



Greetings to the Members of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod,

I share below a list of activities and events of Muhlenberg College, one of the 26 ELCA affiliated colleges and a partner in ministry with the SEPA Synod. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at janelle Neubauer@muhlenberg.edu with any questions or hopes for collaboration.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Janelle Neubauer

College Chaplain and Director of the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life

Report of Activities from May 2025-March 2026

2025 Commencement Ceremony

In May of 2025, we had a successful weekend of celebrations for our graduating class, including a student-focused Baccalaureate service led by the Religious & Spiritual Life team. Our commencement ceremony was held at the PPL Center in Allentown with commencement speaker Beverly Daniel Tatum. Read more about the 2025 Commencement [here](#).

Bicentennial Park and Softball Field

After partnering with the City of Allentown on a comprehensive renovation of Bicentennial Park, Muhlenberg's baseball team has officially made it their home. Softball has also officially returned to campus after three decades with a new field built between our existing football stadium and varsity soccer field. The completion of these projects was celebrated with ribbon cutting and first-pitch ceremonies in the fall semester, the softball field as part of the Alumni Weekend festivities and Bicentennial Park in a ceremony on October 19.

Seegers Union Expansion

A key component of the college's campus master plan and Boundless: The Campaign for Muhlenberg, this space will support the distinctive elements of the Muhlenberg experience and includes a college welcome center, resources for student career planning and counseling, space for alumni activities as well as flexible space for classes and student organizations. Throughout the summer of 2025, renovations took place in the lower level of the existing building as well. In October of 2025, construction of the new addition hit a milestone as we celebrated the "Topping-Off Ceremony" as the final beam of steel was put in place. Read more about the future of the expansion [here](#).

Of particular note, the renovation included the development of a Multifaith Space in the lower level of Seegers Student Union. This space supports the religious and spiritual practices of a



multitude of individuals at Muhlenberg who come from diverse expressions of faith. As a BRAID (Building Relationships Across Interfaith Difference) Fellow with Interfaith America, senior Sabeen Safi, who also serves as the current SGA president, took the lead in developing and decorating the space with significant input from the student body. The space opened at the beginning of the fall semester and has ensured students have a central location during the day to observe religious practices. Read more [here](#).

Red Door Roots: Artifact Development

In December of 2023, the college was awarded a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)/Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) to support “[Red Door Roots: Reframing Muhlenberg’s Lutheran Narrative](#).” This grant supports an initiative for public conversation about the college’s Lutheran affiliation and the values that have underpinned Muhlenberg’s development in the past 50 years. In the past year, we have focused on developing lasting artifacts—including archived interviews and a video, book, and display—to support the continued amplification and integration of Lutheran higher education values in the current mission and strategic planning of the institution.

Graduate and Continuing Education Set to Launch MBA Program

Approved by the faculty in the fall of 2025, Muhlenberg will launch a new online, synchronous Masters of Business Administration program developed by the college’s nationally ranked Department of Accounting, Business, Economics, and Finance. The first cohort to enter the program will begin in the fall of this year. Learn more about the program or apply [here](#).

Amy Becher named Vice President for Enrollment Management

In February, Amy Becher was named our new vice president for enrollment management. Her responsibilities will include overseeing Muhlenberg’s admissions and financial aid teams as well as the office of institutional effectiveness and analytics. Becher is set to join the Muhlenberg community at the end of May, when she will assume the role following the successful leadership of our interim vice president, Terry Cowdry. Read more [here](#).

Four members of the faculty were recently awarded tenure over the past semester and promoted to associate professor by the Board of Trustees on the recommendation of President Haring and Provost Furge. You can find more information about each promoted faculty [here](#).

Strategic Planning Underway

Muhlenberg College and higher education at large are at a pivotal moment, working to adapt and get ahead of rapid, often disruptive changes in our economy and society. While this is challenging, it also presents opportunities. We must change our mindset and be bold in



embracing the future. To that end, our next strategic plan will articulate a new vision for the institution, set the goals we will need to meet in realizing it, and lay the groundwork for the comprehensive campaign that will help fund it.

Upcoming: Summer 2026 Arts

Musical theatre is back on the Muhlenberg stage this summer, with [SEUSSICAL](#), the beloved Dr. Seuss musical, Tony winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (*Once on This Island*, *Ragtime*), have lovingly brought to life favorite Dr. Seuss characters, from Horton the Elephant to the Cat in the Hat.

Middle schoolers also can join us for a whimsical two-week Seussical-themed summer camp, where they can hone their performance skills and explore the world of Dr. Seuss. This two-week program features daily instruction in acting, voice, and dance, culminating in a unique final showcase for family and friends.