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Muhlenberg



The Muhlenberg Network: How Connections Make a Big World Small for Alumni and Students

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Cover art by Bob Mahar, director of infrastructure and networking at Muhlenberg College.

Muhlenberg alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff have worked together and with the College to extend the footprint of our small campus to a truly global perspective. Bob Mahar's "Little Planets" series of photographs looks at the world from a decidedly unusual view. To create these signature images, dozens of photographs are captured and then composited using open-source software to shape small worlds from individual locations.

The Muhlenberg Network: 900 Million+ Opportunities to Connect

By now, we've all become familiar with the power of networks. Social networks, including Facebook®, LinkedIn®, Instagram® and others, have demonstrated how networks connect us powerfully. Human beings have always known instinctively that groups of connected people can accomplish more than the same number of people, each acting alone. As is so often the case, mathematics can help explain how and why this works. In this case, Metcalfe's Law explains why the internet works as it does.

Metcalfe's Law states that the number of possible connections in a network of a number of nodes (n) can be expressed mathematically as $n * (n - 1)$, which is proportional to n^2 asymptotically. The law has often been illustrated using the example of fax machines: A single fax machine is useless, but the value of every fax machine increases with the total number of fax machines in the network, because the total number of people with whom each user may send and receive documents increases. Likewise, in social networks, the greater number of users with the service, the more valuable the service becomes to the community.

Applied to Muhlenberg, the effects are eyebrow-raising. Adding up our students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, former parents and friends, one gets a number in excess of 30,000. Substituting this number for n in the formula above produces a number of possible connections in our network of approximately 900 million. That is, if there were a way to

connect all 30,000+ of the people who have a relationship with Muhlenberg College, there are at least 900 million ways in which they could be helpful to one another. If we could unleash this potential, we thought, wouldn't that be a huge benefit for every member of the global Muhlenberg community?

So, we created a digital platform designed just for this purpose called, simply, The Muhlenberg Network. You can find it on the web at: TheMuhlenbergNetwork.com. There you will find all sorts of opportunities to renew old friendships, establish new ones, re-connect with faculty and support our current students as a mentor or advisor.

So far, in just over 12 months since launch, The Muhlenberg Network has grown to almost 2,200 registered members. Here's a recent posting from one of them: "Hi everyone! I'm a 2013 alum working in marketing in D.C. and currently looking for opportunities in NYC. If anyone has any advice or insights into the NYC marketing world, that would be greatly appreciated. Likewise, I would be happy to help anyone looking for marketing opportunities in the D.C. area!"

It's so much more powerful and natural for this alumnus to reach out to other members of The Muhlenberg Network than to total strangers. Similarly, current students are using The Muhlenberg Network to connect with registered alumni and parents who have volunteered to mentor students or offer them internships or opportunities to job-shadow.

Leveraging our network is an important



and powerful way to maximize the potential outcomes for our students and alumni. Our network connections permit us to go on opening doors for one another long after Commencement and life's journey beyond the red doors of Muhlenberg's beautiful campus. As the world beyond Muhlenberg continues to shift and turn in sometimes unpredictable ways, The Muhlenberg Network is a core benefit for all members of the Muhlenberg community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John I. Williams, Jr." in a cursive script.

John I. Williams, Jr.
President, Muhlenberg College

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO A CENTURIES-OLD NETWORK

Muhlenberg finds novel ways to invest in creating connections between students, alumni, faculty, families and friends of the College.

Speak to first-year students—or even graduates who donned their caps at decades-ago Commencements—about why they came to Muhlenberg, and you’ll get many different answers. But for almost every individual, you’ll find that there was a tangible moment when they knew that campus felt like home.

For more than 20,000 Mules, their alma mater is more than a degree, more than four years of classes, papers, competitions, performances and research. For nearly all who join the ranks of Muhlenberg alumni, the connections and the people who believed in them and their potential define the time they spent here.

Networking is key to Muhlenberg’s mission; we’re the community that opens doors both literal and figurative for one another. Academic departments, staff offices, alumni, parents and friends of the College near and far are collaborating on ways to strengthen the connections inherent in a Muhlenberg experience, including a recent pilot course the office of the provost designed to introduce networking concepts.

Since 2016, hundreds of first-year students have completed Developing Your Professional Identity and Network, a noncredit course in which participants reflected on skills and interests, explored pathways to future careers and developed strategies for broadening their mentor networks. Instructors Jenna Azar, a member of Muhlenberg’s digital learning team and an instructional technologist at the College, and Ryan Smolko, associate director of the Career Center, guided the students in connecting their passions to educational experiences and utilizing the possibilities available to them.

Part of the course included developing an e-portfolio to showcase students’ academic and co-curricular work. Other lessons invited alumni, faculty and staff to in-person and

remote conversations about developing personal brands, establishing career relationships and exploring career pathways—conversations that will continue throughout the students’ four years and well into their lives as Muhlenberg alumni.

“Student feedback on the mentor course has been overwhelmingly positive,” says Kathleen Haring, provost and vice president of academic affairs. “The experience provides opportunities for first-year students to reflect on who they want to be in the next four years and beyond. Through research assignments, classroom activities and conversations with mentors, they develop an action plan for achieving their personal and professional goals.”

These new strategies complement a culture that Muhlenberg has long embraced. Ask an alumnus who attended Muhlenberg in any decade, and you’ll likely hear of personal relationships with Haps Benfer, John Shankweiler, Frank Marino and others, individuals who just knew when a student needed Muhlenberg...and when Muhlenberg needed that student. Personal reference calls to medical schools, handwritten letters to alumni in military service during World War II and confidential conversations that magically found more financial aid to bridge the gap between tuition and affordability were the norm, not the exception.

But those relationships, then and now, are exceptional, and they are part of what has made the Muhlenberg network so powerful. Organic connections, born out of necessity or shared interests, passions and careers, have proliferated since Muhlenberg’s earliest days. And those connections and relationships are the perfect foundation for Muhlenberg’s most recent networking initiatives.

Natalie Hand ’78, P’07, assistant vice president of alumni affairs and career

services, has an idea why Muhlenberg connections flourish: The College lacks the sheer numbers of alumni found at larger institutions.

“It’s because we’re small,” says Hand. “And being small makes us strong.”

As true today as it was generations ago, you’ll see familiar face after familiar face while walking across Muhlenberg’s campus. And because faculty and staff tend to build personal relationships with the students they recruit, educate and work alongside, there’s often an affinity between members of the College community that lasts decades after graduation.

“When there are tens of thousands of people in an undergraduate institution, it’s a challenge to make a personal connection, to make a college education an intimate experience,” says Hand. “At those institutions, alumni networks have to become more of a process, more of a scripted interaction that we don’t follow here at Muhlenberg.”

Historically, Muhlenberg was primarily known as a regional institution, drawing the vast majority of its students from areas within a few hours. The College’s reach has grown right along with its academic reputation. Today you’ll find students from 35 states and 21 countries outside the U.S., with an increasing number of faculty and staff who were born and educated abroad.

Our alumni have dispersed as well. Dense pockets of Muhlenberg graduates can still be found throughout the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions, but increasingly the alumni office receives notes from alumni living, working and retiring on every continent—yes, even Antarctica.

Advances in technology have tempered the challenges of distance networking and eased what used to be a protracted process of

connecting through the alumni office. In 2012, Muhlenberg founded MuhlNet, a place where alumni could connect with one another online. Muhlenberg also created a staff position, which Patrick Fligge '10 (now director of parent & alumni engagement) filled, to help track and promote the connections between alumni from around the world.

In the summer of 2016, Muhlenberg's Career Center launched TheMuhlenbergNetwork.com, a new iteration of this platform where students can find professionals working in their fields of interest. Students can create profiles to share their experiences and career goals, and alumni, parents, staff, faculty and friends of the College can sign up to serve as resources for members of the community. The platform was designed to allow each registered user to customize their levels of transparency and functionality. The response has been overwhelming: At press time, over 2,200 active users on the platform had connected through more than 3,000 networking and mentoring messages.

Student employment and internship opportunities have received a boost as well. The debut of a new electronic system called Handshake has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of positions advertised—and successfully filled—through the Career Center. In the program's first year, 4,500 employers became eligible to recruit Muhlenberg students, representing a nearly three-fold increase over the previous year. And nearly 1,500 internships and jobs were advertised in the Fall 2017 semester alone, nearly matching the numbers of positions advertised for the entire previous year.

Success is measured in many ways, and we have generations of alumni with thousands of backgrounds as proof. New technologies, pilot courses and investments in staff and faculty are all part of a greater mission to ensure that each current and future Mule has the resources to meet their needs and goals. After all, there's a reason that Muhlenberg classrooms, rehearsal spaces, residence halls or even favorite tables in the Wood Dining Commons serve as the places where students debut, explore, tweak and launch their dreams.

The current generation of Muhlenberg students will write the latest chapter of an old story, sharing and building upon the mentor, friend and professional relationships that bring the College community together. Those connections make it that much easier for each Mule to see who is ready to hold the door open for them—and to prepare each Mule to open doors for others.

Instructional technologist Jenna Azar and the Career Center's Ryan Smolko teach a noncredit course to introduce first-year students to The Muhlenberg Network.





CAREER
CENTER

The Career Center Sets Its Sights Beyond Seegers



A major focus of the reimagined department is sponsoring professional activities that take place outside campus borders.

Descend to the lower level of Seegers Union and you'll see a gleaming, state-of-the-art Career Lab behind glass walls, funded by the George I. Alden Trust. In place of what used to be a career library—with a few desktop computers, shelves of books and just two windows onto the hallway that were usually papered over with fliers—you'll now find an open floor-plan, wall-sized whiteboards and touchscreen videoconferencing technology.

However, the lab, which opened in August 2017, is just the physical manifestation of the Career Center's ideological rebirth. That began with the fall 2015 arrival of President John Williams, who considers improving professional outcomes to be a priority, and picked up speed the next summer, after the arrival of several new staffers.

"To me, it's about getting students excited about their potential instead of them feeling worried about the future," says Tom Dowd, executive director of career services. "And, it's about knowing that it's silly to assume that when you leave Muhlenberg, you'll know exactly what you want to do for the rest of your life. It takes a couple jobs sometimes to figure out what you like and what you don't."

Instead of being just a place juniors and seniors might bring resumes for review as they apply to internships and jobs, the Career Center strives to be more broadly useful, from the moment a first-year student sets foot on campus until the moment that future alumnus retires.

To achieve this goal, Career Center staff have gone out into the world to connect current and former students with professionals from the Muhlenberg community, and to bring their services to alumni, parents and friends of the College. Via these initiatives, the Career Center is establishing itself as a lifelong asset to all who pass through Muhlenberg's red doors.



In spring 2016, a group of students visited Wall Street with Sam Stovall '77 (right) as their guide.

CAREER ROAD TRIPS

In the spring of 2016, Sam Stovall '77 collaborated with Career Center staff to pioneer Muhlenberg's first Career Road Trip. This trip allowed 15 students from a variety of majors to visit Standard & Poor's, Stovall's employer at the time. Stovall set up a walking tour of Wall Street, discussions with alumni at S&P and a panel with representatives from the company's talent acquisition team.

Ryan Smolko, associate director of the Career Center, took that model to other alumni working in industries that interest current students. That fall, the Career Center

brought 110 students to nine sites in New York City and Washington, D.C. And since then, hundreds of students have visited dozens of sites in New York, D.C. and Philadelphia.

"The world of work is evolving and students have more options than ever before," Smolko says. "We want students to understand the value of the education they're receiving at Muhlenberg and how to translate that into the job or internship of tomorrow, and in-person networking is a big part of that."

The Road Trip model works: Smolko knows



of at least two 2018 graduates who were offered jobs as a direct result of the 2017 Philadelphia Career Road Trip alone. Going forward, the Career Center plans to continue the big three fall Road Trips (New York, D.C. and Philadelphia) while potentially adding smaller, industry-specific trips in the spring.



Students visited the National Institutes of Health (left) and the investment company Vanguard (right) on two of the fall 2017 Career Road Trips.

JOB SHADOWING

Students can utilize the Muhlenberg Shadow Program to explore industries and workplaces they might want to enter in the future. The program matches students to professionals (alumni and parents) who volunteer to host a current Mule (or a few). Previously, this program happened exclusively over the course of winter break, but for the 2017–2018 iteration, it was expanded to spring and summer break as well.

In the past year, the program has grown significantly thanks to the efforts of Emma Hamm '15, assistant director of alumni & parent engagement. For the 2016 winter break, students could ask to be matched with one of 57 volunteers, and 40 students took advantage of the program. In 2017–2018, those numbers grew to 215 volunteers and 180 student–volunteer matches.



For more information on how to be involved in this program, please contact Emma Hamm '15 at emmahamm@muhlenberg.edu.

ON-THE-ROAD CAREER COACHING

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median amount of time spent at a given job for people ages 25 to 34 in the U.S. is only 2.8 years. With professionals today potentially changing jobs more than 10 times before retirement—with many entering different fields entirely—the ongoing services of the reimagined Career

Center are more necessary than ever.

Tami Katzoff, associate director of counseling & programs at the Career Center, points to her own path as an example: She worked in television for 20 years before shifting into higher ed. “We try to show students from their first year that it’s never too early to start thinking about the future,” Katzoff says. “But

some people don’t realize until after they’ve graduated that they could use our help. At whatever stage you’re in, hopefully we can help you get from point A to point B. We will not cut you off from our services.”

Last summer, Career Center staff hit the road to provide in-person career coaching in New York City, Washington, D.C., Boston and Philadelphia. They received more meeting requests than staff could accommodate, which inspired the team to expand the program this summer. The Career Center will return to those four cities and add visits to Baltimore and Chicago. They’re also reaching out to local Mules to invite them for coaching.

While alumni are one target market, the Career Center wants students and parents to know they’re also welcome to make appointments—either in person or via phone or videoconference—at any time of year.

“We don’t help the community just over the summer,” says Pat Fligge '10, director of alumni & parent engagement. “We do it all year long, and we try to make it very easy for them to access us.”



For dates and locations, visit muhlenbergconnect.com/careertogo or see page 32.



Filling Walson Hall with Alumni: The Origins of Alumni Week

The media & communication department has been hosting an Alumni Week since 2011, a model the Career Center helped extend to other departments in 2017 and 2018. Here, professor Sue Curry Jansen recounts how it all began.

By Sue Curry Jansen, Professor of Media & Communication

“Fill Walson Hall with alumni—alumni everywhere!” Justin Buchbinder '05 said. The occasion was a summer 2010 brainstorming session, organized by the media & communication department to explore ways that we could establish closer links with our graduates. Others contributing to the meeting were Kendall Bryant '05, Brian Meeley '89, Catherine (Schwartz) Markowitz '11, Rachel Jakubowicz '12, Jenny McLarin '86, then director of alumni relations, Lora Taub, then chair of the media & communication department, and me.

Coming midway through the session, Justin's suggestion, and the image it evoked, captured everyone's attention. As Justin explained his idea, it became apparent that it could serve as a catalyst for realizing a number of initiatives the group was considering: a newsletter, networking, mentoring, exploring emerging developments in the digital

revolution together and more. This was the origin of the first media & communication Alumni Week in 2011. The department named Justin honorary co-chair of that event, and I served as the organizing chair with substantial help from Jeff Pooley, the current chair of the department.

It did, however, take the faculty a while to figure out how we were going to fill the building with alumni—and, when we did, what we were going to do with them. Over the years, individual alumni had occasionally visited classes, and these experiences were rewarding for both the students and the visitors. We took that as our model and put it on steroids: We identified a core group of these earlier visitors and solicited their suggestions and participation, and we sent out a general mailing to graduates that also received a strong response.

Each year the number of alumni volunteers

has grown and expanded beyond our majors. Now, the group includes alumni who graduated from the College before there was a media & communication major and alumni who entered media careers from other majors, as well as graduates from the film studies program. By April 2017 (Alumni Week occurs annually during the spring semester), there were definitely “alumni everywhere” in Walson Hall, with close to 50 volunteers. By 2018, the College had 16 departments hosting hundreds of alumni and student conversations.

Each day begins with a continental breakfast for alumni, students and faculty. Throughout each day, all facets of the student experience, including classes, incorporate Alumni Week programming. There are alumni panels, master classes, filmmaker screenings and applied workshops. A few alumni Skype in from the West Coast or abroad. Sometimes

“Alumni Week is my favorite week of the year.”

alumni interview students for internships or jobs. The department also hosts a lunch for alumni, and of-age students gather with alumni and faculty for drinks at the end of each day. We use a Twitter hashtag throughout the week (#beyondberg), and we have experimented with live streaming some sessions.

The provost’s office and the office of alumni affairs have been very supportive of our efforts, underwriting some of the costs and providing small gifts for alumni. Post-Alumni Week questionnaires have indicated consistently high levels of satisfaction among both alumni and students, and some alumni have become regulars. One student recently announced to my class, “Alumni Week is my favorite week of the year.”

Students have been involved in planning and organizing Alumni Week from the beginning, creating buzz and offering valuable suggestions. In 2017, the department formalized student involvement by launching a successful competitive

student ambassadors program.

Because the media & communication and film studies curricula at Muhlenberg are deeply rooted in the liberal arts tradition, our graduates pursue many different career directions. Alumni Week exposes our students to the many options available to them. We have had presentations on health advocacy, sports and tourism, as well as more traditional career paths such as journalism, radio and public relations. We are eager to further expand this range.

Last spring, a student asked me, “What is your favorite part of Alumni Week?” There are many great things about it, including the warm glow of reunion, learning about cutting-edge developments in media industries and

lots of laughter and good cheer. But my favorite thing is attending master classes in which I become my former students’ student.



Sue Curry Jansen is a professor of media & communication. Her scholarship focuses on freedom of expression and its obstacles, the sociology of knowledge, gender and technology and the social and intellectual history of the Progressive Era. She is the author of numerous book chapters and books, most recently “Stealth Communications: The Spectacular Rise of Public Relations,” a critical assessment of public relations.

Alumni Week Expands

The Career Center helped it grow in 2017 and 2018—and next year holds even more potential.

Recognizing the value of what the media & communication department developed, Career Center staff worked to engage additional academic departments last year to create their own opportunities for involving alumni in their classrooms. Alumni Week 2017 saw six departments collaborating with the Career Center, and 2018 saw the program expand to 16 departments—reaching more than 1,140 students, representing more than 50 percent of the Muhlenberg student body—to create a week of networking between students and graduates at various points in their careers. Throughout these weeks, participants from the same academic department had opportunities to connect both inside and outside the classroom, trading career advice, internship tips and more. Thank you to the 145 parent and alumni volunteers who made our most recent Alumni Week such an incredible Muhlenberg success story.

Melissa Lampi '08 chats with current students who are interested in marketing.



How You (and Your Employer) Can Attract Muhlenberg Grads

Make connections with the next generation of Mules like these alumni have, and you'll gain talented colleagues in the process.

Of all the ways to get involved with Muhlenberg, actively recruiting students for internships and jobs can have immediate and long-lasting effects on students' lives. In the fall of 2016, the Career Center added a new staff position with the hire of Samantha Hof, director of employer engagement, to create a more strategic approach in working with employers and securing more internship and job opportunities for students and alumni. Through the Career Center's outreach, the College has made progress in building an awareness around Muhlenberg, but we know that our alumni—like the two profiled here—can have a much broader influence.

Brian Fishbone '98 speaks with students at a recent visit to the Career Center.



Brian Fishbone '98: Forging Connections Between Two Eastern Pennsylvania Campuses

As he moderates the alumni panel at the Vanguard visit that's part of the 2017 Philly Career Road Trip, Brian Fishbone '98 makes a surprising claim: When he first came to Muhlenberg, he considered himself an introvert. This, from the coordinator and emcee of a day-long networking event for 17 visiting students and 15 alumni colleagues at the investment company, many of whom he's meeting for the first time today.

Watch Fishbone work the room before and after this alumni panel, and you'll see he's no longer shy. His passion for his work as Vanguard's diversity and inclusion program manager and for the experiences—including those at Muhlenberg—that brought him to this point make him an ideal partner for the College.

Vanguard provides its employees one paid volunteer day each year, and Fishbone chooses to spend his at Muhlenberg, facilitating professional development sessions for students, speaking in classes and sharing his career journey. For the last four years, he's joined colleagues who are also alumni to present on campus about careers at Vanguard. Last fall, he worked with the Career Center to organize the aforementioned student visit to the sprawling Vanguard campus outside Philadelphia.

"I feel like I'm paying it forward," says Fishbone. "Not only am I helping my fellow Muhlenberg grads, but I'm also helping Vanguard get great talent from what was previously an untapped resource."



Samantha Hof, director of employer engagement, is part of the team connecting students and potential employers.

It's Your Turn

You, too, can create these opportunities by getting your employer to recruit at Muhlenberg.

Here's how you can help:

- Post a job or internship on behalf of your organization with the Career Center
- Send the Career Center information about special recruitment programs, trainings or other events that could help make Muhlenberg students more competitive in your organization's talent pipeline
- Advocate for Muhlenberg to your campus recruiters
- Come to campus to do an information session
- Conduct on-campus interviews

Contact Samantha Hof, director of employer engagement (samanthahof@muhlenberg.edu), or Tom Dowd, executive director of the Career Center (tomdowd@muhlenberg.edu), to discuss how you can partner with the Career Center.

Susan (Ettelman) Eisenhower '77: Never Not Networking

Recently, Susan (Ettelman) Eisenhower '77, who worked at Deloitte Tax in New York City for 20 years before retiring in 2017, was flying back from visiting her brother in Atlanta. Next to her was a young woman who had just earned a Doctor of Psychology degree, a path Eisenhower's daughter wants to pursue. As the two chatted, Eisenhower learned that the young woman's boyfriend was trying to get a job in the northeast. The two exchanged information.

"I have a call with her boyfriend to try to help him with job seeking," Eisenhower says. "I don't know if my daughter is going to reach out to this young woman, but I put them in contact."

This always-networking mindset made Eisenhower an ideal on-campus presence at Muhlenberg for Deloitte, where she most recently worked as a managing director of transfer pricing. At least 10 to 15 years ago, Deloitte sought a "Partner Champion" with a

Muhlenberg connection to work with recruiters to pursue applicants for positions in the Parsippany, N.J. office. Eisenhower says she "enhanced" this ambassador role: In addition to being the contact from the auditing division, which recruits accounting majors heavily, she made sure students knew about opportunities in the company's other divisions (such as tax, consulting and advisory services) and other offices (more than 80 in the U.S. alone).

Thanks in part to her efforts, there are around 60 Muhlenberg alumni currently working at Deloitte. Before Eisenhower's retirement, she was in touch with all of them via email a few times per year. When the Career Center brought students to Deloitte for the first fall Career Road Trip to New York City in 2016 (read more on page 6), Eisenhower was able to rally about 10 fellow alumni to join in.

"When they got an email from me saying, 'Muhlenberg is coming to 30 Rock—who can



participate?" people were more likely to respond and volunteer because I'd kept the communication going," says Eisenhower, who also secured space for the Road Trip's end-of-day group networking event. "The Deloitte folks became excited about sharing with the students, and it built a lot of excitement among the students for working at Deloitte. Networking benefits both groups of people."

Theatre Aboard the Disney *Dream*

Muhlenberg alumni reconnect in seafaring production

By Benjamin Shaw '07

It is 5 o'clock on a Friday. Along with a few other colleagues, Charlotte Sachetti '08 and I are huddled in a backstage office talking puppets — specifically a Lumiere puppet, the French candelabra character from Disney's "Beauty & the Beast." We'd spent the past year-and-a-half working on a new theatrical production, which opened last November aboard the Disney Dream, one of four ships sailed by Disney Cruise Line.

"Opening any new production is an intricate process," Charlotte, the production manager, explains, "and it's even more so when you're installing a Broadway-sized musical on a fully operational ship. No detail can be overlooked!"

That Lumiere meeting was serious business. As the show's associate director, I knew firsthand that moving from a rehearsal

studio to a 1400-seat theatre was a big transition. We wanted to give the audience an intimate experience of the show whether they were in the first or last row. During any production process, planning and rehearsals take place outside of the theatre. Only as opening night nears does the production take up residency inside the theatre, for this show — at sea.

The puppets presented a unique challenge because they had to be small enough to realistically look like the object, but big enough to communicate human emotions. Previous productions of "Beauty & the Beast" featured actors dressed as the beloved object characters. This new iteration incarnated the objects as puppets manipulated by actors in full view of the audience—a reminder of the human souls trapped by the story's



Charlotte Sachetti '08 and Benjamin Shaw '07 pictured in the Walt Disney Theatre on board the Disney Dream

enchantment.

Both Charlotte and I have worked in professional theatre for nearly a decade, but "Beauty & the Beast" was our first collaboration since 2006, when, as Muhlenberg students, we created "The Pillow of Kantan," a student-written play performed in the Black Box Theatre.

Charlotte works full-time for Disney Parks Live Entertainment managing production and logistics for Disney Cruise Line, and I'm a freelance director. When I was hired to work on "Beauty & the Beast" in mid-2016, she sent me an email: "Hey! It's me, Charlotte, from Muhlenberg!"

After graduating from Muhlenberg in 2008, Charlotte spent three years working for Royal Caribbean International before transitioning to dry land at Walt Disney World and subsequently to Disney Cruise Line. Post-graduation, I began my career on the management side of theatre before pursuing a freelance path. For both of us, Muhlenberg was a formative place where we honed the skills that led to full-time careers in professional theatre.

Charlotte recounts her extensive experience working on all aspects of theatre as a student — in the costume and scene shop



"Beauty & the Beast" company, from left: Cogsworth (Chris Blem), Lumiere (Jeffrey Correia), Mrs. Potts (Julia Louise Hosack)

and in the classroom, stage managing mainstage, dance and student shows – all while taking a full course load.

“Muhlenberg’s size and professionally-run theatre program offer a wide variety of experiences,” she says. “It’s big enough that the people and toys you get to work with are top-notch, yet small enough that you aren’t pigeon-holed into one area of expertise. Gaining experience with so many types of shows, people, and technology—all while I was still in school—put me on an accelerated track into the professional world.”

I always loved theatre, and Muhlenberg deepened that appreciation. My professors taught me to understand it as an art form that carries cultural value beyond the stage. Theatre is happening all over the place all the time. Whether I’m working in a Broadway theatre, or on a cruise ship, or in a nontraditional space, the questions I ask are always the same—what does this story have to say to an audience? How can I connect our lived experiences to the action unfolding on stage? These are the ideas that Muhlenberg taught me consider.

Charlotte and I agree on the significance of the creative process—a concept Muhlenberg takes seriously. “Studying theatre in the context of a liberal arts program gives you so many tools,” she notes. “For four years, you’re learning skills in class and putting them into practice in a production.”

Those skills are constantly reinforced— in a new class, a new show, a new space. We were continually trying out ideas and ways of working.

Which brings us back to that Lumiere puppet meeting. The phone call wrapped up with a decision to make sculptural adjustments to the puppet—most notably, changing the size of Lumiere’s blinking eyes and the shape of his head. The first performance was only days away, but that’s par for the course. One of the great joys and challenges of theatre, we agree, is that it’s a living art form and the creative process never ends.

“Muhlenberg taught us to be flexible and collaborative in our approach,” Charlotte says. “We learned it in the Fishbowl—and now we’re doing it on the ocean!”

How to Succeed in Show Business

It’s hard to do without really trying—and without the know-how of those who’ve come before. This alumna hopes to channel the network’s expertise to current students.

“This crazy business called show,” as Dana Iannuzzi ’03 describes her career path, is as much about networking and making connections as it is about performing, a lesson Iannuzzi learned almost immediately after graduating. The more people you know and the more people who know you, the better your chances of survival in a business where your professional future can change on a writer’s whim. Not long ago, for example, Iannuzzi landed a role on one of TV’s hot dramas, HBO’s “The Leftovers,” only to be “written off.”

“It’s the same as having your character get killed,” says Iannuzzi, wryly.

But she has persevered, through character death, write-offs and whatever other manner of frustrations faced by an actor. And that has imbued in her the desire to share with students and alumni the lessons of how important making connections is for survival in showbiz.

“Most theatre programs have an alumni group that is really connected,” says Iannuzzi, whose B.A. was in theatre arts, “but I found that wasn’t the case with Muhlenberg. I ran into Charlie Richter [Muhlenberg’s longtime director of theatre] on campus a few years and I said, ‘Charlie, I really think there’s a disconnect between alumni and students.’ And he said, ‘That would be great if you could do something about it.’”

Iannuzzi, who lives in Manhattan, has been a part of Fishbowl Collective—she directed several concerts for the group, which is profiled on page 26—but felt that the group needed to provide more pragmatic, real-world guidance. So over the last few years she has made it her mission to not only bring working actors to campus, a program she calls “Inside the Fishbowl Collective,” but also to bring current students to New York City, where they network with industry insiders such as casting directors and choreographers.

Iannuzzi has made a careful study of social media—one of her self-described “survival jobs” was being social media coordinator at a company—and makes extensive use of all platforms to connect students and alumni with the New York City world they hope to conquer someday. She discovered, for example, that a five-minute video posted at 3:00 in the afternoon is much more effective than, say, a 10-minute video at 6:00. “I found out how effective social media can be when I co-chaired my 10th class reunion,” she says. “Keep the content quick, to the point and fun.”

Not surprisingly given her penchant for connecting and her desire to give back to Muhlenberg, Iannuzzi serves on the College’s Alumni Board. In that position, she has been able to contribute to her alma mater in several ways, but her emphasis will continue to be on smoothing the way for students who graduate from one of the finest theatre and dance programs in the country.

“If you cast a Muhlenberg graduate in a performance, you will get a person with fantastic talent and solid professionalism,” says Iannuzzi, whose Twitter handle describes her as “actor/singer/director/Jane of Many Trades.” “Everybody in the business knows that. But they have to get the job first. We have to get a lot better at that, and that’s where I want to help.”

POWER PAIRS

When an alumnus or parent helps a fellow Mule, both of them reap rewards. Here, find a sampling of the fruitful relationships the College's network has made possible.

“Earlier in my career, I didn't fully appreciate all that I had to offer and share with people. Now, I see networking as a way of enriching your own life and the lives of others. Mahsheed and I have introduced each other to many individuals. We will be friends for life. The truth is, I get as much out of these networking connections as the students do, if not more.”

—*Lauren Anderson '79, international geopolitical consultant based in New York City*



“Lauren is an example of a mentor and friend who goes above and beyond to help and put people in contact and build those relationships. Our shared passion of promoting peace and investing in children and youth gives me even more energy to follow my goals and dreams.”

—*Mahsheed Mahjor '17, fellow with Sahar, an organization based in Seattle that empowers girls and young women in northern Afghanistan through education*

Anderson formed a close connection with Mahjor, the 2017 Commencement student speaker with a double major in women in the socio-political world (self-designed) and international studies, in Mahjor's first year. Mahjor introduced herself after a talk Anderson gave at the Career Center: Anderson mentioned her involvement with Vital Voices, an international nonprofit, and Mahjor had been through a leadership program of theirs in high school. Over the next few years, the two co-authored a Huffington Post article about Mahjor's native Afghanistan and attended events together, including a premiere of a movie about the Rwandan genocide in New York City. The two have stayed connected via text and email since Mahjor's graduation.



“Shadowing Kim was my first introduction into working with the geriatric/adult population, which is the population I work with now. I remember being impressed with how she handled traveling from nursing homes and assisted living facilities to patients' homes and how she was so organized and well-spoken with patients.”

—*Caitlin Dombkowski '11, speech-language pathologist at Genesis Rehab Services in Fair Lawn, New Jersey*

A few years after graduation, Caitlin Dombkowski '11 asked the Career Center team for guidance on applying to graduate schools in speech-language pathology. She got that plus contact information for alumnae working in the field, whom she consulted for advice on choosing a graduate program. After she began at New York Medical College, where job shadowing is required, she reached out again to shadow Gehrman and another alumna. Now, Dombkowski works as a speech-language pathologist, and she has returned to campus to speak to a psychology class about her career during Alumni Week (read more on page 9).

“When Caitlin reached out to me with an interest in speech-language pathology, I wanted her to see how rewarding the profession is. My typical day is spent working with geriatrics, and I hoped to share my love of helping the clients and their families with Caitlin. Allowing her to shadow me was a no-brainer: It's a way to advocate for my profession and assist others in finding their passion. Caitlin was respectful of the clients, and they enjoyed seeing another friendly face that afternoon.”

—*Kim (Hacker) Gehrman '10, speech-language pathologist at Fox Rehabilitation in Wilmington, Delaware*



“I was very impressed by how prepared Cynthia was for our first conversation. I was recalling my own state of mind as a sophomore and it wasn’t oriented toward graduation or employment at a company like Google. She’s clearly enjoying college life, but with one foot in the future world that college is ultimately designed to prepare you for. Hers is an example that should be emulated.”

—*Scott Norville '02, VP for digital audience development at Fox in Los Angeles and former strategic partnerships manager at Google*

“Scott told me that what Google looks for are leaders, people who take charge. It helped having someone at my dream company tell me what Google would look for if I wanted to apply. I realized I had to take certain steps on a certain timeline, and that I had to really think about my future even though I was only in my sophomore year.”

—*Cynthia Silva '19, a business administration and media & communication double major from Princeton, New Jersey*

Cynthia has had her eye on Google since she researched it for an introductory business class as a first-year student. The Career Center put her in touch with Norville, who worked at Google at the time. He encouraged her to continue developing the app meant to connect millennials with volunteer opportunities that earned her third place in the 2017 Innovation Challenge. She took his advice: She finished teaching herself to code over this past winter break despite a busy fall semester that required balancing classes, work and a New York City-based social-media internship with the marketing company The Shark Group (headed by Daymond John of “Shark Tank”). Last fall, she also applied for Google’s competitive Build Opportunities for Leadership & Development (BOLD) internship program.

Bill Zoha '79, P'18 and Carlos Herrera Acevedo '17 met through Rich Niesenbaum, biology professor and director of the sustainability studies program and the RJ Fellows honor program, during a meeting of the President’s Committee on Campus Sustainability. The two chatted about Herrera Acevedo’s coursework and internships—he’d spent a semester with the office of campus sustainability and the previous summer at PPL Electric Utilities—and exchanged contact information. Zoha recommended that Herrera Acevedo consider Direct Energy, an energy trading and marketing company. Herrera Acevedo was able to find another alumnus there, Al Lussier '85, who connected Herrera Acevedo with the hiring manager for the position he ultimately got. Since then, Zoha has helped arrange a coffee meeting between Herrera Acevedo and a senior employee at Direct Energy.

“Carlos was very enthusiastic about the energy industry. After listening to him, it occurred to me he might do very well at an energy trading and marketing company. My thinking was: Let me see if I can get him to think about the number of pathways that were available for him, and he took advantage of that.”

—*Bill Zoha '79, P'18, owner of Prescient Energy Corporation in New York City*

“After Bill saw my resume, he told me, ‘I think you would be a great candidate for any energy position.’ That was a moment of validation. With him being in the industry, he had seen other resumes before. For him to tell me that he thought my resume was in good shape and that I would be in a great position to be hired by an energy company gave me a lot of confidence.”

—*Carlos Herrera Acevedo '17, pricing analyst for Direct Energy in Woodbridge, New Jersey*

Carlos Herrera Acevedo '17
at his desk at Direct Energy





Students (including Becca Robinson '18, center) visit Lincoln Financial Group as part of the 2017 Philly Career Road Trip.

“Becca asked a question at every session we had during the Career Road Trip visit, and it was a different question every time. You could tell she was engaged and excited to be there, and that sparked my interest. She reached out to me within 24 hours, expressing her gratitude for getting to meet and talk to people.”

—**Victor Taiwo '12, senior consultant, University Recruiting and Talent Pipeline Programs, for Lincoln Financial Group in Radnor, Pennsylvania**

“Victor is a really laid back person to talk to. After meeting him, I felt I could be honest with him, so I told him that I don't really know what I want to do and that I'm trying to figure it out, and he used my resume to recommend a role. It was a personalized conversation.”

—**Becca Robinson '18, a double major in mathematics and economics from Nutley, New Jersey**

Thanks to a sequence of events that began at the Career Center's Philly Career Road Trip on Nov. 6, Robinson landed a job in Lincoln Financial Group's Leadership Preparation Program before heading home for winter break. Taiwo helped set up and host the visit, and Robinson went despite her tentative plan to move home and pursue a career in actuarial science in New York City after graduation. She liked the culture at Lincoln Financial Group and had a phone conversation with Taiwo about her future shortly after her visit. Thanks to that call, she came to mind as a strong candidate when Taiwo met with the head of the new digital department. That manager set up a Skype interview with Robinson, and a week later, Taiwo called with the offer.

“I'm thankful for Cliff's mentorship and the opportunities he provided. After working with Cliff, I was inspired to change directions, travel the world and explore my passion for service. Cliff was supportive and integral to those decisions. Much of my career journey and personal growth has been inspired by the experiences I gained from Cliff while with the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. I am confident that I would not be where I am today without him.”

—**Kelly (Owens) Pisano '09, Vice President, Relationship Manager, at Bank of America, Merrill Lynch Global Research in New York City**

“Kelly presented herself as a well-spoken, mature and professional young woman. She started off doing clerical and computer-related tasks, but her intelligence and enthusiasm soon led me to appoint her as an associate editor with responsibilities relating to the preparation of appellate judicial opinions for release to the public.”

—**Cliff Allen '69, now-retired reporter of decisions at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in Boston**

Pisano, a philosophy/political thought and religion studies double major, interned, then worked, for Allen after graduation. She had intended to go to law school, but with Allen's guidance first gained exposure in the field. After almost two years working with and learning from Allen, Pisano was inspired by his dedication to service and chose to do a stint with AmeriCorps VISTA in Jersey City, New Jersey. After a year there, Pisano used the skills she learned from both the Supreme Judicial Court and AmeriCorps in a marketing and communications role with Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey, and then transitioned into her career with Bank of America, Merrill Lynch. She and Cliff still email occasionally.



“I give Phil constant updates about how the company's doing and what Jake and I are up to. We talk as friends and as mentor-consultants at the same time. The relationship we have is just great. Through the internship he helped me find, I became close friends with a lot of entrepreneurs. I was able to see what their work ethic was like: They were so determined, they'd work seven days a week. It was really motivational to see these people I aspire to be like one day to be so dedicated to their companies.”

—**Michael Havkins '18, business administration major and co-founder of DressedGPS, an on-campus clothing-rental website, from Manalapan, New Jersey**

“Michael is so tenacious—he just doesn't stop. I'll never forget, early in Michael's internship at Workville, the community manager there tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'He's a huge find for us.' They were just blown away by him. I knew he'd be doing what he loved: working with a ton of different startups.”

—**Philip Lakin '09, entrepreneur and national agent operations specialist for technology-driven real-estate brokerage Compass in New York City**



Michael Havkins '18 (center) with the co-founder (left) and president (right) of Workville NYC

After winning the College's 2016 Innovation Challenge—a competition Havkins describes as “a Muhlenberg-centric ‘Shark Tank’”—Havkins and his business partner Jake Gordon '18 contacted the Career Center in search of alumni entrepreneurs they could ask for advice on their first-place idea. An introductory call with Lakin (who has sold two businesses he founded) ended up stretching on for hours. Lakin invited the pair to work under his mentorship that summer, and by fall, they had an operational website. The following summer, Havkins secured an internship at Workville NYC, a coworking space Lakin uses, after Lakin introduced him to the CEO.

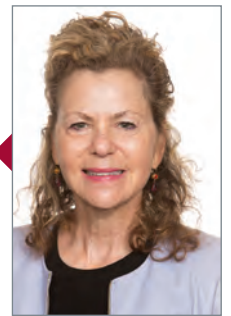


“Lori proved to me that women can excel in the real estate business. Her expansive knowledge of the industry and willingness work with all people is admirable and truly illustrates how much she values her company and career. She showed me that women can succeed in managing many different people and that gender roles don't define how successful you can be. Not only did I learn about real estate management, but I also learned the importance of operating a respectable business that stays true to its values and seeks to do good in the community.”

—**Maria Hatzipetros '18, business administration major from Brooklyn, New York**

“As a parent of a recent graduate, I am passionate about Muhlenberg and interested in providing opportunities to students interested in real estate. We are a small business that relies on smart, motivated interns working on summer projects. Maria immediately impressed me as a professional, motivated, conscientious student. She clearly understood the expectations we outlined and surpassed them in her performance.”

—**Lori Buchbinder P'17, principal at Buchbinder & Warren LLC in New York City**



Hatzipetros's family is in the real-estate business, so when she noticed a real-estate management internship with Buchbinder & Warren Realty Group on Handshake, she saw an opportunity to use skills she developed interning for her family at a similar (but larger) operation. While she and Buchbinder didn't work together directly—Hatzipetros did mostly administrative tasks—they crossed paths frequently and developed a good rapport, often discussing law school (Hatzipetros was studying for the LSATs, and Buchbinder had previously worked as an attorney). Now, Hatzipetros is torn between going to law school and entering the workforce first; she's consulting Buchbinder for her thoughts and guidance.

The Future of Professional Affinity Groups at Muhlenberg

The Career Center looks to the Wall Street Club, which offers industry expertise to its members, as a model for new organizations.

When Chris Galletta '13 was a teenager in in Ardsley, New York, he worked on a fishing boat. While he had a passion for fishing, he didn't have much experience. What he did have, however, was the internet: He used it to learn some of the skills he'd need to earn his keep on a boat—so many kinds of knots!—and that knowledge helped him land the summer job he wanted.

Galletta, now an investment banking associate at Wells Fargo Securities, brought this intellectual curiosity to Muhlenberg, where he double majored in math and accounting. He used CNBC, the Wall Street Journal and Wikipedia to pursue topics that piqued his interest and to supplement what he learned in class.

Since then, he's helped formalize this kind of extracurricular learning for students who hope to go into banking and providing reliable resources through his involvement in Muhlenberg's Wall Street Club, a group he co-founded. Most recently, he helped bring the

Investment Banking Institute, a well-respected industry training program, to campus for two days of in-person instruction for students in January.

"A lot of people think that if it wasn't taught in the classroom, it's not important," Galletta says, but his professional experience proves otherwise—and this doesn't ring true only for the highly competitive banking industry.

"There are always new things happening in any industry: new techniques, technology upgrades or just current events," says Pat Fligge '10, director of alumni & parent engagement, which is beginning to consider how to extend the Wall Street Club model to students interested in other fields. "Work is changing so rapidly that having a broad-based liberal arts background really is perfect. Our alumni can help demonstrate how this liberal arts education, coupled with industry knowledge and technical expertise, can help students stand out as they launch their careers."

How the Club Started

In 2015, Galletta asked the Career Center to help him fill some analyst roles for the following summer. The applicants had potential: "I put the students through a mock interview and immediately saw that they were sharp young adults with great enthusiasm and desire to learn," says Galletta. "We just needed to help give them the tools, real-world experience and insight into the level of intensity required to succeed."

He told one, Brian Wiegand '17, to look into Training the Street, self-study materials that are part of the curriculum at top business schools, and to get in touch the following week. "He was able to come back and answer all these interview questions really well," Galletta says.

Wiegand shared the knowledge—and Galletta's contact info—with some of his peers (Nick Lucas '17 and Ryan Kennedy '15). The four of them worked together to co-found the Wall Street Club. A pair of Galletta's peers, Andrew Disdier '12 and Ian Jones '13, joined the club's "executive team" a few months later, and they and the co-founders continue to participate in the club's weekly calls with the student co-presidents (Evan Overcash '18, a finance and economics double major, and Mark Gutierrez '18, a finance and accounting double major).

The fact that these alumni are relatively new to the working world is a plus, Gutierrez says: These young alumni are able to advise students on



Chris Galletta '13 (pictured center) sponsored a training session by the Investment Banking Institute during a January meeting of the Wall Street Club on Muhlenberg's campus.



During January's Investment Banking Institute training session, Wall Street Club at Muhlenberg participants honed industry-specific knowledge, which participants can use as a differentiating factor when marketing themselves to potential employers.

what's necessary to break into the industry today, having just completed a successful job search for themselves.

How the Club Works

The club provides a knowledge base—through Investment Banking Institute training and self-study materials—which the members expand upon in biweekly meetings. Before each meeting, a small group of students will take a deep dive into a more specific, technical topic so they can present that knowledge to the others.

"You could have two people doing the same work, having the same discussion with the Career Center 100 times," Galletta says. "Instead of starting from scratch with each student, we put a structure together so students can build on each other's knowledge."

The club also hosts alumni speakers and discusses industry-related case studies pulled from the headlines:

"In job interviews, they're going to ask what you've been reading, what's something in the news that interests you," Gutierrez says. "They're going to press for deeper understanding and what your analysis is, and if you're familiar with how other people have answered that in front of the group, you'll be more prepared."

A key component of the club is getting students in early. Banks start recruiting sophomores, Galletta says, and the majority of future bankers will have job offers going into senior year. This focus on first-years helps Mules compete when searching for internships. "At business schools, technical knowledge-building doesn't start until sophomore or junior year," Galletta says. "We can do better by bringing a high level of intensity and professional maturity earlier."

Her involvement in the club helped Gabrielle Neuman '20, a finance and accounting major, land a position as an analyst this coming summer at Wells Fargo Securities' Charlotte, North Carolina, office. After she went through Training the Street, Galletta connected Gabrielle to his boss, and she recommended that Gabrielle apply for the Freshman Diversity Finance Forum, which invites select students to learn more about investment banking and the company's culture. Gabrielle was accepted, and after the forum last spring, each participant

got a phone interview for summer analyst positions and a select half (including Gabrielle) were then invited to interview in person.

"Because we were only first-year students, we weren't expected to know anything beyond what's taught in entry-level courses," Gabrielle says. "However, I was able to use some of my knowledge of technical topics to include in my answers to behavioral questions, which showed I already knew some of that information."

Expanding Beyond Aspiring Bankers

Because the Wall Street Club produces tangible results, it's easy to see how students interested in other career paths could benefit from similarly structured organizations.

"This has proven to be an exceptional model of how we can leverage alumni expertise to complement what students get in the classroom,"

Fligge says. "Students in this club get the unique combination of Muhlenberg's powerful liberal arts curriculum with timely, relevant industry expertise to help separate them in the hunt for jobs and internships. Alumni get a meaningful way to contribute to Muhlenberg students' success."

Gutierrez and Overcash worked on a handbook to pass onto next year's Wall Street Club co-presidents that explains how they stay organized, structure meetings, interact with alumni and do everything else that keeps the club running. It's meant to be a resource not just for their successors, but also for the Career Center, who'd like to take their model and run with it.

At press time, Fligge and his Career Center colleagues were exploring which other industries make sense to target next. Once they've identified those, they plan to reach out to alumni who have the same level of firsthand expertise in their fields that Galletta has in his—and the same desire to help the next generation.

"Our goal for any student is to help them realize how powerful their Muhlenberg education truly is, and how it can set them apart on the job search," Fligge says. "Wherever we identify critical pockets in which these industry groups can be relevant and really add value to our students' career prospects, we'll work to set them up."

"Work is changing so rapidly that having a broad-based liberal arts background really is perfect."

Orthopedic Surgeon and Humanitarian Dr. Robert D. Loeffler '70 Delivered 2018 Muhlenberg College Commencement Address

On a cool, cloudy morning on College Green, Loeffler '70 credited the College's liberal arts curriculum for sparking his interest in humanitarian work, an interest that took a back burner until a trip to Haiti to assist survivors of the 2010 earthquake. After that, he applied to Doctors Without Borders.

"I then realized that, despite the many years since I left here, I gradually made a circle and came back and was doing what I thought I wanted to do years before," Loeffler said. "I was becoming the kind of doctor I'd hoped to be."

"Remember, what is right is often forgotten by what is convenient," he continued. "I urge you to go out and find your right."

In addition to Loeffler, honorary degree recipients included composer Morten Johannes Lauridsen, public policy thought leader Heather C. McGhee and nonprofit founder Elissa Montanti.

Two members of the class of 2018 were co-valedictorians with perfect 4.0 GPAs: Weston Conner and Alexandra Tendler. The salutatorian honor was also a tie between Gianna Barres and Shari Bodofsky. Jake Gordon and Hayley Peterson received Alumni Association Future Alumni Leader Awards.

Muhlenberg Named to Princeton Review's 2018 Edition of "Colleges That Pay You Back"

The College has been named to the list since its inception in January 2015.

Muhlenberg College has again been named one of the nation's top 200 schools based on academics, affordability and career prospects in the 2018 edition of The Princeton Review's "Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck."

Princeton Review editors applaud the "highly accepting and friendly" environment, paired with the accessibility of professors. Rob Springall, vice president of enrollment management at Muhlenberg, says, "I hear a lot of feedback from students about their unique opportunities here. They appreciate that they can integrate their diverse learning experiences with active collaboration and research, community outreach and extracurricular activities."

The new publication also highlights the online catalogue of internships through Handshake and the Muhlenberg's Internship Manual, which help students find and evaluate possible career opportunities. The Manual is praised by students for having "tips on how to make the most of your internship and various guidelines, as well as important forms" to remain successful in future endeavors.





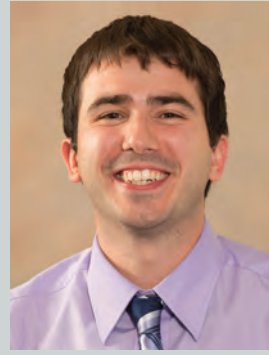
Amy Hark



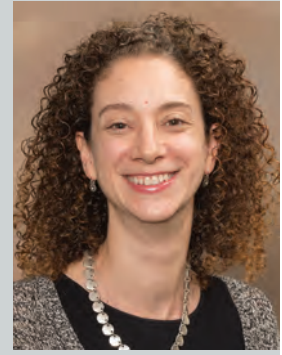
Joseph Keane



Paul Murphy



Michael Allocca



Jessica Cooperman



Jeffrey Peterson

Muhlenberg College Announces Faculty Tenure Promotions

Seven members of the faculty were recently promoted, and five of those were granted tenure by the Board of Trustees on the recommendation of President John I. Williams, Jr. and provost Kathleen Harring. Amy Hark (biology) and Joseph Keane (chemistry) were promoted to professor, and Paul Murphy (music) was awarded tenure and promoted to professor. Michael Allocca (mathematics and computer science), Jessica Cooperman (religion studies and Jewish studies), Jeffrey Peterson (theatre and dance) and Kammie Takahashi (religion studies and Asian studies) were awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor.



Kammie Takahashi

Theatre Students Named Finalists in Selective Disney Competition

In the 27 years the competition has taken place, they were the first finalists from Muhlenberg.

It all began with a Google search for “abandoned locations around the world.” That’s how Andrew Carey ‘17, a theatre major, and Noah Sunday-Lefkowitz ‘18, a music and theatre double major, learned about the Kennecott Copper Mine in Kennecott, Alaska, a “ghost town” the pair reimagined as a booming tourist destination for the project they entered into the 2018 Walt Disney Imagineering’s Imaginations Design Competition. This year’s prompt asked entrants to “revitalize an abandoned area,” and the mine—dilapidated barn-red buildings set among evergreen trees in the shadow of snow-capped peaks—caught the duo’s attention.

“There are locations we knew about that surround Muhlenberg and both our Pennsylvania hometowns that might have been interesting, but we wanted to push ourselves a little more,” Carey says. “When we



Andrew Carey '17 and Noah Sunday-Lefkowitz '18 were finalists at the 2018 Walt Disney Imagineering's Imaginations Design Competition.

came across Kennecott, we saw a photo of one of the main structures of the mine and we said, ‘This is it. This place looks so compelling, we need to dig more.’”

Carey and Sunday-Lefkowitz were one of six teams (out of more than 270 entrants) who spent five days at Imagineering’s headquarters in Glendale, California, presenting their projects and interviewing for internships.

“The ability I had in all my classes to learn how to best visualize and display complex information has been super helpful as I’ve entered the design world,” Carey says. “Learning how to dig deeper into a project—to find deeper meaning, more information or some facts about a location—means you can then start building a world that starts to feel real.”



Three Muhlenberg Basketball Players Reach 1,000-Point Milestone

In a span of just eight days, three seniors reached career benchmarks

Brandi Valley (middle) was the first, scoring her 1,000th point on a free throw in the first half of an 89-55 win vs. Ursinus on January 23. It was the second major milestone of the month for Valley, who became the Centennial Conference's all-time assists leader in an 82-58 defeat of Washington College on Jan. 6. She had a total of 655 career assists.

Rachel Plotke (right) became the 12th member of the women's basketball 1,000-point club when she hit a three-pointer in the first quarter of a 71-41 win against Swarthmore on January 31. The milestone shot was appropriate for Plotke, one of the top three-point shooters in Centennial history. The win improved the 18th-ranked Mules' record to 19-1.

Nick Rindock (left) joined the two women's players in memorable fashion in the second game of the Swarthmore doubleheader, pouring in a career-high 33 points to lead the men's team to a 91-88 overtime upset of the seventh-ranked Garnet. Rindock made a jumper early in the second half to become the 35th 1,000-point scorer in Muhlenberg men's history.

Muhlenberg Joins American Talent Initiative, Aiming to Educate More High-Achieving, Low- and Moderate-Income Students

The College is among 100 institutions committed to enrolling an additional 50,000 accomplished lower-income college students nationwide by 2025.

Member institutions must meet the standard of graduating at least 70 percent of their students in six years. ATI, a Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative led by the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program and Ithaca S+R, includes the entire Ivy League, 17 state flagship universities and private colleges.

As part of the national effort, all member institutions are implementing several strategies designed to attract, enroll and

graduate high-achieving, lower-income students, including:

- Identifying talented students through better recruitment of qualified high school graduates and high-achieving transfer students from community colleges and other schools;
- Increasing the number of applications from Pell-eligible students, the number of Pell-eligible students who are enrolled and the number of first-generation students enrolled;
- Prioritizing need-based aid to make attendance more affordable; and

- Retaining and graduating lower-income students at rates comparable to their higher-income peers.

"Muhlenberg College develops students' full intellectual and personal potential, positioning them well for lifelong fulfillment and success," said President John Williams. "Through our partnership with ATI, we will strengthen further our commitment to opening doors for the most able students drawn from an increasingly inclusive set of communities throughout the U.S. and around the world."

Are You In The Network?



Join over 2000+ students, alumni and parents!
Be a resource to students by sharing industry advice and career path insights,
and use the Network to help advance your own career. Join today!

TheMuhlenbergNetwork.com

Muhlenberg's 2018 Summer Music Theatre Schedule Announced

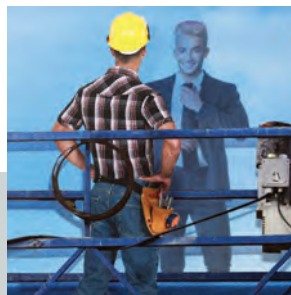


Disney's Beauty & The Beast

June 14 – July 1, 2018

Music by Alan Menken; Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice; Book by Linda Woolverton

DIRECTOR: Gary John La Rosa
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Ed Bara
CHOREOGRAPHER: Ann Cooley



How to Succeed in Business... Without Really Trying

July 11–29, 2018

Book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock & Willie Gilbert; Music & Lyrics by Frank Loesser; Based on the Book by Shepherd Mead

DIRECTOR: Charles Richter
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Bryan L. Wade
CHOREOGRAPHER: Karen Dearborn



TAL: Beyond Imagination

June 27–28, 2018

A World Premiere Circus Performance for Kids, Parents, & Everyone Else
Created by Atlas Circus Company

For tickets and additional information, visit muhlenberg.edu/theatre

Visitors to campus might see Michael Bonaddio '20, Ashley Polera '20 and other members of the Cardinal Key Society helping out at events.



When Seeing Red Is a Good Thing

The Cardinal Key Society, a group of friendly, knowledgeable students, works to ensure that visitors enjoy their time on campus.

Before this year's Baccalaureate and Commencement, Michael Bonaddio '20, a business administration and finance major who is vice president of the Cardinal Keys, described the group's role in the festivities as such: "Every little thing people don't realize someone has to do, we'll be doing them."

So while some Keys were handing out programs or helping graduates' guests find the nearest bathroom, several others were working behind the scenes, all dressed in the group's signature bright red polos and khaki pants (or, as Michael jokes, "the Target outfit"). The organization, which has approximately 50 members, was responsible for tasks such as collecting used candles after Baccalaureate, helping graduates put on their Commencement hoods and otherwise facilitating two effortless-looking celebrations.

"They play a really important role in a lot of

big campus events—we always say that Alumni Weekend and Commencement couldn't happen without them," says Emma Hamm '15, assistant director of alumni and parent engagement, co-advisor of the Cardinal Keys (with Tara Simpson '02, assistant director of alumni affairs) and a member of the group during her four years at Muhlenberg. "They are our extra arms and legs but they're also filled with knowledge."

The Cardinal Key Society dates back to 1940, when six members of the class of 1942 decided to form a group to help welcome visitors to campus. Today, the Keys' biggest events are the ones Hamm mentioned, but members are also involved in Orientation Weekend, Honors Convocation, donor dinners and various other campus happenings.

"We're definitely a group that the College goes to to be the best representatives of the school, to put our best foot forward and to

show Muhlenberg is a great place to be," says Ashley Polera '20, an accounting and finance major who joined the Cardinal Keys her first year. "Visitors know if they look at a Key that we're a student who loves Muhlenberg and that we're there to help and offer support."



Desiree Bscales '20 helps Patricia Canzano '18 with her Commencement hood.

Welcomes Extended to Senior Staff, Religious Life and Athletics Leadership

College Chaplain, Vice President of Communications, Athletic Director and Jewish Chaplain/Hillel Director to begin this summer



Reverend Kristen Glass Perez
College Chaplain

"I am impressed with Muhlenberg's commitment to spiritual exploration across a variety of religious and non-religious traditions and am excited about working with a religious life team that serves the entire community," says Glass Perez. "I understand the chaplain's office to be the perfect place to offer space for hospitality, reflection and innovation as an integral part of campus life."



Brian Speer
Vice President of Communications

"This is a great time to build on the momentum the College has gained in recent years," says Speer. "The campus community was very welcoming, and I felt a real sense of energy and vibrancy during my visit. I'm looking forward to joining Muhlenberg and working with the communications staff and campus partners in continuing to raise the College's profile."



Lynn Tubman
Director of Athletics

"I am excited to become a part of Muhlenberg's supportive community, one that is committed to working together to provide all students with an exceptional, well-rounded collegiate experience," says Tubman. "I am eager to begin working with the athletics department staff, coaches and student-athletes on continuing the program's proud tradition of academic and athletic excellence."



Rabbi Rachmiel Gurwitz
Jewish Chaplain & Hillel Director

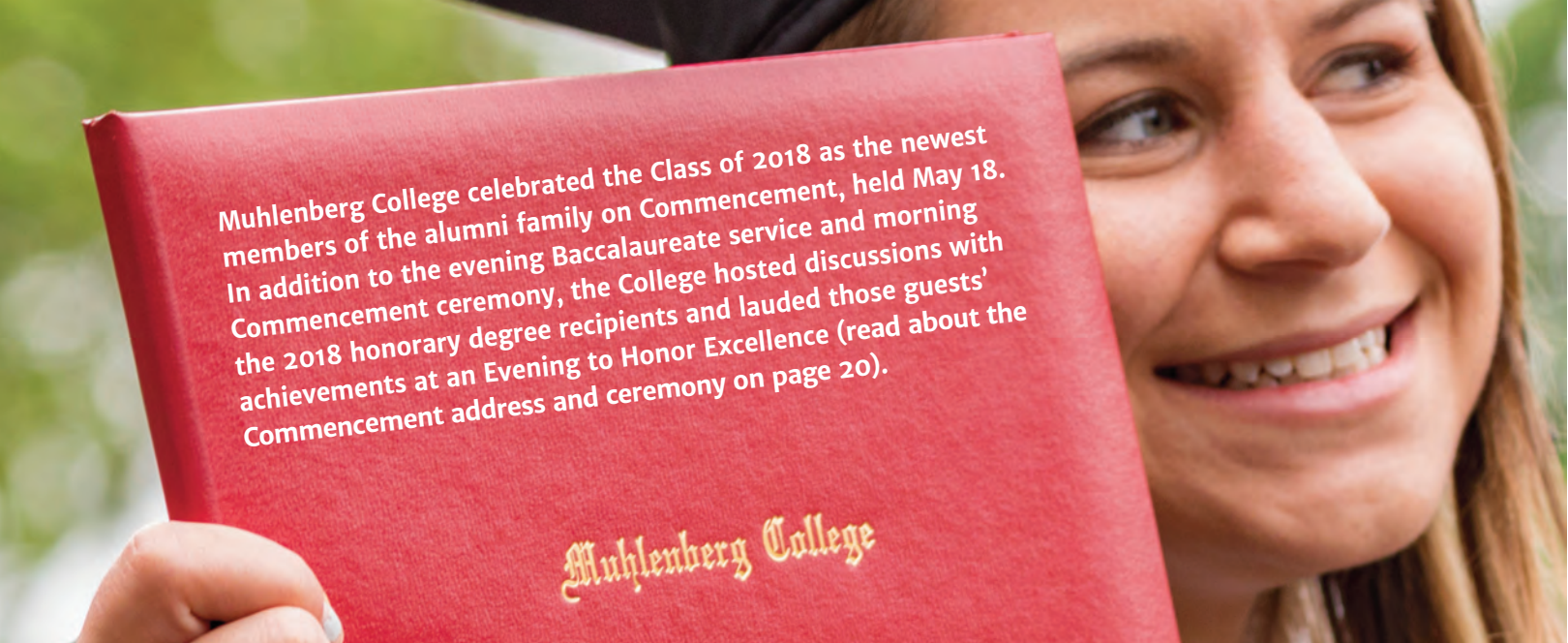
"I am thrilled to be joining the Muhlenberg community as the Jewish chaplain and Hillel director," says Gurwitz. "I look forward to meeting with students, creating innovative programs and learning opportunities and striving to build a Jewish community that nourishes every student at Muhlenberg."

Muhlenberg Alumni Sworn in Before Supreme Court of the United States

The ceremony distinguishes attorneys who are permitted to present arguments before the nation's highest court.

On March 26, a group of nine Muhlenberg attorneys was sworn in to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. Richard Ben-Veniste '64 addressed the Court on behalf of the group's admission. Jay Finkelstein '06 and Mike Yellin '05 spearheaded this program, securing the date for admission more than a year in advance so that it would fall on a day of oral arguments. The Muhlenberg attorneys and their guests connected the evening before with local regional leaders, prominent legal alumni and even current students studying in D.C. for the semester. This program helped strengthen the ties of our legal alumni and provided a unique opportunity for Muhlenberg to continue serving alumni at advanced stages of their careers. Alumni in attendance included (from left): Kristopher Kachline '05; Andrew Wolfe '81; Blake Marles '74, P'02; Matthew Sorrentino '70; Tyler Cathey '02; Richard Ben-Veniste '64; Michael Yellin '05; Jason Finkelstein '06; Richard Guss '83, P'10, P'13; and Adam Brodsky '95.









From the Desk of Natalie Kulp Hand '78, P'07

In this issue you've heard a lot about the power of networking and making connections. At the center of each of those stories, you'll find Muhlenberg, the one constant connection in all of our lives.

Our alumni have often set out on their own to connect with their fellow Mules. Many welcome Muhlenberg's support, but I've often noticed that some of the most powerful connections are those that emerge organically through friendships and common interests and goals.

That's part of the culture of Muhlenberg—we set our own path, create opportunities, imagine and define careers and even shape our majors and academic direction.

Passion has to come from within, but it thrives when it's celebrated and supported by others. That passion is most visible in the members of our community who recognize a dream in others and feel compelled to help it grow and endure.



I've seen that dream come alive through my work with two incredible alumnae—Sheryl LeBlanc Guss '81, P'10, P'13 and Lauren Anderson '79—in bringing together over 100 Muhlenberg women together for 2017's Women's Weekend. We learned from each other, explored the city Muhlenberg calls home, enjoyed signature drinks at a cocktail hour hosted by Muhlenberg's first lady Diane Pierce-Williams and were captivated by an address delivered by Dr. Lucy Puryear '81: "Women's Mental Health: Where We've Been, Where We're Going and How I Came Along for the Ride." Our inaugural gathering, coincidentally, occurred at the same time our College celebrated 60 years of co-education.

I've also seen that passion during our Career Road Trips, where Muhlenberg quite literally serves as the vehicle to take our students to the industries and organizations that inspire them and to connect them with leaders in those fields. But it's people at the helm of that

journey and people at the destination. Muhlenberg alumni, students, faculty and staff make that journey both possible and worthwhile.

In each of these many, many interactions, I'm inspired by the passion that our community members bring to these new relationships and by the passion they bring forth in others.

For alumni, our time at Muhlenberg went far beyond the four years on our beloved Allentown campus. Our time together served as the starting point, the first step on a journey whose trajectory could take us anywhere. We have the ability to make that journey exactly what we want it to be. First steps can be daunting, but you've got friends ahead waiting to guide your way.

Pictured above: Alumnae gathered on campus to learn from and laugh with each other during 2017's Women's Weekend, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of co-education at Muhlenberg.

Fishbowl Collective Helps Theatre Grads Swim in NYC's Big Pond

Artistic inspiration and support draw alumni to this group.

Lily Fryburg '15 was understandably nervous before her first audition in New York City last year. Fortunately, Fryburg, who had come to the city to pursue a career in film, theater and comedy, found a lot of familiar support.

"I had gone to a Fishbowl Collective event a few nights before my audition," says Fryburg,

"and briefly spoke to a few alumni there about auditioning. They were kind and encouraging, which I really appreciated. I also ran into a friend from Muhlenberg at that first equity principal audition. It helped a lot."

In the five years that it has existed, the Fishbowl Collective—a loose association of Muhlenberg graduates connected by the

College and the desire to find a career in some aspect of the arts—has helped hundreds of students and alumni with hundreds of different things. **Courtney Romano '06** and **Becca Schneider '06**, two of the major forces in the early days, have watched the Collective grow from 20 members to 400 (to more than 800 when its Facebook followers are counted). Friendship, security, artistic inspiration, housing questions and even restaurant recommendations are among the topics discussed among Fishbowl members.

The best way to define the Fishbowl Collective—the name came from what Muhlenberg performers affectionately call the lobby space outside The Dorothy Hess Baker Theatre—is to consider it as a social club as much, if not more than, a producing entity. Nobody is required to come to a Fishbowl gathering with a work in progress, or even one not in progress. The first point in the Collective's mission statement is to "create, connect and build a safe and positive environment in which members can share their visions and take artistic risks." Says Romano, "We think of ourselves as an incubator for graduates to come together and help each other out in ways personal and professional." In short, it's the very definition of networking.

Still, much good artistic work has emerged from the Collective experience. One of the Collective's annual rituals is the "instaconcert," a welcome-to-the-city party that is also a forum for trying out new work in music, dance, sketch comedy and playwriting. "I performed an original piece in it two years ago, and it was a great experience," says Fryburg. Adds Romano, "We're not producers, but we have instigated or incubated a lot of different projects."



Brian Sostek and Jenny Piersol '08 perform in "White Christmas" at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
(Photo courtesy of Jenny Piersol '08)

Amanda Rose and Jenny Piersol '08
perform in "Dear Jane" Off-Broadway
(Photo courtesy of Jenny Piersol '08)



Collective members have been busy on a number of fronts. Here are some of them:

Class of 2016:

- **Elissa Hickey**, performed this past fall in "Spamalot" at the BC Players in New Jersey
- **Helen Laser** (bottom photo on left), playing Anne Frank through the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect of NYC

Class of 2010:

- **Kate Bolger**, working as associate producer at Refinery29, a women's website that includes videos about lifestyle and the news

Class of 2008:

- **Liz Wasser**, recently wrote and produced a web series, "Let's See Hamilton," whose cast includes alumni
- **Jenny Piersol**, starring in "Dear Jane," a new off-Broadway play

Class of 2007:

- **Christopher Scheer**, wrote "GRUFF," (center photo, courtesy of Averie Cole) which ran off-Broadway
- **Meaghan Witri**, acting as half of the successful folk band The Living Roots Trio, which is in fact a duo
- **Allison (O'Connor) Koehler**, working as a stylist who has worked with clients such as Dove and Seventeen magazine

Class of 2006:

- **Schneider** acted in Scheer's "GRUFF" and with the Sharon Playhouse this past summer in Connecticut. She continues to be a driving force for Fishbowl.

Finding fame is, of course, the goal of some "Fish" but not the raison d'être of the Collective itself. Romano, for example, is a writer (her book, "The First Ten Years," has been optioned), a personal trainer and also runs a website called Dream. Set. Make. - dreamsetmake.com

"We really just wanted a space to gather where we could think critically about art like we did at Muhlenberg," says Romano. "As I've gotten older and farther away from college, yes, I've established my own community and life mission. But what continues to inspire me is all the recent graduates who tell us how grateful they are that we had this space. The further we get from college, the less we remember how much we needed it at the beginning. This keeps us connected."





Rachel Plotke '18 sank many field goals courtesy of a well-timed pass from teammate Brandi Vallely '18 (opposite page).

An On-Court Connection

**Together,
Brandi Vallely and
Rachel Plotke
make an
unstoppable duo.**

The sequence plays on an endlessly satisfying loop in the consciousness of Muhlenberg women's basketball fans. An opponent misses a shot and Chelsea Gary '18 gets the rebound. She looks for Brandi Vallely '18, who comes back to receive the ball. Vallely begins her dribble and at the same time looks downcourt, her eyes searching for Rachel Plotke '18, who will likely be streaking up the right side of the court.

Vallely pushes her dribble into the lane, forcing the attention of backtracking defenders. As she gets near the elbow, Vallely stops, which is Plotke's cue to loop behind her. Vallely tosses it back and Plotke, almost in one motion, catches and shoots a high-arching shot. Her shooting hand is still extended—Steph Curry-like—when the ball drops through.

The opposition knows it's coming, but, as with so much in basketball, can't stop it if it's executed properly. And if you double Plotke? Vallely simply takes it all the way to the basket, her hell-bent-for-leather drives as familiar as the connections with her 5'4" backcourt mate.

"Brandi and Rachel have a symbiotic relationship," says coach Ron Rohn, who installed them as a starting backcourt three seasons ago and has never regretted it. "Every once in a while you see these combinations of players that read each other so well they almost have a mental telepathy. It's been a pleasure to watch."

It is fitting that Vallely and Plotke, both of whom graduated in May, are profiled in the Networking issue, for theirs is a connection that benefits both while working ideally within

the framework of a team. And as with most great connections, it developed organically, not as part of a grand scheme.

Neither played much as a freshman—they had experience in front of them and Valley broke her foot two weeks into preseason—so their expectations were low when both got starting nods as sophomores. “Tell you the truth,” says Valley, the Centennial Conference’s all-time assist leader and on anyone’s list of Muhlenberg’s top-five all-time players, “I was scared to death. We all just wanted to live up to the high expectations of this program. But I realized very quickly that I had never played with anyone who could shoot like Rachel. So why not look for her?”

For her part, Plotke had never played with anyone who possessed the quickness and court sense of Valley. “Playing off one

another is not something we talked a lot about,” says Plotke, a psychology major from Woodbridge, Connecticut. “Certainly Coach Rohn had a lot to do with it. He put together a team with players whose skills worked together. But as far as Brandi and I? It all just kind of worked when we got out on the court.”

It’s worked so well that about 30 percent of Valley’s assists went to Plotke. In fact, Plotke’s perimeter touch—she led the nation in three-point percentage as a sophomore, the same year she established a conference record with 55 consecutive free-throw conversions—factors into the one perceived weakness in Valley’s game. “Yes, my outside shot needs some work,” says Valley, laughing. “But I never thought of myself as a shooter. And then I have Rachel here so why would I shoot?” But when Plotke missed a

number of games with an injury last season, Valley took over the three-point load and shot about 40 percent.

Plus, what Valley is too modest to add is this: Why take perimeter shots when she gets to the basket almost anytime she wants to? She motors by most players, squeezes herself into spaces that other point guards don’t see, and, strangely, finishes at the basket more often than not with her opposite hand, her left. “That started back in high school,” she says. “I guess because I’m right-handed they cut off that side. At this point, it just feels comfortable.”

Like Kelly McKeon ’11, a great point guard before her, Valley, an honorable mention All-American as a sophomore, always seems to be around the ball, with a career average of 6.5 rebounds per game. “Brandi’s rebounding is so good and then you consider she has 94-foot court vision,” says Rohn, “that you almost forget about her being a scorer. She’s never going to go out and look for points, but she’s the kind of player who, if you need 30 from her on a given night, she’ll go get you 31.” In a game against Dickinson two seasons ago, she got 39, tying Felicia Perryman ’93 for the school’s single-game scoring record.

Plotke’s role is more clearly defined as elucidated by a familiar phrase from Muhlenberg announcer David Nowack ’67: Rachel “Bombs Away” Plotke. The call makes her happy...and also makes her blush a little. “Coach Rohn told me, ‘If you don’t shoot it, I’ll take you out,’” says Plotke, smiling. “Sometimes even I think I’m shooting too much or shooting too far out, but he’ll yell at me to keep shooting.”

Both Valley and Plotke are keenly aware that the end of their playing partnership is coming to a close. “I get sad thinking about it right now,” said Valley in an early January interview. “But I couldn’t have asked for anything more than what I got from Muhlenberg.”

Plotke feels the same way. “I thought about maybe trying Europe,” she says, “but I don’t think so. It’s been so great here, playing with Brandi, playing with all the girls, and playing for Coach Rohn, that it just seems like it should end here.”

For Muhlenberg fans, though, the Valley-Plotke connection will live on in memories for a long, long time.





Connecting More Mules Than a Wagon Train

Jim Skidmore '54 lives his belief that relationships can be valuable investments.

Jim Skidmore '54 was driving through Clinton, New Jersey, one day about four years ago when he made a pit stop at a Dunkin' Donuts. Upon sitting down to drink his coffee, he noticed two men at the adjacent table engaged in a lively discussion about education.

One of the men eventually turned to Skidmore and asked, "Do you know anything about colleges?"

That would be like asking Albert Einstein if he knew anything about science.

For more than 60 years, Skidmore has made colleges—Muhlenberg College, in particular—an important part of his life. Dozens of students, many of them athletes, have found their home at Muhlenberg, and found success afterwards, with Skidmore's guidance. Skidmore was at the forefront of The Muhlenberg Network before it was called that.

"I think we had an untapped reservoir of

people who wanted to help and would be glad to, but either no one asked them or they didn't know how to do it," says Skidmore. "So the Network now gives them a vehicle to help other people, and in many cases, the relationships prove to be the deciding point."

"I think it's well organized, it's gaining momentum, and it's a concept which will benefit us greatly."

Skidmore's own life story is a Muhlenberg networking experience. He was considering attending Georgia Tech before he stopped in Allentown on the way back from a visit to Bucknell. He met with assistant football coach Lou Cardinal, who handed him a business card and said, "Kid, it sounds like you want an education. When you get [to Georgia Tech] and you find out it's not everything it oughta be, you call me."

Skidmore did, and after a Mule football career that included quarterbacking the 1950

freshman team to an undefeated season and setting a school record (unbroken until 2011) for longest touchdown pass (at 90 yards), he was off to the U.S. Marines. After leaving the Corps, he called on his alma mater for faculty recommendations as he launched his civilian career.

"I have believed all through my business career and all through my life that relationships were big investments," says Skidmore, the chairman of Science Management Corp., a leading international professional services firm. "They require time and effort, and if you can help someone through that effort, it's really wonderful."

Skidmore begins his "investing" at Sunday morning gatherings at his house in Sea Girt, New Jersey, for prospective students and their families.

"Mr. Skidmore reached out to me as I was starting to get recruited by Muhlenberg," says

Tom Holland '14, a football player who went to high school in nearby Point Pleasant, New Jersey. "He was a fantastic help in getting me in contact with all the right people."

After working for a recruiting company in Washington, D.C., following graduation, Holland decided on a career change and returned home. He reached out to Skidmore and soon interviewed at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield.

"They didn't have any openings, but I was able to get in there to have an interview. Upon entering the doors, I was greeted as if I was Jim's kid," Holland says, laughing. "It's very comforting knowing that there is somebody who is willing to go to bat for you."

"If I needed help with something, he's the first person I'd call," adds William Moates '09, another former Mule football player.

Skidmore, athletic liaison to the Board of Trustees and a member of the Campus Committee for Fitness and Athletics, keeps a "Muhlenberg kids" file at work. Several of those "Muhlenberg kids" were in attendance when Skidmore was inducted into the Muhlenberg Athletic Hall of Fame in April 2016 for his passionate support of Muhlenberg athletics.

"I've never lost contact with a lot of these kids," says Skidmore. "They have continued to keep me in their life, either with an email here or there, or just letting me know they got another job doing this or that. And that's really heartwarming. It's a tremendous reward, watching them progress in life."

Skidmore jokes that everyone in the state of New Jersey has his phone number because he is constantly fielding inquiries about Muhlenberg from high school students and their parents. He is only too happy to expound on the benefits of his alma mater.

"I love the College. It's a special place. It's been great to me, and maybe there's a kid in the next group of people who can really latch on to our school," he says.

And it isn't just in his house on Sunday mornings that those Muhlenberg network opportunities can pop up.

Those gentlemen Skidmore met at the Dunkin' Donuts? They turned out to be the father and grandfather of Michelle Gaykowski '17, at the time a high school senior.

Gaykowski had never heard of Muhlenberg, but two weeks later, she visited campus. This May, she finished up a stellar career with the Mule track and field team that included two Centennial Conference gold medals and the school record in the discus.

"I owe all the credit for being at Muhlenberg to him," she says. "He has been so generous to me and my family."

Skidmore stayed in contact with Gaykowski by phone and email throughout her Muhlenberg career, attending several track meets to watch her throw. Now an alumna, Gaykowski is in a similar position to mentor others.

"I would love to help anybody get to Muhlenberg, because Muhlenberg really provided a lot to me and changed my perspective about things. I kind of grew up there," she says. "The athletic department had such a good influence on me too. I would love to help be the voice and get more high school athletes there and build that program up. I would absolutely love that."

Lacrosse Standout Bonds with Former Mule at Internship

She was pleasantly surprised to find an alumna in her workplace.

By Jordy Bonvini '18

Last summer, I had the chance to work with Kerrilynn Lanza '16 at a public relations firm called Gillian Small Public Relations. Although I didn't realize when I was applying that a Muhlenberg alumna worked in the office, it was a pleasant surprise to see that I already had something in common with a current employee.

I assisted with many general public relations tasks on a day-to-day basis. My duties included helping to create media lists, researching and monitoring clients and drafting pitches and distributing them to editors.

Coming from a small college, it's unexpected to have the opportunity to work with a fellow Mule. However, when it does happen, it's amazing how many things you can talk about with one another.

Both Kerri and I participated in sports during our time at Muhlenberg, which gave us the chance to talk about our similar involvements when being a student-athlete. We shared experiences from what our favorite GQ meal was to who our favorite professors were. It's comforting to have someone who understands what you're talking about when you say a "chicken finger meltdown."

"Once a Mule, always a Mule" is the perfect saying to sum up Muhlenberg's tight-knit community. Muhlenberg alumni often remember their roots and look to help fellow Mules if the opportunity presents itself, which is something current students should be grateful for.

As the Career Center promotes The Muhlenberg Network, it is giving students opportunities, including career fairs and trips, that assist students in contacting or meeting with alumni who are looking to help them with their futures.



Jordy Bonvini '18, a media & communication and business administration (marketing concentration) major, plays midfield and attack for the women's lacrosse team. During the 2017 season, she was named to the Division III All-America second team, All-Centennial Conference first team, All-Metro Region first team, and All-ECAC South first team and was the Centennial Conference offensive player of the year. She led the Mules in scoring with 78 points on 63 goals.

Muletin Board

SAVE THE DATE!

<http://muhlenbergconnect.com/events>

**Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre -
Alumni Exclusive Event**

**How to Succeed in Business Without Even Trying -
July 19, 2018**

Talk-back with Broadway performer, TV personality
and Muhlenberg alumnus Frankie Grande '05

Alumni Weekend - September 21-23, 2018

**Lifelong Learning at Alumni Weekend -
Friday, September 21, 2018**

Mulementum - November 15, 2018

T.H.A.W. - January 17, 2019

**ALUMNI BOARD
MEETING DATES**
September 8, 2018
November 10, 2018
April 27, 2019

CLASS NOTES

Your fellow Mules would love to know what you are up to!

**Let us know if you got married or engaged, had
a baby, got together with 'Berg classmates, got
promoted or retired, celebrated a milestone
birthday and more.**

Class Notes can be submitted to the office of alumni affairs
by mail at 2400 Chew St. Allentown, Pa. 18104, by email
to bergalum@muhlenberg.edu or by posting on
MuhlenbergConnect.com.

Deadlines for submission:

Summer issue: July 31, 2018

Class Notes received after the deadline will be
placed in the next issue of *Muhlenberg* magazine.

CAREER CENTER TO GO

Stop by and get some advice from our Career Center
experts and make connections at the networking
receptions. muhlenbergconnect.com/careertogo

July 30 - Baltimore

July 31-Aug 1 - Washington, D.C.

Aug 2 - Philadelphia

Alumni needed to provide leadership for regional clubs!

If interested, contact Tara Simpson '02,
assistant director, alumni affairs, at
tarasimpson@muhlenberg.edu.



ALUMNI TRAVEL
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Cuba: Art, Culture and People
December 9-17, 2018

With President and Mrs. John I. Williams, Jr.

Imperial Splendors of Russia
September 4-13, 2019

Apulia: Undiscovered Italy
October 23-31, 2019

YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL

Mules of the last decade! Applications for the Young Alumni
Council open Summer 2018. Serve as a representative of
young alumni to the greater Muhlenberg College community.
Contact Melissa Bodnar '13, associate director, alumni
affairs, at melissabodnar@muhlenberg.edu for more
information.

THANK YOU to our 746 volunteers who made a difference in 2017-2018!

To volunteer your time to Muhlenberg, email Diana Tirendi '07,
senior associate director, alumni affairs, at dianatirendi@muhlenberg.edu.

CLASS NOTES

1947

Muhlenberg alumni who are residents at Luther Crest sang the Alma Mater as part of the talent show on September 24, 2017. The 'Berg grads were organized by, and the singing led by **Carl Reimer** who, before they sang, gave a "commercial" for Muhlenberg.

1949

Mr. William D. Miers, CFC
mgb19744@verizon.net

1950

Mr. Theodore Haas, CFC
tnhaas@comcast.net

1951

Mr. Theodore C. Argeson, CFC
tca51mberg@yahoo.com

1953

Mr. Joseph H. Jorda, CFC
jjorda1010@aol.com

1956

Rev. Richard G. Miller, Jr., CFC
rg.miller@comcast.net

1957

Mr. Wolfgang W. Koenig, CFC
wkoenig1@cox.net

1958

Dr. Owen D. Faut, CFC
ofaut@frontier.com

1959

Dr. Lee A. Kreidler, CFC
leebar@ptd.net

Darryl Ponicsan's novel, "Last Flag Flying," has been turned into a movie that was released in November 2017. The film is directed by Richard Linklater and stars Bryan Cranston, Laurence Fishburne and Steve Carell. The 1973 film, "The Last Detail," was also based on another one of his books.

■ **James Sorger** celebrated his 80th birthday at a celebration with friends and family. ■ The Class of 1959 received an award for the Greatest Class Giving Participation in a non-Reunion year.

1960

Mr. Edward M. Davis, Jr., CFC
eddavis@ptd.net

Ed Davis and wife, Anne were honored by the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the

Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) as Outstanding Volunteer Fundraisers for the volunteer work they do for Muhlenberg College. In February, they hosted their annual Muhlenberg gathering in Hilton Head, S.C. ■ **Robert E. Donatelli**, a member of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A., has been elected to the board of directors of the Allentown Symphony Association.

1961

Mr. Richard L. Foley, CFC
rlfoley4@verizon.net

1962

Mr. Duane G. Sonneborn, Jr., CFC
duanesonneborn@comcast.net

Lona Farr was honored by the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) with the inaugural Dr. Lona M. Farr, ACFRE Award of Distinction for a Fundraising Professional. Farr was also honored with the Leadership Service Award for an outstanding volunteer career at Muhlenberg.

1963

Rev. Dr. Richard A Weisenbach, was recognized by his denomination, The United Church of Christ, for 50 years of ordained ministry, at the annual meeting of the UCC Massachusetts Conference last June, in Hartford Conn. After retirement from the senior pastorate in June of 2013, he began serving a small congregation in a neighboring city. He is grateful for the opportunity to still preach every Sunday.

1964

Mrs. Patricia (Dickinson) Hoffman, CFC
pathoffman@rcn.com

1965

Dr. John E. Trainer, Jr., CFC
jetrain2@gmail.com

William Hauserman moved to South Florida. He is enjoying playing golf and his two children and three grandchildren. ■ **Barbara Wagner Kepler** was honored with the General Pete Award for outstanding leadership as a new volunteer.

1966

Mr. Timothy A. Romig, CFC
explrs3311@comcast.net

After retiring in 2014 as the assistant director in the School of Education at Stockton

University, **Nancy (Rupnik) Fiedler** became a master gardener. Fiedler's garden won the Distinctive Garden Award in 2016 and 2017 in the Philadelphia Horticultural Society's Green Contest. ■ Friends from the Class of 1966, **Chip Parisi**, **Don Robinson**, **Barry Weshnak**, **Dick Geyer**, and **Larry Dobrin**, got together for a trip in Florida.

1967

Mr. David J. Nowack, CFC
dlnowack@ptd.net

The Class of 1967 received an award for Greatest Reunion Class Giving Participation.

1968

Mr. W. Russell Koerwer, CFC
wrkoerwer@aol.com

1969

Mr. C. Clifford Allen, CFC
allencliff47@verizon.net

Jim Davidson gave a two-part talk last September in Hopewell, N.J. on the life and times of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

1970

Dr. Glenn S. Kratzer, CFC
gkratzer@gmail.com

Mrs. Diane R. (Schmidt) Ladley, CFC
dianeladley@verizon.net

Lee Herskowitz won a blue ribbon for his dogs in the retriever field trials in Easton, Md. in October 2017.

1971

Ms. Mary Daye Hohman, CFC
mdhohman@gmail.com

Ronald Pizzi is a retired banker living in Tampa, Fla. ■ **Jack McCallum** recently published a new book, "Golden Days: West's Lakers, Steph's Warriors, and the California Dreamers Who Reinvented Basketball."

1972

Rev. Eric C. Shafer, CFC
ericshafer@hotmail.com

Eric Shafer received the Community Service Appreciation Award for interfaith humanitarian service from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, recognizing his leadership with the Students4Students Shelter (formerly known as the Bruin Shelter) at Mt. Olive. He also appeared in March's "Sanctuary Stations of the Cross 540" on ABC channel 7 in Chicago.

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Frank Cabrera '12, Greg Parr '13, Jason Schunkewitz '14, Carolyn Dorf '14 and Mary McGinley '14 celebrate the May 2017 engagement of Alyssa Brief '14 and Joe Celentano '13.



Conor Rodriguez nephew of Sherry Rodriguez '16 and grandson of Edwin Rodriguez, College employee



James Sorger celebrated his 80th birthday at a celebration with friends and family. Pictured here with his son, Joel, and daughter-in-law, Kathy.



Lauren Shetler '07 and Gudjon Magnusson were married on May 28, 2017 in Williamsport, MD. Alumni gather at the July 9, 2016, wedding of Amy Romm '04 and Brian Lockard.



Deb Coppola Scaringi '91, Robert Algeri '93 and Jon Lieb '91 met at the Legal Marketing Association's Northeast Regional Conference in Philadelphia.



Susan (Keele) Powell '85, Joni Mason '86 and Kathy (Clark) Pugh '85 got together in Naples, Florida last Spring



Robyn '98 and Kevin Dinallo '97 announce Cody Duke was born on November 20, 2017.



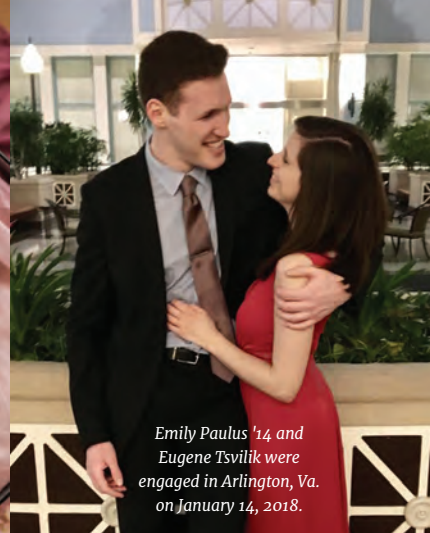
Chris Amirault '11 at the Bacardi Legacy National Final (photo credit Eugene Lee)



Jay Finkelstein '06 and Mike Yellin '05 coordinated a group of Muhlenberg attorneys to be sworn in to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. Richard Ben-Veniste '64 accompanied the group. Read more on page 25.



Lily Evelyn Contrastano, daughter of Christina (Lindsay) '08 and Joseph Contrastano '08, born August 31, 2017.



Emily Paulus '14 and Eugene Tsvilik were engaged in Arlington, Va. on January 14, 2018.



Nicole Bernard Risener '09 and Edward Risener '09 welcomed Andrew Harold Risener.



Melissa Pavlack '86 at her swearing in as a Lehigh County judge (photo credit Amy Herzog)



Allison Brzezinski '10 and Patrick Scorese '11 were married on August 13, 2017



Alumni and friends gather at the wedding of Scott Lissner '11 and Sally Goebel '12.

CLASS NOTES

1973

Mr. Jeffrey R. Dundon, CFC
jeffreydundon73@gmail.com

The Daily Progress recently seated **Frank Friedman**, president of Piedmont Virginia Community College, on its editorial advisory board.

1974

Mr. Bruce Albright, CFC
Balbright123@comcast.net

Christopher B. Rumpf has joined SE Healthcare as vice president and senior medical consultant. He has more than 35 years of clinical health-care experience. Previously, he was senior vice president and chief medical officer for Valley Health System in Winchester, Va. ■ **Robert G. Cuzzolino** is the recipient of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association's Certificate of Honor, the highest award given by the association in recognition of distinguished services rendered and loyal devotion to the welfare and strengthening of PCOM.

1975

Mrs. Linda Cenci, CFC
LSCenci@aol.com

Stephen Weiner composed the show "The Honeymooners" that played at the Paper Mill Playhouse from September 28–October 29, 2017. "The Honeymooners" could be headed to Broadway next.

1976

Mr. Gregory J. Fox, CFC
gfox@mmwr.com
Mr. Stephen J. Hart, CFC
hartstephen212@gmail.com
Ms. Carolyn Ikeda, CFC
csikeda76@yahoo.com

1977

Mr. Steven M. Eisenhauer, CFC
steve@congruencewines.com
Mrs. Susan C. (Ettelman) Eisenhauer, CFC
Eisenhauer.sc@gmail.com
Stephen P. Crane joins CSS Industries' Board of Directors. ■ The Class of 1977 received awards for the Largest Reunion Class Gift to the Muhlenberg Fund and the Largest Overall Reunion Class Gift. ■ **Susan C. Ettelman Eisenhauer** received the W. Chester Hill '20

Award for leadership by a class fund chair. ■ **Steven M. Eisenhauer** received the W. Chester Hill '20 Award for leadership by a class fund chair. ■ **Debra Higgins Nagy** received the Reunion Volunteer Award for leadership by a Reunion volunteer.

1978

Donna M. (Bradley) Tyson, Esq., CFC
Dbtyson@gmail.com

Joan Murray of Denville, N.J. was a recent tax court nominee. Since 2014 she has been an administrative law judge. She has held various public posts since 1983. ■ The Class of 1978 received an award for the Largest Class Gift to the Muhlenberg Fund in a non-Reunion year.

1979

Mr. Rudy A. Favocci, Jr., CFC
rudyfavo@gmail.com

The Class of 1979 received an award for the Largest Overall Class Gift in a non-Reunion year.

1980

Mrs. Kim Barth Kembel, CFC
kim.kembel@tufts.edu

1981

Ms. Joan C. Triano, CFC
jtriano@aol.com

Robert Corr is being inducted into East Greenwich High School Hall of Fame in May 2018.

1982

Ms. Marion E. Glick, CFC
82marion@gmail.com
Mrs. Tambria (Johnson) O'Shaughnessy, CFC
wtoshau@verizon.net
Mr. William J. O'Shaughnessy, Jr., CFC
wjos1024@gmail.com

1983

Ms. Tammy L. Bormann, CFC
tlbormann@comcast.net

1984

Mrs. Michelle (Rein) Pressman, CFC
mjpressman@comcast.net,
mpressman@ltps.org

1985

Ms. Carolyn (Ricca) Parelli, CFC
csparelli@gmail.com

Tim Ryan was named CIO of Aegis Sciences Corp. Prior to joining Aegis Sciences Corp., Ryan was senior vice president of information technology and solution delivery at Miraca Life Sciences Inc. ■ **Susan (Keele) Powell, Joni Mason '86** and **Kathy (Clark) Pugh** got together in Naples, Florida last spring to celebrate their April birthdays.

1986

Mr. Paul "Chip" M. Hurd, Jr., CFC
pmhref@rcn.com

Lee Marcus and **Tracy Ottinger Marcus '87** proudly announce the birth of their first grandchild, Liam Andrew Beck, on November 17, 2017 to proud parents Jessica and Andrew Beck. Lee and Tracy live in Somers, N.Y. Lee is president and founder of Preventive Cardiology of New York in Manhattan, while Tracy works as a counselor for Westchester Independent Living Centers. The couple is celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary in 2018 and can't fathom how time flies by in the blink of an eye. ■ **Melissa T. Pavlack** was sworn in on January 3, 2018 as Lehigh County's newest judge.

1987

Ms. Eileen (Collins) Neri, CFC
ecneri24@gmail.com

Edward Richmond was named associate executive director and chief financial officer of Kutztown University Foundation, Inc.

1988

Dr. Venard Scott (Fegley) Koerwer, CFC
skoerwer@me.com

1989

Mr. Jeff Evans Vaughan, CFC
jv@voncom.com

Paul Gable has joined Prudential Group Insurance as chief underwriting officer, where he will assume national leadership of all underwriting functions.

1990

Ms. Sharon I. Mahn, CFC
sharonmahn10@gmail.com
Mrs. Ramy B. (Shalotsky) Sharp, CFC
ramysharp@aol.com

1991

Mr. Christopher Parkes, CFC
cparkes@conceptiii.com
Deb Coppola Scaringi, Robert Algeri '93

and **Jon Lieb** recently reconnected at the Legal Marketing Association's Northeast Regional Conference in Philadelphia, PA. All three of them are leaders in the legal marketing industry. Deb is the immediate past president of the LMA's Northeast Regional Board and a business development consultant to lawyers and law firms; Robert is a co-founder of Great Jakes, a website development firm; and Jon is the founder of an independent media/public relations and marketing firm, Thirty Ink.

1992

Dr. Trina A. Poretta, CFC
ranalli8@comcast.net

Christina Van Tassell was named chief financial officer at Dow Jones.

1993

Ms. Jill M. Poretta, CFC
jporetta@cozen.com

Russ Racine was recently named partner of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP. ■ **Jen and Doug Boyd** welcomed baby boy Owen on January 21. He came into the world at 5 pounds, 14 ounces.

1994

Mr. Bret G. Kobler, CFC
bret.kobler@gmail.com

PNC Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of **John F. "Jack" Gross** to its Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Advisory Board. Gross is a partner at Gross McGinley LLP, a full-service law firm with offices in Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon Counties.

1996

Mrs. Melissa G. Wasserman Daniels, CFC
mrs1daniels@yahoo.com

Dr. Mikel D. Daniels, CFC
drmdaniels@gmail.com

1997

Dr. Shannon Gary, CFC
sgary@usfca.edu

Chris Baylor published his first book, "First to the Party: The Group Origins of Political Transformation" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017). The book uses party changes of the past to understand how parties will change going ahead. ■ **Nicole (Carp) Baldino** just opened The Bar Method Marlboro, a barre-based fitness studio, in Marlboro, N.J. The exercise uses body weight

for resistance, the ballet barre and a few props to create a workout that results in long, lean sculpted muscles. Nicole is an instructor, as well as owner. She and her husband live in Shrewsbury, N.J. and have three boys Tyler, Finn and Ryan.

1998

Mr. Joshua A. Lindland, CFC
joshua.lindland@gmail.com

Mike Kern competed at the 2017 CrossFit Games in Madison, WI on August 2-5, 2017. This was Mike's second trip to the CrossFit Games, placing sixth overall in the men's masters 40-44 year-old division. ■ **Cebile Capital**, a leading secondaries adviser and placement agent, has named **Steven Westerback** as president, head of the Americas. ■ **Robyn Spivak Dinallo** and **Kevin Dinallo '97** announced another mini Mule! Cody Duke was born on November 20, 2017. His big sisters Jordana, Lyla and Kenzy could not be more in love!

1999

Mr. Matthew R. Sordoni, CFC
matthewsordoni@sordoni.com

Kellie A. McGowan was selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2018 edition. She represents clients throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey in commercial and residential real estate and land use matters, as well as banking transactions for some of the most prestigious regional and community banks in the region. Kellie has practiced real estate law for nearly 15 years and has participated in hundreds of real estate transactions. ■ **Steve Arora** took a new position as chief executive officer of AXIS Re. He will be based in Zurich, Switzerland. ■ **Elmer Moore** received a 2018 Diversity in Business Award in Milwaukee, Wis.

2000

Mr. Drew J. Bitterman, CFC
drewbitterman@gmail.com

Thomas Murray published his second book, "Learning Transformed: 8 Keys to Designing Tomorrow's Schools, Today." Endorsements include former U.S. Secretary of Ed, Arne Duncan, Sir Ken Robinson, Dan Pink, and others. ■ **Tami Hobel-Macaluso** was recently appointed director of procurement at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Transportation Department, where she has been employed for 18 years.

2001

Mr. Christopher A. Lee, CFC
christopher_a_lee@hotmail.com

Jarad Benn and wife, Victoria, had their second baby on April 1, 2017 a little girl, Willamena Violet Benn. She joins her older sister, Josephine Daisy. The Benns are all thrilled to be starting a new chapter in their lives in Texas. ■ **Melanie (Laputka) Gardner** and **Aaron Gardner** were married on May 20, 2017 in Annapolis, Md. ■ **Kate Lederman** and **Douglas Pingree** were married on October 7, 2017 at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, Pa. ■ **Christopher J. Rogers** has been elected a partner of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, P.L.C.

2002

Mr. Adam Marles, CFC
amarles@phoebe.org

■ **Matthew C. Jones** has earned the AICP credential from the American Institute of Certified Planners. He passed the final AICP accreditation exam on November 6, 2017. Matthew has worked for nine years in various public interest positions within nonprofits and county government. Most recently, he served as senior land use planner and inspector with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He lives in downtown Frederick, Md. with his wife, Annie Blanchard Jones '03, and their son, Everett.

2003

Ms. Laura A. Garland, CFC
laura.a.garland@gmail.com

Shannon Lambert-Ryan performed with her contemporary Celtic band, Runa, in Cape Cod in March. ■ **Edward Easterly** and other attorneys from the Labor & Employment Group of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. presented "The Curious Case of Dr. Oblivious: An Interactive Mock Trial" on April 13 at Bear Creek Mountain Resort in Macungie, Pa.

2004

Ms. Robyn M. Duda, CFC
robynmuda@gmail.com

Amy Romm and **Brian Lockard** were married at The Merion in Cinnaminson, N.J. on July 9, 2016. ■ **Rebecca Emily Martin** and **Jared Paul Lander** were married on October 22, 2017 by Rabbi Joshua Gruenberg at Congregation Beth El in Yardley, Pa. ■ **Kate Dischino** was

continued on page 40

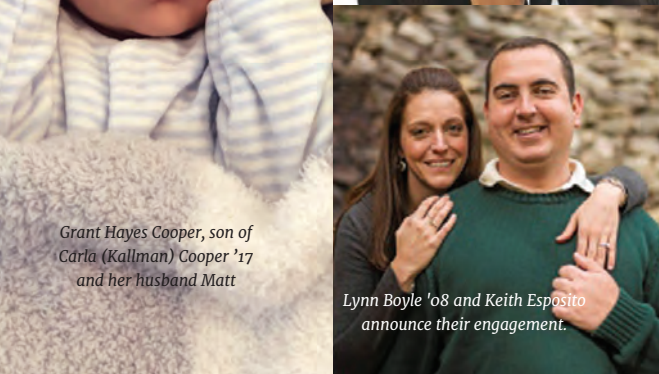
Matt Roessler '08 and Megan Schrier were married on October 6, 2017 in Doylestown, Pa and were joined by Lindsey Roessler '12, James Seward '08, Kyle Casey '08, Vanessa Rowan '08, Allison Thayer '08, Victoria Carhart '08, Tori Puff '08 and Kristina Lucarelli '08.



Robert Shannon '13 and Alyssa Meola '13 were engaged on June 17, 2017



Ken Beal '85, Neil Levine '84, Howard Luks '85, Paul Roseman '83; front row from left to right: Jodi (Cohen) Levine '85, Beth Byrne '85



Grant Hayes Cooper, son of Carla (Kallman) Cooper '17 and her husband Matt



Lynn Boyle '08 and Keith Esposito announce their engagement.



Students and alumni came together for the Lutheran College Washington Semester (LCWS) Alumni Network Launch Party on October 25, 2017. Attendees included Crystal Specht '16, Insley Fowler '09, Alexander Toglia '18, Kiara Ryan '19, Kaci Gragory '18, Emily Robinson '19, Jamee Hood '18, Melissa Bodnar '13, Morgan Weiss '19 and Andrea Anastasio '13.



Kimberly Dodson '13 was casted in "The Donna Summer Musical" on Broadway.



Holly (Kolesnik) Gawel '07 and Mike Gawel '09 welcomed Noah Michael Gawel on December 24, 2017.



Kate Lederman '01 and Douglas Pingree were married on October 7, 2017



Nancy (Rupnik) Fiedler '66 with her Distinctive Garden Award.



Emily (Schweighardt) Bollinger '07 and husband Marc welcomed son Luke Simon Bollinger on June 30, 2017.

John F. "Jack" Gross '94 was named to PNC Bank's Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Advisory Board.

Lee Marcus '86 and Tracy Ottinger Marcus '87 welcomed first grandchild Liam Andrew Beck.



Ed Davis '60 and his wife Anne hosted their annual Muhlenberg gathering in Hilton Head, S.C.



Alyssa Bascelli '10 married Matthew Thompsen on October 14, 2017 and were joined by Amanda McGovern '10, Danielle Scarrone '10, Eirinn Disbrow '10, Jennifer Sepede '10, Allisyn Vogel '11, Kaitlyn Ferris '10, Ashley Foltiny '10, Christopher Bascelli '15 and Thomas Vogel '11.



Lauren Carballo '07 and Bryant Michels were married on April 22, 2017

Jesse Nusbaum '13 with one of his sculptures



CLASS NOTES

promoted to vice president of emergency programs for Americares, the health-focused relief and development organization.

2005

Mrs. Chelsea Gomez Starkowski, CFC
CHELSEAGOMEZ@allstate.com

Kyle David's company KDG was recognized as a top software development team in the Philadelphia region by Clutch, a Washington, D.C. B2B research firm. Kyle and wife Courtney had a baby girl, Nora Grace in December, 2017. ■ **Mike Yellin** and wife Jillian welcome Elizabeth Mary Yellin.

■ **Christina Esche** and Michael Yehle were married on September 9 in Washington, D.C.

■ Swartz Campbell LLC is pleased to announce that **Kristopher A. Kachline** has joined the firm as partner. Elizabeth Colpo conducted the Lower Dauphin HS Women's Select Choir at the biennial Eastern Division Conference of the National Association for Music Education. She recently earned National Board Certification and is pursuing a DMA in music education through Boston University. ■ **Eric Prock** has been made equity partner at the law firm of Fanelli, Evans & Patel, a personal injury law firm. ■ **Michael Alexander** was promoted to executive vice president international for Republic, Def Jam and Island Records. ■ **Jordan Ahnquist** is appeared in a one night only concert "When Pigs Fly."

2006

Mrs. Elizabeth R. (Hamilton) Marrero, CFC
elizabethrmarrero@gmail.com

Matthew Benjamin Mittelman-Freeman and Adam Jay Rosen were married September 3, 2017 at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Conn. ■ **Colleen McClellan** is now the senior product manager, business solutions at Zoetis Inc. ■ **Kristin (Burkhart) Sites** and her husband, Michael, welcomed their daughter, Grace Marie Sites, on October 11, 2017. She was 6 pounds, 8 ounces and 19.5 inches at birth. Grace joins big brother, Henry, age three. Everyone is happy and doing well! The family lives in Fayetteville, Pa. ■ **Kate McLaughlin Santore** was named as a "Young Influential" by Adweek. She received the honor for her work on The Coca-Cola Company's marketing team. ■ **Jon Reimer** is to direct the UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance presentation of "The

Skriker" by Caryl Churchill. ■ **Anthony M. DiJulio** was featured in Temple University's Fox School of Business article "This Chemist's Solution for Career Advancement? Earning an MBA" on March 27, 2018.

2007

Rabbi Jason M. Bonder, CFC
jmbonder@gmail.com

Mrs. Courtney (Roosa) Marsallo, CFC
courtney.marsallo@gmail.com

Christi Lumiere, CFC
clumiere@bowdoin.edu

Stephani Bann and husband Darrin are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Norah Elyse Bann, born on August 30, 2017. ■ **Emily (Schweighardt) Bollinger** and husband Marc welcomed son Luke Simon Bollinger into the world on June 30, 2017 in Berkeley, CA. He was 9 lb. 4 oz. and 21.5 in long. ■ **Lauren Carballo** and Bryant Michels were married on April 22, 2017. ■ On October 10, 2017, **Jonathan Herstoff** argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case *Hamer v. Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago*, No. 16-658 (U.S.). On November 8, 2017, the Court, in a unanimous decision written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, ruled in favor of his client. ■ **Kelly Anthoula Love** and Hristos George Karavoulas were married September 2, 2017 in Lowell, Mass. Rev. Gregory Christakos performed the ceremony at the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church. ■

Michael Vail Tenenhaus and Allissa Paige Fabrikant were married November 18, 2017 at Temple Israel in Lawrence, N.Y. Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff officiated. ■ **Miriam Eisenberg** and husband were married September 10, 2017 with Mules in attendance. ■ **Dr. Carey Heller** and Hope Heller welcomed their second child, Nathan Myles Heller, on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces. Sammy is a proud big brother. ■ **Carla (Kallman) Cooper** and her husband, Matt, are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Grant Hayes Cooper, on January 19, 2018. Grant joins big sisters Jaye Addison, five, and Arden Rose, two-and-a-half. ■ **Sergio Armani** started a new position as senior director, business development, business development lead, northeast, midwest and Canada at Schulman IRB. ■ **Lauren Shetler** and Gudjon Magnusson were married on May 28, 2017 in

Williamsport, MD. Fellow alumni present: **Amanda (Johnson) Savas**, **Libby Hill**, **Will Trevethick**, **Blaine Miller-McFeeley '08**, **Kennedy Kanagawa '08**, **Joel Frank**, **Amy Frey '09**, **Ashley Kaplan**, **Josh Rosenblum '09**, **Cara Scharf**, **Kaitlyn Huczko '06**, **Brian Kirchner**, **Andrew Kelleher**, **Rosalind (Newsholme) Kelleher**, **Kristin (Burkhart) Sites '06**, **Liz Schmitt**, **Amanda Palmer**, **Katie Most**, **Megan (Finnegan) Bungeroth**, **Amanda Thompson**, **Liz Wasser '08**. ■ **Ryan Stauffer** was elected to the Lower Saucon Township Council. ■ **Holly (Kolesnik) Gawel** and **Mike Gawel '09** welcomed Noah Michael Gawel on December 24, 2017. ■ **Christian Messler** got engaged to Jessica Merlo.

2008

Ms. Kristel R. Dow, CFC
kristeldow@gmail.com

Ms. Allie Schnall Keller, CFC
allieschnallkeller@gmail.com

Tricia Conti and husband Matt gave birth to Mia Regina Conti on September 13, 2017. ■ **Will Porter** will be performing the role of Dr. Kitchell in the off-Broadway revival of "Bells are Ringing." ■ **Christina (Lindsay)** and **Joseph Contrastano** are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Evelyn, on August 31, 2017. Lily weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 21 inches long. ■ **Matt Johnson** and **Tiffany (Elliott) Johnson** are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Elliott Grace, on June 26, 2017. Elliott weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long. All are happy, healthy and enjoying family life. The family lives in Pequannock, N.J. ■ **Matt Roessler** and Megan Schrier were married on October 6, 2017 in Doylestown, Pa. ■ **Lynn Boyle** and Keith Esposito announce their engagement.

2009

Ms. Brittany A. (Barton) Bloss, CFC
brittanyabarton@gmail.com

Sarah Ellis and **Scott Ellis '08** celebrated the birth of their son, Colin Robert Ellis, on July 12, 2017, weighing 6 pounds 10 ounces, 18 inches, born at 4:46PM in Princeton, N.J. ■ **Louisa Balch** named new general manager at American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, Calif. ■ **Nicole Bernard Risener** and **Edward Risener** welcomed Andrew

Harold Risener on November 24, 2017. ■
Emelia Violet Pisano joined the Muhlenberg
Family on January 20 at 2: 40 p.m.

2010

Ms. Jessica Davis, CFC
jessdavis1@gmail.com

Mr. Jonathan Falk, CFC
jffalk715@gmail.com

Ms. Alysea McDonald, CFC
alysea.mcdonald@gmail.com

Allison Brzezinski and **Patrick Scorese '11**
were married on August 13, 2017 with Mules
in attendance. ■ **Matthew Pearson** has been
elected to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal
Council in voting among tribal members. ■
Alyssa Bascelli married Matthew Thompsen
on October 14, 2017 with Mules in
attendance. ■ **Samantha Unger Horrow**
received the Young Alumni Volunteer Award
at Volunteer Summit 2018.

2011

Ms. Catherine S. Schwartz, CFC
c.schwartz89@gmail.com

Alyssa D'Addio Bialko married **Michael
Bialko '09** in 2014. They had their first child,
Joseph Michael Bialko in August 2017. ■
Sydney Leischner (Miller) and **Gregory
Leischner '09** married on October 15, 2017 at
Clarks Landing Yacht Club in Point Pleasant,
NJ. Blake Timochenko started a new position
as COO at Summit Data System. ■ Wedding
of **Scott Lissner** and **Sally Goebel '12** on
September 3, 2017 in New Haven, Conn. Scott
was on the Muhlenberg football team all four
years. Sally was a member of Delta Zeta
Sorority and senior class vice president. In
attendance were Muhlenberg Alumni **Steven
Nork '11**, **Jason LoPipero '11**, **Andrew Curly
'11**, **Jordan Blumenthal '11**, **Mary Ann
(Collins) Blumenthal '12**, **Wayne Mitchel
'11**, **Allison Giordano '12**, **Abra (Evensky)
Adams '12**, **Kelli Gill '12**, **Samantha Blum
'11**, **Jennifer Verola '13**, **Michelle Cohen '12**,
Kristen (Wehrle) Scanlon '12, **Daniela
(Bazzini) Belgiovine '12**, **Brooke Benedetto
'12**, **Abigail Gilmore '12**, **Marley Goldman
'12**, **Maya Spitalnik '12**, **Jordan Carpenter
'11**, **Rachel (Mansfield) Carpenter '12**, **Alana
Keegan '14**, **Carley Cush '12**, **Lynn p.m. '12**,
Rebecca Sharpe '12, **Kimberly Hanson '12**.
Also present was **Jill Lissner**, Scotts younger
sister, who is a current Muhlenberg student
expected to graduate in 2021. ■ On Feb. 6,

ten bartenders from across the U.S. gathered
in Miami to compete in the Bacardi Legacy
National Final and **Chris Amirault** was one of
them.

2012

Ms. Lisa M. Peterson, CFC
lisapetey27@gmail.com

Jeremy Menard began a new role as the TV
and radio operations manager at Ithaca
College. ■ **Rebecca Favocci** was promoted to
account supervisor at H4B Catapult. ■ **Ryan
Lindsay** married Alyssa Lindsay on April 22,
2017, with Mules in attendance. ■ **Joy
Forlenza** and **David Dolan '07** were matched
on a dating app because they shared a
mutual Facebook friend (a fellow Mule). They
each attended Muhlenberg at different times
and had never met. They decided to meet in-
person for the first time at Muhlenberg
T.H.A.W. event in 2016 in Ridgewood, N.J.,
and the rest is history! They are now engaged
to be married.

2013

Ms. Nina E. Pongratz, CFC
nepongratz@gmail.com

Ms. Nashalys K. Rodriguez, CFC
nashkrod@gmail.com

Robert Shannon and **Alyssa Meola** were
engaged on June 17, 2017. ■ **Benjamin
Hartman** and **Jaclyn Scaturro** are pleased to
announce their engagement. ■ **Jesse
Nusbaum**, a bronze sculptor known for
creating realistic animals, was recently
inducted into the Silvermine Guild of Artists.
After two levels of juried evaluations,
Nusbaum joins a distinguished group of 300
professional artists from the Northeast who
work in a wide array of media and are
represented in prestigious museums, and
private and corporate collections. ■ **Victoria
E. Paone** joined the firm of Paone, Zaleski &
Murray, with offices in Red Bank and
Woodbridge, as an associate attorney.
■ **Kimberly Dodson** was cast in "The
Donna Summer Musical" on Broadway.
■ The Mastery Charter Lenfest boys middle
school basketball team, co-coached by **Julie
Kelly**, a four-year basketball player, captured
the Philadelphia Charter School City
Championship on March 7, 2018.
■ **Andrea Anastasio** received an award for
her leadership of the Washington, D.C.
Regional Club. ■ **Christopher P. Galletta**

received The Muhlenberg Network Volunteer
Award for leadership as a career volunteer.

2014

Ms. Gabrielle Aboodi, CFC
gabrielleaboodi@gmail.com

Mr. Michael R. Schramm, CFC
michael.schramm14@gmail.com

Rachel Waldman was named new Hillel and
young leadership director for the Federation
of Atlantic and Cape May Counties. ■ **Alyssa
Brief** and **Joe Celentano '13** were engaged in
May 2017. ■ **Emily Paulus** and Eugene
Tsvilik got engaged in Arlington, Va. on
January 14, 2018. The couple met while
attending law school at Villanova University
Charles Widger School of Law. They plan to
wed in October 2019.

2015

Ms. Holly M. Hynson, CFC
holly.hynson2@gmail.com

David Anderson was named **Watertown Rapids**
head baseball coach. 2016

Ms. Sarah A. Cromwell, CFC
scrom94@gmail.com

Tommy McCarthy, **Henry Evans** and **Noah
Dach** were featured in an article that profiles
Atlas Circus Company and the troupe's start
at Muhlenberg. The company performed
WILD! as part of Muhlenberg's 2017 Summer
Music Theatre. ■ **Erika Davis** was announced
as Regional Dance America's new chief
executive officer.

2017

Ms. Loren Sass, CFC
lsass94@gmail.com

Ms. Sadie Katz, CFC
sadielkatz4@gmail.com

Alyssa Kratz was just promoted to producer
of the 5:30 p.m. "News 13 Valley Report" on
Blue Ridge Cable TV-13.

Football alumni from the Class of 2002 celebrate by tailgating before the Muhlenberg vs. Moravian game. Back Row (In order left to right) is: Brett Sawyer '98, Sean Topping '98, David Boelker '99, Chuck Richard '00, Dave Johnson '98, Dave Jones '01, Keith Mann '01
Front Row: Bo Rodriguez '03, Danny Schmidt '00, John Scerbo '03, Nick Tranguch '02, Mike Stankowitz '02, Jim DePreta '01



Michael Vail Tenenhaus '07 and Allissa Paige Fabrikant were married November 18, 2017



Muhlenberg alumni from the Class of 1947 sang at the Luther Crest talent show on September 24, 2017.



Elliott Grace, daughter of Matt Johnson '08 and Tiffany (Elliott) Johnson '08, was born on June 26, 2017



Elizabeth Mary Yellin, daughter of Mike Yellin '05 and wife Jillian



Friends from the class of 2004 tailgating before the Muhlenberg vs. Moravian football game. Jennifer (Healy) Ascrizzi, Carol Undreiner Zelizo, Nicole (Sarno) Driscoll, Sarah Wasserkrug Bowe, Jennifer (Rigg) Rutkowski, Emily (Holod) Spatz, Christy (Barnes) DeFiori, Amy (Romm) Lockard

Kristin (Burkhart) Sites '06 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their daughter, Grace Marie Sites, on Oct. 11, 2017



Ryan Lindsay '12 married Alyssa Lindsay on April 22, 2017





Norah Elyse Bann, daughter of Stephani Bann '07 and husband Darrin, born August 30, 2017.



Matthew Mittelman-Freeman '06 and Adam Rosen were married September 3, 2017



Kelly Anthoula Love '07 and Hristos George Karavoulas were married September 2, 2017.



Rebecca Emily Martin and Jared Paul Lander were married on October 22, 2017.



Melanie (Laputka) Gardner '01 and Aaron Gardner were married on May 20, 2017



Willamena Violet Benn, born April 1, 2017, daughter of Jarad Benn and wife Victoria.



Matthew C. Jones '02 (pictured here with wife Annie Blanchard Jones '03 and their son, Everett) earned the AICP credential from the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Joy Forlenza '12 and David Dolan '07 met in person at a 2016 THAW event and are now engaged!



Sydney Leischner (Miller) '11 and Gregory Leischner '09 married on October 15, 2017



Miriam Eisenberg '07 and husband Joshua were married September 10, 2017



Christina Esche '05 and Michael Yehle were married on September 9



Dr. Carey Heller '07 and Hope Heller welcomed their second child, Nathan Myles Heller, on Tuesday, November 28, 2017

IN MEMORIAM

1944

Thomas H. Wallace passed away on March 8, 2005.

1945

Victor C. Boccard, age 88, of Broomfield, passed away on August 1, 2013.

1946

Dr. Howard C. Baron, age 87, died on October 26, 2010. Beloved husband of Joan. Loving father of Abby, Lizzy, Mike and the late Jimmy. Cherished grandfather of Ben, Becki, Joseph, Matthew, Maggie, Emma, Jeffrey, Megan and Lily. Devoted brother of Irene Moskowitz and the late Gail Kaplan. ■

Rev. Harry R. Billow, 89, of McAlisterville died on September 1, 2015 at the Bridges at Brookline, Harrisburg. Born on January 31, 1926 in Turbotville, Northumberland County, he was a son of the late Rev. Harry J. and Sue E. (Weaver) Billow. His first wife, Dorothy Jean (Fogleman) Billow, whom he married on February 19, 1949, preceded him in death on March 5, 1989 and his second Esther (Colyer) Billow whom he married on June 29, 1991, survives. Surviving are his children, David Billow of Fournite, MT, Harry James Billow and his wife Susie, of Columbia Falls, MT, Lori Banzhoff and her husband Robert, of Mechanicsburg; step daughter, Dixie Buckley and her husband Herb, of West Virginia, 16 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and 17 great-great-grandchildren. Rev. Billow is the last of his generation having been preceded in death by his twin brother Rev. Paul Billow and two sisters, Ruth Spooner and Grace Reinhold.

1947

E. Robert "Bob" Kishbaugh, 94, of Bethlehem, formerly of Jim Thorpe (and currently Northampton), passed away on March 8, 2018 at LVHN Hospice. He was the loving and devoted husband of Alverda (Meckes) Kishbaugh. Bob will be lovingly remembered by his wife of over 70 years, Alverda Kishbaugh; daughters, Linda Vetter (Charlie) and Jackie Fenicle (Steve); grandchildren, Ryan Vetter, Joshua Vetter (Bethany), Adam Fenicle and Aubrie Fenicle; 4 great-grandchildren, Addison, Gianna, Melina, and Kyler; and one brother, Richard D. Kishbaugh (Dottie) of Ambler.

1948

Roy C. Kern, 94, of Schnecksville died

February 8, 2018 at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest. He was the husband of Annie M. (Schneck) Kern to whom he was married 70 years last June 21. Survivors: In addition to his wife, Annie; daughter, Barbara A. Kern Lamb (Dallas) of El Cajon, CA; son, Brian R. Kern (Colette) of Schnecksville; five grandchildren; two great grandchildren; predeceased by a son, Terry V. Kern and a brother, Vernon G. Kern. ■ **Roy Franklin Kerschner**, 92, passed away peacefully in his sleep December 2, 2017 in Redstone Highland, Murrysville. Preceding him in death were three brothers, Carl, Dale and Gene Kerschner. Surviving are his loving wife of 63 years, Alda; a son, David and wife, Beth Kerschner, Murrysville; a daughter, Barbara Kerschner, Cocoa, Fla.; four grandchildren, Amy and husband, Alex Smith, Andrew Kerschner, Daniel Kerschner, Laura Kerschner, all of Murrysville; a great granddaughter, Joanna Smith, Murrysville; nieces and nephew. ■ **Dr. Kenneth W. Miller**, 92, of Wyomissing, formerly of Fleetwood, passed away on January 18, 2018 at his home surrounded by his loving family. In addition to his wife, Barbara, Dr. Miller is survived by his three sons: Dr. Martin F. Miller, husband of Crystal K. (Meitzler) Miller, Fleetwood, Thomas A. Miller, Esquire, husband of Barbara S. (Seebers) Miller, Houston, Texas, and Peter W. Miller, husband of Kimberley F. (Lynch) Miller, Fleetwood. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Taryn Miller, Leslie Christman, wife of Jared Christman, Emily Miller, Jessica Miller, Stephanie Miller and Sarah Miller; his step-grandchildren, Matthew R. Spilker, husband of Gina (Laudato) Spilker, Nicole F. Spilker and Bradley R. Spilker, husband of Chandra (Carey) Spilker; his great-grandchildren, Ella and Chase Christman; his step-great grandchildren: Madison Craft, Jackson Craft, Kennadi McClung, Brooklyn Spilker, Ashlyn Spilker and Robert Spilker; and by his siblings: Warren G. Miller, husband of Jane Miller, Lititz, Barry L. Miller, husband of Carol Miller, McMurray, Pa., and Nancy A. Seidel, widow of Raymond Seidel, Kutztown. Along with his parents, Dr. Miller was preceded in death by his sister, Ethel Schlegel; and his brother, Donald Miller. ■ **Victor Frank Pascarella**, 88, of Zion Crossroads, VA died on March 9, 2014, at Martha Jefferson Hospital, Charlottesville, VA. Born August 17, 1925, in Emerson, New Jersey was the son of Frank Pascarella and Julia Origoni. He was also preceded in death by his nephew Richard Smith, his brother Michael Pascarella, and nephew Michael Pascarella. He is survived by:

his sister Dolores Smith of Huntington, NY; four children, Michele Pascarella, of Richmond, VA; Denise Pascarella of Emerson, NJ, daughter and son in law, Vicki and Stephen Solimando of Emerson, NJ, his son and daughter-in-law Michael Pascarella and Viviana Santacrose of Zion Crossroads, VA, six grandchildren, Garret James Marinella of Pearl River, NY, Chase Anthony Marinella of Pearl River, NY, Edward W. Gunn Jr. of Charlottesville, Kacie Leahy of Barnegat, NJ, Richard J. Leahy III, in Emerson, NJ and Michael "Vittorio" Pascarella of Zion Crossroads, VA, and two great-grandchildren, Colton and Kaitlin Marinella-Veraa of Charlottesville, VA.

1949

Arthur L. Fiest, 87, formerly of Emmaus, died November 30, 2015 at Woodland Terrace at the Oaks. Survivors: He is survived by Sons, David L. Fiest of West Chester, Steven H. Fiest of Northampton, Dr. Thomas C. Fiest of Ocean, NJ, and Eric R. Fiest of Raleigh, NC; 8 Grandchildren and 3 Great Grandchildren. ■

J. Walter Hockman, Jr., D.D.S., of Green Lane, PA, passed away June 10, 2017, at his Green Lane Residence. He was 89. He was the beloved husband of Eileen (Hager) Hockman. Surviving with his wife are two sons, W. Craig Hockman and his wife Pam, of White Haven, PA, and Randy B. Hockman and his wife Mary Alice, of White Haven, PA; four grandchildren, Ursula Brozena and her husband Ryan, Spencer Hockman, Emily Catherine Hockman, and Tina Moran; a sister, Joyce Detweiler of Perkasio, PA and her companion George Gilbert of Sellersville, PA; and numerous nephews and nieces. He is predeceased by a brother, Donald R. Hockman, of Winchester, VA. ■ **Charles F. Keck**, 96, of Frederick, formerly of Pennsburg, widower of Pearl M. (Harwick) Keck, went home to the Lord on December 29, 2017 at Lehigh Valley Hospital Cedar Crest. Survivors: Children, Brian L. Keck '74 and wife, Patricia of Waquoit, MA, Eileen K., wife of Frank Dutcher of Boyertown and Marlene A., wife of Barry Hoffman of Coopersburg; grandsons, Sean Keck and wife, Emily, Kyle Hoffman, Evan Dutcher and wife, Courtney, Adam Keck and wife, Stacy, Neil Hoffman and wife, Jennifer, Benjamin Dutcher and wife, Rachel, and Scott Hoffman; and great grandchildren, Amy Hoffman and Charlie Keck. He is predeceased by sisters, Dolores Keck and Joyce Bastian; a brother, Kermit Keck; and an infant granddaughter, Katie. ■ **Dr. Ammon C. Roth Jr.**, 91, joined his ancestors at 4:30 a.m., on the morning of

Nov. 22, 2017. Ammon was predeceased by his parents and two sisters, Joyce McCurdy and Phyllis Schmoyer. He leaves his wife, Cheryl Roth; his daughter, Peggy Longwell; his son, Tom Roth; and two living sisters, Gloria Dialectic and Marjorie Schneck. His son-in-law, John Longwell; grandson, Ian Longwell; great-grandchildren, Jade and Elijah Longwell; daughter-in-law, Paton Roth; grandchildren, Stephanie and Kristina Roth; and brother-in-law, David Schmoyer, will remember him always.

1950

Floyd E. Gruber, Jr., 90, of Bradenton, formerly of Catasauqua, Pa., passed away on July 13, 2016. He is survived by daughter Sara Gruber, son David Gruber, grandsons Lucas Morgan and Ryan Gruber, granddaughters Janelle Gruber, Tracy Heffelfinger, and Jenna Gruber, great grandsons Colin and Brayden Gruber, and great granddaughter Munrowe Heffelfinger. Floyd was preceded in death by his wife Goldie. ■ **Dr. John J. Hoch**, 93, of Nazareth, passed away on November 7, 2017 at Easton Hospital. Born on May 21, 1924 in Easton, he was the only child of the late John S. and Hilda M. Dech Hoch. He was the beloved husband of Louisa Manhart Hoch with whom he shared 62 years of marriage. Survivors: In addition to his wife Louisa, John is survived by a son, Eric Wangen Hoch and his wife Rachel of Sedro-Woolley, WA; two daughters, Tamara Boyhont and her husband Craig of Lititz, and Krista Hontz and her husband Bill of Nazareth; grandchildren, Stephen and Aaron Boyhont, Lindsay Kopcak and her husband Michael, Jennifer Alves, and Elijah and Jonah Hoch; and one great-granddaughter, Danica. ■ **Rev. Paul H. Howells**, 88, husband of Carol (Stortz) Howells, passed away on January 23, 2018 at Frederick Living. Surviving with his wife are sons Jonathan P. Howells of Oval and David J. Howells of Lancaster; daughters Ruth A. Schlechter of Blandon and Carol S. Ivone of Quarryville; 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his brothers Lewis M. and Carlton R. and sister Eleanor Bossler. ■ **Dr. Robert Andrew Kantra** passed away on February 27, 2018. Robert is survived by Phyllis Salvati Kantra, his wife of sixty-five years, daughters Pamela and Virginia, their spouses, Philip and Michael, brothers Albert and Andrew and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews. ■ **Neil A. Pastre**, 88 years of age and longtime resident of Florida Ave in Whitehall, and recent guest of Devon House in Allentown,

Ed Bonekemper '64

Ed Bonekemper didn't spend the majority of his professional life as an historian. But considering his Muhlenberg background—he graduated in 1964 at the top of his class as a history major—no one who knew him was surprised when he became a respected one.

Bonekemper, who died unexpectedly at age 75 on Dec. 9 in Lancaster General Hospital, earned a law degree from Yale and served as a U.S. government attorney for the Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation for more than 34 years. When he retired, he had attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the Coast Guard, was the lead attorney in the hazardous materials division of the Department of Transportation and had earned the Government Distinguished Career Service Award.

But what really made his life shine—beyond his passion for Philadelphia's pro sports teams—was acting on the training he had gotten as a history major at Muhlenberg.

"My love and my faith in American history was solidified by my studies at Muhlenberg," Bonekemper told anyone who would listen. "My professors never tired of assigning papers and never went easy on you. But they made you better."

And Bonekemper kept getting better and better as a chronicler of the Civil War, his second career. His first book about the conflict was published in 1998 and he followed it up with five more; his last one, "The Myth of the Lost Cause: Why the South Fought the Civil War and Why the North Won," perhaps his best, was at least his most noticed. "There are many myths perpetuated about the causes of the Civil War," said Bonekemper, who for several years taught military history classes at Muhlenberg as an adjunct. "That it wasn't about slavery, that it was about states' rights, on and on. But my thesis is that it was all about slavery and white supremacy. Obviously a lot of people don't like that."

He was also a frequent Civil War lecturer and guest on C-SPAN, sometimes discussing Ulysses E. Grant (whom he reveres) and Lee (whom he does not). That helps explain the title of that first book back in 1998: "How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War."

Over the last couple of years Bonekemper, the recipient of a Muhlenberg College Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, got in more than his share of arguments for being, as he described himself, "a far left, pro-Yankee, anti-Lee, anti-Myth of the Lost Cause." But Bonekemper, who also found time to be the chief reviewer for the online magazine "Civil War News," which reviews all of the 250 to 300 Civil War books that are published every year, always made his arguments in reasoned fashion, confident in the training he got at Muhlenberg.

"The professors here all called for students to think rigorously," Bonekemper said. "That helped me because I picked a crowded field. I wouldn't have been able to achieve that without the training I got at Muhlenberg."



passed away peacefully on December 13, 2017 in the Lehigh Valley Hospital, Salisbury Twp. Survivors: daughter Mary Beth Arner and her husband David of Macungie; son Neil Pastre and his wife Marilyn of Langhorne; grandchildren Marissa Pastre, Tim Arner, Jeremy Arner and his wife Alia Orbin, Jocelyn Snyder and her husband Gregory; along with four great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret, in 2007.

1951

Longtime Palmerton educator and librarian, **Gerald D. Geiger**, passed away peacefully on February 16, 2018 at Heritage Hill Senior Community in Weatherly, Pennsylvania at the age of 89. Jerry and his wife Margaret "Marge" (Donchez) Geiger recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Jerry is also survived by his daughter, Juliet Altenburg,

IN MEMORIAM

wife of Robert Altenburg of New Cumberland, PA; his son, Gerard J. Geiger, Esq. and his wife Karen, of Stroudsburg, PA; and his grandchildren, Emily and Timothy. ■ **Albert Rubbert** passed away after a brief illness on February 9, 2018. He is predeceased by his parents Otto and Helen (nee Steinberg) and brother Otto and niece Linda Fortman. He is survived by his beloved wife of over 64 years Patricia (Burke) known to all as "Beans". There are six surviving children, Bill (Diane) Rick, Pati, Chris (Lisa), Kathy (Larry) and Ed (Elisa) and several grandchildren including Devin and Edward McGuinness, Melissa and Jessy Rubbert, Lauren Wells and step grandchildren, Christina Gibson, Christy and Michael Bamberger, David Wells, Marc and Mick Robbins. ■ **Clay Taylor**, 89 of Port St. Lucie FL, passed away on November 22, 2017 at the Bridges of Bent Creek, Mechanicsburg, PA. Born on June 12, 1928 in Yakima, WA, he was the son of the late George and Carrie (Heintzelman) Taylor and was the widower of the lovely Margaret (Lamparter) Taylor who passed away in 2005. He is survived by three daughters, Debbie Miller, of Columbia, SC, Peggy Busch, of Mukilteo, WA, and Tracy Taylor, of Lewisberry, PA; three grandchildren Teri Busch (Mitchell), Tiffany and Andrew Miller and one great grandchild, George Taylor Mitchell. In addition to his wife he was preceded in death by a brother, William Taylor and a grandson, Lawrence Taylor Busch. ■ **Mildred E. Widmyer**, 101, departed this earth to take her place among the Angels of God at The Lutheran Home at Topton on October 26, 2017.

1952

Robert Raphael "Bob" Maynes, 96, of Benton, died peacefully on January 9, 2018 at his home. Surviving, are his wife, Nancy J. (Permigiani) Wisbar, whom he married October 10, 2015. Also surviving are his four children: Ann Conrad and her husband, Wayne Nettleton, of Liberty, NY; Mary Jo Maynes and her husband, Ron Aminzade, of St. Paul, MN; Robert Maynes and his wife, Kathy, of Camden, Maine; William Maynes and his wife, Joan, of New York City; his step daughter, Beverly Joy Wisbar and her husband, Graham Paul, of Baltimore, MD. Also surviving are five grandchildren: Mary Kay, Daniel, Elizabeth, Katie and Tim; six great grandchildren: Luke, Riley, Jenna, Zoe,

Ellie and Elise ; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Along with his parents and his first wife, he was preceded in death by a sister, Patricia Price and by two brothers: William Maynes and J. David Maynes.

1953

Rev. Luther D. Kistler passed away on December 12, 2017.

1954

William J. Bliss, 87 of Bloomfield, formerly of Greenwich, CT passed away peacefully as he was surrounded by his family on February 23, 2018. He leaves to cherish his memories his children Ronald Bliss and Deborah Steeley; four grandchildren, Emily Bliss, Kaylee Bliss, Jason Steeley and Jessica Steeley; five great grandchildren, Hunter Rogers, Ethan Rogers, Addison Vondy, Sverre Steeley, Faolan Steeley and a host of other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his wife, Helen.

1955

Dr. Marvin R. Cressman, age 84, passed away February 4, 2018. ■ **The Rev. Byard J. Ebling**, 83, of Cumru Township, passed away in the Mifflin Center. He was the loving husband of Nancy H. Hillegass Ebling, his childhood sweetheart, to whom he was married for 62 years. Byard was preceded in death by his brother, C. Douglas Ebling, and two daughters-in law, Kimberly J. Morgan-Ebling and Patricia Derbes-Ebling. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Byard T. Ebling '82, husband of Barbara M. Ebling, Newtown Square, and Andrew W. Ebling, Pottsville; a brother, Daniel Ebling, Bloomington, Ind., six grandchildren, Kaley M. Ebling, Collin Ebling, Byard D. Ebling, husband of Noelle Ebling, Rebecca K. Ebling, Zoe M. Ebling and Amanda F. Murasko; a great-grandchild, Gianna J. Ebling.

1957

Paul J. Truran was born on January 24, 1934 and passed away on December 19, 2017.

1958

Dr. Joshua William Davies, Jr., 87, of Cold Springs, New York passed away on May 7, 2017.

1959

Ronald N. Romeike Sr. of Bordentown passed away October 28, 2017, at home surrounded by his loving family. He was 80. Son of the late Matthew and Jennie Hartenstine Romeike, and brother of the late Harold Romeike and Mildred Bartman, he is

survived by his wife of 59 years, Nancy Propst Romeike; his son and daughter-in-law, Ronald N. and Sharon Romeike Jr. of Shamong; and two grandsons, Matthew and Bryan Romeike; as well as many nieces and nephews. ■ **Dr. Edwyn M. Smith** of Tinton Falls, N.J. died January 11, 2018 at Seabrook Village. He was 80. Surviving are his loving wife of 56 years, Sondra; as well as his daughter, Michelle; son, Paul and daughter-in-law, Jodi, and grandchildren Corinne, Kimberly and Alexander (and his granddog, Bossie). Ed's extended family includes, Dr. Samuel DiCapua and his wife, Betsy; their daughters, Caitlin and Brittany; Mr. Christopher DiCapua and Mr. Oscar Cabrera; Mr. Peter DiCapua and his wife, Tracey and their children; Mr. Bernard Hertzberg and his wife, Phyllis; and Mr. Jerrold Kolton and his wife, Carol, and their family.

1960

Ralph Henry Harmsen of Prescott, Arizona, was born on April 2, 1939, in Glen Ridge, N.J., and died on January 2, 2018. Ralph leaves one sister, Dorothy Hunter (husband John) in Pennsylvania, and two nieces, Lisa Marie Haas (husband Stephen) and Lori Lindenberger (husband Thomas), both in Pennsylvania.

■ **Richard B. Miller** passed away on February 25, 2016.

1961

The family of **Ralph E. Chase, Jr.** sadly announce his death on Christmas Eve, 2017 at 6:45 A.M. Ralph's survivors include Carolyn, his wife, sons Jack and Rick, both of Pennsylvania, daughters Wendy and Carole, of New Jersey and Nebraska respectively.

■ **Dorothy L. Godshalk** passed away on September 27, 2017. ■ **Ronald Lee Gougher**, of Thorndale, PA, passed away of sudden natural causes on February 19, 2018. He is survived by his son Robert, his daughter-in-law Laurie, his granddaughters Samantha and Charlotte of Newtown, PA, and by his brother Richard, his sister-in-law Bernice and his niece Gail of Lubbock, Texas. ■ **Glenwood D. "Glen" Heard**, 78, of Bangor, PA, passed away December 31, 2017 at Lehigh Valley Hospice House, East Stroudsburg, PA. He was the widower of Sherry E. (Gloss) Heard, who passed away March 2, 2014, after 54 years of marriage. Glen is survived by a daughter, Pamela Hartman, wife of Greg, of Bangor, PA; a son, Gregory Heard, husband of Jill, of Towson, MD; a sister, Gloria Mills, wife of Kenneth, of Pearland, TX, 2 grandchildren

Madeleine and Patrick Heard, 2 nieces and 5 nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother Sherwood Heard. ■ **Theodore Inglese**, 91, of Allentown, passed away January 18, 2018 in the Phoebe Home, Allentown. He was the husband of the late Dolores M. "Chicky" Inglese. Survivors: Daughters: Audrey '70 wife of William Schwab '70, Terry Sue wife of Tom Murtaugh and Diane wife of Glenn Kornfiend, Brother: Roger Inglese, 7 Grandchildren and 8 Great-Grandchildren. He was predeceased by a Son: Teddy Inglese and a Brother: Louis Inglese. ■

Barry B. Leighton passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family and loved ones on March 1 after a long battle with cancer. He leaves behind his brother Robert Leighton '58 and his wife Elizabeth, his sister Diane Leighton Ackerman, his niece Kelly Leighton Ackerman and his partner Steven Halvorsen.

■ The Reverend William W. "Bill"

Wightman, 78 of Forks Twp., PA died March 25, 2018 at St. Luke's Hospice House. He is survived by his son: Paul with whom he resided; daughter: Beth (husband Michael LeFebre) of Los Angeles; and grandchildren: Zachary, Hanna and Francesca. His wife: Elizabeth "Betty" died in 2015.

1962

Walter F. Barnes, Jr. was born on December 4, 1939 and passed away on December 6, 2017.

1963

Bernard Russell Semmel, age 77, of Maryville, TN, passed away February 28, 2018 at UT Medical Center. He is survived by his loving wife, Karen; daughter, Kristie Semmel of Louisville, KY; stepdaughter, Traci Day and son-in-law, Greg of Seymour, TN; Teresa

IN MEMORIAM

Semmel Barker of Dunnellon, FL; grandchildren, Brandon, Casey, and Samantha; Brothers, Richard Semmel of Dayton, OH and Andrew Semmel; sister-in-law, Cynthia of Arlington, VA; brother-in-law, Mickey; sister-in-law, Sarah Freberg.

1964

N. Morgan Brassler (Norman), age 75, passed away peacefully at his home on Hilton Head Island, SC, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Diane, his three devoted children, Karen, Nora & David '00, his three grandchildren, Jack, Emerson & Chase and his sister, Carolyn Osmun. ■

Robert J. Killian, a resident of Kendall Park, NJ, passed away in his home on February 2, 2018 at the age of 79. He is survived by his

Don Shive

"Don Shive taught me, and so many others, that in all those rules in chemistry, and all those exceptions, the one rule that will always have truth, is that it takes a lot of energy to break a bond," shared Christine Ingersoll, professor of chemistry, at the campus memorial service held for Donald Shive, professor emeritus of chemistry, this past January.

That simple, oft-repeated axiom was as true in chemistry as it was in his life's many friendships. Over 46 years, he taught that bonds represent an arrangement of electrons that generates a force, causing individual atoms to be bound to each other and form a molecule. Shive taught that lesson in the classroom, of course, but he was also the frequent facilitator of bonds between countless individuals across generations of Muhlenberg students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

And like the bonds between atoms, Shive embodied the concept that a strong personal bond is incredibly difficult to break.

Shive believed wholeheartedly in the educational mission of Muhlenberg College. And he believed that the duty of Muhlenberg extended beyond the basic requirements of a course description or lesson plan. He served as an inspiration to his junior faculty

colleagues, ensuring they were supported in and celebrated for their work. Many of those young teachers spent decades working with their mentor and are now themselves academic and professional mentors to countless students and alumni.

Passion and humor were at the forefront of his every interaction with colleagues and the students would later become alumni and treasured friends. Shive's passion was evident not only in his classroom and laboratory, where he helped develop the minds of students through lessons in chemistry, but also through his hobbies and interest in gardening, genealogical research and stamp and botanical print collection.

Shive was a visionary and agent for change. He put incredible effort, support and time behind initiatives that he felt would sustain, transform and evolve the educational experience, including undergraduate research programs, department (and College) technology and infrastructure projects, capital building campaigns and chemistry exploration opportunities for high school students.

And in each of those interactions, Shive's smile and charm affirmed to the Muhlenberg community that he never thought of his role as simply a job; this was a chance to make and build collections that would last well beyond any one lifetime.



Shive is survived and remembered by his wife Louise, with whom he celebrated 47 years of marriage; sons David Jonathan and Benjamin S. and his wife Lauren C. David Jonathan; grandchildren Corey, Zachary, Logan and Mackenzie; brother, Gary and his wife Donna; sisters Jean Wetzel and Linda; and countless members of the Muhlenberg College community.

IN MEMORIAM

loving wife, Priscilla (Mollmann), 3 daughters, Rebecca and her husband, Mohamad of Alpharetta Ga.; Amy Black and her husband, Oscar from Gaithersburg, MD.; and Rachel Killian from Kendall Park, NJ.; 5 grandchildren, Amira, Jena, and Aliya Alomran, and Sebastian & Julian Black. He was predeceased by his father Joseph S. Killian Sr.; mother Rose (Saby) Killian; brother Joseph S. Killian Jr.; sister Shirley Mae Snyder, and brother Daniel.

1965

Ronald H. Wessner, 74, of Emmaus, known to many as Pappy, went to play the big golf course in the sky on December 7, 2017. Survivors: Wife, Marian; Sons, Daniel S. Wessner of Emmaus and Brian J. Wessner and wife Martha of Emmaus; Brothers, Robert Wessner and wife Audrey of Emmaus, Raymond Wessner and wife Valerie of Quarryville, Arthur Wessner and wife Stacie of Chapmans, and Russell Wessner and wife Debbie of Barrington, RI; Granddaughters, Delaney and Rowan.

1966

Douglas "Doug" George Young, 73, husband of Ellen Ruth Shaw Young, passed away September 7, 2017 at Greenville Memorial Hospital.

1968

Raymond H. Leh, 97, of Willow Street, passed away November 15, 2017 at Arbor View at Willow Valley. He was the loving husband of the late June S. Banks Leh with whom he shared 69 years of marriage at the time of her passing in October, 2015. Raymond is survived by two goddaughters, Jill Swavely of Philadelphia, and Jessica Carlson of Wilmington, DE. ■ **Richard H. "Dick" Ochs**, 71, of Gwynedd, passed away on January 13, 2018. Devoted husband of 48 years to Susan (Vogelsberg) Ochs '68, and father of Greg (Elise) and Brian (Jennifer) Ochs. Also survived by his grandchildren, Benjamin, Anna, Katelyn and Lauren; and his brother, Harry Ochs (Georgette). ■ **Robert E. Reiter, Jr.** passed away on January 17, 2016, in New York City. He was 69. He is survived by his longtime partner of 40 years, Ann Fusco. ■ **Walter R. Weaver, Jr.** 71, of Fogelsville, passed away January 11, 2018, in Phoebe Allentown. He was the husband of Linda J. (Ebeling) Weaver. Survivors: Wife;

son, Jason C. and his wife Tara Weaver of Allentown; daughter, Meg E. Weaver and her husband Ulises Solorzano of Allentown; grandchildren, Alexis, Claire, Daisy, Jonathan and Daniel.

1972

Stephen J. Chaszar, 67, of Bethlehem, died January 17, 2018, in St. Luke's Hospital. He was the husband of Sandra J. (Hageter) Chaszar. Surviving are his wife, Sandra; sons, Mark of Bethlehem, Brian of Montana and Scott of Easton; a sister, Linda Boliver in Mass. and grandson, Luchas Strauss. ■ **Steven C. March** of Beaver Springs passed away on Nov. 28, 2017, after a long, strange trip with cancer. He was the loving husband of Robin Barbour for over 45 years. He is survived by wife, Robin; sons, Cass and wife Jenny of Ithaca, NY, and Keanan and wife Maura of Philadelphia; the Barbour family; and his brother David March.

1973

Jane A. "Janie" (Grider) Holben, 66, of Orefield, passed away February 28, 2018 at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest. She was the loving wife of Barry J. Holben to whom she was married 38 years last June 30. Janie was the daughter of Thomas E. and Ethel (Goach) Grider of Allentown. Survivors: In addition to her loving husband and parents; daughters, Courtney L. Holben of Philadelphia, Elisabeth B. (Holben) Strain and her husband, John of Ardmore; sister, Debra S. Grainger and her husband, George of Port Washington, WI.

1974

Alan "Jonesy" D. Jones, 65, of Stillwater, passed away on January 26, at home. The son of the late Albert and Ruth (Williams) Jones, Alan is survived by his wife, Patricia (Shears) Jones; his sons, Timothy Jones and wife, Rebecca Conroy, of Rockaway, and Christopher Jones, of Stillwater; and his sister, Bonnie Wicks and husband, Allan, of Cherry Creek, Colo. He is also survived by his beloved dog, Darby.

1980

Glenn R. Wesley, 59 years old, Lower Macungie, passed away October 27 after a month-long, massive cardiac struggle. Glenn cherished and was loved by his wife Dorothy Jane (Bodnyk) '78, their son, Alexander David, Houston, TX. He loved his mother, Jean Wesley, King of Prussia, and his sister, Marilyn Wesley Harvey, Phoenixville. He was

very upset by losing both his father Kurt, in May of 2017, and his brother Jay, in September of 2017. He will be missed by his loving extended family – in-laws, aunts and uncles, and cousins. He adored and was very proud of all his nieces and nephews: Erik, Ian, Ellen, Michael, Johanna, Lucas, Catherine, Matthew, and Joseph. He also loved and was loved by Alexander's girlfriend, Leyla Akhverdiyeva.

1993

Giana Susan Herb, 46, of Freemansburg, passed away on February 13, 2018 in her home. Survivors: she will be lovingly remembered by her fiancé Victor Michael Blasucci; mother Josephine Herb of Hellertown; brother Robert Anthony Herb '90 and his wife Alexandra of Center Valley; Aunt Fernanda Fantozzi '64 of Hellertown and a niece.

1997

Edwin Russell Nonnemacher, 69, departed this life on April 18, 2014, after a hard battle with cancer. Survivors: Wife of 47 years, Barbara; children, Lynn Sell and Lisa Carter; granddaughter, Jenna Gaulden; and sister, Mert Koch.

2009

Becca Leigh Siegfried (Douglas), 37, of Lower Macungie Township died January 18, 2018 in Lehigh Valley Hospital, Muhlenberg. She was the wife of Trevor S. Siegfried with whom she celebrated 7 years of marriage on October 16, 2017. Survivors: Husband; Mother; beloved sons, Owen, Aiden and Liam all at home; brother, Keith Woodbeck and his wife Jill; sister, Sherry Harvey all of Garrattsville, NY; father-in-law, Scott R. Siegfried of Whitehall; mother-in-law, Anita (Hall) Siegfried Detterbeck and her husband Patrick of The Villages, FL; sister-in-law, Anika Siegfried Frey and her husband Brandon of Lehighton; nephews; nieces; extended family and many friends.

2010

Christopher Alvaro was born on May 23, 1988 and passed away on January 28, 2018.

Lean on “We”

Whether you’re helping someone else or in need of help yourself, nothing beats Muhlenberg’s network.

By Tom Dowd, Executive Director of Career Services

Take a moment to think about where you are in your career: How did you get here? Many people are surprised by their paths or where they have landed. Now, think about some of the people who helped you along the way. Most of us can identify individuals who provided difference-making advice, eye-opening feedback or an introduction that led to an open door. In my first year and a half at Muhlenberg, I’ve seen members of the Muhlenberg community outside of campus who want to be those helping hands for students, alumni and anyone affiliated with Muhlenberg. This type of support is more important than ever as students and alumni encounter the rapidly changing world of work.

The future-of-work is a phrase that appears frequently in the news. If you Google it, you receive more results than I can comprehend. Those results aside, no one knows exactly what our workforce will look like in the next 10, 15 or 20 years. The one constant we can count on is relationships. While the workplace will continue to change drastically, the importance of the ability to build and develop a network of people who can help you will not.

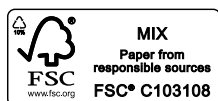
Something I’ve noticed in my brief time at Muhlenberg is the use of the word “friend.” Frequently, you’ll see emails begin with “friends” as a greeting, or someone you know on campus will say, “Hi, friend,” as they pass. This tight-knit, community feeling transcends campus boundaries and is the foundation for a network of people who can help propel, direct and encourage each of its members to realize success in their careers.

If a Muhlenberg “friend” reaches out to you to network, what do you do? Please make it a priority in your busy schedule to respond and help. If their message is sloppy or doesn’t follow the appropriate networking etiquette, take the opportunity to coach them and give them honest feedback that could matter for their next networking conversation. If you don’t think you have something valuable to share, talk with them anyway: You never know what piece of advice might be meaningful or who you may know who could help. Networking doesn’t mean only passing along contacts or getting someone an interview. It also doesn’t mean you have to know how you can help. Networking is about relationships, and it should be a two-way street.

In work and in life, we all have times when we can provide help and times when we need it. It reminds me of one of my favorite songs, “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers. Withers was inspired to write it after moving away from his hometown and longing for that strong community. When I hear the song, I think of Muhlenberg and this community of friends that extends beyond Allentown and across the globe. We all need to lean on someone at various times in our careers. If you can help, be that person someone else remembers for taking the time and effort to assist. And when you need help, reach out to the Muhlenberg community and it will be there.



Tom Dowd is a career development educator with more than 10 years of experience designing and delivering innovative career services. He came to Muhlenberg in early 2016 from Lehigh University where he most recently served as director of career & professional development.



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