

# The Dana Interviewer Class of 2013

Interviews by  
First year Dana students:

FYS "The Wire: Representations of  
Inner City Life" with Dr. Mello

FYS "Films of Martin Scorsese" with  
Dr. Corbin



# The Dana Interviewer

Featuring the Class of 2013

The Dana Scholars Program, made possible by the Charles A. Dana Foundation, acknowledges students who display academic potential, good character, integrity, and leadership ability through contributions both inside and outside of the classroom. Each summer, Muhlenberg College awards about thirty high school seniors with this honor, one of the most prestigious honors that the College offers.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/dana-scholars/>

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## Matthew Fitzsimons

by Jake Levine

Matt Fitzsimons is a senior in the Dana program. He is a double major in Math and Chemistry in which he is aiming for honors. After graduation, he will be going to the University of Delaware to work toward a Ph.D in Inorganic Chemistry, specifically organometallics and carbon neutral fuel sources. An example of this is using various surfaces to activate CO<sub>2</sub> and convert it to CO in order to synthesize liquid petroleum. He is a founding father of the fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, and was the president of the Interfraternal Council. For hobbies, Matt plays bass guitar and enjoys drawing.



As a Muhlenberg student, Matt believes he has matured and grown as a person. He has learned to be more open to diverse viewpoints, and the Dana program, specifically, has given him more direction. He came into school all about pre-med, but realized through his classes that he really likes science and decided he could become something other than a doctor. The faculty in the Chemistry program served as excellent mentors and truly became his role models. His most amazing teacher, the late Dr. Russell, taught him everything he knew about Chemistry and created a bond with him like no other. While he was at first intimidated by his research mentor, Dr. Keane, Matt eventually opened up to his true potential through Dr. Keane's guidance.

Matt has many fond memories of the Dana program, specifically his First Year Seminar and the friends he made from that class. Coming from all different backgrounds, the new Dana students formed a bond that still exists to this day. To him, the most valuable thing about the program is the mentorships and the internships: they involve you into the school and the community in a different way. Since sophomore year, he has participated in one every semester. His mentors provided him with meaningful "older figure" relationships, and he appreciated their valuable experiences.

"Figure out what you want to do with your life. Do not leave Muhlenberg without a giant question mark. Get involved. Find leadership opportunities. Open yourself up to new experiences. Most of your learning won't come from the classroom." This is the advice he gave me and to all other Muhlenberg students, current and future. For Matt, these were what allowed him to have an amazing experience and career at Muhlenberg.

**Garrett Gallinot**  
by Matthew Dacher

Garrett Gallinot is a double major in English and Political Science but is also an avid contributor to Muhlenberg's theatre community, acting in a number of productions. He will be continuing his educational career in the fall at NYU, studying Communications and Journalism with a focus on politics.

Anyone who sits down with Garrett for even the briefest of conversations can glean so much from him as a scholar and as a person. Talk to Garrett, and you begin to understand his passion not only for English and politics, but also his drive to connect them and understand them in meaningful ways on both academic and community levels. Since his sophomore year, Garrett has devoted a great deal of his time at Muhlenberg to research, presenting papers at a wide variety of conferences.

In January of 2013, Garrett attended a conference in Orlando that allowed him to present his Honors thesis to a panel of esteemed Ph.D. professors and other scholars in the field of politics. Later this year, he will be attending one of the larger conferences in the country, presenting this same paper in Chicago as a representative of not just himself but also of the Dana Honors program and the Muhlenberg College community at large.



To Garrett, his college experience could not have been more influenced by his membership in the Dana Honors program: it was one of the most influential pillars of his four years, helping to define him as a student and to drive him to further himself academically and as an intellectual leader of this institution. The Dana program has also allowed him to develop and maintain close relationships with his fellow members and professors, and has enabled him to become a leader on this campus. In fact, Garrett has involved himself in many facets of the community, becoming a member of the Dana Representative Council and taking the role of Vice President of the Alpha Theta Omega fraternity.

Garrett Gallinot is many things: a lover of English, politics, an actor, a fraternity brother, a researcher, a scholar; but most of all, he is a role model for the Muhlenberg community. In this way, Garrett will be a true Dana Scholar for all his life.

## Jennifer Seeba

by Brittney Tuff

Jennifer Seeba is a Psychology major with a minor in Mathematics. She is also a peer tutor and a learning assistant for Calculus I. Jenn is a part of the Psi Chi Psychological Honors Society and the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honors society. In the fall, Jenn will be attending law school in the hopes of becoming a criminal lawyer.

Jenn came to Muhlenberg from her hometown of Sayville, New York, with the expectation that she would be a science major in order to become a forensic scientist. Yet, after shadowing a forensic scientist, she found that this was not what she wanted to do. Beginning in high school, Jenn's interest in psychology eventually led her to work with Dr. Richmond in the psychology department on a research project about masculinity and sexism. One of Jenn's favorite classes at Muhlenberg was Abnormal Psychology because she loved the professor, Dr. Richmond, and she liked that she was able to see examples of what she was learning in the world around her. (She also liked having the opportunity to write a research paper on serial killers.) Because she enjoyed the subject matter so much, the work she did for the class never felt like work.



One thing Jenn likes about the Dana program is that it allowed her to meet others who are just as passionate as her. Through the program, Jenn has been able to meet a lot of great people with diverse interests who she might not have otherwise met. For her Dana internship, Jenn edited the *Dana Interviewer* during her sophomore year. Jenn's advice for underclassmen Dana Scholars is to pick something you will enjoy for your internship. She says that if your internship interests you, you will find yourself doing more than the bare minimum and possibly taking on more than one internship, as many Dana Scholars do.

If Jenn could give advice to herself as a freshman, she would have told herself to look at the big picture. Things that may seem like the end of the world at one point are probably minute in the grand scheme of things. Most of all, she would advise herself not to procrastinate. What Jenn will miss most about Muhlenberg is the atmosphere: the comforting feeling of community and family that Muhlenberg offers. As an active community leader and a passionate learner and scholar, Jenn has truly made the most of her time as a Dana Scholar at Muhlenberg, and she will undoubtedly have continued success in her future endeavors.

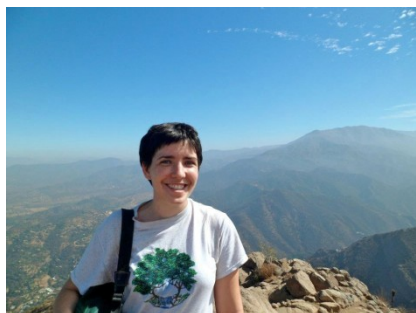


## Jessica Epstein

by Dana Brodsky

Jess Epstein is a Psychology and Spanish double major with an “informal minor” in Women’s Studies—she is an active participant in women’s rights groups on campus. Jess also takes part in ENACT and cares about environmental sustainability efforts, which is tied to her love for hiking and the outdoors. One can often spot Jess around campus eateries, armed with a sustainable titanium spork! Another favorite campus role of Jess’s has been her position as Student Advisor. Inspired by her freshman year SA, Matt Marini, Jess was excited to welcome freshmen to their new Muhlenberg home. She has dedicated many hours to helping freshmen adjust to college academics and social life and has taken great joy in this mentorship opportunity.

Being a part of the Dana Program has been extremely rewarding for Jess. Right from the beginning, her FYS, “Representing the Age of Revolution” with Dr. Cragin, was formative in her education not only in that it provided a perfect intellectual space in which to discuss the material with her classmates, but also that it instilled an awareness of and passion for grassroots activism and civic engagement. In fact, while studying abroad in Chile, Jess witnessed many (and participated in a select few) protests



for education reform. She explains that Chile’s education system is now privatized and “operates as a business through which a select few upper echelon people make lots of money while students are crippled with staggering amounts of debt.” Because the Chilean government must approve of all demonstrations in order for them to be considered legal, militarized police force are often sent in to these illegal protests. Jess recalls, “I saw many people sprayed with intense water cannons, hit by tear gas bombs, and chased down the streets. The protests shut down the country’s largest university last year and are thus very widespread and large-scale. It was an eye opening and inspiring experience to be able to participate in a few of them and witness grassroots action first hand!”

Inspired from her time abroad, Jess is completing an independent study in the History department on this Chilean student movement. For her internship, she worked on a project with two professors from the Education department to assess the impact of the No Child Left Behind Act according to classroom teachers. For Jess, the Dana program has offered the opportunity for incredible academic and personal growth. She explained that some of her closest friends were her Dana peers, and that “being put in an environment with Muhlenberg’s top students creates an excellent academic climate that has fundamentally shaped [her college] experience.” Although Jess will miss the warm Muhlenberg community and academic environment after graduation, she is excited to possibly return to Chile and maybe even join the Peace Corps!



## Gillian Irwin

by Katie Skwirut

Gillian grew up with Muhlenberg being a huge part of her life; her sister attended Muhlenberg and her mother is a professor here. Gillian will soon be stepping on the scene of music research. When she began at Muhlenberg she was not aware of the large scope that music research encompassed. Freshman year, Gillian believed she wanted to be a psychology major until she took her Dana FYS class with Dr. Rosenwasser, *Alice and Beyond*. Gillian is grateful for this class because everyone connected, and she knows she can always call on her Dana peers for help. The writing intensive portion of this class made Gillian realize that writing could be more than just a favorite class; it became one of her two majors. *Viewing Alice* allowed her to explore the psyche from a literary perspective, bridging the gap between psychology and literacy.



Her other major, and where her true passion lies, is music. During her time at Muhlenberg, Gillian took lessons with Megan Monaghan and was a violinist in small ensembles. One of her greatest joys is teaching at Roosevelt Elementary School through the Allentown Symphony three days a week. Gillian also loves music research, and her senior recital is even partially a presentation of her own music research. She claims that Dr. Follet and Dr. Hiles were extremely influential and inspiring.

One of Gillian's Dana projects involved studying Schumann for eight weeks over the summer with Dr. Follet. This was her first taste of music scholarship, and Gillian fell in love. They applied to present their paper at the Northeast Conference in New York in spring 2012 and for the College Music Society in San Diego in November 2012. In the summer of 2012, Gillian completed a 40 page paper independently for her Dana mentorship, and when Dr. Hiles returned to help her, the paper doubled in size. In March 2013, one of the scholars whom Gillian cited very much in her paper was actually chairing at her session! Gillian claims it is nerve-wracking to present her own research, but it is also exciting and makes her realize her potential.

“Being a Dana gave me the drive to involve myself in mentorships. I have met amazing people who made it happen. My advice is: look for opportunities to write a lot and get your work out there!”

## Adam Downer

by Emily Nguyen

Adam Downer is an English and Film Studies double major. Throughout his four years at Muhlenberg, Adam has been involved in a large variety of activities on campus: he has been a Writing Tutor and Writing Assistant; a DJ for Muhlenberg's radio station; a prose editor for Muhlenberg's literary magazine, *Muses*; and a member of the Jazz Band.

As a freshman in the Dana program, Adam took his first year seminar with Dr. Tom Cragin, during which he studied the French Revolution. Adam enjoyed his seminar, especially the discussions, and said that Dr. Cragin did an excellent job of engaging the class. Adam has also participated in two mentorships throughout his time at Muhlenberg. He first did an independent study on film reviewing with Dr. Paul McEwan, the director of Film Studies. During this mentorship, Adam gained experience in writing in different critical styles and was challenged to write effectively in a short amount of space. Adam's second mentorship, with Dr. Alec Marsh of the English department, is still in progress.



Under the guidance of Dr. Marsh, Adam is writing a book in which he explores human relationships and the difficulties of communication. This mentorship has allowed him to explore creative writing and learn how to create characters. Because Adam is writing his book from the perspectives of three characters, one of his greatest challenges has been creating unique voices!

This semester, Adam is working on his senior Dana project, investigating the ethics of the entertainment industry with the premise that some stars make a lot of money even though they are not "the most talented or most deserving."

While he found this year's Center for Ethics topic to be challenging, Adam appreciates the opportunities that the Dana program has given him. After graduation, he hopes to become a pop culture writer in New York!



## Megan Postemski

by Nicole Karsch

Megan is studying Anthropology and History with a focus in Archaeology. Even amongst her busy schedule, she still finds time to cultivate her fondness for the Spanish language as well. Upon reflecting on her two mentorships in anthropology with Dr. Carter, she found the Dana program to have been a positive influence in finding the initiative to get involved with projects: not only has she experienced growth in her undergraduate education, but she has also gained useful experience to eventually help further her education in a graduate program as well.



Megan's first mentorship with Dr. Carter dealt with land speculation in Maine in which she transcribed historical documents and worked at the summer field school. Megan reports that this experience sparked her interest in exploring Maine, and ever since, in fact, all of her projects have focused on Maine. In Megan's second mentorship, she served as a field assistant for Dr. Carter's lab in field archaeology.

Between these two mentorships, Megan spent the spring semester of her junior year studying in Peru, and she highly recommends the destination for future Spanish-speaking students looking to study abroad. While in Peru, Megan volunteered at an archaeological site in Lima three times a week, classifying artifacts. Upon return from her travels, her senior year has immersed her once again into the Dana program. She is currently working with a small group of other students along with a faculty advisor on a content analysis of international policies surrounding the coca leaf in Bolivia. Outside of academics, Megan also volunteers at a nearby animal shelter once a week. All in all, Megan enjoyed her four years at Muhlenberg and the opportunities and experiences that the Dana program made available to her. She is especially grateful that the Dana program "encourages collaboration with professors," something she believes has fostered her academic and personal growth. She plans to continue her education as a graduate student in hopes of becoming an historical archaeologist.

## Sari Weinerman

by Jillian Mauro

Sari Weinerman is a Theatre and Dance double major from Long Island, New York who cannot believe how her time at Muhlenberg went by so quickly! On campus, she is a member of the Girls Next Door a capella group and Songsycles. She has also been involved in many Mainstage theatre and dance productions during her time here, including this year's musical *On The Town* and *Master Choreographers 2013*. Overall, her favorite thing about Muhlenberg is the intellectual environment, and how academic classes are so well integrated into her performance based majors.

Sari's Dana Scholar experience started off with Dr. Rosenwasser's first-year seminar, "Alice and Beyond." Her Dana mentorship and internship were with the dance program's coordinator, Karen Dearborn, and the school's physical therapist for those who take dance classes, Gay-Anne Grossman, where she focused on dance science and medication. Together, Sari and these two Muhlenberg staff members updated the curriculum of the dancer wellness section of the dance major, and she even made her own blackboard course on the subject. Sari said that this was one of the most fulfilling opportunities that she has had during her time at Muhlenberg, because she might not have had the opportunity to explore this field if it were not for the Dana program. She says that the experience shaped her way of thinking about potential future career options.



When asked about her favorite part of the Dana program, she was very enthusiastic about the Dana senior forum. In her final project, she enjoyed working with students of other majors while doing case-studies on mass media and what makes markets successful. She found it especially intriguing how everyone was able to use their knowledge of different disciplines and apply them to the same subject, and that her performing arts training provided an effective lens through which to analyze this.

## Chelsea Majid

by Tim DeRosa

Chelsea Majid has found her four years here at Muhlenberg to be a highly rewarding experience. She looks forward to graduating this spring with a degree in Biology. Chelsea plays an active role on campus, serving as a tour guide, a campus delegate, and a member of the Muhlenberg College Republicans, all while working as a peer tutor. In her free time Chelsea likes to cook, play the piano, and run. She is currently training for and eagerly anticipating the Walt Disney World Marathon next year.



During her summers off Chelsea spends a large portion of her time doing volunteer work, such as helping an organization specializing in finding shelter for homeless English Bull dogs. After college Chelsea plans on becoming a physician's assistant. She sees herself in the future potentially becoming involved in dermatology or orthopedics.

Chelsea's most valuable experience from college was her chance to study abroad. The summer after her junior year Chelsea chose to study in Limerick, Ireland. She recommends that everyone take this opportunity to study abroad because it is a premier chance to experience the culture and social customs of a different country.

When asked what has made her time here at Muhlenberg most enjoyable, Chelsea describes a multitude of factors. She says that everyone here has been great, from the supportive faculty to student advisors and the friends she has made along the way.

Chelsea says that being a member of the Dana program has been a key part of her time here on campus. For her Dana internship, Chelsea worked at St. Luke's hospital in Allentown, gaining valuable career experience for her future. Last but not least, Chelsea describes the Dana program as providing so much more than just an academically enriched experience. Many of Chelsea's friends from her first year Dana seminar have become some of her closest and best friends. She is delighted to have shared her college experience with all of them.

## Amy Asendorf

by Jonathan Hauptfeld

“Getting uncomfortable with what you’re learning is the key to understanding it.” Meet Amy Asendorf, a senior Dana Scholar from Baltimore, MD whose Muhlenberg education has sufficiently pushed her out of her comfort zone and made her the accomplished student she is today.

During her Dana FYS focusing on the French Revolution with Dr. Cragin, Amy quickly took a liking to the history aspect of the class: “The history route was phenomenal... every class at Muhlenberg is really a history course because you always have to situate your subject in a historical moment.” Armed with new knowledge and experiences from freshman year, Amy declared as an English and French double major and quickly became involved on campus. She has been deeply involved with the Writing Center, and has occupied many positions such as Writing Assistant, Associate, Mentor, and Lead Tutor. For her, the pinnacle of this work was a 2012 trip to the IWCA International Writing Center conference in San Diego, California. At the conference, she presented original research that she had conducted at Muhlenberg under her mentor, Dr. David Rosenwasser, centering on the importance of a tutor’s body language and the physical presence of the paper in the writing session. Along with this mentorship, Amy has also served as a Student Advisor for freshman and is currently involved in her Dana internship as a co-editor of the 2013 *Dana Interviewer*.



Perhaps Amy’s most memorable part of her Muhlenberg education was her study abroad journey to Aix-en-Provence, France. Her studies here sparked the desire to return to France to teach English while the language is still fresh in her mind; just a few weeks ago, Amy was accepted into the Teaching Assistant Program in France through the French government to do just that. To Amy, teaching is just as rewarding to her as it is to the student, and while at Muhlenberg, she was able to put her teaching skills to use: “Just this Friday I taught a French course - the chance to teach an undergraduate class is phenomenal, and I’m so grateful that I was able to do it”.

Amy has cherished her four years at Muhlenberg, and if she could change anything, it would be dressing Calypso, President Helm’s dog, as dapperly as the president himself, that is, in bow ties. Her parting advice for all Muhlenberg students is to “take what we learn in the classroom out into the world.”

## Steven Alpert

by Dan McKenna

When Alice tripped into the rabbit hole and fell into Wonderland, she had absolutely no idea what she had stumbled upon. Steven Alpert, a Senior Dana Scholar, had a similar experience when he embarked on his expedition at Muhlenberg College. Coming in as an undecided student from Port Washington, New York, Steven was like Alice in that he did not know where he was headed.

Fortunately for him, the liberal arts program he was offered in combination with the structure of the Dana Scholar's program provided him freedom to explore his interests. He also was able to narrow them down into a major (or better yet, two!). Now a double major in Economics and



Psychology, Steven attributes a lot of his success to the Dana program, which offered him so many opportunities that he would not have had otherwise. In spring 2012, Steven worked on a research project with Dr. Rudski on “Fear and Risk Management,” and they had the opportunity to present their research at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual LVAIC Undergraduate Conference at Cedar Crest College. Their study focused on the levels of dread his subjects associated with varying levels of risk. Additionally, Steven worked on *The Dana Interviewer* (yes, the book you have in your hands!) his junior year as part of his internship.

In April, Steven will present a project entitled “The Superstar Phenomena,” which he has worked on as part of his Senior Seminar. It answers the question of why the economic market allows for overpaid superstars. His favorite thing about his academic experience in the Dana program was that he was pushed to step out of his comfort zone in order to achieve his maximum potential. People who had a similar thirst for knowledge constantly surrounded him. Like Alice in Wonderland, Steven has been forever changed by the experiences he never thought he would have.

## Sabrina Kamran

by Caroline Berman

Sabrina is a Biology major with a Russian Studies minor from Staten Island. She began her Dana experience in Dr. Rossenwasser's "Alice and Beyond" FYS course. While she did not study abroad during her time at Muhlenberg, Sabrina spent two weeks in Maine for Dr. Iyengar's Field Marine Biology course, which she highly recommends. She worked in Dr. McCain's lab for two years and currently works in Dr. Wightman's genetics lab. She participated in a year of research her sophomore year and continued research into the summer to fulfill her Dana internship and mentorship requirements. Her research involved tissue cultures and curcumin. She's currently working with *C. elegans* and fatty acid metabolism. She's also currently in the Dana forum and appreciates the diverse and intellectually stimulating discussions that it brings forth.

Overall, Sabrina believes that the Dana program helped her find a group of driven students who are the "cream of the crop" on campus. She says Danas are always motivated and provoke intellectual conversation. Her favorite class at Muhlenberg was Dr. Jeremy Teissère's neuroscience course, "Receptors and Channels." She loves that Muhlenberg professors and faculty get to know the students here and do so because they want to know their students and care about their futures. She believes her professors have been great mentors to her at Muhlenberg.



Outside of academics, Sabrina is a writing tutor and a Lab Assistant for the Principles science courses. She also enjoys skiing, hiking and playing volleyball. Her advice to future and current Mules is to never feel forced to do anything you don't want to do or are not interested in. Do what you love.



## Amanda Brennan

by Adam Elwood

I had the pleasure of meeting Amanda Brennan, a lovely senior student studying the Neuroscience major, and the Creative Writing minor. Amanda has been following the pre-med track throughout her four years at Muhlenberg, and will hopefully continue on to a New York medical school after a gap year from undergraduate.



Amanda's first year seminar was "Representing the Age of Revolution" with Dr. Cragin which concentrated on the French revolution and the years preceding the war. Their class focused on the cultural, social, and economic situation of the French before the war, and the text *A Tale of Two Cities* was used to provide a proper experience.

Amanda was on the Muhlenberg track team during her freshman and sophomore years, competing in hurdles, long jump, high jump, and the occasional short sprints. For her Dana internship, Amanda helped orchestrate last year's *Dana Interviewer* and volunteered at the Phoebe Home collecting and documenting life histories for many of the senior citizens. The internship taught her the different perspectives each individual has, and how they can be viewed from so many angles. Her Dana research was based on civil war field medicine and was self-directed from the start. She says being required to do an internship and mentorship was "one of the greatest experiences I've had here," after keeping an open mind to the program. Amanda said that the Dana program was a great experience from first year onward and that the support from Muhlenberg was appreciated.

Amanda's favorite class was "Mind and Brain," taught by Dr. Jeremy Teissere. She said that the class "makes you think so much. You leave everyday saying 'what just happened?' questioning everything you know." Her favorite memory at Muhlenberg was building blanket forts and singing songs during the blackout at the beginning of last year.

To end the interview, Amanda said, "Muhlenberg teaches you how to be an active learner, how to get involved in whatever you're learning." She has enjoyed her four years here at Muhlenberg, and will continue to be successful during her many years after graduation.

## Emily Ancona

by Emily Michaels

Emily Ancona is an English and Dance double major from Newton, Pennsylvania. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Phi Omega, works for the writing center, and is the Vice President of the Muhlenberg Dance Association. Talking with Emily, it was clear that she has a love for dance. She lit up while talking about choreographing a piece for Moving Stories and how rewarding the process has been—from starting out in the creative process in September to preparing it for the American College Dance Festival in March.

Emily also has an equal love for the English department. She was thrilled to talk about her FYS “Alice and Beyond” and how it expanded her way of thinking from day one, as well as providing the perfect way for her to dive into the college experience.

The Dana program helped Emily find a way to combine her two loves during her internship where she worked as an editor at a dance magazine in New York. It has provided her with opportunities to explore the things she loves, but also opened her up to new experiences. She says that the Dana forum has allowed her to work on a topic she would normally not have a chance to study with people she typically wouldn't have class with, and that the experience has been amazing.



When asked what she thought being a Dana scholar meant, the first word that came to mind was “ambassador.” To her, Dana scholars are people who have a desire to learn more and want to be an active part of the classroom and the community. She commented on how incredible it has been to be a part of this Dana class and to observe what people have accomplished during their time here.

Emily advises current Muhlenberg students to avoid the stress of trying to find their careers today. She states that “everything is a part of your journey and things will fall into place” and suggests “going out on a limb and trying something new, because college is the best place to do that.”

## Ben Schweid

by Jonathan Hauptfeld

While searching for colleges to attend, Ben Schweid was drawn to Muhlenberg College due to its “good environment” and “friendly faculty.” After choosing Muhlenberg from a plethora of other similarly sized liberal arts colleges in Pennsylvania, Schweid left his hometown of Mystic, CT and enrolled in Muhlenberg as a Math and Physics double major in the Dana honors program.



Ben’s Muhlenberg academic career got off to a diverse start. His FYS concerned the French revolution, and was taught by history professor Dr. Thomas Cragin. Ben thought it was “fun to learn about something you normally won’t pick up.” After his freshman year, Schweid quickly found his niche in the math and history departments, and found a sound mentor in physics professor Dr. Brett Fadem. Besides constructing a Muon telescope in the basement of Trumbower (it is still in use by physics classes today!) by far the most interesting aspect of Schweid’s Muhlenberg experience was his Dana internship under Dr. Fadem at Brookhaven National Laboratory. For those who don’t know, it is a particle collider in the United States, and is closely related to the large hadron collider at CERN in Switzerland. This research was conducted in conjunction with the Phoenix Collaboration, a research endeavor which studies nuclear physics, among other things. It was there in the laboratory that he developed his impetus for his future after ‘Berg.

In leaving advice for his younger Muhlenberg peers, Schweid has this much to offer, “Be good at meeting other people, it’s a valuable skill.” In his four years at Muhlenberg, Schweid has conducted original research, made connections with friends and faculty, and discovered his passion for analytical areas of academia such as math and physics. He has learned theoretical and practical physics, calculus theorems, and the invaluable information of not taking anyone at face value. As he aptly pointed out, some of “the most interesting people aren’t the people with the high GPAs...” a point that the Dana Scholars program embraces with its diversity in scholastic and experiential accomplishments. It is this approach then, of brains and natural talent, paired with good people skills and conversational tact that has allowed Schweid to meet considerable success at Muhlenberg, and with a little bit of luck, will allow him to do so well into the future.

Ben’s plans after Muhlenberg are to attend graduate school and conduct more physics research. After that he is still undecided, but at this point the future looks to hold many opportunities for him.

**Pearly Ezzio**  
by Rachel Heist

Pearly is a senior this year who has loved spending her time at Muhlenberg growing as a person and gaining new experiences to help her succeed in her future ahead. She will be graduating with a Biology major and an English minor, exemplifying the diversity of her academic interests.

Pearly's experience in the Dana program was a wonderful one which included lasting friendships and stimulating conversations. The program, especially her freshman year seminar focusing on the novel *A Tale of Two Cities* and the French Revolution, has given her the opportunity to meet some incredible people who have helped to shape her life by opening her up to new visions of the world. She loved spending time with such intelligent and ambitious people who encouraged and motivated her towards her goals. Through these relationships Pearly has begun expecting more from herself after seeing what is possible through the lives and dreams of her peers.



Over the past four years, Pearly has had the opportunity to engage in research projects and internships that have expanded her knowledge and skill-set immensely. Her Dana mentorship was fulfilled over two semesters in Dr. Wightman's lab where she studied molecular genetics. Pearly also spent the summer after her sophomore year in Boston working on stem cell research at Harvard Medical School. The first semester of Pearly's senior year was spent participating in the St. Luke's Shadow Program, spending time at St. Luke's hospital observing doctors in various fields and gaining invaluable experiences. Pearly is so grateful for all of the research and internship opportunities that have helped to prepare and excite her for her career.

Outside of the classroom, Pearly is a campus tour guide and a barista at Java Joes. She has also served as the head of public relations for Share. In addition to her busy campus life, Pearly even finds the time to walk dogs for a local animal shelter.

After graduation, Pearly will be attending Tufts University School of Medicine to pursue a career in the medical field. She advises freshman not to be shy, to take advantage of opportunities, and to have fun because you won't be in a place like this for long!

## Jaclyn Durkin

by Jessica Wilson

Sitting in the Light Lounge, working on a New York Times crossword puzzle, senior Jaclyn (Jackie) Durkin looks the picture of a college student. I'll admit I was nervous to meet her, but once we started talking, the conversation kept us busy for the whole forty-five minutes we met. A Neuroscience major and Math minor, Jackie's a very busy person. She is not only a Learning Assistant for "General Chemistry II" and "Calculus," but she is also a writing assistant (she worked with a freshman year seminar during her junior year). In addition, Jackie spends several hours a week in Dr. Gotthard's behavioral lab doing research on memory and anxiety-like behavior in rats.



On top of all this, Jackie is a world traveler, having spent the fall semester of her senior year in Denmark learning about human health and disease, gender and sexuality, and Islam in a European context. While abroad, she also traveled to Italy, Hungary, Austria, and Sweden. When asked what her plans are for the future, the answer was simple: graduate school at the University of Michigan for Neuroscience. She is excited for the new changes coming this year.

In reflecting back on the Dana Program, she has fond memories. Jackie's opinion of her freshman year seminar, which was based on "Alice in Wonderland," was that "[It was] one of the most fulfilling classes I've taken." In fact, Dr. Jeremy Teissere, the neuroscience department chair, came and spoke about dream theory which propelled her to take the neuroscience course "Mind and Brain"—which led her to declare her major. This semester for the senior Dana project Jackie is working to research perceptions of human health within the fast food market. Their question: "Where does the responsibility lie?" Because of the multidisciplinary nature of the Dana projects, Jackie says she's been surprised by their findings and how intriguing the project is—"[I] never thought I'd be interested in that sort of thing."

As the final semester is starting down the home stretch, with just seven weeks left, Jackie is keeping calm. Her "dabbling" in drawing, crossword puzzles, and reading are helping her along the way. Jackie's final remarks on the Dana program and on the liberal arts education in general: "If you find something uninteresting, you haven't found the right way to view it. [You] might surprise yourself with your interests."

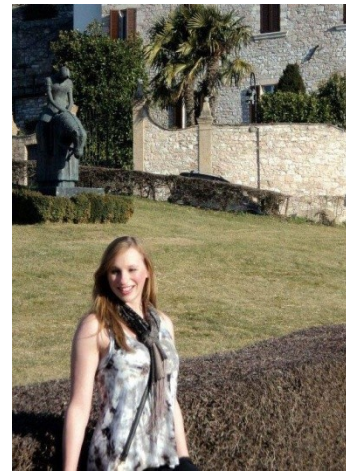
## Genna Soslow

by Meredith Clemons

With a confidence and openness about her that is evident from a single interaction, it is clear that Dana Scholar Genna Soslow has discovered the secret to living life to the fullest. As a Psychology major at Muhlenberg, she has spent her college life developing into the independent and open-minded woman she is today.

Upon arriving at Muhlenberg, Genna was placed in the “Alice in Wonderland” First Year Seminar with Dr. David Rosenwasser in which students used various texts, videos, and discussions to analyze the story. Initially, Genna did not have a declared or an intended major. Eventually, Genna chose the major of Psychology and has since become involved in both internships and research studies with the Psychology department and with the Autism Research Community Hub (ARCH) in the Lehigh Valley. At ARCH, Genna’s work involves using play skills to maximize goals of higher functioning in autistic patients between the ages of six and twenty-one.

In the spring of her junior year, Genna studied abroad in Florence, Italy. Calling the semester “unbelievable,” she says the experience changed her perspective of the world and of herself within the world. Aside from satiating her hunger for travel by voyaging all over Europe, her time in Florence helped her gain a new confident and autonomous outlook on life. She said that the easiness in the European approach to life would be a new way to grow and learn in both her remaining time at Muhlenberg and beyond.



Outside of the classroom, Genna is a member of the Phi Mu sorority, the campus dance team the Perkulators, and the Muhlenberg Dance Association.

When discussing the Dana Scholars Program, Genna said that her membership in the group has helped her develop relationships with faculty members, like Dana advisor Mohsin Hashim who has acted as an unofficial mentor and advisor during her four years. Additionally, she said that this year’s “Dana Forum” topic has broadened her understanding of the economic and political aspect of American society. In true Genna fashion, she used this year’s “Forum” topic – initially a completely foreign realm to her – as an opportunity to change and learn more about the world she inhabits. Her post-Muhlenberg life is an open path, but it is very clear that no matter what she chooses to do she will approach it with a zeal and passion that will undoubtedly result in her growth and success.



## **Nathan Crossette**

by Dan Bigelow

Nathan Crossette is a senior with a double major in Physics and Math. He is a Learning Assistant for physics as well as a peer tutor in physics, math, and psychology. Nathan is the founding Student Editor of the Muhlenberg College Physics Department newsletter, and participated in Cross Country as well as Track and Field up through the spring of 2012. Along with his membership in the Dana Scholars, he will be inducted as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and has received a Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention and a Novartis Endowed Science Scholars Program Award.

Nathan has been a research assistant to Dr. Fadem, working for one summer at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York and is currently a research assistant to Dr. Clark, working on understanding some of the subatomic properties of the universe.

Nathan believes that he made the right choice in deciding to come to a liberal arts institution rather than a more science-concentrated college because of the well-rounded nature of this education. Muhlenberg has helped to increase his writing and critical thinking abilities, allowing him to be more comfortable writing about his work and thinking creatively. Nathan says that he enjoyed the Dana experience because of the freedom it provided him. It offered a lot of room, as well as opportunities, to do what he wanted: research. He was given the chance to explore both the experimental and theoretical sides of physics, the latter of which he prefers.

Following Muhlenberg, Nathan will be traveling to England to attend a one year Master's program at Cambridge. Afterwards, he plans on applying to PhD programs.

## Emily Gup

by Shaena Singer

Emily Gup is a Spanish and Psychology double major. She chose psychology because she really enjoys hearing people's stories and learning about people. She has found that both of her majors point to a need to fill a service gap in the community for Spanish-speaking residents.

After graduation, Emily plans to first work in Allentown and then to teach English in either Argentina or Chile. Her ambition to teach in Argentina stemmed from her time abroad there as well as the time she has spent with Dr. Ouellete. Additionally, Emily's internship at Valley Youth House allowed her to spend time shadowing a counselor and working with the youth, both of which highlighted the need to fill the service gap.

Emily's First Year Seminar with Dr. Rosenwasser, "Alice in Wonderland," was a very important part of her Dana and Muhlenberg experience. Being in a class with so many smart people provided for an intense intellectual environment, which allowed her to think about things in ways she hadn't before. Dr. Rosenwasser also played a big role in changing the way that she thought about writing and influenced her to become a writing tutor. Emily's FYS was also where she met many of her current best friends.



In addition to the FYS, the senior capstone has been an important part of Emily's Dana experience. Her research project involves international policy's impact on the cocoa leaf in Bolivia as well as the moral implications of those policies. She really likes the capstone experience because of the free-range and the fact that it is entirely student-driven.

Overall, Emily has thoroughly enjoyed her time in the Dana program and is grateful for the incredible opportunities the program has provided her.

## Anne Bertolet

by Maxine Silver

Anne Bertolet is a senior Dana in the graduating class of 2013. She is a Biochemistry major and a Math minor. She is a creative, intelligent person who loves to learn. Anne's interests are diverse, ranging from a fascination with Agatha Christie's novels to a love for learning about the minute reactions that take place in the human body. She thinks that everyone should aspire to be their own person and develop their own skills, rather than simply trying to fit in to a pre-existing mold.

Academically, Anne likes to challenge herself and work hard. Her favorite class at Muhlenberg was "Advanced Biochemistry," though she enjoyed her work enough that it was difficult to pick just one favorite class. Through Muhlenberg, she had a chance to spend time abroad in Denmark, and enjoyed her time and studies there. She also did a year of research in Dr. Hank's lab on bioinformatics of *Drosophila* flies.



The Dana program has been an important part of Anne's life at college. To this day, some of her best friends are other Danas who she met through her FYS. In fact, she wished she'd had the opportunity to meet more Danas outside of her class year!

After she graduates from Muhlenberg, Anne will be attending the New England College of Optometry.

## James Gumkowski

by Eric Quitter

James Gumkowski is a senior in the Dana Scholars program and is a Biochemistry major. Hailing from nearby Doylestown, PA, James decided to attend Muhlenberg College after a fantastic visit in the spring. James made the choice to study biochemistry early in his college career. He has always enjoyed the idea of making molecules with chemistry, but the added “practicality” of biology makes the work more meaningful. He hopes to attend either Virginia Tech or Penn State next year in pursuit of a Ph.D.

James worked with Dr. Baar on the creation of a new molecule used to identify the presence of lead in blood. He is excited by problems that require a combination of biology and chemistry, and thinks that biochemistry is a fantastic way to employ realistic organic chemistry in the real world. James also completed his Dana Internship in a graduate lab at Virginia Tech. This gave him valuable insight into the operation of a grad-school style lab, and further kindled his interest in applying for his Ph.D. there.

Outside of his major, James is also an avid student of philosophy and history. He enjoys taking non-major classes in interesting subjects, part of the reason why “A History of Disease” remains one of his favorites. He is also a fan of reading science fiction, especially the Legend of Drizzt series by R. A. Salvatore.

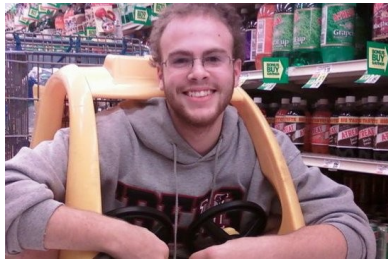
If he had another year at Muhlenberg College, he would try to spend some extra time enjoying the social side of school. He feels that his work ethic is important, and that as a Dana Scholar he should achieve in his studies, but values the social and academic sides of college equally. James’s time at Muhlenberg has been distinguished both the classroom and the laboratory. As a Dana Scholar he has been an exemplary model of intellectual ability and unbounded curiosity, and his passion will bring him great success in the future.



## Daniel Langenbucher

by Brendan Huffman

From the moment I said hello  
I could tell he was a well bred fellow  
impeccably dressed, shirt pressed,  
rocking a colorful cravat beneath his pin-stripe vest  
needless to say  
I was curious then as you are now while you read this today  
what kind of intricacies were housed in his cranium?  
I soon gathered he's the type to stop and smell the geranium  
daisies, tulips, and periwinkle  
oh and did I mention that the man is quadrilingual?  
In English, Hebrew, Arabic, and Spanish well versed  
and so it seems with devilishly good looks been cursed  
As well as being able to speak slick in Spain  
He's been thoroughly trained in ways to pick your brain  
apt at analyzing your psyche's most subtle layer  
on account of being a Spanish as well as Psych double major  
he studies independently writing and philosophizing  
and finds his internship at a Youth House especially gratifying  
no doubt fit to be a Dana scholar a program which  
Daniel said provided him with an intellectual stimulating niche  
he advises those still in school to slow down and appreciate the scenery  
after graduation he might, for a while, work at an eatery  
preferably a bakery  
then plans join the Marines wherein he'll no doubt serve with exceptional bravery  
ideally this will land him a job in the FBI  
despite my skill and ability to deftly pry  
it was hard to get a handle  
on the infinitely complex dude that is Daniel  
especially in so short a span of time  
for you I've summed it up as best I can with rhyme  
if this small sample got your interest peeking  
seek out his company I'm sure you'll find the man most intriguing



## **Jenna Kotak**

by Richard Kormos

Jenna Kotak is a driven Biochemistry and Math double major at Muhlenberg College, hailing from Smithtown, New York! With such demanding majors, she still finds time to attend Chemistry club, Best Buddies, and work as a Learning Assistant and an RA. While at Muhlenberg, Jenna has participated in several research projects, one in which she had to investigate gene regulation in the leaf cells of plants.

Upon entering the Dana program, Jenna didn't know what to expect. The concept of a scholars program intimidated her, while also exciting her in a way. In order to be considered for acceptance, she wrote a strong essay regarding female genital mutilation in Africa, since she had researched the dilemma previously and became fascinated by the subject. Freshman year all of her fears were quelled since she very much enjoyed participating in a very dynamic group of individuals who, much like herself, were driven by their own passion. "Rosenwasser challenged everyone to have intellectual discussions, and it was a great jumpstart to college!"



Jenna is definitely a hard-working, responsible, and kind individual with an open mind and a strong drive for the sciences, but she also has her own likes and dislikes in the modern world. Among other things, her favorite color is green, and she avidly listens to the Indie and Pop genres, although her favorite artist is John Mayer. When asked about preferred superpowers, she said, "If I could have any superpower, I would want perfect memory recall." The ability to remember every instance of every moment in life, and draw information from those memories would be the greatest superpower ever for college students!

Jenna has proven to be a great contributing member to Muhlenberg with her current achievements and is certainly prepared to move on to bigger things on the journey ahead.



## **Krista Gabarro**

by Jake Levine

Krista Gabarro is a Spanish major and Art History minor. Next year, she plans to go to veterinary technical school. She has worked at a guide dog training school and has volunteered there for almost ten years. She also volunteered at the Peaceable Kingdom animal shelter in Whitehall. She's always been interested in working with animals and hopes to work with them and their owners in the future. On campus, she was the secretary of SHARE, a community service program that works with children.



Krista's experiences at Muhlenberg have taught her to work better in a group setting. She feels that she has learned to be more articulate in argumentation and is now more prepared to participate in discussions. To her, the Dana program exemplifies leadership, encouraging her to find leadership opportunities on campus. Although she thinks of herself as a quiet leader, she believes she has learned how to be more extroverted thanks to the Dana program. Her mentor from her First Year Seminar, Matt Marini, has become a major figure in her life. Another role

model in her life has been Dr. da Costa Nunes, an art professor who advised Krista when she worked in a vet office for her Dana internship and who inspired Krista to continue in Art Education. Krista feels that she is smart and knowledgeable and this extends to how she teaches; she really cares for her students. Krista believes that working with Dr. da Costa Nunes has really allowed her to grow, gain information, and get more involved.

Her advice to me and other students, current and future, is to pick an internship and mentorship in a potential career field. It is a great opportunity to explore career options, to find your likes and dislikes, and to discover your strengths and weaknesses. "Find what you are passionate about and stick with it." Krista really loved her experience and career at Muhlenberg and can't wait to pursue her future endeavors.

## Casey Moser

by Michael Hovan

Casey Moser has been extremely involved in the Muhlenberg community throughout her time as a student. She has taken part in numerous activities and organizations on campus such as the Muhlenberg Theatre Association, Phi Sigma Sigma, and Muhlenberg College Lectures. She has also worked as a peer tutor, a campus delegate, and a tour guide in addition to the dedication she has shown to the Theatre Department during her four years. The most important part of Casey's experience as a Dana Scholar was her position as a Dana class representative. This allowed her to really enjoy the full experience of being a Dana Scholar as well as enabling her to shape the program how she saw fit.

Throughout her time at Muhlenberg, Casey was greatly influenced by the Theatre Department. She became involved with and began working for the Theatre Department starting her freshman year, and still as a senior plays an active role. The experiences she had doing this left her committed to the idea of pursuing a career in Arts Administration. She has held such positions as the Presidential Assistant for Theatre and Dance, Assistant Fundraising Coordinator for the Muhlenberg Theatre Association, and research assistant to Dr. Roland Kushner on the National Arts Index.



Even her Dana internship was focused on theatre. Casey was the Camp Administrator for Camp Imagine, a free program run by the Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre that reaches out to the middle school students of the Allentown School District. She used her experience there to develop her mentorship that conducted a program evaluation of Camp Imagine. This evaluation enabled Camp Imagine to attract more foundation donations and grants than ever before. Casey has had a huge impact in these programs and has done her best to improve them for the future.

## **Evan Fletcher**

by Tommy Hoffmann

According to Evan, Muhlenberg had an immediate appeal. The beautiful campus and close-knit community caught his eye right away, not to mention the incredible Drexel 4-4 program. This outdoorsman came to school to be a psychiatrist, and ended up majoring in Biology, while also pursuing a minor in Philosophy.



In one of his first experiences at Muhlenberg, Evan took the FYS “Representing the Age of Revolution” with Dr. Cragin. This invigorating class allowed Evan to gain alternative perspectives on a different era through a variety of mediums. After this, Evan’s pursuit of a biology major caused him to intern with an endocrinologist. The abstract nature of the medicinal processes inspired Evan in a profound manner.

Outside of academics, Evan cherished the time spent meeting new people, chatting with professors, and embracing the little aspects of Muhlenberg college that contribute to making each one of us a better person.

In his collegiate career, Evan involved himself in a variety of activities at Muhlenberg. He participated in the 4-4 Drexel program, and was a writing assistant for Dana FYS’s and a writing associate for a business management course.

After Muhlenberg, Evan plans to go to Drexel for his M.D., after which he plans to get his psychiatric residency. Good luck with your pursuits, Evan!

## James Patefield

by Megan Smith

James Patefield is a senior Dana student from Warwick, RI. He is double majoring in English and Theatre, with a double concentration in acting and directing. While theatre has always been an important part of his life, James says that he really got interested in pursuing English after the wonderful professors – especially his Dana FYS professor, Dr. Rosenwasser – got him excited about the subject. In fact, he cites Dr. Rosenwasser’s class “The Nature of Narrative” as one of the most interesting and valuable courses he took while at Muhlenberg.

James studied abroad in Arezzo, Italy at the Accademia Dell’Arte, saying that the experience taught him not only about a variety of theatre techniques, but also a great deal about his own learning and growth process. He is a Writing Center Tutor, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, VP of MIA, a member of UiP, and a singer in the Muhlenberg AcaFellas. He has been a member of the MTA for four years, and has served as Publicity Coordinator and Historian on the MTA board. In past years, he has volunteered as a tour guide, as well as participating in College Choir and Chamber Singers. James has spent many summers interning at a summer theatre program, including serving as Associate Artistic Director and company manager. When asked to describe his Muhlenberg experience in one song, James says that Billy Joel’s “Allentown” has developed a special connection to his time on campus. After graduation, James plans to move to Philadelphia and explore vocal and performance opportunities. Someday he hopes to start his own theatre company.



James began his Dana career in Dr. Rosenwasser’s FYS called “Alice and Beyond.” This course provided freshman Danas with a chance to learn from a variety of professors about different tools and topics, while creating academic connections across different disciplines. James also participated in two mentorships: one exploring Performance and Adaptation with Dr. Coppa, and another with Dr. Rosenwasser on the Theatre of Martin McDonagh. He calls these immersive and interactive experiences the “highlights” of his senior year. For James, the Dana program has been integral in providing a forum for discussion and connection with professors and peers. Reconnecting with the original Danas during the Senior Forum and seeing how much everyone has grown, James affirms, was a wonderful and “surreal” experience. As he puts it, “Relationships with people matter, engaging with things you’re interested in matter, experiencing new things matters.”

James gives this advice to future Dana Scholars: “Never stop learning or think that you’ve got nothing left to learn...Always stay humble and challenge yourself with new ideas, new ways of thinking, new projects and goals.”



The Dana Scholars of 2013

**Dana Accolades**

*Seniors*

Academic Honors Society: Phi Beta Kappa	Jackie Durkin
Barry Goldwater Honorable Mention	
Academic Honors Society: Phi Beta Kappa	Jennifer Seeba
Leadership Honors Society: Omicron Delta Kappa	
Superstar Service Award (2010)	Casey Moser
Presidential Assistant for Theatre & Dance	
Teaching Assistant in France (2014)	Amy Asendorf
Academic Honors Society: Phi Beta Kappa	
Academic Honors Society: Phi Sigma Iota	
John W. B. Haas Award (2012)	
Independent Research Presenter: IWCA (2012)	
New England College of Optometry	Anne Bertolet
Published play: "Apocalypse of Bust"	Davis Alianiello
Academic Honors Society: Phi Beta Kappa	Gillian Irwin
Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (2013-2014)	
Independent Research Presenter:	
Assorted music conferences (2011-2013)	

*Juniors*

Independent Research Presenter: Pennsylvania Political Science Association Conference Midwest Political Science Association Conference	Kathleen Rogers
Academic Honors Society: Pi Sigma Alpha	
Leadership Honors Society: Omicron Delta Kappa	Olivia Scotti
International Honors Society in Psychology: Psi Chi	
International Foreign Language Honor Society: Phi Sigma Iota, Lambda Chapter	
German Honor Society: Delta Phi Alpha	Cimarron Sharon
Academic Honors Society: Phi Beta Kappa	
Independent Research Presenter: LVAIC Women's Studies Conference	
Independent Research Presenter: LVAIC Women's Studies Conference	Sarah Chabolla
Independent Research Presenter: Pennsylvania Political Science Association Conference	
Academic Honors Society: Phi Beta Kappa	Rebecca Golden
Leadership Honors Society: Omicron Delta Kappa	
Summer Scholars Program: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute	
Independent Research Presenter: Drexel Discovery Day	
International Honors Society in Psychology: Psi Chi	Erin Cummings
Biology Department Summer Research Grant	Andrew Hasenzahl
Kyle M. Larsson Memorial Award in Business and Economics	Evan Teitelbaum
Academic Honors Society: Pi Sigma Alpha	Michael Schramm
History Honors Society: Phi Alpha Theta	
Leadership Honors Society: Omicron Delta Kappa	
Dean of Academic Life Summer Research Grant	

*Sophomores*

Library Scholar Award Nomination	Rachel Gonsenhauser
Independent Research Presenter: Lehigh Valley Ecology and Evolution Symposium	
Burdette Scholarship Recipient	Chris Chaky