Muhlenberg’s Annual Scholarship Luncheon

On Saturday, January 26, 2013, Muhlenberg College trustees, scholarship donors, student scholars, faculty, staff and guests gathered in Seegers Union to honor individuals and organizations that generously support scholarships at Muhlenberg. The event also provided an opportunity for scholarship donors to meet and spend time with their student recipients.

President Helm expressed his gratitude to scholarship donors and spoke about the importance of financial aid support. He then introduced trustee Tammy Bormann ’83, P’16 and trustee emeritus Mark Paris ’80, P’16, who established The Isaac W. Paris Scholarship in memory of Mark’s father. Steve Bauder ’13, recipient of The Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker Scholarship in the Performing Arts and The Harold ’42 and Lorraine Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Fund, concluded the program with remarks about how scholarship support has made his Muhlenberg experience possible. Read on for highlights of the speakers’ remarks. You can view video highlights of the day by visiting http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/devel/gallery.html.

Tammy Bormann ’83, P’16 and Mark Paris ’80, P’16: A New And Richer Muhlenberg Community

Mark: We named The Isaac Paris Scholarship to honor Isaac (Bill) Paris because he made college possible for me. He gave me the foundation and confidence to graduate from Muhlenberg; to take the risk of becoming a Ph.D. student in political philosophy; to pursue another passion and become a conservatory-trained opera singer; to embrace graduate studies at Harvard University; and, ultimately, to pursue a career on Wall Street. My dearest hope is that this scholarship fund will enable many generations of Muhlenberg students to receive the support, the encouragement, the challenge and the joy that my Muhlenberg education gave to me. My dad saw the possibilities Muhlenberg promised long before I did and now, in his name, I am committed to making these possibilities available to others.

Tammy: We established The Isaac Paris Scholarship to help build a new and richer Muhlenberg community—a community where students and teachers of every racial, ethnic, class, religious, economic, sexual, spiritual and social identity are invited and encouraged to create a vibrant learning laboratory—a laboratory where our differences, real and perceived, are not the source of fear and isolation but are the tools that shape, inform, challenge and push our knowledge to new heights and inspire us to link arms in pursuit of our individual and collective dreams. Bill Paris knew this. He knew that one man’s sacrifice was another man’s opportunity. He knew that we are called to pass opportunities from generation to generation. He knew that we have an inherent, human obligation to care for and about one another. He knew that the beloved community starts with one person making a choice. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.

Financial aid at Muhlenberg

- Muhlenberg’s financial aid budget for Fund Year 2012-2013 was $31.8 million, an increase of almost $3 million from Fund Year 2011-2012.
- The overall amount of scholarship awards made possible by donors this year totals $1,763,411.
- In total, 219 students benefited from named scholarships this year.
STEVE BAUDER ’13: YOU MAKE OUR DREAMS POSSIBLE

Four years ago I came to Muhlenberg and toured the campus. The facilities blew me away. Seeing all three theatres, the costume shop, the scene shop and all the space for rehearsals made me think I was touring a conservatory. Knowing that I could study professional theatre at a liberal arts school made me want to come here. There was so much that this place could teach me. Muhlenberg seemed too good to be true, and I held my breath when I considered how my family could pay for it. Only from the generosity of donors, was I able to make my Muhlenberg experience happen.

In this room I see doctors, researchers, engineers, musicians, entertainers, artists, teachers, lawyers, politicians and scientists. We are the community that will strive for a better quality of life. All of us have learned from the examples of our donors. You teach us by example that it is possible to make a difference in the face of adversity. I speak on behalf of all the recipients here when I thank you. You make our dreams possible. Thank you for your own ambition. The life each of you has led has brought you to this position of kindness. In addition to your resources, you also share your zeal and confidence with each of us. I hope to one day be able to give to others in the same way that I have received. I leave Muhlenberg with a sense of belonging that will be carried with me wherever I go. Thank you for having me here.

New Scholarships at Muhlenberg

New endowed scholarships that were established last year include:

- The Dr. John S. Ammarell, Jr. and Florence R. Ammarell Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Curtis Dretsch Scholarship
- The James R. Lentz ’66 and Debra A. Lentz Scholarship in Theatre and Dance
- The Dr. Albert F. Lindenstruth ’42 Scholarship

Visit http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/devel/gallery.html to view video highlights from the 2013 Scholarship Luncheon.