From a glance at his eclectic resume, it may come as some surprise to hear that Bill’s college search was dictated by pragmatism. He sought, foremost, a small liberal arts institution offering strong instruction in the biological sciences with an impressive record of placement into professional schools. What set Muhlenberg apart from its competition, he says, was the additional opportunity to pursue his lifelong passion of music. Upon matriculation, he expected to earn a bachelor’s degree in biology while devoting his spare time to ensemble playing and, at most, a few semesters of viola or guitar lessons.

Due in no small part to the enthusiasm and encouragement of Muhlenberg’s music faculty, Bill declared majors in both biology and music. He elected to augment his experiences in the classroom with ensemble playing (chamber orchestra, *Musica da Camera, Collegium Musicum*), lessons on eight-course Renaissance lute and tenor viola da gamba, and independent research. He recently completed an intellectually provocative semester with Dr. Ted Conner investigating the formal, temporal, and perceptual disruption endemic to Beethoven’s String Quartet No. 6 in B flat Major in the vein of Abbate, McClary, and others.

“The rich liberal arts atmosphere at Muhlenberg has really allowed me to pursue my diverse scholarly interests under the instruction of supportive and knowledgeable educators,” he says. While he speaks highly of his undergraduate work in music theory, analysis, and history, it is his multidisciplinary work that has engendered his investment in narrative theory, paradigm shifts, the sociological and political implications of Kitsch, linguistics, the evolutionary origins of music, and why one bothers to listen to music – or, for that matter, read literature, watch films, or attend theater – at all. Bill expects to earn a B.A. in music and a B.S. in biology in May and is seriously considering a career as a music scholar and educator at the college or university level. Bill is a resident advisor, Dana Scholar, and the recipient of the 2010 Women’s Auxiliary Scholarship in Music.
BOOM Activities, Past and Future

During the Fall, BOOM planned and carried out their annual trip to see the Philadelphia Orchestra perform at the Kimmel Center. The group of over twenty students was treated to a stunning performance which included the Tchaikovsky violin concerto played by violinist Leonidas Kavakos. In addition to the Philadelphia trip, BOOM hosted a movie night, a pre-Piano Series pizza party, and a new event: a jam session. Musicians from all different backgrounds came to the CA to talk music, share music, and create music together.

This semester, BOOM plans to continue the events that have been successful in the past. In terms of bigger projects, BOOM will be planning the annual trip to the Metropolitan Opera as well as a trip to an Orpheus Chamber Orchestra concert. BOOM also plans to continue to provide transportation to Bethlehem Chamber Music Society concerts, with free tickets generously provided by Dean Shiner Wilson.

Amy Osika will serve as acting secretary this Spring while Melinda Clemmer is studying abroad.

BOOM welcomes all Muhlenberg students with an interest in music.

BOOM is an acronym for the Berg Organization of Music. It also represents a musical sound!

Charles Fambrough, 1950-2011

The College, and especially the Music Department, is mourning the loss of jazz bassist Charles Fambrough, lecturer in music. Charles directed one of our Jazz Improvisation Ensembles and worked with students on a variety of instruments as he guided them through the intricate techniques and improvisatory creativity of playing jazz. Charles played and recorded with jazz greats such as McCoy Tyner, Art Blakey, Wynton and Branford Marsalis, and Lenny White. Born in Philadelphia in 1950, he studied classical piano for many years before moving to bass as a teenager.

Throughout his long and difficult battle with illness, Charles continued to bring his encyclopedic knowledge and passion for music to his students. To watch him perform was to witness “controlled freedom”; he had total command of the music even as it poured forth from his instrument. He will be missed.

His colleagues will present a memorial concert on January 25. See our Calendar of Events on pp. 5-6 for details.
Focus on Faculty/Staff: Lauren Curnow

Muhlenberg alum Lauren Curnow ’96 has returned to the campus as a lecturer in music. After graduation, Lauren received Masters degrees at the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music. She was in the apprentice program at the Lyric Opera of Chicago from 2003 to 2006, and she continued singing there until her move to Allentown last year. Lauren tell us:

“I feel so honored to be back on the Muhlenberg campus after all these years!

“My time at Muhlenberg as a student was indeed memorable. From the moment I stepped on campus, I knew I was in for a fantastic four years. Not only was I exposed to an enriching, incredibly well-rounded educational experience, but I also received an incredible artistic foundation that allowed me to go forward and excel in the world of theater and music.

“Now that I am fortunate enough to return in the role of vocal teacher, I hope that I am able to give my students that same foundation that will allow each of them to have the courage to venture out into the artistic community after finishing their education. Muhlenberg students have always been special in their abilities to think outside the box--already I have found that my students are incredibly intuitive and are never afraid to take risks in their journey to becoming better musicians and artists. In addition, I have already learned a great deal about each student's individual needs and learning abilities, and it has opened up new ideas that I have been able to contribute to my own performing and technique as a professional singer.

“I am so excited to continue my position here at Muhlenberg and look forward to meeting and working with the bright, talented students that I will have the privilege to meet!”
Alumni News

Gregg Rossetti ’05 has been very busy with music since graduation. He received his master’s in composition from Montclair State University, and one of his microtonal compositions was performed in Toronto in 2008. His progressive rock band, Suspyre, has played concerts in Chicago, the Netherlands, and Atlanta, and the group has released 3 CDs and is currently working on a fourth. Gregg runs a music production facility, Erupsus Studios, and the business moved into a new building in 2009. He records and produces music of several bands and singer/songwriters, and he does some freelance composition out of his studio. Doctoral study in music is included in Gregg’s future plans.

Michael Sarian ’08 returned to his home in Buenos Aires after graduating from the ’Berg. He is currently working as Music Department Assistant at a K through Y12 school where he organizes concerts and tours for the bands and choirs, teaches 5th and 6th grade band class, manages the department, and directs the Jazz Ensemble. He continues to study trumpet and is also taking courses in jazz harmony and arranging as he prepares for graduate school in jazz composition and/or performance.

Since graduating, Ty Hooker-Haring ’09 has been working regularly in pit orchestras throughout the Lehigh Valley, playing both electric and upright bass. Ty has appeared at Civic Theatre, Pennsylvania Playhouse, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and Muhlenberg. He is employed at the Guitar Center in Allentown, studies in Philadelphia, and will soon perform in a production of Hamlet set to the music of Pink Floyd at the Public Theater of Allentown.

Dana Kowalsick ’09 continued her vocal studies after graduation, including a performance in the opera Hrabina in the original Polish. Dana has just completed her first semester at Queens College where she is a candidate for a Masters in Vocal Performance with an Opera concentration. Her academic courses include a substantial performance component, and this Spring she will sing a work composed especially for her by one of her fellow students at Queens.

Colleen McDonald ’09 will complete her Master of Music in Voice Pedagogy and Performance: Pedagogy Emphasis at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in May. In addition to working on her pedagogy thesis and preparing for her Masters Recital in March, she is a featured soloist at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Morristown, NJ, and she runs a private voice studio in Mendham, NJ. She is currently preparing the role of Fiordiligi for Westminster Opera Theater’s production of Mozart’s Così fan tutte.

Dana Scholar Sarah Evans ’10 is halfway through her first year of graduate school at Boston University, where she is seeking her Masters in Music in Music Education. She joined the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, which sings with the Boston Symphony and the Boston Pops during their seasons.
Spring 2011 Calendar of Events

January

25, Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Jazz Concert: Memorial Tribute to Charles Fambrough – Gary Rissmiller, Drums; Tom Kozic, Guitar; various guest artists

February

18, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series Recital: Lise De La Salle (admission charge)

19, Saturday, 7:30 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Margaret Hanegraaf, Soprano, with Scott Nicholas, Piano

20, Sunday, 3 pm, Empie Theatre – Allentown Band Concert, Ron Demkee, Conductor

23, Wednesday, 7 pm, Recital Hall – German Vocal Literature Master Class: Christa Warda, Soprano

26, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Sarah Messbauer, Soprano

27, Sunday, 4 pm, Recital Hall – Senior Recital: Steven Finkelstein, Bass-Baritone

March

1, Tuesday, 3:30 pm, Recital Hall – Lecture: Haydn and the Birth of Modern Celebrity, Karen Hiles, Assistant Professor of Music

18, Friday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Class of 1969 Recital Competition

16, Wednesday, 7 pm, Recital Hall – Guest Artist Recital: Cara Owens, Bassoon

19, Saturday, 4 pm, Rehearsal House 101 – Senior Recital: Samantha Sembler, Soprano

22, Tuesday, 7 pm, Recital Hall – Lehigh Saengerbund Voice Competition

25, Friday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Paul Windt, Violin

26, Saturday, 7 pm, Rehearsal House 101 – Studio Recital: Students of Margaret Hanegraff

27, Sunday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Muhlenberg College Choir, directed by Jeremy Slavin

31, Thursday, 8 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Haley Brown, Soprano

*Cont’d. on p. 6...*
April

2, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Victoria Ahrens, Soprano
5, Tuesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improv Concert, directed by Dr. Ted Conner
6, Wednesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improv Concert, directed by Tom Kozic
8, Friday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – First Student Recital
9, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Collegium Musicum, directed by Dr. Ted Connor
10, Sunday, 4 pm, Recital Hall – Senior Recital: Hannah Winckelmann, Soprano
13, Wednesday, 4:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Second Student Recital
15, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series Recital: Nobuyuki Tsujii (admission charge)
16, Saturday, 5 pm, Egner Chapel – Musica da Camera, coached by Dr. Diane Follet
16, Saturday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Jazz Ensemble, directed by Tony Gairo
18, Monday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Third Student Recital
20, Wednesday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Fourth Student Recital
26, Tuesday, 7 pm, Recital Hall – Studio Recital: Students of Brian Chu
29, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Chamber Orchestra, directed by Daniel Boring
30, Saturday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Wind Ensemble, directed by Albert Neumeyer

May

2, Monday, 7:30 pm, Recital Hall – Muhlenberg Opera Group, directed by Jeremy Slavin
3, Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Recital Hall – Muhlenberg Opera Group, directed by Jeremy Slavin
7, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Lehigh Saengerbund: 153rd Anniversary Concert (free will offering)

Please note: these events are subject to change. For the latest information, consult the College Calendar online.

Unless otherwise noted, admission is free. Call 484-664-3363 for further information.
The History of Pop, Rock, and Soul

In his own words, Dr. Andrew Oster describes his newest course:

“This spring I am excited to offer a course on pop, rock, and soul music in the United States. We’ll survey the social, political, and stylistic history of this music from the advent of rock ‘n’ roll in the mid 1950s through the explosion of grunge and gangsta rap in the late 1980s. The aims of the course are twofold: to help students develop an appreciation and understanding of popular music through close listening and to investigate popular music as a site of cultural, political, and social meaning. As such, MUS 287 is conceived to appeal to music majors and non-majors alike.

Students will hone their listening skills through online audio reserves and listening quizzes. In consultation with the textbook and supplementary essays, articles, and reviews, students will also investigate the significance of this music to U.S. culture.

“We all know and love The Beatles’ “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” Aretha Franklin’s “Respect,” and Michael Jackson’s “Billie Jean”; in this course we will explore the performance and reception of these and other songs in their historical context. How do pop songs foment political and social change? How does this music reinforce or destabilize race, class, and sexual identities? Our approach will be broad and our methodology diverse—all in an effort to understand this most vital and popular of musical canons. I’m looking forward to a fun and engaging semester!”

Music at Muhlenberg,

Diane Follet, Editor,
is a publication of the Department of Music, Muhlenberg College, 2400 Chew St., Allentown, PA 18104
Copyright © 2011

Contact Us: Phone: 484-664-3363, Fax: 484-664-3633

Dr. Douglas Ovens, Chair (on leave Spring 2011): ovens@muhlenberg.edu

Dr. Ted Conner: conner@muhlenberg.edu

Dr. Diane Follet (Acting Chair Spring 2011): dfollet@muhlenberg.edu

Dr. Karen Hiles (on leave AY 2010-2011): khiles@muhlenberg.edu

Dr. Andrew Oster: aoster@muhlenberg.edu

Jeremy Slavin: slavin@muhlenberg.edu

Pat Helm: pbhelm@muhlenberg.edu

We hope you have enjoyed reading about us. If you have ideas for articles, alumni news, or comments about this newsletter, please contact the Editor at dfollet@muhlenberg.edu.

Music exalts life, enhances life, and gives it meaning… It is an irreplaceable, undeserved, transcendental blessing.
—Anthony Storr, Music and the Mind

We’re on the Web:
http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/music/