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I'm an archaeologist at heart, so when I decided to go back to teaching after a six-year hiatus, I decided to dig. First I started digging into bibliography. I teach ancient history, but you wouldn't believe how much has changed over the past few years: new discoveries, new interpretations, new books and articles. Lots of new books and articles. Starting last summer, I gave Muhlenberg's interlibrary loan system a pretty vigorous workout.

New teaching techniques had emerged too, and I was eager to try them. The flipped classroom, digital humanities, blogs and online discussion forums, MILA (Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad) courses – I wanted to try them all.

I also did some digging in my own basement, specifically a file cabinet where I stored syllabi and lecture notes from my first foray into teaching ancient history – at Penn in the late 1970s. And it was here, among the cobwebs and brittle, crumbling sheaves of yellow legal pad paper, that I made a shocking discovery. In 1979 I was an absolutely terrible teacher! I never taught more than 20 students at a time (it’s a miracle that even that many were enrolled in my courses given the abstruse subject matter) but every class was a lecture, nonetheless. And every lecture was backed up with at least 20 pages of densely organized, handwritten notes. My biggest fear, apparently, was that some undergraduate would ask me a question I couldn’t answer – so I put everything I knew (and then some) into my lecture outlines. And, having prepared them, what else was I to do but read from them? In retrospect, it is a miracle that I wasn’t sued for educational malpractice – or beaned with a baseball bat by some indignant student driven beyond reason as I droned on about the onomastic evidence for the Amorite infiltration of Mesopotamia.

A decade later I was teaching at Colby and had learned a few new tricks. Lectures were still necessary, but I could intersperse them with a little discussion if I thought up some really good questions in advance. Even so, as often as not the discussion would peter out after one or two students had weighed in, and then...back to lecturing. I was not, it’s fair to say, up to Muhlenberg College teaching standards – at least not yet.

Coming to Muhlenberg was probably the best thing that could have happened to me, in terms of my understanding what it takes to be a great teacher. One of my first impressions of Muhlenberg was the centrality of teaching, the seriousness with which the faculty considered their work in the classroom, and their commitment to continuous improvement through the Faculty Center for Teaching (FCT). Presentations on how to use case studies effectively, how to respond to student writing, how to design effective syllabi, the neuroscience of learning, and countless other sessions on the nuts and bolts that make good teachers into great teachers. Funny thing: not one session urged faculty members to bring 20 pages of handwritten lecture notes into their classrooms as back up.

When I decided to re-enter the classroom, I knew that the bar was high. Muhlenberg students expect extraordinary teaching. I knew I wouldn’t be as gifted in the classroom as Muhlenberg’s best, but I didn’t want to be the worst teacher they had during their four years here either.

The first thing I did was to get the lectures out of the classroom and onto the web. This is the essence of the “flipped classroom.” Students can stream the lectures at their own convenience. Two a.m. at Stooges? Okay with me. They can watch them at their own pace. They can pause for a sandwich. They can hit rewind. I didn’t know how to film or edit lectures, but I forced myself to learn. Fortunately I had help: my son Alec (a filmmaker who worked for two years at the Apple Store) and Tony Dalton in media and communication coached me on the finer points of Moviemaker.

I had learned from the FCT’s workshops on the neuroscience of learning that students zone out after about 20 minutes. Thus none of my lectures could exceed that limit (actually, one did – by 10 seconds). I had also learned that students can consolidate their knowledge with quick tests and feedback, so I incorporated brief, ungraded online quizzes for each lecture.

I’ve long been a fan of audiobooks (great for long drives) and thought that, since The Iliad and The Odyssey were originally composed and performed as oral poems, the students might as well stream those too. Trexler’s librarians were more than willing to help. As a result, one evening my students had a great class discussion contrasting the experience of hearing the poems versus that of reading them as texts.

Lanethea Mathews in political science and other faculty were raving about how their students used blogs, so I decided to try that as well. Every student in my class would be required to post at least one 350-word blog each week – and comment on the blog posts of at least five other classmates. Here’s what I learned from that experiment: some students love talking in class (often they even have worthwhile things to say!). Other students? Not so much. But give them a blog and the students who are quiet in class can really shine. And their classmates, responding to their blog posts, can see how bright their quieter classmates really are. The result: greater engagement!
I came to Muhlenberg in the fall of 1967 – I’d like to remind today’s generation that was well after the advent of electricity – with thoughts of becoming … well, I wasn’t sure. Teacher? Writer of some kind or another? Cab-driving poet? I was more certain of what I didn’t want to be. Doctor, dentist, scientist, mathematician, accountant, engineer, lab rat, etc. My academic strengths, such as they were, lie outside of math and science, stark realities that did not, alas, exclude me from three semesters of each at the Muhlenberg of the late-1960s. “Finite Math” and “Probability and Statistics” were widely dismissed as “Addition and Subtraction” by my calculus-taking buddies, but I barely managed a pair of C’s, “books,” as I presume they are still known. The formidable David Stehly – tasked with conveying chemistry to the non-B.S. crowd – took one look at the impressionistic rendering of beakers and Bunsen burners in my lab book and proclaimed, “This looks like eighth grade work.” I thought that assessment to be generous … as was the “hook” and the “dog” (D) I received in the fall of ’67 and the spring of ’68.

This, my younger readers, was what constituted, in the fullest sense of the phrase, a “liberal arts education.” You learned a lot of this and a lot of that, and – if you never absorbed it all – what you took away was the blood, sweat and tears you needed to get through it. You learn life’s lessons by stumbling and getting up, not skipping blithely to the finish line. That’s the one hoary maxim to which I subscribe.

Even what turned out to be my life’s work – journalism – was not available when I was a Muhlenberg student. But as an English major, many of the tools I later needed were handed to me, even if I didn’t realize it at the time. Writing with clarity. Writing on deadline. Absorbing the painful corrections dispensed by your professorial “editor.” Defending your thesis. And most of all, performing in the clutch, that “grace under pressure” that Hemingway wrote about between sips of Cuban rum.

Because let me tell you this: When you walked into Harold Stenger’s “Romantic Poetry” or Nelvin Yss’s “Contemporary Drama” in the late-60s, you had to be ready to rock n’ roll. The academic lessons I learned from the outstanding faculty here – seemingly far from the athletes, the coaches and games I later covered as a journalist – transferred to my profession. It all added up somehow. Just don’t ask me to do the math.

Jack McCallum ’71, this month’s guest editor, was a writer at Sports Illustrated for 30 years. He is the author of 10 books and in 2005 was elected to the writers’ wing of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Jennifer R. McLarin, director of alumni relations, has resigned. For some time now, McLarin has been discerning a call to religious life. She has decided to leave the College to devote herself to further exploring this call.

McLarin graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1986 with a B.A. in English and joined the College as associate director of admission in 2002. She joined the office of development and alumni relations in February of 2009, assuming the role of director of alumni relations. During her tenure in this position, McLarin led the successful transition to a combined Reunion/Homecoming event, helped spearhead a restructure of the governance of the Alumni Board to more closely align it to that of the Board of Trustees, reinvigorated the alumni travel program and increased collaboration and partnerships with various affinity groups.

To read McLarin’s own reflections on her time at Muhlenberg and on what’s ahead for her, go to page 37 and read The Last Word. Natalie Hand ’78, P’07, formerly a major gift officer for the College, took over for McLarin in March.
Muhlenberg Named One of the "Lehigh Valley’s Top Workplaces" by the Morning Call

Muhlenberg College has been named one of The Morning Call’s Top 30 Places to Work in the Lehigh Valley. In the first annual survey, the College was ranked second among businesses with more than 500 employees. In addition, the College was ranked first for its communication efforts with employees.

“I think we all know that what makes Muhlenberg great - and a great place to work - is its people,” said President Randy Helm. “Everybody here realizes that the work we do at Muhlenberg is important, and each of us plays a key role in fulfilling the College’s mission. I’ve known since I first set foot on campus 10 years ago that this is a great place to work, but it is nice to know that so many of us feel that way and that our shared efforts have been publicly recognized.”

Workplace Dynamics, of Exton, Pa., conducted the survey. More than 7,000 employees from 506 companies in the Lehigh Valley completed the survey.

The Morning Call honored the Top 30 workplaces with a special section in the Sunday, March 3 edition of the newspaper, in which Muhlenberg is featured. The College has a special postal meter stamp recognizing the achievement. Additionally, ‘Berg received a plaque for its Top 30 honor and a plaque recognizing its top ranking for communication.

Faculty Promotions ANNOUNCED

Muhlenberg College is pleased to announce the following faculty members have been granted tenure and promoted to the title of associate professor by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Byungchul Cha, mathematics and computer science, came to Muhlenberg in 2007. He earned a B.S. from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, where he specialized in number theory. Specifically, he is interested in Euler systems of Heegner points of elliptic curves and their applications in Shafarevich-Tate groups, as well as the distribution of zeros of various L-functions in a function fields setting. More generally, he is interested in anything related to prime numbers.

Dr. Anne Esacove, sociology, joined the Muhlenberg community in 2006. She has her B.A. from California State University, Northridge, a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Washington and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She worked for many years as a health educator and policy analyst between and while pursuing her degrees. Esacove’s research and teaching interests are grounded in her professional experience and include sexuality, gender, health and qualitative and historical research methods.

Dr. Brian Mello, political science, has a B.A. from Fairfield University and a M.A. and Ph.D from the University of Washington, Seattle. His areas of study include comparative politics, international relations, political theory and the politics of social movements. Mello’s research focuses generally on politics in Europe and in the Middle East, and in particular on Turkish politics. His research examines such subjects as the impact of labor movement activism in Turkey, Great Britain, the United States and Japan; international norms of women’s rights as human rights; the effect of civil-military relations on Islamic politics in Turkey; and the causes and consequences of the Arab Spring.

Dr. Stefanie Sinno, psychology, earned a B.S. from Ursinus College and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. She teaches courses in developmental psychology, primarily child and adolescent development, as well as a seminar course on the developmental understanding on inclusion and exclusion. Her research training and expertise is in the area of social and moral development, with a focus on children’s and adolescents’ social reasoning in everyday contexts. She joined the Muhlenberg community in 2007.
DOOR TO DOOR

Instead of participating in the typical revelry associated with spring break, 49 Muhlenberg students embarked upon four service-based “alternative” spring break programs, traveling with faculty and staff representatives to Washington, D.C., North Carolina, New Orleans and Memphis. Another group of students in the RJ Fellows program stayed in Allentown to work in the local community.

The 15 students traveling to Memphis, accompanied by Kim Gallon, assistant professor of Africana studies and history; Roberta Meek, lecturer of history and media & communication; Justin Rose, fellow in political science and African studies; and Robin-Riley-Casey, director of the multicultural center, explored social justice. Through visits to cultural and historical sites of the Civil Rights Movement, students gained insight into historical events and perspectives on current conditions of inequality which impact the United States today. Students also cultivated an appreciation for civic duty and develop knowledge of principles relating to social justice. In this sense, students partnered with various community-based and/or civic organizations, serving a variety of local constituents in particular areas of the region during the week. This trip was co-sponsored by the Social Justice Collaborative (SJC) and the Black Students Association (BSA). In addition, the trip was connected to the annual Martin Luther King Week celebration in January and the course, “African American Political Thought” taught by Rose.

According to Gallon, “Before leaving for our alternative spring break to Memphis, Visiting Lecturer Roberta Meek told the group that it would be a ‘transformative’ experience. She was right...the trip was an extremely powerful experience for us. Together, we had the opportunity to work on and discuss issues of structural inequality and social justice in American society. I feel fortunate to have spent a week with some of the most critically engaged and socially aware students on campus.”

By traveling to New Orleans and working with St. Bernard Project, 10 students and staff advisors Chaplain Callista Isabelle and Assistant Chief of Campus Safety Tom Dougherty continued a several-year tradition with this organization that rebuilds homes for those who continue to struggle to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

St. Bernard Project founders were given Honorary Degrees at Muhlenberg’s Commencement 2012, highlighting the College’s commitment to this ongoing partnership.

This trip was sponsored by the student club Restoring & Rebuilding New Orleans (RRNOLA). Muhlenberg has led an alternative spring break trip to New Orleans every year since Hurricane Katrina.

Gil Schpero, assistant director of Hillel, led a group of eight to Washington, D.C., to participate in the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy (AIPAC) Conference, the largest gathering of the pro-Israel movement. Thousands of participants come from all 50
Dean Karen Green Honored by Agnes Scott College

Karen Green, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, was honored by her alma mater, Agnes Scott College, as a part of its Founders Day celebration on February 15, 2013. Recognized as one of “Five Women Who Shaped Agnes Scott,” Green’s work in the area of diversity and social justice for students, staff and faculty in higher education was highlighted in a talk on campus titled “First to Ride in the Front of the Bus.” Green was the only African American and the only living honoree.

The 2013-2014 year marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of Agnes Scott College. Many women will be honored in various ways throughout the upcoming year. The event on February 15 kicked off the year-long celebration.

“I was humbled and honored to be recognized for the work I did to make the college a better place for future students, staff and faculty,” said Green. “When you engage in the work of changing institutional culture the twins, fear and resistance, can thwart meaningful efforts. It was the support of my allies that lifted me when I felt I couldn’t fight another battle. I will be eternally grateful for their encouragement and partnership.”

Green has been a member of the Muhlenberg community since 2006. She received her baccalaureate degree from Agnes Scott College in Atlanta in 1986, where the Karen Green Human Relations Award was created in her honor. She went on to earn her Masters of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1997.

She began her administrative career as a resident director at Spelman College, later served in the admissions office at Agnes Scott, and subsequently became director of orientation, residence life and student activities at her alma mater before leaving Atlanta to accept the position of director of multicultural affairs at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y.

She held additional leadership positions in student life at Agnes Scott, Emory and Hamilton before assuming the position of Dean of Students at Wells College.

At Muhlenberg, she oversees more than 70 full-time employees and several departments: athletics and recreation, campus safety, community service, Greek life, judicial affairs, residential services, student activities, the counseling center, the health center, student leadership and Seegers Union/campus events are under her supervision.

AIPAC’s priority is to ensure that both America and Israel remain strong and that they collaborate closely together.

The trip to Statesville, N.C., is a continuation of another tradition – six students and Capital Projects Manager Dave Rabold participated in a Habitat for Humanity building project, working alongside of students from the University of Florida.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. They build with people in need, regardless of race or religion, and they welcome volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds.

Each of these trips is meant to transform the students’ world views and to drive home the importance of service – not just one week a year.

In Allentown, RJ Fellows students led a neighborhood leadership institute, furthered an arts in health care program at Good Shepherd and produced short documentary videos raising awareness about Grace Montessori School and Arts Quest. The RJ Fellows program is an honors community of high-achieving and imaginative students who have demonstrated an exceptional intellectual and personal curiosity about change in the world.

AIPAC is a 100,000-member grassroots movement of activists committed to ensuring Israel’s security and protecting American interests in the Middle East and around the world.
The College has released the responses of its annual career survey, submitted by members of the class of 2011, who report on their employment status or enrollment in advanced studies. This year, 92 percent of the class chose to participate in this survey, and 97 percent are employed full-time or enrolled in graduate or professional schools.

Of the 444 survey respondents, 304 graduates are currently employed full-time. A sample of companies where positions have been obtained includes the National Institutes of Health, Northwestern Mutual, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs, Edelman and CNBC. Five students received Teach for America placements in cities across the nation, and one student accepted a position in the Peace Corps. The career survey breaks down all respondent information by the primary major of each respondent, which highlights the diverse range of possibilities students can choose from following graduation.

One hundred and twenty seven survey respondents made the decision to enroll in a program of advanced study. Perhaps in no other areas has Muhlenberg been more successful than in its placement of students in medical and law schools during their senior year. Muhlenberg’s success rates with medical and law school placement historically average between 70 percent and 90 percent, and the College does not prohibit any student from applying to medical or law schools.

In the class of 2011, 22 survey respondents reported they are pursuing advanced study in the health professions field. As Muhlenberg is known for its strong science programs, it is no surprise that advanced study in health professions is a popular option for students. In the class of 2011, students pursuing medical degrees received placements in a number of prestigious institutions including Drexel University College of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine and Tufts University School of Medicine. Five graduates went on to study at Jefferson Medical College of Health Professions of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where the College has a cooperative agreement that allows students to receive their degree from Muhlenberg in three years and go on to receive a doctorate of physical therapy or a master’s degree in occupational therapy. In the past four years, nine Muhlenberg graduates have gone on to pursue biomedical research at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Additionally, students are also enrolled in the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

Although there is no pre-law major at Muhlenberg, it is offered as a pre-professional program and students from an assortment of academic backgrounds choose to pursue law after graduation. In the class of 2011, 16 survey respondents reported attending a law school. Majors in business, economics, English, history, political science, psychology and religion studies enrolled in law schools including the Washington College of Law at American University, Fordham University School of Law, Villanova University School of Law and the University of Miami School of Law.

Eight-nine additional survey respondents are attending graduate school pursuing advanced degrees in other areas. Some of the institutions enrolled in include Boston University to study biostatistics, Carnegie Mellon University to study biology and Princeton University to study chemistry. In addition, the class of 2011 has two members attending Yale University, two at the University of Pennsylvania, four at Lehigh University, six at Columbia University and eight at New York University, pursuing degrees in a variety of subjects.

Muhlenberg students are encouraged to begin using the College’s Career Center as early as their first year, and the Center vigorously assists students in exploring careers, finding internships and jobs and seeking admission to graduate school. The annual career survey is used as a way to demonstrate their success in this endeavor.
Muhlenberg College has partnered with Larry Singer Studios, a comprehensive acting studio in New York City, to offer an accredited summer acting experience for its theatre and dance students.

“We are thrilled to establish a New York City-based, credit-bearing theatre program,” said Muhlenberg College Provost Dr. John Ramsay. “This will give our students a conservatory experience. It capitalizes on one of our flagship programs and on our proximity to New York, and it will give our students a first-rate acting experience.”

Dr. James Peck, chair of the department of theatre and dance adds, “This new educational opportunity will give advanced students from Muhlenberg and other colleges the opportunity to study intensively five days per week in one of the world’s premiere theatre centers. Singer’s extensive connections and esteemed reputation will give students the chance to meet and learn from top working professionals.”

Singer is one of the leading acting teachers of this generation. He was voted the Number One Acting and Scene Study Teacher by Backstage Magazine in 2011 and has been rated in the as one of the top teachers for several years. Singer was an adjunct professor at Muhlenberg College from 2008-2010, and has since held the title of visiting assistant professor. The Larry Singer Summer Conservatory is a five-week program designed to advance actors in their overall acting ability and improve their acting instrument. Once accepted into this program, students will receive 2 course credits for a 5 week program, as they would with any summer study abroad program.

This collaboration is the sixth of its kind in the College’s history. Muhlenberg currently enjoys similar relationships with Accademia dell’Arte in Arezzo Italy; Goldsmiths College, University of London; Dublin City University; University of Maastricht in the Netherlands and the Muhlenberg College Washington Semester program.

This summer session will be certified by the College’s department of theatre and dance, which has been ranked in the top 10 in the country by the Princeton Review for the last seven years. The College was number one in the nation as recently as 2011.

### Save the Date!

**Muhlenberg College Golf Classic 2013**

**Friday, September 20, 2013**

**Green Pond Country Club, Bethlehem, PA**

Details to Follow
There are so many amazing things to do while at Muhlenberg – and they’re not all limited to staying on campus. In a completely unscientific poll conducted on Facebook, alumni were asked about what are some “must do” activities. Here are the results.

1. Eat a Bagel Bomb at 2 a.m.
2. View the campus from the Haas Bell Tower.
3. Take a walk to Cedar Beach Park or the Rose Garden at Trexler Park.
5. Find a faculty or staff mentor.
6. Play a round of frisbee golf past midnight.
7. Get mentioned in the Berg Bulletin or captured in a photo on the Muhlenberg website.
8. Set up camp in the library during finals.
9. See the stuffed polar bear in Shankweiler.
10. Dance at a Maingate College Night.
11. Take an elective that is outside of your comfort zone.
12. Drive Dean Greene’s private golf cart.
13. Play racquetball.
14. Hang out under or near Victor’s Lament both during the day and at night.
15. Stay up all night with friends and take lots of pictures.
16. Taste the local flavors: pizza at Liberty Street Tavern, a Hoofy sandwich at Wally’s, fried cauliflower at Damascus, anything at the Allentown Farmers Market and a burger at Brew Works.
17. Go to every senior event.
The short answer – MuhlenbergConnect is the new way to stay connected with Muhlenberg and connected with each other! We recently launched the new online alumni community as a one-stop source for all your needs as an alumna/us. MuhlenbergConnect allows you to seamlessly connect your favorite Berg activities and interests in meaningful ways through social media – post comments on Facebook, subscribe to Muhlenberg news and updates through RSS feeds and connect your LinkedIn account to automatically keep your contact information current – all aimed at making it simple to stay connected to your Berg family.

Here are just a few highlights:

**Find Classmates** – Easily search for classmates and people with similar interests.

**Register for Events** – Whether on campus or in your region, it’s easy to find activities and events near you.

**Share Your Milestones** – Submitting Class Notes is simple, and searching for notes is a breeze. You can even share your favorite family photos!

**Make Career Connections** – With the MuhlNet database, you can make connections in your given field and offer your help to others.

As a member of the Muhlenberg alumni family, you have already received instructions on how to log in for the first time. If you haven’t logged in yet, do it today and encourage others to also get connected! If you need any help with this, please don’t hesitate to email the office of alumni relations at bergalum@muhlenberg.edu or call us at 800-464-2374.

**Are you connected?**

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**What is MuhlenbergConnect?**

Natalie K. Hand ’78, P’07, Director • Patrick Fligge ’10, Associate Director of Alumni – Student Connections
Sean Morrow ’91, Associate Director • Heather Larson ’08, Assistant Director • Debbie Klinger P’07, Events & Volunteer Coordinator
Beth Strohl, Administrative Assistant • Stephanie Wolbransky ’13, Presidential Assistant

You can contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104
Phone: 800.464.2374 • Fax: 484.664.3745 • E-mail: bergalum@muhlenberg.edu
The Past, Present and Future of East Hall

By Romina Weikel, Associate Director of Communication and Donor Relations

Perhaps you remember it as the place where you met some of your best friends, or a quiet retreat that you called home. Either way, East Hall, the iconic building that holds a special place in the hearts of so many Muhlenberg alumni, is getting an overhaul. Dedicated in 1903, East Hall is a cornerstone of the Muhlenberg campus and its oldest residence hall. A striking example of the Collegiate Gothic style, East was considered luxurious and cutting-edge among college dormitories when it was first built. Alumni who have taken up residence in East throughout the years look back on it with nostalgia. Honorable State Representative Paul Clymer ’59 still has the letter he received from Haps Benfer in May of 1956 indicating his room assignment for the next academic year would be in East Hall. He was required to make a $25 deposit to hold his room, and Clymer could not have been more thrilled. He describes his time in the residence hall as a wonderful experience. “East Hall was home to upperclassmen, so moving into East after your freshman year made it feel like you were really coming of age,” says Clymer.

Some of Clymer’s best friends today were his roommates and classmates who resided in East. He says, “In the evenings, we shared great conversations about both academics and athletics. Muhlenberg’s basketball team, led by J. Birney Crum, was a force to be reckoned with so that was a hot topic.” Even today, Clymer makes sure to walk by the building each time he visits campus, and he finds himself reminiscing about the good times he spent there. He says, “East Hall was home to upperclassmen, so moving into East after your freshman year made it feel like you were really coming of age,” says Clymer.

Students today still love East Hall for its quaint and quirky charm. “I like living in East Hall not because it’s quiet, and there is a real sense of community among the residents. My roommate and I have a spacious room that is full of character,” says Jessica Altman ’15. Despite everyone’s fondness for East, it is showing its age. No major renovations have been done since an electrical upgrade in 1995, except for ongoing restoration and maintenance of the building’s exterior. The building interior requires a complete renovation of interior walls and floors, plumbing, electrical and air-handling systems, energy-saving control systems and technology. An elevator will also be added.

The new and improved East will include an addition, originally planned in 1903 but never completed, that will add approximately 13,000 square feet, allowing this landmark building to accommodate additional students. It will also provide handicapped-accessible bedrooms and bathrooms, common areas for students to study and socialize, kitchen and dining areas for informal gatherings and laundry facilities. All rooms in the renovated East Hall will have individual controls for heat and air-conditioning. But for those who are concerned that East will lose its appeal, have no fear – the architectural integrity of the building will be preserved by maintaining the original fireplaces, the eclectic spirit of the uniquely individual rooms and the return of the original cupolas atop the south face of the restored East Hall. The renovation will surely make East one of the more popular locations to live on campus. Altman says, “I can’t wait to experience living there after all the improvements are made and it has the amenities of the other dorms on campus.” She jokes, “I bet it will feel like living in a five-star hotel.”

If you would like to support the College with this $16 million capital project, many spaces are available for naming gifts at a range of levels. These naming opportunities include the cupolas, the elevator, the student lounges, the kitchens – you can even name your old dorm room. By making a gift to East Hall, you are helping Muhlenberg continue to attract the best students by offering top-notch facilities and to restore one of the College’s most important icons. Clymer summarizes it best when he says, “East Hall is not just about the bricks and mortar – it’s about the legacy of all the students that have attended Muhlenberg throughout the years. There is just something special about East Hall.”

For more information, contact the development office at 484-664-3247 or development@muhlenberg.edu or visit easthall.muhlenberg.edu.
Karen Antman, M.D. ’70

“Nobody sets out to be a dean – it’s just seemed like a natural progression,” says Dr. Karen Antman, the dean of Boston University School of Medicine. But looking at Antman’s professional career, hints of her ultimate future were already emerging at Muhlenberg. Antman loved Russian history and language as well as her classical music and modern art and theatre classes. She studied abroad in Czechoslovakia and also became the first female president of student council. And of course she loved the sciences as well – everything from physics, which she took freshman year, to biochemistry, which she took again in medical school. “I was impressed at the way Muhlenberg prepared me for medical school,” she adds. “I’m not sure I could’ve passed biochemistry in medical school except that I had already covered the material as an undergraduate.”

Today Antman is an internationally recognized expert on breast cancer and other malignancies. She came to Boston from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Previously she spent 11 years on the faculty of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and 14 years on the faculty of Harvard Medical School. She also served as president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Association for Cancer Research and the American Society for Blood Marrow Transplantation. She was recently elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science. Although her accomplishments have taken her so incredibly far from her days in Allentown, Pa., Antman remembers Muhlenberg fondly and attributes part of her success to her alma mater. “You have to be a well-rounded person to be a good physician and Muhlenberg certainly encourages that,” she says. “We have students at Boston who have majored in East Asian studies or in music. There’s more to being a good physician than science.”

David L. Paskin, M.D. ’60

By coincidence, Dr. David Paskin (currently dean at Jefferson Medical College) was in the last all-male class at Muhlenberg as well as the last all-male class while studying at Jefferson. (Berg has a history with Jefferson. Dr. Paul Brucker ’53 was a longtime professor and a former President of the institution.) Paskin says he remembers Muhlenberg as a place that allowed him to “grow and blossom” and to ultimately find his career path. He achieved leadership roles such as becoming president of his fraternity, Phi Epsilon Pi, as well as a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, the leadership honor society. “I think my experience at Muhlenberg enabled me to become a more desirable applicant for medical school, not only scholastically, but because of the leadership opportunities and extracurricular activities that helped make me well-rounded,” he says.

Paskin initially saw himself going into internal medicine but after completing a surgical rotation, a chief of surgery encouraged him to become a surgeon. After finishing a surgical residency at Pennsylvania Hospital, he stayed on and ultimately went from being a surgeon and running the education programs to becoming chair of the department and president of the hospital staff, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees. “At that time I was asked to come over to Jefferson – just a few physical blocks away – as a dean,” Paskin recalls. “I never intended to become a dean but looking back I think my experience and leadership roles were leading me that way. Muhlenberg was a key part of that in all the opportunities it afforded me and it will always have a warm place in my heart.”
Kenneth J. Veit, D.O., M.B.A. ’72

They say the typical lifespan of a dean is often around five years but Dr. Kenneth Veit has been the dean of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) for two decades. He feels that Muhlenberg prepared him for the long-standing role in many ways. “So much of being a dean is recognizing that you are part of a team,” he says. “You learn to delegate better and that medicine isn’t about making individual decisions. Team sports at Muhlenberg really helped me in being a future dean.”

Veit was a soccer goalie for four years and also pole vaulted on the track team. He says he remembers the sports opportunities fondly, as well as the liberal arts aspect. “This is a time when there’s a lot of negativity toward liberal arts with the idea that it doesn’t produce jobs but it’s one of the aspects of college I remember most fondly,” says Veit. “I enjoyed Russian literature, theology and philosophy. And what’s interesting in medical education today is that the MCAT testing is changing and beginning to recognize that we need more balance in our medical students, and that there’s more to being a physician than being a scientist. Muhlenberg prepared me very well for being a well-rounded physician.”

Veit also met his future wife at Muhlenberg and got married in the Egner Chapel in 1974 by the couple’s Russian literature professor. “Muhlenberg was such a special environment that not only allowed me to grow academically but in maturity as well,” Veit adds. “I’m proud that PCOM has continued to get a lot of Muhlenberg grads over the years. I would tell today’s students to keep their options open. Relax and understand there are many pathways toward happiness and success in life. That means that if medical school doesn’t open its door for you, another door will open. Take from Muhlenberg everything it has to offer and don’t get so career crazy that you lose sight of the opportunities out there.”

Barry Waterhouse, Ph.D.

In the arena of medical research and university administration, you rise through the ranks, and that’s exactly how Dr. Barry Waterhouse ultimately became professor of neurobiology and anatomy and vice dean of biomedical graduate studies at Drexel University College of Medicine. He started as assistant professor at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, moved to Hahnemann (which later merged with Drexel) as an associated professor and grew from there.

At Muhlenberg, Waterhouse was a biology major and heavily influenced to pursue a Ph.D. by some of his fraternity brothers in Phi Kappa Tau who had gone ahead of him at Temple University, where Waterhouse ultimately enrolled in the pharmacology graduate program. During his post-doctoral fellowship and later as a faculty member at Southwestern, Waterhouse became oriented toward neuroscience and fascinated with how the brain works as well as how drugs interact with the brain. For the past 35 years, that has been the focus of his research program.

While at Muhlenberg, Waterhouse says he was encouraged by James Vaughan, chair of the biology department at the time, as well as John Weston, who was teaching an advanced course in histology. “Both of these individuals reinforced my enthusiasm for biology and encouraged me to pursue whatever career it might lead to,” recalls Waterhouse. “Over the years one thing lead to another, and I just followed the path that opened up to me.”

For today’s students interested in pharmacology or neuroscience, Waterhouse says to get experience in the laboratory, as graduate schools look for that in applications. “This is a broad and fascinating field with many opportunities,” he adds. “Nowadays a Ph.D. means more than becoming a professor. There’s public policy, regulatory affairs, venture capitalist opportunities and so much more. I would always encourage people to first get started with research as that’s the best foundation.”

Robert C. Nuss, M.D. ’58

After graduating from Muhlenberg and then Jefferson Medical School, Dr. Robert Nuss decided to fulfill his selective service obligation, voluntarily entering the Navy and assuming after his two years he’d get on with his medical career. Thirty-four years later, he finally retired from a prestigious career in the Navy that ultimately led him to Florida, where he took a position with the University of Florida College of Medicine, Jacksonville, working through the ranks, and just recently retiring as the dean of the College of Medicine. “I think Muhlenberg gave me the premedical education that I needed to succeed in medical school which was at the time, and still is, an extremely competitive environment,” Nuss says. “Muhlenberg took a naive country boy and gave him the direction it took to compete in that
world. I feel it set the foundation for my subsequent accomplishments and for that reason I do feel indebted to the college.”

Nuss says he feels lucky to have had two very gratifying careers – in the Navy and at the University of Florida, where he began his career in 1972. “It was not my intent to make a career of the Navy but it allowed me many opportunities and allowed me to retire as a two-star admiral from the Naval Reserve,” Nuss says. “And it’s certainly not common for someone to stay with an academic institution for 40 years, but I had many opportunities to grow there as well.”

And Nuss has nothing but fond memories of his days at Muhlenberg. “I feel that Muhlenberg not only gave me the educational background but also important social experiences and interactions,” he remembers. “I played football, was a member of ATO, was class president and served as sports editor, among other positions. If I were a pre-med student at a large school like Penn State I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to participate in that much because I would’ve had so many labs. I believe strongly in that opportunity to spread your wings and learn to suffer failures and ultimately grow as an individual.”


When Karen Wilk was starting school at Muhlenberg, her interest was in hospital administration. She volunteered in a hospital in high school and liked the healthcare setting, though she wasn’t interested in medicine. Numbers were always her thing. While Wilk ultimately majored in accounting and eventually earned her CPA, followed by an earning an MBA through Stony Brook University, she did wind up in healthcare. When an opportunity to become an internal auditor at Stony Brook University School of Medicine popped up, Wilk says she “grabbed it.”

After seven years at the internal auditor, an opportunity in the dean’s office arose and that eventually lead to her promotion as assistant dean for faculty personnel. “I never thought I’d be in personnel, but there is a lot of finance work involved with it and it’s been a good fit,” Wilk says. “Our doctors are busy saving lives, so I enjoy getting to make the other side of their job easier.”

Looking back at Muhlenberg, Wilk remembers her days fondly. “To me, it was a home away from home,” she says. “I was very involved in Delta Zeta and lived in the house, so I formulated a lot of close friendships. And I did an internship at college that was very helpful in preparing me for my future. I definitely felt Muhlenberg prepared me for graduate school and everything that came after that.”

Richard J. Ziegler, Ph.D. ’65

Dr. Richard Ziegler says he liked the small class numbers at Muhlenberg and feels it really helped him thrive. You get to know peers better and had closer interaction with professors. As an active student, Ziegler was involved in Phi Kappa Tau fraternity as well as a number of intramurals and student government activities. “Being involved in a variety of activities helps you figure out what you’re interested in doing in life,” Ziegler. “Academics are important but there’s more to the college experience than classes alone.”

Of course when it came to academics, Ziegler embraced biology, and when he graduated from Muhlenberg was interested in going further in microbiology and attended Temple Medical School in the Medical microbiology department. “I decided early on that I was more interested in research than medical school so I went up to Rockefeller University in New York to become a research associate in bacterial genetics,” recalls Ziegler. “While I was there they were starting a new medical school in Minnesota, and I ultimately got recruited as an assistant professor.”

Once at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, Ziegler rose through the ranks over the years, doing increasingly more administrative duties on top of his research and teaching. He ultimately held a number of Deans positions including the Admissions Dean, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Curriculum, the Executive Dean, and then ultimately the Dean from 1998 to 2006. “While I stepped down from Dean in 06, I’m still here and am a professor of an infectious disease course,” Ziegler says.

To current students interested in microbiology and research, Ziegler says to “keep the options open” and “explore what’s out there.” “I think one of the most important things students can do is to attend scientific meetings and find out what’s happening in their area,” he suggests. “And once you do move along in your employment ranks, keep your options open. That’s how I ultimately wound up in a number of different positions, all of which were fulfilling for different reasons.”
Walking through Muhlenberg’s Trexler Library, you could encounter an almost endless amount of interactions. You might find two dozen tables of students answering questions like, “Who was the longest serving president of Muhlenberg?,” trying to win prizes at a Trexler Trivia Night. You might watch two friends constructing a fort with sheets and strings of lights, preparing the perfect study space for an exhausting week of final exams. You might notice a group of students and other patrons nibbling on cookies while participating in a book discussion on the latest faculty publication. Most likely, you will see many students diligently working, heads buried in books, hands typing rapidly on computer keyboards.

What quickly becomes obvious to anyone who enters the building is that Trexler serves as a major center for student interaction on campus, and has done so since it opened in 1988. Each year, the library staff adds new resources and programming, ensuring not only that student needs are being met but that they actually enjoy using the library.

This year, as Trexler celebrates its 25th anniversary, there is an uncertainty sweeping the nation regarding the ever-changing role of libraries and about how they will function in the future. With technology constantly changing and more material being accessed electronically than ever before, the old definition of the library – a physical building housing a collection of resources – is changing.

Instead of coming in with a set vision for Trexler and its function, Tina Hertel, who has served as the director of the library since 2011, began her role at Muhlenberg determined to help Trexler adapt to its changing environment. Moving forward, she has the same intentions and looks forward to playing an instrumental role in the library’s progressions in the face of changing student needs. She points out that many people see libraries as “gatekeepers of knowledge,” restricting access to information rather than providing it, conjuring the stereotypical image of a strict librarian “shushing” a child for being too loud. She, however, thinks of libraries, especially in their future roles, as “facilitators of knowledge.” They will bridge the gap between information and the patrons searching for it. Although there is more information available to the public than ever before (at the touch of a button and at any location), that doesn’t mean that the public knows how to navigate it and use information effectively. That is where the new librarian comes in.

When you think of a librarian, you probably think of someone who scours library bookshelves searching what you need, but, along with the library itself, the librarian’s role is changing, and the job is becoming anything but obsolete. Kelly Cannon, who serves as Trexler’s outreach and scholarly communication librarian and has worked at Muhlenberg since 1996, says that he sees his own role as “teaching students how to do for themselves.”

Kelly Cannon, outreach and scholarly communication librarian, works with a student.
Cannon says, “When I was in graduate school, I thought my role would be sitting at a reference desk and answering reference questions. Now, one of my primary jobs is going into the classroom and giving presentations.” Each semester, Cannon partners with professors and does between 30 and 40 sessions teaching students how to conduct research using the extensive online databases Trexler provides. He then spends hours at his computer responding to online inquiries from these students about how to complete their research. Cannon has less face-time with students than he had expected when envisioning his career, but, he admits, “You can’t argue with convenience.” He encourages students to come get research help in-person, but, regardless of how they get the help, one thing is clear: at Trexler, student wants and needs come first.

Hertel says, “We are going to see how students are studying and doing their work in order to better change library spaces into more dynamic (as well as virtual) environments.” Many question how library spaces will be used when shelves filled with books, CDs, DVDs and more are no longer necessary as more material is digitized. Hertel envisions Trexler being an “adaptive building” where students are freed from the physical limitations of rows of shelves and immovable furniture. “We want work spaces that are much more flexible and interactive,” she says, citing movable furniture and mobile lockers as examples of purchases she would love to see Trexler make in the coming years.

There is a particular demand for added seating areas to accommodate groups of four to six students. In order to make this space, there is a good chance the library will soon make the perhaps controversial decision to do away with the reference desk. The old library model had one desk to take out books and one desk to ask questions, but, now, Cannon explains, “Students want a single point of service for their needs.” Trexler staff agrees that the most crucial thing about the way space is used in the library is having a place that is inviting to all students and comfortable to study in.

Of course, technology is expected to take up more space as time goes on as well. Librarians are and will continue to be proponents of technology with many libraries even hiring “emerging technology librarians” to keep track of new products and systems that have the potential to help patrons. Hertel has many ideas about technologies she would like to see in Trexler in the future. She would love to see the library acquire a 3D printer, which has the ability to create a three-dimensional solid object of almost any shape from a digital model. She also envisions rooms with video cameras, where one could work on a variety of projects, like filming themselves making a presentation and playing it back to themselves to review it. Other space could be used to provide professional-looking areas for students to be interviewed via Skype, a method becoming more and more popular with employers. Overall, she sees implementing interactive technology as necessary in the years to come. Hertel recognizes that not all students want to carry around their laptops wherever they go, and the library’s role will not only be to make information accessible, but to provide the space and technology students need to further their learning.

Some colleges and universities are faced with the underlying idea that the building must embody the Joy of Learning and not merely a repository for books. For that, the building has a great deal of light and warmth in the design and furnishings. The design of the building also sought to use historical aspects of libraries from the past as well as look to how the library would be used in the future. The architect, Robert Geddes, put great insight into bringing together the past, the present and the future while still keeping with the overall culture of Muhlenberg College.

**10 Interesting Facts about the Building**

1. The book-cupboard of the past is incorporated into the Rare Book Room.
2. The study carrels are based on the medieval monasteries, but were built of warm cherry wood for a more inviting appeal.
3. The Muhlenberg Room, which houses works by faculty and alumni, draws on the renaissance idea of the wall library.
4. The old and the new are also reflected in the materials used: traditional materials such as brick and granite as well as modern materials of steel, cooper and skylights.
5. There are outside gardens, including the area behind the serpentine wall facing Chew Street.
6. Bill Severson’s “Tree of Knowledge” wall relief sculpture, with its medieval theme of 14 fruits, representing 7 vices and 7 virtues and the modern inclusion of fiber optic cables to reflect sunlight.
8. There are 5 Pennsylvania quilts reflecting the local heritage.
9. Walking into the front entrance, visitors are welcomed with the warmth of the skylight over the Muhlenberg seal.
10. The open staircase borders the very popular reading terraces.
with the challenge of students not even wanting to come to the library because of how easy information can be accessed online. For these institutions, the fear that the library will transform into a digital resource rather than a physical space is becoming a reality. It is not anticipated this will be a problem at Muhlenberg, however, because it is such a residential campus and the library is centrally located. Hertel says, “People still need space to do what they need to do. Some will argue that students can do it all from their dorm rooms. Yes, they can, however, the library provides a neutral productive space where students can actively engage with information and also work collaboratively.”

The only question to be addressed is not whether students will use the library but how they will use it. The library hosts a great deal of dynamic programming each year, often directly related to the curriculum and other campus events. This past January, a coffee machine was added to the main level of the library in response to student requests. It is changes like these that will ensure that students continue to utilize the library to its full capacity.

Aside from changes in the way the library looks, other, more complicated issues are impacting what librarians spend their days thinking about. Students might think that having information be accessed electronically is easier for libraries than obtaining a collection of books, but giving patrons the ability to access the most reliable online information is a complicated process. Online journals are not cheap, with many subscriptions costing the library thousands of dollars per year. What Cannon describes as one of the “dark sides of electronic access” is that unless an alternative is negotiated in the contract when obtaining a journal or periodical, archives of a database can only be accessed as long as the subscription is maintained. The library used to buy a physical journal and it was theirs forever, and, now, that isn’t always the case. For example, when the budget needed to be tightened during the most recent recession, Trexler made the decision to cancel an online subscription to the Wall Street Journal. Because it was an electronic subscription, however, all the archives of information already paid for became inaccessible to patrons.

Another challenge of making the transition to greater online access is that sometimes students, who are getting to the point where they expect everything to be available online, miss out on valuable resources only available in hard copy. Trexler is focused on purchasing completely new online materials rather than digitizing the things they already own in hard copy. At this point, while librarians are utilizing and promoting new technology, they also need to be sure that students are using physical books when appropriate. Cannon says, “Some of the most authoritative information appears in book form, and we may as a library have only purchased hard-copy (though that is changing with a library shift towards e-book purchasing). Books remain a vital format for

Happy Birthday, Trexler!

Twenty-five years ago Muhlenberg students, faculty and staff gathered together and lined a path from Haas, the former library (now an administrative building), towards the brand new Trexler Library. As the doors of Trexler opened to the campus community for the first time, the first 100 books to be catalogued and shelved passed down the line from Haas, touching each hand as it went, representing the relationship between the books and the community they serve. It’s an important tradition to keep in mind as the Muhlenberg community celebrates Trexler’s 25th “birthday” at a time when the function of libraries are rapidly changing. Although, today, Muhlenberg students are more likely to get information from an online database than a physical book, Trexler staff are still just as dedicated to giving them access to as much knowledge as possible.

Trexler was built for a number of different reasons – lagging technology, not enough space and a lack of air conditioning in the former Haas Library were just a few. Its location was chosen because it was a central point on campus, it would allow for expansion if necessary and it retained the most green space as possible. The library, named after Harry C. Trexler, a local philanthropist and industrialist, wasn’t designed just to house books and give students a place to study, but to serve as a second home for students and to provide them with the tools they need to enhance their learning and enjoy doing it. Trexler now also houses the Writing and Information Consultation Center, which provides writing tutors free-of-charge for all students, and a Polling Center.

On the library’s 20th Anniversary, former director of the library Joyce Hommel said, “The success of the library has been the changes along the way. The way the reference advancements are made, and the way students utilize these materials and the space are what make any library successful, including this one.” As the library continues to make changes with student needs in mind, the dedication of the staff in serving students will be the one thing that won’t change at all.

The library staff plans to celebrate the building’s 25th anniversary with a reception this fall.
especially college students who spend hours researching and learning, a great deal of complications come along with it.

Carol Shiner Wilson, who oversaw the Trexler Library as Dean of the College for Academic Life from 1996 until her retirement in 2012, remembers the old ways of using the library. She recalls, “In 1981, my first year at Muhlenberg, my visits to the Haas Library looked like this: I would go up the steps, enter the un-air conditioned rotunda, go over to the wooden trays holding typewritten cards and look up the location of books and journals. I might need to consult resources to see where a book or article that we didn’t have was located, then fill out an Interlibrary Loan slip to request the item.”

She continues, “These days, I go into the beautiful Trexler Library and sit down at a computer to access rich resources around the world in an instant. I can find materials on virtually anything. I can make an Interlibrary Loan request electronically. I can get a PDF of an article I need. I can even use the online ‘Ask a Librarian’ feature to connect with helpful library staff.”

Although a great deal has clearly changed about the library in the past 25 years and much more will change in the next 25, we can be confident that some things will always remain the same: librarians dedicated to enhancing student’s access to knowledge and love of learning and space that will always provide a backdrop for those things that make up the best moments of college, whether those means finally understanding a concept for a tough class or meeting friends for coffee to relax on the couches. As technology changes and Muhlenberg students grow right along with it, Trexler Library will certainly not be left behind.
In 1994, Chris Bernat '93, a 24-year-old Temple University doctoral candidate and Muhlenberg grad, stepped out of a plane and through the gates of hell. As ominous-sounding helicopter blades chopped away in the distance, a blast of volcano-like heat slapped him in the face. A Tower of Babel of voices – he spoke nothing but English at the time – began ordering him around, none of them using that liltily familiar welcome-to-our-island tone.

He jumped into a taxi and en route to his boarding house he passed bodies, and parts of bodies, lying in the road. At the first military checkpoint – Haiti was then, as it so often is, under a military dictatorship – soldiers took his Swiss Army knife, and at the second they took his money. When he reached the squalid digs where he would be spending the next three months, he found an unholy army of mosquitoes breeding in the toilet.

He retired to his filthy bedroom and promptly threw up.

Does that sound like any way to begin a love affair?

Two decades and some 30 trips to Haiti later, 42-year-old Bernat has added a hyphenated surname (Kovats), a wife (Dina, a 1994 Muhlenberg grad and former associate dean of admissions), two children (Addison, 10, and Ella, 8), a vocation (associate professor of anthropology at his alma mater, where he is also the acting chair of the department of anthropology and sociology) and a reputation...
as one of the world’s leading ethnographers of Haiti’s street kids, the ones who proclaim, with pride, “L’ori a se lakay mwen,” Creole for “the street is my home.”

The titles of his published works reveal the violence he chronicles. “The Bullet is Certain: Armed Children and Gunplay on the Streets of Haiti.” “After the End of Days: Childhood, Catastrophe, and the Violence of Everyday Life in Haiti.” His master work to date is a 2008 book published by the University of Florida Press—“Sleeping Rough in Port-au-Prince: An Ethnography of Street Children and Violence in Haiti.”

These are not works with which to curl up around the fireplace with a cup of hot chocolate. As Kovats-Bernat writes in “After the End of Days:

“The city is mostly at or below sea level, and sewage is channeled down storm drains and through open canals. The absence of systematic garbage collection means that these channels are almost always clogged with trash and debris, damming up a stew of feces and urine, and diesel, and carrion, and rotting vegetation. all of it churned in a tropically-warmed bath of stagnant water ripe with giardia and amoebic dysentery, cholera and typhus, parasites and worms, and the eggs and larvae of botflies and mosquitoes. Watch the level of this wastewater rise above the curb, flood the sidewalks, and pool in the homes of the poor. Start the death toll here in the hundreds, but be prepared to top a thousand or more if the medical response is slow.”

But he has no plans on giving up his research. “If I’m not thinking about my family or work or whatever is right in front of me,” said Kovats-Bernat, during an interview in his Muhlenberg office, “I’m thinking about Haiti.”

When he comes to work he is literally surrounded by it. The walls of his office, the surface of his desk, the crammed spaces between the books that line his shelves are crammed with fascinating artifacts related to his studies: spent 7.62mm and 9mm shell casings salvaged from the street in the aftermath of gun battles fought around him, sugarcane machetes and bone-handled daggers, amulets and charms given to him by Vodou priests to shield him from bullets and to protect his soul from witchcraft, menacing sculptures of death spirits, handicraft trinkets given to him as gifts from the street kids with whom he works.

He has a three-foot-long, six-sided coffin with a baby doll set within, draped entirely over in red and black wax, its arm reaching forth to grab at something unknown. On his desk sits a spectre entering the squalid market area of Cité Soleil

left: Brotherly love. Street boys in Port-au-Prince.
with bodies raked by razor wounds. They have crooked limbs from broken bones that have not set properly, scars from gunshot wounds, persistent low-grade fevers. “People are violent with them, and they are violent with each other,” says Kovats-Bernat.

Not all literally live in the streets. Some work the streets, then go home and sleep in the home with their mothers and sisters and brothers at night. But they return the next day for that is where they make their living.

“You have to understand that, compared to the general populace, some of these kids aren’t doing badly,” says Kovats-Bernat. “They shine shoes and wipe windshields, essential services, and they can make more than the average adult worker. The national minimum wage is about $2.17 a day. These kids go home with ten bucks in their pocket. And we’re not talking about prostitution.

“Plus, I found a fairly sophisticated network of social support. Among most gaggles of street kids there is a designated ‘headman,’ almost always a boy—two-thirds of the street kids are boys—usually the oldest. Everyone defers to him. At the end of the day everyone throws in whatever they have managed to beg, borrow or steal that day. Maybe it’s a hard-boiled egg or a half-smoked cigarette. Maybe it’s money. And the headman hands it out according to his own vision of who should get what. It’s what anthropologists call ‘egalitarian redistribution,’ a system that ensures that every child is provided for equally.”

And so after that first journey, Kovats-Bernat was hooked, hooked on the mystery, the danger, the darkness, the depression and the little rays of hope that he saw in a nation that always teeters on the verge of one form of disaster or another.

“Let me tell you about Haiti’s luck,” says Kovats-Bernat. “The earthquake of 2010 [which killed about 316,000 people and affected an estimated three million] rode a fault line under the southern peninsula of Haiti and stopped dead at the Dominican border. It was almost like, ‘No, this disaster is only for the Haitians, not the Dominicans.’
To some degree, Kovats-Bernat was born for this work. He spent his formative years in what he describes as a “household overshadowed by a very abusive father” in the Kensington section of Philadelphia, which is generally described as “white, working-class,” a euphemism that translates to “poor.” Shortly after the family moved out of the city to Coopersburg, Pa., Chris’ father was sent away to prison on a number of cocaine-related charges, after which his mother Gini worked three jobs in order to care for Chris, his older brother Karl and younger sister Jennifer and to see them through school.

Writing was drilled into him at Central Catholic High School in Allentown. That’s the first thing that saved him. Muhlenberg financial aid was the second. “I still give ten bucks a month out of my paycheck to the Muhlenberg Fund and direct it specifically to the support of financial aid,” says Kovats-Bernat. “It’s not much, but it’s my recognition that, without the generosity of Muhlenberg alums and everyone who donates and the federal Stafford loan program… I don’t know where I’d be. I really don’t.” Karl actually paved the way at Muhlenberg. He, too, came via scholarship, studied pre-med and is now an internist in Pittsburgh. (Sister Jennifer graduated from Susquehanna and is a veterinary nurse.)

When he arrived at Muhlenberg, Chris already knew he wanted to pursue anthropology, and, while he didn’t find a major in it back then, he did find a mate. “I fell in love with her almost from the start. I essentially followed her around campus, even joining the same student organizations to which she belonged just to be near her, until she finally noticed me,” he says of Dina, who majored in business. They married in 1999.

He majored in philosophy and singles out two professors, Theodore Schick (Chair of the department) and Christine Sistare, for guiding him when he was at Muhlenberg.

He first got turned on to Haiti in grad school by a professor named Peter Rigby. “If you’re interested in children and violence as courses of study,” Rigby told him, “you don’t get any better look at those things than in Haiti.” Rigby never sugarcoated it. He told his student it would be rough and it was. Still is. It has taken a toll.

Kovats-Bernat battled alcohol for a very long time, until seeking help and finding recovery over five years ago. He has been sober ever since. He sees a therapist from time to time to help him manage the residual effects of close to 20 years of traumatic stress from his work in Haiti – recurrent nightmares, hypervigilance, disordered memories, insomnia and mental “blank spots” in which he can’t recall key aspects of graphically-violent events (that sometimes lasted for hours or days) of which he nonetheless has detailed field notes that he drafted as the events unfolded in his mind.

He admits that the personal stakes have risen since his two children have come along. Lately his 10-year-old, Addison, has been asking about going to Haiti, but Kovats-Bernat isn’t sure that will ever happen. “Every single time I get on that plane to leave it’s with the same mixture of excitement, fear and dread. But as soon as we touch down in Port-au-Prince, something inside me just switches on, and I know exactly what I need to do” he says. “People often ask my wife, ‘isn’t it hard for you when he goes down there?’ and she’ll tell them, ‘Yes, it is hard. But it’s even harder when he gets home.’ It takes me a few days to get readjusted. The flight from Port-au-Prince to Miami is about two-and-a-half hours. That’s just not enough time for me to rewire my brain, to unharden my heart, from all that I just left behind. It’s like going back-and-forth between a war zone and a loving home and back again and again.”

During his two decades of travel, Kovats-Bernat has contracted giardia (more colorfully known as “beaver fever”), amoebic dysentery, malaria and dengue fever, and those are only the things that could be diagnosed. Witnessing and chronicling violence and death of kids he gets to know intimately takes a psychic toll. But his passion for this perplexing land remains.

“I believe what I do there matters,” says Kovats-Bernat. “Why? Because in 18 years I have yet to meet another anthropologist in Haiti. Who would want to work there? I sleep in sewage. I dodge bullets. I fled the country in 2000 after being threatened by a paramilitary group. I’m terrified all the time.”
The level of danger, to be sure, has only increased during his time in Haiti. The street kids practice a Hammurabian code of justice they refer to as “sleeping wars,” as Kovats-Bernat explains. “It’s a tit-for-tat system. The idea is to maximize pain as a deterrent to retribution while minimizing the risk of a deathblow. Somebody does something to you, you pay them back by, say, dropping a concrete block on his foot when your enemy is sleeping. I’ve seen that happen. Maybe that’s the end of the war. Maybe the kid who got the block dropped on him decides to escalate it. At the same time, I’ve seen the same kids who have run the course of a sleeping war with their arms around each other – ‘we’re brothers now,’ they say.”

An influx of guns, too, has made the street scene more lethal. “They came in bulk the 1990s and now there’s over 500,000 semiautomatic handguns, assault rifles, and pistols, nearly all of them in the hands of thugs,” says Kovats-Bernat. “The Glock 9mm is the glamour piece right now.” The disconnect between the ages and the naiveté of the kids and the weapons of destruction they brandish would be comical if it weren’t so tragic.

“I’ve watched kids with a .38-calibre revolver dry-firing it at their own heads. This past summer I worked alongside an 11-year-old kid carrying a TEC-9 machine-pistol. He presses the catch mechanism beneath the trigger-guard of the weapon like a pro, releasing its slender 9mm magazine as he asks me, ‘Do you have any bullets for this?’

“No, I don’t have any ammunition,” I tell him. “And he asks, ‘Okay, do you have any candy?’

“So I said, ‘Yeah, I have candy. So I reach into my satchel for some peppermints and we sucked on them for a while in silence. Like most of these armed kids, he’s personalized his weapon like my own kids personalize their backpacks for school. His TEC-9 is adorned with ‘Hello Kitty’ stickers, and he has his name printed in neat, block letters along the upper receiver of the weapon with a black permanent marker.”

That speaks to another level of stress for Kovats-Bernat. He is a father with his own children, and it must be a temptation to try to talk sense into the kids, especially since he loves them, and, to a great extent, understands them.

“What are his limits? What is the distinction between being an academician and a counselor? By and large, though, Kovats-Bernat draws a hard line in the sand. He is not their father, he is not their priest, he is not their protector.

“I’m not going to say it isn’t hard,” he says. “But my job is anthropology. We immerse, observe, describe and explain. That’s what anthropologists do. I’m not a social reformer and I’m not a public health expert. Okay, so a kid presents with an infected wound. I have a small trauma kit that I carry with me, and I will help him – I’ll clean the wound, put some antibiotic ointment on it, and dress it. But I’m not a medical doctor, and I’m not going to act like one.

“Further, I’m not an activist with a cause, nor do I have the power to change the government, which has basically seen 200 continuous years of corruption and dictatorship. The best thing I can do is believe that what I’m doing matters.”

And amid all the sadness and poverty and violence, what helps keep him going are the little grace notes he finds along the way, the undying spirit of the people, the hope among the horror. A while back he wondered what had happened to one of the street kids to whom he had become particularly attached, a boy with the improbable first name of Nixon, one of those faces tacked to the professor’s wall.

“Nixon always needed batteries because he would make these little helicopters that would rise off the ground and then settle back down,” remembers Kovats-Bernat. “At the end of the day he would always give them to the smallest kid with the widest eyes of wonder.

“Well, lo and behold, someone I know over there just ran into Nixon. He’s married, he has a job, he has two beautiful children and he’s off the streets. That’s the kind of story that gives you hope.”

On another occasion Kovats-Bernat was in Haiti after the earthquake, working with a Haitian relief organization distributing food, water, medicine and other supplies. The US Army’s 82nd Airborne Division was providing his team with transport and heavy security, as they were doing aid distributions in some of the most dangerous areas of the country. He met a woman who was living with her five children in a cramped tent in the street near the rubble that had been her already-dilapidated home. She was also taking care of a mentally-challenged niece whose mother had been killed in the quake.

“So I ask a dumb question,” says Kovats-Bernat. “I ask her, ‘Is it difficult for you?’ But she doesn’t answer the way you would think. She smiles and tells me, ‘God spared all of my children. We have everything we need. My children are like the sugar in my coffee. They make sweet the bitterness that is life.’”
The Night Muhammad Ali Took Center Stage at ‘Berg

By Ron Czajkowski ’71

The greatest of all time was in the room, and the scene was chaotic. We were in the small ticket office near the entry to Memorial Hall. It was February of 1970, and Muhammad Ali, near the end of a controversial ban from boxing for his political views, had come to Muhlenberg to speak to thousands who were already packed to the rafters in the gym.

But first, there was a welcoming committee. Inside that office more than 100 people were elbow-to-elbow for a glimpse at an Ali who was as commanding in a tailored pinstriped suit as he was in boxing trunks. In full bravado, he held court, greeting, cajoling, entertaining and shadow boxing. Then, on his cue, he cleared the room by looking at me and saying, “Everybody goes. Polish boy, you stay.”

As a member of the Student Activity Committee that had booked Ali to speak that night, I had already been pointed out as the person who would introduce him. Hence began an unforgettable few minutes alone with one of the greatest athletes and public figures of all time.

As soon as the door closed, Ali’s demeanor changed. To my surprise, that front-stage persona switched on a dime. Ali was now all business. Serious, intelligent, calm and confident, he took control of the preliminaries. His shoulders were wide, his smile broad and his sincerity genuine.

We shook hands, and he asked me to give him a read on the type of crowd he would face. Mostly white, conservative, a mixture of town and gown, I told him, but there were rumblings that a group of African-American students from Lehigh might be in the audience and try to disrupt his speech. As he reached into a briefcase searching for the right set of prepared note cards, with remarkable understatement he looked up and simply said, “No worry, I can handle that.”

He then asked me if I had written an introduction. I pulled out a folded piece of three-ring binder paper on which I had hand scrawled a brief combination of fact, testimonial and a quote from Shakespeare on how “any fool can play the wise man, but only a wise can play the fool.” He liked that.

Then, as we readied to walk into the frenzy of the center court podium and thousands that awaited us, he asked me a question out of genuine concern. “Are you nervous?” he said.

“Yes,” I answered. “I can’t say that I’ve ever done anything like this before.”

At that moment, he shifted gears back to the “fly-like-a-butterfly-sting-like-a-bee” Ali. Putting his hand on my shoulder, he reared back with a wide-eyed expression of disbelief. “Son, when we go out there together, I want you to remember one thing. You’re walking side by side with the Champeeeeen, of the World, so boy, you ain’t got nothin’ to be nervous about.”

We walked out. The crowd roared. I did the introduction, but I don’t remember the specifics of his talk other than he was in his domain and, not surprisingly, quick on his feet. The students from Lehigh tried to disrupt him once. He stopped, challenged them, stared them down for what seemed like an eternity, and continued. They left in protest. He spoke of how racial inequality was still prevalent in America, why blacks needed to stop “wanting to be white,” the importance of non-violence and how the nation had to heal from the wounds of a war that he himself had protested.

As he continued, I recall one thing very clearly. I looked over from my seat just to his left and noticed that the note cards he had pulled from his briefcase to help him though his speech were still in his pocket. He didn’t need them or use them. As always, Muhammad Ali was at his best when he had an audience and took command of center stage.

Ron Czajkowski graduated Muhlenberg in 1971. He went on to get a master’s degree in journalism from Syracuse University in 1975. Now semi-retired, he has crafted a 40-year career in weekly and daily newspapering, public relations and most notably, teaching. He resides in Somerville, N.J.

Thirty-nine years later, Ali returned to Muhlenberg College to receive an honorary degree in 2009.

Although he implored blacks to maintain their own identity in society, Muhammad Ali told a 1970 Muhlenberg audience that racial equality could only be achieved through non-violence.
Cross country isn’t just one of the sports Samantha Mayden competes in at Muhlenberg College—it’s where her running has taken her.

In addition to wearing her Mule uniform around the region and in regular-season meets in New York and Massachusetts, she has worn it in the faraway states of Wisconsin, California, Indiana and Illinois.

Mayden, who hails from Nashville, Tennessee, began her collegiate travels at the very outset of her higher education when she had to venture across several states just to arrive on Muhlenberg’s campus as a freshman.

“When I started researching colleges with my mom, we went pretty in depth. I knew I wanted to get out of the South and I was looking at small, liberal arts colleges,” explained Mayden of how she ended up at Muhlenberg.

“When I was visiting colleges in the North, I actually wasn’t even going to visit Muhlenberg because I thought I was going to miss my flight home. But I did end up making it here and it was one of my favorites, so I decided to come.”

She says the biggest differences between Allentown and her hometown are the types of food people eat, the accents and the music scene. And during her four years on campus, her travels have expanded well beyond the trip to and from Nashville.

The talented runner, who used to swim all year round as a youngster, has qualified for four NCAA Championships: cross country twice, outdoor track, and most recently, indoor track.

Many years before developing into an NCAA caliber athlete, her running career began at the recommendation of a teacher.

“Out of the blue, one of my teachers was like, ‘She could probably be a great runner’ and my mom thought that was a pretty funny joke,” she laughed. “But then my younger sisters and I decided to join a summer AAU track club. The next year, which was fifth grade, I started to run cross country, and I’ve just been running ever since.”

And since the fall of her junior year, a decade after she began running, four different NCAA Championships has meant four voyages around the country.

“The only state I hadn’t been to was Wisconsin,” said Mayden of her travels. “I have family in San Francisco, although that’s far away from where I went for the NCAAs, which was outside of LA. I’ve been to Chicago because one of my good friends from high school goes to the University of Chicago. And I went with my mom to the University of Indiana once because she went to school there and was going to visit a few friends.”

Her maiden NCAA voyage was to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in the fall of 2011.

“My first nationals experience was for cross country and it was also the first time my coach [David
Bracetty] had ever been there with a female who had qualified individually,” said Mayden.

Oshkosh is hometown of the famed OshKosh B’Gosh clothing company founded in 1895.

“We did some exploring when we got there. It’s kind of a small college town with not too much going on, but it was nice,” she recalled. “They had this great fudge shop, and I remember we went there multiple times because it was so good.

“We also went shopping because my coach needed to buy a tie for the pre-race banquet, which is always the night before the competition. We didn’t go inside or anything, but I got to see the OshKosh store at the outlet center.”

Mayden’s parents came to watch her run the next day, and they have a nearly perfect attendance record at their daughter’s NCAA meets (her mom was unable to come to the one in California).

“I was pretty nervous at the first meet, which was understandable, and I felt like I was barely holding on – the pace was really tiring,” she recalled. “I think my training has gotten better and better so now I don’t feel like that every time I go to the national meets.”

Claremont, California, was her next trip, and since the school year at Muhlenberg had already wrapped up, Mayden traveled to the West Coast from home and met up with head coach Brad Hackett.

“My distance coach [Bracetty] couldn’t come because he usually does a photography thing around that time and because his wife had just had a baby the week before,” she explained. “I got there in the afternoon and I went on a run around campus and got to see the track. One of my best friends from home actually goes to Claremont – I didn’t get to see her because they were out of session for the summer – but it was cool to be able to see her campus.

“We went to In N Out Burger after that because that’s the classic burger place out there. It was so good that we ended up going there twice.”

Later on, her dad arrived with a surprise visitor – Mayden’s younger
sister, who attends the University of Colorado at Boulder. "I had no idea she was coming," said Mayden. "It was really nice. She runs track too and she's a senior so we're pretty close in age. We were staying at a pretty nice hotel so we all went out to dinner there."

Mayden raced late in the next day – her event was right before the 4x400 relay, which was the last event of the meet.

"I had way more fans than I expected," she laughed. "My teammate [Kelli Meeker, who lives outside of Los Angeles] came to watch the race and brought her mom. Afterward I went out to dinner with my dad and sister and then went right home and called it a summer."

And after that summer ended, Mayden was well prepared to make a run for her second appearance at the cross country NCAAs. She said her most vivid memory of the national meet this past fall was the course itself. "[Terre Haute] is called Cross Country Town USA. The course was made to be a cross country course – that was its main purpose," she recalled. "You drive in and they have the winners of DI cross country championships displayed and you get to see really big names, like people who are professional and elite runners. So it really showed how prestigious this course was."

Mayden explained that the course is usually occupied by Division I schools for the NCAA Championships, but this year they were held in Louisville, Kentucky, so Division III was able to use it.

"When you went inside the main building at the course, they had a hall of fame set up for Larry Bird because Terre Haute is close to Indiana State and that’s where he went to school. They have a workout facility inside the building and he works out a lot there. Apparently he was going to be there later, but we weren’t going to wait up to see him," she laughed. "It would have been awesome to see him, but it wasn’t really my main priority."

Mayden said she enjoyed this banquet much more than the one the year before because she found other runners from the Centennial Conference to sit with, specifically individual qualifiers from Swarthmore and Bryn Mawr.

For the second NCAA meet in a row, Mayden’s sister surprised her by showing up at the race. Except this time, Mayden had uncovered the secret beforehand.

"I had guessed she was coming because I saw something on Twitter of her saying that she was at a certain restaurant and that gave it away. But it was nice, regardless, and the timing worked out well because the meet fell during her fall break."

When Mayden qualified for her most recent NCAA competition, something was different. Not only was it her first time qualifying for the indoor meet, but four of her teammates would be accompanying her on this voyage.

And these teammates were not traveling with her as a fan club. Three of them were traveling to run alongside her in the distance medley relay and one, junior Stephanie Carnevale, would be competing individually in the 60-meter hurdles.

Mayden and classmate Erica Bash, along with junior Nicki Cronin and sophomore Kirsten Kuchera qualified for the NCAAs in the DMR at the Tufts Last Chance Meet in Boston, Massachusetts, where they placed third and set a new school record with a time of 11:55.74.

Mayden serves as the anchor for the DMR, which is a relay consisting of four different distances. The first runner (in this case, Cronin) runs 1,200 meters, the second runner (Kuchera) runs 400 meters, the third runner (Bash) runs 800 meters and the anchor runs 1,600 meters.

Together with assistant coach Doug Finley, they journeyed from Philadelphia to Chicago and finally to North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, where Bracetty met up with them.

The next morning they were able to go to the track and get in a run. Mayden said they also bought t-shirts because, as an NCAA veteran, she knew that if they waited too long, they wouldn’t be able to get them in the right sizes.

"It was really cool to see the track because there is a legacy at North Central with the amount of championships they have won," she stated. "They were going for their fourth consecutive title this year, which they actually didn’t get this time."

This pre-race banquet was her favorite, and not just because of the company she was keeping.

"This one was in a really nice banquet hall – it was almost like a prom-type thing. The food was so good – I have never had such good food at a banquet."

The DMR team and Carnevale both raced the next day, with Carnevale qualifying for the finals in the hurdles. After the meet, the athletes and their families all went out to dinner together.

"That was one of my favorite parts of the whole trip because I got to hang out with my family and everyone else was so happy and excited to be there," said Mayden. "The restaurant was close to the college and we had a huge table with 16 people at it."
The team returned to the track the next day to support Carnevale in the finals.

“I’ve never really gotten to see other people race before because for outdoor nationals, I only went for my race. I got to see some really incredible races — I saw a guy from Haverford win the 5,000 and his dad was actually standing right next to us. I’ve never seen someone so happy — he was giving all of us hugs.

“And it was awesome to see Steph become All-American,” she said of her teammate, who finished seventh in the finals despite qualifying for nationals as the 15th and final seed.

And while North Central may not have been her favorite location, having her teammates there made it Mayden’s most valued voyage.

“When I went to Claremont, it was a really cool trip because it’s a very nice area, but my favorite trip overall was definitely the last one,” she added. “It felt much more like a normal meet because I had my teammates there to do my regular routine with me, instead of just doing it by myself or with my coach.”

Although she was able to perform her usual pre-race routine with her teammates in Illinois, the trip back to Pennsylvania was a little out of the ordinary.

“When we were flying back, we had to make a stop in Akron, Ohio all of the sudden and no one knew about it,” she said. “Apparently they had to drop people off who had missed their other flight.”

Just one outdoor season remains in Mayden’s collegiate running career. And she has one more opportunity for a fifth and final NCAA voyage.

If she qualifies in an individual and/or a team event, it will be back to Wisconsin for Mayden, where her NCAA journeys began nearly two years earlier. This year’s outdoor track and field national championships will be held at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

As her accomplishments at the national level indicate, she has set a high standard for future Muhlenberg distance runners. She holds school records in five events, including the indoor DMR, the indoor mile (4:59.30), the indoor 1,000 meters (2:58.69), the indoor 3,000 (9:57.63) and the outdoor 5,000 (17:13.35).

She also ranks in the top five in school history in four other events: the indoor 800 meters (fifth in 2:21.53), the outdoor 800 (third in 2:17.33), the outdoor 1,500 (third in 4:37.86) and the outdoor 4x800 relay (second in 9:24.20).

“It’s an honor every time, and it’s not something I expect because you never know what could happen with injuries or academics or anything like that,” said Mayden of representing Muhlenburg on the national level.

Apart from the honors that she has brought back to Muhlenberg from her NCAA appearances, Mayden has come back with a couple of souvenirs for herself, most notably a cheese head from Wisconsin.

“I don’t know why I bought that — I don’t think I’ve used it ever since,” she laughed. “But I wanted to get something cool like that. I also got a t-shirt from North Central because I thought they were pretty cool and I got an Oshkosh shirt because their colors were cool. And I also brought some of that fudge home from Wisconsin.”

As for her plans after graduation, Mayden, who never travels without a book or an iPod, says she plans to return to Tennessee for at least a little while.

“I’m not sure if that’s going to be where I stay. I don’t think it will be, but I am definitely going to go back home for a little bit.”

I’ve tried a few other experiments. Some have worked, some haven’t. Some are still works in progress. The archaeological scavenger hunt was a blast. My students used their cell phone cameras to photograph reproductions of Bronze Age Aegean artifacts I’d brought back from previous trips to Greece. Be the first to track down the original, send me photograph of it along with a description of what it is, where it was found, and its date and you could earn one point of extra credit. Within two hours, my students had identified seven of 15 objects. Within a week, they’d tracked down all but two.

Online discussion forums didn’t work so well. My fault really. I was hoarding the really good questions for class. So, okay, we dropped those – at least for now.

The online searchable archive of Bronze Age Aegean artifacts is a work in progress. Students must upload at least five images before we leave for Greece in May – and another fifteen images once we’re in Greece where they can photograph objects in museums and in the field. They will need to consult with each other because no duplicates are permitted — each artifact must be unique.

Maybe it goes without saying that all of this activity outside the classroom frees us up for projects, discussions, and debates when we meet in person every week. And that interaction will intensify in May when we fly to Greece and spend long, arduous, glorious days clambering around the ruins of Knossos, Mycenae, Akrotiri and other sites.

I set out on this experiment because I wanted to learn how the tools of online education could be used to enrich traditional, in-person, liberal arts teaching. I also wanted to be a better teacher. By the time the course is over, I hope my students will feel confident in their knowledge of Homer and Aegean archaeology, and in their ability to use digital tools to achieve their learning goals. I hope they will love Greece and ancient history too. If they learn as much from taking the course as I have in putting it together, I will be well satisfied.

1 To sample my lectures, go to media.muhlenberg.edu, click the “videos” box, and browse the available videos.
1957

Dr. James Bloomfield will retire in May 2013 after completing exactly 50 years of teaching college history, including two years at ‘Berg. Having originally retired in 2008, Jim returned to teaching in 2010 at Thiel College, where he has logged 45 years. He and his wife Jan reside in Greenville, Pa., where they enjoy books, theatre, movies, art exhibits, hunting (Jim only), wide range travel and socializing with friends. They anticipate many visits to their daughter Elizabeth Lane, who lives in Connecticut with their son in law and three granddaughters.

1959

Paul Clymer is now serving his 17th consecutive term of office in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 145th Legislative District in Bucks County, Pa. Clymer is serving his third term as chair of the House Education Committee, his third term. He also serves as chairman of the Capitol Preservation Committee.

1964

Ed Bonekemper writes, “A different publisher has just issued a fresh, affordable softcover edition of my ‘Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian.’ The new $19.95 version, published by Regnery History, features a new cover. I am thrilled by the publication of this affordable version of the hardcover book, which retails for $49.95. Excellent reviews of the hardcover edition made this softcover version possible.”

1975

Barbara (Scammell) Bogush is happy to announce the marriage of her daughter Sarah Thomas to Kyle Weber on October 26, 2012, in Virginia. After a honeymoon in Costa Rica, the couple resides in Laurel, Md. Aimee L. (Brown) Jackson (Cedar Crest ‘89, Genetic Engineering) and Dr. Art Levin have teamed up in one of the hottest fields in biology, non-coding RNAs. Jackson and Levin are working on trying to use these regulatory RNAs as targets for new drugs. Levin was part of the team that put the world’s first microRNA-targeting drug into clinical trials for treating hepatitis C, and Jackson has been studying microRNA biology and the unique therapeutic potential of microRNAs in her work at Merck/Rosetta, Regulus Therapeutics, and more recently as an independent consultant. In her consulting work, Aimee interacts with Art, the Executive vice president for Research and Development at miRagen Therapeutics in Boulder, Colorado. The two scientists are engaged in additional ground-breaking work and hope to contribute to the development of miRagen’s revolutionary therapeutic approaches to heart diseases.

A mini-Muhlenberg reunion took place October 20, 2012, at the wedding of Kate Hammond, daughter of Steve Hammond ’73, in Baltimore. Pictured are (clockwise from the top left) Dan Simpson ’74 (who, along with his brother Dave, provided the music at the service), Mike Paczkowski ’76, Hammond and Barbara Scammell Paczkowski ’76.

ATF alumni at the Portmarnock Golf Club in Dublin are:
Kneeling from left to right: Jeff Potkul ’89, Sean Newman ’92, Rob Eckerstrom ’91, Pete Belasco ’92. Standing from left to right: Brian Masterson ’91, Rob Gibbons ’91, Todd McNamara ’92, Brian Beane ’91, Darryl Halterman ’91, Bill Kennedy ’89, Lance Halterman ’82 and Dan Allgor ’81.

Barbara (Scammell) Bogush ’75 and daughter Sarah Thomas
1986
Classmates and friends Jeff Susskind and Chip Hurd hooked up over the holidays to take in a basketball game at the University of Maryland. Jeff’s oldest son, Jacob, plays for the Terrapins. It brought back fond memories of the old TKE vs. ZBT intramural basketball games at Muhlenberg!

1989
Bill Kennedy writes, “Twelve Muhlenberg ATO brothers reunited and played golf in Ireland for three days in September 2012.

1994
Amie Quevry graduated from nursing school in January 2012 and is now working as a bedside nurse at a hospital. She is thoroughly enjoying her new career as an RN.

1995
Jennifer (Penny) Mossburg and Gregg Mossburg are delighted to announce the birth of a baby girl, Charlotte Elizabeth. She was born on February 27, 2012, and weighed 7 lbs, 11 oz. She joins older siblings Lyden, 2, Thomas, 11, and Megan, 13. The family resides in Haymarket, Va.

1998
Lori Ellis Roth and Stephen Roth are pleased to announce the adoption of their son, Cayden Ellis Roth. The adoption was finalized on April 27, 2011.

1999
Jose-Luis Riera and Kate (Caldwell) Riera ’01 are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Anaya Elena. She was born on October 30, 2012 in The Birth Center in Wilmington, Delaware, and weighed 8 lbs., 0 oz. Naya was welcomed by big sisters Bella, Ana and Mia.

2000
Keith McDonald has been named a member of the law firm Norris McLaughlin & Marcus.

2001
Jennifer O’Neill Lentzel writes, “My husband, Matt, and I welcomed Ryan Matthew on January 16, 2013. Ryan was 8 lbs, 9 oz and measured 21.5 inches long. Big brother Jake is thrilled that his baby brother has arrived!

2002
Scott and Lisa (Bottitta) Busfield welcomed their first child, Ethan Rocco Busfield on July 24, 2012.
2003
Jonathan Scerbo and Victoria Cioce would like to announce the birth of their son, Vincent Gabriel Scerbo, born July 22, 2012. They currently reside in Bergen County, N.J.

2004
Jill R. (Friedman) Crosson D.O., M.B.A., just signed on with OAA-Orthopedic Associates of Allentown as a sports medicine physician. She will start August 1, 2013.

2005
Kristen (Lundy) Grisdale and Joshua Grisdale are happy to announce their marriage on August 10, 2012, in Gilbertsville, Pa. They currently reside in Royersford, Pa.

2006
Robin DeCicco and Carl Slabicki are happy to announce their engagement. They lived on the same floor in the Walz dorm during their freshman year, but did not start to date until the end of their senior year. They currently live and work in New Jersey. A June 2013 wedding is planned to take place at the New York Botanical Garden. • Courtney (Tapkas) O’Brien and Joseph O’Brien ’08 are happy to announce their marriage on July 7, 2012 in New Vernon, N.J. The couple currently resides in Madison, N.J. They were lucky to be surrounded by many Muhlenberg alumni on their special day. • Laurie Waldron and Brian Campfield were happily married in Egner Memorial Chapel at Muhlenberg College, on November 5, 2011. Mules in attendance included attendants Sonya (Martinez-Hunsicker) Conrad, Allison
CLASS NOTES

(Colino) Gomes, Sydney (Wagman) Berhowitz, Lari (Luchenbill) Zinberg, Geoff Zinberg ’07, Joe Opuda, Matt Tich, John McGinniss, Mike Menna and Chris Catania; as well as Maura Lynch, Neil Freedman, Brad Gutwillig, Drew Strocher, Scott Sutton, Michael Lashner ’08, Joe DiPieri and Michael Dello Buono. The newlyweds are currently completing their residency training in Pediatrics and Orthopedic Surgery at Stony Brook University Medical Center in N.Y. • Betsy Woerner writes, “Bob Tarby and I got married last fall. We both worked for the Writing Center and lived together in a MILE house our senior year. We started dating in Boston (after 5 years of friendship) in 2007, got engaged in December 2011 and on got married October 27, 2012, in Somers Point N.J. at the Greate Bay Country Club. We are loving married life and were so glad to share such a special occasion with so many wonderful college friends.”

2007

Carey Heller, a licensed clinical psychologist, recently opened a private practice in Bethesda, Md., The Heller Psychology Group LLC, with his wife Hope, a licensed clinical social worker. The practice offers a variety of services including: psychological/educational testing and therapy services for children, adolescents, and adults. • Lisa (Gingold) Tune and Daniel Tune are happy to announce their marriage on October 20, 2012 at the Stone House at Stirling Ridge in Warren, N.J. Mules in attendance included Karin Hoetzl ’06, Stacy Casais ’06, Niki Webster, Alexandra Raymond and Miriam Eisenberg. The couple currently lives happily in New Jersey with their two pups, Henrik and Penny.

Alumni present at the wedding of Lisa Gingold ’07 and Daniel Tune

Submit Class Notes has never been faster or easier. Use MuhlenbergConnect (www.muhlenbergconnect.edu) to share your milestones, news and even favorite photos. If you are new to MuhlenbergConnect and have not registered, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at beragalum@muhlenberg.edu or call us at 800-464-2374 for your first time log-in instructions.
We want to hear from you!

Reunion Chair and Class Fund Chair volunteers serve as liaisons between the College and your class. If you would like to get more involved with the College or your class, are interested in helping plan your upcoming reunion, or have relocated and are looking for other Muhlenberg alumni in the region – let us know. Please be in touch with your respective class liaison(s) (names and email addresses are below) and share with them your accomplishments, successes and other important life moments. We’ll be sure to include your updates as part of Class Notes in the next edition of the magazine.

We want to hear from you!
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IN MEMORIAM

1939

1940
Lewis Z. Stamus died on October 19, 2012.

1941
Colonel (Ret) John Milton Fulmer died on January 1, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Helen Elizabeth Stein.

Dr. John Leonard Salines died on January 24, 2013. • Watson Wene Shinner, Jr. passed away on December 18, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Ruth (Ronenous) Shinner, sons, Ronald W. (and wife, Megan), David B. (and wife, Debra); daughters, Barbara A. Shinner (and husband, Dr. Richard Sandargas), Patricia S. (and husband, Mark S. Williams), Heidi R. (and husband, Hans Becke).

1947

1948
Ulrich Peter Horger died December 12, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jean, their two daughters and three sons. • Donald W. Stoughton died on January 15, 2013.

1949
Reverend Morgan Sylvester Haney died on December 8, 2012. He was the husband of Joanne Ruth Rehrig Thomas Haney. They were married for 58 years this past September 11. • Lawrence August Hayden died December 14, 2012. • Robert Winthlin "Bob" Hill died on January 25, 2013. • George Rodgers Lieberman died on January 16, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Catherine J. (Cathy) Lieberman, and his four children. • Charles L. Chuck Schleifer passed away on October 28, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nancy (Risser) Schleifer, sons, Charles (and his wife, Janet) and Peter (and his wife, Manako); daughter, Carolyn Paul (and her husband, Brooks), five grandchildren and two great-grandsons. • Wayne F. Schweitzer died on December 23, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Lois A. (Arbegast) Schweitzer; four children, Thomas A. Schweitzer, Karl M. Schweitzer (and wife, Barbara), David W. Schweitzer (and wife, Jennifer) and Joanne E. Smith (and husband, Gary); and four grandchildren, Nina M. Schweitzer, Karl M. Schweitzer Jr. MD, Chloe Smith and Skylar Smith. • Richard L. "Dich" Shinner passed away, Friday, November 9, 2012. He was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Lois P. Shinner. He is survived by: his children, Susan Skinner and Richard "Rick" Skinner; his brother, Watson Skinner Jr., and special friend of Delta Yosteta.

1950
Donald Gilford Nowers passed away on October 8, 2012, at Cornwall Manor. He is survived by his wife Charlotte Knauss Nowers; daughter Elizabeth Gail Nowers and Robert Sarkozy, and brother Rev. Richard Earl Nowers. • Rev. John D. Mellinger died on November 26, 2012. He is survived by son John Mellinger, daughter Mary Zimmerman, and son Phil Mellinger, as well as 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. • Anthony F. Ortwein died on Tuesday, January 22, 2013. He is survived by his sons, Charles and his wife, Jacalyn and Anthony B. and his wife, Suzanne; four grandchildren, Melissa Hamden, Anthony R. Ortwein, Adam T. Ortwein and Olivia Ortwein, and a great grandson, Griffen Hamden. • Dr. Eugene J. Roszko died on August 11, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Eileen Roszko, and their three children. • Earl J. Silberman died on January 18, 2013. He was predeceased by his wife, Wilma, and his brothers, Charles and Ted. • Howard Edward Smith J. died on October 15. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Betty Jane (Wentz) Smith, and three daughters. • Chaplain Lt. Colonel Nevin David Snyder (Ret.) died on January 2, 2013. He was predeceased by his wife, Rose Marie (Baron) Snyder in 2006. He is survived by four daughters, Sheryl (Arvid) Olson, Carole Milner, Lor (Hank) Berry and Linda Thomas; a step-son, Steven (and wife, Sandy) Poser; a brother, Rev. Dean (and wife, Jane Malone) Snyder; two sisters, Anna (and husband, Daniel) Cooley and Linda (and husband, John) Brady, as well as six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. • Ludwig M. Szep died on January 31, 2013.

1952
IN MEMORIAM

1954
William C. Broad died on January 27, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; daughter, Lori L. Evanko (and her husband, Craig); two sons, Steven C. Broad (and his wife, Judy), and Kevin M. Broad (and his partner, Gustav Scheerbaum III); six grandchildren, Mark, Weston, Melina, Lydia, Emily and Sarah; and a great-grand-daughter, Leiz. • Gerald E. “Bud” Faller died on September 20, 2012. • Dr. Frank W. Musgrave died on January 2, 2013. • Dr. Donald Robert “Bob” Mengel, D.O., died on November 22, 2012. He is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, as well as his children: Judith Mengel (Victor Karczewski), Patricia (Jim) Morton, Beth Mengel, Michele (Tim) Adams, Tony Cameron, Todd (Marsha) Cameron, Heidi (Jon) Emberland and daughter-in-law, Berthe Cameron. He is survived by 15 grandchildren. • George Pasterchick died on November 30, 2012.

1956
Dr. Donald Robert "Bob" Bengle, D.O., died on November 22, 2012. He is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, as well as his children: Judith Mengel (Victor Karczewski), Patricia (Jim) Morton, Beth Mengel, Michele (Tim) Adams, Tony Cameron, Todd (Marsha) Cameron, Heidi (Jon) Emberland and daughter-in-law, Berthe Cameron. He is survived by 15 grandchildren. • David A. Michaels died on December 4, 2012. He is the husband of the late Nancy Michels and father of Warren Michels, Kathrynn Personette and her husband Robert.

1959
Theodore R. “Ted” March died January 31, 2013. He was predeceased by a son, Bruce Linton. He is survived by his wife, Nancy (Kurtz); his daughter, Joelyn (March) Stefani, wife of Eugene Stefani; his son, Scott Paul March, and his wife Michelle; and two grandsons, Tyler Scott and Parker Linton.

1960
Erich Callamnn died on December 17, 2012. • Dr. Richard M Klaus died on December 20, 2012. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Barbara Klaus; son and daughter-in-law, David and Elaine Taylor-Klaus; daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Lawrence Kolm; and five loving grandchildren.

1962
Caroline J. Fetterolf died on Friday, March 16, 2012. • Howard Wining died Saturday, October 27, 2012, of throat cancer.

1963
Margaret Deermount "Marge" Bradley died on Saturday, August 11, 2012.

1964

1965
Dr. Donald Fisher, D.D.S. died peacefully after a brief illness on Saturday, October 6, 2012. He was the husband of Regina (Bladd) for 37 years.

1966
Ralph Richard "Rich" Elam died on January 18, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Susan Kowsky; his children, Meegan Elam Wood (and her husband, Steve), Ethan Z. Elam (and wife, Pauline), brother, Ken Elam and sister-in-law, Shannon; grandchildren, Koa, Brendan, Gavin and Hudson. • James E. Wertheiser died September 23, 2012. He was a son of the late Russell and Lucinda (Edwards) Werkheiser.

1967
Joan Ellen Baler died on September 28, 2012. She was the companion of Michael Monahan for 25 years. • Albert W. Dennis died on Thursday, November 8, 2012.

1968
Janis Marie Basista Abenathy died on December 13, 2012.

1969
Janie L. Elam died on October 15, 2012.

1970

1974
Kurt O. Lauff died on Sept. 18, 2012. He was the beloved husband of Joann; and father of Andrew, Kyle, and Christopher.

1977
Jeffrey F. Biddle died on January 20, 2013.

1983
Dr. Cheryl A. Sandor-Birnbaum died on January 4, 2013. She is survived by her husband Brad, their son, Bradley Jr.; and their daughter, Nicolette.

1987
Dr. Sanjay Banerji, of Santa Monica, Calif., died on September 30, 2012 at UCLA Medical Center after a long illness.

1991
Jefferson Dean Slatoff died on Monday, Sept. 10, 2012. He is survived by two children, Nicholas Dean Slatoff and Tyler Christian Slatoff; and their mother Heather Slatoff.
College Mourns the Death of
Tom Mendham ’63, Life Trustee

The College lost one of its great friends and most loyal alumni, Life Trustee Tom Mendham ’63. He is survived by his wife, Harriet ’63 and his son, Tom Jr. ’91.

“Tom was a loyal friend, advocate, champion and cheerleader for Muhlenberg. He usually teared up when he sang the alma mater; he never forgot the role Muhlenberg had played in his life, and he always gave the College his best,” said President Randy Helm. “Even when desperately ill, I remember he would somehow rally his strength and get to board meetings. His presence was an inspiration to all the other trustees. He beat cancer so many times that I never thought it would win in the end. Tom’s departure for a better shore leaves a void in our community that can never be filled, except, perhaps, by the myriad memories of this great, joyous and dedicated man.”

As former First Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mendham served as Chair of the Henry Melchor Muhlenberg Society from 1993-1995 and the National Chair of the Muhlenberg Fund from 1995-1998. In 2002, he was appointed National Chairman of the Pride and Progress campaign. He also served as Senior Chairman of The Talents Entrusted to Our Care campaign. Mendham served on the Board of Regents of the Mercersburg Academy from 1989-2009 and served as Regent Emeritus thereafter.

Mendham was a recipient of Muhlenberg’s Alumni Achievement Award in 1999 for Service to the Alumni Association.

IN MEMORIAM

THEN AND NOW

Commencement 1955 was a very different affair from 'Berg’s recent Commencement ceremonies. The all-male class of ’55 graduated 91 members, and the ceremony was held in Egner Memorial Chapel. 531 members of the Class of ’12 marched across the College Green, cheered on by a sea of nearly 6,000 spectators!
Learning by Heart

When I applied to Muhlenberg in the early 80s, I had been looking for a smaller Northeast college with a stellar English department. One of my Dad’s colleagues at McGraw-Hill Book Publishing told him, “Have her check out Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. It’s a hidden gem!” Accordingly, one gray and chilly February day, my father drove me from our home in Princeton, N.J. to Allentown. As we walked around campus, a smiling young man stuck his head out of the window and waved. “You should come here!” he yelled. I was hooked. This was my kind of place: warm and welcoming. And despite the miserable weather, beautiful. When I got home, I sent in my handwritten essay and application. I didn’t apply early decision—I went one better. I only applied to Muhlenberg. Overflowing with teenage ardor and eagerness, I insisted it was the only school for me. When my parents questioned my conviction, I replied “I just know in my heart it’s the right one!”

I look back on my years as a Muhlenberg student with fondness and gratitude. An immature, self-conscious young girl when I entered, I left with confidence and a clear head. My English studies honed a writing skill that would serve me well throughout my career. Psychology classes gave me valuable insight into human behavior. Biology convinced me I was pretty smart, and calculus quickly robbed me of that notion. Muhlenberg taught me who I was, and what I had to offer the world. With those lessons came occasional pain and humiliation—but the support of my Muhlenberg family gave me the courage and fortitude to evolve into a compassionate young woman ready to face the world.

After graduation, I moved to the Midwest and eventually the Coast. I found myself in an elegant office on a high floor of the Hancock building in Chicago, with a breathtaking view of Lake Michigan—the youngest VP (of public relations) at a not-for-profit real estate organization. I had it all: a personal shopper at Bloomingdales, a trendy apartment on the “Gold Coast”…and I was never less happy in my life.

“I need to find a job with more meaning,” I lamented to my father. “I want to feel that what I’m doing will make a positive difference in the world.” I began questioning what had meant the most to me in life up to that point. Easy answer: Muhlenberg College. Ever since graduation, I had kept in close touch with my alma mater. I came back for every Homecoming and communicated regularly with ‘Berg friends. When I met Dean of Admission Chris Hooker-Haring at an alumni event in Chicago, he was struck by my passion for the College. “Would you think about coming to work at Muhlenberg?” he asked. When a position came open in admissions, I didn’t even have to think about it. I just knew in my heart it was the right thing to do.

Leaving everything behind, I moved to Allentown in 2002. What followed were 11 wonderful years working for Muhlenberg, first in admissions and then as alumni director. I never looked back. And during that time, another huge change was occurring in my life. After years of secretly knowing I was a Christian but being afraid to shock my non-religious parents, I realized I was in love with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. I attended classes for nine months, and in April 2006, was baptized and confirmed.

As had my Muhlenberg experience in my twenties, my Catholic education taught me something critical in my forties. I came to understand what the strong feeling I had each time I took a major step in my life—the feeling of knowing something “in my heart”—really meant. Through the grace of God, I became aware that the Holy Spirit was guiding me throughout my entire life; even before I had any idea who He was. I believe He led me to Muhlenberg initially, and then back to it later in life. So, with some sadness, I had to listen when He led me away from it again. I knew in my heart that this time, it would be for good.

In March 2013, God willing, I will enter the Abbey of Regina Laudis as a postulant. It will be a joyful journey, but not an easy one: living with 40 nuns in a cloistered Benedictine community, working hard on the farm and waiting perhaps 10 years until final vows are taken. But I also know that what I learned at Muhlenberg was critical in preparing me for this journey. Without my Muhlenberg experience, I would never have been in the right place to discern my vocation.

The ancient Rule of Benedict, a guidebook for monasteries that is followed at the Abbey of Regina Laudis, begins with St. Benedict advising the monks to “Listen with the ear of the heart.” More than 30 years ago, my heart led to me Muhlenberg College. Even if I never return to campus physically, a piece of it will remain there forever.

By Jennifer R. McLarin ’86
A generous Muhlenberg alumni couple has set forth a participation challenge, and as a ‘Berg alumnus who graduated between 1990 and 2010, you are invited to represent your decade with a gift to The Muhlenberg Fund.

The rules for this duel are simple:
- There are two decade teams - the Classes of 1990-1999 and the Classes of 2000-2010. The decade with the largest increase (over last fund year) in alumni participation wins.
- Gifts of any size made between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 count toward the duel.
- The number of alumni donors in each class and decade determine the participation percentage.
- Progress will be tracked online at www.muhlenberg.edu/duelofthedecades.

Visit www.muhlenberg.edu/duelofthedecades for details.

Make an online gift at muhlenberg.edu/makeagift, call 1-800-859-2243 or mail a check made payable to Muhlenberg College to 2400 Chew St., Allentown, PA 18104.