

# Muhlenberg

Magazine

FALL 2018

## Crafting Tales

Sam Calagione '92 brings a storytelling sensibility to brewing and business

### What Do You Think?

Students lead at the top-rated Institute of Public Opinion

### Risk & Reward

Service-learning course focuses on poverty

### President's Report

Value is found throughout the liberal arts experience



6TH ANNUAL

# #MULEMENTUM

Begins at 18:48 on Nov. 14 and runs through Nov. 15

(That's 6:48 p.m.)

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*Muhlenberg sets its most ambitious goal to date.*

**30** HOURS

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## From the Editors

Welcome to the new *Muhlenberg Magazine*. In addition to an updated look, we have a renewed mission: to engage you—the College’s alumni—with quality storytelling, news you’ll care about and opportunities to become part of the magazine.

In the front of the magazine, you’ll find news stories mingled with profiles and interesting information. You’ll also learn about something bigger: We’ve added a recurring feature called Perspective that utilizes faculty or alumni expertise to address a topic that’s timely and important. We’ll also have compelling feature stories that demonstrate the impact of the Muhlenberg experience, both on the College and on members of our community.

We want *Muhlenberg Magazine* to help you feel connected to the College and to one another. In order to do that, we want to hear from you. If you read something that moves you, teaches you or challenges your views, send us your thoughts for a Letters to the Editor section. If you’re an author, artist or musician, please tell us about your published works, upcoming exhibits or new releases.

Keep in touch with your classmates through our Class Notes section. Whether you have a new job, are getting married or are going on a trip with fellow alumni, we want to know about it. Please see instructions on page 45 to submit your Class Notes. Finally, we’ve added a recurring Last Page that’s meant to entertain and delight with a lighthearted story, so if you have any ideas, please share them with us.

One more thing you may have noticed: our paper. In keeping with Muhlenberg’s commitment to environmental sustainability, we will be printing *Muhlenberg Magazine* on paper made from 100-percent, post-consumer fiber, manufactured with alternative fuels. We will also print using vegetable oil-based inks with an environmentally conscious printer.

Reach out to us via email at [magazine@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:magazine@muhlenberg.edu). We hope to hear from you soon. A college magazine is nothing without the people who make up its community. We hope that the new *Muhlenberg Magazine* helps to serve the lifelong-learning aspect of our liberal arts mission and to strengthen your bonds with each other and with the College.

Thank you,  
The *Muhlenberg Magazine* Editorial Staff

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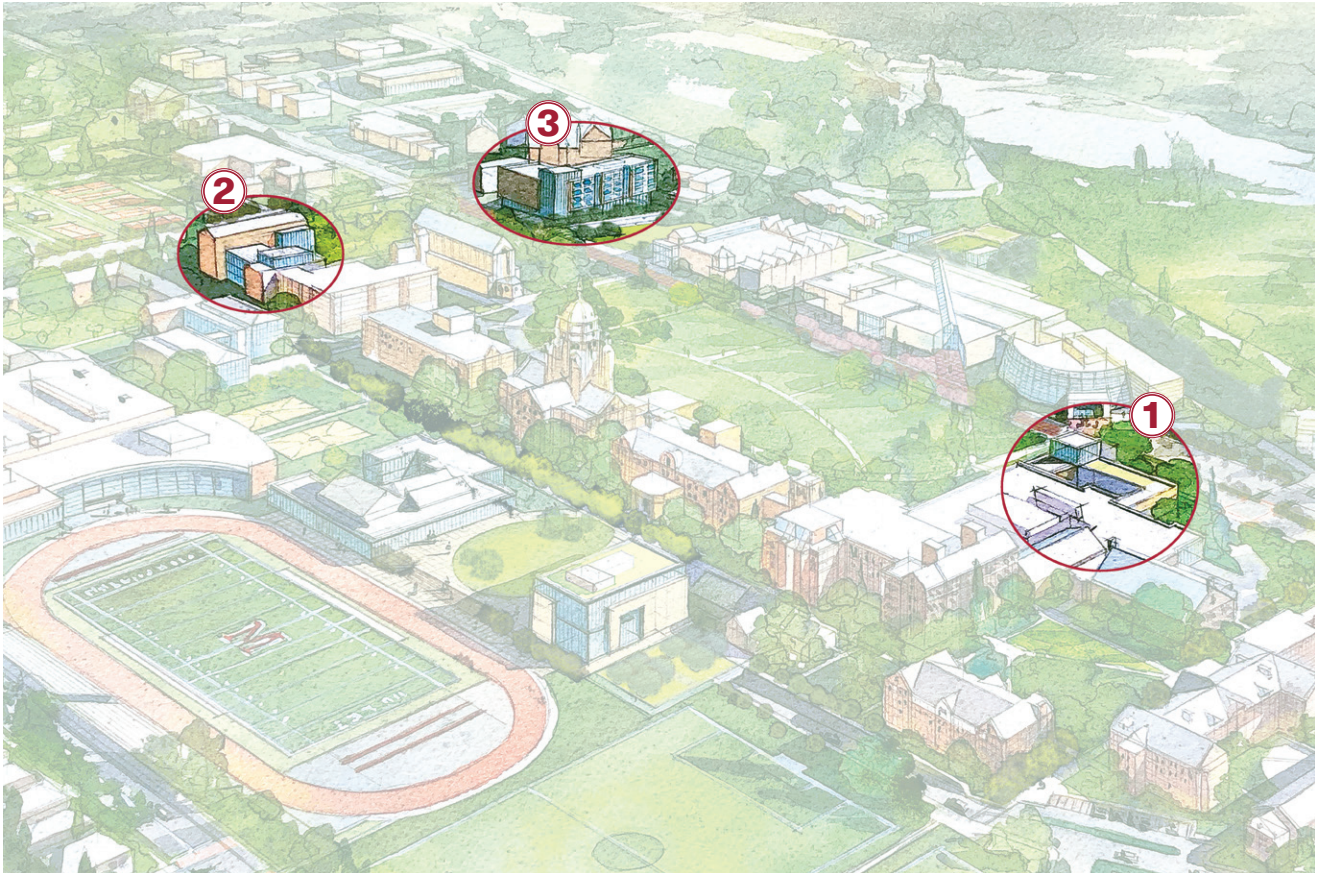
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## New Campus Master Plan in Place

Picture a multi-story addition on the south side of Seegers Union [1], an expansion that will enable Muhlenberg's Career Services staff (and the students and alumni they assist) to work in a larger, brighter space along Chew Street. In the area just east of Moyer Hall, imagine an academic building [2] to serve as the hub for the College's integrative-learning initiatives, where interdisciplinary collaboration is the focus. And in place of the parking lot east of the Trexler Library Lawn [3], envision a mixed-use building that will house upperclassmen and offer retail and social spaces open to all Muhlenberg community members and visitors.

Phase one of the new campus master plan encompasses these three projects, which are slated to break ground within the next three years. The campus master planning process is an important aspect of the strategic plan, "Muhlenberg Opens Doors," which was presented to and approved by the College's Board of Trustees at the April 2017 board meeting. The master plan was designed to support the strategic plan's initiatives through infrastructure and physical plant use, and it addresses the academic, administrative, student-life and residential needs of the College.

Muhlenberg contracted WRT, a Philadelphia-based planning, architecture and landscape-architecture design firm, to assist with the development of the campus master plan. Public forums and extensive surveys explored the priorities and needs of students, faculty, staff and alumni to determine how they use space on campus—and how the physical resources of campus buildings, landscapes, pathways and meeting places can contribute to the intellectual and social communities at Muhlenberg. The plan is set to roll out in three phases, each spanning about three years, and each with its own list of proposed additions and renovations.

The College has yet to break ground on the aforementioned phase-one projects, but the process to interview architects for the major first-phase projects is underway. In the coming months and years, the College will continue to engage its community members in the rollout of the strategic-plan initiatives and the related master-planning process. —*Bill Keller*



# Ethics in the Era of Climate Change

At the kickoff event to this year's Center for Ethics series, climatologist James Hansen shared an anecdote from a talk he'd recently given at a high school: After his formal remarks, Hansen was chatting with a student and he said, "I'm sorry to leave you such a [expletive] mess."

"I didn't realize my mic was still on," Hansen told the crowd in Miller Forum, "and I got the biggest applause of the day."

If you hadn't been paying attention to the content of his presentation, it might have been surprising to hear

the self-described "soft-spoken Midwestern scientist" drop an F-bomb. But the data he presented backed up his assertion that the climate is on the verge of being out of control, and the decades he's spent trying to effect political change (including five arrests for protesting) would frustrate even the most mild-mannered.

Hansen's address followed a "teach-in," which had Muhlenberg professors offering 30-minute lectures on six topics related to the event series' theme, "The Ethics of the Anthropocene: Crisis Earth." The

Anthropocene is what many scientists are calling the modern geological age—brought about by humankind's impact on the planet—and the series explores what constitutes responsible action in this era of rapid and potentially catastrophic climate change. Together, the teach-in and Hansen talk on September 7 were the first of seven events planned for the fall semester; programming will continue in spring 2019. For more information, visit [muhlenberg.edu/cfe](http://muhlenberg.edu/cfe).  
—*Meghan Kita*



Climatologist James Hansen speaks during the first event in this academic year's Center for Ethics series (left). Artist Peter d'Agostino's exhibition *COLD / HOT*, also part of the series, ran through November 3 (right).

## Vick Named Associate Provost for Faculty and Diversity Initiatives

Brooke Vick joined Muhlenberg this summer as associate provost for faculty and diversity initiatives, a new administrative role created to support faculty development and help lead Muhlenberg's diversity, inclusion and equity efforts. Vick is tasked with supporting faculty efforts in pedagogy, curriculum, scholarship and leadership, and will chair the President's Diversity Advisory Council. Vick earned her B.A. in psychology from Colorado College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She previously served on the faculty at Whitman College, where she taught social psychology, the psychology of prejudice, social stigma and intergroup relations.



# An Open Book

This year Mike Schlossberg '05, a political science and psychology major and a Pennsylvania state representative, published *Redemption*, a young-adult science fiction novel. We asked him about his experience writing the book and the themes present in the story.

**Muhlenberg Magazine** What was the challenge for you in writing *Redemption*?

**Mike Schlossberg** *Redemption* was partly drawn from my own personal experiences with depression and anxiety. My larger challenge, however, was writing science fiction. That's where editing was very helpful.

**MM** The characters in *Redemption*, particularly the main character, Ash, all seem to be flawed. How did you approach how Ash thought of the insecurities that developed his character?

**MS** The characters needed to be relatable. I wanted readers to identify with some facet of each character and be able to use them for inspiration. At its core, writing *Redemption* was an extension of my public service—to help and inspire, but this time through science fiction.

**MM** In 2014, you disclosed your own struggles with mental illness. What are your hopes for readers who are facing similar struggles or who know someone who is?

**MS** I came forward because depression and anxiety desperately need to be destigmatized. And people need to know that they can suffer from mental illness and still survive and thrive. With *Redemption*, I wanted to break the stigma and show that people with mental illness can succeed.

**MM** *Redemption* explores what each character's role in the mission is, but they also must collaborate along the way. How do you think young readers could relate to that reliance on others in their own lives?

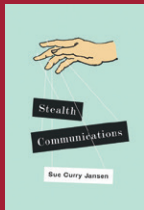
**MS** It's almost impossible to deal with most challenges on your own. Everyone, everywhere needs help, and nothing good ever occurs in a vacuum. I hope my readers will see that they need friends, family, community, professionals—whoever—to thrive.



PHOTO BY BILL KELLER

| BOOKS IN BRIEF |

**Sue Curry Jansen** (Media & Communication)  
***Stealth Communications: The Spectacular Rise of Public Relations***  
 Polity, 208 pages



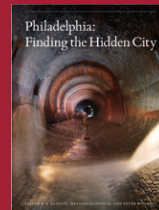
*Stealth Communications* examines the ways in which globalization and the digital revolution have substantially elevated PR's role.

**Francesca Coppa** (English, Film Studies)  
***The Fanfiction Reader: Folk Tales for the Digital Age***  
 University of Michigan Press, 304 pages



The first ever fanfiction reader framed to emphasize fanfiction's unique transformative nature and continuity with other storytelling traditions.

**Joe Elliott** (Art)  
***Philadelphia: Finding the Hidden City***  
 Temple University Press, 200 pages



Architectural photographer Joe Elliott explores Philadelphia's secret places in familiar locations with authors Nathaniel Popkin and Peter Woodall.



# Personally Speaking...





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# Katie Esbenshade '19

Neuroscience, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

## **She does parkour, a sport that involves moving through a space creatively.**

"I would define parkour as a discipline of movement that allows you to overcome physical and mental obstacles. It's not just throwing flashy movements around. There's an element of trying to better yourself through building strength, learning a new movement or overcoming a mental block."

## **She prefers to train outdoors...**

"Outside is where parkour originated. The idea is exploration and overcoming obstacles that are set there for you—you have to deal with whatever's there. In a gym, you can practice specific movements. When you're outside and it's raining and you have to jump to a railing, you still have to jump to that railing, even though it's slippery."

## **...which has gotten her noticed.**

"I somehow have become known as the Parkour Girl on campus. 'Oh, you're Parkour Katie,' that's how I get introduced to new people. It happens to me at Muhlenberg; it doesn't happen other places. It's so exotic here. I always say, 'You're welcome to come try it with me.'"

## **Parkour, which originated in France, inspired her to study in Aix-en-Provence...**

"Muhlenberg has a great program with the IAU [Institute for American Universities] in France, which was built for people who aren't necessarily great at French. I could take a lot of classes in English while still staying with a host family. My host mom was really accommodating. She had been doing this for a long time and had learned how to best speak to American students in French. We almost always spoke just French unless I was confused."

## **...which was overwhelming at first.**

"When I made it to my host family, I had been awake for 36 hours: My flight was in the evening after I'd been awake all day, I arrived in Paris at 7 a.m. and my train to Aix wasn't until noon. Once I was on the train, I didn't know which station I was supposed to get off at and all the announcements were in French—in the garbled train blah-blah you can't even understand in your own language. My host mom met me at the station, and then I relaxed a little bit, but I was so tired and trying so hard to comprehend what she was saying and then form a reply."

## **She's interested in the brain...**

"I had always enjoyed biology, ever since...whenever you start taking biology, sixth grade or whatever. Then, in high school, I took a psychology class, and I realized I enjoyed that field as well. I thought, how can I pursue these two fields together? That's what put neuroscience on my radar. I can ask interesting questions about behavior and why things happen from a biological standpoint."

## **...which drew her to Muhlenberg.**

"I was looking for colleges that had a neuroscience program. After I'd toured a couple schools, I realized I hated the big-school feeling. I treasure personal interactions, and I wasn't going to get those at a larger university until maybe my senior year. I wanted a rigorous curriculum without feeling like I was competing with my classmates. After visiting Muhlenberg, I fell in love with it."

## **She works in Associate Professor of Biology Jordanna Sprayberry's lab.**

"I knew coming in that I wanted to do research. That's one reason I chose Muhlenberg: Because there are no grad students, undergrads are given the research opportunities. I looked at what each faculty member was researching in neuroscience, and Sprayberry's lab was a bit more in the behavioral realm. And, I get to work with bees—I've always enjoyed being with animals." —MK



## The Alternative Facts of Life

Ancient Near East scholar Dustin Nash's research on two American young-Earth-creationist institutions provided fodder for timely discussions in the classroom.

**W**hile preparing the syllabus for his first-year seminar—*Proving the Unprovable: Religion, Science and the 'Unknown' in Modernity*—Dustin Nash, assistant professor of religion studies, knew he wanted to include a discussion of creationism.

With the help of a new course development grant from the College's Faculty Center for Teaching and funding from the Department of Religion Studies, Nash traveled to two institutions in Kentucky: the Creation Museum in Petersburg and Ark Encounter in Williamstown. He planned to take photos so his students could examine how exhibits in both locations made arguments.

"The thing that struck me was: In a museum that is about the Bible, why are there so many dinosaurs?" he says. "You can't throw a rock without hitting a dinosaur at the Creation Museum. They are everywhere."

Nash returned with more than 300 pictures—including some that, at first glance, might have been taken at the American Museum of Natural History—plus countless pages of notes and a desire to dig deeper.

Originally trained as a scholar in the Ancient Near East, the Hebrew Bible and Jewish studies, Nash spent two years researching young-Earth-creationist institutions like the two in Kentucky, whose curators believe the planet is roughly 6,000 years old and deny the validity of evolution, the Big Bang Theory or any notion of physical cosmology.

"They argue that science confirms the historicity of the biblical narrative of the world's origin," he says. "If you are going to claim that the Earth is only a few thousand years old, then you have to reckon with material paleontological facts. We have dinosaur bones, so they have incorporated paleontology and geology, but reinterpreted it to support their narrative about the past in a way that is unfamiliar to a lot of people." This means that dinosaurs are included in the institutions' exhibits on Noah's Ark and the Garden of Eden.

"Both the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter spend a great deal of time explaining why they are reinterpreting the paleontological evidence the way that they are," Nash adds. "There is a day's worth of reading at both sites that communicate this information."

But, he says, both institutions incorporate other ancient artifacts that mainstream scholars would date differently than young-Earth creationists. Those artifacts create a chronological problem the museums' curators leave largely unexplained.



PHOTO BY MATT LESTER

Nash presented his findings this summer at the 64th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, a conference on Assyriology and Near Eastern archaeology, at Austria's University of Innsbruck. He was one of 10 speakers at the workshop "(Mis)use of Sources: Ancient and Modern." He says his research was warmly received, and that many European scholars focusing on the Ancient Near East were not aware of this movement in American culture.

In the age of 'fake news' and 'alternative facts,' Nash's research encourages thinking about how interpretation plays a role in the creation of knowledge. "What I tell my students frequently is that facts don't have inherent meaning, but they are given meaning in particular context," he says. "What this really shows is interpretation allows for a great deal of data or facts to be aligned with a preexisting ideology."

His research also refutes the common critique that accepting young-Earth creationism is a "a matter of not being intelligent," Nash says. "A lot of people who work at the Creation Museum have Ph.Ds. They are highly intelligent, so just having more information and more accurate information will not solve the issue of, say, alternative facts."

His next step is continuing to share his work; his article, "Witnessing Dinosaurs and Fossilized Jews at the Creation Museum: Public Memory, Memory Places and the Future of Jewish-Evangelical Relations in America," has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. "I think the research is important, so I want to make it more readily available to a larger number of people, including Ancient Near East scholars," Nash says. "This is something that people need to understand is happening out there." —*Gina Gallucci-White*

## Living Writers Series Kicks Off with Ada Limón

The audience members in Moyer Hall's Miller Forum were among the first anywhere to hear selections from *The Carrying*, the latest collection from poet Ada Limón. The opening speaker in the College's 2018 Living Writers series joked that, with the New York book release still a week away, for many "this work doesn't truly exist yet."

Limón presented a series of poems from the book, pausing before each reading to share the moments in her life that had shaped the words on the page. She took the audience through her anger and frustration at an undergraduate student as she watched her coworker fail to revive the young man following an opioid overdose. Listeners traveled with her as she reflected on the latest round of disappointing news from her fertility specialist while observing an abundance of roadkill—including a full family of deer—on an Arizona highway. Attendees bristled with her as she recounted conversations with conference planners who strove for the right amount of diversity by including her as a Latinx author, by asking her to make audiences appropriately "uncomfortable, but not complicit" with her writing. And they laughed with her at the realization that her life had suddenly mirrored the plot of a dark comedy when her husband felt compelled to adopt the cats of his dead ex-girlfriend.

Limón's visit marked the beginning of the triennial Living Writers series. Nearly 100 students enroll in five sections of two related courses, one that focuses on the literature and one that's framed as a creative-writing workshop. This archetypal liberal arts experience involves students not only reading recent works from selected contemporary authors, but then getting the opportunity

to interact with those authors personally on Muhlenberg's campus. These renowned writers discuss their work in class, have lunch with students and give public readings and book signings of their work at evening events.

This year's guests have included Limón, novelist and poet Ben Lerner, playwright Marina Carr and writer and performer Danez Smith. The series will conclude with visits by novelists Téa Obreht on November 7 and Zadie Smith on November 28. —BK



PHOTO BY PAUL PEARSON

### Elections 2018 Event Series Ongoing



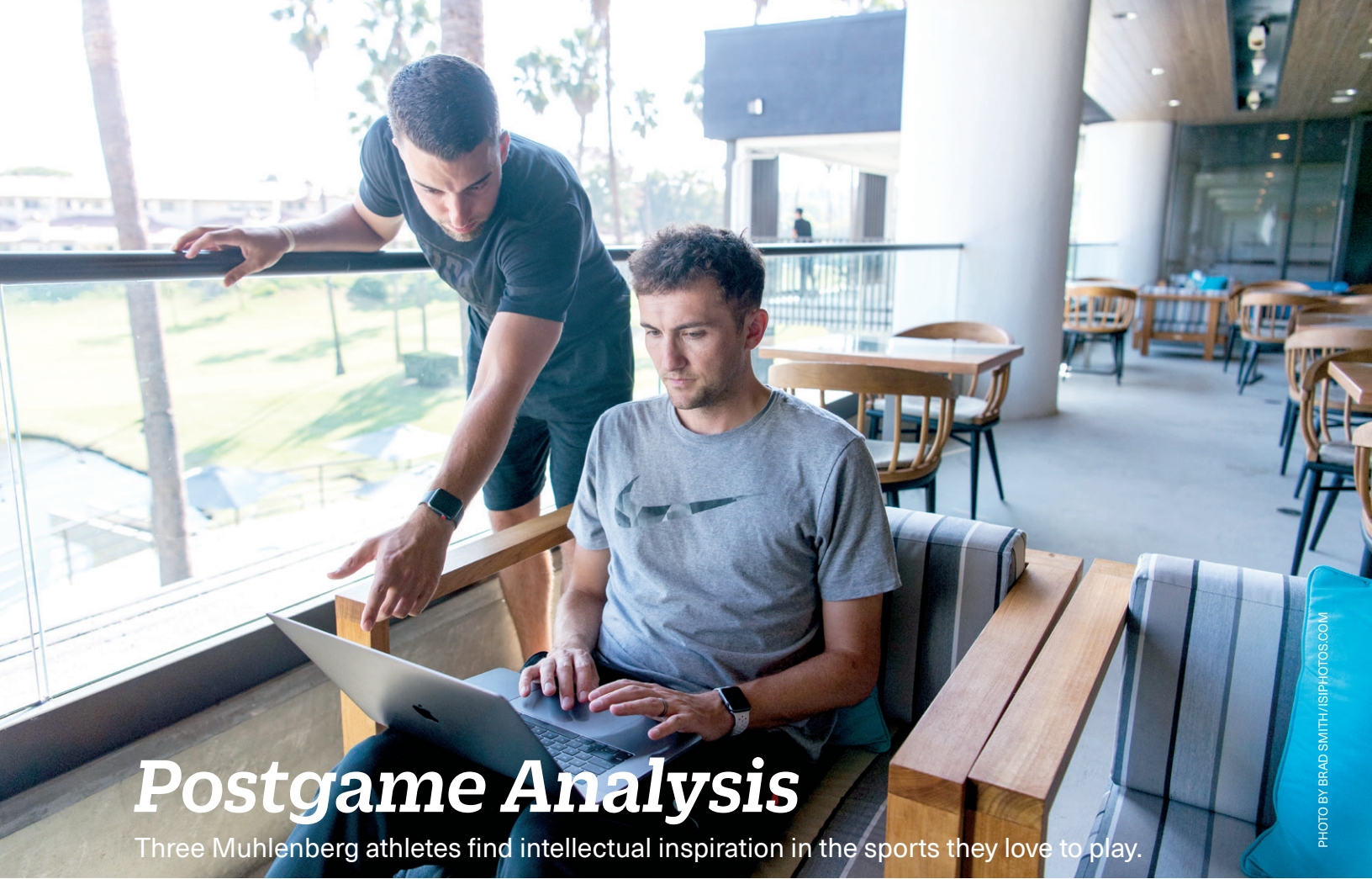
Muhlenberg's Department of Political Science organized "Elections 2018: The Politics of Urgency and Uncertainty" to address the current political climate and this year's midterm elections. This nonpartisan series was designed to encourage democratic engagement among students, faculty,

staff and the community. At press time, the first four events—including a talk from WHYY's Dave Davies (pictured) and a lunch session with Supreme Court expert and visiting Assistant Professor Ross Dardani—had already taken place. The series continues into the spring; for information on future events, visit [muhlenberg.edu/electionseries](http://muhlenberg.edu/electionseries).

### Dunkel '72 Earns National Endowment for the Humanities Honor

Tom Dunkel '72 has been named a 2018 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Scholar. He is among 22 nonfiction writers selected nationwide. "When I learned I'd been chosen, I felt thankful, happy and humbled," Dunkel says. The one-year NEH grant will support Dunkel's work on a narrative nonfiction book about members of the German resistance during World War II that's tentatively titled *White Knights in the Black Orchestra*. "I began exploring the topic almost 20 years ago," Dunkel says. "This seemed a good time to revisit it given the rise of authoritarian, ultra-right political movements here and abroad—plus the corresponding pushback." The book is scheduled to be published in 2020 by DeCapo Press.





# Postgame Analysis

Three Muhlenberg athletes find intellectual inspiration in the sports they love to play.

**R**emember those NCAA public service announcements from the early part of this decade, telling us that almost all college student-athletes will be “going pro in something other than sports”?

That is certainly true when it comes to *playing* professional sports, especially for Division III athletes. But when it comes to a non-playing future in sports, Muhlenberg student-athletes past and present have found the right combination of intellectual rigor and support at the College to pursue their athletic passions to their fullest.

Based in the “Soccer House,” a refurbished mansion on the South Side of Chicago, A.J. Barnold ’09 works within the High Performance Department of the U.S. Soccer Federation. He is assigned to the Women’s National Team (USWNT), which is ranked first in the world.

Barnold is at the forefront of the growing field of analytics in his sport—think *Moneyball* for soccer. He analyzes video and data from the USWNT and its opponents and creates reports that the coaches and players can turn into actionable information.

“If you had told me when I was at Muhlenberg, or even a few years ago, that I’d be working with the best team in the world, I maybe wouldn’t have believed you,” says Barnold. “But it’s exciting and it’s a privilege to be able to work with these people day in and day out.”

Barnold, who played on Muhlenberg’s 2005 Centennial

Conference championship men’s soccer team and earned all-conference honors as a back, transitioned into the analytics world after nine years as an assistant coach at Arcadia University, Muhlenberg, Lafayette College and the University of Virginia. He travels with the USWNT to all training camps and matches.

Barnold will accompany the team to France as it defends its 2015 World Cup title next summer. And he’ll take not only the analysis talents he’s honed so well over the last several years, but also some skills he learned as a liberal-arts student at Muhlenberg.

“Something we talk about in the analytics world is having the ability to relay complicated information to players and coaches and not talk to them in a super technical language,” he says. “I did a lot of research as a psychology major at Muhlenberg, and the work I did with data helped my comfort level with being able to pull out what’s important and put it into a context that’s easy for people to understand.

“When I was in grad school and coaching, people would ask, ‘Do you use your psychology background in your job?’ Even if it’s not directly, intentionally using a concept or a theory, it’s always still in the back of my head. It has definitely shaped the way that I do my job.”

Barnold may soon have another Mule in the analytics world. Current senior Luke Wiley, a co-captain and start-





PHOTO BY MADISON KIRCHOFER '20

Former soccer player A.J. Barnold '09 analyzes video and data for the U.S. Women's National Team (far left). Softball player Kristina Qualben '19 spent the summer examining the "trampoline effect" of various bats (left), and football player Luke Wiley '19 (below) researched fourth-down decision-making.

ing safety on the football team, has an interest in the field, and to that end he spent his summer researching fourth-down decision-making.

"My project aims to mathematically suggest whether or not a coach should go for it on fourth down by using generalized linear regression models to help probabilistically make the decision," explains Wiley.

Too much "super technical language" for non-math majors? Try this: "Basically the whole project was finding the expected points you are supposed to get from various decisions and the ensuing scenarios (i.e., the value of punting would be determined by the difference between the current yard line and where the punt landed, then factoring in the number of points the defense is expected to give up)."

Wiley's interest in the project was piqued while watching his beloved Philadelphia Eagles win the Super Bowl with an aggressive fourth-down approach last year. He collected data from recent Muhlenberg football seasons and enlisted the help of head coach Nate Milne and defensive coordinator Kory David.

Wiley, who plans to present his findings at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in January 2019 and/or the Sloan Sports Conference in March, says he has some kinks to work out before expanding his sample size. He recently was contacted by a fellow mathematician who has similar data for all Division III football teams.

"I really enjoy diving into the details of football," says Wiley, a two-time All-Centennial Conference defensive back. "I have always had a passion for football and math, and Muhlenberg has provided me countless opportunities to follow my passions. Both the professors and coaches are



PHOTO BY SHARON KIRIN

excited to help you go out and learn."

For senior physics and mathematics double major Kristina Qualben, going out and learning this summer meant spending time at the Mules' softball field every day hitting balls off a tee. Her summer project was to study the trampoline effect, which is the result of hitting a ball on the sweet spot of a bat.

Armed with a bucket of balls, various brands of bats (Louisville Slugger, Easton and DeMarini, to name a few), an accelerometer, a camera and an iPad, Qualben collected data such as bat speed, hand speed and attack angle to try determine which bats enacted the trampoline effect the best.

"I chose this topic because I wanted to incorporate two things I love to do: softball and physics," says Qualben. "Knowing that I was able to support my data with my own swings makes the outcome of this project even more rewarding."

As part of her research project, Qualben spent a week at Penn State University with Daniel Russell, a renowned acoustics professor who has published numerous papers on the physics of baseball and softball bats. There, she studied vibrational mode shapes and frequencies of the bats.

"One of the most surprising things I learned is that even if you put all of the information and results aside, you can physically hear how well a bat enacts the trampoline effect," says Qualben. "The lower the pitch of the sound that the bat makes when the ball meets the sweet spot, the better the bat is performing the trampoline effect."

Qualben says she could see herself working for a bat company, testing its products. And who better to test softball bats than someone who has shown considerable proficiency using one (her 12 home runs through three seasons rank third in program history) and is armed with the scientific knowledge?

"One of the greatest parts about Muhlenberg is that it gives you the opportunity to apply the things you love to your academics," Qualben says. "I firmly believe that if I was somewhere else, I would have never had the opportunity to do something like this over the summer. Being in this environment aided in my creative process because I've had so many sources of inspiration. For that, I am extremely grateful."

—Mike Falk



| FROM THE ARCHIVES |

# Double-Hemisphere World Map, 1720

Ray R. Brennen Map Collection

Comprising more than 50 maps, as well as atlases, land deeds and books on cartography, the Ray R. Brennen Map Collection was gifted to Muhlenberg College in 1997. Local attorney Ray Brennen '35 developed his love of cartography while serving in the Navy during World War II.

The collection was recently digitized and made available via Trexler Library's website. Both in the classroom and online, the Brennen Collection is a valuable teaching resource. See it at [trexlerworks.muhlenberg.edu/brennen\\_maps](http://trexlerworks.muhlenberg.edu/brennen_maps).

*If you have items of interest to the Muhlenberg archives, please contact [susanfalciani@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:susanfalciani@muhlenberg.edu)*



# Muhlenberg Launches Shankweiler Scholars Pre-Med Honors Program

This fall, Muhlenberg debuted Shankweiler Scholars, an honors program that celebrates the College's historic strength in health professions preparation.

The Shankweiler Scholars Program is designed for highly motivated undergraduates preparing to pursue a medical degree. As a reflection of Muhlenberg's excellent health professions and liberal arts curriculum, the program is particularly well-suited for pre-medical students planning to major in the humanities or social sciences or those with broad intellectual interests planning to major in natural sciences.

"The medical schools we've spoken with want students who offer skills and interest in disciplines outside of the traditional sciences," says President John Williams. "The Shankweiler Scholars Program brings our strong history in pre-med together with our liberal arts mission to

graduate well-rounded students. It's a natural fit."

The honors program is named for John Shankweiler, a 1921 Muhlenberg

Students accepted into the Shankweiler Scholars Program will receive a merit award and participate in a curriculum that supports the human

**"The Shankweiler Scholars Program brings our strong history in pre-med together with our liberal arts mission to graduate well-rounded students. It's a natural fit."**

*—Muhlenberg President John Williams*

alumnus and a renowned and beloved biology professor, remembered for his untiring advancement of the sciences and excellent teaching. Current faculty and staff continue this effort across the sciences, humanities and arts, and an interdisciplinary faculty advisory committee will provide students with mentorship and guidance throughout their Muhlenberg experience and the medical school application process.

dimensions of medical practice to complement the standard academic preparation for medical school. The Shankweiler Scholars Program will help position students for admission to leading U.S. medical schools, including Boston University School of Medicine and Temple University School of Medicine, with which Muhlenberg has cooperative admissions agreements. —BK

## Shanker '09 Joins Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

On October 9, Adrian Shanker '09 was sworn in as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, which promotes equal opportunity for all and enforces Pennsylvania's civil rights laws that protect people from unlawful discrimination. Shanker had recently been sworn in August 23 as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, the first and only such commission in the nation. The commission's charge is to both advise Governor Tom Wolf on policies, legislation and regulations that affect the LGBTQ community, and serve as a resource and advocate for programs, activities and funding opportunities that impact LGBTQ communities across the state. Shanker is founder and executive director of Allentown's Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center.



*Adrian Shanker '09 (second row, second from left) at a swearing-in ceremony to serve as an inaugural member of the state's Commission on LGBTQ Affairs*



## **Taub-Pervizpour Appointed Dean for Digital Learning**

Professor of Media & Communication Lora Taub-Pervizpour was named dean for digital learning in August. She had served as associate dean for digital learning since 2013, overseeing the implementation of recommendations from an online task force and helping the College chart a vision for digital learning in the liberal arts. Her appointment to full dean status reflects goals, as outlined in the College's strategic plan, to strengthen engaged liberal arts learning and scholarship and to ensure students have strong digital literacy skills. "Lora's new position provides the College deeper support for digital literacy across the curriculum and provides leadership in the development of quality online and blended programs in the Wescoe School," says Kathleen Harring, provost.

## **History Walking Tour Debuts**

On Alumni Weekend, the College launched the Campus History Walking Tour on the Muhlenberg College Pathways to Present platform. The tour currently offers brief historical information and archival images for the College's 15 oldest buildings with plans to add the remaining buildings during the 2018-2019 academic year. The content can be accessed via pathways.muhlenberg.edu or a free app, which uses GPS to show where a visitor is in relation to the buildings. Supported by the Alumni Board's Alumni Trust Fund Committee, the tour was prepared by Special Collections and Archives Librarian Susan Falciani Maldonado with help from student worker Melissa Reph '20.

# Muhlenberg in the Media

**NPR's *Weekend Edition* and *Atlas Obscura* featured 'plant detectives' Rich Niesenbaum, professor of biology, and Lindsay Press '21.**

The two spent the summer using both historical records, including old maps and handwritten notes, as well as high-tech tools to see if native plants can still be found where they thrived decades—sometimes even more than 100 years—ago.

**The Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion (MCIPO) garnered steady national and international media attention for its survey work from dozens of news outlets including *Associated Press*, CNN, CNBC, NPR, *The Guardian*, *HuffPost*, *Axios* and *United Press International*.**

To learn more about the MCIPO, see "The Polling Place" on page 24.

**The *Associated Press* picked up a *Morning Call* story about Biology Lecturer Patricia Bradt, which went on to run in *U.S. News & World Report* and other outlets.**

The story profiled Bradt and her students, who together have been monitoring the health of the Bushkill Creek, a local stream clean and cold enough to support wild trout, for more than 40 years.

***Inside Higher Ed* featured Muhlenberg's digital learning program.**

"Spotlight on Institutional Innovation" explored the College's efforts to expand into digital learning while remaining deeply rooted in the liberal arts and continuing to emphasize close collaboration between students and professors.

**Innovative teaching and learning at Muhlenberg was cited in two *Chronicle of Higher Education* articles.**

In "Fresh Ideas to Help Adult Learners Succeed," Jane Hudak, dean of the Wescoe School, was quoted. Lora Taub-Pervizpour, professor of media & communication and dean of digital learning, was interviewed for the article "Want to Help Professors Become Better Teachers? Find Them a Mentor."

**The *Princeton Review* named the Muhlenberg College theatre program one of the nation's best.**

In the 2019 edition of *The Best 384 Colleges*, Muhlenberg ranked ninth in "Best College Theater," placing the program among the top 12 in the nation 10 of the last 11 years.



## Mules Rule

Running back James Diggs '21 breaks free on a sideline run during a 14-3 win over Dickinson College in the second game of the season. The Mules became nationally ranked after defeating previously unbeaten Franklin & Marshall 42-21.





# Puppetry with a Purpose

Chris Scheer '07 crafts family-friendly performances with a message.



PHOTO BY DAVID SCOTT HOLLOWAY

Chris Scheer '07 (above) co-founded the production company Doppelskope. It earned a Jim Henson Foundation grant to develop its newest production, *The Amazing Story Machine*, which featured fellow alumna Caroline Lux '14 (to Scheer's left in photo at right).

As a middle-schooler on Long Island, Chris Scheer '07 was with his mother when she pointed out a flier for an after-school theatre program. The superfan of all things Jim Henson told her, "I just want to do puppets." She replied, "Why don't you do theatre until you figure out how to do puppets?"

He took her suggestion, and that was the first step on his path toward Muhlenberg: He became "the theatre kid" at his high school, and his family's Lutheran pastor recommended the College for its strong theatre program. And now that the production company Scheer co-founded after graduation, Doppelskope, has earned a \$4,000 grant from the Jim Henson Foundation, he can look back on the many mentors at Muhlenberg that helped him follow in his idol's footsteps and "do puppets" professionally.

It began with Tim Averill, a recently retired professor of theatre design whom Scheer calls "the teacher who brought puppetry back into my adult life." Averill invited the artists behind Figuretheater Wilde & Vogel, a German puppet theatre company, to campus through the Baker Artist-in-Residence Program in 2006. They offered students a six-week workshop.

"I signed up for that project and that was my first puppet training," Scheer says. "Their sense of discipline and commitment to their craft changed me as an overall theatre artist."

Now based in New York City, Scheer is not just a puppeteer—he makes a good deal of his income as a children's magician, he acts in several regional theatre projects each year and he's also an acrobat and clown. In fact, he met Ora Fruchter, who co-founded Doppelskope with him, in a clown class in 2009.

"What I enjoy about Chris is he has a completely wacko sort of imagination," Averill says. "When he works with people, that helps ground him. That's why I think he and Ora work well together."

Scheer and Fruchter started producing sketches that combined clowning and puppetry the following year and eventually developed a full-length show, though that material targeted adults and "tried to explore dark, scary themes using comedy," Scheer says.

In 2013, Theatre Professor James Peck invited Scheer and Fruchter to perform their show at Muhlenberg. Charlie Richter, the department chair, enjoyed the performance and invited the duo to develop a family production based on a fairy tale of their choosing for the following year's Summer Music Theatre series. With assistance from Averill, the Doppelskope team developed *Gruff!*, a retelling of "Three Billy Goats Gruff" that has an underlying theme of environmental activism.

"We asked ourselves, 'What do we care about?'" Scheer says. "We had never discussed environmental activism up until that point. It just turned out we were politically very like-minded. We became even more passionate environmentalists through creating *Gruff!* at Muhlenberg."





PHOTO BY DAVID SCOTT HOLLOWAY

*Gruff!* succeeded, and Richter invited Doppelskope back the next two summers to develop *Grimm!* (about a girl who saves her father from a cursed iPad) and then *Grow!* (a satire of capitalism based on “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”). Scheer speculates that the urge to create shows with a message stems in part from his religious upbringing, but it’s also something that can help separate family productions from children’s productions: “Some shows throw a bone or two to the adults but are still aimed at the kids,” Scheer says. “We want ours to be entertaining to everyone at all times, which is a very high aspiration.”

The show Scheer and Fruchter pitched to earn the Jim Henson Foundation grant is a spin-off of *Grimm!* called *The Amazing Story Machine*. The Brothers Grimm, who play a small role in their eponymous musical, return with an entertainment machine to replace in-person storytelling and imagination. When the machine breaks, the Grimms take parts off it to build puppets they use to tell the stories. *The Amazing Story Machine* premiered in New York City in October.

“I’ve really fallen in love with family-friendly shows because the inclusiveness allows adults to laugh at things they normally might not be open to, and the kids can take it more seriously when the adults are present,” Scheer says. “We like to say that we try to respect the intelligence of children and the whimsy of adults.” —MK

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**“Some shows throw a bone or two to the adults but are still aimed at the kids. We want want ours to be entertaining to everyone at all times, which is a very high aspiration.”**

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# Tempting Fate

What we know (and don't know) about the e-cigarettes that are so popular among young people

By Chrysan Cronin

As I was sitting outside of Seegers Union recently, I was transported back to my childhood by a wafting aroma resembling Fruity Pebbles, a cereal that was forbidden in my own home but a breakfast staple at my best friend's house. The student sitting near me vaping the fruit-flavored liquid through a Juul (pronounced "jewel") had no idea that he was evoking memories of my youth. I watched him as he inhaled from this sleek device, the liquid passing over a hidden heated coil and vaporizing into the air around him. He was joined by several other students who were vaping, too, and I began to get a sinking feeling that I was witnessing what is likely to become the next big public-health problem for Generation Z.

The Juul, a type of electronic cigarette that looks like a USB drive, holds "pods" of liquid that can be purchased in a multitude of flavors like apple pie, watermelon, mint and chocolate. Electronic cigarettes have been around for more than a decade and were initially marketed as a safer alternative to cigarettes, one that might help smokers wean themselves off cigarettes and ultimately quit smoking altogether. Besides flavorings, the liquid also contains proprietary chemicals, and though we don't know what all of those chemicals are, the companies marketing the e-cigs assure us that they are safer than the 7,000-plus chemicals found in traditional cigarettes. In theory, this seems like a great idea. And for some smokers, it has proven to be a life-changing alternative to other forms of smoking cessation. Those who have had success kicking the habit are justifiably ardent defenders of e-cigarettes.

But there is a dirty little secret that many consumers of e-cigarettes don't know: These

flavored liquids also contain nicotine, the addictive substance in tobacco. Nicotine causes cravings to continue smoking or vaping as well as withdrawal symptoms when those cravings are not satisfied. Nicotine also increases blood pressure, constricts blood vessels and spikes adrenaline so that the heart beats faster. In the long term, all of these effects increase the risk for cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. E-cigarette users can order liquids with varying concentrations of nicotine or can increase the voltage on the e-cigarette to get more nicotine with each inhalation, so they may be getting more nicotine than they would from traditional cigarettes.

It used to be that I could not sit out in front of Seegers Union on a beautiful autumn day without inhaling secondhand cigarette smoke. Thanks to national public-health initiatives and changes in smoking policies on campus, cigarette smoking has declined significantly over the last two decades, and it is actually rare to see a person smoking on this campus. But as I watched the students vaping in Parents Plaza, I realized that we are on the cusp of a new generation that may be hooked on nicotine. In 2015, the surgeon general reported that e-cigarette use among teenagers had increased 900 percent since 2011, and 40 percent of young e-cigarette users had never smoked regular tobacco. Though companies who market e-cigarettes have denied that they have specifically targeted their products to children, that is exactly what happened when they created flavors and sleek, high-tech designs that are most appealing to that demographic. The FDA is finally starting to take notice—the agency launched an inquiry in September that began with warning letters



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to e-cigarette makers about their marketing practices.

Besides the nicotine addiction, the other concern is the potential health effects of inhaling the heated liquid. There is a growing body of research that shows that carcinogenic compounds are excreted in the urine of teenagers who vape. Just as we didn't know for decades that cigarettes cause cancer and heart disease, we don't yet know the long-term effects of vaping. The argument that the e-cigarettes are "safer" than regular cigarettes because there is no scientific data to prove otherwise is inherently flawed. It may take years to find out that e-cigarettes are harmful. If we have learned anything from the millions of people who have died from smoking,

it is that we need to be extremely cautious. Even if e-cigarettes are considered less hazardous than tobacco products, the vapor is not "safe." It is important to get this message out loud and clear to young people who may be unknowingly putting themselves at risk for poor health outcomes in the future.

Across the nation, as high-school students matriculate to college, the use of e-cigarettes is the next challenging public-health problem on campuses, including at Muhlenberg. The entire campus community has a responsibility to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all who work, live and visit here.

*Chrysan Cronin is director and professor of public health at Muhlenberg.*



## Defining Value at Muhlenberg

John I. Williams Jr.



So, here we are. Public trust in higher education is flagging, the trend toward being outcome-focused has morphed into calls for colleges to be more vocationally oriented and the politicizing of the cost of education has resulted in a tectonic shift in which people across the spectrum are questioning the value of a college education.

But how did we get here? Well, there's enough blame to go around, and colleges shoulder much of it.

Admittedly, there was a certain arrogance in assuming that higher education was above the political fray. The prevailing public perception of the 1990s and early 2000s was that a premium college cost equated to a more prestigious degree. The result was a kind of arms race among institutions that saw increases in tuition and residential costs with commensurate increases in financial aid that essentially allowed colleges to raise the sticker price (and the prestige a high price implies) at higher rates while mitigating the actual cost impact through aid. This has caused a problematic cascading effect that is still taking shape.

When the market crash of 2008 occurred, it was unlike any financial crisis the majority of the American public had ever experienced. We had become a country built on credit without much regard for savings. But that changed in the wake of The Great Recession. People became more conscious of how tenuous the financial system could be, and they changed their outlook on how they spend their money, looking for value. They also changed the way they viewed premium pricing. That opened the door for higher education to become an easy target for politicians looking for talking points that resonated.

What have we seen since? An assault on the liberal arts—humanities in particular; funding cutbacks to state higher-education systems; families from all economic strata bargaining for financial aid packages; and free-tuition programs among two-year and four-year state institutions beginning to gain traction. Each of these has had an impact on Muhlenberg College.

There's a lot to unpack here, but there's one thing I feel quite passionate about, and that's the value of a Muhlenberg education. In our current economic and political environment, the discourse almost always narrows focus at the expense of nuance and understanding and value has fallen prey to this kind of thinking. To many, value is strictly about sticker price and financial aid. That certainly plays a role in any college's value proposition, but it is just that: a role. The

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*To many, value is strictly about sticker price and financial aid. That certainly plays a role in any college's value proposition, but it is just that: a role.*

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real value for students is found in the living and learning experiences offered at the College and the doors opened for graduates to pursue careers and continued educational opportunities. On these measures, we deliver outstanding value for our students.

Muhlenberg is one of the few, top liberal arts institutions in the U.S. to offer professionally oriented majors like public health, media & communication, business administration, finance and accounting within a rigorous liberal arts context. And we lay legitimate claim to strong traditional majors like biology, chemistry, neuroscience, English and psychology, as well as the nation's top liberal-arts-college-based theatre and dance programs. Muhlenberg also offers





pre-professional study in medicine, law and theology. In fact, we have a strong history in pre-med preparation that has recently waned a bit in prominence, but to which we are redoubling our commitment through the creation of the new Shankweiler Scholars program. This program encourages students to prepare for careers in medicine by combining the natural sciences with courses in humanities and social sciences, in large part because medical schools have stressed they want students who can become doctors capable of treating the person, not just the patient. (To learn more about this program, see page 13.)

Regardless of what kind of major you pursue at Muhlenberg, you will find an academic approach that integrates learning from across the curriculum in a more thorough and thoughtful way than many other colleges provide. Of course, the real value is that this kind of experience prepares students both for graduate and professional school and for careers directly after graduation. Despite the general public's declining trust in higher education, business executives and hiring managers showed a great deal of confidence in the July 2018 survey report *Fulfilling the American Dream: Liberal Education and the Future of Work*, published by Hart Research.

In fact, respondents indicated that, contrary to what many think, one's major is far less important than a range of learning priorities that include critical thinking and reasoning, ethical judgment and decision-making and the ability to communicate effectively and to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings. These findings excite me because they confirm and reinforce the very foundation of liberal arts learning. The skills acquired through these learning priorities not only prepare students to enter the workplace upon graduation, but enable graduates to grow and nurture careers including positions that will emerge years in the future.

For students who want the skills of a broad-based liberal arts education with opportunities to parlay that experience

into graduate study, Muhlenberg offers students a number of cooperative programs. Through partnerships with Columbia University, American University, Boston University, Pennsylvania State University and more, Muhlenberg students can obtain advanced or dual degrees in engineering, health professions and business, among others. These programs provide a more distinct path for students who have set their sights on particular careers.

A central focus for the College is to enable students to achieve powerful outcomes. Students arrive to orientation and First-Year-Seminar programs designed to help them transition to the demands of a Muhlenberg education. Students learn about the writing-intensive curriculum and rise to meet expectations in the classroom through programs and exercises designed to teach them how to succeed. Mentoring programs allow students to develop one-on-one relationships with faculty, staff, alumni and even parents to help them grow through their Muhlenberg experience.

These programs also begin a purposeful integration of student and academic life on campus. From faculty who care deeply about the lives of our students to intellectual programming in residence halls, the Muhlenberg experience is a holistic one.

Muhlenberg provides ample opportunity for students to apply their knowledge and skills in real-world settings as well. Service learning at the College continues to expand. Through the work of our Office of Community Engagement and faculty, we now partner with more than 35 local and regional organizations. These interactions allow students not just to put their learning into action but, often, to help catalyze their classroom learning in ways possible only through firsthand experiences. These partnerships invariably lead to change, whether that be personal, institutional or for the community as a whole.

Of course, opportunity and real-world experience are the heart of the Muhlenberg Network. From the chance to





get advice from working professionals about career options to finding internships that serve as a springboard to a first job, the Career Center brings students and alumni together. This creates a powerful dynamic that brings considerable knowledge, expertise and a Muhlenberg ethos to help one

They contribute to classroom and community discussions in ways that expand the discourse and help us to grow.

I'm not sure how you put a financial value on any of this, and maybe that is the challenge. When we can't see something in front of us, we tend to discount it. A residential liberal

arts education is transformational in ways that go beyond skills. There is a reason graduates often encourage their own children to pursue a similar experience—because they know firsthand the impact it has had on their lives.

But we do live in a “show me” world—many of you have asked me about the cost of a Muhlenberg education. Well, we pay attention to that as well. Much of the focus of college cost has centered on a comparison between

private and public institutions, primarily, due to the lower “sticker price” of public universities. But public university systems don't offer the grant aid and scholarships that private institutions like Muhlenberg do. State funding gives the appearance of a lower tuition cost, while the actual

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*Like critical thinking and communicating with others, engaging with difference is a learned skill, one that will stay with you and shape you throughout a lifetime*

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another to bear in creating professional opportunities.

All of these connections and off-campus interactions provide a critical dimension to the residential liberal arts experience: perspective. An essential component of a Muhlenberg education is opening up one's personal views to a wide array of diverse perspectives. From racial and religious differences to socio-economic and geographic differences, the kind of transformative education Muhlenberg provides is fully realized only when we engage with others who are different from ourselves. Like critical thinking and communicating with others, engaging with difference is a learned skill, one that will stay with you and shape you throughout a lifetime that will be characterized by increasing diversity.

Muhlenberg students find diversity of culture and experience beyond the classroom as well, with nearly 60 percent of students studying abroad at some point during their College career. And while the chance to study abroad becomes essential to the students who participate, the College community also realizes a benefit. Students who study abroad come back to campus with a different outlook.






## 2017-18 BY THE NUMBERS

cost to students is similar to a private education.

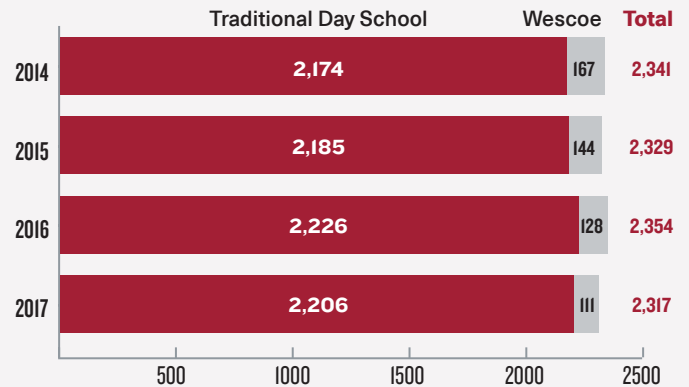
According to the federal government's Scorecard website, collegescorecard.ed.gov, Muhlenberg offers a student cost—meaning the actual cost after student aid is applied—that is comparable to that of both the state university system and our local state-affiliated university. Likewise, the amount of student debt upon graduation is also comparable to public institutions while being well below the state average. The big difference, of course, comes when you look at the earnings after graduation, where Muhlenberg not only outperforms the state and state-affiliated schools, but many of the top private colleges within our region.

Access is very important for us. More than 87 percent of Muhlenberg students receive some form of financial aid, from grant aid and merit scholarships to federal aid and work-study opportunities. The first-year financial-aid package has averaged \$35,310 over the past four years, with merit aid—awarded to students for outstanding academic achievement regardless of need—averaging \$14,257 over the same time.

These are challenging times. We have an amazing, hard-working community that is committed to a strategic plan that lays out a path to build an experience that not only meets the demands of today's students but also allows us to distinguish ourselves from other colleges. But we need more. We need you. We need our alumni who have witnessed firsthand the life-changing, lasting nature of attending Muhlenberg, who can speak emphatically to the value of the Muhlenberg experience. We need you to spread the story of Muhlenberg College as offering a distinctively transformative, holistic education. 

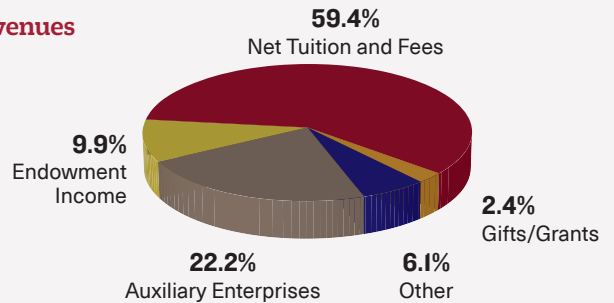


### Total Fall Enrollment

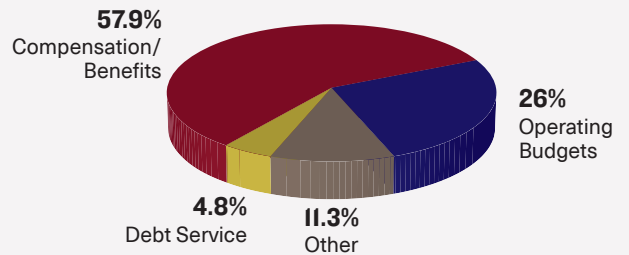


### Budget Summary

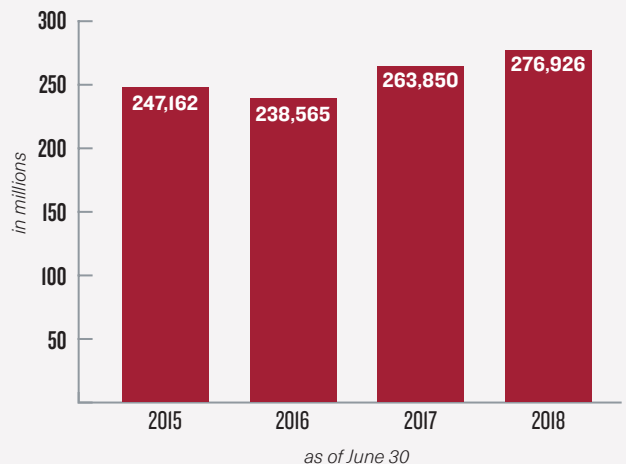
#### Revenues



#### Expenditures



### Endowment Summary







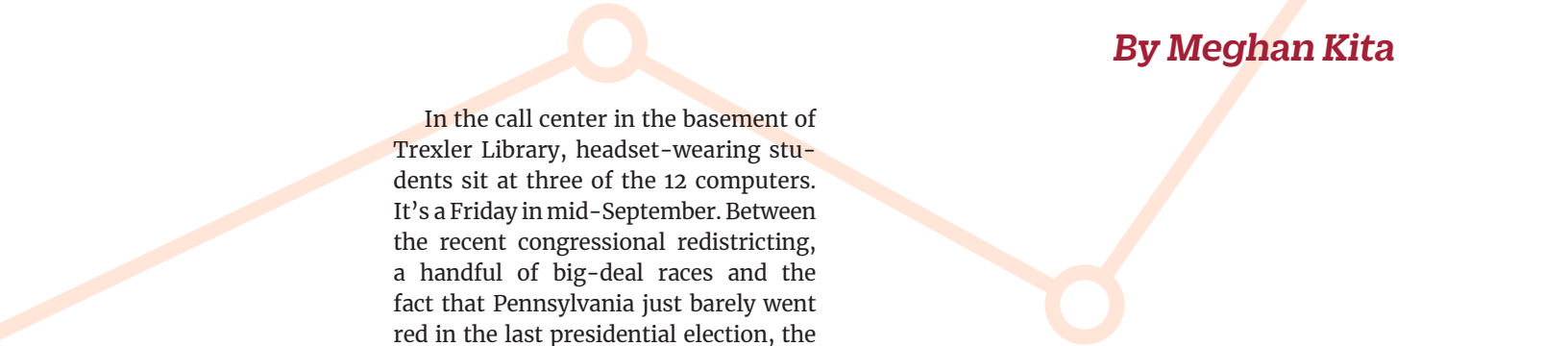




# The Polling Place

*The Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion gives students hands-on experience that shapes political discourse and community action.*

**By Meghan Kita**



In the call center in the basement of Trexler Library, headset-wearing students sit at three of the 12 computers. It's a Friday in mid-September. Between the recent congressional redistricting, a handful of big-deal races and the fact that Pennsylvania just barely went red in the last presidential election, the state's political climate is drawing national and international attention, and today's survey is about the upcoming midterm elections.

Despite the hoopla, this shift is quiet because many student workers have class at this time. Plus, the folks they're trying to reach (voting members of the Pennsylvania electorate) are more likely to answer their phones during the evening or weekend operating hours of the call center, when more students might show up to work than the room can accommodate.

The workers who are here call numbers randomly generated by WinCati, the computer program that displays the questions and records responses. If someone doesn't answer—an increasingly common occurrence in this age of spammy robocalls—the student leaves a message to say they're calling from the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion (MCIPO) to conduct a survey and that they'll try again later. This happens several times.

But then, some excitement.



## CALLS TO ACTION

Two students get someone on the line simultaneously. After confirming the people are registered to vote in Pennsylvania, the students ask how likely the people are to vote, their opinions on the performance of various politicians, which issues matter most to them and a number of other questions. Both respondents happen to be chatty; the interviewers tally their responses and listen politely as they elaborate. Within 10 minutes, the students have added to a pool of data that will contribute to an understanding of the public's take on key issues, political and otherwise.

The MCIPO—known around campus as simply “the polling institute”—is nearly as old as some of the students making the calls. The first surveys took place in the fall of 2001, a year after the institute's founder and director, Professor of Political Science Chris Borick, came to Muhlenberg.

“Like everything at Muhlenberg, the goal was to have a student focus,” Borick says. “Students would play a primary role in the management of the institute, students would take on ownership of projects and various functions of the institute and the data would contribute to academic study.”

Today, the institute has a national reputation: It recently earned an “A” grade from the well-known analytical site FiveThirtyEight, and CNN referred to it as a “gold standard pollster.” But even as the scope of the institute's research has expanded, as it has forged partnerships with institutions large and small and as it has garnered national attention for itself and the College, students and alumni can attest that it has remained true to its student-centric mission.

With oversight from Borick, students manage many of the day-to-day operations of the call center that collects the institute's data. In any given semester, there will be about 50 interviewers, five or six supervisors and one or two assistant directors.

The interviewer role attracts students of all majors who seek flexibility: You show up whenever you want during the 22 hours the institute is open each week and work as much or as little as you want.

“What happens to a number of those students is their experiences lead them to want to get more engaged with the institute,” Borick says.

Prianka Hashim '19, a neuroscience major and women's & gender studies minor, is one of those students: She was interested in the U.S. political climate her first year, in the lead-up to the 2016 presidential election, so she worked quite a few hours conducting interviews. The student management team noticed her dedication and asked her to join them her sophomore year. Last year, she became an assistant director, a role she's sharing this

year with Jordan Zanetti '19, who held the role last spring as Hashim studied in Copenhagen.

“I started at the polling institute thinking I'd check it out, and I never left,” Hashim jokes.

The student supervisors and directors have set hours, since a member of the management team is always there while the call center is open. These students do it all: They get new interviewers established as College employees, they train new interviewers on how to conduct the surveys and work with the technology, they handle payroll and they respond when there are problems with the phones or computers. Some even help to program the surveys and analyze the results.

**“When we started, we said, ‘Look, we're not going to be a gigantic research organization that does everything. We're not designed for that. We're a small liberal arts college. We want education and the student experience central to the Institute.’”**

*—Chris Borick, professor of political science*

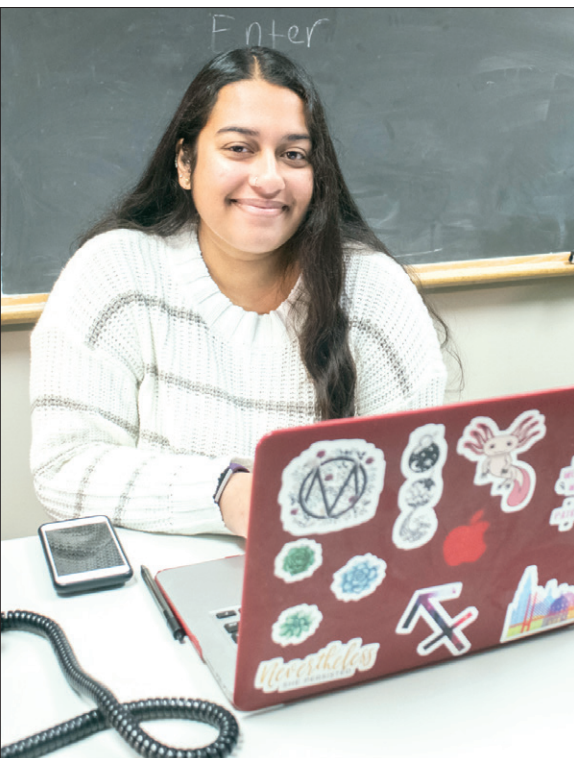


## SURVEYING THE SURVEYS

“When we started, we said, ‘Look, we’re not going to be a gigantic research organization that does everything. We’re not designed for that,’ Borick recalls. “‘We’re a small liberal arts college. We want education and the student experience central to the institute.’”

The plan was to focus on local and statewide surveys, and that still makes up the bulk of the research that takes place there. The institute has a number of Lehigh Valley partners, such as *The Morning Call*, the Allentown School District and the Bethlehem Health Department, that can request that the institute conduct a survey to help inform their reporting or policy.

The institute also teams up with classes to gather information that pertains to a course’s subject matter.



Prianka Hashim '19 is one of the student assistant directors at the Institute.

For example, Borick teaches a linked course with Psychology Professor Mark Sciutto called Mental Health: Science and Public Policy. The students in their classes—Public Health Policy and Abnormal Psychology—design questions, work in the call center to execute a statewide survey and then analyze the results.

That said, the institute does conduct some national surveys, most notably on the subjects of climate change and energy policy. Borick had researched and written about environmental policy with colleagues at the University of Michigan, and in 2008, the two institutions teamed up on a national poll. The students and faculty from Michigan provided the policy expertise and the students and faculty from Muhlenberg provided the polling expertise.

“When we did it, we recognized how important it would be to make this a longer term project,” Borick says. “There aren’t too many partnerships between high-end research institutions like Michigan and quality liberal arts colleges like Muhlenberg. It’s one that’s been really productive over the years.”

“The partnership gives us an opportunity to work with Chris Borick, who brings not only survey research expertise but also a deep understanding of electoral and climate politics,” says Sarah Mills, senior project manager at Michigan’s Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy. “The business model of the Institute of Public Opinion, offering high-quality research at a very low cost, has really enabled us to sustain this research over time.”

## A UNIQUE RESOURCE

Not only is such a partnership rare, so is having access to—and hands-on experience with—a well-respected public-opinion polling center as an undergraduate. Sarah Niebler '04, a political science and philosophy double major, got to enjoy those benefits as she worked on her honors thesis with Congregations United for Neighborhood Action, a community group in downtown Allentown.

“Borick let me ask some questions on surveys the institute was doing locally that pertained to my own research,” says Niebler, who’s now an assistant professor of political science at Dickinson College. “The fact that Muhlenberg has an institute like this allows for students to do research that is not possible everywhere. The cost could be so prohibitive to do a national survey or even a statewide survey elsewhere, but the infrastructure exists to do them at Muhlenberg. That students get to put questions on those surveys? It maybe happens at some of the Ivies, but I’m not even sure about that.”

And the benefits aren’t limited to those who are political science majors: Students of all disciplines work at the institute, and many find ways to apply what they’ve learned there to their own studies.

“The polling center definitely shaped my interest in doing independent research,” Hashim says. She’s pursued research projects with Stanley Road Professor of Neuroscience Jeremy Teissere, as well as Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of Women’s & Gender Studies Kate Richmond, and she plans to take a gap year between Muhlenberg and medical school to work in a lab.

PHOTO BY TOM AMICO

the Rutgers University Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling—an opportunity usually reserved for second- or third-year grad students. Her time as an interviewer and supervisor at Muhlenberg also enhanced her understanding of her coursework.

“It was really helpful for me to know the process through which data is collected,” she says. “A lot of people in my program don’t think too much about the fact that these are usually students calling and conducting these surveys or about how the questions are asked and how that might sound on the phone. It gives me a bit more context for some of the data I’m looking at now.”

Niebler, who was one of the institute’s first crop of interviewers in 2001, returned after graduation as a Lehigh University Community Fellow during the Bush-Kerry election. She remembers helping to conduct a number of surveys and to host a public debate screening with a Q&A session afterwards.

“That was my first taste of what it would be like to be a political scientist during a presidential election year,” she says. “I got to watch Borick do that in 2004, and then I was being asked to do a lot of the same things at Dickinson 12 years later.”

## BEYOND THE INSTITUTE

Steven Fischer ’06, a political science major who conducts market research for higher education institutions, uses the skills he developed during his time at the polling institute on a regular basis.

“I learned from Professor Borick the best way to design a survey without bias, which is critical in this field,” Fischer says. “If you ask a biased question and you get an answer, you don’t know whether that’s the real answer or not.”

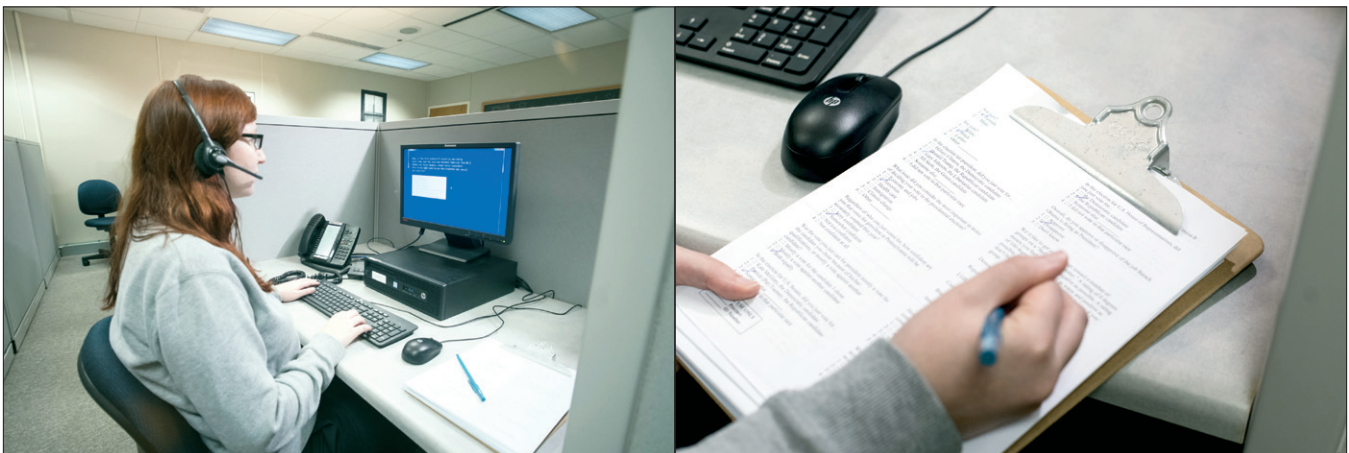
The fact that institute alumni have applicable skills matters in academia as well: After graduation, Kathleen Rogers ’14, a political science major and women’s & gender studies minor, entered the political science Ph.D. program at Rutgers University. Because of the four years she spent at Muhlenberg’s polling institute, she was asked in her first year to work at

## CHANGE AND MISSION

The focus this fall has been on capitalizing on the interest in the 2018 midterm elections: The stars aligned to put Pennsylvania at the epicenter of this political cycle, Borick says.

Once that has died down, the institute will return to working on partnerships with local organizations like school districts and the United Way. In the spring, climate change polling will start up again, and students will begin some of the earliest surveys on the 2020 presidential race.

Long-term, Borick is considering the shifting technological landscape



PHOTOS BY TOM AMICO

*Students program questions into a computer program that allows interviewers to record responses. Interviewers use printouts of questions on clipboards to conduct exit polls in election years.*





Professor of Political Science Chris Borick, who directs the institute, relies on a staff of more than 50 students to manage some of the day-to-day operations of the call center.

**“I learned from Professor Borick the best way to design a survey without bias, which is critical in this field. If you ask a biased question and you get an answer, you don’t know whether that’s the real answer or not.”**

—Steven Fischer '06

to see how the institute might evolve to continue conducting high-quality research. Currently, the institute only surveys select groups (like members of a community organization) online, because there’s no database of email addresses that could ensure random sampling in surveys of the general population. However, some challenges with phone surveys, per Ph.D. student Rogers, are that younger people are less likely to answer their phones and that a respondent might skew their answers due to

biases they may have based on an interviewer’s voice.

The current best practice for conducting online surveys is called an “online probability-based sample, where we reach out to people via phone and mail (where everyone has a chance to be selected) and then have them complete surveys via a web-based platform,” Borick says. He is lobbying for changes in the coming years—including a new space—to allow the institute to conduct these types of polls.

Regardless of how the technology or the location changes, the institute will continue its original mission of focusing on the student experience—a mission that continues to inspire those who’ve worked at the institute long after they’ve left it. Niebler, who is collaborating with political-science colleagues at Muhlenberg and three other Pennsylvania colleges on exit polling this fall, looks back fondly on the sense of ownership she felt at the institute: “Borick’s ability and willingness to work with undergraduate students, to give them responsibilities and projects and to let them take the lead and do things of interest to them is what I hope to be able to do with my own students.” *M*



# UNDERSTANDING





Psychology professor Erika Bagley reshapes perceptions of poverty and service to help her students understand the consequences of growing up poor and the sources of resilience.

By Bill Keller

# POVERTY



PHOTO BY PAUL PEARSON

As Assistant Professor of Psychology Erika Bagley walks around her Moyer Hall classroom, two of her students whisper back and forth, arguing about their household budget.

“You want to spend \$90 for a cell phone every month? That can’t be a priority when we haven’t budgeted for groceries yet.”

“It’s not a lot of money—and we need a cell phone if we’re searching for a new job and apartment.”

They’re assuming the roles of a couple in financial distress, and their classmates are also struggling to make ends meet—at least until class ends. That’s the point of the simulation in the opening weeks of Poverty, Risk and Resilience: understanding how financial hardship is framed socially, politically and in context for actual families. Bagley has split the 18 students in her class into four family groups, each with their own challenges and life circumstances, and tasked them with developing a monthly budget while planning for major life events like finding new careers and better housing.

*Sophia Gordon '20 works with a student from the Allentown School District's Roosevelt Elementary as part of the service-learning component of Poverty, Risk and Resilience.*

Before these artificial households begin crunching numbers, though, the group has to develop an understanding of what poverty means. She asks the students to share their definitions:

"Poverty is when people don't have enough money to support basic needs." "Poverty is when you have limited resources to sustain everyday life." "Poverty is a consistent or long-lasting struggle. It's not just a few rough days." All these responses are valid, Bagley says.

Governments need to define an income threshold if federal programs are to address the economic and social issues around poverty. Bagley shares the definitions from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the

laptops, even a professor like herself who has made it her life's work to analyze the health factors that most affect poor populations. She shares information about state and federal programs like CHIP and Medicaid—programs the students were unaware of and unfamiliar with during their budget planning.

She asks how many of the budgets took into account the factors that researchers know affect childhood development—sleep, household stability, nutrition, physical activity, academic support, medical care—and is met with silence.

The groups share some of the sacrifices they felt were necessary in order to make ends meet. No group has budgeted for health insurance, and few are able to dedicate any

funds to emergency savings. One group feels compelled to participate in a faith-based child-care program that doesn't align with their own beliefs because the cost is a fraction of private daycare. Another has asked a young teenage boy to get an after-school job instead of participating in extracurricular activities. A family weighs the benefits and risks of under-the-table employment for a father having trouble getting steady work due to a decades-old felony conviction. The last is reliant on a grandmother for free child care, knowing that they are asking a lot of someone with a medical disability.

For each group, the slightest deviation due to a cut in part-time hours or a broken-down car could send the group into debt or further erode household stability. To complement the lessons learned from the simulation, students read an essay about volunteering that challenges them to think about *why* people participate in service.

They learn that inequality, privilege and the incentive of the volunteer are at the forefront of any type of service experience. Exploring

those motivations and understanding the human impact is key to looking at poverty as a condition people experience and not a cause for pity.

Two weeks after the poverty simulation, the students begin working with students at Allentown's Roosevelt Elementary for the service-learning component of the class.

When Bagley developed the course as a special-topics class five years ago, she reflected on her own graduate school experience at the University of North Carolina, where service learning had been an optional component. The disconnect between students who were only reading about the psychological impact of poverty and those who were engaged in the community was apparent: Without an immersive experience, poverty became an abstract concept. She wouldn't make that mistake with her class. When it became a permanent fixture to the psychology curriculum, it



PHOTO BY MATT LESTER

*Assistant Professor of Psychology Erica Bagley works with students during a poverty simulation exercise in the Poverty, Risk and Resilience course.*

World Health Organization, but both have flaws when put into practice. They don't, for example, offer enough flexibility to account for rapid inflation, nor do they always take into account those on the verge of poverty and on the cusp of tumbling back into hardship.

In the United States, a family of four meets the federal definition of poverty if they make less than \$23,850 a year. That's the budget Bagley sets for the "families" in her class (the one family of five gets slightly more, but has to care for three children under 6 years old) before sharing the individual factors (family health, work schedules, commute time, housing status) that the groups have to address in their plans. The students then must present their budgets and identify the challenges they encountered in the simulation. Bagley asks the class what resources they could access that the families they imitated might not—smartphones,





*The community partner for Bagley's class is El Sistema Lehigh Valley, which collaborates with the Allentown Symphony Association on after-school programming for elementary-school students (left). At right, Sydney Carey '20 helps one of those students with homework.*

qualified for the College's Human Difference and Global Engagement graduation requirement for its coverage of factors that shape socioeconomic, racial and ethnic inequity.

Students in Bagley's class learn to think of poverty as a contextual factor that affects health, much in the ways that exercise habits, stress levels, diet and nutrition, sleep patterns and substance abuse have been for decades. That's the "risk" aspect of the course name—understanding the biological consequences of living in poverty, from prenatal development to adulthood.

To Bagley, the concept of resiliency—often known as "grit," a term Bagley loathes—is more difficult to assess. Anecdotes of children who "made it out" of poor neighborhoods are easy to find, but these narratives don't take into account the support systems and dozens—maybe hundreds—of contributing factors that often make the difference for a child growing up in poverty.

Support systems can be the relationships and opportunities that kids encounter throughout their childhood, or they can be part of a formalized program like El Sistema, the service partner for Bagley's class.

When looking for a community partner for the service-learning component of her course, Bagley reached out to Beth Halpern, director of community engagement at Muhlenberg. Halpern suggested El Sistema Lehigh Valley, an organization that works with the Allentown Symphony Association to serve vulnerable youth through after-school music instruction, ensemble opportunities and homework help.

El Sistema provides the framework for Muhlenberg students to support children through mentoring. The organization, founded in Venezuela in 1975, has established a presence in the United States over the last decade. Their on-site programs, like the one at Roosevelt Elementary, take the strengths of partner organizations and use those attributes—stringed-instrument instruction in this case—to provide a stable and supportive community for at-risk individuals.

Muhlenberg students serving in the after-school


program provide tutoring and reliable support for the Allentown Symphony music instructors. The students quickly realize it's the relationships they're building and the community they're participating in that matter more than the musical instruments themselves.

"Our students don't need to be able to play string instruments. That's not their job," says Bagley. "They need to be able to support the kids who are there in a stable, engaging way."

Each week, students report back to the class and share the positive and challenging experiences they had with the children. Bagley leads the class in conversations that process awkward moments and identify learning opportunities. Then the students reflect on what they experienced, compare those moments with the research on poverty and its effects and prepare to go back on site and implement what they've learned. As the course progresses, she watches her students begin to look beyond the statistical definitions of poverty and understand that household income is just only one factor, if an oft-looming one, of the children's stories.

"Once they start going to Roosevelt and start having conversations with the students there, they realize that the problems the kids are having are really similar to the problems they had when they were in 5th grade," says Bagley. "We circle back to the economics, to the structural things that are making life difficult for parents—but we are also realizing kids are kids."

Yael Turk '21 found that the service-learning component of the class had an impact from her very first visit with the Roosevelt Elementary students.

"Our class lectures and discussion prepared me to understand that these children come from many different backgrounds and environments, but they also may react to their upbringing in different ways," says Turk. "They're so willing to talk to us, and it was clear that these students genuinely enjoyed having us there to spend time with them. This has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience." 

# A Teller of Ales

Dogfish Head CEO Sam Calagione '92 applies the creative chops he built as an English major to set his products apart in a crowded marketplace.

**S**am Calagione '92, the CEO and founder of America's 12th largest craft brewery, Dogfish Head in Delaware, left Allentown with a bachelor's degree in English and a dream of authoring the next great American novel. He moved to New York City to take creative-writing classes at Columbia University. There, he worked at a Mexican restaurant with a silly name (Nacho Mama's Burritos) and a serious beer list (Chimay Red, Sierra Nevada Bigfoot, Anchor Liberty). He fell in love with craft beer and decided to try brewing his own—an experience that so delighted him and the friends who shared the finished product that he changed course and drafted a business plan to open Delaware's first brewpub. He's since grown the company dramatically, written or co-written five books about beer or entrepreneurship and won the 2017 James Beard Award for Outstanding Wine, Beer or Spirits Professional.

By Meghan Kita

PHOTO BY PAUL PEARSON







**“Muhlenberg was one of a few that was like, ‘Well, you’re an idiot, but we’ll give you a second chance.’ I really loved the visit I had to Muhlenberg: the stone buildings, the red doors and the green spaces. I just fell in love with the campus.”**

Before all that, he attended the Northfield Mount Hermon boarding high school in his home state of Massachusetts. That’s where he met his wife, Mariah, who co-founded Dogfish Head with him, and where they sent their son and daughter.

At their son’s high-school graduation this spring, Mariah, a Northfield Mount Hermon trustee, presented him with his diploma. She texted her husband from the stage that the headmaster wanted the whole family to take a photo afterward in a room inside the school. When Calagione arrived, he found multiple photographers, the school historian and a diploma with his name on it.

“So, I technically graduated high school the same year as my son,” Calagione says, “but he wouldn’t let me go on the party circuit with him.”

Calagione was asked to leave the school in March of his senior year, after breaking the rules one too many times. The offense that sealed his fate was—foreshadowing—selling beer to his classmates, whatever he could

convince an of-age stranger to buy for him.

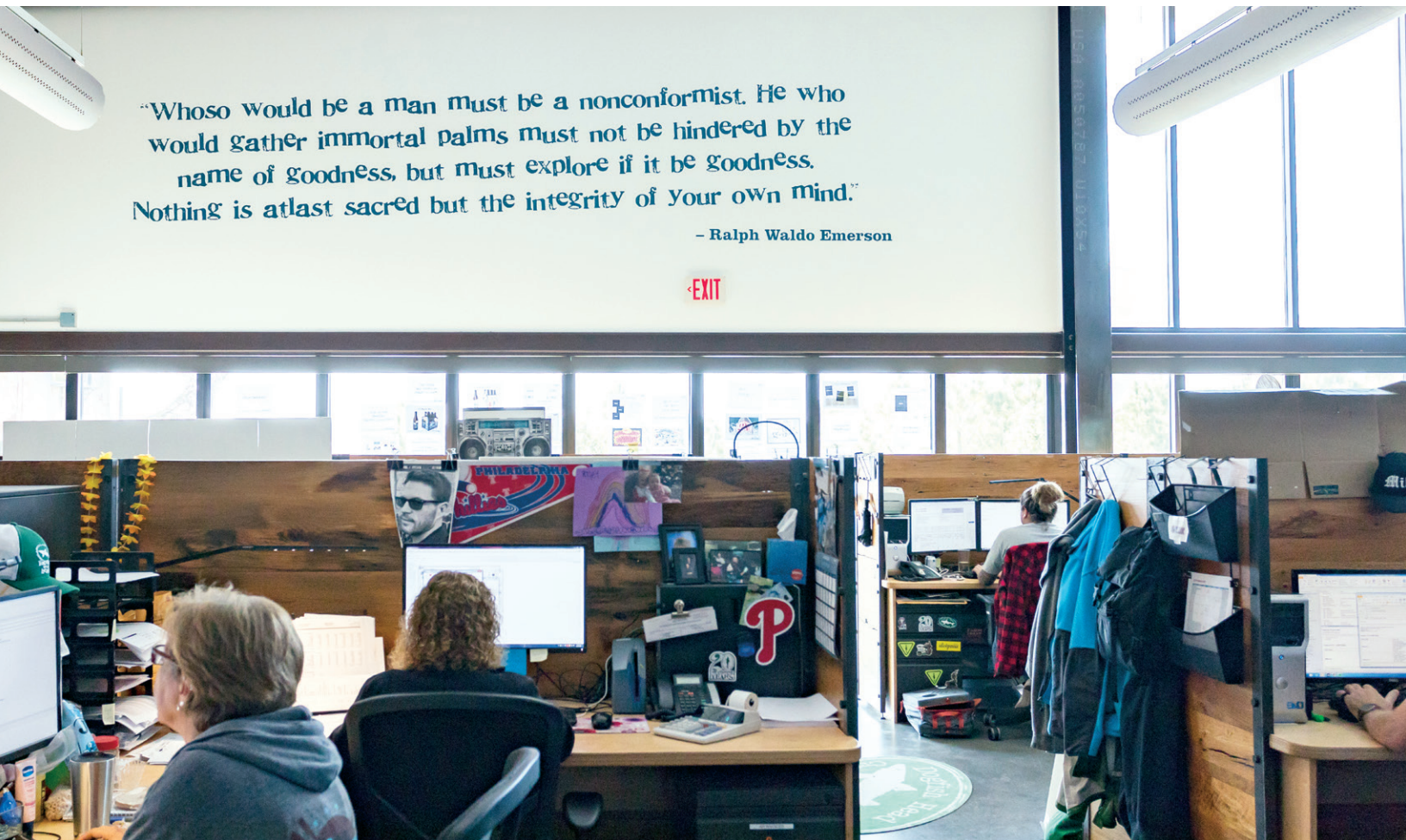
“I’d already been accepted at some schools, and a couple of them revoked their acceptance,” Calagione says. “Muhlenberg was one of a few that was like, ‘Well, you’re an idiot, but we’ll give you a second chance.’ I really loved the visit I had to Muhlenberg: the stone buildings, the red doors and the green spaces. I just fell in love with the campus.”

You can see some of what Calagione loved about Muhlenberg reflected in the campus of Dogfish Head’s brewery in the rural town of Milton, Delaware. Between the main building—home to a tasting room, a kitchen, four brewing systems, two distilling systems and the

**“Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist. He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness. Nothing is atlast sacred but the integrity of Your own mind.”**

**– Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**EXIT**







At Dogfish Head's main campus in Milton, Delaware, employees can't miss the Emerson quote that appeared in the company's original business plan. Outside, The Steampunk Tree House—an art piece that originally debuted at Burning Man—hosts meetings in the spring and fall, and a pond separates the main building from the packaging facility.

corporate offices—and the canning and bottling facility, there's a green space with a pond that hosts snapping turtles and herons. (Kim Koot, the Dogfish Head “experience ambassador” says Calagione wanted to run a zip line between the two facilities but that legal advised against it.)

And you can see hints that an English major might be in charge throughout the Dogfish Head empire. At the company's eponymous inn in nearby Lewes, books of poetry sit on the coffee tables in each room, and the lobby offers a lending library of 50 “American classics of literature” (including, for extremely motivated guests, David Foster Wallace's 1,079-page *Infinite Jest*). And painted in several locations—inside the recently overhauled brewpub in Rehoboth Beach, above the office workers' wooden cubicles and in enormous letters on the eastern facade of the main building—is the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote that appeared in Calagione's original business plan as the company's mission statement:

*Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist. He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore it if it be goodness. Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind.*

“If you read quotes like that in context, Emerson does argue for the necessity of not just being a nonconformist but being a provocateur and disruptor,” says Jim



Bloom, an English professor who had Calagione as an advisee. “Sam got as much out of his education going against the grain as he did going with it. That's the ideal kind of student: who makes the most of it but also has some doubts.”

## Brewing Ahead of the Curve

Calagione built the Dogfish Head empire—a brewery that's forecasted to produce nearly 300,000 barrels distributed in 43 states this year, plus two distilleries, two restaurants and the aforementioned inn—on being a disruptor. When Dogfish Head opened as a brewpub in Mariah's hometown of Rehoboth Beach in 1995, it was Delaware's first brewery...because breweries were illegal in the state. Calagione successfully lobbied legislators to change the laws just weeks before the planned grand opening.

He'd been to his first brewpub while abroad in Australia his junior year—he says he was the first Muhlenberg student to study there—and the business model seemed like a logical starting place. The 10-gallon brewing system





*Calagione sees Dogfish Head as a community and refers to staff like Tour/Tasting Room Manager Matt Fetherston and Brewer Chelsea Sternberg at coworkers rather than employees.*

he installed in the original brewpub made Dogfish Head the smallest commercial brewery in the country.

“It was really homebrewing equipment that I Mac-Gyvered into something a little more production-friendly,” Calagione says. Its limited capacity meant he was brewing two or three times per day, which was inefficient but allowed for experimentation true to the company motto of “off-centered ales for off-centered people.” And the kind of experimentation he had in mind was what set Dogfish Head apart from the 600 other American breweries that existed then: using culinary ingredients in the brewing process.

At the time, this was sacrilege: Calagione remembers presenting Aprihop, an apricot-infused India Pale Ale (IPA), at an industry dinner in 1997. The brewer who went next began his talk by saying, “I believe fruit belongs in your salad, not in your IPA,” which drew applause and laughter from the crowd.

“I went home with my tail between my legs,” Calagione says, “but we kept brewing fruit IPAs, and now look: There are thousands of breweries across America brewing fruit IPAs.”

It’s true that the marketplace has become far more crowded since the mid-’90s—there are more than 7,000 American breweries now, with two new ones opening

each day. (Drive 20 minutes from the Dogfish Inn to its brewpub and you’ll pass at least two small competitors’ tasting rooms along the way.) But Dogfish Head has stayed relevant because it continues to innovate.

Take, for example, continual hopping: Most brewers add hops at the beginning of the boiling process and again at the end. After seeing a cooking show in which

**“I thought, ‘Maybe I can make creative beer recipes that are my versions of poems or short stories and tell them through marketing.’”**

a chef peppered soup a little at a time as it simmered, Calagione applied the technique to brewing. For the test batch, Calagione rigged a vibrating tabletop football game to gradually shake hop pellets into the vessel below. The experiment proved successful enough to produce at scale, and in 2001, Dogfish Head released its 90-Minute IPA (so named for the amount of time it’s continually hopped), a beer praised for its intense hop flavor without the typically accompanying intense bitterness. Two years later came the less-boozy 60-Minute IPA, which continues to be the company’s top seller. Today, 60-Minute is brewed in Dogfish Head’s largest brew-



house—a 200-barrel facility—using a pneumatic cannon that shoots hops into the boil every 60 seconds.

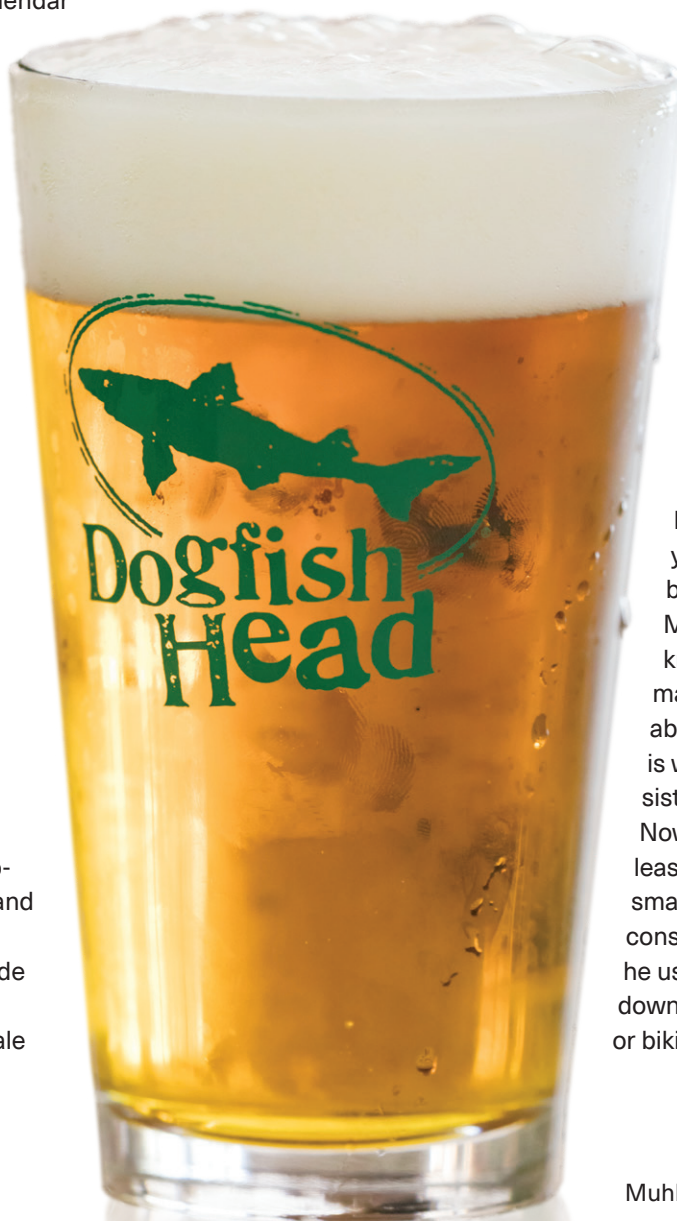
And that—the tale of how Dogfish Head’s bestseller came to be—is another example of what sets the company apart in a crowded marketplace: expert storytelling. Bloom remembers when Calagione returned to campus to speak to business students: “He said, ‘What you need to succeed in the kind of business I do is storytelling.’ He was already a talented storyteller before he got here, but that seems to be what he learned here.”

Calagione realized he fell short of being a world-class writer as he took creative-writing classes at Columbia: “But instead of getting dejected and disenfranchised, I thought, ‘Maybe I can make creative beer recipes that are my versions of poems or short stories and tell them through marketing.’” Each of the 21 beers on Dogfish Head’s 2018 release calendar has a story behind it. (Koot can talk at length about the saga behind the 10,000-gallon barrels made from Paraguayan Palo Santo wood in which the Palo Santo Marron brown ale is aged. It involves a man using a .38-caliber gun to attempt to fell the trees, which are so hard that they’re virtually bullet-proof.)

And while some of those stories involve only folks within Dogfish Head, many involve outside collaborators. For example, the Midas Touch Ancient Ale was created with help from biomolecular archaeologist Patrick McGovern and based on residue found on drinking vessels inside King Midas’s tomb. The Pennsylvania Tuxedo pale

ale was brewed in partnership with the Woolrich clothing company, after Calagione read that the company’s founder homebrewed beer using Pennsylvania spruce tips. Dogfish Head’s fast-growing SeaQuench Ale, a session sour, was created to complement the offerings at Chesapeake & Maine, the seafood restaurant Dogfish Head opened in 2016, and was brewed in collaboration with the National Aquarium.

“Evocative, well-differentiated stories in the marketplace, when done well, can allow you to charge a premium for something that’s recognized as having superior value,” Calagione says. “The story’s only as good as the tangible product itself, so it has to start with the distinction of the liquid, or the dish that we make in our kitchen, or the event idea that we build, and then the storytelling has to complement it.”



## An Off-Centered Workplace

At first, Calagione felt more comfortable as a storyteller than as a businessman, but he knew he needed to hire people to help him make Dogfish Head a reality: “I felt a little weird about that. Like, I’ve been rebelling against The Man since I was a teenager, but now I’m talking about being The Man and running a company?”

One of the most significant hires he made happened within the first year or two: a professionally-trained brewer. Calagione says that at Muhlenberg, “I reconfirmed what I knew from high school, that I suck at math and I suck at science,” and the ability to be scientific about brewing is what makes for quality and consistency from one batch to the next. Nowadays, Calagione tries to brew at least monthly on one of the company’s smaller systems, but his days are mostly consumed by meetings and emails. Still, he uses the Notes app in his phone to jot down ideas he has while paddleboarding or biking for ingredients and techniques





*Clockwise from top left: Beer ages in bourbon barrels, packaged beer awaits shipping and exotic ingredients (saffron, for Midas Touch Ancient Ale, and black limes, for SeaQuench Ale) chill in cold storage. Below, Dogfish Head's distilleries produce varieties of rum, gin, vodka and brandy. The Dogfish Inn, which opened in 2014, offers visitors to the brewery and two restaurants a place to stay.*





**“I’ve never once referred to anyone that I work with as ‘my employee.’ We’re all coworkers at Dogfish, and when we all work for Dogfish and when Dogfish is working well, then really Dogfish works for us.”**

he wants to try, and he recognizes the importance of collaboration: “We have to keep that balance between academically trained brewers and folks like me that come at it more from a creative side. Otherwise, the regimented approach that’s taught at brewing schools would curtail us from taking the off-centered risks that we do.”

Even though Calagione leads the approximately 375 people the company employs, he still tries to create an environment in which he is not The Man. “I’ve never once referred to anyone that I work with as ‘my employee,’” he says. “We’re all coworkers at Dogfish, and when we all work for Dogfish and when Dogfish is working well, then really Dogfish works for us.”

On the walls of the largest conference room at Dogfish Head are photos of every coworker, grouped by department, complete with names and titles. It helps Calagione learn who’s who in a company that’s growing faster than his memory can handle, and they watch over the room whenever the leadership team is in there discussing the company’s future.

“They’re looking at us as we’re making the decisions, saying, ‘My livelihood is reliant on the people at this table making really good decisions for Dogfish,’” Calagione says. “We’re proud of this opportunity to provide a community where all of these people make their livelihood.”


And the community is full of like-minded, off-centered people. To work at Dogfish Head, potential employees go through an interview process that ends with “Liquid Truth Serum,” an evening of imbibing in which “we see

if they’re still someone we want to work with,” Calagione says. Once in, any employee can brew beer on the company’s 10-gallon setup—similar to the one in the original brewpub—and Dogfish Head will foot the bill for the ingredients.

Walking through the brewery, Calagione spots *And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails* by Wayne Curtis on the desk of Tara Bowden, a Dogfish Head tour guide. It is, she says, the third book that she and a small group of coworkers are reading for their informal beverage book club.

“You know cocktail umbrellas? They were invented to keep shade on the ice,” she tells Calagione. “I thought that they were just for style.”

It is an exchange between colleagues, not between an employee and The Man. And it is an exchange between two like-minded people who could have just as easily met at Muhlenberg as at a brewing empire built by a Muhlenberg grad.

Calagione often stresses that the company is about more than just beer—its motto was updated a few years back to be “off-centered *goodness* for off-centered people.” Based on the collaborations it takes on and the events it supports, it’s clear that Calagione and his coworkers are equally passionate about art, music, fitness, food, history and so much more. As Calagione puts it, “we are creatively omnivorous and curious and always learning.” It sounds almost like the vibe at his alma mater—if the Tavern on Liberty were an academic building. 





# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2018

For a full Alumni Weekend recap and more photos, go to [muhlenbergconnect.com/alumniweekend](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/alumniweekend)







Above, 2018 Alumni Achievement Award winners from left: Harry Yeide '82, Lois Curfman McInnes '88, Michael Johnson '11, Shannon Lambert-Ryan '03, Benjamin Simon Wilfond '81, Kamal Rowshan '91 and Alan Greenfield '82.





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# CLASS NOTES

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## WE WANT CLASS NOTES TO GROW!

Class Notes is the place for you to stay connected with your fellow Mules and the College. We would love to know what you are up to. Let us know about everything from life milestones and career changes to marriages and Muhlenberg get-togethers.

Submit your notes by January 7, 2019, for inclusion in the March 2019 issue to [muhlenbergconnect.com/classnotes](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/classnotes) or [classnotes@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:classnotes@muhlenberg.edu).

When submitting photos, please make sure they are full-size, original images or at least 4"x6" at 300dpi. Photos submitted for publication in the print magazine are subject to space and quality considerations.

---

### 1963

**Dr. Ronald S. Banner**, who is still practicing internal medicine in Northeast Philadelphia, had three articles published in 2017 and another in 2018. "The Best Possible HealthCare" appeared in the *International Journal of Healing and Caring* (Part 1 in the January issue and Part 2 in the May issue). His article "On Being a Doctor" appeared as a special guest feature in the spring issue of the newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society of Chaplains. "Are You as Frustrated With Medical Care as We Are?"—which he coauthored with Drs. Daniel J. Benor and Stanley Joel Reiser—appeared in *Internal Medicine News* on February 14, 2018.

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### 1967

**Lloyd Raupp and Sue Riggle Raupp** traveled to Seattle, Washington, in early July to watch their son, Chris, play tennis in the Special Olympics USA Games. Representing the state of Virginia, Chris

and his partner won the doubles gold medal in the highest level of competition. Chris went on to win the silver medal in singles, losing 15-13 in the third set tiebreak. The next step for Chris is the World Games in Abu Dhabi in March 2019, where he will be one of the tennis players representing Team USA. Lloyd and Sue plan to be there to cheer him on.

---

### 1968

**Richard Hartman** retired in 2010 and launched an online speaker series called *I Talk for a Living*.

---

### 1970

**Matthew R. Sorrentino** was appointed chief legal officer in the Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), where he is providing counsel for LVHN and serves in an advisory capacity as the Network continues to grow.

---

### 1971

**Arthur F. Rosenfeld** was appointed as the director of the Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) at the U.S. Department of Labor. In his new role at OLMS, Arthur is responsible for enforcing the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959.

**Ronnie Hess** won the 2018 Women's

Club Championship at Brookside Country Club in Macungie, Pennsylvania.

**Donald Sylvester, Steven Gratias and Sandra Werner Gratias '74** reunited with Lars Axelsson and Thor Christensen, Norwegian exchange students during the 1967-1968 academic year, to celebrate Rosette Axelsson's birthday in Grand Pavois, Madagascar. Although the attendees had kept in touch over the years, all five of them had not been in the same place at the same time since 1968.

---

### 1972



In February 2018, **Larry Glazerman** accepted a position as associate medical director at Highmark Insurance of Delaware. After 38 years of seeing patients

and practicing, he decided to join the managed-care world to provide health care from a different perspective.

**Tom Dunkel** has been named a 2018 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Scholar. (See page 9 for more information on this honor.) Tom was also the featured guest on C-SPAN's Q&A program on July 8. He and host Brian Lamb spent an hour discussing Tom's cover story for *The Washington Post Magazine*.

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### 1973

**Debbie Stanz Shuster** met Muhlenberg alumnus **Larry Miller '67** on a Viking River Cruise in August 2018. They had



On June 2, 2018, twenty-seven brothers from Phi Kappa Tau (Classes of 1970 - 1974 and 2007 - 2012) returned to campus for their 38th Annual Strohmathon. The brother's enjoyed a friendly game of softball in memory of beloved fraternity cook, Gil Strohm.



never met before, but Larry's Muhlenberg hat was a dead giveaway.

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## 1974

**Wesley Whitman** was featured in a *Green Valley News* article about the positive effects volunteering can have on a person's life. Wesley is a retired industrial psychologist who has studied the brain's effect on human behavior. A current member of the Green Valley/Sahuarita Volunteer Clearinghouse Board, Wesley strongly believes that volunteering can contribute to a healthier aging brain.

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## 1975

**Georgia N. Crump** has been elected to the 2019 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America for Energy Law. She's an attorney with Lloyd Gosselink, a law firm in Austin, Texas.

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## 1976

**Dennis Klein** joined Kelley Kronenberg, a national, full-service law firm, as a partner focusing on business litigation. He previously owned an alternative dispute resolution practice that specialized in commercial disputes, which he has merged with Kelley Kronenberg's mediation practice. In addition to his work with the firm, Dennis teaches mediation advocacy courses at Florida International University and the University of Miami.

---

## 1977

After 41 years as a public educator, **Jeffrey Swanson** will be retiring. He spent the first 10 years of his career teaching history and coaching football and wrestling at Mount Olive High School in Flanders, New Jersey. He then moved to Morris Knolls High School in Denville, New Jersey, where he taught and coached for a year before becoming an administrator. Jeffrey served as an assistant principal for 11 years, then four more as a district curriculum director. For the past 15 years, he has been the principal at Roxbury High School in Succasunna, New Jersey. He looks forward to enjoying retirement with Pati, his wife of 40 years, and his five children and three grandchildren.

**Stephen P. Crane** was elected as a member of the CSS Industries, Inc. Board of Directors.

Following their 40th reunion last year, ATO brothers **Joseph Mason III, Douglas Swoish, Joseph Carlino, Gregg Johnstone** and **Charles Worriow '78** decided to get together for a three-day whitewater rafting trip in Hells Canyon, Idaho, on the Snake River.

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## 1978

**Rick L. Simon** and **Lynne Goldstein Simon '80** celebrated the birth of their first grandchild, Molly Harper Simon, on November 15, 2017. Molly is the daughter of Sydney Saunders Simon and **Ethan Maxwell Simon '11**. Lynne and Rick are hoping Molly will be a third-generation Mule.

---

## 1981



**Richard Nelson** was the 2018 recipient of the New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award in the BD Health Care Professional category. This

award recognizes individuals who volunteer their time and talents to address the physical and/or psychological health-care needs of those who are uninsured, unrepresented or unable to obtain basic or specialized care on their own.

---

## 1983

**Jeane M. Vidoni Coyle** was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Jeane was also named as a 2018 Influencer of Finance by the Philadelphia Media Network, which recognizes leaders who are shaping the financial industry in the Philadelphia region. Additionally, Jeane received the Doylestown Rotary Award in the business category in recognition of her various contributions as an active volunteer in the community.

---

## 1984

**Paul Zeitz** was the 2018 commencement

speaker at the Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine.

---

## 1985

**Jerry Canning** was named vice president, digital ad sales, at National CineMedia (NCM), a cinema advertising company. Having previously worked at Facebook and Google, Jerry leads NCM's digital advertising sales efforts, connecting brands with movie audiences through NCM's digital products.

---

## 1986

**Stephen Cerullo** performed at the 42nd Annual International Ventriloquist Convention, known as Vent Haven 2018, in Erlanger, Kentucky.

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## 1987

**Jason Boies'** new short play, *Spangler's Spring*, premiered with a sold-out, two-day performance at Manhattan Repertory Theatre in May 2018. The Civil War drama starred current Muhlenberg students **Thomas Gedrich '21, Thomas Riley '21, Jacob Wahba '20, Itai Rembaum '20** and **Patrick Daly '20**, as well as Jason's son, Jesse.

**Diane Krill Holben** left the North Penn School District, where she served as the assistant superintendent for eight years, to pursue a new opportunity as an assistant professor in the Professional Secondary Education Department at East Stroudsburg University.

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## 1988

**V. Scott Fegley Koerwer** was selected to join the Keystone College Board of Trustees on July 1, 2018.

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## 1989

**Lance R. Bruck** was appointed as vice president and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Jersey City Medical Center in New Jersey. Lance will also hold the role of residency program director. Previously, Lance served as chief medical officer at MidHudson Regional Hospital and associate director of medical affairs at WMCHHealth in New York.



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## 1991

**Elizabeth Sarachek Blacker** was named senior vice president, branded content revenue, at Univision, a Spanish-language media company with interests in television, radio and the internet.

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## 1992

**Chris Siano** was appointed as the assistant principal at Newtown High School in Newtown, Connecticut. Previously, Chris worked as an English teacher at Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Darien High School. After earning his degree in English from Muhlenberg, Chris obtained his Master of Arts in English literature from Fordham University and his Master of Arts in teaching from Fairfield University.

**Paul Mattioli** joined Brief Media, a veterinary publisher based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as Chief Revenue Officer. He previously worked at NEJM Group, which publishes *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

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## 1993

**Louis R. Lessig**, partner at Brown & Connery, LLP, was the recipient of the 2018 HR Consultant of the Year Award, which recognizes the Delaware Valley's HR professionals and consultants who exemplify performance excellence and outstanding achievement in the field.

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## 1994

**Anoure' DeFrain Fenstermaker** was named as the new marketing communication manager of the commercial vehicles and aftermarket (CVAM) business unit at Continental.

**Michael Barclay** was appointed as head of Virginia Beach Friends School in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

---

## 1996

**John D. D'Angelo** was the 2018 recipient of the Lester Z. Lieberman Leadership Award for Humanism in Healthcare. John was recognized for the leadership, vision and compassion that he brings to his work at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. **Alicia Zmijewski Reiser**, occupational

therapist, graduated with her doctorate from Salus University with a specialty track in remedial vision rehab. Alicia specializes her occupational therapy treatment in neurological disorders, with a recent focus on concussions. Her research, "Concussion-related Vision Disorders Practice Patterns in Occupational Therapy," was accepted to be presented at the American Academy of Optometry 2018 Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Alicia owns a private practice in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

**Aaron Karp** was promoted to communications director at The Regional Airline Association.

---

## 1997

**Todd Rothman** has been appointed as the director of J.D. admissions at Yale Law School.

---

## 1998

**Melissa Ciappetta** was married in July 2017 to Michael Moore. Muhlenberg College Emeritus Professor of Psychology Kenneth R. Graham officiated the ceremony.

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## 1999

**Luke Shafnisky** was appointed as principal of Northampton Area High School.

**Melissa Alberts Gibson** was chosen by *The Legal Intelligencer* as a 2018 Lawyer on the Fast Track honoree for her work in the area of intellectual property, with an emphasis on patent infringement litigation in the life sciences and chemical industries.

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## 2000

**Krista McGuire** was appointed as an associate professor at the University of Oregon, where she serves as the principal investigator at the McGuire Microbial Ecology Lab.

**Ashley Kistler** edited a book entitled *Faces of Resistance: Maya Heroes, Power, and Identity*, which explores the role of heroic figures from the Maya area and their role in the region's historic and political landscape.

---

## 2001

**Clair Formisano Wischusen** has been elevated to partner at Fox Rothschild LLP. She is an experienced litigator in commercial, employment, competition, real-estate and intellectual-property matters.

**Jason Hauptman** was recruited to the faculty of the University of Washington as an assistant professor of neurological surgery in August 2017. In addition, Jason is an attending pediatric neurosurgeon at Seattle Children's Hospital, with particular expertise in the surgical management of epilepsy, the management of congenital conditions of the brain and spine and the management of complex hydrocephalus.

**Hilary Odom Brewster's** podcast, *Damn Near: Everyday, Extraordinary Conversations with Everyday, Extraordinary Women*, highlights women's inspiring, untold stories in the tristate area.

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## 2002

**Adam Marles** has been named president and CEO of LeadingAge PA, a trade association representing Pennsylvania nonprofit organizations that provide housing, healthcare and community services to the elderly. Adam joins LeadingAge PA from Phoebe-Devitt Homes, where he served as senior vice president for advancement and strategic initiatives and corporate compliance officer.

**Melanie Saxon Olds** and husband Josh welcomed their son, Jared Ian, on March 13, 2018. Melanie's children's book, *As I Look Up at the Sky*, is now available on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

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## 2003

**Gavin Morris** and Amanda Shores welcomed Theodore Bernard Trumbull Morris on April 26, 2018. Theodore weighed in at 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and measured 21 inches long. He joins big sister, Dylan, who is 2 years old. The proud grandparents are **Ruth Morris '12**, office manager and police switchboard operator in Muhlenberg's Department of Campus Safety, and Larry Morris.

**Edward Easterly**, a member of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A., spoke at



## Births

Clockwise from right: Baylor, to Collen Kenny '06 and Chad Mathews; Jayson Andrew to Andrew and Jessica Morreale Steedle '07; Jordyn Hannah, to Jared '07 and Stephanie Goldstein; Jordana to Matthew and Stacy Lipschutz Seltzer '06; Easton to Richard and Patti Norek Read '07; Reece Hunter to Elizabeth Rattner Porrino '10 and David Porrino '11.



the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Conference and Expo in June 2018. Edward spoke about internships, harassment and pre-employment issues.

**Abby Mahone** was named head of early childhood and lower school at Harrisburg Academy.

---

### 2004

**Michael Geller** was appointed president, North America, at Spektrix, a ticketing software company.

**Stephen Tarsitano** published *Crush the SAT with Growth Mindset*, a book designed to help students overcome challenges, unleash their inner potential and achieve higher test scores.

---

### 2005

**Elizabeth Colpo** conducted the Lower Dauphin High School Women's Select Choir at the biennial Eastern

Division Conference of the National Association for Music Education. She earned National Board Certification and is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in music education through Boston University.

---

### 2006

**Anthony M. DiJulio** earned his MBA through the Fox MBA program at Temple University. Anthony is a business development manager for Swiss chemical and biotechnology company Lonza.

**Colleen Kenny** and her partner, Chad Mathews, welcomed their son, Baylor Mathews, in June 2018. Their first visitor after Baylor's birth was, of course, a fellow Mule: **Meredith Williams Parsia**.

**Jordana Boydston Wright** wrote her first book, *The Enthusiast's Guide to Travel Photography*. After a decade of working and traveling as a professional photographer and photography teacher, she is excited to share her techniques and philosophies with other photographers.

**Morgan McCord** has been promoted to

member (partner) at Eckert Seamans, a full-service national law firm.

**Stacy Lipschutz Seltzer** and Matthew Seltzer are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Jordana Lucy. Jordana was born on April 24, 2018. The family currently resides in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

---

### 2007

**Benjamin Shaw** was named the U.S. resident director for *Harry Potter & the Cursed Child* on Broadway.

**Christine Barclay** directed a production of *Spring Awakening* at the Boca Black Box with Barclay Performing Arts in Boca Raton, Florida. The production involved students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, as well as members of the Boca Raton community.

**Elizabeth Millea** married Greg T. Hullet in October 2018 at the Dallas Heritage Village in Dallas, Texas.

**Jessica Morreale Steedle** and Andrew Steedle welcomed their third child, Jayson Andrew Steedle, on March 2,



2018. Jayson joins proud siblings, Alexa (age 8) and Benjamin (age 5).

**Jared Goldstein** and his wife, Stephanie, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Jordyn Hannah Goldstein, on August 28, 2017. Jordyn joins big brother, Landon, who is 3.

**Patti Norek Read** and Richard Read welcomed their second child, Easton William, on June 28, 2018. Easton joins big brother, Parker (2 years old).

---

## 2008

**Monica Hanofee Del Guercio** and **Tom Del Guercio** were married on September 9, 2017.

**Tiffany Elliott Johnson** and **Matt Johnson** celebrated their daughter Elliott's first birthday with a number of friends from their Muhlenberg family, including **Jamie Capodiferro**, **Kevin Ciccarello**, **Danny Asip**, **Heather Podvey Asip '07**, **Chris Vinci**, **Courtney Tapkas O'Brien '06**, **Joe O'Brien**, **Meg Healy Orlando**, **Alissa Constantinople Graham** and **Kevin Graham**. Mini-Mules Nolan Asip, Savannah Vinci, Reagan O'Brien, Blakely O'Brien, Olivia Orlando and Will Graham also attended the celebration in Elliott's honor.

**Gretchen Geisser Petersen** and Michael Petersen were married at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 18, 2017. The reception was held at Belle Voir Manor at Pen Ryn Estates in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Alumni in attendance included **Jacob Sitman '94**, **Rev. Rodney S. Kopp '73**, **Marie Rudzinski McConnell '05**, **Kristin Geisser Christensen '03**, **Tuyen Nguyen '10**, **Caroline Bronston '15**, **Paul Zieger '62**, **Ryan Boyington '13**, **Douglas Smillie '78**, **Tricia Conti Bowman**, **Sarah Roth Emery**, **Lilly Harvey '13**, **Frank Donnelly '12**, **Joshua Orlow '06**, **Jenna Zorn**, **Jacob Emery '13**, **Jessica Neufeld '11**, **Jennifer Rosenthal**, **Kristel Dow Frey**, **Scott Cella** and **Johanna Hurdes Cella**.

---

## 2010

**Angela Lucci** has a new position as a prosecuting attorney for the Pennsylvania Department of State.

**Chris Boyd** was appointed as global marketing director for Career Partners International, an organization that focuses on career-management solutions for employers around the world.

**Elizabeth Rattner Porrino** and **David Porrino '11** welcomed their son, Reece Hunter Porrino, on March 5, 2018.

**Joslyn Kenowitz** received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology, with health emphasis, from Yeshiva University. She is currently serving as a postdoctoral fellow at Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware.

---

## 2011

**David E. Wolf** married Dana Knopp on June 3, 2018, at Whitby Castle in Rye, New York.

**Amy Venuto** joined Guy Carpenter as assistant vice president - project manager.



**Alyssa D'Addio Bialko** was promoted to director of hospital and community services at NJ Sharing Network. Alyssa plays a vital role in the organ

and tissue transplantation community, a cause she has devoted her life to since her father passed away in 2009.

**Catherine Schwartz Markowitz** married Daniel Markowitz on March 25, 2018, at Pen Ryn Estate in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Alumni in attendance included **Lauren Bernstein Murphy '09**, **Sarah**



*Tiffany Elliott Johnson '08 and Matt Johnson '08 celebrated their daughter Elliott's first birthday alongside their Muhlenberg family. Adults pictured: Jamie Capodiferro '08, Melissa Ciccarello, Kevin Ciccarello '08, Danny Asip '08, Heather Podvey Asip '07, Chris Vinci '08, Julie Vinci, Courtney Tapkas O'Brien '06, Joe O'Brien '08, Tiffany Elliott Johnson '08, Matt Johnson '08, Meg Healy Orlando '08, Mike Orlando, Alissa Constantinople Graham '08, Kevin Graham '08. Mini mules pictured: Nolan Asip, Savannah Vinci, Reagan O'Brien, Blakely O'Brien, Elliott Johnson, Olivia Orlando, Will Graham.*



## Weddings

Left to right, top to bottom: Monica Hanofee '08 and Tom Del Guercio '08; Stephanie Bell '12 and Adam Dubov '12; Gretchen Geisser '08 and Michael Petersen; Courtney Haines '14 and Michael Dupre; Bianca Johnson '11 and Michael Kellum '13; Catherine Schwartz '11 and Daniel Markowitz; and Alyssa Meola '13 and Robert Shannon '13.





**Rosenthal '10, Jason Steinberg, Daniel Feldman, Zachary Spiegel, Stacie Graff, Eliana Berry, Riana Goren '12, Jennifer Apple '12, Michael Binstok '13, Michael Manocherian '12** and Muhlenberg staff member April Cunningham.

**Bianca Johnson** married **Michael Kelium '13** on June 16, 2018, at the Philander Chase at Knox Estate, Valley Forge National Historical Park, in Malvern, Pennsylvania.

---

## 2012

**Victor Taiwo** was promoted to senior consultant, university recruiting and talent pipeline programs, at Lincoln Financial Group.

**Adam Dubov** and **Stephanie Bell Dubov** were married on May 19, 2018, in Tarrytown, New York. Many alumni were in attendance, including **Ben Haller, Max Jablonski '14, Mitch Hanna '14, Will Falco, Nathaniel Shire, David Gore '14, James Laird '11, Angela Palaggi Bloom '11, Emma McGahan '15, Mike Bloom '11, Hayley Talaber Flatley '11, Francesca Galbo '11, Gina Zelko '11, Caroline Ambhul Laird '11, Matt Levy, Jon Miller, Andrew Porter, Justin Black '13, Tom Flatley '11, Becca Liben Levy, Kate Bolger '10** and **Sarah Ferbank '15**.

**Brooke Benedetto Amico** and Nick Amico were married on Saturday, April 7, 2018, in New York. Alumni from the classes of 2011, 12 and 13 were present.

---

## 2013

**Nicole McVinoa** graduated from Columbia University School of Social Work with a Master of Science in social work, policy practice concentration. While at Columbia, Nicole interned with the NYC Department of Education and Urban Pathways, a nonprofit that provides housing and outreach services to the city's homeless population.

**Amanda Meier** successfully defended her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. She will complete her postdoctoral research at the University of Washington.

**Alyssa Meola Shannon** and **Robert Shannon** were married in Caldwell, New Jersey on Saturday, June 30, 2018. Many

Muhlenberg friends were in attendance, including **Meghan O'Grady '12, Nicholas Busillo '12, Jon Klein, Daniel Way, Jamie Weiss '12, Maggie Neary Way, Natalie Wizel, Nicolette Miller '12, Jon Majoros, Jimmy Aramanda '14, Adam Ely, Eileen Shannon Saunders '96, Carleton E. Saunders IV '96, Bobby Appleby** and **Frank Mayer**.

---

## 2014

**Matthew J. Bocchese** was awarded a Doctor of Medicine degree with magna cum laude honors from Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University on May 23, 2018. Matthew began an internal medicine residency at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia in June.

**Ryan Barlotta** graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2018.

**Kristin Lang** married **Ryan Barlotta** on May 5, 2018.

**Alexander Jenkins** married **Riana Aldana** in Egner Chapel on May 25, 2018, with more than 20 Muhlenberg alumni in attendance. They will honeymoon in Bali in 2019.

**Courtney Haines Dupre** married Michael Dupre on April 29, 2018, in Orlando, Florida. Alumni in attendance included **Catherine Minster, Jennifer Alecci, Mary McGinley, Amy Hayakawa, LeeAnn Williams '13, Allison Wertheim** and **Sophie Hirsh**.

**Alexander Jenkins** graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 2, 2018, with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. Alex is an internal medicine resident at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Nathan Boateng** and Jenna Azar, an instructional design consultant at Muhlenberg, welcomed Miles Nathan Azar-Boateng on July 16, 2018. Miles was welcomed home by his big brothers: **Jarrett '20, Bryce** and **Jax**.

**Julia Cagin** graduated from Cardozo School of Law in May 2018. In addition to earning her J.D., Julia also received a certificate in dispute resolution.

**Megan Lentz** accepted a new position at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia as assistant director of the Saint Joseph's Fund after receiving her master's degree in nonprofit management from Notre Dame of Maryland University.

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## 2015

**Benjamin Nassau** married **Moriah Ben-joseph** on June 3, 2018, at the Inn at Villa Bianca in Seymour, Connecticut. They met at Muhlenberg and were engaged their junior year.

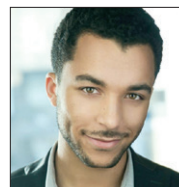
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## 2016

**Taylor Gibb** started a new position as customer success manager at NYC startup Braze, where she is learning a lot about coding, as well as software and mobile development.

**Meredith McAllister** donated a kidney to save her twin brother's life.

**Ginelle Wolfe** is pursuing a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at The University of Akron.



**Jakeim Hart** guest-starred in the season finale of CBS's *Blue Bloods* on May 11, 2018. He also appeared in the season premiere of *The Affair* on Showtime.

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## 2017

**Jenna Barton** celebrated her bridal shower in April 2018 with fellow Mules **Lauren Bomberg '16, Sienna Fusco** and **Erika Davis '16** in attendance.

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## 2018

**Emily DeMazza** is pursuing a fellowship with Americorps in Boston. Her placement is at St. Stephen's Youth Programs, within the Highland Street Americorps Ambassadors of Mentoring program.

**Jake Gordon** was awarded a National Collegiate Athletic Association Post-graduate Scholarship, which recognizes 26 male athletes across all divisions for excellence in athletics and academics.





# IN MEMORIAM



**George H. Abel, Jr. '44** of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 20, 2018. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after two years at Muhlenberg, where he was a history major, a brother in Lambda Chi Alpha and a member of the track team. He returned after active duty in World War II, in which he flew 44 missions, to finish his education. Wartime letters from Abel are part of Trexler Library's World War II Correspondence Collection. He is survived by his daughters, Nancy Lloyd and Anne Shumaker, three grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

**Robert H. Kichline '44** of Royersford, Pennsylvania, died June 12, 2018. At Muhlenberg, Kichline was a physics and mathematics major with a chemistry minor, and he belonged to the Math Club and the College Choir. He went on to marry Georgianna E. (Ressler) Kichline in 1945, with whom he had five children (Robert, William, Jane, Kathleen and Timothy), and to work as a chemist. He is survived by his children, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Donald J. Klotz, Jr. '44** of Destin, Florida, died January 14, 2018. Klotz came to Muhlenberg as part of the Navy V-12 program and continued on to medical school at Temple University. At Muhlenberg, Klotz was a brother in Phi Kappa Tau and a member of the German club Der Deutsche Verein, theatre club Mask and Dagger, theatre honor society Alpha Psi Omega and the Pre-Medical Club. He spent 40 years practicing medicine in Allentown before retiring in Florida. He was predeceased by his wife, Gloria (Beitler) Klotz. He is survived by his children, Donalee Klotz Griswold and Jeffrey Klotz, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Lewis F. Steinbach, Jr. '45** of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died August 16, 2018. At Muhlenberg, the mathematics major was a brother in Lambda Chi Alpha and served as editor-in-chief of *The Muhlenberg Weekly*. He also worked on the *Ciarla*, played football and belonged to the Mask and Dagger theatre club and Math Club. At the time of his retirement in 1985, he was an executive with

General Electric. He was predeceased by his first wife, Willena G. Steinbach. He is survived by his wife, Mildred V. Steinbach, four children (Lewis F. Steinbach, III, Karl B. Steinbach, Sheila L. Engel and Katharine F. McNamara), 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Henry S. Trostle '45** of Wallingford, Pennsylvania, died July 15, 2018. Trostle came to Muhlenberg as part of the Navy V-12 program and continued on to Jefferson Medical College. At Muhlenberg, Trostle was a brother in Lambda Chi Alpha and a member of the Pre-Medical Club. He also played football, basketball and soccer and worked on the *Ciarla*. He married Mary (Biddlecombe) Trostle in 1951, with whom he had one child, Henry S. Trostle II. Trostle had a 38-year career with the U.S. Navy and continued to practice medicine as a civilian until age 85. He is survived by his wife and son, plus two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Carl C. Reimer '47** of Allentown, Pennsylvania, died May 13, 2018. At Muhlenberg, the chemistry major belonged to the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, the German club Der Deutsche Verein and the Math Club. He also served as team captain for football, senior class president and student council vice president. His time at Muhlenberg was interrupted by World War II; he enlisted in the U.S. Army in December 1942 and was honorably discharged in January 1946. In June 1946, he married Elizabeth Ida (Miltenberger) Reimer. He went on to a career with DuPont before retiring at age 60. He is survived by three children (Cynthia Claire Hines, Donna Lynn Robinson and Jeffrey Carl Reimer), six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Marvin Dannenberg '49** of Northport, New York, died August 6, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a natural science major, a brother in Phi Epsilon Pi and a member of the Pre-Medical Club. He went on to Jefferson Medical College and served in the U.S. Navy before becoming a dermatologist. In 1955, he married Janet (Murphy) Dannenberg, with whom he had four children: **Jeffrey '79**, Terry, Mark and Michael. He is survived by his

wife, children and nine grandchildren.

**Harry Hilger, Jr. '49** of Southampton, Pennsylvania, died June 24, 2018. The business administration major at Muhlenberg was also a brother in Alpha Tau Omega and a member of the College Choir. Hilger's time at Muhlenberg was interrupted by World War II; he was drafted into the U.S. Army after his first year. When he returned to campus, he courted the woman he would marry in 1951, Lois Elaine (Hopkins) Hilger, with whom he had a son, Harry "Chip" Hilger III. After graduation, Hilger worked in banking. He is survived by his wife and son, plus four grandchildren.

**Roy H. Kehm '50** of Allentown, Pennsylvania, died April 26, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a business administration major and a brother in Sigma Phi Epsilon. He went on to a 31-year career in the sales department of Bethlehem Steel. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty L. (Gehris) Kehm. He is survived by his daughter, Suzanne Smullin, and two grandchildren.

**Alexander Kononchuk '50** of Oceanside, California, died February 14, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a natural science major and a member of the varsity track team. In 1950, he married Claire (Elson) Kononchuk, with whom he had four children. After graduation, Kononchuk worked as a pharmacist.

**Robert C. Neubauer '50** of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, died July 6, 2018. Before arriving at Muhlenberg, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. At Muhlenberg, he was a social science major. During his senior year, he married Helen (Kohut) Neubauer in the Gideon F. Egnor Memorial Chapel. He worked as a public school teacher and principal. He is survived by his wife.

**Ralph H. Smith '50** of Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, died July 17, 2018. Prior to his time at Muhlenberg, where he was a geology major, he served in the U.S. Army. In 1949, he married Helen K. (Zubur) Smith in the Gideon F. Egnor Memorial Chapel. The couple had three children: David F. Smith, Ralph H. Smith Jr. and Mary Jane Smith. Smith went on



to work in human resources. He is survived by his children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Walter Zieger '50** of Allentown, Pennsylvania, died June 13, 2018. Prior to his time at Muhlenberg, where he was a chemistry major, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After graduation, he worked as a chemist. He married Joyce W. (Wavrek) Zieger in 1952, with whom he had two daughters, Joanne Zieger-Kosloski and Kimberly Zieger. He won an Alumni Achievement Award in 1969 for exceptional service to the Alumni Association, which elected him as president in 1975. He is survived by his children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**John W. Phillips '51** of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, died August 18, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a brother in Alpha Tau Omega, a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and a Cardinal Key. After graduation, he went to Dickinson School of Law and then joined the U.S. Navy. After four years of service, he started a legal career. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Bobbie Phillips, their two children (John S. Phillips and Norma Jean Byrd) and two grandchildren.

**James H. Robbins '52** died March 12, 2018. The English major at Muhlenberg was a brother in Lambda Chi Alpha and a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, the Mask and Dagger theatre club and the band. He also worked as photography editor at the *Ciarla* and *The Muhlenberg Weekly*.

**Richard E. Eckert '53** of Hellertown, Pennsylvania, died June 30, 2018. He played basketball at Muhlenberg and graduated with a natural science degree. In 1954, he married Nancy (Fritchman) Eckert with whom he had two children, Scott Eckert and Jane (Eckert) Reichl. He worked as a chemistry teacher and coached high-school basketball for 11 seasons. He is survived by his wife, children and four grandchildren.

**J. Albert Billy, Jr. '54** of North Fort Myers, Florida, died May 29, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a natural science

major, a brother in Lambda Chi Alpha and a member of the soccer and wrestling teams. He was predeceased by his wife, Eleanor, and is survived by his children Mary Timko, Jay Billy and Lauri Leonti, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Rev. Donald B. Landis '54** of Dryville, Pennsylvania, died April 26, 2018. He was a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, the College Choir and the track team at Muhlenberg, and he graduated with a history degree. After graduation, he became a Lutheran pastor. In 1963, he married Madeline (Bauer) Landis, with whom he had two sons (Timothy Landis and **Michael Landis '87**). He is survived by his wife, children and three grandchildren.

**John F. Stryker '54** of Raritan Township, New Jersey, died May 30, 2018. A business administration major at Muhlenberg, he also was a brother in Alpha Tau Omega and a baseball player. After graduation, he operated his family's paint store in Flemington, New Jersey, until he retired in 2007. He is survived by his wife, Lois (Weaver) Stryker, to whom he was married for 60 years, as well as his three sons (Rev. Jon Mark Stryker, David Scott Stryker and Steven A. Stryker) and nine grandchildren.

**Dr. Donald J. Chaputa '56** of South Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania, died June 10, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a biology major and chemistry minor. He continued on to the Pennsylvania State College of Optometry and became a practicing optometrist. He married Gloria I. (George) Chaputa in 1958, and the couple had four children (Gregory S. Chaputa, **Dr. Melanie M. Cherry '81**, Carla A. Wieand and Nadine Mason). He is survived by his wife, children and four grandchildren.

**George R. Erie '56** of Concord, Massachusetts, died July 14, 2018. The biology major played baseball at Muhlenberg and was a brother in Sigma Phi Epsilon. He went on to work as a virologist. In 1960, he married Suzanne (Engel) Erie, with whom he had two children, Brenda Nichols and Mark Erie. He is survived by his wife, children and two grandchildren.

**Richard L. Williams '56** of Montclair, New Jersey, died April 28, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was an accounting major and business administration minor who was also a brother in Alpha Tau Omega and a member of the track team. He went on to work in the textile industry, including as president and chief operating officer of Dan River Inc., and received an Alumni Achievement Award in 1996. In 1958, he married Suzanne (Seibert) Williams, with whom he had two children (Jane Redmond and Richard Williams Jr.). He was predeceased by grandson William Redmond and is survived by his wife, children and seven grandchildren.

**Richard J. Duggan '58** of New Bern, North Carolina, died June 26, 2018. Prior to attending Muhlenberg, he served as a tank commander in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. During his time at Muhlenberg, where he earned a history degree, he met and married Mary Louise (Zona) Duggan, with whom he had one son, Joseph Kevin Duggan. After graduation, he worked as a history teacher before going into sales. He was director of sales training at Mack Trucks when he retired in 1995. He is survived by his wife, son and two grandchildren.

**Wallace R. Ely '58** of Allentown, Pennsylvania, died August 7, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a business administration major and economics minor and a member of the Chess Club. He was also involved with WMUH. After graduation, he worked in banking and served as president of both the Allentown Alumni Club and Allentown Center City Association. After retiring in 1996, he worked as a part-time TV producer for RCN and wrote three books—two about railroads and one about Dorney Park—which earned him an Allentown Arts Ovation Literary Arts Award in 2011. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne (Havir) Ely, whom he married in 1958, and their three children (**Linda Wieder '77**, David Ely and Scott Ely) and four grandchildren.

**Joseph J. Federico '58** of New Port Richey, Florida, died August 5, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a psychology major, a brother in Lambda Chi Alpha and a baseball and football player. He



remained at Muhlenberg after graduation as a football and baseball coach and then as an employee in the Admissions Office, though he spent most of his career working as a psychologist and psychology professor in Florida before retiring in 2005. He was predeceased by his significant other, Ann Mikell, and is survived by his three children (Joseph W. Federico, Scott Federico and Lisa Poth) and six grandchildren.

**Joel E. Moskowitz '59** died June 1, 2018. He graduated from Muhlenberg, where he played football and baseball, with an English degree. He was also involved with the Jazz Society, Rifle & Pistol Club, Sociology Club and Hillel. Survivors include his wife, Gayle, and children, David, Mark and **Nancy '86**.

**Frank E. Trinkle '59** of Northampton, Pennsylvania, died August 21, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was an accounting major and business administration minor. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 through 1957. He is survived by his wife, Terri, daughter, Kirsten, and son, **David '86**.

**Beneval H. Schoellkopf '60** of Moorestown, New Jersey, died July 1, 2018. He graduated from Muhlenberg, where he was a brother in Lambda Chi Alpha and a member of the football and track teams, with a degree in economics. He went on to a career in business administration and retired in 1998. In 1960, he married his classmate **Irm (Engelhard) Schoellkopf '60**, with whom he had two daughters (Debbie Tremper and Julie Rodden). He is survived by his wife, children and four grandchildren.

**Leon W. Silverman '61** of Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, died July 25, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a history major, a brother in Tau Kappa Epsilon, a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and a tennis player. In 1964, he married **Janice (Weidner) Silverman '62**, with whom he had two children (Allison Lapat and Jason Silverman). He went on to a career as a lawyer. He is survived by his wife, children and four grandchildren.

**John F. Haldeman, Jr. '62** of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, died April 23, 2018. He graduated from Muhlenberg with a psychology degree and went on to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry for 34 years. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sharon Haldeman, a son Michael Anthony Haldeman and one grandson.

**Alfred L. Yergey III '63** of Ocean View, Delaware, died May 27, 2018. He was the oldest of four siblings (**Ronald Yergey '65**, **James Yergey '77** and Karen Duncan). At Muhlenberg, he was a chemistry major, a brother in Phi Kappa Tau and a member of the cross-country team. He went on to get his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University and then to work for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where he spent 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Patricia (Barnett) Yergey, his children (A. Karl Yergey, Beth Scalese, Amy Yergey, and Wendy Meadows) and six grandchildren.

**Anne E. Fichthorn '64** of Stouchsburg, Pennsylvania, died August 16, 2018. She was an English major at Muhlenberg and went on to earn two master's degrees. She worked as an English

teacher, for three years as a missionary in India and for 25 years in the Reading, Pennsylvania, area.

**Richard F. Doll '66** of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, died May 11, 2018. He graduated from Muhlenberg with a chemistry degree. He worked for Western Electric/AT&T for 38 years. In 1952, he married Dolores R. (Bender) Doll, and the couple had three sons (David, Rich and Timothy). In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Leslie Kappes '68** of Hewitt, New Jersey, died June 30, 2017. At Muhlenberg, she was an English major and played basketball. She worked as a high-school English teacher and an advertising copywriter and also coached cheerleading. She is survived by her longtime companion, Michael Wafkowski.

**Deborah C. Read Yoder '69** of Brookhaven, Pennsylvania, died June 8, 2018. She played field hockey, basketball and lacrosse at Muhlenberg and graduated with an art history degree. She was executive director of the Wallingford, Pennsylvania, Community Arts Center for 12 years and a volunteer/organizer with her local school district. She is survived by her children, Suzanne and David, and five grandchildren.

**Sharon L. Frankenfield '73** of Emmaus, Pennsylvania, died March 27, 2018. She earned a history degree at Muhlenberg and went on to get a master's degree in library science. She spent 26 years working as a librarian with the Allentown Public Library. She is survived by her sis-

## ALBERT NEUYMER

Albert Neuymyer of Lower Saucon Township, Pennsylvania, died July 30, 2018. From 1987 through 2017, he served the College's music department, first as director of the Muhlenberg Jazz Ensemble and later as director of the Wind Ensemble. During his employment, the department saw explosive growth and realized a need for music theory instructors—a call that Neuymyer enthusiastically answered until new faculty could be recruited.

His students observed a larger-than-life personality that proved infectious in the classroom and on the stage. Neuymyer encouraged collaboration between College en-

sembles, creating opportunities for flute and percussion musicians to complement Wind Ensemble concerts.

Neuymyer earned a degree in music education from Mansfield University and a master's in conducting from the College of New Jersey. He was a devotee of Frank Sinatra and a supporter of College musicians. For 26 years, he and his wife Shirlee owned and operated The Inn of the Falcon, now Bolete, in Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania, and at his insistence, the restaurant often featured Muhlenberg instrumentalists as guest performers.

He is survived by his wife, Shirlee.



ter, **Beverly Clause '70**, and three nieces and nephews.

**Kenneth G. Doyle '87** of Rowayton, Connecticut, died July 15, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was an English major and a soccer player. He went on to get an MBA from the University of Hartford, and he worked for Wells Fargo Investments. He is survived by his wife, Silvia, his three children (Kaileigh, Carsten and Kelsey) his brother and his parents.

**Darin E. Petro '90** of Port Reading, New Jersey, died May 6, 2018. He was a media & communications major, a brother in Alpha Tau Omega and a football player at Muhlenberg. Survivors include his wife, Dawn, their two children (Patrick and Parker), his three siblings and his mother.

**Eric A. Riso '93** of Chatham, New Jersey, died August 12, 2018. At Muhlenberg, the accounting major and information science minor was a football player, a brother in Phi Kappa Tau and a resident advisor. He was also involved in Habitat for Humanity and was crowned Homecoming King his senior year. After graduation, he went on to become a partner at KPMG in New York City. Eric is survived by his wife of 18 years, Laura (Sparacia) Riso, his children (Alexa, Ava, Leah and Eric Quinn), his parents and his two siblings.

**Eric D. Hill '94** of Allentown, Pennsylvania, died July 26, 2018. He graduated from Muhlenberg, where he was a brother in Zeta Beta Tau, with a history degree. He went on to work for Ken Smith Bass Guitars in Perkasio, Pennsylvania, for 18 years. Survivors include his fiancée, Jill Cherkas, parents, **David '64** and Susan Hill, and sister **Amy Greenleaf '97**.

**Jennifer Perry Mossburg '95** of Haymarket, Virginia, died July 19 2017. At Muhlenberg, she was an international studies major with a minor in French and a sister in Delta Zeta. She is survived by her husband, Gregg, her four children (Lyden, Charlotte, Megan and Thomas),

## Notice of Passing

Muhlenberg recently learned of these deaths.

### ALUMNI

**Albert Paul Herzenberg '36**, 10/5/03  
**Bertram C. Gilbert '43**, 1/4/11  
**Paul E. Morentz '43**, 11/20/13  
**Daniel A. Dimmig '45**, 10/25/15  
**Robert P. Ohi '45**, 6/17/10  
**Matthew S. Ersner, Jr. '46**, 9/12/03  
**David Gottlieb '46**, 8/31/06  
**Harry J. Becker '47**, 6/8/99  
**Richard S. Carey, Jr. '48**, 2/11/03  
**William A. Phillips '48**, 6/21/12  
**Ernest J. Hoh, Jr. '49**, 3/8/13  
**Nelson J. Nagle, Jr. '49**, 1/31/13  
**Jerome Rosen '49**, 4/7/03  
**Earl M. Trumbower, Jr. '56**, 3/2/15  
**J.C. Klick '57**, 10/12/16  
**Barbara Lasswitz Consiglio '68**, 4/12/10  
**Laurence D. Kopp '68**, 8/29/16  
**Ronald J. Kovach '68**, 2/22/17  
**Robert J. Lehmann '68**, 4/8/16

### FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

**Patricia M. Greenawald**, 6/20/18  
**Edward S. Kestenbaum P'09 P'12**, 2/18/18  
**William B. Sordoni P'99 P'03**, 5/23/18  
**Frederick E. Tobias**, 5/27/18  
**S. Blanche Wehrung P'72**, 3/4/18

her parents, Thomas and Janet Perry, her brother, **David '92**, and her sister, Beth.

**Stephanie K. Luciano-Kinonen '97** of Altoona, Pennsylvania, died June 12, 2018. At Muhlenberg, she was a psychology major and a member of the wind ensemble. She was predeceased by her father. Survivors include her husband, Stephen, two children (Dominik Montreau and Vienne Camille), her mother and a sister.

**Cynthia L. Rak '98** of Allentown, Pennsylvania, died May 20, 2018. A graduate of the Wescoe School, she earned her Muhlenberg degree in business administration. Her career included time as a secretary at Easton High School and in the sales department at Kraft Foods. She is survived by her daughter, Emily Rak, a grandson and her brother.

**Steven E. Werkheiser '99** of Nazareth, Pennsylvania, died August 4, 2018. A graduate of the Wescoe School, he earned his Muhlenberg degree in chem-

istry and worked in the pharmaceutical industry. Survivors include his mother, two sisters and three nephews.

**Erik Hirner '02** of Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, died May 27, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a biology major and a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta honor society. He also played ice hockey. After graduating with honors, he worked at the Allentown Health Bureau and then at the Reading Fire Department. He spent 20 years as a volunteer fireman in North Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, most recently as assistant chief. Survivors include his wife of six years, Katrina E. (Segreaves) Hirner, his parents, two siblings and stepdaughter Olivia Burnett.

**Esther R. Lawson Rowland '04** of Johns Island, South Carolina, died August 11, 2018. She graduated from Muhlenberg with a business administration degree. Survivors include her husband, Michael Rowland, daughter, Michelle Nagurney, grandson, mother and six siblings.

**Janine Walter Foster '05** of Drums, Pennsylvania, died May 14, 2018. She earned a business administration degree from Muhlenberg while working for food and beverage company Mondelez, which employed her for 32 years. Survivors include her husband, Keith Foster, and her sister, Suzanne Jantzen.

**Colton Hughes '09** of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, died June 20, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was an American studies major. He was a police officer in Allentown from 1990 until 2007. He is survived by his wife, Erica E. (Alexander) Hughes, his mother and his sister.

**Deacon Harris '10** of Marblehead, Massachusetts, died May 13, 2018. At Muhlenberg, he was a theatre major, and he spent a semester abroad in London. He went on to work in human resources. He is survived by his parents, Debra Glabeau and Kenelm Harris, and his sister, Morgan Harris.



## Friendly Competition

When student-athlete Kemberly Montana '20 challenged me to a race, I couldn't say no.

By Robin Riley-Casey, as told to Meghan Kita

**K**emberly is an Emerging Leader, that's how I met him—I co-direct that program as part of my role as director of multicultural life. Between us it's always been like, I would say big sister to little brother, except I'm a lot older than a big sister, so I'd be like a great-aunt or something to him. I'm always trying to find a way to support our students, and usually I look for what they are interested in and what we may have in common.

He's an athlete, a hurdler and sprinter on the track team, and I consider myself an athlete, too. I ran track in high school and in my first year of college, where it was all intramural sports. I ran the relays and hurdles, and I always joked that at 5'2" I could fly, because you have to be able to fly to jump hurdles at 5'2". I continued to run until maybe the last couple years. I enjoy running fast, and I'm very competitive.

Kemberly and I have been joshing around for a couple years now, with him saying, "One of these days, Robin, you're going to have to race me." I'm like, "Oh boy, you're never going to beat me, just never." This year, we were at a bowling alley with a bunch of first-year students and it came up again. He said, "If I win, can I be the director of the Multicultural Center for a day?" I said, "Maybe an honorary director, for a few hours." He was really excited about that, so I said, "Okay, let's go ahead and get it started."

We set the parameters: He'd give me a 20-yard head start, and he'd have to do 10 pushups before starting. (Twenty yards, because it's been at least 20 years since I've run competitively, and 10 pushups because I've been at Muhlenberg almost 10 years.) If I lost, he'd become honorary director, and he'd get to plan an activity for the community—he was thinking paintball. If I won, though, Dean of Students Allison Gulati promised to provide coffee for the student affairs staff.

Then, we set a date: October 10. Dean Gulati spread the word to the student affairs team, so we had a group of spectators. The weather was amazing: sunny and warm. Kem arrived and we lined up, with me 20 yards ahead of him, and the race began.

Because of the head start, there was never a point where I could see or hear him, but I do remember seeing the finish line and knowing I was going to win. It was hard not having a sense of where he was, so I had to just race against myself. Sprinting didn't feel the way I remember it feeling: I felt tight. When I watched the tape after and saw Kemberly's run, that was beautiful to watch. It was such a smooth delivery, even though he was trying to catch up. You could



see his athleticism. It's how I remember myself running back in the day.

The win felt bittersweet. Given that I had the 20-yard head start and the 10 pushups, this race wasn't about running as equals. Well, maybe it's equity, but it's not equality. I'll still let him be honorary director for a day. He's a star, always. *M*

# ALUMNI NOTEBOOK

## Save the Date

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### Alumni Board Meetings

November 10, 2018  
February 2, 2019  
April 27, 2019  
Open to all alumni.  
[muhlenbergconnect.com/alumniboard](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/alumniboard)

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### #MULEMENTUM

#### 30 hours/3,000 participants

Live the tradition.  
Kickoff is November 14, 2018, beginning at 18:48 (6:48 p.m. EST) and running through November 15.  
[mulementum.com](http://mulementum.com)

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### T.H.A.W.

6th Annual Toast Heard Around the World  
January 17, 2019  
Alumni and friends will gather across the country and around the world to celebrate the College and each other.  
[muhlenbergconnect.com/thaw](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/thaw)

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### Mule Madness

February 8-17, 2019  
Step up and support Muhlenberg athletics.  
[muhlenbergconnect.com/mulemadness](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/mulemadness)

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### Commencement/Discussions with Honorary Degree Recipients

May 18-19, 2019  
[muhlenberg.edu/commencement](http://muhlenberg.edu/commencement)

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### Alumni Travel 2019

Land Journeys  
Ireland: Westport, May 21-29, 2019  
Imperial Splendors of Russia, September 4-13, 2019  
Apulia: Undiscovered Italy, October 23-31, 2019  
[muhlenbergconnect.com/alumnitravel](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/alumnitravel)

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### Alumni Weekend 2019

September 20-22, 2019  
We'll be hosting Homecoming and Reunion celebrations for class years ending in 4 and 9.  
Email [bergalum@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:bergalum@muhlenberg.edu) to volunteer for your class's Reunion committee.

## Stay Connected

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### Lifelong Learning

The love of learning does not end at graduation. Join students and faculty in Lifelong Learning opportunities, from a virtual book club to expert lectures.  
[muhlenbergconnect.com/learning](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/learning)

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### Muhlenberg Wants You!

A variety of volunteer opportunities are available for dedicated alumni. Contact [bergalum@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:bergalum@muhlenberg.edu) or go to [muhlenbergconnect.com/volunteer](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/volunteer) to learn how you can give back to Muhlenberg.

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### The Muhlenberg Network

Give students the opportunity to build more connections.  
[themuhlenbergnetwork.com](http://themuhlenbergnetwork.com)

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### iMuhlenberg app

Check out the new alumni portal:  
[muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/mobileapp](http://muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/mobileapp)

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## Add Some 'Berg Spirit to Your Social Event!

The next time you plan a get together with Muhlenberg friends, let us know and we will send you a 'Berg Box.

Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs online at [muhlenbergconnect.com/bergbox](http://muhlenbergconnect.com/bergbox) and tell us the occasion, date and number of people attending, and we will customize a free box of Muhlenberg swag to fit your event. Be sure to send us your attendee list and photos from your special occasion!







**Understanding  
Poverty**

Assistant Professor of Psychology Erika Bagley's Poverty, Risk and Resilience service-learning class pairs immersive coursework with an after-school program for Allentown School District students. **p.30**