



The Dana Interviewer



Fall 2008

Interviews By First Year Danas in:

FYS: To Hell & Back with Dr. Coppa

And

FYS: Representing the Age of Revolution

with Dr. Cragin



Featuring the Class of 2009 Dana Scholars

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

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<http://www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/interdis/dana/index.html>

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AJ Barnold By Allison Hollows

“The Dana program has really prepared me more on an individual level for whatever comes after Muhlenberg” says A.J. A psychology major with a public health minor, he says that the mentorship and internship experiences have taught him to work on a more individualized level. “It requires a different kind of initiative and way of working.” For his mentorship last year, A.J. worked on researching the effects of sex and race issues in the presidential primaries with Dr. Wolfe. He then presented their findings at the LVAIC Psychology Conference this past spring. For his internship this year A.J. is working on a sports psychology project with Dr. Richmond. He says that working alongside a professor on a project is drastically different than sitting in a class with fellow students. “I think had I not been pushed to look for the individual opportunities, that maybe my time here [at Muhlenberg] wouldn't have been quite as engaging and interesting.” Besides keeping busy with classes and psychological research, A.J. is also an avid soccer player. Just before sophomore year he received the opportunity to visit England, Scotland and Wales with the soccer team. He was impressed by the people’s enthusiasm for the game, “the fans over there live and breathe soccer” he says. Regardless of what he chooses to do after graduation, be it grad school or a job, A.J. feels that Muhlenberg College and the Dana Associate program has helped to prepare him for whatever comes.

Ross Cohen By Lisa Peterson

Ross Cohen is a biology major from East Brunswick, New Jersey. Besides being a part of the Dana Program, he has also been a tour guide, a tutor, and a member of the track and cross country teams at Muhlenberg. Ross’s internship was at Lehigh Valley Hospital, where he would spend about 8 hours a week shadowing doctors in the emergency room. Not only did it help him gain valuable experience as an intern, it provided exciting opportunities to watch the doctors in action, as each day would bring new and unexpected situations—one day he even got to see the doctors bring someone back to life after they had already died! Ross spent part of this past summer here at Muhlenberg doing an independent study in biochemistry with Dr. Hark and Dr. McCain, where he used a scanning electron microscope to learn about the development of plants. In addition to his internship and independent study over the summer, Ross also took his passion for science to Costa Rica on a trip for a biology class where he spent a few weeks exploring the rainforests and doing a project which involved testing the soil quality on farms. He has another trip to look forward to this winter break, when he’ll go to Paris for a business class. He plans to go to medical school next year to become a doctor and is currently in the process of applying to several different universities. The work he’s done at Muhlenberg and his experiences through the Dana program will definitely set him up for a great start after graduation this spring.



Kimberlee Koehler By Anvi Patel

Kimberlee Koehler is an Accounting & Finance major working on completing her final year as an undergraduate at Muhlenberg College. Kimberlee feels that there are numerous benefits to being a Dana Scholar, one of them being the fact that it has helped her stay on track and focus on her studies. On the other hand, she appreciates being pushed beyond the normal Liberal Arts requirements through the Dana Program to obtain a more well-rounded education. She believes that her First Year Seminar with Dr. Chi was very rewarding as it helped her understand how to express her opinion and open up. Kimberlee later explained that she is also very grateful for the research opportunities that the Dana Scholars Program has provided her. In the summer before her junior year she was able to intern in the corporate pricing department of the NJ Avis Budget Group working to create prices for rental cars. She also participated in an internship at Deloitte & Touche, through which she was able to work in the NJ ADP group that makes payrolls for other companies. Here she audited the financial statements of the 'other companies'. Kimberlee feels that both internships have helped her understand how she can apply her expertise to the world and have given her the ability to understand how the economy functions. Although she has a full time offer at Deloitte & Touche, she would like to explore other options. Kimberlee's gratefulness to the Dana Scholars Program, has inspired me and encouraged me to explore any opportunity because you never know what you may learn.

William Dalton By Leah Holleran

Billy Dalton is a senior with a major in finance and business. He participates on campus in intramural softball and basketball, is a peer tutor, and is captain of the varsity soccer team. He is also a part of the Dana program, which he says has been such a good experience because of the unique opportunities it offers and the interesting and intellectual people he has met through the program. Billy interned on the stock-trading floor of Pershing LLC, a part of the Bank of NY in Jersey City, NJ. He worked in financial services with the traders on the floor, calculating commissions and filling out trade tickets. Billy explained that although it took a lot of work, it was still a lot of fun and was a very valuable experience for him. It enabled him to watch the world's finance market and its inner workings every day, in a real-world setting. His mentorship was in the business department, working with Dr. Raymond on behavioral finance (which involves determining how psychology affects the economic world, such as finance and investments). Billy said that this one-on-one relationship with a faculty member was so different, and such a good experience, because it was more of a partnership than the classic teacher-student relationship. Also, working on a project like this with a professor was valuable because, as equals, both teacher and student could make new discoveries. Although Billy did not always know that this was what he wanted to do with his life, and was very late in deciding on a major, he says that after taking all of the finance and business pre-requisites and participating in all of these elements of the Dana program, it seems like the right place for him. All in all, the future looks bright.



Veronica Taylor By Brittany Sherman

Through her studies here at Muhlenberg and involvement in the Dana Scholars program, Veronica Taylor has become a great example of how hard work and dedication can lead to outstanding achievements and wonderful life changing opportunities. Veronica is a Biology major with an exciting future ahead of her as a participant in Muhlenberg's 4-4 medical school program with Drexel. Veronica is currently interning at Lehigh Valley Hospital where she is shadowing various specialties within the pediatric unit. At the start of the experience she hadn't chosen a specific specialty, and her open-mindedness has allowed her to work with a variety of both patients and doctors. Not only has the experience given her an idea of what to expect with different approaches to medicine, she has also had the opportunity to speak with current medical students enrolled at Drexel which has given her some idea of what to expect next year. Veronica also had the opportunity in the summer after her junior year to complete her mentorship with Dr. Wightman of the biology department. She was led to his particular lab because of her interest in genetics, and she spent 10 weeks of the summer researching a gene called *nhr-67*, which functions in the development of various cells and organs. Along with a group of other Muhlenberg students who were also researching this gene alongside Dr. Wightman, Veronica presented her findings at a conference in Philadelphia where she and her classmates were some of the only undergraduate students. As if the above achievements weren't enough, Veronica has been a dedicated tutor for the sciences since her sophomore year, and she is now a chemistry learning assistant for Dr. Shive. Above all, she is a great example of a well-rounded Dana scholar, and a wonderful contribution to our Muhlenberg community.



Katie Bemis By Daina Nanchanatt

Senior Katherine Bemis is truly a model for not only Dana Scholars, but the whole of the Muhlenberg community. Katherine is majoring in Psychology and Elementary Education here at Muhlenberg. She hopes to continue on to get her masters in special education. Katherine has participated in an internship at the Children's Vitalistic Therapeutic Center. This experience has helped her realize her passion for special education and hope to pursue the field in the future. Presently, Katherine is participating in a mentorship under the guidance of Dr. Rudski of the psychology department. She is assisting Dr. Rudski in his research on the perceptions of Autism. She is not only dedicated to her studies as a Dana Scholar, but is actively involved in many community service and extracurricular activities on campus. She is actively involved in the Community Service Office, which participates in projects such as Daybreak, Jefferson Field Day, Pinebrook Christmas party, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, and AmeriCorps Scholars in Service. She is also a member of delta zeta and student council as the chair of Campus and Community Affairs and Spirit Week Committee. Katherine although enjoying her time as a senior, looks forward towards graduation and is excited for whatever comes in the future. She says that the Dana Scholar program has "provided me with hands-on, real-world experiences I could not have had in a regular classroom setting." With the dedication and commitment to not only her studies, but to the Muhlenberg and outside communities, that Katherine has shown throughout her four years at Muhlenberg, she is sure to be very successful in her future endeavors.



Victoria Davis By Elena Voonasis

Victoria Davis is a senior in the Dana Associates Honors Program, originally from Centennial, Colorado. She is a Media & Communications and English double major. Her interests lie in publishing and journalism. She is currently the executive editor for the Muhlenberg Weekly newspaper. She started off at Muhlenberg Weekly as a sports writer before working her way up. Some of her fondest memories at Muhlenberg are of being in the ML Underground frantically churning out the newspaper layout with her fellow reporters and editors. Victoria said that the internship requirement in the Dana Program increased her motivation to get important job experience, resulting in her doing three internships throughout her time at Muhlenberg. This semester she is working at the Morning Call, a daily Allentown newspaper, as a sports reporter. Victoria also worked on the layout and content of the Dana Interviewer as another internship. Victoria also did worked with Dr. Stephen of the English department, helping to research topics for a First Year Seminar offered this year. She even cited Dr. Stephen as one of her mentors at Muhlenberg College, saying that Dr. Stephen “makes me love what I’m reading or studying, I’ve taken four or five of her classes.” As for her post-graduation plans Victoria is applying for a 4 week summer program at the Denver Publishing Institute in Colorado focused on journalism and publishing. After hopefully enrolling in the summer program, her goal is to write for a paper in Denver to get a few years of job experience before going to grad school. When asked what about the Dana Program challenged or influenced her, Victoria thought back on her First Year Seminar, Male, Female, & In-between, which dealt with gender identity. While it was not a subject that she would’ve chosen herself, it proved to be very interesting and forced her to see the world through many different perspectives. At times overwhelming, the seminar proved to challenge her intellectually and to force her to question her own thoughts on the subject. After surviving such an intense experience Victoria felt prepared to face all of the other academic challenges which Muhlenberg offers.



Louisa Balch By Jamie Sklar

Louisa Balch is a driven and passionate DANA scholar who has made the most of her college experience. She is completing theater major with a business minor and hopes to use her education to go into the field of theater management. Louisa has shown an interest in theater since third grade. She grew up involved in school productions and, during high school and continuing in college, she realized that she also enjoys the business side of putting on plays. She feels that this career choice will “combine [her] different interests and aspects of [her] personality.”

Louisa is an active member of MTA (Muhlenberg Theater Association) as well as the College Choir, Step Team, and is a peer tutor in microeconomics and accounting. She has worked behind the scenes on several Muhlenberg productions including “Life’s a Dream”, “Émigré”, “Twilight Zone”, and most recently, “Oklahoma.” Although she enjoyed working on all of the plays, her favorite was “Twilight Zone” because, as a black box, it was more intimate. She also really liked the concept and the creativity that went into the lighting and sound effects.

After graduation, Louisa plans to find work in arts administration in New York City. However, she was also inspired by a rewarding travel abroad experience in Egypt to search for positions in Europe. She fondly recalls her trip to Cairo as her favorite college experience. There, she learned “independence, problem solving, and developed a much better understanding of the Middle East.” She is looking forward to returning to Egypt at some time in the future.

Upon reflection of the past four years, Louisa has felt that her world has vastly expanded and continues to expand. Through study abroad experience and through her classes, she has learned independence, better understanding of different peoples, and has honed the ability to better articulate her thoughts. Louisa notes, “...one thing Muhlenberg is really good at is getting students to analyze things more critically. That was something that was so different from high school for me, and has been a constant in pretty much all my classes - really looking at and dealing with the complications and ambiguities of different issues.” Louisa’s favorite class thus far has been Performance Studies with Professor Jim Peck. The class gave her an interesting lens to view and talk about everyday occurrences. She also enjoyed the discussion based format of the class which contributed to a lively, open learning environment. She also credits the DANA program with bringing together a “group of peers who value learning for the sake of learning” as much as she does. She also is appreciative of the flexibility of the DANA requirements. For her internship, for example, she was able to explore her interest in production management by working with the West End Alliance to promote arts and culture in Allentown.

Overall, Louisa has loved her college experience. To all the underclassmen, she suggests that they studying abroad. “The college has so many good services that are free now and won't be in the real world, so take advantage of them!”



Oren Smith

By Jennifer Bleznak

Oren Smith is a senior Dana Associate who has made great use of his past three years at Muhlenberg. When Oren first arrived on campus he intended on majoring in media and communications. As he became increasingly interested in sociology and advertising, Oren adopted a second major in business and marketing. His long-term goal is to combine his interests and work with a creative advertising firm where he can use his skills in a variety of national and international campaigns. Oren was an intern with Aramark at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston two summers ago. He was involved in various aspects of coordinating special events, from sales office work to collaborating with other venues. Oren studied abroad last year in Brussels, Belgium. He chose this location because of its central location in Europe. This convenience allowed Oren to travel and visit surrounding countries throughout the program. Oren is currently involved in a mentorship with Dr. Pooley in the communication department researching the marketing of self. He is specifically focusing his study on the influence of Facebook in self-presentation. Oren has certainly contributed to Muhlenberg College, but our campus has left a lasting impression on him, as well. Oren believes that his experience on our campus was so positive because of the types of students that build such a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Jeff Levy

By Joe Fielding

I recently sat down with Jeff Levy, a senior member of the Muhlenberg DANA Scholars Program, to talk about what the program has meant to his Muhlenberg experience, and future. He took his internship at Deloitte & Touche, a firm at which he will have a job after graduation. While his internship was certainly of importance with regards to his job experience and future career in the field of accounting, he says while the DANA scholars program gave him a nudge to actively search out an internship, it was something he would have sought out on his own. Jeff feels as though the most important part of his college career at Muhlenberg as a DANA scholar has been the DANA FYS. Being together with other students of similar academic caliber in a discussion-based class encourages an atmosphere of intellectual collaboration rivaling that of any higher-level college or university. It is the experience of the first year seminar--of a high-powered, stimulating environment--that DANA's are able to then take and apply to different classes throughout their years at Muhlenberg. Furthermore, the seminar is one of the only shared experiences of the DANA's and consequently one of the only formal opportunities for bonding among DANA's in order to create a sense of academic community. This makes the DANA FYS one of the most important experiences for any DANA student not only in their career as a DANA, but in their career as a Muhlenberg student.



Jennifer Lavelle By Jennifer Curtis

Jennifer Lavelle, now a senior in the Dana Program, has “never exactly been sure” of what she wants to do with her life. An English major and recent Environmental Studies and Political Science minor, the possibilities seem endless. Thankfully, as a Dana, she has been given the freedom and opportunity to fully explore her options. “I love the independence,” she says of her experience in the program. “No one is standing over your shoulder. It’s challenging but it allows you to explore for yourself.” Her resume is a testament to that. During her internship, she worked for a grass-roots organization coordinating and publishing a 96-page guide promoting sustainability, putting her English and Environmental Studies knowledge to practical use. She has also produced a 16-page Earth Day Calendar, written for the Muhlenberg Weekly, collaborated on a number of environmental and semi-political events on campus, and she plans to study environmental justice in Africa for her independent research project. Jennifer explains that it is her involvement with the Dana Program that has allowed for this exploration. “It’s a great chance to pursue individual interests,” she explains. Take the Senior Forum, in which Dana members discuss Politics, Ethics and Citizenship as group. Although Jennifer allows that the Forum needs some revising, she adds it often generates “good general ideas” from “some of the brightest minds on campus.” It is from these discussions that she generated the idea for independent research project. This sharing of ideas, in combination with the freedom the program provides, has taken Jennifer in a direction she’s not sure she would have otherwise found. “That’s what separates the Dana Program,” she says. “*Practical experience*. You figure out how to put ideas into a realistic context.” In terms of the future, Jennifer’s still not completely sure what she will pursue. “I’d like to go to Graduate school eventually,” she remarks, “but I need some more experience first. I’m interested in grass-roots environmental activism, but also environmental policy, international and domestic... You need to know what you want to do before you go to Grad school and you need to do it for the right reasons.” She feels the freedom of the Dana Program, as well as her practical experience, has provided her with the springboard to do whatever she wants. “I’ve never regretted my decision to come to Muhlenberg and be a Dana,” she says, “I really think it’s really prepared me and it’s been a great experience!”

Introspective By Jon Morgan

It is difficult for me to make comment as to the nature of what being a Dana scholar means to me thus far. In fact, the only thing I am certain of thus far is that Danas are most certainly not your run-of-the-mill, standard issue, brand x students. Our interests and goals vary just as much as other students our age and our backgrounds and belief systems are equally as diverse. But the one thing that is an absolute truth is that Danas are thinkers. The very nature of our existence and what we expect out of life has to do much with the observations that we make and the means by which we process that information to define who we are. The degree at which most Dana students process that direct sensory information is what I consider (cont. on next page)



(cont. from previous page) to be a higher level. Analyzing and synthesizing the raw data is what Danas do best; it has little to do with the memorization and the regurgitation of information without processing it. I feel as though much of the college process will help to foster and develop this thought process. Whereas right now we may be able to look at A and draw a conclusion at C, in four years we may be able to draw conclusion Z.

It can't be denied that Danas have the ability to analyze and synthesize at a higher level than most. In fact, I believe that is what separates us from a typical student. Most college students attend college to learn how to think, figure out what they want to do in life, and then get the specifics. Danas have already started that higher level thought process and most are already on their way to planning out their life and getting the specifics for their chosen path. One thing is a certainty, however, we Danas are a force to be reckoned with.

Kathryn N.

By Matthew Levy

In my interview with Kathryn, I found that people in the DANA scholars program enjoy their time here at Muhlenberg. She found though, her experiences were not much affected by her title as DANA scholar. When asked “Do you find professors treat you differently when they know you are a DANA scholar?” She answered, “I've rarely informed professors that I was a DANA scholar so I have no experience being treated differently.” Professors have a general respect for students at Muhlenberg and hope that all students get involved and enjoy their classes. Also when asked, “Do you ever feel pressure from professors to get an A in their class because you are a DANA?” She answered, “Again, I don't really have any experience with this.” Although her academic pressures seem to be not influenced by her title she does admit there are advantages. For example, when asked, “What do you find to be the advantages of the DANA program?” Kathryn answered, “The internship/mentorship requirements have pushed me to get involved in some really interesting, valuable research that I might not have otherwise sought out.” These advantages of an internship and mentorship requirement pushes some Muhlenberg DANA Scholars to get involved in something they may have no experience in and possibly find that they love research. It also allows people who have done research in the past to further their experiences and/or love. I myself conducted cancer research in high school at Stony Brook University and cannot wait to do research in the sciences here at Muhlenberg. Kathryn's social life at Muhlenberg seems to have been little affected by the DANA scholars program. When asked, “Do you interact with other DANA scholars on a regular basis?” Kathryn answered, “I made a few friends from my freshman year seminar that I kept in contact with, but for the most part no.” On being in classes with other DANAs, Kathryn said, “This semester I was in class with all of the DANA seniors which has been a really enjoyable experience and I've gotten to meet some extremely interesting, intelligent people.” I have come to the conclusion that although DANAs meet during their Freshman Writing Seminar, rarely do they have an experience as I have. At Muhlenberg, many of my closest friends are DANAs and I find that when we have discussions, we usually end up talking about something I think is extremely relevant to current politics or world affairs. Although I know that not just DANAs are capable of these discussions, as it would be silly to think that, I find that DANA scholars, for the most part, thoroughly enjoy topics of discussion that are at a higher level. Considering Kathryn's and my experiences, I can say that DANA scholars enjoy their time here.



“To Hell and Back”

By Josh Bohn

Over the past four months, freshman students in the “To Hell and Back” First Year Seminar have explored four different representations of Hell. So far, students have read four texts, each of which represents Hell in a very different way. The first text, Dante’s *Inferno*, presented an “epic” illustration of Biblical Hell that took the better part of two months to explore. Despite the fact that the First Year Seminar has advanced to other texts, Dante’s *Inferno* continues to serve as a “lens” through which the other texts we have read can be interpreted, and parallels between Dante’s *Inferno* and other texts are often brought up in class discussions. The three other texts include two plays (Weiss’ “The Investigation” and Satre’s “No Exit”), and a novel (“American Psycho”).

In general, class meetings take place in a casual atmosphere, with the students and the professor sitting around a table holding discussions. Such a format is a huge change from what many students experienced in high school, in which many classes consisted of sitting at desks scribbling notes while teachers wrote notes down on the board. In “To Hell and Back,” students not only participate but are encouraged to. Students in general usually mark specific parts of the text prior to class, and bring up these passages and quotes for discussion; usually, more than one person discusses each piece of textual evidence.

Students in this First Year Seminar have also finished two formal essays to hand in so far, with the third and final paper’s deadline on the close horizon. This of course does not include the multitude of two page papers that are assigned weekly. In addition to essays, a map of Dante’s Hell was recently handed in, portraying the geography and structure of the underworld.

Carolyn Martin
by Kevin Tomasura

It is quite the unique experience to be charged with the task of interviewing a Dana Scholar. This task would be interesting enough as it is, but take into the account that this said Dana is a well-established upperclassman, primed and ready to enter what we so call the “real world”, and the fact that I, myself am an up-and-coming Dana still fledgling in my freshmen year, and you have the recipe for something on par with fortune telling. With every inquiry comes a little revelation and (cont, on next page)

The Dana Interviewer

(cont. on previous page) prophecy of what awaits me in my own experiences as a Dana to come. So what is it that awaits me in these coming years? Quite a lot. Carolyn Martin is that aforementioned well-established upperclassman that I speak of, and she would come to be my personal Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, yet in a far less grim way. A thoroughly interesting person in her own right as well as a talented scholar, she began her Dana experience but just a few years ago. Once in the shoes that I now occupy, she entered the world of being a Dana by first redefining what this world itself meant to her. Her thought-provoking first year seminar, *Boundaries and Belonging* with Dr. Chi, would challenge her preconceived notions as well as offer her a chance to grow in her own way. Here, within the very beginnings of her college experience, she learned some of the most fundamental lessons she was to gain in all her years at Muhlenberg. Among those lessons she learned how not just learn, but to learn *with*. A Dana full of a class of the just the same, but not quite, she learned to open herself the myriad of opinions that lie before her in the form of her diverse, and intellectually active classmates. The lessons she learned here and from those first classmates have never left, and neither have those classmates themselves. Many were friends from day 1, and even today she is proud to say she has retained them, and all the lessons they have given her. The passions to learn that these young men and women evoked, have yet to be contained even still. From here humble origins as a freshmen Dana, Carolyn went on to experience what lie ahead of her: the true point and purpose of the Dana Program. Though her FYS had to come to an end, she was hardly done with even half of what this prestigious program entails. Her next foray into the Dana experience would be her internship with United Retail, Inc. Although she described her internship as “pretty standard”, she nevertheless went on to cite the “indescribable impact” that this experience had on her life. Thrusting her into the corporate world, her internship with this company allowed her to derive vital life experience. Lucky enough to find the job through a family connection, Carolyn began working as an intern for this chain of retail stores in their Shop@Home department. As the name suggests, her job was to entice shoppers at home, online, to buy her organization’s product. Though she never would of thought of finding herself in that position, revising websites and battling completion in the corporate battlefield, with her anthropology and communications majors, she hardly belittles the rewards she gained from her internship. While she admits that this internship may not have set her up for future work because of her, “need to be constantly moving around, meeting people and [having] a different task to face everyday”, and her dislike of the normal office job, she has gained much from it nonetheless. Taking these lessons and applying them actively, Carolyn now continues to play her part as a Dana, deliberating between entering yet another internship in a museum and entering the typically suggested mentorship with a professor. Whatever is to come, Carolyn knows that she can attribute much of it to those lessons she learned from day 1. Be it in the classroom, or at work, she had been learning and growing as a person, building upon those dreams since youth (in her case, her interest of working in a museum has always been there), and finding her place in the world. For it all, being a Dana has helped her much along the way, motivating her and establishing the connections and opportunities that she may have missed otherwise. In reflection of her own run through the gauntlet of these trials and tribulations, she leaves me and all other Dana with a few words of wisdom, “Take advantage of everything you can through this program”. If I can take her advice, then I will most certainly have the chance to grow as she has done by following it herself.



Kristin Marchese By Louisa deButts

Kristin Marchese has spent her time at Muhlenberg majoring in theatre, with a concentration in both stage management and lighting design, as well as receiving a certification in elementary education. Through the Dana Program, Kristin has found ways to combine her intended careers as a theatre artist and a teacher. During the past two years she completed an internship and a mentorship, both involving theatre. For her internship, this past summer Kristin designed the lighting for a whole summer season of shows for the Holmdale Theatre Company. By completing this internship, Kristin was able to see what it would be like to actually work as a lighting designer. Kristin Marchese's other major project through the Dana Program was her mentorship. For her mentorship, Kristin created an after school art program at the local Union Terrace Elementary school. Before starting the program, Kristin hypothesized how different methods of teaching would affect her students' learning. Through the course of the program, Kristin applied the different methods and observed her students, researching and writing about each one. Overall, Kristin believes that the Dana Program opened up opportunities she would not have otherwise pursued. Her internship and mentorship helped her devise a framework for what she wants to do in the future. Ultimately, Kristin hopes to pursue teaching, most likely in theatre, in the area.

Eric Hammond By Melissa Bressler

Eric Hammond is a senior in the DANA honors program here at Muhlenberg College. During his college search, Eric was unsure of what discipline he wanted to pursue. Because of this, he was looking for a liberal arts school which would allow him to explore various disciplines. He also thought that a smaller school would provide him with an opportunity to get involved in Varsity baseball. This opportunity may not have been able to him at a bigger school. His invitation to the DANA honors program, while exciting, did not play a role in his decision to go to Muhlenberg. Since coming to Muhlenberg, he has found his passion in finance and economics. Eric is a double-major who is particularly interested in seeing how the US economy can shape the global economy and have true social and economic effects worldwide. He was drawn to his major because he wanted to understand the factors that influence this phenomenon. Like all other DANAs, Eric had his first experience with the program in his first-year seminar. DANAs are required to take a DANA-specific first-year seminar and Eric was assigned to take one entitled "Male, Female and In Between." Because the DANA program is so small, including only about thirty students, seminar choices are very limited for DANA students. Like many other DANAs, Eric feels that having more choices would have allowed him to choose a seminar which was more motivating to him. However, though he was not personally interested in the topic of the seminar, his experience did have some positive outcomes. The material of the class helped him to become more open-minded regarding gender and alternative lifestyles. DANAs also take a seminar their senior year. Thankfully, Eric is having a much more enjoyable experience with his senior seminar than he had with his freshman. In fact, his senior seminar is his favorite part of his DANA experience. He loves being able to leisurely discuss relevant political issues without having to worry about receiving a grade. DANA has helped him understand an issue from a variety of angles and has allowed him to recognize the value of different opinions.



Emily Petchler By Meredith Colwell

Since the time of her youth growing up in Connecticut, Emily Petchler, currently a senior in the Dana program here at Muhlenberg College, has had a love for snails and slugs. Today, a Biology – English double major wrapping up her final semesters before graduating from this “small school environment” which she loves so much, Emily is still fascinated by the small critters. For the past two summers, Emily has spent time at Friday Harbor Laboratories, affiliated with the University of Washington, in the San Juan Islands, Washington doing research with Muhlenberg Professor Dr. Iyengar.

Emily has been studying why a certain small marine snail, *Crepidula adunca*, chooses to live on the host snail, *Calliostoma ligatum*, and not another very similar snail, *Margarites pupillus*. Emily has determined that of the two potential host snails, *Calliostoma ligatum* is eaten less frequently by the most common intertidal predators, and is able to escape from predators more quickly than the other potential host snail, *Margarites pupillus*. These two factors—*Calliostoma ligatum*'s lower chance of predation and its faster escape speed compared to *Margarites pupillus*—means that evolution may have driven *Crepidula adunca*'s choice of *Calliostoma ligatum* over *Margarites pupillus*. Choosing *Calliostoma ligatum* as its host over *Margarites pupillus* would mean that *Crepidula adunca* faces less predation, and thus is likely to live longer than if hosted by *Margarites pupillus*.

While Emily did spend most of her time in Washington working in the laboratory on her research, she also had ample amounts of time to explore the San Juan Islands. She also greatly enjoyed having the opportunity to meet fellow scientists with a variety of backgrounds and experiences, and hear their different perspectives on research. Emily credits the Dana program with giving her the opportunities to meet so many new people and gain a better appreciation for the way all people look at the world.

Although research is her biggest passion, Emily also enjoys reading, and plays several musical instruments including the piano, the flute, and the bagpipes. Additionally, Emily is an avid traveler. In her time at Muhlenberg, Emily spent a semester abroad in Australia, at the University of Queensland, in Brisbane. When asked if she would recommend study abroad for other students in the Dana program, or at Muhlenberg in general, Emily emphatically answered, “Yes, go!” and went on to say that she considered it among, “the most valuable things [she's] done here.”

In May, when her journey here at Muhlenberg comes to an end, Emily is planning on taking a year off to work and gain more research experience, ideally with the Smithsonian, but in her very optimistic way she added, “I'll see where I end up.” Ultimately, Emily aspires to acquire her PhD in marine biology so that she can continue her research with marine invertebrates, and become a college professor so she can help foster her love of biology in others, after all she said, “College aged students are a great age to work with.”



Nina Pinette By Rebecca Glassman

As a senior Dana student, Antonina Pinette has had what I would call an extremely fulfilling and unique experience here at Muhlenberg College. Nina is currently an environmental science and political science double major, which she is planning to use to form a career in environmental policy, sustainable development, or natural resource management. On campus, she is the secretary of EnAct, as well as student representative on the President's Greening Committee. Coming from South Portland Maine, Nina is far from home here in Allentown, but in the fall of 2007 she found herself even further from home, as she studied abroad in Kenya with The School for Field Studies. This program in wildlife management and environmental studies allowed the students to interact with local communities and spend time in the field, on safaris doing game counts, bird watching, interviewing farmers, volunteering at local schools and a medical clinic, and more. When asked how the Dana program has been advantageous to her during her college career, Nina stressed that while internships and out-of-class research is a college necessity, being in the Dana program stressed the importance of getting outside the classroom, and provided incentives and opportunities to do so, even some that may not be offered here at school. Nina feels that while class is important, gaining experience outside of the campus really prepared her for the future career. Nina's internship was with the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates program during the summer of 2008, where she worked with a professor at the University of Delaware College of Marine and Earth Studies in Lewes, Delaware. Here, she designed her own research surrounding a potential source of biodiesel, a plant called seashore mallow, to see the effects of seawater as irrigation for the plant. After returning from her semester abroad in Kenya, Nina did her mentorship with Dr. Herrick from the political science department, and together they looked at the environmental policies in Kenya and their effects on environmental conditions there. Currently, the seniors are designing their senior Dana group project. Nina's advice for new Dana students is to make the most of the program and the requirements. She stresses, "Choose internships and topics for a mentorship that you are interested in. It will make doing them more interesting, more fun, and will benefit you more in the long run. Don't do something just because it is a requirement of the program." If anything can be judged by Nina's experience, the freshman Danas have a lot to look forward to!



Joelle Kross By Renee Hopkins

As a theatre major with a double minor in music and French, Joelle Kross has had an inimitable journey as a Dana scholar in her college career. Although initially drawn to Muhlenberg by its welcoming theatre department, her invitation into the Dana program presented her with the promise of an academic challenge that she could tackle in the pursuit of her future career path. It is this involvement in the Dana program that has yielded so many fruitful experiences, ranging from her newfound appreciation for sociology to educating teenagers about the Holocaust. Her first year seminar, “Boundaries and Belonging,” made such an impact on her as she was able to discover how the exploration of the ideas and themes found within sociology pertaining to perspective and power struggles serves as a useful tool in acting and the theatre. The necessity of an internship also drove her to seek opportunities she otherwise might not have explored, such as the various internships she has pursued in the past few years. As a junior, she spent the fall semester studying abroad in London, England, where she participated in the Goldsmith’s Theatre Program. While traveling and taking classes, Joelle also joined the London Philharmonic Choir, performing with other British professionals and students. When she returned to the States for her spring semester, she then created her own internship position with the community service ensemble in the Muhlenberg theatre department. The ensemble toured local middle schools with the play “The Library,” a story of a young Jewish girl in a Germany on the brink of the Holocaust. Joelle therefore developed a corresponding curriculum to the play, going into classrooms to talk about some of the history of the Holocaust, and to let the students get comfortable by doing acting exercises. After viewing the play, group discussions were then held to find the relevance of some of the themes and morals within the play in their own lives. Joelle then trained other Muhlenberg students to use some of the exercises she used in the classrooms for the Youth and Prejudice Conference, a program run through the religion department in local middle schools and high schools. Joelle is currently doing an internship at the Allentown Symphony Hall, where she writes press releases and creates vouchers and press packages. Working directly under the marketing director, Joelle is learning strategies that work in finding what the audience wants and how to provide it in the most feasible way. Although the Dana program acted as a catalyst for all of these opportunities and internships, Joelle truly valued being a Dana scholar for the interdisciplinary approach to her studies it provided. In meeting peers outside of her specific major, and providing exploration and exposure to other fields of study and how they relate to her own. As one of her professors often says, “A person can’t make art about the world unless they know about the world.” In finding a fusion of ideas from theatre and other subjects, Joelle has come to appreciate her art more, and to use her intellectual talent in conjunction with her artistry to effect change in the world. It is with this knowledge and understanding that she looks to continue to grow in her last year at Muhlenberg, using the wisdom she has gained from her freshman seminar to her senior forum to go out into the world and make a difference.



Sherri Spector By Samantha Mangel

Sherri Spector has been an active member of the Muhlenberg community for the past three years. As she enters her senior year, it is clear that she has really left her mark on a school that means a great deal to her. Activities such as Campus Delegates, Tour Guides, Hillel and being a head tutor keep Sherri very busy and active in the Muhlenberg community. Sherri has been a head tutor for the past two years and she helps other students in subjects like Principles of Biology III and General Chemistry I. Furthermore, besides being a Dana, Sherri is also a member of the prestigious honors fraternity, ODK. While Sherri manages to keep busy with activities, she also takes on a heavy academic load. As a pre-med neuroscience major, Sherri enjoys her science courses and preparation for medical school. In the fall, Sherri plans to attend Drexel Medical School as a successful participant in the Muhlenberg 4 and 4 program, which allows exceptional Muhlenberg students admission to Drexel Medical School with minimum GPA and MCAT requirements. Sherri has taken advantage of many of the other superb opportunities that Muhlenberg has to offer. Through the Dana Associates Program, Sherri interned this past summer at Drexel University studying X-ray crystallography where she worked on antibiotics. Furthermore, Sherri is currently interning at Lehigh Valley Medical Center shadowing a plastic surgeon. Finally, Sherri has had the amazing chance to study abroad, which she did during the spring of her junior year in Copenhagen. As a Dana Scholar and senior at Muhlenberg, Sherri Spector successfully models a successful, well-rounded scholar. Combining her passion for medicine with her interest in neuroscience, Sherri has managed to take advantage of every great opportunity Muhlenberg has thrown her way. As she makes her way through her final year here, Sherri maintains that the thing she favors most about Muhlenberg is the community here, to which I think she has contributed so much.



“Representing the Age of Revolutions” By Sara Romanello and Heather Malacaria

As a first year Dana Scholar, one of the privileges we have is being able to take a seminar with other Dana students. This year the two seminars are To Hell and Back, taught by Professor Coppa, and the seminar that we are a part of: Representing the Age of Revolutions with Professor Cragin. Our seminar has given us a unique opportunity to learn about revolution and its culture in the context of a small, intellectually motivating class.

As a specialist on the history of France, Professor Cragin has been able to share the Revolution in great detail through lectures, discussions, and readings. Professor Cragin encourages debate inside and outside of the classroom (as well as revolution).

So far in this course, we have read primary documents by Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau and learned how these philosophers' Enlightenment ideas influenced the French Revolution. We have also studied how various historians' portrayals of the French Revolution and the taking of the Bastille differ based on their ideologies. The reading and analysis of these writings has sharpened our critical eye and improved our ability to identify differences between these writings.

All of our work so far has given us a context within which we will explore Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*. Because of our knowledge of the revolution, we will be able to recognize where Dickens' classic novel deviates from history and ventures further into a fictional past. Our class discussions, in conjunction with our reading of *A Tale of Two Cities*, will also help us understand the significance behind Dickens' distortion of historical fact.

Our study of the French Revolution has taught us the extent to which individuals can impact society. It has made us excited to see how we, as Dana Scholars, will be able to influence the world as a group, and as individuals at Muhlenberg College.



Andrew Brown By Stephanie Plumeri

Andrew Brown is a senior Dana Scholar at Muhlenberg College. He is a double major in Theatre (concentration in directing and performing studies) and English, and enjoys photography, creative writing, and outdoor activities such as hiking and camping.

Andrew Brown applied “everywhere” when it came to his college search, including NYU, Carnegie Mellon, and Columbia. However, the personal feeling of Muhlenberg College and a scholarship were too much for Andrew to pass up.

Brown entered into the Muhlenberg College Dana Scholars program “to be a part of a community of intellectuals”, to find a challenge, and to develop stronger relationships with professors. The scholarship money associated with the program also enticed him to join. Today, Brown does not regret his decision to enter into the Dana Scholars program. Although he wishes the tight sense of community formed in the freshman year seminar (FYS) was stronger during sophomore and junior years, he is enjoying his senior year as a Dana Scholar.

During the spring semester of his junior year, Andrew Brown studied abroad in London. There, one of his professors, Lois Weaver, suggested that he complete a summer internship with her and her comedy troupe, Split Britches. Split Britches, a lesbian comedy troupe, was performing a series of shows in New York City during the summer of 2008. As an intern, Andrew worked as a research assistant and participated in the troupe rehearsals. He also made connections with other performance arts groups in New York City, and worked with them as well.

Currently, Andrew is applying to graduate schools, with his eyes on Berkeley College. However, he is not completely certain if graduate school is his next step. He is looking into “WWOOFing”, working on an organic farm, in Ireland, and he would also like to return to South Africa, where he spent a summer abroad. Brown is confident of what he wants to do in life, but he acknowledges that the world does not always offer the perfect opportunity immediately. Above all, Andrew wants to “go places and make performing art.”

Brown recommends that any student offered the chance to be a Dana Scholar to take the opportunity. While internships are available outside of the program, according to Brown, being a Dana pushes students to get involved, gain more experience, and take an active role in their education. In addition, he believes that all Danas should use their status to their advantage and get involved in the Muhlenberg community. He advises them not to “under-learn,” but rather encourage fellow students to get involved and get excited about learning.

Andrew Brown is also an advocate of a healthy diet. “Eat fiber. Eat lots of fiber.” He recommends avocados as a good source of fiber.



Rachel Leavitt By Amanda Gavin

Rachel Leavitt is a senior psychology and anthropology double major here at Muhlenberg. Rachel was first introduced to the Dana program during her initial interview at our school, and her interest was immediately piqued. She was primarily interested in how it could be applied to any subject area, and didn't rely or feed directly into a specific major. Rachel's freshman year Dana seminar was called 'Boundaries and Belonging', and was taught by Dr. Chi of the sociology department. Although she found both her professor and the course material 'somewhat intense', Rachel very much enjoyed the course overall. Throughout its duration she was able to meet new people with interests outside of her major, many of which remain her close friends today. Rachel also noted that the course introduced her to a new style of writing; a large part of the assignments consisted of free-writing journals in which the class analyzed minute aspects of their own beliefs. Besides the interesting content of the course, Rachel believes that the most important skill she gained from it was the ability to set aside all assumption and preconceived notions she may have about a subject in order to truly learn from it. As Rachel continued on her career at Muhlenberg, she completed a mentorship with one of her Psychology professors, Dr. Laura Edelman. She helped Dr. Edelman expand on some previous independent research that looked at the effect of *Power Point* presentations on individual learning styles. Later, Rachel also completed an internship working with the Community and Development Committee in Allentown. Rachel and another Muhlenberg student worked with several government leaders and activists on a series of restoration projects that revitalized the downtown area of Allentown. Rachel is incredibly grateful for the experience she gained during the internship; not only did she complete intensive work in an area outside her major, but also got to know the Allentown area better. When asked if she would recommend the Dana program to incoming students, Rachel supported it one hundred percent. Rachel believes that the program provides great opportunities for research that might not have been present otherwise. But Rachel believes that one of the best aspects of the program is the closeness you develop with the people in your class, especially during the senior year seminar.



Colin Gibson By Brendan Phelan

Colin Gibson is a Political Science and Finance double major. Colin is currently applying to law schools in the Northeast, focusing on schools in Boston and Washington, DC. As he plans to pursue a degree in law, one of the most valuable aspects of the Dana Program to him is the professor mentorship. His mentorship was under Giacomo Gambino Ph.D. the chair of the political science department. Under Gambino's guidance Colin examined the works of the author George Orwell. Specifically he examined Orwell's use of language in his descriptions of various political regimes in books such as *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm*. Colin had read the books before but this in-depth study gave him a unique new perspective that he had never thought about.

In his freshmen year Colin participated in another unique aspect of the Dana Program: The Dana First Year Seminar. The subject of the seminar was Male, Female and Everything In-between. The course taught by Dr. Teissère, of the biology department, examined sexuality and its taboos in society. The course was completely different from what Colin had ever experienced in a classroom setting. This year, one of Colin's most notable classes is Advanced Topics in Financial Management. The class is particularly valuable, not only in the fact that it is a key class in his major, but that it has a real world practicality featuring realistic case studies that are excellent preparation for life after Muhlenberg.

Outside of his academic life Colin is involved in Muhlenberg's Wrestling program. He has been a member of the team all four years that he has attended Muhlenberg. He's also involved with the publishing of the Dana Interviewer and is working in an internship with Dr. Moshim Hashim doing layouts and formatting before the final publication. Colin is a prime example of how Dana Scholars work hard both in and out of class and contribute so much, not only to the academic but also the social and extracurricular communities present on campus.



The Dana Program By Jon Morgan

I know that I'm supposed to write about my experience with the Dana program up to this point in my very short college career, but I don't think I'm capable of doing that. The events that have transpired, those which I would qualify as experiences, have little to do with the requirements surrounding the Dana program. Yes, I am aware that I'm in a seminar strictly meant for Dana students, but I have nothing to which I can compare this. It's not as if I have taken another first year seminar and am capable of pointing out the similarities and differences between the two and what makes a Dana seminar any different from a standard seminar. The bottom line is, at this juncture, I cannot make appropriate comment about the Dana program as a whole. It is something that I look at to help me achieve my goals by offering me wonderful opportunities, like internships, in the future. While I can't offer too much about the "Dana experience", or what it really means to be a Dana, I can tell you about the caliber of the people that contribute to the Dana program here at Muhlenberg.

Everyone involved with Dana program is someone who truly cares about the pursuit and utilization of knowledge in this world. Students, professors, and faculty members alike have all made it very clear that we as college students, and as Danas, are here to the further our knowledge to best compliment our strengths and further our goals in life. I also believe that being labeled a "Dana" is much like being a member of an organized sports team. There is an unspoken camaraderie between Danas strictly because we see ourselves as part of something larger. This underlying camaraderie, this silent respect, is something that is palpable within any Dana event; it is an equalizer that creates an atmosphere ready to birth, consider, and discuss ideas and beliefs. And this is what I believe is the true immediate strength of Dana program, the instant community of individuals that see each other as equals. Also, having a class, the first year seminar, that is made up entirely of students that are ready and willing to be very involved in the academic process contrasts greatly to much of which I encountered in high school. It helps to foster the aforementioned community of Dana that I have mentioned previously and aids in the overall positive experience here at Muhlenberg College. The faculty members and professors involved with the Dana program are also very willing to help students with anything they should need. Students have opportunities to set up personal meetings or lunches with professors in order to solve any problems they may need to discuss. Dr. Coppa, the professor of my FYS, has been great to me throughout the semester; I have sent her emails asking about thesis statements for papers or what to focus on for a reading. She has been very helpful in guiding me through the course as well as answering any questions that I may have had.

Whether or not one would qualify these events as experiences is a matter of interpretation, as is much in life. Personally, I think it's really hard to write about things that one has not fully experienced or that which someone is in the process of experiencing. In any case, I look forward to my future in the Dana program and what my true experience will be. I have enjoyed every aspect of the Dana program up to this point; it is something that has been a great help to me in finding my place in Muhlenberg.