

MUHLENBERG

FALL 2012 – WINTER 2013

THE MAGAZINE

From One Space, Many...

'Berg theatre alumni create original work
in their own companies



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The Big "D"

Quadrupeds make lousy pets. Elephants trample people and smash the furniture; crocodiles bite off arms and legs; cows cannot be housebroken; rhinoceroses gore people. And don't even get me started on the problems a pet giraffe can cause. So, sorry dog and cat lovers: you are part of the problem, not the solution.

I jest, of course, but with a point. If you accept the current media coverage of higher education in America, here's the story you've been told:

College is unaffordable; high costs are attributable to bloated administrations and lazy faculty; students don't learn anything and most never graduate; whether they graduate or not, they leave with staggering debt burdens of \$100,000 or more; if they do graduate, they can't get jobs; and it doesn't matter anyway because soon all education will be online and mostly free and so most colleges are doomed to extinction. I'm sure it's just an oversight, but reporters have not – at least to my knowledge – mentioned the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, the spread of bubonic plague, or Visigoth invasions as part of this alarming tale.

We're talking about the future of our young people here and the future of one of the greatest systems of higher education that the world has ever known. So let's get serious. Cost and access are a realistic concern. So is academic rigor. There are some common sense measures of whether colleges and universities are doing a good job. Graduation rates are one legitimate measure. Another is the cost-benefit ratio: do graduates improve their lifetime earning capacity? Is their debt-load upon graduation reasonable given the expected return on investment? Those aren't the only important questions, but they're a good place to start.

Once you start looking at such measures, you are in a position to separate the dogs from the elephants; in other words, you can focus on "the big D" – "differentiation."

Let's take the new, mostly online, for-profit universities that are (supposedly) going to sweep away quaint little traditional schools like Muhlenberg. Their four-year graduation rates "boast" a dismal national average of 20.4 percent. What about low-cost public institutions? The national average for graduation within four years is slightly better, 31.3 percent.¹ And finally, what about Muhlenberg? Our four-year graduation rate is in a totally different ballpark: 81 percent – higher if you add in an extra semester. So, if the point of going to college is to actually get a college degree, which is the best bet? Could it be more obvious?

But what about debt? Muhlenberg's not cheap, you know! No, we're not. But we're still a bargain compared to the alternatives. If you were lucky enough to be among the small minority actually completing a four-year degree at a for-profit institution, your average debt would likely exceed \$28,000 (that's true for 65% of for-profit graduates).² Even if you didn't finish your degree, you would still, on average, be stuck with more than \$10,000 in student loans to pay off. At Muhlenberg, 42 percent of our students graduated last year with no debt at all; the average debt for those who did borrow was \$23,000 – about the cost of an economy car. Unlike an economy car, however, a Muhlenberg degree will not depreciate in value, won't guzzle gas, won't raise your insurance rates and won't break down.

Okay, so you have a vastly better chance of completing a college degree at Muhlenberg than the for-profit or public institutions, and the debt load – while significant – is nowhere near the six-figures we've been reading about in the press (in fact, less than one half of one percent of college graduates leave with six-figure debt).³ Still, is it worth it? Well, The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce thinks so. It reports that, when it comes to median life-time earnings, a bachelor's degree will give you a 74 percent pay



bump over a high school diploma (\$2,268,000 vs. \$1,304,000). If you take that bachelor's degree and go on to earn a professional degree, as many Muhlenberg alumni do, the bump is more like 180 percent (\$3,648,000 vs. \$1,304,000).⁴

But that data reflects past decades right? College graduates aren't getting jobs any more, are they? Well, I can't speak for other institutions, but Muhlenberg graduates certainly are. Every year we conduct a survey of the most recent graduating class to see how they are faring in the job market. We get a response rate of 90 percent or better every year, so we're pretty confident in our results. And every year the results are pretty consistent: one year out, around 95 percent of our recent grads are either employed or in graduate or professional school. If you're still skeptical, compare Muhlenberg graduates' salary statistics on Payscale.com. We stack up pretty well against the likes of Colby, Trinity, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Wellesley, Vassar and many others.⁵

Okay, so what about administrative bloat? Isn't that a problem at 'Berg? Well...actually, we're pretty lean. Based on IPEDs (the "Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System" maintained by the federal government), Muhlenberg's managerial staff is about

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor of *Muhlenberg* magazine:

Your efforts to keep alumni abreast of the state of the College through the newsletter has fostered, in my case, a work of art. Funny story, this.

Last year the Spring 2011 newsletter touted the marvels of neuroscience. In particular there was reference to this endeavor's potential for perhaps finding a key to human consciousness. I was wowed. The interdisciplinary approach to looking at consciousness from both a mechanistic and a behavioral perspective set me to furiously thinking. The quote from John McGinnis regarding computer analogies that juxtaposes robust comparison to creative fantasy (love that term) jump started the brain activity labeled imagination.

Lo and behold what should happen with this onslaught of mental stimulation nestled in the alumni newsletter but a creative fantasy. Out of the old brain popped a project I call Head Case. At the core of this project is a doggerel monolog - Head Case: An A to Z Fantasy that is the voice over for a video animation of the same name. The other components of the project include: a group of assemblages - Head Case Quartet; and a portfolio of pixelgraphs - Head Case Alphabet. Recently completed after over a year of work it is now posted on my website, to which I cordially invite you to visit.

Muhlenberg was the provider of an education that enabled me to thrive. The education was not one that prepared me to assume a role within the world of professions but one that gave me the tools of perception upon which to build my thoughts on a foundation recognizing both ones individuality and ones role in the community of humankind. The interdisciplinary approach recognizes and fosters the frame of mind that our survival, dependent as it is upon our awareness of our being, is not so simple as to be reduced to the brilliance of insight from any one discipline's perspective. We are a chorus of disciplines each contributing a voice to our species's and to our planet's song. By all appearances the college is a nurturing and a broad visioned choirmaster.

Respectfully submitted,
David Deakin '69
www.daviddeakin.com



Students table to make sure that their classmates are registered to vote.

Election-Fever Sweeps 'Berg

All semester long, 'Berg examined the issues and implications of the 2012 presidential race with "Democracy and the 2012 Election," the fifth nonpartisan election series coordinated by Muhlenberg's department of political science since 1992. Co-sponsored by a number of other departments on campus, the goal of the series is to offer the Muhlenberg and wider community an opportunity to examine critical issues linked to the 2012 presidential election.

Through public talks, panel discussions, political plays and an election night party, the campus community gathered together to watch as campaigns unfolded, strategies played out and a winner was announced.



Lisa Kowalski '06 and her students take a backstage tour of the Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre production of Hairspray. Lisa teaches theater at Democracy Prep Charter High School in Harlem, where she directed her students in their own production of Hairspray in May. "Being in Harlem and working with an all-minority cast, this show really pushed my actor/scholars to explore the history or segregation through the lens of drama," Lisa says. "My students truly exceeded my expectations as they delved into the constructs of race, gender and identity to perform this culturally significant show in our community."

Kipa Retires After 56 Years at 'Berg

By *Liz Fonseca '13, Presidential Assistant, Public Relations*

Dr. Albert Kipa has had quite the career. As an expert in Germano-Slavic literary and cultural relations, he has lectured in cities across the world including Freiburg, Mainz, Munich, Prague, Rome, Kiev, Lviv, Moscow and Warsaw. However, the most rewarding city in which Kipa has lectured is much closer to home – Allentown, where, over the last five decades, Kipa has taught and mentored thousands of Muhlenberg students.

Kipa retired this past spring from his position as Professor Laureate of German and Russian and J. & F. Saeger Professor of Comparative Literature in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC) after 46 consecutive years of service to the College.

Kipa was born in Kiev, Ukraine and immigrated to New York with his family at age 11. He received his B.A. in German and Russian from the City College of New York, and just five days after receiving this degree, he began teaching at his alma mater, confirming his love of teaching languages and literature. Soon after, he began an assistantship at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his Ph.D. in Germano-Slavic literary relations in 1972.

Kipa accepted a position teaching at Muhlenberg in 1966, knowing it was the right place. For him, it was located perfectly between New York and Philadelphia, and he appreciated that 'Berg's size allowed him to maintain close relationships with students, which he insists have been the backbone of his career, saying they underwent "an exploration of the world together."

It was also crucial to him that the College champion the liberal arts. Kipa says, "The liberal arts experience provides you with a foundation in what it means to be human."

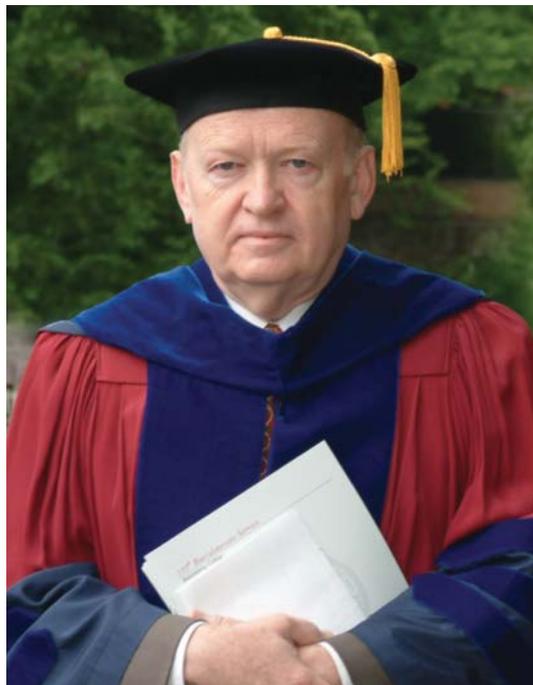
His Russian, German and English literature courses "encouraged students to see literature as art, as a significant reflection of life and as an imaginative extension of its possibilities" while through his language courses he tried to "opened up their eyes to a broader perception of the world."

The versatility and breadth of Kipa's remarkable career makes any attempt at a complete list of achievements impossible. He has received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award as well as a huge number of prestigious national and international awards, including the Fulbright and Ukraine's presidential "Order of Merit." He

served on a National Advisory Council to the newly created U.S. Department of Education from 1980 to 1982 and has acted as author or editor for an extensive number of books, articles and reviews.

At Muhlenberg, Kipa served as the LLC department head for 12 years. In addition to that, he says it feels as if he has devoted time to "every imaginable committee on campus," even acting as the faculty advisor to the ice hockey club for five years "because my sons ('98 and '01) were ice hockey fanatics."

When asked what he will miss about 'Berg, Kipa says, "The most important part of the job was interacting with students and colleagues. I am going to miss those daily interactions, but the relationships I have with everyone will remain."



Looking forward, Kipa says, "In some respects, I want to cut back on the broad range of activities I was involved with," but he laughingly points out that "retirement is not as if you're exiled," as some students and faculty members seem to believe when they see him on campus now.

Kipa will continue his scholarly work and is excited to travel more and spend time with his wife of 46 years, Oksana. He will also continue to serve as the President for the Ukrainian Academy of the Arts and Sciences in the US.

At his retirement dinner last May, Kipa was deeply touched when he was presented with a video montage of faculty members, staff and students wishing him well and recalling his years at Muhlenberg.

In his farewell message, Provost John Ramsay said, "Professor Al Kipa has been one of Muhlenberg College's most

renowned, most respected teacher-scholars...He is also one of our wisest colleagues. He is a thoughtful man about the big issues of both the faculty and of the College at large. He has always expressed himself in conversations and disagreements about the direction of the College in very civil tones...He was always the most enjoyable and thoughtful companion and conversationalist."

This is only one short message among dozens from members of the Muhlenberg community, thanking Kipa for being a mentor, a role model and a friend. Thinking of the video, Kipa smilingly states, "I had a lot of good friends at the College that expressed kind words. I realized why I never thought of retiring before."

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Physics Department

Dr. Brett Fadem, associate professor of physics, has been awarded his second NSF-RUI grant for undergraduate research in experimental nuclear physics. The grant, entitled, “RUI: Antiquarks and Ultra-Relativistic Heavy Ions at Muhlenberg College” is for \$162,000.

This grant allows the physics department to maintain its research program that involves the College in advanced and innovative research at Brookhaven National Laboratory with the PHENIX collaboration. Muhlenberg was named a member institution of the PHENIX collaboration in the summer of 2007. PHENIX has engineered, built, operated, and analyzed data from the Relativistic Ion Collider. Each summer, Muhlenberg undergraduate students have been able to work directly with the scientists on this project. Because of Fadem’s recent grant, students will continue forward with this research.

Fadem and three students involved with the PHENIX collaboration attended this year’s American Physical Society Division of Nuclear Physics Fall meeting, held in Newport Beach, California. Fadem gave a talk entitled “Transverse Energy at RHIC in the forward/backward direction with the PHENIX MuonPiston Calorimeter” while Benjamin Schweid ‘13, MariAnne Skolnik ‘14, and Chris Zumberge ‘14 presented



Dr. Brett Fadem, associate professor of physics, discusses a poster with a student

posters at the Conference Experience for Undergraduates poster session (for which all three earned conference scholarships).

The College’s physics department has established a dedication to student and faculty research. The major aims to educate all graduates in efficiently conducting research in the physical sciences and disseminating their findings and results. Students and faculty continue to experiment with novel concepts, use cutting edge technology and information, and present these studies at conferences nationwide.

‘Berg and Air Products Team Up with Local Non-Profits

Muhlenberg College and Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., have announced the Air Products Community Internship Program. This partnership, a collaboration between Air Products and the College’s Career Center and Office of Civic Engagement, is designed to benefit non-profit organizations in the Lehigh Valley and provide valuable internship experiences for Muhlenberg College students.

Five Muhlenberg College students are the inaugural recipients of the Air Products Community Internship. Starting this spring, each intern will work for 10 hours per week at non-profit organizations designated by Air Products. The interns receive a small stipend.

The spring cohort includes: ARCH of Lehigh Valley: Andrea Johnston; Community Bike Works: Hannah Miller; Miller Symphony Hall: Courtney Haines; The Sanctuary of Haafsville: Megan Bollman; and St. Luke’s University Health Network - Community Health Department: Rachel Massar.

“Air Products has always been one of the most civic-minded, engaged and philanthropic corporations in the region,” says President Randy Helm. “This is another example of a great community partnership between the College and Air Products, one that will benefit many non-profit organizations in the Lehigh Valley.”

Through their participation in the internship program, students will engage in the community, gain experience in his or her intended career field, learn more about the world of non-profit organizations and serve a non-profit that could not have afforded to pay an intern without stipend donation.

Founded in 1940, Air Products has built a reputation for its innovative culture, operational excellence and commitment to safety and the environment. Their aim is to develop lasting relationships with their customers and communities based on human qualities: understanding their needs, doing business with integrity and honesty, and demonstrating a passion for exceeding expectations.



Clarifying the Three-Year Degree Option

While early graduation is uncommon, Muhlenberg College students have always had the opportunity to graduate in three years as opposed to the traditional four-year route. Due to the difficult economic times, three-year degree programs have recently received national attention. To that end, Muhlenberg College has provided a clear path to the three-year degree option, while cautioning that it is for a very small percentage of its population.

Provost John Ramsay points out that this option is “not aimed at all, or even most, students.”

“Students have always had the option to graduate in three years,” notes Ramsay. “We expect a very small percentage of our students will consider this path, but given the economic times, we wanted to make students aware of this program should they wish to accelerate their undergraduate education.”

Students who choose the three-year option are still required to meet the 34-course graduation requirement. This can be accomplished in three academic years plus summer study, along with Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate credits and/or college credits earned before enrolling at Muhlenberg College.

“This is certainly not for everyone,” says President Randy Helm. “We still believe there are excellent reasons to follow the traditional four-year route to an undergraduate degree. However, this might be an attractive option for especially ambitious and focused students who arrive on campus knowing exactly what they want to study. It has the potential to save more than \$50,000 in college costs for students who are ready to move on to the next stage of their lives, and to get them into graduate school, professional school or the workforce a year earlier than would otherwise be possible.”

Helm also cautions that the compressed schedule may preclude students from completing a double major, adding a minor or studying abroad, which are valuable components of a liberal arts education. He also notes that nine to 15 courses are required for an academic major and “scheduling and advising play critical roles in the process.”

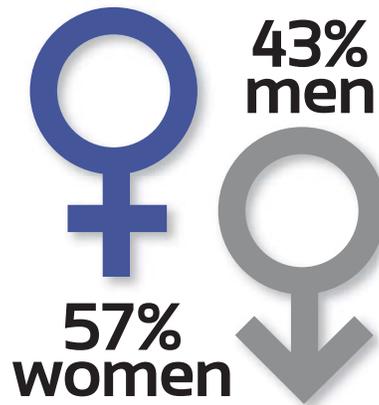
According to the most recent Career Survey, 97 percent of those who responded from the Class of 2011 (92 percent response rate) were employed or enrolled in graduate or professional school within one year of graduation.

The Class of 2016 AT A GLANCE

The class was selected from a **record-large applicant pool of 5,023** (up from 4,876 a year ago). Our acceptance rate was 46%.

The class numbers

582
(584 last year).



(Essentially identical to the national gender breakdown of the traditional age college-going population).

✈️ *The class continues our recent trend toward greater geographic diversity with **California** now ranking as our fifth largest feeder state (21 students in the incoming class), after **N.J., Pa., N.Y. and Conn.** There are four international students this year (from **Afghanistan, Nigeria, Thailand, and U.S. Virgin Islands**). There are 20 different “first” languages reflected in the freshman class (with Spanish being the second-largest language behind English).*

Percent ranking in the top tenth is **44%**
(down from 51% a year ago, but only about a third of students are ranked anymore, so the variability of this metric is considerable).

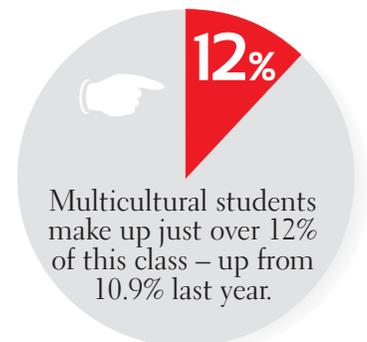
Top majors indicated at the point of admission were:

- 1 theatre arts;
- 2 biology;
- 3 psychology;
- 4 business;
- 5 undecided;
- 6 media & comm.;
- 7 dance;
- 8 tie - history/neuroscience;
- 10 English.

83% of the class is receiving institutional grant/scholarship aid (up from 78% last year).

Mean SATs are 619/623/623 (vs. 612/620/625 last year).

Mean ACT is 28, same as last year.





A Letter from the Guest Editor

I graduated 15 years ago, but it really does feel like yesterday. To say I have a soft spot for my alma mater is a bit of an understatement, as any of my friends or colleagues will tell you. At least once a year I've dragged my wife on a slow and nostalgically reflective walk across the campus. "Here's my MILE house. Here's where I took 'Intro to Communication.' Here's where I met one of my best friends in the world. Here's the all-girls dorm where our daughter will live someday." Despite never attending the school, she's now capable of giving a comprehensive tour to any prospective students.

The decision to attend Muhlenberg was easily the most impactful one I've ever made. To this day, my closest friends are the people I met at school. Professionally, the best training I ever received for producing a television show was my tenure as a member of The Muhlenberg Weekly editorial board. I

learned a great deal in my classes as well, but nothing compared to the controlled chaos of trying to create something out of nothing with a looming deadline the way we did each Tuesday night at the Weekly.

The honest truth is that I didn't choose to attend Muhlenberg as much as convince them to admit me. After some ill-timed academic rebellion in high school, my transcript was a disaster. I had respectable test scores, but colleges weren't exactly beating down my door. Then, on the way to a senior-year Halloween party, I drove my car into a tree. (I was dressed as a sheep, while my lovely date was Little Bo Peep. Have you ever tried driving while wearing sheep hooves? I don't recommend it....) The accident put me in the hospital for a few months and kept me out of school longer than that. In fact, I was still on crutches when I first set foot on the campus for my interview. It sounds like a cliché, but my life really did change the moment I stepped (hobbled?) onto campus. I was blown away by the beauty of Muhlenberg. This was the idyllic vision of college life I had always had in my head growing up. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I was meant to be Muhlenberg Mule. Getting the admissions department to agree with me, however, was a challenge.

Now, the upside of my car accident was the fact that since I was stuck in bed for months, there was nothing else to do but apply myself. I aced all of my classes senior year and suddenly had something compelling to write about in my admissions essay. (Life flashed before my eyes, saw wasted opportunities, yadda, yadda yadda....) It

wasn't much, but it got my foot in the door. Luckily, that door was held open by a compassionate admissions officer who believed in second chances.

While at Muhlenberg I grew so much as a person, forging lifelong friendships and gaining opportunities through classes and internships that I never would have had otherwise. With a leg up from the school I've literally been able to attain my dream job as a producer for the "Late Show with David Letterman," where I've been for the past 8.5 years.

I've been lucky enough to be asked to return to Muhlenberg several times since graduation to speak with students about my career in television production. I'm always astounded by how far the department of media and communication, in particular, has come. Though many of the same gifted faculty members remain from my tenure, the equipment and focus of the curriculum is now much more advanced. A student graduating today with a desire to pursue a career in media has more hands-on experience than I did even after a few years working as a production assistant. What I always advise students during my alumni talks is this: take in this experience and make the most of every opportunity Muhlenberg bestows on you. Whether you realize it or not, the memories and connections you're making here will be a huge driving force in your future. I, for one, will be forever grateful that Muhlenberg took a chance on me, and I'm thrilled to give back in whatever small way I can.

Brian Teta '98 is a producer for the "Late Show with David Letterman."



To nominate an alumnus or coach for the Muhlenberg College Athletic Hall of Fame, please submit a detailed letter of nomination to Mike Bruckner at bruckner@muhlenberg.edu or Mike Bruckner, Vice President of Public Relations, 2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104.

Nominations received by January 15 will be considered for the 2014 induction class.

Jewish Studies Major Approved

Muhlenberg College will offer Jewish studies as a major starting in the fall of 2013. The College has had a Jewish studies minor program since 1988.

It is the first new major added to the curriculum since film studies and finance were approved in 2006. The newest minors include Latin American studies and film studies.

“The field of Jewish studies is dedicated to the critical analysis of Jewish texts, ideas, culture and historical experience within the broader context of the study of the humanities,” says Dr. Hartley Lachter, associate professor of religion studies and the director of the Jewish studies program. “As an interdisciplinary field, course offerings in Jewish studies address a wide range of subjects.”

“Muhlenberg is in the fortunate position to be able to offer a high quality, robust major in Jewish studies,” adds Lachter. “Developing this major at Muhlenberg will set us apart from other institutions to which our students typically apply.”

Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg College is a highly selective, private liberal arts college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It has become nationally known for its religious diversity. The current student body is approximately one-third Jewish and one-third Roman Catholic, with the remaining third comprised of Protestants, students who declare no religious preference, and students with a wide

range of religious backgrounds including Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus. The College’s commitment to a diverse community, and creative engagement in that diversity, is embodied in the 22-year record of its Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding.

“A Jewish studies major will be a significant plus for many prospective students who are considering Muhlenberg,” says Christopher Hooker-Haring, dean of admissions and financial aid. “Students are looking for more opportunities to study the diversity of human cultures. The college has developed a number of vibrant and high quality interdisciplinary programs in recent years, and our new Jewish studies major will build on this strength.”

“The development of this major grows out of our successful Jewish studies minor,” says Provost Dr. John Ramsay. “It provides all students an opportunity to pursue the interdisciplinary study of the rich heritage and contemporary significance of the Jewish people, their history, culture and religion within an international context. We are fortunate to be able to support this new major with courses in Hebrew, religion studies, philosophy, history and political science.”

Courses taken abroad at institutions in Israel and Europe, as well as courses taken through the College’s newly established agreement with the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, provide further opportunities for students in the field of Jewish studies.



Starting in fall 2012, Muhlenberg College presented a year-long series of events and talks on the theme “Jews, Money and Capitalism.” The program is sponsored by a grant won by the Jewish studies program from the Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project, directed by the Association for Jewish Studies. The series features Muhlenberg faculty and invited speakers as part of an intellectually engaging, community-wide discussion, and will work in partnership with many local co-sponsors, including the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley and the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding.

Dr. Mark Stein, associate professor of history and chair of the history department, delivered a lecture entitled “Traders, Translators and Tax Collectors: Jews and the Economic Life of the Ottoman Empire” as part of this year’s series “Jews, Money and Capitalism.”

SURVEY SAYS...

Alumni are proud of their Alma Mater!

An overwhelming majority (96%) are proud to be Muhlenberg graduates.

(This is at least 10 points higher than most institutions.)

In order to get a better understanding of alumni perceptions about their alma mater, Muhlenberg initiated an alumni survey. During fall/winter 2011, research was conducted by Wallace & Washburn Associates, a firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the survey was sent out in December 2011.

Research was initiated with exploratory focus groups comprised of various Muhlenberg constituents: alumni, Development and Alumni Relations and Public Relations staff, faculty and current students. Focus groups were conducted in New York City, Philadelphia, Allentown, and central New Jersey.

Information gathered from the focus groups was used to inform the development of an online survey, which was issued to 11,299 alumni. The online survey was completed by 1,582 respondents, generating a 14% response.

About half of alumni who responded (52%) attended Muhlenberg before 1990; roughly one half attended from 1990 to present (48%). The sample included males (46%) and females (54%).

One of the survey findings indicated that 92% of respondents wanted to see how their response compared to others' – so read on to find out!

Thank you to all Alumni who participated in the Survey!

KEY FINDINGS

- One fourth of alumni feel “well connected” (25%) to Muhlenberg. Nearly three fourths (72%) feel “well or somewhat connected.” The remainder are “neither connected nor disconnected” (20%) or “disconnected” (8%). (Muhlenberg alumni ratings are similar to, or higher, than many Ivy League schools and other highly respected schools tested.)
- Muhlenberg’s “well connected” rating of 25% is high, but nearly one third of “well connected” alumni don’t give.
- The majority of alumni surveyed agree Strongly (60%) or Somewhat (36%) that Muhlenberg needs alumni support. (This recognition of the need for support is approximately 10 percentage points higher than at most schools tested.)
- In rank order, the general reasons for giving among donors are that small gifts add up (69%), I had an excellent academic experience at Muhlenberg (67%), I had a great extra-curricular experience (51%), my Muhlenberg education enabled me to have a successful career (51%), a matching gift doubles the gift (53%).
- The top reason alumni give for recommending Muhlenberg to a potential student or his/her parents is small class size which fosters interaction and student growth. The faculty actually knows students by name (90%).
- The next two reasons are the warm, friendly safe environment for students to grow and flourish during this transformational experience (76%) and the faculty and staff go the extra mile to be available because they truly care about students and their success (75%).
- The most appealing current or new alumni events are sharing expertise with students by telephone, email or at the College (30%), mentoring students (30%), more alumni events in my region (29%), student shadowing (27%), participating in career panels (27%) attending a combined Reunion/Homecoming event in the fall (25%) and combining theater or athletic events with alumni events in my region (25%).
- The main reasons for not being more involved in alumni activities are geographical distance (53%) and lack of time (59%). (This is consistent with alumni research at other institutions.)

The majority of alumni surveyed agree Strongly (60%) or Somewhat (36%) that Muhlenberg needs alumni support.

(This recognition of the need for support is approximately 10 percentage points higher than at most schools tested.)



Jennifer R. McLarin '86, Director • Patrick Fligge '10, Associate Director of Alumni/ Student Connections
Sean Morrow '91, Associate Director • Heather Fox '08, Assistant Director • Stephanie Wolbransky '13, Presidential Assistant

You can contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104
Phone: 800.464.2374 • Fax: 484.664.3545 • E-mail: bergalum@muhlenberg.edu

Changing Muhlenberg One Swipe at a Time: Awa Faye

By John Zeitoun '13

Outside the newly built Bob and Irene Wood Dining Commons, Awa Faye stands restocking to-go cups to keep herself busy. At 3 p.m., students shuffle through their wallets and backpacks to find their swipe card outside the dining hall. “How are you today, Abby?” Faye asks before reaching her hand out to take Abby’s swipe card. Many students stop and have a brief conversation with Faye before carrying on with their busy days. No matter how long the line might be, Faye takes the time to stop whatever she is doing to listen to stories of how students’ days are going, how their weekends were or what they’re doing later that night. Her contagious smile immediately changes the mood of those gathered around her. Faye impacts every Muhlenberg student and staff member, all of whom she treats as family.

The College community appreciates the passion and dedication that Faye brings to ‘Berg, taking the initiative to nominate her for a national Sodexo award in 2011 based off her extreme care and love for her job. After an overwhelming amount of praise from the Muhlenberg community, Awa won one of the most prominent awards a Sodexo worker can achieve: the Campus Division Sodexo Experience Award for Exceptional Customer Service. John Middleton, director of Culinary Operations at Muhlenberg College, explained that out of 57,000 Sodexo employees from over 700 colleges and universities in the nation only one worker is chosen based off unparalleled customer service.

As Faye talked about her accomplishment her brown eyes began to water, and her voice started to increase in pitch. “It really was a big surprise for me when I won the award,” she said, before swiping a student into the dining hall. “I was just doing my job the best that I can do... I didn’t really expect to get this award, but when I did I was so happy.”

While Faye is known at Muhlenberg College for being the main cashier at the dining hall, she wasn’t always involved in the food industry. From being an assistant accountant for a local agriculture company, to being a bookstore cashier for Rodale, to finally being a baker for Kutztown University, Faye has experience in a variety of career paths. She grew up in Senegal, Africa, and lived there for 30 years before moving to Allentown, Pa., 17 years ago. Senegal is a French colony located in Western Africa that is home to approximately 13 million.

Faye’s family left Senegal when Awa’s husband, Amadou, was promoted to a higher position at Rodale. When Faye and her family arrived in America, she was initially surprised by how warm and comforting her new neighbors in Allentown were. “People in America are so nice,” she says, chuckling while reminiscing about her first few days in the United States. She had wor-

ried that Americans wouldn’t be friendly, but her doubts faded as her new neighbors greeted her family with plates of cookies and bouquets of flowers to welcome them. She found comfort in her new neighbors who had children the same age as hers. Over time, these two families that spoke two very different languages started spending countless hours together through play dates and get-togethers. At the time of Faye’s move to America, her four children were small. Now they are grown adults with children of their own.

As Faye speaks about her family, her eyes well up, and she wipes away a tear as she brings up her three grandchildren: Abdoul, 5; Abba, 3; and Awa, 1. “In my family, everything we do, we do together,” Faye says, before grabbing a to-go box for a student whose backpack looks bigger than she is.

From spending time with family to interacting with the many members of her Muhlenberg family while at work, this campus staple truly appreciates the little things in life. Without a doubt, Muhlenberg would not be the same without a warm smile and quick chat with Faye before or after meals. An immediate smile appeared on senior accounting and psychology double major Evan Schmidt’s face when Awa’s name was mentioned. He praises her saying, “She’s so sweet! I love how genuine and caring she always is to students. She always has a smile on her face and looks happy to be working.” Communication and business double major Hayley Galembo ’14 can attest to Awa’s strong influence on the Muhlenberg community and family at large. “Awa goes beyond just swiping students into the dining hall and really gets to know students. She takes a job that is so simple and greatly influences everyone’s day.”

Students love Faye – and it’s mutual. Her favorite part of the job is definitely the students and her fellow co-workers whom she interacts with on a daily basis. She describes her co-workers as her brothers and sisters who are always willing to help each other whenever they can. Sue Flederbach, director of operations at Muhlenberg College, explained that, “If Awa is having a bad day, customers and her fellow co-workers never know. She is always smiling and happy at work. She knows specific details about the Muhlenberg community, like who usually gets to-go or who she can speak to in French.”

Faye’s story is the quintessential example of making the most out of any situation, career, and day-to-day activity.

While some cashiers go through the motions every day and live a seemingly mundane life, Awa Faye is the exception as she helps change Muhlenberg... one swipe at a time.

John Zeitoun was an intern in the office of public relations in the spring of 2012





The 2011-2012 Faculty and Staff Campaign Committee and President Randy Helm unveil the plaque that lists all employees who made a gift to the College. The plaque hangs proudly on display in Seegers Union. l-r: Corey Goff, Jim Peck, Deb Kipp P'04, P'06, President Randy Helm, Kelly Cannon, Ellen Pothering '89, P'07, Joe Spirko P'11, Lora Taub-Pervizpour

Employees Show Their 'Berg Pride

By Romina Weikel, Associate Director of Communication and Donor Relations

Kelly Cannon remembers with clarity when he decided to support The Muhlenberg Fund. He had worked at the College as the outreach and scholarly communication librarian since 1996, but invitations from the development office had always fallen on his “profoundly deaf ears.”

A student worker in the library changed everything. “While I didn’t know the finances of this student, I knew that as a student worker, he had some level of financial need. He was on the track team, did well in his classes and from my perspective, was meticulous and thoughtful in his work,” says Kelly. “When he graduated he joined the Peace Corps. He left Muhlenberg and set off for Africa, filled with hope that he could make a difference.”

“I read about The Muhlenberg Fund and how it supports so many students, and suddenly it all became clear,” says Kelly. “I decided that I should make a reasonable gift through payroll deduction, not only because I derive my livelihood from the College and want it to continue to thrive, but also because I would hate to see deserving students miss out on the Muhlenberg experience due to financial need.” Kelly has been making monthly gifts to the College since March 2010.

Fortunately many other employees have joined Kelly and demonstrated their commitment to Muhlenberg – in 2011–2012, more than 61% made a gift to the College. “When submitting grant requests, we are always asked to report what percentage of alumni, faculty and staff make gifts to the College,” says Deb Kipp, associate vice president of development. “Receiving this level of support from faculty and staff demonstrates that we believe in the mission and goals of our institution and Muhlenberg is a good philanthropic investment.”

The Faculty and Staff Campaign Committee, led by Deb and comprised of members from various departments across campus, was created to raise employee awareness about the importance of The Muhlenberg Fund. Kelly has become such a proponent of supporting The Muhlenberg Fund that he now serves on the committee himself!

To find out more about employee giving, you can contact Kelly, Deb or any of the committee members:

Joe Spirko, Jr. P'11, *Custodial Supervisor*

Laura L. Edelman, Ph.D., *Professor of Psychology*

Corey Goff, *Athletic Director*

Jim Peck, Ph.D., *Associate Professor and Chair of Theatre and Dance Department*

Ellen G. Pothering '89, P'07, *Controller*

Lora Taub-Pervizpour, Ph.D., *Associate Professor and Chair of Media and Communication*



Kelly Cannon

Celebrating Decades of Service: 'Berg Bids A Fond Farewell to Carol Shiner Wilson

By *Liz Fonseca '13*
Presidential Assistant, Office of Public Relations

Carol, this place sounds like you.

These words were spoken over three decades ago to the woman better known to Muhlenberg students today as Dean Carol Shiner Wilson. If you guessed that “this place” referred to Muhlenberg College, you are correct.

This past summer, Wilson retired from her position as Muhlenberg’s dean of the college for academic life after 16 years in the role and almost 30 total years of service to the College. Her dedication made an undeniable impact on the undergraduate experiences of Muhlenberg’s entire student body and, especially, on the countless individuals whom she personally inspired and mentored towards success.

For those who have had the privilege of knowing Wilson’s enthusiasm for ‘Berg, it is difficult to believe that she needed to be convinced to interview at the College in 1981 when the position of director of career placement and planning came open. She had never heard of Muhlenberg, and, at the time, she was working towards her Ph.D. in English Literature from Indiana University at Bloomington, while teaching two sections of English and interning in the office for “Arts and Sciences Placement.”

It was this internship where Wilson discovered she thrived in a work environment that allowed her to be creative and develop new programs for liberal arts students.

Before she knew it, Wilson had nine different job offers at various colleges and universities but she kept turning them down because “They just didn’t feel right.”

When she received the opportunity at Muhlenberg, repeatedly hearing the phrase, “This place sounds like you,” from a mentor finally pushed Wilson to reluctantly board a plane to Allentown, Pa., to interview.

Wilson was delighted at how comfortable she was the moment she stepped onto campus. She explains, “It was the size of the College, its commitment to the Liberal Arts and the fact that they were looking for someone to serve as a connection to all students on campus—not just those in a particular set of disciplines.” Ten days later, Wilson’s Muhlenberg career began.

In addition to her Ph.D., which she completed in 1985, Wilson holds a B.A. in French from Cornell College, an M.A. in French from the University of Missouri, a certificat niveau supérieure

from the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and an M.A. in English literature from the University of Kansas. This diverse academic background along with extensive travel and many work experiences showed her, “All knowledge is connected, and every day is an opportunity for joyful learning.”

Wilson continues, “The liberal arts tradition was a part of my family, which includes college professors and teachers.” She credits her “dynamic, bright, politically involved mother,” who was placed at the center of the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* while serving on the board in Topeka, Kansas, for inspiring her to be receptive to all opportunities and for demonstrating that every person has the chance for learning and service.

That is the spirit Wilson carried with her to Muhlenberg’s Office of Career Placement and Planning (now known as the Career Center), never hesitating to spearhead new projects when she saw a need for them. What she is particularly proud of during her six years spent there is her critical involvement in developing the internship program that almost every student takes advantage of today, an endeavor that was virtually nonexistent when she entered her position.

Wilson then spent four years at Lafayette College teaching courses in English literature and women’s studies before returning to Muhlenberg as a visiting assistant professor, specializing in the same topics. During this time, Wilson also served as editor and contrib-

“A kind heart,
a sharp mind and
a deep sense
of humanity—
hard to find in
one package, but
Carol has it all.”

utor for two book projects: Re-visioning Romanticism: British Women Writers, 1776-1837, published with the University of Pennsylvania Press, and The Galesia Trilogy and Selected Manuscript Poems of Jane Barker, published by Oxford University Press.

In 1996, Wilson was offered and eagerly accepted the position she would hold until her retirement. It would not be an exaggeration to say that there is no area of student academic life left untouched by Wilson's innovative strength. As dean, she provided guidance for improving 'Berg's academic standards and integrity, created numerous revamped orientation and pre-orientation programs, proposed and helped implement a public health minor and supervised the library, academic resource center, disability services, pre-health advising, the Senior Year Experience, Career Center and several other programs in varying capacities, among other tasks.

Perhaps the action that has earned her the most applause is the key role she played in the creation of Muhlenberg's Prestigious Awards Initiative, which encourages the most academically engaged undergraduates and recent graduates to reflect on their education and their goals and to apply for various competitive opportunities, often on a national scale, to help them achieve those goals.

Wilson initiated this project almost as soon as she stepped into her role as dean, motivated by her "entrepreneurial spirit and seeing something that needed to be done." Some of Muhlenberg's brightest, most motivated students were not even aware of the nation's most competitive awards and other competitive opportunities offered on a smaller scale.

Jake Glass '13, the recipient of several prestigious awards this year and 'Berg's first Truman recipient since 1999 says, "The Prestigious Awards Initiative has become one of the defining experiences of my college career. I was astonished by the level of commitment and enthusiasm Dean Wilson and the Muhlenberg faculty displayed throughout the entire process."

Wilson is clearly proud of the nearly 130 students who have been recipients of or final-



ists for prestigious awards since the program began, but she feels just as accomplished when working with students who may need an extra push.

Wilson states, "Something so great at Muhlenberg is that we take a student no matter where he or she is (whether that's on academic probation, with potential for a prestigious award, or somewhere in between) and say 'we have confidence in you.' Many times, that makes all the difference. I have felt such pleasure at seeing students put advice into play and move ahead."

She says, "Every single Muhlenberg student has the potential to change the world." It is that ardent belief that led Wilson to be active in creating another successful initiative: the Emerging Leaders Program, which serves incoming first-year students from historically underrepresented populations whose high schools may not have provided the material resources that their new peers might be used to.

Jake Glass '13 says... "The Prestigious Awards Initiative has become one of the defining experiences of my college career. I was astonished by the level of commitment and enthusiasm Dean Wilson and the Muhlenberg faculty displayed throughout the entire process."

There is nothing more rewarding to Wilson than seeing students succeed. She says, "You start where they are and try to move ahead. I am going to miss shaking every students' hand at Commencement." She explains how that moment of connection truly highlights the personal growth many students underwent during their undergraduate careers, easily citing specific examples of students from years past that one might expect an administrator who regularly encounters so many students to forget.

Wilson enthusiastically shares, "I love seeing trustees who were once students that I knew. There are so many wonderful student stories. They are carrying Muhlenberg with them." Of

course, that is a sentiment that extends to all students who she has interacted with in her career, students that are now running their own businesses, heading corporations and more.

While the achievements Wilson has made during her illustrious career and her reflections on those achievements could fill this entire magazine, they do not tell her entire Muhlenberg story. After the Opening Convocation ceremony during her first year working at 'Berg – September 2, 1981 to be exact—Wilson was introduced to Daniel



Carol and Dan Wilson

Wilson, a professor in the history department. “I thought he was cute, but I was a little shy,” she reminisces. Dan would become her husband just two years later.

“After that, I was committed to the Lehigh Valley,” Wilson states happily. Without this fortuitous meeting, Wilson admits she isn’t sure where she might have ended up.

Today, Dan still teaches at Muhlenberg, and just last fall, the two marked the thirty-year anniversary of the day they met with desserts, inviting the whole faculty and staff of the

2012 a Banner Year for Prestigious Awards

The Prestigious Awards Initiative, established by the Office of the Dean of the College for Academic Life, seeks to assist undergraduates and recent graduates engage in a process of reflection upon their education, inside and outside the classroom, their values, and their life goals in order to enhance success in applying for opportunities that will enable them to realize their goals (e.g. nationally prestigious awards such as NFSs or Fulbrights, graduate or professional study). Opportunities include significant student research and presentation, study abroad, and meaningful volunteer and service-learning work. The process acknowledges the different levels of readiness of students, first year through postgraduate. The process includes many opportunities to work with faculty awards advisors and the Dean of the College, including an intensive mock application and interview program for a \$1,000 internal scholarship the Junior year. In twelve years, over 120 awards have been received by Muhlenberg students and recent graduates.

The 2011-12 academic year has produced the largest-ever number (18 recipients or honorable mentions so far) and the first Truman recipient since 1999. That student, Jake Glass '13, received both a Truman and Udall in competition with students from institutions including Stanford, Grinnell, Lafayette, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. Whether students receive an award or not, the process has helped all students get to know themselves better and present themselves better in future competitions.

Close work with faculty who teach, advise, and inspire these students is central to their success. Some students are also engaged in meaningful service and extra curriculum. I deeply appreciate the extraordinary efforts of dedicated faculty in this enterprise. The program would not succeed without faculty who work closely with students as their classroom instructors, independent study research advisors, and award advisors.

CURRENT STUDENTS

Nationally and Internationally Prestigious Awards

J. William Fulbright – The Fulbright is the flagship international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. There are teaching (ETA) Fulbrights and study Fulbrights. The award subsidizes one year’s teaching or study abroad. Chris Herrick, Political Science, is the advisor to the Fulbright.

- **Melissa Bressler '12.** Recipient, ETA, Thailand. A Dana Scholar, Melissa is majoring in English and minoring in Business Administration.
- **Amanda Gavin '12.*** Finalist, ETA, Vietnam. A Dana Scholar, Amanda is majoring in Biology.
- **Jennifer Melis '12.** Recipient, ETA, Turkey. Jennifer is an International Studies major and a Sustainability Studies minor.

* Please note that host countries decide upon recipients at different times, typically no later than early summer. Vietnam has not yet announced.

Benjamin A. Gilman – The program awards a \$5,000 scholarship for study abroad. Donna Kish-Goodling and Susan Norling, Global Education, are the advisors to the Gilman.

- **Sydney Yonak '13.** Recipient. Sydney is an International Studies major, minoring in both Music and Russian Studies. She was also awarded a \$3,000 Critical Language Supplement. Sydney is studying in Russia during Spring 2012.

Barry M. Goldwater – The program awards up to \$7,500 annually for a maximum of two year to students with a demonstrated commitment to a career in science or math, excluding medical school. Joe Keane, Chemistry, is the advisor to the Goldwater.

- **Nathan Crossette '13.** Honorable Mention. A Dana Scholar, Nate is majoring in Physics and Mathematics.
- **Jaelyn Durkin '13.** Honorable Mention. A Dana Scholar, Jaelyn is majoring in Neuroscience and minoring in Mathematics. She is the recipient of a Muhlenberg Dean’s Summer Research Grant for Summer 2012.
- **Amanda Meier '13.** Recipient. A Muhlenberg Scholar, Amanda is majoring in Biology and Environmental Science. She was a Goldwater Honorable Mention in 2011. Amanda was awarded a Muhlenberg Dean’s Summer Research Grant in 2011.

College to celebrate with them in the GQ Annex, the location where they met.

One thing she is excited about in her retirement? “Dan and I share a love of gourmet food. My long hours meant that Dan has done most of the cooking, so I am looking forward to cooking for us much more.”

Despite her new time to cook, it seems Wilson will be just as busy in the years ahead as she has been at Muhlenberg. “The word retirement has no reality. I continue to read and read and read. I also love to travel and take

advantage of cultural events, theatre and music.” She will continue to work on her own scholarly pursuits concerning women writers and artists as well. She is keeping her eyes open for any new opportunities that come her way, something she says has been her strength.

Of course, Wilson is certainly not letting Muhlenberg become a distant memory. She says, “I’m still committed to working at Muhlenberg when they need me,” and she and her husband will continue to include Berg

in their philanthropy.

Wilson has left a big job for her successor, Michael Huber, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics, who took the reins August 1. College President Randy Helm says, “When Carol announced her plans to retire and we started to look at all the things she does so we could create a job description for the search, we were staggered. It wasn’t just the volume of work she has shouldered over the years, but the scope of her responsibilities, and

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U. S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program

- **Meredith Colwell ’12.** Recipient. A Dana Scholar, Meredith is majoring in biochemistry. She will attend the University of Maryland School of Dental Medicine on a Navy scholarship. Lori Provost, health professions, is the advisor to the HPSP.

Harry S. Truman – The Truman is a \$30,000 scholarship for graduate study in preparation for a career in public service. Students are chosen because of outstanding leadership potential. Michele Moser Deegan, Political Science, is the advisor to the Truman.

- **Jacob Glass ’13.** Recipient. An RJ Fellow, Jake is majoring in Environmental Science and International Studies. (He was one of 50 recipients – one per state- this year. He is the second-ever Truman at the College.)

Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall – The Udall awards up to \$5,000 to students who demonstrate potential for significant contributions in a career related to improving or preserving the environment. Chris Borick, Political Science, is the advisor to the Udall.

- **Jacob Glass ’13.** Recipient. Jake was also a Truman recipient (see above).
- **Amanda Meier ’13.** Honorable Mention. Amanda was also a Goldwater recipient (see above).

Regional Scholarships

St. Andrew’s Society – The regional award carries a \$20,000 stipend for one year’s study in Scotland. Donna Kish-Goodling and Susan Norling, Global Education, are the advisors to the St. Andrew’s.

- **Hannah Oros ’14.** Recipient. A Muhlenberg Scholar, Hannah is a Media & Communication major and a Self-Designed major in Global Health. She will study in Glasgow next year.

RECENT GRADUATES

J. William Fulbright – see above

- **Thomas Bertorelli ’10.** Recipient, ETA, Poland. Thomas graduated with a Neuroscience and Music double major. He was a Fulbright Alternate in 2010. Thomas received a Muhlenberg Dean’s Summer Research Grant in 2009. He is attending the University of Chicago.

U. S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program

- **Kyle Keinath ’10.** Recipient. Kyle graduated with a major in Chemistry. He will attend Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on a Navy scholarship.

National Science Foundation – The NSF awards \$30,000 per year, plus \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance to students embarking on graduate study in the sciences. Bruce Wightman, Biology, is the advisor to the NSF.

- **Christopher Alvaro ’10.** Honorable Mention. A DANA Scholar, Chris graduated with a Biochemistry major. He was a NSF Honorable Mention in 2011. Chris is attending the University of California – Berkeley.
- **Christine Marie Gleave ’11.** Honorable Mention. Christine graduated with a Chemistry major and a Mathematics minor. She is attending Cornell University.
- **Jake Tompkins Herb ’11.** Recipient. Jake graduated with a Chemistry major. He was a Goldwater Recipient in 2010 and a Goldwater Honorable Mention in 2009. Jake is attending Princeton University.
- **Elia Wright ’10.** Honorable Mention. Elia graduated with a Biochemistry major. She is attending the University of Michigan.

Other Selected Awards (Summer)

- **Stephen Moore ’13.** *Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs* – Princeton University’s Junior Summer Institute Fellowship. Stephen is a Self-Designed major in International Health Studies. The fellowship carries a \$1,500 stipend and covers all expenses. He will attend the PPIA Junior Summer Institute at Princeton, Summer 2012. Stephen is studying in Brazil Spring 2012 and won a Brazil Initiation Scholarship of \$1,500.
- **Leah Kirby ’13.** *Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Research Internship in Science and Engineering (RISE) (Alternate).* Leah is a double major in Natural Science and Spanish. This program offers summer internships in Germany for undergraduate students in the sciences. Rich Niesenbaum is the advisor to the DAAD.

COVER STORY

From One Space,



Many...



'Berg theatre alumni create original work in their own theatre companies

by Ken Butler, Executive Assistant to the President

When I came to Muhlenberg in 1993 to serve as an administrator for, and the sixth member of, the Drama Department, there were 55 majors. When I left the re-named Department of Theatre & Dance in the summer of 2003 to join the President's Staff, there were over 130 majors. As we approach 2013, the Department now boasts over 225 majors, 20 full-time faculty and staff, and over a dozen additional adjunct teachers and part-time staff, making it one of the largest academic departments at the College. Ranked among the top ten theatre programs in the country for seven consecutive years by The Princeton Review, the Department is a vital and vibrant part of the fabric of Muhlenberg.

Muhlenberg theatre and dance graduates go on to many successful careers, both in the profession and outside of it. Recent graduates have appeared on Broadway, in regional theatres, on television, in film and on the web, working within the century-old sequence of auditioning, working up through the dense network of non-Equity or SAG productions to union member status. They also direct and choreograph in community and professional theatres and dance troupes, work as agents, press agents, company managers, stage managers, designers, technicians, and administrators.

However, a sizable number of Muhlenberg graduates have chosen to pursue their art in highly personal and non-traditional ways. I recently sat down for interviews with alumni who are founders of three different theatre companies. Each operates in a completely different way, but all share a common goal: creating art that is highly personal, but that is also grounded in the community that surrounds it.

The Porch Room, founded in 2000 by Pete Barry '97 and John Dowgin '97 and soon joined by Adam B. Kaufman '96, takes its name from a room in Bernheim House, which was

A Short Story By A Tree, 2009 and features: Rachel (Shapiro) Alderman '01 (front left); Chrissy (Benner) Gardner '00 (front center); Rob Shapiro - not a grad, but Muhlenberg Summer Theatre alum '01 (front right); Ryan Gardner '01 (back left); Ian Alderman '00 (center); Ruben Ortiz '00 (right)

photo credit: Beja B. Photography

COVER STORY

a theatre dorm when Pete, John and Adam were students. One room had an outdoor porch on which they hung out, played music, and (probably in violation of residence hall rules) hosted cook-outs with friends. The friendship and partnership they formed in Bernheim was expanded when they later met J. Michael DeAngelis '01.

In a story that only could happen in Allentown, the first play Michael and Pete wrote together – a one-act entitled *Drop* – was envisioned while stuck in a car on the malfunctioning Steel Force roller coaster at Dorney Park. Years later, *Drop* won the 2009 Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival and is currently available for license. French has also published an anthology of their short works and they are produced regularly at the Philly Fringe & Live Arts Festival; their most recent work (also written by Pete and Michael), *Antony & Cleopatra: Infinite Lives*, premiered in September as part of the Fringe in a co-production with Underground Shakespeare Company at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Formed in 2002 to produce Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* at Muhlenberg College, A Broken Umbrella Theatre consists of Ian

Alderman '00, Rachel Shapiro Alderman '01, Ken Baldino '00, Chrissy Benner '00, Ryan Gardner '01 and Ruben Ortiz '00, and based its name in part on the idea that there is always a moment of surprise and adventure when an umbrella is caught by the wind, a moment they hoped to capture in their work.

After *Godot*, they went back to their respective careers in Chicago and Minneapolis, but after several years, Ian, Rachel, Ryan and Chrissy moved to New Haven, Connecticut. Chrissy was asked to sing “a few children’s songs” for the city’s annual Westville ArtsWalk celebration. She asked Rachel to help, suggesting that it might be something more, like a set of original songs; Ryan overheard their conversation and told Ian; they called Ruben (who was working in Los Angeles at the time) and the eventual result was a 15-minute scenic spectacle with original music, titled *A Short Story By a Tree*. That piece was followed by *Thunderbolt*, based on the true story of an 18th century pirate who lived in New Haven, and was produced next to the West River under a tunnel in Edgewood Park on Hallowe’en in 2009 weekend to great success. Four more pieces have followed, each based on the people and places of New Haven, and the company was awarded the 2011 Arts Council of Greater New Haven “Great Adaptations” Arts Award.

A Broken Umbrella Theatre is committed to enhancing the vitality of the New Haven community, supporting the creative growth of its ensemble, and presenting compelling theatrical events with a commitment to aesthetic rigor, that are inspired by the unique history of New Haven, Connecticut. “One of the reasons we’ve been successful is that we’ve grounded ourselves locally, in terms of our inspiration and the way we go about making our stories,” Rachel said. “We always start with an idea that is of and from the New Haven area, and we’ve also been fortunate to form partnerships with other community organizations, including the Westville Village Renaissance Alliance, Friends of Edgewood Park, and The Mitchell Branch of the New Haven Free Public Library, among others. Community partnerships are key to the success and impact of our theatre company.”

Another reason for their success is they have enjoyed the support of the large community of theatre artists in New Haven. Ryan said, “Because we are, at the moment, all volunteer, we do our best to make sure that the people who value what we do enough to share their talents with us are, in turn, treated well. For instance, since so many of us are the parents of young children, one of our largest non-production expenses is child care, so that the artists working for us will know their children will be safe while they’re working.”

The Des Moines Social Club, formed by Zachary Mannheimer '99 in 2007, seeks to present multiple events weekly that encourage different groups of arts patrons who might not otherwise interact with each other to socialize around disparate art performances taking place in the same venue on the same evening. Arts classes for children and adults, promo-



Thunderbolt, 2009 features: (clockwise from upper left) Ian Alderman '00; Ryan Gardner '01 (on rope); Lou Mangini; Ruben Ortiz '00; Anthony Grinage '00

photo credit: Beja B. Photography

tion for local artists, and forging partnerships with businesses to support entrepreneurship in Des Moines are all part of the organization's mission.

"We're in the middle of a \$3.5 million capital campaign to purchase and remodel our own facility, and it's going well," Zach related. "I'm happy that in my artistic life I'm able to make an impact on the City of Des Moines with the help of so many other people. I don't do a lot of theatre, these days; maybe one show a year. My job is fundraising, of course, but also figuring out new revenue streams: can you fund an arts facility without having to rely solely on donations? Can you build an infrastructure that will offer individual artists health care? Multidisciplinary facilities like the Des Moines Social Club can create interesting artistic collaborations, but they also can build community, as well as contribute to the economic life of a city."

And what do these alumni think is the common denominator in their success? Muhlenberg's theatre faculty.

Zach: "The teachers offered a wide variety of ways of learning about theatre. There was the opportunity to experiment and to try to do things in new ways, and no one ever said 'no' to us. I was able to learn by doing, and I did an incredible variety of things at Muhlenberg. Having that environment empowered us to create our own work, and we were always supported."

Pete: [Former Associate Professor of Theatre] Devon Allen had her own theatre company, *Our Shoes Are Red*, that focused on creating original work. For the first time, I realized that you can make work, yourself. Nearly all of us that you're interviewing worked with her on one of her projects, and we got to see how theatre is made from the ground up. We saw it both in the traditional shows that Charlie [Richter, Head of Theatre] directed from a script and a score, and in the new, experimental works Devon was mounting, where we began only with ideas."

Michael: "Not only did you have permission to experiment at Muhlenberg, but you had guidance. If I had a crazy idea for something in the black box, no one ever told me no, but they might say, 'Think about it.' The faculty and staff wanted us to stretch, to take what we'd learned in class and go out and apply it practically. Charlie may be grounded in traditional kinds of theatre, but no one can say he's closed minded about it. The faculty each had very strong personalities, and their artistic visions didn't always agree, but they came together to make really great art."

Ian: "We were given the opportunity to be an active part of the creation of original work. Our Shoes Are Red created *The Kafka Project*, which premiered on campus, then had a showing at New York City's Ohio Theatre. That was an incredible moment for me: you can make work and get it shown professionally. Our teacher was making work with us; she said, "You are artists; you don't have to wait to be given work – you should make work. And the faculty stood behind us; we were never told we couldn't do something."



John Dowgin '97, Michael DeAngeles '01 and Pete Barry '97 in *Drop*.

Ryan [on acting in *Kafka*]: "It was the first time I'd sat in a room and there was no script and there was no score and the director said, 'Okay: go.' What do you do? You begin to find your way, and to create."

Rachel: "Everything was possible. Charlie and Curtis [Dretsch, Professor of theatre] had started something years before, and by the time we got to Muhlenberg, the administration was building us the Trexler Pavilion. Possibility was in the air, it seemed. And the faculty and staff always helped us find our own way."

Zach: "Not only did it open our eyes to the fact that making your own work was possible, but the fact that we then took [*Kafka*] to New York – that it was possible to do that – made me realize that I could do the same thing. I may not ever have considered that, had it not been for *Kafka*. That show changed everything for a lot for us."

John: "The Porch Room has worked a lot with Circle Players, a community theatre in Piscataway, New Jersey. It was there that we were given the chance to produce an evening of one-act plays, *Accidents Happen*, which was named Outstanding Production of an Original Play at the 2009 NJACT Perry Awards. I think one of the reasons we've landed there, and why we've been so successful there, is that Circle Players 'feels' a lot like Muhlenberg; it's very a collaborative group where everyone's opinion and input is valued, and where ego takes a back seat to the work. The play is the most important thing...and we learned that at Muhlenberg."

Online:

A Broken Umbrella: <http://www.abrokenumbrella.com>

Des Moines Social Club: <http://desmoinessocialclub.org>

The Porch Room: <http://www.porchroom.com>

Homecoming/Reunion 2012

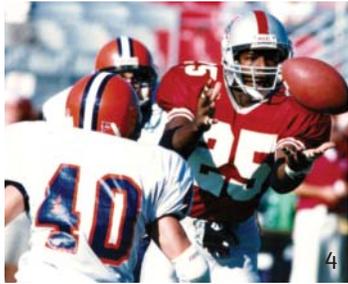
Reunion/Homecoming 2012 was held September 21-23, and a record 989 alumni and friends registered for the weekend. Of these, 745 were alumni: a 24% increase in alumni registration over last year. Not all people on campus registered, so it is likely that well over 1,000 people attended. Mark your calendars now for Reunion/Homecoming 2013: Sept. 20-22, 2013. Are you in a "3" or "8" class year? Contact the Alumni Office about how you can help with your Reunion!





Move-In Day 2012

The Class of 2016, 582 members strong, moved onto campus on August 24, 2012, and was warmly greeted by members of the College community, from President Helm and senior staff, to orientation committee members and other involved students, to 26 reassuring alumni volunteers and an extremely encouraging faculty. To learn more about the newest members of the Muhlenberg family, see *The Class of 2016 At A Glance*, on page 5.



TOP 100

Mike Donnelly became the first football coach in Muhlenberg history to reach the 100-win mark when the Mules defeated Franklin & Marshall, 21-0, on September 8. He finished the 2012 season with a career record of 106-64 and nine postseason berths in 16 years.

Here, in chronological order, are 20 noteworthy wins from Donnelly's first 100.

by Mike Falk, Sports Information Director

1 at Swarthmore (60-14), Oct. 11, 1997

Paraphrasing Lao-tzu, a journey of 100 wins begins with a single step. And this was the first for Donnelly after four losses to start his career. The Mules rolled up 474 rushing yards – 246 by 2011 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Jason Brader – and set a school and Centennial Conference record with 33 first downs.

4/5 at Ursinus (6-3), Oct. 11, 1997 vs. Grove City (34-31), Nov. 7, 1998

The games in back-to-back weeks ended in the same way: with Kenyamo McFarlane catching a touchdown pass in overtime on the final play of the game. The second win came against a Grove City team that included future NFL player R.J. Bowers. “The program turned the corner that day,” said Donnelly.

8/67 vs. Dickinson (30-13), Sept. 18, 1999 vs. McDaniel (43-0) Oct. 13, 2007

The Mules got two big monkeys off their backs in these two games. They had lost 11 straight to Dickinson, including a stretch of six consecutive shutout losses, before the 1999 win, which featured a school-record 471 yards passing from Michael McCabe. Although they were already established by 2007, they hadn't beaten McDaniel since 1993 before winning in decisive fashion.

37/96 at Moravian (8-0), Nov. 16, 2002 vs. Dickinson (12-0), Oct. 29, 2011

As featured in the Winter 2012 Muhlenberg Magazine, the Mud Bowl and the Snow Bowl were two for the ages.

38 vs. Mass.-Dartmouth (56-6), Nov. 23, 2002

Muhlenberg's first-ever NCAA Tournament game, against a Mass.-Dartmouth team that came in 11-0 and having allowed only 80 points all season, was no contest. The Mules gained 529 total yards, with 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Matt Bernardo rushing for 174 and scoring four touchdowns.

51 at Johns Hopkins (9-6), Oct. 23, 2004

The only one of the 100 wins that Donnelly was not around for at the end. He had to leave for medical reasons during the game, but the team's great defense (the best in Division III that season) and three field goals by Jordon Grube brought him a win.

53 at Moravian (28-14), Nov. 13, 2004

On the final day of the regular season, Muhlenberg needed six things to happen in order to earn a bid to the NCAA Tournament for the third straight year. Remarkably, they all did, including this win against a 7-2 Greyhound team. The bid came at the end of a season filled with injuries to key players.

56/58 at Ursinus (21-14), Oct. 15, 2005 vs. William Paterson (24-17), Sept. 9, 2006

Fake punts have always been a key part of Muhlenberg's repertoire under Donnelly, and in a stretch of seven games they won twice on fourth-quarter touchdowns on fake punts. Ryan Sassaman threw both passes, a



53



58



70



72



91



93

74-yarder to Ryan Merrill with 3:54 left vs. Ursinus and a 51-yarder to Matt Johnson with 9:12 left vs. William Paterson.

64 at Gettysburg (14-13), Sept. 22, 2007

Chris Swensen's blocked field goal with 34.5 seconds left preserved the win at Gettysburg. Nobody knew it at the time, in the third week of the season, but the one-point win would be a catalyst for the first undefeated campaign in program history.

70 at Ursinus (31-7), Nov. 3, 2007

Muhlenberg came in 8-0, ranked 12th in Division III and needing a win to clinch its first outright Centennial Conference championship. Ursinus was 7-1 and ranked 10th in Division III in total defense, but the Mules put on a thoroughly dominant performance, outgaining the Bears 405-96.

72 vs. Salisbury (31-21), Nov. 17, 2007

If the wins were ranked in importance, this might be at the top of the list. Against a nationally respected program in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, the Mules let a 21-7 lead slip away but scored 10 points off fumbles in the final 4:37 to earn the win.

86 vs. Gettysburg (33-27), Sept. 25, 2010

A dandy of a game on Homecoming Weekend saw the Mules fall behind 16-6 before scoring three straight touchdowns to go up 27-16 late in the fourth quarter. The Bullets closed the gap with a TD and almost stole the game in the last minute after recovering a bad snap on a punt inside the 10. But the defense forced a field goal, and Muhlenberg won in overtime on Isaiah Vaughn's 25-yard touchdown catch.

87 at Johns Hopkins (30-27), Oct. 2, 2010

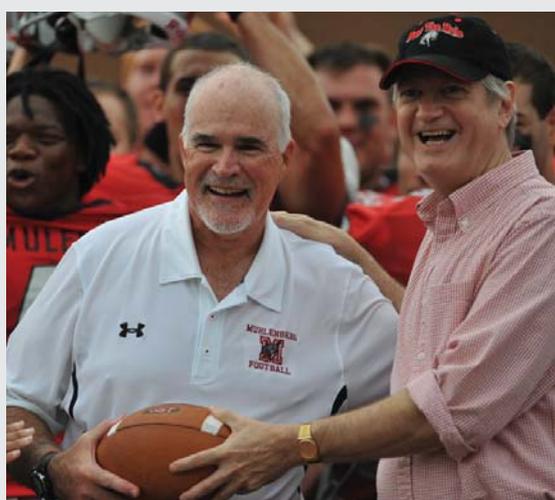
A matchup of the teams that had won outright CC championships the last two years lived up to its billing. Mark Accomando's 38-yard interception return for a touchdown helped stake the Mules to a 30-13 lead, and they held on by intercepting a pass inside the 20 with about two minutes left.

91 vs. Ursinus (27-20), Nov. 6 2010

Clad in all-red uniforms, Muhlenberg completed an improbable run to the CC championship and NCAA Tournament a year after going 3-7. A fourth-down tackle by Kevin Ryan a yard short of the first down with 1:49 left sealed the victory.

93 vs. McDaniel (34-26), Sept. 17, 2011

Another Homecoming classic: Trailing 26-7 and totally dominated for the first three quarters, the Mules scored 27 unanswered points in the final 13:03 for the stunning comeback win.



100

vs. Franklin & Marshall (21-0), Sept. 8, 2012

An appropriate opponent for the milestone win – one of Muhlenberg's oldest rivals, coached by Donnelly's former assistant, John Troxell. And an appropriate number in the opponent's scoring column – 19 of the 100 wins came by shutout.

CLASS NOTES

1957

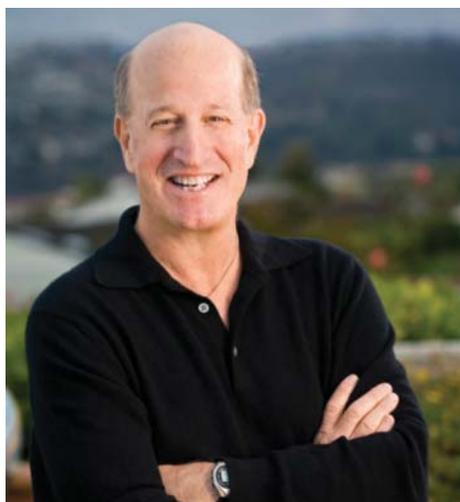
David A. Miller, II writes: "My first novel, *Time Birds*, has just been published. It's spy/adventure science fiction, with non-stop action from CIA alumni, spies and astounding robotic 'birds'. *Time Birds* is the first of a trilogy; the second is due later this year. Find *Time Birds* on Smashwords or Kindle at <http://www.amazon.com/Time-Birds-ebook/dp/B0070U304> or <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/122834>. I'd love your comments and reviews!"

1964

Ed Bonekemper writes, "Serendipitously, three Muhlenberg alumni ended up on the same riverboat trip from Vienna to Amsterdam. We had a great time renewing acquaintances after almost 50 years. David Bernstein '62, Nessa Rosen Bernstein '64 and I are all looking forward to upcoming 50th reunions!"

1968

Lee Hadden writes, "After 37 years of teaching biology at Wingate University, I have retired from classroom teaching. My wife and I began teaching at Wingate in 1975 following graduate school at Wake Forest University. Transitioning from a two-year to a four-year college, beginning in 1976, and the development of a biology curriculum from scratch, rather than jumping into an existing program, proved challenging and rewarding. Over the years I have taught intro-



Larry Wellikson '69



Pastor (now The Rev. Dr.) Smith poses with his Advisor, Dr. David Grafton.

ductory courses for majors and non-majors, and microbiology, histology, plant biology, and electron microscopy. I served as chair of the division of science and mathematics for five years and chair of the biology department subsequently for 14 years. I just returned from a trip with my daughter, Christi, to three National Parks: Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Rocky Mountain NP, the first of an anticipated sequence of travel destinations. Hopefully I'll visit the west coast to visit national parks and other destinations there in the near future."

1969

Larry Wellikson, M.D. SFHM was recently recognized by *Modern Healthcare* magazine as one of the 50 Most Influential Physician Executives for 2012 as #17. Wellikson has been the CEO of the Society of Hospital medicine, the national medical professional society for our nation's hospitalists. Wellikson lives with his



Bob Shaffer '78 and Jim Hay '78 were inducted into the Carbon County Hall of Fame (Sports)

wife Sharon, in Dana Point, Calif. and has 3 sons and 5 grandsons.

1974

Pastor Philip Smith of Emmanuel - Mt. Zion Lutheran Parish received his Doctor of Ministry degree from LTSP on May 18. Because of its size, the Class of 2012 gathered for the 148th Commencement at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale.

1978

Karen Greber Shaffer writes, "Back at the end of May - my darling Bob and fellow classmate Jim Hay were both inducted into the Carbon County Hall of Fame (Sports). For both the guys the list of credits include their accomplishments not only in their respective Carbon County high schools (Lehigh and Palmerton) but also for their time at Muhlenberg on the football and basketball teams and their post collegiate coaching experience. As you know - Bob's coaching career includes 12 seasons (I think!) at 'Berg before moving on to Southern Lehigh basketball for the last 24 seasons. Jim has coached basketball and track in several schools over his career.

1979

Stewart Abrams writes, "Just to complete the 37 year saga, on August 24, 2012, which was the 37th year anniversary of the day we met at the home of 'Berg alum Hans Peckmann '55, Jackie Bernstein '79 and I were married in Blue Bell, Pa. Talk about playing extreme 'hard to get.'"



Jackie Bernstein '79 and Stewart Abrams '79 were married on August 24, 2012. Members of the Class of '79 present were: Seated: Bernstein, Janine Reed; Standing: Daniel Hom, Abrams, Gary Russellberg, Steve Walker.

CLASS NOTES



Sharon Jones Smith '81, Lenni Maguire '81, Susan Shulman Johnson '81, Chuck Rogers '82, Denise Storz Pearson '81, Carrie Moore '82 and Rose Long '81 in front of a poster advertising the Summer Music Theatre program that pictures David Masenheimer '81. The group went to support their friend Neil Hever '82 in Hairspray.



Courtenay Cooper Hall '97 (second from right) helps ring the trading bell for the New York Stock Exchange]



Jared Schafer '99

1982

Jeff Finley writes "I retired from the Army on July 1 and have recently accepted a position with U.S. Army Cyber Command in Huntsville Alabama." Finley expected to start on September 24. • Carrie Moore, Sharon Jones Smith '81, Lenni Maguire '81, Susan Shulman Johnson '81, Chuck Rogers,

Denise Storz Pearson '81 and Rose Long '81 went to see Neil Hever '82 in the SMT production of Hairspray.

1991

Michael Nochimson was elected to the Verona, N.J. Town Council in a highly contested election.



Cassidy Elizabeth Fendt

1997

Courtenay Cooper Hall was part of a team that got to ring the trading bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

1999

Heather Marko and Kevin Casey are happy to announce their marriage on April 29, 2011, in Long Branch, N.J. Alumni in attendance were Wes Miller '00, Jamie Alvo Miller '02, Jakob Koslin '03, Elizabeth Seavy '08 and Mike Pellegrino '00. • Jared Schafer has been honored as a 2012 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Star. Super Lawyers selects attorneys using a rigorous ratings process, and no more than more than 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state are named to the Rising Stars list.

2000

Sharon Saferstein Cestari recently graduated from Rowan University with her Master's



The Grossman Family

CLASS NOTES



Evan Lee and Bryn Elizabeth Walter

Degree in Education. • **Elizabeth Fendt** writes, “Cassidy Elizabeth Fendt was born July 12, 2012, at 4:28 AM. She weighed 8 lbs, 2 oz and measured 19 1/2 inches long. Lorelei loves having a baby sister.” • **Steven Grossman** was recently named one of “Hollywood’s New Leaders” on the cover of *Variety*, which is the entertainment industry’s leading trade publication. He was also recently quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and has been featured as a distinguished celebrity talent manager on Bravo, VH1, Style Network, and WE TV. He and his wife Lisa are the proud parents of their two year-old son, Grayden, and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their second child. • **Lindsay Jana Spungin** was born May 31, 2012 to proud parents **Carolyn (Nurnberg)** and **Scott Spungin**.



Pearl Jaelyn Olds



H. Eric Hoffman

2001

Tara (Peterson) Walter and **Jeff Walter** were married July 11, 2008, at Iron Lakes Country Club in Orefield, Pa., on the 18th hole. They welcomed baby boy, **Evan Lee Walter**, on May 22, 2010, (8lbs, 12 oz, 21.5 inches long). Evan was joined by baby girl, **Bryn Elizabeth Walter**, on March 27, 2012, (8lbs. 2 oz, 21 inches). The couple resides in Pennsburg, Pa. Tara is teaching middle school in Center Valley, Pa., and Jeff works in the commercial construction field.

2002

Melanie (Saxon) Olds and her husband, **Josh**, are thrilled to announce the arrival of **Pearl Jaelyn Olds**, born June 28, 2012, at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. Pearl looks forward to attending Muhlenberg



Kate Dischino



Connor Sehn

football games! • **Nathan Pickowicz** writes, “In recent years, my wife, Jessica, and I have had a son, **Jack** (12/3/10), and are in the process of starting or ‘planting’ a new church in Gilmanton, N.H. I will have received my master’s degree in theology from Trinity Theological Seminary by the end of this summer.”

2003

Liz (Alsdorf) Hoffman writes, “My husband, **Herb**, and I are happy to announce that **H. Eric Hoffman, III** was born on March 28th. **Eric** (aka **Trey**) weighed 8 lbs, 7 oz and measured 21 1/2 inches long.”

2004

AmeriCares Manager of Emergency Response **Kate Dischino** was honored for her Hurricane



Aiden Kovach

CLASS NOTES



Isabella Marie Pallone

Sandy relief work at Glamour's 2012 Women of the Year Awards in New York City on Monday, November 12. Dischino was honored as one of the female responders to Hurricane Sandy at the Carnegie Hall event. Dischino, a Stamford resident, has been coordinating the AmeriCares Sandy response, working nonstop to deliver aid to the hardest-hit communities on the East Coast. • **Dan and Alicia (Malley) Sehn** are excited to announce the birth of their son, Connor Daniel. Connor was born on June 10th, 2012, measured 19 inches long and weighed 6 lbs 5oz. Mom, Dad and Baby are all doing well!

2005

Jessica Krausz and **Matthew Pawluk** were married on March 31, 2012, at the Metropolitan in Glen Cove, N.Y. The couple resides in Smithtown, N.Y., where Jessica is a dentist and Matthew is a software engineer. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. • **Becky (Armstrong) Pallone** and her husband **Jonathan** are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter. **Isabella Marie** was born on June 6, 2012 and weighed 7 lbs, 7 oz.

2006

Becca Erlich recently married **Will Platnick**. Several alumni (and Phi Mu sisters) were in attendance. • **Robert and Lauren Kovach** are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy **Aiden James Kovach**. He was born October 15, 2011 at Pennsylvania Hospital.



Alumni present at the wedding of Carey Heller '07 and Hope Axelrod were, from left to right: Michael Capawana '08, Tanya Carpenter Capawana '07, Keith Pedrani '12, Aliya Heller '11, Jeffrey Mueller '07, Jonathan Cramer '89 and Scott Kramer '09



Alumni present at the wedding of Todd Kauffman '05 and Casey (Gaspertich) Kauffman '07



In attendance at the wedding of Becca Erlich '06 to Will Platnick were, from left to right: Meredith (Cole) Braverman '05; Meredith (Feezer) Conway '05; Becca Erlich '06; Will Platnick; Becky Richie '02; Rachel Barber '07; Gabrielle Sanders '06.

CLASS NOTES



Megan Wilhem '07 and Samantha Ginsburg '10 are Youth Development Volunteers with the U.S. Peace Corps in Morocco.



Present at the wedding of Steven Toto '07 and Kaitlyn Rossetti '07 were: Front Row (from left to right): Michael DiVita '07, Hilary (Marinchak) Fowler '07, Danielle (LaRose) Koren '07, Kristin Zieser '07, Diana Skowronski '07, Rossetti, Toto, Kate Olson '07, Holly Kolesnik '07, Amanda (Brown) Linick '07, Brandon Manekin '07. Back row (from left to right): Michael Gawel '08, Gregory Rossetti '05, Julia Lamborn '07, Patrick Moyle '07, Lauren (Whitehead) Moyle '07, Christian Messler '07, Woody Hoagland '07, Meghan (Courtney) Hoagland '07 and Terry Levine '00.

2007

Carey Heller and Hope Axelrod were married on December 3, 2011 in Jacksonville, Fla. Carey is a licensed psychologist with The Psychological Group of Washington in Washington, D.C. Hope is a licensed clinical

social worker at Georgetown University Hospital. The couple resides in Bethesda, Md.

• **Todd Kauffman '05 and Casey (Gaspartich) Kauffman** are happy to announce their marriage on August 10, 2012, in Lakewood, N.J. They currently reside in Midland Park, N.J. Alumni in attendance were

bridesmaids Lisa White, Megan DiPaolo and Lauren Krisa, and groomsmen Mike Piontek '05, and Ben Mannix '05. Other alumni include Kieran Southwick '04, Emily Feldhamer '05, Katie Gottlieb '06, Kristen DeMarco '06, Lindsay Galvan, Rory Rosenwald, Janna Burke '06, Stephani



Class of 2008 Reunion

CLASS NOTES



Alumni present at the wedding of Alex '08 and Amanda '08 Corgan



Members of the Class of 2008 in attendance were (left to right): Kelly Shetron, Joe Gilston, Kaitlyn Johnson, Jacy Good, Barbie Macholz, Matt Grimaldi, Ben Kanigel, Stu Chamin, Janis (Coughlin) Chamin, Kristel Dow, Liz Tursi, Kirill Meleshevich, Johanna (Hurdes) Cella, Scott Cella, and Zach Robkin.

Smith, Mike Saratovsky '04, Adam Hurlburt '06, Jon Gray '05, Jessica Kriss '03, Alan VanGrack '05, Jackie Seaman '05, Sarah Harris '05, Samantha Jonson and Jared Goldstein. • Benjamin Shaw directed "SOS, A Journey Out of the Forgotten Borough... Staten Island..." at the Laurie Beechman Theatre this October. He recently assistant

directed END OF THE RAINBOW on Broadway, currently running at the Belasco Theatre, starring Tracy Bennett. Over the past year and a half, he has assisted and directed at theatres in Minneapolis, Seattle, Florida and NYC. For the past three years, he has worked as the Executive Assistant to the President at Disney Theatrical. In the future, he will be

directing Theatreworks USA's BUNNICULA. • Ryan Stauffer and Kristen Rastelli are happy to announce their marriage, which took place on Saturday, May 12, 2012, at Christ Lutheran Church in Hellertown, Pa. They were married by fellow 'Berg alumnus the Reverend Philip C. Spohn '86. • Steven Toto and Kaitlyn (Rossetti) Toto were happily married on April 16, 2011, in Florham Park, N.J. Both are residents of Hackettstown, N.J and work for Mars Chocolate North America. • Megan Wilhelm and Samantha Ginsburg '10 are currently serving as Youth Development Volunteers with U.S. Peace Corps in Morocco. Megan is living and working in Tiznit, while Sam is in Zagora.

2008

Alex and Amanda Corgan were married on November 11, 2011, and had 40 'Berg alumni in attendance as well as 8 faculty/staff members. They were married in Egner Memorial Chapel, and the reception was at Hotel Bethlehem. • Janis Coughlin and Stu Chamin were married on June 9, 2012 in Bridgewater, N.J. The couple honeymooned in the Cayman Islands and currently lives in Boston, Mass. Many 'Berg friends from the Class of 2008 joined in the celebration. • Cailen (Poles) Marone and

CLASS NOTES



Alumni in attendance at the wedding of Cailen Poles '08 to Craig Marone '09 were: William Behrms '11, Dave Emerson '10, Caitlin Dombkowski '11, Michelle Toher '12, Cailen (Poles) Marone '08, Craig Marone '09, Hannah Poles '10, Ashley Kaplan '07, Alexis Kaczmarczik '08, Amy Coughlin '08, Ashlee Adams '10, Sara Bombaski '10, Erin (Poles) Reilly '05



Dorothy Martin '09 and Matt Rathbun '09

Craig Marone '09 were married in November 5, 2011. Several alumni were in attendance. • Allison Schnall writes, "Thanks to the power of Facebook, members of the class of 2008 put together a spontaneous 'four year reunion.' On October 12, 2012, about 50 alumni from '08 gathered for drinks in NYC. Guests came from many states to reconnect with old friends." • Brianne Schurott and Kyle Farris were married at Aldie Mansion in Doylestown, Pa., on July 21, 2012. Mules in attendance included attendants Katie Mulford, Jill Aberbach, Caroline Pottash, Jared Mazzei and Mickey Norton, as well as Jillian (Duffy) Dillmore,

Kelly Shetron, Taylor (Armstrong) Yagatich, Tim Martin, Luke Silverman, Tim Dwyre, James Corley, Chris Nerney, Michelle Yost, Allison (Colino) Gomes '06, Jen Sherlock, Ryan Troy, Amanda Talbi, Leah Rovner '09, Noel Brown '09 and Mike Bruckner, VP of Public Relations. The newlyweds reside in Phoenixville, Pa.

2009

Sara Mazes was promoted to assistant manager at Hyatt and transferred to the Hyatt Resort and Spa in Maui, Hawaii. She is living and working in paradise and welcomes anyone who

wants to plan a wedding or honeymoon there to contact her at smaze3@gmail.com. She is singing with the Maui Festival Chorus, learning to surf, and hiking in volcanoes on her free time. • Dorothy Martin and Matt Rathbun are pleased to announce their engagement. The couple plans to be married February 23, 2013. Dorothy is a social worker at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, N.J., and Matt is a sales manager for ADP in Parsippany, N.J.



Post your class notes online at http://www.muhlenberg.edu/alumni/form/class_notes/html



Alumni present at the wedding of Brianne Schurott '08 and Kyle Farris '08

CLASS NOTES

We want to hear from you!



Reunion Chair and Class Fund Chair volunteers serve as liaisons between the College and your class. If you would like to get more involved with the College or your class, are interested in helping plan your upcoming reunion, or have relocated and are looking for other Muhlenberg alumni in the region – let us know. Please be in touch with your respective class liaison(s) (names and email addresses are below) and share with them your accomplishments, successes and other important life moments. We'll be sure to include your updates as part of Class Notes in the next edition of the magazine.

1949

William D. Miers
Class Fund Chair
mgb19744@verizon.net

1951

Theodore C. Argeson
Class Fund Chair
tca51mberg@yahoo.com

1953

Joseph H. Jorda
Class Fund Chair
jjorda1010@aol.com

1955

Hans G. Peckmann
Class Fund Co-Chair
mhpeckmann@aol.com

Rev. Dr. Arvids Ziedonis, Jr.
Class Fund Co-Chair
ziedonis@ptd.net

1956

Vincent D. Stravino
Class Fund Chair and Co-Chair,
Heritage Alumni
vdstrav@yahoo.com

1957

Wolfgang W. Koenig
Class Fund Chair
wkoenig1@cox.net

1958

Owen D. Faut
Class Fund Chair and
Co-Chair, Heritage Alumni
ofaut@frontier.com

1959

Lee A. Kreidler
Class Fund Chair
leebar@ptd.net

1960

Edward M. Davis, Jr.
Class Fund Chair
eddavis@ptd.net

1961

Richard L. Foley
Class Fund Chair
rlfoley4@verizon.net

1962

Duane G. Sonneborn, Jr.
Class Fund Chair
lynnsonneborn@comcast.net

1963

Tom Mendham
Reunion Class Fund Chair
tom@mendhams.com

Dick Jacobs
Reunion Co-Chair
blejake@aol.com

Elsbeth Radzio Rhody
Reunion Co-Chair
elsbethmr123@gmail.com

1964

Patricia Dickinson Hoffman
Class Fund Chair
pathoffman@rcn.com

1965

John E. Trainer, Jr.
Class Fund Chair
jetrain2@gmail.com

1966

Timothy A. Romig
Class Fund Chair
timr@evergreenfinancialgrp.com

1968

W. Russell Koerwer
Class Fund Chair
wrkoerwer@aol.com

Gene Ginsberg
Reunion Chair
geneginsberg@yahoo.com

1969

Mark Pascal
Class Fund Chair

1970

Diane R. Schmidt Ladley
Class Fund Co-Chair
dianeladley@verizon.net

Diane E. Treacy
Class Fund Co-Chair
tdseaglen@aol.com

1971

Mary Daye Hohman
Class Fund Chair
MaryDaye_Hohman@Vanguard.com

1972

Rev. Eric C. Shafer
Class Fund Chair
ericshafer@hotmail.com

1973

Jeffrey R. Dundon
Class Fund Chair
jeffreydundon73@gmail.com

Kathy Dittmar Joslyn
Reunion Chair
wien7172@yahoo.com

1976

Tom Hadzor
Class Fund Chair
T.hadzor@duke.edu

1977

Steven and
Susan M. Ettelman Eisenhauer
Class Fund Co-Chairs
steve@congruencewines.com

1978

Donna Bradley Tyson
Class Fund Chair
dbtyson@aol.com

Barbara Shoemaker Kehr –
Reunion Chair
bkehr@earthlink.net

1979

Andrew M. Hutter
Class Fund Chair
amhutter@comcast.net

1980

Kim Barth Kembel
Class Fund Chair
bkembel@verizon.net

CLASS NOTES

1981

Craig Saft
Class Fund Chair
craigs620@gmail.com

1982

William J. and
Tambria Johnson O'Shaughnessy
Class Fund Co-Chairs
wtoshau@verizon.net

1983

Tammy L. Bormann
Class Fund Chair
tlbormann@comcast.net
Rich Guss
Reunion Chair
rguss@newjerseylaw.net

1984

Michelle Rein Pressman
Class Fund Chair
mjpressman@comcast.net

1985

Carolyn Ricca Parelli
Class Fund Chair
csparelli@gmail.com

1986

Paul "Chip" Hurd, Jr.
Class Fund Chair
pmhref@verizon.net

1987

Eileen Collins Neri
Class Fund Chair
ecneri@verizon.net

1988

V. Scott Koerwer
Class Fund Chair
skoerwer@mac.com
Joann Gaughran
Reunion Chair
joann_gaughran@merck.com

1989

Jeff Vaughan
Class Fund Chair
jv@voncom.com

1991

Christopher Parkes
Class Fund Chair
cparkes@conceptiii.com

1992

Rebecca Miller Provencal
Class Fund Chair
theprovincals@msn.com

1993

Jill M. Poretta
Class Fund Chair
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Liza A. Bertini
Reunion Chair
liza@devotionyoga.com

1994

Bret G. Kobler
Class Fund Chair
bret.kobler@morganstanley.com

1995

Alyssa J. Picard
Class Fund Chair
picarda@umich.edu

1996

Mikel and
Melissa Wasserman Daniels
Class Fund Co-Chairs
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1997

Courtenay Cooper Hall
Class Fund Chair
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1998

Joshua A. Lindland
Class Fund Chair
joshua.lindland@gmail.com

1999

Matthew R. Sordoni
Class Fund Chair
matthewsordoni@msn.com

2000

Drew J. Bitterman
Class Fund Chair

2001

Christopher A. Lee
Class Fund Chair
christopher_a_lee@hotmail.com

2002

Adam Marles
Class Fund Chair
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2003

Laura A. Garland
Class Fund Chair
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2004

Robyn M. Duda
Class Fund Chair
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2005

Chelsea M. Gomez Starkowski
Class Fund Chair
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2006

Elizabeth R. Hamilton
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2008

Allison C. Schnall
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Allison.Schnall@gmail.com

Kristel R. Dow
Class Fund Co-Chair
kristeldow@gmail.com

Lisa Harrison
Reunion Chair
L.M.Harrison@gmail.com

2009

Brittany A. Barton
Class Fund Chair
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2010

Jonathan Falk
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jfalk715@gmail.com
Alysea McDonald
Class Fund Co-Chair
alysea.mcdonald@gmail.com

Jessica Davis
Class Fund Co-Chair
JessDavis1@gmail.com

2011

Kelly E. Frazee
Class Fund Co-Chair
frazee.kelly@gmail.com
Catherine S. Schwartz
Class Fund Co-Chair
c.schwartz89@gmail.com

2012

Jessica L. Strauss
Class Fund Co-Chair
jstrauss101@gmail.com
Jeffrey P. Brancato
Class Fund Co-Chair
brancatojeff@gmail.com

2013

Nina E. Pongratz
Class Fund Co-Chair
npongratz@gmail.com
Nashalys Rodriguez
Class Fund Co-Chair
nashkrod@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

1934

Dr. Ralph G. Keepport died January 21, 2012. He was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn (Barbour) Keepport, and is survived by his two children, seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

1935

Hubert H. Bury P'69 died on April 19, 2012. He is survived by sons, John, and Robert '69. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty Jane. He was also an uncle to Lewis Behringer '69 and Rev. Janet B. Grill '69.

1942

George W. Cressman died on March 12, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; children, Sally Bishko, Margaret, George, Nancy DeCorrevont, Peter, John and Mark. • **Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Fetter** died on April 26, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Theresa. • **Bartine A. Shupp** died on June 20, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Sare; and son, William.

1943

James M. Keiter died on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

1944

Rev. Richard G. Hoffert died on July 19, 2012. • **Dr. Eugene R. Kertis** died on May 27, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; and sons, David, John and Paul. • **Lionel P. Minard Jr.** died on August 25, 2012.

1947

James D. (Jim) Wilder died on August 27, 2012. He is survived by Vona, his wife of 62 years, and their four children and their families.

1948

Dr. James R. Leiby died on February 12, 2012. He is survived by a son, Adlai; and a daughter, Ellen. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean. • **Bernard Pignatari** died on May 6, 2012. He is survived by his sister, Theresa Kushner. He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy.

1949

David L. Hilder died on May 25, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Laverne; son, David; and daughter, Maryellen Berger. He was predeceased by his first wife, Lucy Romig Hilder. • **Dr. Robert E. Walck, Jr.** died on June 29, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Flora, and two sons.

1950

Ferdinand Heller died on June 16, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; sons, Bob, David and John; and daughters, Patti Braun and Joan McAdoo. • **Michael Mavrides** died on August 1, 2012. • **Irwin Salitsky** died on August 26, 2012. He was predeceased by his wife Claire Salitsky. He is survived by daughters Ann Salitsky and Irene Make. • **Richard S. Wieland** died on May 14, 2012. He is survived by his brother, Robert. He was predeceased by his wife, Ann "Nancy." • **Peter A. Yurcuck** died on May 10, 2012. He is survived by daughters, Susan Sebastian and Dorothy Allen. He was predeceased by his wife, Charlotte "Sara."

1951

Harry J. Buchecker died on June 16, 2012. He is survived by nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Marion. • **William A. Milller** died on June 16, 2012. He is survived by his son, William D. Miller; and daughters Sandy Rutherford and Brenda Burian. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty.

1952

Dr. Richard C. Howell died on June 12, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte; and sons, Daniel, David, Timothy and Philip. • **Dr. David P. Jentsch P'83** died on May 1, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Betty); daughters, Lisa O'Brien, Karen Hurtado, and Deborah Jentsch '83; and brothers, Theodore '45 and Richard '54. He was predeceased by his father, Werner '19 and uncle, Hans '33.

1953

Dr. Remo Bedotto, Jr. died on July 14, 2012. • **Joseph W. Gower** died on Tuesday, August 28, 2012. He was the loving husband of Doris (Williams) Gower. • **Alexander C. Schaus**

died on June 30, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Leslie; children, Elizabeth Strong, Amy Tarantole, Margaret Knittle, JoHanna Archambault and Eric Schaus; and step-children, Elizabeth Truax and Marguerite Fenton. His former wife, Christine Montgomery also survives. • **Edward J. Seitz** died on May 5, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Irene; sons, Edward and Eric; and step-children, Noreen Mackay and Tim Caddenand. He was predeceased by his first wife, Therese.

1954

Leon F. Huebner P'91 died on April 7, 2012. He is survived by his wife, June P'91; and son, Erik '91. He was predeceased by his daughter, Lisa.

1956

Rev. Jerry J. Hargrove died on June 24, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Calvina; daughter, Laura Hargrove; son, Jerry III; stepdaughters, Rev. Deborah Dussard, Joann Cheeks and Charlene Morgan; and stepsons, Lawrence Williamson and Charles Mans. He was predeceased by his first wife, Margaret.

1958

William C. Dissinger died on May 8, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Anne; daughters, Kristin Dissinger and Jennifer Pratt.

1962

Caroline J. Fetterolf died on Friday, March 16, 2012.

1963

Margaret Deermount died on Saturday, August 11, 2012.

1964

Eleanor M. (Jasch) Jefferson died on May 2, 2012. She is survived by her daughters, Shannon Lahiff and Lindsay Jefferson. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas.

1966

William B. Miller died on July 2, 2012.

IN MEMORIAM

1967

Dr. Robert L. McGuire died August 19, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Linda McGuire; children, Dr. Heather McGuire (Todd Mays) of Billings, Mont., and Sean (Jennifer) McGuire of Casper; two grandchildren; and three siblings.

1971

Martha V. Hermann died on October 19, 2011.

1974

William M. Scholtz died on May 20, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Joan; mother, Maria; son, Robert; and daughter, Katherine. He was predeceased by his daughter, Kimberly.

1976

George Hutnick died on August 29, 2012.

1991

Jefferson Dean Slatoff died on September 10, 2012. He is survived by two children, Nicholas Dean Slatoff and Tyler Christian Slatoff; and their mother, Heather Slatoff.

1992

Krista S. Kelly died on June 5, 2012. She is survived by her husband, Brendan '92; daughters, Gabrielle and Emma; father, Rev. James O'Connor P'92, P'98; and, sister, Katharine O'Connor Geren '98. She was predeceased by her mother, Karen O'Connor, P'92, P'98.

1996

Lora E. (Michalak) Angelillo died on June 5, 2012.

Presidents Message, continued from page 1

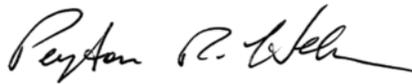
one-third that of the average of a comparison group of schools like Dickinson, Bucknell, Ursinus, Gettysburg, Skidmore, Franklin and Marshall and others. Our support staff is about two-thirds the comparison group's average. Our faculty still teach six courses a year (in addition to advising, mentoring, committee work, and research), compared to a four or five course load at many of our peers.

Why don't we read about these facts in the national media? Well, for one thing, they are not sensational enough to get readers' attention. And, for another, of some 4,000 institutions of higher education in the United States, only about 3 percent are small, private, residential liberal arts colleges like Muhlenberg. We're good, in fact we're superb, but we're not typical.

By now, if you are a true believer in the life-changing power of the liberal arts, you may be disgusted by all this talk of return on investment. I empathize. Life is not all about work, nor can a life's value be measured in dollars and cents.

The liberal arts equip our graduates to live their lives to the fullest, to be inspired by the arts, to comprehend mankind's history, to appreciate diverse cultures, to create, to explore, to develop new knowledge. The stem-cell researcher who still plays the trumpet; the investment banker who coaches kids in the Special Olympics; the physician who collects contemporary paintings; the businessman who supports the opera; the accountant who immerses herself in literature; the lawyer who serves on the board of the local homeless shelter; the pastor, the social worker, the teacher and many, many others. These and about twenty thousand more Muhlenberg alumni can testify that what we do on this campus changes lives for the better, and enriches society along the way.

The numbers simply confirm what our hearts already knew. We need not apologize. We have a great story to tell – and all of us who love Muhlenberg have an obligation to tell it.



Peyton R. Helm
President, Muhlenberg College

¹ http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d11/tables/dt11_345.asp

² http://trends.collegeboard.org/downloads/student_aid/PDF/Trends_in_Student_Aid_2011_Student_Debt.pdf

³ David Feldman, "Newsflash: College is a Bargain" New York Daily News, June 3, 2012.

⁴ <http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/collegepayoff-complete.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.payscale.com/best-colleges/top-liberal-arts-colleges.asp>

continued from page 15

the variety of skills required to meet those responsibilities with the panache that Carol has always displayed."

When reflecting on the last decades, Wilson says, "Muhlenberg has absolutely become better and stronger." She looks forward to seeing the College's development and is confident that Huber will lead it to greater success.

Wilson wants the 'Berg community to know, "I feel truly blessed to be here, truly blessed at how many employees across the campus, including faculty members, secretaries, the plant operation staff and everyone else, are hardworking and dedicated to making this as great a place as possible. That just isn't common at other universities."

Muhlenberg was incredibly lucky to have

the commitment and contribution of Carol Shiner Wilson. Her accomplishments and extraordinary passion for her work will continue to inspire the College community and change students' lives for the better.

President Helm perhaps says it best when he states, "A kind heart, a sharp mind and a deep sense of humanity—hard to find in one package, but Carol has it all."



Before the Trexler Pavilion was built in 1999, before South and Robertson Halls joined Benfer Hall as student residences, Bernheim House stood on the yet-to-be-developed south end of campus. Named for former registrar Oscar Bernheim (and the administrator's home for many years), the building served as special interest housing for theatre students. For a few years after Bernheim House was bulldozed, there were rumors of friendly ghostly activity, though those have died down over the years.

Currently, the Trexler Pavilion houses the department of theatre and dance, scene shop, costume shop, rehearsal halls, the box office, and two smaller Studio Theatres. It also houses the "Lavender Lounge," a student lounge, green room and dressing rooms. The Dorothy Hess Baker Theatre is the jewel in the crown of the Trexler Pavilion, completed in 1999. An elegant but intimate Broadway-style proscenium theatre, the Baker seats 365 on two levels, orchestra and balcony. The Pavilion's defining architectural feature is its sweeping curved glass facade, enclosing the front of the Baker Theatre and two levels of lobby space known affectionately among students as "the fishbowl," a favorite spot for student meetings and scene rehearsal. In this photograph, the Pavilion was part of the "Light It Up Blue" campaign for autism awareness.

THEN AND NOW.





*Albert Kipa, Ph.D.
Professor Laureate of
Comparative Literature,
Emeritus*

The Last Word

(but only of a Chapter of Life).

What can one say after a half century in the limelight attempting to profess life's insights, share knowledge and skills, arouse curiosity, stimulate interest, as well as confess ignorance? Prudence urges silence. But it is time to turn the page, and a moment of introspection suggests acknowledgement of indebtedness and gratitude would be in order.

Fifty-four years ago I enrolled at the City College of New York and have been privileged to live and thrive in academic communities ever since. For the opportunity I am profoundly grateful to Divine Providence and the people who made a difference – my parents who not only gave me life but also guidance on how to live it; Oksana, my partner in life, love and laughter, who has been not only a devoted, indefatigable wife and mother, but also successfully pursued her own calling in education; our sons, both Muhlenberg graduates, both making a Dean's list, one the academic Dean's, the other the Dean of Students' list; as well as my sister, brother, in-laws and other extended family members, and of course, my many teachers and professors, later colleagues and friends, and particularly the Muhlenberg community over the last 46 years. Among the latter, I wish to thank the members, past and present, of my department, of the many administrations, of the numerous campus programs and undertakings in which I participated, as well as my many students over the years who made my journey through professional life a truly fascinating hill and valley learning experience.

The experience did not lack memorable moments. I fondly recall presenting what I thought was an indisputable, convincing argument, to the dean, who after a short pause, simply retorted "Al, this is not heaven. This is Muhlenberg."

Noteworthy and laudable was the dedication and enthusiasm of students of German to successfully meet the challenge of staging selected scenes from Goethe's *FAUST, Part I*, on the occasion of the sesquicentennial of the author's death.

Unforgettable is the student whom I advised to consider the study of Russian to fulfill the College's language requirement. "No," the student replied unflinchingly, "I do not want to deal with the – eh – acrylic alphabet."

I cannot forget the admirable courage students displayed on a trip to the Soviet Union when a member of our group was detained for unspecified reasons at the Moscow airport prior to our departure for New York. For three hours they sat on the floor outside the departure gate and refused to budge until their colleague was released.

Nor will I forget the students who presented me with a copy of the then latest study of "Thank you for a year of learning and laughter in the Russian language!"

Language, literature and culture were my passion. I aspired to share it. Language is, of course, the material of literature and the carrier of culture. So allow me a few words about it.

Language aficionados have noted innumerable times that language, which grows out of

life, its needs and experiences, is mankind's most important invention. Moreover, they have been fascinated by the functions and magic of language, and have observed that language and knowledge are interdependent, indeed "indissolubly connected."

Where would we be without language? It is after all our means of communication, our means of understanding ourselves and our fellow human beings. Paradoxical as it may seem, language can also be a barrier to those ends if we do not study our own and that of our neighbors around the world. While one may still argue about the validity of linguistic determinism, i.e. the extent to which language determines the way we think, it is fairly obvious that language affects our thinking and influences the way we perceive and remember. Moreover, our use of language conveys personal identity by revealing a great deal about ourselves, thus assuming a central integrating role across all spheres of our life.

Recent studies on the future of languages indicate that the status of English as a global language will eventually peak and suggest that the vision of English as the lingua franca of the world is no longer realistic. To be sure, English is well established and will continue to dominate scientific fields: 90% of their journals are printed in English today. But, population growth has been greater among speakers of languages other than English and is expected to stay the course, thus ultimately creating a "new linguistic order" in which monolingual speakers may find it difficult to fully participate.

The fact that you and I speak English is the luck of the draw or simply an accident of circumstance. That does give us a linguistic advantage in today's world. Just how well the world knows English is perhaps interestingly illustrated by a few examples of translation howlers encountered abroad. These verbal quirks often have a charm that lingers in my – and other's – memory. We must, of course, remember that the rest of the world is far better at English than we are at German or Mandarin or Russian; it nevertheless seems hard not to smile/laugh when a hotel lobby

sign alerts you to "Beware of your luggage" or to "Please leave your values at the front desk," or a dry cleaner invites you to "Drop your trousers here for the best results," or a laundrette sign reads "Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time." I also enjoyed the hotel room notices that inform you "In your room you will find a minibar that is filled with alcoholics," or in case of emergency "Evacuate yourself with the staircase." Regrettably I never did get to ask the tailor "how's business?" whose shop sign urged customers to "Order your summers suit now, because is big rush, and we will execute customers in strict rotation." And how about a restaurant menu that informs you "Our wine list leaves you nothing to hope for"?

But, "hope springs eternal in the human breast..." Mr. Pope observed, and hope was and is a key concept in life and literature, "the real expression of all higher culture." I speak here of course of literature as an art form, of works of aesthetic worth and general intellectual distinction, which are a significant reflection of life, an imaginative extension of its possibilities and offer vicarious access to the most intimate inner recesses of the human mind and soul. As such, they invite us on an expedition to compare, contrast, and expand our previous experience with life and with language. That is literature's power – past and present. By passionately embracing its language, narrative and imagination, we broaden our horizons and thereby enrich and make us more humane human beings. In recognition of that, I tip my hat to the foresight and generosity of former Allentown banker and businessman John and his wife Fannie Saeger, who supported educational and cultural endeavors in the Lehigh Valley that included the endowed professorship in Comparative Literature at Muhlenberg. Due to inflation, the chair is now what the Germans call a "Titel ohne Mittel" (a title without means); the College could use more friends like the Saegers today.

To be born within days of the outbreak of World War Two would hardly seem auspicious. And it was not at the outset. Bombardments,

ruins, fear, hunger, suffering, deaths and insecurity are one part of my earliest memories; but, caring and courageous parents are another. Moreover, I grew up bilingually, acquiring command of Russian and Ukrainian the natural way, and subsequently learned first German and then English the "hard" way – initially through formal instruction, then via total immersion. As such I understood the challenges Muhlenberg's students were facing in their efforts to acquire second language skills. My challenge – met with varying degrees of success – was to convince them of the discipline and dedication needed to do well. *The Muhlenberg Weekly* headlined in my second year of teaching at Muhlenberg ("Mill Hill" in German) "Kipa animates language class, stresses responsible 'freedom'." At times some students subsequently would portray me as "authoritarian" or as a "slave driver," although I only expected accountability from them.

During the 46 years of my tenure at Muhlenberg, I saw the College grow and prosper from local to semi-national prominence. Its strength was rooted in its students and faculty. The latter's diversity in academic preparation and pedagogical methodology provided a variety of learning experiences for the former. The College in turn supported the faculty's scholarly endeavors to foster its intellectual and interdisciplinary growth.

At the conclusion of these not particularly sophisticated, but rather sentimental reminiscences, I wish to repeat my sincere *thank you, danke schön, дякую, спасибо, merci beaucoup, muchos gratias, gracie, tak sa myket...* to the members of the Muhlenberg community for the privilege and opportunities accorded me during the past 46 years, and to extend my wishes for health, wealth and good cheer – as well as the time to enjoy all three! in the years ahead in the important work of advancing and transmitting knowledge and cultivating new generations of intellectually curious and passionately engaged independent young people striving toward a humane and safer world for us all.

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

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Here and Now



Here in Ettinger I attend my favorite class, a seminar on World War I taught by Dr. Robert Croskey. The discussion is always interesting and helps me to view the past from a variety of perspectives.



Here at the Trexler Library, I spend time studying and doing research. Recently, I spent many late nights here while writing a paper about colonial America.



Here at the Life Sports Center, I come to work out at the end of the day. I coach a local softball team, so staying fit is very important to me.

Hi! My name is Kristen Vargo and I'm a junior **here** at Muhlenberg College studying history and secondary education. I love attending Muhlenberg because of the beautiful campus, the small classes and the opportunity to receive an outstanding liberal arts education. Read more to see what life at 'Berg is like **now**.

Now I need your help. The Muhlenberg Fund makes my amazing 'Berg experience possible by providing top-notch faculty, a quiet place to study and the chance to exercise in a comfortable, modern facility. Will you make a gift to The Muhlenberg Fund?

Make an online gift at muhlenberg.edu/makeagift, call 1-800-859-2243 or mail a check made payable to Muhlenberg College to 2400 Chew St., Allentown, PA 18104.

www.muhlenberg.edu