jennifer R. McLarin '86, Director of Alumni Relations



**O**n June 26, 1965, a young Marine was leading his company of 13 M48 A3 "Patton" tanks and five self-propelled recoilless rifle vehicles on a combat mission north of Da Nang Air Base in South Vietnam. Just two months shy of his 26th birthday, the soldier had already distinguished himself as an Executive Officer of the A Company, Third Tank Battalion, Third Marine Division. With very little time or resources, he had personally trained his unit and led each of its eight previous reconnaissance patrols forward of friendly positions in search of routes for tracked vehicles. Their missions led them through treacherous terrain including jungles, steep slopes, murky swamps and narrow trails.

As the A Company rolled its way through the unforgiving terrain, it eventually encountered a river, raging because of the monsoon season in South Vietnam. The first tank, carrying the young Marine leader, rolled off the bank to begin fording the river. As it entered the murky, fast-flowing water, the tank suddenly plunged into a huge hole in the bottom of the river, some 20- to 25-feet deep. Only its antenna was visible on the surface.

The young Marine pulled himself from the submerged tank and into the roaring river. He dove under water to find his men and pulled the first one out to safety. With that victory, he

jumped back in to find the next man, and pulled him out.

With the two Marines safely on the bank of the river the young man swam back for the tank's loader and A company's Armor, Corporal Swinger – and was finally overcome and defeated by the raging river. With his death, the Marine Corps lost a valorous soldier as a valued and highly respected leader, his family lost a dedicated husband, father and brother and Muhlenberg lost one of its most beloved alumni: First Lieutenant Robert A. Butz '61 – or as all his classmates called him, "Bobby."

Like many of the entering Class of 1961, Bobby Butz was a local boy. Born Aug. 15, 1939, in Easton, Pa., his parents Frank (Pappa) and Irene Butz owned a dairy farm not far from Muhlenberg, in Bangor. Bobby and his siblings (brother Frank Jr. and two sisters Jean Louise and Marilyn Ann) helped out on the farm, and he was active in the

Northampton 4-H Club, showing champion Holstein dairy cows and heifers. At Bangor High School, Bobby excelled at both academics and sports, earning varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. During his senior year, he was elected treasurer of the Student Council.

It didn't take Bobby Butz long to make friends at Muhlenberg. For one thing, he played two sports during his freshman year: football and baseball. And to paraphrase his classmates, he was, quite simply, "a great guy." As he had in high school, Bobby juggled a variety of activities in college. While keeping up with the intense academic demands of a Muhlenberg chemistry major, he joined the ATO fraternity and the Science Club. His strong performance in sports earned him varsity letters in three years of football and baseball, and on numerous occasions he received "All East, All Star" recognition as a running back for the Mules. In 1959, during his junior year, Bobby married his high school sweetheart, Millie Murphy.

After graduating from Muhlenberg in 1961 with a B.S. in chemistry and a Pennsylvania teacher certification in science, Bobby returned to Bangor High School to teach biology and serve as assistant football coach. In March, 1962, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps – just as the conflict in South Vietnam was heating up.

Bobby's first destination as a Marine was Quantico, Virginia, where he was selected to enter Officer Candidate School. In May 1962, he graduated as a Second Lieutenant and was assigned to Camp Lejeune, N.C. There he trained in armored operations, maintenance, and amphibious warfare. He was promoted to supervisor of armored expeditionary force preparations for an

armored battalion operation, and was then assigned to the Third Marine Division. In early 1965, Bobby Butz, the local boy who lived, worked and attended school all in the same small area of northeastern Pennsylvania, was sent to a destination farther away than he could have ever dreamed: Okinawa, Japan.

Shortly after arriving in Okinawa, now First Lieutenant Robert A. Butz was promoted to his final rank as Executive Officer. On May 6, 1965, he landed in the Da Nang sector of South Vietnam. In his slightly more than two-month tenure as Executive Officer, Bobby's dedication, tenacity and unflappable work ethic made a big impression on his fellow Marines. At the time of his death in June, Bobby had earned the respect and friendship of his men and superiors. After his death, he was honored at a memorial service in Da Nang, where more than 500 of his fellow Marines braved unbearable heat and enemy threats to pay him homage. The commanding officer of A company was Capt. F. B. Donovan, who wrote home to tell Bobby's family that fellow Marines had donated enough money to fund a scholarship for five Vietnamese children for 12 years.

In July 1965, a mere four years after his Muhlenberg graduation, Bobby Butz's remains were returned to the United States, where he was interred with full Military Honors in the Easton Cemetery. He left behind his wife Millie and a five-year old son named Gary – who later was a Presidential Appointee to and graduate from the United States Naval Academy and would serve as an officer on nuclear submarines for more than seven years.

Recognizing his extreme bravery, the Marine Corps honored Butz with four medals: the National Defense Service Medal; the Vietnam Campaign Medal; and the Vietnam Service Medal. After his death, Bobby was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, the fourth highest combat award recognition the United States Armed Forces can bestow upon a soldier.

Although deprived of the opportunity to

spend time with their friend and classmate after graduation, members of the Class of '61 insist that Bob made an indelible mark on their lives. For Wilson Gum, a fellow chemistry major and ATO brother, Bobby was a best friend – and the best man at his 1959 wedding to Barbara. Bob's wife Millie was Barbara's matron of honor. "Bob was a very close friend who is fondly remembered by all who were touched by his life," says Gum. Rev. Art Hahn, a fellow classmate, thinks of Bobby as an irreplaceable teammate. "What I remember so clearly about Bob is how much he was admired and appreciated by his teammates on the Mule football team," says Hahn. "He was known as the 'Human Running Machine' because when he got the ball – whether in practice or a game – you would see him run with 110% effort and desire all the time. His drive and example led his teammates to push even harder towards excellence and a win."

Classmate Martin Renshaw '61 first knew Bobby Butz in high school, as they played for rival varsity football teams. When it came time for college, both chose Muhlenberg and found themselves at last on the same team. "What I remember so well to this day is seeing Bob's unrelenting tenaciousness and desire to excel and win," says Renshaw. "He was a great friend and human being, always willing to go the extra mile to help a teammate, classmate or friend."

Lois Reimer Voorhees '61 has more to say about her Muhlenberg and chemistry classmate's character off the field. "Bobby Butz was always a true friend, a gentleman par excellence, held in highest regard by all who crossed his path," says Voorhees, adding that Bobby possessed "unsurpassable integrity, fairness and moral character" and "extraordinary dedication to his family, his teams, his academic pursuit, his school, his community, and his country. He fought for the ideals in which he believed. He truly gave his life for us: I shall always remember Bobby as a fallen hero."

As the Class of '61 began planning its 50th Reunion, members knew that during

this pivotal year, their last official Reunion at Muhlenberg, Bobby Butz should be honored. At their first planning meetings, the Reunion committee came up with three ways: a scholarship in Butz's honor, a nomination for an Alumni Achievement Award and a memorial service to honor him and other deceased classmates at Reunion 2011 in September.

For the first part of their three-fold plan to honor Bobby Butz, the Class of '61 50th Reunion Committee established a legacy campaign to raise immediate assets to fund a half scholarship for a future Muhlenberg student. The campaign is also raising deferred assets and donations with the goal of having a full scholarship when these funds become available in the future. According to Wilson Gum, a member of the Class of 1961 50th Reunion Committee and Circle of 1848 Chair, "The scholarship is intended to commemorate the life of our special classmate, 1st Lt Robert A. Butz, and to honor the ultimate sacrifice he made for all of us and his country." The Robert A. Butz - Class of 1961 scholarship will be awarded to a student who was a veteran, or son or daughter of a veteran or a widow or widower of a veteran of any the armed forces of the United States based on high academic achievement and/or financial need. "Bob was a dedicated patriot who loved his country and interrupted his family life and career to answer his nation's call," says Gum. "This scholarship means that a veteran or a veteran's family who has made a similar commitment will have the chance to attend or to send a child to Muhlenberg and earn an outstanding Muhlenberg education and degree and go on to serve our country, society and world – as Bob would have done had he stayed with us a little longer."

With the scholarship underway, the '61 Reunion Committee submitted a nomination for Bobby Butz to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award: the highest award given by the Muhlenberg Alumni Association that recognizes an alumnus/a for "distinguished and exceptional attainments in life which

## Honoring a Family Legacy

By Stacey Prohaska, Director of Communication and Donor Relations

“Karl loved Muhlenberg,” says Ruth Van Sciver Peckmann P’92 of her late husband Karl Peckmann ’54, P’92, a former trustee of the College. Before his sudden death in 2002, Karl designated a life insurance policy to establish The Karl A. Peckmann ’54 Scholarship Fund. Family, friends, classmates and former ATO brothers of Karl’s also made gifts toward the scholarship. Now, Ruth has named Muhlenberg College as the beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust that will enhance the existing Peckmann Scholarship. The combined fund will alter its name to The Van Sciver-Peckmann Scholarship Fund to honor not only her husband, but her father and grandfather as well.

“Before he died, Karl wanted to set up something to honor my family,” says Ruth. Her grandfather, Joseph Bishop Van Sciver, opened a small furniture manufacturing business in Camden, New Jersey in 1881. A successful entrepreneur, his business grew and became the largest furniture manufacturing and retail store in the country. Eventually, the family opened stores in

Allentown, Bala Cynwyd, Jenkintown and Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Trenton, N.J.; and Wilmington, Delaware.

Ruth eventually opened her own successful business with Karl. Andorra Gardens sold design from showrooms in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles. “It was through Karl’s encouragement that I took on the first order. We made 1,400 two-foot decorated Christmas trees out of our garage.”

An active alumnus, Karl served as a member of the Board of Trustees, chair of his class reunion and as a member of the Alumni Association Executive Council. He also volunteered with the College’s Alumni in the Classroom and Entrepreneurship programs. Ruth and Karl were members of the Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Society (HMMS), and Ruth remains a member of the Circle of 1848 and the Lifetime Giving Society.

Ruth and Karl met on a blind date on Homecoming Weekend during Karl’s senior year at Muhlenberg. Karl’s twin brother Hans ’55 and daughter Jeanette ’92 also



Karl Peckmann ’54, his wife Ruth, and daughter Jeanette Peckmann Benson after Jeanette’s 1992 Muhlenberg graduation.

attended Muhlenberg. Ruth and Karl’s nephew Thorsten Lucke ’93 is also a Muhlenberg alumnus.

The weekend Jeanette graduated, Karl received an Alumni Achievement Award for service to the College. A board member at the time, he marched with his daughter during the Commencement procession. The Peckmanns all remember their Muhlenberg experiences fondly. “Their talents were nurtured in all areas,” Ruth says. “Both Karl and my father believed that education is forever; and I am pleased to honor their memory by giving someone else the opportunity to complete a college education.”

Bobby Butz: continued from previous page

reflect substantial credit on Muhlenberg College as the recipient’s alma mater.” For classmate Ed Nace, this award was a fitting way to recognize an alumnus whose bravery and sacrifice are undisputed. “Most of us have been privileged to see our families grow and mature; to fulfill the aspirations that were dreamed of at Muhlenberg and to enjoy the simple pleasures of daily life,” says Nace. “Robert Butz has provided us a measure of heroism. How do we, so many years later, pay tribute to Robert and honor his memory and gallantry? The Alumni Achievement Award is a first step.” The Awards Committee was so impressed by the Bobby Butz story that it decided to award him the first posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award, which was accepted by his widow, Millie Murphy Butz, and son Gary at Reunion/Homecoming on September 17, 2011.

A final way that the Class of ’61 paid tribute to Bobby Butz is through a memorial service to honor him and other veterans in their class. At 3:30 p.m. on Friday, September 16, the first day of Reunion/Homecoming, Bobby’s classmates were led into the Egner

Memorial Chapel by a piper and Marine Honor Guard, for a special remembrance service. The service was led by classmate Rev. Craig Landis and teammate Rev. Arthur Hahn, with Bob’s high school and college classmate Lois Voorhees playing the Chapel organ.

To a local farm boy who believed in working hard and who was always putting others first – whether teammates, classmates or fellow soldiers – all this attention might seem a little much. To his 1961 Muhlenberg classmates and others who knew him, it’s long overdue and the least they can do. According to Voorhees, “the lives of all with whom he came in contact were touched by his gracious, gentle, caring and kind demeanor, as well as his deep compassion for life and his ever-present vision to help others.”

Fittingly, Bobby’s best friend Wilson Gum sums it up best: “He is a true hero of Muhlenberg. And as Sgt. Tim Matye, retired USMC states, ‘For those who must fight for it, life has a certain flavor the protected will never know.’”

## Working the Late Shift

By Brian Braiker

Before he was even in his teens, Brian Teta ’98 was obsessed with late-night television. He idolized Carson and revered Letterman. “I even did a bad talk show in my basement, called ‘The Brian Teta Show,’ he says now. “Those tapes have been destroyed.”

Nothing and everything has changed for Teta, who graduated with a degree in media and communication. Today he has a talk show, but it isn’t bad and the tapes don’t get destroyed — they are broadcast to a nation of insomniacs and late-night fanatics. Teta is a producer for “The Late Show With David Letterman” and he counts himself among the luckiest people alive.

“I’ve got the job at 35 that I wanted at 15,” he says, sitting in his cluttered 11th floor office in the Ed Sullivan Theatre on Broadway in New York. “I work with David Letterman and I interview celebrities for a living. I’ve met everyone from Superbowl winners to the President to Julia Roberts.”

And he owes it, he says, to Muhlenberg.

“Muhlenberg prepared me for the language of working in this industry. I had never written a script before Muhlenberg; I didn’t know the basic rules of editing,” he says. “After graduation, I felt completely on par with colleagues who had gone to much larger schools with dedicated television programs.”

Teta grew up in Baldwin, Long Island, and decided on Muhlenberg on his first visit. “I fell in love at the interview. It’s two-and-a-half hours away — far enough that I could get back home on weekends,” he says. “Though I never did because I loved it so much.” While in school he wore a variety of hats at the *Muhlenberg Weekly*: as sports editor, entertainment editor and then associate editor. He hosted a weekly radio show at WMUH and spent his summers doing internships with “Live with Regis and Kathie Lee,” at “The Montel Williams Show,” and for his idol, David Letterman.

When he graduated, he went to work for daytime TV, learning the production ropes — 80 hour weeks for “six or seven years” — working on shows as varied Ricki Lake, Judge Hatchett and Montel Williams.

Working with some of the less-than-mainstream guests on those shows proved to be good training.

“The people were inherently unreliable,” he says. “We did a show on runaway teens and, of course, the teen ran away from the hotel. I should have predicted that. We were running through Central Park looking for her hours before showtime.” They found her, perfectly safe, by a pond. And the show went on.

Teta’s lucky break came when he was hired by “The Late Show” in 2004 as a booker for sports-related guests and for the Stupid Pet and Human Tricks segments. Two months into the job, he found himself at the Olympic Games in Athens, with virtually no experi-



Brian Teta ’98, producer at “The Late Show with David Letterman,” records a bit with the host.

ence as a booker, tasked with bringing one American medal winner onto the show each night.

Today, Teta produces one main guest, usually a celebrity, for every day show. A typical day involves a morning production meeting followed by another meeting to discuss talent booking — who will be on which show. Then, he conducts a phone pre-interview with that day’s guest, which helps determine the course of Letterman’s interview. Just before showtime, Teta briefs the interviewee about what to expect during the taping.

The show starts taping at 4:30 and shooting usually wraps at 5:30, after which the crew reconvenes for a post-mortem to discuss what worked and what went wrong (“something always goes wrong”). Teta then preps for the next day’s show until “about 8:30 or so” that evening.

Fortunately for Teta, Letterman’s guests tend to be a little more reliable than teen runaways. That’s not to say he doesn’t get his share of surprises: He’s had to send a camera down to the Lincoln Tunnel in search of Superbowl-winning New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, who was stuck in traffic, running late for a show. He’s had to arrange for horses to arrive in time for Harrison Ford’s recent segment, so Ford and Letterman could ride off together at the end of the show. He’s had to shut down 53rd street so Dave and Madonna could go out for a slice of pizza in the middle of taping. He’s had to appear, multiple times, on the air as a nervous fan or hapless staffer.

The haplessness, however, is clearly an act.

And now Teta and his wife of seven years, Heather, are expecting their first daughter in September, another potential future Muhlenberg alumna.

“I went back there in November and was amazed by the communication department they have now,” he says. “The facilities and equipment are so cool. I could only have dreamed of having that stuff when I was there. I was jealous.” Somehow, he seems to have

## Celebrating with Henry! at Reunion/Homecoming 2011

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America for whom our college was named, is celebrating his 300th birthday. Many events during Reunion/Homecoming weekend, Sept. 16 to Sept. 18, commemorated this milestone, including a huge birthday bash on Saturday night in the stunning new Wood Dining Commons in Seegers Union. (see page 28)



With Reunion now occurring in the fall, alumni are able to enjoy the campus in full swing, with faculty, students and staff. It's a beautiful time of year, and the campus is teeming with activity, including student/faculty panels and departmental receptions, the President's State of the College address, the Homecoming football game and many more activities. Attendees were able to see what's new on campus, such as the expanded and renovated Hillel House.

This year's Alumni Achievement Awards Ceremony and Brunch featured eight alumni receiving the highest honor awarded from the Alumni Association. Being honored this year were:

- Rev. Dr. Paul Spohn '55, P'81, P'84, P'86 – *Heritage Award*
- Dr. Ann Romatowski Rochmis '61 – *Alumni Award in Science*
- 1st Lt. USMC Robert A. Butz '61 (Deceased) – *Lifetime Achievement*
- Mr. Michael N. Pocalyko '76 – *Lifetime Achievement*
- Mrs. Janine Coslett-Yass '81 – *Alumni Award in Education*
- Dr. Scott Shikora '81, P'12 – *Alumni Award in Science*
- Dr. Jonathan Abramowitz '91 – *Alumni Award in Social Science*
- Ms. Arlene Gisolfi, P'85, P'89 – *Service to the College by a Friend*

**M** For more about Reunion/Homecoming 2011, go to [muhlenberg.edu/alumni](http://muhlenberg.edu/alumni)

## Alumni Board: A Changing of the Guard

In an April election, Sheryl LeBlanc Guss '81, P'10, P'13 was elected president of the Muhlenberg College Alumni Board. She succeeds Dr. Harry Lessig, M.D. '67, P'93, P'00, P'01, P'03, who served as president for two years. His predecessor was his son, Lou '93.

"I'm grateful to Harry and to his son for all the time and effort they have invested in the College over the past several years," says Randy Helm, Muhlenberg's president. "Great colleges have great alumni organizations and nobody has been more devoted to making sure Muhlenberg's excels than the Lessigs."

Two other officers were elected to the board in April. Their two-year terms began July 1. They are Sherry Fazio '99, who will serve as vice president and Greg Adams '05 as treasurer. Susan Rhoads-Procina '03 was re-elected as secretary.

Four general representatives were re-elected. They are Jeff Berdahl '85, Sharon Peifer Gleichmann '89, Michael Krouse '84 and Carolyn Nurnberg Spungin '00. Also elected as general reps were Mike Geller '04, Deborah Alston '98, P'14, Rudy Favocci '79, P'12, Elizabeth Fendt '00, and Stephen Hart '76.

The Lessigs will remain involved in the board: Harry Lessig will now serve as a general representative. "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I express our deep appreciation for Harry's commitment and leadership as president of the Alumni Board over the past two years," says Rich Brueckner '71, chairman of the College's Board of Trustees. "These were times of tumultuous change and uncertainty and Harry stepped in with a steady hand to set the Alumni Board on a path for progress in a number of important areas. We are looking forward to building on this foundation for success in the coming years."

Outgoing vice-president, Michael Krouse '84, and Jen McKee '02, outgoing treasurer, will also continue as general representatives.

**M** For more information on the Alumni Board, go to [muhlenberg.edu/alumni](http://muhlenberg.edu/alumni), or phone 1-800-464-2374



## This Bug Man Could Save Your Life

He's known as the "bug guy," and it's a label he loves.

Dr. Marten J. Edwards, associate professor of biology, is one of the country's very few mosquito researchers working in the lab of a liberal arts college. Despite a boyish demeanor and a charming teaching style, Edwards is deadly serious about his work. Mosquito-borne diseases, including malaria, dengue and yellow fever, are among the most serious threats to worldwide human health, killing nearly 2 million people per year. Edwards, 45, is working on new methods for reducing the transmission of these diseases. Last fall, he returned to Muhlenberg after a year-long sabbatical at Florida International University in Miami. Funded by the Ruth Kirschstein Senior Fellowship, awarded by the National Institutes of Health, Edwards devoted his time there to looking at the cellular regulation of hormones in female mosquitoes.

Edwards, with a handful of other scientists

around the world, hopes to reduce the spread of disease by disabling the hormonal process of female mosquitoes – the males don't bite – through targeted insecticides or other strategies that might be developed using genetic manipulation as a research tool. "We need to find a way to intervene at the point where mosquitoes go from nuisance to deadly," he says.

Since mosquito-borne diseases were largely eliminated in the United States during the 20th century through the use of insecticides, Americans have mostly gotten used to the idea that the spread of such illnesses is a problem restricted to far-away and exotic places. Now, because of climate change and an increase in global trade and travel, this attitude has become increasingly dangerous. "West Nile should have been a wake-up call," says Edwards. "Mosquitoes are a serious threat, and they're only going to get worse in the United States." There is no doubt that learning more about mosquitoes will save lives, even here in Pennsylvania, he says.

Muhlenberg students, Edwards says, could serve at the front lines of this battle. Edwards' ongoing research now is taking place in the Muhlenberg Mosquito Lab in Shankweiler Hall – probably the only such USDA-certified mosquito rearing room in a liberal arts college in the United States.

He is assisted by a handful of undergraduates doing summer research, many of whom have been supported by the NIH and by alumni donations through the Vaughan Family fund. Students also work with him during the school year, some with financial support from the College made through its strategic planning initiatives.

Edwards, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona and was a post-doctoral fellow at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, had originally intended to practice medicine. But two years in the South Pacific Kingdom of Tonga changed his mind. He served as a science teacher through the Peace Corps from 1987 to 1989. "Swatting mosquitoes every evening had a profound impact on me," he says. "Not only did I want to learn more about the fascinating lives of mosquitoes, I wanted to find new and improved ways of killing them."

Edwards was drawn to Muhlenberg, rather than to a research position at a large university, because the love of teaching he discovered as a Peace Corps Volunteer is at the front and center of his daily life. "I have been incredibly fortunate to find a career where I can directly participate in cutting-edge research, while also providing opportunities for undergraduate students to become leaders in science."

## How I Spent My Summer Vacation By Catherine Pearl Ezzio '13

When most people think "summer," they picture flip-flops and sunscreen on a beach. But I spent most of summer 2011 working indoors amongst beakers, bottles, and bovine serum albumin—and I loved every minute.

The lab I worked at was run by Dr. Leonard Zon '79, an alumni Lifetime Achievement Award winner, funded by The Children's Hospital and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Zon is using zebrafish as a model organism to study haematopoiesis – the formation of differentiated blood cells. My project was to perform a chemical screen to find drugs that upregulate or downregulate Hoxb4, a gene that promotes hematopoietic stem cell regeneration. The experience was very rewarding; I was able to take a research project from start to finish and use techniques I'd learned from my biology courses at Muhlenberg to solve experimental problems. I was even asked to help write a protocol that was accessible to readers with a basic science background. And the focus of our research was

often shaped by sharing of information within the scientific community as a whole, and between science and medicine, academia, and the public at large. By the end of the summer, it was clear that collaboration and open communication within the lab and across other disciplines are keys to efficient research.

I was also able to attend a weekly seminar in which Harvard professors spoke to college students about their research. It was very exciting to be in an intellectual atmosphere where young people are able to push limits and use the tools they have to ask questions and create procedures for answering them. By the end of the summer, I was still interested in medicine, but was also blossomed into potential scientist. Now, I hope to have a career where I conduct research to supplement my future clinical work.



Jennifer R. McLarin '86, Director • Sean Morrow '91, Associate Director • Patrick Fligge '10, Assistant Director

You can contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 2400 West Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104

Phone: 800.464.2374 • Fax: 484.664.3545 • E-mail: [bergalum@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:bergalum@muhlenberg.edu)

## STATE OF THE ARTS.

**A**staire and Rogers made it look easy. So do Catherine Zeta-Jones and Renee Zellweger. Even those babies who boogie down online or on “America’s Funniest Home Videos” don’t seem to be trying very hard.

But dancing for the camera is an art and a skill—one taken seriously at Muhlenberg’s Dance Program. Students arrive on campus with increasingly sophisticated technical abilities as well as a serious

desire to produce meaningful dance work, says Karen Dearborn, Professor and Head of Muhlenberg’s Dance Program. She and Assistant Professor of Dance Corrie Cowart are harnessing that desire and expertise to create new and exciting work made specifically for the screen.

Dance and film have been complementing each other since the creation of celluloid film. One of modern dance’s pioneers, Ruth St. Denis (1879-1968), was featured in a film by Thomas Edison as early as 1894. She went on to put her mark on the silent-film era, providing physical training for many of film’s early stars and by choreographing elaborate pageants for the burgeoning silent film

*By Ken Butler, Executive Assistant to the President*



# Learning to Dance for the Screen

## STATE OF THE ARTS.

industry. Another modern dance pioneer, Loie Fuller, was recorded by the Lumière Brothers dancing her “Danse Sepentine” in 1896 and her “Fire Dance” in 1906. Since then, artists from Merce Cunningham to Paul Taylor have both documented their stage works and created original work for the camera. But in the age of the internet; YouTube; social media and ready access to cameras, recording equipment and video editing software, the possibilities for recording movement have flourished.

“The film construct allows dance to move out of the linear confines of time and space, as well as providing opportunities to reconstitute the cinematic body,” Cowart says. “For example, any location is a potential site for dance. Movements can be altered with slow motion or hyper speed, and the most minute gesture can dramatically fill the entire screen. Screen dance artists have the ability to share their work with a broad audience, whether it is through film festivals or the internet. Artists are thinking beyond the stage and envisioning works specifically created for the iPod or the internet. The opportunity to present dance work globally is at our fingertips in ways it has never been before.”

At Muhlenberg, Cowart teaches a class called “Dance and Media,” which explores the artistic and technical basis for creating work for the camera. Students make and record dance works that, in addition to the artistic and intellectual experience they provide, can then be used as part of the students’ resumes and portfolios as they enter the professional dance world.

“We observed many different types of screen dances and then applied these observations to our own work and interpretations,” says Alumna Katie Fierro ’11. “Choreographing for the camera is difficult compared to the live stage. People viewing dance on stage can see whatever they want, there are many things that they can pick out to view and go off into their own imaginary ‘dance land.’ But when you are choreographing a dance film, you have ultimate control over what the audience sees and feels. So you have to be aware of every camera shot and edit. It is a very meticulous process.”

Fierro, along with her classmate Jeremy Arnold ’12, created an original dance, “benchmark,” which won Best Choreography and Performance in the Screen Dance competition at The Northeast Regional American College Dance Festival (ACDF), held at Muhlenberg last March. That video is posted on YouTube and Facebook, and Fierro uses the dance as part of her resume.

Danielle Reidenberg ’12 also creates work for the camera. “Ms. Cowart taught us many filming techniques and showed us that, with film, dance is unlimited,” Reidenberg says. “As a filmmaker we can manipulate time and space, something that is much more difficult to do on the stage (or impossible, in some cases). Through film we get to choose specifically what we want the audience to look at. A specif-

ic example is a film I created recently called ‘Love Disorder,’ choreographed by Kadeem Alston-Roman ’12. For this piece, I attended a couple of Kadeem’s rehearsals and then Ms. Cowart, Kadeem and I talked about our visions for the piece. I used several different angles and shots that I learned from Ms. Cowart to be able to accent certain aspects of Kadeem’s choreography. We also took advantage of space and filmed the piece in four different locations.”

The Department of Theatre & Dance has dedicated a space for a Dance Media Lab in the Center for the Arts. Sound and video editing software and hardware is available to assist students in the editing process. According to Dearborn, several large universities have dance film programs, but not many small liberal arts colleges have the coursework and facilities that Muhlenberg offers its students. Though the “Dance and Media” class has been offered as a Special Topics course, Dearborn hopes to include dance and film courses as part of the regular curriculum. “Courses such as these provide students who wouldn’t think of choreographing for the stage, or who might not want to be the body as a performer in someone else’s work, a way of being a creative dance artist,” Dearborn says.

Cowart agrees. “Students are invested and involved in social media, and they are passionate about creating new dance work,” she says. “We hope to help them investigate making dance media as a creative endeavor and to develop their ability to discern the multiple sites of information that are at play whenever the body and technology meet. Expectations for today’s artists include a sophisticated understanding of visual digital literacy in regards to how they present themselves and their performance work. An understanding of screen dance is extremely helpful no matter what area of the dance community they wish to pursue. Several smaller schools are just beginning to explore programs such as these. With our resources, we can certainly be at the fore of this movement.”

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*Examples of innovative screen dance can be found at the following sites:*  
DV8 Physical Theatre Company in the “Cost of Living”:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EayAmhSsBZI>

“Amelia” by LaLa Human Steps Choreography Edouard Lock:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCHRzakA5X4>

“Of the Heart” by Allen Kaeja and Douglas Rosenberg,  
featuring David Dorfman and Lisa Race:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shf7i0UQKog&feature=related>

ok go’s “A Million Ways”:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1\\_CLW-NNwc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1_CLW-NNwc)



By Michael Pocalyko '76

Something powerful happens in Allentown. It is the place we experience our first transformation, a magnificent energizing of the life of the mind as we prepare for the worlds of science, commerce, higher education, teaching, law, religion and family. But every liberal arts college with standing and style travels those roads and shares those destinations. They are essential to the American cultural experience. At some point during our four-year sojourn, we perceive that Muhlenberg College stands apart from its peers. We see differences that collectively define the core of our shared experience, a chemistry of connectedness. They explain why, when the question of what makes our school unique is posed to anyone among us, our answer (whether spontaneous or carefully considered) is almost always “community.”

Community, however, is a terribly imprecise word with vagaries of

meaning. What is not often articulated is the fact that there is a discriminating sociology undergirding this particular community.

Muhlenberg begins with our Lutheran character, though it is perhaps the *least overtly Lutheran* of all Lutheran colleges. In a delightful paradox representative of the modern Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our character may make us the church's best model, quite ahead of the twenty-first century curve. Those of us who are confessional Lutherans are such a small minority at 'Berg now. Yet Lutheran themes, those secular influences orbiting the church and thus defining its greater societal influence, deeply pervade who and what we are: Tolerance on the edge of indulgence during our undergraduate years. Intellectual depth and solidity forged largely without personal acrimony or too much pretension. Passion harnessed and well directed. Fundamental beliefs

## What Makes Muhlenberg Muhlenberg



Michael Pocalyko '76 with his father Walter Pocalyko '50

challenged with doubt encouraged, where doubt's ultimate resolution plants the seedlings of enduring faith. Scientific advances married seamlessly with natural law and progressive religious enterprise. Business sense demanding social purpose and public consequence. The deepest personal connections among faculty and their charges. The best teaching embodying practical advances while rejecting the solipsism of “purist” academic research. An abiding graciousness, especially as young people explore interpersonal relationships and (we should admit this) expressive sexuality. And what can more precisely describe this particular presidential stewardship than a ministry of reconciliation? All of it is Lutheran, and the core of Muhlenberg's being.

With the welcome onset of diversity, of which we need much more for our long-term institutional prosperity, Muhlenberg has greatly changed since that day in August 1972 when I hugged my father goodbye standing in what was then called the “Chapel Grove.” After a 65-year relationship with this great place, Dad at age 86 might finally now admit to being an old grad. The change that his World War II veterans' cadre brought to 'Berg was thunderous and radical—almost as radical as it was to welcome men like him, American-born sons of Eastern European immigrants bearing a bewildering complexity of surnames. A good number of them were Roman Catholic. The veneer of Pennsylvania German gentility was gone.

At Muhlenberg—and God bless her for this—we do embrace *the other*, even though the hug always begins most tentatively. Dad's class started the trend in 1946. The arrival of women in 1957 continued it, a true saving grace for the College, to extend the Lutheran allegory. And while Muhlenberg seems perpetually to be commencing another well-intentioned initiative to enhance the numbers of our students of color, we have transcended an older prejudice with alacrity. Our Jewish alumni, students, and families now make up the largest measure of Muhlenberg's core. Indeed, Jewish leadership within our community is expressed with such decency, humor, dedication, idealism, and loyalty to Muhlenberg that it belies the old German-American sensibilities—and never-put-it-in-print Jewish quotas—that existed at Muhlenberg in the 1930s. A blessing. Real reconciliation. A *mitzvah*.

Because acts of human kindness are also in our being.

When the United States periodically traverses ages of anxiety like this one, Muhlenberg becomes a more competitive place, less like itself, grating against the cooperation and shared intellectual probity that fundamentally define us as a college community. We begin to care less about our classmates, which may explain why some alumni classes seem more connected to Muhlenberg than others. Such detachment is contrary to what we are, resulting in a tendency to withdraw from this community, even when doing so may be an understandable human inclination in a full-media age. Crises both

financial and existential, some imperial trustees from time to time, and fanatical presidential foibles—all of which Muhlenberg has experienced during my alumni years—just exacerbate the trend.

I lived through crisis and competition as a student here in the early 1970s—although it took me three more universities and thirty-five years to clearly perceive and fully understand this dynamic. Did grades actually matter? From the vantage of middle life, definitely no. Intellectual preparation certainly did. That is precisely where Muhlenberg's faculty excels in a matchless manner that imparts confidence, humor, creativity, expansiveness, questioning, rigor, humility and a psychologically centered sense of self, all of which I believe are generally absent among the best liberal arts college graduates—even when they are very, very smart.

The humility part is especially important and I think that it does define Muhlenberg. Some colleges and universities (a couple of them very close by, and no, I will not name them here) are known by everyone except their graduates for a swagger beyond their academic quality. That's very good for alumni loyalty but incredibly poor preparation for real life. Muhlenberg has always been quite the opposite. We should be proud of the fact—an observation that Randy Helm makes—that Muhlenberg people really don't take ourselves too seriously. We could use a little more swagger. But only a little.

Our globalist age is anything but retrospective. It is prospective. Our carriage as an American nation means that Muhlenberg looks forward. It is also part of our community character that we often attempt to do so and not infrequently we fall short.

Traditionally we have not gone out of our way to enfranchise institutional transparency, best board practices, shared governance, significant long-range planning, or aggressive alumni development. It is especially encouraging that our recent history demonstrates how well we are addressing exactly these areas at Muhlenberg. We should keep fewer secrets—presidential departures from Levering Tyson to Arthur Taylor are the best example, and there are faculty matters over decades about which no one speaks—and we should be significantly more tolerant of risk when we build and grow, as a distinctive academic community must. We had better become more global, African-American, Latino, Muslim and overall cross-cultural for our freshman intake. We could focus more on the external advancement of Muhlenberg College's reputation, where every graduate is a beneficiary. And we could seek each other out to bind more collectively as our lives advance after Allentown.

If that brief catalog sounds like a bit of social anxiety on behalf of Muhlenberg College, well, perhaps it is expressive of our political moment. It is also deeply a part of our character—the part that keeps us so sharp, alive, driven, and ultimately united.

*Pocalyko is a financial services CEO and recipient of this year's Muhlenberg College Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award. Macmillan will publish his novel "The Navigator" in 2012.*

# 10 Things We Love about Muhlenberg

Our completely unscientific survey of faculty, staff and administrators

## The Students

Chris Hooker-Haring '72, P'08, P'10, dean of admission and financial aid, knows what he's talking about when he says that the students are the best thing about Muhlenberg College – he and his team hand-select each incoming class. “There is a kindness, an earnestness, and a goodness to most of our students that is very attractive, and that contributes to the sense of community referenced above,” says



Hooker-Haring. “Students here really care about and support each other, and that's a big part of what makes us who we are.”

Invested in learning, diverse in interests and activities, Muhlenberg students define the institution and perpetuate the strong sense of community of which we are all so proud. There is a quality about Muhlenberg students that makes them different from their peers at other colleges and universities.

“Our students are, as expected, bright young people, but they are also very kind and considerate,” says Dr. Sam Laposata, visiting professor of economics. “They hold the doors while entering and exiting buildings, they quickly share information in class, help each other and me with course materials, and so on. When someone in my class sneezes, half the class says, ‘God bless you.’ You know right away that Muhlenberg College is a different and better place.”

## The Faculty and Staff

'Berg is a place where faculty and students develop bonds via small class sizes and independent projects and research. In fact, The Princeton Review's “The Best 376 Colleges” 2011 edition lists Muhlenberg in the top 20 schools with



“accessible professors.” It's a place where every single employee gives it his or her all, every single day. Carol Shiner Wilson, Dean of the College for Academic Life, sums it up perfectly when she says that one of her favorite things about Muhlenberg is “the joyous, roll-up-your-sleeves, can-do approach to work at a place we love.”

It's not just lip service. Our faculty go above and beyond to ensure students have the best possible experience. Every administrative and service department works hard to make sure that the College operates at the highest level – and no one's afraid to pitch in and help one another. Muhlenberg is full of nurturers invested in watching the collective live up to its potential.

## The Caring Community

Years ago, Muhlenberg was given the nickname “The Caring College,” and it stuck for good reason. The sense of community on campus is marvelous, and truly rare. “It's a friendly campus,” says Joe Swanson, general manager of WMUH FM. “It's the people and the conversations. You can talk to anyone and will meet some of the most interesting people around and hear some fantastic stories.”

Muhlenberg is a place where people truly look out for one another, where it's not uncommon to smile and say hello to someone on Academic Row, regardless of whether or not you've been introduced.

## The Trexler Library (and its Staff)

Alumni who graduated before 1988 will remember when 'Berg's library was located in the Haas College Center – and a lucky few remem-

# 10 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT MUHLENBERG.

ber how the books were passed across the College Green from Haas to the new Trexler Library, across Chew Street. Since then, the building has truly become, as its website states, “the heart of the campus.”

Looking for a quiet place to study? Try Level C. Meeting with classmates to collaborate on a group project? Level A’s for you. Having difficulty with writing that mid-term paper? Pop into the Writing Center for assistance. Feel like watching a DVD, but are too impatient to wait for your next Netflix offering to arrive? Head over to Trexler Library; it has an impressive collection.

Home to more than 310,000 volumes and 29,000 print and electronic journals, the library serves Muhlenberg students, faculty and staff and reaches out to the greater community through a variety of programs and lending agreements. It’s also home to the College’s Polling Center and the Information Commons, an innovative space for information literacy instruction and training on new technologies.

And did we mention the staff? Friendly, accessible and competent, they’re always willing to go the extra mile to help you get the information you need. Dr. Francesca Coppa, associate professor of English, calls the school’s “truly amazing librarians” one of her favorite things about ‘Berg: “Trexler Library is one of the friendliest, best-organized, helpful, ‘can-do’ libraries I’ve ever used,” she says.

## Theatre Productions

We weren’t the ranked No. 1 program in the nation by The Princeton Review’s 2011 edition of its annual college guide, “The Best 376 Colleges,” for nothing. Season after season, Muhlenberg’s theatre and dance productions are regarded by the public as top-notch entertainment – and students in the program rave about their academic experiences.

The department’s Website describes it best: “In the tradition of the liberal arts, Muhlenberg’s Theatre & Dance Department doesn’t just concern itself with training actors, dancers, and designers. We aim to create an environment in which actors, dancers, and designers become thinkers and artists.” Whether you’re watching a faculty directed mainstage performance, an edgy student piece in the Black Box theatre or a dance concert, it’s imme-

diately evident that the performers in front of you are indeed thoughtful about their craft.

Standing ovations, packed houses and glowing reviews are the norm for performances housed in the Baker Center for the Arts and the Trexler Pavilion.

Academic programs in theatre and dance combine intensive studio work along with the study of the history, theory and literature of stage performance. Students can choose to focus on performance or technical aspects of theatre, and double majors and cross-curricular studies are not uncommon. However, one needn’t be a theatre major to participate in productions – all are welcome to audition.

## Architecture and Artwork on Campus

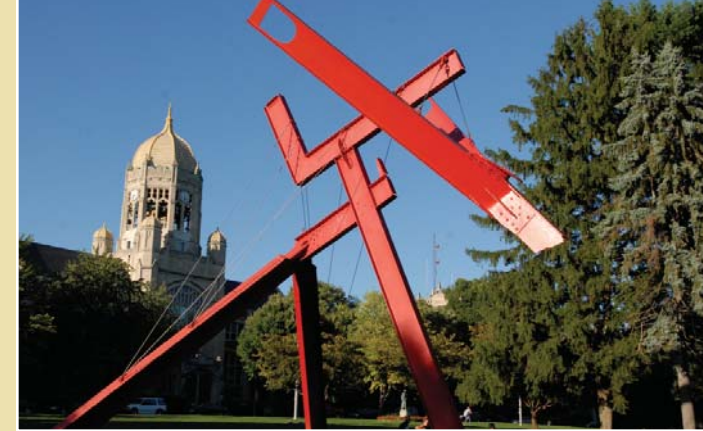
In the past decade, Muhlenberg has experienced tremendous growth. New building became essential. But unlike many of its peers, Muhlenberg sought to create an extraordinarily diverse mixture of architecture – while tying the traditional and the modern together perfectly with the signature red doors on each building.

The bell tower of the Haas College Center is an undeniably gorgeous West End landmark, and Egner Memorial Chapel is one of the most lovely modern Gothic churches on a college campus. The Dorothy and Dexter Baker Center for the Arts, built in 1976 and created by renowned architect Philip Johnson, and the Trexler Pavilion, built in 1999, are strikingly modern structures.

Dorms range from older and charming to modern and sleek. East Hall and Brown Hall, constructed in 1903 and 1916 respectively, are still popular choices with students, as the rooms are unique in their shape and size. In contrast, The Village, which opened in the fall of 2007 to replace MacGregor Village, offers luxury, apartment-style living in a picturesque, wooded, secluded setting.

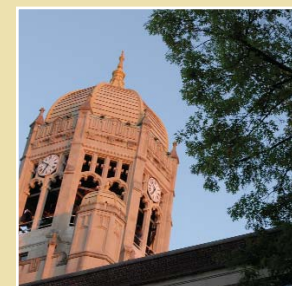
Another draw is the Life Sports Center, renovated and expanded in 2004. This facility isn’t only a stunning structure, but it houses state-of-the-art athletic equipment for the campus community to enjoy.

While Muhlenberg’s architecture provides the foundation of a beautiful campus, every structure could use a little accessorizing! Art abounds on ‘Berg’s campus – whether it’s the stunning mural in the foyer of the New Science building (our cover photo), an exhibit in the Martin Art Gallery, or something hanging in an administrator’s office, borrowed from the Gallery’s permanent collection (more on that in a minute!). And let’s not forget about “Victor’s Lament,” the towering sculpture on the College Green that leads so many people,



upon seeing it for the first time, to say with wonder, “What is that?”

Look around — the walls of academic and administrative buildings are adorned with compelling paintings and photographs, and the outdoor spaces are sprinkled with interesting sculptures. Prefer to take in your art in a more condensed fashion? Visit the aforementioned Martin Art Gallery, an intimate space that hosts year-round exhibitions from local and international artists – and students, too. In addition to showing art, the Gallery holds events, such as artist talk-backs, receptions and interdisciplinary programs. And that permanent collection referred to earlier? It’s comprised of over 3,000 items, including works by Albrecht Durer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Edward S. Curtis, Salvador Dali and Norman Rockwell.



## The Carillon

Every hour, on the hour, chimes sound from the Miller Tower of the Haas College Center. But at noon and six p.m., the carillon sounds, and music washes over campus (and well into Allentown’s West End) for the next few minutes. The electronic chimes were purchased in 2003 to replace ones installed in 1960 that operated on piano rolls for which repair parts were no longer available.

Though most people associate the carillon with soothing music, the system has an alternate purpose – one that’s far less relaxing. In the event of an emergency, an alarm can be sent out through the carillon system, alerting the campus community to danger.

Whether it’s for entertainment purposes or a matter of safety, the carillon system is an integral part of the campus culture.

## The Staff of Plant Operations

The men and women of plant operations truly deserve their own mention. Without them, Muhlenberg simply would not function.

How many times have people commented on our beautifully maintained grounds? On the excellent conditions and cleanliness of the academic buildings and residence halls? Without plant operations, the College would be a very different looking place.



The department handles everything from planned maintenance on equipment, to repair of machinery, moving offices around the campus, cleaning, painting, HVAC, chemical control of the pool, trimming of shrubs and clearing bird capture areas at the Biological Field Station in Germansville – and always with a smile. This friendly and personable crew takes pride in their work and in the campus, though their hours are long and many of their tasks are grueling.

Though their work load is heavy year-round, perhaps the busiest week for this department is the one leading up to Commencement, the biggest, most significant event of the year. The crew works tirelessly to make sure that the campus is immaculate, that the stage is built, that both the College Green and Memorial Hall, the rain location, are set up and ready. Few stop to think about how everything comes together so seamlessly – and it’s in large part due to the efforts of this extraordinary team.

## The Squirrels

As we said, anyone even the slightest bit familiar with Muhlenberg knows its well-earned reputation as a campus with an extraordinary sense of community. This phenomenon is not lost on the squirrels who’ve made ‘Berg their home, either. Students are often overheard telling visitors that “even the squirrels are friendly here!”

They scurry alongside students, faculty and staff, tiny inhabitants with huge personalities. They dive in and out of trashcans to sample discarded culinary delights from campus eateries. They energetically climb the campus’ trees, prance about Academic Row and sun themselves in quads and on the front lawn. Their presence is very much felt, but not regarded as a nuisance. Rather, these fluffy-tailed, four-legged friends are considered very much a part of the campus community.

## Bagel Bombs

There’s something irresistible about a bacon, egg and cheese sandwich – and at ‘Berg, the “Bagel Bomb” reigns supreme. Originally a menu item only offered on the late night menu, this campus favorite can now be enjoyed any time that the General’s Quarters is open for business. Whether it’s fuel for a final exam, a compact and tasty lunch or an aide to settle the stomachs of weary party-goers, the Bagel Bomb never disappoints.



# A-Z GUIDE

## TO MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS 2011-12

By Mike Falk, Sports Information Director

**A** is for again? The football, women's basketball and softball teams all won Centennial Conference championships during the 2010-11 school year and will be going for back-to-back titles this year.



**B** is for blog. A daily blog ("The Muhlbox") will debut on the Muhlenberg Athletics website this year, with comments and contributions welcome from anyone interested in Mule sports. The blog address is <http://sportsinfo.blogs.muhlenberg.edu/>

**C** is for Chili. Alexandra Chili '12, already the school and Centennial Conference all-time leader in three-pointers, needs 194 points to become the all-time scoring leader in Muhlenberg women's basketball history, surpassing Felicia Perryman '93. The all-time basketball record held by Bob McClure '71 is within reach too.

**D** is for defense. The football team's defense has allowed fewer than 300 yards and 20 points per game in each of the last 10 seasons. With the return of preseason All-Americans Patrick McDonough '11 (linebacker) and Kenneth Cobb '12 (defensive end), the Mules should be stingy again in 2011.

**E** is for extra-base hits. The softball team will try to stay on the offensive after walloping 97 extra-base hits, obliterating the old school record of 67, en route to the 2010 Centennial Conference championship.

**F** is for Family Weekend. An important weekend (Oct. 28-29) of



competition for the Mule teams will feature field hockey against national power Ursinus on Friday night (7:00) and football vs. Dickinson (1:00), men's soccer vs. Ursinus (4:00) and women's soccer vs. Ursinus (7:00) on Saturday. For all sports except football, it's the last day of the regular season.

**G** is for good citizens. Muhlenberg athletes have a strong history of community service, from reading books to elementary school children to running in charity races to holding youth clinics. That will continue in 2011-12.

**H** is for home-track advantage. Muhlenberg is scheduled to host the Centennial Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships for the second year in a row the first weekend in May. The Mules' lone CC title came when the women won at Scotty Wood Stadium in 2005.

**I** is for improvement. The 2010-11 year featured some teams that had great years and others that were not so great. Look for more Muhlenberg teams to be in contention for playoff spots this year.

**J** is for Johns Hopkins. Talk about angry birds – last year the Mules beat the Blue Jays in football when they were the defending champions, in women's soccer when they were ranked No. 8, and in the women's basketball championship game when they were the top seed. The two schools have developed quite a rivalry in certain sports, which should make for some intense games.

**K** is for streak. (If baseball can use the last letter of "struck" to symbolize a strikeout, we can use the last letter too, right?) Men's soccer enters the 2011 season with a run of 25 consecutive non-losing seasons, one of the longest in Division III, and is poised to extend the streak after making the NCAA "Sweet 16" last fall.

**L** is for Liddic. Basketball standout Spencer Liddic '12 was one of a record five Academic All-Americans for the Mules in 2010-11. After setting a school record with 509 points last year, Liddic will be shooting to earn first-team All-Centennial Conference honors for the third consecutive season.

**M** is for Matte Award. Muhlenberg

looks to continue its domination of the annual all-sport competition with Moravian, after winning the trophy seven of the last eight years, the only exception being a 2007-08 tie. Matte Award competitions in the fall are in field hockey (Sept. 7), men's soccer (Sept. 10), volleyball (Sept. 20), women's tennis (Oct. 6), women's soccer (Oct. 13), cross country (Nov. 12), football (Nov. 12) and men's and women's basketball (Nov. 15).

**N** is for nationally ranked opponents. The Centennial Conference features some of the top teams in the country in most sports, so Mule teams will be tested throughout the year. Last year, four Muhlenberg teams squared off against foes that were ranked No. 1 in the country at some point in the season – women's soccer vs. Messiah, men's soccer vs. Swarthmore, women's basketball vs. eventual national champion Amherst and women's lacrosse vs. eventual national champion Gettysburg.

**O** is for one hundred wins. If the football team has an exceptional year, head coach Mike Donnelly could reach the 100-win milestone. He enters 2011 with a record of 91-58 in 14 seasons. Also closing in on a coaching milestone is Linda Andrews, who has 195 wins in women's tennis.

**P** is for paint. No matter how the volleyball, basketball and wrestling teams fare, things will be brighter in Memorial Hall in 2011-12. The 57-year-old gym received a fresh coat of paint over the summer.

**Q** is for qualifiers. The cross country and track and field teams will look to extend their recent history of qualifying athletes for the NCAA Championships. Cross country has sent at least one runner to nationals every year but two between 2001 and 2010, while athletes have represented Muhlenberg at the NCAA track and field meets every year but one since 2001.

**R** is for Rice. Catch him if you can – this Rice really cooks on the track. Peter Rice '12 returns as the fastest man in the Centennial Conference after winning a total of seven gold medals in the sprints at the two 2011 CC championship track meets. Rice was named Most Outstanding Performer for track events both indoors and outdoors; he holds eight school records.

**S** is for Scotty Wood Tournament. Both Muhlenberg teams will try to defend their titles when the 30th edition of the Scotty Wood Tournament tips off on Nov. 18. The men's field features Moravian,

Morrisville State and Immaculata, while the visiting women's teams are Neumann, The College of New Jersey and Shenandoah.

**T** is for three of a kind. The top names on the offensive side of the ball all return for the football team in quarterback Dan Deighan '13, running back Terrence Dandridge '13 and leading receiver Isaiah Vaughn '13. The last time three different sophomores led the Mules in passing, rushing and receiving before last year? 1957.

**U** is for unpredictability. "That's why they play the games!" The fun of each year comes from teams that experience unexpected success and athletes who emerge after a year or two in the background. Two of last year's CC champions, football and softball, were picked sixth and fifth, respectively, in the preseason polls.

**V** is for video. Most of Muhlenberg's home games in the sports of football, field hockey, soccer, volleyball, basketball, wrestling and lacrosse will be streamed live on the web. Live video also will be available for select baseball and softball games as well as the CC Track & Field Championships. Visit the athletics home page for links.

**W** is for women's basketball sign. One thing sure to be present at every women's basketball game in 2011-12 is the red "Go Mules" sign. Since debuting at the 2001 Scotty Wood Tournament, the sign has traveled from Maine to Florida. The sign is passed down from one set of senior parents to another from year to year, and all graduating seniors since 2002 have autographed the sign.



**X** is for X, as in the "X" in the middle of the field that marks the faceoff spot in men's lacrosse. Nick Rispoli '12 set a school record with 116 faceoffs won and a .614 percentage last year; he needs 68 more wins to break the career record since men's lacrosse was reinstated in 2003.

**Y** is for young talent. Among the freshmen who made an impact last year were C.J. Graetzer (All-CC honorable mention in women's soccer), Kevin Hargrove (school-record shot blocker in men's basketball), Austin Curry (Scotty Wood all-tournament in men's basketball), Erin Saucier (CC indoor pole vault champion) and Erica Wenzel (All-CC second team in softball). Look for more newcomers to make their marks in 2011-12.

**Z** is for zero. There's nothing left to say. Enjoy the year in Mule sports!



## CLASS NOTES.

### 1949

In November, 2009, Winnie and Bill Brown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Brevard, N.C. Bill writes, "I suspect that our union of Muhlenberg College and Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing (Plainfield, N.J.) triggered a 'fusion reaction' that led to fallout of 4 kids, 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren!"



Winnie and Bill Brown '49

### 1956

Vincent Stravino, retired head of rehabilitation medicine at Saint Luke's Hospital, recently returned from a unique delegation to Israel and Palestine. Stravino, along with 30 other participants from the U.S. and Canada, landed in Tel Aviv on May 23 for the two-week journey through the conflict zone.

### 1962

Rebecca Gorton retired from Northampton Community College. She was honored for her "impressive legacy of service, dedication, and achievements in both administrative and teaching roles as director of early childhood education programs and as a professor." Gorton worked at NCC for 32 years.

### 1983

Melanie Mason writes, "I've attached a photograph of a recent mini-Berg reunion held in late May with 8 of us from the Class of



Rebecca Gorton '62

'83....you see, we are all celebrating 'big' birthdays this year and we used it as an excuse to spend a long weekend together to celebrate in West Virginia at the summer home of Chris Parseghian near the Greenbrier Resort."

### 1985

Art Peck has a permanent mathematics faculty position at Lane Community College in



From left to right in the photo are: Nancy Triehart Cesta, Chris Tatarian Parseghian, Maria Cironi Scott, Lori Pagliarulo Rahn, Michelle Goffredo Catino, Joyce Geller Afran, Judy Dunn Horan and Melanie Mika Mason - all Class of 1983.



Jacob Sitman '94

Eugene, Ore., where he lives with his wife and two children. He occasionally sees Bob Uhler '84, who also lives in Eugene.

### 1994

Jacob M. Sitman is named to the Pennsylvania Rising Stars list as seen in the June editions of both "Philadelphia" magazine and "Pennsylvania Super Lawyers®"

magazine. "Rising Stars" are among the top-up-and-coming lawyers in the State. Only 2.5 percent of Pennsylvania attorneys receive this honor each year. This is the second year he has been named to the list.

### 1997

Lynne (Weiner) Wilkins and Brad Wilkins are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Daniel Reed. He was born on May 2, 2011, in Abington, Pa., and weighed 8 lb., 5 oz. Daniel joins his proud big brother, Benjamin, who couldn't be more excited about "his baby!"



Alumni present at the wedding of Elisabeth Anderson '99 and Allen Coco

### 1999

Elisabeth Anderson and Allen Coco were married on June 4, 2011, at Camp Calumet Lutheran in Freedom, N.H. Many Muhlenberg alumni attended the event including The Rev. Donald Hayn, who performed the ceremony, and Mrs. Crystal Johnson, wife of the late Rev. Nils Johnson Jr., former chaplain at Muhlenberg. Other alumni attending included Jennifer (Grosse) Quick, Jill (Fornal) Young, Tiffany (Griffin) Mercer, Nicole (Hanson) Cherubini, Matthew Hayn and Knute Ogren. The event was filled with fellowship, laughter, love and memories that will last forever. Elisabeth and Allen make their home in Goffstown, N.H. • Jamie (Hollender) Cariddi and Richard Cariddi are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, James Robert. He was born on March 30, 2011, in Charlotte, N.C., and weighed 8 lbs.,

## CLASS NOTES.



James Cariddi

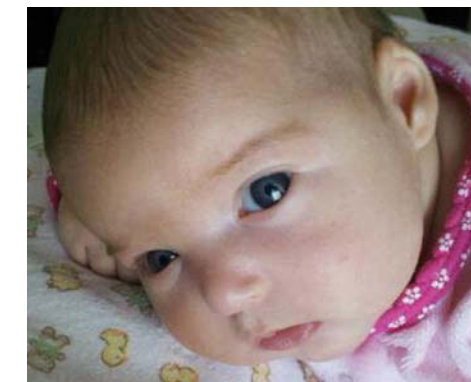
8 oz. James is welcomed by big brothers Harrison and Alex. The family now resides in Ridgewood, N.J. • Jose-Luis Riera and Kate (Caldwell) Riera '01 are proud to announce the birth of their third child. Emilia Luna was born on April 21, 2010, in Silver Spring, Maryland, weighing 8 lbs. She joins her sisters Bella (7) and Ana (4). The whole family is doing well and recently relocated to Newark, Delaware, where Jose and Kate work at the University of Delaware.



Emilia Riera

### 2000

On June 3, 2011, Sharon (Saferstein) Cestari and husband José welcomed Gabrielle Renée, weighing 6 lbs., 14 oz., and measuring 18 3/4 inches long. Elle joins big brother

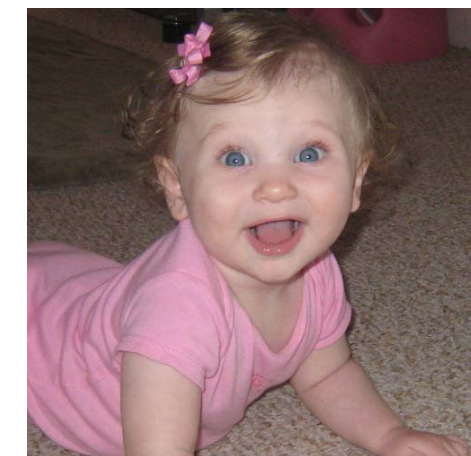


Gabrielle Cestari

Xavier. Sharon writes, "Our family is complete and absolutely perfect with the arrival of our daughter."

### 2002

Alyssa (Rabenold) Ellowitch and David Ellowitch '98 are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Harper Mary. She was born on January 21, 2011 in St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem Pa., and weighed 6 lbs., 13 oz. • Marie (Petruzzelli) Masvidal and Sergio Masvidal are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Sergio Dominic Masvidal. He was born on January 7, 2011, in Miami, Fla., and weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz. Big sister Adriana is thrilled to have a little brother! • Lindsay St. Lawrence and Michael Sweeney are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Audrey Jane Sweeney. She was born on December 16, 2010, in Livingston, N.J., St. Barnabas, and weighed 8 lbs., 11 oz.



Audrey Jane Sweeney

## CLASS NOTES.



Ellie Franco

### 2003

Rachel (Liebman) Franco and her husband Andy are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Ellie Rose. Ellie was born on March 4, 2011, in Allentown, Pa. She weighed 6 lbs., 9 oz. and measured 20 inches long. The Franco family lives in Orefield, Pa.



Asher Dean Laderberg

• Paulabeth (Weinberger) Laderberg and her husband are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Asher Dean, on June 14, 2011, weighing in at 6 lbs, 1 oz. • Tracie Rosenbaum and Eugene Serebrennikov were married on May 22, 2011, at Temple Avodah in Oceanside, N.Y. Alumni in attendance included Sheri Rosenbaum '07, David Ellowitch '98, Alyssa (Rabenold) Ellowitch '02, Melissa (Kubit) Angelides, Laurie Syvertsen, Stacey Gordon, and Ilana (Lior) Ginsberg. The couple resides in Portland, Ore., where Tracie is a higher education administrator at Portland Community College and Eugene is a designer at Nike.



Eugene Serebrennikov and Tracie Rosenbaum '03



Alumni at the wedding of Gretchen Herbert '04 and Tyler Wilber were, from left to right: Amanda Pettineo '04, Rebecca (Toth) Rock '04, Danielle Kline, Wilber, Herbert, Rachael (Wexler) Ryan '04 and Shannon Ryan.

### 2005

Jonathan Victor and Jennifer Christensen are happy to announce their marriage on June 10, 2011, in New Rochelle, N.Y. They currently reside in Westchester County, N.Y. • Adam Sadler received his doctor of osteopathic medicine from the Philadelphia



Jennifer and Jonathan Victor '05

College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 5, 2010. He is continuing his medical training in orthopaedic surgery throughout the Philadelphia area with Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. • Kristen Young was married to '05 Lafayette Grad Matthew Bartle on May 21, 2011, on the island of Andros in the Bahamas. Close family and friends were present for the small beachside ceremony, including Emily Scanlon. The couple currently resides near Burlington, Vermont.



Matthew Bartle, Emily Scanlon '05 and Kristen Young '06

### 2006

Michael and Dawn Burke write, "As we celebrate the latest achievement of our daughter Shannon '06 being named valedictorian for the entire graduate studies class of 2011 at Seton Hall University, receiving a master's in psychology and education specialist degree, we would like to thank and salute the team there at Muhlenberg for playing such a vital role in her development as a student and nourishing her educational interests. You have provided her with solid fundamentals she used throughout her education process. She is currently working as the North Arlington school district's psychologist. Thanks so much 'Berg! Our son Michael '01 was an All American football player at 'Berg and a graduate of Muhlenberg also. Our fam-



Shannon Burke '06

ily is proud of the accomplishments of our children and we owe most of our gratitude to the Muhlenberg family. We are all still huge Mules fans! Thanks again!" • Sabrina J. Krum received her doctorate degree in clinical psychology from Nova Southeastern University in June 2011. Dr. Krum will be completing her post-doctoral program at The Counseling Center in Nashua, New Hampshire. • Dee Ross and Robert Kalman were married on May 29, 2011. The ceremony was at Temple Beth Miriam in Elberon, N.J., and the reception was at the Oyster Point in Red Bank, N.J. The couple met while studying abroad in Sydney, Australia, in 2005. Robert (Bobby) is an alumnus of Penn State. They currently reside in Weehawken, N.J. Other alumni who attended the ceremony include Betsy Stoller, Adrienne Stillwagon (Verbich), Carly



The marriage of Dee Ross '06 to Robert Kalman with Dr. Peter Pettit participating in ceremony at Temple Beth Miriam, Elberon, N.J.

## CLASS NOTES.

Friedlander, Keiko Yoshida, Kevin Brydzinski, Alicia Brydzinski (Orzel), Erin Cella (Cairns), Stephanie Light and Stephanie Land. Professor Dr. Peter Pettit was in attendance, along with his wife.

### 2007

Carla (Kallman) Cooper and Matthew Cooper are happy to announce their marriage on March 19, 2011, at the Grand Lodge in Hunt Valley, Md. Carla graduated from University of Baltimore School of Law in May 2011, and Matthew is a real estate broker and auctioneer working for his family business Alex Cooper Auctioneers. They currently reside in Timonium, Md. • Jessica (Morreale) Steedle '07 and her husband Andrew are happy to announce the birth of their first child. Alexa Kate was born on



Alexa Kate Steedle

March 21, 2010, in Livingston, NJ weighing 7 lbs., 13 oz., and measuring 19.5 inches. Jessica works as a speech-language pathologist and Andrew works for Merck & Co. The Steedle family resides in Bucks County, Pa. • Emily Schweighardt and Marc Bollinger are happy to announce their engagement, which took place in Seattle in March. The couple met while Emily was a senior at Muhlenberg and Marc was finishing his master's degree at

Lehigh University. The wedding ceremony will take place in May 2012 at the Egner Memorial Chapel. • Geoffrey S. Zinberg received his degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine from Temple University's Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry on May 12, 2011. Dr. Zinberg graduated as the valedictorian of his class. He is continuing his medical training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Christiana Care Hospital, Newark, De.

### 2008

Ali Fales writes, "I'm excited to report that I've joined Teach For America's 2011 teaching corps! After three years in public accounting, I'm now teaching seventh- and eighth-grade math at Roger Williams Middle School in Providence, R.I. As one of 9,300 corps members teaching in high-need public schools in 43 regions around the country, I'm thrilled to be working alongside other dedicated educators to give our students the educational opportunities they deserve. I couldn't be prouder of my students, who are so capable and are working hard every day. In their faces, I see so many future members of the college class of 2020 and 2021!"

### 2009

Adrian Shanker has been elected President of Equality Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth's state-wide political organization advocating for the rights of LGBT Pennsylvanians. • Playwright and director Brendon Votipka is proud to announce that Playscripts, Inc. has published and released his one-act play "Face Forward: Growing Up in Nazi Germany." The play centers on three adolescents coming of age in the decade preceding the holocaust and confronts the challenges of creating identity, confronting bullying, and finding connections. The play was commissioned by 'Berg's Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding.

**M** Post your class notes online at myMuhlenberg.com

## IN MEMORIAM.

**1928** John K. Heyl P'72, DHL'06 died on March 12, 2011, at the age of 104. A former Trustee of the College from 1950-1959, he is survived by sons, John II and Anthony '72, and daughters, Frances M. Heyl and Mary Elizabeth Bauer. He was predeceased by his wife, Florence. He was a former member of the Board of Trustees.

**1931** Milton "Mickey" Weiner died on March 14, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; daughter, Karen Weiner Stollar '67; and son, Richard.

**1938** William J. Marks died on July 27, 2011. He is survived by his sons, William and Jay. He was predeceased by his wife, Eleanor.

**1940** Dr. William J. Kuhns died on April 20, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; daughters, Rosemary Rontino, Ann Shea and Jennifer Kesselman; sons, Bill, Jr., Ron, Edward, and Michael; and step-children Paul, Joanne, Tim and Susan. He was a Circle of 1848 member.

**1941** Woodrow W. Guth died on April 18, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, and stepson, E. Dale Layos. He was predeceased by his brother, Gerald '39.

**1944** Willard H. Gehman died on June 7, 2011. He is survived by his daughters, Jayne Moggio and Sue Mitch. He was predeceased by his wife, Claire.

**1947** Fredrick R. Pauly died on June 12, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Judy; daughters, Nancy Foy, Kathy Baker, Diane Jones, Kathleen Broom, and Virginia Collins; and son, Don Westfall. • **Dr. Donald A. Brobst** died on July 3, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Marie, and daughter, Alice.

**1948** Dr. Jacob C. Neupauer died on April 14, 2011. He is survived by his daughter, Jeanette Parra. He was predeceased by his wife, Catherine. • **Harvey H. Bleiler** died on May 29, 2011. He is survived by his daughter, Allyson Carrizo; sons, Bob and Jim; and brother, Paul '44.

**1949** Frederick L. Mahler died on April 5, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Douglas and Jeffrey; and daughter, Susan Mahler Ruff. • **Richard A. Clauser** died on June 19, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Mary; stepson, Jerry Walker; and stepdaughter, Diane Chaffins.

**1950** Edward Schwob died on December 10, 2010. • **Joseph W. Ott** died on March 21, 2011. He is survived by four nieces and four nephews. • **Dr. Robert A. Kolb, Jr.** died on April 3, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Janice; daughters, June Hudson, Laurel Kuhl, Barbara Egan, Jessica Drakely and Janna VanDorick; and son, George. • **Ralph E. Lichtenwalner** died on May 14, 2011. He is survived by his brothers, Earl '50 and Richard '53. • **Eugene F. Neyhart** died on June 28, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline.

**1951** Dr. Charles M. Friedman died on December 31, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, and children, Deborah, Bernard and Jennifer. • **Rev. Richard H. Schaefer** died on April 29, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; daughter, Susan Stull; and son, Peter.

**1952** Clyde B. Kohl died on January 12, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Louise. • **Walter H. Kirschman** died on April 7, 2011. He is survived by his six children. He was predeceased by his wife, Linda, and infant son, Clifford. He is also survived by his brother, John '48; and nieces, Jane Kirschman '80 and Donna Kirschman '81. • **Dr. Edwin L. Rothfeld** died on June 15, 2011. He is survived by his daughters, Jane Rothfeld-Brunst and Laura Rothfeld Bond P'14; and son, Samuel. He is also survived by his brother, Donald '59; and grandson, Leighton Bond '14.

**1954** Charles R. Staley died on March 10, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Magdalena. He was predeceased by his daughter, Carolyn Baines. • **Richard J. Haverly** died on March 12, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Rose; and sons, Richard and Thomas. He is the brother-in law of Wallace Ely '58. • **La Verne R. Gaugler** died on April 9, 2011. He is survived by his son, Eric; and daughter,

Terri Ann Meyers. • **Donald A. Zeledon** died on May 14, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Glenda; children, Dana Frances Shill and Donald Jr.; and step-children Regina Burns, and Brad and Rick Mouer.

**1956** Howard M. Frank died on November 6, 2010. • **Virgil C. Scott** died on February 27, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Sandra Kawczynski; and sons, Christopher and Stephen. • **Allan D. Mulford** died on May 8, 2011. He is survived by his partner, Glenn Miller.

**1958** William Nelson Holst died on May 23, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Maggi; son, Svend; and daughter, Amelia.

**1959** Edward Perkins died on February 2, 2011.

**1960** Gregory J. Kloiber died on May 16, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary; daughter, Valerie Koehler; and sons, Gregory, Kevin and Jeffrey.

**1961** Douglas T. Monk died on July 3, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Jean; son, Thomas; and daughter, Kathryn.

**1962** Stanford E. Robbins died on April 12, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Linda; and cousin, Robert Robbins.

**1964** Fred R. Haverly died on April 14, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Shari; son, Robert; daughter, Amy Haverly Clark; and step-children, Lisa Schlonski, Tracy R. Miller, and Shannon L. Mescall.

**1967** Grace A. Schenck died on October 31, 2010. • **Paul "Roger" Byer** died on March 10, 2011. He is survived by his sons, Eric and Jeff.

**1970** Cynthia L. Harrison died on April 26, 2011.

**1972** Andrew L. Wienszczak died on July 7, 2011. He is survived by his father, Joseph. He was predeceased by his mother, Rita, and brother, John.

**1973** James L. Figuli died on May 10, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Diane; daughters, Elizabeth Page and Susan Figuli; and son, Christopher. • **Vincent R. Palmere** died on July 22, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Gail; daughters, Cassie Palmere and Corinne Sparling; and mother, Ruth Palmere.

*President's Message; continued from page 1*

### We Get Along Better with Our Neighbors

A dozen years ago angry neighbors forced through zoning changes to stop the College from expanding further into the residential neighborhoods east of campus. Last year Muhlenberg won three good neighbor awards (from the Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross, and the Human Relations Commission).

### Student Life Has Changed

This is an understatement. Now that the campus is totally wired (and, paradoxically, wireless), students connect in more ways and for more waking hours than ever before. Earbuds and mobile devices are ubiquitous. Friend a bunch of Muhlenberg students on Facebook (as I have) and you will receive a constant electronic tsunami of status updates. Our 22 varsity sports are thriving. The number of clubs and activities (110+ as of this writing) is ever shifting, but ever growing.

What about Greek life? A generation ago, fraternities and sororities pretty much had a monopoly on student social life and leadership opportunities. That has changed. Today, competition for student energy and time is fierce. Some alumni still struggle with our conviction that Greek organizations will be invited on campus only when it is clear that our students will benefit from the addition of a new chapter, and that new chapters must be invited to partner with us.

Yet Greek Life at Muhlenberg is healthier than at any time in recent history. Our Greek Life policy of "managed growth" and our accreditation system have demonstrated their effectiveness.

Approximately 20 percent of all students participate in Greek organizations (up from about 16 percent four years ago). ATO has returned to campus, and we have added a new sorority (Theta Nu Xi).

Greek students' GPAs are higher than the campus average. Greek members' commitment to leadership development and participation in service and philanthropic projects are stronger than ever (\$11,000 and 14,000 hours in the spring of 2011).

### We Live in the Age of "Accountability"

Never before have private colleges like Muhlenberg been subject to so many reporting requirements. Each year we review a 15-page spreadsheet listing 115 statutory reporting requirements, ranging from certification that all our faculty speak fluent English, to report-

## IN MEMORIAM.

**1974** Patricia A. Barwick Caporale died on February 26, 2011. She is survived by her daughter, Alyson Caporale.

**1999** Kimberly A. Chernosky died on March 27, 2011. She is survived by her husband, Kevin Wasser; and step-children, Jeremy and Kyle Wasser and Samantha Roshannon. • **David M. Darlington** died on

May 31, 2011. He is survived by his parents, Milford and Barbara, and brother, Stephen.

**2001** Lisa M. Kern died on April 24, 2011. She is survived by her companion, Chris Detrixhe; parents, Joseph and Gloria (Gulkewicz) Kern '70; and sister, Amy Keeler '99.

ing of campus crime statistics, to plans for the storage and treatment provisions for hazardous materials, to weekly WMUH program and music logs submitted to the FCC. But accountability now goes far beyond simple compliance. Muhlenberg (and all accredited institutions) are now required to have robust "outcomes assessment" processes in place.

What outcomes does each professor seek in each course? What outcomes does the department seek for its majors? What outcomes are we striving to achieve with our residential life program, our athletic program, our extracurricular activities? At times I feel these assessments distract from more important work, but sometimes we find that these efforts help us make the Muhlenberg experience more intellectually rigorous and socially rewarding for our students. When data showed that the senior year was not as challenging as the faculty intended, we increased opportunities for culminating experiences for seniors.

Our 2011 NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) results showed an increase in seniors' level of academic challenge and participation in capstone experiences like senior seminars and honors theses.

The world changes – with increasing rapidity – and Muhlenberg adapts.

Because we are frugal and serious about our mission, we do not seek change for its own sake. To chase after every new idea would be reckless. To cling blindly to "the way we've always done things" would be equally disastrous. Fortunately, our culture, our values, and our mission are reliable pole stars that guide the decisions we must make, the changes we embrace, and the traditions we will not abandon.

Members of the Muhlenberg family are invited to be full participants in the conversation that guides these choices. We are always happy to hear from you, and even happier to welcome you back to campus for a visit.



Peyton R. Helm  
President, Muhlenberg College



In 1967, the Garden Room was practically brand new, and students lined up for breakfast, lunch and dinner in what was considered a state-of-the-art facility. Forty years and no significant renovations later, few would deny that the eatery had become tired. With the Seegers Union expansion, the Garden Room became a thing of the past and was converted into an event space. The Wood Dining Commons, the new campus restaurant, is bigger, better and offers dining options far more compelling than the Garden Room ever could. With a larger kitchen and seating area, the new facility has become a comfortable center of campus life.

In 2011, students who took part in the College's Senior Year Experience program worked with the staff to hold a "Top Chef"-inspired competition, learning to cook from the pros and taking full advantage of their workspace. Once in a while, guest chefs even grace the stations – every now and then key administrators have been known to pop in, don an apron and share their culinary talents.

## THEN AND NOW.



## LAST WORD.

*Fold fabric in half, right side to right side.*

*Lay out pattern piece A and cut.*

*Lay out pattern piece B and cut.*

*Stitch the front of piece A to the front of piece B using an inch seam allowance.*

*Attach an overabundance of sequins in odd places; sew on buttons where there are no button holes; add frilly trim where there are no edges; and always keep a seam ripper and a needle nearby.*

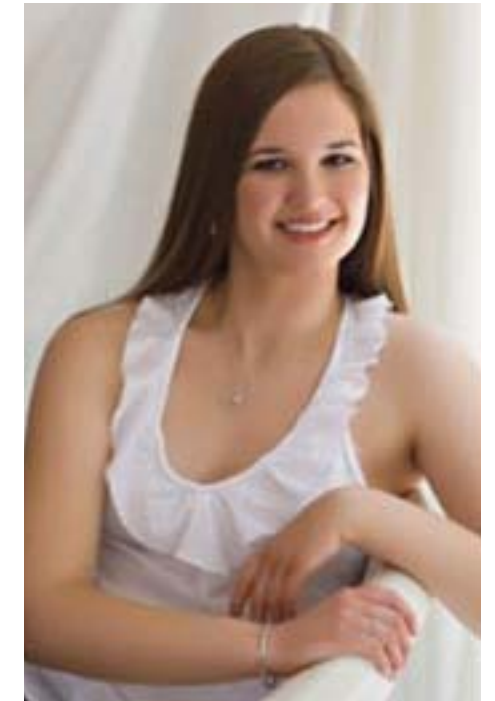
I am a patchwork, but my life is far from a pattern. I often feel as though I may have to backstitch a little or patch up a hole. My life is not perfect, but it's certainly an original work of art. Some people go through life hoping that theirs will be the perfect fantasy they see in the movies, but not me. I would rather have a unique looking, patched up, sparkles everywhere, pink trim all over, stitched on upside down and backwards life there ever was, because then it would be 100% me. And that's just the kind of life I lead.

My patchwork is an ever-changing one. There are days I rip out a piece. I leave the frayed edges on the hole so that anyone can plainly see that something is missing, that something has been removed, and there is a void in need of filling. Other days, I take out my seam ripper and carefully undo each stitch until it looks as though the piece has never before been sewn upon, and then I replace it with something new so it looks as if nothing ever changed. Once in a while I just cover an old piece up with a new one. The old piece is still there, underneath everything else, but now it simply exists for my comfort and security, instead of as a display for everyone else. But the best days are the days I just get to add something new: some jewels, or lace, or buttons, or a new piece of fabric. See, that's the best feeling – when you can take something small that was unacknowledged or overlooked or seemingly useless and make it an integral part of a unique picture.

I am made up of a plethora of tiny pieces and rarities. On their own they might not seem like a whole lot, but together they make up something special. My pieces are all individual, asymmetrical and eclectic. Some of the simpler ones were inherited: my brown hair, my long legs and my voice. Other slightly more intricate skills were taught: how to read, the proper pirouette, jingle bells and the power of hugs. But the most valuable lessons, the ones that are truly unique on account of the whoopsie-daisies and the patches and the do-overs, are the lessons I learned on my own: how to sew, form my own opinions, smile, empathize with people and trust myself. None of the pieces of my patchwork are truly pure or definite. They are always changing and rearranging and becoming new things, but each of them is truly me, and for that, I am truly grateful.

So now I hold up my patchwork quilt with all its mismatched pieces and stitches, and its goofy buttons and trim, and its patches and holes, and say to you, "This is my life thus far, and it's far from finished. It's a work of art every step of the way, and even if some days it's not pretty or doesn't look quite right, it's all me. And one day when it's all finished, it will be truly stunning. Until then, I like it just the way it is right now, because it is constantly changing and will never be this way again. So today, I'm just going to enjoy it."

*Kelly recently joined the Muhlenberg community as a member of the Class of 2015. This was her college admission essay.*



*By Kelly A. Cann '15*





# MUHLENBERG

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## COLLEGE

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## Thanks for Feeding the Mule!

*Your 2010-2011 annual gift to The Muhlenberg Fund supported:*

**The Athletics Program:** Football won a share of the Centennial Conference Championship, the softball team won the Centennial Conference and women's basketball made it to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.

**Campus Safety:** Muhlenberg partnered with the Allentown Police Department to install seven new security cameras on public thoroughfares surrounding the campus.

**Community Service & Civic Engagement:** The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching approved the College for its 2010 Community Engagement Classification.

**Faculty/Student Research in Chemistry:** Students in General Chemistry II participated in an alternative laboratory experience called Project Lab, which offers independent exploration through new experimental techniques.

**Senior Year Experience:** SYE hosted Reality MC to help students develop personal, finance and life management skills to take with them after college.

**Social Research/Social Justice:** Media and Communication hosted the annual SRSJ conference, which allows students across the Lehigh Valley to engage in critical conversations about the issues that matter to them most.

**Sustainability Initiatives:** Campus sales of bottled water were down 92% last year as students turn to filtered water stations and reusable water bottles.

**Theatre & Dance:** Last year's season included performances of "The Pajama Game," "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" and "Moving Stories."



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