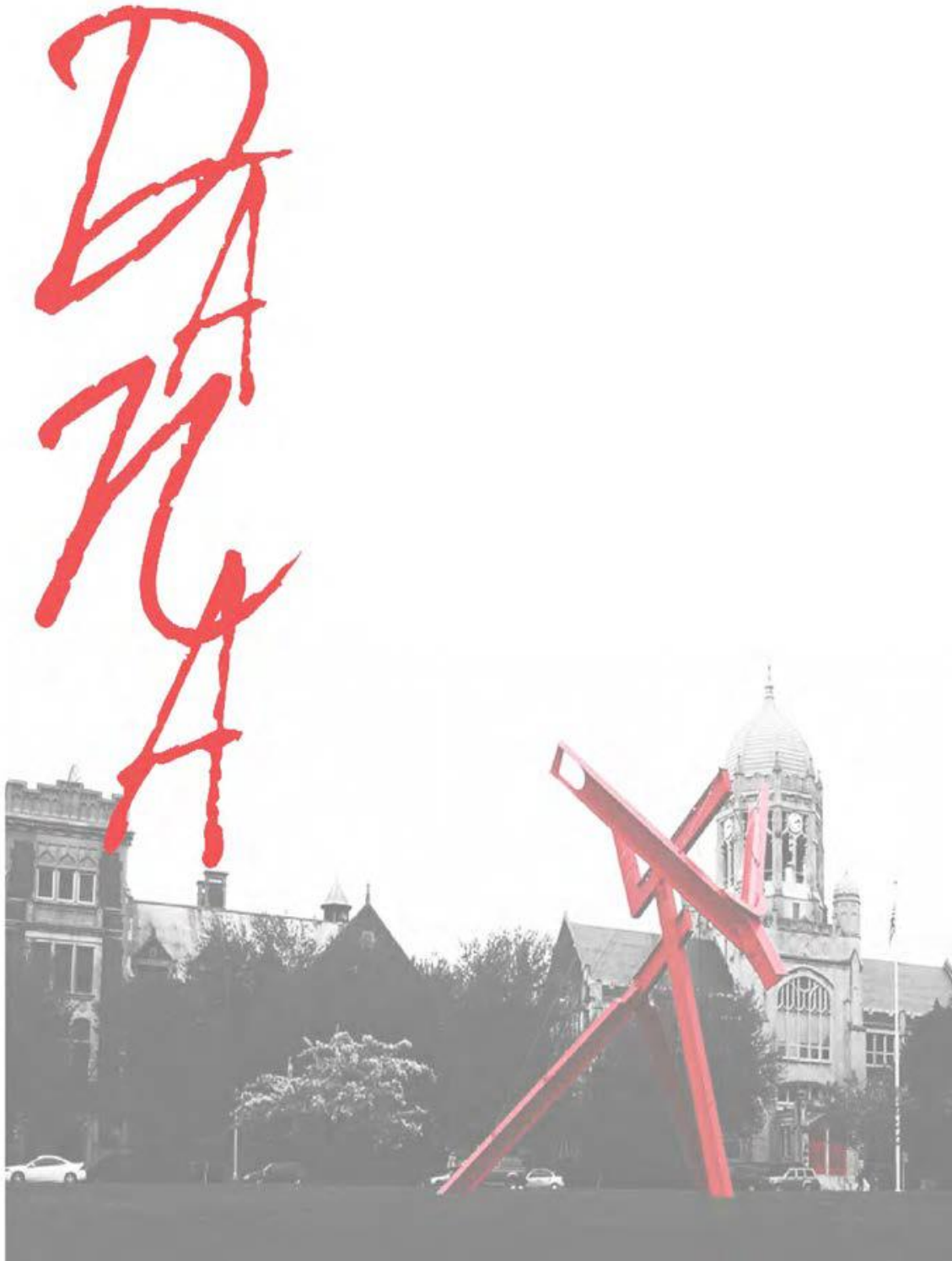


The Dana Interviewer, Class of 2021



The Dana Interviewer

Featuring the Class of 2021

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.

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Preface written by Mari Avola

In consideration of our country's racial issues illuminated this past summer, Dr. Hashim reached out to the Dana Program to begin a conversation around these issues. Dani Barrett (2022) and Celeste Samson (2022) were among the first Danas to respond to Dr. Hashim's email. They ultimately took a lead in the initiative and served as the first two Dana interns. Later joined by Peyton Sloan (2023), the Dana interns led subgroups and liaised between the Danas and Dr. Hashim. The subgroups include: SGA Pressure group, Support and Research for Institution-wide Anti-racism group, Workshop Design group, and Coalition Building group. The work of these subgroups and the Dana interns ultimately led to the creation of a Dana Anti-Racism event. The event centered around the education and empowerment of students to better engage and contribute to anti-racism efforts at Muhlenberg and beyond.

Dana Anti-Racism Event

"Anti-Racism in Academia, Becoming a Better Citizen-Scholar"

Written by Zoe Bentley

On Thursday, April 1, 2021, the product of months of hard work on the part of a group of two dozen Dana scholars came to fruition to positive reception from the Dana program as a whole. The Dana Anti-Racism event brought together the hard work of Dana interns Danielle Barrett '22, Celeste Samson '22 and Peyton Sloan '23 with the expertise of Ms. Robin Riley-Casey (Director of Multicultural Life), Dr. Emanuela Kucik (Assistant Professor of English and Director of Africana Studies), and Dr. Brooke Vick (Associate Provost for Faculty and Diversity Initiatives). The Dana-exclusive event served as a forum for thoughts on active anti-racism and a foundation upon which those who attended are encouraged to build their own research.

After a welcome and introductions of the three experts and their extensive credentials and achievements at Muhlenberg, they embarked upon an informative vocabulary lesson, establishing key terms and concepts which would be leaned on heavily for the rest of the night. The overview was as engaging as it was educational, demonstrating the value of an informed audience. When considering the frequency with which we throw around terms like racism and identity on our campus, one may think the definitions would be self-evident. However, the conversations to be had afterwards were sure to be challenging, and by establishing certain key definitions from the outset, everyone was able to be on the same page and equipped with the same tools with which we could move forward into informed and effective conversations.

Dr. Kucik began her segment with a history lesson of sorts, outlining the origins of our national conceptions of racial identity. From here she stressed the importance of unlearning our racist educations to be able to move forward and be actively anti-racist, as opposed to just passively non-racist. To go the extra step is necessary in today's social and political climate, and Dr. Kucik engaged the Dana audience to consider things we have been taught that we need to unlearn in order to incorporate effective anti-racism into our everyday citizen scholarship.

Dr. Vick then encouraged us to identify patterns of behavior we may hold onto in the interest of politeness which in actuality contribute to the racist environment we live in. The mission of her segment was to equip us with the tools to "interrupt bias when we see it" without worrying about conventions surrounding politeness. We have to forgo these societal conventions which work to maintain a white supremacist status quo by confronting them head on. She encouraged the Danas to role play scenarios in which we may need to confront racism. By practicing these skills, the Danas are better equipped to interrupt the status quo and be stronger citizen scholars.

Dr. Kucik put it incredibly well when she said, "My understanding of what it means to be a citizen scholar is to be someone who takes your skills and translates them into action with the goal of producing an equitable society." This is the goal of the Dana program, and why this event was such a perfect fit in alignment with our mission. This entire event and all three of its moderators placed a great

focus on what comes after, ensuring that the Dana program is full of informed citizen scholars who will take the conversations this event began and employ these skills in their own lives.

A Reflection on the Dana Anti-Racism Work:

From Peyton Sloan, Dana Class of 2023

Like much of America, I would consider the past summer of 2020 to be when I was first mobilized to engage in anti-racist work. The massive amounts of anti-racist information shared following the murder of George Floyd informed me of the definitions and difference between being non-racist and anti-racist. A key distinction is that anti-racists not only do not engage in racist actions, but actively take action to fight against racist structures in society. I consider this the turning point in which I recognized simply being non-racist was not enough. Dani Barrett (2022) and Celeste Samson (2022)* clearly made that distinction within themselves as they created the Dana Anti-Racism Initiative and reached out to their fellow Dana's to join. I saw this as the perfect opportunity to not only engage in anti-racist work, but to do so alongside my peers in a program that I hoped I would produce tangible change as it would focus around changing my scholars group and college. I knew that I would be working with intelligent, motivated individuals. I knew I would not only enjoy working with my peers but I would also learn from them, so I eagerly joined the initiative. I initially joined as a member of the sub-group, researching college-wide anti-racism initiatives. I reviewed other college's anti-racism action plans, looked into college centers for diversity equity and inclusion, and even met with DEI professionals. I enjoyed the activist work, so Dani and Celeste suggested I join as a Dana intern in the Spring semester, an opportunity which I happily accepted. Our initial goal was to implement college-wide changes like those we researched, but after Dani and Celeste spoke with Dr. Hashim, we felt it would be better to start with the Dana Program itself. We hoped to identify its issues and improve this program before taking on the entire campus. We especially felt that improving the Dana Program was crucial since we call ourselves "citizen scholars." Thus, we must ensure that we are educated to act as anti-racists to produce scholarship that truly benefits the community and makes us deserving of such a title. Over the past few months we have acted to educate our fellow Danas, identifying imperfections of the program, and improving any shortcomings. Education and improvement have always been our goals since the beginning. After we have made our desired changes within the Dana program, we will use the newly developed skills and methods that we have gained from this process as we widen our outreach to encompass the campus to make Muhlenberg a more anti-racist institution.

I believe that our work is important because as Dana's we must recognize that we are a privileged scholars group at a privileged institution. By learning the difference between non-racism and anti-racism, we are able to better understand what it means to be a true "citizen scholar." We can then apply that knowledge in our daily lives so that we can help dismantle the racist structures of our society. That knowledge and action can most immediately be applied to our college institution. By hosting these anti-racism events, getting student feedback, and sparking discussion to implement changes to our campus, we aim to keep the light of education and progress we saw this past summer burning. We hope to create a smarter, more aware, and overall better community. I hope that anyone who attends our anti-racism events walks away with a better understanding of the difference between what it means to be non-racist and anti-racist. Furthermore, I hope they are better able to identify where they and our college align on that spectrum as well as the potential steps that can be taken to become anti-racist.

Alice Banta

Written by Gianna Anzalone



Alice Banta is a theater and music double major, with official concentrations in performance studies and vocal performance. Additionally, Alice has what she calls an invisible concentration in music history and an invisible minor in women & gender studies. Basically, she says that she refuses to choose one academic focus, but that is in fact the beauty of a liberal arts education. The freedom to explore multiple areas of interest, and the reputation of Muhlenberg's theatre program are two of the main reasons why Alice decided to leave San Diego to join the Muhlenberg community. She also shared with me that she is a soprano and is working towards her senior recital this year. Alice appreciated the chance to design a recital that reflected their scholarly interests as well as their artistic development. Currently, Alice is applying to graduate school programs for musicology and performance studies—both of which tie into her thesis centered around *West Side Story*. This work examines the ways gendered and racial

hierarchies are constructed through Leonard Bernstein's compositional strategies, and puts previous scholarship on the musical in conversation with more recent theories on race, gender, and queerness.

For the Dana program, Alice interned with the Allentown Symphony Orchestra where she was able to learn more about the administrative side of the organization and its general management, while also performing as part of the chorus. For their mentorship, Alice did summer research on *West Side Story* with Dr. Cassandra Hartford. This work was inspired by a paper they wrote during their sophomore year, and laid the foundation for their thesis. Alice also highly values her senior seminar, where she has gotten the opportunity to work with the organization Scholars at Risk.

Alice has also participated in a number of theatrical productions at Muhlenberg, such as last year's *Too Much Light Makes a Baby Go Blind*. She is also a member of the Chamber Choir on campus, in addition to being a part of Collegium Musicum and the Artist Collective. For her work-study position, Alice works for the Theatre and Dance departments as a box office associate, house manager, and administrative assistant. Alice is also the Hall Director for Brown Hall, which she finds to be a rewarding experience as it pushes her to find creative ways to build community and be a source of support for first year students. Alice also tutors for music theory, music history, and performance studies courses.

When asked what her advice would be for future Danas, Alice recommended focusing on taking classes that interest you, and especially taking classes with professors whose work and pedagogy you find most insightful. They believe that a professor who makes you feel inspired and engaged in the coursework is more important than veering towards the courses you think you "should" take. In terms of her favorite memory, Alice said that she has many but any that really encapsulate a sense of normalcy and life before the pandemic is currently near and dear to her heart, such as late night rehearsals, running from performance to performance on weekends, and the hustle and bustle of Seegers. Lastly, Alice's favorite dining hall food was by far Wokabilities's stir fry and the Noshery's chocolate chip blondies.

Zoe Bentley

Written by Lydia Brubaker



What color is your toothbrush? is the first question I asked Zoe Bentley when I was privileged enough to interview her regarding her experience at Muhlenberg the past four years. She kindly answered pink. Then I asked her several more frankly ridiculous questions. *What are your thoughts on candy corn?* (She loves it, though her roommates are anti-candy corn and she doesn't get it.) *What is your favorite dairy product?* (Ice cream and brie- she said, and I quote, "If you put a chunk of brie in front of me, I'd probably cry.") And, lastly, *would you rather be a fairy or a mermaid?* (Mermaid for sure.) After indulging me with these silly questions, Zoe graciously began relaying her college career to me.

She's a theatre and music double major, who first visited Muhlenberg thanks to her mother's knowledge of the school's production of *Romeo and Juliet* one year. Zoe reflected on her first encounter with the campus and its students; "It was amazing." Sure enough, she chose Muhlenberg and studied with concentrations in acting and vocal performance... and she loved every second of it. In Fall of 2019, she was able to study abroad at the Theater

Academy of London; she learned *stage combat*. Now *that* is quite the addition to one's resume. She's incredibly proud of it.

She also interned in donor relations at the Barrington Stage Company, a professional theater company in Massachusetts. There, she discovered the business administrative side of how theater gets to work: what goes into it on the fundraising side. It was not all business for her though; once, she worked a shift from 10:30 at night to 6:30 the next morning taking down lights after a production. She reflects on it fondly as a growing experience. This internship greatly helped her figure out what she wants to pursue following graduation. She is currently looking for donor relations positions in the Philly area.

Between learning how to fake sword fight in another country and run a theater, she managed to squeeze in an awe inspiring number of extracurricular activities. She co-founded Magical Memories, Muhlenberg's Character Visitation Club, with her friend. She would dress up as children's characters and go to elementary schools in the Allentown area to read students stories. COVID-19 presented the club with several difficulties, but Zoe adjusted their mission to an online forum. There, they not only make videos for little kids' birthdays during quarantine, they also distribute videos *internationally*. When asked questions about her experience in Magical Memories, she humbly glossed over her contributions to the club by simply saying, "It's so great to see [the kids'] faces." Zoe is also a tour guide, a member of the Women's Ensemble choir, the Muhlenberg Theater Association, and the sorority Phi Mu (where she acted as Provisional Membership Director, running the new member COVID-adapted education process and holding a position on the Executive Board).

What has Zoe gained from the Dana program? Overall consciousness of different topics; one of her favorite classes at Muhlenberg, the George Orwell First Year Seminar; a Sophomore seminar on climate change; her Senior forum project; and an "incredible group of people" that she has had by her side since day one. Her advice to future Danas is: "*be open to whatever comes your way. Everyone has something to give to the conversation. Don't be afraid to give what you can give. Everyone else will gain something and be a better person because of what you bring to the table.*" When asked if she would change anything if she could do it all over again, she told me that she didn't follow through on her own advice enough. She feels she may have "cheated herself out of learning opportunities" because she

thought she should “stay in her lane.” Her hope is to inspire future Danas to put aside such self-doubt. With a smile, she added, “I’m really happy with where I am now though, you know? I have the best people around me.”

Hannah Betz

Written by Josh Chait



Hannah Betz Grew up in Tamaqua Pennsylvania and first stepped foot on the Muhlenberg College campus back in seventh grade while on a trip with her church. It was the first college campus she had ever visited and from that point on she fell in love with the ‘Berg community. This stuck with her through high school and she attended the summer theater productions. When the time came for her to pick a college she chose Muhlenberg because “It just felt right.”

Hannah appreciates the opportunity at Muhlenberg to pursue her hobbies as academic studies and extracurricular involvements. She is a double major in Music and English with an interest in Irish studies. She was supposed to go to Ireland over this past summer, however, her trip was canceled due to Covid.

Despite this, being the optimist she is, without missing a beat she said how despite the trip being canceled she still felt her experience in the class was a rewarding one because she was able to cultivate a friendship with her peers that was based around a mutual passion of theirs.

Hannah is not one to shrink away from academic challenges and has a long list of awards and accomplishments under her belt. She is a part of the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta, where she was accepted twice to present her written works. The first was on an Irish author and the second was a creative piece. She is grateful to her professors who push her to apply for these awards and much of what she accomplished was made possible by the support systems within the college that have let her grow academically. In addition to these accomplishments, she also won first place in the Edwin C. Miller Creative Writing Awards for fiction in 2019 and 2020 and got second place in the same competition for nonfiction in 2020. She also won the 1969 Recital Competition in her music major.

As far as extracurriculars, Hannah is no less accomplished. She is a writing tutor with the position of lead tutor, works in the Trexler Art Gallery as a senior gallery assistant, and sings in chamber choir. However, perhaps her crowning achievements are her work in MUSES Art and Literary Magazine and the Muhlenberg Academic Review. In MUSES, she worked her way up the ranks, starting as a programming coordinator freshman year. By sophomore year, she became prose editor and was promoted to editor in chief senior year. For the Muhlenberg Academic Review, Hannah took a different role, working as senior editor directly with writers and cultivating two teams of editors.

When asked what she was most proud of from her time at Muhlenberg, Hannah said it was her ability to cultivate a group of writers. She created a caring group of people who can identify each other’s writings. In her future endeavors, she will still be in correspondence with her friends, sending them writings and reading what they send her. She is proud that she is able to have an academic and artistic community that cares the way she does.

Hannah will attend Penn State Dickinson Law School in the fall.

Jaelyn Blonder

Written by Mari Avola



Jaelyn Blonder is a Studio Art major from Los Angeles, California. Jaelyn was drawn to the East Coast, as an opportunity to explore the country beyond her home. She is a lifelong California resident and plans to return to Los Angeles after school. There, Jaelyn enjoys the close proximity to her large extended family. While she plans to return to California, Jaelyn cherishes the many memories and friends she has made during her time on the East Coast. Jaelyn remembers her first spring on campus fondly, as her first time experiencing a Northeastern spring and the reawakening of nature after a long winter. She was drawn to Muhlenberg because of the interdisciplinary flexibility and breadth of studies. Jaelyn had considered studying theatre, but ultimately decided to pursue her passion for the visual arts. She had already fulfilled many major requirements and was thankful for the opportunity to explore various other fields of study her four years. Jaelyn has taken many theatre classes and has remained involved in the

Muhlenberg theatre program.

One of the most formative opportunities for Jaelyn has been her work as an assistant in the Muhlenberg Costume Shop. Since her freshman year, Jaelyn worked in the Costume Shop. She values the caring community and support from her fellow students and workers. This experience has taught her innumerable and practical skills that will undoubtedly aid in her future endeavors. Jaelyn reflects on her shifts at the Costume Shop as a highlight of her days. Jaelyn also values her experiences as a Writing Tutor and during her Dana Mentorship. As a Writing Tutor, Jaelyn was able to work with a group of bright, diverse, and compassionate coworkers. Jaelyn learned equally from both her tutees and professors, honing her own writing skills along the way. For her mentorship, Jaelyn continued developing her writing abilities. She completed an extension of her thesis under the tutelage of Professor Emily Orzech in Studio Art. This opportunity allowed Jaelyn to delve deeply into both art and writing, a welcome and fruitful challenge. Throughout her mentorship, she learned about the artistic and writing processes, and about her own interests and abilities. She is thankful for the support and guidance she received consistently throughout. She will carry the many skills she has acquired throughout her post-graduate career.

While Jaelyn has been involved in many student organizations, Plant-Based Advocates is one of her passions. In Spring of 2019, she co-founded PBA along with a small cohort of eco- and food-conscious individuals. Jaelyn co-presided for the club during the following fall semester and throughout her senior year. PBA works to foster a more sustainable and kind food system in the Muhlenberg community. They seek to educate the community on issues such as sustainability, animal welfare, environmental justice, and social justice. Along with other passionate students, Jaelyn helped create a space on campus for those interested in a plant-based life. She has established a core group of advocates who collaborate with Dining Services to create educational events and increase the availability of sustainable, plant-based options on campus. Jaelyn's efforts developed her leadership and advocacy skills, inspiring her to take action for a cause about which she cares deeply.

The Dana Program has also been instrumental to Jaelyn's development as an advocate. It has provided her with the opportunity to not only critically consider, but to engage with social and cultural issues as a citizen scholar. Her sophomore seminar, in particular, educated her on climate change and the anthropocene. This experience has been instrumental to her sustainability advocacy work beyond the Dana Program.

After Muhlenberg, Jaelyn hopes to continue her advocacy and community organizing work. She also hopes to continue developing as an artist and writer, sharing her works with her family and friends.

Her ultimate dream as of now is to open a farmed animal sanctuary that is involved in other community and social justice efforts in Southern California.

Celia Bowers

Written by Elizabeth Gershter



Celia Bowers, an environmental science major and creative writing minor, hails from Hereford, Maryland. She says that the two words that her family and friends would use to describe her are genuine and passionate. She is an active community member. So much so that, “What issues are you not interested in?” is an easier question to ask of her. In her free time, Celia likes reading fiction such as sci-fi and fantasy, hiking, and drawing. Another one of her hobbies is birdwatching. One of her favorite birds is the indigo bunting. Unsurprisingly, she enjoyed taking the Ornithology class at Muhlenberg College. Celia decided to

attend ‘Berg after she visited the college and was able to interact with some of the current students; she says that the college’s atmosphere and the interesting people on campus convinced her that ‘Berg would give her an excellent education and opportunities. Looking back as a senior, she can say that her initial impressions have proven true. Since the end of her freshman year, Celia has been the President of the Word Weavers club at Muhlenberg College, where she strives to create an environment where writers can feel comfortable and part of a community. Celia emphasizes that anybody in the club can write and share whatever they would like to. Along with games and snacks, the close-knit club enjoys encouraging discussions about writing. Celia has also previously been on the executive board of Students for Queer Advocacy. According to Celia, some of the best aspects of ‘Berg are: the small class sizes that foster deeper conversations between students and professors; the environmental science program, which offers immersive education inside and outside the classroom; and Pasta Monday (she recommends the tortellini with pesto sauce).

Celia also recalls her Dana mentorships as valuable experiences. They enabled her to collaborate with different faculty and staff, leading her to surprising areas on campus, and teaching her responsibility and independence. Celia’s first Dana mentorship, with Dr. Erika Iyengar, took place during the spring of her sophomore year. Celia set out to document sustainability practices at Muhlenberg, visiting the roofs of Seegers Union and the LSC and viewing a machinery system in Dining Services that reduces the volume of food waste. Her efforts culminated in an overarching presentation about ‘Berg’s sustainability measures and a video about Dining Services. During Celia’s next mentorship, also under Dr. Iyengar, she focused on creating a module about sustainability for incoming students. She also created a scavenger hunt for Orientation, which may feature as an activity in future Orientations or in classes by Dr. Iyengar. Currently, Celia is working on data from surveys that she conducted during the summer under Dr. Borick, examining how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected people’s perception of climate issues and their willingness to change their behaviors and beliefs. For Celia, her Dana mentorships have offered her incredible opportunities to work independently; while this newfound responsibility could be disorienting at times, she affirms that it was exciting and fruitful taking control of these projects. Reflecting on these experiences, her advice to younger students is to not be shy. She encourages future Danas to open up dialogue with professors whose work or research they are interested in. Nearing the conclusion of her undergraduate studies, Celia is excited about the wide range of opportunities that the environmental science field offers. She would like to reach as many people as possible, perhaps through avenues such as advocacy or education.

Ryan Carey

Written by Emily Luo



Have you ever met a fluent French speaker and Writing Assistant that also jams on the guitar and has filmed a music video with Senegalese rapper-activists? Ryan Carey is all these, and more. Not only have I had the pleasure of interviewing Ryan, but also having him as my mentor in the Writing Center and peer in Creative Fiction Writing. Ryan's talent and creativity is present in everything that he does.

Raised in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, a borough adjoining Scranton, from early on Ryan exhibited a passion for music. He sang in his church and high school choir, played in band throughout all his years of school, and performed in theater, which would eventually lead him through the red doors. The strong theater program and opportunity to double major drew him to Muhlenberg. Here, Ryan has stayed close to his roots and continued to grow/share his craft as President of AcaFellas, Treasurer of Acapella Council, and member of choir. He also took up playing the guitar, perfect for "jam sessions" with his roommates!

Ryan shifted his academic focus to English and French majors after having great experiences in his Dana First Year Seminar, "1917: The Year that Changed The World", and the French department. He demonstrates his excellence in both fields of study as a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, and Phi Sigma Iota, the highest academic honor in the field of foreign languages. With his English skills, Ryan has greatly contributed to the academic core of the Muhlenberg community through the Muhlenberg Academic Review and the Writing Center. As copy editor and contributing editor of the MAR, he proofreads original scholarly work written by students from all disciplines before sending it forward for official review. As a Writing Assistant, he has facilitated the same FYS for two years, helping to provide first-years with the same invaluable introduction to college writing that he received. Attending his WC sessions as a mentee has allowed me to witness him work his magic. Hopefully you've been able to be tutored by him at least once!

If not, you're sure to have encountered Ryan in another way on campus, this time indirectly: through his sustainability efforts in his mentorship with Dr. Erika Iyengar. Ryan was inspired by his Dana sophomore seminar--"The Ethics of the Anthropocene: Crisis Earth"--to promote sustainable practices in the community he was closest to. By interviewing Plant Operations for dining and identifying target locations, he was able to spread information about sustainability on campus. Beyond Muhlenberg, Ryan interned for Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy nonprofit, during the 2020 election season, where he worked on coalition-building and phone-banking. His dedication to election protection and voting rights embodies the true Dana spirit of citizen scholarship.

Ryan has expanded this spirit of citizen scholarship with a global perspective. He has been abroad twice: for a MILA trip to Senegal and a study abroad in Provence, France. His French and Francophone Studies at Muhlenberg prepared him well to be fully immersed in the French language and culture--not to mention the new but exquisite cuisine! In addition, interning at a travel agency allowed him to experience the straightforward French work ethic.

Throughout Ryan's journey at Muhlenberg, the Dana program has inspired and informed much of his endeavors and achievements. This includes everything from the FYS that encouraged him to become an English major, to the sophomore seminar that led to his sustainability mentorship, and much more. His advice to current and future Danas is to pursue things you truly care about for your mentorships/internships, and you will learn and grow so much from them!

Amber Dietrich

Written by Zachary Mikuta



Amber Dietrich is working on finishing her math and dance double major at Muhlenberg college. Originally from Lancaster Pennsylvania, Amber enjoys spending time with friends, being outside, and creatively using dance. During her college search, Amber chose Muhlenberg after a successful dance audition and a first look at the passion of the school's professors. Muhlenberg allowed her to pursue both her love for dance, and her interest in mathematics, all in a great campus environment.

Throughout her time at Muhlenberg, Amber has distinguished herself in several of her academic pursuits. She was a class representative, treasurer, secretary, and eventually president of the Muhlenberg Dance Association. Holding a leadership position in Muhlenberg's second largest community organization was both rewarding and challenging for Amber. This has been especially true in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, in which Amber and other members of the organization searched for ways to stay connected in a virtual space. Furthermore, her high achievement in dance has awarded Amber a slot at the American College Dance Association's Screendance Festival. The film, which she completed in her screendance class, is titled "When Home" and will be one of two films representing Muhlenberg at the event. Moreover, Amber is also a member of the Tri Alpha Honor Society, which recognizes high-achieving, first-generation college students. As a first-generation student, Amber hopes to set an example for her younger sister and demonstrate a pathway to and through higher education. Alongside Amber's academic achievement, being a Dana has both broadened and enlightened her college experience. As a self-described introvert, Amber believes that the Dana courses helped develop her communication skills. Through seminars and other required Dana courses, Amber found ways to participate in the dialogue and become comfortable expressing her thoughts or opinions. The Dana program also pushed Amber to take courses she would have otherwise ignored. Specifically, Amber mentioned taking courses in political science, which became an enjoyable and interesting addition to her overall education at Muhlenberg. Yet another example of the Dana program broadening her academic experience was a trip to Broadway during her first-year seminar course. The class saw a live performance of George Orwell's "1984." Amber described the show as evocative because it provided a visual expression of the themes in the novel and left a lasting impression. From her perspective, it was a unique moment where a passion for the performing arts could be so readily used in another discipline. The Dana program also encourages its members to get involved in academic research. Amber took advantage of that opportunity and participated in the Changing Lenses research project started by Megan Flynn and Holly Cate. This research was an embodied experience differentiating it from the other research that she has completed while at Muhlenberg. According to Amber conducting the research project was one of her most eye-opening experiences at college.

When I asked Amber what her biggest takeaway from the Dana Program was, she responded that it was the interdisciplinary component. The Dana program pushed her into exploring other interests, which allowed her to diversify her education. Due to that diversity Amber is heading into the workforce with a rare versatility, reflected in the opportunities she has lined up in the coming year. Amber has ambitions to join a dance company, find an administrative position using math, or eventually attend graduate school. Amber is looking for audition opportunities in Philadelphia. Whichever opportunity Amber ultimately pursues, the hard work and dedication she put into her career and passions at Muhlenberg has prepared her. It was a pleasure talking to a member of the Dana Program whose work ethic and passion allowed such high achievement. I wish Amber good luck in all her future pursuits and have no doubt she will find success.

Michael Gatazka

Written by Mary Roeder



Michael Gatazka is from upstate New York outside of Albany. He plays intramural soccer and was a part of the orientation program as both an Orientation Leader and Team Leader. Likewise, he was on the executive board of his fraternity as Communication Director and Brotherhood Development Director alongside serving as Academic Chairman and Co-Provost. He enjoys going out to eat at restaurants and watching movies. His favorites are *Inception* and the Star Wars Franchise. He also likes to spend time with his friends and wants to someday visit New Zealand. He has a brother who is in

medical school at NYIT. When Michael was choosing what college to attend, he knew he wanted a small school with a supportive community. He looked at the SUNY system, but found Muhlenberg on his dad's recommendation, and he loved his visit. Through the Red Doors Day sold him. He is a chemistry major who was on the secondary education track, but he switched towards pursuing graduate school when he realized he would rather teach at the college level and conduct research. He is interested in synthetic chemistry with a focus on catalysis to facilitate novel transformations to access pharmaceutically relevant motifs. He has committed to the organic chemistry subdivision of the chemistry Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan.

Michael has worked in three different research labs - two at Muhlenberg under the mentorship of Dr. Sherri C. Young and Dr. Jonathan Gooch, and one at the University of Michigan under the guidance of Dr. John P. Wolfe. He has presented his work both in person and virtually at local and national conferences and at informal research talks. He has done community service for his fraternity including work at the community garden, the public library, and Relay for Life. He has also taken part in Jefferson Elementary School's field day hosted at Muhlenberg. He has won the Arthur C. Peters Memorial Prize for chemistry students, has made Dean's list each term, and was accepted to take part in the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates at the University of Michigan and the University of Southern California, the latter of which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has also been awarded both Brother of the Year and Brother of the Semester by his fraternity brothers.

Michael is a Head Tutor for the Academic Resource Center and a Workshop Leader for Organic Chemistry 1 and 2. He has also previously served as an Instructional Assistant for General Chemistry lab. He is part of ODK, a national leadership honor society, and was formerly on the executive board for the Tour Guide program as a Tour Guide Mentor and Fall Workshop Coordinator. Moreover, he is a Campus Delegate and a part of the Senior Class Campaign Committee and Senior Class Steering Committee. The mentorship requirement of the Dana Scholars program encouraged him to pursue research, which helped motivate him to pursue an advanced degree. His advice to future Muhlenberg students is to take risks to put themselves out there and pursue new things. He says there are a wealth of opportunities at Muhlenberg for any interest a student has, all they need to do is push themselves to be confident and take a chance to try something new. When they believe in themselves, they will be able to accomplish so many amazing things. He is very excited to progress on to the next stage of his studies in Ann Arbor, Michigan!

Lilianne Gering

Written by Mikah Samuni



Lilianne Gering has accomplished a lot during her 4 years at Muhlenberg. It was wonderful to be able to speak with her and learn about her evolution as a student, a Dana Scholar, and a person. Raised on Long Island, New York, Lilianne grew up playing softball and learning to play the piano and the flute. She discovered her passion for dance at a young age. When it was time to start applying to colleges, Lilianne looked at many different dance programs. Muhlenberg stood out not only for its excellent dance program, but Lilianne realized that she was able to study so much more. The beautiful campus, warm and welcoming community, and diverse opportunities convinced her. She enrolled, studying business and dance at Muhlenberg. As the years went on, Lilianne developed her artistry and personality, and began taking on leadership positions. She was a work study assistant in the theatre and dance office, and even became a house manager and an orientation leader. By sophomore year,

her love of dance extended to choreography. Throughout her college years she was a part of the Muhlenberg Dance Association (MDA), taking on leadership roles such as class representative and secretary. By senior year she made her way to Dance Works coordinator. With this position, she was able to see a new side of the dance world: production. Despite the madness that the pandemic brought, Lilianne persevered and progressed in dance and choreography, and learned new skills. Although she was forced to work remotely, missing on-campus experiences and opportunities, she made the most of it, even producing and participating in 4 virtual shows. Taking advantage of more opportunities, Lilianne studied abroad and participated in a dance specific program in Tuscany, Italy. It was an incredible experience to meet new people, travel, and learn about the culture.

Lilianne also progressed as a Dana Scholar. Each Dana seminar had an incredible impact on her learning and social experience. Besides meeting new friends through the program, she also took meaningful and interesting courses. Of note was her sophomore year seminar on climate change. For her senior seminar, she worked with Scholars At Risk, advocating for scholars put in prison for doing research and looked at the various ways different countries interact with their citizens. This seminar focused particularly on India and was an invaluable experience. Sophomore year, Lilianne interned at a Statefarm insurance company, organizing computer databases. She also participated in a research based dance mentorship. Both helped further her majors, prepared her for the workforce, and gave her experiences to put on her resume. Lilianne is also passionate about accessibility and connection, particularly in the arts. She made a website focusing on arts accessibility because she wants to ensure that theatre and dance can be accessed and understood by anyone.

Her advice to fellow Danas and Muhlenberg students is to take everything in. Live in the moment, don't rush, and get to know everyone. The Muhlenberg community and Dana Program should be cherished and enjoyed.

Renee Heller

Written by Jerod Younes



Hailing from the fabled town of Walla-Walla, Washington, Renee Heller is a bright senior who is very personable and exceptionally multi-talented. A double major in Biology and Dance, Renee decided to pursue a well-rounded education at Muhlenberg where she can explore her talents. She is also a Spanish minor, and used this skill to study abroad in fall 2019 on the Ecuador SIT: Comparative Ecology and Conservation program. Over the course of her four years at Muhlenberg, Renee has gained a lot of research experience, which she would like to continue for her career after college. She has participated in several internships across all different mediums: at Muhlenberg she conducts field work as a member of Dr. Iyengar’s stream ecology lab, and this past summer she conducted remote research for a literature review on marine and freshwater acidification as a recipient of the Trainer summer research grant. Renee was accepted for a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) through the National Science Foundation, where she studied native and invasive marine crab species at the University of Oregon’s marine field station, and

while abroad she conducted an independent study project to measure the water quality of rivers and streams through macroinvertebrate biodiversity. Her abroad research is being published in the 2021 Muhlenberg Academic Review. Renee works on campus as an instructional assistant in the intro biology labs and as a peer tutor in Spanish, ballet, and biology. After graduation, Renee would like to be a lab tech to gain experience in biomedical research and determine what she is most passionate about before returning to graduate school.

Outside of the classroom, Renee has made sure to get involved. She has performed in a variety of dance shows, most notably Master Choreographers ‘18 and ‘19. The dance community has been a large part of her experience at Muhlenberg and she is thankful for all the opportunities and friendships she has gained through the Muhlenberg Dance Association. She is especially glad that the dance department has given her the opportunity to continue engaging with the art form she loves even amongst all her different interests and commitments. She has been on the Dean’s List several times and is part of the Foreign Language Honors Society. And if that wasn’t enough, she is involved in numerous clubs on-campus: she is a co-captain of the Muhlenberg Ultimate Frisbee team, she serves on the executive board Muhlenberg Outdoors Club, and she is a member of the sorority Phi Sigma Sigma. While balancing all of this, she still finds time for the Dana program, which she says has helped her to find a different way of connecting with others and provide a fresh setting for her. She has formed lasting friendships with fellow Danas, and appreciates that the program brings together students from all disciplines. Her advice to future students is to “pursue things that you think you’re interested in to the fullest. You’ll never know if you don’t try.” Renee has definitely practiced what she preached, and in doing so has become a positive influence on the Muhlenberg community.

Jonathan Henry

Written by Rebekah Ayre



Jonathan Henry, a first generation college student from Horsham, PA, is a neuroscience major who was drawn to Muhlenberg College because of the passion demonstrated by both students and professors. Muhlenberg fulfilled his criteria of having strong science and pre-med programs, as well as being close to home. Additionally, the small size offered him a personalized experience where people genuinely cared about the work they were doing, making Muhlenberg a perfect fit for Jon.

Through the Dana scholarship program, he has had the opportunity to conduct research in the lab of Dr. Jeremy Teissere, investigating the effects of phytochemicals on the GABA(A) receptor. He says that his courses with Dr. Teissere, combined with his research experience, changed his life: “Applying the work that you do in class to something bigger is so important.” After graduation, he plans to carry what he’s learned at Muhlenberg to a gap year research experience before going on to pursue his medical degree in psychiatry.

Jon can normally be found studying neuroscience by day and saving lives by night. As an EMT at Muhlenberg, Jon responds to medical emergencies on campus. A typical shift starts with “truck check” at 5pm to verify that all equipment is functioning properly, followed by 24 hours on call. During this period, he sleeps with his uniform on and his pager by his side, ready to spring to action at a moment’s notice to provide medical intervention on behalf of Muhlenberg students in crisis. Through End Overdose Together, he is trained to administer the life-saving drug Narcan, designed to limit the likelihood of an opioid overdose.

During quarantine he became interested in biking, and his ultimate goal is to complete a 300 mile bike trip from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC. Another of his hobbies is photography, which he uses in service of the Muhlenberg community. One of his favorite memories of his time here is taking pictures for Top Naach’s annual observance of Holi, the Hindu festival of colors.

One of the most significant Muhlenberg experiences that left an impact on Jon was the time he spent as an RA. Not only did he forge strong bonds with younger students, but the network that he gained through his relationships with the other RA’s solidified his sense of belonging within the Muhlenberg community.

Through his contributions as an RA, EMT, research assistant, Dana scholar, and photographer, Jon has offered so much to Muhlenberg, and we are sad to see him go. His parting remarks serve as wise guidance to future Danas and Muhlenberg scholars alike: “It’s important to craft your own story. Work on shaping yourself into someone unique rather than just fitting the mold of what you think others want to see... make sure you’re doing things that are important to you, because you only get so long at Muhlenberg.”

Kyra Hickey

Written by Vanessa Graniero



Interviewing Kyra Hickey was truly a pleasure, and she was able to inspire me in just the short time that I spoke to her. She was raised in Valhalla, New York, an incredibly supportive and encouraging community, which led her to feel able to follow her dreams. She felt fortunate that Valhalla was only forty minutes from New York City, providing her with many opportunities to exercise her passion for dance. She appreciated growing up around water and parks as it gifted her a deep connection to natural elements. “Nature is a place of healing”, she says.

What first drew Kyra to Muhlenberg was the size of the school, as well as the dance and writing programs, but what kept her here was the way the school made her feel. Visiting Muhlenberg, Kyra remembers how inviting the campus was and how it felt like it could be a home. Kyra says that Muhlenberg also seemed to be full of opportunities to indulge her curiosity, with the school’s encouragement for students to explore a variety of subjects.

While Kyra had always had a passion for dance, she had doubts about pursuing it, due to the general competitive nature of the career. Therefore, she came to Muhlenberg with an undecided major. However, she was certain that she wanted to continue studying Italian, and ended up picking up an Italian minor. She also discovered an interest in Women’s and Gender Studies, and ultimately pursued a minor in the field. According to Kyra, after finding community in the study of the gendered aspects of our modern world, “It just kind of happened.” The Women’s and Gender Studies coursework gave her language and frameworks that aligned with and built upon how she understood the world. For her major, Kyra considered the courses required for dance major during her second semester of her freshman year. Upon realizing that she was likely going to take all of those courses anyway, she declared her major on the spot. As of now, Kyra has become very interested in the healing and community-building capacities of dance. This interest has introduced her to the concept of dance-movement therapy for women and gender variant individuals with body-image issues. This subject is something Kyra has become extremely passionate about. As for the future, Kyra would like to continue to perform and teach. She hopes to continue integrating her enthusiasm for community engagement and healing through social work and activism.

Kyra is constantly engaged in fantastic positions on and off of Muhlenberg’s campus. On campus, Kyra has three core jobs. She works with the Office of Community Engagement, the writing center, and she teaches at the Muhlenberg Community Dance Center. Kyra also serves as an Orientation Leader and is a co-founder of the Sunrise Muhlenberg hub. At the Writing Center, Kyra conducted research which she presented at an international writing conference in Columbus, Ohio in October 2019. When it comes to off-campus work, Kyra has worked with Hollins University’s dance program, taken classes with graduate students there, and worked remotely for Midwest RAD Fest during her sophomore year. With RAD Fest, Kyra was also able to go to Michigan and witness the festival herself over spring break sophomore year. Kyra earned the title of a Newman Civic Fellow. She also completed an immersive study abroad homestay in Siena, Italy.

Kyra believes that the Office of Community Engagement and the work she has done with them truly shaped her as a citizen-scholar. She participated in the Pre-Orientation program with the OCE, which laid the foundation and sparked the momentum for the entirety of her college experience. In thinking of experiences that shaped her as a Muhlenberg community member, Kyra also mentioned the Muhlenberg Dance Association. She recognizes MDA as a huge source of community for her as a dancer. As far as community involvement, Kyra is a member of the fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, a gender-inclusive organization based in community service.

As a Dana student, Kyra says she felt empowered to pursue certain things that she formerly would have viewed as impossible. Specifically, she said that being a Dana Scholar gave her the confidence to pursue her internship with RAD Fest and Hollins University, as well as her current research with Kerry Sullivan about dance and dialogue. For future Dana students, Kyra suggests that they trust in their curiosities. She reflects upon her misconceptions that the things she felt drawn to were not worth engaging. Kyra hopes that future Dana students will share what moves them with others, as she sees a lot of value in sharing one's passions with the world. She also hopes that Dana students know that they are truly able to embark on any single, multifaceted academic journey they wish. The Dana Program will always provide a community of supportive peers and mentors excitedly cheering them on.

Kaelynn Kappes

Written by Kayla Hartman



As an actress, learning assistant, tour guide, dancer, and *High School Musical* enthusiast, it seems apparent that Kaelynn Kappes is bursting with energy and passion. Originally from San Diego, California, she is pursuing a double major in Theatre and Psychology with a minor in French at Muhlenberg, and has gained a plethora of experiences and wisdom in her time at college. Kaelynn chose Muhlenberg based on her interest in a more interdisciplinary education, and with her pursuit of three academic areas of interest, it is safe to say that she has made the most of her four short years here.

A highlight of Kaelynn's time at Muhlenberg was her study abroad experience in France, where she interned at the art museum, le Musée Granet in Aix-en-Provence. She provided assistance with school tour groups and reviewing the translation of museum materials such as from French to English, and has caught some important slip-ups in her work--such as referring to someone's right hand man as a confectioner, rather than perhaps a counselor. Unfortunately, her time abroad was cut short due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, but she is happy to have gotten the experience at all. Prior to leaving France, Kaelynn was working on preparing an original monologue-in french!-where she would perform as the wife and muse of famous artist Paul Cézanne. Although she never did get to perform it, Kaelynn was still excited to have been given an opportunity to explore not only her French studies, but also her Theatre studies abroad, further showing her dedication to interdisciplinary study.

Kaelynn was asked for her advice for three sets of people: any freshman getting started at Muhlenberg, the Dana freshmen, and herself at the beginning of her freshman year. For the first group, she recommends making the most of the liberal arts experience by taking courses outside of one's comfort zone, and working on time management skills. For the Dana freshmen, she outlined the importance of dedicating oneself to truly being a citizen scholar, as the program should not be expected to provide engagement opportunities for anyone-they have to be found personally. She pointed out that internships or just volunteer work could be provided through the Office of Community Engagement, and that a dedicated citizen scholar will find ways to be involved on their own as well as in the program. Lastly, for her former self, she admits that she wishes she had overwhelmed herself less, explaining that she was stretched too thin and did not dedicate enough time to self-care until recently. She went on to explain that it is much better to take on less things that one is really passionate about than a lot of things that are going to be more of a drain than a benefit.

Kaelynn is heavily involved in on-campus life; she is a Learning Assistant for the Psychological Statistics course, a tour guide, an orientation leader, and a member of the college's show choir, Live in Color. However, her largest commitment is not to any club or activity, but to making connections with individuals and groups at 'Berg and dedicating herself to understanding communication between people. Although Kaelynn is not a Media & Communication major, she has come to realize that her areas of study are all inherently linked by their reliance on expression and how they can allow people to understand each other better. When asked what's next for her in life, Kaelynn's initial response was: "What a terrifying question!". She went on to explain that although she does not know exactly what career she would like to pursue, she has learned to love communication and representation. She likes understanding others and how they operate in order to better help them. It is likely that Kaelynn will be found in the future working in communications, possibly through outreach or organizational representation, where her passion for helping and understanding others can really shine through.

Kayla Klarides

Written by Marguerite McAree



Kayla is a psychology major from Long Island. When making her decision on where to attend college, she was between Muhlenberg and Scranton. While Scranton had a great physical therapy program, Kayla's intended major at the time, she fell in love with Muhlenberg from her first tour. She plays soccer for Muhlenberg. On top of playing soccer, Kayla was able to be part of the Muhlenberg Athletic Leadership Team (MALT). MALT is an organization dedicated to athletes supporting other athletes, learning about social issues, and connecting with the Allentown community.

Kayla's major is unique because of the story behind it. She originally planned on receiving her doctorate in physical therapy and began her college career as a biology major. After some soul searching, she realized that psychology was a more effective way to help people. At this point, however, Kayla will be going to nursing school after graduating from Muhlenberg. Nursing encompasses everything she is looking for in a career: the ability to talk to people, to help them directly, and to not be stuck behind a desk.

Despite her decision to go back to a career in the healthcare field, Kayla expressed no regret over her decision to become a psychology major. Her major taught her how she thrives academically and where she may struggle, but how to overcome any challenges in her way. Psychology has taught her how to understand people and why they act a certain way. Kayla believes this knowledge will help her excel in the nursing field because she can recognize behavior patterns in her patients and their families.

Kayla's dedication to her intended career and her love for psychology are demonstrated in what she chose for her Dana Scholars internship and mentorship. For her internship, she spent the summer before her junior year working in a physical therapist's office, gaining experience in every aspect of the career as she helped patients in the back and learned the ins and outs of insurance at the front desk. For her mentorship, Kayla spent a year working on a research project with Doctor Alexandra Frazer in the psychology department on the implications of a speaker's gender when they swear.

When asked for what she considered to be her greatest accomplishment, Kayla did not list any of her achievements on the field or in pursuing her career. Instead, she pointed to her grades and the work she had to do to achieve them. After a rocky first year, Kayla was able to earn a spot on the Dean's List every semester of her college career. This fall semester, she also was on the academic honor roll for student-athletes.

Being a Dana scholar had a significant impact on Kayla's college experience. She was pushed to work incredibly hard and to think about many ideas from different perspectives. The program also allowed her the opportunity to learn more about topics she may not have paid much attention to, and to work with people from different academic and social backgrounds. Working with others allowed her to think about different perspectives of an issue. While she has met many different people in the Dana program, the uniting trait is a care for academics and effort put into their scholarly work.

Her advice to future Danas was simple: Even when you feel like you're not succeeding, just keep trying, because you'll surprise yourself. Being in the Dana program means being surrounded by people who are capable, passionate and intelligent, and it is easy to feel like you are outshined by your peers. But, if you put the effort in, you'll find that your own capabilities can surprise even you.

Andrew Leahy

Written by Gabrielle McCabe



Andrew, who is from Sweet Valley, Pennsylvania, found his way to Muhlenberg through a general search for liberal arts schools. He took his first tour on a rainy day, but remembers the positive energy of the campus and its students. It was an intuitive choice for Andrew.

Andrew is a double major in English and Music. His interests in English span a wide range of topics, focusing on gender construction, narrative form, Irish literature, rhetoric, and pedagogy. Writings from Ireland are of particular interest to Andrew, as they connect him to his Irish heritage. In his senior year, he became especially invested in the style and voice of James Joyce. This inspired his honors thesis, a commentary on the representation of gender

through narrative discourse in *Dubliners*. At Muhlenberg, he worked as the Layout Editor for MUSES Literary Magazine and the Muhlenberg Academic Review, while also co-coordinating and participating in the America Reads program through the Office of Community Engagement. As for his musical aspirations, Andrew mainly plays marimba and works with musical composition and arrangement. He also plays other percussion instruments and dabbles in the fiddle. Andrew has performed with the Muhlenberg Percussion Ensemble consistently since his freshman year.

In his time with the Dana Program, Andrew was able to conduct an internship with the Allentown Symphony Orchestra and a mentorship with Professor Thaddeus Robinson. With the Orchestra, Andrew had the opportunity to remotely market community events and assist in the Orchestra's accessibility project for local kids. As for his mentorship, Andrew spent two months helping edit Professor Robinson's philosophy textbook while providing student perspectives in context. He simultaneously used that experience to analyze the concept of critical thinking in relation to student writing and tutoring pedagogy, producing a research poster and report for the 2019 Celebration of Student Research and Scholarship. These were formative and mobilizing experiences for Andrew.

Andrew has been very involved with Muhlenberg's student life, working as a writing tutor and a tour guide. Some of his most memorable experiences came from working with students in tutoring sessions and meetings as a writing assistant. Helping others is something that brings Andrew joy as well as a sense of growth and self awareness. Working one-on-one with other students allowed him to see direct break-throughs and progress in his tutees. His other interests include environmentalism, environmental literacy, and volunteering. Over quarantine, Andrew researched and started a compost pile for his household and tried to maximize his use of his annual summer garden. He also helped with remote outreach for the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center in Allentown and spent time collaborating with the workshop design committee of the Dana Anti-Racism Initiative.

In the near future, Andrew plans to stay in the Allentown area and do non-profit work for the community. He is seeking opportunities in grant writing and communications. Eventually, he wants to pursue graduate school and continue his studies in writing rhetoric and pedagogy or in the environmental humanities, specifically sustainability writing. The Mitchell Scholarship for academic travel is another item of interest: an opportunity for Andrew to study his passions in Ireland. Another one of his goals is to take a gap year and accomplish a through-hike of the Appalachian Trail.

Something Andrew really emphasizes is the intent of the Dana program. In his four years, he made an effort to stay an active part of the Allentown community, advising that Dana

Scholars remember the “citizen” in “citizen scholarship.” Andrew finds so much value in redefining what it means to be a student, encouraging students to think beyond the classroom and the study space.

He’ll really miss the spontaneity of Muhlenberg’s campus, the close bonds he has formed with peers and professors, hammocking in the green on sunny days, and the many relationships formed while tutoring with the Writing Center.

Jacob Metcalfe

Written by Saoirse Ozkan



Having a conversation with someone from a major so different from my own is always a treat, especially one so starkly different as a Mathematics-Chemistry double major. Yet Jacob Metcalfe, with his boundless enthusiasm for the subject, makes it no trouble to follow a lengthy conversation about all the complex formulas and integrals that he loves.

Jacob came to Muhlenberg for several reasons: some are tied to its closer location to home, where he could visit his family and continue an internship at his church. One of his favorite parts of this was his mother's weekly visits, where they could get together to have lunch and catch up with one another. Other reasons for setting his eye on Muhlenberg have to do with his very personable character; as a small, welcoming college, Muhlenberg is a great college with great opportunities for a people-person to get familiar with both professors and peers. He does attest to the community behind the college, to all the people he's been able to live and work with. Jacob has truly enjoyed his time at Muhlenberg, especially in collaborating with professors and students to work on his passions: mathematics and chemistry.

An anomaly to students, most of whom change their major within their undergraduate years, Jacob has known since early high school what he wanted to do with his major. It was a clear-cut decision that he would go into Chemistry after enjoying that class so much in high school, and after taking Calculus in his senior year it was impossible for him to settle for one major or the other, not with his fascination with this mathematical logic. Most of his college career has been in pursuit of making these two passions meet, to combine them into something both enjoyable and practical.

The product of this work? A honed-in focus on theoretical and physical chemistry, subjects that quickly turn away those hesitant to engage in such complex work. This didn't deter Jacob, however; in fact, his research this year has been delving into a specific set of equations, those calculating the wave function of a quantum mechanical harmonic oscillator. Known to have a particularly complex set of calculations behind it, students are often told the answer rather than how to solve it. His work culminates in a paper with Dr. Michael Huber and Dr. Justin Sparks, focusing on uncomplicating this problem so that it can easily be explained in front of undergraduates instead of passing off the work; he wanted to make sure that students could fully understand the facets of the equations they work with. He aims to take this positive perspective into his career as well; he maintains the belief that the complicated parts of mathematics can easily be solved in the teaching, rather than the methods, of solving. He will pursue a Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry degree at Princeton University, which could help him accomplish this goal as a professor himself.

Having nearly finished his career at Muhlenberg, he has two pieces of advice: on a lighter note, don't underestimate the gym. It's not just for developing your body, not when you can build a community of people to go through the work with you. The second, and more serious advice, is that you don't have to be the best in order to make something out of your life. Understand that you have potential, and under all circumstances should strive to reach it; but don't let the effort of making grades kill you, and don't let academics become the only thing left in your life.

Ellen Powers

Written by Bhavna Prakash



Ellen Powers is currently a senior in the Dana Scholars Program at Muhlenberg. She is from West Chester Pennsylvania, where she has lived her whole life with her mother, father, and younger brother. Ellen is a theater major with a concentration in directing while also minoring in creative writing. In her free time, she loves to read, watch Youtube and Netflix, and plays three instruments (clarinet, bari saxophone, and piano).

She decided Muhlenberg was the school for her the summer before her senior year of high school. Ellen was reading the Princeton Review when she noticed that Muhlenberg was one of the top theater schools in the country. After seeing this, she decided to come visit the school and ended up falling in love with it. Ellen then visited two more times after and loved that it was a small school with a liberal arts atmosphere.

For her internships in the Dana Program, Ellen was an intern at the Civic Theater of Allentown where she had a marketing and community engagement internship. This experience entailed giving out posters for shows and sending invitations to donors. She even did a semester abroad at Goldsmiths College in London, England! Ellen also wrote for the Muhlenberg Weekly and was a paid production assistant for three community theater shows the summer before her junior year. This journey of hers began when she was a freshman, as Ellen directed two shows as part of the Red Door Play Festival. This semester, she directed a virtual show through the Muhlenberg Theater Association. In the past she also assistant directed the Theatre department's production of Brigadoon.

She also did a lot of volunteering! She is a part of Kappa Kappa Psi, a co-ed music service fraternity, for which she worked as an usher at concerts and helped organize the music library. Outside of all of this, Ellen is the president of the Pep Band, a part of the Wind Ensemble, a current parliamentarian for Kappa Kappa Psi, was part of the Muhlenberg Quidditch team, and was a DJ for WMUH, Muhlenberg's radio station.

From the Dana Program, Ellen gained the ability to communicate with people in other disciplines, how to advocate for herself in order to create opportunities that otherwise would not have existed, and learn from other people that have varying viewpoints, things she encourages future Danas to do as well.

Olivia Ramsey

Written by Nicole Randazza



Through her creativity, love for theatre, growth, and enthusiasm, Olivia Ramsey is the perfect representation of what it means to be a Dana Scholar. From Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Olivia travelled a little over an hour to Muhlenberg's beautiful campus where she felt everything fell into place. As a young teenager when Olivia was searching for colleges with a possibility of playing lacrosse and a major in theatre in mind, she discovered Muhlenberg's outstanding theatre program. Despite her original intent to become a part of a B.F.A. musical theatre program, Olivia explains that "life just brought [her] to Muhlenberg" as she wanted to do acting instead of musical theatre and the BA in theatre suited her far better. Her adventure began when she made the decision to become a Mule four years ago.

As a freshman, Olivia was almost certain that she wanted to do theatre. It was not until a little later that she added her business minor because, as she explained, it pertains to theatre in that theatre is not just what is seen on stage but what goes on behind the scenes.

During her "study abroad" experience in the fall of her junior year, Olivia spent a semester in New York City with other theatre majors where she attended acting classes with New York-based faculty in addition to watching amazing Broadway performances. This class also enabled her the opportunity to complete her internship at a talent agency called Take 3 Talent. She now plans to move to New York to discover where theatre will take her. This internship as well as a minor in business inspired her to look into theater behind the scenes.

Now as a senior she reflects on the past years as enriching, introspective and connective. "I was able to grow so much as a student/performer because of the really unique classes I took and experiences I had. Even some of the classes that I just took to fulfill requirements unexpectedly became my favorites and taught me so much", says Olivia. She also says she has grown so much on a personal level and that the tight-knit community at Muhlenberg "creates an environment that really feels like home. I have formed a family at Berg!" Her biggest change throughout her years was her confidence and independence. Beginning her experience as an introverted freshman, she gradually blossomed outside of her bubble, mainly as a result of her semester abroad with her internship. She also learned so much both socially and politically from the Muhlenberg community and faculty that enabled her to become more engaged and aware of societal issues.

From the Dana program, Olivia was able to meet so many students and faculty who she would otherwise have been unable to connect with as they are involved with other disciplines and majors. The sophomore seminar and senior forum, specifically, enabled her to truly connect with others. As a Dana Scholar, she was granted an amazing opportunity to explore her interests through her internship and mentorship.

Outside of being a Dana, Olivia is a well-rounded individual who enjoys painting, hiking, and singing. She participated in the MTA (Muhlenberg Theatre Association), the chamber orchestra, and an a cappella group at Muhlenberg called Noteworthy, while also engaging in community theatre in her hometown. Her accolades include making the Dean's list every semester during her academic career at Muhlenberg.

Olivia encourages future Danas to not "be afraid to say yes to things that scare you because I have had a lot of times in my life where I decided not to do things out of fear of failure, but the times I said yes are the times that have helped me grow the most".

Miranda Robinson

Written by Arielle Touitou



Miranda Robinson comes to Muhlenberg from Santa Cruz, California. Through her high school in California, Miranda heard about Muhlenberg and was drawn to the possibilities of different academic paths that could be taken through Muhlenberg's liberal arts curriculum as she had interests in dance, music, and the sciences. But what also captured Miranda's interests was a letter she received from a Muhlenberg student and Dana Scholar who was also involved in the sciences, music, and dance, further affirming to Miranda that Muhlenberg was a place where she wouldn't have to be "boxed in" by one discipline and

could explore all of her interests.

Since arriving at Muhlenberg, Miranda has taken part in Muhlenberg's community in many different ways as she continued to explore her academic and extracurricular passions. Originally undecided, through new experiences and classes she found a love for the medical field and majored in Biochemistry while following the Pre-Med track. What really encouraged Miranda to go down the medical track was an EMT course she took in the summer after her freshman year, which she absolutely loved. The following fall of her sophomore year, Miranda joined Muhlenberg's EMS organization, to which in the following years she has devoted a lot of her time. As she was promoted to different positions on the team throughout the years, she eventually found herself in the position she currently holds of Crew Chief, which is the highest ranking crew position on the team.

Along with Muhlenberg's EMS, Miranda has devoted a lot of her time throughout her years at Muhlenberg to her research. Miranda has worked on research in Dr. Colabroy's lab, which was published in 2019. She has also recently worked with Dr. Colabroy in writing a Biochemistry textbook, and she has completed her Honors Thesis in Biochemistry. Outside of Muhlenberg, Miranda has been accepted into the CRISSP Research Program associated with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, she was not able to take part in it this past summer, but Miranda has plans to take part in the program's research in mitochondrial medicine and diseases this summer. Research has become a great interest of Miranda's, and she hopes to incorporate "Bench to Bedside" clinical care-applied research in her aspired career as a physician.

Miranda has also gained a great experience through her internship at St. Luke's Hospital where she was able to shadow physicians in multiple specialties, such as internal pediatrics, OB/GYN, emergency medicine, and orthopedic medicine.

Along with her passion for medicine and the sciences, Miranda has many other interests through which she explored during her time at Muhlenberg. With a love for music, Miranda plays the piano and ukulele. She also loves the outdoors and activities like hiking and camping. Dance is another hobby Miranda enjoys and has grown up doing; while at Muhlenberg, Miranda has been a member of the Copacetic Rhythm (COPES) Tap Team, of which she is the Co-President. On the team, Miranda has choreographed dances and performed in annual showcases. She is a member of the Cardinal Key Society through which she has volunteered at many of Muhlenberg's annual events, including Alumni Weekend and Commencement. Miranda is also the Vice President of Muhlenberg's Pre-Health Honor Society Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED).

In reflecting on her experiences with the Dana Scholars Program, Miranda is appreciative of the program's seminar classes that provided her with the different perspectives that were offered. She found it particularly valuable because of her classmates - an engaged group of Dana Scholars that came from different academic disciplines. Through the program, Miranda met an incredible group of peers who

encouraged her to take part in some of the opportunities that have left the biggest impact on her college experience.

To future Danas, Miranda says “Don’t be afraid to take classes or have academic interests outside of your main focus. I came into college super open minded and into liberal arts, and I fell in love with science classes. But some of those other classes were some of my favorites, and I wish I had time to do more.”

Rebecca Shear

Written by Felicia Wong



During my interview with a particular Dana Scholar, I was in such awe of the multitude of impressive ways this Dana took advantage of the opportunities Muhlenberg has to offer. I bet you want to know more about her.

Rebecca Shear, a senior Dana in the graduating class of 2021, is from Long Island, NY. Initially learning about Muhlenberg through the volleyball recruitment process, Rebecca came to realize how much she loved Muhlenberg's close-knit, welcoming community and even attended Berg's Brain Camp as a junior in high school.

Rebecca is a Neuroscience major who also considers herself a Chemistry minor, only being one to two classes away from completing the minor. What drove her towards studying Neuroscience is her passion for the complex brain and her fascination with investigating neurological disorders. She feels that Neuroscience is a unique major in that unlike Biology or Chemistry, it is not just straight science. There is also a philosophical aspect present in Neuroscience. Her favorite class at Muhlenberg was "Mind and Brain" with Dr. Teissere, which incorporated philosophy, focusing on the mind vs. brain problem, theories of the mind, consciousness, and how the mind and soul connect with the body. Dr. Teissere's course made Rebecca question her own everyday life. This granted Rebecca the opportunity to get the liberal arts education that she was seeking.

Over her four years at Muhlenberg, Rebecca has taken advantage of research, study abroad, and internship opportunities. Since her freshman year, Rebecca has been conducting research in Dr. Gotthard's lab on many projects and even has a published paper. Rebecca has presented her research at ICPS in Paris and for the Society of Neuroscience in Chicago.

Rebecca studied abroad in Florence, Italy, in the spring 2020 semester. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rebecca's study abroad experience was cut short, with her only being able to be in Italy for one month. She recounted her favorite memory abroad, which was when she and her roommates saw all of Florence from the top of the Piazza di Michelangelo and reflected on their time in Florence. Despite not being able to spend the whole semester abroad, she recommends that all Muhlenberg students study outside of the country. She said that going abroad has taught her important life skills, being able to navigate a new place and becoming culturally aware.

Interested in pursuing research after graduation, Rebecca has done two outside internships: one at Rutgers University and one at Rockefeller University. At both internships, she performed experiments, presented research, and took courses on how to be a scientist.

Outside of her academic endeavors, Rebecca immersed herself in a multitude of extracurriculars. Playing volleyball since fifth grade, Rebecca continued her volleyball career by being on Muhlenberg's volleyball team. With volleyball being a big component of her Muhlenberg life, she considers her teammates as sisters, stating the team is her "little Muhlenberg family." Volleyball has shaped Rebecca and has made her the person she is today. Rebecca has learned how to be an outgoing people person and how to bring out the best of people around her. She realized how much she did not know about what other people were going through, seeing teammates dealing with problems that she never expected. This experience helped Rebecca grow as a person, allowing her to empathize with other people.

Beyond volleyball, Rebecca is the Co-President of WiSTEM at Muhlenberg College. She strongly believes that WiSTEM is a very valuable club in that it provides a space for women to talk about issues and difficulties of being a woman in the STEM field. Rebecca is also a Biology III and General Chemistry I & II tutor. What inspired her to be a tutor was the fact that she is able to connect with students, guide them through a specific course, and provide comfort and support to a student. She

particularly likes working with freshmen and sophomores because it grants her the ability to “bridge the gap” between underclassmen and upperclassmen.

Rebecca is very appreciative to be a part of the Dana Program. By being a Dana, she has learned how to be an engaged citizen, which is one of the main goals of the program. The program has made her aware that there are many issues besides ourselves. She loves being a member of this hardworking, driven community.

In the future, Rebecca sees herself obtaining a PhD in Neuroscience and becoming a PI (Principal Investigator).

Jessica Sommer

Written by Mari Avola



Jessica Sommer is a Biology major and Jewish Studies minor from Newtown, Pennsylvania. Having grown up on a farm with her two older brothers and parents, Jessica always knew she wanted to be a veterinarian. Her decision to major in biology major was an easy choice that naturally aligned with her academic interests and professional aspirations. During her time studying abroad in Israel, Jessica discovered her interest in Jewish Studies. Not taking any biology courses while abroad allowed her to expand her interests beyond the sciences. After her time in Israel, Jessica decided to further pursue this newly-found interest with a Jewish studies minor. Anthropology is another interest that Jessica has discovered during her time at Muhlenberg. While she did not pursue a minor in the field, Jessica has continued to take anthropology courses.

Jessica joined Dr. Sprayberry's research team studying bumble bees. The lab studies the sensory cues used during the foraging process as the bumble bee travels from the colony to flowers and back. They investigate the olfactory and visual cues used in flower selection. She inherited her current project from a

former student and has worked to mentor upcoming lab members to eventually continue her work after graduation. This research experience has opened many doors for Jessica, allowing her to spend her senior fall semester in Israel. While attending online classes at Muhlenberg, Jessica worked in another bumble bee lab in Israel.

Beyond academics, Jessica is heavily involved in the Muhlenberg campus life. As a freshman decided to try out for the Muhlenberg tennis team. She walked onto the team as a freshman. She reflects fondly on the experience as having opened many doors for her. Jessica is now captain of the tennis team. Jessica is involved in the "trifecta" of college commitments, as she humorously refers to it: athletics, Greek life, and a science major. In her sorority, Delta Zeta, she served as academic and judicial chair. She was responsible for maintaining the academic integrity and expectations of the sorority, ensuring that each sorority member upholds the required GPA standards. This role involved providing academic help to members who may need it, identifying and working through any struggles they may be having. This role was a natural progression for Jess, who serves as a tutor and lab assistant as well. Jess is also the president of the Pre-Vet Club on campus.

Along with the close-knit campus, the Dana Program is one of the reasons Jessica chose Muhlenberg. Jess appreciates the unique opportunity to have enriching conversations with people of different fields. The Dana Program has provided a space to think deeply and passionately about a variety of fields. Jess has particularly enjoyed her Dana cohort and professors, one of whom now serves as her advisor. In her senior forum, Jess was able to work with the Scholars at Risk Program, advocating for academic freedom and protections on behalf of persecuted scholars. No matter the topic, Jess enjoys each meaningful and enriching experience.

As Jess prepares for further education at University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School, she reflects upon the many memories she has created at Muhlenberg. She cherishes the many, life-long friendships she has made throughout her four years. Jess has undoubtedly positively impacted the campus community in numerous ways through her various commitments. She hopes that the energy and time she invests into her passions around campus may benefit those who succeed her. Jess is thankful for the loving support of her parents, whose devotion and support have helped guided her in attaining her many achievements.

Kerry Sullivan

Written by Mari Avola



KERRY SULLIVAN

A proud Texas-native, Kerry Sullivan is a theater and dance double major with concentrations in choreography and acting. She is also an involved member of the Muhlenberg community. Raised in Houston, Kerry is the youngest of three girls with a life-long passion for theatre and dance. She reflects having always known she would pursue theatre and dance in some capacity. From the age of six, Kerry participated in theatre productions and knew she wanted to pursue a career in theatre by the age of 10. Although her plans have shifted some throughout the years, her fundamental dream to pursue theatre professionally remains unchanged.

Kerry chose Muhlenberg from the list of twenty schools to which she applied during the college process. She was drawn to Muhlenberg for its strong performing arts as well as its close-knit campus community. She values the opportunity Muhlenberg has provided her to establish a relationship with her professors and classmates. Being from Texas, a school with a strong football team was another draw. Overall, Kerry was drawn to the holistic college

experience Muhlenberg offers, allowing her to develop her passion for the arts while exploring other disciplines and interests as well.

On campus, Kerry is an executive board member of both the Muhlenberg Dance Association and Theatre Association. She acts as a liaison between the two organizations. Kerry has been on the board of MDA since her freshman year and reflects on the many friends she has met along the way. Following her freshman year, she spent her break participating in one of Muhlenberg's summer theatre productions. Over the years, Kerry has been a part of many mainstages including *Brigadoon* and multiple dance productions. She also participated in multiple Muhlenberg summer theatre programs including *Anything Goes* and *How to Succeed*. While Kerry claims that Muhlenberg theatre and dance programs have positively shaped her college experience, her positive energy and lightheartedness have undoubtedly touched the experiences of all those with whom she has collaborated.

Beyond the stage, Kerry is a tour guide and works in the Admissions Office as a student greeter. She also participated in Dancemax her sophomore year. This community outreach program worked to produce an educational dance musical surrounding a chosen research topic. The team would then travel to local elementary schools in the Muhlenberg and Philly area to perform. Kerry values this experience as a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with a close-knit group and connect with students from various backgrounds. The program was an opportunity to bring something into the world in a meaningful way and foster excitement for the arts in education. Arts education has remained at the forefront of Kerry's work as a way to share her passion for the arts and give back.

One of Kerry's most memorable Muhlenberg experiences was studying in New York City during the fall of her junior year. She took on-camera acting and scene study classes. Her favorite class included seeing a new show each week, followed by a casual class discussion over snacks in her professor's living room. Kerry also held a casting agency internship while in New York. Having attended a multitude of auditions over the years, this experience allowed Kerry to sit on the "other side" of the casting table. This unique experience was an informative and impactful asset to Kerry's arts career. Kerry reflects on her semester abroad, remembering the amazing people she met along the way and the lasting connections made. Looking ahead, Kerry plans to pursue a professional career in the arts, perhaps in similar casting and production roles.

As she prepares to graduate, Kerry looks back on her time as a Dana Scholar as a valuable and distinctive opportunity to collaborate with students representing a spectrum of majors and backgrounds. These cohort meetings provided the platform for lively discussions colored with diverse perspectives.

During these discussions, Kerry values her ability to bring smiles to the faces of her peers. She is proud of the upbeat energy she contributes to every room she is in. Beyond her academic contributions, Kerry's cheerful attitude and lighthearted humor undoubtedly contributed a contagious positive energy both in class and throughout the Muhlenberg community.

Dana Senior Accolades

Alice Banta

The Class of 1969 Graduate Study
The Lillian & Anthony Fiddler Memorial Award
in Music
Muhlenberg Music Thesis awarded Highest
Honors
Triota member (National Honors Society for
Women's & Gender Studies)
Phi Beta Kappa member (inducted junior year)
Muhlenberg Academic Review 2021
Contributing Editor
Dean of Academic Life's Grant for Summer
Research
Mazur Research Fund for Musical Inquiry
Hall Director of Brown Hall
John Nace '32 Scholarship
Dean's List every semester

Zoe Bentley

Muhlenberg College Presidential Scholarship
Recipient
Theatre Talent Scholarship Recipient
Dean's List every semester
Co-founder and Vice President of Magical
Memories: Muhlenberg's Character Visitation
Club
Provisional Membership Director, Phi My
Fraternity, Phi Kappa Chapter
Study Abroad at FSU Theatre Academy of
London (Fall 2019)
Tour Guide (January 2018 – May 2021)
Development Intern, Barrington Stage Company
(Summer 2019)
Dana Interviewer Editor 2021

Hannah Betz

The Class of 1969 Music Competition Award
The Morris S. Hoats Award in Literature
Deans' List every semester
Edwin W. Miller Creative Writing Award (1st
prize fiction 2019/2020, 2nd prize nonfiction
2020)

Espi Guinto Young Writer's award
Muhlenberg Academic Review Senior Editor
MUSES Art & Literary Magazine Editor in
Chief
Kim Bleimann 1971 Music Scholarship
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Candidate for English Honors
Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society
member (2018)
Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society
International Conference presenter (2019, 2020,
2021)
Dean of Academic Life's Grant for Summer
Research (2020)
Lead Tutor for the Writing Center
Attending Penn State Dickinson Law School on
full scholarship

Jaelyn Blonder

Writing Tutor
Muhlenberg College Costume Shop Assistant
Recipient
Visual & Written Thesis in Studio Art mentored
by Professor Emily Orzech (visual thesis
culminated in an exhibition in the Martin Art
Gallery April 19-May 13, 2021, written thesis
will be published in Trexler Library)
Co-founder and co-president of Muhlenberg
Plant-Based Advocates (Spring 2019-Fall 2019,
Fall 2020-Spring 2021)
Class of 2012 Scholarship (2017-2020)
Theatre Talent Scholarship
Art Talent Scholarship
Muhlenberg College Presidential Merit
Scholarship
Study Abroad at Florence University of the Arts
with SAI (Spring 2020)
Shamayim: Jewish Animal Advocacy Campus
Fellow (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)
Dean's List every semester

Ryan Carey

Presidential Merit Scholarship recipient

Study Abroad: Aix-en-Provence, France (Spring 2020), Dakar, Senegal (MILA Course)
Dean's List
Writing Tutor
Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society
Phi Sigma Iota International Foreign Language Honors Society
Muhlenberg Academic Review Contributing and Copy Editor (2021)
Internship with Public Citizen (2020)
President/Vice-President/Treasurer of Muhlenberg AcaFellas
Vice President of French Club

Amber Dietrich

Muhlenberg Dance Association President (former Secretary, Treasurer, and Class of 2021 Freshman Class Representative)
“Ephemerality: Dances in Time” Co-Student Artistic Director
Senior Dance Showcase Fundraising Chair
Elizabeth A. Carlson Memorial Prize in Dance
Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society
Phi Mu Epsilon Honor Society
Baker Scholarship Recipient for Dance
Academic Resource Center Peer Tutor
Research Assistant for embodied scholarship research with Professors Megan Flynn and Holly Cate
Dana Scholar Class Representative
Dean's List every semester
Multiple Dance Department Mainstage Concerts
Dana Interviewer 2020 Editor
House Manager Internship at Gretna Theatre (Summer 2021)

Michael Gatzka

University of Michigan Chemistry Ph.D. Program, Organic Cluster (future)
The American Chemical Society Prize, Lehigh Valley Section (Spring 2021)
The Arthur C. Peters Memorial Prize (Spring 2020)
Chemistry NSF-REU at the University of Southern California (Summer 2020, Canceled)
Chemistry NSF_REU at the University of

Michigan (Summer 2019)
Research Assistant in the Dr. Sherri C. Young Lab (Fall 2019 – present)
NSF-REU Research Assistant in the Dr. John P. Wolfe Lab (Summer 2019)
Research Assistant in the Dr. Jonathan Gooch Lab (Summer 2018 – Spring 2019)
The KerLyn C. Burrows, Ph.D. '72 Research Fund in Honor of Donald W. Shive Ph.D. (Summer 2020)

Renee Heller

Muhlenberg College Presidential Merit Scholarship recipient
Muhlenberg College Spiegel Family Scholarship recipient
Muhlenberg College Dance Talent Scholarship recipient
St. Paul's Scholarship recipient
Member of Phi Sigma Iota Honors Society (foreign language honors society)
Member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority (head of fundraising committee)
Study abroad - SIT Ecuador: Comparative Ecology and Conservation (Fall '19)
Research assistant in Dr. Erika Iyengar's stream ecology lab
Academic Resource Center Peer tutor for Spanish, ballet and biology (2018-2021)
Instructional Assistant for biology II: cells and organisms lab
Instructional Assistant for biology III: molecules and cells lab
Biology NSF-REU at the University of Oregon, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (summer 2019)
Trainer Grant for Muhlenberg summer research (summer 2020)
Research paper published in the Muhlenberg Academic Review (2021)
Co-captain of the Muhlenberg Ultimate Frisbee team
Secretary and Co-president of the Muhlenberg Outdoors Club
Dana Scholar class representative

Jonathan Henry

Post-Baccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award in the Amara Lab at the National Institutes of Health
Undergraduate Research Assistant, Teissere Lab
Poster Presentation: "Building Models of the GABA(A) Receptor," Lehigh Valley Society for Neuroscience
Resident Advisor
Emergency Medical Technician, Muhlenberg College EMS
Naloxone Trainer, End Overdose Together
Secretary & Historian, Alpha Epsilon Delta (Pre-health Honor Society)
Member, Alpha Alpha Alpha (First-Gen Honor Society)
Member, Cardinal Key Society
Tour Guide
Undergraduate Peer Tutor
Presidential Merit Scholarship
Laura Sheard Scholarship
Lake Road Scholarship for Research
Academic Excellence Award, Mid-Atlantic Association of College and University Housing Officers
Dean's List (All Semesters)

Kyra Hickey

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Merit Scholarship Recipient
Newman Civic Fellow 2020-2021
Board of Associates Award for Community Engagement
Elizabeth A. Carlson Memorial Prize in Dance Triota (President; Honors Society for Women's and Gender Studies)
Phi Sigma Iota member
Alpha Phi Omega (Co-President & Vice President of Service)
Study Abroad (Summer 2019): SIS immersive homestay in Siena, Italy
Lead Tutor with the Writing Center
Presenter at 2019 IWCA-NCPTW Conference in Columbus, OH
Baker Scholarship Recipient for Dance

Runner Up for Espi Guinto Young Writer's Award
Dance Teacher with the Muhlenberg Community Dance Center
Orientation Leader
Dean's List every semester

Kaelyn Kappes

Next year I will be working as an Admissions Counselor at Willamette University!
Phi Beta Kappa member
Psi Chi member
Phi Sigma Iota member
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Scholarship Recipient
Studied French and had internship in an art museum while abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France
Dean's List every semester
Learning Assistant for Psychological Statistics
Muhlenberg Admissions Intern
Admissions Ambassador (tour guide and executive board officer, panelist, campus delegate)
Academic Judicial Board member
Student Research Assistant in the Psychology Department
Orientation Leader
Live in Color Show Choir, Officer & Performer

Kayla Klarides

Played for the Muhlenberg Women's Soccer Team all 4 years
Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll Fall 2020
Member of Muhlenberg Athletic Leadership Team (MALT)
Dean's list
Completed research with Dr. Frazer about the effect of the gender of the speaker when using swear words

Andrew Leahy

Dr. Harold L. Stenger, Jr. Fellowship for Graduate Study in Literature (2021)
Paul C. Sherr Essay Prize (2021)
Board of Associates Award for Community Engagement (2021)
Student presenter, Sigma Tau Delta International Convention (2021)
OCE Summer Community Engagement Internship (2020)
Sigma Tau Delta E. Nelson James Junior Scholarship (2020)
Dean of Academic Life's Grant for Summer Research (2019)
Essay published in the Muhlenberg Academic Review (2019)
Student soloist in Clocks in Motion mallet percussion masterclass (2019)
Muhlenberg Presidential Scholarship recipient
Candidate for English Honors
Sigma Tau Delta member / layout editor for the Muhlenberg Academic Review
Lead Tutor and WPC Representative, Writing Center
Layout editor and contributor, MUSES Arts and Literary Magazine
Campus tour guide
Dean's List (all semesters)

Jacob Metcalfe

The Miriam E. Koehler Award for Excellence in Mathematics
The Wesley S. Mitman Mathematical Prize
The Leslie R. Anders Memorial Prize
The Dr. William Wackernagel Award for Excellence in German
2021 ACS Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry
Honors in Mathematics
High Honors in Chemistry
President of DiscipleMakers Christian Fellowship at Muhlenberg

Ellen Powers

Presidential Merit Scholarship recipient

Theater Talent Scholarship recipient
Dean's List (all semesters)
Studied abroad at Goldsmith's College, University of London (Fall 2019)
Brother of Kappa Kappa Psi all four years: co-ed music service fraternity, served as Vice President of Membership for Spring 2019 and Parliamentarian 2020-2021
President of Muhlenberg Pep Band Spring 2020-Spring 2021
Staff Writer for Arts & Culture Section of The Muhlenberg Weekly
Marketing & Community Engagement Intern at Civic Theatre of Allentown (Spring 2018)
Performer in Muhlenberg Wind Ensemble
Finalist for Regional Mark of Excellence Awards for the Society of Professional Journalists
Assistant Director for Theatre Department production of *Brigadoon*
Director for Muhlenberg Theatre Association's Red Door Play Festival, Fish Project Play Festival, and Fundraiser Cabaret

Olivia Ramsey

Presidential Merit Scholarship Recipient
Theatre Talent Scholarship Recipient
Music Talent Scholarship Recipient
Dean's List (all semesters)
Noteworthy Acapella Executive Board Member
Larry Singer Studios New York Semester (Fall 2019)
Intern at Take 3 Talent Agency (Fall 2019)
Muhlenberg College Theater & Dance House Manager/Box Office Associate
Theatre Department Mainstage Performer
Performer in Muhlenberg Chamber Orchestra

Miranda Robinson

Thesis in Biochemistry awarded Highest Honors
The Dr. Dominic J. Salines Memorial Award recipient
The Alphonse C. Lova Memorial Award in Chemistry recipient
Member of the Colabroy Research Lab

CRISSP Scholar (CHOP Research Institute Summer Scholars Program) - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
Co-Author of a publication in ACS *Biochemistry*, 2019
Co-Author of a Poster Presentation at American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition, 2020
General Chemistry I & II Learning Assistant
Peer Tutor for Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Physics
1st Lieutenant and Crew Chief, Muhlenberg College Emergency Medical Services (MCEMS)
Vice-President and inducted member, Alpha Epsilon Delta
Co-President and member, Copacetic Rhythms Cardinal Key Society
Tour Guide
Muhlenberg College Presidential Scholarship recipient
H. Warren Dimming Scholarship recipient
The Yervey Family Scholarship recipient
Dean's List (all semesters)

Rebecca Shear

Research assistant in Dr. Gretchen Gotthard's lab
Biology and Chemistry tutor,
Learning assistant for biology
Dana Scholar class representative
President of Women in STEM at Muhlenberg
Dean's list every semester
Member of two national honor societies (Chi Alpha Lambda and Omnicron Delta Kappa)
Published in the journal of *Learning and Motivation* with the article entitled "Effects of cycloheximide on recent and remote appetitive odor discrimination memory in rats."
Studied abroad in Florence, Italy and presented at an international conference for research in Paris (the International Convention for Psychological Science) and a national conference in Chicago (Society for Neuroscience)
Received "The President's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Promise for Postgraduate Work by a Junior"

Received "The Novartis Endowed Science Scholars Program Award", made centennial conference academic honor roll Fall 2018 and 2019

Made the All-Centennial sportsmanship team in 2018 and 2019 (awards through Muhlenberg Volleyball)

Jessica Sommer

Muhlenberg College Presidential Merit Scholarship recipient
Dean's List every semester
Muhlenberg Peer Tutor
Muhlenberg Biology Instructional Assistant
Collegiate Athlete-Tennis
Tennis Team Captain
Student Researcher
Muhlenberg Summer Research Stipend Recipient (2019,2020)
All Centennial Sportsmanship Award 2020
Delta Zeta Academic Chairmen
Delta Zeta Judicial Chair
Member of AED
Member of Chi Alpha Lambda
Muhlenberg Pre-Vet Club President

Kerry Sullivan

Muhlenberg College Presidential Merit Scholarship recipient
Muhlenberg College Theatre Talent Scholarship recipient
Theatre Under the Stars Scholarship recipient
Senior Dance Showcase Director
Fish Project Play Festival Dance Coordinator
Muhlenberg Dance Association Executive Board Member
Muhlenberg Theatre Association Executive Board Member
Casting Intern at Wojcik and Seay Casting NYC (Fall 2019)
Larry Singer Studios New York Semester (Fall 2019)
Multiple Dance and Theatre Department Mainstage Performances

Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre (2018,
2019)
Campus Tour Guide
Muhlenberg Admissions Office Student Greeter
Dean's List every semester