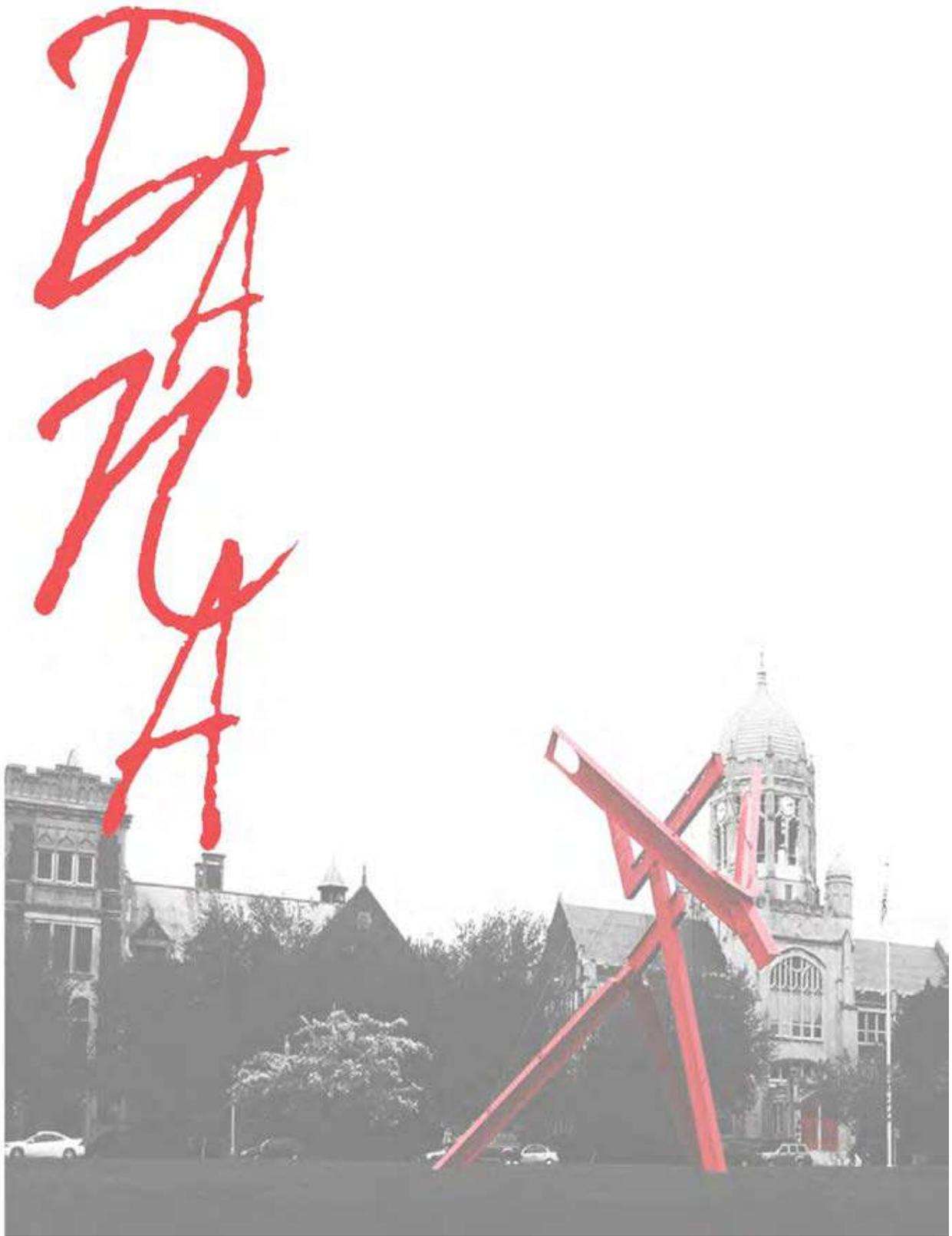


The Dana Interviewer, Class of 2017



The Dana Interviewer

Featuring the Class of 2017

The Dana Scholars Program, made possible by the Charles A. Dana Foundation, acknowledges students who display academic potential, good character, integrity, and leadership ability through contributions both inside and outside of the classroom. Each summer, Muhlenberg College awards about thirty high school seniors with this honor, one of the most prestigious honors that the College offers.

For more information, visit <http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/dana-scholars/>.

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Dr. Jessica Cooperman and Dr. Jack Gambino

Written by Kayla Staub

The Dana Scholars Program at Muhlenberg College is the embodiment of the campus's liberal arts values and lifestyle. Students are critical thinkers, eager to make connections throughout a variety of subjects and fields. Teaching citizen-scholars, whose work not only enhances their own learning but that of the community at large, requires professors with minds just as eager and just as insatiably, vibrantly curious as those they teach. This year, the incoming Dana Class of 2020 was instructed by Dr. Cooperman of Religious Studies and Dr. Gambino of Political Science for their first year seminars, the hallmark opening class of the Dana experience.

Dr. Cooperman's FYS, zooms in on the changing world of 1917, a time that became known as a true transition point from "a very long 19th century to a very short 20th." The course approached the milestone from a three pronged approach: history, DADA and the arts, and war poets, such as Owen Graves Sassoon. Her interdisciplinary approach and texts left untouched in other classes paints a picture of a world entrenched in World War I and the impacts of such a conflict upon the world's citizens.

Dr. Gambino's FYS, too, centers upon the changing world of World War I through the lens of George Orwell. Dr. Gambino, a huge fan of the prolific author, sought to ask, "How do you write about politics with passion and commitment to a certain side without falling into the trap of propaganda?" Together, the class probed seminal texts like *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, and discussed Orwell's fervent political commitments alongside his authorship.

Both FYS classes tackle the dynamic atmosphere of the First World War, a topic aptly related to the college's Center for Ethics theme, War and Peacebuilding. Dr. Cooperman and Dr. Gambino both noted the intimate connections between their topics and the themes of war and peace, as well as encouraged their students to attend the semester's events to connect their learning both in and out of the classroom.

And what about our incoming class? Dr. Gambino and Dr. Cooperman think the Danas are in great hands! This group is inquisitive, interdisciplinary, and hardworking, already creating their presence on campus. They are eager to rise to the challenge and become leaders in the classroom, on campus, and beyond. To quote Dr. Cooperman, "it is nice to know you are part of the small, close-knit, intellectual community promoted by the Danas," an atmosphere the Dana class of 2020 is sure to foster and maintain during their time at Muhlenberg.

Alan Mendez

Written By Jason Richwall

On a campus that can sometimes seem to be split down the middle by Chew Street, separating the arts from the sciences, there are few students brave enough to take the initiative to venture outside of their area of comfort. Even fewer dare to major in one discipline from each side of the road. This is exactly what Alan Mendez is not only doing, but excelling at.

Alan is a Theater and Physics double-major, a combination that makes him an exemplary liberal arts student. When searching for colleges, he knew he wanted to go somewhere for theater, but he also had a love for science, specifically physics. In his search for a school where he could pursue both, Muhlenberg stuck out as the perfect match.

Growing up in Salisbury Township, Mendez was initially hesitant to go to a school so close to home. After arriving, he quickly found himself involved in the Muhlenberg community to the point where going home did not cross his mind. He is a member of the AcaFellas, the school's all-male a cappella group, UiP (Underground Improv Project), the Muhlenberg Circus, and Comunidad Latina. He also enjoys listening to and scoring music. All of these have provided him outlets in the Muhlenberg community to pursue his many interests outside the classroom.



Alan was also able to further his experience in both of his majors. For the Dana program, he had the opportunity to complete a mentorship in which he was the Musical Dramaturg and Musical Director for last year's production of *Passion Play* (directed by Beth Schachter). In addition to the mentorship, he had another opportunity to complete an internship working with Brett Fadem at a particle accelerator at the Brook Haven National Laboratory in Long Island.

He is now working on his senior Dana project, which is called *The Marvel of War: The Rise and Fall of Captain America*. It is a study of how the hero and his villains have been portrayed over time in parallel with that of America and her "villains."

Another interest of his is languages. As an underclassman, he took Spanish here, but was still interested in other languages. In the fall semester of his junior year, he studied abroad at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. He studied movement and voice, contact improvisation, vocal improvisation, commedia dell'arte, mask work, juggling, and Italian II, after teaching himself enough Italian that summer to test out of Italian I.

Reflecting on his time at Muhlenberg, he believes his favorite classes were Acting I and II. Although they were stressful at the time, these courses offered him valuable opportunities to grow both as an actor and as a person. He is grateful for everything he has been able to do here, maximizing his time as a student, performer, and person. After graduation, Alan plans to pursue a career in theater, in which he will use his unique Muhlenberg experience.

Alexander Stavros

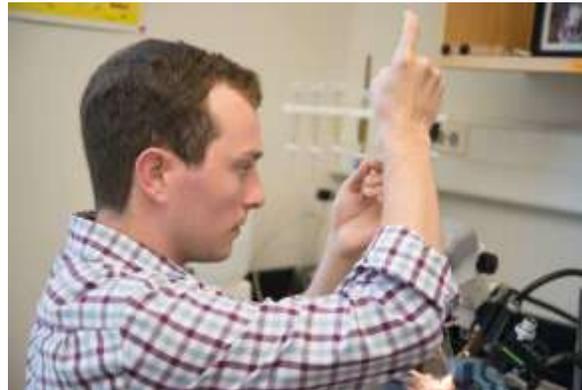
Written by Christopher Dasaro

You could say that Alexander Stavros embodies every quality that Muhlenberg so proudly celebrates: personable, engaging, gregarious, with the brains to top it all off. Though born here in the Lehigh Valley, Alex, after moving around multiple times over the years, says he hails from Buffalo, New York, as that is where he has spent a great deal of his life.

The senior recounts that, as was the case for many Muhlenberg students, it was the atmosphere that initially attracted him to the College. “You could tell the relationships that were built here were something that mattered, not only on a personal level, but also on an academic level ... I knew it could become a home for me.” And so it did become a home for Alex! As a pre-med student, he has acquired a series of academic accolades landing him in three medical schools, as he waits for others that will undoubtedly welcome him.

Alex perhaps shines greatest outside of the classroom. The senior is a member of the nationally recognized Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, is currently a student research assistant, has volunteered in a myriad of hospitals and currently does so in the Lehigh Valley, working with post-anaesthetic patients.

As a neuroscience major, Alex works in conjunction with Dr. Jeremy Teissère, referring to the campus-famous professor simply as Jeremy in typical neuroscience-major fashion. “It feels weird to call him ‘Dr. Teissère’, Alex notes, “we’re tight like that”. As an aspiring neuroscience major myself, Alex provided a bit of insight into the field, enthusiastically noting, “What’s awesome about neuroscience is that the higher you go, the deeper you dive into the field, the more you see what we *don’t* know”. Alex was in Dr. Teissère’s freshmen Dana seminar called “Other Bodies”. Alex described the seminar as a “unique introduction to college; it forced us to consider many different perspectives and narratives in society”.



While Alex currently conducts research on receptors with Dr. Teissère (I can’t say Jeremy just yet), he also took his passion abroad as he spent a spring semester in Copenhagen, Denmark. “I have travelled to over 20 cities ... Copenhagen was most certainly my favorite”, the senior recounts. While in Europe, Alex was able to work alongside Danish physicians, and learned quite a lot about Danish language and culture.

As Alex’s four-year journey here at Muhlenberg comes to a close, he provides his main suggestion for any incoming freshmen: “Don’t stress about your future, enjoy your time here and be in the present”. I wish Alex the best of luck as he sets sail on an undoubtedly successful future and hope he remembers his closing words on this interview: “Have fun, do what you can, it’ll all work out.”

Alison Smith

Written by Gabriela Solomon

Alison Smith is a sociology major and music and gender studies double minor, who came to Muhlenberg from Lake Oswego, Oregon. When she first came to Muhlenberg, she was planning on being a theatre major but then realized she had a calling for social justice and community engagement initiatives. During her first year as a Dana, Alison was in the First Year Seminar “Politics of Memory,” which focused on group remembrance and its political



implications. At the end of the semester, she won the young writer award for an essay she wrote for the class. Alison has continued throughout her time at Muhlenberg to remain involved in the First Year Seminar program. She works in the writing center during her spare time and has also worked as a writing assistant for First Year Seminar classes. This past semester, she worked as a writing assistant for the class “Horrors of Race on Film.” She enjoys being able to be actively involved in students’ writing processes and loves being able to interact with first year seminar faculty when planning and teaching each class.

Alison is also a grassroots organizer on campus. She works in conjunction with the multicultural center to teach different student organizations how to craft political protests and create effective community organizing events. In addition, Alison is the co-secretary of the Feminist Collective which focuses on promoting gender equality on campus. Alison was also inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa honors society, which promotes active student leadership. One highlight of Alison’s time at Muhlenberg was her study abroad experience in Tunisia during her junior year. She was one of only seven undergraduate students from the US in the program. She participated in two months of classes and one month of independent research during her time in Tunisia. She was most fascinated studying the effects of decolonization on the Tunisian people and understanding how local Tunisians view race. In addition to studying at a university, Alison also volunteered and taught English to preschoolers.

Alison has spent a large proportion of her time at Muhlenberg researching and giving back to the Allentown community. Alison interned at for the Jordan Heights organization where she worked with the community manager and arranged a mural in downtown Allentown which was sponsored by Wells Fargo. Alison is currently working on a senior thesis for her sociology major. She has been researching Muhlenberg’s relationship with downtown Allentown and has been busy interviewing students about different encounters they had with members of the Allentown community. Alison is attending Georgetown Law School to primarily focus on working in the nonprofit civil rights sector.

Ally Merrill

Written by Heather Nielsen

Originally from Glendale, California, Ally Merrill came to Muhlenberg to be a theatre major with a double minor in music and dance. Though she is now pursuing a business minor, Ally continues to pursue her dream of the arts through Muhlenberg's programs.

Ally chose Muhlenberg not only because of its liberal arts education and vast performing arts program but because of the warm atmosphere that the campus gave off during her tour. Ally could not help noticing the cultural differences between the East and the West coasts. "There is a greater sense of community at Muhlenberg," Merrill says, "that was one of the biggest factors in me choosing the school."

Other than her studies, Ally is the musical director of the acapella group the Muhlenberg Dynamics and the acapella liaison for the MTA board, as well as the alternate position of MTA liaison for the acapella council. Ally has also been a part of the Red Door Play Festival as an actor and a director. She has been involved in Main Stage productions, most recently in *The Pirates of Penzance* in the role of Edith. She also enjoys listening and playing music with her friends, traveling up and down the East Coast, and being a part of the visual arts. Drawing is a big part of her current internship.



One of Ally's favorite memories of her time at Muhlenberg was her semester abroad in Arezzo, Italy, at the Accademia Dell'Arte where she spent the first half of her junior year studying commedia, voice, Italian, philosophy, and physical therapy. She would highly recommend it to up and coming theatre students because it is such an eye-opening experience to be outside of the United States.

Ally is looking forward to her last semester here at Muhlenberg where she and the other members of her Senior Research Project are working with the Center of Ethics topic of the year, War and Peacebuilding, by exploring the topic of "Rape as a Weapon" not only on college and university campuses but throughout time and our modern day world.

Ally currently has an internship with Larry Singer as a marketing intern combining her theatre major and business minor. Ally plans to move to New York after college and enter the world of arts administration, primarily in a commercial house so that she can begin a career in PR marketing and then be able to work with non-profit theatre organizations.

Ally looks back at her time at Muhlenberg fondly as she thinks about the future to come. She is thankful for the opportunities that she was given and most of all the friends she has gained over the years.

Brittany Smith

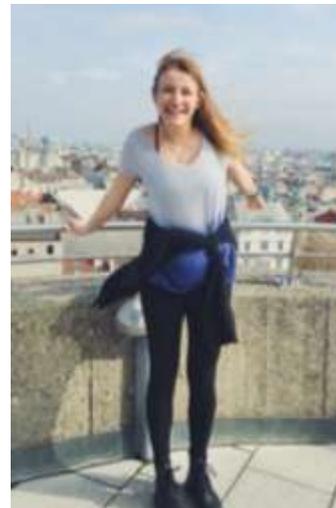
Written by Rebekah Nachman

Brittany Smith has made the most of her four impactful years at Muhlenberg College. She came from Hillsborough, New Jersey, wanting to be a pediatrician and started out as a biology major on the pre-med track with a dance minor. Soon after beginning her freshman year, she took her first Psychology class with Dr. Bagley and figured out that her true interests were in Psychology and Public Health. Next semester, Brittany will be a teaching assistant in Dr. Bagley's Intro to Psych class, happily coming full circle. Since sophomore year, Brittany has been doing research with Dr. Bagley as a part of her Dana mentorship and has done additional research with Dr. Sinno. Recently, she got to run the stats of her culminating research project examining children's perceptions of socioeconomic equality and the outcomes they have on life satisfaction, daily hassles, and hopefulness for the future. Brittany has found alternate ways to pursue her love of dance and movement on campus by performing with Fusion Dance Team and coordinating Shape it Up.

During her junior year, Brittany completed an internship with PHAM, which was a tremendous learning experience that allowed her to design her own public health programs. Additionally, junior year gave her the wonderful opportunity to go abroad in Vienna, Austria, where she was able to put to use her German skills from high school. She fondly looks back on her time abroad as an amazing new living experience where for the first time, she was able to fully immerse herself in a different culture and teach unbelievably adorable kids in an elementary school.

The Dana program, especially the sophomore seminar and senior forum, has allowed Brittany to speak from a variety of perspectives which she has found to be very valuable for her academic environment and her personal social sphere. Muhlenberg has also given her the ability to have dialogues with people on a range of topics and more confidence in presentation and discussion skills. Brittany is a part of Psi Chi, the Psychology Honors Society, and is a tour guide.

Brittany knows she will stay in contact with the wonderful faculty she's gotten to know through the Dana Program in both personal and professional regards. Next year, she is attending graduate school and has gotten accepted to George Washington to pursue public health, but is still waiting to hear back from a few others. Some advice Brittany would give to incoming freshman as well as her own freshman self is "not to wear purple makeup as I am allergic to it," (it's genetic) and that, "It's all going to work out even if it's not in the way you're expecting it too. You have to take things as they come and try new things!"



Christopher Baumgartel

Written by Laine Flores

Christopher William Baumgartel Jr. (don't let the German last name fool you, he's at least 70% Italian) grew up in Egg Harbor Township in southern New Jersey. A heavily-forested town adjacent to the Atlantic, Egg Harbor was the perfect place for Chris to foster his active imagination. He and his friends were frequent adventurers, who managed to find plenty of wild, uncharted territories to explore. A prominent memory of his involved watching the sunset over the ocean at the Longport Jetty – where the Greater Egg Harbor Bay meets the sea – then driving six miles into the woods to an abandoned quarry and stargazing with friends.



This love of, as Chris phrased it, “random nature stuff” continued into his time at Muhlenberg. From freshman to junior year, he was a member of the outdoors club, and participated in various outings – from hikes to Bake Oven Knob to white water rafting. One of his other involvements on campus includes the Disciplemakers Christian Fellowship, though, interestingly enough, Chris was an atheist before coming to college. Hearing about his emotional journey and how he came to Christianity was very compelling. He is also a writing tutor on campus, and has been since freshman year.

Chris is an international studies major with a minor in public health, but when he first came to Muhlenberg he wanted to be an English major. In a

way, his studies have led him full circle, because now, as his final semester approaches, he wants to be a high school English teacher. It began, he said, with an interest in policy. For his Dana mentorship, he researched international water policies and the relatively few regulations that exist for water sources that cross borders. If a river in China flows all the way into India, he explained, any pollution upstream is going to affect the people downstream. This interest in policy sparked an interest in people – the people at the end of the river, the population of Syrian refugees to whom he taught English when he first came to Allentown. “Behind every headline there are human stories,” Chris said. His love for students, writing, and rhetoric, influenced and nourished by his studies of international policy and public health, led him to decide on the path that his mom and dad always told him he should choose: teaching. He just had to come to it the long way.

Some fun facts about Chris: he has an “unhealthy addiction” to Staples notepads, and is currently in possession of at least fourteen of them. Another fun fact (and my personal favorite): in sixth grade, Chris played football, and his hair was very long. “It was down to about here,” he said, gesturing to a spot at the base of his shoulder blades, “I thought it was cool that my flow would come out of my helmet.”

Danielle McWalters

Written by Alex Dagilis

Danielle McWalters came to Muhlenberg College from Rockville Center, New York. Danielle originally was not sure that Muhlenberg was the right school for her, and ended up accepting on May 1. After her first semester here, Danielle was still not sure that this was the school for her. But, as time went on, Danielle began to feel more and more at home here at Muhlenberg. She really likes the small class sizes and appreciates her ability to receive a very diverse education here at Muhlenberg. Danielle is a double major in Dance and Mathematics



and is also part of the education program at Muhlenberg. She would like to go on to teach either or both subjects after graduating.

Danielle has enjoyed being heavily involved in the Muhlenberg Dance Association (MDA) and the Muhlenberg Community Dance Center (MCDC) where she has taught multiple dance classes. She is also a member of the Perkulators, a student led dance group that performs at halftime of a variety of sporting events. Danielle has the opportunity to have a one-on-one class with Dr. Michael Huber, where there was a fair amount of sabermetrics, coinciding with Dr. Huber's interest in baseball and baseball stats. This was a unique opportunity and Danielle loved working so closely with a professor she really likes. Danielle also mentioned a research program with Dr. Fiorini which she recommends for me and

for anyone else who has an interest in statistics.

Danielle also had the opportunity to TA for a History of Representations of Disabilities where she was able to teach some of the lessons. She also got to work alongside Dr. Borick and Professor Richwine creating a poll related to education and charter schools. Danielle was responsible for a lot of the statistics that went along with the polling.

As a Dana Scholar, Danielle's favorite memories include her Sophomore Seminar at William Allen High School, which she described as fun and stress-free. Through this seminar, Danielle and the other Dana scholars were able to help out some of the high school students with their graduation projects. This process was described to me as a little disorganized, but that it was fun and productive all the same. Danielle also participated in the Dana Senior Seminar, where she took part in the Center for Ethics War and Peacebuilding programming. Despite expecting to dislike the topic of War and Peace, Danielle came out of the program really enjoying what she learned. This coming semester, Danielle will be spending time as a student teacher, working with 11th and 12th graders teaching Pre-Calculus and Calculus.

After Muhlenberg, Danielle would like to immediately jump into the professional world and begin teaching math or dance or, preferably, both. No matter what Danielle ends up teaching, she will undoubtedly be pulling on the great foundation that Muhlenberg has given her.

Emily Kosinski

Written by Victoria Basciano

Emily Kosinski is a senior from Middletown, New Jersey on the pre-med track with a neuroscience major. Her background at a small, medical-focused high school geared her towards choosing Muhlenberg as her top choice college. Only hearing of the amicable student body here, she was surprised when she actually experienced first-hand the kindness that was present at Muhlenberg. Her involvement in social justice in her senior year of high school led her to believe that the Dana program would be a clear segway into extending this interest into her college career considering the rigid curriculum of pre-health studies. The Dana program allowed her to become a mentor to local high school students and pushed her to work with the community, a valuable asset for medical school applications.

Her first year seminar Politics of Memory “gave her a lens” for the other classes she took and contributed to her interest in a religious studies minor where collective memory plays a role as well as her neuroscience major. Emily was also drawn to the neuroscience program by the program’s flexibility, uniqueness, and wonderful professors. Her research in Dr. Gottard’s lab since her sophomore year also involves memory and amnesia which studies how memory is consolidated and if there are ways to bring back or forget a memory in extremely traumatic instances or in cases of PTSD. Her studies consists of teaching rats to do certain tasks or recognize an odor and then usually give drugs to disrupt this memory.

Along with research and medical school aspirations, she is the treasurer of the outdoors club, a counselor for the sexual assault hotline, and a volunteer at Lehigh Valley Hospital. Most importantly, she loves to sleep and watch a lot of netflix. Her piece of advice for Dana Scholars is that you yield from the program the same amount of effort you put in and that it is a great experience if you simply have the right perspective. For pre-med students, it’s important to follow your passions and stick with it, showing commitment and dedication to a field they love.



Emily McGoldrick

Written by Brooke Weber

Four years.
Four “fun, challenging” years;
Four years wrapped around two passions,
English and Women’s and Gender Studies,
intertwined and bound in one mind, overflowing
out into the world around
Emily McGoldrick: senior, Long Islander, Harry
Potter lover.
She found Muhlenberg the same way so many
did:
Through a lifetime love of theater, English,
And “that corny, going to college, ‘this-is-
where-I’m-supposed-to-be’ feeling,”
That all-too-prophetic sense of *right*.
The English stayed, floating close to her heart
and flitting out through her hands as she wrote
for the Weekly and HerCampus
(she’s managing editor of the latter),
Blossoming into a major that took her skills and
fortified them,
Adding finesse and planting a newfound
appreciation for
Poetry –
But Emily soon found her passion for theater
changing,
The classes she took simply did not flourish in
her mind.
She branched out “beyond theater” into the
aspects of herself that she had never fully
explored,
And accompanying a friend to a Feminist
Collective meeting sowed the seeds
For a minor that would bloom beside the other,
Growing as one, each flower complementing the
other.
As time moved forward, so too did Emily.
Junior year took her to Florence, Italy,
Where engaging classes and picturesque views



changed
her life
forever:
“It makes
you more
aware that
there’s
more than
what you

know.”

This theme also lends itself to Emily’s status as
a Dana Scholar
(even if it might be inside the Muhlenbubble):
“[The Dana Program has] just encouraged me,
overall, to just work hard and take advantage of
all the different opportunities at Muhlenberg.”
Whether it was a mentorship with Professor Jill
Stephen, reading between the lines of English
Renaissance literature,
Trying to find the women’s voices buried
beneath the text;
Lending time to the kids at William Allen High
School,
Helping them form their futures just as she
shaped hers;
Or simply collaborating with other Danas,
Their ideas flying around the room and colliding
to create deeper critical thinking than in any
other setting she had ever seen before.
Though Emily’s not quite sure where she’ll go
post-Muhlenberg –
Perhaps a job in marketing or public relations is
calling her name –
She does know one thing for certain about her
journey at the college:
“It’s a good path,”
One that will continue to guide her even after it
ends.

Emma Jahde

Written by Ariana Lopez

As I sat in Baker Theatre during Muhlenberg Dance Department's annual performance of Moving Stories, my eyes fell upon a particular dancer on stage as she was performing in a contemporary ensemble. I was struck by her profound stage presence, palpable energy, and precise movements. Little did I know, I'd get to know this dancer very well in the next few weeks. Her name is Emma Jahde, Dana senior and dance major.



Originally from San Jose, California, Emma was drawn to Muhlenberg for its small atmosphere and emphasis on interdisciplinary learning. As a lifelong dancer with an interest in human anatomy, Emma knew that she wanted to continue exploring these passions in college. Muhlenberg is one of a few schools in the country to offer a dance major with a concentration in dance science, so this was the course of study Emma decided to pursue.

During her freshman year, Emma took a FYS taught by Dr. Morgan entitled "Politics of Memory." The course explored the ethics and politics of memory construction and investigated how societies remember events through memorials and museums and how this contributes to our sense of a collective past. Emma became interested in the idea of memory in the human body and this idea would become the inspiration behind her Dana mentorship and research project. She completed a mentorship with dance department chair Karen Dearborn, in which she studied "kinesthetic memory, specifically in alignment of the pelvis. Through her research Emma discovered ways in which dance teachers can help their growing dancers understand the physical changes in their body and how this will affect their dancing.

Emma is involved with many aspects of dance here at Muhlenberg also working as a Dance Office Assistant. She has performed in numerous Moving Stories pieces, one of which was invited to present at the 2015 American College Dance Festival. Emma is also a member of DanceMax, a community performing ensemble that visits local children to educate them about the elements of dance. This past fall, she also had the honor of choreographing for the annual Candlelight Carols Service.

Emma does not know exactly where she wants to go from here, but she is hoping that the right opportunities will arise. She is considering a variety of postgraduate options, some of which include applying for physical therapy school, teaching dance back in California, and traveling to Africa to teach children dance and movement. While her future is not certain, Emma is appreciative of all the classes she has taken at Muhlenberg as well as the Dana Program because they have given her the skills to be ready to jump into any new opportunity that comes her way.

Gregory Sacks

Written by Asa Miller



I can tell from my brief conversation with Greg that he is a man of his values. To some extent, having a knowledge of his track record, that goes without saying. He's a graduating biochemistry major aspiring to be a surgeon, and has also found the time to serve in his fraternity as Director of Academic Affairs and New Member Educator, stay involved with theater programs, engage in research with Dean Anderson, and play a major role in starting the Muhlenberg Circus Program. It needs no explanation the degree of adaptability, accountability and detail-orientation that accomplishing all that takes.

Greg and I talked a lot about the ways the Dana program helped him to develop personally. He spoke extremely highly of the value of the Dana First Year Seminar. The exact words he used about his seminar, "Other Bodies," about normative identities, was that it was "like having your mind blown every single day." He told me that the course was humbling, realizing that he was in a room full of like intelligences, and not just being able to get new perspectives, but to actually and sincerely share his own. He stressed the ability of the seminar to foster "actual discussions," a far cry from what can, in other classrooms, feel like a regimented, condescending approach to learning through listening, not communicating.

Greg told me he felt that he grew as a person mostly in a social sense. This gets at one of his wider sensibilities: he said that one of the things he liked about the Dana program was that it allows the development of a varied, shared, and growing pot of skills. "You see some people where, all they do is school," he said. Greg, on the other hand, is clearly well-rounded beyond intellectual and academic pursuits, whether because of his dexterity (which every surgeon needs), his singing abilities, or his skills on the Cyr wheel (a circus apparatus — it's worth looking up). Then there are the kind of skills that can only be gained through life experience. Among these Greg cited an important life lesson, the realization that "you can't plan everything," which he learned after having to take a gap year. He also listed the ability to foresee things in the long-term, to be able to anticipate the hard-to-expect value of a skill or a piece of knowledge, as an important trait that he and other Danas shared. For him, it's developing character in this way — through the Dana program and through Muhlenberg scholarship in general, but also, critically, *beyond* those two frameworks — that grows what he called "long-term value." When I asked if he'd grown as an individual over the past four years, he immediately answered, "Absolutely."

Greg's future plans are to gain working experience while studying for his MCATs and preparing for medical school. It is my personal opinion that given his drive and work ethic, it is unthinkable that he won't succeed at his goals.

Jake Parisse

Written by Benedict Dawn-Cross



Hailing from Los Angeles, Jake Parisse came to Muhlenberg having spent much of his

high school life devoted to theatre. While

Muhlenberg's prestigious theatre program was a draw for him, he chose Muhlenberg with the knowledge that he wanted to opportunity to explore other subjects and potentially double-major.

In addition to majoring in theatre, Jake originally wanted to pursue major in math, yet he also explored in Media and Communications, Film, Anthropology, and Neuroscience, before finally settling on Sociology. According to him, Sociology, Anthropology, and Psychology can be regarded in a metaphor involving a jar of marbles: to analyze one marble is like Psychology, to analyze the jar itself is like Anthropology, and to open the jar and pour the

marbles out is Sociology. He also feels that the subject allows him to view theatre in a different way, since it allows him to better analyze the social context of plays, as well as understand relationships within a play. This connection between his two majors reflects his search for opportunities in interdisciplinary studies.

Jake studied abroad in Arezzo, Italy, at the Accademia Dell'Arte. The relationship between the Accademia and Muhlenberg was another reason for his applying to Muhlenberg, and he was grateful for having had to opportunity to study in a conservatory setting. According to him, he was up from 8:00 in the morning till 11:00 at night, spending all of his time working on developing his craft. It also gave him the opportunity to create devised work.

His fondest memory is shared with Alan Mendez, a fellow theatre and Dana Scholar. During freshman year, the pair auditioned for UiP, one of several performance ensembles on campus. Jake recalls receiving the phone call that both he and Alan had got in, and that he ran to Alan's door on the other side of the building, only to find that Alan was also running in his direction, having also received the call. He finds that the hug they shared is a reminder of the friendliness that exists at Muhlenberg.

Joseph Rorem

Written by Julia Tyson

Joseph Rorem is a dedicated Psychology and French double major. For his junior year Dana project, he did in-depth research on self-regulatory processes, like maintaining focus on a given task. This research bred his senior year thesis project, which is a study on how if a stereotype of a particular group is brought up to a member of that group, they are liable to see drops in performance.

Joe isn't all work and no play. Joe is a member of Fun With Science, one of Muhlenberg's only two comedy sketch group. His junior year, Fun With Science went to Skidmore College Comedy Festival, where comedic improv and sketch groups from all over the country gathered to showcase their work and experience comedy from college campuses around the nation.

Joe plans to pursue clinical psychology after graduating. He plans to take a gap year and work as a research assistant. Afterwards, he hopes to obtain a Master's degree or a doctorate in clinical psychology so that he can help kids and teens, who he loves to work with.

When Joe applied to the Dana program in highschool, he wasn't terribly enthusiastic about the idea, but by the end of his freshman year, he was very glad that he had applied. He felt that the program helped him do a lot of deep thinking, which he appreciates.

Joe is also a French major. He is excited by the thought that he could probably be dropped off in France at random and be able to communicate with confidence. French makes him feel like a more well-rounded person, and he hopes to continue speaking French no matter where life takes him.



Kayla Staub

Written by Jona Lieberman



Kayla Staub

President of WMUH, loves being a DJ, and encouraging others to have a good experience running their own shows.

Wants to be an Obstetrician or a Neo-Natologist. Loves babies, and the idea of ensuring health from day one.

LOVES to bake, read, drink coffee. Favorite pie to make: French Silk Pie

As a doctor, she wants to bring together both an empathetic perspective, and a professional perspective.

Is a Neuroscience Major with an English Minor.

One day, she'd like to retire from being a doctor, and open up her own restaurant.

From a small town, very different than Allentown. Studied abroad in Denmark. Study abroad! It broadens your perspective, and helps you see the big picture.

Her piece of advice: Whatever you want to pursue, you will find. Make it your own experience.

from **Muhlenberg** to **Med School**

Korrinne Yurick

Written By Meray Faragalla

Bethlehem native, Korrinne Yurick did not stray too far from home to go to college. Her second home, Muhlenberg, has given her so many opportunities to be an engaged scholar: to take on challenging coursework from awesome professors, to learn what it means to truly engage in the community and above all to prove exactly what it means to be a Dana Scholar.



As a sophomore, Korrinne founded the popular Pre-Health Association and served as its President. Korinne was also a Bio I & Bio II Learning Assistant for 2 years.

One of her fondest college memories is when she studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain. Through her full-immersion program, she lived with a host family and truly learned to appreciate the culture. Currently, she is working with Dr. Hashim on designing a Pre-Orientation Group specifically for Dana Scholars. She hopes this program will help freshmen Dana Scholars start to understand and dialogue about what it means to be an engaged citizen-scholar.

When I met her, she was in the middle of writing a Grant Proposal about Schizophrenia treatment for her CUE course. However, if you catch her on Friday's at 7, she might be playing the guitar for Muhlenberg's DiscipleMakers Christian Fellowship, While it is clear Korrinne's faith plays a huge role in her life, she has also been impacted by her engagement in the Allentown community. She is a devoted member of Lehigh Valley Hospital Street Medicine Program, an organization that makes healthcare accessible to the homeless. Through this, Korrinne has learned what it means to truly engage with the community: "to do things with people and not for or to people." And as a member of Ripple, a church that reaches out to the homeless and underserved, Korrinne couples her strong Christian faith and her love for engaging in the community. Korrinne hopes to put her Spanish minor to good use as a Physician's Assistant serving in a predominantly Spanish-speaking, underserved community. She has been accepted to DeSales University Physician Assistant Program and will be going there to complete her PA education.

And if she could give any piece of advice to Muhlenberg students it is: be present in the moment. Being surrounded by such driven people, Korrinne realized that sometimes students are so stressed out about the future, that they miss what's happening right in front of them. Korrinne admits to being one of these students at the beginning of her College career. College is a unique time of new experiences, change, and self-discovery that you will never get back. Lean into it. Doing this has led Korrinne to truly love her experience at Muhlenberg, to dive deep into learning, and has led her down a career path that she never expected, but is so excited about.

Lara Roseto

Written By Nisha Godbole

Lara Roseto, a Dana senior at Muhlenberg College, comes from Chesapeake Beach, Maryland. After a surprise visit, she fell in love with the close-knit, community-like atmosphere and was impressed by the kindness and drive of faculty and staff at Muhlenberg College.

Lara is a neuroscience major and an English minor, and has been very involved in



campus throughout her four years. She serves as a head tutor and a biology tutor, as well as a Resident Advisor. She is a member of the Women's Ensemble, Berg Buddies, and has served as a Dana Class Rep. Lara has also been working as a pediatric dental assistant as well as an orthodontist assistant for the past couple of years. In addition, she is a biology lab assistant and has been doing research in Dr. Teissere's Lab which studies GABA_A receptor physiology.

Lara says her most memorable experience at Muhlenberg College has been doing research with Dr. Teissere because it has taught her creativity, discipline, and flexibility in terms of not having things work out perfectly every time. Her favorite experience as a Dana is the Dana senior project she and her group are currently working on. She mentions that not only has it allowed her to work with peers across various disciplines, but it has also allowed her to develop ways of thinking critically and step out of her comfort zone. Lara and her group are studying images of Middle Eastern people and how these images are used to justify militarism. Although she has never been involved in research with media before, Lara says she looks forward to working with her group and learning by looking at an issue from a different perspective. Being a Dana has allowed her to think about engaging and fostering long-lasting relations in the community and producing a more mature outlook on life.

Lara aspires to be a dentist, and is leaning particularly towards pediatric dentistry. She is planning on attending the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in the fall.

When asked about suggestions and advice for fellow underclassmen Dana, Lara stresses the importance of "keeping an open mind and trying to get the most out of the DANA experience as you can because, ultimately the experience is what you make of it" and also adds how beneficial it is to get to know your Dana peers.

Lauren Kenney

Written By Kayla Ciok

Muhlenberg Class of 2017's Lauren Kenney, from Lynchburg, Virginia, epitomizes all that a Dana Scholar aims to be. Far from a typical neuroscience major, she has indulged herself in a wide spectrum of activities. Lauren is a dedicated member of the Muhlenberg community. She devoted herself to helping her fellow students as a Lead Writing Tutor, Student Advisor, and Campus Delegate. She also served as the Academic Chair for Delta Zeta and the Class Bonding Chair for the 2017 Class Council.

During her time here at Muhlenberg, Lauren conducted research with Dr. Gotthard on learning and memory with rats where she used putative paradigms to test methods of memory disruption and retrieval after amnesia. This research inspired her senior thesis on the "Reminder Effect" where she investigated if specific cues can resurface memories lost to amnesia. As can be expected, one of Lauren's passions is learning about memory and neurological disorders, which lead to her plans to pursue a career in clinical neuropsychology. Her interest in neuroscience was sparked once she read *Brain on Fire* and *Brain Rules*. Since then she has taken advantage of every opportunity to enhance her understanding of the brain.

One of her most memorable experiences while at Muhlenberg was when she studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. While there, she lived with international roommates and held weekly dinner parties with friends they had met. Through this weekly tradition, she was able to expand her perspective to a more international outlook through the cross-cultural exchange. Despite the variety of courses she was exposed to, Lauren says the most important lesson she learned involved herself. She discovered that she needed to work on laughing at herself when she makes trivial mistakes, being assertive when asking for help, and being more patient when making decisions. Most importantly, however, she learned that "taking in your surroundings is just as important as the picture to remember them."

Lauren would not have grown into the person she is today without the Dana Scholars Program. Through the encouragement of a group dynamic that supported intellectual growth and cross-disciplinary work, Lauren was able to explore other intellectual paths that would not have been able to fit into her schedule otherwise. She explains that she has "grown into so much more than just Neuroscience. At Muhlenberg, you're growing into a more well-rounded person, not just a major." She encourages freshmen to focus on the present and to take advantage of the diverse community at Muhlenberg.



Lauren Butler

Written By Julia Tyson

Lauren Butler is not a psychology major. She is, in fact, a Theater and French double major. Despite that, she has been working on an in-depth psychological research project for over a year. In this study, conducted as her Dana mentorship, she studies the speed at which bilingual people switch from one language to another. She has a real passion for the French language, as evidenced by her semester spent in Aix-en-Provence. She tells me that her semester there was the



best part of her college experience. She got to intern at a French theater, where she was truly immersed in French language and culture. She also was glad to experience modern life in France, which lent context to a class that she still thinks about: *Negotiating Identity in Contemporary France*.

At Muhlenberg, Lauren has taken many classes that continue to influence her today. Her First Year Seminar, taught by Dr. Jeremy Teisseire, is one that has connections to classes she is taking as a Senior.

Lauren hopes to pursue an acting career in New York City after graduation, though she also hopes to combine her French and Theater majors into a career. She might be interning at the French Embassy in America, where she would work with the Department of Performing Arts to bring French theater to America.

Lauren is also considering working at a French immersion school where she would teach theater classes to students in French. She sees theater as an effective way to teach French, in that it is a different environment from a classroom setting. Whatever her future holds, she hopes to keep French and theater a part of her life after college.

Megan Beispiel

Written by Kayla Kristofco

Megan is originally from Edison, New Jersey, and she chose to come to Muhlenberg College because of the small school environment and the opportunities that the college provides for the students. Although she came to Muhlenberg thinking she would be a political science major, she soon realized that she was interested in being an English major. Now, Megan plans on graduating with a major in English and a minor in Film Studies. The Dana Program was a very influential aspect of Megan's overall academic experience, and her Dana advisor was actually the professor that helped her choose to major in English. Being a Dana Scholar encouraged her to leave Muhlenberg's campus and have a greater learning experience beyond the college's campus.



Megan has had several great experiences as a Muhlenberg student and as a Dana Scholar. Her favorite experience, and probably her most influential experience, was when she spent a semester interning for a publishing company in Washington, D.C. She has also enjoyed working for a non-profit, interacting with the Allentown community, and working on her Dana research project. While she is on campus, Megan works as a writing tutor. All of these opportunities have helped Megan to mature as an individual and to learn a lot about what type of career she may want to have after college.

If Megan had to give one piece of advice to the underclassmen in the Dana Program, she would say, "Care about your work, not about what others think. Just do what makes you happy and what you are good at." Although still unsure about what her future plans may be after graduation, Megan is thinking of either going to graduate school and earning her MFA degree in Creative Writing, or perhaps continuing to work for a publishing company. Either way, Megan is excited for the future that Muhlenberg and the Dana Program have prepared her for, and to find the career that makes her happy.

Megan Ross

Written By Jane Mafale

Megan Ross came to Muhlenberg from Birmingham, Alabama. She is a dance and French double major and is very involved in the Muhlenberg community. Throughout her 4 years here, Megan has been fully immersed in the dance world. She has performed in and choreographed for numerous Dance Galleries, Dance Emerge, Moving Stories, and Masters showcases. Choreographing has been one of her greatest achievements and she is proud of her work. In addition, Megan is a teacher on the MCDC staff and has taught classes in ballet, modern, and tap.



Outside the dance community, Megan has been a member of the Adopt a Grandparent club for the past 4 years and has gone to the Phoebe home and spent time with her grandparent. She has also been involved with Chapel and many fundraising events. In her Sophomore year, Megan worked with Karen Dearborn to research dance appropriation and collaborated with Chapel to focus on hymns and give a sermon. Megan serves as a tutor in dance and society, modern, and calculus.

During her junior year, Megan studied abroad in Dakar, Senegal in a language and culture program. Here she spoke mostly French and Wolof, the language of the area, which she used in her internship at Centre Culturel. Megan also taught an English class and 2 dance classes while abroad. She learned a lot from her time in Dakar and is grateful for the experience.

Megan believes that the Dana program has had a beneficial impact on her 4 years at Muhlenberg, as she doesn't believe she would have had as many opportunities for research and exploration without the program's guiding hand. Being a Dana has encouraged her to be a more active and well-rounded citizen and she has definitely taken advantage of every opportunity and is excited to engage in more through her senior research.

Molly Albano

Written By Alison Stouffer

As a native of Maryland, Molly Albano found Muhlenberg College to be the perfect fit for her. A total of three or so hours from home, Muhlenberg is far enough away to provide independence but close enough that her family can stop by for a day visit. Molly found Muhlenberg's small class sizes to be highly appealing and has since gained appreciation for the privilege that comes with small liberal arts schools of getting to know professors and fellow peers on a more personal level. Overall, Molly believes that "college was everything [she] could have wanted it to be" and that after "it all finally started falling together, it was pretty perfect."

Going into college, Molly knew that she wanted to major in International Studies and Spanish. She attributes this knowledge to her desire to save the world. Molly began learning Spanish in seventh grade and put it to the test her spring semester of junior year when she studied abroad in Granada, Spain. While in Spain she enjoyed taking all of her classes in Spanish and experiencing full immersion into Spanish culture. She said, "Spain was so wonderful" and that she wasn't sure she would be able to go back home. The semester prior to her time abroad, Molly completed her Dana mentorship with a history professor where she learned more about the social and political history of Spain. She has been practicing her Spanish since spring semester of freshman year by volunteering and teaching at Casa Guadalupe, a local health clinic and resource center for immigrants. She helps out with the after-school program and helps teach English to immigrant children. She found this volunteer/internship opportunity to be good practice outside of the classroom because of the decrease in pressure and the acceptance that mistakes will be made. In terms of post-graduation plans, Molly plans on jumping right into the working world. She has a handful of ideas on where she would like to start, some of which include immigration law, international relations, and domestic policy. After establishing a few years of experience, she believes she might continue her education and attend law school.



When Molly isn't preparing and working toward saving the world she is coming up with five items she would have with her if she was stranded on a desert island. Her number one item (disregarding reality) would be a lifetime supply of either Pillsbury or Tollhouse chocolate chip cookies that somehow are already baked and are magically always warm and fresh. She would also have some of her favorite books, including *Harry Potter*, *Percy Jackson*, and *The Westing Game*. Following books, she would have movies with her (whether she can realistically watch them without a TV or electricity is unclear). Her last two items would both be musically oriented; one being her iPod (stocked with Adele), and the other being a piano. However, if Molly did not find herself on a desert island she would definitely be wearing gloves in cold weather because, when compared to mittens, functionality is a must.

Morgan Backenstoss

Written By Madeleine Vaver

Morgan, who grew up in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, selected Muhlenberg because she immediately connected with the helpful, supportive community when she toured the school. Morgan has had an interesting path at Muhlenberg: she intended to study biology and German but then declared a double major in anthropology and art history. She admits that this double major is unique, but it has led her to some incredible experiences.

As an anthropology major, Morgan studied the charcoal pits in the Blue Ridge Mountains; as an art history major, she volunteered with Art Day, a program in which she taught Allentown children about a particular artist, and then had them work in the artist's style. While Morgan has enjoyed each major separately, she is always trying to combine her love of anthropology and art history. "As an anthropology major, I want to research something that our art history department does not typically study." Her Dana mentorship is with Dr. Nunes, and she will research how documentary and photography impacted child labor in the Progressive Era. Next semester, she will do an independent study and will look at how Indian artists are able to combine traditional folktales with new, abstract movements. What stood out to me the most about Morgan, when I spoke to her, is her incredible creativity and innovation, which are exemplified in some of the research she has done throughout her time at Muhlenberg.

Morgan is in the process of applying to law school and hopes to pursue a career in art law, which will allow her to continue to combine her interests in anthropology and art history. She also hopes someday to return to Edinburgh, where she studied abroad during her junior year. I asked Morgan how the Dana program has influenced her time at Muhlenberg, and she explained, "the Dana program has provided an atmosphere for some really meaningful conversations, because the program has a wide range of perspectives and we are all interested in what's going on in the world." When I asked what she will miss about Muhlenberg, Morgan replied, "Everything," and laughed. Morgan provides a fantastic example of the possibilities and benefits of combining two different, and seemingly unrelated interests; I can't wait to see all of the amazing things she will accomplish!



Monica Ransegnola

Written By Julia Tyson

Monica, I realize upon seeing her, is a familiar face. She is not a senior, but a junior, like me. After my initial confusion, she explained that she was graduating early so that she could participate in the other part of her joint program. After graduation, Monica will attend the State University of New York School of Optometry for four years. Then, she will begin her career as a practicing optometrist. She tells me that she chose optometry because she a) didn't want to attend traditional medical school, and b) she wants to spend more time with each individual patient. She



explains to me that many doctors do not spend a lot of quality time with patients, and are more focused on prescribing procedures than getting to know patients as individuals. In optometry, she tells me, patients return year after year, and it is easier to develop relationships with them. She is, in her own words, a “people-person.” Optometry is also a very tangible way of helping people. A proper eyeglass prescription can vastly improve a patient's life in a short amount of time.

Monica is a neuroscience major who hails from Cranbury, New Jersey. Currently, she is working with Dr. Gretchen Goddard for her junior year mentorship. She is doing neurological research on anxiety and memory. More recently, she has been engaged in researching meditation as a holistic cure for trauma. What she loves about neuroscience is the multi-faceted nature of the field. She can explore the biological aspects of neuroscience as well as the psychological and philosophical aspects, all in the same department.

Monica also excels outside of the classroom. She is a DJ at WMUH, the campus radio station, she is on the executive board of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, and has done extensive volunteer work. She is a workshop coordinator for One Love, a program that teaches people about domestic abuse and healthy relationships. Monica also is part of the Reading Rocks! program, where she goes to local Cleveland Elementary School and reads with children who struggle with reading skills.

Monica tells me that she wasn't sure she would like Muhlenberg, but after experiencing the campus, she grew to love it. What she really loved about the Dana program was the way it allowed her to meet and associate with students from other majors. I wish the best of luck to Monica in any and all of her future endeavours.

Patrick Moore

Written By Julia Tyson

Patrick Moore is a passionate theater maker, by all accounts. When I ask him about his Junior year Dana internship, he excitedly tells me about his position as Assistant Director at Arc Stages, a theater camp for children and teens. There, he helped develop an original theater piece for the camp in collaboration with a new director. He loves Arc Stages because it is “artistically bold, kind community.” He tells me that he was amazed at how much love his campers had for one another. Collaboration is important to Patrick. When he describes his semester abroad, spent in Arezzo, what he really seems to remember and value is the way in which students directed

themselves in their theatrical endeavours. He loved Arezzo because he could study theater for an entire semester with no distractions. He taught himself to juggle in Arezzo.

Here in the United States, Patrick is currently gearing up to enter the professional world of acting. He tells me he is looking forward to his senior showcase, and that he is ready to test himself in the real world of acting. While attending Muhlenberg, Patrick developed a love for devised and immersive theater, and he hopes to keep those things in his life. This love is partially derived from his time spent in a class called Clowning, Puppetry and Devised theater. He spent a semester of Saturdays making his classmates laugh and creating theater with them in the class. He tells me that the class freed him from an artistic rut, and lifted him from a theatrical stagnation. He feels that the Dana program is special because of its collaborative nature, he feels that he was blessed to be able to meet and work with the other members of the Dana program.



Sean Watkins

Written by Jordan Steinroeder

Sean Watkins is a senior Dana Scholar from Newtown, Connecticut. Along with good reviews from Sean's older brother who attended Muhlenberg college, the strength of the theatre program is what initially drew Sean to our small, liberal arts school. Sean's main goals were to attend a school where he could work in stage management and design as well as explore other liberal arts majors. In Sean's words, Muhlenberg was "the best of both worlds."

Now, four years later, Sean is double majoring in theatre and business. His favorite part about these programs are the interesting new people he's met and lifelong friendships he's developed. Outside of class Sean is the Vice President of the Muhlenberg Theatre Association and remains involved in stage managing which he has done every semester. Sean has organization and administrative responsibilities for each of the spectacular shows our Muhlenberg theatre program puts on. Besides theatre, he is a learning assistant for stats workshops where he is able to assist many other students interested in business.

When it came to talking about the Dana program, Sean immediately complimented that the best part was "being able to meet so many people who had similar interests in engaging." The program provided him with many close friends early on and a positive social and academic network. The Dana program has been a valuable experience throughout Sean's college journey at Muhlenberg.

After graduating Sean hopes to find theatre administrating jobs as well as exploring other options he can pursue with his business background and broad liberal arts knowledge.

When asked what advice he'd give to the younger Dana students, Sean said to make sure to appreciate the opportunity you're being given. According to Sean, the discussions that are had among Dana scholars are intriguing, eye-opening, and possibly the most important part of the program. Sean advises that younger students should do whatever they can to engage in these intellectually stimulating conversations.

Last but not least, Sean confirmed my strong belief that if you had to choose between fighting off 100 duck sized horses or a single horse sized duck, the small horses would be the way to go. This is very important.



Tim Canali

Written by Kayla Staub

I have always enjoyed my interactions with Tim Canali, senior Dana Scholar and all-around effervescent individual. A media and communications major, Tim has truly embodied the interdisciplinary, well-rounded, scholarly approach heralded by the Dana Program



Although in high school Tim was originally planning to pursue a career in medicine, he couldn't resist the siren song of Muhlenberg's theatre and dance programs, realizing his true passion for the arts. Why major in Media/Comm, you might ask? Tim smiled at me, explaining that by majoring in Media/Comm, he was afforded the ability to individually tailor the pursuit of his passions and maintain the opportunity to travel abroad. Although he enjoys the polarizing nature of the media, Tim enjoys studying the nuances of communication in particular, most interestingly those between two actors. Tim's favorite part of acting is the opportunity to interact and (most importantly) listen to the other actor, an intimate pairing of his major and his passion.

Between pursuing his passions and thriving in his major, Tim basks on the academic forefront, taking maximum course loads nearly every semester. He loved taking a variety of courses across his Muhlenberg experience, spanning from dance, to theatre, to media and communications, and beyond! Tim never hesitates to take up an extra opportunity to perfect his craft, be it inside or outside of the classroom.

As a shock to me (and I am sure many of you!), Tim received no formal training in dance until his sophomore year! This came to a total shock to me, as Tim has graced the stage of multiple dance productions, as well as operas, two circuses, musicals, and even Shakespeare! His presence on the stage is powerful and commands attention, a skill well cultivated by the dancer. His most recent endeavor—jetting off to New York City to participate in the senior showcase—will help him along the way to pursuing his passions as a career.

Tim's favorite facet of the Dana program was the first year seminar, which allowed him to grow as an academic and intellectually engage with a variety of perspectives. His main advice, with one foot out the door, was simply to pursue work that you are passionate about. Through work you love, you will best serve your community. In summary, Tim put it best—"I'm pursuing what I'm passionate about, it makes it easy!"

Trevor Luck

Written by Patrick Kantner

Trevor Luck is a senior at Muhlenberg who comes from Kennebunk, Maine, majoring in neuroscience and minoring in philosophy. During his time here at Muhlenberg, Trevor has been on the track team, served as the historian for ATO, and is now the head resident assistant for Walz Hall. Trevor has been working with Dr. Jeremy Teissere's research lab since sophomore year, studying receptors in the brain that underlie anxiety. I had coffee with Trevor to get to know him and learn more about his experiences at Muhlenberg.

Trevor chose to come to Muhlenberg because it allowed him the ability to get involved in many different activities and organizations that interested him while preparing him for life after college, such as the Dana Scholars program and the pre-med club. In retrospect, Trevor feels that he has made the right decision with Muhlenberg. He believes he got way more out of Muhlenberg than he would have with any other school, mostly due to everything he has learned as well as the strong relationships he has formed with his professors along the way.

Trevor first became familiar with Dr. Teisseire after taking the Dana first year seminar *Other Bodies*, which Dr. Teissere taught. During an advising meeting, Trevor was put on the roster for Teissere's lab, and gradually became a part of doing research with him. Ever since then, Trevor has been happily doing research under Dr. Teissere.



Another thing about the Dana Scholars Program that Trevor has enjoyed, besides the Dana first year seminar, was the sophomore seminar. As a part of the sophomore seminar, Trevor and the rest of the Dana scholars went to William Allen High School in Allentown and helped out seniors there. Trevor thinks the sophomore seminar was valuable in that he learned that community service doesn't need to be huge and grandiose to be praiseworthy, but rather it is more about the mutual learning that comes from it. This notion was reinforced with Trevor's experiences abroad in Costa Rica, which was a part of the MILA course about sustainability problems. He remembered building a pathway for a museum in Costa Rica, and even though it was temporary, he still felt that it was important and interesting to learn about other people's cultures.

Looking back on his time at Muhlenberg, Trevor advises that younger students plan ahead but still expect things to change. Trevor planned to go abroad for a semester but he ended up being an RA for the whole year. He thinks that it's important to have an idea of where you want to go or who you want to be, but also that it's important to recognize life may come along and change plans. Trevor encourages students not to be afraid of it because it may be for the best. After he graduates in 2017, Trevor plans to take a gap year and then go to medical school after that.

Honors and Achievements:

Alan Mendez

Phi Beta Kappa
Dean's List
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Muhlenberg Freddy Scholarship
Co-Musical Director, Muhlenberg AcaFellas
Social Coordinator and former Co-President,
Underground Improv Project
Co-writer, composer, and puppet designer of *The Muhlenberg Circus presents: Welkin*
Leading role in Muhlenberg Mainstage Theatre Productions (6 semesters)

Alexander Stavros

Attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society
Summa Cum Laude
Received the Forrest G. Moyer Pre-Medical Scholarship
Neuroscience Collaborative Research Project Grant Recipient
Abstract and Posters: National Biophysical Society (acceptance), Lehigh Valley Society for Neuroscience, Muhlenberg Summer Research Fair

Alison Smith

Deans List
Magna Cum Laude
Omicron Delta Kappa
Phi Beta Kappa
Eastern Sociological Society paper presentation 2017
Student Summer Research Grant 2016
Meeting Points research grant 2015
Espie Guinto Young Writer's Award 2014
Feminist Collective Co-Secretary
Dana Class Representative
Writing Tutor
Grassroots Organizing Workshops facilitator
Chamber Singers
Street Scene, Opera Workshop 2014 & 2017
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Pursuing JD starting Fall 2017

Ally Merrill

Dean's List
Presidential Scholarship
The Nancy Walsh Bird '77 Memorial Scholarship
Musical Director of the Muhlenberg Dynamics (campus's oldest co-ed a cappella group)
A Cappella Council/Muhlenberg Theatre Association Liaison
LA County Arts Commission Intern Summer '16

Brittany Smith

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health MPH Class of 2019
Dean's List
Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society
Rosenberg Psychology Research Award
Provost Summer Research Grant
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Intern and Member, Peer Health Advocates at Muhlenberg
Learning Assistant, Intro Psych and Psych Stats Coordinator, Shape It Up!
Posters Presented at: Association for Psychological Science, Society for Research in Child Development, Muhlenberg College, La Salle University

Christopher Baumgartel

President, DiscipleMakers Christian Fellowship
Ministry Intern- Ripple Church in Allentown, PA.
Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science National Honor Society
Cardinal Key Society
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Dean's List
Dean of Academic Life Summer Research Grant
Pennsylvania Political Science Association, presented : "Negotiating Blue in the Garden of Sand: The Politics of Levantine Water."
Northeastern Political Science Association, accepted: ""International Riparian Policy: Challenges for China's Mekong River Delta."

Planning to head to North Africa for two years in January to teach ESL & labor alongside Christian communities there.

Danielle McWalters

Dean's List

Pi Mu Epsilon Math Honor Society
Ann E. Wonsiewicz Scholars in Education
Award William M. French Award in Education
Carol Emhardt Kuntzleman Memorial Award

Emily Kosinski

Dean's List
Muhlenberg Presidential Academic Scholarship
Forrest G. Moyer Pre-Medical Scholarship
Future plans: Medical School at the University of Pittsburgh

Emily McGoldrick

Dean's List
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society
Muhlenberg Office of Public Relations Intern
Co- Coordinator of Feminist Collective
Co-Managing Editor of HerCampus at Muhlenberg

Emma Jahde

Dean's List
Mainstage Dance Productions
ODK Leadership Award for Dance - 2015
Seena Marcus Art Award - 2016

Gregory Sacks

Jake Parisse

Joseph Rorem

Graduate magna cum laude
Member of Psi Chi, psychology honors society
Member of Phi Sigma Iota, foreign language Honors society
Fun With Science! president
Le Cercle Français president
Best you can be at Super Smash Bros. Melee without being, like, annoyingly good.

Kayla Staub

Dean's List
Graduating magna cum laude
Presidential Merit Scholarship
James R Vaughan summer research award, 2016
WMUH 91.7 "*The ONLY Station that Matters!*", president
member of Omicron Delta Kappa
Learning Assistant, Neurons and Networks

Post-Muhlenberg: medical school at either Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine or Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine class of 2021, intending to study neonatology

Korrinne Yurick

Dean's List
Participated in a study abroad Spanish immersion program in Salamanca, Spain (Spring 2016)
Pre-Health Club Founder and President
Disciplemakers Christian Fellowship Executive Board
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honors Society Member
Member of the Lambda chapter of Phi Sigma Iota, International Foreign Language Honor Society
Biology I & II Learning Assistant
Ways of Knowing Science (WOKS) Learning Assistant
Peer tutor for Biology and Spanish
Lehigh Valley Hospital Research Scholar (Winter 2015-2016)
Presented a poster at the Lehigh Valley Society for Neuroscience Conference, April 2015
Language and Culture Assistant in Spain for the 2017-2018 school year through CIEE: will be teaching English to Spanish students in Spain next year
Attending DeSales University Physician Assistant Program, entry Fall 2018

Lara Roseto

Accepted to DMD Program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine
Dean's List Recipient Every Semester
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Music Talent Scholarship
Marshall Scholarship
The Corona D'Alloro Prize in Italian Studies
Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society
Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society Secretary
Student Researcher - Teissere Lab
Head Tutor
Biology Department Lab Assistant
Resident Advisor
Vice President of Muhlenberg Dental Club

Lauren Kenney

Dean's List
Graduating summa cum laude
Neuroscience Collaborative Research Grant 2015

Conducting Neuroscience Honors Thesis, presenting research at Association of Psychological Science 29th Annual Convention in May 2017
 Omicron Delta Kappa member (2016-2017)
 Delta Zeta Academic Chairman (2015)
 Writing Tutor (Fall 2014-present): selected to be a New Tutor Mentor (Spring 2015), Writing Program Committee student representative (2016-2017), and Lead Tutor (Spring 2017)
 Student Adviser for Freshmen Orientation (2014, 2015, 2016)
 Library Scholar Award
 Presenting a poster at the Lehigh Valley Society for Neuroscience Undergraduate Research Conference- Spring 2017
 Post graduate plans: I am applying to be a research assistant ideally in a neuropsychology-related lab/office. Afterwards, I plan to pursue a doctorate in Clinical Psychology and become a Clinical Neuropsychologist.

Lauren Butler

Phi Beta Kappa
 Phi Sigma Iota Award in French
 Dean's list
 Graduating Summa cum laude
 member of Omicron Delta Kappa - National Leadership Honors Society
 member of Phi Sigma Iota - National Language Honors Society
 Served as Parent's Club Committee Head for Phi Sigma Sigma
 Served as Webmaster for French Club
 Special Achievement in French Award
 Campus Delegate
 Student Advisor
 member of Muhlenberg Theatre Association and Muhlenberg Dance Association
 presenting research with Dr. Frazer at *Language, Linguistics, and Life- Translanguaging: Crossing Social, Cultural, and Linguistic Boundaries* conference at Temple University with her project "The Effect of Cue Type on Language Switching Costs in Bilinguals."

Megan Beispiel

Dean's List
 Graduating Summa cum laude
 Writing Tutor
 Officer of Gamma Iota chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honor Society)
 Presented original short fiction twice at Sigma Tau Delta's International Convention (*Retrieval*, 2016; *Leroy*, 2017)

Accepted to Society for Cinema and Media Studies undergraduate conference, 2017 (analytical paper on Dimitri Kirsanoff's *Ménilmontant*)
 Interned at publishing company Platypus Media/Science, Naturally! (Washington Semester)
 Interned at nonprofit National Civic Art Society (Washington Semester)
 Presidential Merit Scholarship

Megan Ross

Presented research entitled "Revolution through Movement: How Senegalese Women Redefine Societal Spaces and Expectations through Dance" at Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges panel, *Africa is the Future* (2017)
 Choreography, "To Meep Like A Peep" (2016), selected to be presented at the American College Dance Association Regional Conference (2017)
 Performance in "step into the circle" (Teresa VanDenend Sorge, 2016) selected to be presented at the American College Dance Association Regional Conference (2017)
 Arts Administration Intern at the Lehigh Valley Arts Council (2016)
 Dance Intern at the Centre Culturel Blaise Senghor in Dakar, Senegal (2016)
 Performance in "Solitary Vigor" (Jeffrey Peterson, 2015) selected to be presented at the American College Dance Association Regional Conference (2016) and the Rivers Merge Dance Festival (2016)
 Vice-President Adopt-A-Grandparent (2015)
 Dance Tutor
 Magna Cum Laude
 Dean's List
 President's Scholarship
 Dance and Theatre Talent Scholarship

Molly Albano

Phi Beta Kappa
 Dean's List
 Graduating Magna Cum Laude
 Muhlenberg College President's Award for Outstanding Junior 2016
 Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honors Society 2016 - 2017
 Sigma Iota World Language Honors Society 2015-2017 (President 2017)
 President Barack Obama Volunteer Service Award 2015
 Muhlenberg College Office of Community Engagement Taking Initiative Volunteer Award 2014
 Theta Nu Xi Butterfly Scholarship Recipient 2014

Morgan Backenstoss

Dean's List
Intern/Field Assistant – Anthropology Department
2015 Recipient of Huebner Global Education and Awareness Award
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Attending Cornell Law School Fall 2017

Monica Ransegnola

Graduating one semester early, class of 2018

Patrick Moore

Dean's List
Acted in Six Productions (4 Mainstage, 2 Studio)
Fight Choreographer for Icarus's Mother
Assistant Director for The Love of Don Perlimplin and Belisa in The Garden
War Chief of the AcaFellas

Sean Watkins

Tim Canali

Dean's List - all semesters
Muhlenberg Presidential Academic Scholarship
Forrest G. Moyer Pre-Medical Scholarship
Future plans: Medical School at the University of Pittsburgh

Trevor Luck

Dean's List
Graduating Summa Cum Laude
Centennial Conference High Jump Gold Medalist (Indoor Track, 2016)
Centennial Conference Indoor Track & Field Scholar Athlete of the Year (2016)
Centennial Conference Outdoor Track & Field Scholar Athlete of the Year (2016)
Research Assistant in the Teissere Lab (2015-present)
Head Resident Adviser of Walz Hall
Historian of Alpha Tau Omega
Post-Muhlenberg: Immunobiology Research Assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital