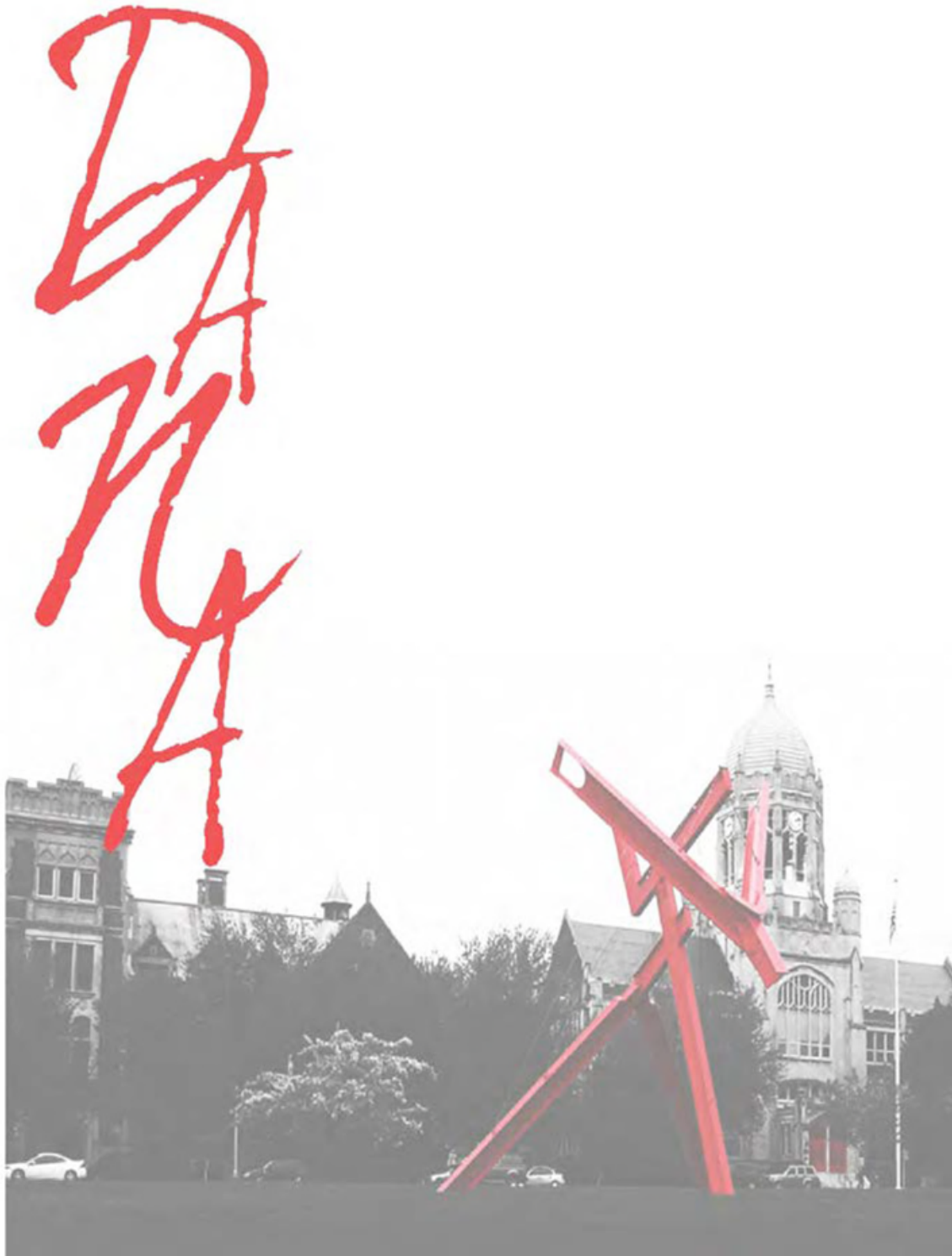


The Dana Interviewer, Class of 2022



The Dana Interviewer

Featuring the Class of 2022

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

For more information, visit:

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

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Caroline Armknecht

Written by Peyton Sloan



My initial meeting with Caroline Armknecht (she/her) was delayed since she was expecting the results of the tennis team captain election on the initial day we planned to meet. On our rescheduled meeting day, she was very proud to announce that after playing on the Muhlenberg tennis team for four years, she is now officially one of its three co-captains! This position has been a long time coming for her as she started playing tennis when she was no

younger than 7 or 8 years old and has continued her athletic passion ever since. Over the course of our conversation, I learned she had many more accomplishments and passions that she pursued here at Muhlenberg.

She chased her long-standing love of reading, science, and overall fondness for engaging both sides of her brain through declaring her Neuroscience and English double major. To follow her additional deep interest in psychology, she unofficially dabbles in the Psychology major as well, making her a self-proclaimed Neuropsychology major. She admits that Dr. Rossenwasser's Reading Alice in Wonderland class, which he taught before he retired, was the reason she officially decided to become an English major and the class remains her favorite English course to this day. For the most part, her double major was a path she knew she would take from the beginning as she traveled all the way from her home in Scottsdale, Arizona to study at her grandfather's alma mater. Her grandfather, George Eichler, studied natural sciences in the Class of 1953 and currently resides in Allentown, so she's able to visit him every Friday and still retain some closeness to her family despite her studying on the other side of the country from where she was raised.

In addition to being a Dana, a Phi Sigma member, and a tennis team athlete, she tutors for Psychology, Statistics, Research Methods, Mind & Brain, Neurons and Networks, and Spanish in the Academic Resource Center, demonstrating her skill in a variety of fields. A favorite book of hers that she recommends to others is *In Pain: A Bioethicist's Personal Struggle with Opioids* by Travis N. Rieder, which tells the true story of a bioethicist's addiction to painkillers and provides a look into the opioid crisis. She capitalized on her interest in studying the American opioid crisis in her sophomore year by researching Narcan availability in the Lehigh Valley with Dr. Rudski for her Dana mentorship. Furthermore, she worked with St. Luke's Hospital this past January to create a patient PowerPoint describing medications that alleviate opioid addiction, benzodiazepine addiction, and alcoholism for their new addiction treatment center opening soon on Chew Street. She also is currently working in a memory reconsolidation lab on campus, with research being a deep love of hers that she feels is something she wants to keep in her life after

graduation. Although she plans to pursue clinical neuropsychology work in her career, she is considering continuing her opioid crisis research and possibly studying the psychological treatment side of addiction as well. Her current career aspirations are to become a neuropsychologist and to meet this, she will likely pursue a PhD in the future. Immediately post-graduation, Caroline is planning to pursue work as a research assistant prior to entering graduate school.

As she approaches the end of her senior year, she reflects on the time she has spent here. Some of her fondest memories that she's made have been with the family she gained through tennis and being a Big and Little sister in the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. She knows that her time as a Mule will leave her with life-long friendships and memories. Of all the foods in the dining hall and GQ, she will remember the pesto mayo and mac and cheese bites the most. She suggests every student take full advantage of the Career Center, as they can help you make connections that will pave the way to key opportunities in building your career and exploring what truly interests you. Lastly, her overall advice for those starting college is to use your collegiate experience to find your passions and just go for what you want. Try your best to find what your end goal is and be assertive as you pursue it, because the worst answer you can get is "no."

Marielle (Mari) Avola

Written by Madilyn Cilley



Growing up in Stoneham, Massachusetts, Marielle Avola (she/her) loved the community within her close-knit town. When she first toured Muhlenberg, she found a similar sense of community on campus. She was drawn to the friendly interactions between students, and the close relationships between students and their professors.

Mari is a Dana Scholar with a Neuroscience major and Studio Art minor. She has stayed involved on campus through being a peer tutor, tour guide, and member of the cross country and track and field teams. She loves the vast scope of the Neuroscience major; how it includes everything from philosophy to the intricate chemical structures of the brain. She emphasized how her art classes have pushed her to look at learning in new ways, enhancing her experience in her science classes. She's excited by the connections she's found between such seemingly disparate disciplines, explaining how she applied what she learned in painting classes to her understanding of molecular interactions.

Mari attended Stoneham High School, where she maintained an intense workload and learned effective time management skills. After splitting up so much of her time at Muhlenberg, she is grateful for the preparation her high school experience gave her. She came into college with a developed and specific pathway toward graduation. She has learned that life happens as you work through your plans, and you have to enjoy the process.

Mari is appreciative of the many perspectives she has been able to learn from during her participation in the Dana Program. She consistently left Dana gatherings with new approaches to information, and methods for applying this knowledge to civic engagement. She remembers working directly with healthcare professionals in the Dana Forum, and what an insightful experience that was. She previously worked as a Dana intern editing the Dana Interviewer, and she is currently working in Dr. Teissere's lab as a mentee. She studies neurotransmitter receptor structure and function, and the interactions these receptors have with various herbal medicines.

After graduation, Mari plans on taking a gap year and applying for medical school. During this time, she hopes to gain more research experience in Boston. Last summer she collaborated with a physician in Boston to create a crowdsourced medical curriculum website. The website recommends the most useful curriculum for medical students to follow based on their year in school. She is embarking upon the next stage of her life with a very open mind, considering both anesthesiology and dermatology as possible specializations.

Danielle (Dani) Barrett

Written by Joe Repetti



Dani Barrett is a senior in the Dana Scholars Program at Muhlenberg College. Being a double major in both Dance and Psychology, Dani is the epitome of a liberal arts student. She was raised alongside her two younger brothers up north in the small town of Hamden, Maine. Dani says it was a tough choice to come to Muhlenberg with the campus being so far away from her home. When the final decision was made, it was the idea of branching out and breaking away from her comfort zone that motivated Dani to attend Muhlenberg.

To Dani, being a Dana Scholar requires the integration of academia and civic engagement. She has found many different interests within the program and enjoys how the the community in and out of the program works together to impact and be impacted by society. As for her Dana Scholars internship, she worked with Dr. Mohsin Hashim himself on anti-racism work following the George Floyd murder through the fall semester of 2020. Dani and others evaluated the role of Danas as scholars actively discovering new knowledge within the community.

At Muhlenberg, Dani has been thrilled with her experiences. Entering college, she had a very vague idea of people and the world as a whole. After arriving on campus for the first time, she knew she was in for a change. Dani now greatly enjoys interacting with people in the Muhlenberg community, including students as well as faculty members. Her favorite professor at the school is Karen Dearborn, who teaches Dani's dance history and techniques class. Dani states that the way Professor Dearborn goes about teaching this class impacts how Dani teaches and interacts with students. Professor Dearborn has been an impactful role model and Dani very much appreciates her guidance.

Dani's favorite memory at Muhlenberg was not one that a student in a typical year could have. She says the first week back participating in in-person classes on campus was her favorite part of college. She also truly enjoyed working at Alumni Weekend this year. Dani felt a sense of reunion and truly enjoyed seeing so many smiling faces across campus like there were just a short time ago.

In her free time, Dani loves spending quality time catching up with friends while doing some homework in Seegers Union or dancing in the studio. She is also involved in Greek life here at Muhlenberg. In addition, Dani is a tour guide at the school, introducing future students to their home for a liberal arts education. As for the future, Dani is still unsure of how it will ultimately play out. She would like to spend some time teaching dance, or even physically

dancing in New York. She also may go back to school in order to earn her Master's degree and/or a PhD.

Dani's advice to future Dana Scholars and students in general is to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to you. There are so many ways to connect with people on campus and plenty of opportunities to expand your horizons. Build connections with professors, attend office hours to converse, take advantage of internship or mentorship opportunities, seek out friendships with students, and all of the bricks will eventually fall into place.

Corinne Battistelli

Written by Natalie McElhinny



Corinne Battistelli (she/her), one of the kindest and most approachable people on campus, is from Douglassville, Pennsylvania. You can find her doing work around Seegers Union or maybe even making a 50-minute drive back home. She enjoys having the option to drive home, as being that close to family was one of the deciding factors that helped Corinne choose Muhlenberg. That and of course, the “feeling.” She warned me that it might sound cliché, but it truly was a strong feeling that drew Corinne to Muhlenberg. When she visited Berg during accepted student’s day, she immediately committed and canceled her next visit to Gettysburg College. And we’re so glad to have her here!

Graduating as a History major and a German Studies minor, Corinne loves to look into her own and other people’s pasts. As a History major, she is still looking into what career paths would interest her, but she does want to try to work in a museum for a bit. Now, the German Studies minor, I had to find out more about that. From an educational interest, she learned German as a language in high school because she didn’t want to learn Spanish like almost everyone else. After finishing the language requirement courses, she only had a couple of credits left in order for her to complete the 6 credit German Studies minor. This is a small program – one of her classes was listed as a 900-level special topic which consisted of only her and another student in the professor’s office each week. From a personal interest, her mother’s father was German, and her mom took summer trips to Germany when she was younger. Corinne was planning to study abroad, but due to COVID, those plans were canceled. Throughout COVID, she used the time to pursue classes that interested her, and she ended up taking her favorite class, Literature, Social Justice, and Current Events with Dr. Kucik, during COVID last year. Corinne loved this class because each book she read was so interesting and she even recommended a book to me, *The Vanishing Half*. This class mostly explored how ethnicity comes into play today, which is why it interested Corinne so much. She loves learning more about gender, race, and sexuality. For example, she wrote her CUE paper on how women and feminism are represented in the film *A Woman in Berlin* and how that ties into Soviet-occupied Berlin and the postwar politics of World War II. Gender, race, and sexuality will also be the main topics she will be exploring through her Dana Scholar mentorship.

Corinne has loved being a part of the Dana Scholars Program, from Pre-Orientation to the learning opportunities offered by completing internships and mentorships. Within her first couple of days on campus, Corinne has such positive memories attached to Pre-Orientation because she loved breaking out of the bubble and seeing how organizations are making an impact in the community. She knows that she wants to make an impact in the world, she just doesn’t know

how quite yet. I believe that she will make an incredible difference in the world because her energy and commitment to everything will speak for themselves. I can't wait to see what she does!

She is a part of the Dana Internship that hosts these interviews, and it's been such a positive experience for her! She is working on starting her mentorship although her first attempt didn't work out well (the professor never emailed her back). But she was able to find a new faculty advisor, Nigel Semaj, whom she cannot wait to work with. She wants to look at how different aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion are shown through the contestants cast on RuPaul's Drag Race and whether it is a positive and/or realistic representation of the queer community. The show is groundbreaking, but is it a reality television show, so the question is whether it can truly have a strong stance in equal and accurate representation. She looks so deeply into what could affect others, and she has such an incredible energy to be around. Her freshman and sophomore year self would be so proud of her!

Katherine (Katie) Behling

Written by Jordan Lavalle



Katherine Behling (she/her) came to Muhlenberg College from her hometown Raritan, New Jersey. Like many others, Katie was fascinated by Muhlenberg's close-knit community and intimate experiences. Katie is a Media & Communications major with double minors in Creative Writing and Film. Before coming to Muhlenberg, Katie already had an interest in creative writing and media and communications, which meant taking advantage of opportunities as soon as she could in her first few semesters. Film is a more recent addition to her studies.

The Dana Scholars Honors Program has been an important part of Katie's journey at Muhlenberg, but her campus engagement doesn't end there. Katie is a member of various other Muhlenberg communities. Katie has been a crucial part of the queer community. She is a member of the students for queer advocacy club, also known as SQUAD, in which she serves on the board as treasurer. She also serves as treasurer and PR coordinator for MUSES, Muhlenberg's art literary magazine. In addition to activities, Katie works jobs at Muhlenberg: she is a Head Tutor, tutoring Italian and Media & Communications courses, and has a work-study in the library.

After graduation, Katie is interested in pursuing a career in social media management. She already has superb experience in this field due to her three internships throughout the past four years. Though remote, Katie found her internships to be incredibly rewarding. Not only did she learn more about the media and communications field, but also learned valuable skills about the workforce, like multitasking and building platforms from scratch. Katie continues to work for her most recent internship, now as an official employee in charge of the social media and marketing for a therapist's private practice for gender-nonconforming children and their families.

During our interview, Katie and I had a bonding moment where we shared some of our favorite things about Muhlenberg. Her favorite place on campus is "Mule Express," especially on Thursdays when they serve their renowned spaghetti and meatballs. Her GQ order is mozzarella sticks as well as the yogurt parfait, also known as "special yogurt" by her and her friends. Another favorite of hers is the yearly library book sale. As a book person, Katie finds the book sale as a time for her to explore new reads and curiosities.

From her participation in student groups to her multiple jobs on campus to her advocacy and civic engagement to her academic passions, Katie is a hard-working Dana Scholar who has a positive attitude toward her studies and future career. On the rare occasion that she has free time, Katie loves to read and write, which aligns with her major and minors. Her favorite genres to read are fiction and YA novels. Recently, she dove deeper into her love of baking, attempting

new baking recipes every week. In fact, right before our interview, she baked apple spice cookies! Some of her other specials include brownies and pear muffins.

Through her work and involvement in and out of the Dana Scholars Program, Katherine Behling is an exceptional Dana Scholar. It was a pleasure interviewing, connecting, and learning about Katie. I feel grateful that the Dana Scholars Program brought me this connection.

Frances (Fran) Bixby

Written by Hope Austin



Fran Bixby (she/her), a member of the Dana Scholars Class of 2022, is a Theatre major with concentrations in Acting and Stage Management and an Italian Studies minor. She is originally from Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Throughout her time here at Muhlenberg, Fran has been involved in countless theatre productions, Italian Club, and Damsels in Excess (as co-president). She performed in *The Saint Plays* during the fall semester. Some of her favorite classes at Muhlenberg have been Stage Combat, Post-War British Theatre & Film (with Dr. Coppa), and Kitchen Chemistry and Eatalians. Perhaps the most important fact about Fran is that her go-to GQ order is bacon avocado grilled cheese with a side of fries!

She has interned with Jess Bien in the Theatre Department as a stage manager for the virtual Fish Bowl Project. Her favorite Muhlenberg memory has been stage managing for *The Importance of Being Earnest*. When speaking about the Dana Program, Fran says that it is incredible to have a space that is designated to bring people from different academic disciplines together to create community. She encourages every Dana Scholar to revel in the singularity of having an experience like this. It is not often that spaces like this are created, and they must be appreciated while they exist. She has learned so much as a result of having space for interdisciplinary conversation. She is so thankful to have met so many wonderful people through the Dana Scholars Program. When asked what advice she has for incoming first-year Dana Scholars, she laughs knowingly and says, “Don’t forget about your mentorship.”

After graduation, Fran is considering working as a professional theatre maker while not limiting her artistic aspirations. She loves performing, stage managing, and writing (and she is a Shakespeare nerd!). As a person interested in so many artistic pursuits, she is excited to embark on a new journey that combines all of these passions.

Rebekka (Bekka) Broyles

Written by Layla Siahatgar



Bekka (she/her) comes to us all the way from San Antonio, Texas. She was initially drawn to Muhlenberg because of the opportunities the school offers, along with its proximity to New York City. While she was initially interested in film and screenwriting in high school, Bekka now prefers theatre and is interested in design and directing.

As a Theatre and Dance double major with a minor in Music, Bekka loves to keep busy and explore opportunities she is passionate about. When reflecting on the courses she took throughout her years at Muhlenberg, she particularly enjoyed taking a course on costume design, which helped to further her interest in the field. In addition, Bekka is a huge advocate for the Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad (MILA) courses offered and recommends that every student take one before they graduate. She has gone to South Africa for a history and religion course, Ireland for a theater and creative writing course, and had planned to go to Panama as well before COVID-19 hit. Bekka believes that MILA courses are a great way to explore something new and create unique experiences.

Outside of her classes, Bekka is an active and engaged member of Muhlenberg's campus. She founded the Flour Power baking club, and has also been president of a number of clubs such as Knitwits, Board Game Club, Relay for Life, and even Biology Club! Bekka has also served as a Dana Representative for her class and as a member of the Seegers Student Advisory Board. She also currently serves as an RA hall director, where she must supervise a group of Residential Advisors.

In the performing arts, Bekka is a member of the college choir and has performed at the candlelight carols on campus; in addition, she has directed a number of productions on campus. As a director, Bekka loves creating devised pieces, which start off with no initial script and are built as they go along. She loves bringing elements of the old into the new to create unique and compelling pieces. She considers herself a deviser, with a passion for creating and building new things. Recently, Bekka directed a devised adaptation of *The Masque of the Red Death*, based on the story by Edgar Allan Poe.

One of Bekka's favorite Muhlenberg memories was her experience organizing a fundraiser to raise money for the American Cancer Society as a member of the Relay for Life club on campus. As president of the club for two years and the fundraising chair, Bekka had the daunting task of organizing this fundraising event and making sure it went smoothly. In true Dana Scholar fashion, Bekka stepped up to the challenge, coordinating with Campus Safety and the Office of Community Engagement to create a carnival with games, food, and a space for

survivors to share stories. In the end, the club ended up raising over \$30,000 in this event! This experience was especially important for Bekka because her dad was a cancer survivor.

Bekka describes her experience in the Dana Scholars Program as tumultuous, but she has enjoyed the opportunity to try different things and also to approach professors and work closely with them. Bekka has completed a mentorship in costume design and will be completing an internship in corsetry this spring; she appreciates having these experiences to broaden her knowledge in these fields.

Bekka will be returning to the Williamstown Theatre Festival for work this summer. In the long term, Bekka is interested in working for Disney, and her dream is to work for Cirque du Soleil designing costumes. As her time at Muhlenberg comes to a close, Bekka advises incoming students to make connections with their professors and to get involved in something outside of what they're used to.

Natalie David

Written by Abby Bresalier



It was a pleasure getting to know Natalie David (she/her) during our interview at Java Joe's! She is from Ambler, Pennsylvania, a suburban town only 45 minutes from Allentown. She was drawn to Muhlenberg because of the supportive community, large Jewish population, and well-rounded liberal arts education that the college offers. As a Biology major on the Pre-Med track and a Jewish Studies minor, Natalie is able to holistically combine her scientific and creative sides to implement change in her community. She is also a very passionate flute player involved in private lessons, Wind Ensemble, and Flute Ensemble.

She is also involved in many other activities on campus and in the community such as peer tutoring, serving on the board of the AED Pre-Health Honors Society, the Adopt-a-Grandparent club, volunteering at the Abington Memorial Hospital Elder Life Program, and volunteering at the Jewish Family Services of the Lehigh Valley.

Natalie's most important part of her involvement is as the Muhlenberg chapter president of Challah for Hunger as well as a member of the national office and convention committees for this organization. One of her favorite memories at Muhlenberg was when she was baking hamentashen for a Challah for Hunger event. She and her friends thought that the hamentashen was chocolate-flavored but they did not remember making chocolate, but when they opened the oven there was tons of smoke and the cookies were dark because they were burnt! They were very relieved that they did not set off the smoke alarms but it was definitely a funny memory to look back on. Besides the fun times that she has had with friends in this organization, Challah for Hunger has allowed her to connect with her Jewish roots while serving the community. This experience has also been an important part of her involvement in the Dana Scholars program because she is able to be a citizen scholar and help those in need of food from her education at Muhlenberg.

Natalie is also very passionate about her biology studies. Some of her favorite classes that she has taken here were in that department, such as Applied Physiology, Entomology, and Ornithology. She claims that the biology program has "changed the way she thinks about and sees the world" because she is able to interact hands-on with the organisms that she studies and think more creatively about biology and its applications. She especially enjoyed working with Dr. Meier because through his program, she was able to connect with Muhlenberg alumni and connect with physicians from different fields. For both her internship and mentorship in the Dana Program, she has worked with Dr. Sprayberry in the biology research lab since the spring semester of her freshman year. Her research focuses on the effects of odor pollution from

fungicides on bumblebee olfaction and their abilities to recognize floral scents. Her work has been accepted to be published in the academic journal *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*. She has thoroughly enjoyed working in this research lab because from being a Dana Scholar, she has been able to make connections with the community through her work in order to make fundamental changes through science. This past summer she worked on two separate farms where she conducted pollination walks to study how different farm systems can affect bumblebees' pollination, which has allowed her to feel very closely tied to her community.

Being part of the Dana Scholars Program overall has been monumental in her experience at Muhlenberg as she has realized that she has the power to make change. Toward the end of the interview, she told me that she realized that “my voice has power and I can make positive change in my community, and has led me to work with legislators and others to make change.” From talking to her, I am inspired to be the best citizen scholar that I can be and I am excited to find more opportunities to connect with the outside community as Natalie has excelled in doing!

Elizabeth Gershater

Written by Sara Pecorelli



Elizabeth Gershater (she/her), a student from Bridgewater, New Jersey, is in her last year in the Dana Scholars Program. She is also in the 3+4 Bio-Dental Program with the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. Elizabeth is involved in the Pre-Dental Club and the Pre-Health Honors Society at Muhlenberg and also is a tutor. Elizabeth says she relishes studying biology because she is fascinated by the ways in which this subject manifests itself in the real world. She believes that there is so much to learn and appreciate about the world around us when we know how its various parts work. Her love of learning about biology translates over into her personal interests. One of her favorite pastimes is going on nature walks because she can

enjoy the flora and fauna and apply knowledge from one of her favorite classes, Ecology, to identify trees and plants, explain various aspects of the natural world to her family and friends, and marvel at how diverse ecosystems and their components function right in front of her eyes.

Elizabeth is excited to embark on her journey through dental school and has an open mind about whether or not she would like to take on a dental specialty (i.e. orthodontics, endodontics). For her Dana internship, she collaborated with Dr. Chenshuang Li of Penn Dental School and Dr. Elizabeth McCain of Muhlenberg College, researching the genes and pathways that have been found to be associated with skeletal class II and III malocclusions. This research confirmed to Elizabeth her passion for learning about topics related to dentistry and furthered her desire to work in the dental field, but she also has a variety of other interests. Elizabeth's hobbies include reading and writing, with her favorite genres being detective fiction and poetry. Her curiosity about literature and historical texts prompted her to take a course with Professor Sharon Albert called Sacred Stories. The course piqued her interest in the translation of religious texts, which she then explored during her Dana mentorship with Professor Albert. Early on in the mentorship, she came across studies done on the translation work of Zulu youth; intrigued, she decided to make a translation of the Hebrew Bible into the Zulu language the topic of her research project, with specific focuses on colonialism, cultural orality, and youth translation. Elizabeth presented her research at a poster symposium at Muhlenberg and was excited to have the opportunity to talk about her work with symposium attendees and also learn from their perspectives.

Although her internship and mentorship were drastically different in terms of the disciplines that they stemmed from and their content, she appreciates being able to gain a deep understanding of both subjects that she researched and expand her perception of the world. Elizabeth has thoroughly enjoyed her time as a Dana Scholar at Muhlenberg, especially because

of the relationships she was able to cultivate with her peers. Because she shared more than one class with the members of her year's Dana cohort, she found it easier to bond with them because they could engage in conversations as a group and forge connections with each other over a longer period of time than just one semester-long course. Looking back on her time at Muhlenberg, Elizabeth says that she will fondly remember her experiences as a Dana Scholar and carry what she learned from them with her to dental school and her future endeavors.

Rose Glantz

Written by Nicole Christian



Rose Glantz (she/her) is a senior Dana from Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. Although she was originally drawn to Muhlenberg because of her interest in the seven-year Muhlenberg/Penn Dental program, she knew this was the school for her because of the close community and learning environment.

Rose originally came to Muhlenberg as a STEM major on the Pre-Dental track, but quickly found that her interest actually was in economics during her freshman year while taking an intro to economics course. She also had to take accounting classes for economics and discovered that she really enjoyed that as well, so she decided to double major in Economics and Accounting.

To pursue her interest in accounting, Rose completed an eight-week internship at Deloitte & Touche, which is an accounting firm. Although it was supposed to be in person, it was virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the internship was to expose the interns to accounting, so she would complete tasks such as updating work papers and working with her engagement team(s). After, Rose decided she wanted to continue and learn more about tax.

For her mentorship, Rose did research over the spring 2021 semester with Dr. Nagy in economics about how different colleges responded to COVID-19. She looked at variables such as whether the school was public or private and the schools' endowment per capita to see if they had an effect on the number of COVID-19 cases a school had and whether or not the school was online, in person, or hybrid. In her research, Rose was able to find that the endowment and school type did have an effect because some schools were better equipped since they had more money and, as a result, lost fewer students. Rose is presenting her research at the President's Inauguration in November 2021.

One of her favorite classes at Muhlenberg was Dr. Nagy's Intermediate Microeconomics. One of the reasons Rose loves economics so much is because it just really makes sense to her and is directly applicable in the real world to help people. Another class Rose enjoyed was Jewish Secular Age, taught by Dr. Cooperman. She found Jewish Studies really interesting because it is a chance to branch out and do something more creative and thought-provoking in contrast with her major that is more heavily focused on statistics and math. One thing Rose really loves about the professors at Muhlenberg generally is that they really go above and beyond to help you succeed and truly care about you.

For Rose, being in the Dana Scholars Program has given her the opportunity to have a small, close-knit community of students she wouldn't have otherwise met. It also opened the door to other opportunities and pushed her to do more, like with her research project. But most of

all, Rose loves that everyone in Dana is willing to have deep conversations about topics that matter and do the work to put their ideas into action.

Lindsey Harris

Written by Alyssa Kaplan



Lindsey Harris (she/her) is a Biochemistry and Russian Studies double major hailing from Staten Island, New York. Looking back at her last four years at Muhlenberg, Lindsey has been deeply molded by her experiences within the fields of biochemistry and Russian studies. Specifically, Dr. Luba Iskold, a recently retired longtime director of the Russian Studies program, was a professor that grasped Lindsey's attention. Dr. Iskold taught six or seven of Lindsey's Russian Studies courses over the course of the major. Lindsey described her as someone who was always rooting for her success and willing to go the extra mile to support her progress, inside and outside of the classroom. Lindsey's drive to pursue the field of biochemistry was equally supported by Dr. Iskold, who encouraged her to

incorporate her interest in both Russian studies and science within her CUE last semester. This endeavor focused on mental healthcare systems in Russia, a concept that is meaningful and pertinent to Lindsey's passions.

Muhlenberg's sorority life has played a large role in Lindsey's college experience. As a member of the Delta Zeta sorority, bid day holds a special place in Lindsey's heart. Bid day and other Delta Zeta events have allowed her to meet so many people from other class years and majors that she likely would not have come across otherwise, but can come together through shared values. The worthwhile relationships that have stemmed from sorority life have deeply contributed to what Muhlenberg means to Lindsey.

Lindsey has been heavily involved in biochemistry research with Dr. Amy Hark, the co-director of biochemistry at Muhlenberg. Beginning in the Spring 2021 semester, Lindsey has worked on a full credit mentorship in her work with *Drosophila melanogaster*, also known as the fruit fly. In collaboration with Dr. Hark, their research includes the tracking of gene evolution specifically for insulin signaling pathway genes. The research experience has been online so far and will be continuing in the spring as a hybrid online and in-person lab experience. As a result of this research, Lindsey has had the opportunity to present research within Muhlenberg and at local conferences. This spring, Dr. Hark and Lindsey will be taking their research to Philadelphia for a national conference, as well. The research project, the Genomics Education Project, is part of a national collaboration with other universities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lindsey got a later start with her mentorships than she had initially anticipated, but she is grateful for the exposure to research in a way she was previously unfamiliar with. Lindsey was pleasantly surprised by how much research could be done online and was inspired to do an undergraduate

research experience through an online summer program, which she believes is a good prediction of where science is heading to include more technology/computer influence.

Lindsey is thankful for the way the Dana Scholars Program has led her to think from more varied perspectives. The classes she has taken with other Dana Scholars have included wonderful discussions where it was apparent that her peers wanted to learn from each other as much as possible. Lindsey's most recent Dana experience has been led by a comparative literature professor, which is something she would likely have not been exposed to in other circumstances. Having two majors from very different fields and ideologies, Lindsey has thoroughly incorporated the Dana-esque interdisciplinary perspective that has been carried into her other classroom and college life experiences. Lindsey plans to continue her academic studies after graduating from Muhlenberg and is currently in the process of applying for graduate Ph.D. programs in biochemistry and molecular biology. Lindsey hopes to attend graduate school this fall and then enter the industry after completing her program.

Brandon Herbst

Written by Colette Cragin



My interview with Brandon (he/him) was not what I expected it to be; not only did I learn about him and his experience at Muhlenberg, I learned about the best ways to get the most out of my own experience. While describing his internship and mentorship experiences, Brandon gave some great advice: it is not just the field of study that is important, but who you work with. Though Brandon is a Biology major on the Pre-Dental track, his mentorship was with Dr. Rudski, studying the efficiency of anti-vaping ads based on their wording. Despite it being difficult to draw conclusions, this was a great learning experience and a good way to get to know Dr. Rudski and work in psychology.

Brandon's first internship, done with Dr. Edwards (one of his favorite professors who taught one of his favorite classes – Entomology), studied ticks in the Lehigh Valley and the prevalence of the diseases they carry. Though entomology is not closely related to dentistry, Brandon discussed this internship in some of his interviews for dental school so far, at NYU, Virginia Commonwealth University, Pitt, and Boston University. In his second internship, Brandon shadowed at a dentist's office in Sayre, Pennsylvania, where he was born and raised. Brandon wishes to attend dental school because he has always enjoyed science and prefers a low-stress way – that is, compared to the stress of an obstetrician, for example – of interacting with and building relationships with patients, as well as working with his hands.

Brandon's experience with the Dana Program has been one focused on building relationships with other students that he might not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise: students in dance and psychology, and even the current president of the ultimate frisbee team, Ara, whom he met in the program and recruited! The Dana Scholars also provides a large group of academically-driven students to connect with that makes the experience really worthwhile.

A Muhlenberg memory that stuck with Brandon throughout his time here was his race with Alex Wittington during Fall Fest on the obstacle course in the Quad. While racing to the finish, Alex gets stuck and Brandon has to shake the entire inflatable obstacle course just to free her, until she falls through the course and screams on her way down. "I made the conscious decision to force her into the pit of darkness," remembers Brandon, laughing. "It was one of those moments when you laugh so hard you can't breathe."

This delightful conversation with Brandon was an excellent reminder that what matters most about going through college is not only education, but the people you meet along the way that create defining moments of learning, friendship, and especially laughter.

Hallie Hoffman

Written by Emma Van Dorn



Hallie Hoffman (she/her) came to Muhlenberg from Princeton, New Jersey, looking for a liberal arts school near the tri-state area. From her first visit, Hallie met so many welcoming students that she already felt like she was making friends here. She also liked all of the opportunities Muhlenberg provided to its students, including the ability to double major, which Hallie took advantage of as a Media & Communication and Philosophy double major. At Muhlenberg, Hallie has been able to explore her interests in the Media & Communication field as the Digital Media Intern for the Office of Advancement, where she learned how to use graphic design and video editing software, and even suggested her own social media campaigns to promote events, gain traction for the college, and increase alumni interest. Through this internship, Hallie was able to gain all of the experience and skills that she will need when looking for a job in the future. Hallie also performed her own independent research through a mentorship with Dr. Pooley in the Media & Communication Department, in which she studied memes from an academic perspective. Hallie examined how memes about the COVID-19 pandemic were used as coping mechanisms and to capture a moment in history. She used Facebook as a site of study to see how memes were functioning and even created her own meme about the pandemic which went viral in the Facebook group Zoom Memes for Self Quaranteens.

Hallie is also very involved in extracurricular activities on campus. She serves as the Student Tour Coordinator for the Tour Guide program as well as a peer tutor in Media, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology. She is also a Campus Delegate, a member of the College Choir, and a member of Be Your Own Boss, the entrepreneurship club at Muhlenberg. Hallie also launched her own start-up called BingeRoom, an online social media platform dedicated to connecting people together through the TV shows and movies they watch. BingeRoom has a website in beta-form and will be launching an app shortly, and Hallie has been able to apply the skills she learned during her internship to handle the marketing of her company.

When asked about her favorite Muhlenberg memory, Hallie was excited to recount her sophomore year experience at Arts Marathon, where she and her friends watched Muhlenberg's numerous comedy and acapella groups perform all night, noting that the event exhibited the same fun, chaotic energy that Muhlenberg tends to have. Hallie also looked back fondly on her experience as a Dana Scholar, noting that the Dana Program pushed her to pursue opportunities that she would not have otherwise, and introduced her to some of her closest friends.

Shivani Iyer

Written by Kaya Mahy



Shivani Iyer (she/her) left her beloved hometown of Hightstown, New Jersey to come to Muhlenberg as a part of the Dana Scholars Program just three short years ago. Muhlenberg resembled Shivani's hometown in the size, kindness of peers, and closeness of the community. Having lived in Hightstown her entire life and being an only child, Shivani missed her home and parents especially, but the great community and opportunities at 'Berg helped her through this difficult transition.

Shivani is a Biology major and Public Health minor on the Pre-Dental track, continuing on to UPenn Dental School after this year. Entering college, Shivani knew little about public health and did not even know it was a field of study, but her interests were sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic and after taking some classes on campus. Shivani became so fascinated by public health that she decided to make her mentorship focused on that topic. Working with Dr. Bachynski, Shivani helped conduct research about concussions in girls' lacrosse and its relation to the lack of helmets. Her mentorship started in December 2020 and continued throughout the spring semester and into the summer. Even now, Shivani is continuing her public health research credit because of her positive experience. One of the largest lessons Shivani gained from her mentorship was to always approach research with an open mind and without biases to be able to absorb all perspectives. She also mentions that she discovered the importance of looking at health issues not only from one lens when attempting to reach an answer, but from multiple lenses. Shivani says if she was not in the Dana Program, she would not have found an appreciation for connecting humanities and social sciences with natural sciences. Shivani plans to utilize these lessons as she embarks on her next chapter in dental school.

Besides the amazing mentorship opportunity, Shivani owes many great aspects of her time at Muhlenberg to the Dana Scholar Program. Shivani's earliest Muhlenberg memories consist of her first few days in the Dana Pre-Orientation and her first-year seminar, the Power of Maps, resonated with her. Shivani thanks the Dana Program for the amazing friendships she has made with other Danas in the program. As a matter of fact, one of Shivani's favorite components of being a part of the program is her conversations with her fellow Danas and faculty. Another aspect she reveals is her love for going to Center for Ethics events. Shivani enjoyed being part of the Anti-Racism Initiative too, because of the research and great conversations she participated in.

Shivani highlights her favorite classes, professors, memories, and traditions, as well as discusses her biggest challenges and regrets. It was a struggle for Shivani to choose just one

class

as her favorite, but decided on her favorite being her HIV/AIDS Lehigh Valley class which adhered to her public health interest. In addition, Shivani notes how she acquired a great amount of knowledge from her Dana sophomore seminar about the 2020 presidential election, as she grew to be a more informed voter by the conclusion of the class. It, similarly, was a difficult task for Shivani to select one professor as her favorite, considering that she explains how there is a surplus of amazing professors at Muhlenberg. Although some stellar professors Shivani names are Dr. Albert, Dr. McCain, Dr. Bachynski, and Dr. Parikh, the list could go on. Shivani's involvement in the Top Naach Club provided her with one of her favorite memories – putting on a Diwali dance performance. She was able to meet new people and showcase her culture through this event. A couple of Shivani's favorite Muhlenberg traditions are the Battle of the Chefs and attending the theater and dance productions the college offers.

Unfortunately, along with many other students, Shivani expresses that her biggest challenge was having to navigate through COVID-19. Having spent half of her time at 'Berg remotely, she felt separated from the community, professors, and friends while at home. Shivani overcame this hardship by making the most out of the situation and taking advantage of resources, such as office hours. When asked about any regrets she has, Shivani only responded that she wished she had put herself out there and got out of her comfort zone earlier, mainly after knowing that COVID-19 was to come.

Above all, Shivani describes her experience in the Dana Scholar Program in one word: memorable. Shivani's desire to learn and her positive attitude, despite challenges, is inspiring and she exemplifies the qualities of a Dana Scholar. I am extremely thankful to have shared a lovely conversation with her and be given the opportunity to get to know her and her experiences at Muhlenberg while being part of the Dana Program!

Viet Le

Written by Francesca Muffoletto



Viet Le (he/him) is a graduating senior here at Muhlenberg College from Quakertown, PA. He is majoring in Biology and minoring in Math and will be attending medical school in the fall. He is interested in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, and pediatrics. While speaking with Viet, I was given valuable information about his experience at Muhlenberg as an active citizen scholar in the Dana Scholars Program. He explained his impressive research and findings and additionally shared advice that I will be certain to take with me throughout my college career here at Muhlenberg.

Viet began working with Dr. Amy Hark, the Co-Director of Muhlenberg's Biochemistry Department, during the second semester of his sophomore year, getting a head start on his Dana research and mentorship. With Dr. Hark's guidance, Viet annotated the genomes of the drosophila species. His research was sent to the Genomics Education Partnership, or GEP, a program in which college students across the nation work together to study and annotate drosophila genomes. Viet did an additional mentorship and set of research under the direction of Dr. Jeff Rudski, a Muhlenberg professor of Psychobiology and Learning. Together, they conducted public health-related research on the vaping epidemic.

As he conducted his research, Viet discovered that the scientific process has a lot more players than he had originally thought. Viet told me that research is a "long process, one that is bigger than just me and my professor." He is grateful for the opportunity to conduct research with his professors, as he found it useful in getting experience early on. "Especially in the sciences," he says, "there is a lot of prerequisite work. Whenever an opportunity presents itself, talk to your professors- they are very open." Without the work he completed under the guidance of Dr. Hark and Dr. Rudski through the mentorship opportunities of the Dana Scholars Program, Viet would not have realized how much he enjoys doing research.

When Viet and I spoke about the Dana Program here at Muhlenberg, he expressed how he enjoys being able to share space with like-minded, driven people. He is excited to have begun work on this year's Dana Forum, in which Danas come together to do research on an issue related to the Center for Ethics theme that year. During their second semester as Seniors, the Danas will present their findings to Muhlenberg students and faculty. Viet likes the fact that the Danas are able to attack the issue from different major perspectives and are able to work together as a community to reach a common goal.

During his time at Muhlenberg, some of Viet's favorite classes included Organic Chemistry and Calculus 2, the latter of which helped him decide to pursue a Math minor. Although Viet has only had Dr. Hark as a professor in class during his first semester as a senior,

she has truly helped with his learning process as a researcher throughout his college career, making her one of his favorite professors at Muhlenberg. Additionally, Viet enjoyed taking a drawing class, which helped him to get a break from his intense studies in the sciences, and to enjoy the liberal arts aspect Muhlenberg has to offer.

Viet closed out our interview with some valuable advice: “It is easy to lose motivation in hard times. It’s okay to not be sure of what you want to do. Just try your best, take breaks, and take it one day at a time.”

Ara Ludwig

Written by Jennifer Moretti



Ara (she/her) is a Psychology and Math double major from Lancaster, PA. She is a Learning Assistant for Psych Stats, a tutor for Calculus I and Stats Analysis, and the president and captain of the Ultimate Frisbee team. She's also worked for Muhlenberg's Office of Community Engagement and Community Bikeworks since her freshman year, where she helps run an afterschool program in Allentown for middle and high school students.

Throughout her academic career at Muhlenberg, Ara has appreciated being able to take classes related to the Center for Ethics themes, as they've allowed her to converse with her peers about timely societal inequities and ethical problems. She loved being able to meet her peers in the Dana Program before the year started, as well as continuing to see

those people in her Dana classes. In fact, she met her roommate Alex Whittington at the Dana Program celebratory dinner before her freshman year, and they're still roommates today!

The Dana Program has given Ara the opportunity to pursue mentorships and internships related to her fields of study. She has researched math anxiety in her mentorship with Dr. Fraser, examining the reasons why many people believe they're bad at math, as well as the efficacy of mindfulness interventions before exams. For her internship, she worked as the Assistant Director at Camp Ladybug, a summer day camp for children with special needs, where she developed programs and organized physical activities.

So far, the fall semester has been a refreshing return to normalcy after studying at home during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her favorite parts of campus are the College Green, Parents' Plaza, and the dining hall, where she enjoys hanging out with friends. Off-campus, she loves going to the Arts Walk in Allentown, Playa Bowls, and many businesses in the farmers' market, including Ben and Co. Bagels and Little Miss Korea.

Owen Mendes

Written by Lydia Brubaker



Owen Mendes' (he/him) stepdad, Matthew R Moore, works at Muhlenberg in the Theatre and Dance department. It was in this context that Owen was first introduced to Muhlenberg, and his initial impression was that he liked how small and intimate the campus is. And so, in 2018, Owen left his home in Palmerton, Pennsylvania to study English and Psychology here. Owen's love for Muhlenberg only grew as he took advantage of its many special opportunities, including being a Dana Scholar. Owen is Co-Editor in Chief of the Academic Review Board, in the English Honors Society, a Writing Assistant, and the lead tutor at Muhlenberg's Writing Center. As lead tutor, he had the unique ability to help run workshops for professional development for other tutors and

to make decisions about the Writing Center's mission statement when it was being drafted. Outside of Muhlenberg's campus, Owen served with children who have autism and was trained and certified as a Behavioral Health Tech under a group called The Mentor Network. All of this being said, Owen likes more than just English and psychology. He has other interests, including but not limited to: green beans, the smell of the ocean, and hiking.

This is why he appreciates the Dana Program so deeply; because it has offered Owen an environment to foster an interdisciplinary attitude. He values that he has been able to connect with a group of like-minded, smart individuals who have a range of expertise in many areas and genuinely enjoy talking about academic subjects. To future Danas, Owen suggests putting yourself out there. He wishes he did this more, as he remembers seeing others taking such initiative. At the same time, though, if Owen could do his four years at Muhlenberg all over again, he would not change anything. He is happy with how he went through college, happy with where he is, and happy with who he is.

Jennifer (Jenny) Moretti

Written by Vered Wolpaw



Jenny Moretti (she/her) is a senior Dana Scholar student, originally from Chalfont, Pennsylvania. When asked why she chose to attend Muhlenberg, she described how she liked the community and atmosphere at and around Muhlenberg. The Allentown Fair was going on when she came to tour and she felt like it displayed the kind of fun and active town Allentown is. She knew she would always have something fun to do in Allentown on the weekends whether it was going to an event in town, a hike, or simply hanging out with friends she knew she would have at Muhlenberg.

The Dana Scholar Program was one of the reasons Jenny chose to spend her four years of college at Muhlenberg. Jenny is majoring in English and hoping to go into book editing or library sciences. Even though this is what her life at Muhlenberg has revolved around for the most part, the Dana Program made it more than just English. The Dana Program has a “focus on being a citizen scholar, [which] is learning how to use your knowledge ethically, and not just using your knowledge for the sake of learning itself,” Jenny explained that it’s essential to “learn so you can go and help people.” Jenny has also used her knowledge to better the community by serving as a Lead Tutor in Muhlenberg’s Writing Center. Through this position, Jenny was able to help students, in and out of the English major, in their writing. She was able to use her knowledge, and her love of writing and editing to help others.

As part of the Dana Program, the scholars have to participate in an internship and a mentorship. Jenny took this opportunity to edit and format the *Dana Interviewer*. Jenny also did her mentorship in book editing. She worked with Dr. Barri Gold, a professor of English and the English Literatures & Writing Department Chair, on her book, *Energy, Ecocriticism, and Nineteenth-Century Fiction*.

At first, Jenny would meet with Gold weekly via Zoom and discuss books they both read relating to the book she was in the process of writing. Jenny described this part of the process as sort of like an English class with just the two of them. They read *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells, and *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen. Jenny and Gold worked together during the editing and publishing processes of *Energy, Ecocriticism, and Nineteenth-Century Fiction*. In addition to her work with Gold, Jenny made the glossary at the end of the book. One of the goals of this mentorship was to make Gold’s writing more accessible to undergraduate students.

Victoria Retterholt

Written by Jake Azrolan



During my informative conversation with Victoria Retterholt (she/her), I had the opportunity to learn about her passion for helping others and dedication to pursuing her goals. Victoria came to Muhlenberg from East Windsor, New Jersey. As a big believer in helping people, her goal is to become a physician assistant. To achieve her goal, she is majoring in Neuroscience. If that was not enough she is minoring in Latin American & Caribbean Studies, and Public Health. Victoria completed two mentorships for the Dana Program and is currently doing an internship as a Physician Assistant observer through St. Luke's Health Network. The first mentorship was with Professor Rachel Hamelers.

Victoria researched the impact of HIV/AIDS on the Latinx/Hispanic population in the Lehigh Valley. After wrapping up her work last fall, she's grateful to have been able to present on several student research panels, including at Muhlenberg's 40 Years of HIV/AIDS speaker series.

She began a second mentorship in the spring of 2021 with Dr. Gretchen Gotthard in the Neuroscience department. Their lab looks at learning and memory consolidation. Victoria is running two studies. One study is looking at the effects of behavioral tasks on lowering anxiety when doing math, which she and her research partners presented at a Society for Neuroscience conference in the fall. In addition to this study, she is also beginning a new study looking at the effects of visuospatial interference tasks on memory recall/consolidation of a virtual reality experience.

According to Victoria, the Dana Scholars program has been key to the development of her inspirations and has allowed her to make everlasting friendships through the program. Victoria's favorite Muhlenberg memories are associated with the amazing people she's met while being here and is so grateful for all the time she's had to grow alongside them these past four years. She believes the Dana Program has encouraged her to become more engaged in interdisciplinary research and coursework and that the culmination of all these courses allowed her to be where she is right now. Some of the courses that inspired her were Neuroscience of Anxiety, Neuroendocrinology, and Neurotoxicology. She appreciates how classes, such as Microbiology, are applicable to her coursework in Public Health and even Latin American & Caribbean Studies, despite being from different disciplines.

Lastly, she talked about how she started a Pre-Physician Assistant Club and is a head tutor for Neuroscience and Biology. All these exemplary activities and course work Victoria has accomplished makes her the perfect Dana Scholar.

Celeste Samson

Written by Lily Kaganov



Throughout their college application process four years ago, Dana Scholar Celeste Samson (they/them) knew they wanted a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming school to call home. Of course, Muhlenberg College fits all of these descriptions. Originally from Queens, New York, Celeste was very optimistic about exploring the Allentown community and beginning their studies as a Theatre and Psychology double major. Celeste loves the strong liberal arts curriculum Muhlenberg has to offer and is glad to have taken many interdisciplinary courses. However, theatre is their life's passion, and they have devoted many hours of hard work to various classes, clubs, and research opportunities in this field.

Celeste's favorite class was taught by Professor Ethan Philbrick and is titled: "Groups, Ensembles, and Collectives." This is a theater class about collective authorship, ensemble performance, and group processes. Basically, it is a study of the politics of group work. The course is very experimental and dynamic, which is why Celeste loved it so much. Additionally, Celeste is an active member of Muhlenberg's largest club, the Muhlenberg Theater Association. During their junior and senior year, they were the inclusivity and equity chair. This role required them to sit in on meetings and read scripts to ensure that people had access to educational materials regarding race and gender issues. Celeste also served as a resource for those who needed extra help and made sure everyone felt safe in theatre environments. In terms of research, Celeste has persevered despite the pandemic's interference. Working remotely with Professor Rebecca Lustig in the fall of 2020, they interviewed people about body image. Celeste believes that every body is different, and people often struggle with body image and eating disorders. This becomes very important when dealing with costuming for shows, as actors have to play a specific role which may trigger negative feelings when trying to fit into a costume. Additionally, this mentorship required researching clothing relevant to the show's time period and trying to discover styles that will be inclusive to all body types. This ends up being a very personal process, and Celeste is very grateful to have been entrusted with such an integral role in the theater department.

Being a Dana Scholar has been very meaningful to Celeste. Perhaps the most significant aspect of their experience is their founding of the Dana Scholars Program Anti-Racism Committee. Celeste and Dani Barrett (also a current senior) were the first two interns to start this. They created a space for students to discuss racism issues and have critical conversations about the influence of race and racism on their identity. Behind the scenes, Celeste and Dani held an

open space for committees to come together and gather information about how to run this group best and spread knowledge and awareness. Education is an excellent way to go about discussing current events and learn how to think critically. Thus, one way they decided to lead the group was by reading news articles and having a scholarly conversation about them.

Overall, being a Dana Scholar and member of the Muhlenberg community has been very meaningful to Celeste. They have had many unforgettable memories here, but the Marginalized Voices Theatre Arts Festival held during their sophomore year was an all-time favorite. Together with a group of friends, they painted a mural and discussed its significance. They talked about identities and political and social issues, which was a fun way to interact with the community. After graduation, Celeste plans to utilize their degree to pursue work in theater but integrate social psychology to help educate about social issues to everyone around them.

Eliana Schuster

Written by Samuel Roter



Eliana Schuster (she/her) came all the way from Overland Park, Kansas to attend Muhlenberg College. When she visited Muhlenberg, she was warmly welcomed by the community and after exploring its multidisciplinary curriculum, she knew that she had to go there. She loved how small the college was and how she could explore any interest she might have because of Muhlenberg's liberal arts education.

After being undecided for the entirety of her freshman year, she landed on Media & Communication as her major. She explored many different interests across a variety of disciplines, but Media & Communication stood out to her because of its combination of theory and practice. She also really valued the Media & Communication faculty's enthusiasm and support of students.

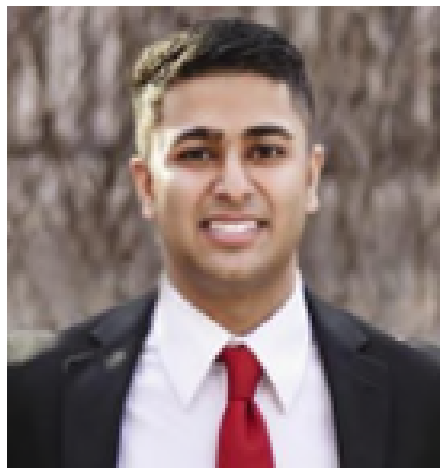
In addition to Media & Communication, Eliana has interests in writing and teaching. She is currently a tutor in writing and microeconomics. She is also a music teacher at a local synagogue and the Jewish Community Center. She loves that she is able to create a space for kids that encourages them to lean into silliness and fun, growing their confidence and love of music. Outside of teaching, Eliana can be found working in the Writing Center, giving campus tours, and cooking with her friends. In her spare time, she loves to explore Allentown and find beautiful places to enjoy the outdoors.

As a part of Eliana's experience as a Dana Scholar, she participated in a mentorship with Media & Communication faculty member Dr. Pooley to research cultural responses to data extraction and surveillance. This research led her to her senior thesis, where she is addressing the topic of resistance against surveillance and data extraction. Specifically, she wants to focus on creative, artistic forms of resistance and how art is used to empower viewers to resist. She is especially interested in immersive art forms that invite viewers to participate and become actively engaged.

Some of Eliana's favorite memories at Muhlenberg have been making great connections with her peers, being a part of the writing center community, and going on adventures throughout the Lehigh Valley with her friends. Her favorite classes have been Irish Literature, Colonial Latin American History, and Social Media and the Self. She does not yet have a specific plan for once she graduates from Muhlenberg, but she's keeping her options open as she explores what makes her happy.

Kevan Shah

Written by Gabrielle McCabe



Kevan Shah (he/him), a senior in the Dana Scholars Program, is a Public Health major on the Pre-Medical track from Cliffside Park, New Jersey. He made his way to Muhlenberg College after many tours showcasing the college's welcoming environment and bonded community. The excellent Neuroscience and Public Health programs were other strong factors for his acceptance as a Mule, given his early passion for science and, eventually, community health.

Within Public Health, much of Kevan's work involves helping turn the tide on the opioid epidemic including overdose education training and naloxone distribution. He is the founder and executive director of End Overdose Together, a nonprofit that hosts workshops and training in the community to "ensure that individuals are aware, able, and ready to administer Narcan when confronted by an opioid overdose" (endoverdosetogether.org). This extremely successful organization, which introduced pre-orientation Narcan training at Muhlenberg College, is overseen by Kevan with the intention of reducing overdoses in the community and beyond. He also has an interest in neuroscience and served as a researcher in the behavioral neuroscience lab of Dr. Gretchen Gotthard. Specifically, Kevan worked with a team to investigate the effects of visuospatial interference on the consolidation of emotional and neutral episodic-like memory. He traveled with the team to present their research findings at an annual international conference known as the Society for Neuroscience. His academic interests are broad and look at multiple aspects of health. One of his favorite classes at Muhlenberg was Issues in Public Health, taught by Dr. Chrysan Cronin, Director of Public Health at Muhlenberg and Director of Programs at End Overdose Together. This experience gave Kevan the opportunity to merge his passion for science with his passion for health. It placed his scientific interests in practical situations, encouraging him to look further into the social determinants of health.

Beyond academics, Kevan is an avid fan of the outdoors. During the pandemic, he picked up hobbies such as kayaking and hiking. In his spare time on campus, he likes to play soccer and frisbee on the quad or relax at one of the campus fire pits with friends. One of his favorite memories of the Dana Program is grilling burgers for the first time in the Rose Garden with Dr. Mohsin Hashim at a Dana BBQ Social.

When asked to offer advice for underclassmen, Kevan explained that the best thing you can do is find a cause you are passionate about and wholeheartedly lean into it. "Once you find an area that excites you and are able to connect with others to form a community to rally behind it, you have the potential to make a real difference in the lives of others," shares Kevan, having

learned through determination and hard work. After graduation, he plans to expand End Overdose Together and attend medical school. Kevan is looking forward to observing and finding solutions for the health barriers that are seen in everyday aspects of society.

Jonah Silverman

Written by Joshua Castro



Jonah Silverman was born and raised in Highland Park, New Jersey. The talented senior started his Muhlenberg journey planning to study physical therapy and was enrolled in a 3 and 3 program to attend Thomas Jefferson University after his time at Muhlenberg. In high school, he enjoyed working at a PT clinic in Highland Park in his free time. When looking for a college, Jonah loved the location and the tight community that Muhlenberg offered – being bigger than his high school but still small enough to build close relationships with

professors. The PT program was an added bonus.

During his sophomore year at Muhlenberg, Jonah discovered a passion and enjoyment for mathematics in his Calculus 2 class that led to an eventual major change from Biology to Math. He also has greatly enjoyed taking computer science courses and is a part of the competitive programming club on campus. Some of his favorite academic memories from his time at Muhlenberg include doing comparative genomics research in Dr. Amy Hark's Bio-Chem lab, taking two computer science courses with Dr. Jorge Silveyra and working with him on creating two apps outside of class, as well as doing his statistics CUE with Dr. James Russell. Jonah's favorite memory is the relationships with different professors, leading to his being able to do work and interact with professors outside of class in a personal manner. After college, he doesn't have any concrete plans yet but is considering graduate school for bioinformatics or computational biology, and is generally interested in how and where statistics and computer science connect with biology.

Outside of the classroom, Jonah enjoys staying involved within the college community. He ran cross country and track during high school and continued doing so for his first two years at Muhlenberg College. Jonah was named the Mules' top freshman runner in 2018 and made the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll in 2019. Since returning to school after the COVID pandemic, he has joined the outdoors club and the competitive programming club and has enjoyed being involved in research projects with some of his favorite professors.

Jonah is very thankful for the Dana Scholars Program and what it has done for him during his time at Muhlenberg. His favorite part is the great friends he has made within the program, and he is grateful for the community of Dana peers that he can connect and interact with. His advice for younger students is to form close relationships with professors in and outside of the classroom because it can unlock doors and make the experience much more enjoyable.

Alexandra (Alex) Whittington

Written by Matthew Klinger



Alexandra Whittington (she/her) is a senior at Muhlenberg College and is part of the Dana Scholars Program. She is from Mount Rainier, Maryland. She is a double major in Dance and Theater. Alex always did theater and dance as a kid and knew that it was something she wanted to pursue as her future. That is one of the reasons that she chose Muhlenberg, as it is a college that is well known for its dance and theater programs.

In the future, she hopes to teach dance and theater, and that inspired her to do her internship this summer. She worked at a day camp, spending time as a camp counselor working with five-year-olds. Despite it being exhausting, Alex really enjoyed working with the kids at the camp.

Her mentorship, a Dana requirement of research with a faculty advisor, was theater-focused. For her mentorship, she wrote a research paper on metatheater,—a description of the aspects of a play that draw attention to its nature—focusing on Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. For the paper, she wrote a director’s journal, detailing on how the play would be performed. The hope was for her to direct the part of the play that she focused on, but COVID-19 unfortunately closed campus down before she was able to do so.

Being a Dana Scholar has been very important to Alex. The best part of the program for her has been the community that she has been able to form with her Dana peers. For her, the ability to have a community of people with many different focuses and interests has been very meaningful. In addition, the Dana Program’s focus on cultivating citizen scholars has been very helpful for post-college plans. Alex hopes to work with AmeriCorps to help children and teach them theater and dance. For her, the focus on civic engagement by the Dana Scholars has instilled in her a drive to give back to her community and help those who are in need.

At Muhlenberg, her favorite class was Acting I. For her, the class was extremely impactful and it fundamentally changed how she viewed acting. She also had a really good relationship with her professor and that close-knit relationship added further value to the class. However, her favorite professor at Muhlenberg was Matt Moore, who taught one of her introductory theater classes. For Alex, Professor Moore has been a huge mentor and a great resource on campus.

Her favorite memory at Muhlenberg occurred just before campus was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She was working on the theater production *The Bacchae*, and as COVID-19 was worsening, many did not think that they would be able to perform the production, despite them being in the final rehearsals. The theater department was able to put together an informal show at the last minute. The performance occurred at one of the dress-

rehearsals at the Empie Theatre. The Empie Theatre was filled to its full capacity for the showing. The atmosphere was one of a rock concert, with a very energetic and passionate crowd. Not too long after the showing of *The Bacchae*, everyone was sent home for the pandemic.

It was the community she formed and the memory of the production that got Alex through the pandemic. Even while isolated at home, she was able to have a tight community of people that she met while working on *The Bacchae*. She carried the joy of performing the production with her through the pandemic, helping make the isolation and uncertainty of COVID-19 more bearable.

Christina (Chris) Xu

Written by Danya Helperin



It's 7:00 PM on a Wednesday night, and Chris Xu (she/her) and I sit down for her interview at our meeting place, Java Joe. Chris immediately presents herself as a very open-minded person, graciously accepting a gift card in place of a physical coffee, subsequent to my realization that Java Joe would not, in fact, be open for a 7:00 PM coffee date. Originally from Princeton, New Jersey, Chris came to Muhlenberg looking for a liberal arts school with smaller classes and an opportunity for one-on-one relationships with faculty to gain support for grad school. She took her time in deciding where to enroll and ended up visiting Muhlenberg five times before making the final decision. It was also important to her to find a school that was proficient in the

sciences, as she's currently a Biology major with a minor in Public Health, and is on the Pre-Dental track.

Chris doesn't limit herself in terms of extracurricular involvement on campus. When I asked what she was involved in, she needed to pause to collect her thoughts and compile the list in her head. Chris is a tour guide, as well as a tour guide mentor and a campus delegate, which helps with programming for prospective students. She's also a part of the pre-dental club, Women in STEM, and PHAM (trained peer educators for public health initiatives) just to name a few. She casually mentioned that she plays the flute in the flute ensemble, and on top of all that, she's involved in Greek life. Chris joined Phi Mu during the pandemic to expand her circles after COVID shut down normal student life. It helped her meet new people and form the close-knit community she missed over Zoom. That's not all Chris does on campus, but she explained that if she thought of any of her other extracurriculars, she would let me know.

Being a part of Dana Scholars was a really helpful educational experience for Chris. She enjoyed getting the mentorship experience and found it fun to work in a lab. She also enjoyed running Pre-Orientation with some of the first people she met on campus, some of whom were her first friends that she made at college. The community outreach aspect was a big factor for her, especially getting to work with community organizations and getting involved outside of Muhlenberg. It was important to Chris to help the first-years realize that there are different outreach opportunities in Allentown that they can, and should, take advantage of. And of course, it didn't hurt to come early as a freshman and have a leg up in terms of familiarity with the campus.

Chris's time at Muhlenberg was full of impactful classes and moments. Some of the classes that impacted her the most were her Issues in Public Health class and her immunology class. Her sophomore year public health class served almost as a trial class before she decided to

pursue the minor. The focus on outreach allowed her to do a project on the veterans experiencing homelessness in Pennsylvania and helped her find out what she's passionate about in healthcare. Her immunology classes' relevance to COVID helped her understand the importance of clinical healthcare and aligned well with her interests as a self-proclaimed fan of Biology classes, especially ones outside of the prerequisite courses. Some of Chris's favorite memories include making friends with the juniors as a first-year while doing work in the reading room, sledding down Benfer Hill after a blizzard held up move-in day, and watching the sunset on the top of Walson Hall with her best friend. Chris will be graduating this year as a junior and will be attending Harvard School of Dental Medicine next fall.

Dr. Christopher Borick

Written by Corinne Battistelli



Dr. Chris Borick (he/him) has been a professor of Political Science at Muhlenberg College for the last 22 years. He was teaching at a liberal arts college in Wisconsin. Dr. Borick is a Pennsylvania native and wanted to move back to be closer to the family he has living there. He saw that Muhlenberg was hiring, applied, and got the position!

Dr. Borick has been involved with the Dana Scholars Program in multiple ways over the past two decades. He has played a role in mentorships and internships – credits needed in the Program that help Danas get out there and get involved in research and work. He also has supervised the Dana Forum and taught First-Year Seminar courses in the past as well.

For Dr. Borick, his research has had a lot of overlap with the Dana Program over the years. A lot of his focus is on health and environmental policy, specifically looking at public opinion on those matters. What that entails is seeing what people want, what they believe, and what they need from such policies. Through polling people, it is possible to gauge how they feel about policies and what changes, if any, they are looking for in such policies. He has been able to integrate this research into the work he has done with Danas, killing two birds with one stone. Past Forum groups have worked with policy-related Center for Ethics themes, topics which have included sustainability, health, and politics.

Despite all of this history in working alongside the Dana Program, he has never led the Sophomore Seminar before. The Sophomore Seminar focuses on articles and discussions around the Center for Ethics theme – this year’s is *Pandemic: Response, Resilience, Reflection*. Dr. Borick was excited to lead this semester-long class, as it was “another chance to work with interesting, smart students from an array of disciplinary perspectives.” Even at a liberal arts college like Muhlenberg, it is still a rare occurrence to have such a concentration of different interests in one space. In leading the Seminar, it gives Dr. Borick an opportunity to work with these wonderful students on contemporary topics. In planning the class, he seriously considered the idea of what it means to be citizen scholars and intellectually-driven people from various communities in a pandemic. From that, he wanted to look at the various aspects of the pandemic through those frames of different backgrounds and perspectives.

Dr. Borick is incredibly biased when it comes to the importance of studying across curriculums. He believes in the liberal arts. He believes that individuals who have experience in an array of disciplines have a better understanding of the world. Students have experiences in social sciences, natural sciences, and the humanities. In a world with hyper-specialized types of

training, a liberal arts education creates space to do that. It allows students the great value to spend time thinking across these academic divides and put them in conversation with each other. The individuals who come out of these environments are capable of taking ownership of their roles in society. He thinks very highly of those people.

The advice that Dr. Borick has is applicable to Dana students and beyond. As an undergraduate, he was not prepared intellectually and emotionally for the opportunities that were presented to him. To this day, he regrets not taking advantage of those opportunities. So for every choice that you have, you should never view it as a burden. Those choices should be thought of as opportunities. There is so much to understand and experience!

Dr. Ioanna Chatzidimitriou

Written by Jennifer Moretti



Dr. Ioanna Chatzidimitriou (she/her) is an Associate Professor of French, and she taught the senior Dana Forum during the 2021-22 school year.

She teaches courses in Muhlenberg's newly redesigned French and Francophone Studies Program with special emphasis on contemporary French urban culture and literature, francophone North Africa, francophone Asia, francophone cultural production in the age of globalization, and writing.

Professor Chatzidimitriou holds a BA in French Language and Literature from the University of Athens, Greece and a Ph.D in Comparative Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has taught all levels of French language, literature and culture at the University of West Georgia, the University of California, Irvine and Lehigh University. She has also taught courses in world literature with a focus on 19th and 20th-century European literatures.

Her recent book *Translingual Francophonie and the Limits of Translation* (Routledge 2020) examines uses of translation as theme and practice by code-switching francophone authors. She is currently co-editing a collection of essays on the Greek francophone author Vassilis Alexakis titled *Vassilis Alexakis: chemins croisés* which will be published by Presses Universitaires de Rennes in 2023.

She brought her knowledge of comparative literature to the senior Dana Forum, where she taught works such as the *Decameron*, Michel Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*, Albert Camus's *The Plague*. She is inspired by Dana students' dedication to their interdisciplinary studies and development of their intellectual lives.

Dr. Kassandra Hartford

Written by Jennifer Moretti



Dr. Kassie Hartford (she/her) is an Assistant Professor of Music and Music History from Middleboro, MA, and she taught the Dana Program's FYS "Ethics and Aesthetics of Global Pop" during the Fall 2021 semester. This is her first year teaching within the Dana Program, although she has mentored Dana students and guided them through honors theses. She loves Muhlenberg students' intellectual engagement and curiosity in and out of the classroom, and her involvement in interdisciplinary research drew her to the Dana Program.

In her study of music and race, she researches watershed changes in how people talk about race, ranging from the early 20th-century up to the post-Holocaust era. She analyzes how composers have made explicit through music ideas about identity explored in anthropology, and how their publicly disseminated works such as concerts and operas engage their audiences and affect social change.

She also studies national identity in her studies of Brazilian, American, and French music. In other words, musical works influence conversations about who is and isn't part of a nation, particularly in regards to race, and they reify or challenge existing definitions of national identity.

Dr. Hartford is inspired by Dana students' cross-disciplinary mindsets and their deep intellectual engagement in the program. In our interview, she explained how interdisciplinary is essential within academia and in the rest of the professional world, as the crises of our historical moment cannot be solved from the perspective of any one discipline. The Dana Program's guiding concept of the citizen-scholar is essential to her understanding of academic work, and in her work with Dana students, she believes that the program prepares them well for whatever path they choose after graduation.

When reflecting on what advice is most helpful to incoming students, she emphasizes the importance of getting involved in the intellectual life of the college. As Muhlenberg invites visiting scholars and artists to give lectures, she encourages students to attend as many as they can. In her words, hearing and engaging with this scholarship can radically reshape students' worldviews and influence their decisions in their academic and professional lives.

In her spare time, Dr. Hartford performs with the Afro-Brazilian percussion ensemble Maracatu New York, and she loves to garden, hike, and spend time with her dog and two cats.

Dr. Dustin Nash

Written by Corinne Battistelli



Dr. Dustin Nash is from a small town in north central Iowa. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in music performance from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and got a PhD from Cornell University. At Muhlenberg, Dr. Nash teaches Jewish Traditions, Myth, Religion, and Creation, Speaking with the Divine (shamanism), Hebrew Bible, and Reading the Rabbis. When not teaching, he enjoys guitar performance, as he is a trained classical guitarist. He also draws and paints for fun.

Dr. Nash had always wanted to teach at a small liberal arts college, as he went to a small liberal arts college which pushed him into a doctoral field and made him want to be a scholar-teacher. When Dr. Nash saw a position come up at Muhlenberg College, he instantly applied – it was the type of position he wanted. His favorite experience teaching at Muhlenberg is coming back to campus in the fall. A new academic year brings a certain kind of excitement and a clean slate. There are new classes and new students; everything is potential.

Dr. Nash knew of the Dana Program, but he has never worked with the Program before. The First-Year Seminar (FYS) he taught in the fall of 2021 was Proving the Unprovable. The class was an opportunity to teach about writing and writing as a way of thinking. When he told his colleagues that he was going to be teaching a Dana FYS, everyone in the department said how fantastic the opportunity it and that it was gonna be great. Dr. Nash's colleagues had good experiences in the past, which increased his own excitement.

He has taught an iteration of this FYS as a non-honors class before. It is research around Young Earth creationists – a type of belief about the creation of the world and its lifeforms. In a larger content, the class looks at and thinks about how people in the past and the present have attempted to prove some fairly contentious positions. The course starts by looking at the supernatural and cryptids and how people have attempted to prove points or how they have been attacked or critiqued. Following that, there is a shift to looking at how people attempt to prove religious narratives. This comes directly from research on Young Earth creationists and from museums. The class has a group project where they go to a museum and examine rooms within, looking at the rhetoric and what the room is trying to tell the viewer.

What interests Dr. Nash most about the Dana Program is its focus on citizenship and service. For him, it is “precisely the population of future individuals participating in service/leadership in communities that [he] want[s] to have broader experience in the issues that the class presents.” The FYS gives these students the ability to work with religion in a more sophisticated measure.

Dr. Nash likes the liberal arts for the way it recognizes that reality isn't siloed off into different categories. In order for an individual to be the best version of themselves in the world,

they need the ability and experience to be sophisticated in different areas. A liberal arts education enriches a student in both directions.

For incoming students, Dr. Nash advises to engage but don't overcommit! Take advantage of the opportunity to go out, experience and try new things, but to do it within reason.

Dana Scholars Anti-Racism Initiative

Written by Gabrielle McCabe

The Dana Scholars Anti-Racism Initiative was started in 2020 by Dani Barrett and Celeste Samson, accompanied by many other dedicated Dana students, to address the events of summer 2020, including the murders of George Floyd and Breona Taylor, Black Lives Matter demonstrations, and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Along with other Dana volunteers, they led a panel on Anti-Racism in Academia for interested Dana Scholar students, with speakers Brooke Vick, Emanuela Kucik, and Robin Riley Casey. Starting at the beginning of this school year, Dana interns Peyton Sloan ('23), Lydia Brubaker ('24), and Gabrielle McCabe ('24) worked with Dana volunteers Maddy Cilley ('25), Abby Bresalier ('25), Natalie McElhinny ('25), and Franny Muffoletto ('25) to continue their work.

Throughout this school year, this group of Dana Scholars has been meeting to plan a panel promoting anti-racist causes. Every member of the group did lots of research on the topics of Predominantly White Institutions, microaggressions, the psychology of diversity work, and basic critical race theory. The fall was spent collecting this research, and beginning in the spring the Danas moved into planning the logistics of the panel, including the overarching topic that would be discussed and the specific language to be used.

The group held their panel, entitled Uncovering the PWI, on April 4th, 2022 with an audience of both Dana Students and the Muhlenberg public. The Scholars were joined by speakers Dr. Emanuela Kucik, Assistant Professor of English Literatures and Writing and Africana Studies Director, and Dr. Justin Preddie, Psychology Consortium for Faculty Diversity Fellow and Incoming Assistant Professor of Psychology and Africana Studies. The Danas defined concepts such as Color Blindness, the Imposter Phenomenon, and the Invisible Labor Clause to create a basis of knowledge in the audience before moving into specifics. Then, Muhlenberg was placed in context, citing examples of spaces for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color to thrive on campus, as well as the need for accountability in our institution.

Dr. Preddie was asked to speak on the topic of the psychological impacts of Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color within PWIs, as well as the ways in which communities are formed around identity. He opened a discussion about how students find their place on campus, and how Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color can create their own communities within the Predominantly White groups and spaces that exist, as well as finding comfortable ways to manage those areas that don't offer legitimate inclusion. Dr. Kucik focused her talk upon where Anti-Racism skills find their way into her classroom, as well as the impacts of intersectionality and creating a sense of belonging. She provided examples from her own syllabi and classroom tactics for inviting inclusivity into the space. Beyond academic spaces, Dr. Kucik shared extracurricular examples of programming that emphasize and celebrate the diversity in Muhlenberg's community.

The Dana Anti-Racism Initiative is so grateful for the support of Dr. Hashim, Dr. Kucik, and Dr. Preddie throughout this whole process, as well as the Sedehi Diversity Project, Student Government Association, and Dana Scholars Program.

Dana Senior Accolades

Caroline Armknecht

- Varsity Women's Tennis Captain and MVP Award (2021-2022)
- LVAIAW Outstanding Women's Tennis Athlete (2022)
- 3rd Author of Poster Presentation at International Brain Injury Association Conference (Fall 2022)
- Research Assistant in Gotthard Memory Reconsolidation Lab
- Co-author of Poster Presentation at Association for Psychological Science Conference (Summer 2022)
- Chi Alpha Sigma Honors
- Phi Sigma Sigma: Ritual Chair (2020) and Panhellenic Delegate (2021)
- Study Abroad MILA: Costa Rica (Spring 2021)
- PEO Star Scholarship
- Peer Tutor: Psychological Statistics, Research Methods, and Spanish
- End Overdose Together Community Trainer

Marielle Avola

- Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society
- Dean's List every semester
- William A. Flamish Award in Neuroscience (Spring 2022)
- Centennial Conference All-Conference Team (Spring 2021)
- Centennial Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year for Track & Field (2021)
- Centennial Conference Women's 3k Steeplechase Champion (Spring 2021)

- Achieved All-Region placement in Mid-East Regional Cross-Country Meet (Fall 2018)
- All-Region placement (8th) Metropolitan Regional Cross-Country Meet (Fall 2021)
- DIII National Qualifier Cross-Country (Fall 2021)

Danielle Barrett

- Alpha Chi Omega: Founding Co-Chair of DEI board
- Muhlenberg Dance Association: Danceworks Coordinator
- Performed in 4 Mainstage productions
- Dance Talent Scholarship
- Presidential Scholarship
- Presenter of research at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference (2021)
- Campus Tour Guide

Corinne Battistelli

- Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society
- Delta Phi Alpha National German Honor Society
- Recipient of *The Futter Prize for Achievements in and Contributions to German Studies* (Spring 2020)
- Dean's List (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
- Presidential Scholarship recipient
- Phi Mu Chapter Member of the Year, 2022
- Ritual Chair, Phi Mu Fraternity (Fall 2021)
- Greek Week Chair, Phi Mu Fraternity (Spring 2020)

- Reference Chair, Phi Mu Fraternity (2020 & 2021)
- New Member Education Team Member, Phi Mu Fraternity (Fall 2020 & Fall 2021)
- Nominating Committee Member, Phi Mu Fraternity (Fall 2020)
- The Muhlenberg Weekly writer, 9 articles published
- Orientation Team Leader (2020)
- Orientation Leader (2019)
- Campus Delegate

Katherine Behling

- Sigma Tau Delta (English Honors Society)
- Phi Beta Kappa (Academic Honors Society)
- Received High Honors in Media and Communication
- Presenter at the 2022 National Conference for Undergraduate Research
- Presenter at the 2022 Popular Culture Association Conference
- Head Tutor of Italian and Media and Communication
- 2022 Muhlenberg Weekly Journalism Awards, 2nd Place for Feature Story
- 2020 Edwin J. Miller Awards in Creative Writing, 3rd Place for Poetry
- Treasurer, MUSES Art and Literary Magazine
- Treasurer, Students for Queer Advocacy

Frances Bixby

- Dean's List
- Damsels in Excess: Member
- Muhlenberg Comedy Association: Member
- Muhlenberg Theatre Association: Member

- Society of American Fight Directors: Certified in Rapier & Dagger
- Recipient of the Corona D'alloro prize in Italian Studies
- Theatre Talent Scholarship

Rebekka Broyles

- Dana Senior Class Representative
- Relay for Life President
- Dean's List
- San Antonio Area Foundation Scholarship recipient (2018-2022)
- Flour Power Baking Cub President
- Hall Director

Natalie David

- Muhlenberg Henry Melchior Scholarship
- Music Talent Scholarship
- Dean's List: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- Epsi Guinto First-Year Writing Award Finalist
- Abington-Jefferson Pre-Medical Program (2020)
- Challah for Hunger National Campus Hunger Project Cohort Leader (2019-2020)
- Muhlenberg Challah for Hunger President (2020-2022)
- Dean's Summer Research Grant (2021)
- Alpha Epsilon Delta (Vice-President 2022)
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Theta Alpha Kappa
- Challah for Hunger national "Challah Hero"

- 1st Author Publication in *Frontiers of Ecology & Evolution*, April 2022
- The Louis J. Jacobs Premedical Prize
- Matriculation to Emory University School of Medicine, Class of 2026

Elizabeth Gershater

- Dean's List
- Peer Tutor
- Published in the Muhlenberg Academic Review
- Published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences

Rose Glantz

- Varsity Athlete and Captain: Tennis
- Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll
- Vice President of Accounting Society
- Delta Zeta member
- Contributing Editor for the Muhlenberg Academic Review
- Muhlenberg Student Code of Conduct Advisor

Lindsey Harris

- Muhlenberg Russian Honors Society
- Dean's List recipient
- University of Notre Dame Class of 2024, obtaining PhD in Biochemistry

Brandon Herbst

- Dean's List
- Member of Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society
- Member of Pre-Dental Club
- Presidential Merit Scholarship
- Captain and Treasurer of the Ultimate Frisbee Team

- Tour Guide
- University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Class of 2026

Hallie Hoffman

- Media & Communication Honors Program (awarded High Honors)
- Noel R. and Edith J. Moyer Award in Philosophy
- Phi Sigma Tau (Honors Society in Philosophy)
- Phi Beta Kappa (National Honors Society)
- 2020 Library Scholar Award
- Presidential Merit Scholarship
- Music Talent Scholarship
- Contributing Editor for the Muhlenberg Academic Review
- "Playing the Audience in More Ways Than One: BuzzFeed's Winning Strategy" published by the Muhlenberg Academic Review
- "By the People, For the People: The Duty to Act and Dissent in the Polis" published by the Muhlenberg Academic Review
- Student Tour Guide Coordinator
- Campus Delegate
- Peer Tutor

Shivani Iyer

- Presidential Merit Scholarship Recipient
- Dean's List Recipient (All Semesters)
- Recipient of the Kurt M. Theide Prize
- 1st Author Presenter at The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Prevention's 2021 International Conference
- 1st Author Presenter at the North American Society for Sport History's 2021 Conference

- 1st Author Presenter at the Ohio State University Sports and Society Initiative Student Research Fair
- Recipient of the Outstanding Public Health Research Award from the Ohio State University SSI Research Fair
- Coauthor of Abstract Entitled "A Helmet of Her Own" in BMJ's *Injury Prevention*
- Recruitment Director for the Muhlenberg College Tour Guide Program
- Treasurer for Top Naach (Muhlenberg's South Asian Affinity Group)
- Residential Advisor
- 3-4 Bio Dental Program with Muhlenberg College and University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine

Viet Le

- Penn State College of Medicine Class of 2026
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Alpha Alpha Alpha
- Alpha Epsilon Delta
- Comparative Genomics Research Assistant
- Lehigh Valley Molecular Cell Biology Society Symposium (2021)
- Peer Tutor

Ara Ludwig

- President and Captain of the Muhlenberg Ultimate Frisbee Team
- Student Worker at the Office Of Community Engagement
- Learning Assistant for Psychological Statistics
- Peer Tutor: Calculus I, Statistical Analysis, Intro to Psychology

- Presidential Merit Scholarship
- Tri-Alpha Honors Member

Owen Mendes

- Editor-in-Chief of the Muhlenberg Academic Review
- Lead Tutor of the Writing Center
- Presenter at the Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society Conference, 2022

Jennifer Moretti

- Writing Assistant
- Writing Mentor
- Writing Associate
- Lead Tutor
- Honorable Mention for 2019 Epsi Guinto Young Writers Award
- Dean's List, 8 semesters
- First chair clarinet, Wind Ensemble
- Content Editor for Muhlenberg Academic Review
- Contributor to *Energy, Ecocriticism, and Nineteenth-Century Fiction: Novel Ecologies*
- Presidential Merit Scholarship
- Musical Talent Scholarship

Victoria Retterholt

- Head Tutor with Academic Resource Center
- Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society
- President & Founder of Pre-Physician Assistant Club
- Presenter at Society for Neuroscience Conference 2021
- Presenter at Association for Psychological Science Conference 2022
- Researcher in Dr. Gotthard's Neuroscience Lab
- Public Health Summer Research Grant (2020): HIV/AIDS in the

Hispanic/Latinx Community of
the Lehigh Valley

Celeste Samson

- Music Director of Inacchord
- Dana Anti-Racism Initiative Intern
- Inclusivity and Equity Chair of the Muhlenberg Theatre Association
- Theatre and Dance Student Alumni AntiRacism Committee Secretary
- Tour Guide

Eliana Schuster

- Phi Beta Kappa
- High Honors in Media and Communication
- Lead Tutor in the Writing Center
- Head Tutor in the Academic Resource Center
- Presenter at Pop Culture Association Conference 2022
- Presenter at National Conference of Undergraduate Research 2022
- Contributing Editor of Muhlenberg Academic Review; Writing Comments and Reading Comments: Acts of Self-Discovery in the Social Media Forum published

Kevan Shah

- Stephen A. Schwarzman Scholarship
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship
- Newman Civic Fellowship
- President's Award
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Executive Director, End Overdose Together

- Researcher in Public Health – Dr. Cronin
- Researcher in Neuroscience – Gotthard Lab
- Pennsylvania State Opioid Response \$100K Grant Recipient
- Summer Research Grant Recipient
- Tour Guide & Campus Delegate

Jonah Silverman

- Phi Beta Kappa member
- Phi Mu Epsilon Member
- CCSCE (Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges Eastern Conference) Competitive Programming Contest Winner (With Ryan Hebert)
- Member of Dr. Amy Hark's Lab

Alexandra Whittington

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Presidential Scholarship
- Sherman Scholarship
- Theatre Talent Scholarship
- Secretary of the Muhlenberg Dance Association
- Co-Vice President of the Perkulators Jazz Dance Team
- Tour Guide
- Campus Delegate

Christina Xu

- Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Class of 2026
- Henry Melchior Merit Scholarship Recipient
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Phi Mu : Member, Committee Head
- Peer Tutor
- Tour Guide Executive Board Mentor & Campus Delegate
- Pre-Dental Club : President
- Peer Health Advocate of Muhlenberg (PHAM)

- Women in STEM : Vice President
- Research Assistant, 1st Author and Presenter: International Association for Dental Research (2021), Pennsylvania Academy of Science (2021), Lehigh Valley Molecular and Cell Biology Society symposium (2021), Dean's Summer Research Grant (2021)
- Flute Ensemble Member