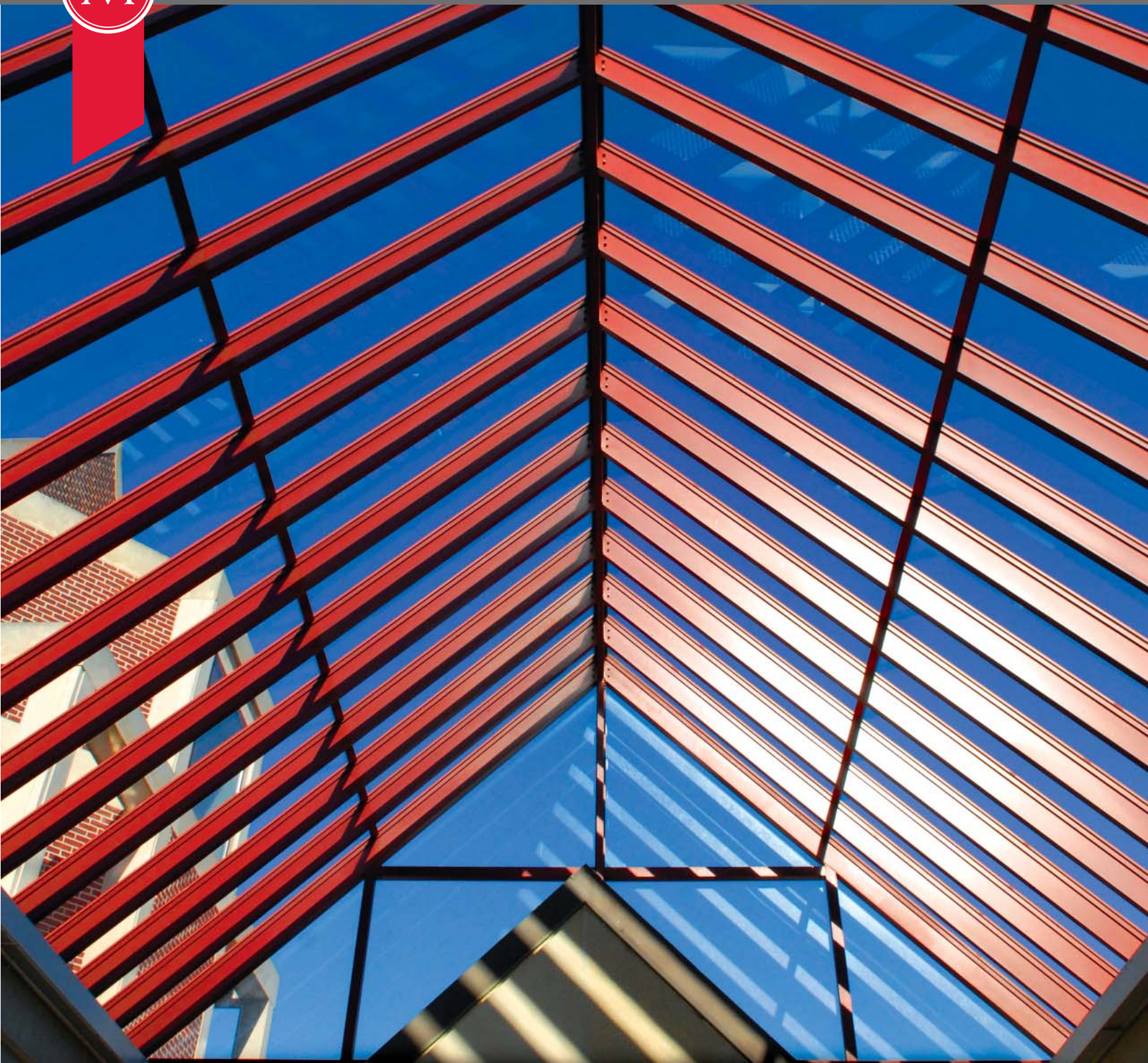


# Muhlenberg

THE MAGAZINE OF MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

JUNE 2009



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**JUNE  
2009**

# Muhlenberg

MAGAZINE

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Muhlenberg magazine is published quarterly by the Public Relations Office Muhlenberg College 2400 West Chew Street Allentown, PA 18104 [www.muhlenberg.edu](http://www.muhlenberg.edu) [www.myMuhlenberg.com](http://www.myMuhlenberg.com)

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All professional photography by Amico Studios, Jesse Dunn and Paul Pearson Photography unless otherwise noted.

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Cover image: A different perspective of the Trexler Library. See page 7 and the feature on pages 12 and 13 for more on the library. Photo credit: Peter Finger

**WANT MORE MUHLENBERG NEWS?** If you want to see more news about Muhlenberg College, please sign up for the monthly e-mail newsletter, *@Muhlenberg*. It's free, and it's delivered right to your computer. If you are interested, please send your e-mail address to [alumnews@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:alumnews@muhlenberg.edu) and request to be added to our e-mail newsletter subscription list. Keep up-to-date with all happenings at Muhlenberg at <http://www.muhlenbergweekly.com> – the online version of the most authoritative source for campus news since 1883. Register online and receive e-mail notices for every new issue published. Every article available in print, is now only a click away. The College's online newspaper, *The Advocate*, is also available at [www.muhlenbergadvocate.com](http://www.muhlenbergadvocate.com).

# Elites

## President's MESSAGE



*Dean's List Convocation Address, October 26, 2008*

Good morning! And welcome to the proud parents, even prouder grandparents, and astonished, skeptical siblings who join us in Egner Chapel this morning to honor the newest members of Muhlenberg's Dean's List. But above all, welcome to you students who are the *raison d'être* for this ceremony.

Before I proceed with my remarks, I must ask you new Dean's List scholars a serious question: are you really sure you want to be here? After all, Muhlenberg College is a highly selective, academically rigorous institution. Just by being enrolled here, you have already associated yourself with that most maligned of American minorities: intellectuals. Now, by excelling in your studies, you have compounded that error in judgment by associating yourself with an even more despised segment of that minority: the elite. Yes! You are now fair game to be tagged a member of the "intellectual elite!" God help you!

I have been thinking a great deal over the past few months about the nature of "elites" and why the term is utilized so often and so effectively as a blunt instrument in our society to beat down those who, for some reason, seem to pose a threat to the common man (whose first name, it turns out, is always "Joe" – though he has a variety of last names including "Sixpack" and "Plumber").

After much thought, I have realized that not all elites are viewed as traitors, subversives and snobs. Athletic superiority is widely admired: no one begrudges Michael Phelps his gold medals as an elite swimmer, and no one (except Red Sox fans) resents Manny Ramirez. Elite military units like the Navy Seals and Green Berets are generally revered. Bakers of blue-ribbon pies at county fairs are not reviled, and many companies believe that attaching the word "elite" to their products will actually increase sales. The most casual of google searches reveals "Elite Lighting", "Elite Furniture", "Elite Homes", and the "Xbox 360 Elite".

It is ironic that the word "elite" derives from the Latin verb *eligere* – "to elect" – since it is most often in politics that the word takes on pejorative connotations. Earlier this semester, I greeted the incoming freshman class by taking a bold stand against stupidity, or, more precisely, the long tradition of American anti-intellectualism. I am still not entirely sure I understand the origins of this tradition, though I suspect it is linked to our country's extreme devotion to egalitarianism and pragmatism. Whatever the root cause, it has resulted, in the words of one opinion writer, in a national tendency to believe "that expertise is overrated, homespun sincerity is better than sophistication, and conviction is more important than analysis." Or, as the too-snarky-for-my-taste Maureen Dowd recently wrote, most Americans react to intellectuals as if they were "the Dixie Chicks singing the University of the Taliban fight song."

I've never met an American who didn't think that when common sense was handed out he got more than his fair share and, for most of our fellow citizens, it seems downright unpatriotic to think that common sense might not be sufficient to solve all our problems. Until, of course, we require a surgeon to perform quadruple bypass surgery on grandpa or hear a funny noise coming from the right engine of the airplane that's taking us on vacation, or find that our economy is going into the tank and nobody quite knows who to blame or

what quick fix might work. At times like these, of course, our society actually craves expertise. And expertise – high level analytical and problem-solving skills – are the province of the intellect.

So far you may think that this is pretty obvious stuff for a College president to say to his institution's very best students. In fact, it may sound darn close to pandering. You're intellectuals – you're good, and you're unappreciated. Well, there's probably some truth to that, but before we pull a muscle patting ourselves on the back let me also observe that there are some pretty compelling reasons why intellectuals earn the opprobrium that is often heaped on them by society.

The common thread connecting these reasons is communication. The deeper some intellectuals immerse themselves in the analysis of arcane problems, the more obscure they allow themselves to become, indulging in jargon-infused erudition that only their fellow scholars can understand. Many convince themselves, quite erroneously, that their deep expertise in one area makes them superior in all areas of knowledge. Their condescension is deeply offensive – and understandably so. I discovered an example of this condescending brand of intellectuality in a recent issue of *The American Scholar* – a quarterly publication of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (I dare you to find a more intellectually elite publication than that!). In an essay titled "The Disadvantages of an Elite Education," essayist William Deresiewicz (until recently an associate professor of English at Yale) blames his Yale and Columbia education for his inability to converse with his plumber (he does not say if this is the famous Joe the Plumber). A spate of letters in the next issue took up the cudgels on behalf of elite universities, with writers pointing out that their educations, far from imbuing them with a smug conviction of superiority, actually equipped them to communicate effectively with many types of people, from many walks of life, and many cultures. The flaw, it would seem, was in Professor Deresiewicz's character, not his schooling.

You are at the right college to avoid the pitfalls of condescension. Muhlenberg values learning because it equips you for service. And you cannot serve if you are wrapped up in your own sense of personal superiority. So let me invite you to join me in taking the following oath, which I wrote myself, just for you on this occasion.

Please raise your right hand and repeat after me: I [state your name] do hereby solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will use my Muhlenberg education to elucidate and communicate, not prevaricate, obfuscate, or pontificate; that I will appreciate and value the contributions of all members of my community, and that I will uphold the intellectual standards of the College – elite though they may be - to serve others, not my own ego.

Thank you. Now, go forth and celebrate this day with your family. Then get back to work. The world still has problems to be solved, and we are counting on you to tackle them – with skill, with intelligence, with persistence, and with humility.

God bless you.

Peyton R. Helm  
President, Muhlenberg College

# Door to **DOOR**

NEWS FROM  
MUHLENBERG  
COLLEGE

## Marjorie Hass Named President of Austin College in Texas

Marjorie Hass, Ph.D., has been named President of Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Hass has been the provost of Muhlenberg College since March 2004.

Dr. Hass, also a professor of philosophy, served as interim vice president of academic affairs and interim dean of faculty between July 1, 2003-February 1, 2004 until being appointed as Muhlenberg's first provost. She has been on the faculty at Muhlenberg College since 1993.

Founded in 1849, Austin College is a private, coeducational, liberal arts institution affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). The College's 70-acre campus is located in Sherman, Texas, north of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. The College has 1,320 undergraduate students and it was the first college in the state of Texas to grant a graduate degree. Dr. Hass will become the 15th President of Austin College and replace Dr. Oscar C. Page, who has served since 1994. Hass begins her presidency July 1, 2009



"There's no question that Austin College has hit a home-run with this appointment," said Muhlenberg College President Dr. Peyton R. Helm. "Margie is a woman of parts: a brilliant and accomplished scholar, a gifted administrator and problem-solver, and a visionary leader. She has a knack for putting people at ease and for motivating them to act. She understands and respects the work of the faculty and enjoys the company of students. Most important, she is a woman of courage and integrity - who knows what's right and doesn't hesitate to do it. We are going to miss Margie here at Muhlenberg, where she has accomplished so much, but she is going to be a great president for Austin College."

In her capacity as Provost, Hass managed all fiscal and personnel aspects of the academic program, overseeing 18 academic department heads. The Provost also oversees the deans of academic life, international programs, and the Wescoe School; the registrar's office, the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding, the Martin Art Gallery, the Entrepreneurship Institute, the Center for Ethics and the RJ Fellowship Program.

"As testament to its increasing national stature," said Robert M. Johnson, chair of the Austin College Board of Trustees, "Austin College attracted a strong field of outstanding candidates for its leadership position. The selection of Dr. Hass is affirmation of our confidence that she is a rising star ideally suited to define and realize what we know will be a continued bright future for the College."

Hass earned her bachelor of arts and master of arts in philosophy, and doctor of philosophy degrees at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was named assistant professor of philosophy at Muhlenberg in 1993. Since that time she has received a Creative Teaching Grant from the Faculty Center for Teaching five Faculty Summer Research Grants, the Paul C. Empie Memorial Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Donald B. Hoffman Research Fellowship. She was the director of the Muhlenberg College Center for Ethics, 2000-2003, and served as a faculty observer to the Board of Trustees in 2001-2002. She has served on the Faculty Personnel and Policies Committee, the Budget Advisory Committee and the Academic Policies Committee.

A member of the philosophy faculty, Hass specializes in philosophy of logic, philosophy of language and feminist philosophy. She is the author of numerous published articles and co-editor of a book, "Representing Reason: Feminist Theory and Formal Logic," with Rachel Joffe Falmagne, published by Rowman and Littlefield Press in 2002.

Hass' family includes her husband, Dr. Lawrence Hass, currently a professor of philosophy and theatre arts, and director of the Theory and Art of Magic program at Muhlenberg; a son, Cameron, a sophomore at Muhlenberg; and a daughter, Jessica. 

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## WANTED

### COPIES OF COLLEGE YEARBOOK, NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

The Trexler Library is looking for the following publications for inclusion in their archives: The 2003 and 2005 Ciarla yearbook, any Weekly issues from 1927-1929 and 1928-1929, and Muhlenberg News issues from October and November 1957. Please contact Diane Koch, special collections and archives librarian, at 484-664-3694 or at [dkoch@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:dkoch@muhlenberg.edu).

## College Mourns The Rev. Dr. Robert Marshall, Lutheran Leader and Former Chair of Religion Department


The Rev. Dr. Robert J. Marshall, former President of the Lutheran Church in America, and one of the predecessor church bodies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, died December 22, 2008, in Allentown.

Marshall was former President of the Illinois Synod, and served as Senior Associate at the Center for Global Mission of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. During his professional career, he served as President of Lutheran World Relief, member of the Board of Directors, President of Church World Service, and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid in USAID. He also served as

finance moderator of the World Council of Churches, Vice President of the Lutheran World Federation and on boards of several colleges, hospitals and social service agencies. He was former professor of Old Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, Senior Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Alhambra, California, and author of *The Mighty Acts of God*, and several other publications.

Marshall was a graduate of Wittenberg University and The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He earned a PHD from the University of Chicago and dur-

ing his professional life, received fifteen honorary doctorates and several awards of commendation. He was an emeritus professor of religion and a former chair of the College's religion department.


He will be lovingly remembered by his sister, Dorothy Fisher, children, Robert Marshall and Peggy Niederer, and grandchildren, Robert, James, and Joseph Marshall, and Christopher, Eric, and Gloria Niederer, great-grandson, Alexander Niederer, and several cousins, nieces, and nephews. The Rev. Dr. Marshall was predeceased in death by his wife, Dr. Alice Marshall, parents Robert and Margaret Marshall, and granddaughter Melissa Marshall. 



## 'BERG NAMED A BEST VALUE BY KIPLINGER'S

Muhlenberg College has been named one of the best values in private institutions across the country by Kiplinger's. The College was ranked 41<sup>st</sup> and was one of seven Pennsylvania schools listed.

When compiling its list, Kiplinger's began with data on 600 private colleges, provided by Peterson's, then added their own reporting. To determine the rankings, the following criteria was considered: admission rate; SAT/ACT scores; student/faculty ratio; four-year/five-year graduation rate; total costs; costs after need-based aid; aid from grants; cost after non-need based aid; and average debt at graduation.

For eight decades, the Kiplinger organization has led the way in personal finance and business forecasting. Founded in 1920 by W.M. Kiplinger, the company developed one of the nation's first successful newsletters in modern times. The Kiplinger Letter, launched in 1923, remains the longest continually published newsletter in the United States. 

## NEW HIRES in Development, Multicultural Center



### CONNIE HARRIS NAMED NEW VP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Connie L. Harris has been named the vice president for development and alumni relations at Muhlenberg College. Harris had been the vice president for institutional advancement at Meredith College in Raleigh, NC, since 2002.

“We are extremely excited about Connie joining us,” said Muhlenberg College President Randy Helm. “We interviewed many excellent candidates, and Connie emerged as the person who can best continue our momentum and fundraising success.”

Harris is a graduate of Miami University of Ohio. From 1989 to 1997 she worked in several development positions at Earlham College in Indiana. Her last position there was as director of development. She then moved to Wabash College, also in Indiana, where she was director of major gifts, assistant dean for college advancement and assistant dean for leadership gifts. At Meredith, she successfully implemented and directed A Leading Vision: The Campaign for Meredith, raising \$41.5 million, exceeding the \$33.5 million goal.

At Muhlenberg, Harris will oversee the entire alumni and development operation, including alumni relations, The Muhlenberg Fund, the leadership gift staff, records and research and planned giving. The College is in the latter stages of the \$105 million the *Talents Entrusted to our Care Campaign*. The campaign is scheduled to conclude June 30, 2010. More than \$90 million has already been secured. **M**



### JENNY McLARIN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Jennifer R. McLarin '86, formerly the College's associate director of admission, has been named the new director of alumni relations.

“I am so delighted that Jenny will be joining our team,” said Connie Harris, vice president of development and alumni relations. “She brings 20 years of strong experience to this senior role as an alumna who already has an ‘insider’ relationship with the College.”

After graduating from Muhlenberg College in 1986 with a B.A. in English, McLarin worked in the fields of public relations and marketing in St. Louis, Mo. and Chicago, Il. She returned to Muhlenberg in 2002.

As a dynamic member of the senior management team of the office of admission, McLarin actively worked with students and their families in interviews and information sessions, influencing and encouraging them to select Muhlenberg College.

Additionally, McLarin oversaw the creation and publication of the annual “Career Survey” brochure, which highlights what Muhlenberg graduates are doing one year out of school, and she interviewed faculty and wrote copy for “Great Teachers/Great Courses” brochures.

As director of alumni relations, McLarin will be responsible for planning and implementing programs and activities that engage the College's alumni with their alma mater in ways that strengthen Muhlenberg and enhance the lives of its students, faculty, staff and graduates.


“Jenny is an outstanding professional whose commitment to excellence will strengthen the alumni relations and reunion fundraising areas. She brings an incredible passion for the highest and best interests of Muhlenberg College and all constituencies,” said Harris. **M**

## ROBIN RILEY-CASEY TO LEAD MULTICULTURAL CENTER

Robin Riley-Casey has been named the new director of the multicultural center/multicultural life at the College. She had been an admissions, transfer and multicultural coordinator at Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio, since 2006, and an instructor of sociology and cultural diversity at Northwest State Community College in Archbold, Ohio, since 2007.

Riley-Casey received her bachelor of arts in sociology from Lourdes College and her masters in education from Ohio University, where she is currently working toward her master of arts in sociology. From 2003 to 2005, she worked at Ohio University in various roles, including pre-college coordinator, graduate assistant, sociology instructor and student achievement in research and scholarship coordinator. She then moved to Hamline University in Saint Paul, MN, where she served as hall director and multicultural coordinator. Moving back to Ohio in 2006, Riley-Casey became co-developer and coordinator of Lourdes College Diversity and Multicultural Service Office.

At Muhlenberg, Riley-Casey will oversee the Multicultural Center, home to the office of multicultural life, which serves as a campus-wide resource that facilitates and promotes a learning community of multicultural understanding and exchange through collaboration, dialogue and action.

The office of multicultural life is committed to making a difference in the lives of all students, while being a base of support to Asian, Hispanic, Black African Heritage, Native American, multiracial/ethnic, trans-racial, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning students. Offering a rich educational agenda characterized by major projects, collaborative lecture events, in-classroom teaching and an array of social activities, the Office seeks to create unique programs that value scholarship and that provide the universe of the College with an opportunity to learn and appreciate the contributions of other cultures. Students are encouraged and guided to produce cultural events and the director serves as a facilitator and guide in the leadership of the students. 



## Restored Oil Painting Returns to Campus

The oil painting Martin Luther, His wife Katharina von Born, her Children and Melanchthon, 1867 (or Luther in the Bosom of his Family) was reinstalled in the Fulford Room of the Trexler Library and is ready to be enjoyed for years to come. During the past year, careful conservation work removed more than 140 years of dull varnish and grime.



These photos above show deinstallation and work in progress. Kathy Burke, director of the Martin Art Gallery, "The final image doesn't do the finished painting justice. I highly recommend seeing it in person!"

## 'Berg Named to Presidential Honor Roll For Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service honored Muhlenberg College with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

"In this time of economic distress, we need volunteers more than ever. College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges," said Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Honor Roll. "We


salute Muhlenberg for making community service a campus priority, and thank the millions of college students who are helping to renew America through service to others."

Overall, the Corporation honored six schools with Presidential Awards. In addition, 83 were named as Honor Roll With Distinction members and 546 schools as Honor Roll members. In total, 635 schools were recognized. A full list is available at [www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll](http://www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll).

The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is presented during the annual conference of the American Council on Education.

"I offer heartfelt congratulations to those institutions named to the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. College and university students across the country are making a difference in the lives of others every day – as are the institutions that encourage their students to serve others," said American Council on Education President Molly Corbett Broad.

Recent studies have underlined the importance of service-learning and volunteering to college students. In 2006, 2.8 million college students gave more than 297 million hours of volunteer service, according to the Corporation's Volunteering in America 2007 study. Expanding campus incentives for service is part of a larger initiative to spur higher levels of volunteering by America's college students. The Corporation is working with a coalition of federal agencies, higher education and student associations, and nonprofit organizations to achieve this goal.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation administers Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America, a program that supports service-learning in schools, institutions of higher education and community-based organizations. 



The Mule entertains a sea of young faces in Memorial Hall at Jefferson Field Day, one of the College's most successful community service ventures

## Board of Trustees Approves Tenure Decision

At the January 31, 2009 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the following professors were promoted to associate professor and granted tenure:

**Charles O. Anderson**, theatre and dance

**Janine Chi**, sociology

**Erika Iyengar**, biology

**Jeremy Teissere**, biology and neuroscience

**Tom Cragin**, history

**Michele Moser Deegan**, political science

**Lanethea Mathews-Gardner**, political science






## Trexler Library Opens AT&T Informations Commons

Muhlenberg College's Trexler Library dedicated its new "AT&T Information Commons" at a celebration of the facility's 20th anniversary on campus.

Referring to the production, sharing and democratic discussion of information that is afforded by new technologies, an Information Commons provides facilities to bring a scholarly community of researchers, instructors, students, teachers and users into one space, equipping them with a full suite of technology resources. A neutral, interdisciplinary space, the AT&T Information Commons will allow for collaboration and innovation, with full access to scholarly resources and the availability of full research support from reference librarians and trained student mentors.

"We support projects that create opportunities, make connections and address community needs where we - and our customers - live and work," said J. Michael Schweder, president of AT&T Pennsylvania. "The AT&T Information Commons at Muhlenberg College is a project that will help not just their students, but students of all ages from throughout the Lehigh Valley."

Trexler Library has a long history of community involvement, and the AT&T Information Commons will continue to benefit the community-at-large. With community access to the Commons, the facility will reach local high school students, the high school classes that visit each year for research projects, K-12 teachers from across the state who attend the Urban Academy held in the Library's curriculum lab every summer, and the College's service learning program, which serves organizations such as the Hispanic American Organization.

The concept of the Information Commons began in 1992 when the University of Iowa unveiled what it called its Information Arcade, funded with private grants and matching funds. The U. of Iowa arcade (or commons) includes high-end workstations with multimedia capabilities, a color flatbed scanner, slide scanner, digital cameras and video digitizing hardware. Other prominent Information Commons can be found at The University of Southern California, Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., the University of Missouri at Kansas City and Indiana University at Bloomington. 

## Hillel House to be Expanded


Plans are set for the renovation and expansion of the College's existing Hillel House. Muhlenberg remains the only small liberal arts college in America to have a fully accredited Hillel Foundation. The College's Jewish population is the ninth highest in the country. Jewish students represent approximately 34 percent of the Muhlenberg student body.

With a 300 percent growth in Jewish students at the College in the past 20 years, Hillel staff, student leadership and the College administration have created a vision for the addition of a Shabbat Dining Room with seating for over 300, a dedicated sanctuary, an institutional kitchen, additional student and staff office space and a student-designed lounge. Rather than worrying how to entice students to participate in Jewish life, the Muhlenberg Hillel staff spends its time concerned with how to accommodate the overwhelming numbers of students who flock to its programs.

"I know this is, in many ways, a good problem to have - an overabundance of Jewish students who want to be actively involved and engaged in Jewish life on campus," says Patti Mittleman, the College's Hillel director. "Still, it is painful to me to see students approach the house and then walk away when they see it is so crowded. The good news is our students are all so invested in this project. They want more space and they are committed to helping to make this project a reality."

Hillel co-president Nicole Bernard '09, of Westport, Conn., says, "Our community's interest and enthusiasm for Jewish programming is booming, and the desire for religious programming from all spectrums permeates the student body. Muhlenberg's Hillel is lucky to have such a problem of huge attendance at every event. I believe that the house expansion will give the generations to come a place to flourish."

Commitment to this important project is growing each day. In February 2008, the fully renovated Rhoda Plum Memorial Kitchen was named in honor of the grandmother of Lindsay Kutner '08, of Scarsdale, N.Y. The College's dedication of over \$600,000 in funding allowed upgrades of existing kitchen space to begin in summer 2008. The academic year began with a \$1 million challenge gift from an anonymous Muhlenberg family. Momentum is building daily.

The total project is estimated to cost approximately \$3.5 million. Due to the pressing need for the additional space to serve students, the project is on a fast-track schedule, but construction cannot begin until the necessary funds have been committed. 

# A Legacy of Love

*Martha Schlenker Knouss '68  
Establishes First Legacy Scholarship  
in Memory of Husband  
Robert F. Knouss '66*



Dr. Robert F. Knouss '66, Christopher D. Knouss, Martha Schlenker Knouss '68, P'00 and Rebecca Knouss '00

Martha Schlenker Knouss '68, of Adelphi, Md., recently established a scholarship in honor of her late husband, Rear Admiral Robert F. Knouss '66, former assistant surgeon general in the United States Public Health Service, who passed away in July, 2007. The gift has the distinction of being the first in the College's new Legacy Scholarship program and one of the first scholarships established during the public phase of the College's comprehensive campaign, *The Talents Entrusted to Our Care: The Campaign for Muhlenberg College*

"Shortly before his death, he and I were talking about ways for our family to be able to remember him," says Martha. "I said, 'Wouldn't it be fun to set up a scholarship at Muhlenberg?' And he said, 'Fantastic!'"

"The day after his death, our daughter Becca '00 called Muhlenberg to inquire about creating a scholarship," says Martha. "At the time, we didn't know about the public health program."

Robert Knouss, known to friends and family as Bob, devoted his life to public health and to improving the lives of people all over the world. He served 34 years with the United States Public Health Service in a variety of capacities. As director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness,

he directed the National Disaster Medical System and led the federal health response to the attack on the World Trade Centers and the anthrax attack on the Senate office building. In the five years prior to his death, he led the Department of Health and Human Services effort to transform the U.S.P.H.S. commissioned corps to a cadre of public health professionals ready to respond to urgent public health and medical emergencies and increase the size of active duty officers.

Bob's career also included appointments as deputy director of the Pan American Health Organization the regional office of the Americas of the World Health Organization (1985-1995); as director of the Office of refugee Health (1981-1985); and as the first director of the Division of Medicine, Bureau of Health Manpower (1974-1978). From 1979-1981, he served as a professional staff member on the Senate Subcommittee on Health, where he developed legislation establishing national health policies.

But it all started at Muhlenberg College where Bob majored and excelled in chemistry and was one of only 12 American college and university students to win the American Chemical Society national merit award in 1966.

As a student, he was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, served as president of the Student Council in his senior year and graduated summa cum laude as valedictorian.

It was at Muhlenberg that Bob met Martha (although according to Bob's father, Francis Knouss '37, the two actually met in 1947. Martha was still in a stroller, and the Knouss and Schlenker families met at a chance encounter while picnicking at the Kutztown Park). She remembers their first date on Parents' Weekend fondly, "Nothing like meeting your date's parents on the first date!" They married shortly after Martha graduated in 1968. "It was Muhlenberg that changed the course of Bob's life," she says. "He had planned to become a doctor, but his exposure to a liberal arts education propelled him toward public health and activism." Martha herself traveled to Nicaragua with Bob early in their marriage to set up vaccination clinics and conduct water contamination studies in Miskito Indian villages along the east coast.

When the Knouss family learned of Muhlenberg's new public health minor last year, they thought it would be a perfect fit to honor Bob's life. Muhlenberg launched the public health minor in fall 2006. An interdisciplinary minor that focuses on the protection and improvement of health for individuals, communities and populations at risk for injury and disease, it is the first of its kind in the Lehigh Valley. The curriculum extends across the natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences and humanities to educate and empower students about health related issues from varying points of view.

Dr. Susan Kahlenberg '93, assistant professor of media and communication, serves as director of the program, which prepares students for post-graduate work and pre-professional careers in public health. Students in the program are encouraged to participate in public health-related experiences through independent research study, service learning, internships or other experiential learning options.

"Specifically, students in the public health minor want to play a critical role in monitoring health; diagnosing and controlling disease and fostering policies, strategies and initiatives to improve and promote health and health services," says Dr. Kahlenberg. "The public health minor curriculum focuses on public health issues as they pertain to students' respective majors, and emphasizes our collegiate focus on engaged citizenry, leadership, ethical and civic values, social justice and movements and critical thinking, which also reflects the interests and passions of Bob Knouss."

To date, 115 classmates, family members, colleagues, friends and neighbors have made gifts to the scholarship in memory of Bob. With a strong lineage of Mule alumni, the Knouss family has a true legacy at Muhlenberg. Bob's father, Francis is an alumnus from the Class of 1937 (he is 94 this year); Martha and Bob's daughter, Rebecca '00, is a graduate, as are Martha's paternal




Knouss, Renee Dessimone '12 and Francis T. Knouss '37, P'66

grandfather, father, two sisters and brother.

This family legacy makes the Knouss family's Legacy Scholarship all the more meaningful since it is the first one established at the College. Muhlenberg's new Legacy Scholarship program aims to increase the number of endowed scholarships that Muhlenberg offers to deserving students each year. Alumni, parents and friends who wish to participate in the program are asked to make a four-year commitment of at least \$1,500 per year to a general named scholarship to be awarded immediately, and a commitment to endow the scholarship with either a current or deferred gift so that the College can continue to award the scholarship in years to come. (For more information, visit [www.muhlenberg.edu/talentscampaign/legacy.html](http://www.muhlenberg.edu/talentscampaign/legacy.html).)

The Robert F. Knouss '66 Memorial Scholarship, currently a general named scholarship, was awarded this year to Renee Dessimone '12, of Glen Rock, N.J. A biology major, Renee's favorite classes are biology, chemistry and Italian. She competes on both the soccer and track teams at Muhlenberg and hopes to attend graduate school after college. Once fully endowed, The Robert F. Knouss '66 Memorial Scholarship will become a restricted scholarship and will be awarded to a public health minor each year.

"Bob loved to talk with students about his passion for public health and share with them the diversity of opportunities he had been given to serve around the world. He felt truly blessed," says Martha. "We, as a family, are very excited to hear the dreams and hopes of the students who will be receiving his scholarship in the coming years."

For more information on how you can contribute to The Robert F. Knouss '66 Scholarship, or for information on establishing your own Legacy Scholarship, please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 484-664-3247 or [talentscampaign@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:talentscampaign@muhlenberg.edu). 

# Alumni NEWS

Jennifer R. McLarin '86  
D I R E C T O R

Kelly Owens '09  
P R E S I D E N T I A L   A S S I S T A N T

**More than 100 guests** attended the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, November 22, 2008. The Alumni Association honored Elizabeth Billie '99, Jill Roth Williams '99, Peter Shimkin '96, Allison Verduin Walker '00 and the 1947 Men's Football Team.

Bert Mukkulainen '90 served as the Master of Ceremonies at the event, which was held in The Great Room of Seegers Union. After the ceremony, inductees unveiled the plaques at the Hall of Fame wall in the Solar Corridor of the Life Sports Center amongst other alumni, family and friends. The four inductees and the 1947 men's football team wrapped up the day's celebration by being introduced and honored prior to the women's championship game of the Scotty Wood Tournament.

## ● ELIZABETH BILLIE '99

Liz made her mark on the diamond as a four-year letter winner and star catcher for the women's softball team. The Weikert Award Winner for outstanding successes through her sophomore year, Liz earned All-East Regional and All-Centennial Conference honors all four years, including two time All-Regional first team recognition and three time All-Centennial Conference first team. In 1999, she was named the Centennial Conference Player of the Year and the LVIAAW Softball Player of the Year. She graduated as the program's all-time leader in hits, doubles, extra-base hits, total bases and RBI's. She is currently ranked 6th in Mule softball team history with a .376 career batting average. Upon graduation, Liz continued her passion for softball as an assistant coach for the Lady Mules from 2001-2004 and traveled to both Prague and Australia to represent the USA in women's softball. Today Liz is a registered nurse at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg campus, of course – and resides in Coplay, Pa.

## ● JILL ROTH WILLIAMS '99

Jill left her legacy on the basketball court as a four-year letter winner and a two-year captain playing guard for the Lady Mules. She remains the fourth all-time leading women's scorer with 1,017 career points. As a junior, Jill led her team in scoring, rebounding and steals. An essential member of the 1998 Championship team, Jill scored a record 27 points against Hopkins in the title game. As a senior, Jill finished her career in the top ten women in Mule basketball history in points, rebounds, assists, steals, three pointers and free throws. In recognition of her court presence, Jill earned

All Centennial Conference honors twice in her four years.

Still passionate about basketball, Jill remains a leader on the court as the coach of the Moravian Academy High School JV and Varsity Women's Basketball teams and resides in Allentown with her husband, Rick.

## ● PETER SHIMKIN '96

Pete, a true leader on the wrestling mat, was a four-year letter winner and starter for the Muhlenberg wrestling team. For three consecutive years, Pete won the Centennial Conference Championship at 118 pounds and in 1994 earned a bid to the NCAA Championships after winning the East Regional Qualifier. Also a Weikert Award recipient, Pete wrestled his way to a Muhlenberg career record of 80 wins, 9 losses and still holds the school record overall win percentage of .899 and win percentage for duals .979.

Pete remains involved in the wrestling arena, running the South Side High School's kids wrestling program in Rockville Center, New York where he resides with his wife, Jodie and three children.

## ● ALLISON VERDUIN WALKER '00

Allison left her mark on the volleyball courts of Memorial Hall as a four-year letter winner and hitter for the women's volleyball team. During her time her, Allison set school records for kills (1,336), kills per game in a career (3.53), killer per game in a season (4.6) and digs in a season (471). Although these records have been broken, Allison still holds Mule records for kills in a season with 635, kills in a

five-game match with 33, and kills in a three-game match with 22. She is only the second woman in Muhlenberg history to record 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs. Allison was named to the second team All-Centennial Conference in 1998 and the first team in 1999, in addition to being ranked 11th overall in Division III for kills per game.


Allison continues to devote her time to volleyball, serving as the current head coach at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona. She resides in Cherry Hill with her husband, Jeremy.

### ● 1947 MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM

Sixty-one years ago in the 1947 college football season, a fine group of men wearing the cardinal red and steel grey colors of Muhlenberg College achieved gridiron greatness by compiling a record of 9 wins and 1 loss. It's debatable as to which was the better team, given that the previous year's 1946 team had a similar 9-1 won-lost record and

went on to win the Tobacco Bowl against St. Bonaventure. The 1946 football team was inducted into the Hall of Fame two years ago and the 1947 team that followed and is being honored today may well have been its equal by shutting out 5 of the 10 teams it played and scoring a total of 368 points against 49 for the opposition.

Leading Muhlenberg's football fortunes for three (3) seasons (1946, 1947, 1948) and achieving an impressive 25-5 won-lost record, was the great Floyd "Ben" Schwartzwalder, a West Virginian who owned a brilliant football mind and was one of the few college coaches to successfully employ a winged-T with an unbalanced line offense.

Eight members of this stellar 1947 football team have previously been inducted into Muhlenberg's Athletic Hall of Fame for their individual exploits on the football field, namely, Harold W. "Bill" Bell '48, Robert F. Mirth '49, Edward J. Sikorski '49, Martin W. Binder '50, Jack W. Crider '50, Michael Bogdiewicz '50, Sisto J. Averno '50 and William "Elmo" Jackson '51. 

## A Sincere Thank You

By Louis R. Lessig, Esq. '93




*Over the course of the last four years, your Alumni Board has been incredibly busy working on your behalf in many ways. During that time it has been my honor to serve as your President. However, I cannot take all the credit for our success over the last four years.*

*The credit for our achievement goes to our fellow alumni with whom I have had the pleasure of serving on the Alumni Board. Every alumni who has served has done so with distinction, passion and drive. It is those individuals who give of themselves for you. Of course, you may not know who represents you or what we do, but perhaps now is the time to change your understanding of your*

*Alumni Board. Reach out and get involved. There are some very dynamic people who serve and bring to the table seemingly unending energy, enthusiasm and (most of all) share one thing - a Muhlenberg experience.*

*I cannot say enough about the men and women with whom I have been so privileged to work over the years. To tell you that they are special would not even scratch the surface. At our final meeting of the year, I had a chance to tell each person how special they were and how they made our Alumni Board stronger. Together we have done some wonderful things for the entire Muhlenberg community. In particular, I need to thank my fellow officers without whom we would not have been as successful including Bob Buzzard '62, Jennifer Tran '93 and Eileen Collins Neri '87.*

*But now my time as your president has run its course, and it is time for new leadership to step up and lead our Alumni Board forward. I am confident that your new officers will provide direction and leadership for our Alumni Association. Your new officers include: Harry Lessig '67 - president, Michael Krouse '84 - president-elect, Jon Schwartz '02 - treasurer and Susan Rhoads-Procina '03 - secretary. This is an exciting time for your association and these dedicated alumni are ready to serve.*

*In addition to my fellow Alumni Board members, I also must thank those Alumni Association presidents who served before me. Lastly, I also want to personally thank the Board of Trustees for their continuing support, particularly Richard Brueckner '71, Chairman of the Board of Trustees - and a mentor, friend and staunch advocate for the Alumni Association. For my part, service to our alma mater has been my honor and privilege. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. *

You can contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 2400 West Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104  
Phone: 800-464-2374 • Fax: 484-664-3545 • E-mail: bergalum@muhlenberg.edu

# TREXLER LIBRARY: HOME TO PIECES OF ANCIENT HISTORY

## Greek Papyri Travel from 'Berg's Rare Books Room to Seoul, Korea

By Jennifer Epting '03

**A**lumni can list off hundreds of unique aspects of Muhlenberg College, but until now, many never knew to count ancient Greek papyri among them. Two pieces out of a collection of 36 housed in the Trexler Library were recently sent on loan for display at The War Memorial of Korea, viewed in an exhibit alongside the Dead Sea Scrolls. In an incredible story that began with a Muhlenberg alumnus over 100 years ago, the Rare Books Room finds itself the center of attention as the Trexler Library celebrates its 20th anniversary.

### BEGINNINGS

It began with Robert Chilsom Horn, a Muhlenberg student who graduated in 1900. After graduation, Horn would go on to spend the next 50 years devoted to his beloved college. He was a professor of Greek and Classics and, evidently, interested in archeology as well, particularly when it pertained to subjects he knew well.

"Back in the early days of archeology, national organizations would arrange a dig and then others could subscribe for a certain amount of shares of the dig," Joyce Hommel, director of Trexler Library, said. "Once the dig was done, the subscribers would be paid for their subscription costs in artifacts that had been found at the site."

This was the case for Professor Horn, who had subscribed to the Oxyrhynchus dig in 1915. This dig produced Oxyrhynchus papyri, or small pieces of ancient writing material.

"He contributed to the dig sometime in the early 1900s and was sent 36 pieces of papyri from the Oxyrhynchus dig in 1915," Diane Koch, special collections and archives librarian, said. "Professor Horn worked at Muhlenberg from 1904-1951 in various capacities, including as a professor, acting President, dean of the College, and vice president."

According to Hommel, the collection of 36 ancient Greek and Latin papyri (2nd-6th century C.E.) were excavated at Oxyrhynchus (El-Bahnasa), Egypt early in the 20th century by the Egypt Exploration Society.

"It is believed that the full 36 pieces came to the College from the estate of Professor Horn, a late Dean and ancient historian," Hommel said.

The papyri were kept in the Rare Books Collection and, despite their worth, were never fully explored.

"For many years, no one knew what they were worth,"

Hommel said. "The library used to be in Haas Hall and the papyri used to be out in display cases and people walked by them everyday. At some point, they realized that the papyri shouldn't be displayed in that way because of how fragile they are, so they put them in our Rare Books Collection. Occasionally a scholar would come and study them or someone on campus would use them, but there had never been a national knowledge that we had them or that these two pieces were so essential to the story."

And what a story it is. The papyri that the library owns date back to early Christianity and two of the 36 are directly linked to stories that come from the Bible. The papyri were clearly important to someone, but the question remained how anyone would find them in a Rare Books Room in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

### REDISCOVERING THE PAPYRI

"The first solicitation came to us from Brent Sandy on behalf of Weston Fields, papyrologist and executive director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation," Hommel said. "He visited us, and he was important because he could read the Ancient Greek. Mr. Fields had found our papyri through WorldCat, a catalog for library collections. He came to look at all of our pieces and then narrowed it down to two pieces that he felt were pivotal in expanding the Dead Sea Scrolls from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The Dead Sea Scrolls have been traveling all over the place and this wasn't the first time that they'd decided to expand it into the New Testament. Our papyri, along with Duke and Princeton's, were key pieces that made that link."

The proposal was then on the table: Mr. Fields and the Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation wanted to take the two most important pieces of papyri to Korea, for an exhibition. The idea sounded

genuine, but neither Hommel nor Koch had ever been involved in international loans and had to go through a series of logistics to ensure the safety of the papyri.

“Our challenge lay in determining the legitimacy of the initial request to borrow the items, and then the logistics of lending them,” Koch said. “Otherwise, it wasn’t that different than a typical request to view or research the material.”

The pieces were identified as P.Oxy 1077, a Christian amulet on vellum (Matthew 4) and (ii) P. Oxy 1227, a papyrus from a codex (Matthew 12) (the “Manuscripts”), and were taken to Korea in late December of last year. The solution to transporting such fragile material was another decision.

“There was some talk about us taking them over there,” Hommel says, “but we ended up having the museum get a professional courier to come and pick them up. We packed it in a special suitcase so that they didn’t get jostled at all. The courier picked them up in Allentown and 24 hours later it was in Seoul.”

### LAUNCHING THE EXHIBIT

Once in Seoul, the papyri were put on display with a larger collection of scrolls and papyri. The exhibit, titled “The Dead Sea Scrolls and Birth of Christianity,” was housed in the War Memorial of Korea. Though it was supposed to end on June 1, its success extended it another 18 days. And though Seoul and Allentown aren’t exactly neighboring cities, Hommel and Koch were able to visit the papyri on a 3-day tour of Korea.

“It was fantastic,” Hommel said, who, along with Koch, was given a full tour of the exhibit by the museum’s leadership. “It was enlightening for us to put the papyri in that perspective. The exhibit was quite large and though it seemed like our pieces were insignificant in size, they were hugely pivotal in creating the link.”

The exhibit seemed additionally fitting due to the diverse religions of the country. According to Hommel, some aspects of Christianity in Korea are based on “very literal interpretations. Part of incorporating this aspect of religion was showing a more metaphorical view of these scrolls and putting it back in a historical context,” she said. “The exhibit opened up a broader and deeper conversation because Christianity is a relatively new religion within the country.”

When they weren’t investigating the exhibit, Hommel and Koch did have some time to appreciate the local culture.

“It was so interesting because Seoul is like a city that grew up overnight,” Hommel said. “You see an ancient building from the 1400s next to a glass skyscraper because of recent expansion and growth. Plus, it was a really neat opportunity to see how things from Muhlenberg fit into a bigger world in a discussion about the evolution of world religions.”

Koch agreed, citing one of the Buddhist temples as one of her favorite sights of the trip.

“My favorite moment of the trip was probably our last night there,” Koch continued. “We stumbled upon a Buddhist temple, tucked away on a side street in the middle of the city.

A service was in progress and the grounds were lit up with hundreds of lanterns. It was absolutely beautiful.”

### MOVING THINGS FORWARD

Though the last interpretation of the papyri was done in the 1920s, the librarians are hopeful that a web presence on the library’s website will help to generate more interest in the papyri, as well as in other pieces of the Rare Books collection.

According to Koch, the papyri website will allow access to high quality digital scans of the pieces, as well as translation and background material.

“Once we get the digitalized images up on the website, we expect to send the papyri on tour to different places. Plus, even within the Rare Books Collection, we have some gems down there that are really neat pieces. We just haven’t had an avenue to let people know we had them. From a worldwide point of view, that will bring huge new exposure.”



Diane Koch, special collections and archives librarian, and Joyce Hommel, director of the Trexler Library, at the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit.



The librarians agree that there may be other possibilities to participate in another exhibit like the one in Seoul, which they are very open to investigating. The experience was clearly a success for Hommel and Koch, but also for the Muhlenberg community as well.

Because of the knowledge gained, the stories of the papyri and other pieces in the Rare Books Collection are accessible to all.

“It was incredibly exciting for me,” Hommel said. “I’m the director of the Library and I got to be involved in so many aspects of the process; it was an honor to go. It really enriched my knowledge of what it is that we have in a way that I didn’t have context of before. I knew it was special, but I didn’t have a full understanding of how it fell into history and I think that’s the real gift here. We have an incredible piece of history and it makes us more excited to get the word out so people can really see this.”



# Marching to a Diffe

## *'Berg's Music Department Hosts Percussion Festival*

By Jillian L. Lowery '00

Director of College Communications

**P**ercussion is so much more than a simple drum beat, cymbal crash or shake of a tambourine – it's the backbone of musical pieces and groups, driving the music and holding everything together. And in some cases, percussion is the main event – think vibraphone player Cal Tjader, or drummer Billy Cobham. Nevertheless, people often forget that percussion is integral to a piece, not just an accessory.

Dr. Douglas Ovens, professor and chair of the music department at Muhlenberg – and an accomplished percus-

sionist himself – wanted to remind the campus and local communities that there is exciting music being made solely with percussion instruments. He applied for, and was awarded, a grant from the Bessie Graham Trust (the College's seventh), which helped him to get the funding to hold a percussion festival at the College.

"I wanted to bring guest artists to the area that would put on concerts way outside of people's comfort zones," he said. "Everyone acknowledges that percussion is a big part of mod-



ern music, and this festival was the perfect way for people to explore the new ways in which percussion is evolving.”

Ovens arranged for three events to take place throughout late March and April 2009, all of which were free and open to the public.

The first concert in the percussion festival was A Night of Percussion Improvisations with Toshi Makihara and Tatsuya Nakatani, two musicians with a markedly different style. As Ovens explains, Nakatani begins with drums and cymbals (which he plays by scraping) and slowly adds other instruments, building the piece. Makahara, on the other hand, produces all of his sound with one lone drum.

According to his website, Nakatani, originally from Osaka, Japan, “utilizes drum set, bowed gongs, cymbals, singing bowls, metal objects, bells and various sticks and bows to create an intense, organic music that defies category or genre. His music is based in improvised/ experimental music, jazz, free jazz, rock and noise, yet retains the sense of space and beauty found in traditional Japanese folk music.”

Makahara, a Grammy-nominated musician, has worked with many music ensembles and written original music for theatre and dance companies. In addition to those efforts and his work with conventional drums for New Jazz performances, his focus is experimental free improvisation using a simple setting consisting of one snare drum and one small cymbal.

# rent Beat

“The approach is very Zen, and the result is just wonderful,” says Ovens. “Not only do they use instruments that are rare, but their approach to the instruments themselves is quite unique.”

The second concert, Duos for Acoustic and Electric Percussion, featured Ovens himself, along with adjunct ‘Berg music professor James Thoma.

In addition to teaching and overseeing the music department, Ovens is a seasoned performer and prolific composer who has created over 60 works that range from orchestral compositions to electronic works for dance. He is a part of the New York City new music scene, has participated in the Philadelphia Fringe Festivals and has been favorably reviewed in the New York Times.

Thoma conducted the Muhlenberg Percussion Ensemble in the 1980s before leaving the College to perform as a percussionist with the New York City Opera National Company

for nearly 20 years. He returned to campus in 2005.

“Our concert definitely took people by surprise, visually,” muses Ovens. “Most folks aren’t used to seeing electric cymbals, let alone electric steel mixing bowls at performances.”

When asked why he chooses to use such items as instruments, Ovens laughs. “I suppose it’s because I’m very easily bored, so I like to do things that other people wouldn’t think of right away.”

The final event in the series was New Music for Percussion with the Talujon Percussion Quartet, a group described by the New York Times as having an “edgy, unflagging energy.” Their name comes from “Tal,” having to do with rhythmic cycles in Indian music and “Lujon,” a metal log drum, forming “Talujon,” a four-member drum ensemble that performs classic and new music using traditional – and not-so-traditional – instruments.


The Quartet performed two pieces: one composed by John Cage, an American composer who pioneered the chance and electronic music movements, and they premiered Ovens’ piece written for ‘Berg’s theatre department’s production of “The Possibilities.”

Once again, this performance leaned on using items the audience would not normally consider a musical instrument – this time, it was a wind-up alarm clock whose volume was raised and lowered by placing a barrel on top of it.

“This festival really helped to bring home the concept that percussion is so much more than a drum set,” says Ovens, who remarked that audience members were invited to come on stage after each performance, in order to see the instruments up close. “It’s like nothing they’ve seen before,” he remarked.

Which, really, is the point. In creating a festival such as this, Ovens hopes to inspire the audience to think about music in different ways. “We all joke about the ‘Muhlen-bubble,’ about how sometimes we forget to pay attention to things going on off-campus,” Ovens explains. “But by bringing innovative performers to campus and exposing the community to something they’ve never thought of, we can really combat that.”

Ovens admits that some students were skeptical about attending the concerts, though he says that he has heard overwhelmingly positive feedback after each of the festival’s three events.

“They’re nervous at first, because it’s new, and they don’t know what to expect. They’ll ask me things like, ‘How long will this concert last?’” he says with a chuckle. “And I tell them ‘You’ll never forget it, so it lasts forever.’” 

# CARDINAL & GREY HOMECOMING

Overcast skies could not deter the Muhlenberg family from returning home for a spirited Cardinal & Grey Homecoming Weekend. More than 550 alumni of all ages including the 5- and 10-year Reunion classes made the trip back to 'Berg September 26-28 in celebration of Homecoming 2008.

Homecoming Weekend featured the annual Kickoff Party at Rookie's, where 135 alumni gathered Friday night to jump-start the Homecoming festivities. Saturday, the crowd continued to grow as nearly 200 alumni and friends dined under the tent on Alumni Court while catching a sneak peek of the new myMuhlenberg.com. Post-game activities included a Wine & Cheese Reception featuring 'Berg's a capella groups the Dynamics, the Girls Next Door and the AcaFellas.

Members from the Classes of 2003 and 1998 celebrated Reunions during Homecoming Weekend. Both classes tailgated on the Chapel Lawn prior to kickoff of the football game. The Class of 1998 earned a free tailgate party Saturday after achieving 25% participation in the Tailgate Challenge and raising \$11,055.84 for the Reunion Challenge!





A great big thank you to Jen Epting '03, Jay Dombi '03, Matt Daly '98, Brian Fishbone '98, Dave Garbe '98 and Dave Ellowitch '98 for their efforts in organizing the 5- and 10-year Reunion activities!

In sporting news, with home field advantage, the Muhlenberg football team trumped Gettysburg 42-21. Yet, the Mules were not the only winners Homecoming Weekend. During halftime festivities, Alexandra Faust '10 was awarded the Sidney Weikert Sophomore Athlete-of-the-Year Award. The crowning of the 2008 Homecoming King and Queen followed the Weikert Award presentation, as Kelly Owens '09 and Ryan Kurtis '09 became the newest members of Muhlenberg's royal family.

Additionally, top prizes for this year's scarecrow decorating contest were awarded to the Chemistry Club, Art Club and KnitWits. A special thanks to all those who participated and helped judge the contest!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2009 – October 2-4 – and Classes of 1999 and 2004 Reunion!**



# APPRECIATING LEGACY

*“...the strong scholarship, tradition  
and community that unites all Muhlenberg alumni.”*

By Kaitlyn Zerbe '10

*Ding.* The elevator doors parted on the third floor of Phoebe Terrace, the retirement community a few blocks from campus. I stepped off the elevator to come face to face with Rev. Pharas Reitz '36, dressed for the occasion of our interview in a crisp, blue button-down shirt and khakis. This was our first meeting, but somehow, it felt as comfortable as reconnecting with an old friend. Even though I was only aware of one thing that we had in common, it wasn't just any common ground that we shared – it was Muhlenberg College.

In 1932, a 15-year old Pharas Reitz was enrolled at Muhlenberg College. “In those days, I was scheduled for the ministry. My parents, my church and my community assumed I would go to four years of college at Muhlenberg, and then three years at seminary,” says Reitz, who thrived as a religion and philosophy major.

Today, a 91 year-old Reitz says that the small, Lutheran college prepared him well for his studies at Philadelphia Seminary. Ordained in 1939, Reitz served as a minister for 11 years at St. John's Lutheran Church in Berrysbury, Pa., followed by serving six years at St. John's Lutheran in Hamburg, Pa. In 1957, Reitz returned to Allentown to serve at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, where he was minister for 18 years. “I've had a great life,” he says, acknowledging that his long, successful career all began at Muhlenberg.

In fall 2007, exactly 75 years after Pharas Reitz stepped onto Muhlenberg's campus as a young freshman, the College welcomed Michael '11 and Joel '11 Reitz, grandsons of the 1936 graduate. Mike, an Allentown native, said that coming to Muhlenberg was a natural choice for him. “It was important for me to stay local and near my family – and Muhlenberg offered the close-knit, community-oriented atmosphere that I wanted,” he said. “It's a neat thing to continue my grandfather's legacy.”



Joel Reitz '11, Rev. Pharas Reitz '36, and Michael Reitz '11

In fact, the Reitz family has quite a history with the College. Pharas's brother, Rev. Elwood Reitz, was a member of the class of 1942. Two of Pharas's daughters, Doris Reitz Gross '68 and Carol J. Reitz '72, are a part of the Muhlenberg family, as well. Katherine Reitz Henry '68, one of Pharas's nieces, is also an alumna.

When it was time to leave Pharas Reitz's homey apartment at the conclusion of our interview, I wasn't ready to say goodbye. I wanted to stay a bit longer, sitting across from this light-hearted man in his comfortable recliner, listening to his stories: growing up on a farm, meeting the love of his life, and traveling to over 40 different countries.

Though Pharas Reitz's Muhlenberg experience was far different from mine, we nevertheless shared the common bond of being part of a family – the Muhlenberg family. He has his unique story to tell, just as I have mine, and Joel and Michael have theirs. And despite the differences in the details, the overriding themes are the same – the strong scholarship, tradition and community that unites all Muhlenberg alumni. M

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By Kelley Freund, Assistant Sports Information Director

# Boots, Bras... and Courts

## 'Berg Athletes in the Fashion Industry

When Danielle Losonci '09 went to her interview at Elle Macpherson Intimates, they didn't ask her the typical strengths and weaknesses question. What they said was, "So, tell us about bras."

"I just let loose," she said. "I was candid and I told them all the problems I had with bras."

Losonci was going into the fashion industry blindly, and while she thought her answer might have cost her the job, the company loved her answer and hired her.

"They really let me be myself," said Losonci. "I didn't have to fit into the stereotype of the fashion industry. I could just be who I was."

And who is that? The Spanish major and business administration minor says she's somewhat of a dichotomy.

She spent two summers working at Elle Macpherson Intimates, doing customer service and marketing, entering orders for customers like Nordstrom and Saks. Her favorite part of the internship was market week where new lines were shown two years ahead of their release.



But while she loves fashion—Sienna Miller is her fashion icon (“She’s not over the top, but very classy”)—and clothes (“Anything from the 1970s, anything high-waisted. And stockings and boots are my new thing”)—Losonci loves sporting something not found on the designer racks: a volleyball uniform.

This season the captain led her team to a 17-10 record, as she became 14th on the all-time list with 716 career digs and was named to the academic all-district team, perhaps taking some pointers from her favorite sports star, Misty May-Treanor.

“She’s a really good defensive player,” said Losonci. “She’s also very feminine and makes that known. She’s a cool role model.”

Losonci isn’t the only dichotomy on campus. A few years ago, Muhlenberg had a fashion club and Losonci and basketball player Erin McSherry ’09 were two of the three members.

McSherry had a breakout season last year, blocking 59 shots, one short of the school record. Twice she tied the school record of six blocks in one game and she helped the Mules to their fourth Centennial Conference title.

And while she was working hard on the court, McSherry was working equally hard in the fashion industry, completing an internship with contemporary designer Susana Monaco. McSherry worked the fashion trade shows, called clients and confirmed orders, maintained the show room and updated the Web site. Her favorite part was working the fashion shows and seeing other designers and their collections.

“It was overwhelming with hundreds of people and clothes everywhere,” said McSherry. “But you got to compare and contrast designers and learn the business side of the industry.”

The double major in business administration and finance was with the company from winter break in December 2007 to the end of February 2008, juggling work, school and basketball for a month and a half.

“My internship helped me because I was always on a tight schedule,” said McSherry. “I always had to be focused and that helped me on the court because I never really lost



Erin McSherry '09



Danielle Losonci '09

that train of thought. I knew I had to work hard day in and day out.”

McSherry rocks her basketball uniform a lot of the time, but she also can’t get enough of dresses.

“You can never have enough dresses. I can’t even tell you how many I have. I love dresses.”

McSherry claims Gemma Ward as her style icon. “She’s all over the runways, but she’s very low key and not so much in the spotlight. I think she’s a good example.”

McSherry names Rajon Rondo as her favorite sports star. “I’m a big Celtics fan. And while he’s not in the top four or five, he’s still an amazing athlete.”

Both McSherry and Losonci agree that there is a stereotype that girls who are interested in boots and purses and earrings can’t possibly be any good on the court or field.


“The [volleyball] team jokes I’m always dressed up,” said Losonci. “I always do my hair before a game, which is kind of silly, but it’s hard to separate that part of me.”

But after completing her internship, Losonci realizes there is no reason to classify herself as any one thing.

“My internship made me more confident in who I am,” Losonci said. Which is someone who really likes boots AND is an amazing athlete.

After graduation, Losonci plans on returning to Alicante, Spain, where she studied abroad last spring. She then wants to work for a non-governmental organization in New York City, specifically something with economic and community development. “A far cry from Madison Avenue, I know,” said Losonci.

McSherry wants to pursue a career in fashion and plans on taking classes to further her knowledge of the industry.

“I like being independent,” said McSherry. “I just am who I am and want to do what I love. Women can go into athletics and do anything else they want to pursue. If you’re given the opportunity to do something, but it may conflict with something else, always find a way to do both. If you can benefit from both experiences, it will help you in the long run.” 

# CLASS

## Notes

### 1946

**Dick Bergman** lives in the Sacramento Valley of California and has some interesting trivia to share about the area: "There is a genus of native plants called 'Muhlenbergia.' Sounds like Muhlenberg. There are at least ten natives in this genus named for Henry Ernst Muhlenberg, son of Henry Melchior, one of the great botanists of early America. He reported in 1791 that he had collected over 1,100 different plants in Lancaster and Berks counties, with specimens placed in his herbarium, the largest in the country. Some of these plants are in California. Henry Ernst was a pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster. He also founded a college for German-speaking youth which became Franklin and Marshall College, of which he became first president. Ben Franklin gave \$500 to the new college which bears his name."

### 1948

As a follow-up to Ken Burns' documentary on "The War," **John Keefe** appeared in two PBS segments dealing with the Battle of Normandy and liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. Regarding the former, he received a citation from the French Minister of Defense, viz, a "Diplome - 'les soldats engages dans les combats en Normandie et de la Liberation 1944-45.'" The Dachau award was for "Valiant service during 1944-45 liberation of Nazi concentration camps." This honor originated with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. The Bronze Battle Star was awarded. As an aside, Keefe was discharged from the army in February 1946 at Indiantown Gap, PA and immediately - complete with duffle bag and clad in uniform - hitchhiked to Allentown in an attempt to enroll in Muhlenberg. He was discouraged from matriculating because classes were to begin in several days. However, during the interview with "Haps" Benfer, dean of admissions, John casually mentioned that he had played football as recently as November 1945 against California colleges. The formalities of the enrollment procedure were quickly waived; he was billeted in West Hall by the end of the day. Spring football practice began several weeks later.

After one season, Keefe left the team because of the extreme coaching emphasis at the expense of academics and the implied taboo of scheduling p.m. classes. Despite the derision of the coaching staff, he regularly attained the Dean's List and was accepted into several honorary scholastic fraternities. He accelerated his course loads under the tutelage of Professors Corbière (French) and Carino (Spanish) and completed three years within two. The stepped-up program enabled him to graduate prior to the onrush of the other returning veterans. The earlier entrance into the job market provided multiple career opportunities. Lastly, it is refreshing to read the alumni journals and other media to witness the return of Muhlenberg sports to NCAA Division III on a simon-pure basis. This success, coupled with greatly expanded curricula, provides it with a national reputation.

### 1951

**Capt. John H. Kaelberger, CHC, USN, RET**, retired in 1989 as Fleet Chaplain of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He authored two books: *Blessing and Honor - Honor and Blessing: Understanding the Confusion/Deception of Biblical Sin* and *The Not so Silent Merger: The World in the Church*.

### 1957

**Jim Mackenzie** writes, "I've been in North Carolina for 10 years now. Our home on Adams Creek, part of the Intracoastal Waterway, gives us a great view of all types of boat traffic, from tugs pushing barges, to 100 ft. pleasure craft, to shrimp trawlers gathering their catch in front of our house. When I'm not watching boat traffic, I am working as a volunteer in the NC Maritime Museum Boat Shop."

### 1958

**Dr. Gerald Jacobson** recently retired from his practice of orthodontics in Cherry Hill, N.J. He also retired after 20 years as clinical professor of orthodontics at Temple University School of Dentistry and 20 years on the Board of Directors of the Dental School. He resides part time in Palm Beach, Fla., and in Cherry Hill and Longport, N.J.

### 1960

The class of 1960 is busy planning for their 50th reunion in 2010. The Alumni Association gives Alumni Achievement Awards during Reunion weekend. The com-

mittee is attempting to identify classmates, who qualify for either of these awards - Alumni Service to the College or Alumni Lifetime Achievement. Can you recommend a classmate for either of these awards? Send your input to Tuck Carpenter [yvontuck@verizon.net](mailto:yvontuck@verizon.net) or Ed Davis [eddavis@ptd.net](mailto:eddavis@ptd.net). ■ **Dr. George Weckman** is a semi-retired professor in the classics and world religions department at Ohio University.

### 1963

**Dr. Alan H. DeCherney**, director of the program reproductive and adult endocrinology of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, received the National Institute of Health 2008 Director's Award for Mentoring.

### 1966

**Charles A. S. Ernst**, professor of English at Hilbert College, is beginning his 17th year as chair of the arts and sciences department, and is in the middle of his second three-year term of office as executive director of the College English Association.

### 1969

**Carole Fahrner Wallace** has served as Warden, Sr. at Lunenburg Correctional Center since 2002. Her career with the Virginia Department of Corrections spans 37 years. She recently celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary with her husband, Wiley P. Wallace, a retired Southern Baptist minister. Their son Mark earned his doctorate in history at St. Andrews University in Scotland, is chair of the history department at Danville Community College and is engaged to be married in April 2009.

### 1970

Local Lutheran minister, **Donald Hayn**, was on the finals of "America's Funniest Home Videos" on September 30, 2008.

### 1971

Senator Arlen Specter nominated **Barbara Casey** as a 2008 Angel in Adoption TM for her outstanding advocacy of adoption issues. Barbara has worked tirelessly to bring families and children together for 23 years. She is the director of Adoption Associates, LLC, a licensed Pennsylvania adoption agency, and heads up a law firm specializing in all adoption issues. Barbara has a masters degree and graduated from the University of





Barbara Casey '71

Pennsylvania Law School. She is proud to be a Fellow of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and an active member of several organizations that serve families. She also lectures on adoption topics for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and local associations. ■ Jack McCallum taught a course at Muhlenberg called "Sports, Culture and Media" for the media and communication department in the fall 2008 semester.

1977

Nina Zanetti writes, "I've been playing mountain dulcimer for several years, and on September 19, 2008, won the National Mountain Dulcimer Competition, held at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS. I have also been invited to teach mountain dulcimer workshops in N.Y., Pa, VT, and Conn.; have two books of dulcimer arrangements; and released a CD of dulcimer music in June 2008."



Nina Zanetti '77

1978

Alex Levin and his wife Faith are moving back to Philadelphia from Toronto, as he is the newly appointed chief of pediatric ophthalmology and ocular genetics at Wills Eye Institute.

1979

Leonard Zon, director of the stem cell research program at Children's Hospital, Boston; Grousbeck Professor in Hematology and Oncology at Harvard Medical School; and investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on Saturday, October 11, 2008. The program to officially welcome the Academy's 228th class of Fellows celebrates cutting edge research and scholarship, artistic accomplishment and exemplary service to society.

1980



Aaron J. Gorovitz '80

Aaron J. Gorovitz, a real estate lawyer for Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, PA, has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2009.

1985

Judge Jan R. Jurden has been named Superior Court's representative to Delaware's Task Force for the Chief Justices' Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative by President Judge James T. Vaughn Jr.

1987

Oliver Baer writes, "I divide my time between many pursuits but most of them fall under the category, Patron of the Arts. I invest in Broadway Shows, edit and write for work done by my publishing company, am on the Nominating Committee for the Drama League Awards, and volunteer for the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art. I also perform with the NY Jedi and help teach in their stage combat classes. In addition, I practice Chinese martial arts, meditation, and massage." ■ Formerly employed as a funeral director at various respected funeral homes, Nicos Elias has recently opened the new start-up Elias Funeral Home, Inc., located in the historic General Trexler Mansion at 1227 Hamilton St., Allentown. A lifelong resident of Allentown, Nick is still active as organist at



Nicos Elias '87

his home church of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox and volunteers with the Western Salisbury Fire Department. He also holds an A.A.S. degree in funeral service from Northampton Community College. ■ Christine Weiser is a professional writer and editor who played bass in the celebrated all-girl Philly rock band Mae Pang and now plays with The Tights. Her first novel, "BROAD STREET," wittily follows the fictional all-girl rock band of the same name through their struggle for success in the male-dominated, mid-'90s Philadelphia rock scene. It has been hailed as a "Philly High Fidelity" and "an immeasurably fun foray into the fictional world of an all-girl rock group."

1989

Jeannette (Lee) Shaw and Dallas Shaw were married on January 21, 2009 in Rockville, Md. They currently live in Alexandria, Va. Jeannette is the recruiting and professional development administrator at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP in Washington, D.C., and Dallas is currently a captain in the United States Marine Corps and serving in Iraq as the commander of the 2/9 Weapons Company.

1991

Joseph E. Zeszotarski, a partner with Poyner Spruill LLP in Raleigh, N.C., was ranked among North Carolina Business magazine's 2009 "Legal Elite" in the criminal law category.

1993

Michael A. Rowe has joined Blank Rome LLP as partner in the commercial litigation group in Princeton, N.J. Admitted to practice in New Jersey and New York, Michael received his law degree from Rutgers

University School of Law - Newark, where he was lead articles editor of the Rutgers Computer & Technology Law Journal.

**1994**

Dr. Meredith Mitstifer was married to Tom Dixon on October 25, 2008. Her Muhlenberg freshman roommate, Jennifer Salvatori '94 was in attendance. Meredith is employed as a psychologist at a United States Penitentiary and her husband is a psychiatric nurse with the Department of Corrections. The couple lives in Tucson, AZ.

**1995**

Margaret Elder graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Ross University in 2008. ■ Scott Trachtenberg, president and CEO of Delicious Delivery, was named one of the Movers and Shakers of 2008 by South Florida Business Leader.

**1996**

Jon R. Ansari, chief financial officer of Magyar Bank recently received a diploma from the National School of Banking of America's Community Bankers. He was one of the 48 members of the Class of 2008 who took part in the July 18, 2008 commencement ceremonies at the Regina Quick Center for the Arts of Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn.

**1997**

Suzanne Fabel and James Murray '99 were married on November 23, 2008, at La Playa Resort in Naples, Fla. James is an agent for professional baseball players and a partner with the firm Hendricks Sports Management. Suzanne is a CPA and vice president with the firm Siguler Guff in Manhattan. The couple lives in Hoboken, N.J.

**1998**

Brian Fishbone returned in late December from spending two months in South Korea with his partner, Jon, who teaches English as a Second Language there. Brian took the time as a professional and personal sabbatical - writing a book of memoirs, doing some consulting work in corporate training and development, networking with HR professionals in Korea and traveling throughout the Far East. He is now back in the Philadelphia area working as a consultant to organizations who need help with corporate training facilitation, instructional design and LMS (Learning Management System) administration, and he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses for Temple University and Keller Graduate School of Management in human resources, business ethics, and change management. He also enjoyed his 10-year Reunion in late September - it was great to see everyone!



Brian Fishbone '98 and his partner Jon Blandford at Bubheungsa for a Buddhist Temple Stay, South Korea December 2008

**1999**

Noelle Bates and Captain Kieran O'Shea are happy to announce their engagement. The wedding ceremony will take place in fall. Kieran is a JAG in the US Air Force. Noelle is a nurse practitioner at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and teaches at UPENN. ■ Luis E. Campos, Priority Pay Roll's managing director for Pennsylvania, will lead the office in its new regional headquarters in Allentown, Pa. Luis and his wife, Mona, reside in Bethlehem, Pa., with their 15-month old daughter. ■ Stephanie Pittocco is pleased to announce that on October 18, 2008, she married Nicholas Barnett of Naperville, Ill. An afternoon ceremony took place at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Greenwich, Conn, followed by a fall inspired evening reception at The C.V. Rich Mansion in White Plains, N.Y. Jennifer Zwirn '99 was one of



The wedding of Suzanne Fabel '97 and James Murray '99



Alumni present at the wedding of Stephanie Pittocco '99 to Nicholas Barnett



Alumni at the wedding of Meredith (Libercci) Targarona '02 and Matthew Targarona '03

the bridesmaids. Other Muhlenberg alumni in attendance were Heather Donoghue '00, Ellen Ciesielski '00 and Adam Shavitz '99. Stephanie and Nicholas currently live in Greenwich, CT.

**2000**

**Matthew Hitinger** has four new poems and is included in a photo shoot in the December 2008 issue of MiPOesias.

**2001**

**Kevin Brown** writes, "I am pleased to inform all of you that I have finally completed my doctoral studies at the University of Pittsburgh earning a Ph.D. in infectious diseases and microbiology. It was a great road and I am looking to the future. On that topic, I have secured a post-doctoral fellowship position at the National Cancer Institute – Experimental Immunology Branch located on the NIH main campus in Bethesda, MD." ■ **Dana Spancake** recently became engaged to Scott Zabelski. They currently reside in Toms River, N.J., and are planning an October 2009 wedding in New Hope, Pa.

**2002**

**Samantha (Swanson) Acosta** won Lockheed Martin's Comet Award for work on the Leadership Communications Enhancement Integrated Product Team. The award is the highest honor that the Corporation can award a communications professional. Samantha and 18 Electronic Systems team members won the award in the Employee Communications Campaign category. Samantha played a key role in developing the curriculum and later traveled throughout Electronic Systems to deliver the training. She is also ATL's interface for "The Source." This award marks the first

time that an ATL communicator has received this honor. ■ **Meredith (Libercci) Targarona** and **Matthew Targarona '03** were married in Baltimore, Md., on November 8, 2008. ■ **Kathryn Ann Wilson** is engaged to be married to **William Thomas Moebius** on August 15, 2009 in Hoboken, N.J. Kathryn is a third grade teacher in Basking Ridge, N.J., and William is a director at Ipreo, LLC in New York City.

**2003**

The wedding of **Russ Choma** and **Kate Davidson** took place on September 27, 2008 in Portsmouth, N.H. ■ **Deirdre Frey** and **Marco Schnabl** became engaged on September 1, 2008 atop the Cologne Cathedral in Cologne, Germany. They currently live in New York City and are happily planning a May 2010 wedding. ■ **Dorian Kavanagh** received a M.S.W. in social work from Hunter College School of Social Work on May 31, 2007. Dori won an award for her



Alumni at the wedding of Russ Choma '03 and Kate Davidson '03



Tracie Rosenbaum '03

Professional Seminar titled "Include Me! Information and Materials to Create and Inclusive and Non-Heterosexist School Environment for Children with LGBTQ Parents. She and Jesse Bayer are happy to announce their marriage on August 26, 2008. They currently reside in Brooklyn, N.Y. ■ **René Metzler** will be entering her third year as the dance director at New Hampton School in New Hampton, N.H. ■ Over Memorial Day Weekend 2008, **Tracie Rosenbaum**, competed in her second triathlon, the Capital of Texas Triathlon. As a mentor for Team in Training, Rosenbaum placed 46th out of 124 in her age group and fundraised over \$3,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. ■ **Jessica (Kriss) Saratovsky** and **Michael Saratovsky '04** were married on October 26, 2008, at Beckwith Pointe in New Rochelle, NY. They currently live in NYC with their cat Bruce Wayne. Jessica is a teacher at PS 33 in Chelsea and Michael is currently a project manager in construction and getting his masters from NYU. ■ **Lauren Thurm** and **Joe Deneroff** were married on July 12, 2008 at Jasna Polana in Princeton, N.J. The couple

*continued on page 28*



Arden Christine Duca

**1990**

**Kenneth Duca** and his wife Kristen are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Arden Christine. She was born on January 4, 2009, in New York City, and weighed 7 lbs, 4.8 oz. Arden joins two-year-old sister Milla. Ken is a portfolio manager and director at Times Square Capital Management, while Kristen is the vice president of strategy and business development at EnablePay Direct.

**1994**

**Colette Candy** and her husband **John Weir**, are proud to announce the birth of their son, **Elijah Alden C. Weir** on October 9, 2008 at 2:13 a.m. He weighed 8 lbs, 11oz and was 21 inches long. Colette, John and Eli reside in Tacoma, Washington. ■ **Chuck Peters**, his wife, Jennifer, and son, Charlie, proudly announce the birth of **Madison Anne**. She was born on May 30, 2008, and was 8 lbs and 20 inches long. Chuck is currently stationed at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton where he serves as head of cardiology. They currently reside in San Diego, Calif.



Elijah Alden C. Weir

**1995**

**Molly Eshbach Leedy** announces the birth of her third child, **Rylie Kate Leedy**, September, 12, 2008. Rylie joins big brother Reins and big sister Mae.

**1996**

**Marty and Heather (Suffin) Delaney** welcomed their son, **Sean Erik Delaney**, on May 13, 2008. His grandfather is **Dr. Arthur Suffin '64**.

**1997**

**Glen and Andrea (Harkins) Davis** announce the birth of their son, **Christian Matthew Davis**, on May 18, 2008. He was 7 lbs, 10 oz and 21 ¼ inches long. ■ **Amanda (Peters) Kinney** and her husband **Brian** welcome the birth of their second child, **Elizabeth Jane**, on January 27, 2008. She joins big brother Ethan, age 3. The family resides in Needham, Mass. Amanda practices veterinary medicine at Sudbury Animal Hospital.



Madison Anne Peters



Sean Erik Delaney

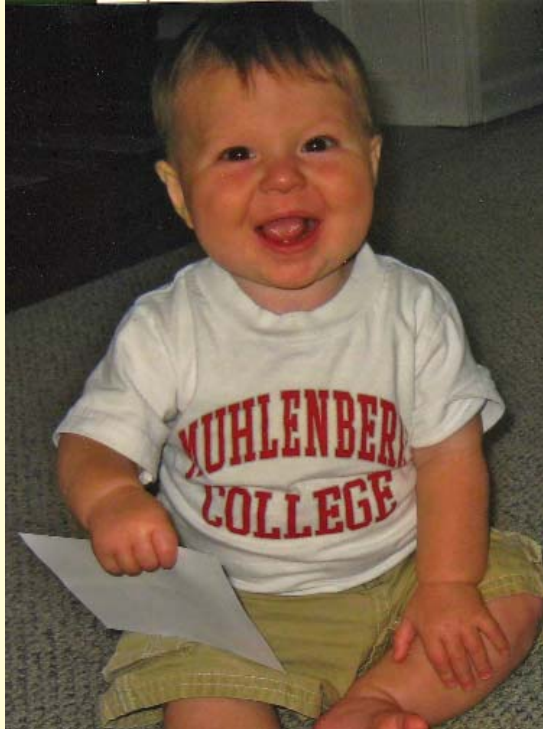


Rylie Kate Leedy with Reins and Mae

M U L E S



Christian Matthew Davis



Kyle Gibney



Ethan and Elizabeth Kinney



Luke David Gunther

1999

Jamie (Hollender) Cariddi and Richard Cariddi are proud to announce the birth of their second baby boy, Alexander Richard. He was born on December 30, 2008, in Charlotte, N.C., and weighed 8 lbs, 10 oz. Alex is welcomed by Big Brother Harrison.

2001

Kevin and Tricia '03 Gibney are the proud parents of Kyle William Gibney. Kyle was born December 29, 2007 and weighed 8lbs, 7oz. ■ Kelly (Gower) and David Gunther '02 welcomed their first baby, Luke David, on April 1, 2008. The couple lives in Freehold, N.J. ■ Marcus and Stephanie (Powers) Mattielli announce the birth of their daughter, Sophie Marie, born July 30, 2008. The couple lives in Westfield N.J., and both work in New York City. Marcus is in trading and brokering and Stephanie is in finance.



Sophie Marie Mattielli





The wedding of Jessica (Kriss) Saratovsky '03 and Michael Saratovsky '04



Lauren Thurm '03 and Joe Deneroff



Brigitte Bendl '05 and Ron Meinders '05

honeymooned in Istanbul, the Greek Islands and Rome.

## 2004

**Brigitte Bendl** and **Ron Meinders '05** were engaged September 6, 2008. ■ **Stephen Daniel DeMeo** was among the 256 graduates awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) at the College's 117th commencement. Dr. DeMeo is currently doing a residency in pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital/DuPont Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. ■ **Adam DiVincenzo** graduated from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine on May 18, 2008. He is currently serving as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina as a dentist. ■ **Dave and Kristen (Piotrowski) Frank** were married on September 22, 2007. Their ceremony was held at St. Cosmas Church and the reception at Normandy Farms.

## 2005

**Caitlin (Walters) Kaplan** and **Daniel Kaplan** are happy to announce their marriage on September 13, 2008 in Clifton, N.J. The ceremony was officiated by Chaplin Peter Bredlau. They currently reside in Clifton, N.J. ■ **Jessica Kaufman** became engaged to **Jarrett Bromberg** on December 6, 2008, just prior to a planned vacation to Israel. The couple is planning a June 2010 wedding and currently resides in Brooklyn, N.Y. ■ **Jeremy Hart** and **Kathryn Amari '06** were married on June 21, 2008 in Egner Memorial Chapel. They are planning a honeymoon to St. John

in June 2009 and currently reside in Richlandtown, Pa. ■ In May 2008, **Amy L. Piccola** graduated magna cum laude from Villanova University School of Law. She took a



Jessica Kauffman '05 and Jarret Bromberg

position with Saul Ewing LLP in Philadelphia as a litigation associate and was fortunate enough to pass both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Bar Exams in the summer of 2008. ■ **Michael Schlossberg** writes, "I'm currently in the process of running for Allentown City Council as a democrat in the spring 2009 primary. There are four seats open for the May 19 election, and I'm really excited about this opportunity. Staying in Allentown after graduation was easily one of the best decisions I ever made and I am really looking forward to the opportunity to help my new hometown." ■ **Ben Solomon** and **Emily Feldhamer** were married November 29, 2008. They currently reside in North Hampton, Mass., where Emily is teaching and Ben is continuing his studies for a Ph.D. in school psychology. ■ **Joe Stephanelli** and **Bonnie MacDonald '07** were married on December 18, 2008. Many alumni were in attendance. ■ **Noelle Tate** was recently promoted to head the human resources department at Priority Pay Payroll in Hoboken, N.J. As human resources director, Noelle is responsible for developing a qualified and diverse workforce, managing the company's employment needs and maintaining morale through events she organizes and the development of a company newsletter.



Alumni present at the wedding of Joe Stephanelli '05 and Bonnie MacDonald '07 were:

Top Row: Megan Diapolo, Amie Lytle, Stephanie Lauren, Christopher Shepard, T.J. O'Connell, Cara Restaino, Jeffrey Simno (Best Man), Nicholas Cariere, Phil Haas, Jenny Peters, Ryan Richter  
Middle Row: Rebecca Shneider, Leah Goldstein, Lydia Brubaker, Joe Stefanelli, Bonnie MacDonald  
Stefanelli, Lindsay Quinn, Jennifer Lifson, George Psomas, Jen Taylor  
Bottom Row: Frankie James Grande, Cheryl Galaga



The wedding of Ben Solomon '05 and Emily Feldhamer '05



The wedding of Jeremy Hart and Kathryn Amari '06

2006

Lari Luckenbill appeared on the Semi-Homemade Cooking Show with Sandra Lee on The Food Network on September 6, 2008 and September 8, 2008. She became a featured guest after winning a recipe contest with her spinach and basil orzo. ■ Theodore Thomas Olshefski, III and Nicole Marie Albanese were united in Holy Matrimony on August 16, 2008 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Verona, N.J. A reception followed at The Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge, N.J. The couple honeymooned in Puerto Vallarta and resides in Arlington, VA. Theodore is an operations manager at Agility Defense & Government Services in Washington, D.C., and Nicole is a business consultant at IBM Corporation in Fairfax, VA. ■ Christopher Walach and Emi Sakayama were engaged on July 4, 2008, in Newport, RI. They plan to get married on October 3, 2009 in Portsmouth, RI.

2007

Heather (Lenz) Adams and Greg Adams '05 are happy to announce their marriage on May 31, 2008 at Muhlenberg's Egner Memorial



Alumni and friends of the College in attendance at the wedding of Heather Lenz '07 and Greg Adams '05 were (from left to right): John Adams '70, Dr. Sam Laposata, Sarah Smith '07, Lou Marquet '07, Nancy (Johnson) Adams '69, Caitlin Toohey '06, Liz Stillman '08, Alec Ganci '08, Lindsay Kutner '08, Christine Ebner, Lauren (Goldberg) Kovach '06, Dana Kellogg Repash '05 and Bobby Kovach '06.

Chapel. The ceremony was officiated by Father John Krivak, and the reception was held at Candlelight Reception Center in Bethlehem, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and currently resides in Macungie, Pa. ■ Stephani Smith became engaged on May

9, 2008 to Darrin Bann. Stephani and Darrin live in Palmyra, Pa., where Stephani is a sales manager for Hershey Resorts, and Darrin is an M.D./Ph.D. student at Penn State College of Medicine. A 2010 wedding in New Jersey is planned.



Theodore Thomas Olshefski, III '06 and Nicole Marie Albanese



Emi Sakayama '06 and Christopher Walach '06



Stephani Smith '07 and Darrin Bann

# *In Memoriam*

1931 **Col. Alfred Kramer, Hon. LHD '86**, died on August 24, 2008. He is survived by his son, Milton; and daughter Barbara Kramer. He was predeceased by his wife, Florence.

1935 **Rev. Myron A Eichner** died on December 7, 2008. He is survived by his daughter, Lois Peel.

1937 **Dr. Charles F. Diehl** died on August 30, 2008. He is survived by his companion, Julian Cohen.

**Dr. Jack J. Labold** died on December 28, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; son, Jim; and daughter, Barbara Grunow.

1938 **Rev. Mark A. Lauchnor** died on July 26, 2008. He is survived by his son, Terrence; and daughters, Rev. Dr. Janet Ramsey and Kathryn Lauchnor Mathieson.

1940 **Dr. Paul G. Cressman** died on October 16, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Betty; and daughter, Carol Rohrbach.

**Rev. Donald W. Schlicher** died on December 30, 2008.

1941 **Irene Murray** died on July 29, 2008. She is survived by her daughter, Francine T. Murray. She was predeceased by her husband, Francis.

**Robert N. Stein** died on November 28, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Gloria.

1942 **John R. Bisset** died on August 10, 2008. He is survived by his sons, Tom, John and Tim. He was predeceased by his wife, Laura.

1943 **Dr. Frederick Kirk Odencrantz** died on September 29, 2008.

**Robert H. Wessner, Jr.** died on September 10, 2008. He is survived by his daughter, Hope; and step-children, Michael Kapec, Nancy Braun and Carol Wieder. He was predeceased by his wife, Bettie Jane.

1944 **Maj. James E. Major, Jr.** died on June 20, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; and daughters, Carol Lynn

Major and Sueann M. Bennett, DVM.

**Reuel Schappel** died on December 9, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine; sons, David and Charles; daughter, Karen Schappel; and step-daughter, Annette Alpaugh. He was predeceased by his first wife, Kathryn.

**Carroll G. Wille** died on August 10, 2008. He is survived by his wife, June; and children, Diane Wenckebach, Nancy Winther and Robin Wille. He was predeceased by his son, Carroll Alan Wille.

**Dr. Frank E. Zidel, Jr.** died on November 4, 2008. He is survived by his daughters, Susan Eisbing and Diane Zidel. He was predeceased by his wife, Elaine.

1945 **Dr. Elliot Coles** died on June 19, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marcia; and sons, Peter, David, John and Michael.

1946 **Clarence E. Willitts** died on November 27, 2008. He is survived by his sister, Miriam A. Hte.

1947 **John P. Gaskill** died on November 9, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Joan Bush Gaskill; daughters, Randi Abbott and Lani Kimenhour '80; and sons, John and Brett. He was predeceased by his first wife, Lucile Weidler.

**Harry K. Graverman** died on September 14, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Olive; sons, Richard and Rob; and daughter, Joan.

**John. H. Wessling, Jr.** died on September 2, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; son, John III; and daughter, Jane Badaracco.

1948 **Charles V. Quinn, Jr.** died on November 26, 2008. He is survived by his sons, Charles V. III, John and James; and daughters, Patricia Ware, Ruth Krause, Jean Quinn and Jane Kot. He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth.

**Gerald S. Rogers** died on June 12, 2008. He is survived by daughters, Catherine and Clare.

1949 **Prentice R. Beers** died on February 21, 2008. He is survived by his daughter, Judith Hollinger.

**Irving R. Dean** died on October 18, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Josephine; and sons, Richard and Robert.

**Elmer S. Sassaman** died on August 1, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane; and sons, Mark and David.

**Edward J. Sikorski** died on October 25, 2008. He is survived by his daughters, Cathy Madaio, JoAnn Norrish and Diane Hall. He was predeceased by his wife, Tina.

**Paul L. Steinberg** died on August 11, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Dee; and daughters, Paulette Kessler and Suzanne Kahn. He was predeceased by his first wife, Elise.

1950 **Holford G. Arrison** died on December 16, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Connie; and sons, Michael and Stephen.

**Martin W. Binder** died on December 12, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Lois; daughters, Barbara Casey '71 and Patricia Throneburg; and son, Thomas.

**Richard E. Bray** died on December 20, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Claire; and sons, Donald and Dennis. He was predeceased by his daughter, Cynthia.

**Richard E. De Witt** died on June 19, 2008. He is survived by his son, Clifton; and daughter, Mary. He was predeceased by his wife, Sheila.

**Henry Kline** died on October 17, 2008. He is survived by his sons, Bruce, Jon and Jim.

**Joseph Kochenash** died on December 10, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; daughter, Mary Ann Reed; and son, Daniel.

**Joseph C. Rosenblatt** died on August 28, 2008. He is survived by his son,



- Louis; and daughter, Adelle Montgomery. He was predeceased by his wife, Myrtle.
- Joel A. Skidmore** died on October 25, 2008. He is survived by his sister, Suzanne.
- Robert R. Young** died on July 8, 2008. He was predeceased by his wife, Martha.
- 1951 **Ralph L. Hunsicker** died on June 28, 2008. He is survived by his sons, Ralph W. and James; and daughters, Barbara Brown and Rebecca Bramley.
- John M. Lelko** died on September 14, 2008. He is survived by his daughter, Carolann Gallo. He was predeceased by his wife, Sophie.
- Raymond F. Swoish** died on August 20, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Janet; sons, Douglas, Scott and Christopher; and daughter, Nell Lorenz.
- Charles L. Ziegenfuss** died on September 23, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; sons, Scott, Craig and Charles; and daughters, Kathy L. Davis and Kim L. Ziegenfuss.
- 1952 **Dale L. G. Givler** died on September 7, 2008. He is survived by his daughter, Janelle Steckel. He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret.
- John A. Turtzo** died on September 14, 2008. He is survived by his son, John Peter. He was predeceased by his wife, Gemma.
- 1953 **Dr. David H. Black** died on September 15, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; sons, David and Donald; and daughter, Susan Hawk.
- Edward G. Deibert** died on September 27, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Violet; and daughters, Joane Noneman and Sharon Deibert '86.
- Anthony Polkowski** died on August 17, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marietta; and sons, Thomas, Michael and Paul.
- 1954 **George N. Cook** died on June 21, 2008.
- Rev. Carl Donald Richter** died on December 23, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; sons, Steven, Jeff, and David; and daughter, Donna Sarage. He was predeceased by his daughter, Lisa.
- George F. Segelbacher** died on July 17, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Diane; and step-children, Robert Jamgochian, Ken Jamgochian and Kathy Beyers.
- 1955 **Edward F. McAlanis** died on August 16, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Edith; sons, Aaron and Darren; and daughter, Amy Willeford.
- 1957 **Dr. Albert H. Schuster, Jr.** died on August 24, 2008. He is survived by his son, Albert H.
- 1958 **Ray J. Ueberroth** died on October 7, 2008.
- 1959 **James C. Chastney** died on August 1, 2008. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth. He was predeceased by his wife, Linda.
- James P. MacMillan** died on August 8, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Nancy '62; and sons, James IV, Scott and David.
- 1960 **James A. Iezzi** died on September 24, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; sons, James and Gregory; and daughters, Mary Beth McNamara, Susan Rafetto and Jennifer Montini.
- Rev. Robert L. Miller** died on July 9, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; and sons, Tom, Jack, Grant, Scott and Todd.
- C. Gordon Warner** died on August 11, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Jean; sons, Bruce, Christopher and C. David; and step-son, Donald Yost.
- 1961 **Charles R. Rex, Jr.** died on September 21, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; son, Charles; and daughters, Donna Hertzog and Elizabeth Pereira.
- John H. "Jack" Simpson, Jr.** died on July 11, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Jean Menton; son, Jeff; daughter, Janelle Simpson Dennis; and step-children, Thomas and Dennis Menton and Maureen Olsker.
- 1963 **Edwin T. McCormick, Jr.** died on September 4, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; sons, D. Timothy and Mark; and daughter, Amy Brosey.
- Edward P. Stalter** died on July 1, 2008. He was predeceased by his son, Michael.
- 1964 **Susan A. Eggerstedt** died on July 18, 2008.
- 1965 **Betty L. Bauder** died on June 20, 2008.
- 1967 **Jan G. Kaag** died on March 11, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Gretchen; and sons, Matthew and John.
- 1969 **Sallie J. Cullen** died on July 30, 2008. She is survived by her son, Thomas; and daughter, Suzanne. She was predeceased by her son, Timothy.
- 1970 **Stanley A. Miller** died on September 2, 2008. He is survived by his sisters, Meridith Miller and Carolyn Filbert.
- 1974 **Diane G. Noble** died on November 14, 2008. She is survived by her husband, John F. "Tuck" Noble; daughter, Kelly; and son, Robert. She was predeceased by her son, John F. "Kip" Noble.
- 1982 **James S. Bungerz** died on September 24, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Deb; and children, Morgan, Danny and Jessica.
- 1983 **Michael S. Brower** died on January 2, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Bleich-Litterio; and stepson, Kyle Litterio.
- 1995 **Melissa A. Hahn** died on August 4, 2008. She is survived by her companion, Rob Barr; parents, Rory and Linda Hahn; and a brother.



# The Last WORD



By Michael Nolan '09

## The Last Game

I knew I had to keep it together, at least until I finished shaking hands with the Wolverines from Wesley College. I couldn't let the enemy see any sign of weakness, even in defeat, even knowing that our play-off push was over. I almost lost it as a few of the players against whom I went one-on-one all game praised my play.

That's when it hit me. That might be the only phrase I'll ever hear for the rest of my life. "You were a really good player." There would be no, "You are a really good player" or "You are playing really well." Barring some long-shot miracle, any opinions about my ability to play the game would be offered in the past tense.

That is the moment when the tears began to flow. Even if I did play again, I would never be able to step on the field at Scotty Wood Stadium as a collegiate athlete. Considering what playing at Muhlenberg has meant to me, the only word I can offer about that reality is "heartbreaking."

I played high school football in the highly-regarded Philadelphia Catholic League that included some of the most talented high school players around, including two Division I quarterbacks and almost an entire starting lineup that went on to play in college. But our legacy as a team couldn't match our individual accomplishments, largely because our coach had been hired for all the wrong reasons. He had never coached football before, rarely bothered to even attend practice and owed his job to the fact that he donated heavily to the school.

It goes without saying that this had a huge impact on the players. Like a few others on the team, I had a terrific senior year and could have gone to a few Division I

programs, but my love for football was tarnished by my relationship, or lack of, with the coach. I didn't even bother to return some recruiters' phone calls and others would never have heard my name if not for a word from a rival head coach. All in all, I just didn't want to play anymore. It wasn't fun.

But along came Muhlenberg.

Having already applied here for academic reasons, I was coaxed into playing football by then offensive coordinator, Corey Goff, who is now the baseball coach and assistant athletic director. It changed my life. I left high school hating football and now, four years later, I am about to leave college wanting to pursue a career in the game. It has brought me more joy and life's lessons than anything else.

What this senior class has meant to Muhlenberg athletics became apparent when every single underclassman, every coach, and even the athletic director were crying their eyes out after the playoff loss. My offensive line coach, Tom Perkovich, couldn't even talk to us after the game because he couldn't get a word out through the blubbing and the flow of tears. As much as the seniors have meant to the program and the school, they have both meant that much to me. Through the building of great relationships, my love for football was revived. Whether or not I ever play the game at an organized level again, I have made great friends and great memories that will last forever. That is what I was thinking when I walked through the tunnel for the last time. M

*Editor's note: Michael Nolan was a Division III All American and a two-time All Centennial Conference Center.*



NOV. 24, 2008  
THE NEW YORKER

ter to meet the trains that brought grapes from California. When they got home, and the juice had been stomped out in the basement, Sam would help bottle it. The process seems to have stripped him of any reverence toward the product. His forefathers worked hard making wine, so that I might have the opportunity to produce a superior beverage."

Calagione was a bright student and a scrappy athlete (to keep his weight up for the football team, his father made him eat a cheesesteak every night at ten-thirty). But by the spring of his senior year, at Northfield Mount Hermon prep, he had so many demerits that he was expelled. His offenses were of the usual Animal House variety: flipping a truck on campus, breaking into the skating rink and playing naked hockey, "surfing" on the roof of a Winnebago, going sixty miles per hour down I-91. As a junior, Calagione sometimes waited outside a local liquor store and got customers to buy him a case of beer. Back at school, he hid the bottles in his hockey bag and sold them to other students at a profit. "I remember when I got busted," he told me. "The dean said, 'You think you can make a living doing this? I didn't have the foresight to say, 'Yeah, maybe someday.'"

He never did graduate from high school, though he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English at Muhlenberg College, in Pennsylvania. In 1992, he moved to Manhattan, to take writing classes at Columbia and work toward

# The Dallas Morning News

## Austin College names new president

Pennsylvanian will be first woman to lead the liberal arts school

By KATHY A. GOOLSBY  
Staff Writer  
kgoolsb@dalassnews.com

Trustees at Austin College in Sherman named Marjorie Hass the private liberal arts school's next president Saturday.

Dr. Hass, provost of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., will begin her new duties next July. She replaces Oscar Page, who is retiring after 15 years.

Dr. Hass, a philosophy professor, will be Austin College's 15th president and the first woman to lead the 159-year-old institution.

"It will be a transition and a change but certainly seems to be one that the college is ready for," said Dr. Hass, 43. "I expect I'll be able to serve the college well."

Her background in philosophy has taught her to evaluate and make decisions based on

vice chairman who led the committee.

"Margie is a leader at Muhlenberg, a very inspirational person with a good, tough mind who is able to make the decisions that need to be made," Mr. Agnich said. "She's made," Mr. Agnich said. "She's made," Mr. Agnich said. "She's made," Mr. Agnich said.

Dr. Hass and her husband, Lawrence Hass, also a philosophy professor, will remain at Muhlenberg through the spring semester. Dr. Hass anticipates working closely with Page to ensure a smooth transition.

The Hasses recently bought several Dallas guidebooks and Texas history books to learn more about their future home.

"We're academics, so of course we would read books," Dr. Hass said. "We're getting emotionally prepared to say goodbye here, and looking forward to our move there."

## Marjorie Hass

Age: 43  
Family: Husband, Lawrence Hass, philosophy professor; children, Cameron, 19, and Jessica, 14

Education: Bachelor's degree, philosophy, 1987; master's degree, philosophy, 1989; and doctorate, philosophy, 1993, all from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Career: Provost, Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., 2004-present; interim dean and vice president for academic affairs, Muhlenberg College, 2003-04; director,



1989; and doctorate, philosophy, 1993, all from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

# The Seattle Times

## Difficult college assignment: a place to live and stay sober

FEW SCHOOLS HAVE SUCH HOUSING AVAILABLE  
Demand isn't very strong

BY SUSAN SNYDER  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA—Students flooded into the college house in Allentown, Pa., on a Friday night, headed straight for the bar, and ordered drinks. The blenders whirred.

"Bottoms up," the student bartender said as drinkers tipped their cups. Soon Muhlenberg College's campus police officers were at the party, also drinking.

The red plastic cups were filled with milkshakes. Vanilla. Chocolate. Strawberry.

tion and others who abstain. Perhaps there's no place more difficult to live alcohol- and drug-free than America's college campuses—the first step away from home for many students, a time to experiment, a time to let loose.

Half of full-time college students, many of whom are younger than the legal drinking age of 21, binge-drink or use alcohol, according to the National Center on Alcohol Abuse and Substance Abuse, at Columbia University. Almost one in four students meet medical criteria for substance abuse and dependence, the group says.

Despite the magnitude of the problem, few colleges have housing for students in recovery. Locally, besides Muhlenberg, the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers University provide it. Some schools, including Penn and West Chester University, offer "healthy living" spaces for students looking for a drug- and alcohol-free oasis.

"There's no question that colleges have started to do more than they ever did, but they are by no means doing

enough," said Joseph A. Califano Jr., chairman and president of the national addiction center at Columbia. "Higher education has to get the 'high' out of it."

### Not much demand

At Muhlenberg, the clean-and-sober organization holds alcohol- and drug-free parties and other activities at the house. The events give students another social option and sometimes draw hundreds.

"When people come to college, it's hard to feel comfortable at a party situation where everyone is drinking and still feel like you're part of the party," said club president Amy Bauer, 20, a junior English and theater major from Rockaway, N.J.

"So things like this let people know it is possible to meet people, dance, and have a good time" without drugs or alcohol, she said. "You can be the life of the party without a beer in your hand."

Despite what experts say is widespread drinking on campuses, the demand for the special housing is small.

See **S08ER, A5**

# Meet the PRESS

## Candidates come a-courting Philadelphians



Sen. Barack Obama made four campaign stops in the city yesterday, stumping mostly in black neighborhoods. Story and another photo, A18.



Gov. Sarah Palin greets Flyers fans at the Wachovia Center. The vice presidential nominee was also in town for a fund-raiser. Story and photos, A19.

# Polls: Obama has a clear lead in Pa.

By Thomas Fitzgerald  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Democratic Sen. Barack Obama has nearly closed the deal in Pennsylvania, as anxiety over the economy overcomes lingering concerns about his inexperience and qualms about his race, according to more than three dozen political operatives, pollsters and analysts across the state.

A surge in Democratic voter registration is also helping. Some Republicans in the state say pri-



### INSIDE

Sen. John McCain shifts from attacks to the issues. A19  
Barack Obama

tions of character to argue that Obama is a risky choice.

Nonetheless, independent Pennsylvania polls have picked up sharp movement in Obama's direction since the financial crisis rocked the country. Obama had a lead of 13.8 percentage points in the RealClear-Politics average of state polls as of Friday, up from 2 points in mid-September.

"What we're seeing is that economics trump culture," said Chris Borick, a pollster and political scientist at Muhlenberg College. "As push has come to shove, those cultural issues and identity politics fall by the wayside."



February 26, 2009

## Pop Culture: Vidders Talk Back To Their Pop-Culture Muses

by Neda Ulaby

Listen Now [5 min 47 sec] add to playlist



The vidder Lin combined footage from many different films and television shows, including this shot from V for Vendetta, to create the video "Us." California Museum of Photography

All Things Considered, February 25, 2009 · For decades, Americans sat in front of their televisions and watched — just watched — their favorite shows.

Those days of passivity are over. Now when we turn on the TV, we also fire up the Internet to vote for contestants on *Dancing with the Stars*, check out extra interviews with the cast of *Survivor* and read the *Grey's Anatomy* writers' blog — all while chatting with other fans on message boards, of course.

But one group of fans has interacted with their favorite television shows for more than three decades. Vidders, as they're called, make unauthorized underground videos using clips from the shows. Each vid complex dozens of clips from various episodes, all set to a song.

Take this vid, about *CSI: New York*. It sets some of the show's gritty crime scenes — ambulances, burning buildings — to a mournful song by the band Good Charlotte. The vidder wants to say something about the dangers faced by cops on the show, and he's saying it by cutting existing scenes together.

"Vidding is a way of seeing," explains vidder Francesca Coppa. She's a professor at Muhlenberg College who's written scholarly papers about avidly follow programs like *Smallville* and *Stargate Atlantis*.

Coppa says their vids analyze aspects of beloved shows, often from a feminist perspective. They create character studies (like this one inspired by *Law & Order: SVU*), building different stories from the ones they've been given.

"I think women are having to supplement mass-media culture with their own ideas," Coppa says. "Or fill in the blanks themselves with things they're not getting from the mainstream culture."

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SUNDAY  
OCT. 12, 2008

# MUHLENBERG

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IN CELEBRATION OF ALUMNI COUPLES, THE MUHLENBERG FUND RECOGNIZES:

## Greg Adams '05 and Heather (Lenz) Adams '07

*"I came to Muhlenberg in March 2003 as a prospective student for an overnight visit and my roommate was a friend of Greg's. An unexpected snowstorm kept me on campus for an extra day, giving us more time to get to know each other," says Heather.*

Over the next year, Heather and Greg's friendship grew and they had their first date during Heather's sophomore year. They were married in Egner Memorial Chapel on May 31, 2008.



Today, Greg is the manager of the Imaging Department at Berkheimer Outsourcing, and Heather is an economic analyst with PPL Electric Utilities. The two have volunteered for Muhlenberg's Lehigh Valley Regional Club since September 2007 and serve on the Scholarship Gala Planning Committee. "We stay in touch with Muhlenberg through the LV Regional Club and by giving back to The Muhlenberg Fund. We gained so much from our Muhlenberg experience that we want to give others the same opportunities we had."



Please make your check payable to Muhlenberg College and mail it to 2400 West Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104, or make your gift online at [www.myMuhlenberg.com/muhlfund](http://www.myMuhlenberg.com/muhlfund).