

Muhlenberg

Magazine



SUMMER 2025

A Profound Experience

Inside-Out courses bring together Muhlenberg students and incarcerated students, challenging worldviews and changing lives.

A Boundless Legacy

The campaign has ended, but its impact has just begun

Congrats, Grads!

The Class of 2025 celebrated the end of its Muhlenberg journey

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FEATURES



On Common Ground28

Classes that bring together Muhlenberg students and incarcerated students, Inside-Out courses, have the power to challenge worldviews and change lives. Significant federal grant funding is allowing the Inside-Out program to expand.



A Boundless Legacy38

With the help of unprecedented levels of support from volunteers, *Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg* exceeded its \$125 million goal. Here's what the campaign's success means for the future of Muhlenberg.

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ON THE COVER Anna Connolly '23 and Jason Hein discuss their group's final project at the closing ceremony for the 2023 Inside-Out course at the Lehigh County Jail. Photo by Marco Calderon.



Rapid Change, Time-Tested Values

In 2025, complexity is a way of life. As a society, we are assailed by competing agendas, diverse perspectives, and complicated decisions. How do we address these challenges in an environment of accelerating complexity and rapid change?

Paradoxically, the answer is a return to our nation's foundational values, which reflect the ideals of the American Enlightenment — reason, individual rights and liberties, and the cultivation of well-rounded individuals capable of critical thinking, effective communication, and civic responsibility. Our founders recognized that progress and success often lie in the ability to grasp nuance and forge consensus, and that this requires a keen understanding of human nature, the power of free individuals pursuing their own ends, and the potential held by free people working together for the common good.

Each of these principles is fundamental to the liberal arts. Indeed, the liberal arts are perhaps the most American form of education, and this issue of Muhlenberg Magazine demonstrates their power. "On Common Ground" (page 28) explores the college's Inside-Out program, an initiative that brings together Muhlenberg students and incarcerated students at the Lehigh County Jail for collaborative coursework, making a profound impact on both — and leveraging research demonstrating the benefits of education in reducing recidivism. In "Make America Smoke Again" (page 26), Kevin Welding '03, the associate director of the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, discusses the future of anti-smoking public health efforts. "A Boundless Legacy" (page 38) celebrates the college surpassing its \$125 million campaign goal two months ahead of schedule. There perhaps is no more direct reminder that it is the fruits of individual achievement, paired with the collective action of free people, that changes lives and builds great institutions.

Our work at Muhlenberg is both futuristic and deeply rooted in both American history and our mission. While our faculty, students, and alumni do extraordinarily sophisticated work, our devotion to reason, intellectual rigor, and the development of character and humanistic skills would find themselves at home at the Second Continental Congress, which convened just down the road 250 years ago, in May 1775. Its delegates wrestled with powerful principles of liberty and democracy and the financial and logistical challenges of waging war against the world's most powerful empire — an extraordinary balancing act.

The liberal arts require the ability to hold multiple truths at the same time — the ideal of the liberal arts, the abstractions of academia, the concrete realities of complex problems. Our founders succeeded, and we will too. What better way to demonstrate the power of our way of thinking and doing, the power of the liberal arts, than tackling the wicked problems that face our shared humanity?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



One of the Best

Professor of Biology Bruce Wightman ("A Leading Scholar," Spring 2025) is one of the best in a very competitive field. In his classes and lab, I developed certitude that speaking up to ask reflective and critical questions was necessary for any intellectually rigorous and honest endeavor. He and others like [Professors of Biology] Rich Niesenbaum and Elizabeth McCain inspired knowledge and confidence in many of us.

Jenn Baldwin '02

Via the Muhlenberg College Facebook page

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM **YOU**

If you see a story you like (or don't like), put your thoughts into an email to magazine@muhlenberg.edu. We deeply appreciate reader feedback and take it into consideration as we plan future issues. Thanks for reading!

ONLINE STORIES **NOT TO MISS**

Check out these features on Muhlenberg's news and magazine sites.



Working Together

Community internships challenge students to build skills and relationships through their work with partner organizations in Allentown and the greater Lehigh Valley. Learn about this program, which has been ongoing since 2009, at magazine.muhlenberg.edu/working-together.



The Muhlenberg Journey

Learn how the college's new curriculum challenges students to explore broadly before getting hands-on experience that will set them up for success in their chosen field. Watch a video about the educational journey of today's students at muhlenberg.edu/curriculumvideo.



An Impactful Internship at a Local Arts Nonprofit

Student writer Marie Tohill '25, a music and media and communication double major, spent the spring semester as a public relations intern for one of the Lehigh Valley's most expansive arts organizations, ArtsQuest. Read about her experience at muhlenberg.edu/artsquestintern.



Celebrating the **Class of 2025**



On Sunday, May 18, 457 members of Muhlenberg's Class of 2025, along with their families, their friends, and Muhlenberg faculty and staff, gathered in Allentown's PPL Center to celebrate the college's 2025 commencement. It was the first spring commencement to include graduate students, with 18 of them celebrating the completion of their master's degrees.

President Kathleen Harring, Ph.D., led the ceremony. Honorary degree recipient Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D., an award-winning psychologist widely known for her expertise on race relations and as a thought leader in higher education, delivered the commencement address. In addition to Tatum, Jacy Good '08, a nationally known and awarded advocate and public speaker for cell-free roads, received an honorary degree.

Tatum's speech offered advice from a sixth-century monk, Saint Benedict, who wrote a set of instructions for other monks. One translation of those instructions included this wisdom: "Life will always provide matters for concern. Yet each day brings reasons for joy." Tatum reflected on the uncertainty of the current times and the challenges the world faces.

"For sure, there is plenty to worry about," she said. "But truly each day does bring with it reasons for joy. Finding reasons for daily joy is one of the best ways to preserve your own mental health and carry the weight of the world lightly on your shoulders. For me, finding reasons for joy has become a daily practice."

Tatum, who's also president emerita of Spelman College and author of the New York Times bestseller "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race," shared that she has found joy in three broad categories: connecting with other people, solving challenging problems, and cultivating a sense of purpose.

"Being here with all of you, on the cusp of the next chapter of your lives, with all the energy and promise you bring — today, that is my reason for joy," she concluded.

The two graduates who addressed their classmates were Teigan Brown, a neuroscience major, and Christine Compton, a business administration major in the School of Continuing Studies.

"It's nearly impossible to attend this small-but-mighty liberal arts institution and not walk away a changed person," Brown said. She spoke about her research with Stanley Road Professor of Neuroscience Jeremy Alden Teissere, Ph.D. In it, she collected eggs from frogs and used them to explore the anti-anxiety properties of skullcap, an herb, making novel discoveries.

"Even though I've had to say goodbye to my frogs and leave my lab notebook behind, I'm empowered by

my ultimate discovery: I am and will always be a scientist," said Brown, who is planning to apply to graduate school. "No matter where I am or what I'm doing, I will always be imaginative and clever. I will always be a catalyst for change."

Compton, who is part of the financial clearance leadership team at Lehigh Valley Health Network/Jefferson Health, gave a special shoutout to her fellow adult learners, who had to balance classes and homework with work and family obligations. Her own journey was defined by a personal tragedy that left her a single mother of two teenagers.

"There were days when my to-do list looked like a CVS receipt," she said. "I was juggling work, parenting, and school, trying to hold everything together. That grief taught me that resilience isn't about figuring it all out. It's about moving forward anyway — even when you're running on cold coffee, glitchy Wi-Fi, and sheer willpower."

"My children have always been my purpose. Everything I've done has been for them," she continued. "I wanted to show them — and myself — that it's never too late to grow, to lead, and to build the life we believe in. Every step forward was driven by the hope of being a role model — someone who keeps showing up, even when it's hard."

In her closing address, Harring spoke about the value of a liberal arts education. Liberal arts colleges were established at the height of the American Enlightenment and reflect its ideals: reason, individual rights, critical thinking, effective communication, and civic responsibility.

"Whatever you majored in, there's a good chance that your career won't focus on that specific discipline," she said. "There often is not a straight path from your major to your profession. And that is not a weakness. That's a strength."

Harring reflected on students' accomplishments during their time at Muhlenberg, what they're likely to achieve as graduates, and how their achievements will change the world. Students will apply what they've learned toward solving the world's complex problems, she said, and provide leadership that supports a healthy democracy.

"Our brand of liberal arts education is an expression of American democracy's best parts. We are, each of us, empowered to pursue our own ends, and that is good," Harring said. "A liberal arts education requires us to work together. Democracy requires us to work together. And that is good. When we do that in a principled and ethical way — when we lead with our minds and our hearts — we better the world."

Visit muhlenberg.edu/commencement for more coverage, including photos and video. —Meghan Kita

Muhlenberg Receives \$1 M Gift to Establish Endowed Professorship in Accounting, Business, Economics, or Finance



PHOTO BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO

The inaugural William R. Breidenthall '41 Professor in Economics, Ranajoy Ray-Chaudhuri

This gift from the Breidenthall family, along with \$1 million in matching funds from the estate of Edward '42 and Lois Robertson, will allow Muhlenberg to establish the William R. Breidenthall, Ph.B., CPA Class of 1941 Professorship in Accounting, Business, Economics, or Finance. The establishment of endowed professorships was one of the seven key priorities of *Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg*, which concluded June 30.

"Accounting, business, economics, and finance are areas of immense student interest and growth," says President Kathleen Harring. "Studying these disciplines within the context of the liberal arts leads to powerful outcomes for our graduates. I am so grateful to the Breidenthall family for their support."

The Breidenthall family has a long relationship with Muhlenberg, beginning with William R. Breidenthall, who graduated in the Class of 1941. The Breidenthall family is

extremely pleased to make this gift in support of retaining and rewarding the best and brightest faculty members and is excited to remain involved in the pursuit of the best possible business-based education at Muhlenberg.

The inaugural William R. Breidenthall '41 Professor in Economics will be Ranajoy Ray-Chaudhuri. Ray-Chaudhuri, who joined Muhlenberg in 2015, is currently an associate professor of economics and director of the Muhlenberg Scholars honors program. He is a past recipient of the Bridge Builder Award (2017, 2019, and 2022) and the author of two books, "Central Bank Independence, Regulations, and Monetary Policy: From Germany and Greece to China and the U.S." and "The Changing Face of American Banking: Deregulation, Reregulation, and the Global Financial System." He earned his B.A. from Jadavpur University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the Ohio State University. —MK



PHOTO BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO

The inaugural Tammy L. Bormann '83 P'16 and Mark J. Paris '80 P'16 Endowed Professor in Political Philosophy, Giacomo Gambino

Muhlenberg Receives \$1M Gift to Establish Endowed Professorship in Political Philosophy

This gift from Tammy Bormann '83 P'16 and Mark Paris '80 P'16, along with \$1 million in matching funds from the estate of Edward '42 and Lois Robertson, will allow Muhlenberg to establish the Tammy L. Bormann '83 P'16 and Mark J. Paris '80 P'16 Endowed Professorship in Political Philosophy. The establishment of endowed professorships was one of the seven key priorities of *Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg*, which concluded June 30.

"Mark and Tammy are strong believers in the power of a liberal arts education," says President Kathleen Haring. "This endowed professorship will support a truly interdisciplinary area of study that's critical to understanding our evolving global political landscape. I am so grateful for Mark and Tammy's generosity."

Bormann is founder and principal of the TLB Collective, a national consulting firm that focuses on inclusive organizational development and leadership practice. Paris is managing partner at Creative Climate Capital. Both have been active, engaged, and generous alumni since graduating. They each served for many years as trustees of the college and were also co-chairs of the *Boundless* campaign.

"As a political philosophy major at Muhlenberg, I loved the interdisciplinary nature of my studies in the building blocks of modern political thought," Paris says. "It was not just an intellectual obsession for me then, but it is the underpinning of how I move in the world today."

"Mark and I are deeply honored that this professorship will help ensure Muhlenberg remains a place where passionate, gifted faculty can thrive," Bormann says. "Political philosophy has shaped our own lives in profound ways, and we're proud to support a field that continues to challenge minds, foster critical thinking, and enrich the academic soul of the college we love."

The inaugural Tammy L. Bormann '83 P'16 and Mark J. Paris '80 P'16 Endowed Professor in Political Philosophy will be Giacomo Gambino. Gambino, who joined Muhlenberg in 1990, is currently a professor of political science, the co-director of the philosophy and political thought program, and the pre-law advisor. He is a past recipient of the Paul C. Empie Memorial Award for Teaching, was named the Donald and Anne Shire Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2002, and serves as the college marshal. He earned his B.A. from Rutgers University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Duke University. —MK



PHOTO BY SIERRA ADDY '27



PHOTO BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO

LIVING THE 'BERG LIFE

Clockwise from top left:
the Roots and Rhythms Dance Showcase,
the psychology special topics course Canine
Cognition, the campus celebration of Holi,
and students with baby goats
on Recharge Day



PHOTO BY AMALYA SINOFF '25



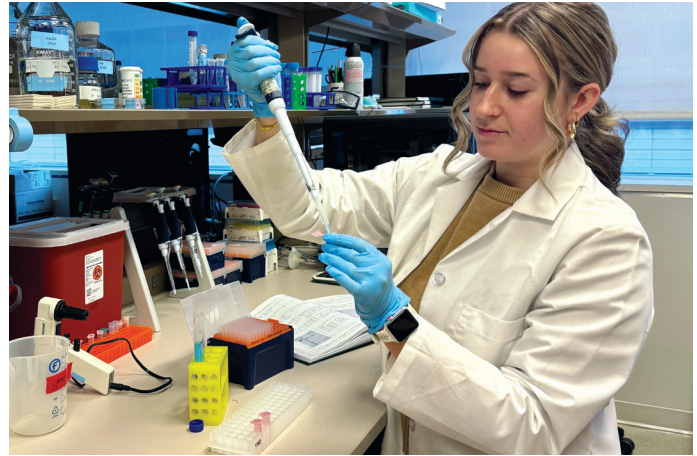
PHOTO BY MARCO CALDERON

Neuroscience Alum Is First Author on Publication in Nature

Julia Rocereta '19, a pharmacology Ph.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania, became interested in her field of study through her research experiences as an undergraduate with Stanley Road Professor of Neuroscience Jeremy Teissere.

"That was my first introduction to the world of pharmacology, and it really complemented my coursework," says Rocereta, who was a neuroscience major and a public health minor.

After Muhlenberg, Rocereta spent two years as a post-baccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award Fellow with the National Institutes of Health. She began her studies at Penn in 2021. In the lab, she began using cryo-electron microscopy to explore how drugs bind to proteins. She focused on an FDA-approved drug that has recently shown promise repurposing for cardiovascular indication. That work became "Structural Insights Into TRPV2 Modulation by Probenecid," a paper



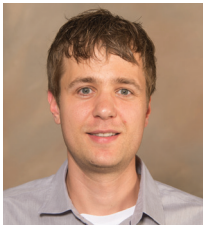
Julia Rocereta '19 in her lab at the University of Pennsylvania

published in the journal Nature Structural & Molecular Biology in February.

"Nature is one of the most prestigious scientific journals in the world," says Dean of Academic Life Gretchen Gotthard, who's also a faculty member in neuroscience and psychology. "Being first author on an article in this journal, especially as a grad student, is special." —MK

Why I Study ... cognitive neuroscience

Associate Professor of Neuroscience Matthieu de Wit



I have always had an interest in animals, so when it was time for college, I was considering studying ethology, that

is, animal behavior. I realized I had to get through a lot of biology I was less interested in before I got to the good stuff. Two of my brother's friends were studying psychology. I learned that it focused on the biological stuff I was interested in (the nervous system) plus behavior and cognition.

So I studied psychology at the University of Amsterdam. I read an article by psychologist James J. Gibson that strongly rejected the idea that neural activity is a representation of the environment or the body. I was offended by that at first because it was a foundational assumption of mainstream psychology. He wrote that the function of perception is to

perceive opportunities for action, arguing that perception and action are kind of folded into one. From an evolutionary standpoint that made a lot of sense. That reading led me to become interested in the philosophical underpinnings of science. If your assumptions are different, you're going to ask different questions and get to different understandings.

One of the same friends of my brother had started a Ph.D. at the Free University of Amsterdam. We were chatting and he said, "Oh, you've been reading Gibson? You've been reading about ecological psychology. My officemate is an ecological psychologist." And I was like, "This field exists? This isn't just some random, crazy stuff?" I arranged a meeting with his officemate and his advisor, and they allowed me to do an independent study.

That ultimately led me to pursue a Ph.D. in experimental psychology at the University of Hong Kong.

Then, I did a three-year postdoc in neurorehabilitation and translational neuroscience in Philadelphia. I worked primarily with stroke patients who had a disorder of skilled action that manifests in deficits using everyday tools such as utensils, affecting their ability to live independently. We were trying to develop more effective treatments and to better understand how neurologically intact brains support behavior and cognition.

My mentors were mostly writing grants. They were always asking, "What would the review committee like?" They weren't really pursuing their own questions. I wanted to stay in science, but I didn't want to be in this rat race. Then, I got an opportunity to adjunct at Franklin & Marshall College. That really opened up the world of the liberal arts to me. I really love the interdisciplinarity — the idea of approaching a question from multiple points of view, both in teaching and in research.

A Pillar of the Community

Luis Campos '99, Easton's city administrator and the vice chair of Governor Josh Shapiro's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs, utilizes skills he built at Muhlenberg in his work and his many volunteer leadership roles across the region and state.



PHOTOS BY MARCO CALDERON

Above, Luis Campos '99 overlooking Easton; at right, Campos with Executive Secretary Destiny Smith

As the city administrator for Easton, the easternmost city in the Lehigh Valley, Luis Campos '99 has his hands in just about everything. He is the first person to draft a budget each year before it goes to the mayor and city council for deliberation and final approval. He is the city's lead negotiator with labor, police, and fire unions. He meets weekly with the directors of each of the city's eight departments and attends city council, authority, and community board meetings. Campos has been in this role since 2016, and it has yet to lose its luster.

"I love the fact that I'm part of the apparatus that manages city government and can affect the community in a positive way," says Campos, who was an international studies major at

Muhlenberg. "I get up in the morning motivated to come in because I enjoy my job so much."

Campos and his family came to the United States from Nicaragua when he was 4 years old and moved to the Lehigh Valley shortly after. Easton Hospital had recruited his father, a surgeon, to serve the area's growing Spanish-speaking population. Campos got to know Muhlenberg through his father's connections with faculty working in the community, including Professor of Spanish Erika M. Sutherland and former Professor of History Anna Adams.

He chose his major hoping to learn more about the world, and he studied abroad three times as a Muhlenberg student. He spent a semester at the University of Chile, a month in Spain, and 10 days in Peru on a biology



“

Everything I did as a student, I still use those skills today. It's critical thinking skills, communication skills, presentation skills ... all those things, I learned at Muhlenberg.”

—LUIS CAMPOS '99

expedition. And from those experiences came papers: After Chile, he wrote about a transnational power company that was creating hydroelectric facilities there and the effects on the population and the environment. After Peru, where he was the only student not studying the sciences on the trip, he wrote about ecotourism. After some personal travels to Nicaragua, he wrote about the Nicaraguan economy. He later had the opportunity to present two of those papers at the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies annual conference.

“My professors saw something in me, and they really encouraged me to participate in independent studies,” he says. “[The conference] was an unbelievable experience in itself, to be able not only to write about something you’re studying but to be able to present it and then get questioned on it in real time. It was a lot more vibrant than just writing a paper and getting graded on it. I remember all this stuff like it was just yesterday, and sometimes I can’t even remember what I did last week.”

The Bormann–Paris Professor in Political Philosophy, Giacomo Gambino, encouraged Campos to pursue a master’s degree in political science at Lehigh University, and that’s where his focus shifted toward domestic political issues. He wrote his thesis on emerging U.S. Latino politics, and he has seen a massive shift in the Lehigh Valley — where 53.8% of the population of Allentown, 29.4% of Bethlehem, and 24.5% of Easton now identifies as Hispanic or Latino — in the decades he’s lived here.

“Things have changed night and day, from a small, fledgling type of community where, at

one time, the city of Allentown was seemingly combative to new immigrants, to today, where many Latinos, including myself, serve in leadership positions in government and are running not only small but mid-sized companies, and in some cases, larger companies in the [Lehigh] Valley,” says Campos, who serves as vice chair of Governor Josh Shapiro’s Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs. “Things have changed significantly.”

In addition to his duties as city administrator, Campos furthers his community involvement by volunteering with a variety of organizations. He helped launch and now coaches for the city of Easton’s youth basketball program, which allows children who are Easton residents to play on a competitive travel team at a reduced rate based on need. He also serves on the boards of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Fé Foundation (which delivers the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the Lehigh Valley’s educational and community development programs), Easton’s Third Street Alliance for Women & Children, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, and Lehigh Valley Public Media. He credits Muhlenberg — where his stepdaughter, Sofia Sotomayor ’27, is studying psychology — for setting him up for success in all the roles he fills.

“Everything I did as a student, I still use those skills today. I have to write a lot. I have to review a lot of documents. I have to communicate with [Easton’s] legal team, our directors, city council, the mayor, the public,” he says. “It’s critical thinking skills, communication skills, presentation skills ... all those things, I learned at Muhlenberg.”—MK

Muhlenberg Announces Faculty Promotions



Erika M. Sutherland (Spanish) was promoted to professor.

Sutherland's primary area is contemporary literature (1700-present) from Spain, with special interest in the representation of women, the body, and medicine. She also teaches community-based interpreting and translation, skills that allow Muhlenberg's heritage and advanced students to combine disparate areas of interest and study with Spanish in a high-demand field. On and beyond campus, she is a committed activist, organizer, and educator around immigration and immigrant rights. She holds a bachelor's from Bryn Mawr College and a master's and doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.



Karen Tuerk (environmental science) was promoted to senior lecturer.

Tuerk's introductory environmental science courses present the depth and breadth of topics covered in this interdisciplinary field of study. Students consider the human impact on ecosystems, water, and air quality and the cycling of elements. Her courses cover notable issues — including population growth, climate change, and agricultural practices — on both a local and global scale. Her graduate and post-graduate work focused on the unintentional impacts of human activities on marine and estuarine environments. She holds a bachelor's from Western Washington University and a master's from the College of Charleston.



Sara Vigneri (media and communication) was promoted to senior lecturer.

Vigneri uses journalism as a launching pad for exploring what it means to be an engaged citizen and to encourage students to ask big questions about the human condition. She has a keen interest in journalism ethics and fact-based reporting. Her classes provide a blend of journalism case studies, ethical discussions, and hands-on writing and reporting. She considers her role as faculty advisor to The Muhlenberg Weekly a significant aspect of her teaching. For over 20 years, she has worked as a reporter and editorial researcher/fact-checker. She holds a bachelor's from Rutgers University and a master's from the University of Pittsburgh.

Fahy Commons Earns New Sustainability Certification

Muhlenberg's Fahy Commons for Public Engagement and Innovation has added Phius Passive House Certification to its expanding list of sustainability accolades. The certification recognizes Fahy's rigorous level of energy efficiency blended with comfortable indoor spaces. Fahy is Pennsylvania's first non-dormitory higher education Passive House and the state's largest non-residential Passive House. In addition to the new Phius certification, Fahy Commons is LEED Platinum certified and the first project in the world to achieve Core Living Building Certification — a program administered by the International Living Future Institute. It has also been honored with three major sustainability and green-building awards.



The Fahy Commons for Public Engagement and Innovation

PHOTOS BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO

Muhlenberg in the Media

Director of the Institute of Public Opinion Christopher Borick (political science) was featured in Politico, Newsweek, and other outlets.

The Politico article "Some of the Country's Most Coveted Voters Are Fed Up With American Democracy" and the Newsweek article "Joe Biden's Six Biggest Blunders That Tarnished His Legacy" were among recent media hits for Borick, who appeared in the media at least weekly in the first quarter of 2025.

Maddie Davidson '25 was interviewed for the NPR show "1A."

In "Meet the young people fighting climate change with Bloomberg Philanthropies' help," Davidson spoke about her tree science and stewardship project that won a Youth Climate Action Fund grant from Allentown and led to her speaking at a Mexico City summit.

WHYY highlighted a play by Gabriel Jason Dean (English, theatre).

The article "Brother vs. Brother: InterAct Theatre's 'Rift' Experiments With Radical Empathy in Philadelphia" included comments from Dean about his play, "Rift, or White Lies," about two brothers separated by incarceration.

Lehigh Valley News interviewed Marten Edwards (biology) twice.

Edwards' insect expertise was featured in the stories "The Valley spared again? What we know about this year's spongy moth hatch" and "'Too soon to say too late': Monarch butterflies considered for Endangered Species Act."

PBS39 included Erika M. Sutherland (Spanish) in a roundtable on immigration.

In "A Community Conversation: Immigration Close to Home," Sutherland spoke on what immigration looks like in the Lehigh Valley and how immigration and deportation affect our neighbors, cities, state, and nation.

Kathleen Bachynski (public health) and Kimberly Heiman (biology) penned op-eds for The Morning Call.

The op-eds, "Trump Administration Actions Endangering Americans' Health" and "Trump's Policies Spell Disaster for the Environment," both ran in February.

Medical and Dental Students Earn Competitive Scholarships

Alpha Epsilon Delta, the national prehealth honor society, awards 20+ scholarships annually to members of active chapters. Each chapter in the country is permitted to nominate two members who have been accepted to professional school. For the past three years, both of Muhlenberg's nominees have been awarded scholarships.

"Muhlenberg students are not only getting into some great medical and dental schools, they are being recognized on a national level for their leadership and service to the community," says Cailin Cordon-Waldman, director of health professions advising. "We have so many outstanding students and alumni heading to professional school. I wish I could nominate all of them."

Each year for the past three, one of Muhlenberg's nominees won the \$3,000 Maurice and Charlotte Moore Scholarship; only one is awarded in each region annually. The other nominee won a \$2,000 Donald Schreiweis Scholarship; two or three are awarded in each region annually. Here are the alumni who have earned scholarships in the last three years and the medical or dental school they are attending:

- » Miranda Robinson '21 (Moore Scholarship),
UC San Diego School of Medicine
- » Natalie David '22 (Schreiweis Scholarship),
Emory University School of Medicine
- » Sofia Herrera '22 (Moore Scholarship),
University of Wisconsin–Madison School
of Medicine and Public Health
- » Nicole Randazza '23 (Schreiweis Scholarship),
University of Pennsylvania School of
Dental Medicine
- » Raivat Shah '23 (Moore Scholarship),
University of Michigan Medical School
- » Jacob Kunsman '24 (Schreiweis Scholarship),
Temple/St. Luke's School of Medicine



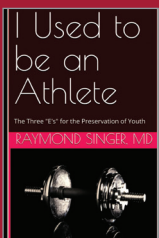
Brian Fishbone '98
"Inclusion on Demand"
 Podcast, 8 episodes
 (at press time)

The podcast discusses diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging topics. Fishbone is principal of his own firm, also called Inclusion on Demand, which offers consulting and facilitation for clients including Google, Unilever, Chubb, and Levi Strauss.



Nicole Lamprinos '25
"Stories from a Hospital Bed: A Hospital Memoir"
 Independently published,
 160 pages

Lamprinos recounts the twists and turns embedded in a turbulent five-year bout with ulcerative colitis and related surgical complications. She reflects on her journey of adapting to life with an ostomy bag, J-pouch, and more.



Raymond Singer, M.D. '80
"I Used to Be an Athlete: The Three 'E's' for the Preservation of Youth"
 Independently published,
 102 pages

Singer, the chief of cardiac surgery at Philadelphia's Jefferson Einstein Hospital, describes ways to improve personal health that are focused on eating, exercise, and emotion.

Props to You

As the founder and owner of Dogwood Entertainment, Ally Marman Mueller '05 faces challenges like, "How much should we charge this client who wants us to manufacture a 13-foot-tall Highland cow?"

Dogwood Entertainment produces custom props for film, television, and live events. Mueller, who was on the pre-med track before becoming a political science major at Muhlenberg, got into the business after holding positions in social work and fundraising. When she had kids and moved to New York's Hudson Valley, she sought a role outside New York City to be closer to home. A position as a producer for a local Halloween event piqued her interest, so she applied and got it.

"I just fell in love. It was mayhem all the time — things were going wrong constantly, but it was always about problem-solving and creativity," she says. "You're trying to create a memory for people, so you're weighing in on these design elements but also having to worry about budget, where you're going to place staff, how you're going to put this together, how you're going to break it down and store it. I loved it."

She founded her company in 2017 and has 12 year-round employees, with up to eight more helping in the busy season (from Halloween through Christmas). One of her largest clients is Monster Mini Golf, a chain of indoor mini-golf courses in the U.S. and Canada that is adding 25 locations over the next two years. In April, Mueller oversaw the installation of her company's set pieces in the Allentown location that opened two miles from Muhlenberg's campus.

Muhlenberg Magazine What's challenging about what you do?

Ally Marman Mueller '05 We do so much custom work. It's so hard to truly estimate what it's going to cost and how much time it will take because we hardly ever do the same thing twice. Even if we're doing something similar, it's still going to be different. It challenges us, design-wise. There are only so many ways you can do an "Alice in Wonderland" scene. There are only so many ways you can make a dinosaur. Every time, you're just pushing yourself.

MM What has Dogwood Entertainment gotten from its work with Monster Mini Golf?

AM It's been really good for us because our company is very seasonal. We do a lot of Halloween and a lot of Christmas, and what [Monster Mini Golf's owner] brings to us is year-round. So in our quieter months, we can run these props for him, get them prepped, get them painted. It keeps my staff busy. It keeps us going. It was cool to go back to Allentown and see how things have evolved and grown there.



Ally Marman Mueller '05 with a creepy clown at Allentown's Monster Mini Golf location, a peace sign crafted for the Keinemusik festival, the 13-foot-tall Highland cow

MM How has your career journey surprised you?

AM I had absolutely no idea that I would have ended up here. I'm 41 years old. At 18, I thought I was going to be a doctor. I was 1,000% wrong. Ironically, the reason I ended up officially leaving the pre-med track was because of chemistry, and we use chemicals all the time. In our chemistry room, we have casting chemicals and spray foams and silicones, all kinds of stuff. That was the reason I left, but that's what I do almost every day now.

Collaboration and Creation

Associate Professor of Theatre Leticia Robles-Moreno centers community-building and working together in her time with students in the classroom, on the stage, and beyond.



PHOTOS BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO

*Associate Professor
of Theatre Leticia
Robles-Moreno teaching
Dramatic Text in Action*

Anyone familiar with improv knows the concept of “yes, and”: An actor must go with the flow, working inside the world the other actors are building and then adding their own details to it. Associate Professor of Theatre Leticia Robles-Moreno has followed the same rule off the stage, and it ultimately brought her to Muhlenberg.

“My life has been a lot of finding opportunities and saying, ‘Well, why not? Let’s see. Let’s continue,’” she says.

Robles-Moreno began performing in improv groups and other productions as an undergraduate in her home country of Peru. She was studying literature, but she had always enjoyed attending

theatre. She then went to the University of Colorado at Boulder to get her master’s degree. Her plan was to return to Peru to teach during the day and do theatre in the evenings. But in Colorado, she fell in love.

She moved to the Lehigh Valley with her new husband and discovered that New York University offered a Ph.D. in performance studies, which combined her passions for literature and theatre. As she was completing her doctorate there, she met Associate Professor of French Ioanna Chatzidimitriou, who told her about Muhlenberg’s renowned theatre program. She began teaching Race and Performance as a Muhlenberg adjunct in 2016.

“When I started teaching here, I realized that the students in the theatre department but also in the liberal arts from different majors are smart, creative, and fun,” she says. “I enjoy teaching here with all my heart.”

Robles-Moreno has been a full-time faculty member since 2017, and she teaches introductory theatre courses as well as courses on race, gender, performance, and politics in the Americas. Those dovetail with her research, which is on artistic collaborations, specifically “creación colectiva,” the Latin American counterpart of devised theatre.

“The years in Latin American history and Peruvian history in particular — when these theatre groups that I worked with kept doing their art — were terrible. There was authoritarianism,

Robles-Moreno also builds community with students beyond the theatre program. She is the faculty advisor to Comunidad, the affinity group for Latine students, and to the newly formed student group Artists for Activism. One of her first-year students approached her with the idea to launch Artists for Activism, and she loves when students approach her with ideas.

“Every time students come to me and say, ‘OK, so I have this idea,’ I always say, ‘That idea is amazing. What do we need to do to make it happen?’” says Robles-Moreno, who learned this mentality from her graduate school mentor, NYU Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish Diana Taylor. “There is a sense that this generation is apathetic. I don’t think they are. I think there is



I just want my students to know that if they are feeling isolated or they feel like nobody’s going to understand what they’re going through, my door is always open. Making connections is something that we do every second, every minute, and in times of uncertainty, it is super important.”

— LETICIA ROBLES-MORENO (THEATRE)

the disappearance of people,” she says. “What can theatre and performance do in those cases? Nobody does theatre by themselves. We’re always working with somebody. ... Building community is a way of resistance and survival.”

Robles-Moreno’s students build community in her classes, which are discussion heavy and focused on collaboration and creation. She supports the departmental season, working at least one on-campus performance into each of her classes — students read and analyze the work before they go see it performed. She collaborates with fellow faculty, co-directing productions (most recently, 2023’s “The Labyrinth of Desire” with Associate Professor of Theatre Troy Dwyer) and bringing colleagues’ works to life. She took a sabbatical last year to teach in Peru, where she translated and produced a work by Assistant Professor of English Literatures and Writing and Theatre Gabriel Jason Dean. Dean visited to run a workshop with her Peruvian students and Muhlenberg students (who Zoomed in) and to see the performance.

a lot of exhaustion. I think COVID hit them very hard. But when they have an idea and they have the drive to do it, if they get enough support, if we listen to them and we tell them, ‘Yes, let’s do it,’ they’re going to do it.”

Students aren’t required to have ideas — or even to be theatre students — to approach Robles-Moreno. She welcomes conversations with any student who needs a sounding board.

“I think it’s important to say that we are living in uncertain times, and sometimes part of that uncertainty — what makes it really dire — is that you think that you’re by yourself. It is important to remember that you are not by yourself,” she says. “I just want my students to know that if they are feeling isolated or they feel like nobody’s going to understand what they’re going through, my door is always open. Making connections is something that we do every second, every minute, and in times of uncertainty, it is super important.” —MK

Q&A

10 Questions With ... Dave Martin '13

Senior manager, product supply chain at
Amazon Web Services, Redmond, Washington

3

What three songs best describe you?

"Slide Away" by Oasis

"Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac

"Time" by Pink Floyd

1

Describe what you do in five words or less.

Build AI's supply chain future

2

When did you know you wanted to be a procurement professional?

Over the course of my career, I kept seeing upstream issues causing downstream chaos. I thought, "Someone should fix that!" Turns out, that someone became me.

4

What is your favorite place?

St. Andrews, Scotland. Where else can you play historic golf, eat haggis, and feel like you're traveling through time? Plus, it reminds me of a lot of Muhlenberg buildings.

5

What quality in others do you most admire?

Pragmatic optimism or, as I like to call it, being an optimist who carries an umbrella

6

What are you secretly good at?

I'm basically a human flight tracker. Give me a plane overhead, and I'll tell you it's a Delta A321 headed to Seattle.

7

What's the best piece of advice you have received?

Listen more than you speak — you've got twice as many ears as mouths for a reason.

8

What is your most treasured possession?

A moderately nice pen I've somehow kept for 20 years

9

What historical figure do you most identify with?

Alan Turing. As a fellow neurodivergent pattern-spotter who loves order and direct communication, I relate.

10

What is your greatest fear?

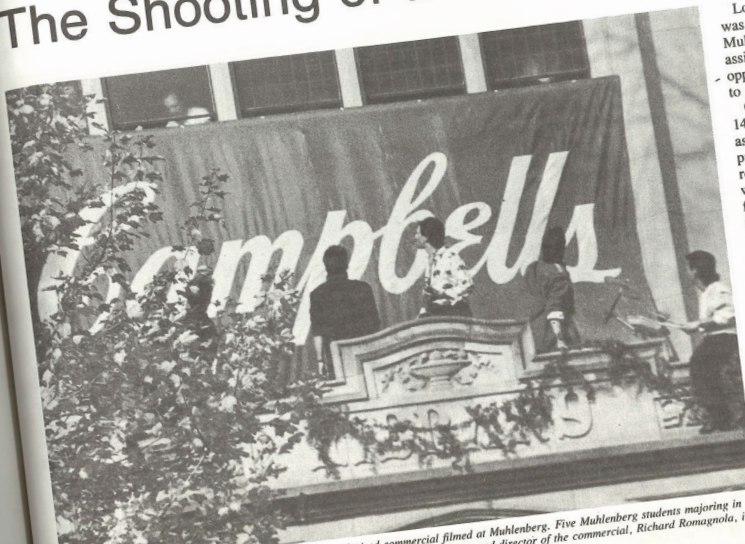
Classic parent answer: anything happening to my kids or partner. Also, running out of coffee — but that's less a fear and more an actual emergency.



Muhlenberg College

Fall 1985

Film Production 101: The Shooting of a TV Commercial



Locations were not the only part of Muhlenberg that was used. The production company had room for five Muhlenberg students to help on the set as production assistants. As one of those students, I received a great opportunity to work and learn in the field that I hope to enter after graduation in May.

Over the course of the four days of filming (October 14, 15, 16 and 17), all five student production assistants got a chance to get a full taste of a professional production in full swing. There was no room for error, and no time to be lazy. We were not working for a grade, we were working for real. A film set is a very busy place. There is always something to do and rarely enough people. It was only a short time before everyone, including ourselves, had forgotten that we were students and we became just members of the production team.

We were given all kinds of responsibilities. Students who worked with the Art Department were given tasks which ranged from collecting red leaves to be scattered in front of the library, to operating a smoke machine in the gym. I was assigned to the Assistant Producer, the man that gets to worry about everything. I did everything from buying umbrellas in bulk (try to explain to a cashier why you are buying six umbrellas at one time), to running the video assist on the film camera (a video tape machine which played back the different shots for the director), to recommending a good Chinese restaurant for take-out dinner. We all worked 10 to 16 hour days and were treated as professionals, by the professionals.

Personally, I have never had so much fun. This opportunity proved to me that I have both the attitude and the ability to work in the television field. I also

Christopher Gill '86

Five Muhlenberg students majoring in Film Production, including Christopher Gill, '86, and director of the commercial, Richard Romagnola, are seen on the set of the Campbell's commercial.

Live It Right

A Commercial Success

Alumni from the 1980s may remember the autumn 40 years ago when a production crew descended on campus to film a "music video" that was one part PSA and one part advertisement for Campbell's soup. The four-day shoot became a two-minute spot that aired on MTV. It starred dozens of actors and dancers and a mulleted band called On the Edge, according to the October 25, 1985, edition of The Muhlenberg Weekly.

The global ad agency BBDO produced the commercial, which was directed by Richard Romagnola, father of then-student Kim Romagnola '89. The college's Campbell's-label-red doors and proximity to New York City and Philadelphia sold it as a prime shooting location. Haas College Center, the Seegers Union Event Space, and Memorial Hall are among the recognizable

locations in the video, which features leotards, feathered hair, and an earnest pro-healthy-choices song called "Live It Right" that all feel straight out of a very special episode of your favorite 1980s sitcom. According to a Morning Call article from October 18, 1985, production required two eight-hour days, a 16-hour day, and a 12-hour day and "enough [electricity] to light an average house at night for a year and a half."

Chris Seivard '86, a communications major who was one of five students who helped with the shoot, primarily ran video assist. He remembers being home for winter break that year and seeing the ad airing between real music videos on MTV. "Who would have thought MTV would be an afterthought now?" says Seivard, who launched a 30-plus-year career in film and television, including as a cameraman for MTV, through one of the connections he made on the "Live It Right" set. "I can only watch 'Jersey Shore' so many times."

Read more and see the video by visiting magazine.muhlenberg.edu/liveitright.

Personally Speaking...



Sara Legnola '26

Business administration major and dance minor from Worcester, Pennsylvania

She chose her major out of admiration for her parents ...

"My parents are both in business. They're chiropractors, but they own their practice. As I've gotten older, I've had a lot of proud-daughter moments watching them reach milestones in their career. Getting to see them do what they love and make what they want out of their business has been a really cool experience, and I'm very proud of them and how far they've come. Studying business is versatile enough that I feel well equipped to enter any field. I have a stronger understanding of personal finance and finance at large and an understanding of how things operate within any industry."

... and she chose Muhlenberg because of its vibrant arts culture.

"I grew up dancing; I started when I was eight years old. One of my ballet teachers, Jessica Afflerbach '19, was a Muhlenberg alum. I was like, 'Maybe I should take a look.' I knew I wanted to be a business major, but I also wanted to be able to dance. Most schools looked at me like I had two heads. They were like, 'You kind of have to pick one.' But at Muhlenberg, I said, 'I would like to do both,' and they said, 'OK.' There are so many opportunities to dance here: You can take classes, be on recreational teams, participate in performances. I enjoyed that I could come to Muhlenberg and get my business education but also a dance education as part of it."

She's working on an honors thesis inspired by her family's business.

"My thesis uses census data to map every chiropractor in the United States. So I have these wonderful interactive maps that tell you how many chiropractors there are in a given state and the median income, the household poverty rates, and the unemployment rates for each county. I could see that there were chiropractic deserts in the United States, so the question became what causes them. I was like, 'What could be an even narrower niche from here?' And it was marketing. I'd taken a marketing class in the Department [of Accounting, Business, Economics, and Finance] and I really loved it. I'm doing a website analysis and talking to [chiropractors] about the mentality behind their websites and their marketing practices."

A professor nominated her to be a tutor, and she developed a passion for it.

"Freshman year, I was nominated to be a tutor by my Macroeconomics professor. I was like, 'I understand a lot of the concepts I've learned so far really well, and I would love to teach this to other people.' With our tutoring program, once you're nominated for one class, you're free to tutor for any class you've gotten a B or higher in, so I tutored in Spanish for a while. I took [Assistant Professor of Business Greg] Collins' Operations and Information Systems course. It was a really challenging class, but I wound up doing really well in it. His workshop tutor was graduating, so he asked, 'Would you be interested in taking over the workshop?' Because the concepts in the class were hard, I was excited to have a way to keep them fresh in my own mind. It was a really rewarding process for me to develop a framework that would help other people feel comfortable with the material. From a peer-to-peer standpoint, knowing that whoever is teaching you has been in your shoes very, very recently is a different kind of connection."

She was also elected to a leadership position with one of Muhlenberg's dance teams.

"I've had the opportunity to co-captain our commercial jazz team on campus, The Perkulators, with Jordan Lavalley '25. We have practice twice a week, and we perform at different college events, like Family Weekend and Muhlenberg's 175th anniversary celebration, and at halftime at the sports games. Football, basketball, men's and women's lacrosse — we're all over the place. I started with that team freshman year, and I wasn't sure if I was going to do it. There were so many things to try, and I wanted to do all of them. When they called to say I made the team, they were very encouraging and supportive, so I joined. It's exactly the kind of community that I needed coming into college, and I have a wonderful opportunity to foster that for other people now."



Clockwise from left, Gillian Zack '24 G'26, Joey Lamparelli '24 G'26, Bri Astbury '24 G'26, and Margaux Eripret '22 G'24

Back to 'Berg

The Muhlenberg softball team had just lost to Gettysburg in the 2024 Centennial Conference championship series, and as the seniors shared tearful hugs on the field, saddened by the end of their careers, one of them decided that she wasn't quite done yet.

Before the team boarded the bus for the long ride back from Washington College, Gillian Zack '24 G'26 told Head Coach Sarah Leavenworth that she would be playing for the Mules as a graduate student in 2025.

"I knew I wanted to go to grad school," says Zack, who is working toward a master's in organizational leadership (MOL) with a concentration in human resource management in Muhlenberg's School of Graduate Studies. "I just didn't know if that was going to be at Muhlenberg or somewhere else. It was right after that game that I decided. It was a mix of things. Definitely losing made me want to come back, but I also think that it was wanting to play for Muhlenberg again and not going and playing for a different team. There [are] just so many great people at Muhlenberg."

Zack is one of many Mule athletes who, due to COVID, had remaining eligibility when they earned their undergraduate degrees and elected to extend their

These student-athletes used their extra year of eligibility to compete for their teams while pursuing master's degrees from the School of Graduate Studies.

careers as grad students. Some transferred to other institutions, but for others, the ability to continue pursuing athletic goals with coaches and teammates they already knew and trusted, as well as small class sizes and strong faculty relationships that mirror the undergrad experience, was too much to pass up.

"After the way my senior season ended, it kind of was a no-brainer to come back to compete in wrestling again," says Joey Lamparelli '24 G'26, a 2023 Division III All-American whose 2024 season finished with a loss in the bout that would have earned him a return trip to nationals. "But it also felt like kind of a no-brainer to go back to Muhlenberg. I'm the kind of a person who needs to be somewhere where I feel comfortable."

Lamparelli, who is also in the MOL program and hopes to eventually manage a business, ended his grad season on the mat in a more satisfying way, winning his final bout and becoming only the third wrestler in program history to reach 100 career wins.

And as for his graduate school experience? "It's definitely putting me on a good path," he says. "All the professors are very helpful. They make you think outside the box and they push us."

Bri Astbury '24 G'26 was on the path to graduate school as an undergrad. A psychology major interested in sports analytics, she transferred some of the credits she earned for her statistics minor to the graduate program to complete a master's in applied analytics (MAA) early.

Astbury's graduate school experience is paying off in her job as a replay administrator for Major League Baseball. Based in the Replay Command Center in Manhattan, Astbury helps collect data every time there is a replay review in a MLB game — everything from the type of play, the umpires involved, the length of the review, and more. Within a couple of weeks of completing a project in data visualization in one of her Muhlenberg courses, she applied the principles to help make the data she collects for MLB more digestible.

Astbury considered getting her master's at other institutions, but ultimately the MAA program and the bond she felt with her women's soccer teammates made her want to stay. "I chose Muhlenberg once, and I wanted to choose it again," she says.

Margaux Eripret '22 G'24 chose Muhlenberg three times. One of the first Mules to compete as a graduate student, she returned for a fifth year after losing her junior basketball season to COVID and is currently the assistant director of admissions at Muhlenberg. She began her role in August 2024 within days of completing her final MOL course.

For Eripret, a native of Allentown, the ability to live at home, play another year of basketball, and earn a master's while exploring her postgraduate options proved to be the perfect combination. Eripret has shared her experience with prospective students.

"I have mentioned it on the road in my admissions presentations and interviews because I'll ask students where they see themselves in five, seven years or so, and there are a lot of students that don't know," she says. "So while I work primarily in undergraduate admissions, it is definitely something that comes up as a long-term conversation."

Most of the athletes whose eligibility was impacted by COVID have cycled through, but for any future Mules with the opportunity to extend their careers beyond their undergraduate days, remaining at Muhlenberg stands as a strong and viable option.

And the benefits go both ways, says Amy Filanowski, who has coached two Muhlenberg graduate students in track and field, both of whom earned All-America honors. "Grad students bring a slightly different dynamic to the team," she says. "They tend to have a high level of maturity and clarity about their goals, and often serve as strong role models for the undergrads."

"I would definitely say that I'm confident that I made the right decision staying at Muhlenberg to get my master's degree and use my extra year of eligibility to play," says Astbury. "I feel at home at Muhlenberg." —Mike Falk

MULE ROUND-UP

At the All-Atlantic Regional Track & Field Championships, javelin thrower Noel House '24 G'26 threw a season-best 63.3 meters. He went on to place 13th at the NCAA Championships, earning All-America honors for the second straight year. The **TRACK AND FIELD** season also saw the all-sophomore men's 4x100-meter relay team (Maxwell Broadbent, Bryce Rhodeman, Christopher Short, and Isaac Schaffer-Neitz, pictured) win gold at the Centennial Conference Championships with a conference-, meet-, and school-record time of 41.33 seconds. Another sophomore, Maya Richwine, was the top women's performer, contributing to five school records during the indoor and outdoor seasons. ... April 29 saw women's lacrosse, men's lacrosse, and softball all host and win playoff games. **WOMEN'S LACROSSE** toppled Ursinus to score its first CC playoff win ever and set a school record with its 14th win of the season. **MEN'S LACROSSE** held off Franklin & Marshall, 11-10, for its first CC playoff win ever. **SOFTBALL** won a playoff game for the third time in the last four years. Kaya Mahy '25 won the CC Gold Glove award as the top defensive player in the league. ... The **BASEBALL** team improved its record by 10 games from the 2024 season. Marc Quarrie '27 became the first All-American in program history after hitting .404, tying the school record for home runs (11), and setting a school record with 62 runs scored. ... **MEN'S TENNIS** ended the year with a record of 11-7, reaching double digits in wins for only the fourth time in program history.



Another Victory for Muhlenberg's Competitive Programming Team

In April, Muhlenberg's Competitive Programming Team — or, as the students on the team call it, “Nerd Club” — claimed its fourth victory since 2019 at the programming contest that's part of the Northeast Region's Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges. The team also won in 2023, 2022, and 2019.

The winning team included Andrew Franklin '25, a computer science major; Aidan Hamilton '26, a computer science major and mathematics minor; and Max Trimmer '27, a mathematics major.

“On the surface, Nerd Club is about interview prep and coding competitions — sharpening technical skills, practicing algorithms, and preparing for the kinds of challenges we face in tech interviews,” says Franklin, a student-athlete on the football and wrestling teams who was also part of the winning programming team in 2023. “But once you dig deeper, it becomes so much more than that. Nerd Club is like a family. It's a space where people from all kinds of backgrounds come together to learn, support each other, and grow. We collaborate, we compete, and most importantly, we have fun. The competitions are just one part of the experience — they bring out our best and show how strong we are when we work together.”

Nerd Club has about 20 total students who come to weekly meetings to discuss an algorithm not covered in class and work on solving related problems in LeetCode, a platform that helps students practice the types of coding problems that are often part of interviews for tech jobs.

“That's the main goal of Nerd Club: solving problems in a group setting and making sure everyone understands the solution,”



Aidan Hamilton '26, Andrew Franklin '25, and Max Trimmer '27

says Assistant Professor of Computer Science Proyash Podder, the group's advisor. “It's been a great way to get the students ready for the job market.”

Nerd Club alumni have gone on to positions with McKinsey & Co., Amazon, and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, among others. —MK

Data Show Strong Return on Investment for Muhlenberg College Degrees

New analysis of U.S. Department of Education data by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce shows that the value of a Muhlenberg College bachelor's degree is higher than 80% of degrees earned at the nation's 4,600 public, private, non- or for-profit colleges and universities by 15 years post-graduation. And the ROI of a Muhlenberg degree rises to the top 10% when measured at the 20-, 30-, or 40-year mark.

Overall, the data show that institutions primarily awarding shorter-term associate degrees and certificates initially return higher earnings. But earnings from bachelor's degree-awarding institutions rise significantly over time. After 40 years, almost all bachelor's degree earnings surpass the lifetime earnings of those with certificates and associate degrees.

However, the return on investment of a Muhlenberg College degree breaks through much earlier than that of most peer institutions, outpacing 80% of all types of degrees by the 15-year post-graduation mark and 90% by the 20-year mark.

Georgetown's study shines a light on the value of Muhlenberg's liberal arts education. “This is particularly significant data for independent colleges like Muhlenberg that value rigorous liberal arts academic programs. While higher earning is often associated only with engineering or computing degrees, our graduates earn degrees in areas as varied as the arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences, as well as computer science, business, and pre-professional programs,” says Muhlenberg Provost Laura Furge. —Carey Manzolillo

SELECTED SPRING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

PHOTO BY AMALYA SINOFF '25



Alpha Epsilon Delta Induction

Eighteen students were inducted into this prehealth honor society. Robert F. Heary, M.D. '82, a fellow in both the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Child Neurology Society, spoke at the event.

Audiobook Narration and Voice Acting Workshop

The Career Center brought representatives from the audiobook and podcast company Audible to campus to provide a workshop and scout for future talent. Seniors who participated were invited to audition with the company afterward.

"Blue Stockings"

Muhlenberg's Department of Theatre and Dance put on this play that follows the journey of four young women fighting for education and equality at Cambridge University in 1896.



PHOTO BY MARCO CALDERON

Funding Global Health Panel

Faculty from public health, economics, history, and political science gathered to present information on executive actions concerning the World Health Organization and U.S. Agency for International Development and to answer audience questions.



Mitch Myers

"Quiet Corners"

This Martin Art Gallery exhibition kicked off with a talk by Myers, an Emmy-winning 3D artist who produces digital artwork and animations.

Donavan Ramon, Ph.D.

"The Remix: Hip-Hop and Contemporary Memoirs by Black Men"

Ramon, an assistant professor of African American literature at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, offered close readings of key scenes that define memoirs by Black men and highlight hip-hop's influence over literature.

"Response and Repair: Higher Education, Corrections, and Solidarity"

This conference, sponsored by the college's Inside-Out program (learn more on page 28), brought more than 100 people to campus to discuss the responsibilities that local higher education institutions have in transforming systems and cultures of incarceration in the Lehigh Valley. The keynote speaker was Jarrett Harper, an advocate for criminal justice reform.



PHOTOS BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO

Rachel Werner, M.D., Ph.D.

"Health and Wealth: Understanding and Addressing Health Inequities in the United States"

Werner, the executive director of the University of Pennsylvania's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, discussed how economic and social factors — like income, insurance, and access — drive health disparities.

Muhlenberg Launches Scholarship Program for Displaced Workers

Muhlenberg's Displaced Workers Scholarship program is designed to support federal, state, and local government workers who have lost their jobs due to layoffs. This program also extends benefits to each of Muhlenberg's corporate partners, providing financial relief and career-focused educational opportunities for those seeking to reenter the workforce with new, in-demand skills. The new schol-

arship applies to all graduate, degree-completion, and continuing education programs. Qualifying students may receive an estimated scholarship value of up to \$5,250 for graduate programs and \$5,000 for undergraduate degree-completion programs. Displaced workers from Muhlenberg's partner institutions will receive the scholarship benefit of the highest value, whether from the partner agreement or the displaced worker program. Visit muhlenberg.edu/displacedworkers to learn more.

Make America Smoke Again

Public health efforts in the United States helped reduce cigarette use to historic lows. After cuts to key federal agencies, will our progress hold?

By Kevin Welding '03

Americans are far less likely to smoke today than they were 60 years ago — the smoking rate among adults in the country fell from 42.6% in 1965 to 11.6% in 2022. This 73% reduction took place after then-U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry released a 1964 report that found smoking raised the chances of developing lung cancer by up to 20 times and was also correlated with an increased risk for emphysema and coronary heart disease.

This report shook the country, and over time, we did a really good job of denormalizing smoking. Recent research from the American Cancer Society indicates that between 1970 and 2022, tobacco control efforts led to the prevention of 3.8 million lung cancer deaths, which equates to over 76 million years of life gained in the United States.

The changes happened incrementally and were driven locally and at the state level — for example, at one point in time, a waiter in California might have to inhale secondhand smoke as they served food, but in 1995, the state was the first to ban smoking in most workplaces. Also in the 1990s, dozens of state attorneys general brought lawsuits against the four largest tobacco companies that resulted in the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement, which raised the cost of cigarettes, prohibited advertising tobacco products to kids, and established the nonprofit Truth Initiative, the force behind the “You Don’t Always Die From Tobacco” PSAs that were ubiquitous on MTV and other youth-focused networks in the early aughts. I can still picture the 1,200 body bags they stacked outside the Philip Morris International (PMI) headquarters to signify the deaths caused by tobacco use each day.

I primarily work in low- and middle-income countries where the burden of tobacco is the greatest, places where the tobacco industry uses the playbook we saw play out in the U.S. Today, countries like Bangladesh, India, and

Indonesia have tobacco use rates close to those in the U.S. at smoking’s peak. A lot of what we do at the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health aims to build capacity in these countries to do research and advocacy themselves. It’s not enough for countries to simply pass tobacco control policies — for policies to be effective, they also need to be successfully implemented and continually enforced. If they’re not, the tobacco industry stops their progress and rolls back everything these countries have done.

Which brings me back to the United States. We’ve seen how the tobacco industry has pivoted domestically since cigarette smoking became denormalized. E-cigarettes were introduced in the early 2000s and initially marketed as a healthier alternative to cigarettes for people already addicted. In 2017 and 2018, we saw the e-cigarette company Juul deploy youth marketing tactics, including advertising on the Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network websites and producing enticing flavors and product packaging, that drove an epidemic in youth vaping.

State attorneys general again filed suit, and the company now owes more than \$1.1 billion in settlements for deceptive and misleading marketing practices, misrepresentations about nicotine content and product safety, and negligence in preventing underage sales both in stores and online. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has since prohibited manufacturers from marketing certain flavored tobacco products, and in April, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ban. The number of young people who vape has decreased by a third since its peak in 2019.

The FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products is the office responsible for regulating the manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of these products. The Centers for Disease Control’s Office on Smoking and Health tracks tobacco



Despite the denormalization of cigarette smoking in the U.S., the practice could make a comeback if the government starts to allow tobacco companies to push back against existing life-saving policies.

use, provides funding for tobacco control programs, and promotes tobacco education and cessation programs. On April 1, news broke that many employees of the Center for Tobacco Products and all employees of the Office on Smoking and Health were fired in mass federal layoffs.

We know that these reductions in staff mean it will be harder to enforce existing public health policies and to implement new ones as the tobacco industry evolves, which it always does. Its latest evolution is toward “heated tobacco products,” which heat actual tobacco (instead of the liquids inside e-cigarettes) to create nicotine aerosols. Tobacco companies claim these products are safer than cigarettes, but the independent research conducted thus far does not support these claims.

These products were first introduced in the 1980s but didn’t catch on. In 2014, PMI introduced the heated tobacco device IQOS in Japan and Italy; after global success and a patent dispute during the first U.S. test launch, the product relaunched in limited markets in the U.S. earlier this year. At this point, the U.S. product is marketed toward existing users of nicotine products — as e-cigarettes initially were — and its flavor selection is limited. However, internationally, users can access a variety of fruity flavors and buy the devices in stylish shops reminiscent of an Apple Store. PMI, the largest public tobacco company in the

world, seems to be all-in on heated tobacco products — and a less robust U.S. public health apparatus means more room for manufacturers to maneuver.

Despite the denormalization of cigarette smoking in the U.S., the practice could make a comeback if the government starts to allow tobacco companies to push back against existing life-saving policies. However, I expect the industry’s focus will be on marketing heated tobacco products and e-cigarettes, which could, in turn, increase cigarette smoking as more people become addicted to nicotine.

The tobacco industry, like all industries beholden to shareholders, puts profits over people every time. Public health is the invisible shield; preventative measures are often hard to see, but they are all around us. As reductions in federal resources weaken that invisible shield against the harms of tobacco products, the American public — especially the younger and most vulnerable people the tobacco industry typically targets — could see smoking rates rise and the accompanying diseases and early deaths return.

Kevin Welding ’03 is the associate director of the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.





ON COMMON GROUND

BY MEGHAN KITA

Classes that bring together Muhlenberg students and incarcerated students — Inside-Out courses — have the power to challenge worldviews and change lives. Significant federal grant funding is allowing the Inside-Out program to expand its reach and engage more deeply with the Muhlenberg and Lehigh Valley communities.

PHOTO BY AMY BENNINGER G'25

Near the end of the Inside-Out Closing Ceremony, held in the visiting room at the Lehigh County Jail on May 1, attendees stood and formed a large circle. A few dozen people — Muhlenberg students, faculty, and staff; incarcerated students; formerly incarcerated students; and representatives from the jail and the city of Allentown — had gathered to celebrate the work students had done in the two Inside-Out courses held during the spring semester. Each person in the circle had to say one word to describe what the ceremony had meant to them. The circle finished with Korey, an incarcerated student who had just completed his second Inside-Out course in the jail.

“Family,” Korey said.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, which was started by a formerly incarcerated man and a Temple University professor in 1995, is a pedagogical model meant to bring outside and inside students together for sustained educational conversations. Approximately 170 institutions in the United States have now conducted Inside-Out courses. Professor of Psychology Kate Richmond '00 launched Muhlenberg's Inside-Out program in 2018, and it has gained tremendous momentum post-pandemic. In 2022, the college received a \$231,000 federal grant from the Department of Education to support and expand the program. In 2024, the program got nearly \$1 million in additional funding as part of a \$20 million federal grant awarded to the city of Allentown.

This spring, for the first time, two Inside-Out courses were held simultaneously — a new course on prison journalism taught inside the Lehigh County Jail and a new course on re-entry after release taught on Muhlenberg's campus. And in April, Muhlenberg hosted the first Lehigh Valley Inside-Out conference, which brought together about 130 people — from educators to judges to prison abolitionists and beyond — to discuss the role of colleges and universities in addressing and disrupting the systemic inequalities associated with the prison industrial complex.

“The success of the Inside-Out program at Muhlenberg is a powerful testament to our institutional values,” says President Kathleen Harring. “In these courses, Muhlenberg students engage with the complex reality of incarceration firsthand. The community-building and hands-on learning that take place in these courses make a lasting impact on both inside and outside students.”

HOW IT BEGAN

Richmond, who began teaching at Muhlenberg in 2006, came to Inside-Out after experiencing a devastating personal loss. She knew from her work as a psychologist that one of the best ways to cope with trauma is to find a sense of meaning and purpose. Her sister was an undergraduate at Temple University taking its Inside-Out course, which was being held at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Graterford. She told Richmond, “You’ve got to meet these guys. They’re life-changing.”

So, Richmond went through the training to facilitate an Inside-Out course in 2014, and it was life-changing. She quickly realized that teaching in a prison could be the transformative experience she sought. She joined the Inside-Out Think Tank, for alumni of Inside-Out classes and educators teaching them, which met at SCI Graterford weekly. One of the men she met on the inside, Felix Rosado, mentored her as she prepared to teach her own course. It took time to coordinate with both Muhlenberg and the Lehigh County Department of Corrections, but in spring 2018, Richmond first taught her course at the Lehigh County Corrections Center. The class dealt with incarceration in the United States.

The logistical challenges of teaching in a jail are significant. For example, Muhlenberg students need transportation, and due to lack of technological access on the inside, all students rely on a binder of printed, pre-approved readings, a legal pad, and a pen to complete assignments. Because of this, Richmond sought co-facilitation and initially worked with Jenna Azar, now an adjunct professor in the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education, whose expertise in criminal justice and community engagement was integral in the course's initial success. In 2019, Richmond asked Community Engagement Librarian and Head of Library DEI Initiatives Jess Denke to co-facilitate the course, and the two have taught together four times now (not counting the semester the course was cut short due to the pandemic).

“One of the core benefits of the Inside-Out program is that it facilitates dialogue and allows students from a variety of backgrounds ... to exchange thoughts and ideas on issues

““

IN THESE COURSES, MUHLENBERG STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH THE COMPLEX REALITY OF INCARCERATION FIRSTHAND. THE COMMUNITY-BUILDING AND HANDS-ON LEARNING THAT TAKE PLACE IN THESE COURSES MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE STUDENTS.”

— PRESIDENT KATHLEEN HARRING





PHOTO BY JOE ROMANO '23

PHOTO BY AMY BENNINGER G'25

From top, Professor of Psychology Kate Richmond '00 teaching this spring's re-entry class; Richmond with students at last spring's closing ceremony at the Lehigh County Jail

PHOTO BY AMY BENNINGER Q 25



PHOTO BY JOE ROMANO '23



From top, students at the closing ceremony at the Lehigh County Jail in spring 2024; Community Engagement Librarian and Head of Library DEI Initiatives Jess Denke and Richmond converse during this spring's re-entry course on campus

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

One important way the program has changed since its launch was enabled by the 2022 grant. Starting in spring 2024, Muhlenberg was able to offer incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students college credit for completing an Inside-Out course.

The 2022 grant also allowed seven more faculty to be trained to facilitate Inside-Out courses. This allowed Muhlenberg to offer two classes simultaneously for the first time this spring. The instructors of the prison journalism course, Senior Lecturer of Media and Communication Sara Vigneri and Associate Professor of Political Science Ross Dardani, were among those trained in the summer of 2023.

Their course covered the history of journalism in prisons; how to research, report, and write an article; and the challenges facing incarcerated journalists. For example, the students' final group project was a small newspaper with articles that brought together the incarcerated students' experiences with data demonstrating how those experiences fit into larger trends. The work will not be distributed beyond the confines of class because many of the inside students are awaiting trial, and for now, it's too legally risky for their stories to be published. (This reflects the difference between a prison, where the population has already been convicted, and a jail, where at least some of the population have not yet gone to trial.)

"I've always studied mass incarceration and the carceral state from a more theoretical perspective, how and why the system is designed to fail," Dardani says. "I think the most eye-opening thing for me has been hearing directly from people who are experiencing it."

Vigneri's primary takeaway relates more to her expertise in information access. Many of the incarcerated students, even when not incarcerated, operated in an information environment replete with conspiracy theories and other misinformation. "When you've been dealt some bad hands and you're trying to navigate yourself out of it, and you don't understand how to understand what's going on because you lack that skill to navigate the world of information, I'm seeing pretty harshly what that does to people," she says. "How to find good quality information and how to know what's good information and what's not ... it's not shocking to me that journalism in prisons is so helpful because it teaches you exactly that kind of stuff."

Also this spring, Richmond and Denke launched a class on re-entry on Muhlenberg's campus. It included a mix of Muhlenberg students and formerly incarcerated students and was the first course of its kind offered by any of the Inside-Out higher education partners. The course was a way to formalize the Lehigh Valley Inside-Out Think Tank that began meeting in 2018 but was difficult to sustain in busier times.

surrounding social justice and incarceration," says Lehigh County Director of Corrections Janine Donate. "Kate and Jess are fully invested and dedicated to this program, thereby ensuring its success. They are passionate and strongly believe in what they do."

So far, 105 Muhlenberg students and 87 incarcerated students have taken Inside-Out courses through Muhlenberg. The Lehigh County Corrections Center closed during the pandemic, so the inside courses are now held at the Lehigh County Jail in downtown Allentown. They take place once a week for three hours in a windowless room without a clock, with no food or bathroom breaks permitted. The courses are held during the spring semester, but Richmond and Denke also facilitate a monthly book club in the jail, which keeps their presence there more consistent. A group of Muhlenberg students and formerly incarcerated students who've taken the course are part of the Inside-Out research team, which works to assess whether the courses are meeting their learning goals and how they might be improved.



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— ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ROSS DARDANI

It also met a need: “There were [formerly incarcerated] people who were asking us for support regularly,” Denke says. “I am not equipped to answer all of their questions. This class is also leveling up my understanding of the way re-entry works in the community and the resources that are available.”

The course regularly hosted guests from the community doing re-entry work. For example, three team members from Valley Health Partners Street Medicine came to discuss the services they provide to people experiencing homelessness in the area. (Formerly incarcerated people are about 10 times more likely to experience homelessness than people who haven’t been incarcerated, per a report from the Prison Policy Initiative.)

A guest-centric course was only possible because of the network Richmond and Denke have built over the years, and the first Lehigh Valley Inside-Out conference, held in April, showcased the power of that network. The conference, “Response and Repair: Higher Education, Corrections, and Solidarity,” took up a full day in Moyer Hall and was also funded by the 2022 grant.

While the day included a keynote speech from Jarrett Harper, a formerly incarcerated man working to reform the foster care system and ban life sentences for children, the bulk of the conference was interactive. The goal was to bring together people with vastly different experiences with the criminal justice system to bridge some of the polarization. Breakout sessions allowed groups of participants to get to know each other. Panel discussions brought together key voices to discuss the state of higher education in jails and what the future might hold at the intersection of education and incarceration.

The second panel included Rosado, Richmond’s mentor from SCI Graterford. He describes himself as a “death penalty escapee” — he had been sentenced to life in prison (or, “death by incarceration”) for a crime he committed at age 18. He joined the SCI Graterford Inside-Out Think Tank in 2007 after taking an Inside-Out course and remained active with the group until he received clemency in 2022. On the panel, he described the impact education had on his own journey: “Once you learn one thing, you might mess around and learn something else.”

“People came up to me and said they can’t believe how fast [the conference] went. It just flew by,” Richmond says. “We worked hard to elevate the voices of people who are directly impacted [by incarceration]. And it was nice to see in Miller Forum that kind of ethnic, racial, age, and economic diversity, which is a goal that Inside-Out tries to achieve: to get everyone in the room.”

From top, Inside-Out conference keynote speaker Jarrett Harper; students from the spring 2024 Inside-Out course; Felix Rosado on a panel at the conference

PHOTO BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO



PHOTO BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO



STORIES OF IMPACT

That experience of being in the room with people who have very different lived experiences from your own can be transformational for both incarcerated students and Muhlenberg students.

“[Taking an Inside-Out course] was the most meaningful experience I’ve had in college,” says Shinam Hussain ’25, a political science and sociology double major (pictured at left). “It provided me with a lens I wouldn’t get through just reading studies or interviews. That firsthand experience of going into the jail and talking to incarcerated individuals about their experiences and their lives and really seeing how similar we all are, that isn’t something that I would’ve gotten any other way.”

Hussain, who took the incarceration course in spring 2024 and then joined the research team, says incarceration research and reform had been her primary passion throughout college, so the course aligned perfectly with her interests. This fall, she will begin a master’s in political science at Lehigh University with the goal of ultimately landing at a nonprofit that focuses on re-entry.

This kind of prior interest is not a prerequisite, for Muhlenberg students or for incarcerated students. “I never thought about mass incarceration. I spent some juvenile time in lockups, but for the most part I wasn’t involved in the system for many years,” says Adam Petyo, who took the spring 2024 course while incarcerated, joined the research team upon release,



“**THAT FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE OF GOING INTO THE JAIL AND TALKING TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THEIR LIVES AND REALLY SEEING HOW SIMILAR WE ALL ARE, THAT ISN’T SOMETHING THAT I WOULD’VE GOTTEN ANY OTHER WAY.”**

— SHINAM HUSSAIN ’25, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY DOUBLE MAJOR

and completed this spring's re-entry course on campus. "Then you go sit in jail for a year and you realize how broken the system is. It's a revolving door. I got involved to try to help people stop that revolving door, and the best way to do that is by building support systems, community, and education programs."

Sar Gregori-Kass '18, who took the first Inside-Out course at Muhlenberg as a senior, found the experience to be literally life-changing. Gregori-Kass, a neuroscience major and women's and gender studies minor at Muhlenberg, is now pursuing a master's in social work at Quinnipiac University. There, Gregori-Kass works with Professor of Social Work Amber Kelly and the nonprofits Full Citizens Coalition and ACLU Smart Justice on prison abolitionist organizing and activism.

"Inside-Out will always be a course and moment in time that shaped my life. I vividly remember going to the jail every week, my pals and I playing our carpool playlist, knowing we were about to do some very hard work alongside our inside classmates, who did not have the privilege of getting up and leaving when class was over," Gregori-Kass says. "I hope in my lifetime to see the total deconstruction of our carceral systems, and Inside-Out was where this passion went from nascent to integral to my identity."

The Inside-Out program has also shaped the system itself in small but meaningful ways. Korey, the incarcerated student who took the incarceration course in spring 2024 and the prison journalism course in spring 2025, returned for a second class "because of the relationships and the way that people come together." One of the groups in the spring 2024 cohort did a final project on mental health concerns at the Lehigh County Jail and noted that the facility lacked a private space for incarcerated men to meet with medical professionals, including mental health professionals. Since then, the jail has designated a specific room that can be used for that purpose.

The power of this program lies in giving a voice to those who feel voiceless: "That's exactly what kept me around in the beginning — being seen, being heard, and feeling like your voice does matter, because when you're sitting in jail, you don't feel like that at all," Petyo says. "Walking into a classroom where the students and Kate and Jess made you feel seen and heard and would have a conversation with you and treat you like a normal person, that went a long way."

PLANS TO EXPAND

The nearly \$1 million in grant funding the Inside-Out program is receiving from the city of Allentown is allowing the program to grow its power and reach. The funding is part of a \$20 million federal grant awarded to the city's Recompete Plan.

"[The city] identified 15 blocks in Allentown that have been disproportionately disenfranchised in a whole host of ways — transportation, childcare, education, workforce development," Richmond says. "Lo and behold, many of the people who are from those streets are actually sitting in the [Lehigh County] Jail. You can't really do workforce development if you don't reach those people."

Some of this funding will be used to train 11 additional faculty and staff to facilitate Inside-Out courses. Richmond and Denke have found the faculty-staff combination of facilitators to be ideal. It's exceedingly difficult to align the course schedules of two faculty members, which is why it took two years for anyone from the 2023 cohort to teach in the jail. And, Richmond says, "There is a real assumption that staff is not involved in the knowledge production or education that happens here, and that couldn't be further from the truth. Anyone who works at Muhlenberg, we all have the same mission and goal, which is to educate and to uphold the liberal arts. I don't care what your role is, we're all doing that."

One of the staff who will be trained this summer is Christina Campbell, an administrative assistant and conference coordinator whose role exclusively supports the Inside-Out program. She began this role in spring 2024 and has been a critical player in handling the logistics inherent in running two new classes, liaising with the jail, and putting on the conference.

“

THIS IS THE ANTIDOTE TO TRAUMA. WHEN PEOPLE FEEL ALIVE, WHEN THEY FEEL ENGAGED, WHEN THEY FEEL CONNECTED, WHEN THEY FEEL HUMAN, THAT'S HOW HEALING HAPPENS ... WHEN YOU'RE IN THE JAIL, THAT IS SO NECESSARY. BUT THE TRUTH IS, IT'S NECESSARY AT MUHLENBERG, TOO.”

— PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY KATE RICHMOND '00






PHOTOS BY JOE ROMANO '23



One of the groups in the re-entry class did their final project on the effectiveness of the inaugural conference. They analyzed assessment forms attendees filled out to determine how well the conference met its goals — including building bridges across differences and strengthening community knowledge and skills — and respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the conference achieved them all. The plan is to hold such a conference on campus every other year to continue bringing constituents together.

The near-term goal is to continue holding two Inside-Out classes each spring. Richmond and Denke intend to teach their re-entry class again, possibly moving it to a re-entry house to make it more accessible to formerly incarcerated students. (Only six were able to consistently attend this spring's course on campus.) However, Richmond says she is eager to resume teaching in the jail.

"This is the antidote to trauma. When people feel alive, when they feel engaged, when they feel connected, when they feel human, that's how healing happens, and that's what I needed when I walked into Graterford that first time," she says. "When you're in the jail, that is so necessary. But the truth is, it's necessary at Muhlenberg, too." 

From top, research assistant and student Adam Petyo with Richmond during this spring's re-entry course on campus; Denke during the same course

125,586,554



A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a dark blue dress and a pearl necklace, stands at a wooden podium on a stage. She is smiling and looking towards the audience. The podium has a microphone and a small sign that reads "Muhlenberg". The background is dark with blue stage lights and a large amount of colorful confetti (red, blue, white, and gold) falling from the ceiling. A large white circle is superimposed over the upper half of the image, containing the title text. The overall atmosphere is celebratory and festive.

A BOUNDLESS LEGACY

BY MEGHAN KITA

With the help of unprecedented levels of support from volunteers, *Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg* met and exceeded its initial (\$111 million) and increased (\$125 million) goals despite significant external challenges. Here's what the campaign's success means for current and future students and what it says about the commitment of the Muhlenberg community to the college's continued excellence.

PHOTO BY MARCO CALDERON



On Saturday, May 3, alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, and friends of the college gathered in the Life Sports Center's John Deitrich '35 Field House for a gala. It was part of a weekend's worth of events held to celebrate the impending conclusion of *Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg*.

Boundless, which began in 2018 and wrapped on June 30, was the college's most ambitious campaign ever. At its launch, it sought to raise \$111 million over the course of seven years. Two years ago, the campaign team announced that it was increasing the goal to \$125 million. And at the gala held to celebrate the campaign's success, President Kathleen Harring had another big announcement.

"Tonight, I am thrilled to share that we have reached — and surpassed — our increased goal of \$125 million," Harring said that night. "Today, two months before the official end of the campaign, we have reached a total of \$125,586,554." (By press time in mid-June, that number had increased to \$126,244,754.)

Confetti burst from the rafters. Sparklers flared on the dance floor. And the gala's attendees, many of whom contributed to the campaign's success, stood to applaud the milestone investment that they and their fellow guests had made in the future of Muhlenberg College.

"This campaign was an incredible success for Muhlenberg," says Vice President for Advancement Rebekkah Brown '99. "While other institutions paused or ended their campaigns during the pandemic, Muhlenberg's community was more generous than we had ever seen before. While we took great care in checking in on our alumni and donors during that time, we were also able to reinforce the need for support, and the community responded. From the beginning, the campaign leadership team discussed the importance of the monetary goal but also the need for this campaign to change the culture of philanthropy at Muhlenberg, and I believe it did just that."

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

BOUNDLESS

campaign
quiet phase begins

Muhlenberg
Match Campaign

July 2012 –
June 2017



July
2018

Kathleen E. Harring
named 13th president
(and first woman president)

June
2020



Nov.
2020

Muhlenberg
receives \$7.5M
gift to support
capital projects

Fahy Commons for
Public Engagement
and Innovation
groundbreaking

May
2021





While other institutions paused or ended their campaigns during the pandemic, Muhlenberg's community was more generous than we had ever seen before."

— VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT
REBEKKAH BROWN '99

BOUNDLESS BEGINNINGS

The *Boundless* campaign set out to support seven key institutional priorities: student financial aid, the Muhlenberg Annual Fund, endowed professorships, the Seegers Union expansion, integrative learning and high-impact practices, the Fahy Commons for Public Engagement and Innovation, and the Muhlenberg network.

It also set out to be a different kind of campaign. *Boundless* was built upon volunteer leadership, a strategic departure from previous campaigns. In the past, college presidents and administrators were the ones meeting with prospects. During the *Boundless* campaign, they were joined by alumni, parents, and friends of the college who invested significant time, energy, and resources in the campaign and in Muhlenberg.

Tammy Bormann '83 P'16, Mark Paris '80 P'16, and Doug Peebles '87 served as campaign co-chairs, and more than 70 volunteers joined the campaign's seven committees: alumni giving, parent giving, annual giving, leadership gifts, planned gifts, emerging philanthropists, and the campus community. Volunteers connected with more than 430 alumni and donors over the course of the campaign, which began its quiet phase in 2018.



Burkholder Quadrangle dedication

June
2021



Fahy Commons topping off ceremony

Nov.
2021



Feb.
2022

42 students receive donor funding for short-term study abroad courses with trips to South Africa, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ireland, Italy, and Panama

2022-
2023



President Harring's inauguration coincides with *Boundless* campaign launch

James '66 and Debra Lentz endow two professorships in the areas of theatre and dance



"The volunteer structure built into the strategy for this campaign was unprecedented for Muhlenberg," Brown says. "Volunteers partnered with advancement [staff] in meetings with donors for the purposes of cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship. While our donors are receptive to outreach from the college, hearing from a classmate or peer about why they chose to support Muhlenberg is incredibly motivating. Our volunteers did an outstanding job, and they gained a deeper understanding of the philanthropic work being done at the college."

This work went virtual as the pandemic hit in 2020, and that was far from the only challenge that took place throughout the course of the campaign, which launched its public phase in 2021.

"The rugged terrain Muhlenberg traversed during the *Boundless* campaign was daunting: COVID isolation and the college's need to pivot on a dime, a change in college leadership, economic inflation, global civil unrest and conflict, and relentless attacks on U.S. higher education," says Bormann. "In the face of these challenges, the advancement team remained strategic, steady, and determined; the alumni volunteers leaned into their tasks with untiring commitment; current and retired faculty and staff embraced the *Boundless* goals and added fundraising to their already full plates; and Kathy Haring,



In the end, the entire Muhlenberg community showed up to give their time and treasure at unprecedented levels."

— CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR
TAMMY BORMANN '83 P'16



Muhlenberg announces
\$15M estate gift from
Ed '42 and Lois Robertson

April
2023

Fahy Commons
dedication



Campaign gifts fund
faculty-led
research for
18 students

May
2023

Muhlenberg
marks 175
years, raises
Boundless
goal to **\$125M**



March
2024

LEED Platinum-
certified Fahy
Commons
becomes first
in the world to
achieve Core
Living Building
certification



Original
\$111M goal
exceeded

June
2024

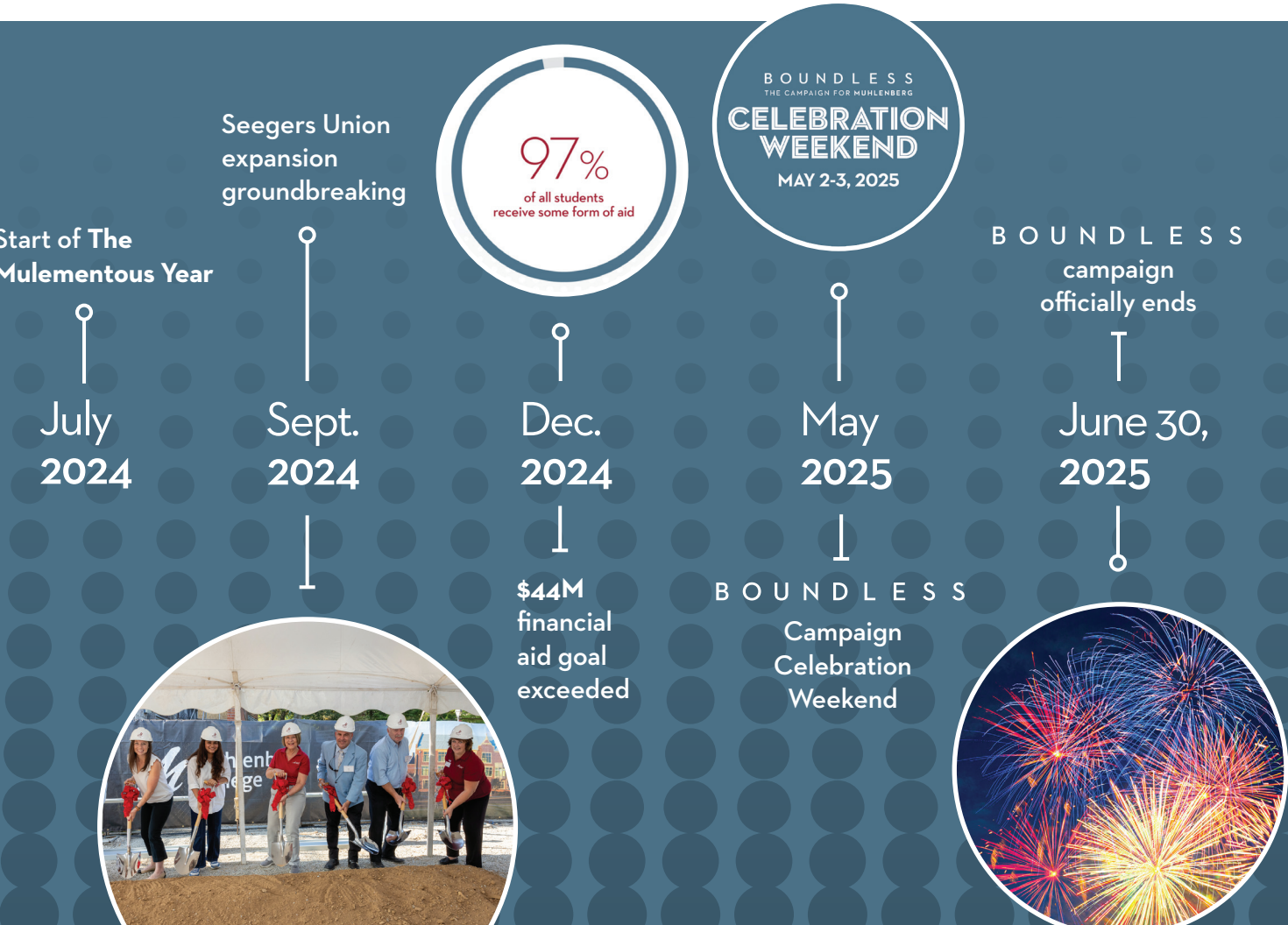
Rebekkah Brown, and the advancement team traversed the country to educate, inspire, and galvanize the Muhlenberg family. In the end, the entire Muhlenberg community showed up to give their time and treasure at unprecedented levels."

BOUNDLESS IMPACT

At the gala in May, Brown, Bormann, Paris, and Peebles detailed the impact the campaign has made and will continue to make. The nearly \$49 million raised for student financial aid will make a Muhlenberg education accessible to more students from all backgrounds. The nearly \$30 million raised for the Muhlenberg Annual Fund will provide flexible resources to maximize student success and enrich the learning experience. The \$5.7 million raised for integrative learning and high-impact practices will provide faculty and students increased opportunities for research, scholarship, and community-engaged learning. And the \$1 million raised for the Muhlenberg network will allow the college to leverage its alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and other champions to provide professional learning experiences and career guidance to all students and alumni.

The campaign also established four new endowed professorships. In 2023, a \$4 million gift from James R. '66 and Debra A. Lentz established Lentz Professorships in Theatre and Dance (currently held by Jim Peck and Karen Dearborn). The week of the campaign celebration, two new professorships (detailed on pages 6 and 7) were announced: the William R. Breidenthall Ph.B., CPA Class of 1941 Professorship in Accounting, Business, Economics, or Finance (held by Ranajoy Ray-Chaudhuri) and the Tammy L. Bormann '83 P'16 and Mark J. Paris '80 P'16 Endowed Professorship in Political Philosophy (held by Giacomo Gambino). These new professorships were created by matching \$1 million gifts from the Breidenthall family and Bormann and Paris with \$1 million distributions from the more than \$15 million estate gift from Edward '42 and Lois Robertson, the largest gift from an individual or family in the college's history.

A \$7.5 million gift from Gerald P. Fahy '79 and Cathleen A. Fahy, the institution's largest personal gift when it was announced in 2020, launched the construction of the Fahy Commons for Public Engagement and Innovation, which opened in 2023, and the expansion of Seegers Union, which broke ground in 2024. Support from other donors has enabled these capital projects to move forward. Fahy Commons, which



has earned several awards for being among the most sustainable buildings in the world, brings together incredible technology, programs designed to deepen engagement with the community, and opportunities for interdisciplinary innovation. The Seegers Union expansion, set to open in 2026, will meet a vast array of needs, housing a college welcome center, a new Career Center, spaces for alumni activities and engagement as well as student clubs and organizations, and more.

"Each of our campaign priorities speaks directly to Muhlenberg's enduring purpose: to equip students to lead lives of meaning and impact, to shape an institution where education is not an end in itself, but a powerful means to advance the common good," Harring said at the gala. "Philanthropy has never been more important to that effort."

A BOUNDLESS FUTURE


The campaign has had and will continue to have concrete effects on the student experience at Muhlenberg. However, it also served as a testament to the power of involving more alumni, families, and friends of the college in institutional fundraising.

"I think the legacy of this campaign will be the shift in the culture of philanthropy at Muhlenberg — the power of the collective community and the confidence it has built in Muhlenberg among its constituents," Brown says.

"We are in a period that will continue to bring about rapid changes in the higher education arena," Peebles says. "It is critical that *Boundless* is not a completed destination. It is the beginning of a journey. We need to build on the foundation of the many alumni we conversed with during this campaign. We also need to widen the net and reconnect a far higher percentage of our graduates with the college that they love so much."

At the gala, former Board of Trustees Chair Rich Crist '77 P'05 P'09 offered reflections on the historic nature of the campaign and the obstacles Muhlenberg overcame along the way, while current Chair Lance Bruck '89 P'21 thanked the donors who gave \$1 million or more to *Boundless*.

The evening ended with the Dynamics, Muhlenberg's oldest co-ed a capella group, leading attendees in a parting rendition of the alma mater. Immediately beforehand, Harring concluded her remarks by expressing gratitude for all who supported the campaign.

"Thank you for believing in this vision, for making it real, and for all you continue to do to support Muhlenberg College," Harring said. "Here's to what we've built — and to where we're going next." 

PHOTOS BY MARCO CALDERON

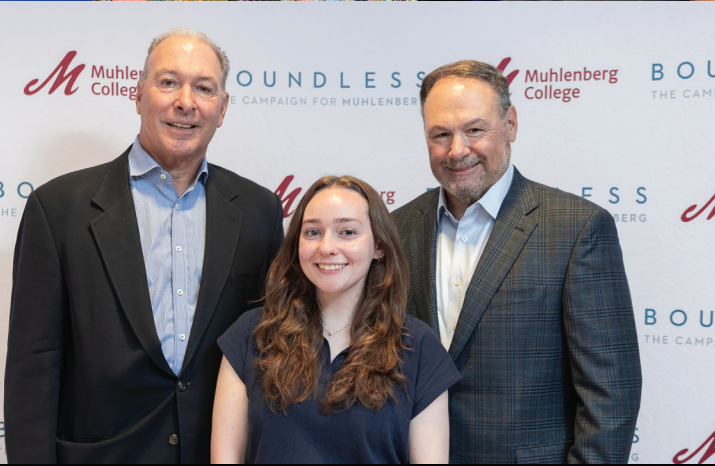


Each of our campaign priorities speaks directly to Muhlenberg's enduring purpose: to equip students to lead lives of meaning and impact, to shape an institution where education is not an end in itself, but a powerful means to advance the common good."

— PRESIDENT KATHLEEN HARRING

Clockwise from top left: Tammy Bormann '83 P'16 and Beth Dondaldson '92; Demir Kojku, Tiffany Perez '26, and Rebekkah Brown '99 at the Campaign Celebration Weekend scholarship reception; gala attendees dance; Vic P'06 and Linda '75 P'06 Cenci (foreground) and Lona Farr '62 P'94; the Dynamics sing at the gala; Gerald P. Fahy '79 is recognized at the campus community luncheon; Bernice Owusu '25 speaks about her research during a student panel on high-impact practices; Jim Galgano '78 P'08, Elizabeth Winn '25, and Jerry Galgano '80 P'11 P'14 at the scholarship reception





Support in a Tumultuous Job Market

The most headline-making job losses of the first half of 2025 took place within the federal government; as of May 12, more than 58,000 federal workers had been cut, more than 76,000 workers took buyouts, and nearly 150,000 more positions were set to be eliminated, according to The New York Times. Private companies have also been conducting layoffs at a high rate. According to the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., U.S.-based employers announced 696,309 job cuts through the end of May, an increase of 80% from the 385,859 announced in the first five months of last year.

“Career paths are rarely linear. Whether prompted by industry shifts, personal goals, or unexpected life changes, career transitions are a natural part of professional life,” says the Career Center’s Director of Career Coaching and Education Caitlin Bach. “For alumni facing one of these pivotal moments, it’s not something they have to face alone.”

Muhlenberg’s Career Center and Muhlenberg’s School of Graduate Studies both offer options for alumni who have lost their jobs or are simply trying to make a change.



Career Center Resources

The most common Career Center service utilized by alumni, Bach says, is individual career coaching. This coaching can be done in person or virtually and can address a number of different topics, including a review of application materials, interview preparation and mock interviews, maximizing job search platforms, and utilizing networking in professional life. Career coaching for alumni is available for life, free of charge. Alumni can contact careers@muhlenberg.edu to learn more and make an appointment.

Alumni can also access Handshake, the college’s career development platform, which offers a number of industry-specific career-related resources. Additionally, the Career Center can provide strategies on how to make connections with other alumni in positions or industries of interest.

“The Career Center is here to help alumni assess options, clarify goals, and take confident steps forward,” Bach says. “Our team is committed to empowering alumni with the tools, insights, and support needed to thrive in an ever-changing professional landscape.”



Master’s Degree Opportunities

Job-seeking alumni may choose to pursue an advanced degree to improve their hiring prospects and build knowledge and skills that will help them excel in a new role. Muhlenberg’s School of Graduate Studies offers the Mules Advantage Scholarship for alumni who enroll in one of the college’s graduate programs. Alumni are eligible for a \$7,000 scholarship, which is applied as a 20% discount on tuition for every course in the program.

“Your undergraduate experience gave you the tools to launch your career; a master’s degree from your alma mater will give you the expertise to lead, innovate, and shape the future of your field,” says Vice President and Executive Director for Graduate and Continuing Education AJ Lemheney. “This isn’t about coming back — it’s about going forward with the institution that first believed in your potential, now equipped with the real-world perspective that will make your graduate studies more meaningful and impactful than ever before.”

Currently, the School of Graduate Studies offers fully online master’s programs in applied analytics, digital learning, healthcare management and leadership, and organizational leadership. A Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is on track to launch in the 2026-2027 academic year. Alumni can contact graduatestudies@muhlenberg.edu to learn more about any of these programs.

—Meghan Kita

CLASS NOTES

WE NEED YOUR UPDATES!

We know because you've told us: You love to read about what your former classmates are up to now. Your classmates are curious about you, too, so send in your note today!

Class Notes can take many forms, and *all* of them are important:

- Work updates (job changes, promotions, retirements)
- Family updates (weddings, births, anniversaries)
- Personal updates (achievements, travel plans, alumni get-togethers)



Send your notes to bergalum@muhlenberg.edu or scan the code by Friday, September 5, for inclusion in the Fall 2025 issue.

Scan the code to tell us what's new!

BUT WAIT, THERE'S
MORE

Be on the lookout for extra content about our alumni!



Podcast



Video



Web Story

1962

Don't miss your 63rd reunion!
October 3-5

Harvey says it was a terrific way to learn about real life quickly! They spent the rest of their time in this beautiful country enjoying solo adventures.

1965

Don't miss your 60th reunion!
October 3-5

1971

Mike Snyder is proud that his oldest grandson, Ari, will attend 'Berg in the fall as a member of the Class of 2029.

1968

Susan Sellers Stanewick and her sister were honored to exhibit their artwork at Sweet Nectar's Florist, a local flower shop in Leland, North Carolina. The show was on exhibit from January 17 to March 17.



1972

KeriLyn Burrows was elected to Muhlenberg College's alumni board and will serve a four-year term.

Eric Shafer continues his work as a pastor in residence for the nonprofit Global Refuge, which seeks to raise funds for and awareness of refugees in the United States and around the world.



1970

Harvey Schwartz and his wife, Colleen, spent April looping Ireland by bus and train. A third of their accommodations were homestays arranged via a peace organization called Servas International.



1973

Margaret Campbell's short story "30th Street Station" was published in the Bellingham Review and was a runner-up for the 2024 Tobias Wolff Award for Fiction.

1974

Bruce Albright was elected to Muhlenberg College's alumni board and will serve a four-year term.

Greg Lambert has completed his tenure as a member of the Muhlenberg College alumni board. Greg served for eight years and was a member of the development committee.

Betsy Caplan MacCarthy and her husband, John MacCarthy, former Muhlenberg physics professor, traveled to England in January to attend a singing workshop led by John Rutter, world-renowned composer and conductor of choral music. Out of 845 participants, they traveled the farthest. This was a 38-year "bucket list" wish for Betsy. She also had an opportunity to speak with the composer and found out that they had a mutual acquaintance.



1975

Don't miss your 50th reunion!
October 3-5

The Class of 1975 Reunion Committee (**Linda Speidel Cenci, Georgia Crump, Aleyce Brown Cummings, Robert Djergaian, Charlotte Risser Harrington, Nancy Hutton, Marilyn Macknik Marles, Tom Stackhouse, and Sarah Mueller Stegemoeller**) hopes to see a big turnout of their classmates in October.

Rick Bodnar and **Carolyn Krenos Bodnar '76** traveled to the Lehigh Valley from Iowa in March to join **Paul Weidner '78, Kathy Fry Weidner '78, Chris Duelfer**, and his wife, Peg, for dinner and to share many fun and fond memories.



Arthur Levin, Ph.D., has been named to the strategic advisory board of Codexis, Inc., in California. Arthur is a founding member of Avidity Biosciences, a biopharmaceutical company committed to delivering a new class of RNA therapeutics called antibody-oligonucleotide conjugates, and currently serves on its board of directors. He brings three decades of experience developing oligonucleotides to Codexis.

Lee Solomon has joined the business litigation group of the law firm Archer & Greiner, P.C., bringing a decade of service on the New Jersey Supreme Court in his return to private practice.



1976

Mary Jane DePaul-Nehring and friends **Lynne Braunstein '77, Barbara Gunning '73, and Jan Miller '74** caught up during lunch at Rocco's Tacos in Boca Raton, Florida.



Mark Dewalt published a research brief, "The Growth of Old Order Mennonite Schools," in The Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities in 2024. He continues to serve as both a volunteer and a volunteer chaplain at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, one of the busiest airports in North America.



Births

Clockwise from left: Amos to Steven Kalman '10 and Caitlin Weigle Kalman '10, Raymond to Lindsey Quentin Swierkowski '13 and Raymond Swierkowski '12, Simeon to Mary McGinley Tomczuk '14

1977

Darryl Sycher retired five years ago after teaching at both the high school and college levels. He continues to tutor, do home instruction, and administer state and ACT/SAT testing. He was born and raised in Allentown, and he writes, "My time at Muhlenberg College was extra special since I was able to attend the school my father graduated from and continue to enjoy the community I grew up in. Muhlenberg continues to hold a special place in my heart. Each time my wife and I visit Allentown, I always make it a priority to visit the campus, if only for a short time."

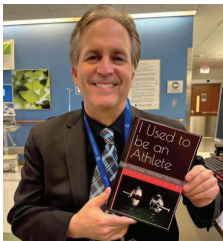
1978

Terence Bonk Novak started a position as CEO at Benuvia, a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on controlled substance solutions for PTSD, depression, pain, and other difficult disease states.

1980

Don't miss your 45th reunion!
October 3-5

Raymond Singer, M.D., chief of cardiac surgery at Philadelphia's Jefferson Einstein Hospital, released a book, "I Used to Be an Athlete: The Three 'E's' for the Preservation of Youth," in March, describing ways to improve personal health and focusing on eating, exercise, and emotion.



1983

Howard Dobin married Caroline Marquard Fahy Milavec in December 2024, only 44 odd years after falling hopelessly in love with her during his junior year.

1984

Beth Davis Cox writes, "We [Paige Brenner, Heidi Freemer Cooper, Phyllis Fairchild Brown, Kevin Wolbach, and Ed Brown] met on Zoom in December 2024

to reminisce and catch up with each other. Most of us met each other freshman year while living in Prosser Hall. It's hard to believe it's been so long since our years at Muhlenberg!"



Scott Lenz was elected to a second four-year term on the Muhlenberg College alumni board.

1985

Don't miss your 40th reunion!
October 3-5

Jan R. Jurden was appointed dean of the Wilmington University School of Law effective April 1.

Laura Rampil, D.O., has spent the last 28 years in solo private practice in Orlando, Florida, specializing in neuromusculoskeletal and osteopathic manipulative medicine. She was the founding program director for an integrated family medicine/neuromusculoskeletal and osteopathic manipulative medicine residency from 2002 to 2008. She continues to lecture and have medical students, residents, and physicians rotate through her office. Recently, the Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine opened, and Laura is an associate clinical professor there, teaching the art of palpation and osteopathic manipulative medicine to new medical students. She has been happily married for seven years to her wife, Karen. They started dating 14 years ago after meeting at martial arts. They still enjoy swinging double broadswords together and continue to grow in kung fu and tai chi.

1987

Glenn Ault, M.D., a professor of surgery and senior associate dean for graduate medical education at the Keck School of



Medicine at the University of Southern California, was recently appointed to the National Residency Match Program (NRMP) board of directors. The NRMP oversees "The Match," a system where medical students and residency programs match based on their preferences, ensuring an orderly and fair process for residency placement.

Brad "Fish" Fischer hosts an annual golf outing with alumni, coaches, and others with ties to the Muhlenberg community. Pictured is the 18th edition held in 2024 at Shepherd Hills Golf Club in Allentown. Brad hopes the 2025 outing will be the biggest yet.



1988

Kathleen Mears Grahn has retired after 34 years with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office in Mount Holly, New Jersey. Her primary roles over the years included assistant prosecutor with the special victims unit, handling sexual assault and child abuse matters, and the long-term liaison to the county's multidisciplinary team. She and her husband, **Barry Grahn '89**, live in Riverton, New Jersey, and enjoy traveling to see their sons **Christopher Grahn '20** in Alaska and **Matthew Grahn** in Seattle and exploring national parks. They hope to visit their eighth of the eight national parks in Alaska this summer!



Lisa Horning Wolf has been appointed president of Westfall Gold, a fundraising consulting firm specializing in creating major donor experiences that unlock extraordinary generosity.

1989

June-Ann Cappetta Garafano is now vice president and chief human resources officer for Saint Peter's Healthcare System in New Brunswick, New Jersey. June-Ann has 25 years of extensive human resources experience with an emphasis on employee engagement, recruitment, and retention.

Tim Walbert has been named to the board of directors of Catalent, Inc., a leading global contract development and manufacturing organization with a mission to develop, manufacture,

and supply products that help people live better and healthier lives. Tim also serves on the boards of Century Therapeutics and Sagimet Biosciences, both public biotech companies; the private clinical-stage biotech companies Cour Pharmaceuticals, Odyssey Therapeutics, and Latigo Biotherapeutics (as chairman); and the Muhlenberg College board of trustees.

John Davis and Melissa Twiningdavis '91, married 35 years, recently returned to the Muhlenberg area, buying a 100-acre farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. John continues to manage corporate projects through his firm and Melissa recently started at AIG as chief administrative officer. Their daughter Maia, age 23, graduated from Xavier University with a B.S. in biochemistry,



1990

Don't miss your 35th reunion!
October 3-5



Weddings

Clockwise from top left: Howard Dobin '83 and Caroline Marquard Fahy Milavec, Carolina Millard '10 and Benjamin Brotman, Stephanie Dorit Spiegel '17 and Jacob Edward Najarian '18



and their daughter Ella, age 17, is a junior at New Hope Solebury High School.

Ben Gitterman and some fellow Class of 1990 Zeta Beta Tau brothers (**Jeffrey Cavendish, Klaus Biber, Mike Cotrufo, Pete Knappenberger, Alan Geller, Al Kravitz, Matt Brownstein, Steve Arber, and John Phillips**) enjoyed their annual guys' trip in October 2024 to sunny Panama Beach, Florida.



Sharon Mahn was recently interviewed on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Sharon is an attorney and CEO of Mahn Consulting, a global executive and legal search and consulting firm based in Manhattan.

1992

David Haight was recently elected to Muhlenberg College's board of trustees and will serve a three-year term.

1994

Jon Moore has been named co-chief investment officer and principal of a newly formed division of Woodmont Properties. As principal of Woodmont Value-Add Partners, Jon will be integral to the company's investment strategy, capital raising, acquisitions, and investor relations, while playing a central role in strategy, long-term growth, and innovation. The firm owns, develops, and manages multifamily and industrial properties across five states.

1995

Don't miss your 30th reunion!
October 3-5

1997

Lindsay Bennett has been named chief revenue officer for Boston's Northern Light, which provides global enterprises with knowledge management platforms for competitive intelligence and market research. Lindsay, who has more than 20 years of executive leadership experience, will be responsible for uniting the company's sales and marketing teams, strengthening customer success initiatives, and identifying new growth opportunities across sectors such as life sciences, information technology, and telecommunications.

Jay Kaduson was named CEO of workplace solutions for Voya Financial. Jay is an experienced financial services executive with more than 26 years of leadership experience in the financial services industry.

Kristine Wilton has been appointed the new deputy director of audience experience and learning at RISD Museum. Kris offers a unique combination of strategic thinking, creative storytelling, and audience-centered leadership, shaped by a career spanning museums, journalism, publishing, and marketing.


1998

Brian Fishbone is proud to share his new podcast, "Inclusion on Demand." You can listen wherever you get your podcasts or at inclusion-on-demand.captivate.fm/ listen. The podcast discusses diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging topics, from inclusive leadership and psychological safety to bias mitigation in HR practices and building sustainable,

enduring employee resource groups. Brian is principal of his own firm, also called Inclusion on Demand, which offers diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging consulting and facilitation for clients including Google, Unilever, Chubb, and Levi Strauss.

Jason Konzelmann is the director of clinical skills and simulation at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. He was recently named a 2025 fellow of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare Academy. This fellowship is a lifetime achievement award given to professionals who have demonstrated exceptional contributions to simulation in scholarship, education, and service.

1999

Luis Campos, the city administrator of Easton, Pennsylvania, who is featured on page 10, was also a guest on the "2400 CHEW" alumni podcast. Find episodes at 2400chew.transistor.fm or wherever you get your podcasts. 

Jamie Hollender Cariddi has completed her tenure as a member of the Muhlenberg College alumni board. Jamie served for four years and was a member of the development committee.

Brian Fanning has been named Miller-Keystone Blood Center's new vice president of operations, overseeing the center's donor relations, marketing, donor collections, laboratory, and hospital services operations. He will also work closely with the quality assurance, medical, and finance teams to support the center's mission and growth. Brian has more than 20 years of health care sector experience, with expertise in finance, marketing, and operations.



2000

Don't miss your 25th reunion!
October 3-5

J. Andrew Harris has been named business administrator/board secretary of Princeton (New Jersey) Public Schools.

2002

Erin Spengler Harris has been inducted as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown, where she will help boost youth development in the Lehigh Valley. She is president and CFO of Preventive Measures, a leading multi-state provider of mental health and home health care services.



Adam Marles P'21 was featured in a Business Journal article about changing the name of the Lutheran Senior Services organization to EverTrue. Adam is president and CEO of the 165-year-old organization, one of the oldest nonprofit agencies in the St. Louis region.

2005

Don't miss your 20th reunion!
October 3-5

Kristin Anderson has been promoted to partner by the tax advisory firm Nisivoccia in Mount Arlington, New Jersey. Kristin's promotion reflects her contributions to the firm as well as her extensive expertise in both audit and tax services. She is a licensed CPA in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and a member of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Amy Powell Blackmore has been promoted from senior counsel to equity shareholder with Saxton & Stump. Amy represents health care providers in medical malpractice cases, bringing a wealth of experience to arbitration and trial settings. She is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and before the U.S. District Courts for the eastern, middle, and western districts of Pennsylvania and the district of New Jersey.

2006

James Nangeroni created a piece of art for the Crayola and Allentown Art Museum Campaign for Creativity partnership as a 9-year-old third-grade student in 1992. This spring, James got his painting back during a ceremony at the Allentown Art Museum. It was presented to him by his (now retired) third-grade art teacher. James is now a board-certified general surgeon and director of robotic surgery at Southern Ocean Medical Center in Ocean County, New Jersey, who has performed more than 3,000 bariatric surgeries in his career, helping patients reduce their weight and return to the quality of life they desire.



2007

Lauren Bosk runs her own social media business, Bosk Brand Management, and celebrated two years in business in October 2024.

What Does the Alumni Board Do?



Kaitie Burger '12
Alumni Board President

Each year, members of the alumni board engage with current alumni (and soon-to-be alumni) through a number of opportunities:

Orientation Weekend: As incoming first-year students begin their time at 'Berg, alumni volunteers help to welcome them to the campus community during the candle-lighting event.

Alumni Weekend: During perhaps our biggest celebration of the year, members of the alumni board gather on campus to interact with fellow classmates, make new connections, and celebrate all things Muhlenberg.

THAW: Each January, alumni gather across the country for the Toast Heard Around the World. These events, which volunteers host in person and virtually, bring alumni together to share memories, reflect on the impact the college has made in their lives, and build connections with other members of the community.

Career Center Connections: Whether through internship opportunities, job shadowing, panel discussions, Career Road Trips, or other connections, members of the alumni board consistently support current students by providing networking opportunities. The Alumni Trust Fund also supports an annual scholarship program for current students who may require additional financial assistance to pursue internships.

Graduating Class Events: From Senior Wine and Cheese, which celebrates the graduating class's gift, to Champagne Brunch, where soon-to-be alumni celebrate right before graduation, the alumni board participates in a variety of events to help usher graduating Mules into the alumni community.

No matter the event, our mission remains consistent: to ensure a strong connection between Muhlenberg alumni and the broader college community.

Interested in learning more about the alumni board or how you can continue to give back to the college in any capacity? Reach out! My inbox is always open at kaitie.burger@gmail.com.

2008

Carli J. Corson published her debut novel, "It's a Love/Skate Relationship" in January with HarperTeen (an imprint of HarperCollins). The book, a young adult sapphic romance novel about a hotheaded hockey player and the ice princess at the figure skating rink next door, was honored as a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. It is available in hardcover, digital e-book, and audiobook formats wherever books are sold.



Nicole Kelman was elected to Muhlenberg College's alumni board and will serve a four-year term.

2010

Don't miss your 15th reunion!
October 3-5

Kyle Detweiler has been named borough manager of Ambler, Pennsylvania. Previously, Kyle served concurrently as borough manager and manager of the Telford Borough Municipal Authority.

Cara Murphy Fialkoff was elected to a second four-year term on the Muhlenberg College alumni board.

Steven Kalman and **Caitlin Weigle Kalman** welcomed their third child, Amos, in January 2024.

Susan Medalie was elected to a second four-year term on the Muhlenberg College alumni board.

Carolina Millard and Benjamin Brotman were married on October 18, 2024, at The Pomme in Radnor, Pennsylvania. **Nick Flatto** and **Felicia Rudolph** were in the bridal party and **Nathan Renner-Johnson** was the officiant.



Samantha Unger Horrow has completed her tenure as a member of the Muhlenberg College alumni board. Sami served for eight years and was a member of the development committee.

2013

Lindsey Quentin Swierkowski and **Raymond Swierkowski '12** announced the birth of their son. Raymond Walter III was born December 1, 2024.

2014

Ross Handler was recently elected to Muhlenberg College's board of trustees and will serve a three-year term.

Bryan McComb, associate director of biostatistics at Pfizer, was a guest on the "2400 CHEW" alumni podcast. Find episodes at 2400chew.transistor.fm or wherever you get your podcasts. 🎧

Mary McGinley Tomczuk and her husband, Jack, welcomed a new baby boy, Simeon Ronald, to the family on

January 8. He and big sister Felicity are Marti the Mule's biggest fans!

2015

Don't miss your 10th reunion!
October 3-5

2016

Dan McKenna was recently named a principal at Cerity Partners.

2017

Alyssa Kratz started a new job as a communications specialist at Ursinus College in January 2025.

Stephanie Dorit Spiegel and **Jacob Edward Najarian '18** were married at Little River Farms in Milton, Georgia, in October 2024. Several alumni (including **Loren Sass**, **Travis Crawford '18**, **Charles Bene '18**, **Stephen Dranoff '18**, and **Zachary Spiegel '11**) were in attendance.

2019

Julia Rocereta is the first author on a paper in the February 2025 edition of the Nature Structural & Molecular Biology journal. Julia is a Ph.D. candidate in pharmacology in the Institute of Structural Biology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. Read more about the paper on



13th Annual Alumni Art Show
Displayed during Alumni Weekend in Seegers Union

Scan the code or visit muhlenbergconnect.com/alumniart to submit your work by **August 31**.

There's always something new for Muhlenberg alumni to do!

Scan the code or visit muhlenbergconnect.com/events to see upcoming alumni events.

page 9. Julia was also a guest on the "2400 CHEW" alumni podcast. Find episodes at 2400chew.transistor.fm or wherever you get your podcasts. 🎧

Jacob Sonnenklar is a second-year medical student at St. George's University in Grenada.

2020

Don't miss your fifth reunion!
October 3-5

2021

Tommy Gedrich made his Broadway debut in "Pirates! The Penzance Musical." The show runs through July and stars Jinkx Monsoon, David Hyde Pierce, and Ramin Karimloo.



Brittany Gelb and Changyan Wang were married in June 2024 at Muhlenberg College. The couple exchanged vows on the Burkholder Quad and the reception was held in Seegers Union. Guests enjoyed delicious food served by Red Door Catering and a live music performance by a 15-person ensemble of family and friends.

Christina Tomsic has been named a client services specialist at LINC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering inclusive and welcoming workplaces and communities. Christina is a seasoned professional with extensive

experience in training and development, project management, human resources, community engagement, and relationship management. Her commitment to cultivating inclusive environments drives her mission to create meaningful impact in every organization she serves.

2022

Betty Ben-Dor was recognized as the recipient of the Student Leader Award from the American College of Dentists for her outstanding leadership, academic performance, and impact on the dentistry profession. After graduation from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM), Betty plans to continue at HSDM to pursue her specialty training in periodontology.

2023

Connor Marston graduated from the Morris County (New Jersey) Police Academy in November 2024. He will be assigned to the Livingston Police Department's patrol division upon his completion of the field training program.

Allison Pottle is working at New Hampshire's ServiceLink Aging and Disability Resource Center helping people get long-term Medicaid and stay in the community longer. Allison writes, "I find that it is an extremely rewarding career, especially in this political climate. The hoops one has to jump through to get welfare are very daunting for those who need it."

2024

Katrina Binks began dancing as a part of JV2, a professional development diploma program of the Jasmin Vardimon dance theatre company, in England in April. Read her story, "Dancing at the Next Level," at muhlenberg.edu/alumnistories. 🎭



Rachel Gesner and **Evan Plaza '19** were in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" in March at Chatham Community Players in Chatham, New Jersey. Evan played Charlie Brown and Rachel was Patty.



Brianna Moyer is a marketing assistant with the construction management company Alvin H. Butz, Inc. She got the position after completing an externship with **Mitch Hanna '14** that was facilitated by the Career Center. Read her story, "Q&A: How an Externship With an Alum Became a Career in Marketing," at muhlenberg.edu/alumnistories. 📺



2025

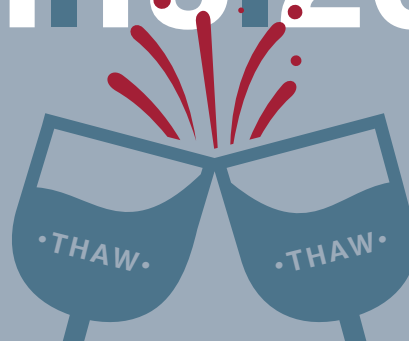
Don't miss your first reunion!
October 3-5

Summer
Deep Dives & **Classes**
WITHOUT
Quizzes
ARE BACK!



Visit muhlenbergconnect.com/learn or scan the code to see current course offerings and other educational programs that keep 'Berg alumni **learning for life**.

SAVE THE DATE
1.15.26



TOAST HEARD AROUND THE WORLD



IN MEMORIAM



Gerald Winfield Hedrick | 1945
 C. Richard Bupp | 1948
 Gordon C. Latzko | 1952
 Bruce D. Smitheman | 1952
 Wayne D. Stettler Jr. | 1952
 John S. Mest | 1952
 Robert Killough | 1953
 Anthony A. Saddler | 1956
 William Peake | 1956
 Herman E. Zieger | 1956
 John W. Donaghy | 1957
 Townsend H. Lalonde | 1957
 Anthony F. Caporale | 1958
 Rodney R. Heckert | 1958
 George L. Schindler | 1958
 Philip R. Haines | 1960
 Robert J. Taborn | 1960
 Elizabeth Lebo Houtz | 1960
 Howard J. Reed Jr. | 1960
 Marlene Rachmiel Glenn | 1961

Alan R. Swiecicki | 1961
 William L. Kistler | 1961
 Albert S. Callie | 1962
 Mitri Moses | 1962
 John K. Bachman | 1963
 Richard T. Lunger | 1963
 Florence Kahmar Franz | 1964
 Jeanne M. Maraz | 1964
 Ronald C. Yergey | 1965
 Miles K. Thompson | 1965
 David R. Beazley | 1965
 Richard L. DeVett | 1965
 Richard H. Di Maio | 1966
 Timothy E. Baird | 1967
 Kenneth A. Piltz | 1967
 John T. Kramer | 1968
 Mary Matthews Cloues | 1969
 Ellen June Barry Piltz | 1969
 Karen Kreamer Parks | 1972
 Arthur J. Corre | 1973

Edward J. Salevsky | 1973
 Sally Riekert Houck | 1974
 Elizabeth Nickle Saunders | 1975
 Jeffrey R. Pfaff | 1977
 Robert E. Jones Jr. | 1979
 Leonard W. Ostergaard | 1982
 Alexander P. Koorbanoff II | 1982
 Elizabeth J. Byrne | 1985
 Bryan J. Massoud | 1987
 Audrey B. Liss | 1988
 Joseph Luybli | 1989
 Lucille M. Pena | 1989
 Lisa W. Crothers | 1990
 Robert E. Wilson | 1993
 Joshua S. Hasbrouck | 1995
 Seth K. Weaver | 1996
 Douglas A. Waidell | 1997
 Sean F. Duffy | 2000
 Judith Schwab | 2002
 Lesley J. Katz | 2003



RUDY EHREMBERG

Former Dean of Students Rudy Ehrenberg died on April 23. He worked at Muhlenberg from 1994 to 2006 after a 30-year career in the

U.S. Army. The flagpole in Scotty Wood Stadium is dedicated to him. Colleagues remember him as a man who cared deeply about Muhlenberg; a dependable, thoughtful leader; and a valued friend and colleague. Ehrenberg's survivors include his wife of 59 years, Sandy; two sons, Rudy and Steve; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and three sisters.



ED DAVIS '60

Ed Davis '60, an emeritus trustee, died on April 10. Davis served on Muhlenberg's board of trustees from 1999 to 2011, as president of the alumni

association, and as class fund and reunion chairs. He was a member of the Lifetime Giving Society, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Society, Cardinal and Grey Society, and the 100 Club. Most recently, he had been serving as chair of the Circle of 1848 and on the Planned Gifts Committee for the *Boundless* campaign. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Anne, plus godchildren and cousins.



To find links to published obituaries
 (where applicable), scan the code or visit
magazine.muhlenberg.edu/memoriam



PHOTO BY ASH MILLER



Turtle Power

Construction on campus means more people will be wondering, “What’s up with that statue?”

BY MEGHAN KITA

This summer, visitors to Seegers Union must enter through the north side of the building due to ongoing work on the expansion. The increased foot traffic brings increased visibility to the large bronze turtle that has lurked in the landscaping near the entrance across from the New Science Building since August 2006.

The turtle originally had a far more prominent position in Parents Plaza, out in the open near the risers by the bridge connecting the Shankweiler and Trumbower buildings. Gifted to the college by Muhlenberg's ninth president, Jonathan C. Messerli, in 1991, the turtle was relocated during the construction of New Science.

The 100-pound tribute to *Clemmys muhlenbergii* — a bog turtle discovered by naturalist Gotthilf Ernst Muhlenberg, a son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and the grandfather of the college's first president, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg — is wildly not to scale. The actual animal, a critically endangered species, is one of the smallest turtles in the world, with adults reaching a length of no more than 4.5 inches.

At a relocation ceremony in 2006, Muhlenberg's 11th president, Randy Helm, referred to the turtle as “Bergey,” though it's also been known as “Clem.” Whatever its name, it is sure to get slightly more attention — though perhaps not as much as when children would climb all over it in its former Parents Plaza location — while the main entrance to Seegers is closed.

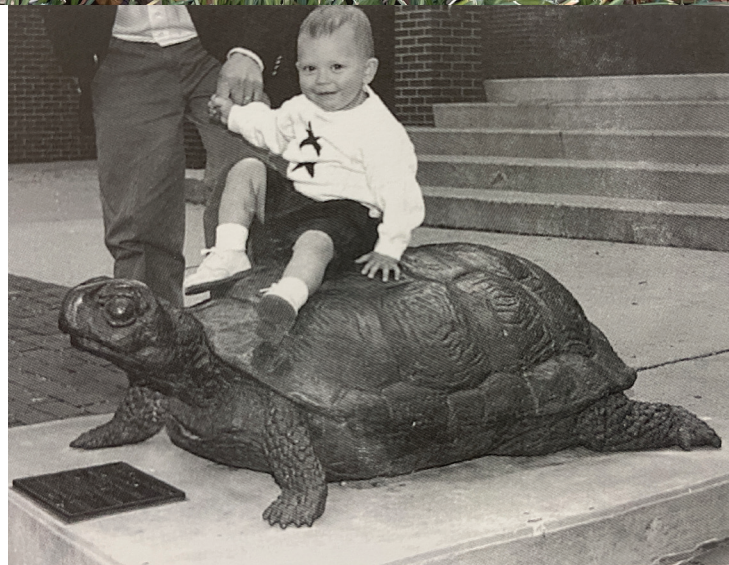


PHOTO BY PATTAVINA, PETER/USFWS

From top, the statue in its current habitat; an image from a 1997 issue of Muhlenberg Magazine; a real bog turtle

ALUMNI WEEKEND

— 2025 —

OCTOBER 3-5

Join us to reconnect with Muhlenberg College alumni, faculty, and friends.

Milestone reunions will be held for class years ending in 0 and 5.



On Friday, October 3, take part in **Classes Without Quizzes** taught by Muhlenberg faculty, hear about the **State of the College** with President Kathleen Harring, join alumni and faculty for an **evening mixer**, or catch a **movie on the lawn**.

Saturday is chock full of experiences — from a **birdwatching** expedition and **bug discovery** walk to the **Homecoming Fair**! Be sure to join us for our annual **tailgate** and the **'Berg Bash**!

On Sunday, we'll offer chapel services, gather for brunch in Wood Dining Commons, and recognize new **Athletics Hall of Fame** members.

For a full schedule of events, scan the code or visit muhlenbergconnect.com/alumniweekend.





**A Boundless
Celebration**

At a gala in May, President Kathleen Harring announced that *Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg* had reached its \$125 million goal nearly two months early. Read about the campaign's impact on **p. 38**.