

The Dana Interviewer, Class of 2018



THE DANA INTERVIEWER

Featuring the Class of 2018

The Dana Scholars Program 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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Anthony Carracino by Jacob Metcalfe

Anthony's hometown is Livingston, New Jersey. He chose Muhlenberg because of the welcoming community and the superb academic and athletic opportunities here. Anthony plays on Muhlenberg's soccer team, and loves the brotherhood between the players, but also enjoys the flexibility of playing division III.

Anthony first planned on majoring in physics, which he had enjoyed in high school. He questioned this plan after taking his first physics class, realizing it was not his forte and that he would not enjoy a career in the subject. Luckily for him, Muhlenberg is a liberal arts school and thus welcomes and supports major exploration. After thoroughly enjoying a finance class, he declared himself a finance major with a minor in analytics.

Along with being on the soccer team, Anthony is a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, and volunteers with TOPSoccer, a program which provides special needs children to play soccer. He enjoys sharing his love of soccer with those who might not experience the sport without TOPSoccer's assistance. He did not study abroad, but does not regret staying on campus.

In the fall of his sophomore year, Anthony worked as an analytics intern for the athletic department under Kathy Haring, helping conduct correlational research on the athletic department's title IX regulations.

It was also during sophomore year that the Dana program introduced Anthony to community engagement through the sophomore seminar, motivating him to continue his community engagement efforts beyond it. He credits the Dana program for allowing him to experience a new academic lens through which to see the world, something the Dana program prides itself in. This paradigm shift benefitted Anthony not only in academics, but also in everyday life, as it provided another avenue of thought which often proved worthwhile, and motivated him to continue engaging with the community beyond his life as a Dana.

When asked about a unique experience which he enjoyed that others would not, Anthony spoke of his housing experience freshman year. Anthony went with random roommates and was placed into a triple. Most people would rather have their own room than live with another person, but Anthony enjoyed living in the triple. The three roommates became great friends, and the experience helped bring Anthony out of his quiet shell, something that he thinks wouldn't have happened otherwise. They kept in touch and now, as seniors, live together in an off-campus house.

This spring, Anthony is spending time with Dr. Huber studying baseball statistics. He'll be presenting his findings on the New York Yankees/Boston Red Sox rivalry in April. After graduation, he hopes to find a job in the financial sector within the greater New York area.



Weston Conner by Lilianne Gering

Weston began his Muhlenberg career with excitement as he awaited all of the new opportunities he would take advantage of throughout his four years of undergraduate education. He is extremely multidisciplinary and invested in challenging himself in new areas of interest, and this is displayed by his whole academic career. As a double major in music and anthropology with a minor in English, Weston has proved that he has pushed himself, with encouragement from the Dana Program, to broaden his horizons in multiple different areas.



Weston's love for music has always been a part of his life as he plays the violin, the guitar, and the viola da gamba. Here at Muhlenberg, he is involved in both the Monday and Tuesday night jazz improvisation ensembles as well as the chamber orchestra and collegium musicum. He also played in a jazz band which performed around campus and other areas of Allentown. He both sang and played the guitar in his band, "C-Level," and as he laughingly said, "we had an album called 'The Library.'" Weston is also a member of Kappa Kappa Psi (the campus' National Honorary Band Fraternity) in which he assists the music department, and he enjoys doing so because he gets to display his love for music throughout his daily life. He conducted music research while studying abroad during the fall of his junior year in Nepal where he learned about the Tibetan and Himalayan peoples. While he was there he was able to get a picture of the Dalai Lama! He also sat in on practices, performances, and lessons about the music played on rare Tibetan instruments during Chöd, a form of Tibetan Buddhist vajrayana meditation. This experience is one that Weston will never forget because he was able to witness music and cultures in an enriching and intriguing way.

Weston has done a great deal of research in the Anthropology field, and he is currently focusing on archaeology for his honors thesis. He has recently been studying charcoal production in the Lehigh Valley area and spends a large majority of his time making maps to understand the geographic layout of the charcoal pits. He also accomplished archeological investigation for his mentorship with Dr. Ben Carter. He went to Maine the summer of his sophomore year and worked on historical documents to spatially link data to people so he could establish a relationship between people and property lines. Then During the summer of his junior year he went to the Colonche Valley in Ecuador to find unknown archaeological sites. He found a line of tombs associated with another site they had known about and some other, smaller sites with tools and ceramics. Both of these mentorships were learning experiences for Weston in which he was able to delve deeper into his passion for archaeology.

Weston is very proud of the work he has done here at Muhlenberg as well as the research he has done on his own. He is looking forward to culminating his last year with his senior recital and he hopes to pursue archaeology in the future in both his career and graduate school. He has also thought about potentially being an English teacher's assistant but he's keeping his options open for what the future has in store for him and he attributes the push he has received to explore these many different academic options throughout his time at Muhlenberg to the Dana Program. "It's multidisciplinary, it has pushed me to seek out those places of uncertainty and discomfort for longer than I would have and it's made me think outside of what I'm comfortable in. I probably would have done this anyway, but it was definitely a push to do so." Weston's dedication to his passions and his desire to learn will lead him to a very successful future!

Carly DeNigris By Celia Bowers

Hailing from New Jersey, Carly DeNigris has had a year immersed in the field of physical therapy. An athlete and a scientist, she declared her biology major in sophomore year, and has since been getting more involved in the science of health. Despite her obvious passion for physical therapy, Carly did not come into Muhlenberg knowing what she was to do in her future.



“I used to call my mother crying about not knowing what to do,” she recalls, somewhat amused at the memory. Coming into college, she considered chemistry as a major, but the trials and tribulations of Organic Chemistry quickly dissuaded her. She elected to instead major in biology and commit to a pre-med track. During the past summer, she worked with Dr. McCain on a research mentorship, studying the development of axolotls in anoxic conditions (axolotls, by the way, are very small, adorable amphibians that closely resemble salamanders). Though the 40-hour work week was not ideal, she was glad for the research experience and got to learn how to use the large, intimidating electron microscope in the New Science building.

However, as her college career wore on, she asked herself: do I really want to go into pre-med? The subject was not a perfect fit, and Carly soon found that she felt better in physical therapy instead. “As an athlete, I was always in and out of physical therapy myself; it’s kind of like second nature,” she explained. “It’s more than just ‘here’s your diagnosis, and here’s some medicine’, [which is what it’s like being a regular doctor]. There’s more patient interaction and you get to know the person better.” Her understanding of how to be successful in physical therapy and her desire to have a personal relationship with patients led her to change paths. She decided to apply for PT school, right in time for the applications to open in July. A stressful situation, but Carly is optimistic that she can swing it. “The outlook for PT school is good,” she said as she described the application process that she is currently in. All in all, she advises to not get worked up over future plans, because there is more room for opportunity than one may think. Carly has taken her time figuring out what she is driven to do, and has now found a field to which she is happy dedicating a large portion of her time. Outside of academics, she exercises her interest in PT by volunteering with the student athlete mentors on campus and organizations such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She has also worked at a PT clinic in the past. She is currently planning her Dana internship at the athletic trainers’ office on campus for this spring semester. She is looking forward to the opportunity to work on campus with the trainers she has grown close to.

In addition to her PT endeavors, Carly is dedicated to her role as a member of the Muhlenberg soccer team. She admits that she is part of very few other clubs and organizations, as her classes and soccer schedule do not leave her with much extra time. Her favorite class that she is currently taking is applied physiology: Muhlenberg’s small size allows for a hands-on experience, with doctors coming in to present real-life cases for students to research and diagnose. Carly also appreciates her African Dances and Cultures class, and promotes her Dana sophomore seminar, which she says was good for involvement and volunteering in the community. She is also a strong supporter of the study abroad program at Muhlenberg: she spent last spring abroad in Florence, Italy, and fell in love with the experience. “I didn’t take any science classes at all,” she laughed. The experience gave her time to branch out her interests—she even tried out a cooking class. “I highly recommend it,” she affirmed. Carly plans to go to PT school after graduating Muhlenberg; she has already had a few interviews.

Dan Dobro by Michaela Colahan

Dan Dobro is a very hard man to get a meeting with. Really, this shouldn't be at all surprising, considering just how much Dan does on Muhlenberg's campus. First of all, he is a double major in English and theatre, with double concentrations in acting and performance studies in the latter. He is also a writing tutor, a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, and an active member of the Muhlenberg Theatre Association. He also helps run theatre workshops at a local high school through the Office of Community Engagement. In addition, Dan is a member of InAcchord, one of Muhlenberg's a cappella groups, and he also works at the campus' polling center. And on top of all of that, Dan is also, of course, a Dana scholar.



According to Dan, the most significant parts of the Dana Scholars program are the bookends: the First Year Seminar that starts off a Muhlenberg education, and the Dana Forum and group project that finishes a Dana Scholars' time here. Dan's mentorship with Dr. Robles-Moreno was also a major part of his Dana experience. Dan did his independent study on ON DISPLAY, a global performance installation aimed at inclusivity and diversity. Muhlenberg's campus participated in ON DISPLAY this December, with community members organizing and participating in the event in Seegers Union. For his Dana internship, he is editing the Dana Interviewer.

Dan's academic career is impressive—in his time at Muhlenberg he has made Dean's list, and has been inducted to Phi Beta Kappa as well as the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta. But Dan's extracurricular achievements are just as impressive. He is certified actor-combatant with the SAFD and this training, combined with his experience from performing with the Muhlenberg Circus as a clown, has led him to the opportunity to perform in this year's mainstage production "Glory," a retelling of Shakespeare's plays about Henry VI. But stage combat and clowning are not the only special training Dan has done while at Muhlenberg. He spent a semester abroad at the Accademia dell'Arte in Tuscany, Italy, where he studied the traditional form of theatre commedia dell'arte, getting a chance to make art he couldn't here. While in Italy, Dan got a taste of the conservatory environment he had decided not to pursue during his college search. He made a choice many of Muhlenberg's art students do: a well-rounded liberal arts education was what he wanted over extremely specified conservatory training.

Dan comes from Brooklyn and plans to return there after graduation. For the moment, his plan is to do internships, auditions, and survival jobs, but in the long run he hopes to make a place for himself among New York's working theatre artists. If he continues to achieve like he has at Muhlenberg, I have no doubt that he will do amazing things after graduation.

Laura Gleason by Jonathan Henry



Laura Gleason is majoring in biology with a pre-med track. After growing up in Ocean, New Jersey, and attending a communications-based high school, Laura came to Muhlenberg undecided about what she wanted to major in. Throughout her first year, she took basic pre-med courses, but still wasn't convinced she was in the right field. Ironically, Organic Chemistry, the class that pre-med students fear most, was the one that directly influenced her decision to pursue medicine. Up until that point, the topics covered in General Chemistry and Biology seemed isolated to Laura. But in Professor Baar's Organic Chemistry class, Laura says, her eyes were opened to the connections between all of the classes she had taken before, and she felt a love for science that she hadn't previously.

Her participation in campus EMS, and an internship at St. Luke's, where she got to experience different medical specialties, reaffirmed her choice to pursue medicine. Outside of the classroom, she began to get involved in medicine-related clubs such as the Pre-Health Association, where she became secretary, and then vice president. She also joined a sorority and started volunteering with Shape It Up, a gym program for local elementary school students, as well as Community Exchange, an event that allowed her to engage with the surrounding community. When she's not contributing to these clubs, studying for exams, or tutoring students in biology and chemistry, she values the time she is able to spend with her friends and family.

As a Dana scholar, Laura has had the opportunity to gain experiences that not every college student has the chance to have. She said that, "The Dana scholars program has allowed me to think critically and interdisciplinarily in a way that typical classes wouldn't allow me to." Laura began to get involved in research with Dr. McCain on the effects of BPA in sea urchin skeletal development. At first, she wasn't sure if she would enjoy research, but found it to be incredibly interesting and rewarding.

Laura's most challenging experience at Muhlenberg was studying for the MCAT. The exam taught her the importance of learning things right the first time. After completing the the MCAT and getting a high score, Laura is proud and feels great about her progress towards becoming a doctor.

Reflecting on her experience at Muhlenberg, she said, "Muhlenberg has challenged and forced me to see the bigger picture and be more optimistic. Taking on so many responsibilities has caused me to become more self directed. My independence has flourished here and I'm more sure of myself. I didn't have any passions in high school, but I think that I have more direction now." She had some advice that she wanted to share. First and foremost: study abroad. Laura claimed that her study abroad experience was the defining moment of her college career. She had the opportunity to travel to Copenhagen, and from there was able to visit over ten other countries in her time abroad, allowing her to experience cultures vastly different from her own. She also recommended not to get too caught up in school, and to say yes to as many opportunities as possible.

Laura is currently applying to medical schools, many of which she received interviews at. She is optimistic, and looking forward to her future. She hopes to have another experience abroad, perhaps for a full year this time. Within the next ten years, she'd like to see herself living in New Jersey, finishing residency, and starting a family.

Katerina Havlik by Rebecca Shear

Katie Havlik is neuroscience major and a women's and gender studies minor. Her hometown is Ellicott City, Maryland, where she plans to stay for a year while she applies to medical school during the 2018 cycle. During her gap year, she hopes to gain more clinical experience through shadowing and medical volunteer work. Her goal is to become a Doctor of Osteopathic medicine, or D.O., specializing in neurology or psychiatry.



Katie's Dana mentorship experiences include working as a lab assistant at the Cihakova Lab in the Johns Hopkins University Department of Pathology in Baltimore, Maryland for the summers of 2016 and 2017, as well as working as a Health Center Advocacy Intern at Planned Parenthood of Allentown in the fall of 2017. She also worked as a research assistant in the Williams Lab at Muhlenberg and assisted in the organization of the Dana Interviewer.

Katie currently volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Whitehall and the Lehigh Valley Humane Society. Her previous volunteer experience also includes working at the Jefferson Elementary School Food Pantry and at the Phoebe Home for Living Assistance, both in Allentown. She is also heavily involved in community activism and participates in canvassing, phone banks, and rallies with Planned Parenthood and Make the Road PA.

On campus, Katie is involved with several student organizations, particularly with the Office of Multicultural Life. She is the secretary of Feminist Collective and the public relations officer for both Students for Queer Advocacy and Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition. Additionally, she is a member of Black Students Association and Muhlenberg's chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Katie loves cats and birds (British shorthairs and lovebirds specifically). One of her favorite classes that she took at Muhlenberg was Philosophy of Science with Dr. Schick, although she has enjoyed (nearly) every class she has taken. While she is looking forward to moving on to medical school or wherever life will take her, she will miss the friends and community of Muhlenberg.

Four years ago, Katie had her First Year Seminar, Speak My Language, with Dr. Teissere. She says that her FYS was a nice way of offering her exposure to topics outside the realm of neuroscience. Her Dana senior forum project involves studying power relations in medical diagnosis and how self-diagnosis can disrupt these relations. She is also currently in her neuroscience CUE, where she is researching connections between chronic neuropathic pain and painkiller addiction. She is also currently working on writing a literature review with her previous mentor at JHU which she hopes to publish towards the end of the semester. Overall, the interdisciplinary nature of the Dana program is what makes it so special and has encouraged Katie to pursue fields of study she would have not had she not been involved in the program.

Michelle Haykin by Abrar Shamim

Michelle Haykin, currently a junior at Muhlenberg College, has a unique repertoire of activities and involvements that will propel her into her future as a dentist. Michelle is currently in the 7-year accelerated program in dentistry through the University of Pennsylvania's School of Dental Medicine. Her three years at Muhlenberg allowed her to accomplish her goal of surrounding herself with like-minded people who wanted to help local communities in direct and meaningful ways.

Michelle came to Muhlenberg excited to learn more about the world in order to become a more well-rounded, engaged citizen of the community. Muhlenberg College proved to be a good fit for her; She took advantage of the opportunities this campus provides to make close and meaningful relationships with her peers and professors. Michelle had a great experience in her second semester of Organic Chemistry, which turned out to be an enlightening experience that helped her realize how many of the things she had been learning in the prior years related to each other. She also believes that this institution helped her gain exposure to topics she never thought would interest her.

Michelle maintains an impressive list of extracurricular activities that fill the time she has in between her classes and studies. She is the chair of engagement of the biology club, an active peer tutor, and a consistently-involved volunteer. As a biology major within the UPenn Dental Program, Michelle is also seeking a minor in Russian Studies.

One of her favorite experiences as a Dana Scholar was her planning of the orientation schedule for the class of 2022. Michelle also immensely enjoyed her First Year Seminar with Dr. Cooperman. Acknowledging that graduating as a Dana is no easy task, Michelle has discovered that working out, running outside, reading, watching documentaries (she really loves a good documentary on marine animals), and attending paint classes help her relieve stress.

Michelle spent many hours shadowing dental professionals in hospital and clinic settings over the last few years. Looking forward to four years of dental school, Michelle is excited to become a dentist and hopes to have the opportunity to serve in a medically-underserved community.



Tom Herr by Andrew Leahy

As Tom Herr approached me in the lounge at Java Joe's, I was immediately struck by his casual appearance – a neat patterned sweater, ray ban-style glasses, socks and Birkenstocks – paired characteristically with a warm affability and inviting demeanor. Apart from this calm and cool deportment, however, I would soon learn that Tom leads a pretty involved life, having accomplished a great deal of work in his four years as a student and Dana scholar at Muhlenberg. Indeed, pursuing a double major in Psychology and Music, Tom engages in some eclectic studies, but with a character like his, it is no wonder he has followed these passions with such focus and vigor.



Tom knew initially that he wanted to study psychology in his undergraduate work. As it would turn out, music would join the voyage – a lifelong passion becoming a subject of further attention and study. When considering Muhlenberg, Tom was drawn by the prospect of performing in the college's pit orchestras during theater productions, which was icing on the cake of the school's small and intimate atmosphere, diverse opportunities, and decent distance from his hometown of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Following his enrollment, Tom went on to play in a number of mainstage productions. Throughout his years, he has also maintained involvement in the college's Big Band, Musica da Camera, and Chamber Orchestra, where he is now principle bass. Besides music, Tom is on the OIT team, and serves as vice president of Muhlenberg's chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society in Psychology.

Regarding the Dana program, Tom recalls the critical value of his experience, presenting him with an "interesting way of reading and thinking" that would prove applicable to all of his college work. For his Dana mentorship, Tom spent the first semester of his Junior Year studying musicology and historical interpretations of Shostakovich's 5th Symphony, an experience complemented by his enrollment in the Vienna music program during the following Spring semester. While abroad, Tom took outstanding music courses and saw The Vienna Philharmonic – celebrated as one of the finest orchestras in the world (he was especially stoked about how cheap the tickets were!). Looking back, he applauds the Dana program for the interdisciplinary opportunities and experiences it granted him, as well as the exposure to different professors during seminars. These programs, he notes, provided diverse perspectives and ways of thinking that he now deems invaluable to his education.

When asked about his favorite moments at Muhlenberg, Tom paused, then settled on Vienna, and complimented the college's capacity for making it possible to balance his many commitments, from studies to work to ensembles. His favorite classes, he noted, were Research Methods with Dr. Frazer and Music Theory III..

I closed my interview with what I termed the "dreaded question." Regarding the future, Tom is planning on staying in the area, hoping to be hired as a mental health or psychological research assistant. He is also interested in potentially attending graduate school for a PhD in Psychology. Music, he says, will remain a relevant part of his life, and he would not be opposed to auditioning for the Allentown Symphony Orchestra should the prospect seem possible. I have no doubt, after having met and conversed with Tom, that all these aspirations will be more than fulfilled. He presents a seamless unity of motivation, resourcefulness, talent, and approachability, evident in his Dana work and Muhlenberg career. He is a commendable candidate for a generous, dynamic (*pun intended*), and eventful life beyond the 'Berg.

Brock Juliano by Mike Gatazko



Brock Juliano is a member of the Class of 2018, and is currently a biochemistry and anthropology double major. Although he is linking two seemingly-disconnected fields of study, Brock has found it helpful to enhance his understanding of both and become a stronger scholar as a result. He originally came to Muhlenberg looking to pursue a degree in biology, but he discovered that he enjoyed studying chemistry just as much, and did not want to have to choose between the two. This in turn, led him to declare a biochemistry major. His anthropology major came as a surprise at first, but just one class in that field served as a foundation that allows him to not only obtain a Bachelor of Science but also a Bachelor of Arts. Brock, in his studies, is not only embracing the essence of a liberal arts education, but embodying what it means to be a Dana Scholar. When asked what being a part of the Dana program means to him, Brock said, "Working with people who are more curious and willing to take academic risks, while trying to use different forms of knowledge." By taking a multidiscipline approach, Brock has grown as a student who is armed to approach problems from different perspectives.

Brock comes from South Jersey and his plans for after graduation center on pursuing further education in order to obtain a chemistry Ph.D. After this, his ultimate career goals lay somewhere in the industrial field where he eventually hopes to end up in regulation of chemicals in some fashion. When asked why he chose Muhlenberg College, he described how Muhlenberg was not too far from home but also not too close, and it gave him ample opportunity to work in the sciences at an affordable price. When asked what tips he had for incoming and future students he answered, "Try to talk to professors earlier rather than later in fields that you have interest in." He believes that this will help others as it helped him discover what he really wanted to study in his four short years at Muhlenberg. This response is linked to one of his biggest regrets of his time at Muhlenberg: the fact that he did not sooner realize that Anthropology was for him. Brock also wishes he studied abroad during his time here—although realizes that it would have been extremely difficult to fit in while finishing his two majors, he would still encourage others to try their best to make it work.

Besides being busy with his academic work, Brock is a level one peer tutor and enjoys interacting with other students. This coincides with his favorite part of being a scholar of the Dana program, because it allows him to interact with students from different backgrounds that have different views on the world. This in turn expands his horizon of understanding and knowledge making him a better person and a better scholar. His biggest accomplishment at Muhlenberg is being on track to successfully graduate with a double major in two diverse and time-consuming fields. Two professors that he has forged strong relationships with to help him reach this accomplishment are Dr. Hark and Dr. Colabroy.

As Brock is about to enter his final semester as a Muhlenberg student and a Dana Scholar, I asked him to look back and reflect on his experiences. He summed up his experience as a heavy work load that helped shape and change him into the person he is today. He believes that he has become less extreme and more level headed about obstacles and has learned how to better balance his obligations with the rest of his life.

Sara Kass by Sophie Beeler

Introducing Dana scholar Sara Kass: she is passionate about social justice, feminism, knitting, reading, and biking. Originally from Southern California, she initially chose Muhlenberg to experience the East coast, a smaller school, and closer relationships with professors. Coming into Muhlenberg, she was an aspiring pre-med student and decided to study neuroscience because she believes it is the most interdisciplinary science and provokes thought that is broader than the science itself. Additionally, she appreciates the number of different levels and aspects of the discipline, from neurons to philosophy. She also minors in Women and Gender Studies, which she finds overlaps with her other classes all the time, including her major, which is a huge part of why she loves Muhlenberg.



Despite her challenging courses, Sara is incredibly involved. She's been a part of EMS and had experience on the EMS board, worked with admissions as a student greeter and tour guide, served as an orientation leader and tutor, as well as part of the SOAP committee, and the board of Feminist Collective. Being a part of Dana Scholars has also been a positive involvement, and she looks forward to conducting research for the Dana Forum. She also took advantage of the opportunity to study abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, where she took a core course in psychopharmacology and also women and justice studies, though it was difficult to be on a different continent and so far away from Muhlenberg for a semester. Since sophomore year, she's conducted research with Dr. Sprayberry on olfaction involving bees. She also accepted an internship with St. Luke's her junior year.

Some of her favorite courses from her Muhlenberg experience include Mind & Brain, States of Consciousness, and Psychology of Women, which she appreciated because it analyzed the ways culture is entrenched in patriarchy. For Mind & Brain, she also aided other students as a learning assistant. She did not originally expect to be a learning assistant, but it turned out to be influential and rewarding. The unparalleled support and relationships with professors and faculty (specifically Drs. Teissere, Sprayberry, and Richmond), combined with her ability to empower others to find knowledge and assist in others' education further stoked her own love of academia. Sara now plans to take a gap year and eventually acquire a doctorate degree focusing on women and gender studies, potentially crossing with neuroscience. She is ready and qualified to take the next step in her life, but she will miss the support and experiences she had at Muhlenberg.

Gwen Kelly by Kaelyn Kappes



Gwen Kelly came to Muhlenberg from Long Island, New York. She was immediately attracted to Muhlenberg because of its reputation as a great school for double majoring — she had originally wanted to double major in theatre and another discipline she had yet to decide on. She was even more elated to discover that Muhlenberg had a great tap team, because tap dancing was one of her favorite extracurriculars. Now, four years later, Gwen has become a sociology major with a double minor in women’s and gender studies and math. Although she had planned to focus on theatre, after taking a few sociology courses she knew that she wanted to pursue that path instead. When asked about the accomplishment she was most proud of, Gwen laughed and replied, “I think I’d have to say my junior year in its entirety!” She was right to be proud: during her junior year Gwen completed her Dana internship and Dana mentorship while volunteering with several organizations through the Office of Community Engagement, and also tap danced in Master Choreographers.

Gwen’s Dana internship was with Community Bike Works, a local organization that offers youth development programs to students from Allentown and the Lehigh Valley. Twice a week, Gwen taught students historical lessons with a social justice focus and did crafts and activities with them related to that week’s topic. Gwen was very passionate about doing this work because she firmly believes that students should begin learning about social justice at a young age. She also researched anti-biased education and implemented it during her lessons. Meanwhile, back on campus, Gwen was doing sociology research as part of her Dana mentorship. During this time Gwen researched the overlap between mental illness and sociology, specifically focusing on the social aspects of schizophrenia. After doing extensive research on the topic, Gwen had the incredible opportunity to present her findings at the Eastern Sociological Conference. In addition to her internship and mentorship, she performed in the Masters’ Tap number and continued to volunteer with some of her favorite organizations, including The Caring Place, McKinley Elementary, the community garden, and the environmental action team.

Now, in her last year at Muhlenberg, Gwen is preparing for her future and continuing to strive to help others. After graduation she hopes to join the Peace Corps and do agricultural work in West Africa revolving around food security. One reason Gwen is interested in this is that she believes that it is important to expand the group of people that she works with and understand new perspectives from all around the world. Another option she is considering is working for a nonprofit organization that does social justice advocacy and works for education reform. If she could give any advice to younger Dana scholars, Gwen says it would be to take initiative and make use of the incredible opportunities the Dana program and Muhlenberg as a whole present.

Anne Kitz by Amber Dietrich

Welcoming, creative, and adventurous, Anne Kitz is a senior Dana scholar from Dumont, New Jersey. Like many Muhlenberg students, Anne chose a liberal arts college because it allowed her to simultaneously pursue two of her passions. When entering college, Anne was interested in being a media communications and dance double major and has pursued this track throughout her studies. After graduation, she hopes to live in close proximity to New York City and focus on production or post-production in the television and film industry while continuing to make dance a part of her life through teaching dance or taking classes.

Anne chose to complete her Dana internship in the public relations office of the theatre & dance department last fall. During this time, she assisted in the design and creation of posters and promotional videos, and was part of the marketing campaigns for productions and events within the department. She enjoyed this internship because it combined both of her majors and permitted her to use her creativity outside of her class assignments. She was so successful in this position that the office invited her back this fall, after a stint of study-abroad experience, to continue to work alongside them. She has also completed two mentorships, including a research collaboration with dance professor Randall Anthony Smith on performance anxiety in dancers.

Anne is not just a Dana scholar—she is also involved in a number of other organizations on campus. Besides being a calculus tutor and a member of the MINT dance team, Anne is a member of the Muhlenberg Dance Association which has provided her the opportunities to perform in both mainstage dance productions, *Moving Stories* and *Master Choreographers*, multiple times.

When asked if she had any advice for first year Dana students, Anne warmly said, “Take time to create and make memories with the right people.” She has loved being part of the community here at Muhlenberg, especially within the dance program where she has formed close bonds with both peers and faculty members. She’s also enjoyed her involvement in projects and internships, such as her internship with QVC, in which she was treated as a professional. She even shared that she feels her largest accomplishment during the last four years was the semester she spent abroad in Florence, Italy in which she did not concentrate on either of her majors, but simply went to explore, learn, experience, travel, and grow in herself. The DANA program and Muhlenberg College both encourage opportunities such as this, so Anne’s advice to first years would be to take classes they are genuinely interested in, push themselves to do more than they believe they are capable of doing, and most of all, cherish their time here because it goes by quickly.



Julia Kotler by Zoe Bently

Julia Kotler is from Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. She fell in love with Muhlenberg because of the friendly environment and the kind people here. She is majoring in physics and minoring in math—the only Dana physics major in the class of 2018! Her Dana experience began with her First Year Seminar on The Politics of Memory and then continued to what she sees as one of the highlights of her time here at Muhlenberg: when during her sophomore year she worked with a group of local high school students involved in National Honors Society. She loved working alongside these smart, high-achieving students to plan an event for their school and Fall Fest at Muhlenberg, and hearing about their goals and aspirations. It was an incredibly humbling experience for and gave her a new perspective of the Allentown community.



Another way the Dana program broadened Julia's perspective of the world at large its diversity. Being a physics and math student, she's spent most of her time studying with a concentrated group of people with similar knowledge and goals. Her time with her fellow Danas was enriching and enlightening because she was able to have discussions with people with a vast range of interests and experiences. What she loves so much about being a Dana is that everyone has different backgrounds and opinions, and the cohort has fostered an environment where disagreeing is okay. Meeting others intellectually has widened her own scope of opinions and knowledge. For her, the Dana program fosters understanding and respect.

Other memorable Dana experiences of Julia's are the two mentorships she completed as part of the program. Both focused on her studies in physics, but from two very different aspects. In the summer between her sophomore and junior years she worked with Dr. Fadem at Brookhaven National Lab where she got to experience hands-on, professional work in the field of nuclear physics. Her other mentorship was with Dr. Flood, where they studied acoustics and the differences in sound between different types of violins. These two different experiences in physics enabled her to see her Physics major in new light and focused her interest. It also gave her a way to connect her Physics studies with some of her family's more musical tendencies, bridging the gap between two seemingly different fields.

Julia's main academic goal at Muhlenberg apart from a physics major was to study abroad in London. She was able to achieve this as well, traveling to England this past spring to spend the semester there. It was the experience of a lifetime for her, having never been to Europe before. She has a great love for history, so the ability to be immersed in a country and continent rich with culture and history was incredible for her. When back home in the States, she still loves history and spends lots of time reading books and watching documentaries on the subject. She is also a huge astronomy lover, which is actually how she came to physics in the first place. When not immersed in her various studies, Julia keeps busy as the chapter representative for Alpha Phi Omega, a nonprofit service fraternity on campus. She has been in APO since sophomore year, but being able to experience it from the more administrative side of things and give input has been really enlightening and rewarding.

As for life after Muhlenberg, Julia would like to go to grad school for engineering, most likely related to some aspect of mechanical engineering in particular. She's considering continuing her work with acoustics that she began with her mentorship, which just goes to show how strong the foundations built in the Dana program truly are.

Megan Leahy by Jessica Sommer

Megan Leahy, who's from Chalfont, Pennsylvania, graduates this spring with honor as a Dana Scholar. Back at home she enjoys watching baseball games with her mom, dad, brother, two cats, and her dog Maggie. Though she is always happy to go home and visit her family, she loves hanging out on campus. Megan chose Muhlenberg for her undergrad education because it was close to home and allowed her to get a liberal arts education where she could explore multiple fields in order to get a grasp on what she wanted her career to be. She enjoys the campus and the atmosphere of 'Berg.



Megan's chosen path is International Studies with a concentration in environmental issues as well as a minor in sustainability studies. She's enjoyed the interdisciplinary nature of her major/minor combination. During her four years at Muhlenberg she has become very well traveled. She completed a MILA course in Costa Rica where she studied sustainable agriculture practices and policies. Her research specifically focused on how the department of agriculture supports small farmers and sustainable practices. In addition to her trip to Costa Rica, Megan studied abroad in Tanzania where she learned beginner Swahili, did independent research, and studied conservation on Mount Kilimanjaro. She still keeps in touch with her home stay family there, and considers them the best part of her experience in Tanzania.

Megan has been involved in both EnAcT and the community garden at Muhlenberg. As part of her Dana scholar requirements, Megan completed an internship with the Office of Sustainability where they worked on a project called MPower. MPower is an energy competition between MILE houses in order to make students more conscious of their own energy use. She also completed an independent study with Professor Heric.

When asked what she would miss most about Muhlenberg, Megan said that she would miss all the different kinds of people she got to meet along the way as well as the ability to have an interdisciplinary conversation as a result of a liberal arts education. Post-graduation Megan hopes to find a job involving sustainability, possibly even working at an organic farm. She's also considering graduate school in the future. Megan describes her college experience as moving so quickly yet slowly at the same time. She's had four years of amazing opportunities, and a bright year ahead of her.

Julia Leep-Lazar by Miranda Robinson

Julia came to Muhlenberg from Bethesda, Maryland, and has certainly made her mark on the college in her four years here. Interestingly, Julia fell in love with the campus while touring it with her family when her older sister was a prospective student. Although her sister did not end up attending the college, Julia still chose to matriculate due to the small campus and environment Muhlenberg provides. Having attended small schools for the majority of her life, she stressed the importance of a close-knit environment when finding the right institution for her.

Once on campus, Julia truly found herself on the pre-med track. In particular, she has become extremely involved in research with Dr. Edwards, which she feels is the most valuable and impressive work she has done at Muhlenberg. The team harvests ticks in the Lehigh Valley and works to predict instances of Lyme disease in the area, which lets doctors know when to take preventative measures on the issue. Julia has been involved with this research for three years now, and says that it has really encouraged her to continue research in the future.

Outside of the classroom, Julia excels as a member of the track and field team. For track and field, she throws discus and hammer, and holds a record on campus. She has also been an RA since sophomore year, which she says really helped her step out of her comfort zone and develop her leadership skills. It also helped her learn how to balance responsibilities in difficult situations, especially because many of her friends were also her residents. Julia is also a member of Emergency Medical Services on campus.

Julia was also able to study abroad while at Muhlenberg, participating in a public health program in Botswana. She says that it was a life-changing experience, and that it furthered her interest in a medical career. Especially after two years of being confined to classroom environments, she stressed that getting some hands-on work helped her remember why she wanted to be a doctor in the first place.

Julia is currently waiting to hear back from medical schools, and definitely plans to continue working in a medically-related field in the years that follow. She is possibly interested in working in emergency medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, or epidemiology (infectious diseases). She hopes to continue working on important research in the future, and would possibly like to do more public health work.

When asked if she had any advice for younger students at Muhlenberg, she said, "Don't limit yourself by your idea of what you should be doing, or what you planned on doing. Plans change a lot, and that's okay - it can even be a good thing."



Stephanie Levine by Kayla Klarides

Senior Dana Scholar Stephanie Levine is an accounting major with a minor in math. Stephanie started her academic career unsure of what her final destination would be. She chose Muhlenberg because she was torn between two potential majors: accounting and early childhood education. However, Stephanie quickly decided to pursue an accounting major and a math minor, and she couldn't be happier. "Accounting is very organizational and detail oriented, like me," Stephanie replied when I asked why she enjoyed accounting.

After graduation, Stephanie already has a job lined up. Thanks to a leadership program, last summer she interned at Schneider Downs, an accounting firm in her home city of Pittsburgh, PA. After her internship, the company offered her a job post-graduation where she will be doing nonprofit and for-profit tax accounting.

One of Stephanie's most memorable experiences during her four years at Muhlenberg was her study abroad program. She studied in Maastricht, which is located in the Netherlands. The program she took part in is designed for Accounting, Business, Economics, and Finance (or ABEF for short) majors who are looking to study abroad. When asked about her experience, Stephanie had nothing but good things to say. "I loved it," she told me. "I visited a new place every weekend."

During Stephanie's first semester at Muhlenberg she met many of her fellow Danas in her First Year Seminar, "The Politics of Memory", a philosophy-based seminar taught by Dr. Morgan. Stephanie personally did not have a large interest in the subject area, but she recalls finding it interesting. She told me that they would look at how events were remembered collectively, as well as how monuments played a role in remembering events. However, her favorite part of this seminar was that it brought her together with other scholars like herself. Stephanie informed me that some of her closest friends are Danas.

When asked what she enjoys about being a Dana, Stephanie replied "Being a Dana is a community of students who have extra classes and requirements. The best part of being a Dana is having a community of intellectual scholars that I can have stimulating conversations with outside of class."



Katlyn Mayer by Natalie Bakis

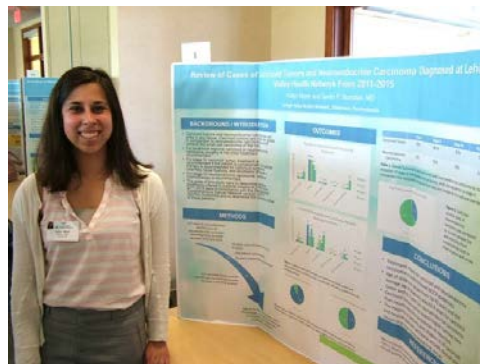
Katlyn Mayer, a Dana senior at Muhlenberg College is from Mequon Wisconsin. She says that she chose Muhlenberg because it is a small school where one can go into pre-med and not just be a number. Katlyn is a biochemistry major, aspiring to go to medical school.

With this interest in medicine, she got involved with the St. Luke's Pre-Med Observer internship the spring of her junior year where she and others rotated through different departments shadowing doctors and attending many seminars. She has also done research and interned with Dr. Colabroy, her favorite professor (with whom she took her favorite class: Advanced Biochemistry) since her sophomore year, studying things such as the biosynthesis of lincomycin and enzyme kinetics. This past summer she also did research in the Lehigh Valley Health Network Oncology department where she studied neuroendocrine cancers.

Katlyn joined EMS in the spring of her first year, and made most of her friends there. She became an EMT the summer after her freshman year and it's been her favorite activity since. She even lives with 3 EMTs now. In fact, she recalled that her favorite memory from college was as an EMT where during the first semester of her senior year they received 7 calls in one night, and now they look back and laugh at the experience.

In addition to EMS, She is also involved in ODK, Muhlenberg's leadership society, and has served for two years on the board of the Pre-Health Association. She is also a tutor for general chemistry, organic chemistry, and Spanish, having been fluent in Spanish since middle school. She also enjoys knitting, crocheting, cooking, watching tv, and spending time with her friends. Katlyn said that she made many of her good friends at school in her first FYS class.

During her time here, Katlyn says that college has changed her in a good way. She admits that she used to be painfully shy but not anymore, and she's tremendously grateful for that. She says that her experiences of taking hard classes, doing research, and meeting many good friends have helped her become more confident as a person. With the many skills that she has picked up during her four years, there is no doubt that Katlyn will continue to succeed as she enters the next stage of her education and her life.



Deanna Mayo by Alice Banta

Deanna Mayo wears many hats. As a Theatre and Accounting double major, she has experienced a wide range of what Muhlenberg has to offer. Originally, Mayo chose Muhlenberg for its close student-teacher relationships, friendly atmosphere, and especially the opportunity to double major in two different disciplines and have them both be equally valued.

Early in her college career, she worked with William Allen High School seniors through the CAMP program as a source of support as they embarked on the road of college applications. As mentor, Deanna was able to have one on one time with a particular student and offer guidance in finding an institution that would best serve the student academically, socially and financially. Mayo felt that this was a useful way for her to have a positive influence on the wider community outside of the campus. Additionally, for her Dana Mentorship, Mayo embarked on a two-semester-long project with Jessica Bien of the Theatre and Dance Department in which she researched and then experienced first-hand the “therapeutic and development effects of theatre on children and teens on the autism spectrum.” After a semester spent researching and learning about ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), she partnered with a theatre program in Philadelphia called Horizon Theatre that focuses on creating opportunities for people with autism who are interested in making theatre. She saw how much the students grew over the weeks she volunteered and, now, desires to continue her involvement in the autism community in New York by helping these children and teens on the spectrum develop their social and motor abilities.

The skills Mayo has acquired from her Theatre endeavors and education have helped her in developing her interpersonal skills for presentations and group work which has helped shape her abilities to enter her new professional life in Auditing and Assurance. Mayo will be joining the auditing team at CohnReznick in New York City starting in the fall. However, she also plans to keep up her passion for theatre on the side, as she has done recently as the co-president of and long-time participant in the Muhlenberg Rocky Horror Picture Show and as the choreographer for a community theatre production of *The Little Mermaid* last summer at Saint Gregory's Theatre Group in Bellerose.

Mayo is incredibly grateful for her time at Muhlenberg and for the connections, both personal and professional, that she has made here. She is proud to have attended a college wherein both the faculty and her community of friends have helped her to be the best that she can be in a myriad of ways.



September McCarthy by Kerry Sullivan

September McCarthy, a senior Dana in the graduating Class of 2018, hails from Oakhurst, New Jersey. A theatre and philosophy double major, September has devoted her time at Muhlenberg to expanding and broadening not only her artistic but also her academic horizons. Coming to the Muhlenberg, September was fairly adamant about being a theatre major, but her interest in philosophy came to her as a bit of a surprise. As is fairly common at Muhlenberg, she found her passion for philosophy while taking a general academic requirement: it was her Dana first year seminar with Professor Morgan. While she admits that her FYS was probably the hardest class she took at Muhlenberg, she looks back on it fondly and credits it for helping her find not only another academic interest, but also an academic mentor.



Throughout her time at Muhlenberg, September enjoyed the intellectual stimulus she gained working with and talking to her Dana scholar peers. Outside the program, September has been involved with the theatre department and participated as an active member of the Muhlenberg Theatre Association. Her sophomore year September was cast in a New Visions mainstage play, an experience that really integrated her in the department. However, her favorite experience was the year she studied abroad in Arezzo, Italy. The plan was to go to the physical theatre program the fall of her junior year and come back to Allentown for the spring. However, after falling in love with the city and the program, September chose to stay another semester and participate in the dance program.

After Muhlenberg, September is looking forward to continuing her pursuit of both theatre and philosophy. At Muhlenberg, September learned the value of nurturing yourself and working alongside others, because no one lives in a vacuum. While she is unsure exactly where life will take her, she credits Muhlenberg for giving her the skills to be successful in any path she chooses to go down.

Sarah Roussel by Kyra Hickey

Whether you've known her for years or only caught her smile in passing for the first time just recently, there's something unmistakable about Sarah Roussel: her love of community and her passion for people. As she describes her experience thus far in and around Muhlenberg, it is clear that Sarah feels most fulfilled by the relationships she builds. This is even evident in her thoughts on the Dana program. "The Dana program is special," Sarah says with her favorite passion fruit iced tea from Java Joe's in front of her. "It gives you a diverse and interesting group of people to grow with during your four years here." Sarah is grateful for the opportunities she has had to learn and work with people who she would not have otherwise known if it weren't for her involvement as a Dana.

Sarah has managed to intern during each of her four years at Muhlenberg. As a first-year, she worked for an author by promoting body positivity on social media and sound editing for their podcast. During her sophomore year, Sarah participated in Muhlenberg's Trexler Trust Community Internship Program, interning at Allentown's Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. There, she did grant research and preparation. Sarah says it was rewarding to work with Muhlenberg alum Adrian Shanker '09 and witness his vision coming to life when she attended the grand opening of the center. As a junior, Sarah interned in the Development & Marketing Office of Valley Youth House, a non-profit organization striving to "educate, empower, and strengthen" the lives of abused, vulnerable, and homeless youth. Sarah will conclude her incredible internship roster by working with Muhlenberg's Office of Advancement Communication this spring. Not only has Sarah established herself as an outstanding member of the community off-campus, but also on-campus through various clubs and activities. She has been a proud member of Feminist Collective, SQuAD, and MTAC, in addition to being a tour guide and a writing tutor. Sarah finds her work in the Writing Center to be particularly special. She feels that it has given her yet another network of fun and fascinating people, and she loves to help students succeed academically.

Despite her innumerable achievements, Sarah admits that college isn't a cake-walk. Upon entering her freshman year, she wasn't completely set on a major. She knew she wanted to concentrate on something within the social sciences and humanities, so she took a bunch of different courses, several pertaining to gender and sexuality. Sarah's fondest memories of a single class at 'Berg come from Mind & Brain with her mentor Dr. Teissere. Eventually, Sarah decided on majoring in sociology, with a second self-designed major in Gender & Sexuality Studies. Even though she got a terrible concussion close to the time she had to declare, Sarah managed to complete the daunting task of proposing and completing a self-designed major (and she's even able to tell the tale with an unmatched level of humility and humor).

Although she's clearly had a successful run as a student here at Muhlenberg, Sarah looks forward to entering the working world, and there is no doubt that she's ready for it. Originally from Fairfield, Connecticut, Sarah aspires to work for a nonprofit - preferably in the Boston area - in the fundraising sphere. Knowing Sarah, this aspiration will one day become a reality. Sarah has a way of being remarkably enriched by the world around her while enriching the lives of others in return. With her extraordinary intellect, dazzling determination, and boundless heart, there's no limit to the kind of good Sarah Roussel can inspire.



Lindsey Sharp by Renee Heller

Lindsey Sharp came to Muhlenberg from Chester, NJ, looking for a school where she could both dance and receive a liberal arts education. She found that here, in addition to 'good vibes' and the Dana honors program. 4 years later, Lindsey is double majoring in public health and dance with a concentration in performance.

As a freshman, Lindsey took the 'Politics of Memory' First Year Dana Seminar. When she started the program, Lindsey told me she didn't think that all the Danas would become friends because they're all so different. But now she realizes it just sort of happened; they have really become a close community. Lindsey is currently working with other Dana students to figure out research projects, and she appreciates that "everyone is so intelligent, and that they are all intelligent in different ways." She explained that being a dance major, she brings a creative perspective, where other people like neuroscience majors have a more factual take on things, leading to many different viewpoints. It is almost because the Dana program brought together such diverse students that they were able to get along and learn from each other.

During her time at Muhlenberg, Lindsey has been involved both inside and outside the campus community. She's completed an internship at St. Luke's community health department, a mentorship with Karen Dearborn studying dance movement therapy and injury prevention, an internship over the summer with the company Aon, looking at genetics, and she plans to do an internship next semester at Bethlehem St. Luke's for a research paper. Lindsey also studied abroad for a semester during her junior year in Florence, Italy. She thought it was a great experience to get out of her comfort zone. She mentioned that her choice to study abroad came after she chose to attend Muhlenberg, since it's such a popular option for many students here and there are so many programs to choose from. As a dancer, Lindsey has been involved in every performance opportunity. Since freshman year she has been able to choreograph, and has been a dancer in all the different shows. Lindsey was even in a piece for *Master Choreographers* her freshman year, and she thought it was "really cool that they immerse you right away." Lindsey is also a member of the Muhlenberg Dance Association and the Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Looking back on her Dana experience, Lindsey said that "ultimately, the Dana program helped me think more about community outreach." It was able to broaden her views to look through many different lenses of thought and expand her focus outside of the Muhlenberg bubble. After Muhlenberg, Lindsey already has big plans. She has been accepted to Boston University and is excited to be starting her masters in public health. Lindsey's advice to first-years would be to "start early, and take advantage of everything because it really does go by so fast."



Johnny Tamburro by Ryan Carey

Johnny Tamburro is a Music major from Bridgewater, New Jersey with concentrations in Music Composition and Classical Guitar. He chose Muhlenberg because he “dug the vibe” of the school; the campus felt very safe and friendly. Some of Johnny’s favorite memories at Muhlenberg are of the friendships he has made. He also recalls forming a band called C-Level, named after the quietest level in the Trexler Library. Johnny has spent hours jamming and recording with his friends, time he will never forget.

Johnny has certainly left an impact on Muhlenberg’s music department. Playing a total of twenty-one different instruments, Johnny participates in most of Muhlenberg’s music ensembles, including the Big Band Jazz Band. Johnny serves as director of the Muhlenberg Pep Band, and is an active member of Kappa Kappa Psi, the co-ed music fraternity. Johnny’s best decision at Muhlenberg was to drop his Neuroscience major the second semester of his junior year, allowing him to fully focus on music. Neuroscience didn’t speak to him, and he has no regrets.

Johnny has had great experiences with mentorships and internships in the Dana Program. For his mentorship, Johnny spends very intense hours playing guitar with Dr. Conner. Johnny has also had the experience working at a summer camp teaching music. He’s taught kids from ages 7-15 courses in playing guitar and even jazz history. Johnny has learned a lot from this experience. In the future, Johnny plans to be a gigging musician in either Colorado, Tennessee, or Philadelphia. He also plans to record an album in upstate New York. As a long-term goal, Johnny sees himself in commercial composition, writing jingles for advertising companies.

Johnny offered some advice to me and to any underclassmen who might read this interview: “The stakes could not be lower,” he said. The grades one gets in college are very insignificant and not nearly as important as maintaining integrity as a human being. Muhlenberg is a bubble; what happens here does not affect the outside world. Nothing is as important in college as remaining true to yourself. Be genuine, never feel as if you must match the expectations of others.”

As I finished interviewing Johnny, I noticed the headphones resting around his neck. I became curious; I wanted to know which band he was listening to. “Tiny Moving Parts,” he responded. He explained the band’s chill vibe and the interesting way that they approached music. I found this moment to reflect Johnny himself; music is Johnny’s passion in every aspect of his life. It also showed his relaxed personality. There is a lot to be learned from the laid-back attitude of Johnny Tamburro.



Julia Tyson by Hannah Betz

Julia Tyson has an impressive amount on her plate this year. But take it from her- that's nothing new. Julia has stayed busy throughout her Muhlenberg career, taking on a variety of projects in all arenas. Here she explains some of the work she's done as a Dana Scholar.

"I'm a theatre major with a music minor," Julia says- a gross understatement. Julia has been involved in innumerable theatrical and musical projects on campus. She has been seen performing sketch, improv, and standup comedy in both Damsels In Excess and SIT, as well as singing with the Muhlenberg College Choir and Chamber Singers. In addition, she has participated in the opera workshop program all four years here. According to Julia, "Most of my time goes into comedy and singing."

After Muhlenberg, Julia is thinking about continuing to put her time into comedy and singing- she is interested in professional choral work, oratorio, and comedy writing. Her time at Muhlenberg and in the Dana Scholars program has helped shape her interests; she says, "I came here thinking I'd be a TV actor, but four years later, I'm still committed to performing- just maybe not acting." Julia completed a mentorship by writing a pilot script for an original television comedy show, and it would seem she found her niche.

Julia points to her time in the Dana Scholars program as being particularly enriching. As a freshman she was part of Dr. Teissere's FYS "Speak My Language", participating in a "broad exploration of language in general" as well as profanity, advertising language, and specific writers' linguistic choices. Her sophomore seminar was reportedly lively, consisting largely of topical debates within the Danas. She also edited last year's Dana Interviewer as part of her Dana internship credit.

Julia emphasized the importance of the Dana Scholars in helping her make connections across interest areas and majors. It is easy to see these connections in action as well—she isn't likely to cross campus without saying hello to at least a few people. So if you haven't heard it yet- Julia Tyson is certainly a name you'll want to remember.



Jonathan Walker by Sadra Bowie

Jonathan Walker, a Dana senior from Massachusetts, cites the Dana program as one of the main reasons he chose to come to Muhlenberg. He was drawn to the program because it “empowers students to shape their college experience and puts you in touch with so many different people.” In his search to grow and be challenged, the Dana program stood out to him as a wonderful opportunity.

Walker’s first introduction to Dana scholarship came in the form of his FYS: “Speak My Language?” which provided him with insight into how language shapes our views of the world. He enjoyed it very much, and was recommended to be a writing tutor upon its completion, a role he has enjoyed filling throughout his time as a college student. During our interview, Walker consistently emphasized his appreciation for the leadership opportunities he has had as a result of the Dana program, particularly his time as a class representative, which has allowed him to be a part of shaping the growth of the program and has given him opportunities to work with the Center for Ethics to direct campus-wide discussion.

Walker began his college career as a pre-med student, double majoring in political science and biology. However, by the end of his sophomore year, he found that he was much more drawn to public health than he was to biology, so he switched his major. Walker studied abroad in Copenhagen, and he was able to take advantage of his mentorship in order to gain a solid background about Denmark, devoting that time to a comparative analysis of healthcare in the United States and Denmark. In his internship, Walker has been working with Dr. Borick at the polling center, researching the way that people’s personal opinions regarding the existence of climate change alter their perceptions of the weather. He now plans to work with a government think tank for a little while before beginning graduate school.

Walker has been a leader throughout his time at Muhlenberg, dedicating himself to helping others, whether that be through his time as a writing assistant, his leadership roles in the Dana program, or the work he has done with the Center for Ethics to bring a wider variety of voices to campus. Through this, he has changed our community and shaped the lives of everyone here, and, as he said in our discussion of the opportunities being a Dana has provided him with, “there’s value in being a part of that.”



Genevieve Wall by Olivia Ramsey

Genevieve Wall, a senior Theatre major and Sustainability Studies minor, hails from Washington D.C. She was introduced to Muhlenberg College through a friend from high school, and fell in love with the school after visiting and watching a devised black box theatre show. Although Genevieve originally intended to study theatre at a conservatory, she realized that she wanted a hands-on and fully rounded approach to her education, one that could combine intense training and academics.

Genevieve has been involved in a multitude of activities throughout her four years at Muhlenberg, especially in the theatre program. Freshman year, she was able to direct a play at the Red Door Play Festival. Since then, she has appeared in *The Other Room*, a studio production, worked as an assistant director on *Ulysses in Nighttown*, and directed *Shadow Day/187* this past fall as a mainstage. Genevieve discussed the challenge and the learning experience of directing *Shadow Day and 187*, two political pieces that tackle racism and prejudice. For her, it was “a razor’s edge between going too far and not saying enough.” However, she believes theatre is made for this content, for making the audience think about society and themselves, not just for entertainment. Genevieve also played on the women’s rugby team for two years and is an active member of ArtCo, Muhlenberg’s experimental performance art/devised theatre collective. In addition, although she was not initially interested in writing, a class called Reading Alice in Wonderland completely changed how she thought about text, stories, people, and consciousness. She said that it “almost made an English major out of me”, and as a result she now works with the writing center as a writing tutor and writing assistant.

For her Dana research, Genevieve tapped into this interest in writing, studying agendas for writing tutor sessions. Specifically, she questioned how agendas are revised throughout these meetings, whether the tutor or tutee led discussion changes, and etiquette between the two parties. She and her research partner Paige Harrington were able to present their research at the International Writing Center Association conference in Chicago. For Genevieve’s other mentorship, she applied her Sustainability Studies experience, working with renewable energy kits for Muhlenberg’s Sustainable Solutions class. The manuals for these kits were difficult to comprehend, having been initially translated by German engineers, so Genevieve created a new translation to make the kits more accessible and clear for students.

While no college senior enjoys being asked about their plans after college, Genevieve seems to be quite excited for her future. She intends to continue working summers with the Traveling Players Ensemble, a classical children’s theatre group that performs at amphitheaters along the Appalachian Trail. She will also be applying for directing apprenticeships and fellowships, hopefully in her hometown of Washington, D.C. She is even considering going to graduate school for one of her many interests.

Genevieve has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Muhlenberg, and credits her time here as the source of her flexibility, praising its ability to help her build problem solving skills for a wide variety of unpredictable situations. She says, “There are a lot of directions my life could go in, and I’m okay with following the things that make me happy and fulfilled, and trusting my future self to make the right decisions.”



Tara Werner by Ellen Powers

Tara is an English and math double major from Shelton, Connecticut. She was drawn to Muhlenberg initially because she wanted to be able to do dance and theatre without it being a major. However, she ended up drifting to English and math. Tara told me that she liked how she could easily double major in two opposite fields at Muhlenberg. Furthermore, she felt that the school's size and the opportunities available at Muhlenberg have helped her be prepared for graduate school.

Through the Dana program, Tara has been able to have two mentorships, both of which were English independent studies to prepare for the publication of her work, and for conferences. One of these mentorships was in the fall of her junior year, in which she worked on F. Scott Fitzgerald's first novel with a professor who was teaching a course on him. She read that novel, as well as others, and she was able to look at manuscripts in Princeton University's archives. Her second mentorship was part of a summer research grant that she used to help prepare for her English honors thesis.

On Muhlenberg's campus, Tara is involved in several different extra-curricular programs. She works at the circulation desk in the library, as a tutor in calculus through the Academic Resource Center, and as a lead tutor in the Writing Center. Tara also writes poetry for Muses, the literary magazine on campus. In addition, she is an officer for Muhlenberg's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, where she is working to start up an interdisciplinary academic review journal.

Tara has clearly made the most of everything the Dana program and Muhlenberg College have to offer. Some of her favorite moments have been in her classes in Irish Literature, Combinatorics and Graph Theory, and Film and Culture, as well as her time spent abroad. Tara studied abroad in the spring of her junior year in Edinburgh, Scotland, where she was able to study at the oldest English department in the world.

All of the programs and opportunities Tara Werner has been able to partake in have contributed greatly to her experience at Muhlenberg and in the Dana program. It was a pleasure getting to interview her and hear about her time at Muhlenberg.



Katelyn Winter by Jaelyn Blonder

Katelyn Winter jokes that she was “born to be an English major.” Looking at many English programs, Katelyn applied to Muhlenberg on a whim, but decided to attend after further research, due to the academic rigor, the proximity of the location to her aunt, the openness of the theatre program, and, ultimately, her admission into the Dana program. Being in the Dana program allowed Katelyn to come into college and be immediately “surrounded by people who were concentrated on thinking and learning” – “people who want to find answers to questions most people don’t ask.” She noted that being a Dana gave her an extra push to pursue work she may not have attempted otherwise.



Katelyn entered school as an aspiring Theatre/English double major, but is now an English major with a creative writing minor. Despite opting out of the theatre major, she’s continued taking many courses within the department, as you don’t have to audition for spots in those classes. She’s also kept up involvement with the Muhlenberg Theatre Association, and she co-coordinates the theatre arts program at Jefferson elementary school, which is a program through Office of Community Engagement.

Katelyn’s love for English, writing, and literature has developed and evolved throughout college. She did a mentorship with Dr. Marsh, in which she researched the poet Adrienne Rich to assist him in forming a syllabus for a future class; she serves on the executive board for Muhlenberg’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society; she is both a secretary and an editor of prose and poetry for MUSES, Muhlenberg’s art and literary magazine; and she has realized that she eventually wants to become a creative writing professor for graduate students. Katelyn’s natural curiosity knows no bounds. A podcast she listened to recently about “the role of the narrator in true crime creative nonfiction works” sparked her interest, and she is currently writing a thesis on this subject. Additionally, Katelyn served as the academic excellence chair for the Phi Mu fraternity, and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, the nation’s oldest liberal arts and sciences honor society.

For her Dana internship, she was a curatorial and writing intern with Historic Bethlehem’s Kemerer Museum of Decorative arts. This meant she had to go off-campus three days a week with no car, so she figured out the bus system, and would commute an hour there and back. She got to create, design, and write the program for an exhibit called “Apothecary in Bloom,” about the use of florals in medicine and design.

She also studied abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland, an identity-shaping experience in which she learned how independent she could be, and which played a large role in her determining of what she wants to do after college. She encourages everyone to study abroad – though it can be difficult knowing you may be forsaking opportunities at Muhlenberg, being in new and different situations changes who you are as a person.

Katelyn also recommends that more theatre majors become creative writing minors, as the two subjects “go together,” as well as for everyone to explore off campus, go to the farmer’s market, and even move off-campus and learn to cook for yourself – she has not had a meal plan since sophomore year!

She is now hoping to go to grad school for an MFA in fiction writing, which she hopes will eventually lead her to become a professor, where she can continue working in English and creative writing.

Dr. Jessica Cooperman
(FYS: “1917: The Year that Changed the World”)
by Brigid Connery



Dr. Cooperman’s love of travelling has taken her all over the world. Originally from Long Island, NY, she went on to complete her Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy and Art History from UPenn. After graduation she worked in London for a time before travelling to India for several months. Dr. Cooperman then lived in Israel for a few years where she started her Masters Degree in European History and Jewish Studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She then she ended up finishing that degree along with her joint PhD in History and Jewish Studies at NYU.

Dr. Cooperman has been working at Muhlenberg for the past 11 years. She started as an adjunct professor for a Holocaust class as she finished her dissertation, and once that was done she came on as a full-time professor. Now she is the director of the Jewish Studies program and an assistant professor in religion studies. She teaches many classes in those subjects including Jewish Experience in a Secular Age, American Jewish Life and Culture, From Zion to Zionism: A History of Jewish Nationalism, The Holocaust: Nazi Germany and the Jews, Jewish Women’s History, Religion in America, and Religion and Violence.

This year will be Dr. Cooperman’s third year being involved in the Dana program. She teaches a first year seminar on the year 1917: the year of the Bolshevik Revolution, the year that the United States entered WWI, and the year that set up major changes for the 20th century. She uses 1917 as a platform to talk about WWI, changes in the world, and cultural and artistic movements that came out of the war. Dr. Cooperman said that she loved teaching that class and especially loved being a part of the Dana program. She loves working with Dana student because of the dedication of the students, their engagement in the classroom, and their writing skills. Dr. Cooperman said that one of her biggest goals with her FYS is to foster a sort of community in the classroom. These students are going to be in the DANA program together for the next four years, and it is nice to start building that group mentality from the beginning. Which of course, goes along with the main Dana ideal of being “citizen scholars”.

When she’s not teaching at Muhlenberg, Dr. Cooperman loves spending time with her 8 and 12-year-old daughters, as well as her husband who is a professor at the neighboring Lehigh University. She also loves relaxing via cooking, and joked that her backup career is going into the catering business (perhaps with her colleague Dr. Gambino who used to work at a bakery).

The Dana program is very lucky to have had Dr. Cooperman these past 3 years, and hopes that in some way she can continue on with the program so future Dana scholars can take her course.

Dr. Jack Gambino
(FYS: “George Orwell: The Art of Political Writing”)
by Zoe Bently



Dr. Jack Gambino is a professor of political science here at Muhlenberg. He attended Rutgers University, and obtained his masters from Duke University as well as a PhD in political science. Some of the many courses he has taught in his time at Muhlenberg include classes on political theory and ideologies, democratic theory, utopian theory, Italian studies, and sustainability studies, which was a MILA Course discussing climate change and political development and which culminated in a trip to Bangladesh.

He has also taught various First Year Seminars, and this year for the Dana program he is teaching a seminar titled “George Orwell: The Art of Political Writing.”

The class is about how we as people use writing to come to terms with complex political experiences, and it examines how writing is used to process difficult moral dilemmas through the lens of Orwell’s work. Dr. Gambino praises Orwell’s ability to write specifically and intentionally during tumultuous times, calling him a good example of someone who uses writing to try and get a deeper understanding of political phenomenon while still taking a stand.

Part of what he likes about the Dana program is that since it is an honors program, his expectations as a professor are elevated. Students are expected to be hard workers prepared for challenging discussions and difficult reading assignments and writing topics. Additionally, with the Dana program the relationship between professor and student seems like more of a partnership. As the professor, he sets the terms of what the class will be discussing and evaluating, but ultimately it is up to the students to take ownership of their experience and determine the quality of the seminar.

Dr. Gambino feels that the Dana program has a very civic-minded focus, and regardless of their major, students are encouraged to think of their disciplines in a broad, civic-minded way. The program and its mission work to prepare students not just for jobs but for life, and how to effectively and efficiently deal with information in a modern world. By teaching students how to do good research, read carefully, collaborate with others, and process large amounts of information, the Dana program lives up to its mission of forming citizen-scholars.

What he loves most about teaching Danas are the students themselves and the relationships forged over the course of the Dana experience. It is an opportunity to work with highly motivated students who he will ideally be able to interact with throughout their time here at Muhlenberg. Another aspect he appreciates is the professional collaboration—he has learned a lot through working with Dr. Hashim.

As a whole, Dr. Gambino feels that the intellectual life on campus encourages students to become hardworking, responsible citizens and intellectuals. All students leave campus at the end of their four years with a better sense of how the world works, having gained a sense of citizenship at different levels of everyday life and hopefully feeling part of a broader conversation about the world.

When not talking about George Orwell or political science, Dr. Gambino loves talking about Italian-Americans in cinema and his goofy labradoodle.

Dr. Lynda Yankaskas
& The Dana Sophomore Seminar
by Dan Dobro

Lynda Yankaskas has the best job in the world: she gets to spend all day working with other smart people. An associate professor of history, Dr. Yankaskas is in her seventh year at Muhlenberg. Before coming here, she was at Virginia Commonwealth University, and at Earlham College in Indiana before that.

Dr. Yankaskas' interest in history comes from her appreciation of the power of story: the way narrative and memory can build a nation. She has an affinity for women's history and history of protest—important sites of drama. Her undergraduate studies at Swarthmore led her to the Early-Americanist scholarly community. It's a period rife with examples of the ways that story can enact the world, and how people build worlds with story. The communal aspect of nationhood is also important to Dr. Yankaskas—She did her research on Libraries and the act of reading in a public space.

This Fall, Dr. Yankaskas was in charge of the Sophomore Seminar. This year's evolution of the seminar centered very explicitly around the Center for Ethics' theme ("Troubling Truth") and guest speakers (William Mazzarella, Janaya Khan, Susan Stryker, Stephanieen Prothero, Achy Obejas, and Rickerby Hinds). In engaging with scholarship around these lectures, Dr. Yankaskas' goal with the seminar was to deeply explore the question 'What *is* truth?' Her natural approach to this is a historical one, but their exploration spanned multiple disciplines, as 'truth' has different definitions across different departments, and the question of 'what counts' as truth or not is a metadisciplinary one.

This accomplishment of work across disciplines is one of Dr. Yankaskas' favorite parts of the Dana program. It's fun to work with engaged people who are interested in more than one thing. In her estimation, the Dana program sets out to accomplish what should be the goal of all liberal arts education—the creation of engaged citizen-scholars. It explicitly asks: how does what we're learning connect to real life? She hopes and believes that Danas are bringing their realizations and ideas from the classroom out into non-academic spaces, and 'the real world.'



Dr. Thaddeus Robinson
& The Dana Senior Forum
by Dan Dobro

As he explained his undergraduate study to me, I understood why Tad Robinson was such a good fit to run the Dana Forum. During his undergraduate study, he chose to double major in History and Philosophy. This, he says, served his goal of *not* narrowing his study. I could hear in his description of his desire to leave himself ‘open’ an impulse that many Danas themselves have: The interdisciplinary instinct.

After Luther College, Dr. Robinson got his PhD in Philosophy from Purdue, where he did his research on the work of Spinoza. Myself a layman when it comes to philosophy, I asked Dr. Robinson for the short version of what Spinoza was all about. Though there are apparently many aspects to him and his ideas, the most important was his conviction and publicity when it came to denouncing the supposed truth of the scriptures. Although it is understood that he was probably not the first enlightenment philosopher to have this idea, he was apparently the first to say it so loudly and proudly. This is something Dr. Robinson seems to admire.

I bring up the connection to Spinoza because I think it crystalizes what made Dr. Robinson so willing to run the Forum: his genuine interest in the ethics of information and communication. As this year’s theme was already picked when he began his involvement, he was excited to approach the topic of Truth not just as a teacher but also as a learner himself.

As Dr. Robinson understands the Dana Forum, it is an opportunity for seniors to put their skills and interdisciplinary knowledge to work. Beyond that, it is a chance to demonstrate all that they’ve learned, and an event the community at large can hopefully get something out of. For Dr. Robinson, Dana scholars are meant to be exemplars for the rest of the community. As he points out, not only Danas should be interested in the Center for Ethics—we all should. In this way, Danas are asked to be the public face of Muhlenberg.

Now in his tenth year at Muhlenberg, Dr. Robinson really appreciates the opportunity to witness different research groups work together over the course of more than a semester. This is what really sets the Forum apart from other academic endeavors on campus: its length. As each project starts to crystalize, Dr. Robinson looks back on how far his seniors have come since the fall, and he seems to be proud.



Class of 2018 Accolades

Updated February 2018

Anthony Carracino

Major: Finance / Minor: Analytics
Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity: Member
Dean's List
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Varsity Athlete: Men's Soccer (Team Captain)

Weston Conner

Majors: Anthropology & Music / Minor: English
Dean's List
Dr. John A. W. Haas Award
Frederick E. Hanson Scholarship Award
Honors Thesis: Anthropology
Kappa Kappa Psi (National Honorary Band Fraternity): Member, Parliamentarian
Student-Faculty Collaborative Summer Research Grant (Archeology GIS of Maine): Summer 2016
Student-Faculty Collaborative Summer Research Grant (Archeology in Ecuador): Summer 2017
Study Abroad: Nepal (Fall 2016)
The President's Award for Outstanding Achievement and Promise for Postgraduate Study by a Junior

Carly DeNigris

Major: Biology
New York Medical College Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2021
Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll (2015, 2016, 2017)
Dean's List
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Research Assistant: McCain Lab
Study Abroad: Florence, Italy (Spring 2017)
Trainer Summer Research Grant Recipient (2017)
Varsity Athlete: Women's Soccer (Team Captain)

Dan Dobro

Majors: Theatre & English
Dean's List
Delta Tau Delta Fraternity: Member, Executive Board Member, Administrative Board Member
Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion: Supervisor
Phi Beta Kappa (National Liberal Arts Honor Society): Member
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Sigma Tau Delta (National English Honor Society): Member
Society of American Fight Directors: Certified Actor-Combatant
Study Abroad: Arezzo, Italy (Fall 2016)
Theatre Talent Scholarship
Writing Center: Lead Tutor

Laura Gleason

Major: Biology
Dean's List
Forrest G. Moyer Pre-Medical Scholarship
James Vaughan Summer Research Grant
Muhlenberg College EMS: EMT, Co-Social Coordinator
Office of Advancement Services: Student Worker
Peer Tutor: Biology
Phi Mu Fraternity: Member, Formal Chair (Spring 2016), Social Chair (Fall 2016)
Pre-Health Association: Secretary and co-Vice President
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Research Assistant: McCain Lab
St. Luke's Pre-Med Observer Program, Bethlehem Campus: Intern (Fall 2016)
Study Abroad: Copenhagen, Denmark (Spring 2017)

Katerina Havlik

Major: Neuroscience / Minor: Women's and Gender Studies
Dana Class Representative (2017-2018)
Dean's List
Feminist Collective: Member, Secretary
Habitat for Humanity ReStore of Lehigh Valley: Volunteer
Johns Hopkins University Department of Pathology, Cihakova Laboratory: Lab Assistant (Summers 2016 & 2017)
Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition (MTAC): Member, Public Relations Officer
Peer Tutor: General Chemistry
Planned Parenthood Allentown: Health Center Advocacy Intern (Fall 2016)
Research Assistant: Williams Lab
Students for Queer Advocacy (SQuAd): Member, Public Relations Officer
Varsity Athlete: Volleyball (2014-2016)

Michelle Haykin

Major: Biology / Minor: Russian Studies
Dean's List
Delta Zeta Sorority: Member
Dobro Slovo (Slavic National Honor Society): Member
Peer Tutor: Biology I, General Chemistry I, Intermediate Russian I & II
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Workshop Tutor: Organic Chemistry II

Thomas Herr

Majors: Psychology, Music Performance
Baker Scholar (Music)
Bass Player: Chamber Orchestra, Big Band, Musica de Camera
Dean's List
Glenn Koch & Associates: TSS Intern
Pit Musician: *Street Scene*, *Gypsy*, *Pirates of Penzance*, & *My Fair Lady*
Psi Chi (Psychology National Honor Society): Member, Vice President
Senior Help Desk Associate
Study Abroad: Vienna, Austria (Spring 2017)

Brock Juliano

Majors: Biochemistry & Anthropology
ACS (American Chemical Society) National Conference: Presentations (2017)
Dean's List
Lake-Road Fellowship for Research (Summer 2016)
Presidential Scholarship
REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) at University of Michigan: Participant

Sara Kass

Major: Neuroscience / Minor: Women's and Gender Studies
Dana Class Representative (2016-2017)
Dean's List
Feminist Collective: Treasurer
Learning Assistant: Mind and Brain, Introduction to Psychology
Muhlenberg College Admissions Office: Intern, Student Greeter, Tour Guide
Muhlenberg College EMS: EMT, Closed Executive Board Secretary
Peer Tutor: Biology & Neuroscience
Research Assistant in the Sprayberry Lab
Students for Queer Advocacy (SQuAd): Secretary
Student Orientation and Advisory Planning Committee (SOAP): Member (2016, 2017)
Study Abroad: Copenhagen, Denmark (Spring 2017)

Gwen Kelly

Major: Sociology / Minors: Mathematics, Women's & Gender Studies
Eastern Sociological Society Conference (ESSC): Poster Presentation (2017)
Peer Tutor: Sociology & Anthropology

Anne Kitz

Majors: Dance, Media & Communications
Community Tap Performance Ensembles: Member
Dance Talent Scholarship
Dean's List
Honors Thesis: Media & Communications
Master Choreographers: Dancer (2016, 2018)
Media, Communication, and Film Studies
Programs at Liberal Arts Colleges Conference:
Paper Presentation with Dr. Jefferson Pooley
(Spring 2016)
Muhlenberg Theatre & Dance Department: PR
Intern (Fall 2016), Freelance Videographer (Fall
2017-Spring 2018)
Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor
Society): Member
Peer Tutor: Calculus
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Study Abroad: Florence, Italy (Spring 2017)

Julia Kotler

Majors: Physics & Mathematics
Alpha Phi Omega (Community Service Fraternity):
Member, Corresponding Secretary
Dean's List
Low Cost Muon Detector Research with Dr. Fadem
Moyer Physics Award
Study Abroad: London, England (Spring 2017)
Violin Acoustics Research with Dr. Flood
Workshop Tutor: General Physics I

Megan Leahy

Major: International Studies (Environmental Issues
Concentration) / Minor: Sustainability Studies
Dean's List
EnAcT (Environmental Action Team): Member,
Secretary
Interfaith Fellowship (Fall 2016)
Muhlenberg College Office of Sustainability: Intern
(Fall 2017)
Muhlenberg Community Garden Club: Secretary
Peer Tutor: French
Research: Community Involvement in the
Conservation of Mount Kilimanjaro
Study Abroad: Arusha, Tanzania (Spring 2017)
Writing Center: Writing Tutor

Julia Leep-Lazar

Major: Biology / Minor: Public Health
Dean's List
Head Resident: Taylor Hall
Huebner Global Education and Awareness Award
Lehigh Valley Health Network Research Scholars:
Intern (Summer 2017)
Muhlenberg College EMS: EMT
Peer Tutor: Biology, Chemistry, & Statistics
Pennsylvania Vector Control Association Meeting:
Presentation (Fall 2017)
Presidential Scholarship
Research Assistant: Edwards Lab
St. Luke's Hospital Pre-Med Observer Program:
Intern (Spring 2018)
Study Abroad: Gaborone, Botswana (Fall 2016)
Varsity Athlete: Women's Track & Field
Vaughan Student Research Award

Stephanie Levine

Major: Accounting / Minor: Mathematics
College Admissions Mentoring Program: Intern
(Spring 2016)
Dean's List
Peer Tutor: Accounting
Quidditch Team: Captain
Research: Historical Analysis of the 2017 Tax Cuts
and Jobs Act
Schneider Downs: Tax Intern (Summer 2017)
Study Abroad: Maastricht, Netherlands (Fall 2016)

Katlyn Mayer

Major: Biochemistry
Medical College of Wisconsin Class of 2022
Dean's List
Frederick A. Hollenbach Summer Research Grant
in Chemistry
Lab Assistant: Chemistry
Lehigh Valley Health Network (Poster
Presentation, Summer 2017)
Lehigh Valley Health Network Summer Research
Scholar in Oncology
Muhlenberg College EMS: EMT, Co-Social
Coordinator, Recording Secretary
Muhlenberg Pre-Health Association: Publicity
Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Co-Vice
President
Muhlenberg Summer Research Poster Fair (Poster
Presentations, Fall 2016 & Fall 2017)
Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor
Society): Member
Peer Tutor: General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry
& Spanish
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Research Assistant: Colabroy Lab
St. Luke's Pre-Med Observer at Bethlehem
Campus: Intern (Spring 2017)
YMCA Homework Club Mentoring Program:
Founder

Deanna Mayo

Majors: Accounting & Theatre
Incoming Auditor at CohnReznick
Dean's List
Campus Delegate
Campus Tour Guide
Muhlenberg Theatre Association: Member
Office of Financial Aid: Student Worker
Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor
Society): Member, Public Relations Head
Rocky Horror Picture Show: President

September McCarthy

Majors: Philosophy & Theatre
Dean's List
Honors Thesis: Philosophy
Internships: Martin E. Segal Theatre Center,
Algonquin Arts Theatre, Open Jar Institute
Mainstage Performances: *Street Scene*, *Sunday in
the Park with George*, *Three Bedrooms* (New
Visions)
Muhlenberg Judicial Panel: Member
Peer Tutor: Formal Logic
Phi Beta Kappa (National Liberal Arts Honor
Society)
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Research Assistant to Dr. Marcia Morgan
Reverend Dr. H.H. Bruning Gift Fund Prize (2017)
Study Abroad: Arezzo, Italy (Fall 2016-Spring
2017)
Theatre and Music Talent Scholarships

Sarah Roussel

Majors: Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center:
Trexler Trust Development Intern (Spring 2016)
Dana Class Representative (2016-2017)
Dean's List
Executive Board Member: Feminist Collective,
Students for Queer Advocacy (SQuAd),
Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition (MTAC)
Muhlenberg Office of Advancement
Communication: Digital Media Assistant (Spring
2018)
Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor
Society): Member
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Student Representative: President's Diversity
Advisory Council, Multicultural Center Strategic
Planning Committee, Institutional Leadership
Planning Committee
Tour Guide
Valley Youth House: Development & Marketing
Intern (Spring 2017)
Writing Center: Tutor

Lindsey Sharp

Majors: Public Health & Dance
Alpha Chi Omega Sorority: Member
Dance Emerge: Performer (2015, 2018)
Dance Talent Scholarship
Dean's List
Master Choreographers: Performer (2015, 2016, 2018)
Moving Stories: Performer (2016, 2017, 2018)
Muhlenberg Office of Admission: Tour Guide, Tour Guide Mentor
Peer Tutor: Calculus & Statistics
Presidential Merit Scholarship
St Luke's University Health Network: Community Health Epidemiology Intern (2016, 2018)
Study Abroad: Florence, Italy (Spring 2017)

Johnny Tamburro

Major: Music (Classical Guitar Performance & Composition Concentrations)
Muhlenberg Pep Band: Director, Member
Kappa Kappa Psi, Mu Xi Chapter (Music Honor Society): President, Member

Julia Tyson

Major: Theatre / Minor: Music
SIT: Member
Damsels in Excess: Member

Jonathan Walker

Majors: Political Science & Public Health
2016 Democratic National Convention: Muhlenberg Student Representative
Dana Class Representative
Dean's List
Disciplemakers Christian Fellowship: Leadership Team
Muhlenberg Interfaith Council: Member
Peer Tutor: Biology & Political Science
Political Science Honors Thesis
Research Internship with Muhlenberg College Polling Institute
Study Abroad: Copenhagen, Denmark (Spring 2017)
Writing Center: Tutor

Genevieve Wall

Major: Theatre (Directing & Acting Concentrations) / Minor: Sustainability Studies
An Artist Collective: Member
Dana Class Representative (2015-2016)
Dean's List
Espí Guinto Young Writer's Award: Finalist
International Writing Center Association Conference: Presentation (Fall 2018)
Mainstage Productions: *Ulysses in Nighttown* (Assistant Director), *Shadow Day/187* (Director), *Ubu Roi* (Panel Discussion Coordinator)
Sigma Tau Delta (National English Honor Society): Member
Study Abroad: Arezzo, Italy (Fall 2016)
Traveling Players Ensemble: Assistant Director
Women's Rugby Team: Member
Writing Center: Lead Tutor

Tara Werner

Majors: English & Mathematics
English Honors Thesis
International Writing Center Association Conference (Paper Presentation, Fall 2016)
Mid-Atlantic Regional American Conference for Irish Studies Meeting (Paper Presentation, Fall 2017)
Muhlenberg Academic Review: Co-founder & Editor
Omicron Kappa Delta (National Leadership Honor Society): Member
Peer Tutor: Calculus I & II
Provost's Grant for Student Summer Research (Summer 2017)
Sigma Tau Delta (National English Honor Society): Member, Officer
Study Abroad: Edinburgh, Scotland (Spring 2017)
The President's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Promise for Postgraduate Study by a Junior
Writing Center: Lead Tutor

Katelyn Winter

Major: English / Minor: Creative Writing

Civic Fellow (2016)

Dean's List

Dean's Summer Research Grant (2017)

Dr. John S. Ammarell, Jr. and Florence R.

Ammarell Scholarship for Excellence in English

Muhlenberg Academic Review: PR/Social Media

Chair

Muses Art & Literary Magazine: Poetry and Prose

Editor

Phi Beta Kappa (National Liberal Arts Honors

Society): Member

Phi Mu Fraternity: Member, Academic Excellence

Chair

Presidential Merit Scholarship

Sigma Tau Delta (National English Honor Society):

Member, Executive Board Member

Sigma Tau Delta Conference: Attendee (Spring

2018)

Study Abroad: Edinburgh, Scotland (Spring 2017)

Theater Arts at Jefferson: Coordinator