

MILTON
HERSHEY
SCHOOL®

FOUNDED 1909

ALUM

SUMMER 2023

THY *Traditions*

MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL® ALUMNI MAGAZINE

DEAR



A Note



Dear Alumni:

My family feels honored and highly privileged to write this welcome letter. As parents of a class of 2023 graduate, we are excited and grateful for the opportunity Milton Hershey School offers new graduates to remain connected with the school.

MHS has been a blessing to my family. When my husband became a full-time pastor and travelling missionary in 2013, we underestimated the impact of such a huge decision on our family's wellbeing. Soon after, we had to make some tough decisions to adjust to the reality of our new lifestyle.

Eventually, this led us to Milton Hershey School—where our first child graduated this year. She is heading to Brown University for an eight-year program in liberal medical education, and we still have two children who are rising fifth- and 11th-grade students. MHS is the answer to our prayers—the beautiful and safe learning environment, quality education, domestic chores, sports, and internship opportunities make the school a global top notch.

A unique aspect of MHS is the amazing, supportive role of the houseparents and teachers. When my youngest child was enrolled at the age of five, it was not easy for me. However, his housemother Karen Washington played a huge role in taking care of my concerns. The fact that she is a woman of faith and can share in his struggles, alleviated my concern. The easy accessibility of the staff was very comforting and relieved the burden of distance between my family. We will forever be grateful for the blessings of MHS.

On behalf of Thy Traditions Dear, we welcome you to the summer 2023 issue of the MHS alumni magazine.

Sincerely,
Toyin Ademuwagun and Family

THY Traditions DEAR

The Mission of *Thy Traditions Dear* is to share the stories of the Milton Hershey School family with our alumni, students, staff, and retirees in honor and celebration of our founders, Milton and Catherine Hershey.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Milton Hershey School and the Family Gratitude Foundation in Honor of Gertrude Gurt honored parents/sponsors at an awards ceremony during Spring Family Weekend in May. Each year, four outstanding MHS parents and sponsors are honored with Parent/Sponsor of the Year Awards to recognize their exceptional commitment and dedication to their children, grandchildren, and MHS. Among the 2023 honorees were Janet Steele, Rebecca King, Casey "Oche" Bridgeford, and Abayomi and Oluwatoyin Ademuwagun. On the cover is the Ademuwagun family, including their children, Tijusuni "Joy," a 2023 graduate, John, and Samuel.

Contents

OUR STORIES

- 2** Graduate's Generosity Inspired by Mr. and Mrs. Hershey
- 8** Alumna Uses Hersheys' Legacy to Create Social Impact
- 14** There is No Age Limit in Service: MHS Ambassador Ralph Greer '46



DEPARTMENTS

- 4** School and Student News
- 10** Department of School History
- 16** Commencement
- 20** Alumni News
- 28** Alumni Association News and Class Notes



GRADUATE'S GENEROSITY

Inspired by Mr. and Mrs. Hershey

BY SUSANNA COMPARE '18, MHS OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS



John E. "Jack" Thomas was born in New Jersey in 1923 before his family moved to Brooklyn, New York. When Jack was just 8 years old, he was left without parents. Several years later, after learning about new opportunities in Hershey, Pennsylvania, Jack and his two brothers enrolled at Hershey Industrial School, now known as Milton Hershey School. Spending many years as a part of the school's program, Jack graduated from high school in 1939, receiving his diploma from famous chocolatier and MHS founder, Milton S. Hershey.

After his graduation, he attended Hershey Junior College before transferring to Lafayette College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1943. Upon his graduation, he began a position with Esso Chemical Company, which is now

known as Exxon. While his career did not begin as he had originally anticipated, he was able to take his role to new heights by serving as the engineering officer on landing ship tanks for three years in the Pacific during World War II. As the war ended, Jack returned to his role at Exxon, ready to learn and tackle new challenges. During his career with Exxon—which included graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin—he spent his time on 13 different assignments, ranging from product development, research, technical service, and marketing.

His job allowed him to travel the world and share his work and love of learning with the communities where he lived and his family, which grew to include his wife, Jean, daughter Barbara, and son David. Jean served as an educator and found a passion for teaching children to be their greatest selves.

Upon retirement, Jack and Jean moved to Florida, ready to enjoy time in the Sunshine State. Somewhere along the way, Jack selflessly decided to donate to the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools' Take Stock in Children program, which gives those to students in need opportunities—much like those he was granted at MHS. Over the course of his lifetime, he gave \$250,000 to the foundation. His charitable contributions to the program were only magnified when he donated \$1.6 million after passing away in September 2022—at 99-years-old.

While we cannot be certain of what motivated Jack in his giving, we can imagine that he was greatly impacted by his time as a student at HIS, seeing firsthand the impact that philanthropy of this nature can have on a child's life. Mr. Hershey once thought that if the school served just 100 boys, it





would be considered a success. Jack Thomas' giving alone has broadened that impact to include hundreds more students who may never travel to Hershey, Pennsylvania, but through the power of education, will forever be a part of Mr. Hershey's life-changing legacy. 🙏

MHS Honors Alumnus for Generous Gift to Education

In May, Milton Hershey School and the Milton Hershey School Alumni Association joined the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools in Fort Myers, Florida, to honor Jack Thomas '39 and the successes within the Foundation's community.

MHS President Pete Gurt '85 joined the celebration to pay tribute to Jack Thomas,

sharing the parallels between Jack and Mr. Hershey's lives—which included donating selflessly and anonymously to education.

"Mr. and Mrs. Hershey gave so much of themselves—to many children they'd never meet—and the ripple effects of their generosity are felt today far beyond Hershey. Through Jack, that ripple effect has reached the Gulf Coast of Florida," Gurt shared.

Later that day, MHS alumni joined President Gurt and his wife, Jane, MHS employees, and MHSAA board members for a regional reception in Fort Myers. Alumni who graduated from the 1950s to the 2020s attended the event, and many of them made commitments to volunteer to support MHS students and the school's staff and student recruiting efforts. 🙏



A Note from the MHS President

Dear Alumni Brothers and Sisters:

Two of my favorite moments each year are kicking off our school year theme at Giant Center and returning to the arena to graduate another group of young men and women. These traditions remind me of what Milton Hershey School is all about.

We began the 2022-23 school year celebrating Day 1 and on June 11, the MHS community celebrated a Day WON as the Class of 2023 launched into the world. Our work last year realigned our students' commitment to the Deed of Trust, with a focus on developing strong work ethic and mutual respect. We know the important role these skills play in their success and are excited to see how they will use them.

Deeply rooted in our founders' legacy, it is no secret that our 218 youngest graduates have now joined one of the greatest alumni communities in the world. One alumnus who embraced the values of our founders and let his actions speak for themselves, was John E. "Jack" Thomas '39.

After receiving his Hershey Industrial School diploma from Milton S. Hershey, Jack went on to serve his country and have a successful career at what is now Exxon. He didn't stop there. After moving to Fort Myers, Florida in retirement, he gave back to his community in the form of several anonymous donations to education—totaling nearly \$2 million.

Jack—who passed away in September 2022 at age 99—was a man of integrity, kindness, and vision. He knew the importance of education in changing a child's life. Because of Jack, 30 students in southwest Florida have received a college education, free of charge, and there are many more yet to come.

In May, I had the privilege of speaking at an event hosted by the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools—the organization which benefited from Jack's donations. We made sure to share some of our MHS magic by providing admissions materials and special chocolate bars to attendees. Our MHS Alumni Association also joined me to host an alumni event that connected Milts from around the Sunshine State.

This event reminded me that what we do at MHS reaches far beyond our Home and School. Your success becomes our success and that is what makes MHS so special. The more I learn about Jack, the more I am inspired by the incredible gift we all have received.

As we continue to grow student enrollment, we could use your support. One way each of us can help our Home and School thrive is to identify and refer families who could benefit from the gift of opportunity, or extraordinary adults who could serve our mission—especially houseparents. We all appreciate this important role in keeping the family atmosphere at MHS.

Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning (CHS), our early childhood education initiative, is also growing. This fall, we will open the doors of CHS Hershey to serve our first children from six weeks to five years old. We are humbled and excited to enhance the Hersheys' vision and mission to serve more children in need.

Thank you for your continued engagement and investment in the lives of our students! I cannot wait to see more of you on campus next school year. It is going to be a breakthrough year at MHS! 🎉

Sincerely,
Peter G. Gurt '85
MHS President



MHS Welcomes Local Executives to Student-Led Leadership Conference

Milton Hershey School students were joined by executives from several of the school's Hershey entity partners and more, at the Student Government Association's (SGA) seventh Leadership Conference in April. From Michele Buck, CEO of The Hershey Company, to Leslie Lenzo, CEO and CIO of Hershey Trust Company, students had the opportunity to learn from leaders with different backgrounds.

The conference, which focused on the school year theme of Day 1 ... Day WON, was attended by nearly 200 MHS Senior Division students and five Middle Division students.

The event, which was planned and executed by Senior Division SGA students, offered attendees the opportunity to listen to two keynote speakers and attend four breakout sessions. Topics such as learning how to fail forward and embracing opportunities were explored. The conference served as an opportunity for students to connect with experts in several different career fields.

Beautiful Pyatt '23 was excited about the opportunity to learn from the presenters. "After interning at The Hershey Company, I was introduced to Michele Buck, the President and CEO, who showed me—simply by her career—that as a woman, I could break every glass ceiling in front of me," she shared.

As a part of the conference, Beautiful attended Buck's breakout session. She added, "At the SGA Leadership Conference, I was honored to attend the breakout session she led that discussed conquering your greatest fears and becoming your truest self as a leader."

Students had the opportunity to continue connecting with leaders from across partner organizations through internships, mentoring relationships, and career-focused education activities that happen year-round. 🎉

NASA Astronaut Visits MHS for an Out of This World Experience



NASA astronaut Robert (Bob) Hines traveled to Hershey, Pennsylvania, in May to visit Milton Hershey School and speak with students at the school where his grandfather, Roy Dice, was a teacher and honorary alumnus. Hines shared how his life's journey led him to be selected as a NASA astronaut on the SpaceX Crew-4 mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Hines met with Elementary and Middle Division students to share what is included in astronaut training, launching into space, life on the ISS, and how it felt to return to Earth.

He also toured the school's Horticultural Center, hearing from Agricultural and Environmental Education program students about hydroponic gardens, which was a focus for Hines while in space. Senior Division students in computer science, astronomy, and culinary classes also presented to Hines about subjects they are studying which can contribute to the NASA program.

During the visit, Hines was presented with a tribute to his grandfather. Dice began teaching at the school in 1967 and retired in 1991. "My grandfather led me in my faith and my love of science and aviation," said Hines.

Hines feels a strong connection to MHS after spending time on campus as a child with his grandfather. From working in his classroom to building a small greenhouse that still stands on campus today, Hines found that MHS had a large impact on his life.



This was not the first time Hines visited with MHS students. The first was in September 2022 when Hines virtually joined students while in space. He answered student questions and offered a glimpse into life as an astronaut.

As a token of his appreciation for the opportunity, Hines gifted each division with a plaque portraying photos from his mission along with an American flag that flew with the Crew-4 mission. 🇺🇸

MHS Memorial Day Assembly Honors Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice

The Milton Hershey School community gathered in honor of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation's freedoms. This year, MHS welcomed SEAC Ramón "CZ" Colón-López, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the guest speaker.

The assembly was hosted by 2012 MHS Alumna of the Year Kimberly Elenberg '88, who retired in 2022 from a distinguished 27-year military career. She encouraged all students to serve, whether through the United States military or civilian volunteer opportunities.

Colón-López focused his remarks on why Memorial Day is held as a sacred time of remembrance. He encouraged the MHS community to always take time during Memorial Day weekend to remember Americans who gave their life defending the United States Constitution.

"We fight not because we hate what is in front of us," said Colón-López. "We fight because we love what we left behind."



MHS also paid tribute to its 57 Gold Star Alumni who gave their lives while serving in the military. This special group of individuals was honored through a presentation by 2004 MHS Alumnus of the Year and retired Lt. Gen. Richard Zilmer '70. Additionally, MHS senior Naveah Heverling '23 provided a roll call of the Gold Star Alumni.

To show appreciation for Naveah's commitment, Colón-López presented her with his personal challenge coin which includes the inscription: "Amateurs train until

they get it right. Professionals train until they cannot get it wrong."

Other graduating seniors participated in the assembly through readings and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, students in the Senior Division Band and New Horizons Select Choir performed several patriotic selections.

This opportunity allowed students and staff to engage with one of the highest-ranking military officials in the United States. 🇺🇸

MHS, Hersheypark, and World of Outlaws Collaborate to Enhance Student Experiences



Milton Hershey School and local sprint car teams came together on May 11 for the first-ever Hershey Sprint Car Experience.

Prior to the event, World of Outlaws professional race car drivers visited MHS Career and Technical Education classes. Middle Division students showed Outlaw drivers Brock Zearfoss and Carson Macedo a small lawnmower engine they took apart and reassembled.

“If we can just get one kid interested in motorsports, that’s one more we haven’t had,” Zearfoss said. “The class really enjoyed learning more about our world.”

Senior Division students learned lessons in history, auto mechanics, and physics, from Outlaws drivers Gio Scelzi and Logan Schuchart.

The drivers shared their journeys to joining a professional racing organization, and together with students explored the unique composition of sprint cars compared to other race cars. Finally, the special visitors talked to students about life outside of the driver’s seat, sharing lessons on mental preparation and the importance of teamwork.

When class dismissed, hundreds of students headed to Hersheypark Stadium for the Hershey Sprint Car Experience, which celebrated modern-day racing while paying tribute to those who raced there 84 years

ago. Hersheypark Stadium was once home to the Hershey Stadium Speedway, which opened May 18, 1939.

The Hershey Sprint Car Experience featured professional sprint car drivers, midget cars that once raced at Hershey Stadium Speedway, and quarter-midget cars that are used to introduce young children to racing. The event also exposed race fans to the educational and employment opportunities available at MHS.

“The partnership between MHS and World of Outlaws is amazing. We have a unique program at MHS where we teach our kids all about careers, opportunities, trajectories, and what you need to do to accomplish lifelong dreams,” said Nadine Krempa, MHS Senior Director of Enrollment Management. 🙌

Seniors Become Certified Nursing Assistants Before Graduation

Nine members of the Milton Hershey School Class of 2023 reached a milestone toward achieving postsecondary success by becoming Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). As seniors, they were enrolled in the school’s Health Science career pathway. The pathway prepares high school students for health-related careers.

Through the MHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, students can gain certifications and college credits. Through a partnership with Harrisburg Area Community College, students completed a CNA program that included classroom instruction, hands-on learning, and clinical experience.

In the spring, after graduating from the program, all nine students passed a written test and skills exam to earn their certification.



“Providing our students with career exposure helps them to determine if this career path is a good fit,” said MHS Director of College and Career Readiness Sheila Ciotti. “There are many benefits to the credential and completing the program, whether students wish to enter the workforce directly or go to college.”

Hershey entity partners are further supporting MHS students to achieve success. Through a partnership with Penn State Health, the new CNAs gained real-world experience.

“We got a behind-the-scenes look through different rotations at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center,” said Anna Allen ’23. “When most people think of a health science career, they think of being a nurse or a doctor. It’s just really cool to see the different options.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of CNAs is anticipated to grow by 5 percent between 2021 and 2031 with 220,200 projected job openings each year.

While still students at MHS, two of the new CNAs used their certifications. They began part-time employment at Country Meadows in Hershey prior to graduation and planned to expand on their careers from CNAs to pursue degrees in nursing. 🙌



MHS Students Become Leaders by Learning from Others

BY BEAUTIFULL PYATT '23

I want to gain as much knowledge and understanding from others as I can.

Everyone has something to offer. Since enrolling at Milton Hershey School in 2011 from Pottstown, Pennsylvania, I have grown and gained valuable experience by learning from others. Opportunities like interning with The Hershey Company and attending the Student Government Association's Leadership Conference gave me the confidence I need to grow.

I want to be able to help people. How can you help others and not lead? Since I was in elementary school, many of my teachers and houseparents have told me that I am a natural leader. I want to become the leader they see in me, but that's only possible if I learn from the leaders around me.

MHS has fostered in me a love of learning and allowed me to lead in ways I wouldn't have been able to had I not enrolled at the school. From simply leading my peers in activities in my student home and Transitional Living building to learning how to have professional conversations with local executives, my life has forever been enhanced by learning to lead from others. 🙌



MHS Senior Models Catherine Hershey

BY BRIANNA KAPEL '23

Did you know that Milton Hershey School was Catherine Hershey's idea? So often, this piece of history is forgotten. Mrs. Hershey played an important role in growing what MHS is today. Which is why it's so fitting that Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning (CHS) was named in her honor.

When I think of Catherine Hershey, words such as selfless, smart, influential, and kind come to mind. I look to these characteristics as a model of the type of person I try to be every day.

As a future educator, I am passionate about helping children thrive, just like Mrs. Hershey. My classmates and I had the opportunity to attend the Early Childhood Education Leaders Summit hosted by CHS this spring. This experience made me even more passionate about the way we can ensure that every child has the skills and resources they need to succeed.

I hope to make a difference in someone's life just like my teachers and houseparents have in mine. I am so lucky to have so many positive female role models who have shaped my career interests and the woman I hope to be. 🙌



Student's Passion for Hands-On Learning Extends Beyond Classroom

BY JOCELYN CRIST, MHS EIGHTH-GRADER

Since I can remember, I have loved using my hands to learn. From working on actual cars in a mechanic shop to reconstructing lawn mowers in science classes, hands-on learning has defined my education. Growing up in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and now Egg Harbor, New Jersey, I have always had a passion for working on cars.

I can clearly recall the first time I ever picked up a tool to fix something. I got the feeling that my life's calling was to work in hands-on ways to help others. To put it simply, I know that I learn better when I can use my hands.

When I enrolled at MHS in sixth grade, I wasn't sure what my future would hold. Since then, my classmates and I have gone to Hersheypark to learn about engineering rollercoasters, discovered new careers with the National Hot Rod Association, and heard from real executives at Ford Motor Company. These are opportunities I never would have gotten before I came to MHS.

I am proud of my passion for hands-on learning and look forward to seeing where this passion will take me. 🙌

Alumna Uses HERSHEYS' LEGACY to Create Social Impact

BY MONICA FLICKINGER, MHS OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS



If there's one thing that influenced Michele Y. Smith '90 during her time at Milton Hershey School, it's the legacy of Milton and Catherine Hershey's philanthropy that gave her a chance to succeed far beyond what she thought was possible.

"I don't think I'd be where I am today without their culture of philanthropy," said Michele. "It continues to give back in multitudes, and what [Mr. Hershey] doesn't even know is how much he's driven such a social impact around the world. I am a product of that social impact. You can see it through my career and where I am today; it has shaped everything that I have done."

Michele enrolled at MHS in fourth grade, joining her brother as a student. Her mother was raising the two on her own in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, while working full time and pursuing a degree. Michele's mother decided to enroll her children at the school to give them each the opportunity to grow individually and to strengthen their family—

even allowing her to earn several degrees.

While at MHS, Michele was influenced by many adults in her life, both teachers and houseparents, many who she remains in contact with.

"They don't just leave you when you graduate," she shared. "They follow you for life through all your ups and downs and achievements. They're my family."

One of the adults that shaped her life was Ady Shepard, her business and finance teacher. Through a business audit project—where students created their own business and had to carefully review the financials—Michele developed her love of business.

After graduating from MHS and receiving a finance degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, she began her career at a financial firm and later transitioned to United Airlines in the days before 9/11. This required her to tap into a skill learned at MHS—resilience.

"I've been through some very life-changing things that have happened to the world," she said. "When I look back now ... I think that's what a Spartan is. It's our spirit. It's our resilience. It's never giving up—we're always facing forward. We all come from challenging backgrounds, but what we've learned is that our experiences shape us, they mold us, and they make us better."

With the foundation she received at MHS and her professional experiences, Michele excelled in her career in finance roles within the hospitality and travel industry—organizations that enabled her to see the world. Eventually, she settled in Seattle, Washington, becoming the chief financial officer for the Woodland Park Zoo.

"When I started at the zoo, I was enticed by its mission because it was really focusing on community," Michele said. "The employees reminded me of MHS students. They were very passionate about what they do. They were a family."



Michele’s experience in travel and hospitality allowed her to look at things from a different perspective as she reflected on the impact the zoo could have on the community as a whole.

With 1.4 million visitors from around the globe, the zoo is one of the largest attractions in Seattle, requiring Michele to use the perspective she gained while becoming a world citizen to develop the most impactful experience for every visitor. Focusing on bringing animals from around the world ensures the global experience is accessible to marginalized communities.

Outside of her formal career, Michele is also involved in her community. She is on the board of Mary’s Place, a nonprofit that helps women and families experiencing homelessness, highlighting a campaign to ensure no child sleeps outside in Seattle. Michele also partners with the Downtown Seattle Association to make sure the streets are safe and works to give back to local small

business owners, mentoring women along the way.

“I am a product of philanthropy,” she said. “I understand the importance of this work and for me, the mission of where I am and building a purpose-driven culture that’s going to help spark and change lives for others is following the same work of our MHS founders.”

Continuing her work in nonprofit, Michele recently accepted a new role as chief executive officer of the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) in Seattle.

Beginning as the Experience Museum created by Paul Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft, the museum has grown in its mission to allow Seattle residents and tourists to see and touch various types of culture such as art, gaming, music, and more. Just as she did at Woodland Park Zoo, Michele wants to ensure that marginalized communities have access to cultural experiences locally and globally through MoPOP exhibits.

“I want to make sure that MoPOP continues to be an example of the future of art and culture, while driving social impact for people to learn from one another and their cultures,” said Michele.

As she looks to the future as the CEO of MoPOP and continuing her work in her community as an advocate and mentor, it all comes back to her time at MHS.

“For the parents that are considering MHS, it is an opportunity of a lifetime to change their child’s life,” Michele said. “It’s an opportunity that they should take because you can see the product that has come out of MHS. It is also a fierce network of champions, supported by the mission of a school and its founders.” 🙌



New Life for the Hershey Community Building

Recently, Milton Hershey School announced the purchase of the Hershey Community Building at 14 East Chocolate Avenue. The building will be used to support the school as it expands to help more children reach their full potential. The historic building will provide offices and meeting spaces for MHS and Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning (CHS). In the future, the Hershey Community Archives and MHS archival collection will also share the space.

Plans made in 1915 for a grand Community Building were set aside because of World War I and the death of Catherine Hershey. The Hershey Press reported on Nov. 4, 1915, that, “Hershey moves steadily from one thing to another, and all are the ideas of Mr. M.S. Hershey.” During the Great Depression in the 1930s and a decrease in production at the chocolate factory, Mr. Hershey created jobs by embarking on his great building campaign. Plans for the building were re-activated.

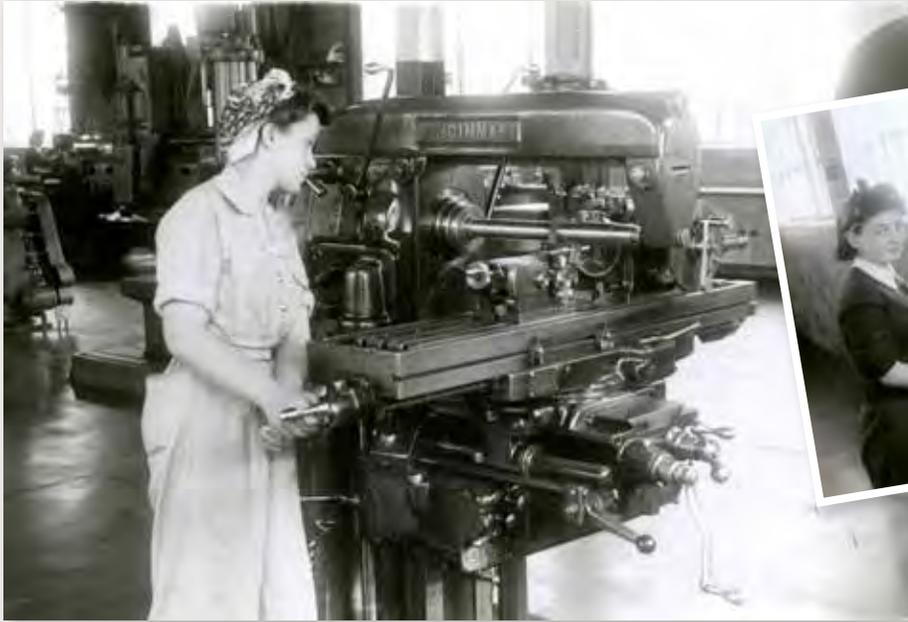
The building, finished in September 1932 and dedicated on Sept. 3, 1933, became the center of the town’s life.

Inside the building, the Hershey Theatre’s grand style reflects Mr. and Mrs. Hershey’s travels. The inner foyer’s arched tile ceiling, patterned after St. Mark’s Cathedral in Venice, Italy, offers a canopy of gold. The main level of the theatre enables guests to feel like they are in Venice with winged lions, the city’s symbol, looking down and a fire curtain with a picture of the Grand Canal.

When the Community Building was completed, Hershey Industrial School (HIS) held worship services in the theater, and beginning in 1935, Commencement was held in the building, except for two years during World War II and in 1953 when there was a joint Commencement ceremony between MHS, HIS and Hershey Junior College. Commencement was later held at Founders Hall when it opened in 1970.

With the growth of HIS, in 1933 seventh and eighth grades attended classes in the Community Building. The building was also home to Hershey Junior College.

It is exciting that the iconic building will have a new life and purpose in the heart of Hershey. 🎭



HIS Contributes to the War Effort in Many Ways



During World War II, Hershey Industrial School contributed to the war effort in a variety of ways. By the war's end, more than 1,000 former students and alumni served in the armed forces.

The auto mechanic and welding shops were converted to aircraft repair, the school raised over \$5,000 in war stamps and bonds, HIS farms increased production of vegetables and milk in cooperation with the Farm Defense Program, and students made model airplanes to help the air raid spotters in the Junior-Senior High School tower

identify planes. People from the community volunteered to staff the tower 24/7 for two years because of the school's proximity to the Middletown Air Depot (now Harrisburg International Airport).

Beginning in the spring of 1942, as part of the Philadelphia U.S. Signal Corps National Defense Training Program, 54 men took classes at HIS in electricity, machine shop practice, and radio work. Women took machine shop courses to be employed at the Middletown Air Depot. All classes were held after school time, from 4 p.m. to midnight. The first class of women trainees in machine tool operation graduated in April 1943 and another group followed. Training continued over the summer as they made precision machine parts for airplanes and tools used for airplane engine repair.

In a letter of thanks, Harry D. Kolb, Major of the Air Corps in Middletown, shared that the school's training was, "indicated in the technical knowledge and manipulative skills now shown by these women trainees. Your wholehearted cooperation has made possible the success of this phase of the training program, and you can justly feel proud of the contribution the Hershey Industrial School has made to National Defense." More than 80 years later, the school remains proud of its contribution to the war effort. 🇺🇸



Remembering Berta Harm

Women have been an integral part of Milton Hershey School from its earliest days. Beginning with Catherine Hershey's direct involvement, the school benefited from a woman's touch and strong influence. Nearly 100 years ago in 1923, as the school grew, Superintendent George Copenhaver hired a young woman, Berta Harm, to teach third grade.

After a few years, Miss Harm began teaching sixth grade, and it was in her class that the student-produced *School Industrialist/Spartan* was created. The boys wanted to start a school newspaper and began writing news articles in long-hand, hanging them on the hallway walls. Mr. Copenhaver noticed their efforts, and during the fall of 1933, the first issue of the *Boy Industrialist* (later the *School Industrialist*, then *Spartan*) was published.

In 1930, after continuing her education, Miss Harm assumed the role of school psychologist in the Admissions Department. In that role, Miss Harm developed admissions procedures, interviewed, and tested prospective students, and traveled about the country to visit the boys and their families in their homes. In an interview after her retirement, Miss Harm recalled traveling about 1,500 miles per month. She drove alone through snow, ice, and mud, surviving flat

tires, detours, and attempting to find towns not on any map—all before the days of cell phones and navigation systems. During her tenure, Miss Harm was responsible for the admission of over 1,500 new students, and school enrollment increased from 400 to 1,100.

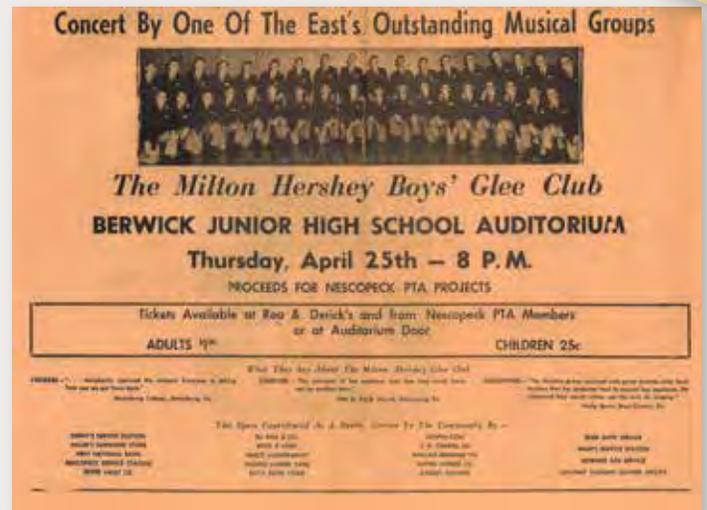
Gasoline rationing during World War II ended Miss Harm's traveling days, and from then on, she conducted interviews and admission testing at the Junior-Senior High School (now Catherine Hall). In 1950, she was named assistant principal of the Fanny B. Hershey Elementary School—the school's first female administrator. She remained there until her retirement in 1953.

Miss Harm was named an honorary alumna in 1954 and memorialized in 1999 with the naming of the Berta Harm Enrollment & Family Relations Center in former student home Habana. She is remembered for her service to the school and her comforting assurance to families that allowed them to give their boys the opportunity to enroll at the school. 🙏



Your Memories Update

The Department of School History is continuing the multi-year project to modernize the school's archival collection and has begun the process of digitizing items. Included in the first wave are class scrapbooks. Many scrapbooks contain photographs that do not exist elsewhere. Also included are a Glee Club scrapbook and posters, students' vocational trade drawing books, letters written home from students in the 1930s, Milton S. Hershey's Silver Beaver Scouting Award Certificate, deeds signed by Milton Hershey, and other items important to the school's history.



THANK YOU to Our Donors

Thank you to all who donated or shared historical materials with the Milton Hershey School Heritage Center at Kinderhaus as of June 2023. If we inadvertently missed listing your gift, please contact us so we can include recognition in the next issue of Thy Traditions Dear.

Christine (Brennan) Cook '81 | Family of William '40 and Mary Dearden

Scott MacDonald, MHS Retiree | Family of MHSAA Honorary Member Don Whitman

THERE IS NO AGE LIMIT IN SERVICE:

MHS Ambassador Ralph Greer '46

BY SUSAN ALGER, HERITAGE SCHOOL HISTORY



In an Oct. 4, 1942, article in the Philadelphia Inquirer titled There's No Age Limit in Service to Country, Milton S. Hershey shared, "There are no limitations to what age can do. An interest in something new triumphs over the calendar any day." Ralph Greer '46 is proof of that.

In the spring of 2015, Ralph made inquiries about Mr. Hershey's thoughts when starting the school, and the Department of School History provided him with information that gave insight to Mr. Hershey's reasoning. That inquiry began a long relationship between Ralph and the Department of School History to spread the word about MHS.

Ralph enrolled in Hershey Industrial School at the age of six. He studied in the commercial program, was active in the Glee Club, Industrialist publication, and Acropolis yearbook staff. He credits his houseparents at farmhome Men-O with

teaching him work ethic and the commitment to complete a job. He remembers "little kindnesses that the houseparents did that made you realize that they cared."

After graduation, Ralph attended Hershey Junior College and enlisted in the United States Army, serving in Korea as a court reporter. He then had a successful career in insurance in Colorado.

Ralph volunteered at his church to give a presentation on Milton S. Hershey and his alma mater with help from fellow alumnus, John Russell '62. After hearing many people ask, "why haven't we ever heard this story before," Ralph realized that in his retirement community of about 2,000, "an awful lot of people never heard of [the school]. All they knew was HERSHEY'S Chocolate." That led to extensive preparation for presentations at his retirement community's Learners Classes.

In addition to quotes from Mr. Hershey, Ralph requested current information about the school, in order that his presentations were up-to-date and accurate. He requested information on summer and vacation programming for the students, and culled data from the MHS website and YouTube page. Ralph gave four different presentations, one on Milton S. Hershey, the development of the school from 1909 to 1930, the vocational program at the Junior-Senior High School, now Catherine Hall, and finally a session talking about MHS today.



Ralph's first class was on Sept. 25, 2016 and continued until spring 2023. He also wrote articles promoting MHS and Mr. Hershey's generosity for his community newsletter. The people who attended his classes were amazed to hear about the school. Ralph shared that when chatting with a woman at his medical clinic, "I somehow got onto the subject of chocolate, and Mr. Hershey's successes and legacy. She wanted to know more and thought she might know some families with children that would qualify to attend MHS. The school sent me several packets and I gave her one. I am interested if she lets me know of any successes with that. Another resident works in a school and wants one of those to take to teachers."

Ralph planted seeds about MHS to many people over the years. "What I tried to

APPLY TO SERVE AS A SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

The role of a Spartan Ambassador is to spread the word about Milton Hershey School and admissions opportunities in your local communities. Spartan Ambassadors may also attend prospective family events or a promotional event at a location near you.

Scan the QR code to learn more and submit an application.



emphasize in the classes was that there was a man and his wife, who had no children, who gave away all of their money to help kids.”

When asked what impact the classes had on him, Ralph replied, “I was never an outgoing person, and it took me a little while to get up the courage to do this...I was never one to be out in the front, but I just decided the message had to be told. So, I had quite a bit of good feelings when the people coming back to me were thanking me for the presentation and so forth.”

In his retirement community, Ralph Greer is known as the Hershey Man and is a great example that there is no limit to serving. 🍪



MHS CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2023 at the 89th Commencement Ceremony

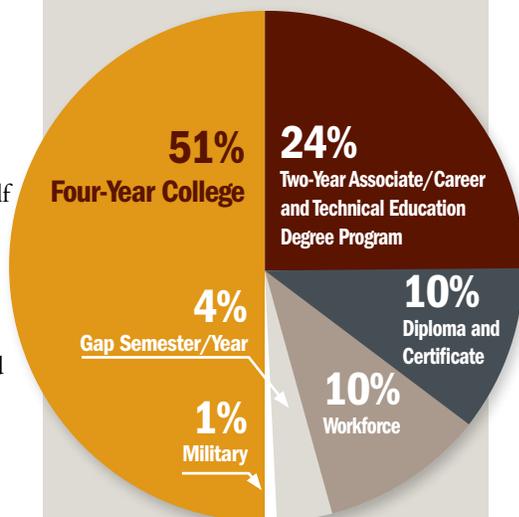


MHS Class of 2023 Senior Stats

The Class of 2023 demonstrated the school's four Sacred Values as they navigated their high school career. Together, the 218 members of the class volunteered more than 4,737 hours toward community service projects and earned more than 1,200 college credits.

This graduating class was involved on campus in several ways. Fifty-eight seniors were National Honors Society members and 48 participated in the National Technical Honor Society. To top that, more than 130 members of the Class of 2023 completed internships while at MHS. Nearly 100 seniors also earned a Varsity H award for their participation in co-curricular activities.

As graduates of MHS, members of the Class of 2023 plan to find success in many ways:



On June 11, Milton Hershey School celebrated its 89th Commencement Ceremony with parents/sponsors, staff, and students in attendance. The Class of 2023 was overcome with emotion as they reflected on their time at MHS and prepared to start a new journey.

The ceremony included student speeches, special video presentations, and personal recognition of each graduating senior. Savannah Miller, member of the Class of 2023, welcomed more than 5,000 guests to Giant Center and honored her classmates for their resilience.

“Thank you, Milton Hershey School, for allowing me and my classmates to grow and change,” she shared. “For giving me the chance to prove those teachers back home wrong and an opportunity I never saw.”

MHS President Pete Gurt '85 also addressed the seniors and audience, recognizing parents/sponsors, houseparents, teachers, and staff, for the role they played in helping the Class of 2023 reach their Day WON.

“It is your vision that inspires your actions and the daily habits you create that motivate a disciplined mindset, and ultimately, lead you to success,” Gurt said.

Now that the Class of 2023 has graduated from MHS, they have joined a community of more than 11,600 alumni. To showcase the incredible gift that students and alumni are given, the 2023 MHS Alumnus of the Year Robin Ferrer '00 joined the celebration.

“You are prepared, capable, and qualified to go out into the world and make your mark,” he shared.

After the presentation of diplomas, Maia Marraro '23 gave a farewell address on behalf of her classmates. She shared that MHS has leveled the playing field for all the young graduates seated on stage.

“We have embraced adversity head on, and MHS has erased the limits, excuses, and boundaries to us pursuing our dreams,” she added. 🙌

Commencement Speaker Excerpts



Maia Marrero:

“Keep close the values that Milton Hershey School has taught us from the start and our days, months, and years will be won. W. O. N. Phoenix Class of 2023, we have risen from the ashes, and now it is up to us to keep going.”

Savannah Miller:

“On June 20, 2016, MHS became a consistent part of my life. It was here that I learned to soak up opportunities, to find my voice, to be okay with asking for help, to travel, and to be a kid and not simply worry about survival.”



MHS Class of 2023 Honored at Senior Chapel and Awards Ceremony

On June 4, Milton Hershey School’s Class of 2023 gathered with their Middle and Senior Division peers in Founders Hall for a special Senior Chapel Service and Awards Ceremony. The event was packed with inspirational messages, readings, and musical performances.

Senior Ediany Gonzalez welcomed guests to the event and shared what the name “phoenix class” means to her.

Will Ogle, MHS director of religious programs, reminded the Class of 2023 about the importance of seeking out and holding on to what truly matters, while choosing your words carefully.

“No matter what season we are in, we can still be good and do good, while bringing good out of the circumstance that might not be so good on the surface,” he shared. “The seasons will come and go, but we cannot hold on to them. The best we can do is to make the most of them while we are in them.”

After a special video played, the service concluded with a message from MHS senior Sharon Kossiakoff. Her message touched on the importance of family for MHS students and staff.

“As Mr. Hershey once said, ‘Caramels are only a fad. Chocolates are a permanent

thing.’ The same idea applies here. The IDs and tucked-in shirts will end. The levels and restrictions will go away. The memories of the Health Center meals will soon sadly be forgotten. But our ties here, our family, and our MHS roots—those are permanent things.”

Following the event, seniors were honored with awards to recognize their accomplishments since enrolling at MHS. 🎓



Milton Hershey School Finishes the 2022-23 School Year with Traditions



Students and staff at Milton Hershey School were busy celebrating a Day WON as the 2022-23 school year came to an end.

On June 7, after completing their academic courses, seniors participated in a ceremony where they each received their class rings. The ceremony included remarks from MHS President Pete Gurt '85 and representatives from the MHS Alumni Association. Gurt noted the class ring is a meaningful tradition at MHS.

This year's ceremony was especially significant because it was the first year it took place near the replica of the MHS class ring

that was installed in Founders Hall last fall. Before each student received his or her ring, they were required to share what the ring meant to them.

"For me, the ring is a symbol of friendship because of the friendships I realized as a student," Gurt said.

For the last 83 years, the MHS class ring has remained unchanged and continues to represent the unique bond that graduates of the school share. Seniors also were given specially-made gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Gurt.

On June 8, the Class of 2023 traveled to the Philadelphia area for a riverboat cruise and a fun-filled time at Dave & Busters. Back at MHS, students in ninth- through 11th-grade took a day out of the classroom to give



back to the community during the school's annual Day of Service.

The last day of school—June 9—was also full of excitement across the MHS campus. Elementary and Middle Divisions celebrated with Fourth- and Eighth-Grade Promotion Ceremonies, while seniors prepared for prom in the newly renovated Founders Hall. 🎉



Recent Graduates Receive Alumni-Sponsored Awards

Forty members of the Class of 2023 received alumni-sponsored awards at the Milton Hershey School Alumni-Student Awards Brunch in May. The awards were sponsored by the MHS Alumni Association and several of its chapters, Dearden Foundation, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, and several individual alumni. Several of the awards are presented in tribute to alumni, including the late Jack Cleaver '54, William E. Dearden '40, William R. Fisher '50, Dick Purcell '61, and Henry Torres '03.

Each award has a financial gift which was presented at the Senior Chapel Service and Awards Ceremony in June. Thank you to the MHS Alumni Association, its chapters, Dearden Foundation, and the alumni who make these awards possible.

In addition, 10 alumni who graduated in 2022 or earlier received alumni-related awards to assist with their postsecondary education. 🎓



2023 Alumnus of the Year and his wife, Zuleika, congratulate Anna Allen '23, the 2023 recipient of the award they sponsor.

Recipients

Anna Allen '23

Lindsay Andrews '23

Delvin Bish '23

Madison Booth '23

Kirsten Cox '23

Elijah Eubank '23

Megan Forthofer '23

Vanessa Frimpong '22

Davan Hanley '19

Devin Hardy '22

Amiracle Harris '23

Nevaeh Heverling '23

Lisa Jones '23

Dahgee (Brianna) Kapel '23

Thomas Kramer '23

Danielle "Jynx" Kratz '23

Damien Lambert '23

Paris Layer '23

Matthew Leach '22

Maia Marrero '23

Paige McBride '22

Haedyn Mokshefski '22

Destiny Morris '23

Russell Morse '21

Nysir Neal-Pelzer '20

Reshikesh Neupane '23

Chloe Newton '20

Olarenwaju Onabanwo '23

Elizabeth Pace '22

Surya Pacheco '23

Dominic Rios '23

Blake Peterman '23

Marcus Rodriguez '23

Rayleen Wayoe '21

Mikalsh White '23

Emily Witmer '23

Alumni-Sponsored Awards

Robin and Zuleika Ferrer Health Care Leadership Award

Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Culinary Scholarship and MHSAA Culinary Award

MHSAA Culinary Award

William E. Dearden Emerging Leadership Award McAndrews Award

MHSAA Culinary Award, MHSAA Stamp Committee Award, and William E. Dearden Emerging Leadership Award

MHSAA Stamp Committee Award

MHSAA Culinary Award

MHSAA Culinary Award

MHSAA Culinary Award

Melissa Fullmore Aspiring Educator Award

John "Jack" Cleaver Award for a Graduate Entering the Military or a Trade

MHSAA Culinary Award

Brown/Oliver Enterprising Student Scholarship Award

Dick Purcell Career Technical Education Award and MHSAA Culinary Award

MHSAA Culinary Award

MHSAA Harrisburg Chapter Career Technical Education Award

William R. Fisher Scholarship Award

MHSAA Culinary Award

William R. Fisher Scholarship Award

MHSAA Culinary Award

Milton and Catherine Hershey Citizenship Award MHSAA Culinary Award

Henry "Hank" Torres Spirit Award and Memorial Scholarship

MHSAA Culinary Award

MHSAA Homestead Chapter Spartan Pride Award

McAndrews Award

MHSAA D.C. Chapter Community Service Award

MHSAA Homestead Chapter Spartan Pride Award

Barbara Polk Award

MHSAA Culinary Award

Dick Purcell Career Technical Education Award and Melissa Fullmore Aspiring Educator Award

MHS Lifer Awards Presented by the MHSAA Honorary Chapter

Layne Cooper

Kyhree Green

Landon Haynes

Avery HULLIHEN

Dahuah Kapel

Danielle Kratz

McKenzie Langille

Ofere Lomodong

Darrin Okyere-Darko

Zhakyiah Paker

Cristian Pinero

Teryn Prude-Wilkerson

Beautiful Pyatt

Marcus Rodriguez

Rhys Rossier

Madelyn Swofford

Chase Usner

Boden VanSkyhawk

Seniors and Alumni Celebrate During Alumni FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND 2023



Milton Hershey School and the MHS Alumni Association thank alumni who participated in events throughout Alumni Fellowship Weekend in April. The weekend began with a Career Expo where alumni and MHS industry partners talked with sophomores during panel discussions. That afternoon, MHS unveiled the D. Michael Weller Trades Center, and that evening MHS President Peter Gurt '85 and MHSAA President John Foley '83 honored Weller as they hosted a Presidents' Reception in the Founders Hall Rotunda. On Saturday, alumni hosted more than 200 members of the Class of 2023 for the Alumni-Senior Fellowship Brunch. 2022 Alumna of the Year Jocelyn Bioh '01 offered inspiring remarks to the seniors, and several alumni and seniors were presented with Alumni Achievement Awards. The Senior-Alumni Celebration, a new event, followed the brunch in Founders Hall Auditorium where seniors and alumni faced off in Milt Family Feud. 



To view additional photos from Alumni Fellowship Weekend 2023, scan the QR code.



MHS Honors Outstanding Alumni and Student Achievements

Milton Hershey School honored three outstanding graduates and three members of the Class of 2023 with Alumni Achievement Awards at the Alumni-Senior Brunch on Saturday, April 22. The annual awards, introduced in 1997, honor graduates and seniors for academic, career, and community service accomplishments.

Jamison Langguth '06 and Emily Witmer '23 were honored for career accomplishment; Diane Ford '13 and Lionel Torres '23 were honored for academic excellence; and Kwasi Abrokwa '00 and Damien Lambert '23 were honored for community service.

ALUMNI RECIPIENTS



**Jamison Langguth '06,
Career Accomplishment**

Jamison started his career in clinical research analyzing EEG waveforms and has worked his way through clinical operations into management. He is currently senior manager of health strategy innovation at Stanford University's Center for Clinical Research. In his role, he works toward creating funds, programs, and supporting team science on the ground to ensure that health innovations become new standards of care.

He has worked on clinical trials with child and adult populations across a variety of disciplines including space and sleep medicine, digital health, cardiology, neurology, addiction, oncology, regenerative medicine, and infectious disease. His commercialization experience mainly involves creating and launching therapeutic, medical device, and digital health companies.

Jamison serves on two boards and volunteers as an entrepreneur-in-residence (EIR) for two programs. He is a board member and co-founder of Aero Therapeutics, which helps physicians treat respiratory issues in low-resource settings with the company's sustainable, rugged, and affordable medical devices. He recently joined the board of Terra Firma International, which strives to break intergenerational poverty. He volunteers as an EIR and Silliman College Fellow for Yale University and as an EIR Mentor with OneRise's WEF Global Shapers Initiative. OneRise is a non-profit initiative that aims to level the playing field by connecting immigrant founders to the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to succeed.

Jamison earned his undergraduate degree in psychology at Drexel University. He earned his first master's degree in education policy from the University of Pennsylvania and his second in health management from Harvard University. Finally, he completed his fellowship in life science entrepreneurship at Yale University.



**Diane Ford, J.D. '13,
Academic Excellence**

Diane is a native of Brooklyn, New York, but she calls many places home. During her time at MHS, Diane received the Most Nearly Ideal Senior Award. After graduation, she moved to North Carolina where she attended Campbell University. In 2017, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics, and in spring 2022, she graduated with a Juris-Doctorate Degree from Campbell Law School.

Diane's legal education led her to serve as an extern for the North Carolina Community College

System, Legal Aid of North Carolina, and the Attorney's Office for City of Durham.

A former member of Campbell Law's distinguished advocacy program, Diane competed in the National Civil Trial Competition and Annual Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition. When Diane was president of Campbell Law's Black Law Student Association, it earned Chapter of the Year, a celebrated award among the southern region of black law students.

Diane is currently a law clerk for Whitaker & Hamer PLLC and recently passed the North Carolina Bar Exam in March 2022.



**Kwasi Abrokwa '00,
Community Service**

Kwasi is the director of talent at The Management Center, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. that helps social justice leaders build and run equitable, sustainable, and results-driven organizations. Prior to joining The Management Center, Kwasi was the talent manager for Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, leading all talent and recruitment efforts locally in Harrisburg and Philadelphia, and internationally in Abu Dhabi and Latin America. Outside of his profession, Kwasi enjoys coaching student-athletes in wrestling, a sport he first learned at MHS where he was a successful wrestler. He was a volunteer coach at Palmyra High School before becoming head coach of the MHS Middle Division wrestling program.

Kwasi's commitment to service can be seen in various areas. As a member of the Zeta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, he has been involved with initiatives

that focus on voter education and registration, conducting programming for students who would like to attend college, and helping to provide college scholarships. He has been involved with providing meals for families in the Harrisburg area on Thanksgiving and donating and delivering hundreds of toys to families over the Christmas holiday.

Most recently, the Zeta Theta Lambda Chapter visited MHS to speak with students about civil rights icon and member of Alpha Phi Alpha, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The chapter also partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters to host the first HBCU College Fair at the WITF building, where nearly 25 historically Black colleges and universities from across the country met with students from many high schools in central Pennsylvania, including select students from MHS.

Kwasi is also an active participant in Big Brothers Big Sisters YouthRise mentorship program for middle and high school students in the Harrisburg area. He was also a panelist at the MHS Boys' Leadership Conference in March 2022, where he spoke about his experience as a student-athlete while attending the school and provided students with insight on navigating life post-graduation.

Kwasi is a part of several professional organizations in the area. He is a board member for the Diversity and Inclusion Professionals of Central PA and an active member of the Human Resources Professionals of Central PA, Young Professionals of Color in Greater Harrisburg, and the national chapter of the Society of Human Resources Management. Because of his professional work and commitment to community service and inspiring change, Kwasi was recognized by the Central Penn Business Journal as a "Top 40 Under 40."

CLASS OF 2023 RECIPIENTS



**Emily Witmer '23,
Career Accomplishment**

Emily enrolled at MHS as a fourth-grader, and since that time, flourished through academic achievements, leadership qualities, and efforts to serve MHS community. She was highly active in a variety of school programs, and most notably was active in the Milt-to-Milt program for MHS high school students to support their youngest peers in Elementary Division. Emily was also a member of the National Honor Society.

During the fall semester, Emily completed an internship with a second-grade classroom at Memorial Hall. In the spring, she participated in the Elizabethtown College program where she and a select group of her peers took a full semester course load. Emily plans to continue her education at West Chester University and study secondary education with an English focus and minor in American Sign Language.



**Lionel Torres '23,
Academic Excellence**

Lionel was an MHS student since fourth grade. He was a member of the Spartan Marching Band and Color Guard, served on the M.O.L.D. committee, and was involved in the Tap Dance class. Lionel also co-founded the crochet club that boasted more than 100 members.

During his senior year, Lionel served as the student body vice president of the Student Government Association. He will attend the University of Pennsylvania to study science, technology, and society.

He plans to become a physician specializing in infectious diseases.



**Damien Lambert '23,
Community Service**

Damien enrolled at MHS in fifth grade. He was a member of the MHS swim team, volunteered at school concession stands, and interned with the MHS Information Technology Department. Damien also supported the MHS Admissions Office as a student ambassador. Most notably, he became the face of Milt Morning Updates, the morning announcements produced every school day for the entire student body.

Damien has a reputation for being positive to work with, which led him to be honored with an MHS Chairman's Award for Excellence Medallion. This award is given to students and staff who demonstrate excellence and outstanding alignment with the MHS Sacred Values.

He plans to attend Penn State University's Lehigh Valley campus to study information technology, with a goal to work in the field of enterprise technology integration.

Nominate a Graduate for an Alumni Achievement Award

MHS accepts nominations for Alumni Achievement Awards throughout the year. Nominations received by Oct. 1, 2023 will be added to the candidate review list for the 2024 awards.

For nomination details, visit mhsalum.org/stay-connected/alumni-recognition/alumni-awards or scan the QR code.



MHS Students Explore Opportunities to Become Future Ready at Postsecondary Fair



to best position themselves for long-term success.

Key components of the career readiness process at MHS are self-awareness and career awareness. Events like postsecondary fairs help students become aware of the range of careers within industries they are interested in. MHS college and career counselors play an integral role within this process, working closely with high school students to develop career preparation plans that align with students' personalities, skills, and aptitudes.

Isis Stewart, an MHS junior, spoke to recruiters with the Pennsylvania National Guard and United States Marines.

"There are more aspects to colleges and the military than I thought," Isis said. "If you choose either for your future, every day will be different. Personally, I like mixing things up because it can be very boring to do the same thing every single day."



Chris Koehler, an MHS junior, appreciated having the opportunity to speak to representatives from both colleges and the work force.

The fair closely aligned with the school's 2025 strategic plan, also known as the MILT Plan, which aims to broaden graduate opportunities for apprenticeships, military service, and postsecondary education for professional success. 🗣️

During the spring, Milton Hershey School Senior Division students explored more than 40 secondary options available to them.

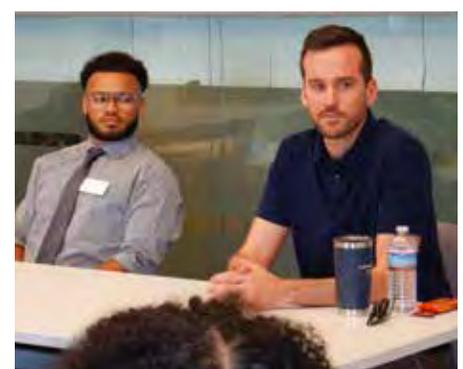
The school's Graduate Programs for Success Division hosted a Postsecondary Fair that connected students with representatives from two- and four-year college programs, the military, and local and regional employers. Students had the ability to talk one-on-one with their guests and discuss how

Alumni Support Career Focused Education for MHS Students



students explore a variety of careers as they create post-graduate plans that are a good fit for them and prepare them to become future ready.

Thank you to the alumni who volunteered for programs during the 2022-23 school year. As the Alumni Relations Office and Graduate Programs for Success staff plan for the 2023-24 school year, they encourage alumni to visit [MHSAlum.org](https://www.mhsalum.org) to learn about opportunities to continue supporting career-related programs for MHS students of all ages. Depending on your location, you may participate on campus or online. Opportunities include, but are not limited to, Go R.E.D. (Read Every Day) Family Reading Night, Elementary Division Career Mondays, Middle Division Career Nights,



Ninth-Grade Classroom Speakers, and Tenth-Grade Career Expo. 🗣️

To learn more about opportunities to support MHS programs and students, visit <https://www.mhsalum.org/alumni-career-speaker-volunteers/>.

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, more than 100 alumni volunteered for student programs to support Milton Hershey School's commitment to career focused education for students in all divisions. The programs are designed to help

GPS Hosts Year-End Celebration for Class of 2023



One of the most important tools that MHS provides its soon-to-be graduates, is the ability to find their passion and pursue it following their high school graduation. The Graduate Programs for Success Division (GPS) and Senior Division scholastic team work diligently with students during their senior year to finalize a plan for post-graduate success.



On May 31, Milton Hershey School seniors gathered to celebrate the diverse array of post-graduate plans within the Class of 2023. Students and staff members met on campus for this celebratory event with walking tacos, an ice cream truck, games, a dunk tank, and other activities.

The second annual GPS Plan Celebration is a twist on National Decision Day. Originally created to celebrate MHS seniors' finalization of their post-graduate plans, this event was held just days ahead of the school's 89th Commencement Ceremony.

Following the Commencement Ceremony, MHS staff continue to work with the Class of 2023 to ensure that they have the resources to follow through on the plans they created during their senior year. As part of the celebration, seniors and staff were asked to wear clothing that showcased their post-graduate choices.

This event was a collaboration with the GPS team, Transitional Living staff, and the Student Government Association. TL staff members who helped seniors learn to live more independently, college and career counselors who guided them as they

developed their plans, and other staff were invited to congratulate the Class of 2023 for their accomplishments.

More than 50 percent of the Class of 2023 will pursue a four-year bachelor's degree, while more than 20 percent will pursue a two-year associate or career and technical education program. Other members of the graduating class will pursue a certificate program, enter the world of work, join the military, and more. 🎓

MHS Class Ring Added to The Friendship Garden

A large sculpture of the MHS class ring was added to the Friendship Garden on the Dearden Alumni Campus in time for Alumni Fellowship Weekend in April 2023. The Dearden Alumni campus facilities include Purcell Friendship Hall, the Friendship Garden, and The Dearden House. The Dearden House Museum is open for tours Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 🎓



MHS Alumni and Retirees Celebrate the Arrival of Summer at Dearden Alumni Campus Event



Milton Hershey School alumni, retirees, and their guests celebrated the arrival of summer at a family-friendly regional event on Sunday, June 25, at the Dearden Alumni Campus in Hershey. This event included food trucks, ice cream, a cornhole tournament, information about MHS careers, admissions, Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning, and more.

The MHS Office of Alumni Relations hosts alumni events in various locations throughout the year. Invitations are mailed to alumni who live in those locations, but all alumni in good standing may attend. Watch the Spartan Minute e-newsletter for details about future events. 📧



Mark Your Calendar for Homecoming 2023

Milton Hershey School Homecoming 2023 is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 21-24. Classes ending in 3s and 8s will celebrate reunions.

The MHS Spartan football team will play the Hershey High School Trojans for the Cocoa Bean trophy during the Homecoming football game.

Mark your calendar now and watch the Spartan Minute e-newsletter and your U.S. mail for event and registration details. 📧

MHS Dedicates Trades Center in Honor of the Late Mike Weller '66



During Alumni Fellowship Weekend in April, Milton Hershey School dedicated the D. Michael Weller Trades Center. The MHS community remembered the beloved coach, teacher, and administrator for his service to the school and dedication to student success.

As a student, Weller was an active athlete, Explorer Scout, National Honor Society member, and leader. As an MHS English teacher and basketball coach, Weller modeled the lessons he learned from MHS teachers, said classmate Charles “Chuck” Welsh '66. In 1980, he coached the Spartans to their first successful Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association District III basketball championship. The next year,

Weller’s team was crowned state champions.

Jason Wolfe '87, a member of the MHS Board of Managers, said Weller thought of others more than himself. He credited his former teacher’s guidance to his success as an entrepreneur and self-taught programmer.

“In the years following my graduation, I realized how much he cared about me personally,” said Wolfe.

Several current MHS students also participated in the event to share their excitement about their new classroom. Tia Williams Cooper '23, MHS senior, noted how her education prepared her for the future. After graduation, Tia will attend Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology to prepare for a career as an auto mechanic.

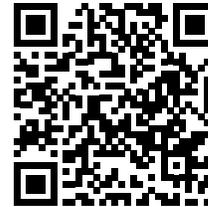
“We are excited for the hands-on learning experiences that are now possible because of the technology and resources in this facility,” Tia said.

Another senior, Edwin Villanueva '23, praised the opportunities he experienced in the MHS Carpentry and Construction pathway as a part of the school’s Career and Technical Education program. Villanueva plans to study project management at the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

“We dedicate this building to Mr. Weller and his commitment to ensuring that all students have the chance to find success in our future careers,” he said.

The MHS CTE program and its 12 career pathways prepare students for college or career. The program combines tailor-made instruction and hands-on learning with the ability to gain certifications and real-life experience through internships, co-ops, and pre-apprenticeships. 📺

Scan the QR code to watch a video about the dedication.



Congratulations to Our Postsecondary Graduates

Congratulations to Milton Hershey School alumni who earned a certificate, an associate or bachelor’s degree during the 2022-23 academic year. Your MHS family is proud of you!

If you completed postsecondary credentials this year, email a photo to MHSAlum@mhs-pa.org so we can include it in our online photo gallery. Please include your name, class year, postsecondary institution, degree, and graduation date. 📺

Scan the QR code to view the MHS Gallery of Graduates.



A Note from the MHS Alumni Association President

Good day, fellow Milts!

2023 has been a tremendous year for Milton Hershey School Alumni Association—and we have the second half ahead of us. One of the many highlights was welcoming our new members, the Class of 2023.

There is so much more to share: our association's first major event of 2023 took place during Alumni Fellowship Weekend in April. On Friday, MHS President Pete Gurt '85 and I hosted the Presidents' Reception in Founders Hall as we kicked off an MHSAA campaign to support the Hershey Courtyard of Honor. On Saturday, alumni and seniors enjoyed brunch (formerly the Alumni-Senior Dinner), special remarks from 2022 Alumna of the Year Jocelyn Bioh '01, and a Milt version of Family Feud. Unfortunately, thunderstorms impacted the Cancer Care Walk, but we still raised funds to benefit members in need. The schedule of events differed from previous Alumni Fellowship Weekends, and we learned, grew, and had fun!

In May, officers of MHSAA traveled to Florida for a regional event hosted by the

MHS Alumni Relations Office. More than 50 alumni, retirees, and guests joined us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Even more important, many alumni who attended confirmed their willingness to volunteer for a variety of service and career support opportunities with alumni and students.

MHSAA is proud of the many alumni who, like Jack Thomas '39, contribute in a variety of ways to support others, quietly and without fanfare. We embrace opportunities to thank these unsung Spartans for their efforts. In June, at the MHS alumni regional event in Hershey, MHSAA celebrated the work of Jim Hanawalt '65. Through the years, Jim has been a dedicated alumni volunteer and has been especially committed to supporting MHS students. We wanted Jim to hear from all of us how thankful we are for his work and dedication. Jim has also served on many MHSAA committees. Suffice it to say, Jim has dedicated over 50 years of service to our home and school, quietly, consistently, and without fanfare. He is an unsung Spartan hero!

During Commencement Weekend, MHS honored Robin Ferrer '00 as Alumnus of the

Year. Robin's humbling story, from poverty, struggles, and self-doubt to vice president of Mount Sinai Health System in New York City, is truly inspiring. In addition to his career, Robin volunteers in his community and at MHS.

Jack, Jim, and Robin exemplify the values instilled in us all as students at MHS. To all the alumni who have given their time, treasure, and talent without fanfare, we thank you for continuing the legacy of our founders.

In September, we invite you to join us as we celebrate our special bond as alumni brothers and sisters during Homecoming, Sept. 21-24, 2023. Watch for the Homecoming brochure and MHSAA ballot in your mail, register to attend, and vote for MHSAA directors to help guide our Association. We look forward to seeing you and those who helped raise us at the best home and school on the planet. 🇺🇸

With best regards,
John Foley '83
MHS Alumni Association President



Presidents' Reception Supports Local Courtyard of Honor

Milton Hershey School Alumni Association hosted the Presidents' Reception on April 21, 2023, at the newly renovated Founders Hall Rotunda during Alumni-Senior Fellowship Weekend. MHS President Pete Gurt '85 and MHSAA President John Foley '83 commemorated the late alumnus D. Michael Weller '66 following the dedication of a Trades Center named in his honor. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Courtyard of Honor, a collaborative effort with Dauphin County, Derry Township, and local business leaders to memorialize Derry Township citizens lost in the 9/11 tragedy, as well as those who served in armed conflicts and as local First Responders. MHSAA joined the effort to memorialize MHS Gold Star Alumni who died during honorable military service. 🇺🇸



Dick Purcell Spartan Classic Marks Fifth Year at Hershey Country Club

This year marked the fifth year of the Dick Purcell Spartan Classic at Hershey Country Club. The event is a joint effort of The Dearden Foundation and the Milton Hershey School Alumni Association to raise money to support young graduates through scholarships, mentoring programs, and support services.

Premier sponsors included The Hershey Company, Hershey Country Club, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, NRG Controls, Inc., Milton Hershey School, and The Purcell Company. The 2023 Dick Purcell Spartan Classic is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024. 🇺🇸

MHSAA Hosts New Senior-Alumni Celebration

The 2023 Alumni Fellowship Weekend featured a new event—the Senior-Alumni Celebration. Following the Alumni-Senior Brunch, seniors and alumni participated in an interactive challenge game of Milt Family Feud in the newly renovated Founders Hall Auditorium. Milton Hershey School President Pete Gurt '85 and MHS Alumni Association Board Member Bob Gurt '82 captained their respective teams while MHSAA President John Foley '83 moderated what resulted in a fun-filled afternoon to welcome the soon-to-be graduates to the MHS. 🎉



MHSAA Launches Auto Insurance Program for Class of 2023

Milton Hershey School Alumni Association has launched a new program to assist members of the Class of 2023. The Prior Coverage Auto Insurance Support Program will help licensed seniors earn six months of prior coverage when they graduate. This non-owned liability policy will prevent a lapse in coverage for six months post-graduation and help reduce costs when those grads look to obtain their own auto insurance policies.

The program was introduced by MHSAA Treasurer, Tom Trispagonas '99, who worked in collaboration with the MHSAA Executive Committee, the MHSAA Board of Directors, and the MHS leadership team to make this program a reality. The program is funded by MHSAA exclusively. There will be no cost to members of the Class of 2023 or MHS. 🎉



SGA and Alumni Collaborate

Each month, Milton Hershey School's Senior Division Student Government Association (SGA) hosts a meeting to collaborate on new ideas to benefit the student body. In May, the Homestead and Harrisburg Chapters of the MHS Alumni Association joined SGA to learn more about each other and to identify new ways alumni can be involved in helping students at MHS. 🎉



CHAPTER NEWS



Homestead and Harrisburg Chapters

The Homestead and Harrisburg Chapters are accepting new members. Both chapters plan events to help local alumni stay connected, encourage and promote attendance at Milton Hershey School events, and support current MHS students throughout the school year. To apply for membership in either chapter, visit mhsalum.org/mhsaa-chapter-application/. 🎉



Honorary Member Chapter

The Honorary Member Chapter met at Camp Milton in May 2023 for their annual picnic and meeting. Twenty-one members attended, and special guests included Barbara Witman, widow of an MHSAA honorary member, the late Don Witman, and Aurita Maldonado '01. Maldonado, author of *The Zen of Dancing in the Rain: Becoming One with the Storm*, shared her days at Milton Hershey School and her many experiences since graduating from MHS. Chapter President Cristal Sheaffer presided over the meeting; all officers were in attendance. 🎉



Washington, D.C. Chapter

The Washington, D.C. Chapter convened in Whitetail Resort in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, Feb. 17-19 for their annual Spartans in the Snow event. Chapter members and their families participated in outdoor winter events including tubing and skiing. This has become a signature chapter event, attracting members from Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area. 🎉

CLASS Notes

1940s

Anthony Perry '42, of Parkesburg, Pa., turned 99 on April 14, but he feels like he is 50. He visits his relatives every day for something to do and is up early every morning and on the go, just like on the farm at HIS and in the Navy during World War II. He spent 39 years working at G.O. Carlson, Inc. in Coatesville-Thorndale, Pa.

Charles Schock '44, of Media, Pa., is still “alive and kicking.” He recently sent a 64-page autobiography of his life and his career as an exhibit designer to the MHS Heritage Center at Kinderhaus.

F. Tait Douglas '45, of Sun City, Ariz., gave up softball three years ago at the age of 92. He is still going strong, staying healthy, and feeling good.

Byron Smith '46, of Lititz, Pa., celebrated his 95th birthday on July 13, 2023. During his career, he was a linotype operator. At Hershey Industrial School, he was a good student, active in the student government, and an avid reader and writer, with a love of poetry. He published two books, *Dances on the Sea* and *Gathered Pieces*. He is no longer able to attend reunions due to physical constraints, however his mind is good. He has three children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

James Smith '47, of Glen Mills, Pa., will have been married 73 years on July 29, 2023. He has four daughters, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, who all bring joy to his life.

Robert Sauder '48, of Havertown, Pa., turned 92 on March 11, 2023. He has seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

1950s

Kenneth Palovitz '50, of Hershey, Pa., is still doing carpentry projects and enjoying life at 91.

Raymond Ballard '51, of Bethlehem, Pa., retired from Wegman's in November 2022.

Carl Evans '51, of Martinsburg, Pa., celebrated his 90th birthday on Feb. 25, 2023.

Edwin Hill '51, of West Chester, Pa., retired from full-time work in 2003 and became a widower in 2007. He lives in the house he built in 1965.

George Marks '51, of Cumming, Ga., still lives at beautiful Lake Lanier. He enjoys playing golf, snow skiing, traveling, and just enjoying the good life.

John Moore '53, of Lancaster, Pa., married Rosalie Kay Moore in 2019; his first wife passed away.

Leonard Fillman '53, of Newmanstown, Pa., has six great grandchildren and is soon to be a great-great-grandpap. He still makes clocks and reminisces about his love of his days at MHS.

David Kelly '53, of Satellite Beach, Fla., has been retired for 20 years. He and his wife of 68 years, Barbara, live at the beach.

Norman Faust '54, of Ruskin, Fla., retired as a machine shop owner.

Harvey Heffner '56, West Lawn, Pa., worked 31 years with PPL and retired in 1994.

Laurence Reynolds '56, of West Chester, Pa., enjoys following Philadelphia professional sports teams, and he is a Penn State wrestling booster club member. He stays active by walking, swimming, and biking and enjoys attending popular and classical music concerts. He also enjoys photography.

Lawrence Yoder '56, of Dalmatia, Pa., and his wife, Evelyn, will have been married for 41 years in August 2023.

Raymond Capozucca '57, of Pittston, Pa., was in the plumbing, heating, and electrical contracting business for 52 years with his brother Al '54. His wife, Cathy, is deceased. He has three children and seven grandchildren. He counts his blessings every day for Mr. and Mrs. Hershey. Everything he has he owes to them.

James Crowther '57, of Mount Royal, N.J., has been on several vacations, including Lake Tahoe, and Arizona where he visited the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, and Sedona. He also took the Clarkdale Verde Canyon Train Ride and a desert zoon in Tucson.

Charles Warren '58, of McConnellsburg, Pa., received a clean bill of health in 2022 after multiple health issues.

Richard Smith '59, of Boca Raton, Fla., and his wife, Karen, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past year.

1960s

James Dayhoff '60, of Claremont, Calif., celebrated his 80th birthday. He is in good spirits and still kicking.

Walter Johnson '60, of Wilmington, Del., served for six years in the U.S. Navy. He went on to work for and retire from Winner Ford of Newark, Del. He is a long-time member of St. David's Episcopal Church.

Samuel Montgomery '60, of Milton, Pa., has a lot of new friends in radiology, pulmonary, dermatology, vascular, optometry, and primary care. He has three daughters, four granddaughters, two grandsons, three great-granddaughters, and two great-grandsons.

Raymond Winward '60, of Waldport, Ore., had a career in the U.S. Air Force before moving into aerospace. He was part of the team that designed and manufactured the space suits worn on the Apollo missions and trained the astronauts on how to use them. In 2002, he and his wife, Jackie, retired to the Oregon coast and have enjoyed being 600 feet from the Pacific Ocean. He has a very close relationship with his three daughters, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson. They all reside near Philadelphia.

David Glass '61, of Georgetown, Del., would enjoy hearing from other classmates. He said, “We had such an outstanding group of guys!”

William Gordon '61, of Harrisburg, Pa., plays golf once a week. He has been retired for 10 years.

Stephen Russell '61, of York, Pa., retired as an attorney at the age of 75 only because his doctor's offices kept asking him when he retired. He and his wife, Nancy, have a second home in Wilmington, N.C. where they enjoy spending time.

Anthony Denike '62, of Hawthorne, N.J., is still working at AECOM where he manages a couple of construction projects in Manhattan. His daughter is now a first officer and flying a Lear Jet 35, transporting medical patients to hospitals for emergency treatments.

Harrisburg Chapter and Class of 1970 Pay Tribute to the Late Don Chappell

Following Milton Hershey School's Memorial Day Assembly in May, members of the MHS Alumni Association Harrisburg Chapter and the Class of 1970 gathered with family members of the late **Don Chappell '70** to pay tribute to him.



Don died in October 2022. The tribute included a flag presentation to Don's family and remarks by **Richard Zilmer '70**, U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant General (retired) and 2004 MHS Alumnus of the Year.

Don retired from the U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Silverdale, Wash., as a logistical manager. After retiring, he worked for the American Red Cross, then became a substitute teacher for the Lower Dauphin School District. He earned a master's degree in public affairs and a bachelor's degree in public management from Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis. Don was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and served in the Vietnam War as a corporal. 🇺🇸

Robert Brown '63, of Franklin, Tenn., serves as a pastoral care minister volunteer. He and his wife, Marilyn, have been married for 56 years and have two adult children and seven grandchildren.

Richard Forney '63, of Warrington, Pa., is still enjoying his grandchildren, fishing, and gardening.

James Gahagan '63, of Woodbury, Minn., and his wife, Dianne, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this summer. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and offroad adventures at his farm in northern Minnesota. He also enjoys road trips to almost anywhere.

James Gould '63, of Hershey, Pa., is enjoying retirement; he plays golf at least two times per week and remains active with the MHSAA Homestead chapter, a men's group at church, and homeowner's association. All three of his granddaughters graduated magna cum laude from college.

Thomas Leonard '63, of Monroeville, Pa., reports that it's been four years since he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and he is doing well.

Edward Rising '63, of Mount Bethel, Pa., decided after 50 years of work in the medical field, to care for himself. His career was good, as one of the first EMTs in Pennsylvania and then as an occupational therapist.

George Delany '64, of Rehoboth, Mass., is retired from the graphic design industry. He is still creating art, and his work can be seen at georgedelanyart.com. He said he is fortunate for family, health, and life itself. "I think about MHS Glee Club a lot these days. Thank you, Mr. A[lexander]."

John Kriner '64, of Ellenton, Fla., has three daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Kenneth Provost '64, of Harrisburg, Pa., was cured of Leukemia.

Bruce Campbell '65, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and his wife, Phyllis, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Feb. 3, 2023.

Stanley Mitchell '65, of Paxinos, Pa., reports that it has been four years since his last heart attack, and he turned 77 on March 23, 2023.

Joseph Samuelson '65, of Kirkwood, Pa., celebrated 53 years of marriage with his wife, Joyce, on Oct. 27, 2022. They have three children and nine grandchildren. Joe enjoys working on his antique cars and driving them.

Barry Smith '65, of Sparta, Ga., is in good health and keeps himself busy.

Samuel Douthett '66, of Butler, Pa., works with Robin's Home, an organization that helps women veterans. It is one of the few places they can go for housing and other kinds of help.

Lawrence Hill '66, of Youngwood, Pa., has three daughters, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He is enjoying retirement.

George Williams '66, of Elizabethtown, Pa., is happily retired after 45 years as a construction electrician. He and his wife, Mary Ann, celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. They enjoy road trips in their Corvette and attending their grandkids' sporting events.

William Beamenderfer '67, of Elizabethtown, Pa., loves to play golf two times a week, go tent camping from April to October, follow high school and college sports, and spend time with family.

Daniel Doble '67, of Rice Lake, Wis., is finally retired at age 72 after a wonderful life of success. He said that MHS gave him the tools to overcome adversity and enjoy life. While it was hard for him as a child to understand the lessons taught at MHS, they served him well in life.

Thomas Clingan '67, of York, Pa., has three great-grandchildren.

Milton Luce '67, of Edinboro, Pa., has three grandchildren, one daughter, and one son (deceased). He has been retired since 2014.

John Moore '68, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and his wife sold their house in Pasadena, Md., and moved to Salt Lake City.



Alumnus Assigned to Operational Support Airlift Activity

Previously an infantryman deployed to Iraq, **Austin Randolph '96** was stationed upon his return at Fort Benning as a Pathfinder and Ranger instructor. Austin flew Blackhawk helicopters for 10 years and was deployed two times, once in 2014 to the Balkans as an air assault pilot and again in 2019 when he was deployed to Afghanistan as a MEDEVAC pilot. Austin has since transitioned to flying fixed wing aircraft and was placed with Detachment 19 of Operational Support Airlift Command. 🇺🇸

Timothy Rupp '68, is enjoying retirement after 34 years of teaching. He recently vacationed in Jamaica with his daughter and family.

George Salomskas '68, of Newport, N.J., after some health challenges, can't wait to start building his dream garage on the nearly two-acre property next to his house that he purchased over two years ago.

Robert Seuffert '68, of Beechview, Pa., is retired. He and his wife, Maureen, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September 2022. They have four sons and five grandchildren. Robert enjoys hunting and fishing along with trap and skeet shooting.

Thomas Viviano '68, of Lakeland, Fla., recently moved to Lakeland, where he has an adjunct teaching position at Florida Technical College.

David Zembower '68, of Port Charlotte, Fla., is retired and enjoys golfing, fishing, and more.

John Furmanak '69, of Media, Pa., and his wife, Nancy, of 38 years, are first-time grandparents. He is enjoying travel, playing golf, and meeting with MHS classmates. He retired in 2018.

Richard Goss '69, of Ormond Beach, Fla., has three adult children, one daughter who graduated medical school in 2022, a son in physician assistant school, and another daughter who works for the U.S. Postal Service.

John Mardula '69, of San Diego, Calif., and his wife, Betsy, are happily retired. One of their daughters and her family live nearby, and their other daughter and her family live in Woburn, Mass.

Robert McDermott '69, of Duryea, Pa., and his wife, Katherine, have been married for 51 years. They have two children, Bob and Ann Marie, and four grandchildren. Robert has been retired for 16 years.

Mark Reiter '69, of Yonkers, N.Y., has lived in the New York City area since graduating from MHS. He has been married for 45 years and has two sons and three grandchildren, all of whom live within 10 minutes of his home, which he describes as a great blessing. He has always worked in the editorial field and for the last 25 years, as a literary agent. When he is not working, he plays golf, travels, or babysits.

1970s

Chris Chandler '70, of Havelock, N.C., retired as a jet engine mechanic from the Cherry Point Naval Aviation Department.

Robert Covel '70, of Kouts, Ind., is in good health and hopes to run another marathon this year.

Robert Gibbons '70, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, enjoys providing childcare for his grandchildren, traveling with his wife, playing guitar, and leading music at his church.

Kirk Hagerty '70, of Belle Vernon, Pa., enjoys fishing and golfing.

Henry Krause '70, of Sewell, N.J., retired in October 2022 and enjoys traveling and spending time with his four grandchildren and family.

William Patts '70, of Taylor, Mich., and his wife, Caroline, have been married for 49 years as of May 2023. He has two daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. William is employed part time by the Detroit Tigers as a seasonal usher at Comerica Park.

Bruce Hummel '71, of Palmyra, Pa., is in his seventh year as a volunteer at the Butterfly Atrium at Hershey Gardens. His wife, Penny, stars in the video, "Hershey Garden Butterfly" on YouTube.

Dennis Snedden '71, of Carnegie, Pa., continues to be involved with Rainbow for girls and DeMolay for boys, and serves on the board of directors for the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation. He is still active in his Masonic Lodge and District. He was looking forward to fishing more this year.

Phil Norris '72, of Minneapolis, Minn., was named Alumnus of the Year by Grace College (IN), his college alma mater, in October 2022. After completing 46 years of music teaching, he is now mostly retired, teaching part time and serving as music director for Christ Bible Church in St. Paul, Minn. He and his wife, Julie, have been married for 41 years, and have three children and four grandchildren.

Roger Angell '73, of Royersford, Pa., retired in May 2022 and enjoys every minute.

Carl Cox '73, of Knoxville, Pa., and his wife, Linda, have been married for 28 years. They have nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Carl is a 20-year borough council member, lifetime fire company member, and past president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. He is also a member of several local, county, and state associations, committees, and coalitions.

Daniel Hissick '73, of Harrisburg, Pa., is retired from AMP Inc. as a market manager. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children.

Mark Vogl '73, of Gilmer, Texas, wrote his eighth book, "The Adventure - Stolen Days," published by Scuppernong Press, Wake Forest, N.C. The story is a time travel back to the days of April 1862 and the battle of Chancellorsville, Va.

James Wishmyer '73, of Leesburg, Va., is celebrating a year of milestones in 2023. He retired after 38 years of full-time pastoral ministry on July 1; he and his wife, Debbie, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on Aug. 13; and he will be celebrating his 50-year reunion with the MHS Class of 1973 in September. He and Debbie have two daughters and two grandchildren.

James Allison '74, of Becket, Mass., is semi-retired and enjoying life with his wife of 42 years, Cheri. They have two adult children who reside in California.

Regis Koch '74, of Palmyra, Pa., is retired from Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and The Hershey Company. He married a local girl and has two grandkids. He is as happy as ever.

William Mottin '74, of Sewell, N.J., is retired. He enjoys driving the Zamboni at his local ice rink between chasing his three little ones around.

James Black '75, of Hershey, Pa., retired from The Hershey Company in 2008. He has been working part time for 41 years at Milton Hershey School.

James Breneman '76, of Manheim, Pa., is retired and does volunteer work. He has four grandchildren.

Robert Knaub '76, of York, Pa., retired from Rutter's Dairy in December 2022.



MHS Seniors Join Alumna to Give Back to Local Community

MHS students alongside Swatara Middle School educator and alumna **Toni Allen-King '88** volunteered to help with the Swatara Middle School beautification project run by members of Pennsylvania State Education Association as a part of their Outreach to Teach convention in March 2023. 📷

Todd Zehmisch '76, of Gibsonia, Pa., retired at the end of 2022 and planned to travel, hike, and play golf. He also looking forward to spending time with his two children and three grandchildren.

Kirby Elliott '77, of San Tan Valley, Ariz., is retired and continues to explore the world.

Glenn Mowrer '77, of Marietta, Pa., retired in August 2022 after 44 years with The Hershey Company at the Lancaster plant. He has two daughters and two grandsons. He is living a quiet, peaceful life with his girlfriend, Renee.

Thomas Savage '77, of New Hope, Pa., is mostly retired after 45 years in health care; 39 of those years he was an EMT in Brooklyn, N.Y., the Bronx, N.Y., and New Jersey.

James Forner '78, of Mount Airy, Md., is in his 42nd year of working in broadcast television.

William Harding '78, of Ruskin, Fla., recently designed and built his dream home in Florida, where he resides with his wife Madeline and their two furry babies. He recently co-authored and published a third book, which is related to the health care industry and also received his 21st patent/trade secret, that focuses on medical device technology.

Eric Jenkins '79, of Felton, Del., and his wife, Cheryl, have been married for 35 years. They have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Eric retired on May 30, 2021 after working for the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years.

Paul Nash '79, of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., has never been married and has no children. He has an 18-year-old goddaughter who he spoils.

B. Scott Wienhold '79, of St. Petersburg, Fla., completed 41 years working for the U.S. Army, including 24 years active duty as an Army Green Beret and an additional 17 years as an instructor for Army/Navy special operations soldiers. He and his wife, Terry, who worked for the U.S. Marine Corp, retired and moved to the eastern shore of Maryland in December 2022. They have a son, four daughters, and two grandchildren.

1980s

Thomas Camarota '80, of Marysville, Ohio, is a team safety instructor and new hire trainer for Ruan Transportation for the Midwest Region.

Richard Buckwalter '82, of King George, Va., and his wife, Lori, have been married for 24 years, and they have two sons and one daughter.



2022 Alumna of the Year Visits Visual and Performing Arts Students

MHS 2022 Alumna of the Year **Jocelyn Bioh '01** visited with Visual and Performing Arts students during Milton Hershey School Career Day on April 21, 2023. Jocelyn credited MHS for allowing her the space to develop individually and creatively. She is an award-winning playwright garnering rave reviews from The New York Times and The Hollywood Reporter and won several awards including the 2018 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, the Dramatists Guild

Hull-Warriner Award, and an African Diaspora Award. 📷



Alumna Featured as a Guest Speaker for MHS Family Weekend

Aurita “Hurricane Rita” Maldonado ’01 spoke to Milton Hershey School students, teachers, and families during Spring Family Weekend in May 2023. She inspired many by reminding them that they are lucky to be alive and should never stop pushing toward their dreams, no matter how difficult life gets. A U.S. Army veteran, purple heart recipient, and Afro-Latin dance instructor, Rita wrote an autobiography about her life’s journey, “The Zen of Dancing in the Rain.” She is pictured with **Brienna (Dill) Mundy ’04**, who works in the MHS Admissions Office. 📖

John Busha ’82, of York, Pa., is a forklift operator for DHL warehouse in Manchester, Pa. He also makes boxes and works in refrigeration. His grandson, age 10, is in Boy Scouts and plays soccer. He and his wife, Cynthia, have been married for 40 years.

Stewart Gingerich ’82, of Boalsburg, Pa., retired from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement in December 2020. He served 23 years as a detention and deportation officer and assistant field office director.

Anthony Oakley ’82, of Suisun City, Calif., has retired after 28 years with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs as an operation facility chief. He and his wife, Michelle, have been married for 17 years. His youngest son graduated from Marine boot camp in December 2022.

John Long ’83, of Glenolden, Pa., and his wife Jeanmarie, have been married for 32 years. They have five children and five grandchildren. John worked for U.S. Airways for 16 years and now works for Wawa Dairies, where he has been for 18 years.

Julee Hixon ’84, of Chesapeake, Va., retired in 2022 and was elected to the MHS Alumni Association Board.

Kenneth Erdley ’85, of Cedar Park,

Texas, moved to a new role at supply-chain software implementer, Inspirage, part of Accenture, after working at Dell for 25 years.

Justin Wayns ’86, of Huntington Beach, Calif., and his wife, Debbie, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in May 2022. In November 2022, he transitioned from managing a client site, being responsible for all network print, to an analyst role and being able to work from home.

Lu Bennett ’87, of Palmyra, Pa., has been with Penske Roadside Assistance for four and a half years. In addition, she has been selling her art since 2020 and successfully growing that business. She has secured a bid to paint

a mural in The Hotel Hershey this coming year. Her oldest son works and lives in Lenexa, Kan., and her youngest son and his wife live and work in Kansas City, Mo.

Howard Boroughs ’87, of Waxhaw, N.C., recently celebrated his 15-year anniversary with Eaton Corporation where he is the human resources director for the Electrical Engineering Services & Systems division.

Kyle Stromberg ’89, of Middletown, Del., started a new job in March 2023 with Continuous Composites as director of education and institutional sales.

1990s

Erica Ratiner ’93, of Milpitas, Calif., and her sales team were number one in sales by transaction in their office for 2022. She and her partner, Stanley, are engaged to be married and are planning a wedding for summer 2024.

Kevin Massey ’95, of Fort Belvoir, Va., celebrated his 46th birthday this year with the birth of his first grandchild, a beautiful granddaughter.

Samara (Gallatin) Scott ’97, of Middletown, Pa., is director of human resources at Hamilton Health Center.

Daniel Sauder ’98, of Wyomissing, Pa., joined Reading Area Community College as an ESL adjunct instructor in their English for Academic Purposes Program. He also teaches social studies in the Reading School District.



EdWeek Spotlights MHS Diversity and Inclusion Staff

Fonati (Ward) Abrokwa ’01, MHS special assistant to the president for diversity and inclusion, was featured in Education Week, sharing what educators are looking for in their staff. Fonati emphasizes the importance of employers valuing leaders in diversity, equity, and inclusion. She also noted that it’s critical to get buy-in from all school groups. “Naming DEI ambassadors is a great way to promote awareness, while simultaneously spotlighting individuals who are invested in the programming.” 📖



Alumnus Publishes a Children's Book

Deitrich Davidheiser '07, who is a health care consultant by profession, realized one of his dreams when he published a children's book, *The Kind Grind*. In March 2023, he volunteered as an alumni reader for the Go R.E.D. (Read Every Day) Family Reading Night for Elementary Division students. The MHS Graduate Programs for Success Division purchased a copy of Deitrich's book for each elementary student home. 📖

Chiara Bishop '15, of Conneautville, Pa., was married to Marcus Bishop, her fiancé of four years, in August 2022. They did not have a wedding ceremony but will try to have one soon.

Leila Asemani '16, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a people services specialist at DaVita Kidney Care.

Omar Barrada '16, of Nottingham, Md., moved to Egypt for 13 months after graduating from Pitt in 2020 and completing two study abroad programs. There, he worked as a coordinator of business development for a company while taking Arabic classes and joined an American football club making many friends. After that, he traveled for four months around the U.S. and Dominican Republic before moving to Maryland to work at Amazon. His take is: "Travel. Money will return but time won't."

Bella Rodriguez '18, of Waynesboro, Pa., was recently married.

Nathan Brown '19, of North Wildwood, N.J., works at Wildwoods BBQ, a restaurant that won Brisket King in 2023. He has worked there for nearly three years.

Starr Perry '21, of Bennington, N.H., works at a bakery in Merrimack, N.H. She works overnight shifts proofing croissants and baking muffins, and day shifts decorating and finishing pastries. It is her dream come true. She is soon to be a god mom to her niece/nephew.

Deaths

John "Jack" Thomas '39, of Fort Myers, Fla., Sept. 21, 2022

Carl Landeck '42, of Wayne, Pa., Feb. 16, 2023

Edwin Piasecki '42, of Harrisburg, Pa., March 21, 2023

Stoddard Burg '43, of Naples, Fla., July 25, 2016

2000s

Tolupe Aleshinloye '02, of Harrison, N.J., is director of product marketing at Van Cleef & Arpels.

Dale Henderson '05, of Budd Lake, N.J., lives in northern New Jersey with his wife, Jenn, and their two sons.

Melissa Goodfriend '07, of Bothell, Wash., started a new career with The Pokémon Company International in March 2023 and has moved to the greater Seattle area. She oversees and manages the Pokémon GO Championship Series for TPCi and recently came back from their Europe International Championship in London, England. In late June/early July 2023 she oversaw their North America International Championship tournament in Columbus, Ohio, and in August she will be in Yokohama, Japan to manage the World Championship tournament.

Sultana Karim '08, of Woodbridge, Va., celebrated the first anniversary of her private practice, Karim Counseling Services, PLLC, in December 2022.

Noe Lopez '08, of Reading, Pa., an automotive technician and Pennsylvania emissions and safety inspector, is back in the automotive business.

Nicole (Dallatore) Hoar '08, of Hershey, Pa., celebrated two years working for The Hershey Company at the West Plant location and took on a backup trainer position for her production line.

Jesse Rabbits '09, of New York, N.Y., was promoted to director of Quote to Cash Operations at GitLab in February 2023.

Kayla Sweitzer '09, of Annville, Pa., has three children.

2010s

Cristopher Ramirez '10, of Ojai, Calif., moved to California to work at a new boarding school.

Wes Samuelson '10, of Duluth, Minn., became co-owner of Bad Axe Tool Works after working there for over two years. Wes is the operations director and oversees all saw making and social media.

Melyssa Lindsey '12, of Charleston, S.C., is excited to continue her education and professional development at Villanova University, completing a human resources professional course and becoming SHRM certified. She also looks forward to attending the annual SHRM convention in New Orleans this year, with her company.

Victoria Warne '12, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., is coordinator of the Milton Hershey School program at The Hershey Company. Among her first assignments was working with MHS summer interns.

Ciarra Wisely '14, of Teaneck, N.J., is a special and general education teacher in sixth through eighth grades. She will soon finish two master's degrees and owns a home 10 minutes from New York City.



MHS Graduate Shares Wisdom with MHS Wrestling Program

Mason Symons '07 visited students involved in Milton Hershey School's wrestling program in January. Mason was a state qualifying wrestler for the Spartans. He has served in the U.S.

military and is now a member of the U.S. national wheelchair rugby team. Thank you, Mason! 🙏



2023 Alumnus of the Year Shares His Journey to Health Care Leadership

Robin Ferrer '00 was honored as the 2023 Milton Hershey School Alumnus of the Year on June 11 at the school's commencement ceremony. During his remarks, Robin paid tribute to MHS founders Milton and Catherine Hershey. Robin is system vice president of emergency services for the Mount Sinai Health System, the largest academic medical center in New York City. To learn more about

Robin's journey to becoming a leader in health care, watch his Alumnus of the Year video: mhsalum.org/stay-connected/alumni-recognition/. 📺

Walter Grabowski '57, of Wilkes Barre, Pa., Dec. 10, 2020

Donald Stott '58, of Tipton, Pa., Nov. 30, 2022

Fred Krause '60, of Nags Head, N.C., July 20, 2022

Harry Worke '60, of Scranton, Pa., Feb. 5, 2020

Stephen Usher '61, of Bernville, Pa., Jan. 11, 2023

Irvin Meyers '62, of Bridgeton, N.J., March 28, 2023

James Covert '63, of Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 9, 2022

David Hugendubler '63, of Hatfield, Pa., June 19, 2023

Richard Stamm '63, of Clovis, N.M., Feb. 10, 2023

Ernest Corson '64, of Harrisburg, Pa., April 29, 2023

Edward Wright '65, of Jersey Shore, Pa., Jan. 29, 2022

Daniel Goldsmith '66, of Lock Haven, Pa., Dec. 26, 2022

Robert Morrison '66, of Reading, Pa., Sept. 3, 2019

Thomas Crilley '67, of Medford, N.J., May 14, 2023

Michael Copenheaver '68, of York, Pa., Feb. 24, 2023

William Daniels '43, of King of Prussia, Pa., May 24, 2015

John Eppley '43, of Greenwood, Ind., Feb. 11, 2023

Valentine Hosan '43, of Lancaster, Pa., May 16, 2019

Harry Stevens '43, of Warren, Ark., Oct. 15, 2005

Paul Swartz '43, of Worcester, N.Y., Sept. 24, 2014

Andrew Batdorf '44, of Palmyra, Pa., Nov. 10, 2022

Harry Young '44, of East Windsor, N.J., Jan. 10, 2020

Richard Scheiwe '45, of Reading, Pa., Feb. 8, 2022

Samuel Smith '45, of Lady Lake, Fla., Feb. 13, 2022

George Moore '46, of Fort Morgan, Colo., March 4, 2023

Joseph Fry '48, of Emmaus, Pa., May 12, 2015

Ira Geisinger '49, of Indianapolis, Ind., March 21, 2023

James Shaw '49, of Ocala, Fla., April 24, 2023

Clyde Kauffman '50, of Thompsettown, Pa., March 23, 2023

H. Louis Stopper '50, of Glen Mills, Pa., Sept. 28, 2022

Frank Schmauk '51, of New Hope, Pa., April 15, 2018

Mark Bauder '53, of New Castle, Pa., Feb. 7, 2023

Joseph Turzai '53, of Hummelstown, Pa., Jan. 29, 2022

Joseph Ferguson '54, of Bellingham, Wash., Feb. 28, 2023

Miles Hoover '54, of Philipsburg, Pa., April 9, 2020

Gerald Seidel '54, of Lemoyne, Pa., Nov. 28, 2021

Gerald Long '55, of Hershey, Pa., Feb. 23, 2023

Junior Via '55, of Elizabethtown, Pa., May 7, 2023

Alumna Develops Tool to Promote Responsible Financial Habits

Essence Neely '13 has designed a minimalistic yet functional planner and budgeting binder to promote responsible financial habits. Essence is an advocate for financial literacy, especially within low-income families. Her planner was built to represent her dedication to helping others attain great financial habits. Essence's business, Essentially Plan is featured in the Milton Hershey School Alumni Business Directory on mhsalum.org. 📺



Ronald Kallmann '68, of Latrobe, Pa.,
Aug. 21, 2022

Dennis Koppenhaver '68, of
Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 3, 2021

Richard Shepherd '68, of Rock Hall,
Md., Nov. 10, 2021

G. Joseph Szarka '68, of Philadelphia,
Pa., Dec. 19, 2022

Michael Bacon '71, of Norton, Ohio,
March 14, 2023

David Morgan '71, of Branchdale, Pa.,
May 11, 2020

James Poole '73, of Junction City, Kan.,
March 2, 2023

A. Bruce Rider '73, of Lubbock, Texas,
Feb. 3, 2022

Patrick McKenna '76, of Fairland, Okla.,
April 8, 2023

Ronald Regan '81, of Elysburg, Pa., Dec.
13, 2022

Donald Kerr '82, of Waxhaw, N.C., Feb.
17, 2023

Marta Gold '87, of Titusville, N.J., June
12, 2023

Stephen Hurst '88, of Bainbridge, Pa.,
Dec. 18, 2022

Michael Lippen '89, of Columbia, Md.,
Dec. 25, 2022

Killian Bryan '14, of Willow Grove, Pa.,
July 22, 2022

***MHS Lifer**

Staff and Retiree Deaths

E. Ray Aldinger died on Dec. 23, 2022.
He was employed by MHS from 1962 to
1995 as a farmer.

Gina Briden died on May 19, 2023. She
was employed by MHS from 2020 to 2023 as
a houseparent.

Bonnie Casebeer died on April 27, 2023.
She was employed by MHS from 1967 to
2000 as a teacher in Senior Division.

Gary Cooper died on May 1, 2023. He was
employed by MHS from 1965 to 1992 as the
intermediate residential program director.

Carl Gries died on Jan. 15, 2023. He was
employed by MHS from 1963 to 1995 as a
farmer.

Doris Grubb died on April 16, 2023. She
was employed by MHS from 1971 to 1999 as
a teacher in Elementary Division.



Partnering to Change Lives

Refer a student

Do you know a child who could benefit from the same opportunities you had at MHS? Call or text MHS Admissions at 717.647.5050, or visit mhsalum.org/give-back for ways to get involved.

Help a family to:

- Apply online at mhskids.org
- Attend a Virtual Open House at mhskids.org/VOH
- Explore opportunities at mhskids.org/admissions

As a graduate of Milton Hershey School, you are the direct beneficiary of Milton and Catherine Hershey's love for children. Their generosity and concern for the well-being of young people has been passed down for more than 110 years. Now you have the chance to extend the benefits of a Milton Hershey School education to a new generation. If you know of a qualifying student who could benefit from an exceptional education, help us connect with them.

mhskids.org/admissions



Jeffrey Mobley died on June 7, 2023. He
was employed by MHS from 2002 to 2019 as
a custodian.

Shirley Reale died on March 17, 2023.
She was employed by MHS from 1962 to
2001 as an admissions assistant and later
as a houseparent. Shirley was an MHSAA
honorary member.

Lynnette Waller died on June 13, 2023.
She was employed by MHS from 1955 to
1997 as a music teacher. Lynnette was an
MHSAA honorary member.

Sherry Waltz died on May 23, 2023. She
was employed by MHS from 1996 to 2008 as
a primary care nurse.

Bethel (Bill) Yeomans died on May 18,
2023. He was employed by MHS from 1994
to 2001 as a houseparent.

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ALUMNI

Calendar



2023

September

- 13 Mr. Hershey's Birthday
- 21-24 Homecoming 2023
- 22 Spartan Hall of Fame Induction
- 23 MHS Alumni Association Annual Business Meeting
- 23 Homecoming and Cocoa Bean Football Game
- 23 Homecoming Banquet
- 24 Graveside Memorial Service
- 24 Memorial Grove Service

October

- 1 Nomination deadline for 2024 Alumni Achievement and Alumnus/na of the Year Awards; mhsalum.org

November

- 5-12 Founders Week
- 15 Founders Day (Nov. 15, 1909)

December

- 31 Deadline for the 2024 Spartan Hall of Fame Nominations; mhsalum.org

2024

April

- 12-14 Alumni Fellowship Weekend
- 12 Career Expo
- 13 Alumni-Senior Fellowship Brunch

September

- 12-15 Homecoming 2024

All dates are tentative. Please refer to mhsalum.org and Spartan Minute for updates.

If you have not yet subscribed to Spartan Minute, visit the subscription page by scanning the QR code.

