



BOUNDLESS
THE CAMPAIGN FOR MUHLENBERG

IMPACT REPORT

M Muhlenberg
College

DEAR MUHLENBERG COMMUNITY



It's truly remarkable in this moment to reflect on the culmination of years of dedicated planning, strategizing, and unwavering belief that so many have shown in Muhlenberg College and what we can achieve together. Within these pages, we celebrate the powerful results of that collective work. While we mark the close of our ambitious campaign, we also celebrate the beginning of realizing its profound impact.

This campaign has been a testament to the strength of our entire Muhlenberg community — alumni, parents, faculty, staff, trustees, and friends — united by a shared vision and a common goal. This moment is especially crucial for our college. In recent years the world has changed profoundly. Higher education and the students we serve have encountered unprecedented challenges. Our mission to advance the common good through education has never been more relevant. In this evolving landscape, the concept of 'boundlessness' has become more vital than ever. **Boundless** is our commitment to providing students with what they need to meet this moment head on. At Muhlenberg, we are adapting and innovating while holding true to our enduring roots. Bringing our campaign priorities to life is how we achieve this.

Each investment in Muhlenberg is significant in its own right. Together, they achieve something greater — something truly remarkable. This campaign is evidence of our community's commitment to better the world.

Thank you for investing in this vision, for making it a reality, and for all you continue to do for Muhlenberg College.

Sincerely,

Kathleen E. Harring, Ph.D.
President, Professor of Psychology

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Student Financial Aid

Opening the door to boundless opportunities

The Muhlenberg Annual Fund

Continuing philanthropy that shapes students for boundless futures

Endowed Professorships

Supporting faculty who excel as coaches and catalysts

Seegers Union Expansion

Including new admission, career center, events, and alumni engagement space

Integrative Learning and High Impact Practices

Cultivating hands-on learning to enable real-world impact

Fahy Commons for Public Engagement and Innovation

Facilitating connections among students, faculty, staff, and community

The Muhlenberg Network

Engaging the real world as our laboratory



DEAR FRIENDS

It gives me great pleasure to share in the success of *Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg* alongside each and every one of you.

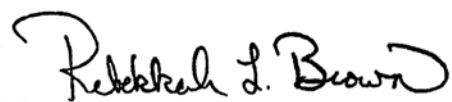
I am in awe of our community's unwavering dedication to the fundamental values that have defined Muhlenberg for generations. Extraordinary support through important gifts – like those that support faculty through **endowed professorships** – will continue to change lives far into the future.

Our community's collective outpouring of support for our students, makes the Muhlenberg experience accessible through **financial aid and scholarships**, unique and relevant through **high-impact practices**, and measurably better every day through gifts to the **Muhlenberg Annual Fund**. And I believe this outpouring speaks directly to the confidence our community has in Muhlenberg's enduring purpose: to equip students to lead lives of meaning and impact, and to shape an institution where education is not an end in itself, but a powerful means to advance the common good. Philanthropy has never been more important to this endeavor.

We have reached an incredible milestone, and I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has given your time, your resources, your expertise, and your unwavering belief in Muhlenberg's mission. My sincere thanks go to our volunteers and trustees, and to our campaign chairs – **Tammy Bormann '83 P'16, Mark Paris '80 P'16, and Doug Peebles '87** – for their steadfast commitment and invaluable partnership. This remarkable achievement belongs to all of us.

Thank you all for your continued partnership and for helping make the boldest and most ambitious campaign in Muhlenberg's history a resounding success!

Sincerely,



Rebekkah L. Brown '99
Vice President for Advancement



CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS

Our heartfelt thanks to the alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, and friends whose contributions and dedication as past and present volunteers helped make Boundless, the largest campaign in Muhlenberg's history, a remarkable success.

Thank you!

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BY THE NUMBERS

 **\$127,335,686**

TOTAL RAISED

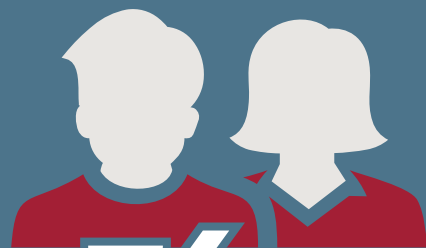
102%

OF \$125
MILLION GOAL



21,887

TOTAL DONORS



76 VOLUNTEERS

\$50 million

FINANCIAL AID
AND SCHOLARSHIP
SUPPORT RAISED



100%

OF STUDENTS BENEFITED
FROM CAMPAIGN FUNDS



194

NEW FUNDS ESTABLISHED THAT SUPPORT
FINANCIAL AID, PROFESSORSHIPS,
STUDENT RESEARCH, STUDY ABROAD,
AND THE MUHLENBERG NETWORK



THE MUHLENBERG NETWORK

Leveraging the college's powerful network of alumni, faculty, staff, parents and other champions to provide real-world learning experiences and career guidance for all students.

Reviving Career Road Trips

In the spring of 2016, Muhlenberg's Career Center took a bus full of students to New York City to visit **Sam Stovall '77** at S&P Global (where he worked at the time), tour Wall Street, and network with other alumni. In the following semesters, students visited New York, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia for site visits in a variety of sectors. COVID-19 put a stop to these Career Road Trips, but now, thanks to Stovall, the trips are back and better than ever.

“

College students will tell you that they learn best by seeing and doing. If I bring an employer to campus and they give an information session, it's not the same as if I bring the student to that employer.”

— SUE MCNEILLY
Career Center Executive Director



Scan the code
to read more about Career Road Trips.



Experiencing Hands-On Medicine

Through Muhlenberg's winter externship program, students experience first-hand what they have learned about in classrooms. Externships range from one- to five-day excursions in which current students shadow alumni, parents of Muhlenberg students, and other professionals. For students like **Carlee Davidson '26**, who spent two days with Lehigh Valley Health Network pediatrician **Chris Raab, M.D. '93** — it can also be inspiring.

“

I have always dreamed of being a pediatrician, so having the opportunity to shadow a pediatrician was incredible, really. It was exactly what I wanted to do and it's so close to home. I'm from Allentown. I was born and raised here, so this is the community that I'm from and who I plan to work with when I get older. Everything lined up in a way that was really exciting. Watching the physicians interact and coexist together to really prioritize care for both parents and the children ... it just changed me.”

— CARLEE DAVIDSON '26

Carlee benefited from the **Dr. James R. Vaughan '52 Student Research Award in Biology**, the **Daly Family Scholarship Fund**, and the **Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation Scholarship**.



Scan the code
to read more about Carlee's experience.



Ensuring Access = Boundless Success

Muhlenberg actively seeks out talented students who are ready to think boundlessly – to experience insights at the intersection of disciplines. Unfortunately, readiness does not always go hand in hand with the ability to afford a top-notch education. This is why financial aid matters. Removing financial barriers directly supports the lives of students aspiring to lives and careers of consequence. It allows them to concentrate on what they’re here for – an exceptional education.

Empowered Through Generosity: The Journey of Esther Oko

Esther Oko '25 was born and raised in a small town in Ebonyi, Nigeria, where her childhood was marked by a deep curiosity about the world around her. Growing up in a family involved in the seasonal palm oil business, she treasured the simple, yet rich experiences of gathering kernels with her mother, witnessing the extraction of oil, and even the administering of the oil to an individual suffering from a seizure. It was during these moments that Esther began to question the complexities of life and science. “What about the palm oil made it special?” she would ask, sparking a flame of curiosity that would follow her throughout her life.

At the age of 15, Esther and part of her family immigrated to the United States, entering a world that felt daunting and unfamiliar. Overcoming her fears by leaning into her curiosity, Esther excelled in high school and graduated as the salutatorian of her class. Yet, she faced another hurdle: the financial obstacles that threatened to halt her educational journey. This time, it was the generosity of strangers that opened doors for her to study at Muhlenberg College. Esther benefited from scholarship funds created by the **Yergey family, the Haight family, and the Estate of Richard D. Williams '39**.

With the support of Muhlenberg’s philanthropic and campus communities, Esther reignited her early passion for inquiry. The college environment nurtured her dual interests in the arts and sciences and allowed her to embrace her innate passion for learning.

“At Muhlenberg, I have had the opportunity to explore and unravel many aspects of my identity – my artistic self who loves music and art, as well as my scientific self who loves the art of organic chemistry synthesis,” says Esther. “If I could describe my Muhlenberg experience in one word, it would be ‘fulfilling.’ I can confidently say that Muhlenberg has allowed me to remain curious, ask questions and answer some of the questions on my own.”

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to education and for believing in the potential of students like Esther Oko. Together, we are helping to shape a brighter future.

“At Muhlenberg, I have had the opportunity to explore and unravel many aspects of my identity – my artistic self who loves music and art, as well as my scientific self who loves the art of organic chemistry synthesis ... If I could describe my Muhlenberg experience in one word, it would be ‘fulfilling.’ I can confidently say that Muhlenberg has allowed me to remain curious, ask questions and answer some of the questions on my own.”

– ESTHER OKO '25



The Unwritten Path: How Muhlenberg Shaped Carina Filemyr’s Journey

When **Carina Filemyr '23** arrived at Muhlenberg College, her academic future seemed clearly defined. A self-described “headstrong and hellbent” prospective neuroscience major with an eye on medical school, Carina sought a stepping stone education to a predetermined career. She envisioned a direct path, driven by connections and career-adjacent success. But she soon discovered that a different, transformative journey was in store for her – one that “completely disarmed” her in the best possible way. Now a proud Muhlenberg alumna, Carina is pursuing her Master of Fine Arts at The New School – a testament to the profound shift in her passions.

Carina’s journey of self-discovery began subtly during her first year. Nominated to be a writing tutor by her First Year Seminar professor, she initially saw the opportunity as a resume builder. Despite her initial hesitation and anxiety as a STEM major, she accepted the challenge. This decision led her to “Writing Theory,” a “jolting” course that Carina says, “without exaggeration, changed the way I thought.” This pedagogical and practicum-rich class molded her articulation, writing, and conceptualization of language, making her a better thinker – more engaged, less defensive, and more curious.

The impact of that single class resonated deeply, even within her science courses. While learning about synapses and neuronal growth, Carina found her thoughts continually drawn back to the power of language. She recognized a yearning for deeper engagement with words, leading her to take another writing class. She was immediately hooked, and embarking on a series of creative writing courses that ignited a new passion. And while she deeply values the foundational role science played in her academic journey, Carina candidly admits that it would be disingenuous to say it is her passion.

“I love words,” says Carina. “And that is the beauty of Muhlenberg: coming in as an expectant student and leaving as a fulfilled person. My time here was well spent deconstructing my preconceived notions of the purpose of higher education. The first ‘rattling of the foundation moment’ spurred me on to investigate the boundaries of my comfort zone, and I am so grateful to have been given the space and encouragement to do so. I have come to learn that the experience of college is predicated upon curiosity and uncertainty in the most productive way. Muhlenberg has shaped the ways in which I engage with and ask questions of our world, which to me, is priceless.”

“Without the **Marion E. Glick '82 Scholarship Fund and The Dr. Laura B. Sheard '07 Neuroscience Scholarship Fund**, I would not have been able to attend Muhlenberg,” says Carina.



“I have come to learn that the experience of college is predicated upon curiosity and uncertainty in the most productive way. Muhlenberg has shaped the ways in which I engage with and ask questions of our world, which to me, is priceless.”

– CARINA FILEMYR '23

Hiring and retaining prominent faculty offers a tremendous return on investment. Fueled by philanthropy, endowments that fund these prized positions produce a steady stream of annual support, allowing faculty with **endowed professorships** to pursue research interests, refine and enhance teaching skills, and build bridges across academic disciplines. These highly sought-after endowed professorships allow the college to recruit and retain leading faculty.

The Boundless campaign created several endowed professorships in key academic areas, each named in perpetuity in honor of the benefactor.

Professorships established during the Boundless campaign include:

- The William R. Breidenthall PhD, CPA Class of 1941 Professorship in Accounting, Business, Economics or Finance
- The Tammy L. Bormann '83 P'16 and Mark J. Paris '80 P'16 Endowed Professorship in Political Philosophy
- The Dr. John F. '71 and Pamela Freehafer Endowed Professorship in the Sciences
- The James R. '66 and Debra A. Lentz Professorship in Theatre
- The James R. '66 and Debra A. Lentz Professorship in Dance
- The Dr. Ronald F. Levant Endowed Professorship in Psychology
- The Stanley Road Chair in Neuroscience

Conducting Novel Research in an Endowed Professor's Lab

Working in the lab of Stanley Road Professor of Neuroscience **Jeremy Teissere**, neuroscience major, **Teigan Brown '25** painstakingly collected eggs from living frogs and used them to explore the anti-anxiety properties of a medicinal herb called skullcap.

“The culture of the Teissere lab is very unique. It’s important to me to be around people who care about the work that I’m doing, who care about me, and who I also care about. [Teissere] has uplifted me and supported me through this entire process while making sure that it is an experience that is completely authentic to me. I’m just so proud of how far this project has come.”

— TEIGAN BROWN '25
neuroscience major



Scan the code
to read more about
Teigan's experience



The most immediate impact any donor can have on the lives of our students is through a gift to the **Muhlenberg Annual Fund**. Gifts of all sizes provide a margin of excellence, supplementing revenue from tuition and endowments. These gifts make a positive impact on every corner of campus life and provide a direct investment in our most treasured assets – our students, faculty and staff.

Ongoing contributions from Muhlenberg’s alumni, parents and friends make our exceptional liberal arts education more accessible for more students and allows the college to be boundless, providing the flexibility to seize opportunities as they arise.

Muhlenberg Annual Fund gifts can be directed to one of five areas:

- Strategic Priorities:** funding new opportunities to strengthen the Muhlenberg experience
- Academics:** providing funds to optimize academic department operations
- Accessibility:** offsetting the cost for students with financial need
- Athletics:** enabling vibrant sports programs that generate student and alumni pride
- Student Experience:** funding integrative learning, research, and professional growth



When not setting records or swinging hammers with her Muhlenberg track and field family, **Erica Borbi '25** strategically took a variety of Muhlenberg classes to uncover her passions. And following some faculty encouragement, she soon found her calling in the field of accounting. By the time she donned her graduation cap, she had already landed a full-time role with a Big Four accounting firm.

“One thing about Muhlenberg that has been valuable to me is how I’m constantly uplifted. If there’s something I want to do on this campus, there’s somebody out there who’s going to look me in the eye and say, ‘Yes, you can do this, and this is how I’m going to support you.’”

— ERICA BORBI '25
accounting major and student-athlete



Scan the code
to read more about Erica's experience.

Innovative Inside and Out

In 2020, **Gerald P. Fahy '79 and Cathleen A. Fahy** made a \$7.5 million commitment to Muhlenberg College that would provide significant support for two major capital projects: the development of an innovative new academic building and the expansion of The J. Conrad and Hazel J. Seegers Union. At the time, it was the largest personal gift the college had ever received.

Eventually, the gift became public and the college opened the Fahy Commons for Public Engagement and Innovation in January 2023. The first new building on the college’s campus in 16 years, the LEED Platinum certified Fahy Commons has since been honored with four major sustainability and green-building awards. It is the first project in the world to achieve Core Living Building Certification.

“We were particularly drawn to be able to support the building’s functions to facilitate students to be innovative, creative, entrepreneurial, and artistic while fostering community engagement and activism,” said Gerald Fahy. “Today’s ever complex and rapidly changing world requires that. Let this building serve our college and community to meet those needs.”



Breaking New Ground

In fall of 2024, members of the Muhlenberg and Lehigh Valley communities gathered under a tent along Chew Street on the site of what will soon be a more than 35,000-square-foot expansion of the J. Conrad and Hazel J. Seegers Union. The ceremonial groundbreaking took place alongside ground that was already very much broken; the excavation phase of the project began over the previous summer.

Marking the fifth time Seegers has been expanded since it was built in 1963, this new three-story expansion will include a welcome center fronting Chew Street, an upgraded Career Center, a hub for admissions and alumni affairs, classrooms, and a 5,600-square-foot event space on the top floor with floor-to-ceiling windows. Existing heavily used Seegers gathering spaces, described by students as the “heartbeat of campus,” are also being refurbished.

“For all the advances in technology – all the Zoom, Teams and Google Meets in the world – there is no better way to understand the diversity of the human experience or to learn how to express ideas with clarity and grace than to gather, in one place, and do it together,” said President Kathleen Harring. “We know that a liberal arts education is a contact sport. This new space allows us to make even more contact.”



Beyond the Textbook with Josh Simon '27

Far from Muhlenberg's familiar biology and neuroscience laboratories and tennis courts, student-athlete **Josh Simon '27** spent his summer pushing the boundaries of classroom learning through a competitive internship with Luis Padilla Paz, M.D., a gynecologic oncologist in Josh's hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Motivated by a long-standing fascination with medicine and healthcare, Josh wanted to observe firsthand how doctors, nurses, and staff provide medical support and crucial emotional care to patients.

Beyond deepening his understanding of oncology, the internship showed Josh the vital importance of communication and patient trust and sparked his interest in potentially pursuing surgical specialties or research focused on cancer treatment. He was humbled to realize that even amidst difficult diagnoses, patients allowed him to be present – demonstrating that they recognized the value of education and of helping the next generation of healthcare professionals learn empathetic and respectful care.

"Being immersed in real patient care has taught me lessons no textbook ever could," says Josh, who credits Muhlenberg College for providing a holistic learning approach and enabling his acceptance into multiple competitive internships with exceptional providers.

"I wouldn't have had this chance without the preparation and support I've received at Muhlenberg," he says. "Classes like 'From Organisms to Molecules' gave me the scientific foundation to understand what I see in the clinic and operating room, and professors like Jeremy Teissere encouraged me to apply knowledge obtained in his class 'Rethinking Drugs and Drug Abuse' in real-life scenarios. Beyond the classroom, the emphasis Muhlenberg places on critical thinking and empathy has helped me engage more meaningfully with both patients and staff."

“
My summer research project with Dr. Murphy helped me learn how to operate on my own schedule and hold myself accountable without the rigid structure of a formal class. It also excited me for grad school music research, which is something I would definitely love to pursue.”

— **DAISY CUNNINGHAM '25**
music and media and communication
double major

Benefitting from **The Mazur Research Fund for Musical Inquiry**, Daisy was a founding member of student-run A-Town Records, conducted research in music, and held a record label internship during a semester in Dublin.



“
I was on the fence about studying abroad ... I'm happy that I made the decision to go because it afforded me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone, to handle adversity, to learn a new culture and to deal with culture shock, including a new system of learning.”

— **MARKUS VOTTERO '25**
finance major and economics minor

Markus received the
**Drs. Charles E. '42 and
Joanne S. Mortimer
Scholarship.**



Expanding Opportunities for Emerging Leaders

Muhlenberg's Emerging Leaders program stands as a cornerstone initiative, dedicated to cultivating a vibrant community of future leaders. More than just a support system, it is a comprehensive journey designed to ensure every student has access to a truly transformative Muhlenberg education, empowering them to thrive academically, professionally, and socially.

The program's core mission is to foster a sense of belonging and provide a robust framework for success from day one. It traditionally begins with a crucial pre-orientation experience, allowing students to integrate into campus life, connect with peers, faculty, and staff before the official start of classes. This early engagement is critical for building confidence and establishing foundational relationships. Beyond this initial immersion, the program has historically provided targeted support for students during their first two years.

And thanks to a Boundless Campaign gift from **Barry Weshnak '66 and Carol Anne Cawley Weshnak**, the program's reach and depth have been dramatically enhanced. In addition to adding a third cohort of 15 students into each incoming class, the program is expanding from a two-year commitment to a comprehensive four-year journey, providing continuous mentorship and resources throughout an emerging leader's entire time at Muhlenberg. The pre-orientation has grown from three days to a full week, and the program's writing and communication components have been expanded.

In providing comprehensive support, a strong community, and invaluable leadership development, Muhlenberg's newly expanded Emerging Leaders program ensures that students are fully equipped to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the world beyond Muhlenberg.

“
I came here wanting to be a part of a family, and I'm constantly reminded that that's the support I'm offered, whenever I need it.”

— **SEAN QUAYE '26**
finance and psychology double major

Sean is an Emerging Leader
and recipient of the **Isaac W.
Paris Scholarship.**



DONOR LIST

Listed here are donors who gave \$100,000 or more to the Boundless campaign. **Thanks to one and all** for your Boundless commitment!

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*Deceased



BOUNDLESS
THE CAMPAIGN FOR MUHLENBERG

A HEARTFELT THANKS



The Power of Collective Action

To our incredible Muhlenberg family,
our dedicated volunteers and generous donors,

As co-chairs of *Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg*, it is with immense gratitude and pride that we announce the successful conclusion of our ambitious seven-year campaign. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the power of collective action and the unwavering commitment each of you shares for Muhlenberg College.

Your selfless contributions – whether through tireless volunteering or invaluable financial support, have truly made a difference. You've helped us exceed our goals, strengthen our beloved institution, and most importantly, create boundless opportunities for current and future students. Every gift and every hour volunteered have directly contributed to enhancing academic programs, supporting student life, and ensuring Muhlenberg's bright future. This campaign's success isn't just about reaching a financial target; it's about the tangible impact your generosity will have on countless lives for years to come.

While the campaign has concluded, our work together continues. We urge you to stay involved with Muhlenberg. Your continued engagement – whether through mentoring students, attending alumni events, educating others about Muhlenberg in your spheres of influence, or actively supporting the college's ongoing strategic initiatives – is essential to ensure that Muhlenberg thrives. Let's carry this momentum forward and continue to build a stronger Muhlenberg, together.

With deepest thanks,

Tammy *Mark* *Dmy*

Tammy Bormann '83 P'16, Mark Paris '80 P'16, and Doug Peebles '87
Campaign Co-Chairs
Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg