

Muhlenberg

Magazine

FALL 2025

Critical Courses

Innovative faculty design classes that speak directly to the issues shaping our world today

President's Report

To lead, we must evolve and innovate — and we are

Allentown Impact

Muhlenberg helps fuel the area's significant growth

The Muhlenberg Annual Fund

IMPACTS *Everything*



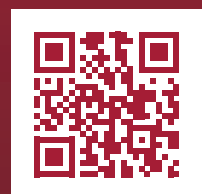
Whatever you or your student loved most about the Muhlenberg experience — an athletic team, an academic department, a student club — was made possible because of The Muhlenberg Annual Fund. Gifts to the fund support financial aid, clubs and programs, professors, and advisors.

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Muhlenberg’s innovative faculty design courses that have direct ties to critical issues facing our nation and world. Students are eager to engage with these topics from an interdisciplinary, liberal arts perspective.



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ON THE COVER In the course Human-AI Interaction, photographer Joe Romano '23 captured some human-human interaction between Assistant Professor and Director of Computer Science Hamed Yaghoobian and student Guadalupe Bueno-Ventura '27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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!

On Inside-Out

Thank you for the article "On Common Ground" (Summer 2025) about the partnership between Muhlenberg and Lehigh County Jail. When I arrived at Muhlenberg in 1969, I joined a program ostensibly to tutor those incarcerated there who hoped to take GED tests. The reality was somewhat different. There was some tutoring, but just as much by others incarcerated there as by the Muhlenberg students. Some of those in the jail were educated — one had been a graduate student at Lehigh, another was a graduate of a branch of Penn State — and the Muhlenberg students represented one of the only opportunities they had to talk to reasonably intelligent people (we could get into Muhlenberg, after all) outside the carceral system. And they could talk to us easily, unlike meeting with their visitors, to whom they spoke through thick, greenish glass windows via telephone transceivers. Some of what the magazine described sounded familiar — to paraphrase what Shinam Hussain '25 said, these visits provided me with something I couldn't get (and haven't gotten) elsewhere. But the Inside-Out program seems much better organized and run. Congratulations.

Paul Asman '73

As a job development specialist working in an AIC (Alternative to Incarceration) program, I am very excited to see [the Inside-Out program] in the Lehigh Valley and especially at Muhlenberg. Education is an important piece to rehabilitation and to lowering recidivism. Good work, Professor Kate Richmond!

Karen Schlossberg P'20 P'26

Via the Muhlenberg College LinkedIn page

Magazine Staff

Meghan Kita
Editor-in-Chief

Katie Quinn
Design and Art Direction

Mike Falk, Edward A. Lenzo, Carey Manzollilo,
Scott Snyder, Ebony Stevens
Contributing Writers

Tom Amico, Marco Calderon, Discover Lehigh
Valley, Joshua Fernandez Photography, Charlotte
Keefe '28, Steve Labonte, Danny Louge '26,
Kristi Morris, Joe Romano '23, Maggie Zerbe '17
Contributing Photographers

Charlie Powell, iStock.com/IvanNikulin
Contributing Illustrators

Administration

Kathleen E. Harring
President

Todd Lineburger
Vice President for Communications and Marketing

Rebekkah L. Brown '99
Vice President for Advancement

Contact

Editor-in-Chief, Muhlenberg Magazine
2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104-5564
magazine@muhlenberg.edu
484-664-3230

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ONLINE STORIES NOT TO MISS

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



Researching Vaping's Effects on the Oral Microbiome

Associate Professor of Biology Giancarlo Cuadra and his student team are exploring how exposure to e-liquids changes the function of immune cells — and they're having some fun while they're doing it. Take a look inside his lab at muhlenberg.edu/cuadralab.



Meet Two Creative Minds

Since graduating, Matt Solnick '19 and Jacob Wahba '20 have collaborated on video and social media content for brands including Nike, Dior, and more. See them in action on a shoot in New York City for Vince Camuto with Gia Giudice (of Bravo fame) at magazine.muhlenberg.edu/creativeminds.



PHOTO BY MARCO CALDERON

Students, alumni, and recruiters gathered for a revamped Connections Conference on campus in September.

Career Center Holds Networking-Focused Connections Conference

On September 19, Muhlenberg's Career Center hosted 47 recruiters, hiring managers, and alumni for a networking-focused Connections Conference. Director of Employer and Alumni Engagement Jen Sarnitsky '93 used student feedback from previous events (that they enjoyed the panel discussions but wanted more opportunities to talk to the panelists) to rework the event.

Those students were on to something: "If you talk to recruiters these days, they will tell you that they are finding talent through relationships built over time and through connections," says Career Center Executive Director Sue McNeilly P'28. "The mindset for this event was to lean into the true way that jobs are acquired, and that's through connections."

One of the Career Center's primary focuses year-round is to educate students on how to network, a process that begins long before they're looking for a job. All students, including first-years and undecided students, were encouraged to attend the Connections Conference and take advantage of the opportunity to ask a variety of people about their career paths.

The event kicked off with two alumni panels and then a recruiter panel, with representatives on hand from four major Lehigh Valley employers: St. Luke's University Health Network, Olympus Corporation of America, Lutron, and Lehigh County.

"We're lucky with our positioning here in Lehigh Valley," McNeilly says. "We are part of an economy that has been flourishing the last five years." (Learn more on page 38.)

Many panelists stayed for the roundtables, in which guests divided up among 13 "career communities" to speak with students interested in those areas. The Career Center's entire ecosystem is built around these career communities, which allow students to explore broad areas of interest. The day ended with a 5 p.m. networking reception that allowed even more alumni to join panelists, students, and faculty and facilitate new connections.

Casey Goldberg '26, a neuroscience major, attended the conference to narrow down potential career paths. She was able to connect with an alum in nursing, one of the fields she's interested in, but she also had a fruitful conversation with alumni in mental and spiritual health care, which she's not interested in pursuing.

"Through both of their stories I was reminded of the importance of following your curiosities and saying yes to things even if it might not feel like something you love. Saying yes got both of them to jobs they found perfect for them, but weren't what they originally intended to pursue," Goldberg says. "This conference made me more confident in my ability to find a path that will bring me joy and fulfillment." —*Meghan Kita*

Muhlenberg Receives \$1M Gift to Name Jeff Morris '82 Field



PHOTO BY JOE ROMANO '23

Jeff Morris '82 (center, in blue shirt and dark vest) with friends from Muhlenberg at the ceremony to dedicate Jeff Morris '82 Field.

On October 18, 50 guests, including 21 alumni, came to campus for the dedication of Jeff Morris '82 Field. It took place at halftime of the undefeated men's soccer team's matchup against Washington College, which would end in a 0-0 tie. Jeff's oldest brother, Robert, along with his wife, Mary Helen Morris, made a \$1 million gift to Muhlenberg to name the field on the northwest end of campus, which was renovated in 2023. Morris Field serves as home for the men's soccer, women's soccer, and women's lacrosse teams.

"This honor has little to do with me, and a lot to do with everyone here," Jeff said at the dedication. "The whole journey I've been on for almost 40 years has been about creating a soccer environment for kids to enjoy the game."

At Muhlenberg, Jeff was a business administration and accounting double major and a goalkeeper and captain on the soccer team. After college, Jeff pursued his passion for soccer abroad. Playing overseas in Germany, Costa Rica, Belize, and Ecuador lit a fire in Jeff that lasted a lifetime.

After coaching at high schools and universities and for the Olympic Development Program, Jeff provided soccer programs

in developing countries and low-income neighborhoods in Pennsylvania. Founding the World Cup Sports Academy in 1994 and Central League Soccer in 2012 led to a soccer platform that serves tens of thousands of new players each year.

Jeff is facing a very difficult cancer prognosis and looking at ways to leave an appropriate legacy. Rob reached out to Muhlenberg to discuss a gift in Jeff's honor. "[Jeff's] entire professional life, he's built upon his soccer legacy, which started when he was in high school or junior high school and continued at Muhlenberg," says Rob, CEO and founder of Olympus Partners in Stamford, Connecticut. "He's always been proud, justifiably, of his Muhlenberg degree and experiences."

"We are so proud that Jeff turned his athletic passion into a career by helping young people translate their love for the game into tangible skills and opportunities," says President Kathleen Harring. "This field now serves as a lasting tribute, inspiring us to embody what it means to be a dedicated coach, mentor, and Mule."

Read more about the dedication (and see more photos) at muhlenberg.edu/morrisfield. —MK



PHOTO BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO

The inaugural Dr. Ronald F. Levant Endowed Professor in Psychology Kate Richmond '00

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

This gift from Ronald F. Levant, Ed.D. GP'09, which will be matched by \$1 million from the estate of Edward '42 and Lois Robertson, will allow Muhlenberg to establish the Dr. Ronald F. Levant Endowed Professorship in Psychology, with preference given to faculty doing scholarship on the psychology of men and masculinities from a feminist perspective.

Levant is a world-renowned psychologist who studies men and masculinity. He is a professor emeritus of psychology at The University of Akron and former president of the American Psychological Association (APA). He received an honorary degree from Muhlenberg in 2010, and his grandson, Adrian Shanker, graduated from the college in 2009. He holds an Ed.D. in clinical psychology and public practice from Harvard University.

"Dr. Levant's generous gift is a testament to the transformational power of philanthropy. It will support the rigorous academics, close faculty mentorship, and in-depth undergraduate research that characterize a Muhlenberg education, and it will do it in perpetuity," says President Kathleen Harring. "I am so grateful that he has chosen to endow a professorship here at Muhlenberg."

The inaugural Dr. Ronald F. Levant Endowed Professor in Psychology will be Kate Richmond '00. Richmond, who joined the Muhlenberg faculty in 2006, teaches courses at the intersections of psychology, women's and gender studies, mental health, and social justice. She launched Muhlenberg's Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, which brings together Muhlenberg students and incarcerated students for sustained educational conversations. She is the co-author of the textbook "Psychology of Women & Gender" and has won awards from the Association for Women in Psychology and the American Psychological Association. At Muhlenberg, she has been the recipient of the Class of '32 Research Grant and the Paul C. Empie Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching. She earned her Ph.D. from Nova Southeastern University.

Levant is delighted by the college's selection. "[Richmond is] clearly a leader in the psychological study of gender, and she's studied both masculinity and femininity and also diverse gender identities," he says. "I'm sure she will use the [professorship] wisely and promote the mission that we both believe in, which is gender equality." —MK



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMANO '23

WELCOME, NEW MULES!

Muhlenberg's Class of 2029 joined the community from 26 states and 13 countries. With an average GPA of 3.51 (on a 4.0 scale), the academically-minded class's interests are widely split between the fields of natural sciences (23%), social sciences (21%), and accounting, business, economics, and finance (21%). Another 16% intend to pursue the arts. Student-athletes make up 38% of the Class of 2029. Born around 2007, the Class of 2029 sits firmly in the middle of Gen Z, having never known a world without iPhones or social media. A quarter of Muhlenberg's newest arrivals are the first in their families to attend college.



Muhlenberg to Launch Online MBA

A new Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is launching at Muhlenberg, developed by the college's nationally ranked Department of Accounting, Business, Economics, and Finance. Applications are now open, with the first cohort beginning classes in fall 2026.

"We've created a program that blends flexibility with the personal connection Muhlenberg is known for," says Bruce Anderson, dean of the School of Graduate Studies. "Through live online classes, small cohorts, and faculty who truly know their students, we're offering an MBA experience that's both practical and deeply human, one that helps students think boldly, lead ethically, and achieve meaningful results in their organizations and communities."

The Muhlenberg MBA is a fully online program that can be completed in as little as 24 months. Although it is designed for working professionals and emerging leaders, it features a weekly

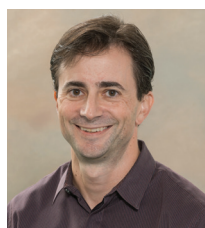
live (synchronous) class each week, so that students benefit from real-time interaction with expert faculty and peers in small, supportive classes, ensuring personalized attention and mentorship.

The curriculum equips MBA candidates with leadership skills to think strategically, creatively, and ethically. Elective pathways enable students to tailor the degree to their field. Additionally, a 4+1 pathway is being designed to create a streamlined route for Muhlenberg undergraduates to earn both a bachelor's degree and an MBA in five years.

The Mules Advantage Scholarship is available to Muhlenberg alumni who enroll in a School of Graduate Studies program, including the MBA. Eligible students will receive a tuition discount of 20% on each course throughout their program. This scholarship cannot be combined with other Muhlenberg tuition discounts.

To learn more and sign up for program updates, visit mba.connect.muhlenberg.edu. —*Ebony Stevens*

Why I Study ... thriving with ADHD Professor of Psychology Mark Sciutto



I was a first-gen college student, with virtually no exposure to psychology growing up. But, I always

had a fascination with things that were difficult to understand, and there's nothing more complex than human behavior.

My early aspirations never included teaching. In fact, I was terrified of public speaking. I started out wanting to do full-time clinical practice with adults. But, one of my professors changed my perception of teaching. He was not this aloof academic. He invited me to be in his senior seminar, and I discovered that every student in the class had to do a two-hour presentation. My heart dropped, but I did it and loved it. In grad school, I was terrified of not being able to do my own statistics for my dissertation, so I pursued a teaching assistantship

for statistics to strengthen my skills. Through these experiences, I discovered I really loved teaching.

I have an interdisciplinary degree in clinical and school psychology. I worked as a school psychologist as part of the training and after. It was a time when there was a rapid change in ADHD awareness, in the early '90s. I started doing some work to measure people's understanding of ADHD.

That work has evolved to explore the experiences of people who have ADHD and are thriving. We tend to think some of the core difficulties people with ADHD have (distractibility, being diverted by extraneous things in the environment, noticing everything) are always counterproductive. Really, it depends on context. In a classroom where everybody's supposed to focus on the teacher, it's problematic, but in other contexts, it might actually serve you well.

For example, we interviewed a few police officers, and one of them called distractibility "hypervigilance." He

said, "Hypervigilance is really helpful when I'm on patrol and it's to my advantage to notice everything and shift attention quickly. When I'm at dinner with my fiancée, it's not so good." We talked to a bunch of entrepreneurs with ADHD. What we would call impulsivity in kids is what got those entrepreneurs over the hump in starting their businesses. This work has reinforced that we have a lot to learn from individuals with ADHD who are thriving.

In the end, so many of the reasons why I chose to study psychology show up in my classes. For instance, in my Developmental Psychopathology class, students work in local schools with kids with ADHD, autism, and other developmental disabilities. I want them to see that what these "disorders" look like in the textbook is really incomplete. It's a course that's closely aligned with my expertise and interests. The students shift their mindset and often their career paths based on what they experience.

Pride in Pennsylvania

Kaitie Burger '12, executive director of the Pennsylvania Tourism Office, has built a career in travel marketing that has largely focused on her (and Muhlenberg's) home state.

The 2025 Groundhog Day celebration in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, drew tens of thousands of revelers who congregated in the predawn fridity to see the rodent that Governor Josh Shapiro has dubbed "the official state meteorologist of Pennsylvania." Among the crowd was Kaitie Burger '12, who came to Punxsutawney on behalf of the Pennsylvania Tourism Office, where she serves as executive director. She and her team distributed branded hand warmers, met Governor Shapiro, and had a weird and wonderful time.

"It's just such a cool thing to see that entire teeny little town come together for this weekend of people having this bucket-list travel experience," says Burger, who was a media and communication major and dance minor at Muhlenberg. "It feels a little bit like a fever dream in the best way possible."

Burger began her current role a year ago after working for Madden Media, a travel-focused marketing agency, and Discover Lehigh Valley, the organization that promotes the region that includes Allentown and Muhlenberg. A Pennsylvania native, Burger came to Muhlenberg intent on pursuing dance and something else — though what, exactly, she wasn't sure.

"I changed my major a bunch of times and was just kind of exploring around and figuring out what was interesting to me," says Burger, who also serves as president of Muhlenberg's Alumni Board. "Knowing a little bit about a lot really helped me to get a strong basis as I was coming into the workforce."

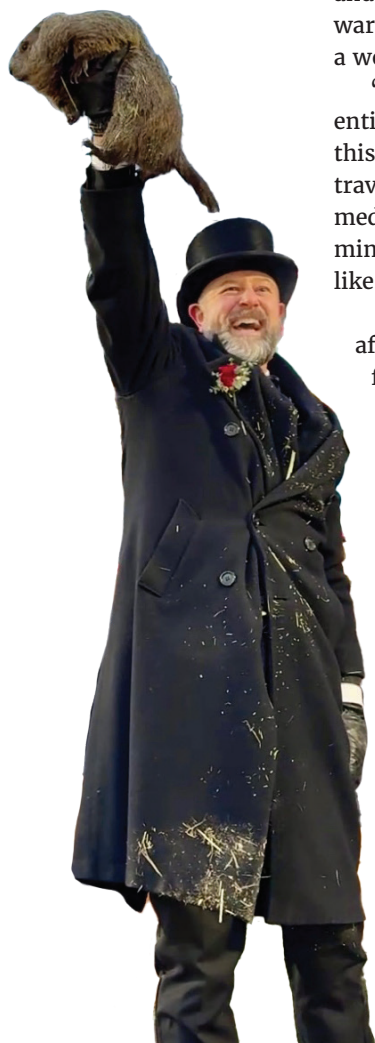
An interest in new media led Burger to commit to her eventual major, and a connection she made through Muhlenberg College neighbor and Board of

Associates member Michael Drabenstott got her in the door at Discover Lehigh Valley. There, she helped build the brand's social media presence and worked on other online initiatives including newsletters, blogs, and user-generated content. At Madden Media, her clients included destinations like Atlanta; Buffalo, New York; and Provincetown, Massachusetts. When the opportunity to focus on her home state again arose, she jumped at the chance.

Today, she's part of a "small but mighty" team of five in the Pennsylvania Tourism Office. Many other states have 20 to 40 employees in their equivalent offices, she says, but Pennsylvania is rebuilding after years of underinvestment in tourism. Her office has branded Pennsylvania as The Great American Getaway, "hearkening back to that nostalgic, Americana feeling that we had as children, looking at some of the state's great assets — drive-in movie theaters, old-school diners, Knoebels amusement park — all these cool, classic, fun experiences," Burger says.

The office's target audience is the 72 million people who live within a four-hour drive of Pennsylvania, residents of New York City and Washington, D.C. among them. Since Burger started her role, the office has launched a new website, invested in relationships with destinations and tourism boards across the state, and partnered with external marketing firms to create memorable content. For example, custom-designed murals were hand-painted on buildings in Brooklyn this summer, imploring passersby to "touch some grass," "stop scrolling," and get away to Pennsylvania.

"I think people are just looking to disconnect, to be able to take a breath, take a pause, and just relax from the day-to-day chaos that



“

I changed my major a bunch of times and was just kind of exploring around and figuring out what was interesting to me. Knowing a little bit about a lot really helped me to get a strong basis as I was coming into the workforce.”

— KAITIE BURGER '12
(MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION MAJOR)

we live in,” Burger says. “The backbone of our work is inspired by that.”

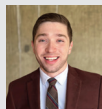
Looking ahead to 2026, Pennsylvania is going to host a number of significant sporting events, including the NFL Draft, the PGA Championship, the MLB All-Star Game, and some FIFA World Cup matches. And, the state will be hosting its own celebrations in honor of America’s 250th anniversary. Burger is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that come with these milestone moments and is grateful to be part of this revitalization of tourism in her home state.

“It’s just over \$900 and change that each individual would have to pay more in taxes if the tourism industry wasn’t as robust as it is in Pennsylvania,” she says. “At the end of the day, the work that we do generates jobs, generates economic impact for the state, and helps to reduce taxes for in-state residents.” —MK



From top: Burger with Governor Josh Shapiro and Deputy Secretary for Tourism Anne Ryan at Groundhog Day 2025; the Pennsylvania Tourism Office’s engagement zone at the event

Muhlenberg Welcomes 10 New Full-Time Faculty



Assistant Professor of Public Health Bruno Bohn is a molecular and chronic disease epidemiologist. He completed his undergraduate studies in microbiology at the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in epidemiology at Columbia University, and a doctorate in epidemiology at the University of Minnesota. His research primarily investigates the etiology and progression of chronic diseases, with a focus on microbe- and immune-related mechanisms.



Assistant Professor of Mathematics Abbey D'Ovidio received a master's degree and doctorate in mathematics from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, along with a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Quinnipiac University. Her research is in the area of mathematical biology. Specifically, she is interested in modeling dynamics of populations which undergo harvesting and/or stocking.



Digital Cultures Technologist and Visiting Lecturer of Media and Communication Anthony Dalton has been a member of Muhlenberg's staff since 2009 and an adjunct instructor for more than a decade. He holds a bachelor's degree in electronic media from Kutztown University. His academic interests are the DIY ethos in filmmaking, AI media making, digital storytelling and oral histories, media preservation, branding and visual identities, and game studies.



Assistant Professor of Media and Communication Wyatt Dawson is a scholar whose research examines how media messages shape public attitudes toward emerging technologies, including facial recognition and artificial intelligence. He earned his Ph.D. in media communication with a focus in quantitative social science from the University of Delaware.



Assistant Professor of Chemistry Juan Duchimaza Heredia received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University and conducted his postdoctoral training at Boston University. His research uses computational chemistry methods to investigate the optical properties of organic molecules.



Assistant Professor of Biochemistry Josephine LoRicco completed a bachelor's degree and doctorate in biochemistry and biophysics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She has continued to study the microbiology of extreme environments and algal cell biology.



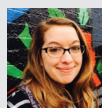
Assistant Professor of Art, Photography Antonio McAfee received a BFA in fine art photography from the Corcoran College of Art and Design, an MFA in photography from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand. McAfee's photographs and collages address the complexity of representation by appropriating and manipulating photographic portraits of African Americans in the 19th century, funk and R&B musicians, and transitioned family members.



Assistant Professor of Chemistry Ian MacKenzie completed his undergraduate studies at Geneva College before earning his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His current research explores organic photochemistry — specifically using light to power the development of new chemical reactions, which would be applicable to the areas of pharmaceutical and agrochemical synthesis.



Assistant Professor of Clinical/Counseling Psychology Lex Pulice-Farrow received his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His research focuses on decreasing the systemic barriers that trans and nonbinary individuals experience through the population's psycho-medical experiences and social relationships.



Assistant Professor of Dance Lindsey Vader holds an MFA in dance from the College at Brockport, State University of New York, and a Ph.D. in dance studies from The Ohio State University. Her research examines community-engaged art making and immersive performances that imagine new ways of being together during these politically divisive times.

Muhlenberg Recognized for Outstanding Career Development

Muhlenberg's student- and alumni-focused Career Center has been recognized by Colleges of Distinction for outstanding career development. The Colleges of Distinction Best Career Development recognition honors institutions that integrate career development into the curriculum and ensure graduates are workforce-ready. Each student's Career Center journey begins with a unique coaching model in which every first-year

student meets with a faculty advisor, a career center coach, and a college life coach. Muhlenberg's career coaches earn certifications and accreditations in addition to teaching courses on career readiness and taking students on "career road trips" to visit employers in major cities. Over the last five years, 90% of Muhlenberg graduates have indicated that they were working or continuing their education within six months of graduating.

Muhlenberg in the Media

Muhlenberg and Allentown were featured in the real estate section of *The New York Times*.

"Allentown, Pa., a Former Industrial Town Reborn" mentions Muhlenberg as it highlights Pennsylvania's third-largest and fastest-growing city, Allentown, which has recently seen a boom in development.

Francesca Coppa (English) was quoted in a story for *New York Magazine's The Cut*.

In "Why Have a Regular Chatbot Boyfriend When You Can Have a Celebrity One," Coppa says role-play with a bot is solitary, but fan fiction is more like stepping into a room full of "super-smart" women who are writing artful, complex stories.

Institute of Public Opinion Director Chris Borick (political science) was interviewed by multiple outlets.

U.S. News & World Report, The Philadelphia Inquirer, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Pennsylvania Capital-Star, and The Morning Call were among the outlets asking Borick to weigh in on recent news.

Muhlenberg's Acopian Center for Ornithology was mentioned in a *Lehigh Valley Live* story about rare birds.

Acopian Ornithological Specialist Peter Saenger helped identify the birds and was quoted in "Purple martins make comeback at this St. Luke's Hospital campus."

WFMZ highlighted the retirement of Head Coach Ron Rohn (women's basketball).

The segment "Legendary Muhlenberg WBB Coach Ron Rohn to Retire After 2025-26 Season" shares Rohn's accomplishments, including the more than 500 games he's won throughout his coaching career.

Rich Niesenbaum (biology, sustainability studies) talked bees with *The Morning Call*.

In "The 9,000-Year-Old Pastime That Is Still Alive and Well in the Lehigh Valley," Niesenbaum explains how he helped bring back Muhlenberg's Beekeeping Club, which has drawn the interest of more than 30 students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 20-22

"Reset: New Dances"

This showcase for Muhlenberg's advanced choreography students offers exhilarating world premiere works that explore a wide range of subjects, moods, and dance styles.

Tickets: \$10-20, muhlenberg.edu/tickets

Location: Trexler Pavilion, Baker Theatre

December 6-7

Advent Candlelight Carols

This annual tradition, in which Egner Memorial Chapel hosts musical and dance performances featuring the college's choirs and ensembles, returns to campus at the start of Advent.

Tickets: Free, muhlenberg.edu/carols25

Location: Egner Memorial Chapel and streaming

February 5-7, 2026

"In Motion"

This annual choreographic tour-de-force is the highlight of the dance season on campus, featuring world premiere works by Muhlenberg's acclaimed dance faculty and nationally recognized guest artists.

Tickets: \$10-20, muhlenberg.edu/tickets

Location: Baker Center for the Arts, Empie Theatre

February 26-March 1, 2026

"Everybody"

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's modern riff on the 15th century morality play "Everyman" follows the character of Everybody, chosen from amongst the cast by lottery at each performance.

Tickets: \$10-20, muhlenberg.edu/tickets

Location: Trexler Pavilion, Studio Theatre

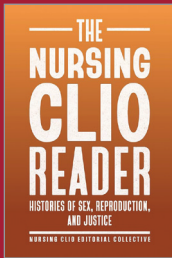
April 23-26, 2026

"Twelfth Night: The Musical"

Named one of the best new theatrical works of 2018 by Time, The Hollywood Reporter and The Washington Post, "Twelfth Night" is a rousing contemporary musical adaptation of Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy about mistaken identity and self-discovery.

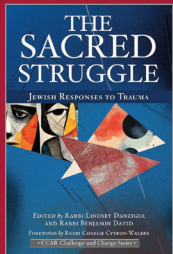
Tickets: \$12-26, muhlenberg.edu/tickets

Location: Trexler Pavilion, Baker Theatre



Jacqueline Antonovich (history)
"The Nursing Clio Reader: Histories of Sex, Reproduction, and Justice"
 Rutgers University Press, 330 pages

Antonovich is the co-founder of Nursing Clio, a peer-reviewed blog project that ties historical scholarship to present-day issues related to gender, health, and medicine. She wrote the preface to this essay collection and also served as one of its editors.



Benjamin David '99
"The Sacred Struggle: Jewish Responses to Trauma"
 CCAR Press, 352 pages

David, a rabbi, is co-editor of this anthology of stories about how Jewish wisdom

can strengthen Jews and help them navigate life's most difficult moments.



Lisa Johnson Traugott '96
"To Condemn a Witch"
 Rose Castle Media, 394 pages

This book is the second in a series set in 1729 about a healer, a mistress,

and a ghost who must form a coven to protect a changeling child from a sadistic witch hunter.

Comic Relief

After graduating as a double major in media and communication and theatre, Emma Rosenthal '18 entered a master's program for comedy screenwriting in Chicago. The final semester of the two-year program was supposed to take place in Los Angeles — and then the pandemic hit. She found herself at home with her mom, Robin, and her brother, Sam. Like millions of other people, they discovered TikTok and started posting. Unlike millions of other people, a video they created went viral — a video of Robin ranting over a puzzle.

"We looked at the three of us and said, 'Emma's got the comedy writing and editing background, Sam's got the business side of things, and Robin is a born-to-be star,'" Emma recalls. "We've got a dream team here."

The three built @ItsTheRosenthals, a slice-of-life comedy brand that now has 1.7 million followers on TikTok and 838,000 on Instagram. The channels are successful enough that they're Emma's full-time job. The Rosenthals' most viral videos — filmed at the grave of Robin's husband and Emma and Sam's dad, Mark, who died of a heart attack in 2010 — have been covered by USA Today, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and NBC's "TODAY Show."

Muhlenberg Magazine How did the cemetery videos come about?

Emma Rosenthal '18 For Father's Day 2021, a day that's usually sad, we decided, "Let's go get dad's favorite food, and stop by the cemetery, and go on a hike." And we were like, "Where are we gonna eat this food? Let's just have a picnic at the cemetery." Since we were already making content, we thought, "Let's film a little." At one point, my mom throws a French fry at the grave and says, "Here, Mark, have a fry" — which turned out to be an iconic line. I remember my mom said to us, "Do you guys think we got anything for TikTok?" And my brother and I were like, "Probably not." Then I watched the footage later, and I was like, "Oh, yes we did." Once we posted that video and saw how many people it resonated with, we were like, "Okay, we can really dive into who we are and peel back a couple more layers to our family."

MM How are grief and comedy connected for you?

ER When I was 14, I found joy after my dad died in watching stand-up comedy. That was what drew me to comedy originally. I wanted to be the person to make somebody else laugh and bring them out of their grief, and that is what we've done. The messages that we get from people are completely overwhelming. The amount of people who have said "this is the first time I've smiled since my dad died" or "my mom would have loved this" ... it has normalized grief, and grief should be normalized.



From left: Emma Rosenthal '18; Emma with her mom, Robin, and brother, Sam; a still from one of the family's most popular videos, a Father's Day "pool party"

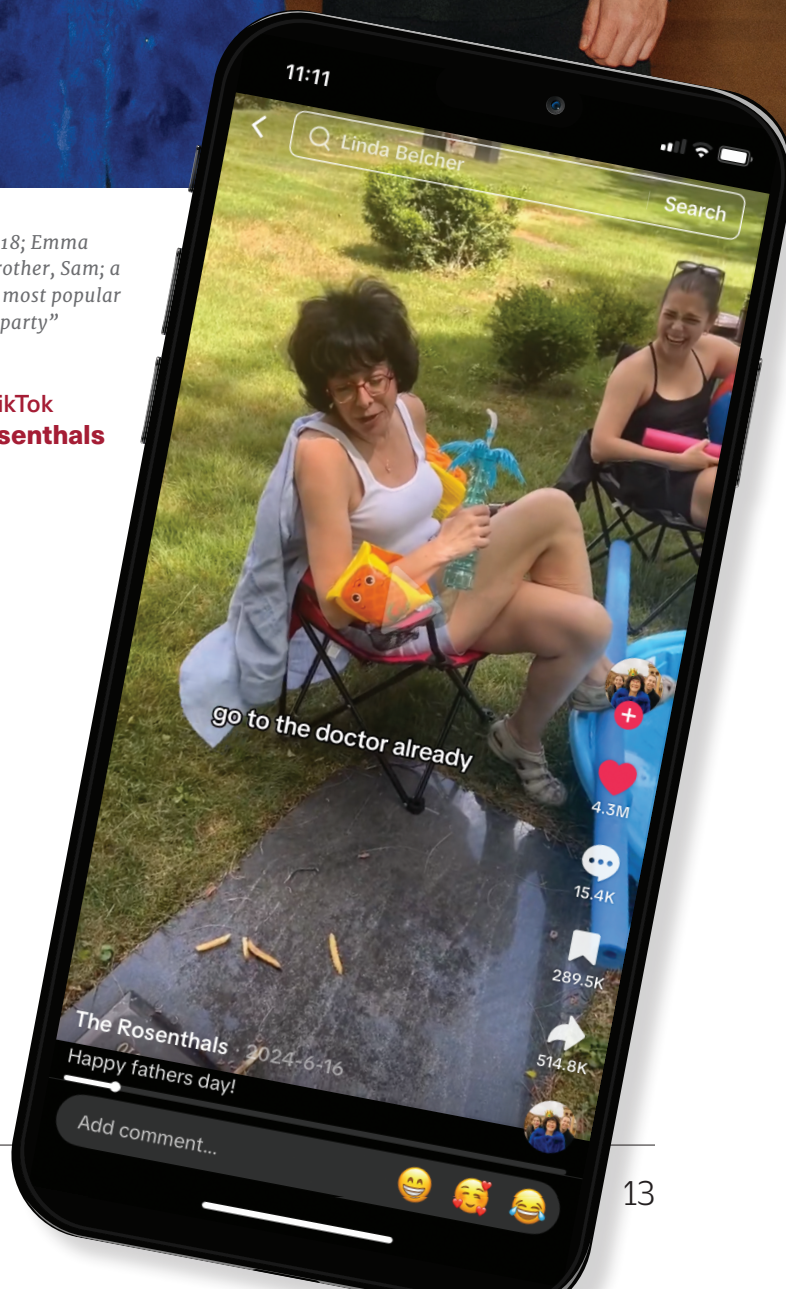


Follow The Rosenthals on TikTok and Instagram @ItsTheRosenthals

A lot of people don't talk about it when they've lost a loved one. I think that we've shown people that the best thing you can do to honor your loved one is to talk about them. There are very few people still in my life who knew my dad, but one of the most amazing things for me is that millions of people know my dad's name.

MM What does your mom think of her newfound fame?

ER She absolutely loves being recognized. She loves when people come up to her. It's a new career that she never expected. And I never expected to be in business with my family or doing what I'm doing right now at all. This has been the absolute most fun thing for my mom. She says it's really special, and I agree, that the three of us get to see each other so often, and that we work together and we talk every day.



Experimental Learning

The National Science Foundation has twice funded Professor and Chair of Chemistry Keri Colabroy's transformative, student-centered research.



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMANO '23

Colabroy directs some Experimental Biochemistry students in the lab this fall.

This summer, Professor and Chair of Chemistry Keri Colabroy learned that the National Science Foundation (NSF) had granted \$315,000 to Muhlenberg to support her research. The project, a collaboration with Rhodes College Professor and Chair of Chemistry Larryn Peterson, is about turning carbon from natural sources, like tree bark, into useful materials, like antibiotics, using powerful enzymes called dioxygenases.

Sixty Muhlenberg students have worked on the project since it began with support from another \$294,000 NSF grant in 2017. Some of them came to the project through Experimental Biochemistry, a course that works on small pieces of the project during class time. Others have joined Colabroy's lab, which works on the project more extensively during the academic year and over the summer. The research has resulted in five peer-reviewed publications, including one that was published in

the journal ACS Omega in July, with 16 unique Muhlenberg student co-authors, and more than a dozen presentations by Muhlenberg students at national meetings.

"I think research is the best teaching I do. I have not observed any other method by which I see such profound transformation in students," says Colabroy, who has also coordinated summer research across disciplines at Muhlenberg for the past 15 years. "The power of being able to look at a problem and instead of being afraid of trying to solve it, you have a willingness to try this or try that ... I can't provide a student with a better set of tools. I've been an adult now for some years, and that is the skillset that I use over and over and over again."

Colabroy came to Muhlenberg in 2005, choosing the institution for its teaching-focused, close-knit faculty community. She wanted to build relationships with students in a way that's possible only

at small liberal arts institutions, both in the classroom and in the lab. She teaches courses across chemistry and biochemistry; this semester, one of them is Organic Chemistry.

“Organic chemistry, it was my first love — it is what captivated my heart and made me a chemist,” she says. “Teaching that class for me is walking down memory lane every time. I just love that atmosphere and what you learn in that class.”

A popular course she teaches for non-majors is Kitchen Chemistry; the accompanying textbook she co-authored was just updated and re-released. She’ll offer a version of the course in the spring that will be team-taught with Lecturer of Italian and French Daniela Viale, focusing on Italian food and culture. Kitchen Chemistry includes a lab component in which students cook; the final project requires students to choose something they’ve never made before and to try to cook it, using techniques they haven’t done in the lab, by applying the principles of chemistry.

“The problem-solving logic that we apply in chemistry is valuable to everyone,” she says. “In General Chemistry, you’re in a lab, you have to

Cuadra head up the program, which gets incoming students into the lab early — before or during their first year — and pairs them with faculty, peer, and alumni mentors. These early research and mentorship experiences can help these students persist in the sciences.

“Research is entry-level. Classes don’t always feel entry-level. Maybe you start in General Chemistry or Intro to Biology and you feel like you need to have known a lot already to get to that table,” she says. “Research is a lot more entry-level, because you can do [science] long before you understand. Most of us drive cars without understanding at all how cars work. Is driving a car the prerequisite to wanting to understand how cars work? Maybe. So for students who have an interest in understanding science, doing the science is a real gateway. It’s an entry point, and it is a powerful one.”

The other major skill research teaches, Colabroy says, is the ability to collaborate with others and work as a team. The six returning students in her lab this fall recently demonstrated their aptitude with this: Their experiments take four to five days to complete, and each day requires students in the lab

“

I think research is the best teaching I do. The power of being able to look at a problem and instead of being afraid of trying to solve it, you have a willingness to try this or try that ... I can’t provide a student with a better set of tools.”

— KERI COLABROY (CHEMISTRY)



wear goggles. It feels like, ‘I can’t do this. This is dangerous.’ [Kitchen Chemistry] lowers the barriers to entry. It removes some fear and provides some motivation, because who doesn’t want to eat cookies when you’re done?”

Another way Colabroy has worked to lower barriers to entry is through a mentorship program for underrepresented students in STEM, which launched in 2023 with the help of a \$266,280 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis (AVD) Foundations. She and Associate Professor of Biology Giancarlo

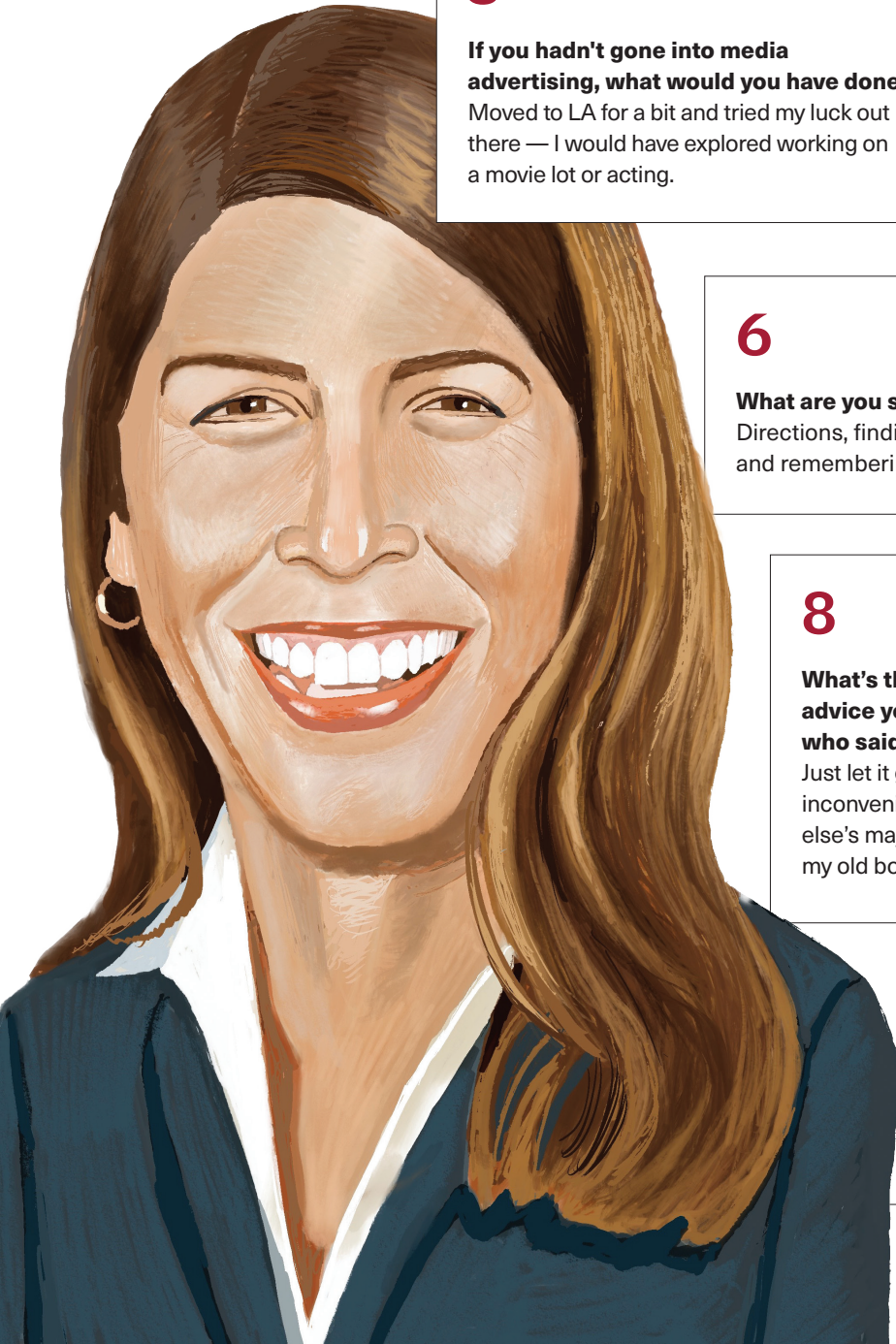
to keep the experiment moving. When one student hurt her ankle and had to go to the emergency room, the others quickly stepped in to figure out who could cover for her until she was back on her feet.

“If we ask today’s employers what they want, they want problem-solvers who can work in teams, and I’m like, ‘This is what I do,’” Colabroy says. “Science is cool and enzymes are fun, but nine times out of 10, what we’re doing in the lab is solving problems, and those skills are translatable.” —MK

Q&A

10 Questions With ... Lucille Barchitta '94

Vice president of advertising sales at NBCUniversal, New York City



1

Describe what you do in five words or less.

Sell marketing opps to advertisers

2

When did you know you wanted to be in the TV business?

Since I was a kid. I got the TV Guide every week and read it cover to cover. I went to Muhlenberg to study drama and then pivoted to communications.

3

If you hadn't gone into media advertising, what would you have done?

Moved to LA for a bit and tried my luck out there — I would have explored working on a movie lot or acting.

4

What is your favorite place?

My husband's hometown:
Sussex, England

5

What quality in others do you most admire?

The ability to tune out the nonsense

6

What are you secretly good at?

Directions, finding shortcuts, and remembering dates

7

Which living person do you most admire?

Malala Yousafzai

8

What's the best piece of advice you have received and who said it?

Just let it go — your minor inconvenience is often someone else's major convenience. Per my old boss and friend, Donna K.

9

What question should we have asked you?

What's one thing that would have surprised the old you if you told her now?

10

What's the answer?

Now I love cats and running!
(That's two things.)

The Music of Memorial Hall

Billy Joel concert sells out Memorial Hall

by Jason Robbins
On Saturday evening, December



Weekly Photo
"Piano Man" Joel captivates crowd with 7 encores.

Billy Joel performed to a sell-out audience in Memorial Hall on the Muhlenberg campus. After coming out on stage one-half hour late, he played straight through without an intermission. Although it was the last concert on his tour, and he had every reason to be less than enthusiastic, Billy warmed up to the audience immediately. His personality and sense of drama shone through when the music was perhaps not at its best. Overall, the music was good and consistent. William (as his mom calls him) Joel played 24 songs including 7 encores. The songs encompassed most of his work from his three albums Piano Man, Streetlife Serenade, and Turnstiles. There was one tune that is being rereleased on his upcoming album, from his first album "Cold Spring Harbour titled "She's Got a Way."

The band also played a new instrumental called "Handball" which was excellent and has not been released as of yet. This is the same band that did Turnstiles (the newest release) with the exception of Jay Smith. None of these musicians collaborated to produce any of Billy Joel's previous albums. This fact accounts for a different sound than we were used to hearing from songs on the three earlier albums. From attending his earlier performances I noticed that he did not talk as much between songs as some audience was very appreciative of his music.

Thursday, April 25, 1968

Folk-rock, sculpture commence Arts Festival Involvement accented for both artist, viewers

by Lola West
Seymour Lipton, who has been identified as a classical American sculptor, gave a slide-lecture and a somewhat philosophical commentary on the nature of art and his night. The program began with Lipton's identification of the audience as being composed of science majors, from which he drew the conclusion that the audience had little knowledge of or experience with art. Unfortunately, the premise of the lecture was entirely true. Lipton then, proceeded to explain pertinent facts about his art and emphasized the importance of involvement on the part of both the artist and the viewer.

A film based upon Lipton's sculpture "Archangel," which stands in Philadelphia's New York City and is probably his best-known work, was most informative. Lipton's description of the artistic process as he experiences it did much to demonstrate that a great work of art is not the product of a single moment of divine inspiration but a long planning. Lipton emphasized both in the film and in his lecture that a work of art is born from the entire experience of the artist. It evolves complexly but naturally out of everything the artist has ever done or experienced.

Lipton's art is one of searching involvement. He is opposed to such artists as Rauschenberg, the pop artist who will speak here on

Perhaps the most significant statement that Lipton made about words leave off. In a consideration of "What is art?" one must never forget that art is not a literal expression (except obviously in the case of literature). It is an expression entirely other than literal. Even though verbalization may help us to understand a work of art and bring about a greater appreciation, the moment a painting or a sonata or a sculpture is expressed in words it is no longer a true expression of that medium.



"QUITTERS NEVER WIN" said Simon, but Garfunkel isn't quitting at last Friday night.

To a capacity crowd in Memorial Hall last Friday night, Art Garfunkel commented, "I may not be the spokesman for my generation, but I do get a statement in each night." This statement is typical of Simon and Garfunkel, for it points up their low-key approach not only to music, but life as well. They are more than mere entertainers; for their message is their media, and this message is expressed subtly, not pounded or shouted. While S. & G. are the first to admit that they do not epitomize

their era, they nevertheless are unwilling to watch the world disintegrate around them without a protest. However, this is not the protest of a Bob Dylan or a Mick Jagger. While S. & G. are critical, they are not bittlingly so. Rather, one filled with questions instead of acid. The pair has been described as "the ultimate urban folkingers," and this term fits them well. In their urban world, they see loneliness ("Each town seems to be the same to me, the movies and the factory"), loss of spirituality ("And the people bowed and prayed/To the neon god they I am an island.") Simon in a rock song even questions the value of know why I spend my time writing songs I can't believe, with rhyme." Each theme is interpreted with intelligence and understanding.

For S. & G. are not showmen; the true sense of the word; the few attempts at humor, such as their description of their trials and tribulations with the police in America and their jostling of "A winner never quits, a quitter never wins", were cool one. Throughout the technically excellent performance, one was continually aware of a barrier between the stage and the audience.

more on page 7

Byrds, Santana get it all together; achieve orgasm of music, emotion

by Duncan Walls

Together was the key word last Friday night as the Byrds and Santana treated the full house of faithful concert-goers to two extremely eclectic and electric sets. Most of the concert goesers came to see Santana, which has been riding on the popularity of its appearances at Atlantic City and Woodstock and its best-selling album (they're soon due to spend 12 days in San Francisco preparing the follow-up album). The Byrds have dropped a bit from

to see Santana, which has been riding on the popularity of its appearances at Atlantic City and Woodstock and its best-selling album (they're soon due to spend 12 days in San Francisco preparing the follow-up album). The Byrds have dropped a bit from

The set ended with a medley of favorites "Turn, Turn, Turn," "Mr. Tambourine Man" and an extended version of "Eight Miles High" that featured a bass and drum duet.

Thank God people realized how good the Byrds were and gave



HIGH FLYING BYRDS — Big Name entertainment in the country-rock style.

photo by Matt

Concerts at Muhlenberg are now more likely to take place in Seegers Union, Egner Chapel, or the Center for the Arts than Memorial Hall, but the gym was once a formidable venue. It was the largest in the Lehigh Valley until Lehigh University's Stabler Arena was built in 1979. In the 1960s and '70s, Memorial Hall hosted many noteworthy acts, including Simon and Garfunkel, The Beach Boys, Louis Armstrong, Santana, Electric Light Orchestra, The Byrds, and The Isley Brothers. Billy Joel played there twice; Frank Zappa, three times. John Wittenbraker, President Kathleen Harring's husband, has taken a deep dive into Memorial Hall's musical history and presented his findings to alumni from those decades. To see a timeline Wittenbraker designed listing all the big-name acts from that 20-year period, visit magazine.muhlenberg.edu/bigbands.

If you have material you'd like to contribute to Muhlenberg's archives, please reach out to scca@muhlenberg.edu.

Personally Speaking...



Maridie Niare '26

Pre-med psychology major from The Bronx, New York

He's studying to be a psychiatrist.

"I've been that one friend, ever since middle school, that people came to whenever they needed anything. I'm attentive. I'm an active listener. I didn't know that psychology was something I could pursue until I took Social Psychology at the University of Maryland the summer before my senior year of high school. I tacked on the pre-medicine part as well because, while my main thing is being a therapist — I want to talk with my clients — psychiatrists understand more in-depth the biological aspect [of mental health] as well as the mental aspect. I wanted to tie that together and be more well-rounded. I know that most psychiatrists see their patients for five or 10 minutes and prescribe their medicine, but when it comes to psychology or therapy in general, it doesn't always have to be medical-based. I've met with some faculty who know psychiatrists who see patients [for longer sessions] regularly, so I'm optimistic I can pursue this."

He works in the lab of Associate Professor of Psychology Connie Wolfe ...

"I wasn't even sure I would do [research], but I took her Contemporary Racism class, and that really interested me in the work that she did. We are studying the sense of mattering as a person of color at a predominantly white institution and what factors might predict that sense of mattering, such as social-emotional health skills. The lab did interviews at first, before I joined, and then we did a survey study as well, of white students and students of color. Last year, we did a bunch of analysis, and we're talking about next steps now: What other variables do we want to look at? Doing that research inspired my thesis — and I didn't think I'd be doing a thesis, either — that I'm working on right now. It's about the relationship between resilience and people of color. Resilience is an important skill for everyone to have, but having too much resilience may actually be a bad thing — you might experience numbness, or lack of empathy, or feeling like you can't rely on anybody. I want to look at, how do you find that nice middle ground?"

... and that experience helped him decide to become a writing tutor.

"If I had the time, I would minor in so many things. I have so many interests. I really wanted to minor in English because I have a passion for writing and I'd like to do more of it. I was recommended to be a writing tutor by my first-year seminar professor, [Professor of Biology Erika] Iyengar, but I felt like it would just be too much on top of my course load. After joining [Wolfe's] lab, I started pursuing my interests more and more — things that I thought I wouldn't be doing, I started doing. Working in the Writing Center is cool, seeing so many perspectives. If I'm given a prompt, I think, 'Here's how I would do it,' but seeing how the students answer it in so many different ways and different directions, I'm like, 'I never thought about it that way.' Some of them may think that they're bad writers, but I'm like, 'No, you have really great ideas. They're just unpolished.' Coming to the Writing Center really helps them polish them."

He's also a resident advisor (RA) ...

"My first semester being an RA was in the spring of my sophomore year — I was an alternate who got taken off the wait list when someone went abroad. It was weird because all of my residents were older than me. After I had my first floor meeting with them, they really liked me. Literally, they applauded me and said, 'You're going to be a cool RA.' I built a good rapport with all of them. I've genuinely enjoyed my experience being an RA. It changes what it means to be a college student. Being a college student, you don't really feel any pressure to take care of anyone, but being an RA, there are people who see you as a resource."

... and a member of the Tri Alpha Honor Society for first-generation students.

"When I came [to Muhlenberg], I was on a mission. Sure, I'm going to enjoy my time on campus, but I also know I'm here for an education. My parents have sacrificed a lot for me to even have this opportunity. I don't see being first-gen as a liability or anything — I see it as motivation. I know many people feel imposter syndrome, but I've never really had that experience. I'm in college; I'm here because I worked hard to be here. I would really just love to make my parents proud. I want to be the son they can brag about. And I also want them to reap the benefits of everything that I'll accomplish in the future."

Two New Ball Fields Host Opening Celebrations

The softball field ceremony was held on campus as part of Alumni Weekend, while the ceremony for the baseball field, a renovated Bicentennial Park in south Allentown, was held on October 19.



PHOTOS BY MARCO CALDERON

President Kathleen Harring cuts the opening ribbon at the new softball field (left) and at Bicentennial Park (right).

At the Muhlenberg softball field's opening ceremony, held on October 4, Director of Athletics Lynn Tubman addressed the alumni, students, staff, and community members in attendance by recalling a conversation she had with the entire coaching staff during her interview for the position eight years ago.

"The coaching staff unanimously shared what they believed was the number one priority for the department — finding a home for baseball and softball," Tubman said. "That moment spoke volumes about Muhlenberg, a community where coaches set aside their own program's needs to prioritize what was best for our student-athletes. This is a true example of who we are: 23 sports, one team."

Both teams now have homes: the softball team's on campus, between Jeff Morris '82 Field and Scotty Wood Stadium; the baseball team's on Allentown's south side, in the historic Bicentennial Park. In October, constituents celebrated the completion of both projects, which broke ground in 2024.

Both celebrations included a ribbon-cutting and a ceremonial first pitch. The softball field celebration also

honored the 2025 softball team, which had to spend its entire season on the road and still was able to qualify for postseason play, and the 2000 softball team, which was the first since the program began in 1979 to win a Centennial Conference championship. The baseball field celebration, held on October 19, honored the 1980 baseball team, which won the MAC South championship.

The new fields are a testament to the importance of athletics on the overall student experience at Muhlenberg, where more than 30% of students are on a varsity team.

"Athletics, for many students, is an essential part of the college experience. Playing a sport develops leadership, discipline, tenacity, and collaboration. It challenges you physically, mentally, and emotionally. It helps our students realize their potential. And in many cases it results in stories of success," said President Kathleen Harring in her remarks at the softball field celebration. "At Muhlenberg, we like to succeed. We like to win, and I wish victory and success for every member of every Muhlenberg team, every day." —MK



Clockwise from top left, Harring throws out the first pitch at the softball field, the current baseball team, the 2000 softball team, and the 1980 baseball team.

MULE ROUND-UP

Despite the loss of many players to graduation, the Mule **FOOTBALL** team won five of its first six games, including a 38-19 defeat of Moravian for the Sodexo Cup and a 39-36 Alumni Weekend win against Ursinus that came down to a blocked field goal on the final play. The Mules were ranked as high as No. 23 in the Division III polls, earning a spot in the national top 25 for the seventh consecutive season. ... **MEN'S SOCCER** went undefeated in its first 15 games, starting off with an 8-0-7 record to land at No. 24 in the Division III poll. The 15-game unbeaten streak tied the school record, set when the 2010 squad started out 9-0-6. At press time, the Mules had not lost a regular-season game in more than a year, going 13-1-10 with their lone loss coming in the 2024 NCAA Tournament. ... **WOMEN'S SOCCER** won three of its first four games to exceed its win total from all of 2024. The Mules picked up their first Centennial Conference win with a 1-0 shutout at McDaniel, a team that has played in the NCAA Tournament three of the last four years, and followed up with another 1-0 win against Haverford, scoring back-to-back CC wins for the first time since 2015. ... **FIELD HOCKEY** won four of its first seven games. Abba Diglio '26 and Erin DiSandro '26 are the first set of Muhlenberg teammates to each score at least 30 career goals, with Diglio closing in on 100 career points. ... **VOLLEYBALL** opened the season with its first sweep at DeSales since 1994 and also defeated Moravian in four sets to win the Sodexo Cup. ... The **CROSS COUNTRY** teams received all-time top 20 performances from Matthew Hajel '26 at Lebanon Valley and Jem Berney '26 at Lehigh.



PHOTO BY STEVE LABONTE, D3PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

RANKINGS

BY THE NUMBERS

A variety of organizations recently recognized Muhlenberg for excellence. Here are some highlights.



#11

Muhlenberg's ranking among **Pennsylvania's 387 colleges and universities of all sizes**, per The Wall Street Journal's outcomes-driven Best Colleges in the U.S. List



#5

Muhlenberg's ranking among **all Pennsylvania institutions for student experience**, per The Wall Street Journal



#1

Muhlenberg's Niche ranking among **Pennsylvania colleges for food** — for the seventh year in a row



#6

Muhlenberg's ranking on The Princeton Review's **Best College Theater** list



+10

Improvement in Muhlenberg's placement on the U.S. News & World Report **Best Value National Liberal Arts Colleges** List (#49 this year)

TOP 10%

Muhlenberg's ranking **nationally for its performing arts programs**, per Niche



#59

Muhlenberg's ranking among **national liberal arts colleges for undergraduate teaching**, per U.S. News



#46

Muhlenberg's ranking among **1,421 liberal arts colleges** evaluated by Washington Monthly, which factors in access, affordability, outcomes, and promoting public service



SELECTED FALL SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

PHOTO BY MARCO CALDERON



Career Center Connections Conference

The Career Center invited 47 guests — recruiters, hiring managers, and working alumni — to a networking-focused event for students of all class years. Read more on page 3.

Center for Ethics Series

This year's events are tied to the theme "Transform, Translate, Transcend." Events this fall have included a lecture by the scholar of comparative literature, feminist studies, and trans studies Emma Heaney; a guided visit to Philadelphia's Magic Gardens; and a panel of faculty discussing this year's theme with attendees.

"Just Another Feminist Art Project" Exhibition

The Martin Art Gallery hosted works from American mixed media artist Mavis Pepperwhite from May through September, with a closing reception on September 18.

Living Writers Series

The Department of English Literatures and Creative Writing is hosting five internationally recognized authors this fall as part of this series, which includes a semester-long course and public events. Guests this fall have included author Lorrie Moore, best known for her short stories, and poets Safiya Sinclair and Safia Elhillo.

Music Journalist Liz Pelly Talk

WMUH invited Pelly, who discussed her book, "Mood Machine: The Rise of Spotify and the Costs of the Perfect Playlist." Pelly is a writer and editor based in New York and an adjunct instructor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.



"Ride the Cyclone" Performances

This fall's musical, about a group of teenagers who die on a faulty roller coaster and find themselves in limbo, sold out all four of its performances in Trexler Pavilion's Studio Theatre.



PHOTO BY MARCO CALDERON

South Asian Students Association (SASA) Mock Shaadi

SASA hosted a mock wedding sharing some South Asian marriage traditions, including different dances and marriage rituals as well as a variety of games.



PHOTO BY DANNY LOUGE '26

Summertime Musical Theatre Returns to Muhlenberg

Muhlenberg's Department of Theatre and Dance will present "Seussical," the Doctor Seuss musical, June 12-28, 2026, in the Baker Theatre — a 15-show run, including several daytime shows.

The summer's plans also include a two-week Seussicamp for children in grades 6-8, June 15-26. Seussicamp registration begins December 1, and "Seussical" tickets will go on sale February 1, 2026. Longtime Summer Music Theatre director James Peck ("Spamalot," "In the Heights," and many others)

will direct "Seussical," and the department's new jazz dance professor, Noel Price-Bracey, will choreograph. More information is available at muhlenberg.edu/smt.

"Seussical" marks the return of full-scale summer theatre productions for the first time since the COVID-cancelled 2020 season. "I know how much the summer musical tradition has meant to our students and the Lehigh Valley community," says Leslie Hill, chair of theatre and dance. "We're thrilled to be bringing it back." —*Scott Snyder*

As Platforms Decay, So Do We

When we outsource our thinking to technology, we're left without critical skills when those platforms decline — and they always do.

By Edward A. Lenz

Anyone who uses Google search (that is, nearly everyone) knows it has steadily declined in quality over time. Useful search results have been replaced by advertisements and, most recently, AI “answers” that may or may not be accurate. Similarly, Amazon prioritizes sponsored results over relevant ones, and Facebook buries posts from friends and family under boosted content. These degradations are examples of platform decay, or “enshittification,” a term coined by writer Cory Doctorow in 2022.

Once a useful and convenient platform draws a large enough user base to achieve a commanding market share, access to that platform's users is sold as a product to business customers, usually advertisers. As meaningful competition disappears (Bing, Yahoo, Ask Jeeves; brick-and-mortar book and department stores; Myspace), companies increase prices for access to their users, enshittifying the platform for users and advertisers alike to drive shareholder profit. Platform decay is neither accidental nor passive. It is the result of intentional, profit-driven design.

The harms of platform decay have been framed as matters of inconvenience or economic unfairness. While these are genuine concerns, Michael J. Ardoline, assistant professor of philosophy at Louisiana State University, and I argue in our Ethics and Information Technology article, “The cognitive and moral harms of platform decay,” that they overlook deeper harms. Enshittification harms our cognitive and moral capacities, making us worse. This is because ubiquitous platforms are not mere tools; they function as extensions (or “scaffolds”) of our thinking, shaping how we think.

Consider how Google search shapes memory and attention. Starting with memory, let's consider just two kinds: semantic and

transactive. Semantic memory is the recall of specific information (remembering a specific mac and cheese recipe) while transactive memory is the recall of where and how to access information (remembering what to search on Google to find said recipe). The authors of “The ‘online brain’: how the internet may be changing our cognition,” published in *World Psychiatry* in 2019, show that widespread internet use is shifting us away from semantic memory toward transactive memory, with demonstrable neurological effects. Rather than remember the recipe, we just remember how to Google it. For this to be a successful way to remember, the sources and means of access to information must remain reliable. If the platform that scaffolds transactive memory decays, thus resulting in unreliable access, our transactive memory becomes less successful — or enshittified.

Worse yet, platform decay results in cognitive deskilling, a loss of cognitive capacity from offloading skills to machines, in this case, digital platforms. Reduced reliance on semantic memory means that we become worse at recalling information unaided. Offloading transactive memory results in a diminished ability to find information without relying on faulty (enshittified) tools. In short, not only can we no longer rely on Google search as a way of successfully finding information, but we are also cognitively worse off, even offline.

Enshittification also harms our attentive capacities. As business products, decaying platforms hijack user attention and redirect it toward advertisements. Like memory, attention is a skill. To the extent that platform decay makes us worse at paying attention — for example, by training us to endlessly scroll bite-sized videos and redirecting us from

ILLUSTRATION BY ISTOCK.COM/IVANNIKULIN



Platform decay is the cognitive and moral equivalent of causing minor brain damage to millions of people.

information we care about to sponsored products — platform decay constitutes a cognitive harm.

Attention is also a moral skill. The literature on virtue ethics, a philosophical theory of the good life as centrally involving personal cultivation, establishes that attention is a “meta-virtue” required for the cultivation of other moral characteristics. Being a good friend, for example, requires noticing distress; personal growth demands focus on our goals. If platform decay rewires us away from these things by bombarding us with irrelevant distractions, then it erodes our ability to pay attention to morally relevant features of our experience and, therefore, degrades our ability to flourish.

If platforms shape how we think, both on- and offline, then their decay is more than an inconvenience: it constitutes cognitive and moral harms, weakening our abilities to remember well, attend well, and cultivate social and personal excellence. Platform decay is the cognitive and moral equivalent of causing minor brain damage to millions of people. While this

is already a serious moral concern, it is all the more serious to the extent that platform decay is intentional (even if these harms are not themselves intended).

While Ardoline and I focus on memory and attention, extended enshittification (the degradation of human capacities through platform decay) isn’t limited to these functions. One urgent concern is the increasing use and impending enshittification of AI, especially large language models (LLMs). As people become more reliant on LLMs to, for example, explain ideas, solve problems, write essays, create code, and make art, we risk outsourcing crucial cognitive and moral capacities, such as critical thinking. As these tools become more and more entrenched, they’ll tend toward enshittification and should be expected to result in deskilling — in this case, of our ability to think for ourselves.

Edward A. Lenzo, Ph.D., is a visiting assistant professor of philosophy at Muhlenberg.



President's

In the month of October, we opened two new athletic fields, dedicated a third, and raised the top beam on a major expansion to Seegers Union. Rarely have Muhlenberg College's energy and vitality been on such vivid display (and never have I thrown out two first pitches in two weeks!).

Thanks to the philanthropy of Gerry '79 and Cathy Fahy, and many alumni and friends, the expansion of Seegers Union will serve as a new front door for visitors to campus, facing Chew Street. It will include a welcome center, a new home for career services and global education, space for alumni engagement, classrooms, a large event space, and flexible use spaces for students. This new space embodies our values — signified by our red doors — which symbolize welcome, hospitality, and our commitment to helping our community and students flourish. Our community-driven excellence is evident in all three new facilities. The new softball field gives Muhlenberg softball its first on-campus home in decades. Our new baseball facility, Bicentennial Park, is a historic, newly renovated ballfield on Allentown's south side. Both are first-rate, NCAA-standard venues that will showcase collegiate athletic competition and create opportunities for community events that can be enjoyed by our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and neighbors.

In Seegers Union, our students, faculty, alumni, and staff convene for academic and cultural events. They debate, collaborate, and celebrate in the spirit of active inquiry and

close community. All this in service to the challenge of a liberal arts education — a campus where students develop a firm foundation as they push themselves and each other to excellence and achievement.



No matter the changes in our world, our society, or higher education, I'm energized by the fact that we continue to meet our mission with unyielding commitment to the values and ideals that have made Muhlenberg College great since 1848."

— KATHLEEN HARRING, PH.D.
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE PRESIDENT



Report

At Muhlenberg, we continue to do just that. Among the future-focused changes here is the launch of the college's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. Leveraging the college's nationally recognized excellence in accounting, business, economics, and finance, the Muhlenberg MBA is a program built on our strong liberal arts foundation — where technical and professional competencies fuse with the leadership capacity, interpersonal skills, and interdisciplinary thinking that only a top liberal arts institution can offer. Our academic offerings now include six master's degree programs and more than 25 adult undergraduate programs, including accelerated and traditional bachelor's degrees, teacher certification, and several non-credit certificates.

This is a time of change in higher education. For those of us fortunate enough to serve institutions like Muhlenberg, we are at an inflection point, with an opportunity to forge a new vision for the college's future. No matter the changes in our world, our society, or higher education, I'm energized by the fact that we continue to meet our mission with unyielding commitment to the values and ideals that have made Muhlenberg College great since 1848.

BY THE NUMBERS



1

MBA program announced in fall 2025



200+

research projects undertaken for credit by Muhlenberg students last year



\$127,000,000

total philanthropy generated by the Boundless campaign, which concluded June 30



2

new ballfields opened in fall 2025



91%

acceptance rate last year among Muhlenberg applicants to medical school



1

soccer field rededicated in honor of a Muhlenberg alumnus



1,000+

alumni and friends headed back to 'Berg for Alumni Weekend in fall 2025



100%

law school acceptance rate among Muhlenberg applicants last year



89%

first-year students coached by the Career Center last year

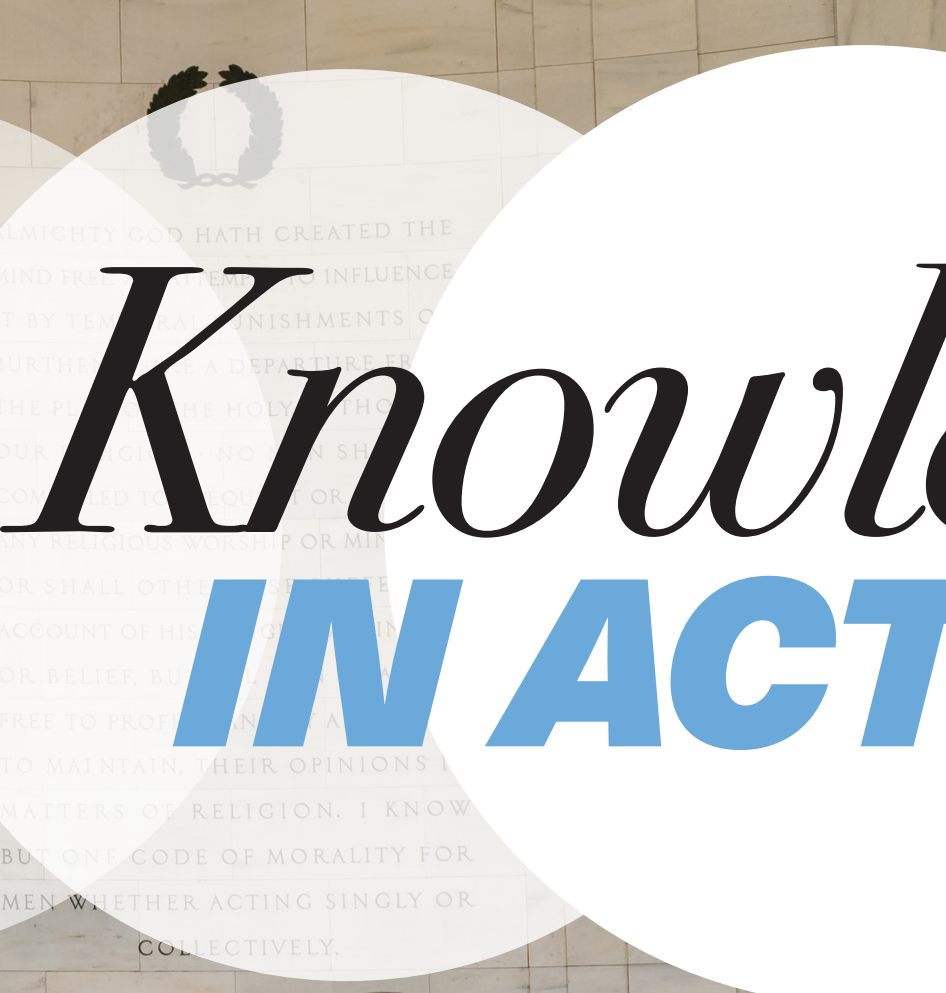


Top

10%

where the ROI of a Muhlenberg degree falls compared to those earned at any of the nation's 4,600 public, private, non- or for-profit colleges and universities by 20+ years post-graduation, per a Georgetown University analysis





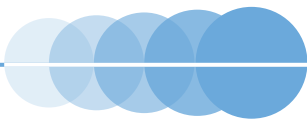
Knowledge **IN ACTION**

BY MEGHAN KITA

Does AI still need humans? Is fentanyl airborne? How did certain vaccines and monuments become so polarizing? Questions like these lead to engaging discussion directly tied to issues currently facing our nation and world. It all begins with timely, innovative course creation by Muhlenberg faculty.

Students in the first-year seminar Monument Wars toured Washington, D.C., with Bormann-Paris Professor of Political Philosophy Giacomo Gambino.

PHOTO JOSHUA FERNANDEZ PHOTOGRAPHY



In early September, Associate Professor of History Jacqueline Antonovich was teaching about *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, a Supreme Court case decided in 1905 that ruled it was constitutional for states to impose vaccine mandates. The discussion was part of *Vaccination Nation: Historical and Public Health Perspectives*, a new integrative learning course Antonovich co-developed and is co-teaching with Associate Professor of Public Health Kathleen Bachynski.

A student asked whether the decision was still in effect, because she'd never seen anyone fined or imprisoned for failing to be vaccinated. As Antonovich explained that each state has different levels of interventions — that one state may have strict vaccination requirements to attend public schools, for example, while another may allow for more kinds of exemptions — another student raised her hand.

"I just got a news alert that Florida is getting rid of all vaccination requirements," the student shared.

"The way that a student was able to connect a 1905 law that we were just talking about to a news alert — to me, that is what is so special about this class," Antonovich says.

Vaccination Nation is one of several especially timely courses being taught this fall at Muhlenberg. A liberal arts education empowers students to connect the dots between what they're learning in the classroom and what's happening beyond it. These courses, developed by Muhlenberg's innovative faculty, do this explicitly, and student demand for such courses is high.

"One of Muhlenberg's greatest strengths is the creativity of our faculty, who design courses that speak directly to the issues shaping our world today," says Provost Laura Furge. "These courses don't just deliver content — they invite students to engage deeply, make connections across disciplines, and see the relevance of their education in real time. Muhlenberg faculty are continually designing new classes with not only timely themes but assignments and experiences that prepare students to critically examine complex issues."

Step inside the classrooms of four such courses challenging students this fall.



Vaccination Nation

Bachynski had the idea for a course on vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. In panels and classrooms before and after campus closed, she was fielding lots of questions about vaccines, so many that she added a session to her Issues in Public Health class about them.

"I felt I couldn't do vaccines justice in one class session, and I definitely couldn't do them justice alone," Bachynski says. "I knew Jacki was an expert in the history of medicine, and I thought she would be the perfect person to brainstorm this idea with."

The pair received a summer course development grant from Muhlenberg to build Vaccination Nation, which walks students through different epidemics, from smallpox to COVID, with the history perspective first and the public health perspective second.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time a class like this has ever been taught," Bachynski says. "We couldn't use another syllabus as inspiration — we had to create this out of whole cloth from our own expertise and our own assessment of what themes we thought would resonate."

The course includes a semester-long group project in which students choose an epidemic and a vaccine and conduct research on it from a national, local, and hyperlocal perspective, using The Muhlenberg Weekly archives and other primary sources to see how campus was affected by these diseases. These projects will be on display next spring in Trexler Library's Rare Books Room. Additionally, each group must create a modern-day public health campaign to educate the masses about the same vaccine, whether that's a series of social media messages, a TikTok video, or a podcast.

To understand what the course looks like in practice, take the rabies module: Antonovich begins by placing rabies in its historical context as one of the scariest diseases. Without the vaccine, it is 100% fatal in humans, and that fear of rabies is what drove, for example, folklore about vampires and werewolves. The rabies vaccine, developed by Louis Pasteur and first administered in 1885, marked the beginning of a period of great innovation in public health.

During Bachynski's portion of the course, students learn about today's rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, which includes a modernized vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin. This treatment can cost thousands of dollars if you don't have insurance (and can cost hundreds even with coverage). Public health experts (Bachynski included) recommend pursuing the treatment if you even wake up in a room with a bat, because it is technically possible to be bitten in your sleep and not realize it. However, one of the papers students read, written by economists, debates whether that should be a universal recommendation.



To our knowledge, this is the first time a class like this has ever been taught. We had to create this out of whole cloth from our own expertise and our own assessment of what themes we thought would resonate."

—KATHLEEN BACHYNSKI

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

"They did the math and it's something like you'd have to vaccinate a million people [who'd woken up with a bat] to prevent one rabies death," Bachynski says. "It's honestly really rare to be bitten by a bat and not know it. It raises some really profound ethical questions about what our actual policy would be, so that's the kind of thing I thought would be useful for our students to talk about and grapple with."

And students from many disciplines are eager to grapple with such questions: The 20 students in the course (which had 30 more on the waitlist) include not only history and public health majors but neuroscience, business administration, biology, and finance students as well. The course makes room for these multiple disciplinary perspectives as well as multiple perspectives on the historical events and vaccines the course teaches about. For example, smallpox eradication — the only disease we've ever eradicated — is widely celebrated as a

At left, Antonovich, and above right, Bachynski teaching Vaccination Nation



```
base ~/Desktop (0.083s)
ollama list
```

NAME	ID	SIZE	MODIFIED
qwen3:4b	e55aed6fe643	2.5 GB	17 hours ago
qwen3:0.6b	7df6b6e09427	522 MB	17 hours ago
qwen2.5:72b	424bad2cc13f	47 GB	4 weeks ago
gpt-oss:120b	f7f8e2f8f4e0	65 GB	5 weeks ago
gpt-oss:20b	aa4295ac10c3	13 GB	5 weeks ago
riven/smolvlm:latest	4d75b044a6eb	545 MB	5 weeks ago
qwen2.5vl:latest	5ced39dfa4ba	6.0 GB	5 weeks ago
gemma3:270m	b16d6d39dfbd	241 MB	6 weeks ago
gpt-oss:latest	f2b8351c629c	13 GB	7 weeks ago
qwen3-coder:latest	ad67f85ca250	18 GB	8 weeks ago
qwen3:30b	1b18c99a61ea	18 GB	2 months ago
phi3:latest	4f2222927938	2.2 GB	2 months ago
llama3.2-vision:latest	6f2f9757ae97	7.8 GB	2 months ago
gemma3:latest	a2af6e0e0e0e	3 GB	3 months ago
gemma3:4b	a2af6e0e0e0e	3 GB	3 months ago
qwen3:32b	e1c9e0e0e0e0	3 GB	5 months ago

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> _base ~/Desktop
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ollama run qwen3:0.6b
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```


public health victory. However, fewer people are aware that, to achieve eradication, some people in India and Bangladesh were held down and forcibly vaccinated, “one of the worst violations of civil liberties,” Bachynski says.

“I can show you all the epidemiological data about how vaccines work and the impact they have on the trends of various diseases, but what I alone can’t tell you is what to do with that information,” Bachynski says. “I think we have an obligation, if we’re asking people to get vaccinated, to provide people information about vaccines and to do that in a way that is interdisciplinary.”

Human-AI Interaction

Assistant Professor and Director of Computer Science Hamed Yaghoobian first offered Human-AI Interaction, a course for computer science majors, in spring of 2023. At that time, ChatGPT had only been around for a few months. For the final project, students built a language model trained on the satirical news site The Onion and posted it on the communication platform Discord so others could chat with it. It worked, but it was buggy — cutting off in the middle of sentences and so on.

Language model technology has obviously come a long way, so Yaghoobian had to rework the entire course to offer it this fall. One of the papers the class discusses is an MIT Technology Review story about a therapy client who discovered that his therapist was using ChatGPT during a session, typing in what the client was saying to receive guidance on how to respond.

“Students were saying in class the other day that you can choose not to engage with these systems,” Yaghoobian says. “In a lot of cases, people are not given a choice.”

The goal of Human-AI Interaction is to demystify AI, which is now, in some cases, so complex that the engineers who built certain AI products cannot explain their behavior — “a growing concern,” per Yaghoobian. Students learn the history of artificial intelligence, critique and examine modern AI systems, and get hands-on experience through AI-related projects. For the final project, students must propose a way they can collect data, use that data to build their own custom large language model (LLM), and then critique the output.

The class talks about whose knowledge is captured by AI — that is, the knowledge of people and cultures able to write things down — and whose is therefore missed. They discuss the polarity of the techno-utopianist view of AI and AI doomism and how neither perspective supports meaningful engagement with these products and the ethical questions they raise. They grapple with the current moment in AI: Big tech is receiving huge amounts of money to develop and deploy these



[AI tools] are not autonomous systems. There has never been an autonomous system. Humans are the glue of these systems. People with bodies, real people, are the ones who are giving [them] data. Humans are the flesh and bone of these systems.”

—HAMED YAGHOOBIAN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

tools, which are being integrated into companies, governments, schools, and beyond with mixed results.

“The job sector, for example: Resumes are being generated by AI, they’re being evaluated by AI, and people get rejected,” Yaghoobian says. “It ends up hurting humans.”

Higher ed is another sector the class discusses. Professors are concerned about the consequences of text generation for essay writing. If students can use a tool to write for them, what happens to writing?

“At Anthropic, they realized that if they feed a lot of AI-generated content to an LLM, it would be a form of ‘cannibalization,’” Yaghoobian says. “If a model is trained repeatedly on its own content, it tends to ‘hallucinate’ more and becomes more confident in presenting those ‘hallucinations’ as facts.”

The bottom line of Human-AI Interaction, at least the 2025 version of the course, is that there is no AI without human interaction: “These are not autonomous systems. There has never been an autonomous system. Humans are the glue of these systems,” Yaghoobian says. “Even ChatGPT, without the humans interacting with this thing, it’s nothing. People with bodies, real people, are the ones who are giving it data. Humans are the flesh and bone of these systems.”

At left and above right, Yaghoobian teaching Human-AI Interaction

Rethinking Drugs and Drug Abuse

Students in both sections of Stanley Road Professor of Neuroscience Jeremy Teissere's course Rethinking Drugs and Drug Abuse had seen reports of police officers accidentally being exposed to fentanyl and having serious reactions, including convulsions. In fact, Teissere searched for such stories in class and found a couple examples from the previous few weeks.

The problem with those stories? "[Fentanyl is] not airborne. You'd have to be in dunes upon dunes of fentanyl," says Teissere, adding that patches are the only way to absorb fentanyl through the skin, and those take hours to take effect. "Unless you inject it or eat it, you cannot be affected by fentanyl."

Fentanyl also wouldn't cause convulsions — its effect would be "total sleepiness and cessation of breathing," he says. It's possible that fear culture surrounding fentanyl, which *is* dangerous, is behind these reactions. However, Teissere and other pharmacologists worry that misinformation about fentanyl will make bystanders afraid to intervene if someone is overdosing.

Teissere's goal for this popular course for non-majors — he's teaching 24 students in each section, with another 51 on the waitlist — is to empower students to sort through such misinformation. The way drugs are typically taught in public schools and the social narratives people encounter about drugs often do not reflect science, he says, and the goal is to develop scientific literacy in these students.

The course begins with an examination of popular culture, to identify common societal narratives about drugs: "I found out pretty early on in teaching classes like this that if I don't do this, people are frightened to speak, because if you seem to know something about drugs, it means you take drugs," Teissere says. "So that stigma hovers over the beginning of this class."

Then, the class spends some time learning about how the law has addressed drugs throughout U.S. history, including prohibition of alcohol and cannabis, opioid regulations includ-

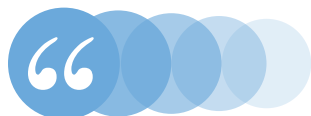
ing the Harrison Narcotics Tax Act of 1914, and the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, which gives us the drug scheduling we have now.

"This is just a really good example of where the science runs afoul of the policy," Teissere says, noting that cannabis is still classified as Schedule I ("no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse") at the federal level but is legal to purchase and use recreationally in 24 states and Washington, D.C.

The students learn the fundamental science behind drugs: what constitutes a dose, how drugs go into and leave the body, how drug tests work. And then, Teissere provides a more in-depth look at four common drugs: alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and caffeine. For the final project, students split into groups to work on presentations about drugs of their choosing that were not covered in class. In the past, groups have presented about supplements, which aren't regulated by the Food and Drug Administration; GLP-1 agonists like Ozempic and Wegovy; stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine; and ketamine, which is now being used to treat chronic pain and unresponsive depression.

The class ends with an oral exam, in which small groups of students meet with Teissere in his office to discuss what they learned in the class, including how, exactly, it made them rethink drugs and drug abuse.

"I don't care how students rethink drugs and drug abuse. The expectation is that, in some way, they will rethink [them]," Teissere says. "Where drugs and medicines are going to meet them isn't going to be on an exam. Instead, it's going to be, their grandmother was given a new medication and she's frightened to take it, or they have a question about recreational use [of a drug]. They feel empowered, even if they don't have the answer, to know how to navigate information sources and cut through social narratives to be able to find reliable information."



[Students] feel empowered, even if they don't have the answer, to know how to navigate information sources and cut through social narratives to be able to find reliable information."

— JEREMY TEISSERE

STANLEY ROAD PROFESSOR OF NEUROSCIENCE







Monument Wars

When students in the first-year seminar Monument Wars visited Washington, D.C., at the end of September, they spent the day on a walking tour of 22 monuments, including the Washington Monument, completed in 1884, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, built in 1982. The field trip allowed students to experience the direction monuments are generally moving — that is, away from simply being tributes to greatness.

“Monuments becoming more introspective rather than glorifying is an interesting long-term development taking place in the country,” says Tammy L. Bormann ’83 P’16 and Mark J. Paris ’80 P’16 Professor of Political Philosophy Giacomo Gambino, who teaches the course.

A notable exception, he says, is the National Garden of American Heroes the current administration has proposed, which received \$40 million in funding from Congress as part of a tax and spending bill passed in July. It would contain 250 statues of a wide variety of Americans, from the Founding Fathers to Billy Graham, Whitney Houston, and Alex Trebek.

“That would be a kind of monument to greatness again,” Gambino says. “That itself is a reaction to what has been clearly a tendency toward looking at the victims of various horrific events rather than simply the heroes [through monuments].”

It’s Gambino’s second time teaching the course, which was inspired by the monument-related controversies that emerged after George Floyd’s killing in May of 2020. Monument Wars is related to a course he’s taught for more than a decade, Politics and Public Space, which includes a week about monuments.

Monument Wars focuses on the U.S. where, broadly speaking, the most common controversies in the south surround Confederate monuments, while those in the north are focused on statues of Christopher Columbus. In fact, one of the course’s earliest assignments involves reading several articles about the debate surrounding a Columbus statue in Syracuse, New York, a city with a large Italian American population that neighbors the Onondaga Nation reservation. Gambino asks students to consider the different sides of the issue and write about the advice they’d give Syracuse’s mayor.

“Part of what I want them to do is to get in the habit of taking positions and then justifying those positions,” Gambino says.

As students begin to consider the Confederate monuments that have generated renewed attention since 2020, many are surprised to learn when they were built: “They went up a generation or two after the Civil War, in the 1890s all the way into the 1920s and even to the 1930s, in the era of Jim Crow,” Gambino says. “These are not just meant to commemorate a historical moment. They were political statements about who’s in charge of this town.”

The class also explores more recent monuments that seek to contextualize the darker sides of American history. Gambino



One of the goals of the course is to look with fresh eyes at these things that are around us, to notice and to see how we structure our public spaces.”

— GIACOMO GAMBINO

BORMANN-PARIS PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

took a road trip through the south to prepare for this course and found some of the most striking examples of this in Montgomery, Alabama. There, the nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative spearheaded the installation of the Legacy Sites, which explore racial injustice in the United States. One of them, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, is an open-air pavilion downtown with more than 800 hanging steel columns, each of which represents a county in the U.S. Etched on each column are the names of Black victims who were lynched in that county.

“They’ve taken an alternative approach,” Gambino says. “It’s not just about taking down the [Confederate] monuments but building a new monumental landscape that could better express values that are consistent with where we want to be today.”

For the final paper, students have two options. They can explain which monument they think is missing from the United States and why it should be added. Or, they can choose an existing monument and explain why and how it needs to be removed or contextualized in order to provide a better understanding of our shared history. They are able to select one of the monuments they learned about in class or one of the tens of thousands of others the class doesn’t cover, including those in students’ hometowns that they may have passed regularly but barely registered.

“One of the goals of the course is to look with fresh eyes at these things that are around us,” Gambino says, “to notice and to see how we structure our public spaces.” 

At left, Gambino and students outside the Thomas Jefferson Memorial; above right, Gambino and Laura Rojas ’29 inside the memorial

Muhlenberg's Role in the **ALLENTOWN ECONOMY**

By Meghan Kita



VN

Through graduate and continuing studies programs and corporate partnerships, Muhlenberg helps fuel the city's and the Lehigh Valley's significant growth.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DISCOVERLEHIGHVALLEY.COM

Allentown is Pennsylvania's third-largest city, and the Allentown region is among the fastest-growing in Pennsylvania and the Northeast. The greater Lehigh Valley is also ranked a top mid-sized region for economic development. The area is doing so well for a few reasons, says Kristin Cahayla-Hoffman '00, vice president of business development and attraction for Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp.

It's attractive to companies because "we are situated in a very strategic location. We have access to a third of U.S. consumers within a day's drive," she says. "We have a growing population and a growing workforce here."

And, the area is attractive to that workforce because we have an "incredibly diverse economy," she says, with 15,000 companies in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Some are start-ups while others (Air Products and PPL) are Fortune 500 companies. You can find jobs across industries, from health care to education to technology to manufacturing and beyond.

Aside from that, "people want to live here," says Cahayla-Hoffman, who came from northern New Jersey to Muhlenberg and then never left the area. "We have so many different cultural events, festivals, sporting events, and these vibrant downtowns in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton."

Muhlenberg is a critical part of the local economy: With close to 500 full-time employees, it's one of the largest employers in the city of Allentown. It also attracts students from outside the area, who, along with visiting families and friends, stimulate the economy at least for the four years they're on campus. And then some, like Cahayla-Hoffman, fall in love with the area and build lives here.

And that's not Muhlenberg's only impact on the Allentown and Lehigh Valley economies: "It's workforce development," says Cahayla-Hoffman. "You are training tomorrow's workforce." This happens at the traditional undergraduate level and through the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education (GCE), which provides flexible pathways for adult learners to upskill. Fourteen local employers have partnership agreements with Muhlenberg that allow their employees to pursue a degree or certification through GCE at a reduced rate, an arrangement that benefits both the individual and the company.

"Muhlenberg's mission is to produce lifelong learners, and our robust adult education programs have long been a critical part of our institutional identity," says Bruce Anderson, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and professor of chemistry. "These offerings are one way that Muhlenberg makes an impact on the city of Allentown and on the Lehigh Valley as a whole. The adult students who complete our programs add so much value to the Muhlenberg community and to their workplaces, which benefit immensely from their drive, dedication, and pursuit of new skills and knowledge."

Graves earned an accelerated Bachelor of Business Administration while Boateng pursued a traditional bachelor's degree in media and communication, both through the School of Continuing Studies.

Career Advancement Through Continuing Studies

Muhlenberg has a long history of adult education: The School of Continuing Studies — formerly known as the Evening College and then as the Wescoe School — was established in the 1909-1910 academic year. Today, Muhlenberg's School of Continuing Studies offers adult learners the opportunity to pursue traditional or accelerated bachelor's degrees as well as teacher certification and non-credit certificates.

Nate Boateng '14, vice president for community impact and engagement at the Allentown nonprofit Valley Health Partners Community Health Center, completed a traditional degree in media and communication as an adult learner. He was working for Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) at the time, and he knew a degree was necessary to advance.

"The media-comm department was just fabulous in supporting me as an adult learner with limited time, with a career and kids, doing a traditional degree," he says. "They were incredibly flexible."

After he completed his bachelor's, he went on to earn a master's degree from Lehigh University in educational/instructional technology. His education helped him get promoted three times at LVHN before he moved to his current role with Valley Health Partners.

"If I chart my career trajectory from 2014 to now, which is only 11 years, it's a wild upward trajectory," Boateng says. "We're in a climate now where folks are starting to feel like a college degree is not quite as worth it, and I just disagree with that notion wholeheartedly, because I know what my adult path looked like before I got a college degree and what it looked like after."

Laurn Graves '23, who works in government relations for Air Products, chose to pursue an accelerated Bachelor of Business Administration for similar reasons: She started working for the company when she was 19, and over time, she saw fewer and fewer open internal positions that didn't require at least a bachelor's degree. She had taken some college classes, one class at a time, using Air Products' tuition reimbursement benefit, but life got in the way, and she put her education on hold.

“

I think if I had taken these classes and not been working, I might have thought, ‘Is this going to be relevant? Is this going to help me?’ But when you’re working full-time and able to [apply] that information, it’s absolutely wonderful.”

— **Lauryn Graves ’23**
Government Relations for Air Products



“

We’re in a climate now where folks are starting to feel like a college degree is not quite as worth it, and I just disagree with that notion wholeheartedly, because I know what my adult path looked like before I got a college degree and what it looked like after.”

— **Nate Boateng ’14**
Vice President for Community Impact and Engagement at Valley Health Partners Community Health Center





As I'm looking to start initiatives or convene groups of people, having those added skills are now helping me to grow my role and my career. It's opened me up to new partnerships, new networks, new connections, new relationships."

— **Marci Martinez-Howey G'25**

Associate Vice President for Culture and Community Building at the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

"I really felt I was getting behind and limiting not only my own capabilities, but what I could offer the organization by having that additional experience," Graves says.

In the accelerated program, she immediately began building skills that were relevant to her day-to-day work experience. For example, she has to work on budgets for Air Products, and through her program, she learned how to use Excel in much more efficient and effective ways.

Graves especially appreciated the immediate return on investment of her classes: "I think if I had taken these classes and not been working, I might have thought, 'Is this going to be relevant? Is this going to help me?' But when you're working full-time and able to [apply] that information, it's absolutely wonderful."

Another key component offered by Muhlenberg's accelerated degree program was a cohort of peers also seeking to enhance their skills and grow their careers while juggling



DID YOU KNOW?

Muhlenberg alumni are eligible for a 20% discount on all School of Graduate Studies programs. Contact graduatestudies@muhlenberg.edu to learn more.

full-time jobs, family commitments, and everything else that comes with adulthood. While Muhlenberg's accelerated programs are fully online, many students are local to the region, which made it easy for Graves' cohort to get together. They would celebrate the conclusion of each class together at a restaurant near campus, and they've remained in touch since graduating.

"Having a cohort was such an incredible, reassuring experience, because I knew in the past that I had not completed my degree, and I felt I wasn't doing a great job of holding myself accountable," Graves says. "With the cohort, you are not just accountable for yourself, you're accountable for your team, and they're accountable for you."

Conquering High-Demand Skills With Muhlenberg Master's Degrees

Muhlenberg's School of Graduate Studies, which launched in 2020, drives success through a similar model. Students have the opportunity to earn master's degrees that combine the benefits of a liberal arts education with hands-on learning. The master's programs are offered fully online to cater to busy professionals, with 10 courses needed to graduate. And, relatively small cohorts that include many local students encourage bonding, support, and networking.

"The cohort that I was part of, I can't thank them enough," says Marci Martinez-Howey G'25, the associate vice president for culture and community building at the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. "We've become great friends."

Martinez-Howey decided to pursue a master's in organizational leadership and a certificate in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging through Muhlenberg's School of Graduate Studies after finishing her bachelor's degree as an adult learner at another institution. She chose Muhlenberg because these two specific programs relate directly to her day-to-day responsibilities and because she knew the faculty and staff understood the local community and would be able to help her apply what she was learning.

Martinez-Howey earned a master's degree in organizational leadership through the School of Graduate Studies.

"With my organization, we are part of a national brand, so to be able to learn new skills that would allow me to engage at a larger level — more than just the local community — was really, really helpful," she says. "As I'm looking to start initiatives or convene groups of people, having those added skills in strategic planning and nonprofit leadership are all things that are now helping me to grow my role and my career. ... It's opened me up to new partnerships, new networks, new connections, new relationships."

Making Education Accessible Through Corporate Partnerships

Muhlenberg is reimagining education and workforce development through partnership agreements with many local employers. Through these agreements, employees get access to financial aid opportunities to continue their education through GCE as one of their benefits. Muhlenberg's 14 partners include LVHN, Crayola, and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, a partnership Martinez-Howey helped facilitate.

"We have now two or three staff members who are attending Muhlenberg and receiving the benefits of this, so it really has proven to be fruitful," says Martinez-Howey.

LVHN's corporate partnership program allowed Christine Compton '25 to pursue an accelerated Bachelor of Business Administration.

"I had 20 years of health care experience without the bachelor's degree, and it actually inhibited me," says Compton, who was promoted to a management position within a few months of graduation. "I was almost in a setback state of mind knowing that I didn't have what was required to advance because of the degree, so when I enrolled in Muhlenberg I took it as an opportunity for growth, and that growth mindset led me to all of my achievements moving forward."

In her new position, Compton leads a team of 40 direct reports. That new responsibility hasn't slowed her down academically — she began a master's degree in organizational leadership, also using her corporate partner benefits, this fall.

"People ask me, 'Why go?' And I'm like, 'Why stop?' That's the better question to ask," she says. "My momentum is there. I am eager, I am willing, and I have this great supportive team. If I'm given the perfect opportunity to grow and succeed, why would I stop? Why not continue with Muhlenberg and the benefits of this program?" 

“

I was almost in a setback state of mind knowing that I didn't have what was required to advance because of the degree, so when I enrolled in Muhlenberg I took it as an opportunity for growth, and that growth mindset led me to all of my achievements moving forward."

— **Christine Compton '25**

Manager of Information Services and Technology at Lehigh Valley Health Network

Compton earned an accelerated Bachelor of Business Administration and is now working toward a master's in organizational leadership. She spoke at the 2025 commencement ceremony.

PHOTO BY KRISTI MORRIS, LITTLEWING STUDIO





MULES AND MEMORIES





Mules of all ages enjoyed a beautiful Alumni Weekend on campus October 3-5. Fifteen classes held milestone reunions, and 49 alumni volunteers worked to make the weekend special for their classmates. Beloved traditions returned, including tailgating for a nail-biter of a football game against Ursinus (the Mules won, 39-36) and dancing the night away at the 'Berg Bash. A highlight of the weekend was the celebration of the new on-campus softball field, detailed on page 20. Save the date: Next year's event will be held October 16-18, 2026.

Photos by Marco Calderon and Kristi Morris, Littlewing Studio



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, April 3, 2026, for inclusion in the next 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

1955

Jay Krevsky is proud of his grandson Max, who plays defensive midfield for the New York Atlas of the Premier Lacrosse League. Jay's son and Max's dad is **Solomon Krevsky '86**.

1956

Richard Miller continues to serve as substitute organist in area churches as well as assisting in the preparation of chapel services at the Lutheran Community at Telford. Richard also serves as director of the chapel choir. He has written four memoirs, one of which includes memories of his days at Muhlenberg.

1965

Abe Eastwood writes, "I've had a couple of minor strokes. No paralysis, but my balance and coordination are a little off. I live in a long-term care facility in Concord, New Hampshire, near my son Charles, an anesthesiologist at Elliot Hospital. I wish the best for all my classmates and I hope they enjoyed our 60th reunion."

Kim-Eric Williams and his partner, Ruth Rizzi, worked through 115 years of archives kept by the Swedish Colonial Society to create a gallery devoted to New Sweden history at the recently restored historic Lazaretto in Essington, Pennsylvania. It is open and free to the public on the first Saturday of each month. Kim-Eric is also the historian of the Swedish Colonial Society and in this role made his PBS debut in July on NJ-PBS's "Drive By History," in an episode titled "New Sweden: The Untold Story."

1966

Charles Woginrich was inducted into the National Football Foundation Lehigh Valley Chapter's Hall of Fame in May. Charles played football, basketball, and track at Northampton Area High School before earning several honors as a student-athlete at Muhlenberg, including induction into the college's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999. He coached football for more than a dozen of his 30 years as a teacher and has spent the last 54 years as a PIAA track and field official.

1967

Carl Buchholz III retired in June from Rawle & Henderson LLP after a 55-year legal career. He began as a summer law clerk, and after graduating from Villanova Law School in 1970, joined Rawle & Henderson LLP as an associate. Carl's practice primarily focused on maritime law; he was appointed as chair of the maritime practice group in 1982, a position that he held until his retirement. Carl has been a member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States since 1970. He achieved the distinction level of Proctor in Admiralty, the highest membership category in that organization.



1968

Arthur Feldman and his wife, Deborah, welcomed their fourth grandchild, Oliver Charles Feldman, on July 7. Arthur is a

retired urologist living in Bedminster, New Jersey, and Ollie's parents, Elyse and Andy, reside in Tribeca.

Philip Harber and his wife, Jean, live in Tucson, Arizona, and celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary this year. Philip recently became an adjunct research professor of landscape gardening at the University of Arizona, where he is also an adjunct professor of public health. He is also a professor emeritus at UCLA, where he served as a professor in the medicine and family medicine departments and chief of the occupational-environmental medicine division.

1971

Novelist and former Sports Illustrated writer **Jack McCallum** writes a weekly column called "Something to Say" for WDIY Lehigh Valley Public Radio. In May, he wrote about celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with **Donna Kisselbach McCallum '70**, a longtime teacher in the Parkland and Bethlehem School Districts.

1972

Paul Budline (covered on page 56) recently earned a Guinness World Record by becoming the oldest man to hold a freestanding handstand for at least 15 seconds. Paul still works as a video editor and writer and lives in Princeton, New Jersey.



Leslie Malone Douwes and **Lynn Shanahan Pombonyo** wrote a tribute to their classmate **Karen Kreamer Parks**, who died suddenly on April 30. They also launched a memorial fund that will support student research in the biology department. Find the story at magazine. muhlenberg.edu/karenkremerparks. 



Eric C. Shafer represented Muhlenberg at the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America held in Phoenix in July.



1973

Patricia Mora-Coxe and her husband, **Bill Coxe**, are spending five months in

Costa Rica, specifically in the community of Playas del Coco in the Guanacaste province. Life there is wonderful, a stress-free paradise! People are friendly and very complimentary about Pat's use of Spanish (it was her major). Many Americans and Canadians have moved there permanently. Pat and Bill are busy exploring other parts of the country, learning new skills, and participating in open mic night at a local club.



Joel Greenberg hosts free two-hour walking tours of Long Beach, New York, for guests of the Allegria Hotel. Joel's tours include a 60-minute audiovisual



presentation on the vibrant ecosystem and rich history of the barrier island. Learn more on Joel's website, longbeachbarrierislandny.com.

James Landgraf recently hosted Muhlenberg TKE brothers from class years 1971 to 1974. This annual gathering has taken place for more than 30 years at rotating homes. The group is always looking to add more regardless of the graduation year.



Dennis Ritter and **Susan Petrick Ritter '75** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at Madeleine's in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania. Among the attendees were fellow Muhlenberg students the Rev. **Allen Riethmiller '73** and **Linda Speidel Cenci '75**.



Births

Allison Harper to Zachary Liebnick '14 and Stephanie Huber Liebnick '14, Sela Elaine to Elianna Kronisch Krivchenia '18 and Seth Krivchenia '18



1979

Last fall, **Leonard Zon** emailed his 'Berg roommates suggesting that they get together for the first time since graduation and offering to host the group. In August, the group traveled by plane and car for an incredible time on Cape Cod to share favorite 'Berg experiences and catch everyone up on the past 46 years. It was such a great time the group is already talking about meeting up next year. Pictured are Leonard, **Alan (Scott) Harad**, **Jack Michalski**, and **Ray Metzger**.



1980

William Hyman, **Mike Clinton**, **Jeff Stocker**, and **Bruce Feldbaum** met up on campus recently and remembered their good friend and classmate **Mitch Lloyd** on a bench they dedicated in his memory.



1981

Todd Pretz and **Brian Marron** will be performing at Dogfish Head Brewery in Milton, Delaware, on Friday, November 21, from 4-6 p.m. for a Muhlenberg Day. Dogfish

founder **Sam Calagione '92** will be there. Come for some fun, beer, and music and mingle with other Muhlenberg Mules.

1982

Daniel Berek writes, "As I approach my eventual retirement, I have no promotion or glamorous job title to report. Rather, I find myself at the point, in the words of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, 'where what you want to do meets what needs to be done.' As an independent living specialist at the DAWN Center for Independent Living, I have found my purpose helping people with all disabilities find their goals to live in the community with dignity."

Classmates **Janet Tichansky Malcolm**, **Kim Eyerman Goryeb '84**, **Donna Hilbert Fritchey**, **Linda Jaye Molee O'Brien**, **Michele Nitti Zarr '84**, **Roseann Toscano Mader**, and **Geraldine Allegra Donnelly** relived their memories from the late 1970s/early 1980s during their annual get-together, this year in New York City, taking in dinner and a show ("Mamma Mia") on August 23.



Andrew Rubin and **Jim Pezzi** visited **Bobby Doidge** at his Jersey Shore beach house in Lavalette, New Jersey, in July. They relived cherished memories from their days at ATO and the pre-med grind.

1983

Gloria Zumberge Miller writes, "After 41 years of working for the Department of Defense in multiple locations across the

country, I'm retired as of the end of June. My husband and I will be moving back to Huntsville, Alabama, in a few months. We lived there for 12 years before moving to Maryland — the longest we've lived in any one state since I graduated."

Paul Smith, **Jackie Fierro Cocchiola '85**, and **Glenn Cocchiola** celebrated the Kentucky Derby at a neighborhood party in Seabrook Island, South Carolina, in May. Paul and Glenn were fraternity neighbors at Muhlenberg and are now next-door neighbors in South Carolina.



1984

Paige Brenner completed her Ph.D. in forensic psychology from Walden University. She continues to provide mental health counseling to youth in juvenile detention.

1986

Robin Graver Fatzinger writes, "After more than 35 years working in corporate medical device clinical, quality, and regulatory affairs roles, I have started my own consulting business, Qreg Consulting. On this new journey I hope to continue to bring innovative and life-saving medical products to the U.S. and global markets and pursue my passion of travel with my husband, Chris, and our two adult children, Noah and Mackenzie!"

John Iannarelli has been named president of Archbishop Wood High School in Warm-inster, Pennsylvania. He is a 1982 alumnus of Archbishop Wood. After graduating from Muhlenberg, he pursued a business career with roles in accounting, finance, real estate, marketing, and sales.

1989

Current Chair of Muhlenberg's Board of Trustees
Lance Bruck, M.D.

returned to Montefiore Einstein in January and joined the leadership team as professor and executive vice chair, clinical affairs and strategic development. Lance will be responsible for strategy, program development, and operational efficiency. In addition, he will continue to provide clinical care, teach, conduct research, and mentor junior faculty.



1990

Mark Morginstin, D.O. worked for New York Medical College as a research lab tech and phlebotomist at Westchester County Medical Center before attending



UMDNJ- SOM (now Rowan University) from 1992 to 1996 and interning at Atlantic City Medical Center. Mark completed three years of active duty as a flight surgeon at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, with deployments to Southwest Asia. His military career included United States Air Force Reserves 514th Medical Group/78th Air Refueling Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, and the 111th Attack Wing, Biddle Air National Guard,

Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, before retiring as a lieutenant colonel in December 2022. Mark currently works as an attending hematology-oncology doctor at Jefferson Einstein Medical Center Montgomery Hospital in East Norriton, Pennsylvania.

1993

Friends from the classes of 1993 and 1994 took in a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs game on May 24. Fun was had by all, reminiscing and enjoying some baseball. The group included **Mitchell Marder, Scott Beratan, Brian Cohen, Bob Lochel, Josh Leiber '94, and Chester Crane '94.**



J. Christopher Kovats-Bernat has accepted a position as associate professor of anthropology and Africana studies and director of the Africana studies program at Wilkes University.

Jeff Tober is featured on the front cover of the summer 2025 issue of "Edible Jersey." Jeff is the farm manager at Rancocas Creek Farm in Southampton, New Jersey.



1996

Lisa Johnson Traugott recently released

her latest book, "To Condemn a Witch," in the award-nominated "Tales of the Witchblood" series. Set in 1729, the series is about a healer, a mistress, and a ghost who must form a coven to protect a changeling child from a sadistic witch hunter. Lisa has taught fun workshops at libraries and bookstores about the history of witches, including Scottish folklore, colonial superstitions, and mock witch trials featuring audience participation.

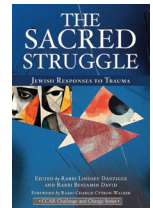


1998

Jennifer Neuharth Neglia has been named a Top 50 Women Leader of Pennsylvania for 2025 by Women We Admire. As the global trust chief data officer and a digital assurance transparency partner at PwC, she focuses on data strategy and governance and is passionate about driving a consistent strategy around corporate assets and data on which to build regenerative AI.

1999

CCAR Press, a division of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, announced the June publication of "The Sacred Struggle: Jewish Responses to Trauma," co-edited by **Rabbi Benjamin David.**



"The Sacred Struggle" is a powerful



Weddings

Sydney Kozakis '21 and Taj Singh '19, Alice McGrail '04 and David Clayton

anthology of personal yet universal stories, offering a deeply moving exploration of how Jewish wisdom can help strengthen us and help us navigate life's most difficult moments. Benjamin was ordained from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and serves the Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

Aimée Allione Novak has been actively involved in performing in or costuming plays in several local community theatres in Pennsylvania since 2021. She is pleased to announce that those efforts paid off this past April when she became a 2025 Northeastern Pennsylvania Theatrical Alliance (NEPTA) award winner for co-costuming "The Secret Garden" (2024). NEPTA annually recognizes theatrical excellence across the region and offers a scholarship for individuals looking to pursue an education in the performing arts.



2000

In May, **Erin Burke** completed a three-year term as a member of the board of directors of Barry Isett & Associates, a multidisciplinary engineering firm headquartered in the Lehigh Valley. The firm is employee-owned and Erin was voted to serve by her fellow shareholders. Erin has been with the company for more than six years and serves the dual roles of marketing director and regional vice president for southeast Pennsylvania.

2001

In August, several Muhlenberg alumni, a parent, and a current student performed in a live production of the Porch Room's comedy podcast, "Mission: Rejected." Involved in the production were **J. Michael DeAngelis, JoEllen Notte, David Stanger '02, John P. Dowgin '97, Pete Barry '97, Faith Dowgin P'27, and Caden Dowgin '27.**



Jen Kahn Rogers and Jessielyn Kreitzer Hirschl '14 have both been honored on the inaugural Jewish News 18 Under 50 list. This incredible recognition celebrates Jewish leaders in the greater Phoenix community who are making a lasting impact through their professional achievements and personal dedication to strengthening the Jewish community.



Jessielyn on left, Jen on right

2003

Lauren Cunningham Preiato writes, "I'm excited to share a photo of Camp Muhlenberg 2025, a tradition that we started way back in the summer of 2016. Every July we get together for a long weekend, rent a house somewhere in the northeast, and bring our families together to celebrate, husbands and children included. Mules in attendance were **Kari Barclift Egan, Laura Diez Rosen, Holly Pico Moore, Kate Kapson Dalbey, Katie Dunphy, Lori D'Orazio**, and two Mule husbands, **Dan Vogel** and **Jonathan Rosen**, all Class of 2003. Our lifelong friendships and bond were created at Muhlenberg and we are forever grateful."



2004

Amanda Ellison recently accepted a position as executive director at the Alburgh Family Clubhouse. In this role, she will be responsible for opening and running a brand new child care center that has been in the works for almost a decade. It will provide high quality, affordable care to more than 60 students, from infant to school-age, year-round.

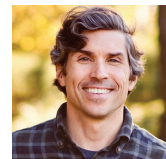
Alice McGrail married David Clayton on May 3 in front of their family and friends at the Lenox Hotel in Boston. Several Mules were in attendance: **Christina Coviello '02, Sarah Grube '03, Kim Padnes Curley '03,**

Lindsay Barad, Soco Sampson, Allie Cohen Steel, Lesley Bruno, and Amanda Kokie Caudell. A good time was had by all! After the wedding, the newlyweds spent two weeks in Hawaii for their honeymoon. Alice and David reside in Boston with their rescue pup, Leo.

Dawn Iberer Walsh was named teacher of the year at Mount Olive Township School District. She is a beloved second- and third-grade teacher with over 19 years of experience, praised for her "quiet leadership" and her ability to forge meaningful connections with students and fellow educators, who often visit her classroom to learn from her teaching methods.

2005

Mike O'Rourke was promoted to managing director of business retention and expansion at BusinessPA, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's economic development arm.



2006

James Nangeroni, D.O. is a board-certified general and bariatric surgeon and director of robotic surgery at Southern Ocean Medical Center in New Jersey. He holds a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. James holds distinctions as a diplomate of the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons. He is also an active member of the American Osteopathic Association.

2007

Friends from the Class of 2007 (**Sarah Efronson, Matteo Spera, Zeke Strober, Thomas Mulherin, Will Huntington, and Kate Molloy**) recently got together with their families to celebrate their collective 40th birthdays.



2008

Lisa Harrison Horn has been promoted to executive vice president, media strategy at HUNTER, a New York-based consumer marketing communications agency where she has been a team member since 2013. In her new role, Lisa leads a team of a dozen media relations strategists serving sectors from consumer packaged goods and food to tech, health care, and corporate reputation. She plays a critical role in helping clients break through today's fragmented media landscape, driving both creative and strategic excellence across earned media initiatives.

2010

Nick Flatto co-produced "Operation Mincemeat," which was nominated for four Tony Awards. Read his story, "Theatre and Dance Alum Co-Produces a Show With Four Tony Nominations," at muhlenberg.edu/alumnistories.



Brittany Williams Reese has been named principal of Broughal Middle School in the Bethlehem Area School District. Brittany

has more than 15 years of experience in education, the last seven of which have been at Broughal. After receiving her bachelor's degree in history, Brittany went on to earn a master's degree from The Citadel Military College of South Carolina and a doctorate in educational leadership from Lehigh University.

2011

Alyssa D'Addio was promoted to NJ Sharing Network's chief operating officer, a key leadership role in the organization's ongoing mission to save and enhance lives through organ and tissue donation. This milestone coincides with D'Addio's recent national recognition as a 40 Under 40 honoree by the Organ Donation and Transplantation Alliance, honoring rising stars who are transforming the field of donation and transplantation. D'Addio joined NJ Sharing Network inspired by her father Joseph D'Addio, who gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation, saving two lives and enhancing the lives of over 75 others. She began her journey as a college intern and steadily advanced through key roles.



2012

Kaitie Burger, who is featured on page 8, was also a guest on the "2400 CHEW" alumni podcast. Find episodes at 2400chew.transistor.fm or wherever you get your podcasts.

2014

Zachary Liebnick and **Stephanie Huber Liebnick** welcomed their first child, a beautiful baby girl, Allison Harper, into the world on April 6.

Emily Paulus was promoted to partner at the law firm of Florio Perrucci Steinhardt Cappelli & Tipton, located in Easton, Pennsylvania.

2015

Ellen Herschel and **Patrick Smith '16** welcomed baby Emery Luz Herschel in February.

2016

Jacob Levy recently received his master's in library and information science from Rutgers School of Communication and Information.



How Does The Alumni Board Support Student Career Success?



The Alumni Board Career Services Committee (CSC) helps expand student access to meaningful career experiences through:

- » **Internship stipends:** Since 2015, the CSC has provided stipends to help students afford unpaid or low-paid internships that strengthen career readiness. The program has grown significantly, receiving around 40 applications annually, with finalists participating in interviews that foster direct connections between alumni and students. Past recipients have gained transformative experiences across fields like public health, political campaigns, entertainment marketing, and nonprofit research. Students report that stipends enabled them to fully immerse themselves in internships, strengthen career goals, and build confidence in pursuing future opportunities.
- » **Collaboration with the Career Center:** The CSC also supports key Career Center initiatives such as externship programs, spring break career immersion trips to major cities, and the Connections Conference (read more on page 3), which includes career panels and alumni-student networking. These events expand student exposure to industries including arts, education, business, STEM, health professions, communications, and sustainability. By mobilizing alumni for panels, site visits, and mentoring, the CSC leverages alumni expertise to strengthen the Career Center's reach and resources.

Interested in learning more about the Alumni Board or how you can get involved with students' career development? Contact bergalum@muhlenberg.edu.

He looks forward to an exciting career in librarianship.

2018

Elianna Kronisch Krivchenia and **Seth Krivchenia** and their son, Demitri Myron, welcomed their new daughter and sister, Sela Elaine, in May.

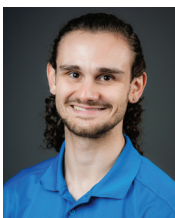
2019

Taj Singh and **Sydney Kozakis '21** tied the knot!

2020

Alison Bashford and **Chris Dasaro** got engaged in September 2024.

Quentin Bernhard just entered his second year in the Master of Divinity program at United Lutheran Seminary, which has campuses in Gettysburg and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a candidate for ordained ministry on the roster of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Quentin completed ministerial fieldwork during the 2024-2025 academic year with St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Wilmington, Delaware, and recently did his clinical pastoral education at Phoebe Ministries in Allentown.



Haley Hnatuk was featured in a regional advertisement campaign for SEPTA, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, and recently started a new job as digital marketing manager at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

2021

Carly Shaffer has been selected as a primary care scholarship recipient by the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and Jefferson Health's Lehigh Valley Health Network. The scholarship program aims to strengthen the region's primary care workforce and support medical education. A Lehigh Valley native, Carly has engaged with LVHN as a student, researcher, and patient on her path toward a career in internal medicine. Carly will spend at least two years with Jefferson's Lehigh Valley Physician Group after completing medical school and a residency or fellowship program.

Jessica Sommer, VMD graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School in May with a doctorate in veterinary medicine.

2024

Julianne Lucas and **Elaine Landry** got engaged this summer, with two proposals! They celebrated four years together in January. Julianne just completed her first

year working toward an educational studies master's degree at Tufts University, and Elaine finished her first year teaching middle school English/language arts. They're so excited to spend the rest of their lives together!

2025

Christine Compton, this spring's commencement speaker for Muhlenberg's School of Continuing Studies, was promoted to manager of information services and technology at Lehigh Valley Health Network. Christine was also a guest on the "2400 CHEW" alumni podcast. Find episodes at 2400chew.transistor.fm or wherever you get your podcasts. 🎧



Grace Hoffman has been named social media content creator for the Cape Gazette (Lewes, Delaware). As an intern at JPL Integrated Communications, Grace contributed to client social media campaigns, produced video and events, and helped develop an interactive tour. An active student-athlete double majoring in media and communication and studio art, Grace also gained experience producing content for the college's athletics and communications offices.



Make your impact on the Muhlenberg community as an Alumni Board member.

Applications open in January.

For details, email
bergalum@muhlenberg.edu

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2400chew.transistor.fm



IN MEMORIAM



Harry H. Donovan | 1949

Edward S. Keller | 1951

Rodney E. Houck | 1954

Frederick H. Pupke Jr. | 1955

Jay Krevsky | 1955

Lewis G. Anthony | 1957

Daniel J. Yakubeczek | 1958

Patricia Haberern Gureghian | 1959

Edwin J. Scholl | 1959

Melvyn I. Kreines | 1959

Robert G. Sabol | 1959

Russell A. Purnell | 1959

Ronald C. Moyer | 1960

Carl R. Fenstermaker | 1960

James W. Nonnemaker | 1960

Joseph P. Berghold | 1960

Jayne Kuntzleman Moxey | 1960

William H. Durham | 1961

Madeline Egner Szeles | 1961

Meredith Bottum Dykstra | 1961

Phyllis Liptak Voza | 1961

Edward M. Gehringer | 1962

Doris Sjostrom Gilfillan | 1962

Louis J. Landino | 1963

Steven J. Greenberg | 1963

Arthur G. Fad | 1963

William F. Buchanan Jr. | 1963

Evonne Schultz Glenn | 1964

James E. Smith II | 1964

Joseph S. Cardarelli | 1966

Richard L. Forliano | 1966

David K. Lilley | 1967

Jay D. Ahrens | 1967

Joseph Jay Pickin | 1967

Anne Marie Zoshak Cohen | 1967

Thomas A. Simons | 1968

Pamela Moore Taylor | 1968

William R. Graver | 1969

Dennis R. Kennedy | 1969

F. John White | 1970

Steven D. Gratias | 1971

Timothy R. Lehman | 1972

Lana Joyce Rahn | 1972

Christine Budzyko Edgar | 1972

David J. Yurick | 1973

Gary L. Kaufmann | 1973

Kenneth P. Jones | 1974

Pamela Pfromm Feller | 1974

Richard C. Theis | 1976

Patrice Caldarone Heinzer | 1976

Barry H. Dubner | 1980

Tracy Reduzzi Fry | 1991

Hayim S. Weiss | 1994

Christine S. Moyer | 2002

Ashley A. Godshall | 2005

Janet Whitehead | 2006

Lauren T. Feldman | 2015

Catherine A. Clark | 2018

Ayden J. Scharper | 2027



TRUMAN KOEHLER '52 P'79

Truman Koehler '52 P'79 died on October 11. Koehler had a lifelong relationship with Muhlenberg: His father, Truman Koehler Sr., was a member of the Class of 1924 and the chair of the mathematics department. At Muhlenberg, Koehler studied chemistry before earning a master's in experimental statistics from Rutgers University. He went on to a long and successful career in the chemical manufacturing industry. Koehler served on the Muhlenberg Board of Trustees for 14 years, including as chair of the finance committee. His legacy of philanthropy at Muhlenberg includes the Truman L. Koehler '24 Endowed Chair in Mathematics, The Koehler Scholarship, and The Miriam E. Koehler Award for Excellence in Math. Survivors include three children (Jeff '79, Lisa, Mark) and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Marcia, who died in 2021.



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The Handstand Man

BY MEGHAN KITA

Paul Budline '72, a former student-athlete at Muhlenberg, secured his place in the Guinness Book of World Records for his age-defying ability to invert.

At one time, Paul Budline '72 held the Muhlenberg school record for the high jump — his jump of 6 feet, 5 inches is still good for eighth on the college's all-time list. And now, he holds the Guinness World Record for "oldest person to perform a handstand (male)."

"I always thought how much fun [it would be to] be in the Guinness Book of World Records," says Budline, 74, who studied economics at Muhlenberg and who still works as a freelance video editor. "We would have a hard copy of it and look up goofy things. This one's not quite so goofy. It's not like, you know, doing a handstand while smoking marijuana."

Decades of training supported this record attempt: When he was younger, Budline was a marathoner, and for the past 20 or 30 years, his daily routine has included a few handstands, 20 minutes of weight training, and riding the stationary bike on the highest resistance for 40 minutes.

"I've been a workout fanatic for forever," says Budline, a familiar face at his hometown gym in Princeton, New Jersey. "I do work out extraordinarily hard. I watch other people, and nobody's working quite as hard as I am, for better or for worse."

After contacting Guinness World Records, Budline got a packet containing the specifics of the record attempt: He'd need to hold the handstand steadily for at least 15 seconds, and he would need to supply photographs, video, and the signed testimony of three witnesses as evidence. Fortunately, his gym community was happy to step up, and within a few days of doing his record-breaking handstand (on May 5) and submitting the evidence, he was officially a world record holder.

Budline's record pursuits are over for now — "unless there's a record for lowest GPA to graduate from Muhlenberg, I don't think I would qualify for anything else," he jokes — but his inversions are not.

"Part of my day is starting with that handstand," he says, "and as long as I can do it, I'm going to do it."



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