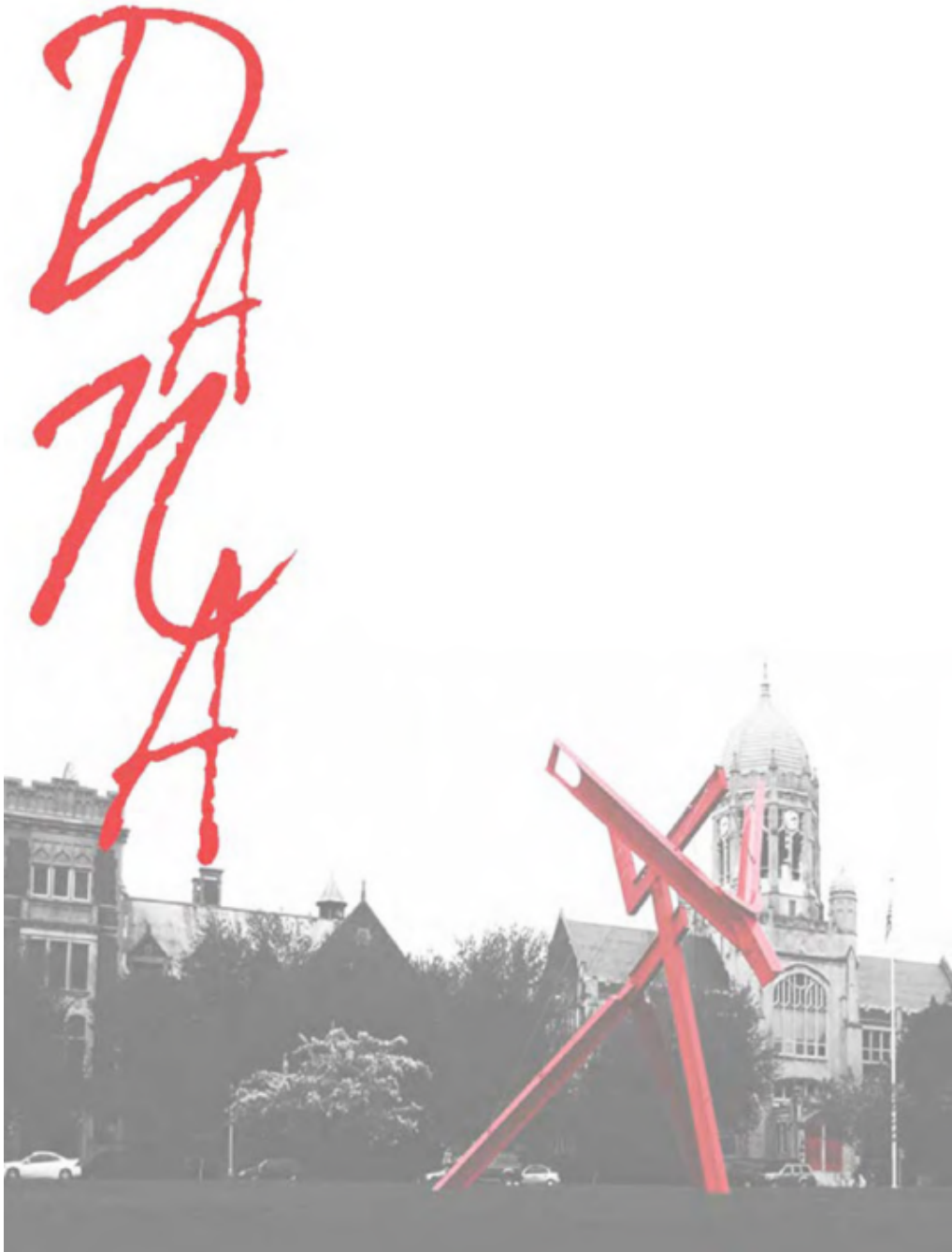


The Dana Interviewer, Class of 2023



The Dana Interviewer

Featuring the Class of 2023

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 exceptional high school seniors with this honor, one of the most prestigious honors that the College offers.

For more information, visit: <https://www.muhlenberg.edu/academics/dana-scholars/>

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Alexa Ufberg

Written by Elie Khalil

Alexa Ufberg is a senior Dana Scholar at Muhlenberg College who resides in Wynnewood, a suburban community to the west of Philadelphia. During her senior year of high school, when it came to her college selection, Alexa was captivated by Muhlenberg being relatively close to home, it having a very strong pre-health program, and its small, family-like feel. Alexa majors in psychology and is on the pre-dental track. Regarding extracurriculars, Alexa is the president of the pre-dental club, a member of the AED pre-health fraternity, and a member of Alpha Chi.

Her interest in the health field is portrayed in her research, internships, and volunteer work throughout her college years. Alongside Muhlenberg biology professor Dr. McCain, Alexa participated in biology research conducted on cell regeneration in marine worms. Furthermore, in the winter of 2021, Alexa worked in a cosmetic dentistry office, down in Florida, with Dr. Skopp. More recently, during the summer of 2022, Alexa volunteered at a mobile dentist clinic near her home in Bala Cynwyd, PA. Here, this Dana provided dental care to members of underserved communities in Philadelphia to give them the medical attention they needed. Some of her patients included people in nursing homes and those who couldn't afford dental care.

When asked about her study abroad experience, Alexa expressed nothing but positive comments. In the spring of 2022, she studied abroad in Florence, Italy, but still made sure to visit other European countries such as Spain, France, Netherlands, Ireland, and Portugal. Throughout her trip, she was accompanied by some of her friends on the women's soccer team, but also befriended lots of new people. In addition to her classes, Alexa studied lots of renaissance art and learned a bit about the Italian language. Alexa recommends studying abroad to everyone who has the opportunity to do so.

To Alexa, the Dana Program played an influential role in her career path and her overall development as a person. Alexa explains that being surrounded by ambitious students, like herself, helped push her closer to her goals. Moreover, she explains that the program's ability to combine a variety of people from different disciplines to all think and work together can broaden an individual's perspective, and can make the individual think about future topics in a more comprehensive way.

Alexa's Dana Senior Forum Project will be concerning an imaginative future, more specifically, about how developments of artificial intelligence, technology, and medicine will shape and impact the world in the future.

As stated before, Alexa's career goal is to be a dentist, more precisely, an endodontist. She is currently undecided about the location she wants to find a job but is leaning toward either



California or Philadelphia.

Lastly, when asked if she had any advice for incoming freshmen/future Dana Scholars, Alexa says to be persistent and work hard to achieve your goals. To those looking to pursue a pre-health profession, Alexa explains that there are many paths a student can take to get into medical/dental school, so do not shy away from creating your own path to achieve your goals.

Alison Rutyna

Written by Faith Sauder

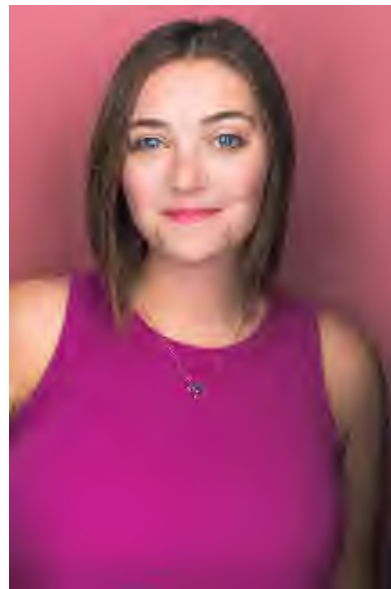
Alison Rutyna is a senior with a Spanish and theatre double major. It was lovely to spend a half hour in Java Joe's learning about Muhlenberg through her lens!

First, she describes herself as passionate about destroying the Muhlenbubble—truly a Dana characteristic. She had the opportunity to study abroad in Seville, Spain and loved the experience: “Definitely go abroad,” she says, “in whatever capacity you have—you just have to....it was the best thing I did.” Alison also coordinates the America Reads program, which gets Muhlenberg students into local elementary schools in Allentown to build relationships and work on literacy skills with younger students. She remarks that it is difficult to burst the Muhlenbubble as it is so strong, but that doing so is crucial and one of her key objectives during her time here.

Alison is also a team leader for the Office of Community Engagement and a lead tutor for the Writing Center. She has worked in both offices for four years and tells me that her experiences with those programs have impacted her academic and intellectual life more than any one class. She cites profound personal growth facilitated by her work at the OCE which has “reshaped the way [she looks] at community,” not only “changing who [she is] as a person but how [she] plans on interacting in community in the future.” Shoutout to OCE staff Beth Halpern and Eveily Freeman, who Alison asserts have been two of her most influential mentors at Muhlenberg. She has also grown through her work at the Writing Center, describing tutoring as a “continual learning process” that is “integral to [her] college experience,” because she practices applying writing strategies to other students' writing as well as her own. “Working with other people on their academic thinking has made me a better academic thinker,” she says, encouraging me to consider tutoring if the opportunity arises.

As for the Dana Program, Alison tells me she is grateful for the Pre-Orientation experience and the chance to connect with “lots of people across disciplines.” She is presently completing her Dana mentorship through a research project on Muhlenberg's FYS model. Her internship was completed at the Writing Center, tying her position there to the Dana requirement. She mentions that the program's requirements make it easier for people in fields where research is prominent—it was vital for her to create her own opportunities for research.

She especially stressed that when I asked her for advice: “create those opportunities for yourself; they're not always just going to land in your lap,” she says.



However, she also counters that by emphasizing the importance of balance: “Don’t overcommit yourself,” she begs, “You *actually* can’t do everything well.” She recommends picking just a few things every semester that one is passionate about. We are often so preoccupied with keeping everything in the air that we forget we can let a few activities out of our juggling act. This was very reassuring to hear as a first-year student, and I encourage anyone reading this to keep these wise words in mind.

It was a pleasure speaking with Alison, and I hope our paths cross again in the spring!

Anna Mirsky

Written by Emma Boucher

Anna Mirsky, from southeast Connecticut, is a senior in the Dana Scholar Program at Muhlenberg. She came to college intent on studying theatre, but also hoping to pursue one other major. She initially was planning on double majoring in theatre and Russian, then theatre and biology, but ultimately decided on theatre and environmental science. Muhlenberg's theatre program drew her to the college, but once she toured, she knew this was where she wanted to be. Coming from a graduating high school class of approximately 30 people, she knew a smaller liberal arts school was what she wanted. Muhlenberg felt familiar and welcoming, just what she wanted. Due to COVID and the shutting down of campus, she unfortunately had to miss out on opportunities like studying abroad, but will be taking an extra semester of classes next autumn and hopes that can make up for a bit of what she missed.



Besides being a Dana Scholar, Anna has been involved in tutoring in Russian and will be a tutor in environmental science next semester, and is also the membership director for Phi Mu. She says that she has been able to find some of her closest friends through both the Dana Program and Greek life, and her biggest piece of advice for her first-year self was to join more clubs. Due to the Dana Program, she felt really lucky to have the pre-orientation week to begin to get settled in before the rest of the student body got on campus. As a more introverted person, she appreciated getting to know the group of scholars before beginning orientation with the rest of the freshman class. She also values having a group of people to go back to who are all going through a similar experience with the different seminars and forums built into the Dana program.

Because of her time at Muhlenberg, Anna feels she has gained a comfortability with leadership positions, such as her one in Phi Mu, and has become more confident in making connections with people across all disciplines. Being a Dana Scholar gave her the opportunity to acquire knowledge from many different areas of study and get the interdisciplinary experience she desired coming in. One of her favorite classes focused on performance in healthcare simulations, where she got to learn about different diseases and how they may affect a person and then explore how to embody and portray that in a simulated environment. After college, she plans on getting an internship focused in conservation biology and intends on working in that field.

Ava Bianchi

Written by Elaina Michetti

Ava Bianchi is a senior at Muhlenberg college, majoring in international studies with a minor in Spanish. Originally from Long Island, New York, Ava chose Muhlenberg for its abundance of opportunities. She loves to be busy, constantly having multiple events and activities filling her schedule. What really distinguished Muhlenberg from other colleges Ava was pursuing is the school's encouragement to pursue other interests outside of the major.

Ava is an active member of Muhlenberg's student life as treasurer of the Spanish Club, president of Alpha Chi Omega, and captain of the cheer team. Pursuing her hobbies and passions unrelated to her international studies major has been an influential part of her college experience, with some of her fondest memories consisting of the football games. In addition to participating in clubs, Ava enjoys dancing, singing, acting, and performing in theatre productions. Most recently, Ava performed in *Spamalot* at the Civic Theater. In her spare time, Ava loves Pilates, yoga, and reading.

Next semester, Ava plans on conducting her Dana mentorship with the Spanish department. She is specifically interested in investigating the rate of killings in the Mexican journalism field. In addition to this mentorship, Ava will be taking journalism, dance, and acting courses to fulfill all of her varied interests. She highly recommends taking the international relations and dance courses at Muhlenberg, and encourages participating in a MILA course. Especially with COVID limiting her opportunities for studying abroad, Ava found the MILA program in Costa Rica incredibly insightful and an amazing opportunity overall.

Ava highly values employment to keep busy both during the school year and over the summer. She is currently employed at a bank giving short term loans to private equity funds, providing her with a solid foundation for her post-graduation plans. Along with her employment, Ava plans to study abroad and take time to explore her interests after her education at Muhlenberg. She really enjoyed her previous travels to Spain and has plans to visit Israel in the near future.

Outside of class, Ava can be found studying in the fishbowl, relaxing in her house, grabbing a matcha from Java Joe's, or driving around in her Volkswagen Beetle. She loves spending time with her dog, a havanese poodle mix named Roxie.

Ava has truly enjoyed being a Dana at Muhlenberg with its opportunities for multifaceted conversations with students across all majors. Ava has grown remarkably through these



experiences, and advises on the importance of letting opportunities come to you rather than constantly trying to make a road map of your life.

Ava Duskic

Written by Danna Berro

Senior Dana Ava Duskic reflects on her memorable years at Muhlenberg College. After discovering Muhlenberg, she visited the campus and fell in love with it, stating that it felt very welcoming. Originally from Staten Island, New York, Ava came to Muhlenberg unsure of what exactly she wanted to major in. When asked about how she decided her major, Ava said it was a process of deciding what subjects in high school resonated with her—science and English.

Ava says she always felt like she had to choose between the two subjects, which was difficult because she had a love for both. She asked her advisor for some guidance when she first came to Muhlenberg, and they recommended neuroscience. She was very interested in the brain and said it was a source of curiosity for her, but she also loved books and literature, which stemmed from having great English teachers in high school. Ava felt passionate about writing and didn't want to lose that as something she used to love, so she ultimately decided to double major in neuroscience and English.

Throughout her time at Muhlenberg, Ava was involved in several activities including the animal rescue and shelter club, Sigma Tau Delta, and the MUSES art and literary magazine, serving as a prose editor. She was also a part of a neuroscience research group and spent time in the summer conducting research.

Working in the lab and presenting her research are some of Ava's favorite memories at Muhlenberg, as well as meeting one of her best friends in the Dana Program. Ava had many good things to say about the Dana Program, and one of them being that it brings together people who are all different, but also similar in that they have the same capacity and desire for knowledge. "It's cool to be surrounded by people who share the same goals and desires," she says. I asked Ava what advice she would give to future Danas, and she responded with, "Don't limit yourself. Don't place yourself in a box. Do things that you wouldn't normally see yourself doing."

One goal Ava hopes to accomplish before graduating is to participate in the Ireland MILA. She previously studied abroad in Denmark and said it was a great experience, so she would like to travel abroad again. Once she graduates from Muhlenberg, Ava plans on taking a gap year to focus on figuring out what she wants before committing to a grad program or specialty school. She wants to spend time outsourcing and looking for jobs. In the long run, Ava's main goal is to be satisfied and content with knowing that she did everything she wanted



to do.

Camryn Griffon

Written by Shira Gamson

Originally from Macungie, Pennsylvania, Camryn Griffon is a double major in neuroscience and public health. She has always been interested in science and medicine, and majoring in neuroscience and public health was a perfect way to combine both of her interests.

Initially, Camryn was drawn to Muhlenberg College because as a prospective neuroscience major, Muhlenberg has a full department dedicated to her preferred field of study. However, Camryn's interest in Muhlenberg was not merely academic. Upon her visit to campus, she was struck by the welcoming nature of Muhlenberg's community. She knew that Muhlenberg's student community was one that she wanted to take part in.

Camryn Griffon has accomplished a lot during her time here at Muhlenberg. In addition to being in the Dana Scholars Program, Camryn was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society during her junior year. She is also an inducted member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) pre-med honor society. To add, Camryn has also been a Learning Assistant in BIO165 since her sophomore year, as well as a Studio Assistant in BIO160. On top of all these accomplishments, she has also been given the opportunity to tutor in Chemistry, Biology, Mind & Brain, and Neurons & Networks. Camryn has also been involved in many extracurricular activities present on campus, including Hillel and AED. She frequently volunteers in the Allentown community by baking for nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Through these four years, Camryn has completed research in both the chemistry and psychology departments. These research opportunities have been very meaningful and exciting. At the moment, both Camryn and Dr. Frazer have submitted a research article in linguistics to a journal. The article is on the differential use of the active and passive voice by attorneys in closing arguments of criminal trials, and the effects that such a differential use may have on the verdict. Being part of the research process has helped Camryn to hone her analytical skills, as research requires not only looking at the big picture but also coordinating smaller details that are important in laying the groundwork for obtaining good results.

As these four years come to an end, Camryn reflects on the impact that the Dana Program has had on her experience as a student and community member at Muhlenberg. The program taught her the importance of being an engaged community member and how the knowledge that we gain throughout our education can be applied to better our community. In addition, the Dana Program has provided her with a more meaningful way to interact with fellow students that have



varied academic interests and majors. Being a Dana Scholar has greatly influenced her experience by encouraging her to perform meaningful research alongside professors through Dana internships and Dana mentorships. Also, the Dana Program's connection to the yearly Center for Ethics events has provided excellent opportunities to attend and listen to various lectures and guest speakers from a variety of disciplines. Discussing these events with her fellow Dana peers was a valuable experience that she will continue to cherish.

When asked about advice for current Dana Scholars, she shares how the scholars should take advantage of all of the wonderful opportunities that Muhlenberg and the Dana Program have to offer, because they will become the most meaningful memories of your college experience. After graduation, Camryn is excited to attend Penn State Dickinson Law. As a future attorney, Camryn hopes to be an advocate for others to make sure that their voices are heard. The Dana Program has shown her that it is our responsibility to better our communities and leave them a better place than we found them.

Carina Filemyr

Written by Ella Blumenthal

Carina Filemyr is a senior in the Dana Scholar Program. She goes to Muhlenberg as a neuroscience major with a creative writing minor, as well as being a writing tutor at the library.

Some of her hobbies include reading and writing (thankfully, due to her minor), as well as hiking. Carina expresses a great interest in being outdoors and

surrounded by nature. She even says that in her ideal retirement, she would love to be physically healthy, so she could travel the world and live in the mountains.

Speaking on the Dana Program, Carina says the Dana Scholars are an integral part of her community bonding experience at Muhlenberg. Since her first few years in college were disrupted by COVID-19, everyone was sent home during her freshman year, which made it difficult to socialize and make friends. However, even as the semesters progressed and friends came and went, the Dana Scholars always remained a safe group to fall back on.

To quote Carina directly, the “[Dana Program] gives you the opportunity to explore these different parts of yourself in a really productive way.”

For Carina, a big part of her interests includes writing, as she discussed when speaking about a class at Muhlenberg she would like to teach. In the upcoming Spring semester, Carina will be taking part in the MILA Writing About Place class and traveling with them to Northern Italy. Sitting in the Java Joe’s lounge-space, she detailed how if two people were asked to write about their current physical environment, they would have two completely different accounts of their surroundings despite sitting in the same place. She is very excited to take this class next semester, as it “emphasizes the importance of what each individual brings to the table in terms of writing and creative processes.” Additionally, Carina says if she had the opportunity to teach this class, she would want to travel to a non-western part of the world such as India or Nepal because she believes there is great value in the unfamiliarity of your surroundings.

Overall, Carina expresses immense knowledge and care for her interests, both academically and extracurricularly. She greatly enjoys being a Dana Scholar and is excited to start her final semester of college.



Conner Soderstedt

Written by Grace Lessig

Conner Soderstedt is not just your typical mule, but your typical Dana Scholar. A chemistry major with a minor in mathematics, he is not only the vice president of the chemistry club (which you should definitely go check out!) but also a member of the track and field team as well as the cross-country team here at Muhlenberg.

Originally from Hershey, Pennsylvania, Conner found that he not only loved working at Hersheypark (where he can still be caught as a ride supervisor) but also loved chemistry. He joined his high school's STEM club sophomore year, and it was there that his love of science really began. Mrs. Grisinger was his high school chemistry teacher who also helped to bolster his love of chemistry, where he not only took chemistry but then honors chemistry as well as AP Chemistry. With such a strong love for and foundation in the sciences going into college, Conner entered Muhlenberg as a chemistry major and remains one to this day.

He worked with Dr. Sparks and Dr. Gooch in their respective labs to fulfill his Dana mentorship and internship. His first experience was with Dr. Sparks during his junior year, and he worked in Dr. Gooch's lab this past summer. When discussing the different aspects of working in a research lab over summer break, Conner reflects positively on the experience. He is grateful for the experience, as it showed him the ups and downs of conducting real research and the excitement of being able to start something new. But he also acknowledges the strangeness of being on campus while it was so empty.

Currently, Conner is applying for PhD programs to continue his study of chemistry. He isn't tied to a specific sub-field yet but says he enjoys the nanomaterials world and studying their renewable energy applications.

Conner isn't just an academic, though, but also an athlete as well. You can find him consistently placing in the top four of the cross-country meets he competes in. He is currently finishing up his cross-country season, but that team bond is something that will remain. He can usually be seen having big team dinners or meals with his fellow runners at D-Hall, and it is these close relationships that he values.

To his freshman self and any freshman who happens to be reading, Conner advises not to be discouraged just because college is hard. He recounts the beginning of college and the different levels of academic difficulty he experienced, as we all do, between high school and college. Despite this difference, Conner says that once you figure it out, you can learn to love it.



Eben Cornine

Written by Dina Maltser

Coming to Muhlenberg from New Jersey, Eben Cornine chose Muhlenberg for the opportunities to focus on technical theatre and directing within the theatre program. Today, Eben is still passionate about directing. In fact, at the time we spoke, they were in tech week assistant directing *God of Carnage*.

However, after a transformational first year seminar on ignorance—which discussed ancient Greek philosophy and the trial of Socrates—Eben changed their trajectory, deciding to major in philosophy. Throughout our conversation, Eben effusively described Muhlenberg’s philosophy department, including their involvement as president of the philosophy club, the opportunity to delve into content that excites them, and their close-knit relationships with supportive faculty. One of the ways those close-knit connections have manifested is in Eben’s Dana mentorship working with their FYS professor Tad Robinson on the philosophy of anger and forgiveness, specifically on rebuttals to the traditional ideas around anger by framing anger in terms of Aristotelian ideas. Eben credits Robinson as a major influence on their academic career.



Eben and I also spoke about their involvement at the Trexler Library, where what started as a part-time job led them to the community that has been paramount to their success at Muhlenberg. Eben fell in love with the library after accidentally finding it at an activity fair while pretending to look at campus security to appease their parents. They spent the summer after their junior year working at the library, facilitating its use outside of the academic year, taking on special projects like redesigning library signs, and, of course, playing croquet with librarian Tom Christie. During the school year, Eben is a major part of events like Trexler Trivia. Wearing a Trexler Library t-shirt, Eben was a walking endorsement of the importance of the library, describing it as a “home base” for their time at Muhlenberg.

In the true interdisciplinary spirit of a Dana Scholar, Eben is also interested in screenwriting—in fact, their goal after college is to work in the writing room of a TV show. To that end, Eben also completed another mentorship with professor Paul McEwan, in which they expanded a 30-minute pilot episode they had previously written for another course into a 60-minute episode. The episode, which they discussed emphatically, is a parallel story of a group of children kidnapped for use in hallucinogenic experiments who, when they wake up, are confronted with horror movie-esque monsters and their parents trying to find them. Though this episode would give me nightmares, I hope to one day see it produced.

Eben’s advice for incoming students reflects the multiple fields and passions they have explored: they encouraged underclassmen to try what interests them, without worrying about whether it is what they are “good at” or “supposed to” do.

Emily Luo

Written by Mary Woodward

On October 27th I met with Emily Luo, a junior and a fellow Dana Scholar in Muhlenberg's three-year dental program. Luo discussed the experiences she has had at Muhlenberg from the variety of interesting classes she has taken to the fun after-school activities she is involved with in her free time. She also gave me helpful knowledge on what she has done specifically for the Dana Scholar Program and how it has impacted her education while at college.



I started off the interview by asking her, "Why did you choose to come to Muhlenberg? What aspects of the school were you most drawn to?" Luo then explained that she really appreciated the interdisciplinary focus, where she was able to do science while also taking classes focusing on her writing and participating in the dance program. The appreciation Muhlenberg has for both the sciences and the arts really attracted Luo to the school. I then moved on to asking her what impactful courses she has done at Muhlenberg. Luo's most impactful course is her biology CUE, where she can host bacteria interactions and really consolidate all the knowledge she has learned from her previous classes into the bio CUE.

I then asked, "What activities do you do around campus/how do you stay active in the Muhlenberg community outside of school?" Luo listed to me different activities she participates in, including being in the sorority Alpha Chi Omega. The sorority has allowed Luo to meet a lot of people and feel a part of a smaller community while also embracing a bigger community of Greek life. She now holds the position in her sorority of being Vice President of Intellectual Development, where she goes over the academic standards and helps out at other functions.

Next, I asked, "What has Muhlenberg done to prepare you for your future life following college?" She responded saying she now knows how to utilize resources, maintain relationships, and take on different roles, as well as contributing to a community. Muhlenberg has helped her become a more well-rounded person with a liberal arts education. The Dana Forum will specifically help Luo prepare for life outside of college by giving her the opportunity to do a project with people that have different majors than her. This assignment teaches students how to work with people that do not share the same interests but can work together to come to a common goal.

After discussing the Dana Forum, I asked her if she had advice to give to an underclassman starting their journey at Muhlenberg. Advice she gave was to take advantage of everything offered and try new things. She believes growth happens when you reach out of your comfort zone.

Next, I asked, “What unique experiences have you had as a Dana Scholar? What has the program taught you/how has it impacted you?” Luo thinks what makes the Dana Scholar experience unique is it brings people together and enhances her thinking as a citizen scholar. The readings and discussions done in the sophomore seminar also helps to prepare you for the senior Dana Forum.

My final question was, “What jobs or internships have you done during your time at college, and how have they benefited you?” Luo said she did biology research with Dr. Cuadra, who is her advisor in the pre-dental program. The research consisted of her learning more about the effects of vaping on gene expressions. The work she has done has allowed her to gain more hands-on skills in the field she wants to go into.

Faith Maldonado

Written by Violette Stonebreaker

Faith decided to attend Muhlenberg due to its small student body and the area of possibility offered by a liberal arts college. Both of these factors contribute to her overarching desire to be part of a tight-knit community. A community here on campus that she has most certainly been an invaluable member of is her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega. Faith has held many positions of leadership in the sorority such as being part of the Panhellenic board, the board of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the chair of Academic and Career Development. This year she was on the recruitment committee.



She is an English Major with a philosophy and Spanish double minor. Faith's love for English began in high school and has stayed constant throughout her time at Muhlenberg. She has worked for both the writing center and the Muhlenberg Academic Review for the past three years. As a senior, she is now a lead writing tutor as well as editor-in-chief of the Muhlenberg Academic Review. Faith is also on the executive board of the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta.

Despite her many responsibilities, Faith still made time to study abroad, a quintessential experience of the Muhlenberg education. During her spring semester of junior year, she took part in a full language immersion program in Seville, Spain. She lived with a woman who did not speak any English and took five classes completely taught in Spanish. Whilst there, she also had the opportunity to travel to other European countries, particularly during spring break, where she traversed 4 countries.

This semester, Faith is completing her internship with Dr. Hashim. An element is to run the Dana Interviewer. Another is to research benchmark institutions and look at their anti-racism efforts and see what Muhlenberg should implement. Next semester, she will be focusing on her research project on Chicana theorist Gloria Anzaldúa and her philosophies of identity. Her mentor will be philosophy professor Dr. Montoya. The research will also look to examine the key role of philosophy in feminist and antiracist activism.

Faith's ultimate goal is to be an English professor. She aims to accomplish this by going to graduate school and continuing to earn a PhD. She is planning on participating in a Master's program in the future upcoming year and is looking to potentially complete her degree abroad or in a major metropolitan city. Faith Maldonado is a student to admire and is exemplary of the drive and dedication best known of Dana Scholars.

Haley Arnold

Written by Lindsay Batzar

Prior to meeting Haley, I attended the show they directed, *The Vagina Monologues*, in the Red Doors on November 6th. I had not known much about them prior to our interview, but seeing one of their shows was probably the best way for me to have been introduced to them.

Haley is from Quakertown, Pennsylvania, which is only a half an hour south of Muhlenberg! They chose to come to Muhlenberg because they knew they wanted to stay close enough to home.

At first, they avoided coming here, since their dad is a Muhlenberg alum. However, they changed their mind after seeing *Beauty and the Beast* on campus during their senior year of high school.

Haley is a theatre and English double major with a minor in creative writing. They have a concentration in directing, which is extremely important to them! On campus, they participate in MTA, Magical Memories, the Student Conduct and Academic Review Board, Sigma Tau Delta (the English Honors Society), and various directing projects. They spend a lot of their time with professors Jeremy Teissere, Matt Moore, and Gabriel Dean. In fact, Haley went on the Potomac MILA, where they followed the Potomac River from mouth to source, with Jeremy Teissere, Matt Moore, and Linda Miller. This trip was very meaningful to Haley, as they became much closer with other students and those three professors. Additionally, they found an art retailer in West Virginia that they now intern for remotely, and they aspire to turn this into a paid job.

Haley's favorite class they've taken at Muhlenberg is Contemporary Dramatic Literature for Youth, taught by Gabriel Dean. This class solidified their career aspirations for the future: making art for social change and directing. Even though this class was held on Zoom, Haley was still able to have this realization, which was extremely special to them.

As they reflect on the next stages of their life, Haley looks forward to moving to Washington, DC with friends and making art in any way they can get their hands on. Though it might be cheesy, they said their favorite part about being a Dana Scholar is the friends and connections this program gave them. When asked about advice to give to a younger student, Haley said that "the big thing is, don't wait for opportunities to hit you—make them." They also advised to try things you might not normally try and find people that are not in your major—this will nuance your perspectives on life and motivate your work. They ended our interview with some meaningful words: "I definitely would not be the person I am if it weren't for the people I've met here."



Jodie Goldberg

Written by Kate Cullin

Coming all the way from Marietta, Georgia, Jodie Goldberg is one of Muhlenberg's most recognizable friendly faces. Jodie was led to Muhlenberg by one of her mom's sorority sisters' recommendations, and has since become an irreplaceable cornerstone of the campus community.

Majoring in history with minors in both Spanish and music on the pre-law track, Jodie has spent her time here pursuing a variety of academic and personal interests. Although Jodie was originally set on attending college as a music major concentrating in percussion performance, she changed her mind after attending a month-long collegiate experience program for high school seniors, and has since taken full advantage of Muhlenberg's potential for interdisciplinary study and discovery.



Jodie is the type of student who keeps herself busy both on campus and off, pursuing a variety of clubs and internships. Notably, Jodie is president of the Muhlenberg Spanish Club, runs Spanish Conjugation Workshops on campus, tutors Spanish, performs in Percussion Ensemble, is a member of Delta Zeta's Xi Iota chapter, was a pre-orientation leader for the Dana Scholars, formerly tutored Music Theory, worked as a tour guide on campus until her final semester senior year, and interned for a law firm. Jodie explained to me that when she finds herself sitting alone, she thinks, "What am I doing? Might as well do something," and seeks out further ways to get involved on campus. Despite how busy Jodie is, she always has time to say hello in the halls and ask how you're doing, and she is a generally cheerful presence within any community she is a part of.

Jodie's passion for Spanish and bilingualism is one of her most admirable characteristics. Jodie has always wanted to speak multiple languages. Growing up Jewish, Jodie had the opportunity to learn Hebrew, which she did not pursue, and has since always regretted. Arriving at Muhlenberg, she made the decision to study Spanish, and has found a deep love for it. Jodie, alongside Dr. Mark Emerick, researched the intersection between language ideologies and accommodations for emerging bilinguals in career and technical education, which served as her Dana mentorship. Next year, Jodie will be attending law school at the University of Maine on a full tuition scholarship. As she turns towards law school, Jodie has found herself interested in immigration law due to her strong background in Spanish, both linguistically and culturally. Jodie is also interested in divorce law after spending time working on divorce law during another internship.

Being a Dana Scholar has helped Jodie to learn how to take the skills developed in the

classroom and implement them in the outside world, particularly in community outreach and problem-solving. For incoming Dana Scholars, Jodie advises that they shouldn't be scared to go outside their comfort zone within Muhlenberg's supportive community and wealth of opportunities.

Liam Safran

Written by Sonny Berenson

Liam Safran, a current senior at Muhlenberg, hails from Newtown Pennsylvania, a self-described “quaint” town located about an hour away from Muhlenberg. Liam told me that he views his life in terms of relationships with the people around him, which became evident through his discussion of his personal life and his growth over his college career. Through our interview, Liam and I bonded over a shared love of dining hall buffalo chicken sandwiches and shared similar sentiments regarding personal relationships and life outlooks.



As a neuroscience major, Liam has a love for research and scientific methodology. For his Dana internship, Liam studied under Dr. Gotthard, researching the memory of slime mold. I was privy to seeing pictures of Liam’s slime mold, pictures which he proudly displayed to me in the middle of GQ. Liam’s favorite class at Muhlenberg has been Receptors and Channels, which just so happens to be a part of the neuroscience department. Liam loved the interpretive and theoretical nature of this class, along with its backing in the scientific method. Now, Liam avoids Tylenol thanks to Receptors and Channels! Overall, Liam told me that he loves the neuroscience major for the duality between hardcore science and discussion based classes.

One of Liam’s favorite academic experiences has been through his experience as a Dana Scholar! I learned that lots of Liam’s current friends are also Dana Scholars that he met during pre-orientation. According to Liam, having the Dana Program was helpful, as it gave him a little extra push to do a mentorship. The first-year seminar and sophomore seminar that Liam was in, Ignorance and a course about the 2020 election, respectively, stood as notable to him throughout his college career. Being a part of the senior seminar has been memorable for Liam as well, as “it’s nice to see all of the Danas in the same place again!”

Across campus, Liam’s involvement varies greatly in scope. One of Liam’s mantras that he stressed to me was “don’t knock it ‘till you try it”. Liam also told me that he likes to be as well-rounded as possible, which was made clear to me through his involvement. Liam is the training director for WMUH, Muhlenberg’s radio station, and has also held positions as a DJ and as the events coordinator. The radio station is a positive artistic outlet for Liam, and he emphasized his enjoyment of being involved with the station. Big Band is another musical outlet for Liam, where he plays the bass guitar. Liam describes himself as “not the best”, but nevertheless, Big Band is a fun form of expression for him. Outside the artistic world, Liam is a member of DTD, a fraternity on campus, and APO, a service organization. Described as “a grand old time!” Liam’s involvement in APO has been one of his most enriching endeavors at

Muhlenberg. Becoming involved in the greater Allentown community has allowed Liam to break the famed “Muhlen-bubble”.

When I asked Liam what his proudest achievement was throughout college, he responded with two answers: his internship and his relationships, specifically that of his girlfriend, who he’s been dating since high school. Hearing Liam talk about his relationship made me realize how personal connections define Liam’s life. Much of Liam’s positive reflections of his college experience tie back to the people he knows, whether that be friends, his girlfriend, or his professors. After college, Liam plans on going to dental school. In fact, the day prior to our meeting, Liam had his interview with his top dental school, UPenn. If his interview with UPenn was anything like our interview, I have no doubt that Liam impressed!

Natalia Cieslar

Written by Mattea Pappa

Natalia Cieslar recommends that future Danas “don’t feel confined,” as they begin their journey at Muhlenberg. That they experiment with classes and majors without the constraints of a socially ascribed timeline. She did just that.

Coming to Muhlenberg from Staten Island, Natalia had no concrete notion of a prospective major. Having worked at a museum in high school, she knew she was interested in arts, culture, and languages and was committed to taking at least one science course. Beyond that, she entered into June advising with an open mind. Together, Natalia and her advisor brainstormed potential concentrations and devised a diverse and compelling course load for the fall. She left the meeting with a pink piece of paper chock full of possibilities and the inclination to explore academically.

After studies in public health, art, English, and upper-level Italian, Natalia was still undecided her sophomore year. Only as she was applying to go abroad did she find the pink paper she had received during June advising. Scrolled amongst various classes and concepts was the suggestion of an international studies major, and in seeing this something clicked for Natalia. With an international studies major, she would be able to combine her passion for history’s modern implications on a global scale with her love for cultures. Moreover, she would be able to connect to her own experience with multi-nationality, having grown up with a strong connection to her family's Polish background.

Grounded in her selected field, Natalia was able to pursue a study abroad experience in Florence, Italy. Her time abroad not only tapped into her passion for Italian but led her to her Dana mentorship. After spending a semester in Florence, Natalia hoped to return for the summer. Unfortunately, she was unable to do so due to a lack of affordable and reliable local housing options. With further research, she learned that most of Italy's market was catered solely to tourists, leaving locals without options. From there, she began work on her mentorship project of examining housing instability in Italy.

Today alongside her International Studies major, Natalia will graduate with minors in Italian and Business Administration. Additionally, she has served as the president of the Italian club, a tour guide, and a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Further, as her Dana internship, she has helped to construct and facilitate the magazine you are currently reading. Much like the subjects of the courses in her early years, her influence as a campus leader is extensive.



Nicole Randazza

Written by Madison Figueroa

Nicole Randazza, technically in her junior year, has surpassed the idea of being a “well rounded student.” She comes to Muhlenberg College from Clark, New Jersey as a biology major on the pre-dental track. Randazza is graduating with the class of 2024 but this will be her last year at Muhlenberg because she is in the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine 3-4 BioDental program. Alongside being involved in that honorable program, she has spent her years here getting involved in a multitude of different ways. Nicole is a student-athlete on the women's field hockey team and is involved with three clubs, an honor society, and is a science tutor for students at other local schools.



Off the field she has taken part in clubs such as M.A.L.T. (Muhlenberg Athletic Leadership Team), the Pre Dental Club, and the Rock Climbing Club. Randazza is also in Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED), a national honor society and service organization dedicated to the encouragement and recognition of excellence in pre-professional health scholarship. On the field, wearing #10, Nicole was a force to be reckoned with. She helped lead the field hockey defensive squad to becoming 4th best defensive line in the Centennial-Conference. Along with that, Randazza was named All-Centennial Conference 2nd team this season and was second on the team for most goals (4) as well as second on the team for most points (10).

Nicole also had the opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica through the MILA program. She took a course called Sustainability in Costa Rica for fun to complete some of her general academic requirements. But, this class then led to her two week trip to Costa Rica where she studied mental health and public health. Randazza also completed an internship and mentorship for the Dana Program. The mentorship she did was with Dr. Bachynski, where they worked on an independent study focusing on mental health in athletes. Her internship was done at a local dental office where she spent her days overseeing and assisting with both pediatric and adult dental appointments and surgeries. She helped run the office with the other dentist and dental assistants.

Next year, Randazza will be off to the University of Pennsylvania for four years to study in their School of Dental Medicine. After completing her first year at UPenn, she will come back to Allentown to graduate with the class of 2024 and get a B.S. in Biology. After her 4 years at UPenn, she will receive a D.D.S degree from the University. A word of advice and encouragement Nicole offers to the younger and future students at Muhlenberg is “get involved in as many things as you can so you can meet and interact with new people!” I had a wonderful

time meeting Nicole and hearing about her experience as a student-athlete. I'll be looking out for her at my future dental appointments!

Peyton Sloan

Written by Iris Jordan

Peyton Sloan, hailing from Bound Brook, New Jersey, entered college unsure of what she wanted to pursue. However, paired with the close proximity to her home, this uncertainty led her to Muhlenberg College, where she was lured by the liberal arts education and the ability to explore. English was her favorite subject in high school, and Peyton knew she wanted to continue developing her love for it in higher education. This being said, she did not want to teach or pursue more schooling, so finding a second major for a career path was important to her. Although English is where her passion lies, she also has a mind for numbers. Thus, Peyton began to explore the accounting program at Muhlenberg, having heard many positive reports. After taking Macroeconomics with Dr. Ray-Chaudhuri, she was sold on the accounting path, leading her to the English and accounting double major she is pursuing today.



Attending college during the political and racial upheaval of 2020, Peyton focused her Dana internship on anti-racist research for improvement of the college. Developed by two older Dana Scholars, she worked with a group of her peers to address the racial responsibilities that Muhlenberg has as a primarily white institution. She eventually went on to take over the project as a Dana intern for two semesters before passing it on to two younger Dana Scholars, just as it was passed on to her.

For her mentorship, Peyton Sloan developed a custom course on the literature of Toni Morrison with her favorite professor on campus, Dr. Emanuela Kucik (though Peyton notes that she loves all of her other professors). Through this case study, she read Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, *Beloved*, and *God Help the Child*. After many Zoom calls with her mentor, Peyton culminated all of her research and exploration into a paper, comparing and relating the three novels, criticizing the practice of book censorship, and highlighting the importance of integrating Toni Morrison's works into school curricula.

Despite the unexpected impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on her college experience, Peyton has made the most of her time at Muhlenberg and expressed so much love for her undergraduate years. She took numerous amazing classes, her favorite of which was Intro to Creative Fiction Writing with Linda Miller, and participated in many co-curricular activities, including Magical Memories, Alpha Phi Omega, Sigma Tau Delta, and the Muhlenberg Academic Review Board. Following graduation, she intends to enter the workforce as an accountant, maintaining her passion for English on the side. Regardless of where her path leads,

it is clear that Peyton Sloan has outstanding accomplishments ahead of her and will carry her “citizen scholar” character through the remainder of her life.

Raivat Shah

Written by Jason Rackas

In his time at Muhlenberg, Raivat Shah has undoubtedly exemplified the values of the school community in both his interpersonal and intrapersonal experiences. Coming to Muhlenberg from Central New Jersey, he expressed the importance of experiencing a new political and social environment in developing his identity and unique perspective.

Initially intending to attend dental school following his time at Muhlenberg, Shah began in the Penn Dental Program. However, taking advantage of the liberal arts curriculum early, led him to discover a passion for not only the sciences, but the humanities as well. Now, beginning his senior year, he is a double major in both Biology and Anthropology.

In true Muhlenberg fashion, Shah has also been expanding his passion and experience in biology and other sciences to both the school and wider community. On campus, he has utilized his Dana mentorship working in the lab of Dr. Giancarlo Cuadra, studying the effects of different e-cigarette flavors on the immune system. As a member of this research lab, he has been able to contribute to public health and scientific communities at large. Off campus, Shah has been working to instill a passion for the sciences in students in Allentown. By founding the STEM Outreach organization on campus, he offers students in local underprivileged schools the opportunity to learn about science in a hands-on and exciting way. In integrating the Muhlenberg community with the wider Allentown community, Shah stated that the students’ excitement demonstrates that these programs help “raise the next generation of scientists.”

Outside of his direct involvement in the sciences, Shah is a member of two other community organizations. He is currently serving as the president of AEA, a pre-med honor society, and he has worked as a choreographer for Top Naach, Muhlenberg’s South Asian affinity group.

After graduation, Shah plans to take a gap year in order to focus on conducting research prior to beginning the application process for medical school. He feels confident in his decision because of his experiences from Muhlenberg. He expresses that the individualized assistance from faculty, staff, and community members has taught him to be a leader and has set him up for a successful career.

In fact, Shah stated that attending Muhlenberg was “literally the best decision [he’s] made in [his] life.”



Sadra Bowie

Written by Dina Maltser

Coming to Muhlenberg all the way from Alaska, Sadra Bowie (she/her) was originally drawn to Muhlenberg's neuroscience program. After attending a science camp at Muhlenberg for high school juniors, she knew she wanted to apply and ultimately attend! Although Sadie intended to major in neuroscience, when her biology and chemistry notes got lost in the mail, she took it as a sign to pursue her other developing passions.

Following a two year leave of absence for religious service, Sadra returned to college online amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Reflecting back on her transformational first-year seminar with Dr. Cooperman, Sadra decided to double major in International Studies and Religious Studies. As part of her Dana internship, she deepened her focus on religion by working with Muhlenberg's Institute for Religious and Cultural Understanding to examine how Muhlenberg collects religious data. Sadra talked excitedly about the time she spent poring through past yearbooks to collect data on students' religious identity, explaining how she really enjoyed getting to glimpse into the stories of past Muhlenberg students.

In the true interdisciplinary spirit of a Dana Scholar, Sadra's mentorship with Dr. Albert in the Religion Studies department examined the intersectionality of refugee status and religious identity. Sadra conveyed a real commitment to the deep thinking and difficult questions of this project, including what it means to be a scholar activist, especially in such a small space as Muhlenberg, or what one person can do in the face of global oppression and tragedy.

Nearing the end of her senior year, Sadra spoke glowingly about the Dana forum, where she enjoyed hearing from a variety of professors from different fields in one class, an experience she recognizes is somewhat unique. In her Dana forum project, Sadra is focusing on how media coverage of rape and sexual assault impacts public opinion and perpetuates rape myths in the greater society.

Looking towards the future, Sadra's path remains somewhat open, but she knows she wants to pursue her passion for refugee advocacy and working for the public good. After taking a few years to do this work, Sadra is interested in attending law school or graduate school.

When asked about her advice for incoming students, a pensive smile crossed Sadra's face as she formulated an answer. "College is hard, the Dana Program is hard, and things will be stressful," she said. But, you will make it through if you give yourself permission to lean on the



network of supports around you, she continued. Ultimately, Sadra concluded, the skills you are learning as a college student are what's most important.

William Howitt

Written by Willa Einstein

William Howitt is a Theater and Music double major with a minor in business. He is originally from New Jersey and chose to come to Muhlenberg because of the cutting edge education offered by the theater department and how much the faculty really invested in their students. He recognized that that wasn't something that he was going to get at any other school. He likes to spend his free time writing music and cooking. His friends say he makes amazing chimichangas and rigatoni alla vodka.



When the pandemic hit, William decided to take a gap semester in order to make the most of his education. *Squeeze Her Hand*, a play that debuted in 2022 here at Muhlenberg, written and composed by Will, drew inspiration from dealing with the recent death of his grandmother and how different people in his family processed their grief. Upon reflecting on his time at Muhlenberg, Will feels that having the opportunity to write his own show through the Dana Program was an invaluable experience.

After graduation, Will plans to continue his pursuit of a career in theater. As a writer, he has been encouraged to do a musical writing workshop in New York City to broaden his writing skills. His long-term professional goal is to support himself financially doing what he loves to do: performing and composing music. More than anything, he wants his writing to have an impact on his audience. He wants to examine how global events can alter the course of one person's life in order to better understand universal feelings through different perspectives and connect with his audience.

After five years attending Muhlenberg, the most valuable lesson Will has learned is that your life is more than your career. His advice for freshmen in the Dana Program is that "It's okay to have goals, and it's okay to want to accomplish those goals, but in the end, you are here to enjoy this. College is not just about working towards a career, it is about experiences."

Dr. Dustin Nash

Written by Casey Goldberg

Dr. Nash joined the Muhlenberg family in 2014. He wanted to focus on Jewish Studies at a small liberal arts college and Muhlenberg let him do just that. A graduate of Luther College in Northeastern Iowa, Dr. Nash was used to and preferred the small-liberal arts lifestyle. He attributes the unique lens he uses to study religion, Jewish studies, and the Bible to the classes he took and the breadth of experiences he had as a music major at Luther. Prior to his arrival at Muhlenberg, Dr. Nash had taught many classes on pedagogy which, combined with an interest in writing and a curiosity for all things young earth creationist, led to his FYS, *Proving the Unprovable: Religion, Science, and the ‘Unknown’ in Modernity*. He thought this topic would be a fantastic way to teach students about writing by discussing how people use arguments to “prove” things and what makes an argument strong or compelling.



Dr. Nash had already been having great success with his FYS for a few years when he joined the Dana Program in 2021. He was excited to get involved in a new element of life on campus and was encouraged by many professors to take the position. Dr. Nash loves teaching Danas. He believes it opens the class to new questions and the ability to dig into the material in a scope that he was unable to in years prior. The Dana students create a group conversation with everyone getting something out of the reading rather than Dr. Nash telling them what *he* wants them to see. On a wider scope, Dr. Nash loves the connections the Dana Program creates between both FYSS, allowing for a greater area of discussion through many different lenses rather than just one. He feels this makes the “impact broader” and forces students’ minds to practice the habits they should constantly use.

Dr. Nash is excited to leave on a long-awaited sabbatical in the spring of 2023. He has been working on many writing projects and can’t wait to get back to them. His field keeps moving, and he looks forward to contributing research and adding to the conversation of scholarship that he has been missing in recent years. He also looks forward to spending more time with his wife Lorena (who also works on campus at the registrar's office) and two children Elias (10) and Ruby (8). Adorably, he has pictures over the last 8 years of both his kids sitting in the red chairs on the front lawn, creating a lovely timeline of his family’s time at Muhlenberg.

To wrap up our meeting, Dr. Nash fondly recalled one of his favorite memories of Muhlenberg. He had been teaching a class on myth and assigned an extra credit project where students had to write their own creation story. One student, in particular, went the extra mile, writing and then inscribing their myth onto clay tablets. Dr. Nash still has one in his office.

Dr. Cassandra Hartford

Written by Emma Maurer

On November 4, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Cassandra Hartford (or Kassie, as her students know her) to discuss her life and her time at Muhlenberg. When Kassie arrived at Java Joe's, our prearranged meeting spot, she immediately asked if we could relocate outside because it was probably the last perfect fall day 2022 would see. She was absolutely right, as the day *was* gorgeous, and within the next few days, the warmth of the sun seemingly evaporated into a frigid chill (although that might be my Los Angeleno bias).



Kassie explained how her eventual choice to teach at a school like Muhlenberg developed throughout her own undergraduate and graduate education. She double majored in American Studies at Mount Holyoke College, a 2,000 person liberal arts school, where she was taught by Michele Stevens, a person who she notes as a major mentor in her future educational pursuits. Stevens influenced Kassie to learn about transnationalism, which made her realize how important going abroad would be. So, she spent a year in Brazil teaching music and English (one of the reasons that she is fluent in about four languages). Kassie attended graduate school at Stony Brook University, a school ten times bigger than Mount Holyoke, where she also found faculty members who inspired her. So Kassie decided that a small college allowing for individualized education and close relationships with professors would be the best place for her to work. Muhlenberg perfectly fit these qualifications. It has, in her words, “[a] culture of intellectual curiosity” that shapes her love for the school.

This is Kassie's second year as a part of the Dana Program. She originally wanted to work with Dana students because of the fact that they take pride in being citizens of the world and want to make it a better place. She currently teaches “The Ethics and Aesthetics of Global Pop” as a Freshman Year Seminar, of which I am a student, but she would love to teach courses in the future that discuss the ways WWI is represented in culture and media, as well as a class about city listening and music based on urban sounds.

Kassie's fascination with and love of music is in her DNA, as her mom and dad were both music teachers, and her aunts were in the music industry as well. While most families would spend their Saturday afternoons going to the beach, Kassie and her parents would have jam sessions together. Even today, her wife teaches music at Muhlenberg!

It was absolutely lovely to have the opportunity to learn more about Dr. Hartford, especially because she is a professor of mine. However, if there is one thing that I will never

forget, it is that while Kassie specializes in Brazilian music, she is as big of a Stephen Sondheim fan as me, and for this, she will always have my utmost respect.

Dr. Marcia Morgan

Written by Julius Verma

Tense and wondering, "What questions should I ask?" I was dreading the thought of conducting my first interview, and that too with a professor. During my first semester, I had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Marcia Morgan, an associate professor of philosophy. In her, I found a jovial personality who made me very comfortable interacting with her. As the author of two books on philosophy, co-editor of a few others, and guest lecturer at international forums, she is an inspiration to others. She is no stranger to accomplishments. She learned to read music at the age of three, before she learned to read words, and performed regularly in piano competitions.



She is extremely passionate about gender equity and women's rights, as well as equity and rights for all sexual and gender minorities. Education is another of her major interests. She is currently conducting research on the ethics of migration as part of her public philosophy work. One of her favorite aspects of her profession as a professor is the flexibility to pursue her own scholarly inquiry and analysis in relation to the public common good. As a mentor, she enjoys interacting with young people because she believes they have the ability to shape the future.

While deciding on a career, Dr. Morgan was certain of three things: a career that supported creativity, the importance of writing down her thoughts, and her desire to read philosophical literature. Her interest in philosophy was sparked during highschool by a book written by the nineteenth-century philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, who criticized his own culture owing to moral hypocrisy and corruption in the church. The following year, she got intrigued by some of the ideas of 18th-century philosopher Immanuel Kant. These two figures inspired her to pursue philosophy in college.

One of the most memorable experiences she had at Muhlenberg was teaching the Dana Scholar FYS program for two years alongside Jeremy Teissere. She also enjoyed working with Sue Curry Jansen from the Center for Ethics as she assisted Dr. Morgan in organizing a year-long forum titled "Freedom, Personhood, and Justice."

Dr. Morgan shared some interesting facts about herself, such as how she finds herself closer to music as a first language than to a formal language. She is an active runner and skier. Her favorite places are NYC and Jackson Hole, Wyoming, although she also enjoys visiting Philadelphia and DC to hang out with her graduate school buddies. She loves spending a lot

of time visiting her family in Pennsylvania too.

Before she signed off, I got to witness her passion for teaching when she advised, "Read and write as much as humanly possible with all of [your] energy, passion, and dedication because [our collective] future depends upon it."

Dr. Kate Richmond, Dr. Matthew Moore, & Dr. Jeremy Teissere

Written by Samantha Darr and Julia Robinson

Professors Kate Richmond, Matthew Moore, and Jeremy Teissere are no strangers to working with each other. When we sat down for our interview with all three of them the conversation was bursting with discussions of interdisciplinary work and the value of a Liberal Arts experience. Dr. Richmond is a Muhlenberg Alumni, receiving her Ph. D in Psychology at Nova Southeastern University, and currently a professor of both Psychology and Women and Gender Studies at Muhlenberg. Dr. Moore is a Muhlenberg Alumni as well, receiving his Ph. D at Stanford, and is currently an associate professor of Theatre and Dance. Dr. Teissere got his B.A at Willamette University, his Ph. D at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, did his post-doctoral study at Emory University, and is currently a professor of Neuroscience at Muhlenberg (a major which he founded).

When asked "Why Muhlenberg?", the three shared a common response: the interdisciplinary experience. As much as we students at Muhlenberg value the opportunity it gives us to explore many interests, the Professors seem to sing a similar tune. Dr. Richmond acknowledges that it'd be much easier to stay in her lane of psychology, the rewarding experience of taking risks with colleagues is one that is unmatched. Dr. Moore feels that "Muhlenberg has a unique way of framing the value of community via an interdisciplinary experience."

Dr. Teissere values teaching at Muhlenberg as he believes that a liberal arts education paves "the way to a more just and equitable society." He feels as though interdisciplinary experiences are practice for engagement with the world. Dr. Teissere enjoys finding ways to incorporate different disciplines when teaching his courses. "If it's not working to talk about the body in various, isolated, pigeon holded disciplines, I'm going to reach out to people who talk about the body in other contexts and we're going to think about team teaching together a class on the body." With this approach, the first Integrated Learning (IL) Course was built, "Bodies of Knowledge", with a sociologist, a theater professor and Dr. Teissere himself.

The three value the Dana Program for the students it attracts, calling them "the most rewarding part of the program" and some of the "best and brightest that Muhlenberg has to offer." The professors' close relationship is due in part to the Dana Program. They believe that the mission of the Dana Program is to attract driven people who care about global citizenship and interdisciplinarity. When engaging in a conversation about humility and making/learning from mistakes, the three, as well as us, were eager to note the fear Dana students have surrounding inaccuracy. The three suggested a theme for the Center of Ethics next year that accounts for such: being wrong.

Dr. Sharon Albert

Written by Avi Klein

While Dr. Albert teaches in the Religious Department, going into college she started as an English Major with a special interest in medievalism, eventually focusing on Islamic studies as she found little commentary on Muslim texts of the time.

Growing up in Ottawa, Canada, she remembers skating on the canal that runs through her hometown. Her memories of the city itself are of a small and beautiful place. She's come to appreciate the quiet moments in life because of this. There she also remembers seeing racism for the first time, targeted at someone of indigenous descent. Her early encounter with this brought her to question the lack of interest in Islamic studies in comparison to Christian studies.

The pandemic itself has also changed things for Dr. Albert. As a professor, she had to adapt to the physical constraints of social distancing by using technology and communications skills. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic she had experience with using technology as a means of education, though with the necessity for its usage she found new benefits and drawbacks. She was able to learn more about her students personal lives, as much as they were able to learn about her. They saw she had her own struggles with enjoying teaching, managing a personal life, and making sure classes ran smoothly.

Despite everything, she's thankful for the opportunities the pandemic has brought, and is hopeful of the future. She sees students being more engaged and eager to learn than ever before, which is largely in agreement with her own attitude now that she's able to return to in-person work. Dr. Albert is also hopeful that people will become better at listening to each other as time goes on, with the rise of quick communication through technology she feels that this can bring people together, while helping to prevent fear or prejudice. Her early experience of racism influences this, she says, and when asked what she would tell the world if she could say anything, she responded with "Let's all be kind to each other." I couldn't agree more.



Dr. Thaddeus “Tad” Robinson

Written by Monica Mulhern

After graduating and double majoring in history and philosophy, Dr. Tad Robinson applied to a master’s program and worked his way up to a Ph.D. to combine his two majors into something he loves: the history of philosophy. Due to his many broad interests throughout his higher education journey, he enjoyed the liberal arts college experience he had at Luther College, so he applied to Muhlenberg College and has been a philosophy professor ever since, going on his 15th year.



In 2016, he directed the Center of Ethics theme and got a gateway into the Dana Program, which led to his contribution to the Dana Forum in 2017. Dr. Robinson states that “[The Dana Forum] is a great opportunity to understand the broader applications of your major in the real world.” He understands that the Dana Forum on top of a CUE, a potential honors thesis, projects for a specific major, and just being a senior overall is very challenging, however, he also believes it helps with understanding the broader world outside of college. “World outside of college is complex and is constantly changing, so what the world wants or needs from an employee will change from now to five years from now. So having a specific set of skills that helps students make them more flexible is important to avoid pigeon holding,” states Dr. Robinson.

Currently, Dr. Robinson is teaching the Dana Sophomore Seminar and is researching the philosophy of religion and the idea of secular worship and prayer. Additionally, he is a Spinoza scholar and is deciphering his teachings and their impacts on the study of philosophy. In regards to this year’s Center of Ethics theme of “Speculative Futures,” Dr. Robinson found it intriguing: “I was excited to participate in the theme of speculative futures because it is an unusual theme; you hear the theme and it doesn’t tell you immediately what the theme is about. It was a bit more nebulous but I like it for that reason... In order to raise ideas, issues, and questions, a really effective way is through narrative, and I don’t know why it is but I think [“Speculative Futures”] is a really exciting way to raise questions in the world.”

His advice for all college students is to keep your long term goals in mind while pursuing your education. The major point of college is to learn about the world around you, about yourself, and how you want to improve yourself and the world. He states, “college allows appreciation of what you’re doing in the long term and allows you to be open to pursuing something you typically wouldn’t. Lots of people wish they pursue stuff they shoved aside. The rest of the world does not care about your interests and doesn’t care about achieving your goals. Overall, college is a unique opportunity and environment you won’t find elsewhere.”

Dana Senior Accolades

Alexa Ufberg

- Study Abroad Spring 2022 in Florence, Italy
- University Of Maryland School Of Dentistry Class of 2027
- Vaughn Summer Research Grant for biology research on cell regeneration
- Peer Tutor: biology, chemistry, psychology
- Alpha Chi Omega Sorority
- President Of Pre-Dental Club
- Member of AED Medical Fraternity

Alison Rutyna

- Study Abroad: Seville, Spain (Spring 2022)
- Presenter at International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference 2023
- Lead Writing Tutor for the Muhlenberg Writing Center
- Team Leader for Muhlenberg's Office of Community Engagement
- Research with Dr. Barszczewski assessing Muhlenberg's First Year Seminar program
- Foundations of Student Success Facilitator (Fall 2021, Fall 2022)
- Member of the Muhlenberg Theatre Association (Publicity Chair 2019-2020)
- Founding Member of Patchwork Theatre Festival
- Member of Alpha Chi Omega

- Member of Phi Sigma Iota (Foreign Language Honor Society)
- *The Muhlenberg Weekly* Contributing Op/Ed Writer; published "Reflecting on home"
- Presidential Scholarship Recipient
- Learning Assistant for MILA: Costa Rica
- Muhlenberg Theatre and Dance Anti-Racist Dialogues Facilitator
- Contributing Editor for the Muhlenberg Academic Review
- Program Coordinator for America Reads (Allentown School District)
- Theatre Productions: Directing: *Constellations* (2023). Acting: *The Vagina Monologues: A Retelling* (2022), *Wake* (2021), *The Bacchae* (2020) and *That Family* (2019)

Anna Mirsky

- Presidential Scholarship Recipient
- Muhlenberg Peer Tutor: Russian (2020)
- Phi Mu sorority: Membership Director and Recruitment Chair (2022)
- Forest conservation internship with Avalonia Land Conservancy (CT)
- Future research (Fall 2023) on bumblebee behavior and odor response with Dr. Sprayberry
- Dean's List

Ava Bianchi

- Alpha Chi Omega: President (2022), Panhellenic Delegate (2021)
- Captain for the Muhlenberg Cheer team
- Peer Tutor for the Spanish Department
- Challah for Hunger Treasurer
- Published in the Morning Call for an Op/ed concerning student food insecurity
-Inducted into Sigma Iota Rho (International Studies Honors Society)
- Completed a internship with the President of the Ukrainian World Trade Center
- Internship with SMBC fund finance in NYC
- Sustainability MILA in Costa Rica

Ava Duskie

- Study Abroad (Spring 2022): *DIS*-Copenhagen, Denmark
- Residential Advisor (RA) in Upperclassmen Traditional Housing
- Research Assistant in Dr. Gretchen Gotthard's Neuroscience of Memory Research Lab
- Recipient of Summer Research Grant 2021
- Presenter at *Society for Neuroscience* Fall 2021 Convention
- Contributing Copy-Editor for *Muhlenberg Academic Review* (MAR); "The Efficacy of Using Alzheimer's Disease Amyloid-Beta Treatments, Aducanumab and α A β -Gas6, to Treat Olfactory Deficits Caused by Amyloid-Beta Plaque Buildup in the Olfactory Bulb

of A β Seed-Induced Transgenic Mice" published by MAR

- Prose Editor for *MUSES*
- Member of *Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society*; Paper Acceptance for Sigma Tau Delta Spring 2022 Convention; Presenter at Sigma Tau Delta Spring 2023 Convention; Won 3rd place in Original Fiction for flash fiction collection "For the Daughters Born and Different" at 2023 Sigma Tau Delta Convention in Denver, CO
- Student Writer for the Office of Media & Communications
- *Muhlenberg Weekly* Contributing Op/Ed Writer; published "Let's Add Some Green to Muhlenberg's Colors"
- *Top Naach* Dance Member
- The Solitary Voice: Theater and Creative Writing in Ireland MILA

Camryn Griffon

- Phi Beta Kappa Inducted Member
- Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) Health Professional Honor Society, Inducted Member
- Learning Assistant for Biology 165
- Studio Assistant for Biology 160
- Academic Tutor in Biology, Chemistry, & Neuroscience
- General Chemistry II Project Lab
- Chemistry Department Summer Research
- Research Assistant Internship, Chemistry Department
- Contributing Editor to *Muhlenberg Academic Review*
- Linguistics Research Mentorship, Psychology Department

- Dean's List, All Semesters
- Internship Lehigh County Courthouse
- Shadowed OAA Sports Medicine
- Community Volunteer for MS Walks, Nursing Homes, & Religious School

Carina Filemyr

- Recipient of Dr. Laura B. Sheard Neuroscience Scholarship
- Writing Program Committee Student Ambassador
- Campus tour guide
- Campus Delegate
- Cardinal Key Society
- This Land is Your Land: Potomac MILA
- Writing About Place: MILA
- Member of *Sigma Tau Delta* English Honors Society
- *Sigma Tau Delta* Conference Presenter
- Recipient of Edwin W. Miller Award; 1st Place for Creative Nonfiction
- Co-President of Planned Parenthood Generation Club
- Tara Zrinski Campaign for State Senate Internship
- Writing Center Lead Tutor
- *Muhlenberg Weekly* Contributing Op/Ed Writer: "Take a Break"

Conner Soderstedt

- Duke University for Chemistry Ph.D
- Instruction Assistant for General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Kitchen Chemistry labs

- Peer Tutor: General Chemistry and Calculus I & II
- Vice President of Chemistry Club
- Silver Nanoparticle synthesis and photocatalysis research with Dr. Gooch
- Vibrational strong coupling research with Dr. Sparks
- Captain of the Cross country and track & field teams
- Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll
- Centennial Conference Sportsmanship Team

Eben Cornine

- Inducted member of Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honor Society
- Public Services Supervisor at Trexler Library and Former Student Assistant
- Director and Assistant Director of various Muhlenberg Studio Productions
- Population Connection Action Fund Summer Fellowship Member
- FightForHer Campaign Volunteer and Digital Organizer
- Mentorship: Writing the TV Pilot with Dr. Paul McEwan (Fall 2022)
- Mentorship: Anger and Forgiveness with Dr. Tad Robinson (Fall 2022)
- Independent Study: Creating the TV Pilot with Dr. Paul McEwan (Spring 2023)
- Independent Study: New Play Development with Professor Nigel Semaj
- President & Former Vice President of the Muhlenberg Philosophy Club

- Contributing Editor for *Muhlenberg Academic Review* (MAR)

Emily Luo

- Research on macrophage phagocytosis with Dr. Giancarlo Cuadra
- Dean of Academic Life's Student Summer Research Grant Recipient
- Poster presenter at Pennsylvania Academy of Science (2022)
- Member of 3+4 BioDental Program with the University of Pennsylvania
- Shadowing at pediatric dental office; Dental assistant
- Contributing Editor for *Muhlenberg Academic Review*
- Writing Tutor
- Peer Tutor: Biology, General Chemistry
- Alpha Chi Omega sorority: Vice President of Intellectual Development, Alumnae Chair (2022)
- Cardinal Key Society: President (2022), Secretary (2021)
- Peer Health Advocate at Muhlenberg
- Member of Pre-Dental Club
- Member of STEM Outreach
- Member of Muhlenberg Cheerleading Team (2020-2021)
- Cast member of departmental dance shows: *Ephemerality* (2021), *Retrospectives* (2021), & *In Motion* (2022 & 2023)
- Muhlenberg Dance Association: Treasurer (2022); Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Co-Chair (2021)
- Presidential Merit Scholarship Recipient
- Dance Talent Grant Recipient

Faith Maldonado

- Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Scholarship Recipient
- Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society) Executive Board
- Phi Sigma Iota (Foreign Language Honor Society)
- Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy Honor Society)
- Presenter at Sigma Tau Delta International Convention (2023)
- *Muhlenberg Academic Review*: Editor-in-Chief (2023), Business Manager & Copy Editor (2022), Contributing Editor (2021)
- "Justine Moritz: Monster & Mother in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*," published by MAR
- Writing Center Lead Tutor
- Denver Publishing Institute through the University of Denver acceptance
- Study Abroad: Seville, Spain (Spring 2022)
- Peer tutor: Spanish and Anthropology
- Alpha Chi Omega sorority: Panhellenic Academic and Career Development Chair (2021), DEI Board member (2021), Recruitment Committee member (2022)

Haley Arnold

- Member of Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society
- Member of Alpha Phi Omega
- Sigma Tau Delta Conference Presenter
- This Land is Your Land: Potomac MILA (Spring 2022)

- Treasurer of Magical Memories
- Muhlenberg Academic Review
Contributing editor
- Internship with ThoseWhoBloom art retailer (Thomas, West Virginia)
- Director for *This Random World* by Steven Deitz, Patchwork Theatre Festival
- Co-Founder of Patchwork Theatre Festival
- Director of *The Vagina Monologues: A Retelling*
- Assistant Director of (*&Medea*)
- Independent study w/ Prof. Jamie McKittrick - Directing with Consent
 - Directed *Spark* by Caridad Svich
- Independent Study w/ Prof. Gabriel Jason Dean - Political Playwriting
 - Author of *The Play Without a Name*
- Director of *Queersighted*
- Assistant Stage Manager of *Macbeth*
- Member of Academic Judicial Board
- Member of Student Conduct Board
- Muhlenberg Theatre Association Fundraising Manager (Spring 2021)

Jodie Goldberg

- Phi Sigma Iota (international foreign language honors society)
- Phi Alpha Theta (national history honors society)
- Hyman-Goodman Award Recipient
- Spanish Conjugation Workshop leader
- President of the Spanish Club
- Spanish tutor of all levels
- Delta Zeta House Manager

- Co-author of “‘I would purposely try to keep them separated’: Language ideologies, language policy, and beliefs about emergent bilinguals in career and technical education.” (Now published in TESOL Quarterly)
- Dana Scholars Representative
- Member of Academic Judicial Board
- Member of Student Conduct Board
- Intern for Atlanta Legal Aid, providing free legal aid to both English and Spanish speakers living below the poverty line in Gwinnett County, GA

Liam Safran

- DJ, Training Director (2023), Events Coordinator (2022), and Genre Director (2022) for Muhlenberg’s WMUH radio station
- Learning Assisant for Bio175 (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023)
- Studio Assistant for Bio160 (Spring 2022)
- Slime mold research with Dr. Gotthard (Spring 2021- Fall 2022)
- Big Band Bassist (Fall 2022 - Spring 2023)
- Alpha Phi Omega Treasureur (2022)
- Pre-Dental Club Vice-President (Fall 2022, Spring 2023), Secretary (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)
- Delta Tau Delta Academic Chair (Spring 2022-Sring 2023)
- Top Naach Dancer (Spring 2022)
- Narcan Trainer for End Overdose Together (2020)

- Presentation for Society for Neuroscience National Conference (Fall 2021)
- Recipient of Muhlenberg Neuroscience Collaborative Research Program Grant (Summer 2022) - Slime Mold Research
- Muhlenberg Presidential Scholarship Recipient
- Level III Tutor Certification (Fall 2021)
- Induction to Phi Beta Kappa (Spring 2022)
- Recipient of Dean's Scholarship for Penn Dental Medicine's Class of 2027 Admittance

Natalia Cieslar

- Study Abroad (Spring 2022): FUA-Florence, Italy: Global Leadership Certificate
- Internship with Elia Nichols Public Speaking Coach during semester abroad
- SAI Programs Student Ambassador
- Italian Club President (2021), Vice President (2022)
- Recipient of Dean's Student Summer Research Grant (2020)
- Inducted into Sigma Iota Rho (International Studies Honors Society) and Phi Sigma Iota (International Foreign Language Honor Society)
- Campus Tour Guide
- Alpha Chi Omega sorority
- Peer Tutor: Italian & Economics
- Dana Interviewer Intern

Nicole Randazza

- Inducted member of Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED): Health Professional Honor Society
- Study abroad: Costa Rica MILA (Spring/summer 2022)
- Muhlenberg peer tutor: chemistry, biology
- Member of pre dental club
- Completed an internship at a dental office, with 4 different dental specialties
- Dental assistant
- Member of 3-4 BioDental Program with the University of Pennsylvania
- Attending the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine Class of 2027
- Student-athlete: member of the field hockey team
- Field hockey representative in M.A.L.T. (Muhlenberg Athletic Leadership Team)
- Volunteer at Manestream Horse Farm
- 2020, 2021, and 2022 Division III National Academic Team Award
- 2020, 2021, and 2022 NFHCA Division III Scholars of Distinction
- 2021 Centennial Conference Fall Academic Award
- Awarded NFHCA Division III National Academic Squad

Peyton Sloan

- Magical Memories, President (Fall '21-Spring '23), Treasurer (Fall '20-Spring '21), Wardrobe Chair (Spring '20)
- Member of Alpha Phi Omega

- Member of Sigma Tau Delta (English Honors Society)
- Muhlenberg Academic Review: Business Manager (Fall '22-Spring '23), Copy Editor (Spring '22 and '23), Contributing Editor (Spring '22)
- Presenter at Sigma Tau Delta International Convention (2023)
- “Exhuming the Violence Under the Limelight,” published by MAR
- “Canary,” Tied for Second Place for Fiction Category of the Edwin W. Writing Awards
- Member of Academic Judicial Board
- Theatre Productions: Acting: *The Vagina Monologues: A Retelling* (2022)
- Peer Tutor: Macroeconomics
- Recipient of *The Dr. John A.W. Haas Award* (Spring '22)
- Recipient of *The Paul M. White '27 Business Award* (Spring '22)
- Presidential Merit Scholarship Recipient
- Art Talent Scholarship Recipient

Raivat Shah

- Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Scholarship Recipient
- STEM Outreach, Founder
- Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED): Pre-health Honor Society, President
- Muhlenberg Research Initiative (MURI), Founder
- Macrophage Phagocytosis Research with Dr. Cuadra
- Recipient of Summer Research Grant 2021

- Literature Review of AI Applications in Neurosurgery at Bethlehem-St. Luke’s University Hospital with Dr. Reese
- Poster Presenter at International Association of Dental Research (2021)
- Poster Presenter at American Society of Microbiology (2022)
- Top Naach co-choreographer (Fall '20 - Spring '22)

Sadra Bowie

- Member of Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honors Society
- Member of Theta Alpha Kappa Religion Studies Honors Society
- Henry Melchior Muhlenberg scholarship recipient
- Intern at the Institute for Religious and Cultural Understanding

William Howitt

- Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Scholarship Recipient
- Mazur Music Research Grant Recipient
- MAR Published Author
- Produced own original musical in conjunction with the music department