On Friday, April 1, Muhlenberg College Wescoe School of Continuing Education inducted 11 new members into the Eta Chi chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda. Adjunct instructors Roger Slane and Thomas Szabo were inducted as honorary members for their commitment to adult education at Muhlenberg College. Founded in 1945 by Dr. Rollin B. Posey, Alpha Sigma Lambda was created to honor dedicated adult students who achieve and maintain high scholastic standards.

The Wescoe School received its charter in 2009, joining over 300 chartered chapters in the United States. "Because it’s the only national honor society at Muhlenberg specifically for adult students, the induction ceremony for new ASL members is particularly meaningful," says Mary McGovern, associate director of accelerated programs. "It is quite an honor to be one of a very small percentage of Wescoe students nominated each year based on both academic and leadership qualities."

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Congratulations to our Inductees!

First in Scholarship and Leadership

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Recipients

Jeri L. Bonenberger • Allen R. Collins • Kristin N. Cortright
Rebecca M. Darrell • Erin K. Dolan • Leigh A. Fahntinger
Nicole L. Lewis • Matthew C. McClain • Gina L. Rivera
Michael R. Sitler • Judith C. Sitler
Quick Clips

- Wescoe’s enrollment outreach manager Samantha Angelstein spoke at the Greater LV Nonprofit & Business Partner’s annual meeting on January 21 at Hotel Bethlehem. As part of our event sponsorship, she was able to address the group of 125+ attendees, starring in our programs, outside learning opportunities and our Campus to Conference Room workshops.
- Leigh Fahringer ’16 was promoted to Integrated Planning & Scheduling at Eastman, a global specialty chemical company in Allentown.
- Wescoe’s presidential assistant Paola Mosquera was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society, Phi Sigma Iota.
- Jennifer Bruch ’16 was awarded the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) Student Award. The IMA is the world’s leading organization dedicated to empowering management accounting and finance professionals to drive business performance.
- Andrew Stahlhut, Wescoe’s history instructor, recently defended his dissertation “Creating Borderlands Authority: The Albany Commissioners for Indian Affairs and the Iroquois nations, 1691–1715.”

Two people dear to the Wescoe School family passed away this past winter and I thought it only fitting to include a few words about them from those who knew them well. —Amy Benninger

Dr. Linda Bips

By Dr. Priscilla Howard,
Director of Teacher Certification

Muhlenberg College lost a beloved teacher, scholar, counselor and friend on January 16, 2016. For all of us who had the privilege to know Dr. Linda Bips, her death leaves a huge hole that can never be filled. She was part of the Muhlenberg community for 30 years starting as the Director of the Counseling Center and then teaching full-time in the Psychology Department. She taught various courses in the psychology department for the traditional students, but also taught for the Wescoe School. In addition to teaching, she was part of the writing program for the First Year Seminars. As a first year advisor, she was a caring mentor to her students, many of whom have stayed in touch with her over the years. Those student evaluations earned her the First Year Advisor of the Year at Honors Convocation in 1999. Linda presented at various colleges and conferences sharing her experiences and expertise with working college students. As the mother of two daughters, Jess and Kiri, she shared the joy and triumph of seeing them grow and go off to college on their own. She, along with input from her daughters, authored the book “Parenting College Freshmen: Consulting for Adulthood.”

Her reputation for expertise with college students garnered an invitation to be on The Oprah Winfrey Show. Traveling was a great love for Linda and she took full advantage of it by being the ship counselor for Semester at Sea in 2001, where she had to be the calm in the storm when the terror attacks occurred on 9/11. Along with Linda Milligan in the English department, she taught “Writing Identity Across,” which included a summer study trip to Italy. A Celebration of Life was held on February 20, 2016 in Egner Memorial Chapel. Her wish was for everyone to wear bright colors, spend time with those they cherish, and live life to the fullest. She is missed.

Dr. Griffith Dudding

By Gregg Scully, Assistant Dean

Our college community was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Griff Dudding on March 11, 2016. Griff’s contributions to the college reached back to 1962, when he began his 10 years of service as assistant professor of English. During which time, he was awarded the Unvahk Award for outstanding Teaching in 1969. It was only the beginning of an illustrious career that traversed higher education, government and the business world. After his initial tenure at Muhlenberg, Griff worked for the State of Pennsylvania’s Advisory Council for Vocational Education, then Pennsylvania Power and Light (PP&L). It was through PP&L that Griff first worked overseas, something that would2 become a hallmark of his professional career. At PP&L, he acted as liaison to utilities in Egypt, India, and Bangladesh. After retiring from PP&L, he continued as a private consultant on projects funded by the Institute of International Education and United States Aid for International Development, traveling overseas 59 times. The Wescoe School and its students benefited as Griff’s rich background when he took the helm of its new accelerated degree program in Human Resources in 1999, designing curriculum, hiring faculty and teaching in the program.

Whether it was teaching in the workplace or in the college classrooms of Muhlenberg, LCCC and HCC, serving as president of the Salisbury School Board or as a member of the LCCC Board of Trustees, Griff left a lasting legacy as someone who gave freely of himself for the betterment of others. I trust many of us will remember Griff for even more fondly, though, for his friendship, any and the countless discussions over the years about such things as literature and politics. We are better for those conversations and we will miss them, just as we have Griff’s presence on campus in recent years.
Toast Heard Around the World 2016

By Abbe Abrams ’15 Assistant Reporting Analyst, Office of Advancement

The annual Muhlenberg Alumni event Toast Heard Around the World or THAW took place in January and more than 30 events were held in 14 states and 5 countries.

THAW is a specific night each year when alumni and friends gather to celebrate Muhlenberg College and each other.

The Muhlenberg Alumni Club of the Lehigh Valley hosted its own event at The Dime, in Allentown. More than 75 people attended from different paths and experiences.

THAW is just one way to stay in touch with other Muhlenberg Alumni. To find out what Muhlenberg-sponsored events are happening near you, go to muhlenbergconnect.com/lehighvalley. Let’s stay connected!

Star Gazing in Allentown

Inside the telescope dome at the Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomical Society (LVAAS) site on South Mountain, students from Dr. Judith Parker’s astronomy class join LVAAS member and spectroscopy expert Pete Brooks to take data from stars, planets, and nebulae. Using the LVAAS equipment, students focus on the selected object and collect data on the light over a range of wavelengths. Students will then become team leaders of a classroom activity in which they analyze their own data to identify the chemical elements and temperature of the object they selected.