

Muhlenberg

Magazine

SUMMER 2019

Kindness Matters

Val Weisler '20 helps empower young people around the world.

Bring It On!

Behind the scenes at Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre

In the Weeds

Examining the pros and cons of legalizing recreational cannabis

The Art of Business

Elmer Moore '99 melds creativity and entrepreneurship



“Exceptional faculty supported my desire to design summer research based on my classes in biology and genetics.”

PATRICK SOCKLER '19, BIOLOGY



“Summer research provided me with comfort in knowing that there is a process for finding the otherwise elusive answers you seek.”

BREE BOOTH '19, AFRICANA STUDIES



“I wanted my thesis to have an actionable result, not just live as a paper. My internship prepared me to recommend change.”

EMILY SEARLES '19, BUSINESS AND THEATRE



“My fieldwork with Costa Rican families really opened my eyes to another culture and taught me how to tackle healthcare issues in a meaningful way.”

KASH CALDERÓN '19, PUBLIC HEALTH

THIS IS THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT MUHLENBERG.

From grants to financial aid to scholarships, nearly 500 incoming students rely on **The Muhlenberg Fund** each year for their education. That's 500 more alumni making a difference in the world because of you.

Support the student experience by making a gift to **The Muhlenberg Fund** at give.muhlenberg.edu today.



FEATURES



Validation 26

When Val Weisler '20 founded her youth empowerment organization, she never dreamed it would grow into a global movement. Now, she's reached more than 20,000 students—and she's not finished yet.



Bring It On! 32

Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes of one of Muhlenberg's mainstage shows? Take a peek at the process that unfolds between auditions and opening night for *Bring It On: The Musical*.



The Cannabis Question 44

As states—including Pennsylvania—explore legalizing recreational marijuana, Muhlenberg faculty, alumni, students and neighbors are pondering its pros and cons, too.

Profiles

Ranajoy Ray-Chaudhuri (economics)	6
Elmer Moore '99	12
Mel Ferrara '15	16
Dr. Mark Schwartz '79 P'09	53
Dr. Denise Wunderler '94	54
Becca Knouss '00	56

Departments

Letters to the Editor	3
News & Notes	4-5, 7, 10-11, 15, 19-21
Creators	8
New Releases	8
From the Archives	14
Mules on the Move	18
Perspective	24
The Last Page	64

Alumni

Alumni News	50
Class Notes	52
In Memoriam	60

ON THE COVER Photographer Brooke Slezak shot Val Weisler '20 in New York City in the week or so between Weisler's arrival home from a semester in Spain and her departure to the Truman Scholar Leadership Week in Missouri.

From the Editor



If you've seen the first episode of NBC's *The Good Place*—a sitcom set in the after-life—you know that its rendering of “heaven” is full of only the very best, most selfless people. The characters who end up in *The Good Place* lived comically good lives on earth; one tells a story that goes, “The lady said, ‘You can’t give me *both* your kidneys, you’ll die!’ and I said, ‘But you will live! And I know we just met on this bus 10 minutes ago, but you seem nice.’”

As far as I know, cover subject Val Weisler '20 has never donated an organ, but she has a resume that could have been written into the script. At 14, she founded an anti-bullying organization that she's since grown into an international youth empowerment nonprofit. Her programming has reached more than 20,000 young people in 105 countries. When I spoke to Val in May, she was preparing to travel to Missouri for the Truman Scholar Leadership Week, a gathering of the 62 college students to receive the prestigious Truman Scholarship, and then to Tokyo for a leadership summit on female economic empowerment.

Val's story (see “Validation,” page 26) will make you proud to call her a fellow Mule...and possibly mildly disappointed in your own life accomplishments. To take the edge off, check out “The Cannabis Question” (page 44), which turns to Muhlenberg faculty and alumni experts to shed light on the cannabis legalization debate taking place in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Rounding out this issue's feature-story lineup is the photo essay “Bring It On!” (page 32). We pulled from a selection of more than 2,000 images photographer Paul Pearson captured over eight photo sessions to show some of what it takes to mount a Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre production like *Bring It On: The Musical*. You'll be amazed at how much effort goes into making the finished product look effortless.

Meghan Kita
Managing Editor

Magazine Staff

Meghan Kita
Managing Editor

Bill Keller
Editor

Brian Speer
Executive Editor

Mike Falk, Jeremy Fuchs '14, April Johnston, Bill Keller, Jeff Pooley, Jennifer Posh,
A.C. Shilton, Kristine Yahna Todaro '84
Contributing Writers

Brian Speer
Design and Art Direction

Tom Amico, Maggie Ewald, Bill Keller, Island Photography, Matt Lester,
Paul Pearson, Jonathan Schlegel, Brooke Slezak, Sara Stathas
Contributing Photographers

WACSO, Ileana Soon
Contributing Illustrators

Administration

Kathleen E. Harring, *interim president*
Rebekkah L. Brown '99, *vice president for advancement*
Brian Speer, *vice president for communications*
Natalie Kulp Hand '78 P'07, *assistant vice president for alumni affairs and career services*

Contact

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

Muhlenberg Magazine is published three times a year by the Muhlenberg College Office of Communications.

A Touching Tribute

I just read the article honoring Patti Mittleman (“An Exemplar of Excellence,” Spring 2019) in the magazine. You did a great job writing it. It absolutely did her justice and I know it meant a lot to all of the people who loved her, including so many of our alumni. Thank you for all the work you put into it.

April B. Cunningham
Office Manager, Hillel

The Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life

A Furry Friend



I'm not big on social media, so I wasn't familiar with Muhlenberg Squirrel (“A Social-Savvy Squirrel,” Spring 2019). However, part of the Burrows-'Berg legend is that, coming onto campus as a third-grader when my mother was getting her teaching certification, I saw the critters and thought, “They have squirrels. I'm going here.” As you can see from this photo, *S. carolinensis* and I go way back!

KeriLyn C. Burrows '72

Fond Memories

Kudos for a wonderful new 'Berg magazine presentation. Pages 38 and 39 (“The Pull of Traditions,” Spring 2019) brought back memories of the good old days: girls cheering, guys tugging. Thanks for the memories and your wonderful publication. Please keep them coming.



Art Hahn '61

Share your thoughts about stories in the magazine. Email your letters to magazine@muhlenberg.edu.

STORIES YOU MISSED

Check out these Muhlenberg features online.

More Than Music

A 191-year-old community partner like the Allentown Band, which is made up of volunteer musicians from the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas, provides a wealth of material for students and faculty interested in storytelling and archival work. And, by using their time and expertise to help preserve and promote the band's history, those same students and faculty can be assets to the band in return. To read more, visit muhlenberg.edu/more-music.

Open for Business

Students in the innovation and entrepreneurship class Business Plan Development must launch a business first, with a goal of generating \$200 in revenue by the semester's end, and use what they learn from that experience to write a business plan. This spring's businesses included a pop-up clothing consignment shop and a product that uses UV light to sanitize utensils. To read more, visit muhlenberg.edu/upcycle.

A Charged Performance



The student ensemble DanceMax writes and choreographs a show that teaches elementary schoolers about a different topic—like electricity—each year. Members have a full semester to choose and wrap their heads around a concept that's part of the elementary school curriculum, choreograph a variety of dances to illustrate that concept and write a script. The ensemble spends the spring “on tour,” with shows almost every Friday. To read more, visit muhlenberg.edu/charged-performance.



Harring Named Interim President as Williams Departs

John I. Williams Jr.'s departure was announced June 19, after his fourth year as president. Provost Kathleen E. Harring was appointed interim president by Muhlenberg's Board of Trustees.

"Kathy has been a valuable guide for the College and the Board," Board Chair Rich Crist '77 P'05 P'09 said in a statement to the Muhlenberg community. "She has strong relationships on campus, in academia and with the Board, and we look forward to working with her to strengthen the institution."

Prior to becoming provost in April 2017, Harring held senior leadership roles as vice president and dean of institutional effectiveness and planning and as dean of institutional assessment and academic planning. She joined Muhlenberg as a faculty member in the Department of Psychology in 1984. Harring completed a bachelor's in psychology from Franklin & Marshall College and a master's and Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"The progress we've made in moving the College forward has

been done as a community, working together. It's a community that I am proud to be a part of," says Harring. "Muhlenberg is in a strong position, in no small part due to our collective commitment to evolve in ways that

his leadership, the College adopted a new strategic plan and a compelling campus master plan, strengthened student pathways to powerful outcomes and established new relationships with graduate and profes-

"The progress we've made in moving the College forward has been done as a community, working together. It's a community I am proud to be a part of."

Kathleen E. Harring, interim president

strengthen and integrate the academic and student life experiences. I am honored to serve in this new role, leading this great College on a path our community has set into motion through our strategic plan and through our everyday service."

A statement from the Board of Trustees recognized Williams' leadership of the liberal arts institution, saying, "We hired John to be a change agent, and he has moved the College forward in numerous key areas. Under

sional schools. John championed a stronger and expanded Career Center and initiated the effort to unify the College's global community through TheMuhlenbergNetwork.com."

Harring is committed to continuing progress on the College's strategic plan. "We remain dedicated to our priorities to strengthen our value as a premier educational institution and to fortify the financial strength of Muhlenberg for future generations," says Harring. — *Bill Keller*

Muhlenberg Establishes Faculty Rising Scholars Program

Recent gifts to the College—more than \$500,000 in near-term funding, plus a \$1 million endowment—have allowed Muhlenberg to create a new program designed to support junior faculty as they conduct student-aided research. The Faculty Rising Scholars Program will provide up to five annual awards, starting in the 2019-2020 academic year, for tenure-track faculty members who have completed successful third-year reviews. Each award will allow the recipient to release a course in order to focus on scholarship, with funds going toward covering that course, paying for research expenses and hiring a first-year or sophomore research assistant. The program's goal is to help attract, support and retain talented faculty and to provide distinctive research opportunities for junior faculty members with talented first- and second-year students.

The program's near-term funding originated with trustee and former board chairman John Heffer P'96, who approached then-Provost Kathleen E. Haring with an interest in funding a program. Haring identified a need and worked, with Heffer's input, to develop the program.

"I was particularly happy with it because it enhanced both the faculty experience and the student experience," he says. It also appealed to Heffer and his wife, Barbara P'96, because the College was ready to launch the program quickly: "Barbara and I like to see the results of our philanthropy," he says.

"The College and its constituencies benefit right away."

The Heffers pledged \$250,000 to establish the program. John, along with current Board of Trustees Chairman Rich Crist '77 P'05 P'09, challenged his fellow trustees to collectively match his donation. Together, the Board raised an additional \$261,000.

"I pitched [the program] at a board meeting, and there wasn't that much pitching that had to be done," John says. "The board, to its credit, saw this as a very desirable program and a program we wanted to do sooner rather than later."

The program will continue on in perpetuity thanks to a \$1 million endowment from Crist and his wife, Cindy P'05 P'09.

"The element of having faculty and students working together is a huge draw for us, because we've been so impressed by the quality and sophistication of the research that we've had the opportunity to review," Rich says.

"The Faculty Rising Scholars Program provides direct evidence of the value we place on scholarship as central to our liberal arts mission," says Haring, who's now the College's interim president. "Through the vision and generosity of John and Barbara Heffer and Rich and Cindy Crist, as well as the collective efforts of the Board of Trustees, we are able to strengthen support for engaged learning and scholarship for faculty and for students at Muhlenberg."

—*Meghan Kita*

More Than 170 Alumni Participate in Alumni Week

At the end of March, a record number of alumni lent their time and expertise to current students as part of the ninth annual Alumni Week, an event that brings Muhlenberg graduates to campus (in person or via videoconference) to discuss what they do and how they came to do it. The programming happens in the classroom and at panels and networking events. This year, more than half of the student body participated.

The Department of Media & Communication launched Alumni Week in 2011. Since then, The Career Center has expanded the event to include 17 academic departments and programs. Now that Alumni Week is established, "the faculty are owning it," says Pat Fligge '10, director of alumni and parent engagement. "They're working hard to prepare their students for

these experiences."

New this year, a few alumni screened students on campus for jobs and internships. One was Alyssa Kratz '17, who has worked for Blue Ridge Communications TV-13 in Lehigh, Pennsylvania, since graduating from Muhlenberg. During Alumni Week, she hosted informational interviews for students interested in an associate producer position, which was her first job post-graduation. "I had such a positive experience as a Muhlenberg student and media & communication major, and I will always do what I can to give back," she says.

Other new initiatives for 2019 included the creation of an alumni panel in coordination with the Center for



PHOTO BY TOM AMICO

Amanda Saville '11, who works at the consulting firm Palladium, came to speak to students in an international relations course.

Ethics lecture series and the rollout of a student-ambassador program to help facilitate select seniors' connections with alumni. If you're interested in participating as a career volunteer at any time, contact Fligge at 484-664-3170 or patrickfligge@muhlenberg.edu. —MK

Mules and Regulations

Assistant Professor of Economics Ranajoy Ray-Chaudhuri lends his expertise to student teams studying how new regulations will affect a local community bank.

When the 10 students in the finance course Community Banking: A Case Study first met, Assistant Professor of Economics Ranajoy Ray-Chaudhuri brought them up to speed. “I spent almost an hour talking about the history of banking in the U.S., from the first bank in 1780 all the way until now,” says Ray-Chaudhuri, who’d written a book (*The Changing Face of American Banking: Deregulation, Reregulation and the Global Financial System*) on the topic. “We clearly identified the patterns where there were regu-

lations, they were diluted, there was a financial crisis, the regulations were brought back and history repeated itself.” might benefit from the loosened regulations—with fewer resources required for compliance, for example. Prizes for the winning team included scholarship money and the publication of their findings, plus an invitation to present at the sponsoring group’s conference.

The Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities reached out to Department of Accounting, Business, Economics & Finance Chair Art Raymond to suggest that Muhlenberg participate, to help Pennsylvania continue to have the most teams of any state. Given his regulatory expertise, Ray-Chaudhuri seemed a logical choice to lead the students. He and Raymond built the competition into a special-topics course to lend it more structure.

In addition to regulatory history, the first few sessions covered accounting basics crucial to understand before tackling the competition’s requirements: a research paper of up to 25 pages and a video, filmed in part at the bank, that summed up the paper’s findings and included insights from bank leadership. The students also visited the bank twice and met with the CEO and two VPs. Then, the students broke into two teams of five—the maximum number allowed per team—and began their work.

The students found that the most significant benefit for QNB will “be due to the provision on simplified capital rules,” Ray-Chaudhuri says, which will allow the bank to not have to comply with certain complex international regulations. However, larger community banks will benefit more from the legislation, and it’s too early to tell how big banks will be affected. In theory, discrimination in mortgage lending could go undetected, since the new regulations have decreased the amount of data institutions are required to report. (QNB plans to continue collecting this data even though it’s not required to, Ray-Chaudhuri says.)

Though much of Ray-Chaudhuri’s research deals with regulations, he felt like he learned from the process: “I wasn’t that familiar with community banking and the regulations that specifically applied to those banks,” he says. And though neither team of students won—there were 58 teams from 44 institutions competing this year—they also took away something valuable: “It’s a personal connection between some of our best students and a local bank,” Ray-Chaudhuri says. “If the students were to reach out to them in the future for an internship or for a job once they graduate, that could definitely be a possibility, because they got to know three of the top people at QNB.” —MK



PHOTO BY MATT LESTER

lations, they were diluted, there was a financial crisis, the regulations were brought back and history repeated itself.”

In 2010, after the most recent financial crisis, President Barack Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act into law. Last year, the United States entered a diluted-regulations phase when President Donald Trump signed into law the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act, which rolled back some of Dodd-Frank’s changes.

“There’s a reason why we have regulations; the financial crisis we had proved that,” Ray-Chaudhuri says. But leading up to it, “a lot of the excessive risk-taking was by bigger banks.”

His students went on to examine a smaller bank—QNB, headquartered in nearby Quakertown, Pennsylvania—as part of the 2019 Conference of State Bank Supervisors Case Study Competition. Each team in the national contest partnered with a community bank (that is, one with less than \$10 billion in assets) and analyzed how that bank

Rabbi Ari Perten Appointed Campus Rabbi and Associate College Chaplain



Rabbi Perten began his role as a member of the College Chaplain's senior leadership team and the lead representative for Jewish student life at Muhlenberg on August 1.

He comes to Muhlenberg after more than a decade at Camp Ramah in Wingdale, New York, where he had recently served as assistant director and previously served as head of camp. In those roles, Rabbi Perten was responsible for developing and implementing a recruitment and retention strategy for the camp's more than 750 participants and building an employee engagement model for the camp's staff of more than 350. Previously, he was rabbi for Congregation Eitz Chaim in Monroe, New York, and director of the high school program at Temple Ner Tamid in Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Rabbi Perten received a bachelor's degree in international politics from Columbia University and a bachelor's in Bible and ancient Semitic languages from Albert A. List College. He received his master's in experiential Jewish education from the William W. Davison Graduate School of Jewish Education and his rabbinical ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

"I'm excited to join the Muhlenberg community," says Rabbi Perten. "During my campus visit, I was very impressed by the environment of caring and trust so clearly demonstrated by students, faculty and staff. I am eager to join the greater team and build on a strong foundation to help enhance the experience for Muhlenberg students." —BK

Career Center Brings Students to D.C., NYC

This spring, the Career Center organized two Career Road Trips, utilizing its alumni, parent and professional connections to introduce students to various career paths and industries. The first trip, to Washington, D.C., connected 34 students with three alumni hosts across six sites. The second, to New York City, connected 61 students with three alumni hosts and one parent host across seven sites. New this semester, students could choose an industry "track" and visit multiple locations in an industry of their choosing in a single day. For example, students traveling to D.C. could visit the American Enterprise Institute and the Brookings Institution, the Feminist Majority Foundation and Planned Parenthood or the Shakespeare Theatre Company and Mosaic Theatre. Since the first Career Road Trip in April 2016, the program "has evolved to take almost 200 students annually to alumni-connected employers," says Ryan Smolko, associate director of the Career Center. "The program allows students to gain a more in-depth view of what it's like working at an organization and what they should be doing to make themselves competitive candidates for internships and entry-level jobs." —MK

Ashton, Weisler Receive Awards

Dylan Ashton '18 has been named a 2019-2020 Fulbright Fellow for the English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program in France. A French & francophone studies major with an education certification, Ashton will spend the next academic year teaching English at Le Lycée Jacques Brel in Créteil, France, outside of Paris. The J. William Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the flagship international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. "As an ETA in France, I hope to further expand my definition of community at the local and global scales," says Ashton.

Val Weisler '20, a self-designed major in education advocacy with a minor in Spanish, is one of only 62 college students nationally (out of 840 total applicants) to be named a 2019 Truman Scholar. It is the premier graduate scholarship for aspiring public service leaders in the United States. Each new Truman Scholar receives up to \$30,000 for graduate study. Scholars also receive priority admission and supplemental financial aid at some premier graduate institutions, leadership training, career and graduate school counseling and special internship opportunities within the federal government. "The graduate school funding is incredible, but the community I gain access to is what I am most excited about," Weisler says. "Public service is my passion, and I cannot wait to dedicate my life to it." To read more about Weisler's work, see "Validation", page 26. —Kristine Yahna Todaro '84

Behind the Scene

With its 21st season in the works, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* (SVU) has run longer than any other live-action primetime TV series. (The original *Law & Order* ended after 20.) SVU centers on “sexually based offenses,” with a new crime detailed in each episode. A small cast of detec-

tives and lawyers appears regularly, with a large ensemble brought in each episode to play the people encountered as the investigation unfolds. In “The Good Girl,” which aired in April, theatre major Alison Maybaum '19 was one of those characters: Lola, the girlfriend of a deadbeat dad. It was her first acting job. This is her story. [doink doink]



UNIVERSAL TELEVISION/NBC

Muhlenberg Magazine What happened in the audition, and how did you learn you got the role?

Alison Maybaum I got my sides beforehand—that’s the part of the script you’ll be reading in the audition. You get an email about when your appointment is. The audition took place at the SVU office in New York City. You start in the waiting room, and then you go in and put the mic on. Your face is on a big flat screen, to show what you look like on camera. I was talking to two people in the scene. I had to make sure that I talked to this person [looks right] and imagined that person [looks left]. They had to see I could do that technique and that I wasn’t moving my head too much. I got an email the day after saying they would like to offer me the role.

| NEW RELEASES |

Rachel Norman '19
Resist
5 songs, 17 minutes



Norman, a theatre major and Italian and women’s and gender studies double minor, timed the release of this debut

EP—a vocal-driven pop album—to coincide with Commencement.



Steven Coutinho
(Philosophy)
Philosophers of the Warring States: A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy
Broadview Press, 450 pages

Coutinho and co-author Kurtis Hagen have translated the most important early Chinese philosophical texts, and provided detailed commentary and analysis, in this new anthology.



Julie Shoults
(German studies)
Women Writing War: From German Colonialism Through World War I
De Gruyter, 339 pages

Shoults co-edited a volume of scholarly essays examining German-language, female-written texts that provide insight into the gendered experience of war in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

MM What was filming like?

AM They were filming at the same place I auditioned. It's a huge building. My scene was in an apartment that's not so nice, so they already had that set up. I was called in for a fitting first, and a couple days later, I was filming. You start with a rehearsal: Me and the two other actors in the scene, we read through the script once, then everybody comes in. It's 30 or so people, the crew and everyone watching the actors read. Then, I went to hair and makeup and got ready. We got called back, they put my mic on and we shot the scene. It probably took an hour and a half. You had to do it from different angles and allow time for bloopers.

MM How was the experience for you?

AM My character was a sassy, trashy young woman, and I



Alison Maybaum '19

was a little shy and intimidated on set at first. Once the director said, "Don't be afraid to slam the door," I started having fun with it. I had a lot more lines that got cut because they wanted the scene to be more about the man. Still, it was a great experience. It definitely reassured me that this is what I want to do with my life.

MM What's next?

AM I am now eligible to be in the Screen Actors Guild, so that will help me out with my career. I'm working on my website and editing my reel. The next goal would be to find an agent. I live in Westchester, New York, so it's not a far commute to the city, but if I get offered a job, I will go to it. If I need to be somewhere else, I will be. I'm going to go where the job takes me.



Diane Miller Sommerville '81
Aberration of Mind: Suicide and Suffering in the Civil War Era South
 The University of North Carolina Press, 448 pages

Sommerville examines the negative psychological effects of the Civil War on both white and black Southerners. Because of this book, she was a finalist for the Lincoln Prize, which is awarded annually to a book that enhances the public's understanding of the Civil War era.



Elyn Rykken
 (Mathematics)
Geometry: The Line and the Circle
 American Mathematical Society, 480 pages

Rykken co-wrote this textbook, which "connects topics in Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometry in an intentional and meaningful way, with historical context."

J. Michael DeAngelis '01

Mission: Rejected
 Podcast, new episodes monthly



DeAngelis co-created this scripted comedy show about "what happens when the world's greatest spy decides NOT to accept his latest mission" with Pete Barry '97 and John Dowgin '97. David Stanger '02 appears in the cast.

Recognition for First-Gen Students



This spring, a group of 66 Muhlenberg students were inducted into Alpha Alpha Alpha, a new honor society for first-generation college students. Muhlenberg is one of only 18 institutions in the country with a Tri-Alpha chapter.

To be eligible for the Tri-Alpha Honor Society, students must have completed at least three full-time terms, earned an overall GPA of 3.2 and come from a family where neither parent nor any legal guardians has earned a bachelor's degree.

Tri-Alpha was founded by Carol Traupman-Carr, associate provost of Moravian College, who was a first-generation student herself. Muhlenberg's then-Provost Kathleen E. Harring learned about the initiative from Traupman-Carr and connected with interested faculty and staff members

who moved the idea forward at the College.

During Muhlenberg's ceremony, students were welcomed by Samantha Brown '19, an anthropology major and sustainability studies minor, who shared personal stories along with Glenna Jones '19, an English major and music minor, and Dawn Lonsinger, assistant professor of English. All were first-generation students.

Lonsinger says Tri-Alpha is important in that "it honors students who largely have had to work harder and with less kinds of support to be at college in the first place, and who have not stopped there, have continued to excel in multiple ways in college—to become independent thinkers, advocates for each other and leaders in the community." —*KYT*

Why I Study ... the effects of odor pollution on bumblebees Assistant Professor of Biology Jordanna Sprayberry

I can't remember a time when I didn't want to work with animals; my first word was "geese." I thought about becoming a wildlife veterinarian, but by the time I finished college, I had discarded notions of working in conservation hotspots. After I studied abroad in Africa, I realized what I'd previously learned about conservation problems was American-centric and embodied an enormous amount of privilege. Still, I loved animals, so I felt



PHOTO BY BILL KELLER

liberated to pursue graduate school to study my passion: animal behavior. Of all the labs I looked into, the bug labs were the most welcoming and collaborative.

For my Ph.D., I studied how hawkmoths respond to

flower motion signals. In the wild, hawkmoths are talented and graceful. In the lab, you're dealing with the descendants of animals that were domesticated 50 years ago. In my postdoc, I ran more than 110 trials and I got exactly one animal

to feed. I got frustrated and wanted to shift gears to a more productive system that might be able to incorporate my conservation interests into my research. So, I teamed up with two bumblebee researchers on a small project to learn how to handle them.

When I got to Muhlenberg, I started a project looking at the effects of odor pollution on bumblebees. We found that agrochemical scent can reduce foraging behavior. This is concerning because bumblebee colonies will only produce queens if they have a lot of resources; those that don't will die out and reduce local populations.

Muhlenberg in the Media

The Muhlenberg Institute for Public Opinion April survey about Pennsylvania Registered Democrats and the 2020 Elections was cited by the *New York Times*, *Bloomberg News*, *CNBC*, *Associated Press* and *Vanity Fair*.

Institute Director and Professor of Political Science Chris Borick was also interviewed for NPR's *All Things Considered* about why Democrats have prioritized climate change as an issue in the upcoming presidential campaign.

Jonathan Lassiter, assistant professor of psychology, was featured in a segment on PBS39 News Tonight about his research on sexual minorities and faith.

Five Muhlenberg students joined the conversation, weighing in on the historic milestone of Pete Buttigieg's presidential candidacy.

Muhlenberg's reputation for transparency and honest conversation regarding admissions and financial aid received national visibility.

Consumer Reports applauded the College's invitation for students to submit an appeal if they think a bigger aid package is warranted based on their family's financial situation. In addition, Ron Lieber, money columnist for the *New York Times*, tweeted about the College's long-standing commitment to transparency in the admissions process.

The Career Center team received coverage from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for its Career Services To Go program.

Muhlenberg was the only liberal arts college included in the article, "The push is on at college career centers: They work with students earlier and alumni decades later."

***Syfywire*'s "An Archive of Our Own: How AO3 Built a Nonprofit Fanfiction Empire and Safe Haven" featured English Professor Francesca Coppa.**

Coppa is one of the women who founded the Archive to give creators ownership over their own work and a space independent from corporate oversight.

The bird and window collision research of Professor of Biology Daniel Klem and Peter Saenger of the Acopian Center for Ornithology was featured in *Newsweek*.

Their work was referenced in the article "Death from Above: Lawmaker Envisions Bird-Safe Buildings in New York City."

Fraternity Expansion Planned for 2019-2020 Academic Year

Alpha Epsilon Pi and Phi Kappa Tau will return to campus this coming academic year, the College announced in late May—in the fall and spring semesters, respectively.

In spring 2017, the College conducted a survey of rising sophomores, juniors and seniors and found support for such an expansion, says Associate Director of Student Engagement Steve Dutton. Seven groups submitted applications, which the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee reviewed this past spring.

"In the interviews that took place, they were selling us their organizations. They were all giving us the best of what they have to offer," Dutton says. "Because everybody was in some ways similar, the question became: What is going to differentiate the five groups?" (By next summer, the College will offer five Interfraternity Council fraternities.)

The committee selected Alpha Epsilon Pi and Phi Kappa Tau in part because they were previously recognized at Muhlenberg (from 1988 to 2007 for the former and from 1918 to 1994 and 1998 to 2013 for the latter). If a new fraternity had been selected, members would still have the support of alumni from other institutions, but "knowing that there are Muhlenberg alumni is beneficial for the students," Dutton says. Additionally, a group of students had approached Dutton about reinstating Alpha Epsilon Pi specifically because they were interested in joining a culturally Jewish fraternity, and Phi Kappa Tau stood out to the committee because of its low upfront costs. —MK



PHOTOS BY SARA STATHAS

The Art of Entrepreneurship

Elmer Moore '99 brings his creative background to the world of business.

In a downtown Milwaukee coffee shop inside a renovated warehouse, Elmer Moore '99 greets the baristas with a brilliant smile. He exchanges handshakes and fistbumps with other regulars before settling in. He speaks with boundless energy and enthusiasm; he asks questions and really listens to the answers. Moore, who was an art major and dance minor at Muhlenberg, has dedicated his life to empowering people to realize their passions.

Moore serves as executive director of Scale Up Milwaukee, an initiative of the Greater Milwaukee Committee that helps businesses accelerate their growth through workshops, training and connecting entrepreneurs with resources to help them thrive. In addition, he teaches entrepreneurship in a hands-on workshop at Marquette University.

"We talk about entrepreneurship like it's mostly business, but that's not the hard part," Moore says. It isn't

just about building your business or product—it's about building confidence. To him, entrepreneurship is an act of creation and, more than that, a work of art. He cites St. Thomas Aquinas' definition of art, "the right making of a thing to be made," as something that's guided him throughout his career.

He got involved with Scale Up Milwaukee in mid-2014. Not long before, he was on a plane when a brand concept came to him—"Milwaukee Denim"—seemingly out of the blue (jeans). Although he didn't have a background in fashion design, he wasn't a stranger to the world of apparel: A job as director of business development for the men's shoe brand Allen Edmonds was what brought him to Milwaukee the previous year.

He figured he would play with the concept "until I leave [the city] or meet an insurmountable obstacle." He did a little research and sought opinions from friends, sold an

introductory product and debated internally if the business was worth pursuing. It was when he began teaching Marquette's New Venture Creation course two years later that he finally committed to making it happen.

"I had a 'come to Jesus' moment," Moore says. "How can I teach this if I'm not doing it?" It was time to bring his business to life and "just go for it." In 2017, he found a factory space and began production. Thus began Milwaukee Denim Co., a company committed to producing premium denim apparel and accessories that are well-made, beautiful and a little bit gritty—just like the city the brand is named for.

Right now, the company sells one style each of men's and women's jeans and five accessories via its website. Moore is currently working on fundraising and streamlining the production process to better appeal to wholesalers: "We thought it was going to be hard to sell the stuff and easy to make it," he says, when the reality has been the other way around.

Moore appreciates how Milwaukee Denim, his teaching and his work at Scale Up Milwaukee come together under one banner. "I'm one Elmer all the time," he says. "I'm doing one thing three ways."

Moore also connected art and entrepreneurship while at Muhlenberg. During his sophomore year, he and some friends started their own comedy troupe, Uninvited Guests. They were hired to perform for other students at Muhlenberg and traveled for shows at other colleges. In retrospect, it was what Moore described as the "entrepreneurial dream": getting paid to perform when "we would have happily done it because they let us."

Although the journey that brought him to entrepreneurship was a winding one—he worked in higher education for seven years before earning his MBA at Columbia University—he's always been most energized by the desire to create, whatever form it takes, and to give others the confidence and tools to do the same.

"Entrepreneurship is bigger than business," Moore says. It's about capitalizing on yourself and your knowledge, and finding the confidence to know that no one knows your venture better than you do. There's a propensity to always look to the next milestone as a marker of success in entrepreneurship: getting that big investor, selling a multi-million-dollar venture. But Moore sees it a different way: "Every day that your thing exists should be celebrated." —*Jennifer Posh*



Elmer Moore '99 is pictured in the factory space for his business, Milwaukee Denim Co. His personal entrepreneurial experience helps inform his teaching at Marquette University and his work at Scale Up Milwaukee, which helps businesses accelerate their growth.

| FROM THE ARCHIVES |

The Martin D. Fetherolf 1914 Collection and Digital Map of WWI Service

During his time as a lieutenant in World War I, Fetherolf kept detailed journals that he later used as source material for a memoir. Those texts were among the materials his grandchildren Carol Taylor, William Zimmerman and Karl Zimmerman donated to Trexler Library. Last fall, Jona Lieberman '20, a French and francophone studies major and Dana Scholar, conducted an independent study using Fetherolf's memoir as a primary source. Lieberman utilized the platform StoryMapJS to create an interactive map of where Fetherolf traveled before, during and after the war, finishing with his return to the United States in the summer of 1919. She earned a 2019 Library Scholar Award for her work. To read more about Lieberman's project and find links to the map and the collection, visit muhlenberg.edu/fetherolfmap.

If you have items of interest to the Muhlenberg archives, please contact susanfalciani@muhlenberg.edu



Muhlenberg Joins Liberal Arts Diversity Officers Consortium

Muhlenberg is one of 32 institutional members of the Liberal Arts Diversity Officers consortium (LADO), which provides opportunities for chief diversity officers at liberal arts colleges to collaborate and provide leadership in implementing and publicizing effective diversity strategies at their home institutions. Founded in 2007, LADO accepts private, selective colleges with

a focus on undergraduates and a staff member serving in a diversity leadership role. “I was impressed with LADO’s goals, and this will be a great partnership for us as we continue to develop our capacity to recruit, retain and support underrepresented faculty, staff and students,” says Associate Provost for Faculty and Diversity Initiatives Brooke Vick.

WMUH Turns 70; These Shows Make It Special

You already knew that WMUH, which just wrapped up its 70th academic year of operation, is “the only station that matters.” But do you know what makes it so important to the community, both on campus and off? General Manager Paul Krempasky Jr., who’s been a community DJ with the station since 1984, puts it this way: “Not everybody wants to eat at TGI Fridays.”

Some people enjoy hearing the same dozen or so pop songs on their drive to work and on their drive home. Or perhaps they favor program-



PHOTO BY BILL KELLER

Patrick Kantner '20 prepares tracks for his radio show “Pat’s Picks,” which airs Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

ming like NPR’s, with the same hosts delivering the news each weekday. But WMUH, which utilizes student as well as community volunteers to fill its airwaves, offers a variety that’s unmatched in the Lehigh Valley. “People need to know we offer things that are not on any other station in the area,” Krempasky says.

These six shows prove his point. Tune in to 91.7 FM in the Lehigh Valley or via muhlenberg.edu/wmuh anywhere for the antithesis of a chain-restaurant listening experience. —MK

Movie Chat

Hosted by Troy Schnyder, JD Clauser and Brice Brown

Mondays, 9-9:30 a.m.

Three community DJs and film buffs meet weekly to discuss their shared passion. The tone is conversational with friends discussing things—new or old—they watched over the previous week.

The Zach Hoffman Show

Hosted by Zach Hoffman

Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Known as The International Showcase when it launched in the 1980s, this polka show draws streaming listeners from throughout the U.S. and Europe. It’s had a variety of hosts over the years, with the longest run belonging to local polka musician Al Meixner.

Spotlight Muhlenberg

Hosted by a variety of faculty, staff and student hosts and guests

Wednesdays (except in August), 9:30-10 a.m.

This weekly program, which Krempasky launched last fall, has included segments on theatre and dance performances; information from the Career Center and Office of Student Engagement; and interviews with Muhlenberg’s director of counseling services, Title IX coordinator and faculty and alumni public health experts. Past episodes are archived at soundcloud.com/muhlenberg.

Arabic Music

Hosted by Alex Khalil

Sundays, 12-2 p.m.

Khalil presents in both English and Arabic. The focus is on the music of the Middle East, with a mix of traditional and new tunes.

Kol Ha’Emek

Hosted by Cantor Kevin Wartell

Fridays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

The name means Voice of the Valley, and the program, which has been on the air for more than 30 years, celebrates Jewish music and culture. Wartell talks to community leaders and highlights events.

Jhankaar: Music of India

Hosted by various members of the Indian-American Association of Lehigh Valley

Saturdays, 8-10 a.m.

A large contingent of Indian listeners in Chicago tune into the online stream to hear this show, which has been broadcast since the early ’80s. Music varies based on the host, but includes everything from traditional music to the latest Bollywood tunes.

Personally Speaking...



Mel Ferrara '15

Ph.D. Candidate and Adjunct Professor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

They are in the Ph.D. program in gender and women's studies at the University of Arizona.

I recently completed the fourth year of my doctorate program at the University of Arizona. I went directly from Muhlenberg into graduate studies with Arizona because of their trans studies program—it's the only one of its kind in the country. My research is situated within trans and intersex studies and feminist science and technology studies, and my dissertation looks at the experience of folks who have been diagnosed with Klinefelter syndrome—a genetic condition where an extra copy of the X chromosome is present and often goes undiagnosed until adulthood, when some patients seek fertility assistance—and healthcare practices surrounding the diagnosis.

Their path to Muhlenberg started with a visit to the neuroscience department's Brain Camp...

I heard about Muhlenberg from my childhood pediatrician, an alum. My mom had mentioned I was interested in neuroscience and premed and was told, "Muhlenberg is where I went! You should check it out!" We found out about Brain Camp, and I thought, "I went to history camp last year—why not go to neuroscience camp? I'm a nerd!" So I went and I loved it. When I was applying to colleges, I realized I was comparing them all to Muhlenberg. At the time I hadn't envisioned it as a top choice, but one day when my mom and I were back walking around campus we realized, "I can go here!"

...but conversations with professors quickly had them exploring different academic interests.

Professor Brian Mello was my advisor for my Dana Scholar First-Year Seminar. I walked into his office for our initial meeting, and he thought I planned to major in philosophy/political thought. I said, "No, no. I'm neuroscience and premed," but he was convinced I would change my mind. I figured he must not have known what he was talking about. But by my second semester I had taken Philosophy of Feminism with Professor Marcia Morgan...and fell in love with it. As someone who is queer and trans, exposure to feminist theory was a radical moment for me where I could finally put language to the experiences that I had been having. I realized that I was deeply interested in philosophy and studying science and medicine from a historical and social perspective.

Muhlenberg became a place where they were drawn to causes and communities.

At Muhlenberg, I got involved with Students for Queer Advocacy and the Feminist Collective right away. I soon took on leadership roles and co-founded the Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition the summer after my junior year. It was a notable moment in time for diversity work on campus. I got involved with the Diversity Vanguard, and we came up with a list of demands for President Helm about changes needed on campus. That resulted in the development of the College's Diversity Strategic Plan.

They are a scholar with the Point Foundation, the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex) students.

The Point Foundation provided me with a sense of community and a hyper-supportive environment that helped me acknowledge just how little confidence I had been having in my work and push back against that in a really beautiful way. In one of my service projects with Point, I developed a training program for healthcare providers who work with LGBTQI+ patients. The training challenges medicine's empirical foundation: objective, clear-cut answers to problems. They might need to use different language and approaches to talk about healthcare with me and other LGBTQI+ folks.

Mentorship, including teaching undergraduates, has become an important part of their life.

I'm excited to be teaching at this particular moment. I have students who, in intro-level classes, have already engaged in social justice work or who are seeing this language for the first time. The work that I do is something I am deeply passionate about, but it can also be very exhausting. Teaching undergraduate students and witnessing the energy they bring to these issues keeps me feeling enthusiastic.



Learning and Listening

Mark Athletic Director's First Year

Lynn Tubman prepares for developing a strategic plan for athletics at Muhlenberg.

Lynn Tubman played basketball at DeSales University and earned her master's degree in educational administration from Lehigh University, so both the Lehigh Valley and Division III athletics were familiar to her when she came across an opening at Muhlenberg College for the position of athletic director. Tubman, who had served for nine years as the athletic director at Chestnut Hill College, a small Division II school in Philadelphia, wasn't actively looking for a new gig. But the opportunity to return to her roots proved too tempting to pass up, and when she stepped onto campus, the deal was sealed: "I just felt comfortable," she says. "It's a very warm, caring group of individuals."

So, the transition from Chestnut Hill to Chew Street was a fairly easy one, personally. Professionally, Tubman, a former three-time Division III All-American—and DeSales's all-time leading scorer—isn't one to move fast and break things.

Instead, Tubman set out to spend her first year as athletic director, which began last June, understanding the needs of the department and how it fits within the larger campus community. It's been a period of getting to know the College and what makes Muhlenberg tick. "My style is very reflective," she says. "I needed a full year under my belt before we moved forward with any major strategic plan. This year has been very informative."

Developing that strategic plan is Tubman's main goal for the coming year. She'll use what she's learned from her year of review to discern the best ways to advance the department's aims. In particular, Tubman wants to look at

other revenue streams to broaden the program's budget. "We recognize that there will be limitations in what the operating budget will support," she says. "We've been developing a plan and strategy to increase that."

Tubman's year wasn't only future-focused: Of many 2018-2019 highlights, two that stood out were the success of the football team in the fall and the addition of a scholar-athlete honors program in the spring.

The football team went 11-2 and earned a spot in the Elite Eight, a first for the College. "I had never been a part of a team making it [that far]," she says. "To have a first-year coach [Nate Milne] who's carried on a strong tradition [from longtime coach, the late Mike Donnelly], it was really fun to watch."

In March, Muhlenberg was accepted into the Chi Alpha Sigma honors society. The society recognizes student-athletes who earn a varsity letter and maintain a cumulative 3.5 grade point average. This year, a first group of 27 student-athletes were inducted. "We were listening to feedback from the students, and academic success is important to them," she says. "This is a great academic recognition."

Tubman says she's become more comfortable in the role after an admittedly "overwhelming" start, with lots of people to meet and information to absorb. But after a year in which the department reached new heights, athletically and academically, year two is shaping up to be something special. "I have a better sense of our priorities," she says. "And the tremendous amount of support and commitment from the institution has made it rewarding." —Jeremy Fuchs '14

SPRING SPEAKERS

Jennifer Atkinson

"Environmental Grief & Climate Anxiety: Moving from Angst to Action" (Center for Ethics)

Atkinson, of the University of Washington, Bothell, spoke about dealing with the grief and trauma of environmental loss.

Patrick J. Deneen

"Why Liberalism Failed—But Is Conservatism the Answer?" (Election Series)

Author and political scientist Deneen drew on his current work, which focuses on the growing conflict between—and potential new alignments arising out of—a globalist meritocratic elite and populist nationalists.

Redistricting Town Hall

A series of panels in Miller Forum explored the impact redistricting has had in Pennsylvania. Guests included Congresswoman Susan Wild, Professor of Political Science Chris Borick and Fair Districts Pennsylvania Chair Carol Kuniholm.

Christopher McLeod with Caleen Sisk

Standing on Sacred Ground screening and discussion (CFE)

Standing on Sacred Ground features eight indigenous communities around the world fighting to protect their sacred places. McLeod, the filmmaker, hosted a discussion with project collaborator and Winnemem Wintu Tribal Chief Sisk.

Sophie Evekink

"Climate Change & Global Public Health"

Evekink, of the World Health Organization Office at the United Nations, drew on expertise in the non-communicable disease and mental health agenda and the climate and environmental determinants of health.

Caroline Levine

"Built to Last: How the Humanities Can Address Sustainability" (32nd Annual John D.M. Brown Lecture)

Levine is David and Kathleen Ryan Chair of the Humanities and Picket Family Chair of the Department of English at Cornell University and the author of three books.

Adam Sutcliffe

"What are Jews For? The History of the Idea of Jewish Chosenness"

Sutcliffe, of King's College in London, traced the history of the 'Jewish Purpose Question' from its biblical and medieval roots up to the 21st century.

Gift Enables Change at Polling Institute

Board of Trustees Chairman Rich Crist '77 P'05 P'09 and his wife, Cindy P'05 P'09, have given \$300,000 to support the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion (MCIPO). The MCIPO, often referred to on campus as "the polling institute," has a national reputation, earning an "A" grade from the analytical site FiveThirtyEight as well as recognition from CNN and other major media outlets. Professor of Political Science Chris Borick, founder and director of the MCIPO, oversees a large team of students who manage many of the day-to-day operations of the institute.

"Supporting Chris Borick's work and being able to strengthen and expand it really broadens the Muhlenberg name and the recognition of the College outside of its traditional northeastern stronghold," Rich says. "And, the institute provides our students an experience not available at many other schools."

"The resources provided by this generous gift from the Crists will help the institute transition into its third decade of operation," Borick says. "The institute structure and methods have worked well for the last two decades, but the scope of work and the changing landscape of polling require significant changes for the MCIPO to move forward. These changes include a transition away from primarily telephone-oriented methods to probability-based online platforms and changes in staffing to allow this to take place.

"The gift comes at a pivotal time for the institute as we ramp up our research efforts associated with the 2020 presidential election," Borick continues. "Pennsylvania is poised to be the epicenter of the presidential race, and the MCIPO will be highly engaged in polling both the primary and general elections." —MK

Five Faculty Members Promoted to Professor

In May, the Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of then-President John I. Williams Jr. and then-Provost Kathleen E. Haring, awarded full professorship to the following faculty members:



Keri Colabroy (chemistry) is co-director of the biochemistry program and the coordinator of student research and scholarship. Her primary research interest is the chemistry of biological systems, especially mechanisms used by enzymes to catalyze complex reactions. She received her B.S. from Messiah College and her M.S. and Ph.D. from Cornell University.



Steve Coutinho, chair of philosophy, is a specialist in early Chinese philosophy with an emphasis on early Daoist texts. He studied at University College London, where he earned his B.A. in analytical philosophy and M.Phil in the phenomenology of Edmund Husserl. At the University of Hawai'i, he completed his Ph.D. in Chinese and comparative philosophy.



Brett Fadem, chair of physics, studies high energy collisions between the nuclei of atoms. He received a B.A. in physics from Grinnell College and a Ph.D. in physics from Iowa State University.



Paul McEwan (media & communication) is director of the film studies program. He has two major research areas: the history of the reception of D.W. Griffith's 1915 racist epic *The Birth of a Nation* and the study of Canadian cinema. He received his B.A. from University of Guelph, B.Ed. from University of Western Ontario, M.A. from Wilfrid Laurier University and Ph.D. from Northwestern University.



Jefferson Pooley (media & communication) writes on the history of media research, the history of social science, scholarly communications and consumer culture and social media. He received his B.A. from Harvard University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. —KYT

The Courts Residence Hall to Be Removed

The Courts, temporary housing erected in front of the Life Sports Center in 2016, will be removed. Work began in the middle of August. The plan is to turn the area into a green space. (Prior to 2016, outdoor basketball courts were there.) The Office of Housing & Residence Life said that this change will not negatively impact student housing opportunities.

Caleb Christ '12 Named 2018-2019 Frankel Adair Scholar

The Frankel-Adair Scholarship provides support of post-secondary education to an LGBTQ student residing in the Greater Philadelphia area. The scholarship honors the late Larry Frankel, former executive and legislative director of the ACLU-PA, and benefactor Thomas T. Adair.

After working in sexual health education followed by nonprofit development for a number of years after his graduation from Muhlenberg, Christ changed course. "Having always been an advocate for LGBTQ health care, I knew that a career change to nursing was the right move for me," Christ says. He is now set to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania's nursing program in December. "I'm thrilled to have the support of the ACLU and to have my accomplishments and passions recognized by an organization that does such important work."

A sociology major at Muhlenberg, Christ says he found a home in that department and was drawn to the collaborative, discussion-based classes. He adds, "I enjoyed learning how to apply a critical lens to analyze how systems interact to influence every aspect of our lives—I think studying sociology built an incredibly valuable foundation for a career in nursing, since the patients I see in the hospital are navigating so many systems that often fail them in compounding ways." —KYT



Summer Reading List

Try one of these faculty-recommended books.

Bruce Anderson, interim provost

Exit West by Mohsin Hamid

"This book was selected as the 2019-2020 common read for its connection to the Center for Ethics theme for 2019-2020, 'Borders, Nationalism and Identity.' *Exit West* tells the story of two young people as they seek to leave their war-torn home and immigrate to the West."

David Rosenwasser, professor of English

Conversations with Friends by Sally Rooney

"The book is literary and challenging to think about; it reads swiftly, though. I prefer it to her more recent novel, *Normal People*, though that is also a strong piece of work. Both books are concerned with social media, gender fluidity and the corrosive effects of global capitalism."

Jim Bloom, professor of English

Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver

"This multi-generational family saga evoking the plight now facing middle-class Americans shows how these struggles are part of a much longer American story."

Holly Cate, associate professor of theatre & dance

The Good Soldiers by David Finkel

"Finkel was embedded with the Army's 2-16 battalion when they were deployed to Iraq during the 'surge' in 2007. His reporting is delicate, thoughtful and full of heart."

Kate Ranieri, assistant professor of media & communication

Educated by Tara Westover

"A nonfiction book that recounts her desire for an education that came at the cost of an excruciating separation from her survivalist family."

Gail Eisenberg, senior lecturer of business

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

"This historical book is set in the 1930s during the depression here in the U.S. and the rise of Hitler in Germany. The book chronicles the lives of the 1936 American Olympic rowing team and their ultimate victory at Berlin."

Three Alumni Work on Pulitzer- and Tony-Nominated Broadway Play

At the meet and greet before the start of rehearsals for *What the Constitution Means to Me* in March, Catherine Markowitz '11, one of the play's co-producers, knew she wasn't the only Mule in the room. Rachel Kaufman '14—whom Markowitz knew through mutual friends—was part of the show's general management team.

At the event, Kaufman got chatting with a woman who worked on marketing and advertising for the show. The woman lived in a small New Jersey town right next to the small New Jersey town where Kaufman grew up. They



Marci Kaufman Meyers '00, Rachel Kaufman '14 and Catherine Markowitz '11 all worked on the Broadway play *What the Constitution Means to Me*.

soon realized they had even more in common: Muhlenberg. The woman Kaufman was speaking to was Marci Kaufman Meyers '00, the group director from marketing firm Serino Coyne.

"The fact that on this little show, the tiniest play on Broadway, three Muhlenberg alumni are involved is

really cool and special," Markowitz says. "It felt like it was meant to be."

Constitution may be a little show—its cast is just three actors and its runtime just 100 minutes—but it's been receiving big accolades. It was a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a nominee for the Best Play Tony Award. The show's playwright and star, Heidi Schreck, was nominated for the Tony Award for the Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play. Schreck draws on her experiences as a teenager participating in Constitutional debate competitions and the experiences of women in her family to create a show Markowitz describes as "political, but not partisan."

"What I really love about it is: You leave feeling so hopeful. I think that's why it's resonating so well with people," Markowitz says. "To feel we are making progress even when it feels like we're not, that progress takes time but we're moving in that direction, that's really important."

Twenty Muhlenberg alumni, parents and guests joined Markowitz, Kaufman and Meyers for a bagel brunch and discussion, organized by the Office of Alumni Affairs and owner of Murray's Bagels Adam Pomerantz '90, before attending the May 11 matinee. The show runs through August 24 at The Helen Hayes Theater in New York City. —MK

Words to Live by at Muhlenberg's 171st Commencement



On Sunday, May 19, honorary degree recipient Scott Turow, an attorney and a novelist, told the 529 soon-to-be graduates before him, “What begins today is the process of forgetting some of the specifics of what you learned here.”

He struggled to remember which authors he read in college, he said, but he remembered one English professor vividly. That professor would go around the room on the first day of class, asking each student what he was holding in his hand. When a student said some variation of “a pencil,” the professor would rap them on the head with that pencil and move on to the next student. Once all the students had been struck, the professor cried, “It’s a weapon!”

Turow’s point was that words are important, one of the many unforgettable lessons a liberal arts education bestowed upon him. He encouraged the newly educated students before him to use the lessons they’d learned and the values they’d developed at Muhlenberg to have a positive effect on the world.

In addition to Turow, former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury Sarah Bloom Raskin and chief of the Wills Eye Pediatric Ophthalmology and Ocular Genetics Service Dr. Alex Levin ’78 received honorary degrees.

Three members of the class of 2019 were co-valedictorians with perfect 4.0 GPAs: Emily Hofstetter, a history major with minors in art history and studio art; Patrick Sockler, a biology major with a minor in French & francophone studies and a Dana Scholar; and Annu Suresh, a biology major with a minor in public health and a Dana Scholar. The salutatorian, with a 3.991 GPA, was Meghan Falk, a neuroscience and political science double major. Elizabeth Roswig, a theatre major with a creative writing minor, and Taj Singh, a neuroscience major, received Alumni Association Future Alumni Leader Awards. Brian Mello, associate professor of political science, earned the Paul C. Empie ’29 Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching. —MK



Clockwise from top left, then - President John I. Williams Jr. congratulates a graduate; Amanda Morello '19 poses with her diploma; Williams addresses the crowd; Asia DeShields '19 with family and friends, including Folasade Ogunjimi '18 (second from left), Aisha Kourouma '17 (fourth from right) and Malcolm McClain '17 (third from right); student speaker Evan Plaza '19; honorary degree recipient Scott Turow; Alumni Association Future Alumni Leader Award winner Taj Singh '19 with Roshni Patel '21.



The App Trap

Evidence shows that taking a break from social media is a healthy act of self-care.

By Jeff Pooley

In late June 1945, New York City's newspaper deliverymen went on strike—depriving the residents of their daily fix for 17 days. Desperate readers snaked around city blocks, in line to buy over-the-counter copies at the papers' offices. The mayor read Sunday comics over the radio. An Australian correspondent spotted a “well-known member of the Stock Exchange” emerging from a limousine “engrossed in the Communist *Daily Worker*”—one of the only papers not hit by the strike. New Yorkers missed their newspapers.

Almost 75 years later, I deprived my Muhlenberg students of social media. For a single day. The students—enrolled in the class *Social Media & the Self*—were required to document the abstention. One student described her day off social media as “one of the most challenging things I have had to do in my life.” Another “felt alone and absent from the rest of the world.” Losing a 689-day Snapchat “streak” with a best friend was, for a third, “extremely upsetting.” My students missed their apps.

When students file into my class in the first week of the semester, they are already experts. They maintain multiple social media accounts: always Instagram and Snapchat, which they use frequently, and Facebook, which they do not. They are skilled navigators of the multiple-audience problem: the dilemma of posting to a mix of classmates, high school friends, coaches, elderly relatives and even future employers. Scholars call this “context collapse,” and my students have it covered. They segregate their audiences by app (“Snapchat is for close friends”) and many of them even maintain a second, private Instagram, a so-called “Finsta,” to share the frank and silly content that's unsafe for future work.

But they arrive to class shackled to their phones. From middle school on, their lives have been marinated in social media. They are like

fish in water, only dimly aware of their Instagram enclosure. Thus the involuntary respite was, for most of my students, disconcerting. They were no longer immersed—and keenly aware of their submerged peers. A meal in the Commons was, for one, an “alone together” experience—suitemates scrolling through their “socials” while he ate in annoyed silence. Conversation, when it did happen, centered on “funny Snapchats and memes that were circulating group chats.”

In a cruel twist, I asked the students to stare at their blank iPhones—they all have iPhones—for five minutes as part of the assignment. This, for a few students, was like looking behind the curtain. One described seeing her phone for the first time, a “little brick made of plastic, metal and glass.” Another said it “felt as if I was looking at a dead person.” The iPhone was, she added, “simply a device.” This sort of reflection gave me hope that the assignment was serving its purpose. I had wanted students to demystify their phones, to face their dependency head-on.

Media scholars have documented the scale of what they label “addiction” to social media, and it's not just 19-year-olds. Almost half of Americans 65 and older use Facebook, and most of those visit at least once a day. Most studies show that social media platforms leave their users feeling worse, and the main reason, according to scholars, is “social comparison.” In the offline world, we measure ourselves against our peers, but on Instagram, the “peers” we scroll past are airbrushed and filtered—an endless highlight reel that casts our earthbound mediocrity in stark relief.

Evidence shows that taking a break from social media is a healthy act of self-care. In a recent experiment, University of Kansas researchers randomly assigned volunteers of all ages to abstain from social media for one to four weeks. A control group was asked to keep using their apps. The abstainers reported

Evidence shows that taking a break from social media is a healthy act of self-care. In a recent experiment, University of Kansas researchers randomly assigned volunteers of all ages to abstain from social media for one to four weeks. A control group was asked to keep using their apps. The abstainers reported feeling happier than their Facebook-tethered counterparts.



ILLUSTRATION BY ILEANA SOON

feeling happier than their Facebook-tethered counterparts. A similar Danish study carried the unambiguous title, “Quitting Facebook Leads to Higher Levels of Well-Being.” In a third study, participants were invited to share a restaurant meal with friends or family and randomly asked to keep their phones on the table or put them away. The phoneless diners had a much better time than their distracted counterparts. Even the 2019 World Happiness Report (produced by the United Nations) blamed our digital devices, in part, for the precipitous decline in Americans’ self-reported happiness since 2010.

“I am like a fish out of water...lost and nervous...put out and isolated from the rest of

the world.” So reported a newspaper-deprived New Yorker, back in 1945. The complaint was repeated in dozens of other interviews conducted in the midst of the strike. “I am suffering! Seriously! I could not sleep, I missed it so,” a respondent complained. Another said that she “sat around in the subway, staring, feeling out of place.”

Not much has changed. The interviews from 1945 are hard to distinguish from the laments of my students. And the lesson is the same: taking a break—voluntary or otherwise—is taking back control.

Jeff Pooley is a professor of media & communication at Muhlenberg.



VALIDATION

Two words Val Weisler '20 spoke as a freshman in high school—“you matter”—began a movement with more influence than she could have ever imagined.

By Meghan Kita

Val Weisler '20 estimates that she's told the origin story of The Validation Project, the youth empowerment organization she launched as a freshman in high school, hundreds of times to tens of thousands of people. It goes like this: She was 14, living in a New York City suburb about 30 miles north of Manhattan, and her parents were getting a divorce. In the emotional turbulence, she became painfully shy. Bullies noticed: “Can you even speak?” they'd ask her. They'd leave nasty notes in her locker. She started to dread school.

One day, she witnessed a classmate being bullied. After the incident, she approached him and told him what she wished someone would tell her: “You matter.” He confided in her the thoughts of self-harm he'd been having and the difference that her small act of kindness had made. It was a turning point: She'd found her voice again, and she vowed to use it to help even more young people who were struggling. And so, in 2013, The Validation Project was born.



Weisler speaks at WE Day in Toronto's Air Canada Centre in September 2017 to an audience of 60,000. The WE Day events, held in 19 North American cities, are designed to inspire children to effect positive change. Other speakers on the docket with Weisler included Prince Harry, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and actor Mia Farrow.

The story Weisler hasn't told as often, at least in its entirety, is the story of how The Validation Project has continued not just to exist but to thrive, even through her transition to life at Muhlenberg and a semester abroad this spring in Seville, Spain. It has continued to exist because Weisler loves working with elementary, middle and high school students and their educators. And it has thrived because Weisler's approach is novel: Instead of telling kids "don't be a bully," her "kindness curriculum" helps them discover the positive things they *can* be.

"If I knew how much it would grow when I started it, I probably would have been too nervous to start it," Weisler says. "No other experience of me interacting with people was positive at that time. I didn't have anything to lose then. My self-doubt supported it, because I couldn't see what it could become."

The numbers that demonstrate what it has become are staggering: The Validation Project has engaged about 20,000 students in 105 countries (16 of

which Weisler has traveled to herself). Ninety percent of the approximately 1,000 partner schools report a difference in bullying within months of the introduction of The Validation Project's curriculum. Weisler has spoken for crowds of more than 60,000 people and at events at both Google and Facebook.

In 2017, Weisler won a \$10,000 L'Oreal Paris Women of Worth award, which provided funds that allowed The Validation Project to obtain 501(c)(3) status the following year. This spring, Weisler was named a Truman Scholar, an honor bestowed upon just 62 students annually who are interested in a future in public service. The scholarship will help her to pursue graduate studies, possibly in education policy and law.

"I love leading The Validation Project, but so much of what I do is activism in isolation. It's a lot of sitting at my kitchen table or in the GQ talking with someone who lives thousands of miles away about something we can do thousands of miles away," Weisler says. "So, for me to be able to join a group of peers

equally excited about public service is like a dream come true."

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The Validation Project has come a long way. After that first meaningful interaction with a classmate who'd just been bullied, Weisler went home and built a website that addressed her school's bullying problem. She shared it on Facebook, classmates chimed in with their stories of victimization and they started a lunchtime meetup group. Coming together to do something positive became the foundation for The Validation Project.

From the start, The Validation Project has had two main components. The first—and still the biggest—component is the aforementioned kindness curriculum. "We provide resources for educators to lead programs about social justice issues, self confidence and self worth, and to have healthy, proactive conversations about how students can use their worth out in the real world," Weisler says.

What that looks like in practice can vary from school to school, but when Weisler visits to introduce the kindness curriculum, it usually goes like this: She begins with a presentation that shares her story and the lessons she's learned. Then, she conducts an empowerment workshop: Each student comes up with a social-justice initiative related to a topic they're passionate about, which they pitch to the group. "The main goal is when I leave, the students have something tangible they could do," Weisler says. For example, one middle school student imagined a talent show that would benefit a nearby school without funding for an arts program.

When she's unable to visit in person, she talks through the curriculum with that school's educators via calls and emails. The goal is "to build a team-based environment in schools to make conversations of self worth and social justice the norm," she says. "Bullies see they can feel big not by hurting someone else but by helping someone else."

The second long-term component of The Validation Project is one-on-one mentoring. This can be for students who've gone through the kindness curriculum and are interested in doing more or for students who reach

THE GOAL IS "TO BUILD A TEAM-BASED ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOLS TO MAKE CONVERSATIONS OF SELF WORTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THE NORM. BULLIES SEE THEY CAN FEEL BIG NOT BY HURTING SOMEONE ELSE BUT BY HELPING SOMEONE ELSE." – VAL WEISLER '20

out to The Validation Project directly, who don't have its programming at their school. Weisler—in collaboration with that student's teacher, when possible—connects the student with a mentor to teach them about a topic of interest. Once the student has learned from the mentor, they apply what they've learned in their community. Weisler gives the example of a student with a chef as a mentee: Once the student has learned some basic cooking skills, perhaps they volunteer to help in the kitchen of a local homeless shelter.

NEWER INITIATIVES

Weisler has experimented with a va-

riety of other initiatives over the years as well. One that's ongoing is her Trailblazers program, which she launched last November in partnership with L'Oreal. In it, a company or organization hosts a group of girls from a local public high school for a day. The girls meet and converse with women in leadership roles there, as well as social-justice leaders and senior leadership. Long-term, the girls who are "inducted" as Trailblazers have access to opportunities to lead and learn in their home city, which Weisler shares with the educator point-person at the girls' school.

So far, there are about 50 total Trailblazers in New York City (where events were held at L'Oreal and Facebook) and Boston (where events were held at Education First and Harvard University). During her senior year, Weisler hopes to build the program at William Allen High School, where it can complement the College Admission Mentoring Program (CAMP) run by Professor of Political Science Michele Deegan. Weisler's goal for this summer is to start building a network of college women that Trailblazers can look to as a resource.

"Networking is such a giant part of being able to achieve higher education," Weisler says. "Obviously, that's coded with so much privilege, to know someone who is in an institution of higher education." She hopes to utilize her Truman peers as well as her press contacts to locate students from a variety of schools to serve as contacts and mentors.

The other ongoing Validation Proj-



Weisler attends the launch of her Trailblazers program in New York City. With her are four employees of L'Oreal Paris who participated in "mentor speed dating" with the inaugural group of Trailblazers.

ect initiative is called Popcorn Pop-Ups: screenings of films relevant to young women followed by discussions that include female leaders. It launched with a screening of *RBG* in Allentown; Beth Halpern, director of Muhlenberg's Office of Community Engagement (OCE), connected Weisler with partner organizations for that screening. The two had previously worked together when Weisler participated in the OCE's Civic Fellows program, which includes a non-credit course to deepen students' understanding of community engagement.

"I've seen Val understand the nuance of local context more through her work in Allentown communities," Halpern says. For the first Popcorn Pop-Up, "she was trying to partner with a bunch of different nonprofits and organizations with varied constraints and access to resources, including transportation and timing. It was a totally different context, away from her home community, that she had to navigate. And through her involvement, she's

grown to love Allentown as home."

Weisler is planning to show *Eighth Grade*, a coming-of-age-in-the-age-of-social-media tale, when she's scheduled to speak in Columbus, Ohio, and Montreal this summer. The screenings are open to the public and are meant to be a way to reach students beyond the confines of the classroom.

THE MUHLENBERG FACTOR

Weisler found Muhlenberg thanks to one of her long-term mentors, Jessica Abo, journalist, speaker and author of *Unfiltered: How to Be as Happy as You Look on Social Media*. Weisler met Abo in high school, when Abo was speaking to a large group of students.

"It's been a pure gift being her mentor and friend all these years," Abo says of Weisler. "It's 2019, and we still need to teach people of all ages how to be kind, how to have empathy and how to champion the next generation of changemakers...Thankfully, Val is giving today's youth the tools they need to

not only feel empowered, but also the framework they need to empower the people connected to them."

When it was time for Weisler to consider higher education, Abo had a recommendation. "I grew up in Bethlehem and always knew Muhlenberg was a great school," she says. Abo connected Weisler with family friend Art Altman '53 P'84 GP'13, a former trustee, and Altman arranged for Weisler to meet with Chris Hooker-Haring '72 P'08 P'10, former vice president for admissions.

Weisler fell in love with the College's small size and location. "I liked that I'd be at a place where I wouldn't be the odd one out for being interested in so many different things," she says. "I was immediately interested in Allentown, and the idea of being able to walk downtown, go to the Farmers Market or explore more of the Lehigh Valley was so cool."

Once at Muhlenberg, Weisler took a special interest in Professor of Education John Ramsay's History of Education class. The activism aspect of



Weisler (far right) participates in a panel at the G(irls)20 Summit in May with two previous G(irls)20 delegates and G(irls)20 board member Jennifer Sloan moderating. Weisler spoke about the female mentors who inspired her to grow *The Validation Project* into a global movement.

“IT’S 2019, AND WE STILL NEED TO TEACH PEOPLE OF ALL AGES HOW TO BE KIND, HOW TO HAVE EMPATHY AND HOW TO CHAMPION THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHANGEMAKERS... THANKFULLY, VAL IS GIVING TODAY’S YOUTH THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO NOT ONLY FEEL EMPOWERED, BUT ALSO THE FRAMEWORK THEY NEED TO EMPOWER THE PEOPLE CONNECTED TO THEM.”

— JESSICA ABO, JOURNALIST/SPEAKER/AUTHOR

education fascinated her. Ramsay informed her that designing a major was an option, so that's what she did. Weisler decided education advocacy was the major she wanted, so she tracked down the curriculum for a similar program at another college, contacted professors here who offered comparable courses to find out when they'd be teaching those courses again, designed a list of required courses and presented her plan to the curriculum committee for approval.


She's found the curriculum—which includes many education, political science and international relations courses—has given her better language with which to talk about her Validation Project work, specifically about “school climate.” “I've learned about how a conversation, or an absence of a conversation, can have a domino effect on a student's emotional well-being at school,” Weisler says.

Her major led her to Seville, where all her classes were in Spanish, her mi-

nor; fluency will help Weisler advocate for and interact with students whose first language is Spanish. While abroad, she collected interviews with five education activists in three European countries to use for her senior thesis. And that wasn't the end of her spring travels—at the end of May, she went to Missouri for the Truman Scholar Leadership Week and then to Tokyo as the U.S. delegate for the G(irls)20 Summit. “When I read about [the summit], it was like someone had taken my dreams and put them into a program,” Weisler says.

G(irls)20 brings together young female delegates from across the world to build leadership skills and help advance female economic inclusion. Weisler heard about the summit from Kate Ekanem '21, an international student from Nigeria who represented the African Union at the summit in 2015. Through Ekanem, Weisler met Lauren Anderson '79, an international geopolitical consultant who'd previously served as an advisor to G(irls)20, and Anderson helped Weisler hone her application. There were more than 1,600 applications for the 24 delegate positions this year.

Weisler found the programming—which included workshops on negotiating and leadership, panels featuring changemakers and the opportunity to create and deliver a communique with recommendations to Ambassador Koji Tomita, Japan's G20 Sherpa—to be a valuable bridge between the work she's doing now and what she hopes to study and pursue after leaving Muhlenberg.

“I want to continue The Validation Project, but I'm also really passionate about how the government plays a role in education advocacy,” Weisler says. The summit was “a rare and crucial opportunity for young women like me to collaborate with one another to ensure we're represented in conversations about the issues that affect us. It ties back to my work with The Validation Project because it's the same message: taking young people together and giving us the resources we need to shake up the world.” 



Weisler (center) with (clockwise from top left) Jenny Silber '20, Melina Economos '19, Kieva Mark '20, Brooke Weber '20, Rebekah Nachman '20 and Kylee Jacoby '20 during Weisler's sophomore year. All are Validation Project Program Collaborators—individuals of college age or older who assist in campaigns and workshops.

BRING

The first of three Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre (MSMT) shows, *Bring It On: The Musical*, debuted June 13 in Empie Theatre. The audience saw just 26 cast members on stage, but more than 100 other people also helped bring the production to life.

PHOTOS BY PAUL PEARSON



IT ON!

A mainstage show is a massive undertaking: Preparation for the 15-performance, 18-day run began in late February. Here, step into the designers' offices, the rehearsal spaces and the costume and scene shops to follow the journey to opening night.

WORDS BY MEGHAN KITA



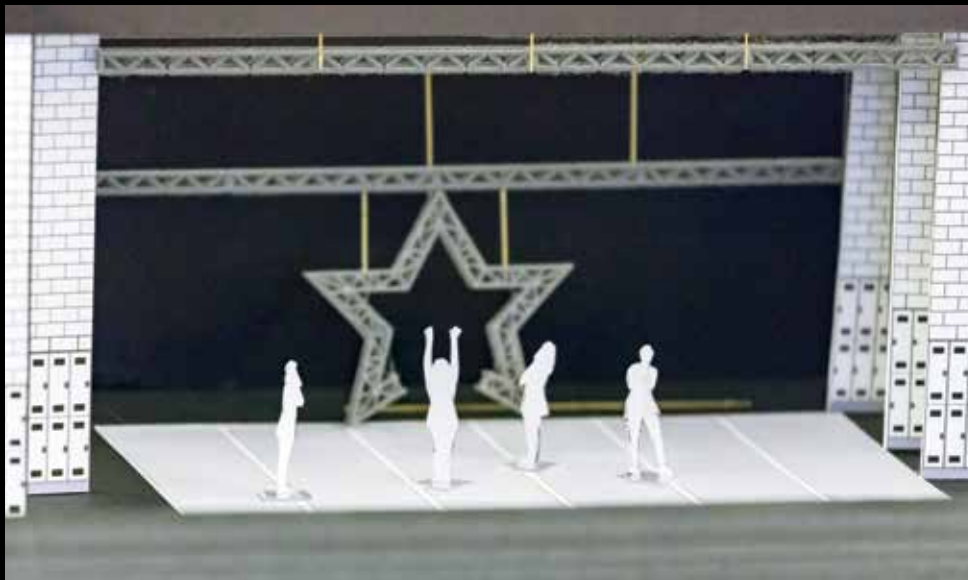


AUDITIONS Auditions for *Bring It On* and *Anything Goes*, MSMT's other mainstage show, are held February 24 and 25, with 279 actors auditioning. Of those, 233 request consideration for *Bring It On*, for which callbacks are held March 17.





Bring It On is a comedy about a cheerleader who transfers and starts a new squad, so both a choreographer (Sammy Reyes, part-time dance lecturer, above left) and a "cheerographer" (Gabrielle Hines '18, above right) are brought aboard.



COSTUME AND SET DESIGN

At left, Director James Peck, professor of theatre, and Costume Designer Rebecca Lustig, assistant professor of theatre, meet in late March to go over Lustig's costume research. The script, which calls for cheer outfits and mascot costumes for two schools, also helps Lustig imagine how characters might dress in non-cheer scenes.

At right, Scenic Designer John Raley (bottom) shows his final model at a set design meeting in mid-April. (Peck and Technical Director Damon Gelb, who runs Muhlenberg's scene shop, reviewed Raley's first model in March.) Most Muhlenberg mainstage shows utilize College faculty, staff and students and artists and actors from off campus; Raley is part of the latter group, as is Lighting Designer Gertjan Houben, who attends via videoconference (top).





EARLY REHEARSALS

Rehearsals begin Tuesday, May 21, and continue for eight hours a day, six days a week until the show opens on June 13. The first two weeks of rehearsal take place primarily in the Dance Studio Theatre, where the floor has been taped by Stage Manager Kevin Pugh '19 (not pictured) to reflect the boundaries of the set that's going up in *Empie*. The cast works through the show one scene or song at a time before stringing them together late in the second week. Reyes (above right) arrives with much of the choreography for the 12 dance numbers mapped out, though he adjusts along the way. Hines (below, far left), who has also been cast in a lead role, "cheereographs" the stunts and assists Reyes. Scenes without choreography still require blocking, which Peck describes as "creating movement that reveals the characters' motives and illustrates the story." Peck (above left) directs that process; Pugh takes detailed notes on his copy of the script, which he calls "the book."





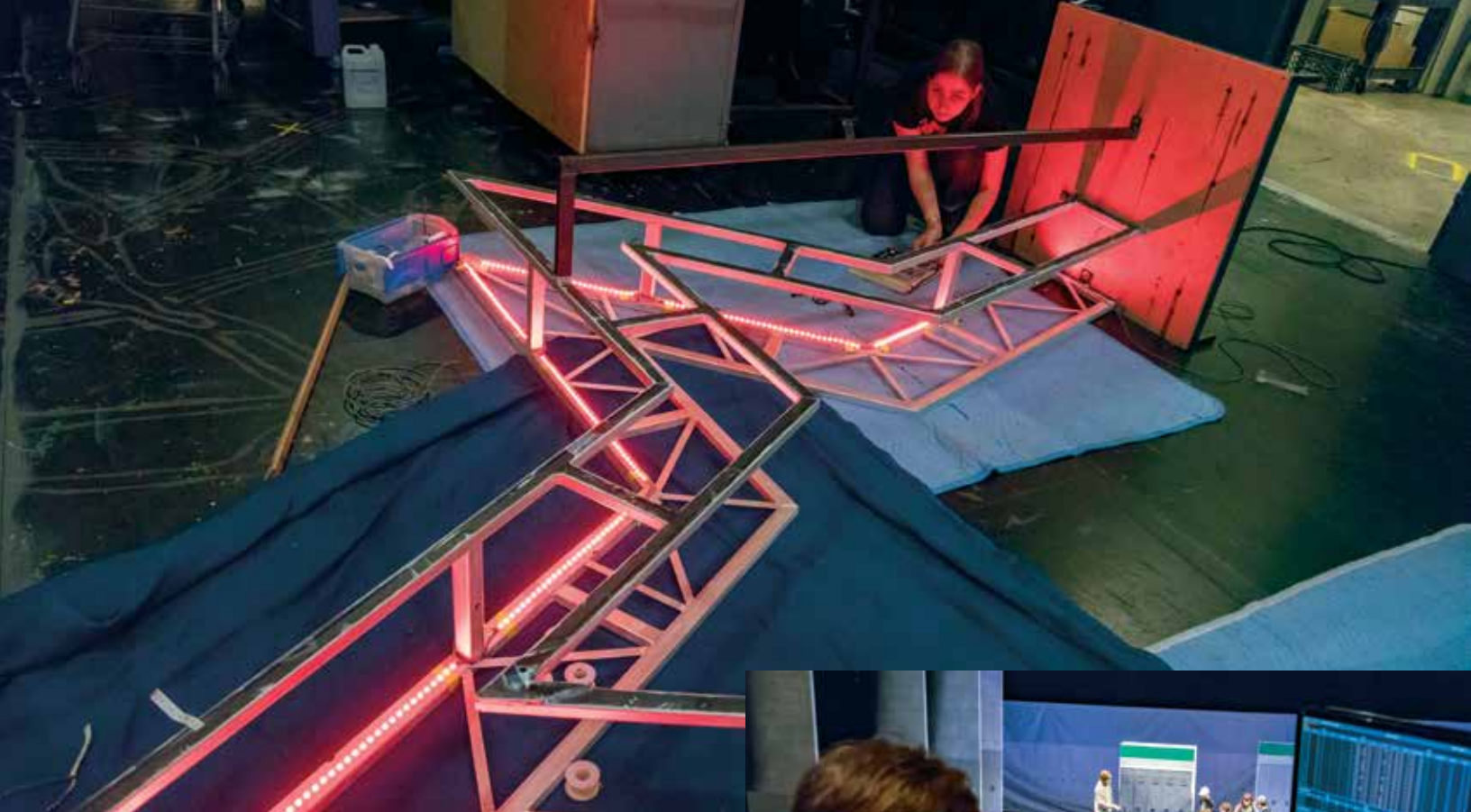
DESIGN PRESENTATIONS *The cast, musical director and choreographer see the set and costume designs for the first time on the first day of rehearsal and have the opportunity to ask questions.*



SING-THROUGH

Musical Director Ed Bara leads the cast through a first-day sing-through, to work on the music separate from the choreography. The show has 21 vocal numbers, with 15 that enlist the entire company. In the sing-through, they concentrate on group singing, to work on dynamics, blends, timings and harmonies.





PREPARING THE THEATRE

Technical Director Gelb's staff begins set construction work in the scene shop in mid-May. By the end of the month, the set team as well as the lighting and sound teams are all working to prepare *Empie* for the start of rehearsals there on June 5. The floor in *Empie* is painted to look like gym mats (right); Katrina Miller, scenic charge artist and theatre & dance lecturer, heads the paint crew. Above, Audio Engineer Kristen Paige '20 works on a star-shaped truss the cast will run through in the show's finale.



COSTUME PRODUCTION AND FITTINGS

Caroline Cook, costume shop manager (below left), oversees fittings, which begin May 22. Grace Warnick '20 (top left) starts on one of the few from-scratch items in the show, a set of silky pajamas. Some purchased items require more than just tailoring: Riley O'Sullivan (below right) works to make the leprechaun mascot hat stiffer with a larger opening for vision.





FIRST STAGE REHEARSALS
On June 5, a week and a day before opening night, rehearsals move into Empie. Microphones are introduced for all actors (above, Connor McCully '22 and Zaire Carter '22 help Nachi Lederer '19), and the cast begins to work through the show from the top (far right, Ashley Hiestler '19 in the opening scene). In the theatre, Peck (below, above left) focuses on adjusting to the space—considering things like actors' timing, placement and volume—while continuing to ensure the story is coming across clearly. Set adjustments occur as needed: At right, Master Carpenter Molly Carbone drills holes for cane bolts, which slip into the stage floor to hold scenic pieces in place. Rehearsals also shift later, usually ending at 11 p.m., so the scene shop and electrics crew have the morning to continue work. Below right, Cheyanne Leid '20 rests during a break.









DRESS REHEARSALS

Costumes are introduced June 8, as is the orchestra (far left), which is present for only three dress rehearsals. The cast continues working through the show as Peck gives direction (near left). Below, Lighting Designer Houben writes light cues into the computer and Stage Manager Pugh records them into his book, so he can tell the light board operator to press "go" at the correct moments.

On June 12, the cast runs the show without stopping for the first (and last) time before opening the next night. In the audience are MSMT staff and friends of the theatre (such as local actors who've been in other MSMT shows). At rehearsal, clockwise from above: "Cheer Camp," Hines singing "I Got You," Ellie Swartz '19 with Hiester, Rachael Horun '19 (center) during "Do Your Own Thing," Jesse Kinstler '19 and Hiester in "What I Was Born to Do."

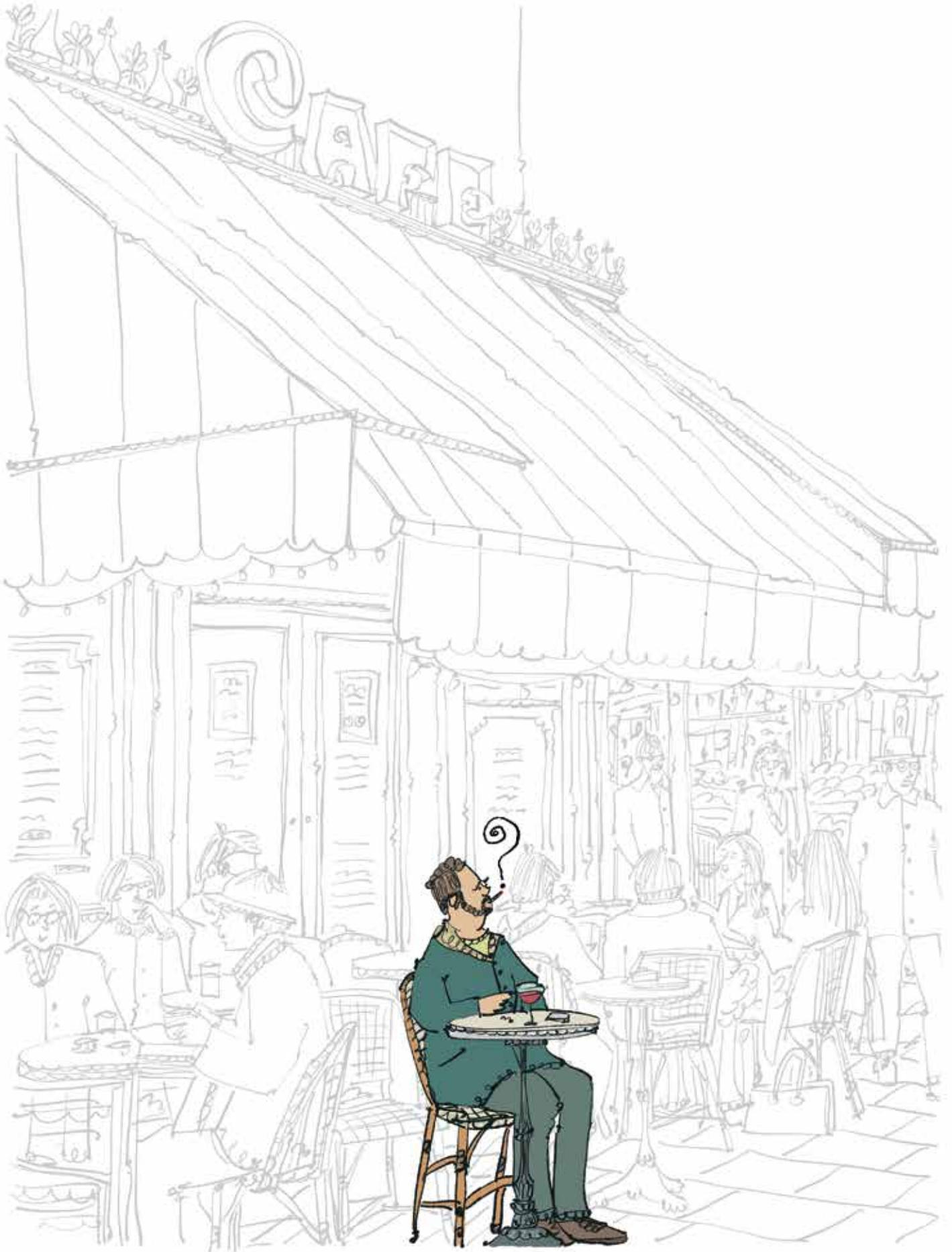


The Cannabis Question

As states explore legalizing recreational marijuana, Muhlenberg faculty, alumni, students and neighbors are pondering its pros and cons, too.

By A.C. Shilton

The Seegers Union Event Space went quiet when a Latina mother of four took the floor to share her story. Her eldest son had been arrested for growing a handful of cannabis plants. He used cannabis to ease his anxiety, a condition not approved for treatment with medical marijuana. Having an approved condition is currently the only legal way to obtain the drug in Pennsylvania. Police officers handcuffed all four of her children before searching the property. She recounted how traumatic that was—and later, how devastating it was to have her son sentenced to a year in jail.



Like many states, Pennsylvania is considering a future in which access to cannabis doesn't depend on having a specific medical condition and of-age users don't fear legal consequences. In early April, Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman spent an afternoon in Seegers Union as part of

a statewide "listening tour" on recreational marijuana. His visit drew about 100 Lehigh Valley residents, from senior citizens with chronic pain to veterans with PTSD.

By mid-May, Fetterman had traveled to all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties to hear constituents' opinions on whether recreational marijuana should be

legal. (Medical marijuana was legalized in the state in 2016.) It was easy to parse the results of an informal poll at Muhlenberg: When Fetterman asked the room who opposed legalization, not a single hand went up.

Cannabis—a drug that's often referred to as marijuana—is having a moment.

With home-grown plants and/or full-fledged recreational dispensaries legal in 11 states and D.C. and bold pronouncements that

the industry may be worth \$75 billion by 2030, the hopes for cannabis are, well, high.

As the statewide legalization conversation continues, Muhlenberg professors from a variety of disciplines are looking to what the research says about the potential benefits and harms of such a change. And students, both past and present, are thinking critically about the issue, too.

What the People Want

For the past decade, Professor of Political Science Christopher Borick has been tracking public sentiment on cannabis. Borick is the director of the Muhlenberg

College Institute of Public Opinion (MCIPO), and he and his students regularly take Pennsylvania's temperature on pertinent issues.

"Rarely do you see something as linear in public opinion [as cannabis]," he says. Six years ago, just 33 percent of Pennsylvanians favored "the complete legalization of the use of marijuana for any purpose," according to a poll from the MCIPO. Today, that number is 51 percent.

However, while more people than ever support recreational cannabis, that doesn't mean that it will become legal anytime soon. "Often there's a lag between public opinion shifts and actions in government," he says. One reason for this lag is gerrymandering, the practice of the party in power drawing district lines in its own favor. In heavily gerrymandered states, very few districts are competitive in any given election, which means incumbents will likely keep their seats regardless of whether their actions reflect their constituents' desires. While reforms are pending, Pennsylvania historically has been heavily gerrymandered.

One thing the legalization movement has going for it is energy: "Sometimes we ask how much or how strongly you approve of legalization, and the intensity is on the side of legalization," Borick says. In general, the status quo doesn't garner as much enthusiasm as the new thing. Borick calls this the "intensity gap," and it explains why only one undecided person came to express concerns at Lt. Gov. Fetterman's Muhlenberg listening tour stop.

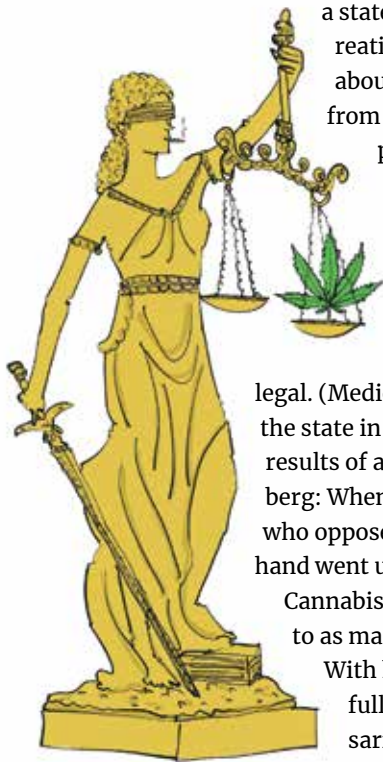
The Potential for Patients

There are many reasons why proponents feel energized about legal cannabis, and Dylan White '14 has seen the plant's promise firsthand. White works as a product specialist for the Bethlehem-based Keystone Canna Remedies, the first medical dispensary in Pennsylvania. While living in Colorado, which legalized recreational cannabis in 2012, White began using cannabis to treat PTSD and is now a medical marijuana patient in Pennsylvania. "I really believe in this. That's why I do this," he says.

Keystone Canna Remedies is led by a cardiologist and

"We have epileptic patients who use it to manage their seizures, and cancer patients who, when used with traditional therapies, have eased the symptoms related to their treatment."

Dylan White '14, product specialist for Keystone Canna Remedies





employs pharmacists and medical professionals to counsel patients. White says the changes he sees in clients can be astounding. “We have epileptic patients who use it to manage their seizures, and cancer patients who, when used with traditional therapies, have eased the symptoms related to their treatment,” he says. According to a 2016 *Current Oncology* paper, cannabis may

also help cancer patients by improving appetite, relieving nausea and reducing pain and numbness (i.e. neuropathy) caused by chemotherapy.

The potential of cannabis to help manage pain, as a safer alternative to opioids, was something many Lehigh Valley locals brought up during Fetterman’s visit. Patients with “severe chronic or intractable pain” are eligible for medical marijuana in Pennsylvania, but, unlike opioids, only certain providers are allowed to prescribe it, health insurance will not cover it (as long as it’s a federally controlled substance without FDA approval) and obtaining it requires a process that’s far more complex than picking up a prescription at a pharmacy (see “Step by Step,” right). In 2017, Pennsylvania had the third highest amount of opioid deaths per capita in the nation. “From a harm-reduction perspective, swapping to a less dangerous drug from a more dangerous drug is a good thing,” says Psychology Professor Jeff Rudski.

Cannabis is less addictive than opioids, which does not mean it is not addictive: Rudski says that it taps into the same brain circuits that are active with other drugs, and your brain can come to crave that high. When you feel you cannot sleep or relax or focus without cannabis, you have created a dependency, and according to research published in *JAMA Psychiatry*, about 30 percent of regular users develop a dependency.

However, “an addiction to marijuana is not a life-threatening addiction,” Rudski says. Opioid addicts can suffer withdrawal symptoms from insomnia to more severe symptoms like vomiting and diarrhea, and users quickly lose their tolerance, which can put them at risk of a fatal overdose if they relapse. Meanwhile, according to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, “No deaths from overdose of marijuana have been reported.” Cannabis could cause impairment that leads to dangerous

Step by Step

Here’s what Pennsylvanians must do to legally obtain cannabis in their home state, where only medical marijuana is legal. In the seven states where recreational cannabis is legal and recreational dispensaries are open, patrons must simply provide identification (buyers must be 21 or older) to purchase the drug from retail stores.

- 1 | Register with the state.** This requires a computer with internet access—the Pennsylvania Department of Health says not to use a mobile device to register or access your account—and a state-issued driver’s license or ID card.
- 2 | Obtain a “patient certification” from an approved provider.** At press time, Lehigh County had 41 physicians who were approved to provide a patient certification. Of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties, 46 had fewer than 10 approved providers, including 11 counties with no approved providers. The Department of Health cautions that “this doctor’s visit may not be covered by insurance and you would be responsible to pay out-of-pocket.” Only patients with a “serious medical condition” from a list of specific conditions are eligible.
- 3 | Pay for a medical marijuana ID card.** If the doctor certifies you in the system, you will be required to log back into the system (again with a computer, not a mobile device) and use a credit or debit card. The cards cost \$50 annually. Patients who are part of certain government programs (such as Medicaid) may be eligible for a discount; requests for fee reductions can take up to 10 days to be processed.
- 4 | Visit a dispensary.** At press time, the state had 56 dispensaries with four in the Lehigh Valley (three in Allentown, one in Bethlehem). Some areas continue to be without local dispensaries; a patient in Bloomsburg, for example, would need to drive almost an hour to obtain medical marijuana. According to the Department of Health, some dispensaries require first-time patients to make an appointment.

IN THE WEEDS: Alumni Views on Legalization



THE DOCTOR

Dr. Debra Kimless '83

Medical director, cannabis cultivation company ForwardGro

I grew up in the just-say-no era. As a physician, I thought big pharma had all the answers. Then I watched my mom die from an FDA-approved drug. She took Fosamax and it made her bones really brittle. She basically shattered to death. When my partner suggested we use cannabis to ease her pain, I looked at him like he was crazy. But he was from Israel, where they were already using cannabis medically. I decided I had to find out for myself whether this was something that could help my patients.

I applaud Pennsylvania for entering the medical market. I understand why there is trepidation about recreational cannabis, but I think “recreational” is the wrong term. If you have cardiovascular problems and your physician tells you to ride your bike, are you recreating or medically using your bicycle? There are a lot of people who are locked out of our healthcare system who are self-medicating with cannabis. Opening up legal cannabis would help these folks gain access to something with proven therapeutic benefits and access to health care providers who can help them with choosing the proper method of administration, dosing and so on. A little bit goes a long way. Cannabis is not a panacea, but we should consider it as a legitimate medical tool.



THE RESEARCHER

Caitlin Burgdorf '12

Weill Cornell Medicine Ph.D. candidate in neuroscience

I work in an addiction laboratory at Weill Cornell Medicine researching cocaine and cannabis dependence. I am looking specifically at certain genetic vulnerabilities underlying addiction, which would explain why some people become dependent and others do not. Even in the science community, we still don't know all the benefits and harms of marijuana, so much more research is needed. However, since marijuana is a Schedule I drug [which the U.S. government defines as having “no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse”], it's hard for labs to research it.

I think marijuana should be legalized, but with a strong public health approach. We need targeted campaigns to inform the public on how cannabis is not safe for vulnerable populations more at risk for dependency. But I think legalization would bring more regulation for the industry and allow more access for research, which would be a good thing.



THE DISPENSARY OWNER

Myles Harlow Kahn '84

President/CEO, Buddy's Cannabis, a Seattle dispensary

I entered the cannabis business in 2013. It has been challenging due to its complex legality, but those challenges make it exciting. For example, there is limited access to banking and normal financial services because cannabis is illegal at a federal level. Thus, we have a cash-centric, high-volume business with strict restrictions on the source of incoming investment capital. Bottom line, we are breaking federal law every day, which creates quite a quandary—I'm also a practicing lawyer, sworn to uphold the laws.

My personal view on legalization is that I think it is working in the states that have gone full legalization for adult use. The regulatory framework has to be done correctly, though. I think Washington's decision not to allow full vertical integration—meaning one business cannot grow, process and dispense—has been healthy for the state. In Colorado, full integration has helped make businesses more profitable, but Washington has avoided some potential abuses and been able to create competition.



THE GENETICIST

Brendan McKernan '93

Chief executive officer of Medicinal Genomics

Our family has been involved in the genomics industry for decades. We sequenced tens of thousands of patients along with the cannabis genome to better understand the plant's therapeutic potential. Unfortunately, my father was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer four years ago. We sequenced him, and we discovered mutations that call for a class of drugs called “AKT1 inhibitors.” Cannabinoids (chemicals found in cannabis) are potent AKT1 inhibitors, and they have virtually no toxicity. Our family explored several treatment options, and most of the drugs caused more pain and nausea. My father said cannabinoids were the only compounds that brought relief.

My least favorite misconception is the false dichotomy of medical versus recreational cannabis consumption. This showcases our reactionary healthcare mindset as opposed to the preventative mindset we need to strive for. If you prohibit recreational use, you are likely going to require more medical use. Humans had been using these compounds for thousands of years before they were outlawed in 1937, a decision that was incredibly naive and destructive.

“There’s clearly a racial element with the stigma of marijuana. In a way, it’s maintaining Jim Crow laws.”

Jeff Rudski, professor of psychology

behavior, but the cannabis itself won’t cause a person to stop breathing the way opioids can.

“It’s Complicated”

The potential for less opioid use and more tax revenue (in March of this year alone, Colorado took in more than \$17 million from recreational sales and more than \$800,000 from medical sales) makes full legalization seem like a win-win to some. But Assistant Professor of Public Health Chrysan Cronin says, at least from her field’s perspective, “when you do a cost-benefit analysis, it’s complicated.”

Every semester, each student in Cronin’s Issues in Public Health class must pick a public health policy, read the current academic literature on the subject and write an essay on whether they think the policy is sound. “To give them an idea of what I’m looking for, we all research marijuana together,” she says. While nearly every student in her class is pro-legalization at first, “almost unanimously after that they say no,” says Cronin. “It never fails, and I don’t tell them one way or the other what to think.”

The students read a study that followed incoming students for four years and asked them to track their cannabis use and the number of classes they missed and analyzed that information with their GPA and how long it took them to graduate. The researchers found that students who used cannabis missed more classes, had lower GPAs and were less likely to graduate in four years than students who did not. Still, Cronin cautions that more research is needed, and because cannabis is still illegal at the federal level, it’s hard to get funding to study the drug and its effects.

Laurel Mangelsdorf ’22, a public health major who took Cronin’s class, has many concerns about legalizing recreational cannabis. One is a lack of knowledge regarding how it affects people, both developmentally and immediately. For example, she says, “Is there a point that someone might reach after using marijuana that it becomes unsafe for them to drive, like a blood alcohol content limit? How do we figure this out and test it?”

Cronin has tracked Colorado’s legalization process

and says that public health officials there were not well prepared. Things like increased incidences of driving while high, sharp upticks in emergency-room traffic and keeping edibles—which can be hard to distinguish from drug-free treats—out of the hands of kids are all challenges Colorado has struggled to navigate. In other words, this is not a drug without downsides.

Common Ground

While opinions vary on the risks and benefits of cannabis, one part of the legalization conversation is less controversial: “The way we enforce drug laws is just not working in a lot of ways, and marijuana is the poster child for that concern,” says Borick. His research has found that how we deal with drug offenders is one of few issues with bipartisan support. “There’s almost no one who thinks that the way we’re doing it is right.”


According to an ACLU report, black and white individuals use cannabis at the same rates, but black people are four times more likely to be arrested for pot possession than their white peers. Furthermore, states spend \$3.6 million on average to enforce marijuana laws each year, and the vast majority of those arrested and prosecuted are small-level offenders.

“There’s clearly a racial element with the stigma of marijuana,” says Rudski, adding that when people of color are disproportionately charged with felonies, it affects their ability to vote. “In a way, it’s maintaining Jim Crow laws.”



Cronin, meanwhile, notes that sometimes bringing drugs out of the shadows can be a good thing: “I think we do have to think about the illegal drug trade and how many people are harmed through that,”

she says. Legal weed would likely reduce the power of drug peddlers while also reducing the number of Americans we have behind bars.

Still, Cronin is on the fence about what’s right for Pennsylvania. “No policy is ever 100 percent perfect, and I do not know what the best answer is,” says Cronin. “But I don’t think it matters because I think it’s going to happen. And working in public health, it’s our job to be ready when this happens.” 

ALUMNI NEWS

From the Office of Alumni Affairs and Career Services

My fellow alumni and friends,



This year, we said goodbye to the Class of 2019 and watched them transform during Commencement from students to alumni before our very eyes. During Senior Week, at various times and events, we impressed upon them the importance of an engaged, involved and invested alumni community.

Unlike these recent graduates, for many of you, Muhlenberg happened years ago—in what may even feel like another lifetime. Hopefully, you have great memories, life-long friends and a career that was launched by the stellar education you received.

Hopefully, too, you remain involved and engaged with the College. But life is hectic—we move, we have children, we change jobs, we get married, we lose loved ones, we become grandparents, we change our email addresses, we retire. No matter when you graduated, Muhlenberg wants to keep in touch. We want to know where you are and what you are doing, and we encourage you to attend an alumni event and support our students.

So, I have a challenge—and an offer. You have until June 30, 2020, to complete the Muhlenberg Great Alumni Challenge. Start by visiting bit.ly/BergChallenge. It's called a challenge, but that doesn't mean it's challenging: It requires just four simple actions.

1. Update your contact information (or confirm what we have is correct)
2. Join The Muhlenberg Network (if you haven't already)
3. Attend an event or participate in a program (in person or virtually)
4. Make a gift (every amount makes a difference)

Complete the Challenge and receive a FREE Muhlenberg T-shirt. Will you accept the challenge? Sign up at bit.ly/BergChallenge.

Natalie Kulp Hand '78 P'07
Assistant Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Career Services



TAKE THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Join us in Apulia for Undiscovered Italy
October 23-31, 2019

AHI Travel programs connect you to the people, places and cultures of the world. Our itineraries take you to profound places everyone must see and secret gems only locals know about, with built-in breaks for you to realize your own plans.

For more information or to reserve your place,
visit: muhlen.ahitravel.com or call: 800-323-7373

Alumni Week in Their Words

“When I was a student, the Career Center helped me connect with alumni in different fields within the communication industry. I never turn down the chance to speak with a student because it was so valuable to me.”

Rachel Zatcoff '12
Media communications specialist at Vault Communications

“If you think you got a good education and it helped you out in life, be proud of it and pay back in some way. Engaging with a young, smart person—who wouldn't want to do that?”

Dr. Lance Bruck '89
Physician and Muhlenberg College Trustee

“One of the most important things [for students] is to keep talking to a ton of people so you know the many paths open to you, having those conversations with folks and learning how they got where they are.”

Lindsay Marjoram '04
Director of technology development at biotech firm Affinergy

“The Career Center reached out to me—this is the first time I have been asked to do something. I am very grateful the theatre department is turning its view toward non-performance and non-creative careers in the arts.”

Liza Witmer '10
Company manager at The Public Theatre

ALUMNI WEEK By the Numbers

9

Annual Alumni Weeks have taken place

17

Academic departments participated in 2019

170+

Alumni volunteers helped make it happen

50+

% of the student body engaged with alumni



Chantelle Fitzgerald '03 participated in a networking lunch (pictured) with students and other alumni and also spoke with a French class.



Paul Asman '73, a classics and philosophy double major at Muhlenberg who also attended the networking lunch, visited with the philosophy course Individual & Society.

PHOTOS BY TOM AMICO

If you're interested in participating as a career volunteer at any time, contact Pat Fligge '10 at patrickfligge@muhlenberg.edu.

Virtually Athletic

While sidelined from playing real soccer, I represented Arsenal—my favorite team—in the first ePremier League video-game tournament in London.

By Kane Doyle '20, as told to Meghan Kita

Last winter, the Premier League, 20 teams that make up the highest tier of soccer in the United Kingdom, partnered with Electronic Arts (creators of the video game EA SPORTS FIFA) on a tournament. FIFA players from the U.K. competed online to represent a Premier League team of their choosing. The top 16 players for each team went to that team's stadium for an in-person playoff. Kane Doyle '20, a business administration major and international student from London, was one of them.

The night before my flight to Muhlenberg last summer, I was playing soccer. I tripped over the goalkeeper, went headfirst into the post and was knocked out. It was my fifth serious concussion. Now, I still go to practice, but I can't play. The time I used to spend working out, I started spending on *FIFA*.

No one's impossible to beat, but it helps to have a better team, and to get that, you have to put money in. When I was playing soccer, I didn't put any money into *FIFA*, and I still beat good players. A teammate, Shaun Bartholomew '19, would always say, "Imagine if you had *those* players." This year, he helped me raise money by starting an eSports team (LAD FC) and selling merchandise. The proceeds helped: One weekend, I was ranked 53rd in the world.

In the ePremier League qualifier, 1,200 people tried out for Arsenal. You could play as many games as you wanted, and you'd get points for winning (more, if you beat

someone highly ranked) and lose points for losing. One of my first games was against the top seed and I won. I was in a qualifying position, but I didn't think I could travel to London for the next round, so I stopped playing. By the end, some people had played 150 games. I'd only played 30, but I won enough to finish in the top 16. I explained to the organizers I was studying in the States and I wouldn't pay to fly home, and they said they'd cover my flight. It was great: The playoff was on February 22—my birthday—and I hadn't been home for my birthday in years.

I've been to Emirates Stadium loads to watch Arsenal, so to be invited to play there—even though it was just *FIFA*—was incredible. They let us in through a special entrance to the Diamond Club, where there were all these screens lined up. Because we'd spent the qualifiers playing everyone online, it was like, "Oh, you're so-and-so!" I made a friend, Zak—we'd connected through Twitter first.

It was weird competing in person. I'd brought one of my best friends, and he was shouting and encouraging me. It was pretty loud in there. I lost my second game, but I didn't mind. There were players there who are full-time, professional eSports players. They don't have to balance athletics or schoolwork; they just practice 24/7. Plus, the event had a free bar and loads of nice food. I was going to hang out with my friends that night anyway, so it was a nice way to have a few beers beforehand. 🍷





2019 *M*
ALUMNI
WEEKEND
September 20-22, 2019

Join fellow alumni for a weekend full of mingling and memories at the campus you can still call home.

Don't miss exciting programming featuring:

- Alumni Tailgate (BYO or purchase/preorder food)
- Homecoming Fair (family-friendly activities and games)
- Reunion class celebrations for the classes of '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, '14, '19

R E T U R N • R E M I N I S C E • R E C O N N E C T



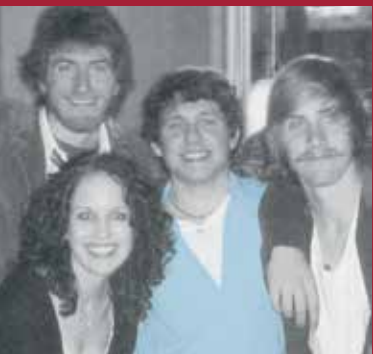
Returning this year are the popular
Lifelong Learning courses

Friday, September 20 beginning at 1 p.m.*

- Our Sustainable Future
- Pandemic: The 1918 Flu
- Books and Their Readers
- Jewish Italy
- 1968
- Fun with Fractals
- Springsteen's America
- You Are Not Your Brain
- Public Education Under Siege
- Writing the Memoir: A Creative Writing Workshop
- Backstage Pass: Theatre at Muhlenberg
- Behind the Scenes of the Muhlenberg Memories Project

**Space is limited*

For more information and to register:
Visit muhlenbergconnect.com/alumniweekend,
call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 484-664-3305 or
email bergalum@muhlenberg.edu





**Behind the
Scenes**

From February through June, a photographer documented what goes into a Muhlenberg mainstage show. (Here, *Bring It On: The Musical* Director Jim Peck speaks on the first day of rehearsal.) **p.32**