That’s a ton of money!

By Amy Benninger, Web & Marketing Assistant

This past July, Wescoe classmates Abbe Abrams, Evon Burgess, Theresa Caliente and Wendy Billman did something remarkable; they raised $4800 for the Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley (PCFLV).

As part of the class project for Joe Konfeind’s Accelerated Degree course “Managing Organizations,” the group was tasked with creating and implementing a project for a non-profit organization, to be completed within five weeks. Not knowing where to start, the group, also known as “Team Blastoff” resourced the website www.lehighvalleyfoundation.org for a list of non-profit organizations in need of help. They unanimously chose PCFLV as their project.

PCFLV is a Lehigh Valley based organization and their mission is to make a difference in the lives of children diagnosed with cancer and their families through ongoing programming, support and resources which enable children to LIVE.

“To LIVE is to be able to experience joys of childhood, the fun of friendship, quality time with family and friends and a journey that is not defined by cancer,” says Program Director Lisa Kappes. To help carry out their mission, PCFLV was in need of gift cards for art supplies, restaurants and movies.

Team Blastoff held 14 fundraising events: This included events at the Allentown Fairgrounds Farmer’s Market, Westgate Mall in Bethlehem, WalMart in Trexlertown, and T.G.I.Fridays in Allentown. Plus they collected contributions from family, friends and local organizations.

Their fundraising goal was set at $500. They raised $4800, nearly 10 times the amount they expected!

Team Blastoff coordinated their efforts with PCFLV’s Director Carrie Garberg and Program Director Lisa Kappes. Carrie commented, “Lisa and I were blown away by the overwhelming success exhibited by this team of Wescoe students! The energy and enthusiasm they demonstrated was incredibly abundant. They are a blessing, and we will always be indebted to them for their enormous contribution and support of PCFLV!”

Congratulations Team Blastoff for a job well done!
On August 26 we held our first ever Information Systems (IS) Career Night. This evening came about as the result of a student recommendation to a mentor. Mike Baca, the IS Program Coordinator, liked the idea and took action to have it implemented. Mike invited students, IS faculty, Wescoe staff, and members of the IS Advisory Board to a mixer where students could ask questions related to the IS field. Alana Altus from the Career Center spoke about the Career Center services available to Wescoe students. August is one of the three months during the year that has capstone presentations. Cohort 04 presented their projects on August 25. The Wescoe Winners, a five-person team comprised of Kim Capers, Teri Kephart, Suresh Seunarine, Doris Williams, and Eva Marie Poliquin, presented their project for The Program for Women & Families. Mike Schiavone then presented his project for ABM Security. August also has the distinction of being one of the three months when the Accelerated Degree students have a break in their studies. I am told that the breaks seem to come “just in time.”

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One of Robin’s many responsibilities is to create a place where people talk about issues and build cross-cultural relationships. The Multicultural Center is Muhlenberg College’s commitment to building an inclusive and welcoming community. It is a place on campus with room for everyone. Multiculturalism by definition is about all of us. It’s about who we are and what we bring to the community by way of our cultural backgrounds. Robin Riley-Casey is the Director of The Multicultural Center. Robin completed her undergraduate degree at Lourdes College and her graduate degree at Ohio University where she earned dual Master’s Degrees in Higher Education and Sociology. She is also a Veteran of the United States Army. The goal of the Multicultural Center is to create a place where people talk about issues and build cross-cultural relationships that value difference. Robin is continually building relationships with Muhlenberg College and its students and feels communication is a key component. According to Robin, “Communication is critical in everything I do.”

One of Robin’s many responsibilities is to ensure that students from marginalized communities are afforded access to all the opportunities provided by Muhlenberg College. “I work with faculty and staff to discuss ways students perceive how differences in culture may impact their studies,” says Robin.

Robin also works closely with the Multicultural Advisory Board. The board is comprised of members of the Muhlenberg College community including staff, alumni, faculty, students and members of the Lehigh Valley community.

Last year the Board implemented a new series called “Meeting Points.” “Meeting Points” is a space to discuss social issues that affect everyone. The goal is to increase the number of opportunities in which the Multicultural Center interfaces with the campus at large by offering small gatherings throughout the academic year. This year’s “Meeting Points” series is called “Mapping Intersections of Power.” To address a resurgence of racial and ethnic incidents in higher education, the Multicultural Center sends a team of faculty and students to NCORE, an annual National Conference for Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education. This conference is a venue to learn about best practices for actualizing Multiculturalism on campus campuses. The idea of a Multicultural Council was conceived by Christopher Hooker-Haring and Cynthia Amarya-Santiago to bridge difference and build diversity at Muhlenberg College. During an NCORE Conference in 2009, Robin had the idea of evoking the council into a clearing house of information about diverse resources and build collaborative groups across campus. Shortly thereafter, a council was created and implemented. The Multicultural Council consists of a group of students that focuses on collaboration across diverse communities like students of color, majority students, athletes, theater majors and students of Jewish faith. The Council’s primary goal is to support multicultural groups by continuing the diversity conversation that occurs within the affinity groups. The Council proposes activities with a goal of connecting the entire campus. The Multicultural Center is a place on campus to celebrate our differences. You do not have to be part of any multicultural student organization to enter its space. Everyone is welcome at the Center. The expectation is when you enter the building you will learn and accept differences based on gender, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Muhlenberg College has its very own multicultural experience, a place where people can come together freely and be distinct. The Multicultural Center, where intellectual life meets social justice.

Are you interested in being part of the multi-cultural experience? Contact Robin Riley-Casey at 484-664-3228 or rriley-casey@muhlenberg.edu.
Finding the perfect job can be a challenge, but Muhlenberg College’s Career Center provides students the necessary tools for success.

Here are a few ways The Career Center can help:

**Take a Self Assessment Test.** The Career Center has a Focus 2 Self Assessment tool that provides insight to a student’s likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses and more. It is a great tool to help students ultimately determine a career path.

**Use the Resource Library.** The Resource Library is an area within The Career Center where students may research a particular major or career field.

**Attend a Résumé Clinic.** To be competitive in the job market you need a résumé that stands out. The Career Center offers several clinics a semester to help students create an unforgettable résumé. No time for a visit to the résumé clinic? Email your résumé to careers@muhlenberg.edu and receive detailed feedback.


Alana Albus, Career Center Director, commented, “Networking is always important but it plays a bigger role in a challenging economy.” She recommends using LinkedIn.com. “LinkedIn.com is a key tool in the job search, networking and career exploration.”

The Career Center is located on the lower level of Seegers Union. For a complete list of The Career Center’s programs and upcoming events, please visit The Career Center’s Website - http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/careercenter/