MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL®

FOUNDED 1909

ALUM





# **A Note** from the MHS President

#### **Dear Alumni Brothers and Sisters.**

It was a Raise the Bar year in Hershey, Pa.! Every year at Milton Hershey School is extraordinary, but 2024-25 was incredibly special for many reasons. From completing our 2020-2025 strategic plan—the MILT Plan—to the announcement of HERSHEY, a major motion picture about MHS founder Milton S. Hershey, and honoring our 12,000th graduate, our community has much to celebrate.



Pete Gurt '85

When we launched the MILT Plan in 2020, during a global pandemic, there was considerable uncertainty. Five years later, we have achieved nearly all the objectives we set out to accomplish. In the last five years, we have significantly increased our students' access to hands-on and real-world learning experiences. In 2020-21, only 56% of our students participated in post-graduate work, and 44% completed an internship or co-op before graduating from MHS, compared to 90% and 95% in 2024-25, respectively. We are confident that efforts like these will only help our students achieve career and life success far beyond MHS. Our alumni community has played an important role in making these achievements possible. Thank you for engaging with our students and sharing your experiences and expertise with our community. This fall, we will be excited to share more about our next strategic vision that will carry MHS into the future.

While we've been busy creating our future, a team of directors, producers, and a starstudded cast has been hard at work bringing our rich history to life through HERSHEY—a movie based on Mr. Hershey's life. Filming started in May at Founders Hall with the MHS Class of 2025 and has since continued to capture the essence of our founder's legacy. We are excited to see it in 2026.

In addition to representing the school in HERSHEY, the Class of 2025 made history this June as we celebrated our 12,000th MHS graduate at our 91st Commencement Ceremony. This number carries immense weight—not just because of its size, but because it represents hope, perseverance, and transformation, thanks to our founders and their incredible generosity.

With the 2025-26 school year just around the corner, we as alumni must pledge to sustain this momentum. We have several opportunities throughout the year to engage our graduates in unique ways, including our annual Homecoming Weekend. I hope you'll join us Oct. 24-26 to celebrate our growing alumni community.

Wishing you continued success,

Peter G. Gurt '85 MHS President



MHS President Pete Gurt '85 poses for a photo with (from left to right) Class of 2025 Most Nearly Ideal Senior Takuma Sugita '25, Valedictorian Hailey Peregrin '25, and Salutatorian Thooria Olaoye '25.

Scan the QR code to read President Gurt's celebratory blog.

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.

#### Fonati Abrokwa '01

Special Assistant to the President for Inclusion and Belonging

#### Teri Hurst

Marketing and Event Specialist

#### Mary Pratt-Lauchle '96

MHS Alumni Association Representative

#### Jacqui Niel

Human Resources Recruiter

#### **Barbara Nichols** Director, Recruiting

#### Kristina Pae

Vice President, Communications and Marketing

#### Trachanda García '02

Director, Alumni Relations

#### Alicia Schlossberg

Manager, Heritage School History

#### Megan Howell

Alumni Communications Manager

#### Alex J. Hayes

Community Relations Coordinator



The Class of 2025 marked a milestone at Milton Hershey School—our 12,000th graduate. During the 91st Commencement Ceremony, graduates showcased their class rings. For our alumni, the MHS class ring has served as a testament to the school's stability, the principles upon which it was founded, and a symbol of unity.

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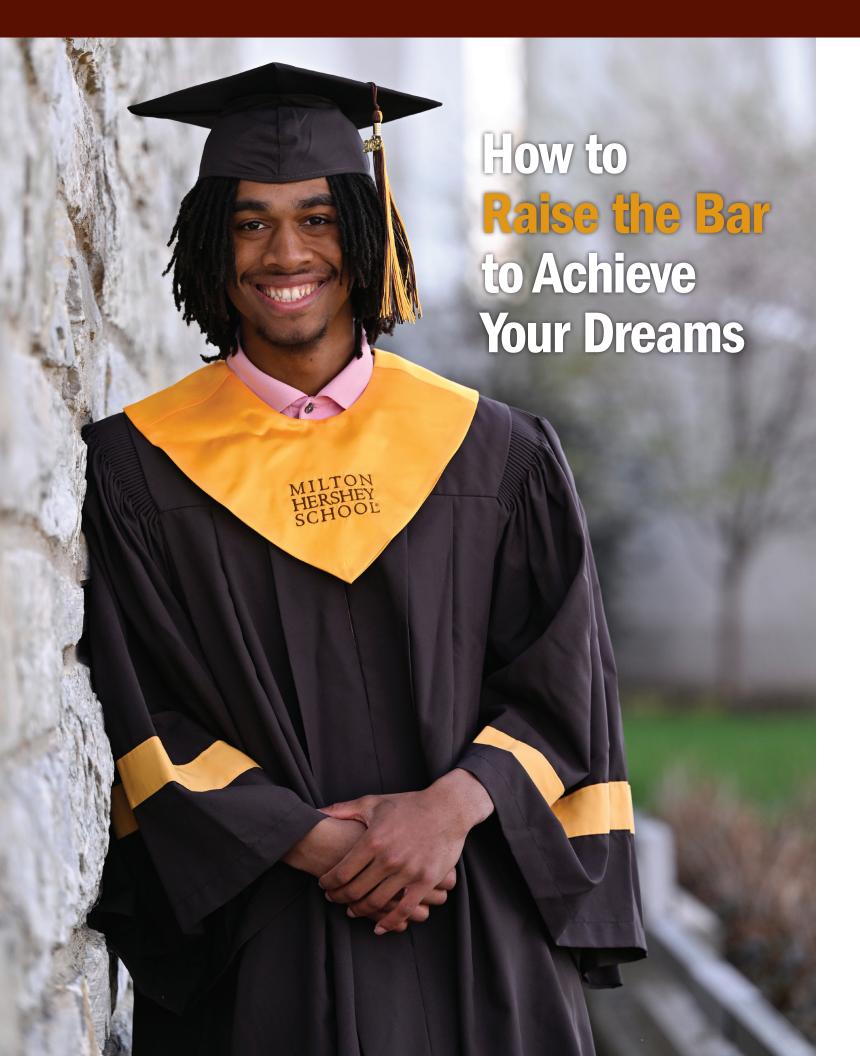
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t the 2024 Opening of School Assembly (OSA), the story of Milton Hershey School senior Josh Gibb showcased the impact of Career-Focused Education at the school. In a video feature, Gibb shared his goal of attending the U.S. Air Force Academy—a highly selective school that only accepts about 10% of applicants. Since OSA, through daily commitment, great effort, and the incredible support of MHS career counselors and staff-especially Jenifer Benson-Gibb learned his dream has come true.

"I'm truly proud of Josh for the way he represented himself and MHS," said Benson, a career services support specialist at MHS. "I'm so impressed by his dedication and persistence. Josh is a shining example of what Milton and Catherine Hershey intended our students to become when they founded our school."

During the application process, which included panel interviews, a fitness test, and other tasks assigned by the U.S. Department of Defense, Gibb made a tremendous impression earning a required U.S. Congressional recommendation to solidify his candidacy and earn his Air Force appointment. Gibb further raised the bar by crafting a powerful essay that demonstrated his core desire to serve his nation and achieve greatness by helping others.

"You have to be a hard worker to get the things you want," Gibb said. "Everybody should go for what they find important to them. We can all rise up by giving our full effort in everything."

Benson was instrumental in Gibb's successful application efforts and post-graduate plans, providing the type of personalized and tailored assistance that MHS aims to give all of

its students. Through Graduate Programs for Success, MHS makes a deep commitment to career readiness, offering an abundance of resources, connections, and guidance.

"It's important to me to give my very best to our students and to allow them to reach their



Josh Gibb

fullest potential," said Benson. "Applying for admission to the U.S. Service Academies is understandably challenging, and even someone as talented as Josh can use some help to navigate the process. This support is what makes MHS so unique. It's students like Josh that make my job so fulfilling."

Through training in the Air Force Academy, Gibb hopes to eventually become a pilot—but he has even bigger, out-ofthis-world goals in mind that would truly Raise the Bar to new heights.

"I want to become an astronaut for NASA," Gibb said. At OSA, Gibb's father put his son's dreams into perspective.

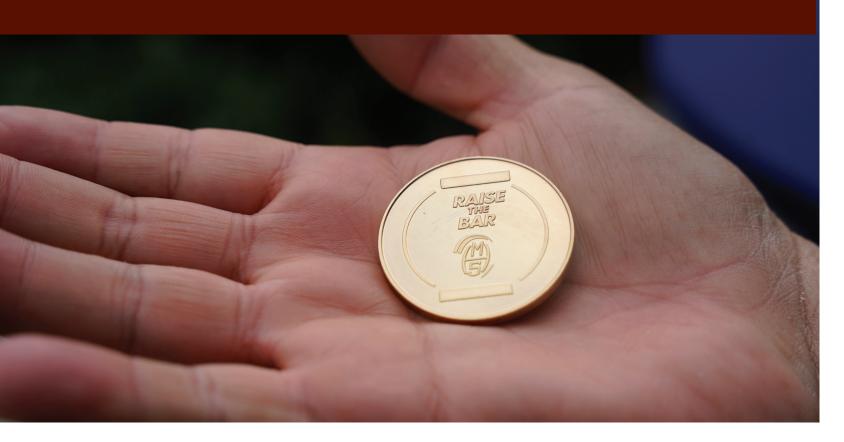
"For a lot of people, you hear [his dreams] and say, 'good luck with that.' But for Josh, he can do it. I think he can do it," said L.J. Gibb, who himself has served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Added Benson: "There is no doubt that this year Josh raised

Learn more about Josh's aspirations, shared during the 2024 Opening of School Assembly.







# What It Means to Raise the Bar

ow will you Raise the Bar? That was the question posed to every Milton Hershey School student, staff member, and alum at the start of the 2024-25 school year. For the MHS community, Raise the Bar meant empowering ourselves and each other to create a new normal of high expectations.

Our campus community rose to the challenge through milestone academic achievements, enhanced Career-Focused Education opportunities, and increased community alignment and engagement with our school and One Hershey partners.

In recognition of their achievements, the MHS leadership team rewarded students and staff with Raise the Bar Challenge Coins. At the end of the school year, over 200 challenge coin recipients were celebrated during a special evening at The Homestead with President Peter G. Gurt '85 and Mrs. Jane Gurt. 2



Scan the QR code to read more Raise the Bar stories.





### MHS, CHS Partnership Helps Student Raise the Bar



ilton Hershey School student Noah Myers, a member of the Class of 2026, raised the bar in his junior year by working toward earning his Child Development Associate (CDA) certification.

"Noah has a very strong work ethic, and he has an amazing ability to connect with the students," said Education & Human Services Pathway Teacher Christine Fisher.

"He gives them his best self and meets them on their level to help them learn and grow on a daily basis."

Myers was one of several MHS students who interned at Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning this spring in

Hershey. A CDA credential is a nationally recognized milestone that demonstrates an individual's early childhood education skills and knowledge. The program requires students to complete 120 hours of coursework and 480 hours of working with children. They must also complete a standardized test, a portfolio, and a successful evaluation of their work in childcare. The CDA credential and an MHS diploma will qualify them to serve in the early childhood education field immediately following graduation

Myers' work caught the attention of MHS Vice President of Communications and Marketing Kristina Pae, who awarded him a Raise the Bar Challenge Coin.

"When CBS21 wanted to feature the MHS/CHS internship program, Noah enthusiastically volunteered to be interviewed on camera and gave insightful answers regarding his career path and his gratitude for this opportunity," Pae said.

### Middle Division Student Raises the Bar by Putting Others First

ard work and determination define MHS rising sixth grader Michael Lambert. MHS Vice President of Administration Elliott Robinson thinks of Michael whenever he hears the school year theme Raise the Bar because he believes Lambert is a natural leader who puts others first.

"Michael lives out our Sacred
Values through his words and
actions, setting a powerful example for his classmates and
housemates," Robinson said.

Robinson first met Lambert shortly after he enrolled at MHS in 2023 when they were paired together in the Co-Pilot Mentoring Program. Lambert lived out that year's theme, Breakthrough, when he learned to ride a scooter. He fell several times but did not give



up. He finally succeeded in September and stood on the stage during the 2023 Founders Day Assembly to share his accomplishment with the entire MHS community.

work pays off in the end," Lambert said. During the 2024-25 school year, Lambert took "Raise the Bar" seriously by building on his accomplishments. He

earned excellent grades and developed

"The lesson I learned was that hard

his discipline and patience by joining the golf club. Additionally, Lambert is a shining example of Mutual Respect.

"At the end of a recent Hershey Bears game, Michael again displayed leadership and caring for others when he gathered takeout boxes of food to take home to his brothers at student home Weber," Robinson said.

### **Class of 2025 Field Hockey Player Possesses Heart of a Spartan**

ngelrose Eshun graduated with the Class of 2025, having perfected the skills of a true leader.

Eshun displayed the heart of a Spartan not only in the classroom but also on the field as a member of the school's field hockey team. For all four years of high school, Eshun demonstrated strong commitment and dedication to the program, earning a starting position and a varsity letter. Over the past three seasons, she served as a team captain, a true testament to the respect and trust she earned from her teammates and coaches.

"Beyond her athletic accomplishments, what truly sets her apart is her relentless drive, selflessness, and commitment to raising the bar—not just for herself, but for everyone around her," MHS Vice President of Human Resources Renee Holloman said.

Holloman recognized Eshun this spring with a Raise the Bar Challenge Coin.

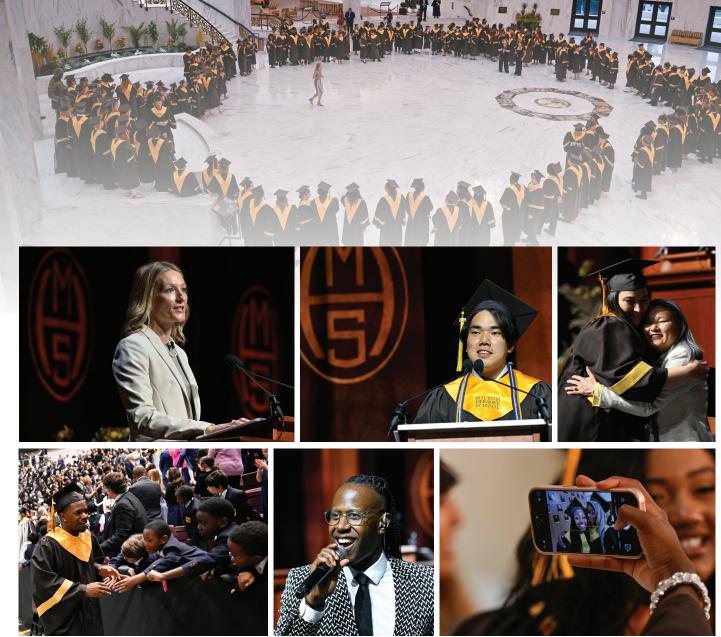
Eshun was also acknowledged outside of the MHS community, earning a spot on the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Mid-Penn Conference All-Star Team in both her junior and senior years.

Even though she has graduated, Eshun's influence on the team will continue as new leaders step up and carry on the example she set of competing with courage, resilience, loyalty, and determination.



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# MHS Celebrates Class of 2025 and 12,000th Graduate

n Sunday, June 15, the Milton Hershey School community celebrated 205 members of the Class of 2025 during the annual Commencement Ceremony at GIANT Center. The event also commemorated 12,000 students graduating from the school since its founding in 1909.

During the ceremony, MHS President Pete Gurt '85 congratulated the graduates for accepting the challenge tied to the school year theme, Raise the Bar. In a video message shot from the top of Founders Hall, Gurt celebrated the Class of 2025 for achieving new heights.

"From this view, I see more than buildings. I see the paths our seniors have walked, the challenges they have overcome, and the resilience that they've built," Gurt said. "The view up here is great, but the view ahead of you is even greater."

While MHS is rooted in tradition, this year's Commencement Ceremony featured new moments, including a recording of students reading their own names that was played as they received their diplomas. President Gurt and Board of Managers Chairman Maria Kraus '89 personally congratulated the graduates as they handed them their MHS diplomas.

Then, the Class of 2025 moved their tassels from the right side of their caps to the left side to symbolize they are no longer students but alums of their school and home.

Scan the QR code to read more about Commencement.





On Wednesday, June 11, seniors celebrated their final day of classes with encouragement from MHS students, staff, and Hershey Entertainment & Resorts staff on their final walk to school.



tudents and staff at Milton Hershey School celebrated a Raise the Bar year as the community closed out the 2024-25 school year. Take a look at how they celebrated.

Scan the QR code to view the Commencement 2025 recap.

After finishing their final class periods, seniors enjoyed signing yearbooks and swimming at the Community Recreation Center, where yard signs featuring their senior photos were on display.

















On the final day of the school year, the MHS campus was filled with pride and happiness. Elementary and Middle Divisions celebrated with Fourth and Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremonies, while seniors had an enchanting evening with a Louisiana bayou-themed prom in Founders Hall.

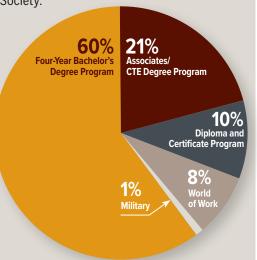


participation, and dedication to their community.



### Class of 2025 By the Numbers

he 205 members in the Class of 2025 achieved outstanding success while students at Milton Hershey School. All members of the class earned at least one state or nationally recognized certification, and 95% obtained an authentic work experience in high school. That's in addition to the ways they got involved outside of the classroom, completing 4,321 community service hours. In addition, 25% were members of the National Honor Society, 27% were members of the National Technical Honor Society, 5% were members of the National Art Honor Society, and 7% were members of the National Math Honor Society.

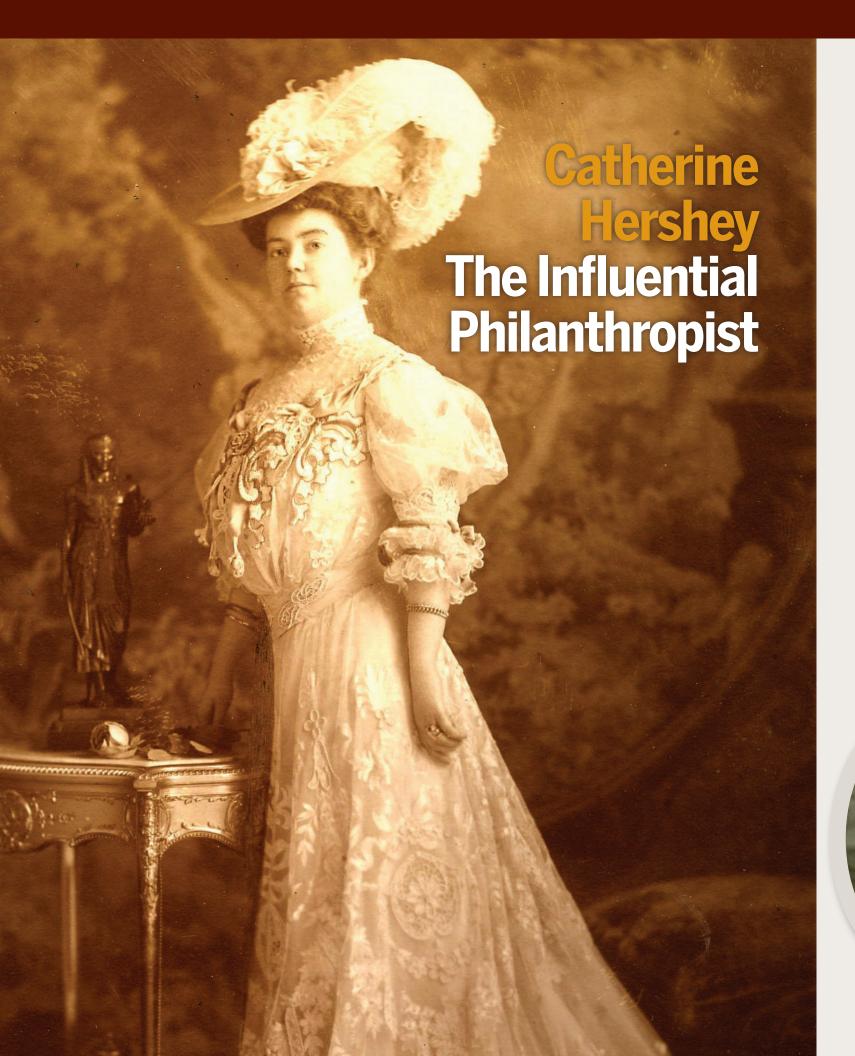


As graduates, the Class of 2025 will realize their dreams in different ways. We can't wait to see what they do next and how they continue to give back to their alma mater.



Following the event, seniors and their parents/sponsors gathered for dinner to celebrate the students' accomplishments ahead of the 91st Commencement Ceremony.

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# DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL HISTORY



atherine Sweeney Hershey was born into an Irish Catholic immigrant family in Jamestown, New York, and grew up in very modest means. When she met Milton, she was an independent working girl who had a strong sense of resilience, hard work, and empathy.

By the time they married, Milton had already found success with the Lancaster Caramel Company, but chocolate was his new focus. It is not a coincidence, that it was soon after their marriage, when Milton made his very first documented philanthropic donation—to the chemistry department at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This gesture became the first of many charitable contributions and something credited to Catherine's influence on him.

Even before the idea for the school, Catherine's philanthropy tended to be local and personal, as she worked with the

Lancaster Charity Society, providing aid to local families in need. She specifically spent a lot of her

> time working with children. In addition, given her upbringing as an Irish Catholic, she donated to St. Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where her name is still listed on the wall as a donor.

In 1909, when the Hersheys started Hershey Industrial School, now Milton Hershey School, Catherine was already well-established in charitable endeavors and

focused her efforts on making the





school a home first. Even as her health declined. she remained instrumental in all aspects of the school's home life, and her contributions continued even after her passing.

Today, we continue to honor Catherine both through MHS and Catherine Hershey

Schools for Early Learning. From the early days of their marriage, she focused on leading with generosity first—a trait that Milton would continue for the rest of his life after her death in 1915. With the addition of the Class of 2025, Milton Hershey School is now home to more than 12,000 graduates—each one a testament to the vision and philanthropy Catherine helped inspire.

Scan the QR code to learn about Catherine Hershey's life and influence.





### **Hershey Family Gravesite Renovation Pays Tribute to Founders**

ershey Industrial School and Milton Hershey School graduates often visit Hershey Cemetery to quietly thank Mr. and Mrs. Hershey for believing in their future and giving them opportunities they would not have had otherwise.

The cemetery was first constructed in 1917 and designed by landscape architect Oglesby Paul. Since then, it has been the final resting place for community members, MHS students, graduates, as well as Milton and Catherine Hershey and Mr. Hershey's parents, Henry Hershey and Veronica "Fanny" Snavely Hershey.

In keeping with his desire for simplicity, Mr. Hershey decided on a modest marble monument for his wife, parents, and himself. This year, MHS installed a marble memorial to honor the undeniable impact of the Hershey family.

The redesign also better connects the Hershey Family Plot with the MHS Children's Memorial, which was created to honor HIS and MHS students who passed away while enrolled in the school.

MHS alumni are welcome to visit the site and pay Mr. and Mrs. Hershey the respect and reverence they deserve. Hershey Cemetery is located one mile north of Hershey on Route 743.

### MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL **CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL**

In 1909, Milton S. Hershey and his wife Catherine founded Hershey Industrial School - now Milton Hershey School, one of the world's best private schools for children in need. To your left is the Children's Memorial, which was created to honor HIS and MHS students who

The first individual buried at Hershey Cemetery was an 8-year-old Hershey Industrial School student named Charles Swartz. He passed away in 1918 during the Spanish influenza epidemic.



## **Donate Military Memorabilia to the MHS Archives**





A first aid kit with shrapnel still inside that saved the life of Eugene Carson '42 during World War II.

Lee Owen '40 served in the Navy during World War II.



The famous picture of Eugene Lowe '41 with President Eisenhower during World War II.

ilton Hershey School has a long and proud history of alumni who have served in the United States Armed Forces. We are proud of the legacy that they represent, and each May, we highlight one of our Gold Star Alumni in the Memorial Day Assembly—these are alumni who gave their lives in defense of our country.

To continue to honor this legacy in new ways, the MHS Archives is seeking military-related items from veteran alumni to help preserve and share their contributions with the broader school community. This growing collection currently includes a range of powerful artifacts such as military medals, passports, photographs, a Green Beret, and even a World War Il first aid kit with a piece of shrapnel still stuck inside.

These items provide a tangible connection to the experiences of MHS alumni in uniform, allowing current students and future generations to gain a deeper understanding of the impact and dedication of those who came before them.

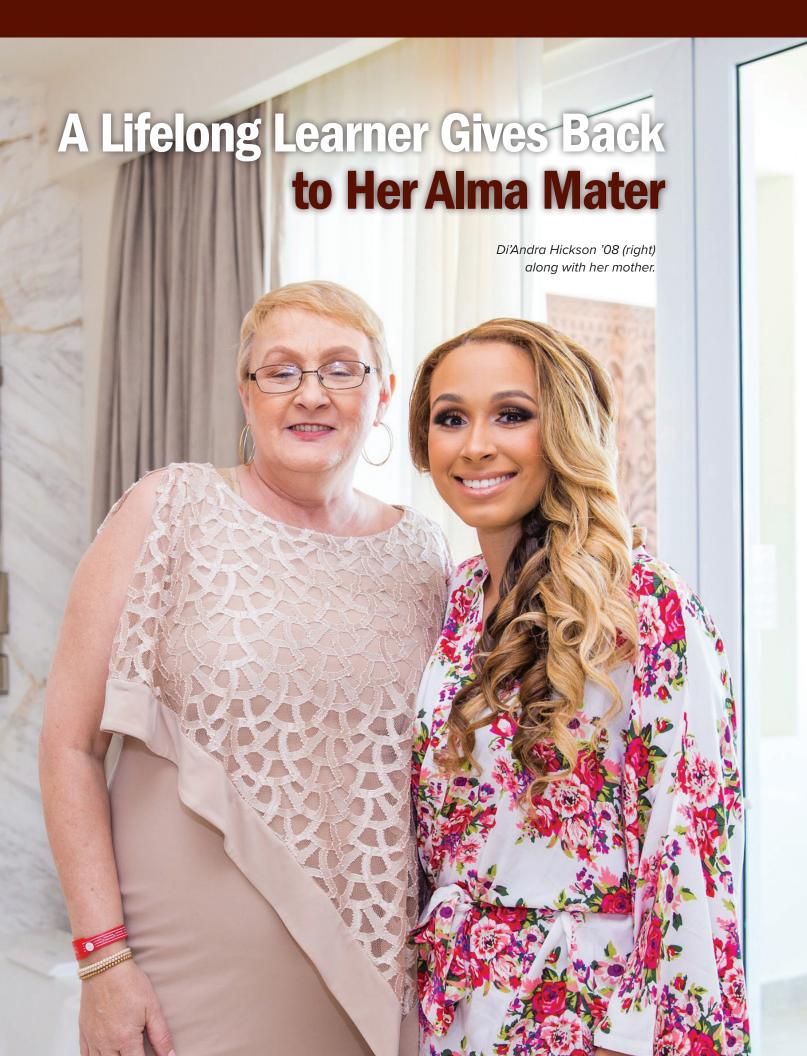


A Green Beret from Daniel Phillips '62, a Gold Star Alumnus, who served in Vietnam.

The Archives welcomes materials that reflect military service—uniform pieces, awards, field gear, photographs, letters, or official documents. Every piece adds to the broader narrative of service and sacrifice that has shaped both the nation and the MHS community.

This effort is not only about preservation—it is about recognition. By featuring these stories and artifacts, the school pays tribute to those who served and ensures that their experiences will never be forgotten.

Those interested in contributing materials to the MHS Archives are encouraged to contact Alicia Schlossberg at 717.520.3152.



hen Di'Andra Hickson'08 first arrived at Milton Hershey School as a sixth grader, she saw the swimming pools and ice-skating rink and was excited about the fun that awaited her. She had no idea just how transformative her time at MHS would become. Di'Andra knew this new chapter would shape the rest of her life. Coming from a single-parent household in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Di'Andra's mother recognized the importance of opportunity and made the difficult but lifechanging decision to enroll her at MHS.

"It was the best decision my mother ever made," Di'Andra said. "She made sure I didn't fall through the cracks. I didn't fully understand what MHS would mean for my future at the time, but I'm grateful every day that she made that choice."

While adjusting to life at MHS, Di'Andra faced challenges on campus. Like many students at MHS, she remembers it wasn't easy at first, but she soon found her place and developed deep friendships that have lasted beyond graduation.

"My best friends today are girls I met at MHS, and my best memories are with them," said Di'Andra. "We've celebrated weddings, births, and milestones together ever since."

During her time as a student, Di'Andra was a dedicated athlete, participating in cheerleading and track while balancing academics and part-time work. Her involvement in extracurriculars taught her time management and multitasking skills that would become critical in adulthood.

Di'Andra graduated from MHS in 2008 and continued to pursue her education with relentless determination. She initially enrolled at LaSalle University to study nursing but quickly discovered her passion for the justice system. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in sociology, followed by a master's degree from St. Joseph's University with a concentration in behavior management.





Di'Andra recently completed her doctorate in criminal justice and criminology.

During the 2025 Alumni Fellowship Weekend, Di'Andra was recognized for her impressive academic journey with the Alumni





Di'Andra (Riddick) Hickson

Achievement Award for Academic Success, a testament to her perseverance and love for learning.

"I'm one of those people who loves to learn," Di'Andra said. "I kept going back to school. MHS prepared me academically and personally. I never fell behind when I got to college."

Today, she serves as a lieutenant of recruitment and retention for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Di'Andra finds fulfillment not only in her career but also in giving back to her alma mater. She frequently returns to campus for career events, sharing her story with current students and offering guidance for their future.

"When I visit campus, and students realize I'm an alum, there's an instant connection," Di'Andra said. "We share a unique bond through our experiences at MHS. They open up, and it's amazing to help them see what is possible."

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Di'Andra is most proud of the life she's built with her husband and three young children. She treasures family dinners, game nights, travel, and the chance to give her kids the childhood she once longed for.

"I live a life I love," she said. "My kids are happy, and I get to be present in their lives. That's my definition of success."

At MHS, students receive more than just an education. They can build a network of caring adults, mentors, teachers, coaches. and lifelong friends who become like family. The supportive environment on campus provides a strong foundation for students to build upon as they transition to the next stage of their lives. For today's MHS students, Di'Andra offers simple but powerful advice.

"Lean on your support system. You are never alone. Don't be afraid to ask for help."

Di'Andra expressed deep gratitude for Milton and Catherine Hershey's vision. She acknowledged how their selfless decision to put their fortune into this school has given her and countless others a fair chance at success. Her journey reflects resilience, opportunity, and gratitude.

#### Nominate a Graduate for an Alumni Achievement Award

HS accepts nominations for Alumni Achievement Awards throughout the year. Nominations received by Oct. 1, 2025 will be added to the candidate review list for the 2026 awards. For nomination details, scan the OR code or visit mhsalum.org.



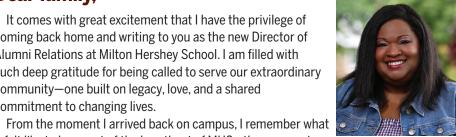
# ALUMNI **NEWS**

#### A Note from the Director of Alumni Relations

#### **Dear family.**

It comes with great excitement that I have the privilege of coming back home and writing to you as the new Director of Alumni Relations at Milton Hershey School. I am filled with such deep gratitude for being called to serve our extraordinary community—one built on legacy, love, and a shared commitment to changing lives.

with a life full of experiences and, dare I say, learned wisdom.



it felt like to be a part of the heartbeat of MHS—the unwavering commitment to the mission, the high standard of mutual respect and integrity, and the powerful, lifelong bond filled with positive spirit that connects MHS alumni across generations. The only difference is that this time, I am back

We truly had an unforgettable "Raise the Bar" year. From the joyful energy of Opening of School Assembly, where Marcus Paul James '99 set the tone with his conductor's cap and heartfelt performance, to the proud moment when over 200 members of the Class of 2025 received their diplomas—this year has been a beautiful testament to the strength and spirit of our community. We've also seen this exemplified through the dedication and service of our 2024 Alumnus of the Year Douglas I. Oliver '93. Throughout the 2024-25 school year, he demonstrated the impact our alumni can have on students' lives through career exposure, volunteering at alumni events, and sharing his story with our greater community. Our 2025 Alumni of the Year, James '65 and John Hanawalt '70, also value this commitment to serve. I look forward to continuing to engage with the Hanawalt family and share their inspiring story with all of you.

As I look ahead, I am filled with excitement and purpose. My greatest hope is to build meaningful relationships with each of you—to ensure that every alum feels seen, valued, uplifted, and celebrated. Alongside our incredible Alumni Relations team, I am committed to honoring the traditions that ground us while also creating new pathways to connect back with our school in support of our students, while encouraging our community to "keep our standards high" together.

Whether you graduated many years ago or just recently crossed the Commencement stage, you are an essential part of a living legacy that continues to inspire and uplift. I can't wait to hear your stories, celebrate your wins, learn from your journeys, welcome you back home during Homecoming Weekend, and walk beside you as we all continue the story that Milton and Catherine Hershey began more than a century ago. Thank you for the warm welcome—it is truly a profound honor to serve in this role.

With Spartan Pride.

Trachanda García '02 Director of Alumni Relations

### 2025-26 **Alumni Calendar**

Plan to join Trachanda and your fellow alumni at these upcoming alumni events:

#### HOMECOMING WEEKEND Oct. 23-26, 2025

If your class year ends in 0 or 5, it's your time to shine—reunion celebrations are happening this year! Get ready to reconnect, reminisce, and relive the memories with your fellow Milts.

#### **REGIONAL EVENTS**

Regional events are being scheduled for the 2025-26 school year. More information will be shared on mhsalum.org soon.

As we look forward to the 2025-26 school year, there are numerous exciting ways to get involved and make a difference in the lives of MHS students and recent graduates.



Scan the QR code to



# **Seniors and Alumni Celebrate During Alumni Fellowship** Weekend 2025

rom April 4-6, 2025, Milton Hershey School and the MHS Alumni Association hosted Alumni Fellowship Weekend. Throughout the weekend, more than 100 alumni participated in interactive campus experiences and career panels. A highlight of the weekend was the Alumni-Senior Brunch, a heartfelt tradition that bridges the past and present by honoring outstanding alumni and graduating seniors.



putting in the work, and staying committed to your goals, even when the going gets tough."

Di'Andra Hickson '08 **Academic Excellence Award Recipient** 









MHS didn't just give me an education; it gave me a family, a purpose, and a sense of belonging. It opened doors I never knew existed."

> Solomon Melson '98 **Career Accomplishment Award Recipient**









**Everything we do is** inspired by the values instilled in us right here at MHS. Every step forward we help someone take is a step forward for us all."

> **Garry Gilliam '09 Community Service Award Recipient**



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# **MHS Alumni Charting a Course for the Future Meet Mary Pratt-Lauchle '96** and Trachanda García '02

For many alumni, graduation is not the end of their Milton Hershey School journey. Milton Hershey School Alumni Association (MHSAA) President Mary Pratt-Lauchle '96 and MHS Director of Alumni Relations Trachanda García '02 are two dedicated graduates who are excited to lead and engage with our alumni family. Reflecting on their time at MHS and beyond, Mary and Trachanda share how their stories have developed their vision for the future.

### Tell us about your time at MHS.

MARY: I joined MHS at the start of ninth grade and was immediately embraced by a vibrant community of friends and activities. While academics remained my top priority, I eagerly spent my free time at Founders Hall, immersing myself in the stage crew program. With the unwavering support of my teachers, mentors, and peers, I flourished both personally and academically. My active involvement in stage crew, theater, band, and various other extracurriculars played a significant role in shaping the person I am today.

TRACHANDA: I enrolled in eighth grade. Like every Milt, I could talk for hours about the family like connections, chores, and those unforgettable core memories that still make me smile. But as the years pass, it's the deeper, quieter gifts that mean the most. For the first time in my life, I was allowed to simply be a kid. Not just in the playful sense—but in the way every child deserves: safe, supported, and seen. I used to think love was just hugs and kind words. But at MHS, I learned that love could also look like a warm meal waiting for you, clean clothes that fit just right, a bed you could count on, and adults who believed in your potential even when you couldn't see it yourself. It was love in the form of structure, of second chances—of learning how to fail and try again. It was the freedom to breathe deeply, to feel emotionally steady, and to grow into someone who could think critically and act with purpose. I found discipline—not the harsh kind, but the kind that builds you up and stays with you long after you leave. I knew I was safe from the dangers of the world.

### How has your MHS experience impacted you?

MARY: My MHS experience shaped the core of who I am today. It taught me the value of hard work, resilience, and the importance of giving back. Being part of a community built on shared purpose and compassion instilled in me a lifelong commitment to lead with integrity and to help others whenever I can. The relationships I built and the lessons I learned there continue to influence how I show up in every area of my life.

**TRACHANDA:** Milts have always had a way of working together, thinking deeply, bridging cultures, and thriving in fast-paced environments. Looking back, I realize just how much of a head start MHS gave me. When I left campus, I carried with me not just knowledge, but a quiet confidence that set me apart from my peers. Because of that boost, I found myself saying yes to opportunities I once only dreamed of: living and traveling abroad, exploring unique and meaningful careers, and embracing a life full of adventure and purpose.

### What is something a fellow alum may not know about you?

MARY: I recently achieved a long-held personal goal: earning my bachelor's degree in strategic communications from Penn State University. This accomplishment was the result of years of dedication, perseverance, and balancing various life commitments. It serves as a powerful reminder—to myself and to anyone reading—that it's never too late in life to discover your 'why.' The journey may be challenging, filled with long nights and obstacles, but the fulfillment of achieving a long-held goal is immeasurable. TRACHANDA: I am a huge Doctor Who

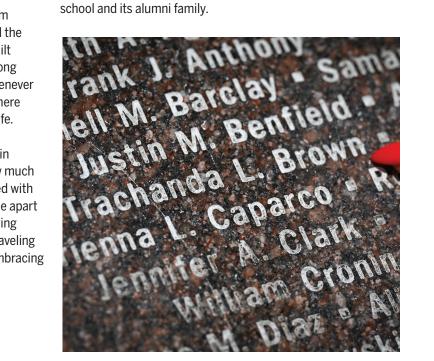


Mary Pratt-Lauchle '96

fan! I've followed the show's adventures faithfully, episode after episode, year after year.

### What's your vision for the future of Alumni Relations and its collaboration with MHSAA?

TRACHANDA: The bond between Milton Hershey School and its alumni—a connection that stretches across generations, rooted in shared experiences and a mission that continues to shape lives—is timeless. That's why MHS Alumni Relations and the MHSAA exist, to be the proverbial handshake between the school and its alumni family.



In MHS Alumni Relations, everything we do is rooted in one simple truth: this school gave us so much, and now, it's our turn to give back. That is why I am here. To work hard to help build capacity so that alumni can reconnect with the place that shaped us, not just out of a sense of nostalgia, but because our kids need us. They need to hear from those who've walked the same paths, faced the same challenges, and emerged stronger on the other side. That kind of hope and that kind of empathy can change a life. I often say that as alumni, we grow into the adults we once needed as kids. And that's the heart of what I want for the future of MHS Alumni Relations—to be a living embodiment of Milton S. Hershey's words: "One is only happy in proportion as he makes others feel happy." Let's be that source of happiness, of hope, of strength—for the next generation of Milts

Engaging with our enrolled students, parent/sponsors, and recent graduates is important because your stories, your presence, and your continued efforts to "break the cycle" are powerful reminders of what's possible. MHS gave us more than an education—it gave us a foundation, a family, and a future. Through lifelong learning, structured mentoring, and philanthropic engagement, we can empower one another at every stage of life to make a lasting impact at the school and beyond.

# Why should your fellow alumni get involved with MHSAA?

MARY: To realize our vision for the Alumni Association's future, it's essential to actively involve as many fellow alumni as possible. The strength of our association lies in the engagement and voices of its members. We aim to see alumni from all classes participate, ensuring their perspectives contribute to the association's growth and inclusivity.

# What do you love about working with each other?

MARY: I love working with Trachanda because she brings an extraordinary level of passion and dedication to everything she takes on—qualities that are truly contagious. She skillfully combines empathetic relationship-building with strategic program management, creating a powerful blend that drives real connection and results. Her commitment to MHS is unwavering and clearly reflected in her tireless focus on nurturing alumni connections. She is easygoing in nature and inventive in spirit which makes her a natural at navigating the complex web of alumni relationships.

**TRACHANDA:** When I think of Mary, she has this effervescent spirit, like everyone's favorite sister. Her warmth is genuine, her laughter contagious, and her intention is always in the right place. She has an unwavering dedication to our Milt family and students. She shows up—not just when it's easy, but

especially when it's hard. She gives her time, her energy, and her mentorship with a positive spirit—without hesitation. That kind of commitment is rare, and it's deeply admirable. She wants to see Milts thrive.

# What is one of your proudest professional achievements?

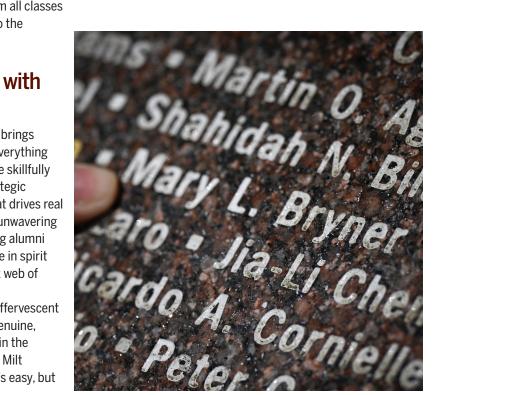
MARY: In the last five years, I've continued to invest in my personal and professional growth. I proudly graduated from the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Dealer Academy—a prestigious and highly respected program for automotive leaders. At the same time, I pursued and earned my bachelor's degree in strategic communications from Penn State University, graduating in May 2025.

**TRACHANDA:** If you had asked me a year ago whether I'd find myself back at MHS, I probably would've smiled and said, "Probably not." And yet—here I am. Life has a funny way of bringing us full circle, and now that I'm back, I can honestly say it feels like coming home.

It's a true privilege to return to this place that shaped so much of who I am, and to carry forward the work of those who came before me. Together, we're building on a legacy. There's something incredibly special about giving back to the place that once gave so much to you. Even if you were too young to fully understand it.

Scan the QR code to discover more about this dynamic duo.





# & STUDENT CWS

#### A Note from the MHS Alumni Association President

#### **Dear fellow Alumni,**

Each year brings new opportunities to reflect on our shared journey and recommit to the values instilled in us at Milton Hershey School. As your MHSAA President, I continue to be inspired by the dedication, pride, and generosity that define our alumni family.

Serving as president of the MHSAA is a true privilege. Each time I connect with fellow alumni, I'm reminded of the shared experiences and values that continue to connect us—no matter how much time has passed. Whether you've just recently reconnected or have been involved for years, your presence and participation truly make a difference.

One of the highlights this year was the Alumni Fellowship Weekend Presidents' Reception, a truly special evening that brought so many of us together to celebrate the legacy we carry forward—and to support a cause that speaks to the heart of who we are. The event served as a fundraiser for our Helping Hands initiative, which continues to

shine as a reflection of our values as MHS alumni: compassion, service, and giving back to our alumni community.

The stories shared that night, the laughter, and—most importantly—the overwhelming generosity of our alumni reminded me just how powerful and committed our community truly is. Your support breathes life into our Helping Hands program, which supports and extends help to fellow alumni in need. Whether it's mentoring students, assisting alumni in times of need, or giving back in your local communities, you consistently demonstrate what MHS pride looks like in action. Thank you to everyone who attended, gave, and continues to invest in the strength of this program and the ongoing success of MHSAA.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and for your continued support of your MHSAA. We look forward to seeing many of you at Homecoming and other upcoming events as we continue to honor our past and invest in our future—together.



For more information on our Helping Hands program and other alumni initiatives, please visit our website at mhsaa.org.

All the hest

May hat '94

Mary Pratt-Lauchle '96
President
Milton Hershey School Alumni Association

### A Look Back on the 2025 Presidents' Reception

The Presidents' Reception during Alumni Fellowship Weekend was hosted by MHS President Peter Gurt '85 and Milton Hershey School Alumni Association President Mary Pratt-Lauchle '96. The event raised around \$14,000 to benefit the MHSAA Helping Hands initiative.













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# class Notes

#### 1940s

F. Tait Douglas '45, of Sun City, Arizona, is feeling fine except for a few aches and pains—his mind seems good to him! He gets "The Sun" weekly.

**Leroy Fraunfelder '47,** of Edgewater, Florida, at 95, he still watches rocket launches from his front yard and marvels. He can hardly believe what they are doing since he left the Cape and KSC back in the '50s and '60s!

**James Smith '47,** of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, has just celebrated his 100th birthday with two parties back-to-back. It was a wonderful weekend. In July, he and his wife will be celebrating their 75th anniversary.

Robert Sauder '48, of Havertown, Pennsylvania, is enjoying his three children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

#### 1950s

**Kenneth Palovitz '50,** of Hershey, Pennsylvania, still resides in Hershey and has been a host at the Founders Hall Visitors Center, giving tours to the public for 18 years. He celebrated his 93rd birthday in January. He also participates in the Project Fellowship, which he describes as a great program.

George Marks '51, of Cumming, Georgia, turned 93 on June 1, 2025. He and Loretta went snow skiing in Vermont in February 2025. He also took several trips to Florida. He had lunch with Woody Woodrow in Palm Beach. He is living the good life since selling Marks Machinery in October 2020. He just says, "I am unemployed." He talked to Jim Yenser recently. He also went to Scotland last year, and to Oregon and Washington in October 2024.

**LaFrance Bragg '53,** of Lakeside, California, has spent 65 years in freemasonry in California. He is the current master of Joseph L. Shell Daylight Lodge No. 837 F&AM, San Diego. He is still going strong at 90, following the lessons taught at HIS/ MHS after 12 years in the school.

James Hoeschele '55, of Plymouth, Michigan, after 70 years of service to the universities in Michigan and the business world, is officially retiring this year. He will be taking over the Class Agent responsibilities for the Class of 1955, from Joseph Meizen (deceased) and will hold a class reunion this coming fall.

Frank Crosscup '56, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, his wife Rosetta passed away on Jan. 17, 2025. He retired in 1999. He worked for VGI. Inc. from 1956 to 1999. He says it was a good job, thanks to the training and education he received at MHS.

**Raymond Capozucca '57,** of Pittston, Pennsylvania, is now 86 years old. He owes everything he has in life to Mr. and Mrs. Hershev. He and his brother, Al '54, were in their own business for 52 years—PL, Heating & Electrical Contractors. They learned everything at MHS. He says to continue the good fight.

**Thomas McGruddy '57,** of Warminster, Pennsylvania, is enjoying retirement, and thanks to Clyde Stacks's teachings, he has a great hobby doing artwork. He proudly wears his class ring every day.

#### 1960s

Samuel Montgomery '60, of Milton,

Pennsylvania, is still above ground. He is happily married. He enjoys pictures of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. All five greatgrandchildren are all over the country. He doesn't travel much, as he says he has done enough of that, having driven a truck for 47 years. He really enjoyed the Brown and Gold Annual Report and says that Mr. and Mrs. Hershey are still raising some wonderful children.

William MacMillan '62, of Palmyra, Pennsylvania, is in poor health and says time is moving too fast. He has been blessed by God with a good life. He says thank you, Mr. and Mrs.

**Gary Keith '63,** of Tucson, Arizona, shares that he and his wife are doing fine.

Edward Rising '63, of Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania, will soon mark 62 years since he left MHS. His life has been shaped by his time in the Army, the medical field, and by his family and friends, both good and bad. But the start was 1954 at MHS, and he was lucky to have WWII vets as teachers, houseparents, and others to share the values they had with him. He often thinks about what they did for him.

Dennis Devers '64, of East Windsor, New Jersey is a retired postal clerk/carrier. He worked for 10 years in the printing trade, which he learned at MHS. He spent three years in the Army



#### **Milton Hershey School** Names 2025 Alumni of the Year

Milton Hershey School has named James E. Hanawalt '65 and John B. Hanawalt '70 as the 2025 Alumni of the Year for their exceptional, decades-long commitment to community leadership. James, who passed away on June 26, 2024, is being honored posthumously with this distinction.

Scan the QR code to read the announcement.



Airbourne in Ft. Jackson, Dix, Benning, Bragg, Dominican Republic, and Vietnam with the 101st. He was a cook, truck and cab driver, steel worker, and salesman. He enjoys skiing (still), hiking, underhand throwing competitions, dancing, and gym. He is happy in Windsor with his partner

Donald Goodworth '64. of Mandeville. Louisiana, is a semi-retired renovator.

John Kriner '64, of Ellenton, Florida, has been married for 42 years. He has three daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

James Simkins '64, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, is living with his family and still works part-time. It gives him something to do and keeps him mentally and physically sharp.

Bruce Campbell '65, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., celebrated 57 years of marriage to Phyllis on Feb. 3, 2025. He is looking forward to his 60-year high school reunion this fall.

Gary Kuhns '65, of Palmyra, Virginia, is married to Rebecca. He has 11 grandchildren. He and his wife are both retired. He is involved with scouting. his church, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, a men's veterans lunch group, and Knights of Columbus.

Chester McCormick '65, of McSherrystown, Pennsylvania, retired in October 2023.

Roy Samras '65, of Savannah, Georgia, has retired. He and his wife are celebrating 50 years of marriage this year. They have four children and 12 grandchildren. He hopes to attend Homecoming Weekend to celebrate his 60th reunion.

Terry Bittinger '66, of Westminster, Maryland, retired.

Stephen Devries '66, of Burke, Virginia, retired from Cornerstone Office 545.

Samuel Douthett '66, of Butler, Pennsylvania, is still married to his wife Karen of 53 years. He is still helping veterans in need.

George Williams '66, of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, celebrated 55 years of marriage to his wife Mary Ann. He started keeping bees and is really enjoying his new hobby. He and his wife welcomed their first great-grandchild.

W. Raymond Bucks '67, of Little River, South Carolina, suffered heart failure on Jan. 10, 2024.

Daniel Doble '67, of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, is enjoying retirement with travel. National Parks are on his bucket list.

Milton Funkhouser '67, of Adamstown, Maryland, retired after 53 years of working as a repair technician, including 45 years at Volvo Cars of North America. He now spends time with his wife of 53 years traveling in their motorhome and visiting with their eight grandsons.

John Moore '68, of Salt Lake City, Utah, has been living in Salt Lake City for nearly three years. His oldest grandchild is attending the University of Arkansas. He retired from the U.S. Navy on July 1, 1993 as an LCDR.

**David Zembower '68,** of Port Charlotte, Florida, is enjoying the Sunshine State. He enjoys golfing, fishing, and going to the beach. He says life is good.

John Furmanak '69, of Media, Pennsylvania, enjoys travel, fishing, and golf. His second grandson keeps him and his wife Nancy busy.

William Gilger '69, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, is selling his house and moving to Hershey's Mill in West Chester. He golfs regularly.

**Daniel Stambaugh '69.** of Holiday, Florida, is enjoying his retirement in the Floridian sunshine. He is just taking it easy. He still likes Penn State football. We are...

#### 1970s

**Stephen Baughman '71,** of Hanover, Pennsylvania, has been retired for seven years from warehousing.

Paul Moffa '71, of Granger, Indiana, retired after 32 years in law enforcement as a sergeant. He travels, rides his motorcycle, works his dogs, and spends time with his family.

Dennis Snedden '71, of Carnegie, Pennsylvania, has turned his more than 55 years of knife sharpening into his side gig. It is creatively called "Dennis' Knife Sharpening." He is also teaching "How to Sharpen a Knife with a Whetstone." All proceeds are donated to charity. He remains actively involved with PA DeMolay, PA Rainbow Girls, and the board of managers for the PA Masonic Youth Foundation.

Steven Merrick '72, of Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, has been married for 44 years and has three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He works with the PA Department of Labor and Industry. He is a state building inspector—most notably at Penn State University's Beaver Stadium project—where he is responsible for electrical, mechanical, plumbing, energy, handicap accessibility, and building construction at numerous sites throughout the Commonwealth. He has been doing so for the last 15 years.

Ardon Beahm '73, of East Pennsboro, Pennsylvania, is semi-retired. He is working on projects employing two-way rapids. He has been married for 50 years. He has two children and six grandchildren.

Carl Cox '73, of Knoxville, Pennsylvania, spent 20 years on the borough council and is currently the president. He spent 17 years as an emergency management coordinator for Knoxville Borough, 16 years on the board of directors for the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, is a lifetime member of the Knoxville-Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company, and is a member of several local committees, coalitions, and groups.

Richard Castore '75, of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, is excited to announce his retirement after 38 years of dedicated service as a letter carrier with the USPS. Throughout his career, he was proud to serve as a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers and spent 20 years as a union steward.

**Andrew Steven Franchak '75,** of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has been enjoying retirement living in South Carolina since January

**Joseph Trompeter '75,** of Prescott, Arizona, just celebrated his 50th anniversary.

Michael Morrison '76, of Temple, Georgia, is approaching 27 years of marriage to his wonderful wife and is enjoying retired life, living close to the beach and his beautiful granddaughter.

Thomas Savage '77, of New Hope, Pennsylvania, retired after 47 years in healthcare, 39 years of which he was an EMT in Brooklyn, New York, Bronx. New York, and New Jersev.

Edward Malonev '79. of Milford, Delaware. resides with his wife Tina of 35 years. He is currently employed by Xfinity Corporation as a network engineer. He enjoys spending time at the beach and fishing with his Boston terrier. Diesel.



#### **Distinguished MHS Alumni Offer Students Life Advice**

Deesha Dyer '95 and Trymaine Lee '96 spent a day at MHS as part of the school's annual Cultural Week. During the time on campus, they met with Senior Division students to share career and life advice. Dyer is the founder and president of social impact agency Hook & Fasten. Lee is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who has worked for the New York Times, Huffington Post, and MSNBC. 2 Scan the QR code to read the story.

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# class **lotes**

#### 1980s

Robert Martin '81. of Freeport, Florida, retired from 3M. He is engaged to Rebecca Jo Caldwell. He is spending time in Florida Natural Springs. He says hello to all his brothers and sisters!

Richard Buckwalter '82, of King George, Virginia, celebrated the birth of his first granddaughter, Charlotte.

John Busha '82, of York, Pennsylvania, had cancer surgery on April 1, 2025, at UPMC Mechanicsburg. He works for DHL.

Tony "Coach" Barkley '83, of Greensboro, North Carolina, recently launched the "Share and Shine" organization. This is a 501(c)(3) organization that raises awareness about the importance of cancer screening and testing, while also providing free personal, financial, and professional resources to those in need. Learn more at theshareandshineorganization.org.

Bonnie Miller '83, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, retired from full-time teaching in January 2022. She is subbing for STS and Hempfield School District.

Christopher Molnar '83. of Aurora. Colorado. moved to Florida this past summer. He is still employed by the growing company Alpine Intel as a technical field manager.

Lorraine Romberger '83, of Annville, Pennsylvania, retired in December 2024 as director of MHS Alumni Relations.

of your time in Catherine Hall."

**NO-BAKE COOKIES** 

**Kerry Lehman '84,** of Watertown, New York, shares that his son is a Sergeant 1st Class and his daughter is a Captain in the U.S. Army. He preaches part-time in church and became a pastor in 2021. He currently manages a program to assist those with mental illness and addictions to become more independent and to maintain their sobriety.

**Thomas Carter '87,** of Okeechobee, Florida, says life is great. He is happier than he's ever been, and he's thankful for the blessings in his life. Both of his children are grown and doing well. He is very fortunate to be on this journey with the love of his life, who is also his best friend. He wishes the MHS family the very best and hopes to have the opportunity to visit and catch up with everyone soon.

#### 1990s

Russell Ames '94, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, transitioned into space systems after the past two years in law enforcement. He is a program manager with Reston, Virginia-based startup, BlackVe, Inc., that delivers national security space satellite capabilities.

Peter Bower '95. of New Canaan. Connecticut. is moving and shaking all day, every day.

Kathryn Casey '95, of Newport Beach, California, interviewed MHS President Pete Gurt '85 and a few MHS classmates for her popular podcast, "Reality Life with Kate Casey," a top 15 podcast on Apple.

**Kyle Board '97,** of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has an autobiography titled "Pieces of Me" coming

Samara Scott '97, of Middletown, Pennsylvania, is executive director/CEO/founder of Beahive Affordable Housing Outreach, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to maintaining and obtaining safe and affordable housing opportunities in Harrisburg. She is married with three adult kids and a cat.

Melissa Faux '98, of Montgomery Village, Maryland, is reimagining education in Sierra Leone.

#### 2000s

Robert Smith '04. of New Bloomfield. Pennsylvania, retired from nursing.

Aaron Cousentino '05, of Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, attended the MHS Houseparent Open House on April 12, 2025. He hopes to be able

Lea Achim '07, of Beaverton, Oregon, was elected to sit on the board of a nonprofit organization that builds low-income housing outside of Portland. She is also serving as chair of the organization Supportive Housing Services, which seeks to prevent eviction and help people stay housed. She is also still serving as an attorney with the Oregon

Kohlee (Rice) Erickson '07, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, married Andrew on May 24, 2025 after many years together. They reside with their

released his first ebook on Amazon, "Under the See: A Short Book of Poems Volume 1."

Rochelle (Daniels) Roche '09, of Prompton, Pennsylvania, got married in 2017. She graduated most recently with a master's degree in business in 2018. She has three little boys, born in 2020,

#### 1/4 cup butter A dash of salt

**Home Economics Teacher Shares Recipe Ahead of Retirement** 

retirement in June, Rogers requested to share her famous No-Bake Cookies recipe. The recipe

was a part of her "Goobly Gooks" lesson, and she shares: "I hope it brings back fond memories

**Brenda Rogers** started teaching home economics at MHS in 1992. In celebration of her

3/4 cup granulated sugar 1/4 cup peanut butter 1/4 cup brown sugar 1/2 tsp vanilla 1/4 cup milk 11/2 cups quick oats

1/4 cup flour 1/4 cup cocoa

- 1. Mix butter, sugars, milk, cocoa and salt in a microwave safe bowl.
- 2. Microwave mixture on high until it boils, then boil for one minute.
- 3. Remove from the microwave and add peanut butter, vanilla, oats, and flour.
- 4. Drop on waxed paper and refrigerate until hardened.

to give back to his hometown.

Law Center Eviction Defense Project.

children Elliana and Adalyn.

**Kenneth Griffin '07,** of Poughkeepsie, New York,

2022, and 2024.

#### **2010s**

Alisha Wheeler '11, of Newark, Delaware, started her doctoral studies in strategy and innovation. She is planning a future connection between MHS and Citi Group.

Melyssa Cook '12, of Orlando, Florida, along with her husband Joshua, welcomed their first baby (girl) on May 11, 2025. While they still maintain

their primary residence in Orlando, Florida, they are spending time in Charleston, West Virginia, with Joshua's family and hope to purchase a mountain home there.

Devanie Craft '12, of Land O Lakes, Florida, has two boys: Josiah, age 6, and Zayne, age 2.

Jessica Bell '14, of Richmond, Virginia, moved and started her Ph.D. training in human genetics at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Chelsea Bolden '14, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, had her last baby on May 12, 2025 and his name is Luke Andrew Nace. She now has two girls and one boy—Briella is six and Aurora is four.

Joshua Arledge '15, of Round Rock, Texas, was a recipient of the 2024 Alumni Achievement Award for Academic Excellence.

Wes Samuelson '10, of Duluth, Minnesota, graduated with an AA in general studies from Lake Superior College and is now working on a bachelor's degree in economics and public health at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

Hajabowarah Sanders '12, of Converse, Texas, is currently serving her eighth year in the United States Air Force. She was recently promoted to Technical Sergeant. She is trying to do her part and make the Air Force better for everyone. She says, "Be the change, make a difference."

**Sophia Fucci '17,** of Frisco, Texas, started her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. Her goal is to become an LPC in Texas and Pennsylvania, then work toward earning her BCBA, so she can combine the roles while integrating her bachelor's degree in public health.

Kimberly Lauber '18, of Rio Grande, New Jersey, switched her career path because she wanted to help better her community and work with families in need. She wants to get another degree to help support her new role. Her son Jiovanni will be two in June. She is currently exploring the possibility of moving back to the Hershey area.

Bryanna White '18, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will be graduating with her master's degree in public health with a concentration in leadership in practice from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in December 2025. Her passion is public and global health.

**Demetria Tennison '19.** of Hummelstown. Pennsylvania, recently re-enrolled into Penn State Harrisburg to obtain her bachelor's degree in human development and family studies with a minor in criminology.

#### **2020s**

Victoria Wyszynski '20, of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, just finished her first year teaching.

Beautifull Pyatt '23, of Carnot-moon, Pennsylvania, is an intern for The Hershey Company this summer.

### **Honorary Members**

**Ruth Holp,** of Hershey, Pennsylvania, continues to do activities with the school and often communicates with graduates and teachers. Her husband passed away on Feb. 15, 2025. Her Milton Hershey 'family' has been wonderful.

#### **Deaths**

Nicholas Leitner '44, of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, March 6, 2025

Charles Schock '44, of Media, Pennsylvania, Nov. 7, 2024

Arthur Bragg '47, of Jonestown, Pennsylvania, June 1, 2024

Richard Dodson '48. of Shenandoah. Pennsylvania, April 4, 2025

Richard Reed '54, of Somerset, Pennsylvania, April 11, 2025

Paul Azarian '55, of Garnet Valley, Pennsylvania Jan. 19, 2025

**Gerald Bigelow '57,** of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Jan. 5, 2025

Charles Warren '58, of McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, Aug. 8, 2024

Lester Clore '60. of Bethlehem Township. Pennsylvania, Jan. 3, 2025

Richard Forney '63, of Warrington, Pennsylvania, Jan. 14, 2025

**John Shappell '63,** of Dover, Pennsylvania, Feb. 15, 2025

#### **Keep the Legacy Alive-Update Your MHS Profile Today**



ave you moved recently? Did you change jobs? Have you achieved a significant milestone? Email MHSAlum@mhs-pa.org or scan the QR code to update your information.



William Schwanger '64, of Sun City Center, Florida, March 30, 2025

John Cupp '65, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Feb. 18, 2025

John Hundertmark '68, of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, April 8, 2025

Louis Rucci 70, of Jacksonville, Florida, Jan. 22, 2025

Francis Gildea, Jr. '73, of Westbrooke, Maine March 25, 2025

**Keith Holland '76,** of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, Nov. 16, 2024

**Timothy Martin '78,** of Warminster, Pennsylvania, May 5, 2024

John Lehman '79. of Auburn. Pennsylvania. Feb. 9, 2025

Michael Schwartz '90, of Hagerstown, Maryland, Dec. 2, 2024

#### **Staff and Retiree Deaths**

**Donald Price** died on Jan. 14, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1966 to 1998 as director of Dental Services.

Joseph LaFrance died on Jan. 15, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1979 to 1998 as a houseparent.

Pauline Shadel died on Jan. 16, 2025. She was employed by MHS from 1981 to 1999 as a customer service representative in Finance.

Karen Lark died on Jan. 26, 2025. She was employed by MHS from 1976 to 2011 as a food production coordinator.

**Thomas Koopmans** died on Feb. 7, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1979 to 1997 as assistant to the shop foreman in the Farm Division.

Ira "Bud" Walker, Jr. died on Feb. 21, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1973 to 1999 as a houseparent and resident assistant.

Cynthia Neidig died on April 15, 2025. She was employed by MHS from 1985 to 2015 as a food distributor.

Jennie Stella died on May 23, 2025. She was employed by MHS from 1971 to 1988 as a houseparent.

**Garry Linam** died on June 11, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 2002 to 2023 as a houseparent.

**Jessie Sharpe** died on June 21, 2025. She was employed by MHS from 1998 to 2013 as a school nurse.

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# ALUMNI Calendar

#### **August**

22 Cocoa Bean Game

#### September

13 Mr. Hershey's Birthday

#### **October**

Nomination deadline for 2026
Alumni Achievement and Alumni
of the Year Awards

23-26 Homecoming Weekend

If your class year ends in 0 or 5, it's your time to shine—reunion celebrations are happening this year!

#### **November**

9-14 Founders Week

#### **December**

Nomination deadline for the 2026 Spartan Hall of Fame

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

