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ALUM

Thy Traditions Dear

Milton Hershey School® Alumni Magazine

Fall/Winter 2020



In the News: Court Approves Early Childhood Education Initiative

Pages 16 & 17

Dear Alumni:



To say that we are living in unprecedented times feels like an understatement. Of course, the pandemic has wreaked havoc on life as we knew it, but many other factors are feeding the frenzy of 2020 as well. Most days, as I watch what is happening in our country, it is clear to me, more now than ever, that change is necessary. Still, I remain optimistic.

When I enrolled at Milton Hershey School as a 7-year-old in August of 1991, I was filled with uncertainty. Would I make friends? Could I survive being away from my family? My experiences at MHS changed the landscape of my life. My journey is just one of the more than 10,000 journeys of Milt alumni, and though we may differ, we also are one. In many cases, we share similar circumstances that led each one of us to MHS, and we also share the tenacity that got us to graduation and beyond.

Milton and Catherine Hershey gave all they had so a few boys had better opportunities more than 110 years ago. Over the years, the school's leadership has learned and grown to extend the opportunities to an even broader demographic of children. Working together, we too can continue to learn and grow.

Now we are being asked to help our MHS community do the same—to grow even more—when it comes to areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Earlier this summer, MHS President Peter Gurt '85 announced my transition into the role of Special Assistant to The President for Diversity & Inclusion. My hope in this role is to help enrich our MHS climate of inclusivity, so that our students feel represented and are able to graduate from MHS with the skills to engage in challenging conversations as culturally competent individuals, with informed opinions, who advocate for themselves and others. I want them to look back on this experience positively, regardless of their race, religion, or how they identify.

Internally, I will help promote a diverse workplace to enhance the MHS experience for our staff as well. I envision educating staff on the value of equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and the impact it has on our students while they are enrolled at MHS and beyond.

I am excited for this opportunity to empower staff to prepare our students to discuss social justice issues they may face when they leave MHS. It is important that members of the MHS community—students, staff, and alumni—feel valued, included, and represented, and I wholeheartedly accept the challenge put before me. I, in turn, challenge my alumni family to talk to one another, educate yourselves, to really listen, and to have a growth mindset. Only when we appreciate, value, and respect our differences will we find the answers that will truly move us forward. Will you join me on this journey?

Fonati (Ward) Abrokwa '01

MHS Special Assistant to the President for Diversity & Inclusion

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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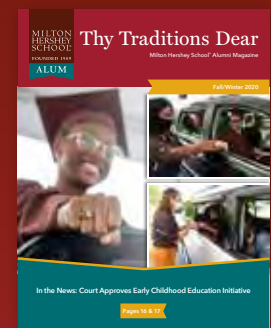
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Milton Hershey School celebrated the Class of 2020 with a special car processional on campus in June, the day after they graduated during the school's first-ever Virtual Commencement Ceremony. The parade ended with each graduate receiving a class ring and officially being welcomed into the MHS alumni family by MHS Alumni Relations and Graduate Programs for Success staff and MHS Alumni Association board members. See the story on page 5.

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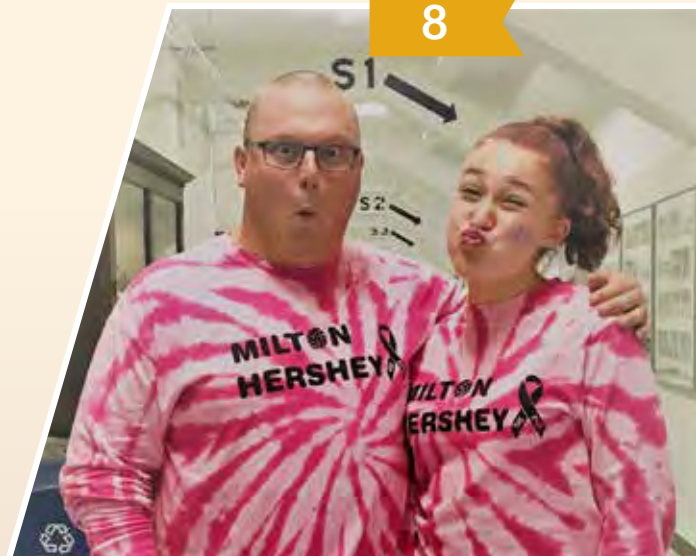
Editor's Note

Milton Hershey School is carefully following federal and state guidelines, CDC considerations, and MHS-established health and safety protocols to keep our campus a safe, nurturing, and healthy place. Group photos of unmasked subjects were taken prior to the face coverings mandate.

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Preparing Students for the Real World

Young alumni working in Transitional Living help prepare seniors for life after MHS

By Maria Boyer, MHS Alumni Relations Office



Tylor Teel '11, a graduate of Lehigh University, worked in the MHS Year-Round Experiences program before joining the school's full-time staff as a Transitional Living Assistant in July 2018. He credits Milton and Catherine Hershey's vision with inspiring him to open his heart to children in need.

When Milton Hershey School opened the doors to Transitional Living (TL) in January 2006, the goal was to better prepare Senior Division students for life after graduation. Forty students and four full-time resident coordinators participated in the pilot program, not knowing what they would learn or how the effort might grow. Now, a decade and a half later, TL is a hub of activity led by a team of dedicated staff, seven of whom are alumni.

Larray James '04 joined the TL staff in early 2009, three years into the endeavor. Although he did not live the TL experience as a student, he quickly learned why the program is important and effective. "The TL program gives our seniors a chance to experience a more realistic view of what life might be like after graduating," he explained. "Unless they are joining the military, their time is not going to be dictated by someone else's schedule, as it often is in student homes."

Larray said TL life also gives seniors the opportunity to explore some of the skills they acquired during their time in the student homes. The program's focus—which has not changed since the early years (see sidebar on page 3)—is to prepare students for life in four areas: financial literacy, healthy lifestyle habits, community living, and social and emotional skill-building. Additional assignments encourage students to learn more about career preparation, global citizenship, and sustainability.

In his current position as a TL Coordinator, Larray is responsible for all aspects of one TL building and supervises two TL Assistants (TLAs), including Howard Haas III '14, who was a student when Larray worked as a TLA. Speaking to why alumni are attracted to work in the program, Larray said, "I think most graduates have a sense of duty to give back in a way to a place that has done so much for us. The TL program allows younger alumni and those who are not married to come back and have an immediate impact on the futures of our brothers and sisters."

Amina Atkins '14 is the newest alumna to join the TL staff. She works as a TLA Flex, responsible "for planning fun and engaging activities to build house unity and maintain the upkeep of the building," she explained.

"I have 25 girls in the TL building where I now mentor daily," Amina said. "However, I am lucky to have the ability to reach many students by flexing." As a "flex," she can be moved to another TL building or student home on campus at any time.

She previously volunteered with the Lady Spartans basketball team, which gave her the opportunity to develop relationships with current students before this year. Of the seniors in her building now, she said, "My goal is for them to become successful young adults and live a prosperous life."

A former TL student herself, Amina noted that the current program is much more in-depth: "For example, students now have time cards and utility bills they need to complete biweekly"—proof of how the program continues to evolve over time.

Dominique Dargan is a member of the MHS Class of 2021 under Amina's watch. She talked about the relationship she's formed with Amina, her TLA: "I see Ms. Atkins as a guide. Whenever a student explains a predicament, she is always the



Larray James '04 (left) has worked in TL since 2009. In his current position as a TL coordinator, he supervises two TLAs, including Howard Haas III '14 (right), who was a student in TL Allen when Larray mentored there. (photos by Kim Nippert)

one to not only see their side, but also the side that they are not seeing. Her words can be eye opening to those who cannot yet see the other possibilities.”

Dominique added, “She always checks in on students and asks how they are doing. She truly shows that she cares about us, and since she is an alum, she knows what days can feel like here and is constantly trying to keep students in good spirits. Her positivity and encouragement are needed and appreciated around the TL.”

Such positivity is especially important for the Class of 2021, whose senior year is not structured as expected, thanks to the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“COVID has certainly impacted the overall experience for our seniors,” Larray noted. “They don’t have the freedoms they would normally enjoy, such as walking off campus to enjoy restaurants, driving the TL car,

hanging out with their buddies who live in other TL buildings, and things of that nature.”

He continued, “One positive outcome I have seen is that guys in the house are building better bonds. They are finding that just because they weren’t friends last year, doesn’t mean they can’t be friends this year, and they have things in common with people they never thought they would.”

When asked what he would share about TL with Milts who graduated before the program started, Larray concluded, “We would have loved it! I think a lot of alumni who graduated before TL started, left the school and just went wild. There was a lack freedom and independence as seniors, and then in an instant, we had all the freedom and independence in the world, and some of us had no clue how to handle it.” Reflecting, he added, “I didn’t live the TL life, but I wish I had.”

The Early Years

Twenty male and 20 female members of the Class of 2006 were chosen for the pilot Transitional Living (TL) program based on their maturity level and willingness to participate. They were challenged to plan, shop, and cook their own meals, perform household chores, manage their time and money, and resolve conflicts that arose.

The full-time live-in TL staff members were available to assist them and ensure their safety, but the students were essentially practicing for real life beyond MHS. That first endeavor utilized two homes—Caaba and Emerson. Both homes were renovated into suites, and the students moved in on Jan. 4, 2006.

The effort took off, and in 2007 the school opened the program to the entire Class of 2008. Staff numbers increased for the eight TL buildings now needed, and in 2009 another two homes opened to further accommodate the growing number of seniors.

Fonati (Ward) Abrokwa '01 was one of the first alumni to come back and work in the program. “I’d always loved everything about Milton Hershey School,” she told Thy Traditions Dear earlier this year. “Once I heard about TL, I was really impressed and wanted to be a part of that. The TL program is what inspired me to come back and help future Milts.”

Alumni Working in TL

Of the 35 staff members in the TL program, seven are alumni, including:

Ododo Walsh '98, Associate Director
Larray James '04, TL Coordinator
Tylor Teel '11, TLA
Amina Atkins '14, TLA Flex
Howard Haas III '14, TLA Flex
Quadriyyah Abdul-Aziz '15, TLA Flex
Bryan Aviles-Ortiz '15, TLA Flex





MHS Alumnus Joins Fourth-Grade Class as Virtual Guest and Shares Advice for the Future

Teachers across the Milton Hershey School campus are incorporating this year's theme, **Our Future in Focus**, into classroom activities and helping their students stay motivated to focus on their future selves.

One MHS fourth-grade teacher, Danielle Rafferty, is using Morning Meetings to emphasize the theme. Her students recently answered two questions: At the end of this year, I want my teacher to describe me as _____. Also, at the end of the year, I want my classmates to describe me as _____.

These conversations prompted Rafferty to reach out to an alumnus who could provide advice and encouragement to her class.

Dan Acevedo '08 joined the class via Zoom to answer questions about the future and how he has handled life after MHS. Dan is a former student of Rafferty from when she worked as a houseparent.

"It's never too early to work toward your goals," Dan said. "Your personal connections at MHS will have great impact on your life. Have fun while you're here and learn everything you can, because time goes by too fast."

Alumni Invited to Give Back

If virtually visiting a classroom, speaking for a student assembly, presenting at a student leadership conference, or reading to elementary students during Go R.E.D. appeals to you, learn more about opportunities for alumni to support programs for current students and recent graduates by visiting mhsalum.org/give-back.



A Note from the MHS President

Dear Alumni Brothers and Sisters:

Last school year, we concluded our 2020 Vision strategic plan. The extraordinary efforts of the MHS community ensured that the goals we established were achieved. We continue to grow and serve more children in need, our graduate outcomes are the strongest they have ever been, and we have reinforced every aspect of our mission.

Now, it is time to focus on the future—and we are blessed to be a part of the Hersheys' legacy during this exciting time at MHS. We started the 2020-21 school year with a socially distanced Opening of School celebration themed, **Our Future in Focus**. This celebration gained momentum in September when we announced our new strategic plan, **Our Future in Focus: The MILT Plan**. The MILT Plan builds on our past successes and addresses students' needs today with motivation and clarity. It identifies four key priorities to guide our efforts through 2025:

- Modeling Character and Well-Being
- Innovating Career-Focused Education
- Leveraging Impact
- Teamwork to Strengthen Community Alignment and Engagement

As an alumnus or alumna, you play an important role in helping us achieve our goals. How, you might ask? By making meaningful connections.

Consider supporting a student home and building positive relationships with a specific group of children. If you own a business, think about virtual work opportunities you might offer a younger Milt. Or, serve loudly and proudly as an MHS advocate in your own community and help us inform the next generation of children in need about the incredible opportunities available at MHS—including those who might benefit from our recently announced Early Childhood Education Initiative. The many ways you can support our home and school, its students, and the Hersheys' vision make a measurable difference.

Although COVID-19 has shifted how we connect, our connections are stronger than ever. Even during a time when the future is uncertain, I am grateful that we are all in this together. Our future is so bright—and becomes more focused every day—thanks to the collective strength and support of our MHS family.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Gurt '85
MHS President

Read more about
Our Future in Focus: The MILT Plan at
mhskids.org/strategic-plan.

Get details about how alumni
can help MHS achieve its goals at
mhsalum.org/give-back.



Celebration Car Processional Held to Honor MHS Class of 2020

On Sunday, June 14, Milton Hershey School celebrated its newest graduates with a special car processional on campus that followed state health and social distancing protocols. The Class of 2020 officially graduated the previous day during the school's first-ever Virtual Commencement Ceremony.

Seniors and their families were invited to participate in the event and listen live along the parade route by tuning in to 100.1 FM. Two MHS Transitional Living staff members, Jonathan Small and Ashley Carmo, broadcasted live during the event to recognize each graduate.

As the procession route continued, graduates made their way to Memorial Hall, the elementary school where 47 of the 211 graduates began their MHS journeys. Here they received their diplomas and were recognized individually. As they walked across the 2020 stage, photographers captured the special moment.

The parade ended with each senior officially being welcomed into the MHS alumni family by MHS Alumni Relations, Graduate Programs for Success staff, and MHS Alumni Association board members. Each graduate received their Milton Hershey School class ring—an everlasting symbol that they will always be a Spartan and have their MHS family to support them.

MHS Fireworks Display Culminates Opening of School Festivities

Milton Hershey School usually kicks off the new school year with a vibrant Opening of School Assembly at the Giant Center. For students, staff, and community safety, MHS shifted to a different format this year. The Opening of School festivities lasted several weeks throughout August leading up to the first day of school.

MHS students and staff participated in fun, unity-building activities such as surprise boxes, student murals, student home decoration contests, and more, centered around this year's theme, Our Future in Focus.

To culminate the festivities, MHS held a short fireworks display on Saturday, Aug. 22, to celebrate the 2020-21 school year.

The display launched above Catherine Hall and could be seen in the entire Hershey area, including throughout the MHS campus—giving students and staff a colorful surprise to enjoy.

For a recap of the Opening of School celebration, visit mhskids.org/opening-of-school-2020.



MHS Teachers Continue the Legacy of Mr. and Mrs. Hershey

More than 110 years ago, Milton and Catherine Hershey signed the Deed of Trust to found Milton Hershey School, which continues to provide a safe living and learning community for thousands of students and staff. This generosity is one of many reasons why teachers at MHS feel their career is so special.

From making a difference in the lives of future generations to living out the legacy of the school's founders, MHS teachers are honored to be a part of something so rewarding. They use their passions and the resources the school provides to teach, serve as trusted role models, and impact the success of MHS students and alumni.

While Founders Week in November was a good time to reflect on all that Mr. and Mrs. Hershey provided for the school, its students, and staff, MHS teachers remember their role in the mission all throughout the year. Scan or click on the QR code to hear what teachers in all divisions have to say about why teaching at MHS is special to them.



Milton Hershey School Achieves Second Accreditation for Exceptional Campus Safety



excellence in Public Safety Communications and further validates MHS as a leader in campus safety. The Public Safety Communications Accreditation assesses an organization's processes for quality assurance, technology, risk analysis, training, and other operational functions to determine it is operating efficiently and meeting the community's needs.

"The safety of the students we serve is always our top priority at Milton Hershey School," said MHS President Peter Gurt '85. "I commend our Central Monitoring staff for their hard work and dedication. As the only school, private or public, in the nation to hold dual accreditation status from CALEA, the distinction speaks volumes about the caliber of experts we have on staff

and our unwavering commitment to safety in every facet of our school."

To achieve dual accreditation status, the MHS Campus Safety department demonstrated the implementation and diligent compliance of more than 200 best practices and security standards. Additionally, all Campus Safety telecommunicators hold multiple industry-recognized certifications and participate in required trainings which ensure they can properly and efficiently handle emergency communications while remaining steadfast in protecting students and the school community.

MHS earned its first accreditation for Campus Security in 2017, and has since been reviewed by CALEA annually. The school began its scheduled reaccreditation for Campus Security this fall.

For more information about how MHS provides a safe campus and a whole child approach to education and student care, visit mhskids.org.

Milton Hershey School was recently recognized for its commitment to campus safety with its second accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This makes MHS the first and only school in the United States to earn dual accreditation.

The latest distinction recognizes the school's Central Monitoring staff in its Campus Safety department for

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The connections that you make at MHS can have a lasting impact on your life.



MHS Senior Offers Advice to Freshman Class

By Lussevikueno "Picose" Gomes, an MHS senior



Dear Freshman Class,

It is hard to believe that in the next four years you will graduate from Milton Hershey School. Before you get to that stage, there are many things that you, as freshmen, can do to make your high school career successful.

To start, I would suggest interacting with as many MHS staff members as possible. They are the gateway to connections that may lead you to a brighter future. The connections that you make at MHS can have a lasting impact on your life.

My sophomore year, I applied for an internship. My teachers were my references and they vouched for my experience and qualifications. Never underestimate the relationships you make with your teachers, houseparents, and extracurricular leaders.

Don't forget about the elements of high school that bring you joy. One thing that I have heavily underestimated is my enjoyment of community service. This experience not only makes you feel good on the inside, but also boosts your resume with volunteer work.

Make this first year of high school impactful and set your future in focus.

New Hampshire Student Calls MHS Home

By Brianna Davis, an MHS junior



I was homeless before Milton Hershey School. My mom and I were living out of a hotel room. I had little motivation for school and didn't have the proper resources to succeed.

One day, my school guidance counselor in Dover, New Hampshire, recommended that my family look into MHS. We visited in the winter of 2015, and in 2016 I enrolled.

My favorite part about MHS is the Career and Technical Education program. We learn about career opportunities and have the chance to gain industry experience before we graduate. My favorite pathway, thus far, has been the Law, Public Safety, and Security pathway.

My advice for future students is to keep yourself busy. Get involved and develop a daily routine. It is not easy being so far away from home, but when you're busy, it is easier to adjust.

I now see a future for myself and want to attend a four-year university after graduation to pursue a career in financial management.

“

I am thankful for the opportunities that MHS has provided me.



MHS Student Realizes Benefits of Enrollment

By Caden Snyder, an MHS seventh-grader



Milton Hershey School provides me with the tools I need to succeed. I did not understand this at first because of the distance from my hometown of Eldersburg, Maryland.

My grandparents first heard about the school from other patients at their chiropractic office. Then, they attended an MHS informational session in our community where they met with admissions counselors to discuss what MHS is all about.

After I enrolled and started meeting friends, I learned the benefits of the school. MHS provides me with the structure that I need and opportunities I would not have at home.

I like the school and campus. Class sizes are small, which allows me to get to know my teachers and ask questions during class.

My houseparents make home life fun. I live in a student home with other male students from my division.

I am thankful for the opportunities that MHS has provided me. I am now excited for my future and the ability to someday attend college to better my life.

“

MHS provides me with the structure I need.



Guiding Students beyond the Classroom

Mentoring program connects MHS staff and students in meaningful ways

By Amanda DuCharme '13



▲ Dylan Lackey (rear) and mentee Monet Thomas

▼ MHS President Peter Gurt '85 with his mentees, Noah Gibbs, Avery Cutsail, Aidden Cutsail, and Conner Darnofall

(photos by Kim Nippert)



At Milton Hershey School, Mentoring Our Leaders' Development (M.O.L.D.) is a program for students and staff to connect as mentees and mentors, now and for years to come. Today more than ever, fostering these healthy relationships and staying connected makes a difference and encourages positivity across campus.

Although the 2020-21 M.O.L.D. program looks a little different as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, students and staff can still begin, build, and maintain connections through virtual check-ins, monthly conversation cards, and more. Among the mentors are several alumni who work at MHS and know well the value of connections with MHS staff.

Take a minute to remember an important difference maker from your time in school. We all benefited as students from the time and effort of helpful mentors who encouraged and supported us. MHS alumni have fond memories of caring adults who impacted our lives, and many go on to be difference makers in their own communities.

Six years ago, M.O.L.D. was created by the Student Government Association to help staff make more meaningful connections with the students they serve. What started as a small mentoring program for 65 students has grown into a program that serves almost 400 students and includes over 200 staff members. These staff members support their mentees in school and at extracurricular activities, serving as a guide to their mentees as they navigate their time at MHS.

Dylan Lackey '07 works as a central monitoring operator with MHS Campus Safety and Security. In addition, he is a mentor to four high school students. "M.O.L.D. allows me to grow my MHS family more and more every year ... It's a way for us to fulfill Milton Hershey's vision and be that helping hand."

Dylan is impacting students' lives the same way that the adults at MHS impacted his life when he was a student. "They helped me grow to be a more responsible adult. They were there for me when my mom passed, they married my wife and me, they fed me, they prayed with me, and most importantly they loved me for me ... not because they had to, but because they wanted to. This is what I want to do in other students' lives."



Kimberly Torres and her mentees, Lisa Jones (left), Angie DeTroy (center), and Danielle Kratz (right)

“The teachers and adults I worked with as a student were pivotal to who I am today—I wouldn’t be where I am without those relationships. I’m so grateful to have those relationships and to now form those relationships with my own students!”

—Kimberly Torres ’02

Monet Thomas is a sophomore at MHS and one of Dylan’s mentees. She says that they “created a bond because he’s such an open and understanding person.” Monet also works with Dylan on the volleyball team, where she is a player and he is a coach. Dylan’s mentorship helps her in all aspects of life at MHS, including school, extracurricular activities, and important advice about life in a student home that Dylan is uniquely qualified to provide.

Kim (Ross) Torres ’02 came back to MHS to teach French and Spanish. She has three mentees. “As an alum, I have more of an understanding of what students go through here on campus, and working with them one-on-one helps me relate to my mentees and support them with whatever they are going through.”

Her mentees love the special relationship that they’ve formed with her. Sophomore Lisa Jones agrees that Kim has an ability to connect with students as an alumna. “She understands the struggles that I go through being a student here at MHS. Madame Torres is easy to talk

to and is someone I can go to and not have to hide my feelings. She is always so bubbly, energetic, encouraging, and spreading positivity throughout the class environment. I want to be like her and be able to face anything with a smile ... just always be inspired to stay positive and work hard.”

Senior Angelleigh DeTroy, also one of Kim’s mentees, knows that her mentor will always be there for her in tough times. “I faced many hardships last year and Mrs. Torres helped me through it all. She took me out to get my nails done for the first time, we spent time making cookies at her house, and we met other mentor groups at the M.O.L.D. potlucks. During a particularly difficult time, she surprised me with a giant bag of gifts. She is always thinking of ways to make her mentees smile.”

MHS President Peter Gurt ’85 and his wife, Jane, are also mentors to several students. Even with his busy schedule, Pete knows the importance of being in a program like M.O.L.D. and engaging one-on-one with students. “To

be part of their network of trusted adults—creating authentic and long-lasting relationships—keeps us inspired and energized.”

Junior Javannah Miller, who is lucky enough to be Jane’s mentee, summed up the effect of this incredible program quite well: “Being a part of the M.O.L.D. program has impacted me in many ways, like giving me a trusted adult, a great connection, and a role model. Mrs. Gurt has given me the opportunity to have someone to confide in and count on to be there. She supports me in all that I do.”

Give Back

Research shows that relationships like those formed in the M.O.L.D. program often lead to relationships beyond MHS graduation, and the MHS Alumni Association and Alumni Relations Office staff are fortunate to hear about these experiences from alumni of all decades. While alumni not employed at MHS are not able to participate in M.O.L.D., they do have opportunities to support current students and recent graduates.

To learn about these opportunities, visit mhsalum.org/give-back.

Jane Gurt with her 2019 mentees: Javannah Miller, Cheyenne Rodgers, and Moriah Quay





Thousands of Children Benefit from the Hersheys' Generosity for 110 Years and Counting

By Susan Alger, Heritage School History Coordinator

Milton Hershey School began as Hershey Industrial School in the Hershey Homestead, where Milton Hershey and his father were born, and where Milton created the formula

for milk chocolate. An article in the Hershey Press newspaper on Sept. 16, 1910 reported the new enterprise launched by Mr. and Mrs. Milton S. Hershey.

The school was described as “a most interesting and commendable enterprise ... it reflects great honor upon the altruistic and beneficent spirit of those who have made the school a possibility. It is surely a work the results of which will count not only in future years but in the coming generations.” This sentiment holds true 110 years after the first students entered the school on Sept. 3, 1910.

The first students, two brothers, came from Lancaster County. After their father died, their mother found it difficult to support herself and six children. Her brother saw an announcement of the planned school in a newspaper and wrote a letter on her behalf. They received an invitation to visit and interview in return.

On Sept. 3, 1910, Nelson Wagner, age 6, and Irvin Wagner, age 4, went with their mother and 2-year-old William to Hershey to meet Milton Hershey and Mr. and Mrs. Copenhaver, the superintendent and matron of the school. The school doctor gave the boys an examination—sound health was one condition of admission. Nelson and Irvin were admitted, but William was too young. He was first on the list for future admission and enrolled when he turned four. In an interview, Mrs. Wagner remembered sitting on the porch of the



Homestead and talking with Milton Hershey. “Mr. Hershey praised the boys. He was a very good friend.”

“When I first came,” recalled Nelson Wagner, “I can remember that, when my mother walked out the walk to go home, I cried terrifically. But, after she had left, there were so many things to see! The old chocolate factory was there, with some of the machinery, and there was chocolate lying around in barrels, and there was a creek. Well, you could not get homesick. We just forgot about home.”

A room in the Homestead served as a schoolroom, and the boys slept in rooms upstairs. Mr. Hershey came to the school once a week to look around. He did not say much to the boys when he came; he never made a speech to them. Milton’s mother, Fanny, would walk to the school with a basket of broken chocolate bars for the boys, and they took her vegetables they grew in the truck patch.

Once a year the boys were invited to the Hersheys’ home, High Point Mansion, for breakfast. If the weather was good, tables were spread out in the grove of trees by the fountain behind the house. The boys were in awe of Mr. Hershey. Nelson remembers those breakfasts well, “When he [Milton Hershey] left, we used to have the run of the mansion, and I always thought, gee, such fine carpeting. It bounced when you walked on it.”

Nelson went on to work in the Hershey factory, Irvin served in the Army, and William had a successful career in industrial engineering. In fact, he was named Alumnus of the Year in 1960.

The next students enrolled in Hershey Industrial School on Sept. 12, 1910, also brothers from Lancaster County, Jacob and Guy Weber. Their father, a minister, died four years prior, and Mrs. Weber worked at a shirt factory trying to support three children. After leaving the school, Jacob went on to be an electrician for Hershey Estates (now Hershey Entertainment & Resorts). Guy worked for Milton Hershey in Hershey Cuba for seven years doing clerical work, and then for the Hershey Lumber Company.

Guy later shared, “The school developed much more than [Mr. Hershey] expected. I don’t think you are wrong in saying that the school developed Mr. Hershey.” The school was a way for Mr. Hershey to redeem his own insecure childhood, by giving children a stable home life and an education for 110 years and counting.



Thank You to Our Donors

Tom Maurer '52 recently donated photographs of Apollo 11 and 12 moon mission recoveries when he served on the USS Hornet.

Apollo 11 launched from Cape Kennedy on July 16, 1969 carrying the first person to walk on the moon, Commander Neil Armstrong, along with Command Module Pilot Michael Collins and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. Armstrong and Aldrin formed the crew that landed the Apollo Lunar Module Eagle—recovered by the USS Hornet on July 24, 1969—and people all over the world heard the now famous phrase, "The Eagle has landed."

Apollo 12 launched from Cape Kennedy on Nov. 14, 1969 with Commander Charles "Pete" Conrad, Command Module Pilot Richard F. Gordon, and Lunar Module Pilot Alan L. Bean. It was recovered Nov. 24, 1969.

Maurer's job during the mission was to facilitate the presence of reporters, communications staff, and representatives from NASA. The moon rocks were flown off of the ship in a different flight. Maurer shared that, "It was a challenging assignment but enjoyable."

Thank you to the following people who donated or shared objects and/or photos with the Milton Hershey School Heritage Center at Kinderhaus as of Oct. 1, 2020. If we inadvertently missed listing your gift, please contact us, so we can include recognition in the next issue of Thy Traditions Dear.

Sara Abbott
Cody Adams
Bradley Brown
Peter Gurt '85
Gerald Long '55
Thomas Maurer '52
Marie Puett
Terry Rohrer
Gail Schilling
Richard Shadel '54
Shayla Shaltz



Founders Day Tree Planting on the Move

When Founders Hall opened in 1970, the whole MHS student body could gather in the auditorium for the Founders' Assembly. Fifty years ago, the tradition of the Founders Day tree planting moved from Senior Hall (now Catherine Hall) to Founders Hall. This photograph shows the class of 1970 planting the last tree at Senior Hall. Pictured are Arthur Whiteman '27 holding the shovel, senior class advisor Andrew Kavalecs, and senior class president John Hanawalt.



President Nixon talking to Apollo 11 astronauts in quarantine pod

Recovery practice



USS Hornet in Pearl Harbor



Apollo 12 astronauts at recovery helicopter



(photos courtesy of NASA)

MHS Observes Mr. Hershey's Birthday and the Anniversary of Founders Hall Dedication

In addition to observing Milton Hershey's birthday on Sept. 13, 2020, Milton Hershey School also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Founders Hall.

After celebrating the school's 50th anniversary in 1959, the school embarked on a number of changes in what was known as "the decade of change" under the leadership of then school president, Dr. John O. Hershey. Founders Hall was the culmination of that progressive time.

One of the first events held in the new building was the Homecoming Banquet in the impressive Camelot Room.





Extraordinary *Times*, Extraordinary *People*

Robin Ferrer '00 offers hope from the front lines of health care

By Laura Schmidt, MHS Office of Communications



While these are extraordinary times—we are extraordinary people. Many Milton Hershey School graduates have been on the front lines of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and they are bringing hope to others.

Robin Ferrer '00 has spent his career on the front lines of the health care field. As the director of operations and nursing for New York Presbyterian Hospital, he is responsible for more than 600 employees covering seven different areas of the hospital, at three different campuses throughout the New York City area—the initial epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States.

“Our team has really embraced this moment in time,” he said. “This is an incredible moment in history. We’ve been presented with so many different problems, but we’ve come up with unique ways to solve them.”

With all hospital efforts focused on fighting this pandemic, Robin plays a big role in supporting his team emotionally, along with working on hospital strategy, planning crisis responses, and coming up with contingency plans.

“I’ve been spending a large portion of my time on the ground, supporting my teams and being there for them,” he shared.



The hospital has coordinated housing accommodations and has three shuttle buses running for its employees in all five boroughs of New York City. In addition, there is pastoral care, and the psychiatry department has set up support groups.

The community also is stepping up to keep the staff fueled for their long days. Generous food donations have been pouring in for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

"In moments of crisis, our character as human beings is revealed," he said. "Our team has stepped up and embraced this challenge from day one. Each one of them has made a commitment that we will make every effort possible and exhaust every resource, to save as many people as we can."

Growing up, Robin spent time in the foster care system following his mom's incarceration. When she was released, Robin, his five siblings, and his mom were living in urban poverty. A priest told his mom about MHS, and they took a taxi from New York City to Hershey—it was a decision that changed Robin's life and put him in the position he is in today.

"Coming from Milton Hershey School, you learn to be resilient. You learn not to lose hope. I was fortunate to be surrounded by an army of people at MHS that cared about me deeply and invested in me," he shared.

"As a leader at my hospital, it's my responsibility to take care of others and invest in others so they can be successful. I didn't get to where I am today because I'm a great leader. I got to where I am today because people cared about me and helped me—and that all started at Milton Hershey School."

Alumna Pays It Forward by Making Masks

When COVID-19 shut down much of the entertainment industry, Milton Hershey School graduate Bridget Savadge '87 made the most of it and joined an informal posse.

"As the lead wardrobe technician for Cirque Du Soleil's KA [in Las Vegas], I'm now on unemployment because there is no live entertainment for the foreseeable future. I thought to myself, 'I'm going to need to keep myself busy,'" she said.

Bridget is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 720, made up of wardrobe employees, audiovisual technicians, and stagehands. When they were furloughed, the group banded together to start making masks for local hospitals, nursing homes, front-line workers, and anyone who needed them. The group makes cotton masks, but also specializes in making covers for N95 masks for different hospital systems, first responders, corrections officers, doctors' offices, and even airmen at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

For Bridget, the idea to make masks started with an order from one of her MHS classmates, Howard Boroughs '87. It was an order for 900 masks. Once the order was placed, the idea grew and gained support from the larger MHS community. Bridget then got orders ranging from one to 100 masks.

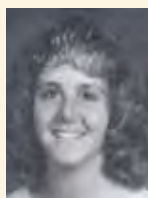
"Masks continue to be a need in our community, and my Milton Hershey [School] family is helping to support me, and not only helping my MHS family, but the current community I call home," Bridget said. "People have been donating fabric and thread by purchasing items from my Amazon Wish List. It means so much because not only are they helping me help others, they are helping my community—and they don't even LIVE here, but because it's me, they support my efforts to help my community to continue to stay safe."

"That's partly why I make the masks. It's because it gives me a purpose," she said. "It allows me to pay it forward. Milton Hershey [School] taught us that somebody's always going to be worse off than you, and if you make your community better, your life will be better. That's what I live by. I take that quote at the bottom of Mr. Hershey's statute very seriously because his life is our inspiration. The way Mr. Hershey gave back to his community is the way we need to give back to ours. That's why I keep doing it."



MHS Announces 2020 Spartan Hall of Fame Inductees

Athletic inductees:



Melissa (McDonald) Panek '89 was a member of the varsity field hockey squad for three and a half years, and was named to the All-Conference Field Hockey team in 1988 and

the Mid Penn Division II All-Star Field Hockey Team in 1987 and 1988. In May 1989, she was named to the Central Chapter Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. She also participated in softball for four years, in basketball for two years, and in swimming for two years.



John Grab is a retired teacher, and served for many years as a football and gymnastics coach. He is best known in recent years as the game announcer for MHS

football, a role he began in 2001. He also was the voice of gymnastics meets from 1968 to 1976, and announced track meets during various years. Additionally, he spent the last 50-plus years as an athletics clock operator for basketball, from 1969 to the present. John is an Honorary Member of MHSAA.



Bob Schelhorn is a retired art teacher honored for his 50 years of coaching and volunteering for MHS athletics. As head varsity track coach, he led his team to the Capital Area

Conference League Championships all five years that he coached, from 1978 to 1982, as well as to the District III AA Team Championships in 1980, 1981, and 1982. His coaching duties also extended to junior high track, varsity and junior high football, and ice hockey, and he volunteered as scorer and timekeeper for varsity swimming and diving, junior high girls' basketball, and junior high wrestling. Bob is an Honorary Member of MHSAA.



The **1984 Girls' Cross Country Team** won nine consecutive dual meet wins, resulting in a Mid Penn Conference Division I dual meet championship. After a win at the Hereford Invitational Meet, the Lady Spartans—led by Coach Timothy Landenberger—went on to become Mid Penn Cross Country Meet Champions, PIAA Class AA District Three Champions, and PIAA Class AA State Runner Up.



The **1976 Football Team** won the first Capital Area Conference football championship for MHS since the school entered the league in 1962, and held the school record for the most wins in a season (9 wins and 1 loss) until 1997. Led by Head Coach Ken Snyder, the 1962 team comprised 22 well-rounded and versatile seniors, including 12 three-sport athletes, nine two-sport athletes, 12 National Honor Society members, and 20 Headmaster's Society members.



Alumnus of the Year Offers Chapel Message for MHS Community

Chapel service remains a component of student life at Milton Hershey School, and even though social distancing prevents the community from gathering for an in-person service each week, Pastor Mike Wagner provides a video message to student homes.

In honor of what would have been Homecoming Weekend, Alumnus of the Year Chuck Seidel '87 prepared a special message for the MHS Community, including alumni. Scan or click on the QR code to view Chuck's message.



Milton Hershey School in September honored its newest group of distinguished alumni, the 2020 Spartan Hall of Fame inductees, in a special edition of its e-newsletter, Spartan Minute. The 2020 class of inductees celebrates the achievements of five alumni, two retired coaches, a retired music teacher, and two athletic teams, in the areas of athletics and visual and performing arts.

To be considered for induction into the Spartan Hall of Fame, an individual must be nominated and then approved by a selection committee. Nominees must have demonstrated good citizenship as students and since graduation.

Visual and Performing Arts inductees:



Bruce "Buddy" Anello '65 was a member of the sixth-grade choir and played in the Spartan Orchestra and Varsity Band. According to one classmate, "Buddy was a leader in whatever

activity he was involved with. He quietly supported and instructed younger members of each group. He was a team player. Enrolled at an early age, he was a Spartan through and through. Brown and Gold ran through his veins." An MHS Gold Star Alumnus, Buddy died in service to his country in Vietnam on May 31, 1968.



Kira Huntzinger '90 was involved with the Acropolis, Spartan Spirit, the Jazz Band, New Horizons as a drummer and singer, Marching Band including as Drum

Line captain, Concert Band, Choir, and District Chorus. Beyond VPA, she was a softball statistician and a member of the Student Senate and Leadership Society.



Michael Bordner '00 acted in every school play from 1997 to 2000, and participated in every parent weekend performance from age 7 through his senior year.

He performed with the Spartan Players, Gospel Choir, Varsity Choir, and Varsity Band. He represented MHS in "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" at the International Thespian Society Conference in Allentown and in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he won a scholarship to the Mike Lemon Casting Agency in Philadelphia. He was selected as a finalist for a role in the 2000 film "Finding Forrester;" unfortunately, he had already committed to serve in the U.S. Army.



Kara (Bailey) Yoder '06 was a Scholastic Art Award recipient in 2002. She created an extensive portfolio of artwork for AP Studio Art; some of her work is still displayed in

many MHS art teachers' offices. She also participated in the Art Media Club during grades 8, 9, and 10, and won three MHS Purchase Awards in 2006.



Sam Lappano is a retired music teacher and director of VPA; he was employed by MHS from 1988 to 2012. As Director of VPA, Sam initiated the full-length traditional

Spring Musical in 1999. He also coordinated an original spring show to celebrate the MHS Centennial Celebration in 2009. He implemented a summer arts program and established the first high school piano keyboard lab program, and as a teacher at Catherine Hall, he increased the performances for the sixth-grade choir, the seventh-and-eighth-grade choir, and the Catherine Hall handbells. After his retirement, he and his wife, Debbie, continued their association with MHS, playing in the pit band for the annual spring musical from 2013 to 2019.

Nominations for candidates to be considered for 2021 induction are due by Thursday, Dec. 31. Nomination instructions can be found online at mhsalum.org.

Did You Know?

The tradition of the Homecoming Banquet grew from a banquet planned under the leadership of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association for its first 50 members in 1931. The association was organized a year earlier when School Superintendent, George E. Copenhaver, called together a group of alumni, according to a chronological history of the Alumni Association compiled by Harold "Dutch" Huber '45.

First Homecoming Banquet photo



MHS and the Hershey Trust Company

Early Child



In October, Milton Hershey School and the Hershey Trust Company received approval from the Orphans' Court Division of the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas to advance the holistic Early Childhood Education Initiative (ECE Initiative). This initiative will initially consist of up to six cost-free Early Childhood Resource Centers (ECRCs) in Pennsylvania for economically disadvantaged and at-risk children from birth to age five.

"The Milton Hershey School and Hershey Trust Company are gratified by the court's decision, which clears the path for us to expand and enhance the impact and reach of Milton

and Catherine Hershey, and allows us to serve more children than ever before," said Robert Heist '82, Chairman of the MHS Board of Managers. "While this is just the first step in the process, we are thrilled to start putting words into action and begin bringing the ECE Initiative to life."

With court approval, MHS and the Hershey Trust Company can now begin the process of implementing the ECE Initiative. The \$350 million investment will be provided by a limited portion of the annual Trust net income from the Milton Hershey School Trust and a limited portion of the Trust's accumulated income from prior years. The first ECRC will be built on the MHS campus. A second ECRC will be built in Harrisburg. The locations of other ECRCs will be determined by the school's Board of Managers.

"We are thankful to everyone who has supported this project to date, including MHS staff, alumni, families, our Board, and many others. We now have the opportunity to build on our success and serve even more children," said President Peter Gurt '85. "We look forward to sharing updates on the ECE Initiative and continuing to work with our staff and early childhood education leaders from around the country to design this world-class program."

Learn more about the ECE Initiative at hersheyearlylearning.org.



Receive Court Approval for *hood Education Initiative*

The case for early childhood intervention

Editor's Note

Editor's note: The letter below by MHS alumnus Senate Alexander '06 was published by Penn Live on Oct. 19, 2020.

As an early childhood education (ECE) leader, lawyer, and Milton Hershey School alumnus, I have had the unique opportunity to see the effects of education through many lenses. I cannot emphasize enough the importance and benefits of high-quality ECE for kids, especially ones living in poverty. In learning of Milton Hershey School's (MHS) desire to establish high-quality ECE centers, I became both inspired and hopeful of the prospects of this new initiative.

A staggering 80-85% of Pennsylvania children under 5 years of age living near the federal poverty line do not have access to high-quality early childhood education. This initiative is desperately needed, and if done right, the possibilities for these students will be endless as they develop the habits and academic competencies needed for success in life.

Studies show that high-quality ECE is linked to higher literacy rates, higher high school graduation rates, reduced likelihood of criminality, and success later in life. By investing in high-quality ECE programs, particularly for at-risk youth, we significantly decrease the likelihood they will experience negative consequences such as school dropout, poor academic outcomes, delinquency, incarceration, and bad health. These outcomes, left unchecked, pose a high cost for society.

As an educator and lawyer, the best depiction of the cost associated with poor education occurred when I was doing legal work at the public defender's office. Overwhelmingly, our clients came from low-income households and neighborhoods crippled by violence. Nearly all had poor educational experiences, and many were persons of color. Day after day, we saw hopelessness and devastation to communities and families.

This was particularly difficult for me considering my own background, and it served as a humble reminder that this could have easily been my situation. As an at-risk youth, my outlook for success looked bleak. I fit all the indicators: low income, single-parent household, African American. It was my time spent at Milton Hershey School that played a formative role in changing the trajectory of my life. I could not help but wonder what if we invested in education and not incarceration?

As it turns out, there is a link between ECE and criminality, and research shows that we save between \$1 [million] and \$1.3 million in potential benefits when



saving a high-risk youth from a life of crime. It is imperative we begin the intervention process as early as possible.

Birth to 5 years old is a critical period for brain development. During these formative years, a child's brain develops more than any other period in his/her lifetime. The impact of poverty on brain development starts as early as infancy, and research shows that investing in high-quality ECE is one of the best ways to combat the adverse effects of poverty.

Furthermore, we must keep in mind that at-risk youth often require a myriad of additional services to succeed. Such services include enhanced language and literacy development, psychological services, transportation assistance, parent education, and access to nutritious meals. A quality preschool plays an essential role in connecting families to these vital resources and ensuring they get the support needed. Quality ECE centers support children's academic, social, and physical growth while building community partnerships.

To conclude, there is overwhelming evidence of the benefits of ECE. However, the problem does not lie in our understanding of the benefits, effects, or outcomes, but instead putting in place the right interventions to prevent negative outcomes from becoming a reality. The interventions required take time, resources, and commitment to be successful. Many have tried and failed.

MHS has the unique ability to mesh its capital, institutional knowledge of the complex issues surrounding at-risk youth, and its whole-child approach to see real results. The possibilities of this initiative present hope for at-risk youth facing a bleak future, and the benefits are exponential when we invest in quality early childhood education.



Admissions Referral Resources Available to Alumni

If you know a student or family who could benefit from the opportunities available through a connection at MHS, please invite them to join the admissions team for an upcoming virtual open house. Dates, times, and links to register are available at mhskids.org/virtual-open-houses/.

Not sure how to introduce MHS to a family?

Check out mhskids.org/admissions/ for more resources or to connect a student or family with an admissions counselor, and share the video, “Be Your Greatest Self,” on the school’s YouTube channel.

Alumni Step Up On-Campus Engagement during Pandemic

It’s often said that times of crisis bring out the worst in people, but Milton Hershey School alumni continue to prove the old adage wrong in this time of COVID-19. Early in the 2020-21 school year, alumni engaged with current students at Milton Hershey School in new and exciting ways. Here’s a sampling of recent efforts of our alumni family members:

- Kayvon Asemani ’14 virtually visited Debbie Myers’ eighth-grade classroom from California during the first week of classes in August. Kayvon works as a product manager at Facebook.
- Corey Dupree ’09 in September hosted a virtual field trip of The Bridge in Harrisburg for Debbie Myers’ eighth-grade reading students. Corey is COO of The Bridge, a collaboration seeking “to create sustainable environmental and economic development while creating training and educational advancement in local communities.” Corey has since joined the MHS Alumni Relations staff as the alumni engagement coordinator.
- Dan Acevedo ’08 joined Danielle Rafferty’s fourth-grade class via Zoom to answer questions about preparing for the future and how he has handled life after MHS. Before becoming an MHS teacher, Rafferty was Dan’s housemother.

If you are interested in similar opportunities, visit mhsalum.org/give-back/volunteer-opportunities/.

MHS to Host Alumni Business Directory

Milton Hershey School plans to host an Alumni Business Directory on mhsalum.org. The directory will be provided as a complimentary service to encourage networking and the support of alumni businesses. Alumni business owners are invited to submit information. To do so and take a brief survey, scan or click on the QR code.



Alumna Gives Back through YRE Program

Milton Hershey School alumna Toni Allen-King ’88 makes it a priority to return to MHS throughout the year to show support, be an example to current students, and give back to the school that she appreciates so much.

Now a science teacher in Lancaster, Toni returns to MHS each summer as an instructor with the Year-Round Experiences (YRE) program. This summer, she worked with Senior Division students on projects focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM).

“During YRE, students participate in activities that they may not want to do, but [they] are encouraged to try something new,” Toni said. “That extra push that students get in YRE helps prepare them to be more well-rounded people.”

Working YRE over the years has allowed Toni to align her professional career with giving back to her alma mater. “I come back to show students—in my own way—that we all have something to be proud of as we survived the circumstances that made us Milts.” She concluded, “None of us should ever feel not good enough to come back and volunteer, because the students need alumni around them.”

More information about YRE is available at mhskids.org/mhs-experience/year-round-experiences/.

GPS Launches Campus Champion Program



The Graduate Programs for Success Division of Milton Hershey School earlier this fall launched a new program for the Pittsburgh and Central Pennsylvania regions called Campus Champions. The initiative offers increased support for MHS graduates by connecting alumni with students enrolled in college in these areas.

The Campus Champion alumni agree to provide support for their students at least once per semester. They can do this by:

- providing encouragement and advice;
- celebrating accomplishments, especially small ones, like passing a test;

- providing transportation; and
- offering advice about local resources, such as auto mechanics, medical offices, the best local sub shop, and more.

On Oct. 14, a Zoom meeting kicked off the program, allowing students and alumni to meet through a game of trivia. Additional Campus Champion regions are expected to be added in the future. More information will be published in the Spartan Minute e-newsletter for alumni, as well as online at mhsalum.org.

Girls Grace Refocused Emphasizes Kindness



The Girls Grace REFOCUSED 2020 virtual event for high school girls on Nov. 6 was a huge success. This marks the fifth year for the Girls Grace program, which in previous years has been a 12-hour overnight event. The theme for this year's event was "Focus on Kindness."

Thank you to the following alumnae who volunteered as speakers and panelists: Helen Ard '13, Tieya Greene '03, Kayla (Hidlay) Mason '08, Dana Oliver '93, Tazia Rice '15, Algene Sajery '95, Angela Shade '95, Thelma Urey '18, and Julie (Malave) Viera '09.

Program founder Sharice Johnson complimented the alumnae for their ongoing commitment to MHS students. "Your wisdom and encouragement during the workshops and panel are invaluable! Our students love hearing from you, and I look forward to creating additional opportunities to include alumni voices in character development programs at MHS!"

MHS Adds Graduate to Gold Star Alumni Honor Roll



In observation of Memorial Day in May, Milton Hershey School paid tribute online to the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country, including the MHS Gold Star alumni. Among those honored was **Clarence Willman '70**, whose

addition to the Gold Star Alumni Honor Roll would have been announced during the school's annual Memorial Assembly.

A sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, Clarence died on July 21, 1975 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina. He graduated from MHS on June 1, 1970 and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps 14 days later. He was a member of the Second Marine Air Wing. He was released from the Marines on June 5, 1974 and re-enlisted on Jan. 10, 1975.

MHS Gold Star alumni are those alumni who served in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, National Guard, or Navy and died while in honorable active military service to their country.



MHSAA President's Message

As the end of 2020 approaches, I believe all of us would agree that Milton Hershey School Alumni Association has had a busy year. Despite the pandemic dominating our lives since March and leading to the cancellation of several traditional events, we found creative ways to offer programming, and made changes that will strengthen the Association.

With a normal start to the year, I traveled to Phoenix, Arizona in January with MHS President Peter Gurt '85 and Vice President of Graduate Program for Success Tanya Baynham for an Alumni Regional Dinner. At the event, we established our sixth Spartan Social Club. Clubs serve as an alternative way for alumni to gather for fellowship in areas where there are no chapters. Clubs do not replace chapters, but enhance the alumni experience by requiring less administrative and financial burden than chapters must follow.

In April, the MHSAA Board voted to approve a change to the association bylaws to provide continuity and stability in three key officer positions. The terms of office for Vice President of Communications, Secretary, and Treasurer are now two years instead of one.

In place of the annual Alumni-Senior Fellowship Dinner that was scheduled for April, we launched a very successful letter-writing campaign to members of the Class of 2020. It was a way for us to connect with the seniors when we could not be with them in person.



To reconnect with all of you, our Communications Committee, led by MHSAA Vice President Amanda DuCharme, introduced what we called Saturday Rec, a series of Facebook Live events where graduates shared their culinary skills or participated in

trivia nights. We also provided Sunday Devotions, where various alumni took turns posting brief spiritual messages each week on the MHSAA Facebook page. In addition, MHSAA added a feature to its Facebook page. "Heart of a Spartan" provides an opportunity for alumni to recognize MHS staff members who were influential in their lives.

Also in the spring, in light of the events taking place across our nation regarding racial injustice, MHSAA established a diversity subcommittee. The committee has met several times, and members are working on a mission statement. They plan to conduct a survey of MHSAA members to see what our alumni brothers and sisters would like to see MHSAA offer, so all members feel included and fairly treated.

In June, when MHS announced plans for a senior car processional during Commencement Weekend, members of the MHSAA Board joined with the MHS community to congratulate the graduates as they and their families and friends drove through campus. We welcomed the newest members of MHSAA, as graduates received their class rings and MHSAA membership cards.

In August, members of MHSAA stepped up to assist with logistics and registration for the Dick Purcell Spartan Classic golf tournament. This is the second year MHSAA partnered with the Dearden Foundation to host the tournament, and each organization earned about \$33,000. Thank you to MHS Alumni Relations Manager Lorraine Romberger '83 for chairing this successful event.

Another first was live interviews with MHSAA Board candidates on social media. This idea, conceived by Julee Hixon '84 and conducted with MHSAA Vice President John Foley '83, provided the opportunity for each candidate to be seen, answer questions, share their views, and ask questions.



Like many of you, I hope Homecoming 2020 is the only year we will have had to host virtual events in place of reconnecting with each other in Hershey. We did, however, manage to observe some of our long-standing traditions online. The Annual Business Meeting had to be held as outlined in our bylaws. We also announced the names of the four alumni elected to serve on the MHSAA Board,

as well as the Homecoming Raffle winners. The weekend culminated with the annual Memorial Grove Service in tribute to alumni who died during the past year, and a virtual chapel message by Chuck Seidel '87, this year's Alumnus of the Year.

In September, as many of you are aware, MHS introduced its new five-year Strategic Plan. We look forward to opportunities for alumni to assist in achieving goals outlined in the plan. MHS along with The Hershey Trust also

announced plans for an Early Childhood Education initiative. While the initiative is in the initial planning phase, MHSAA will continue to seek information about it and how it will further the mission of our benefactors. MHSAA will also pay close attention to whether this and any future initiatives will follow the Deed of Trust. For MHSAA, the Deed of Trust, as intended by our founders, is first and foremost the guiding document for all MHS does.

Finally, I would be remiss if I were not to thank those who have provided help, guidance, and counseling throughout this past year—MHS President Gurt and his staff, MHS Alumni Relations led by Lorraine Romberger '83 and her staff, MHSAA Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper Susan Motter, and your MHSAA Board of Directors. Their support and work for our association is commendable. If I can refer to the MHSAA as a ship, each ship has a captain that guides it and a crew that does the work. I have had one fine crew this year, and at every opportunity I thanked the board members for all they have done and continue to do. I could not have asked for a more dedicated group of people to work alongside of. It has been a privilege and honor to be captain of this ship in the choppy waters of 2020! Your association board met in November to select leaders for 2021. We will continue to sail into 2021 and hope, by the grace of God, the waters are calmer.

Remember, "Our future in focus!"

Mike Mulderig '71
MHSAA President

If you are interested in creating a Spartan Social Club, contact MHSAA at alumnimhsaa@comcast.net for details.



MHSAA Announces Water Gap Wellness Initiative

The Milton Hershey School Alumni Association is pleased to announce an initiative to offer mental health and addiction/substance abuse treatment resources and services to MHS alumni.

The Water Gap Wellness Center, based in Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania, is working with MHSAA to support alumni who struggle with mental health and substance use disorder. Water Gap Wellness will support alumni and their family and friends by offering:

- 24/7 access to our trained treatment professionals;
- a direct line for alumni, friends, and family;
- case management for alumni members who are being treated at the Water Gap Wellness Center;
- access to the center's national directory of resources; and
- one scholarship per quarter awarded to any MHS alumnus in good standing.



WATER GAP
WELLNESS

Learn more at watergapwellness.com or by calling 833.949.4673.

Four Alumni Elected to MHSAA Board

The Milton Hershey School Alumni Association on Saturday, Sept. 19, announced the results of its election to fill four open seats on the MHSAA Board of Directors. The winners are (below, left to right) Kimberly Elenberg '88 and incumbent board members Al Leonzi '71, Angela Shade '95, and Virgil Whitsett '81. MHSAA directors are responsible for the management and administration of the association, including adopting its annual budget.



Congratulations to Bob Pringle '81 (pictured left), who won the top prize of \$10,000 in the 2020 MHSAA Homecoming Raffle. Additional prizes went to: Jim Gould '63—\$1,500, Raymond Brinker '51—\$1,500, Paul Aurelio '84—\$500, Jim Gould '63—\$500, Amy Powell '90—\$500, and Alexander Dent III '73—\$500. Winners were chosen on Facebook Live on Saturday, Sept. 19, following the MHSAA Annual Business Meeting. It was the most successful raffle in recent years, based on the number of tickets sold. Thank you to all who supported the association by buying a ticket!

Chapter News

Harrisburg Chapter

With appreciation for the technology that exists and the adaptability of its members, the chapter has been conducting its regular monthly meetings online during the pandemic. The meetings focus primarily on fellowship and MHS updates, since each of the seven community service projects previously scheduled March through August 2020 were cancelled due to COVID-19.

The virtual meetings are well received, with participants joining in from locations throughout Pennsylvania and across the nation. The chapter will continue to meet virtually on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. For information on how to join in, contact Harrisburg Chapter President John Hanawalt '70 at jobohanawalt@gmail.com.



Masked and socially distanced, members of the Harrisburg Chapter gathered to pay tribute to MHS founders Milton and Catherine Hershey during the group's 12th annual wreath-laying ceremony. Jim Hanawalt '65, pictured at left with the wreath in the background, was the featured speaker at the tribute, offering his thoughts about "A Time to Remember." This year's ceremony was held on Sept. 10 at the Hershey Cemetery.

Homestead Chapter

Though most activities of the MHSAA Homestead Chapter have unfortunately been cancelled or delayed due to ongoing facility restrictions related to COVID-19, Homestead alumni remain committed to MHS alumni on a broader scale.

During the summer, the chapter sponsored beverages for the Dick Purcell Spartan Classic golf tournament, held on Aug. 10, 2020, at the Hershey Country Club. The donation was made in honor of deceased brother and longtime chapter member, Dick Purcell '61.

Also, Spartanwear merchandise is available for purchase. Contact Homestead Chapter President Jim Gould '63 to inquire about specific items for sale and to place an order.

The chapter is hopeful and looks forward to gathering with its members as soon as permitted.



Honorary Member Chapter



The chapter welcomes its two newest members, Cristal Shaeffer and Ken Snyder, who were voted in as honorary alumni this fall. Because Homecoming was cancelled due to ongoing coronavirus concerns, the chapter welcomed Cristal and Ken with phone calls and cards.



The chapter reports that it has not met in person since February 2020, but its members remain in constant touch in unique ways. For instance, drive-by birthday celebrations were coordinated for two Honorary Chapter members who turned 90 this year: Don Witman in July at Londonderry Village in Palmyra, and Louise Swartzbaugh in September, who sat in her daughter Cristal Shaeffer's front yard. A number of chapter members participated in the special celebrations, along with MHS President Pete Gurt '85 and his wife, Jane.

The chapter also is honored to have three of its members voted into the MHS Hall of Fame in September: John Grab, Bob Schelhorn, and Ken Snyder as coach of the 1976 football team. MHS honored all three for accomplishments in athletics. Bob has the distinction of previously being elected into the Hall of Fame for his artistic accomplishments, and Ken bears the distinction of being elected into the Hall of Fame and as an honorary alumnus in the same year.

Washington, D.C./Maryland/Virginia Chapter

The chapter held its Annual Picnic and Elections Meeting on July 18 in Alexandria, Virginia. As a result of the election, the following alumni will serve as officers for 2021: President Chris Sanborn '99, Vice President Julee Hixon '84, Secretary Angela Shade '95, Treasurer Mary Ann Lovell '84, and Chapter Representative Mel Horn '69.

Also at the meeting, winners were chosen in the chapter's annual Ring Raffle, where alumni purchase a chance to win a replacement for a lost or stolen MHS class ring. Due to the large number of participants, two drawings were held. The winners are Tom Holland '67 and Brenda Armstrong '86.

On the weekend of Sept. 25-27, the chapter held "Spartans Go Camping" at Pohick Bay Regional Park in Lorton, Virginia. Activities included hiking, outdoor grilling, and playing Spartan Trivia. Several members from the Philadelphia Chapter joined the DMV Spartan group, and another installment of the Ring Raffle was held, with Chris Sanborn '99 claiming the prize.



The chapter's annual Christmas Party and Meeting is scheduled Dec. 5 in Glen Burnie, Maryland, and the annual "Chapter Santa" program is planned to make Christmas brighter for a select group of MHS families after students arrive home for the holidays.

Grillmaster Bill Schlegel '70 shows off his skills at a chapter gathering this fall in Virginia. (photo by Chapter Vice President Julee Hixon '84)



George Berryhill, Sr. '48 (left) and his grandson, Anthony, earlier this year posed for a photo in front of Kinderhaus, George's first student home when he started at Milton Hershey School in 1938. The Hershey resident began his career in printing using the trade he learned at MHS. After many successful years in the field, he shifted gears to owning and running several successful businesses in Central Pennsylvania, including the Milton Motel in Hershey and the Carlisle Sports Emporium. He was married to his wife, Christina, for 71 years. Now 90 years old, he has two children, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1950s

Robert Dodson '46 celebrated his 92nd birthday in June. He and his wife, Pamela, still live in Dover, Del.

Joseph Gosik '51, of Palmyra, was injured in an accidental fall but reports that he is continuing therapy and progress is positive. "Always a Spartan!"

George Marks '51, of Cumming, Ga., is CEO of Marks Machinery, which he hopes to be selling soon. He and his wife celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary traveling to Heidelberg, Germany for Christmas of 2019 and to Paris, France for New Year's. He reports living the good life on Lake Lanier and still snow skiing.

John Resanovich '51, of Lebanon, retired from Met-Ed, has served as a Spartan Ambassador for 20 years, greeting new

students to MHS. He previously served one term on the MHSAA Board, is a member of the MHSAA Homestead Chapter, and reports missing only three homecomings in 68 years.

John Zern '52, of Oviedo, Fla., is celebrating 27 years of retirement from Sears.

Thomas Gamble '53, of Havertown, hosts a radio program of 1930s, 40s, and 50s music every Thursday afternoon from 3-6 p.m. on the Delaware Valley Radio Network—WRDV-FM 89.3 Hatboro, 107.3 Philadelphia, and around the world on the internet at www.wrdv.org.

Jack Norrie '54, formerly of Fayetteville, recently moved to the Green Ridge Village retirement community in Newville.

L. Kenneth Subers '58, of Ft. Mill, S.C., is a retired electrical designer. He has 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

1960s

Andrew Getsie '61, of Fort Wayne, Ind., has been diagnosed with frontal lobe dementia and is living in a memory care facility, according to his daughter, Andrea. Though he does not remember many things, she says he remains in good health otherwise.

F. L. Findley '61, formerly of Lapeer, Mich., celebrated 13 years of retirement and recently moved in with his brother M. Dennis Findley '62. The brothers live in Flint, Mich.

James Gould '63, of Hershey, retired from the insurance industry after 55 years, including 38 years as an independent agent. He and his wife, Shirley, celebrated 55 years of marriage this year. They have two sons and three granddaughters. Jim remains active with the Dearden Foundation and MHSAA, and is currently serving as president of the association's Homestead Chapter.

Warren Johnston '63, formerly of Stow, Ohio, moved to Toccoa, Ga., in December 2019.

Larry Seesholtz '63, of Orlando, Fla., is retired but continues to enjoy working part time as a flight safety instructor, teaching pilots to fly business jets.

Richard Stamm '63, of Clovis, N.M., is still working full time as a pediatric surgeon at the Plains Regional Medical Center. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting big game and fishing.

Michael Urbanavage '63, of Hershey, retired from The Hershey Company.

Earnest H. Corson '64, of Harrisburg, and his wife celebrated 48 years of marriage in September. He reports "taking it easy" and "enjoying retirement."

William Schwanger '64, of Etters, is retired from AMP/Tyco and reports, "Life is good!"

Donald Hart '65, of Kennewick, Wash., is semi-retired president and consultant of DHART Consulting Group. He and his wife, Lisa, stay active in their community and church, and enjoy fussing over their new granddaughter. They look forward to getting back to visiting wineries and other cultures once the coronavirus pandemic is under control.

Barry Smith '65, of Sparta, Ga., is blind in one eye, but remains in "good to excellent" health otherwise. He and his wife, Judy, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October.

John Laskey '66, of Apex, N.C., retired in December 2019 after 25 years as vice president of sales for Infinite Computer Solutions. He previously retired in 1994 after 25 years as director of information technology at General Electric.

George Williams '66, of Elizabethtown, retired after 50 years as a journeyman construction electrician. He and his wife, Mary Ann, celebrated 50 years of marriage this year. They enjoy traveling in their Corvette and attending their grandchildren's sporting events.

W. Edward Beamderfer '67, of Elizabethtown, is retired and enjoys camping, golf, ball games, traveling, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Wesley McDowell '68, of Sunset Beach, N.C., is a retired high school principal. He reports spending most of his time "dodging hurricanes." He and his wife, Karen, have been married 46 years. They have two children, a son and a daughter, and one granddaughter.



Ray Brinker '51, of Annville, recently reached out to Milton Hershey School to learn more about his former housefather, Warren Miller (pictured at left in 1965). "I learned a tremendous amount from Warren Miller," Ray wrote in his request. "I had some contact with Warren over the years, [and] for the last few years, I've been thinking about [him]. I realize I know next to nothing about the man or what he did before he came to MHS or what he did after he retired. I am sorry I never made more of an effort to really get to know the man." MHS School History was able to supply several news articles and photos to Ray about Warren and his wife, Christine, to help Ray learn more about the man he says saved his life.



Ralph J. Carfagno '73—pictured to the left, at the 2019 Homecoming Banquet with his MHS houseparents, Mary and Elmer Norris—retired from MHS, where he served as senior director of alumni relations. Ralph worked for the school for almost 18 years, and served both the MHSAA and Dearden Foundation. He says he was lucky to have the best houseparents as a student and the best staff as an employee. He is in his 16th year of coaching college softball and continues to enjoy playing in a band with friends. He and his wife, Wendy, live in Hummelstown.

George Salomskas '68, of Newport, N.J., is the retired owner of George's Expert Motor Service. He reports recently buying "some toys to relax with," including a 30-foot Chris-Craft boat, a 34-foot Southwind motorhome, and a Harley-Davidson custom Softail.

Robert Seuffert '68, of Pittsburgh, enjoys hunting and fishing in his retirement years. He and his wife of 47 years, Maureen, have four grandchildren.

John Furmanak '69, of Media, volunteers as a Milton Hershey School ambassador, leading seminars about enrollment at MHS. He and his wife, Nancy, have one son, Tom.

Donald Gates '69, of Corona, Calif., is a physician practicing family and regenerative medicine at Vibrant Medical.

Frank Parrish '69, of Hermitage, is retired but continues publishing a weekly newspaper, the *Globe Leader*. Though now digital, the paper has served its Western Pennsylvania community continuously since 1880.

1970s

Henry Krause '70, of Sewell, N.J., hopes to retire this year after 50 years at Acme Markets. He and his wife have been married for 46 years and have four granddaughters.

Michael Longenecker '70, of Dillsburg, is a master advisor and technician at Legacy Truck Centers. In June, he completed 50 years at Mack in Harrisburg. He has been married for 18 years and has two stepdaughters, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Thomas Rothert '71, of Silver Spring, Md., serves on the board of directors of a local stroke support group and as a lector at his church.

John Whitehead '71, of Annville, started a new job with Commonwealth Equipment Corp, a machinery company based in Wilkes-Barre. He specializes in portable crushers and screeners, as well as HD wheel units.

Thomas Connelly '72, of O'Fallon, Mo., is a tech service manager at WS Hampshire, a metal fabricator based in Hampshire, Ill.

Paul Julian '72, of Kissimmee, Fla., retired in January 2019 from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, where he served as the Central Florida area supervisor.

Earl Lego '72, of Enola, retired in May 2019. He and his wife of 36 years, Patricia, have four grandchildren. Earl enjoys yard work and bowling.

Julien Alexandre '73, of Harrisburg, retired on Oct. 1 after 39 years of service with Nationwide Insurance. He and his wife, Kimbra, have been married for 42 years; they have two children and four grandchildren.

Carl Cox '73, of Knoxville, received the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence for his service to his community. The award recognizes local government leaders for exceptional dedication to improving public services through innovation. He was also honored for the achievement with citations from the Pennsylvania House and Senate. Carl is immediate past president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs and a councilman in Knoxville Borough, Tioga County.

Ralph Tomassi '73, of Ashland, Ohio, is chief development officer and senior administrator at Hospice of North Central Ohio. He also serves as president of the Homeward Bound Dog Shelter of Ashland County. He and his wife, Betty Jo, have been married 39 years.

William Jones '74, of Palmyra, retired in August after 40 years of full-time employment as a Milton Hershey School employee. Bill worked in the Grounds and Landscaping Department.

Kevin Bridgeman '75, of Selbyville, Del., is a retired police lieutenant.

Anthony Daggett '78, of Blackwood, N.J., owns *Fête* by Tony Daggett, a catering company that also offers personal chef services.

Michael Vanderslice '78, of Pottstown, is retired and reports being "in seventh heaven" after the birth of his third grandchild, Loren-Marie.

Ralph Beck '79, of Fredericksburg, Va., a software engineer for the U.S. Navy, is retiring after 30 years of service.

1980s

Robert Barskey '80, of Shillington, works as a provider services associate at Loomis Insurance.

John Busha '82, of York, works at Oldcastle Industrial Materials. He and his wife have one grandson.

Norman Mazer '82, of Levittown, is president and owner of Thermostat Heating and Cooling Inc.

Anthony Barkley '83, of Greensboro, N.C., is CEO of 3rd Eye Insight, LLC. He recently published his second book, "Winning the Sales and Leadership Game," featured on Amazon.

Derrick Barkley '84, of North Wales, is a financial advisor and vice president at Bank of America. He is married with two sons.

Mario Brewton '84, of Land O Lakes, Fla., is the owner of FitSpartan84, located in Largo, Fla. As a certified personal trainer, Mario's goal is to help his clients maintain a healthy balance between their workout goals and their lives. He is also employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier.

Edward Savage '84, of Dixfield, Maine, works as a wastewater treatment plant operator at Nine Dragons Paper Company. He reports leading a quiet life, and enjoys reading and writing poetry.



Kenneth Eason '83 was named superintendent of the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Chester. He began his corrections

career in 1990 as a corrections officer in Graterford and rose through the ranks, serving as sergeant and lieutenant before transferring to Chester in 2012. While at SCI Chester, he held positions as major of the guard and deputy superintendent for facilities management. He also served on several specialized teams, such as the Corrections Emergency Response Team and the Fire Emergency Response Team. He and his wife, who also works for the Department of Corrections, have two daughters and live in Chester.



Tom Firestone '88 is a digital artist specializing in motion graphics, 2D and 3D animation, screen graphics for playback, and visual effects. He has worked in the Art Department of several TV shows, including "Person of Interest" (2013-2014), "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" (2018), and "The Blacklist" (2014-2019). A graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City, he previously created art for Lucasfilm, NBC, CBS, Universal, A&E Networks, and Castle Rock Entertainment.

Eric Welsh '84, of Atlanta, Ga., 2017 MHS Alumnus of the Year, left his position at Coca-Cola to be principal partner and co-founder of WBMV Consulting, a management consulting firm based on the north side of Atlanta.

Larry Johnson '85, of Gainesville, Ga., owns Benchmark Automotive, offering auto sales and repair. He and his wife, Bernadette, celebrated 30 years of marriage in October. They have two children, one dog, and several cats.

James Martin '87, of Aurora, Ohio, is Global Technology Risk Leader at Ernst & Young.

Spencer Osborne '87, of Worcester, Mass., is a construction management project manager for LCB Senior Living in Norwood, Mass.



Marissa (Wolfe) Guarino '89, of Clearwater, Fla., is vice president of operation at Practice Management of America, which manages more than 2,000 independent physicians in the greater Long Island, New York market. During this time of pandemic, she established and integrated a call center to assist with 911 emergency calls in New York City and organized hundreds of physicians to perform telemedicine for patients in crisis there.

Marissa herself has been one of the call center staff answering 911 calls to give patients the information they need to keep them safe. "These calls are heartbreaking," Marissa said. She explained she focuses on providing hope and direction about what the callers should do next. "Milton Hershey School helped me prioritize what is important and to adapt in times of chaos," Marissa added.

Michael Laudermilch '88, of Fountain Hills, Ariz., is an estimator and project manager for Berg Construction. He moved to Arizona three years ago and reports "loving the weather" there.

George Danner '89, of Lebanon, is a sales consultant at Faulkner Nissan.

Andrew Ribauda '89, of Columbia, Mo., is in his fourth year as CFO of the Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company. He previously spent five years in London as CFO of Lloyd's Syndicate. He and his wife of 23 years, Michelle, have three children.

1990s

Adam Bryson '90 is a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps. He reports being "mobilized since March 2020 at Marine Forces Europe and Africa to lead a project to develop capabilities and processes to combat misinformation in the information environment."

Joel Medina '90, of Laurel, Md., is an IT systems administrator in the Johns Hopkins Advanced Physics Lab.

Jermaine Elam '91, of Camden, N.J., works as a driver for UPS.

Damien Smith '91, of Durham, N.C., started a new position as a health and physical education teacher at Eastern Senior High School.

John Mueller '92, of Cherry Hill, N.J., is a partner at Flahive Mueller Attorneys at Law LLC in Lambertville, N.J. He and his business partner, who specialize in employment law, recently launched a new website, flahivemueller.com.

Bryan Bryant '93, of Tahlequah, Okla., is the owner of Bryant's Daylight Donuts. He and his wife, Sarah, are fostering two children, ages 5 and 1, and hope to adopt them before the end of the year.

Danyl Collings '95, of Stoughton, Mass., is owner and chief appraiser at Four Core Valuations. Danyl started the company in 2018. He is celebrating 11 years in the residential appraisal business.

Jai-Li Chen '96, of Randolph, Mass., works in the cash office at Target.

Gregory Petrucci '96, of Clayton, Del., is a project manager at Union Wholesale.

Dale Williams '94, of Lebanon, a social and emotional learning teacher at MHS, was recently featured on the mhskids.org website for his efforts to encourage students, staff, and the MHS community to make the 2020-21 school year the best one yet. Dale said, "I am most excited to see how staff and students will grow and learn together. The school year theme, Our Future in Focus, fits well with my motto for my classroom this year: 'We can do HARD things.'"



Nicholas Allanach '97, of Woodside, N.Y., is an English teacher at Plaza College, a private college in Forest Hills, N.Y. founded in 1916.

Terry Donaher Jr. '98, of Hershey, began working as an admissions counselor at Milton Hershey School in July 2020, after 10 years of service as a houseparent. His wife, Sarah, began the 2020-21 school year teaching third grade at Memorial Hall. They have two sons, Tripp and Kane.

Ododo (Omo-Osagie) Walsh '98, of Hershey, was promoted in August to associate director of transitional living at MHS. She previously served as a home life administrator in the Elementary Division of the school.

Edwin Vega '98, of Sunnyside, N.Y., made his podcast debut on "Mojo for the Modern Man" with host Ken Mossman of Cirrus Leadership. Edwin is a certified leadership development and executive coach and group/training facilitator.

Matthew Hedrick '99, of Conway, S.C., is assistant manager of the cafeteria at Aynor High School, a public high school in the Horry County School District.

2000s

Michael Bordner '00, of Highspire, is a master sergeant in the U.S. Army. He recently returned home from Poland, where he was on a deterrence mission to keep Russia from violating NATO policy and aggression in and around the Baltic States.



In the documentary, “Stone Ghosts in the South: Confederate Monuments and America’s Battle with Itself,” **Trymaine Lee ‘96** travels to the South with John Eligon of the New York Times to understand hate, heritage, and the legacy of the confederacy. A resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., Trymaine is a Pulitzer Prize- and Emmy Award-winning journalist. He hosts NBC’s “Into America” podcast and works as a correspondent for MSNBC.

Melanie (Rolfsema) Giglietti ‘00, of Pawtucket, R.I., graduated in May 2019 with an RN-BSN degree, and in July 2019 received a plant-based nutrition certificate. She is self-employed and works with Bayada Home Health Care.

Edward Murphy ‘00, of Gulf Breeze, Fla., is a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

Trachandra (Brown) Garcia ‘02, of Downingtown, is associate director of alumni and parent relations at Haverford College.

John Alleva ‘04, of Canton, Ga., began a new job as a substance abuse counselor with the Highland Rivers Assertive Community Treatment team, based in Rome, Ga. He and his fiancé became engaged in October 2019.

Frankie Reyes ‘05, is a tax consultant at ATAX, Inc. He lives in the Bronx, N.Y., with his wife, mother, and two dogs.

Aimee Elyce (Charles) Mares ‘06, of Broken Arrow, Okla., is a special education biology teacher at Union Public Schools.

Mike Shanahan ‘06, of Raleigh, N.C., started a new position during the summer as business banking associate, PPP Loan Forgiveness at Bank of America.

Chantal Fae Rukundo-Karaara ‘07, of Denver, Colo., was promoted to visitation supervisor and parenting coach at McLaughlin Counseling in Centennial, Colo.

Kayla Ann (Nunnery) Tipton ‘07, of Charlotte, N.C., is an educator at the Invest Collegiate Explore charter school. She recently bought a house and enrolled in graduate school, where she has completed her second semester.

Nensha Kamara ‘08, of Oakland, Calif., is a licensed and registered doctor of occupational therapy.

Monique Ashton ‘09 moved from Boston, Mass., to Houston, Texas and landed her dream job. She is a senior quality systems specialist at KBI Biopharma.

Britne Vinson ‘09, of Naugatuck, Conn., is a therapeutic foster care clinician at Klingberg Family Centers. She moved to Connecticut in June 2019; her daughter is now seven years old.

2010s

Shauna Pieruccini ‘10 is an account manager in the greenhouse industry for Lynx Associates, based in Oakland, N.J. She recently relocated from Hanover to Burlington, Conn.

Noel Tomaszewski ‘11, of Maysville, N.C., is an E-5 sergeant ordnance technician in the U.S. Marine Corps. He expects to complete his service of more than eight years in the near future, at which time he and his family will move to Mississippi. He plans to go back to school to prepare for a career in early childhood development.

Shanille Lewis ‘12, of Columbia, is a corporate paralegal at Eurofins NSC U.S. She bought her first home in June and will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in legal studies next year.

Melissa (Stingle) Turnpaugh ‘12, of Hummelstown, took a new job in late 2019 as a life skills counselor at Valley Youth House. In the position, she works with runaway and homeless youth in Dauphin County. In July 2020, she began a master’s degree

program in exercise science and health promotion at California University of Pennsylvania. She plans to graduate with a concentration in nutrition.

Ron Adams ‘13, of Phoenixville, graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in communications from Alvernia College. Ron says that when he came to MHS, he had “no direction ... no hope ... no plan. Fast forward 15 years ... I stayed focused on the goal, which was to become a first-generation college student, and to break the cycle of poverty in my family. [This] is the first step in making all of that possible. Dreams really do come true if you work for them.”

Ronald Whitman ‘13, of Freeburg, is a mechanic and heavy equipment operator at Bressler’s Garage Towing and Recovery.

Christopher Fink ‘14, of Philadelphia, started a new position as an accounts receivable specialist at Open Systems Healthcare.

Anna Marhefka ‘14, of Erie, recently passed the exam and completed the requirements to become a licensed social worker in Pennsylvania. She is working as a functional family therapist at Family Services of Northwest Pennsylvania.

Etta Williams ‘14, of Philadelphia, is a clinical mental health counseling student in her last year of graduate school at Immaculata University. She currently works as a direct support professional at Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health.

Joshua Arledge ‘15 recently moved from Mexico to Austin, Texas, to begin teaching at the Texas School for the Deaf.

Alea Proctor ‘16, of Middletown, works as a sales associate in the bakery at Weis Markets.

Jesper Andersson ‘17, of Port Royal, S.C., in July penned an op-ed for The Harvard Crimson titled “More than Fraternity—Family.” Jesper is a senior at Harvard and president of Harvard’s Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter, Massachusetts Gamma. In his article, written in response to the university’s retraction of sanctions against members of single-gender social organizations, he talks about his family and his time at MHS, offers the pros and cons of fraternity involvement, and outlines why he believes Harvard’s sanctions “missed the mark.”

Gabriel Elliott Brault ‘17, of Hershey, will graduate from Georgetown University a semester early and accepted an offer from JPMorgan Chase through their Corporate Analyst Development Program in Delaware.



Playwright Jocelyn Bioh ‘01, of New York, N.Y., signed a contract with Disney to develop a feature adaptation of “Once on This Island,” the 1990 Broadway musical about a peasant girl who falls in love with an aristocrat in the French Antilles. The musical, based on the 1985 novel “My Love, My Love” by Rosa Guy, made its MHS debut in early March, during the 2019-20 school year. Sixty-five MHS students were involved in the production (pictured at left) as cast and crew members.



Alexandra (White) Cristin '07 appeared on "Good Morning America" on Sept. 29 to promote her company, Glam Seamless, which sells affordable tape-in hair extensions formerly only available through professional stylists at a very high price.

Alex started the company in 2012, at the age of 22, with \$1,500 she had saved from various jobs, including working as a nanny, a plus-sized model, and in reality television. She purchased one dark-colored extension and one light-colored extension, designed a website, built a Shopify, and started a blog. Eight years later, Glam Seamless is a \$20 million a year business that ships worldwide to 167 countries. It has partner salons all over the world, a flagship store in New York City, and in 2021, Alex will be opening a salon in Los Angeles.

Alex says she was always inspired to be an entrepreneur—something she believes she subconsciously picked up during her time at MHS because of Milton Hershey himself. "If it weren't for Milton Hershey School, I know for a fact, I wouldn't be who I am." She adds, "[MHS] is such an amazing network and there is power in the Milton Hershey community." She credits alumnus Jason Wolfe '87, a successful businessman and 2014 Alumnus of the Year, with being instrumental in helping her with the really big business decisions.

Alex has been featured in Forbes, Entrepreneur, People, Parents, and in 2017 was named one of Inc. Magazine's 30 Under 30 Young Entrepreneurs. Her Alumni Success Story is also featured on mhskids.org. A graduate of Pace University, she lives in West New York, N.J.

Caitlynne Maxfield '17, of Eatontown, N.J., will graduate from college in December, "a whole semester early!" She enjoys volunteering at her college's apiary.

Marriages

Nefertiti Leach '97, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was married on Nov. 29, 2019, in Ghana. A self-employed education consultant, she is mom to MHS alumna Isis Smith '20, and Nina Leach, who started college at age 14 this fall.

Aaron Counsentino '05, of Mount Carmel, and his fiancé, Heather, were married on May 2, 2020.

Sarah Duncan '06, of Montrose, was married in November 2019. She and her spouse celebrated their marriage with family and friends on Aug. 1, 2020. Sarah is a behavioral health worker at Friendship House, a mental health service provider in Scranton.

Brittany Leigh Aument '11, formerly of Englewood, Colo., and Nathan Flickinger '11 were married on Nov. 9, 2019. They live in Milwaukee, Wisc., where Brittany is the bakery supervisor at Wisconsin Center District.

Births

Abel Rosario '96 and his wife welcomed a second child, a baby girl named Clarisse Hana, on March 3, 2020. Abel, who works in video production for Ad Arch in Japan, reports that big brother, three-year-old Raphael, is excited to have a sister.

Asheleigh (Wykoff) Forsburg '02, of Mechanicsburg, and her husband welcomed their second child on April 29, 2020. According to their social media announcement, newcomer Josette looks like big sister Eliza.

Megan Newman '03, of Irving, Texas, and her husband welcomed their first child, Hunter Gabriel, in October 2019. They recently moved to the Dallas area after selling her business in Odessa, Texas. Megan is a real estate developer.

Cassandra (Wentzel) Razzi '05, of Philadelphia, and her husband welcomed their first baby, a boy, Wesley Porter Razzi, on March 30, 2020.



Jessica Campanaro '07, of Duncannon, welcomed a daughter, Fallon, on March 11, 2020. She is enjoying her role as a stay-at-home mom.

Deaths

George E. Doutrich '43, of Leola, July 7, 2020

David DeWald '44, of Lititz, July 10, 2020

Donald Eddinger '44, of Campbelltown, April 13, 2019

Harold A. Karl '44, of Oberlin, May 10, 2020

Eugene F. "Jeep" Kline '44, of Hershey, April 29, 2020

Robert Dingeldein '45, of Altoona, July 31, 2020

John Albright '46, of Huntington Beach, Calif., Nov. 1, 2011

Frederick L. Stonebraker '48, of Kenmore, N.Y., Aug. 8, 2020

Donald E. Vance '48, of Altoona, Oct. 27, 2019

Preston King '49, of King of Prussia, March 2, 2019

Walter R. Quick '49, of King of Prussia, Aug. 20, 2017

Wilbur J. Whitehouse '49, of Pocono Pines, Aug. 20, 2020

Karl H. Peters '50, of Lebanon, June 12, 2020

Paul Hackett '51, of St. Petersburg, Fla., July 17, 2020

Thomas Eisenhuth '53, of Fort Wayne, Ind., June 4, 2020

John Hussar '53, of Lancaster, April 2020

William H. Weiss, Sr. '53, of Virginia Beach, Va., April 2, 2020

William J. "Bill" McCracken '54, of Sun City Center, Fla., Sept. 26, 2019

Joseph Engel '55, of Claremont, N.H., March 5, 2020

Upon hearing of the death of U.S. Representative John Lewis on July 17, 2020, **Adzua Agyapon '07** posted this picture of herself with the civil rights leader on LinkedIn. In her comments, she said, "John Lewis put his life on the line for justice. He shed blood, sweat, and tears pushing this country to fulfill its promise of freedom and liberty. The revolution is incomplete. We must honor his life by continuing the fight."

Adzua met Rep. Lewis in 2017, when she was a kindergarten teacher running for school board in Atlanta, Ga. She is now a legislative assistant in the office of U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet (D-Colo.) where she handles education, labor, and child nutrition policy. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Joseph S. Meizen '55, of Hershey, April 18, 2020

Kenneth Thompson '55, of Lebanon, July 13, 2019

Richard W. Shook '56, of Hurley, March 29, 2020

Robert A. Schaeffer '56, of Hershey, June 3, 2020

Wayne W. Myers '57, of Douglassville, April 23, 2020

James "Jim" Porach '57, of Colonial Heights, Va., April 23, 2020

Harold Strand '57, of Pottstown, Oct. 26, 2019

James Lowright '60, of Arlington Heights, Ill., Feb. 9, 2020

Barrie L. Nettles '60, of South Yarmouth, Mass., May 3, 2017

Thomas Newburn '60, of Rincon, Ga., Sept. 23, 2020

Robert Brocius '61, of Lake Katrine, N.Y., Jan. 19, 2020

Dominic Mott '61, of Hazelton, Feb. 1, 2020

Melvin Brown '62, of Owings Mills, Md., April 26, 2020

Paul A. Flood '63, of Lancaster, April 2, 2020

Howard Parker '63, of Indian Land, S.C., Nov. 13, 2019

Floyd L. Patterson, Jr. '63, of Hoover, Ala., July 31, 2020

Richard L. Keener '65, of Strasburg, April 4, 2020

James Bertolini '68, of Drums, Feb. 4, 2020

Thomas L. Davidson '68, of New Castle, April 4, 2019

Richard W. Hughes '68, of Salisbury, Mass., July 1, 2020

Donald E. Parker, Sr. '68, of Somers Point, N.J., May 29, 2020

Jack Harrington '69, formerly of Petaluma, Calif., Feb. 2020

Grove Stewart "Stew" Millsap '69, of Philadelphia, July 20, 2020

Eric J. Gorrell '70, of Punta Gorda, Fla., May 2, 2017

Lee H. Heberlein '70, of Glendale, Ariz., Sept. 26, 2016

John P. Jaycox '70, of Natrona, Feb. 24, 2015

Arthur F. Orcutt '70, of Plantation, Fla., April 6, 2015

Gary L. Dreier '72, of St. Marys, June 9, 2020

John Clayborne '74, of Moriarty, N.M., March 30, 2020

Daniel B. Grim '75, of Thonotosassa, Fla., April 10, 2019



Everett "Hale" Jones '50, of Timonium, Md., died July 3, 2020 at the age of 88. After losing his father at a young age, Hale and his late brother, Thomas Jones '53, attended Milton Hershey School, where he found his love of writing and was affectionately known by his classmates as "Scoop" Jones.

A graduate of Boston University, he had a long career in public relations, working for Cornell University and Mobil Oil, before owning his own company. It was his expertise and commitment to the field of public relations that earned him the MHS Alumnus of the Year award in 1971. Hale and his late wife, Gloria, were the parents of four children. He loved politics and baseball.

Robert S. Sterling '75, of Decatur, Ga., Feb. 29, 2020

Thomas J. McCully '76, of Grantville, April 16, 2020

Larry Snyder '76, of York, March 26, 2020

Claude Robert '78, of Southampton, April 28, 2020

Dale Terrill '80, of Mountain City, Tenn., Jan. 18, 2019

Alvin R. "Ronnie" White, Jr. '83, of Dover, Del., May 11, 2020

Dave Cooper '85, of Nassau, N.Y., Sept. 30, 2019

Christopher Weidenhammer '85, of Philadelphia, April 14, 2020

Scott Yeager '85, of Ellington, Conn., April 30, 2020

Ian Walbert '97, of Pottstown, Sept. 2020

Sterling Brown '98, of Graham, N.C., June 11, 2020

Alexander "Alex" Cross '14, of Girard, Aug. 15, 2020

Correction

William Craig '46, of Cambridge, Mass., died Dec. 13, 2019. The spring 2020 issue of Thy Traditions Dear incorrectly listed him as a member of the Class of 1954.

Staff & Retiree Deaths

Joanne Bolyard died on Sept. 29, 2020. She began employment with MHS on Oct. 7, 1987 and retired Aug. 1, 2007. She was a houseparent.



Roy Dice died on May 19, 2020. He began employment with MHS on Aug. 23, 1967 and retired Sept. 1, 1991. He was rehired part time Sept. 1, 1991 and worked until Nov. 15, 2001. He was an honorary alumnus.

Betty Eberly died on July 16, 2020. She began employment with MHS on July 19, 1971 and retired Dec. 1, 1998. She was a relief houseparent and dental assistant.

Dale Ebling died on July 24, 2020. He began employment with MHS on April 1, 1985 and retired Aug. 1, 1994. He worked in finance.

Doris Gingrich died on Aug. 8, 2020. She began employment with MHS on April 1, 1968 and retired June 1, 1995. She was a nurse.

Marjorie Kozlowski died Sept. 22, 2020. She began employment with MHS on April 16, 1963 and retired April 1, 1994. She worked as a houseparent and in the drape shop.

Nancy Showman died March 26, 2020. She began employment with MHS on Aug. 23, 1976 and retired March 1, 1993.

Carl Stump died on April 20, 2020. He began employment with MHS on Aug. 27, 1956 and retired Jan. 1, 1989.

Barbara Yeomans died April 1, 2020. She began employment with MHS on Aug. 1, 1994 and retired Aug. 1, 2001. She and her husband, Bethel, were houseparents. They were rehired relief houseparents until March 13, 2007.

Milton Hershey School and MHSAA are always saddened to learn of the passing of its alumni and members, yet appreciate hearing the news. Please send obituaries to mhsalum@mhs-pa.org so that we can post them to our website at mhsalum.org and honor our family at the annual Memorial Grove service.

Take a Peek at the New Founders Hall Visitors Center

The recent Founders Hall renovation project tells the compelling story of the school's past, present, and future in an exciting, interactive way. While Founders Hall is still closed to the public, we offer a peek at the new Visitors Center.



Life at MHS:

The new interactive experience in the north lounge will feature five pillars with films about life at MHS. Students in Elementary, Middle, and Senior Divisions, plus an alumna, share about home life, extracurricular activities, a top-notch education, career and technical programs, and life after MHS.

Deed of Trust-Evolution of the School:

Milton and Catherine Hershey communicated what they wanted the school to be in the Deed of Trust that created the Hershey Industrial School in 1909. Their vision—of providing a sound education, stable home life, and meeting all the needs of children in need—will come alive in the north lounge exhibit with script from the original Deed of Trust, photographs, and moving images.



Spartan Memories:

The Spartan Memories exhibit in the north lounge will feature an interactive kiosk and viewing wall where memories come alive through the decades of the school's history. Visitors can choose what time periods they would like to explore or scroll through the school's history. The exhibit also will be an opportunity to learn about MHS Alumni of the Year, Gold Star Alumni, and where to find more information about other alumni achievements and awards.

Vision in Action:

There are two life-changing dates for any Milton Hershey School graduate—their birthday and the day they came to MHS. The large Vision in Action film in the south lounge of Founders Hall will show how the school family comes together with a student's own family to give them the best possible education, stable home life, and start in life after MHS.

The person that I graduated as
was more confident... and more focused
on where I wanted to go
after graduating.

—NORA, ALUMNA

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Alumni Calendar



December '20

- 31** Deadline for Spartan Hall of Fame Nominations

March '21

- 26-28** Alumni Fellowship Weekend, tentative
- 26** Career Day, tentative
- 26** Alumni-Senior Fellowship Dinner, tentative

May '21

- 16** Alumni-Student Awards Brunch; by invitation, tentative

June '21

- 1** Deadline for applications to run for MHS Alumni Association Board
- 1** MHSSAA Alumni Service Award Nomination Deadline
- 12** Senior Chapel Service, Ring Ceremony and Senior Awards Ceremony
- 13** Commencement

September '21

- 17** Cocoa Bean Game
- 24-26** Homecoming 2021
- 24** Spartan Hall of Fame Induction
- 25** MHS Alumni Association Annual Business Meeting
- 25** Annual Homecoming Banquet
- 26** Graveside Memorial Service
- 26** MHSAA Memorial Grove Service

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



Want to stay up to date with the MHS community throughout the year? Alumni Relations publishes its Spartan Minute e-newsletter twice a month, offering alumni news and photos, campus updates, and links to everything from new programs and events to information on how to buy the latest Spartan gear. Sign up at mhsalum.org for more information by scanning or clicking on the QR code.



For details about the events listed, visit mhsalum.org or contact the MHS Alumni Relations Office at 888 MHS ALUM (647.2586) or 717.520.2030; or the MHS Alumni Association at 800.292.4647 or 717.520.2045 or email mhsalum@mhs-pa.org or alumnimhsaa@comcast.net.