

THE WESCOE NEWS

Muhlenberg College Wescoe School of Continuing Education • A Publication for Our Students and Alumni



Wescoe Celebrates with Accelerated Students!

In honor of our fall graduates, the Wescoe School hosted its annual dinner in Seegers Union on October 18. President John I. Williams, Jr., Dean Jane Hudak, Senior Associate Vice President for Development and Acting Vice President for Advancement Deborah Kipp, and new alum Ayman Mostafa addressed the graduates and their guests.

On October 22 the sound of excitement could be heard coming from Moyer Hall as the graduates lined up for Commencement. Dean Hudak led the procession as they marched from Moyer Hall into Egner Chapel for the 2 p.m. ceremony.

Friends and family of the students, as well as Muhlenberg faculty and staff, were in attendance as the graduates proudly found their seats at the front of the chapel.

Students were awarded degrees in Business Administration and Business Administration with concentrations in Healthcare Management, Human Resources Leadership and Supply Chain Management. Dr. Raymond Fritz '82 was the commencement speaker for the ceremony.

Commencement Speaker: Dr. Raymond Fritz '82

Student Commencement Speaker: Gina Rivera

Student Dinner Speaker: Ayman Mostafa

Banner Bearers: Miguel Acevedo | Erin Dolan | Tim Korn | Tyler Wolfe

*Additional photos may be found in our Media Gallery – muhlenberg.edu/wescoemediagallery



Accelerated Degree Program Highlights

By Philip Howe, director of accelerated programs

In October, the 20th Commencement Ceremony for students in the Accelerated Degree Program (ADP) was held. Thirty-seven members of Cohorts 16, 17, and 18 received their degrees from President Williams. The student speaker was Gina L. Rivera from Cohort 17 and Raymond A. Fritz, Jr. '82 was the commencement speaker. Earlier in the week the students attended a dinner in their honor. The student speaker that evening was Ayman Mostafa from Cohort 18.

Cohort 18 was also busy completing and presenting their capstone projects in the fall. Members of Team Pentalpha (Amy Arroyo, Melsa K. Wall-Cheatem, Rachel Butz, Stephanie Fister and Tim Korn) completed a culture assessment project for the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley. Team ADK (Daniel Batchelor, Ayman Mostafa and Kaitlyn Rhoads) created a model fundraiser for The Sanctuary at Haafsville that they also tested and raised \$4,000. Team Rich Metz Labs (Matthew Metz and Jean Richardson) developed a business plan for Mpanadas, a start-up entrepreneurial business.

As we bid adieu to our graduates, we welcome new students into the ADP. Orientation for Cohort 26 was held in December.

The faculty spotlight this month shines on Ann Richards. Ann teaches database related subjects in the Information Systems (IS) program and was one of several faculty members who substantially revised the curriculum in early 2016. She recently joined Northampton Community College as a faculty member in Computer Science. Ann teaches in several subject areas and advises 30 plus students. For five years, Ann worked in Muhlenberg's Office of Information Technology as an Application Integration Specialist. Prior to Muhlenberg, Ann worked at Lehigh Valley Health Network and PPL Corporation.

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE LEHIGH VALLEY ALUMNI UPDATES

The Alumni Club of the Lehigh Valley sponsored two fun events this fall to bring local alumni together:

The first event was held at Carmel Kitchen and Wine Bar, Allentown in September. Alumni and their guests gathered for food, drink and an opportunity to catch up with former classmates and network.

The second event, Muhlenberg's Haunted History Tour, was held at Muhlenberg College in October. Alumni and their families took an evening stroll through the grounds of Muhlenberg College to learn about campus folklore and some ghostly tales too.

Stay connected with Muhlenberg College Alumni! For a list of upcoming events, go to muhlenbergconnect.com/lehighvalleybergalumni.



QUICK CLIPS

• **Erin Murray '16** has been promoted to manager, employment & benefits at Muhlenberg College.

Congratulations to...



• **Allison Cramer**, former evening receptionist has been promoted to administrative assistance at the Wescoe School.



• **Cassidy Garber** has taken the position of evening receptionist at the Wescoe School.

Life in a Vacuum...

A veteran of the U.S. Army, an Allentown native and world traveler, Nicole Skidmore '15 studied history and anthropology at Muhlenberg College.

During her time at Wescoe, Nicole learned to open her mind to innovative ways of seeing the world. "Everything is interconnected, which enables a person to not only think critically but creatively," says Nicole.

Currently employed for a governmental agency, Nicole is a strategic analyst. She collects information and creates assessments on all known and unknown information, and identifies patterns and trends.

While we cannot tell you exactly where Nicole is employed we can further describe what she does. Let's say a person commits a terrible act. He or she is not just a villain but someone who is influenced by many things that led to that pivotal moment when the event took place.

"When I analyze an event, I have to ask all the right questions. I have to realize that one event, one person, or one thing does not exist in a vacuum." The following questions are just a sample of what is considered: Where did the event take place? Who are the people that reside in that location? What is in the culture that allowed the individual to rationalize their crime? Does his family support this behavior? Does the country have strong policies in effect to prevent the crime? Is there a strong military or police presence?



Nicole Skidmore '15 pictured right.

Nicole continues, "Every person has been led to where they are right now because of their culture, their history, their environment. We are who we are because of the mere circumstance."

Once all of the questions are answered, assessments are formulated and presented to policy makers, enabling them to make the best informed decisions to preserve the interests of the United States.

So the next time you turn on the news and you hear the government make an announcement, remember there is someone behind the scenes researching the facts and it just might be Nicole.

...is not how Nicole Skidmore '15 sees the world.

In Memory of Kyle Civitella '16

In November, a service of remembrance was held in Egner Memorial Chapel to celebrate the life of Kyle Civitella, a Wescoe student who passed away in July. Kyle was a treasured member of the Wescoe family and touched many people during his time at Muhlenberg. A veteran of the US Air Force, Kyle served as an electrical engineer during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, retiring honorably as a staff sergeant. Kyle and his service dog, Odin, were known well throughout the Muhlenberg community, and both crossed the stage at last May's commencement ceremony. Kyle's degree in Religion Studies and History was awarded posthumously in October, and his diploma was presented at the remembrance service to his mother, Pat, accompanied by Kyle's father, Ron and Kyle's precious daughter, Joss (Jocelyn). Kyle's beloved wife, Laura, was not able to attend due to illness, but through the wonders of modern technology in the hands of her close friend, Laura was able to view the service via FaceTime.

The service was a testament to the person Kyle was and the life he lived. In keeping with Kyle's deep respect for diverse, religious traditions, three readings from different faith communities sacred texts were delivered by classmate Aviva Symons '18, Kyle's professor Dr. Kammie Takahashi, and college Chaplain Callista Isabel. Another of Kyle's classmates, a traditional day student who graduated last year, made the drive all the way from Virginia to be part of the remembrance. Personal reflections were offered by Kyle's professor Dr. William (Chip) Gruen and academic advisor Gregg Scully. It was clear from what the participants shared that Kyle left a positive mark on many in the Muhlenberg community. A bright, courageous, loving, and intellectually curious young man, Kyle truly engaged his mind and soul in his educational journey at Muhlenberg, and became an admired thinker and warm friend to many. His presence was valued on campus and his absence is deeply felt.



Coming Fall 2017!

A six course certificate program offered for credit to include courses in Descriptive Analytics, Business Intelligence, Predictive Analytics, Data Warehousing and Data Mining, Data Visualization and a Data Analytics Capstone.

This program is open to anyone with a bachelor's degree. Current Wescoe Students with senior status may petition Dean Hudak to enroll.

For more information, please visit muhlenberg.edu/wescoe/dataanalytics, or contact the Wescoe School at 484-664-3300 or wescoe@muhlenberg.edu.



DATA ANALYTICS CERTIFICATE