

MILTON  
HERSHEY  
SCHOOL®

FOUNDED 1909

ALUM

SUMMER 2022

# THY *Traditions*

MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL® ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# DEAR





# A Note

BY ASHLEY HOOVER, MHS HOUSEPARENT



## Dear Alumni:

My husband, Joe, and I have been houseparents at Milton Hershey School for nine years, but our journey to houseparenting at Milton Hershey School started long before 2013. We were tired of clocking in and out at a job every day simply for a paycheck and longed for work that was meaningful, would make a difference, and leave a lasting impact.

In 2011, we were living halfway across the country, pregnant with our first child, and searching for an occupation that checked all of those boxes. That's when we found MHS. The school was hiring for a position called houseparents. It was everything we were looking for.

The day after my 27th birthday, we filled out our applications online and by August, now with two kids under two, we were beginning a career as houseparents.

*We need to pause at this point in the narrative.*

*Have you ever gone to see a movie in the theater? Perhaps it is a film that you have been waiting months or years for. Maybe it is the next in your favorite series. You have watched every trailer, every press interview, and read every anticipatory article; you are ready! You grab your popcorn and candy and settle into your seat. The previews end, the lights go down, and the moment is finally here. You could not be more prepared for this. However, just minutes into the film, the plot takes an unexpected turn and everything you thought was going to happen is upended and replaced by an entirely different and even more intricate storyline.*

*That has been our houseparenting journey.*

When my husband, Joe, and I began our jobs at MHS, we were prepared. We conducted research, learned the history of the school and town, drove around campus, and watched videos about the mission. Our purpose was clear—we were going to make an impact.

However, as the months and years passed, the plot took an unexpected turn. The more students we met, the more lives we became invested in. The more we realized the resulting impact was primarily on our lives.

After nine years, we have had the opportunity to care for more than 40 students at our student home, not to mention the 100 or more students we got to know during our time as flex houseparents. The relationships we have forged with each one of those kids and their families has impacted our lives tremendously.

It has shifted and shaped the way we view the world. As our students have shared stories of discrimination and hatred levied toward them based on skin color, ethnicity, or social status it has opened our eyes to experiences we have never had and deepened our understanding and empathy.

I started this position with a single narrative of what a student in need looked like and what being a houseparent to those students would be like. The plot shift has been challenging and more wonderful than we could have ever imagined.

I challenge you to invite a couple you respect to learn more about houseparenting by attending an upcoming information session. Visit [www.mhskids.org/online-information-session/](http://www.mhskids.org/online-information-session/). MHS also has a variety of other job openings. Visit the careers page at [www.mhskids.org/careers/](http://www.mhskids.org/careers/).

Sincerely,  
Ashley Hoover  
MHS Houseparent

## THY Traditions DEAR

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

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### ABOUT THE COVER

Houseparents Ashley and Joe Hoover, pictured on the cover with their children and several MHS students, have been houseparents at MHS for nine years. They are among the many MHS staff who sought a meaningful career where they could make a difference in the lives of others. In addition to houseparents, MHS hires individuals for a range of careers that support the mission of the school. For details, visit [www.mhskids.org/careers/](http://www.mhskids.org/careers/).

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# Grads Find Opportunity at THE HERSHEY COMPANY

*Broaden graduate opportunities for apprenticeships, military service, postsecondary education, and career services for professional success.*

– The MILT Plan: Our Future in Focus, Milton Hershey School's Strategic Plan

Through the years, The Hershey Company has hired Milton Hershey School graduates to work in various positions, including William E. Dearden '40, who worked at the company for nearly 30 years, retiring in 1986 as president. As MHS strives to achieve its goals, school staff work with The Hershey Company to increase awareness among students and alumni about job opportunities.

Working at The Hershey Company provides valuable career experience and, for some, leads to other opportunities within the company. The company's Global Sales Organization and manufacturing are two departments where many employees get their start. Below, several alumni share their experiences and advice about working for The Hershey Company.

## Amy Bowling '17

Amy has been working for The Hershey Company as a retail sales representative (now territory sales lead, TSL) since August 2021. After graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in health and physical education with a focus in health sciences, she learned about the TSL opportunity from MHS Career Services.

Amy applied in March 2021 and began working as a TSL in August. She is responsible for a territory that includes multiple Walmart retail locations in the Oklahoma City area in Oklahoma.



Because she works independently much of the time, Amy enjoys opportunities to connect with customers at retail locations. In addition, she appreciates when she and teammates help each other, especially during busy holiday seasons.

Amy said she has learned something new about herself every day as a TSL and has become more confident in her abilities. Amy said taking this job and moving to a new place took courage and belief in herself.

## Brandon Colon '16

Brandon has been working as a TSL for The Hershey Company in the St. Louis, Missouri area since August 2021. Before being hired for the TSL position, he worked for Allied Security in Philadelphia.

Brandon earned a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in marketing from Temple University in 2020. He had interned during college for a top



consulting firm, an internship that usually led to an entry level job—until the opportunity vanished when the firm, like businesses nationwide, had to make difficult choices to adjust to the challenges of COVID-19.

Brandon heard about the TSL opportunity from his brother, MHS alumnus Pedro Rodriguez '18, who had an internship with the company.

In his role as a TSL, Brandon feels as though he is giving back to MHS. Pride is evident in his voice as he talks about creating and stocking Hershey displays featuring products that make customers happy, and in the long run, support his alma mater.

Brandon emphasized the importance of stepping outside your comfort zone to meet new people and explore new places. He also stressed the value of learning how to interact with people who have different attitudes and viewpoints, being flexible, and expecting the unexpected.



## Devyn Morrison '16

Devyn began working as a TSL for The Hershey Company as a college senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in business and management at Penn State Harrisburg. He learned about the opportunity while working part time at Starbucks in Hershey where many of his customers worked for The Hershey Company.

He applied in November of his senior year and began working part time second semester alongside seasoned employees. That led to a full-time position managing his own territory and 15 retail locations in Ohio.

As a TSL, Devyn became aware of opportunities, made new friends, and participated in collective work activities. For those interested in the TSL position, he suggested they should be self-motivated, team players, and open-minded, while challenging themselves to grow.

Recently, Devyn was hired as a business development manager at Red Roof Inn.



"The Hershey Company provided me the foundational experience of building relationships, data analysis, and being an effective leader during my time with the company," Devyn said. "Because of Hershey's commitment to its people, I am set for success in my future endeavors."

## Frank Errichetti '88

Frank, who lives in Annville, Pennsylvania, began working at The Hershey Company in 2003, when he was hired to work in manufacturing at the Reese's plant. Previously, he had served in the U.S. Army and worked in various roles for several different companies in different states.

Frank was particularly attracted to the location and the company's affiliation with MHS. As a graduate, he said he is proud to work for The Hershey Company, where he enjoys his job and co-workers.

After working in manufacturing for several years, Frank took advantage of an

opportunity to apply for a position within the plant that allowed him to expand his responsibilities. To qualify for the position, he earned a license through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. In May 2021, he made a complete transition to his current role with corporate Quality Assurance, Risk Management, and Compliance. He is part of the team responsible for pest control at numerous facilities, an important component of the company's commitment to maintaining sanitary operational practices.

To learn about job opportunities at the Hershey Company, visit [careers.thehersheycompany.com/us/en/](https://careers.thehersheycompany.com/us/en/). To talk to someone about any of these opportunities, email Star Gibbs: [sgibbs@hersheys.com](mailto:sgibbs@hersheys.com).



## A Note from the MHS President

Dear Alumni Brothers and Sisters:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a journey that has tested us, but also strengthened us. As I reflect on the past two years, I'm enormously proud of the fact that MHS never shut its doors or stopped giving students excellent care and resources. When others struggled, our school community found creative solutions—exercising our hearts and minds in service to the Hersheys' mission and the students we serve.

One constant in all of this has been change itself. Today, things at MHS continue to evolve in a positive direction as we return to normal and resume time-honored traditions that are so near and dear to our hearts as alumni. Our Milt brothers and sisters have shared how much they have missed in-person gatherings and spending quality time with their MHS family, including you. Throughout the 2021-22 school year, our campus came alive again with activity—from sporting events to musical productions, and everything in between—and our commitment to health and safety made this possible. These rites of passage and valued aspects of the MHS student experience are back, and we could not be more excited!

In April, MHS alumni and senior students came together for Alumni Fellowship Weekend, which included Career Day and the Alumni-Senior Fellowship Dinner. Here, we recognized the recipients of our Achievement Awards—three graduating seniors and three alumni—in the areas of community service, career achievement, and academic success. We also properly honored 2020 MHS Alumnus of the Year, Chuck Seidel, and 2021 MHS Alumna of the Year, Chris Cook. It felt good to be together again and celebrate their success. Our alumni also have stepped up in creative ways, supporting students at Middle Division Career Nights through hands-on, engaging sessions. Career-focused education programs such as this introduce all our students to a wide range of career opportunities, supporting their classroom learning and getting them thinking about their futures.

Perhaps most exciting, the school year culminated with in-person end-of-year celebrations including the fourth- and eighth-grade promotion ceremonies and a senior prom for the Class of 2022. We also made our return to the Giant Center on June 12 for Milton Hershey School's 88th Commencement Ceremony. It was inspiring to be a part of such collective joy as the Class of 2022 joined our alumni family.

If you've forgotten what the positive energy at MHS feels like this time of year, I encourage you to reach out to our Alumni Relations team. There are countless ways to deepen your connection to MHS and support fellow Milts—we love welcoming you home.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Gurt '85  
MHS President

## A Physics Lesson at Hersheypark Accelerates Learning



For most people, going to Hersheypark is more about riding roller coasters than learning how they work.

Milton Hershey School Middle Division students had the opportunity to visit Hersheypark to apply their knowledge of physics to roller coasters.

Engineers from Hershey Entertainment & Resorts (HE&R) met with groups of MHS eighth-graders to give behind-the-scenes tours of the rides at Hersheypark—explaining the importance of physics in making sure roller coasters are safe. The students explored pulley systems, magnetic breaks, kinetic energy, gravitational pull, and the laws of motion in addition to how employees take the cars on and off the tracks, the role that weight distribution plays in making roller coasters operate, and more.

“HE&R prioritizes their interactions with MHS students and not only makes days like this possible but stresses the importance of us participating. For me personally, it's a lot of fun to talk to students about how roller coasters work because it's something a lot of people don't think or know about,” said Brad Kirkham, director of engineering at HE&R.

Experiential learning opportunities like this allow MHS students the opportunity to see classroom topics in action. Thanks to our community partnerships, Hershey and the surrounding areas become their classroom.

“I learned more than physics, I learned about different careers. When we ride the rides, we don't think about how they work. Because of today, I now have a better understanding, but it doesn't make me feel differently about riding roller coasters,” said Molina Folly, an MHS eighth-grader. 🙌

## High School Students Work with Pennsylvania State Police to Solve Matters Affecting Teenagers

Since 1909, Milton Hershey School students have been encouraged to use their voice to advocate for themselves and those around them. Recently, for the fifth year, 43 MHS high school students in the Law, Public Safety, and Security Career and Technical Education pathway were invited to participate in a Disproportionate Minority Contact Youth and Law Enforcement Forum with the Pennsylvania State Police Academy.

As a part of this forum, students were given space to share their past interactions with police, issues that are affecting teenagers today, and any questions they have about the profession.

Due to the diverse group of students MHS serves from across Pennsylvania and surrounding states, the conversations at the forum were enriching for both the students and the cadets. Some of the topics covered in the panel discussion and breakout sessions included personal stories



from MHS students involving previous interactions with police officers, what could have gone differently, and how things can change for the future.

“When we first got to the academy, I was hesitant to engage because of my own negative experiences with law enforcement,” shared Candie Kolleh, MHS sophomore. “After getting to talk to them, I saw that we were all there to solve the same issues.”

Many of the cadets were deeply impacted by the stories the students shared and how

their role can have such profound outcomes on a child's life.

“The forum impacted me in a really positive way. I never thought that police officers or anyone in the criminal justice system would have the opportunity to come together in a positive way and communicate with civilians or teenagers to learn from one another,” shared Osayomwonbor Algedo, cadet at the PA State Police Academy. 🙌

## MHS Students Participate in a Networking Opportunity with Global Industrial Engineers from The Hershey Company

Eighteen Milton Hershey School juniors and seniors participated in a networking event with 12 global manufacturing plant leaders from The Hershey Company and their supervisory-level manufacturing team.

The students who were chosen to participate have shown an interest in industrial engineering, from production line operators to strategically focused positions. The networking event allowed MHS students to interact with The Hershey Company employees and explore their career interests from professionals who work in their desired field firsthand.

“If I learned one thing from the networking event, it was all the different jobs that they have available at The Hershey Company plants,” shared Tia Willis-Cooper, MHS junior. “I have a better understanding of the importance of mechanics in the industrial engineering process to ensure that everything is working correctly. I'd



never thought about the opportunities for mechanics outside of automotive careers.”

After the networking portion of the evening, participants put their skills to the test and participated in a team building activity focused on engineering and design. Students learned about career options open to them in this field and how they can accomplish their career goals.

“It's always great to have a chance to connect with the brilliant students of Milton

Hershey School,” said Tim Hinegardner, vice president of manufacturing at The Hershey Company. “Milton Hershey School's century-long history of preparing students for life-long careers, including the trades, creates a great opportunity for a connection with Hershey's Manufacturing. I would love to see that legacy lead to even more students embracing manufacturing careers at Hershey.”

Events like this are another way that the MHS Graduate Programs for Success Division is preparing students for post-graduation success. Through a robust Career and Technical Education program, MHS engages students in a variety of career-focused learning experiences from networking events to apprenticeship and internship opportunities. 🙌



## Milton Hershey School Culinary Students Taste Sweet Success at PA ProStart Competition

Several Milton Hershey School high school students competed at the Pennsylvania ProStart Student Invitational. ProStart is a nationally recognized culinary arts and management program for high school students to gain hands-on experience before graduation.

For seven years, students in the MHS Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management Services career pathway have competed and placed first in the culinary portion. This competition requires a three-course meal showcasing cooking methods, safety and sanitation practices, flavor pairing, seasonality, and portion sizes.

Samantha Katzaman and Bradley Jennings, MHS culinary arts teachers, helped students practice and train for the



state competition. The MHS culinary team consisted of juniors Elijah Eubank, Lisa Jones, Lindsay Andrews, and TJ Kramer. They prepared the following award-winning meal:

Appetizer: Chilled seafood sausage with pickled vegetables, a fennel corn salad, and hollandaise sauce.

Entree: Applewood-smoked lamb with an apricot-maple glaze, potato, and mushroom terrine, a beet and carrot mosaic, a wine cream sauce, and dandelion greens.

Dessert: A porcini mushroom, almond, and chocolate torte with a black pepper strawberry compote, burnt toast whipped cream, and strawberries.

“This competition helped us to prepare for our future careers by deepening our skills within culinary arts and teaching us how to work as a close-knit team,” Elijah said. “Through this experience, we worked on our time management skills and decreasing waste.” 🍴

## Five Ways to Find Common Ground During Difficult Conversations

BY JEFF TRAN, MHS HOME LIFE ADMINISTRATOR

At Milton Hershey School, students and staff follow four Sacred Values—Mutual Respect, Integrity, Positive Spirit, and Commitment to Mission. These principles guide our community as we navigate interactions with others, especially when we find ourselves in difficult conversations. Throughout my MHS career, I have incorporated tools when helping students and staff better understand each other.

When involved in a difficult conversation, implement the following tips for successful and rewarding dialogue.

Listen to one another and don’t assume anything. Build understanding and trust by taking the time to hear the other person’s perspective.

Remain objective and don’t take anything personally. While it is tough, do the best you can to leave emotion out of the conversation. One tip is to ask open-ended questions. This will make the conversation two-way.



Be a bridge for communication, not a barrier. You may not be aware of your hidden biases, so be open to hearing another opinion. Use phrases such as, “Interesting... tell me more about that” and be ready to keep the conversation going.

Expect discomfort and prepare for it. Taking on topics that could be controversial or awkward isn’t easy, so accept the situation as a challenge to step outside your comfort

zone. Be aware of your body language and theirs. Following verbal and non-verbal cues will help you ensure it doesn’t escalate into a more heated conversation.

Create a safe space for dialogue by:

- Being present in the moment and conversation. If necessary, ask to put the phones away for a few minutes to eliminate any distractions.
- Encouraging candidness and transparency.
- Taking risks by not holding your perspective back; but also accepting that another point of view is possible.
- Using “I” statements versus “you” statements.
- Maintaining respect and avoid jumping right into being defensive.
- Honoring confidentiality. 🤝



## A Path Worth Taking

BY NICHOLAS GREGORY '22

From a young age, I knew that I wanted to find every opportunity to grow and find my passion in life. I encouraged my mother to let me apply to Milton Hershey School when I was in middle school. By the time I started high school, I was enrolled as a student at MHS ready to embark on a new path—but with that step came hesitation and fear.

When I first arrived, I didn’t know anyone, and I was nervous to meet new people. It didn’t take long before I got to know the boys in my student home, and I found a space on campus where my passions could shine.

I joined the Engineering & Design career pathway as a freshman, and it was one of the best decisions for me. Then, during my senior year, I earned five industry-recognized certifications, and worked on a project with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts to find a more efficient way to fix a hinge on a rollercoaster.

I came to MHS to find opportunity, and while I faced challenges along the way, I found so much more than opportunity—I found a path to my future. 🚀



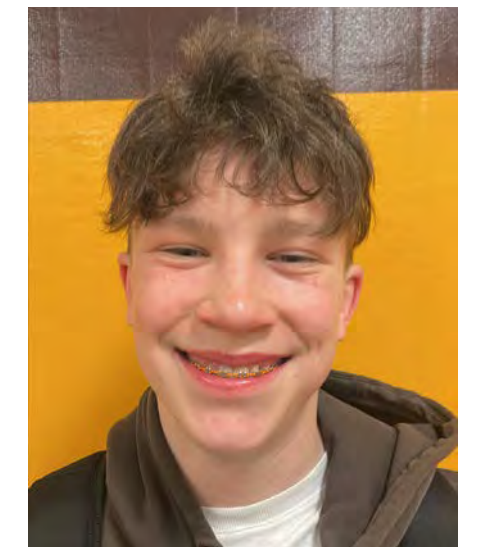
## The Importance of Mentorship at MHS

BY ROSALYNN MEYERS, MHS JUNIOR

From finding where my new classes are to meeting new teachers, the first day of school can be an overwhelming experience. But it’s an opportunity to make new relationships and grow new bonds—sometimes unexpectedly. When I came to Milton Hershey School, I met Dr. Kinsley, a high school teacher. At first, I did not always see eye-to-eye with her, but over time, I began to see how much of an uplifting, generous, and caring teacher she is.

Dr. Kinsley has inspired me to be successful and reach for the stars. She has helped me to see my full potential and see that anything is possible if you try. From birthday cake celebrations to trivia with the Mentoring Our Leaders’ Development (M.O.L.D) program, we have made so many memories.

I’m so appreciative that MHS supports me having a mentor and understands the important role these adults can play in my life and the lives of my peers. Had I not come to MHS, I would have never met Dr. Kinsley—and I’m so grateful I did. 🙏



## Not Just a Sport, A Passion

BY WILLIAM OLSON, MHS FRESHMAN

Enrolling at Milton Hershey School in sixth grade, I struggled to transition to my new environment. After about a year, my roommate encouraged me to come to a wrestling practice—completely changing the trajectory of my MHS experience.

I had been a member of the wrestling program in my home community, but because my family lacked the resources and money necessary, I wasn’t able to take full advantage of the program.

Now, in high school, I still look forward to wrestling season every year. It’s not just the sport itself that has made my experience positive, but the coaches and teammates who have become part of my support system. My high school wrestling coach doesn’t just want us to be the best athletes we can be, but the best students and people.

During my time at MHS, wrestling has become more than just a sport—it’s become my passion. Whenever I am able to reunite with my Middle Division roommate who had encouraged me to join the wrestling team, I’m always reminded how much the MHS community can band together and make you feel at home. 🤝



# Coaching the WHOLE CHILD

BY CATHERINE SKENA, GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR SUCCESS



Milton Hershey School alumni who coach at their alma mater are more than coaches. They understand the value of addressing the needs of the whole child and embrace their role in supporting students as athletes and individuals. They embody the legacy of the coaches who did the same for them.

Twelve MHS graduates coach in Senior Division. Among them are Roger Smith '85 and Victoria Warne '12. Roger has led student programs for 24 years, and is head coach for the MHS track and field team. He has also been an assistant coach for football and track and field. Victoria has been part-time head coach for the JV softball team since November 2021. Both were athletes at MHS and strive to provide the same guidance and understanding their coaches gave them.

"Sometimes it's the best part of my day, because you get outside, and get to talk to young people," said Roger. Committed to supporting students and athletes as individuals, Roger emphasized the importance of commitment for anyone who would consider coaching at MHS.

"I've never wanted to be a commodity coach. A commodity coach is a person who only sees a person as what value they bring to their sport," Roger said. "I've always wanted to be a personal coach, and everybody gets treated the same. So, I care about you, your family, and your academic situation, because the sport piece is going to eventually end."

Like Roger, Victoria sees her role as a coach extending beyond teaching players the mechanics and rules of the



Left: As a student at MHS, Roger Smith '85 participated in a variety of activities, including football.

Right: Roger is proud of his former students, Kwasi Abrokwa '00 (left), a part-time coach at MHS, and Micah Wright '99 (right), who coaches track at a high school in the Philadelphia area.

game. She values being able to "have those true and hard conversations" with players, conversations based on her experience as a Milt.

Among the advice to students shared by both Roger and Victoria is to get involved and build relationships with staff, regardless of whether they are graduates. Both treasure the lessons they learned and relationships they have maintained through the years with teachers, houseparents, and coaches.

Among the staff they mentioned are Cliff Ainsworth and Bob Guyer, former coaches and athletic directors; Kathy and Ron Akins, retired houseparents; Carolina (Cedeno)'93 and Lukeman Harvey, former relief houseparents; the late John Hoerner, former teacher and coach; and Laurie Schreckengost, teacher and varsity softball coach.



The impact of these coaches and staff is reflected in the lives of MHS alumni. Sharing a photo taken at the Penn Relays in spring 2021, Roger pointed to Kwasi Abrokwa '00, who coaches part time at MHS, most recently for a six-week track program for fourth-grade students. Also in the photo was Micah Wright '99, who is a guidance counselor and track and field coach at Harry S. Truman High School in the Philadelphia area. Roger coached them, and they are now friends and colleagues. Roger considers Micah one of his greatest resources.

Roger enrolled at MHS in ninth grade. His mother was a nurse in Brooklyn, New York, and she did her best to provide opportunities for Roger to participate in programs outside the city. He described himself as a Fresh Air kid who went to camp during the summer. Someone gave his mother a pamphlet about MHS, and she shared it with Roger. There were pictures of horses, trees, green grass, all things Roger enjoyed at camp. He embraced the idea of going to a school where he could enjoy the outdoors, participate in athletic programs, and get a good education.

At MHS, Roger took advantage of athletics and other activities to meet students and establish friendships. He participated in football, winter track, spring track, Student Leadership Society, and Glee Club. He also was a student worker for recreation, an area that falls under his current responsibilities.

Roger went on to study industrial arts technology education at Millersville University and played football. He still

has good memories of his experience at Millersville.

After earning his bachelor's degree, Roger was hired to do computer-aided drafting by alumni Milt '64 and Dick Purcell '61, who owned EDDCO, a company focused on designing, developing, and machining. When that company's business model changed, Roger became a draftsman for a company in York, Pennsylvania, where he worked until a co-worked mentioned an opening for a one-year position for a drafting teacher at MHS. Roger applied and was hired. A year later, he was offered a job as head of the newly formed student programs department, which he manages to this day.

Victoria enrolled at MHS in sixth grade after convincing her mother to let her and her brother apply. She learned about MHS from neighborhood friends who enrolled at the school and rode along with her friends and their mother when she took them back to MHS after a break. She was fascinated by the beautiful campus, talked to her friends' houseparents, and fell in love with MHS. To this day, she talks enthusiastically about her experiences and the relationships she has with graduates, coaches, and houseparents.

As a student at MHS, Victoria focused on health occupations in the health science career pathway. After MHS, she earned a bachelor's degree in business management in three years at Wilkes University, all while participating in softball, Air Force ROTC, student government, and Multicultural Club, and also maintaining a high GPA.



Left: Victoria Warne '12 has been part-time head coach for the MHS JV softball team since November 2021.

Right: Victoria played softball and field hockey as a student at MHS.

Victoria moved to Florida where she recruited doctors and nurses from across the United States and was also the director of a home care company. In addition, she launched her own professional organizing business, like alumna Carolina Harvey '93, her former relief houseparent who remains a close friend.

During the pandemic, Victoria moved back to Pennsylvania while continuing to work as a recruiter and professional organizer, jobs she can do from anywhere with a laptop and internet access. Having learned from a friend at MHS about job openings for softball coaching positions, she applied and was hired.

She is happy to have helped her players learn how to connect with staff and alumni as COVID-19 restrictions were eased. She wants them to have the type of experience she had and the opportunity to build supportive, life-long relationships.

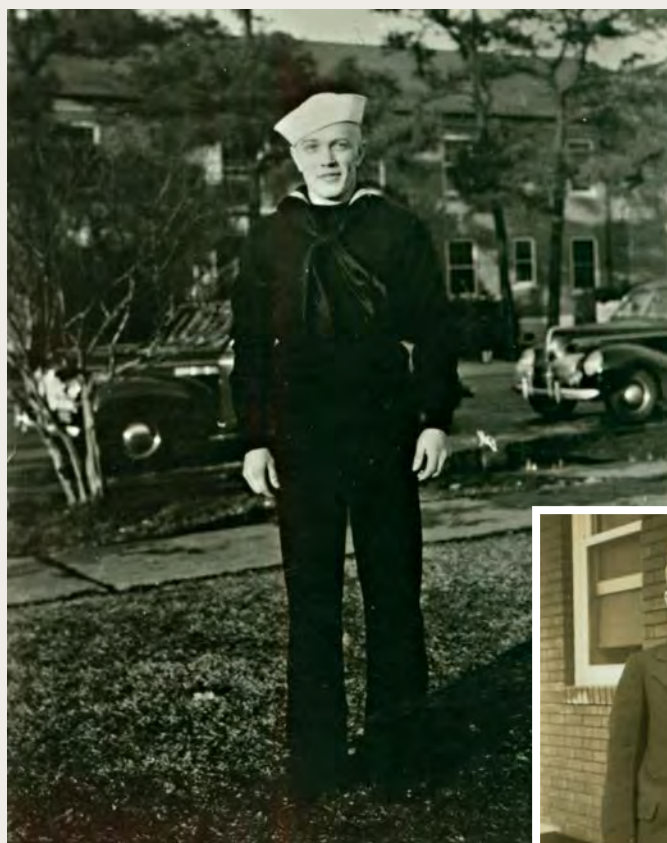
In addition to coaching, there is a range of job opportunities at MHS. To view opportunities, visit [mhskids.org/careers](https://mhskids.org/careers). 📍



From the  
**ARCHIVES:**

## MHS Has Been Honoring MHS Gold Star Alumni for 80 Years

BY SUSAN ALGER, HERITAGE SCHOOL HISTORY



June 8, 2022 marked the 80th anniversary of the first MHS Gold Star alumnus, Harold Ashenfelder '40. 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.

Harold enrolled in Hershey Industrial School at the age of 10 after his mother passed away. Harold was in the business vocational track, the accounting club, and played football his senior year. After graduating in 1940, he worked at The Hotel Hershey. Harold enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Dec. 19, 1941, 12 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and was trained as a radio operator in a seaplane.



In May 1942, his patrol squadron was deployed to Newfoundland. The seaplanes provided convoy coverage, which was an insurmountable challenge due to constant heavy fog and frequent failures of the primitive radar sets used by the squadron at the time. On June 8, 1942, Harold's plane was returning from a mission when bad weather forced them to land at sea after losing their bearings. Rescue aircraft could not locate the crew before heavy seas sank the plane.

The plane and crew were not recovered, and the crew is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the East Coast Memorial in New York City. The commemorative certificate of the East Coast Memorial contains this quote by General John J. Pershing, "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

The memory of Harold Ashenfelder and all the Gold Star alumni lives on at the Legacy Campus Middle Division student home Ashenfelder.

Left: Harold Ashenfelder '40, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, was the first MHS Gold Star alumnus.

Center: Harold Ashenfelder '40, as a student at then Hershey Industrial School—now MHS—in 1934.

Right: Middle Division student home Ashenfelder was named in memory of MHS Gold Star alumnus, Harold Ashenfelder '40.

## MHS Archives Modernization Continues

The Department of School History is continuing the multi-year project to modernize the school's archival collection. The archivists began with the Hersheys' records comprised of documents, photographs, postcards, and objects belonging to or featuring the Hershey family. The second phase was Programs and Services, a large portion of the collection that now continues with students and alumni. Programs that overlap and photographs with no dates or identification create challenges.

The collection includes several glass-plate negatives from the early 1900s. Even though they have been digitized, they have not been labeled separately. The negatives are fragile and require cautious handling when processing for identification. The image of early students in the carpentry classroom is a perfect example of the need for specific knowledge in handling the negatives, as evidenced by the fingerprints at the bottom of the image.





## Letters Home

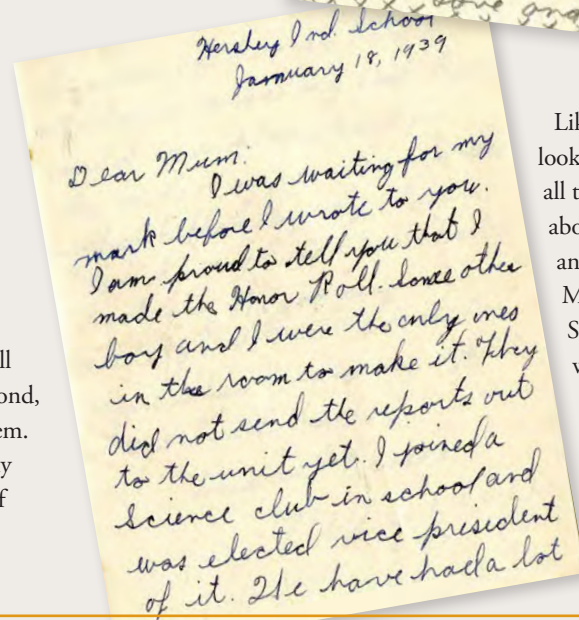
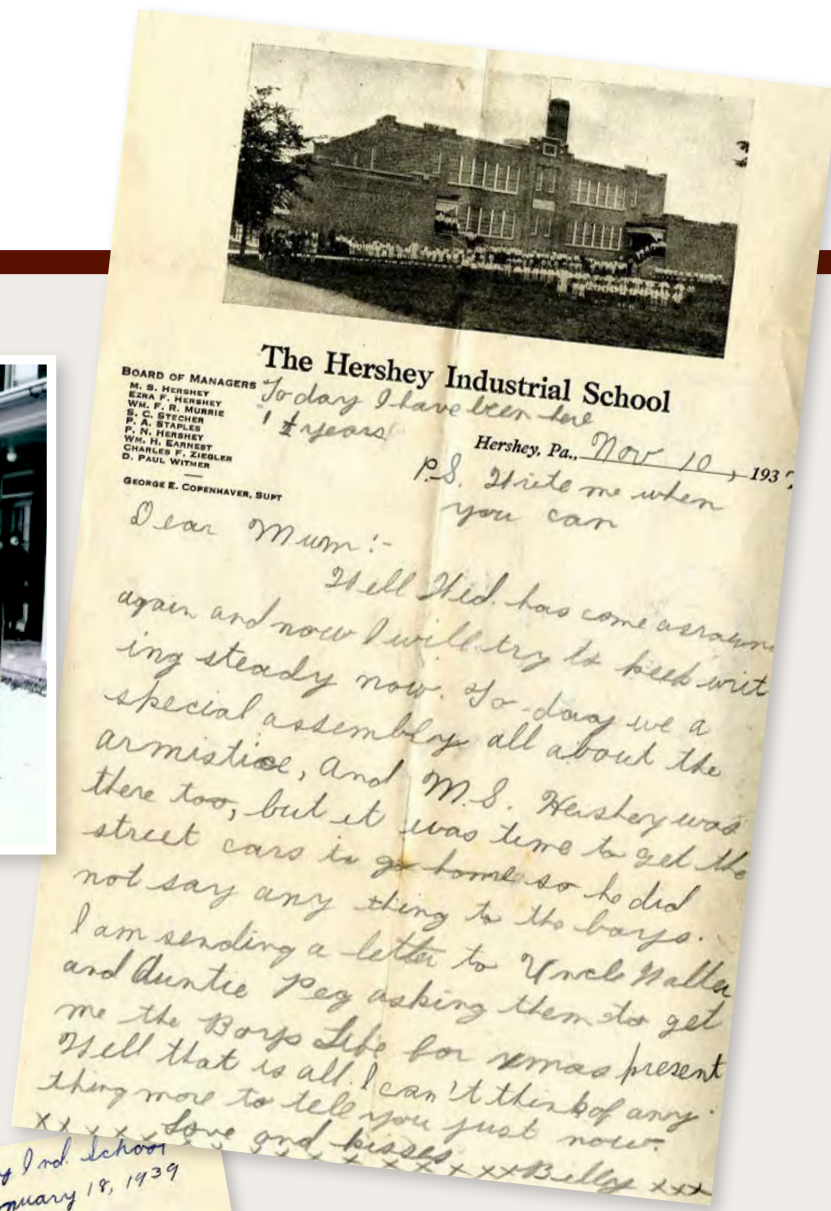
Keeping in close contact with home is an important part of Milton Hershey School students' lives. In the early days of the School, students stayed on campus and their families visited them. In between visits, letters written home kept them in touch. During the 1930s, the school supplied younger students with stationary that folded into an envelope and featured a photograph of the Fanny B. Hershey Memorial Elementary School as the letterhead.

Students' mothers and relatives treasured the letters, and many kept them for years. One student's mother kept all the letters he wrote to her. School History intern, Abbigail Cox '22, processed the letters and wrote about her.

BY ABBIGAIL COX '22,  
SCHOOL HISTORY INTERN

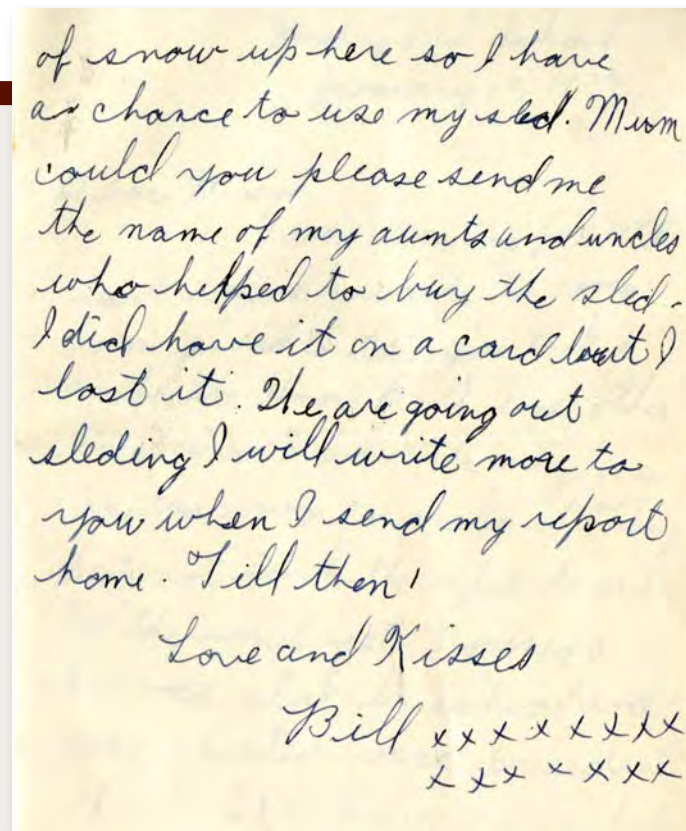
I had the humbling experience of processing and cataloging letters written by William Finnie '42, or Billy, as he signed his letters to his mother in Maple Shade, New Jersey. Billy graduated from Hershey Industrial School (now Milton Hershey School) in 1942. From the contents of the 228 letters, I could tell Billy and his mother shared a close bond, and thankfully, Mrs. Finnie saved them.

Billy's letters to his mother perfectly encapsulate the timeless experience of being a Milt.



Like his peers, Billy often felt homesick, looked forward to Christmas break, and explained all the happenings of life in Hershey. Billy wrote about his student home, farmhome Eastmoor, and of course, he wrote about his houseparents, Mr. and Mrs. Engle. Like Milton Hershey School today, there was always a new event he was explaining or experience he was unraveling in his letters.

Much of Billy's life in the student home resembles that of today. He played games with the boys in his home, experienced good and bad roommates, loved doing his chores



(especially the dishes), and helped on the farm. Some of Billy's favorite activities stamp trading, sledding, and adventuring to Hersheypark. I found it amusing that Billy often complained about chores he didn't like, and he often expressed how relieved he was when he would finish up a day's worth of work on the farm. He was always excited to get a

day off from chores. His experience in the student home is almost a mirror image of the student home experience today—80 years later!

Even in the 1940s, Hershey Industrial School prepared students for life after graduation by providing them with technical courses—automotive, construction, welding, etc.—and the opportunity to attend Hershey Junior College to receive higher education. Billy often wrote about his experiences in auto mechanics and how excited he was to continue working on cars. At MHS today, these classes have evolved and continue to give students experience in potential career fields. Students are offered courses through local colleges. The continuance of the Hersheys' mission to educate students beyond the classroom holds true today and shows that career exploration is a staple of the Milt experience that I, and all my peers, share with Billy.

William "Billy" Finnie's letters had a deep impact on me. I felt for the first time that being a Milt is truly a timeless experience, regardless of when you graduated or what student home you lived in. More than anything, I felt connected to Billy; I heard his voice through the words he put on paper and felt his personality. I saw who he was beyond his signature on the letters; he is a Milt above all things, and thus he is my brother—a brother who I watched grow up by reading 228 letters written during the span of four years. I saw a sweet boy learn, mature, and grow into a young man with dreams and aspirations for his future. Most of all, I saw every one of my MHS brothers and sisters through the words of William "Billy" Finnie. 📖

## THANK YOU to Our Donors

Thank you to all who donated or shared historical materials with the Milton Hershey School Heritage Center at Kinderhaus as of March 2, 2022. If we inadvertently missed listing your gift, please contact us so we can include recognition in the next issue of Thy Traditions Dear. 📖

Roger Davidson | Donna Gerhold, daughter of the late David Gerhold '41 | William Gordon '61

John Grab, MHSAA Honorary Member | Ruth Holp, MHSAA Honorary Member | Linda Jones, daughter of the late William Moore '48

Bruce McKinney '55 | Lois Peterman, MHSAA Honorary Member

Candy Ressetar, daughter of the late Howard "Chuck" Gordon '57 | Cristal Sheaffer, MHSAA Honorary Member

Louise Swartzbaugh, MHSAA Honorary Member | William Way '64

"[B]eing a Milt is truly a timeless experience, regardless of when you graduated or what student home you lived in." — ABBIGAIL COX '22



# Grad's Career Sparked by COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY LEILANIE TORRES '22, ALUMNI RELATIONS INTERN

Vincent Donaghey '15 is a registered nurse in the emergency department at UPMC West Shore Hospital. He believes his relief houseparents at Milton Hershey School, the Hoffmans, were instrumental in his journey to this point in his life and career. Vincent described the Hoffmans as people he could have a conversation with and “the kind of people that pushed you out of your comfort zone.”

Vincent learned about MHS from a postcard mailing, and he enrolled his junior year. He said the MHS community grew on him, and he quickly decided that MHS was his “best shot” to help him escape an uncontrollable environment. He challenged himself academically and

took advantage of opportunities to get involved at the school and in the community.

He enrolled in the health sciences career pathway and fell in love with the emergency services aspect of the pathway as a junior firefighter with the Hershey Fire Department. Vincent earned the MHS Alumni Achievement Award for Community Service his senior year for his volunteer work with the fire department.

“Without the opportunity to participate in the extracurricular activity of running with the fire department and getting to know the firemen, I never would have thought of entering a field having to do with providing care for patients,” Vincent said.

His journey toward becoming a nurse, however, did not follow a direct path. Initially, after graduating from MHS, he enrolled at Lehigh University to pursue a bioengineering degree. He realized partway through the program that engineering was not for him. He began volunteering with the fire department in the area, and they paid for him to attend classes to become an emergency medical technician (EMT). He then worked for Penn State Health Life Lion Emergency Medical Services and Critical Care Transport for a short time. Eventually, he approached



his MHS higher education support specialist about his interest in the nursing program at Harrisburg Area Community College. MHS Graduate Programs for Success staff worked with him to develop a plan. Vincent graduated from HACC in 2021 and has been working as a nurse since.

MHS prepared Vincent for the demands of a nursing program. He knew how to establish a well-structured academic schedule and learned how to study during his senior year.

In the process of graduating from college, he found a job on Indeed. Having applied to be an emergency room nurse, he quickly transitioned to work in the cardiothoracic intensive care unit, where he provided post-operative care for patients who had open-heart surgery or experienced heart failure.



*“Without the opportunity to participate in the extracurricular activity of running with the fire department and getting to know the firemen, I never would have thought of entering a field having to do with providing care for patients.”*

— VINCENT DONAGHEY '15

To better prepare himself to work in critical care, Vincent took a class on the subject. By taking the critical care class, he had the opportunity to see and understand warning signs, like heart rhythms, firsthand. He learned how to recognize and treat cases right away, and his training included hands-on education in addition to the classroom.

Vincent has since transitioned to working in an emergency department at UPMC West Shore. As many nurses do, he works three 12-hour shifts, which he described as both physically and mentally challenging.

Beyond his job as a nurse, Vincent volunteers as a fireman for the Upper Allen Fire Department. In addition, he and his wife juggle their work schedules to share in the care of their infant daughter.

When it comes to post-MHS decisions,

Vincent wants MHS students and alumni to not fear new things, because you might be surprised what you learn. His volunteer work as a fireman led to his earning an EMT certification, creating a good foundation for him to pursue a nursing degree, a process known as stacking credentials.

MHS college and career counselors work with students in high school to help them identify a career field and develop a plan to prepare for their career, but sometimes, through experiences after MHS, graduates discover a pathway that is a better fit for their personality, life goals, and skills.

“GPS staff are here to help recent graduates manage those types of changes and how they can best use the resources available to them to achieve their goals,”

said Sheila Ciotti, MHS director of College and Career Readiness. “For some graduates, stacking credentials, similar to what Vincent did, is a great approach to prepare for high-demand, well-paying occupations—many of which are in, but not limited to, the health care field,” Sheila said.

To learn more about short-term training programs for high demand jobs, scan the QR code.



**“GPS staff are here to help graduates manage career planning, changes to their plans, and available resources to achieve their goals.” — SHEILA CIOTTI, MHS DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS.**

Left: Vincent graduated with a nursing degree from Harrisburg Area Community College in 2021. Pictured with him is his wife, Haleigh.

Top Center: Vincent has been working as a nurse since he finished his degree.

Top Right: Community service remains important to Vincent. He is a volunteer fireman with Upper Allen Fire Department.





# MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL

## Graduates 217 Seniors at 88th Commencement Ceremony

**O**n Sunday, June 12, Milton Hershey School students, staff, parents/sponsors, alumni, and community members gathered at Giant Center to honor the Class of 2022 at the school's 88th Commencement Ceremony. The ceremony, which included personal recognition of each graduating senior, student speeches, videos to honor their MHS journeys, and more, represented the first time that the MHS community has been back together at Giant Center in several years.

Each year, Commencement marks the end of a chapter for our graduating class and the beginning of a new journey—joining more than 11,000 MHS alumni who have walked this path before them. Through the Alumni of the Year award, MHS recognizes a graduate who has gone above and beyond in their career, community, and commitment to the mission and values of the school. The 2021 Alumnus of the Year and retired MHS teacher, Chris Cook '81, addressed the graduates and crowd with an inspirational message.

Prior to the presentation of diplomas, MHS President Pete Gurt '85 reminded graduates that while the last two years have presented new challenges, their resilience has shined in more ways than one.

"You are Spartans," he shared. "Those setbacks did not deter you from excelling in what you were able to do. You understood that every obstacle had an opportunity, and you focused on that opportunity. That's what Spartans do."

These 217 students graduated from high school, defying the statistics and societal obstacles that said they wouldn't. These

young adults fulfill Mr. and Mrs. Hershey's vision, embarking on a new adventure. We can't wait to see all they accomplish!

For additional details and to watch Commencement-related videos, scan the QR code. 📱



## Senior Recipients of Alumni-Sponsored Awards Connect with Alumni at Awards Luncheon

Forty-two Milton Hershey School seniors received alumni-sponsored awards at the Alumni-Student Awards Luncheon on May 15. The awards are sponsored by the MHS Alumni Association, Dearden Foundation, and several individual alumni. Many of the awards have a financial component that were presented during the Senior Awards Ceremony.



### Recipient

Rebecca Amanor  
Joshua Bocio

Taijay Brown

Symyra Byrd

Maggie Creech  
Desiree Cropek

Jacob Edwards  
Pride Award  
Skylar Jacko

Madeline Marchese

Edyn Marsland  
Elizabeth Pace

Kyle Russell  
Arlene Samayoa-Rodas

Haley Shurock

Serenity Williams

Martrecia Zoegar

### Award

McAndrews Award  
Robin and Zuleika Ferrer Healthcare  
Leadership Award  
Dick Purcell Career Technical Education  
Award  
MHSAA Homestead Chapter Spartan  
Pride Award  
MHSAA Stamp Committee Award  
William E. Dearden Emerging  
Leadership Award  
MHSAA Homestead Chapter Spartan

Henry "Hank" Torres Spirit Award and  
Memorial Scholarship  
Brown-Oliver Enterprising Student  
Award

McAndrews Award  
Hershey Entertainment & Resorts  
Culinary Scholarship  
MHSAA Stamp Committee Award  
MHSAA Milton & Catherine Hershey  
Citizenship Award  
MHSAA Harrisburg Chapter Career  
Technical Education Award  
Dick Purcell Career Technical Education  
Award  
Ethos Scholarship Award

### MHS Lifers

Miracle Borchert  
Savannah Bryant  
Bradley Connolly  
Cyahni Daniels-Frazier  
Jaylah Gaspard  
Logan Gates  
Tyana Godbee  
Linden Gregory  
Kya Han  
Logan Haynes  
Joshua Kelly  
Damodrick Kreiser

Matthew Leach  
George Nagbe  
Victoria Nordin  
Egypt Poellnitz  
Jazmine Reyes  
Kyle Russell  
Jayden Salcedo  
Arlene Samayoa-Rodas  
Dawson Scharein  
Cody Shade  
Niyahni Spears  
Austin Trakney  
Justice Vaux  
Yolanda Wheeler







# Milton Hershey School Seniors Participate in End-of-Year Activities

For Milton Hershey School seniors, the weeks before Commencement represented the beginning of the end. As students finished their final school days, celebration, and excitement for Commencement was seen across campus. MHS graduates participated in several activities that gave them time with each other and time to reflect on their journeys at the school.

On May 26, Graduate Programs for Success staff partnered with Transitional Living and SGA to host an outdoor celebration for all seniors in honor of finalizing their postsecondary plans, including college, trade school, certificate programs, and the military.

In mid-May, seniors paraded through the halls of the Elementary and Middle Division school buildings—the same buildings where they first became students at MHS.

On Sunday, June 5, seniors and their families participated in their final chapel service and awards ceremony. The event featured several student speakers, musical numbers, and messages from campus leadership.

President Pete Gurt '85 addressed the Class of 2022, reminding them of the importance of the time they had to reflect in the week ahead and before they graduated. Pastor Mike Wagner, former Director of Religious Programs, challenged seniors to find their own definition of success. Following the chapel service, many students were recognized with awards for their achievements inside and outside the classroom.

Awards were not the only gift that seniors received during the week. As a part of a special ceremony on Tuesday, June 7, each member of the Class of 2022 was gifted their MHS class ring. The ring—not having changed for more than 80 years—symbolizes three things: sacrifice, opportunity, and gratitude. President Gurt took this moment to share with his younger MHS brothers and sisters the importance of the class ring.

The last day of classes, seniors were greeted by staff as they walked for the last time from Transitional Living to William R. Fisher Senior Hall.

Throughout the remainder of the week, seniors spent an evening at Hersheypark, took their class trip to Guppy Gulch, a water park, and they finished out the week preparing for their prom. 🎉



## Taking the Next Step at Milton Hershey School

The end of another school year at Milton Hershey School also marked a transition for fourth- and eighth-grade students. For our youngest students in pre-K and kindergarten, this time of year also included adventures and opportunities as they transitioned to new classrooms.

We talked with four Elementary and Middle Division students about their experiences, what they're most excited about, and what they'll miss most.

### Lexie Flasher, MHS Kindergartener

#### How have you grown in the last year?

"I definitely got taller while I was in kindergarten. Also, I learned how to be nice to people, because I like it when people are nice to me. When I'm in first grade, I'm going to grow even more!"

### Ameruh and Amyrah Stevens, MHS Fourth-Graders

#### What will you miss the most about Elementary Division?

Amyrah: "I'm going to miss my teachers, houseparents, and all of the friends I've made. I've learned a lot in Elementary Division, but when I get to Middle Division, I'll learn even more, which is exciting."

Ameruh: "When I move to Middle Division, I'm going to miss my houseparents who I've grown really close to. They've been really kind to me, and I'm grateful I know them."

### Zaira Postell, MHS Eighth-Grader

#### How have you grown while in Middle Division?

"I've learned the importance of having a support system and how to work towards my own definition of success. The skills I've gained in middle school will only develop further in high school." 🧠

## Senior Stats

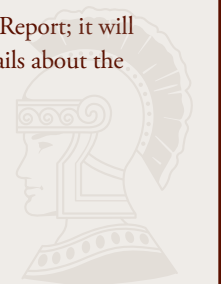
The Class of 2022 faced many challenges during their time at MHS, but they continued to achieve and set the bar higher for those who will come after them. As a class, they

- **Volunteered more than 1,350 hours toward community service projects**
- **Earned 1,103 college credits**
- **Accrued \$17.1 million in the Continuing Education Scholarship funds**

Among the graduates are 55 National Honor Society members and 39 National Technical Honor Society members.

Members of the class plan to pursue a range of opportunities, including, four-year college, two-year college and technical school, diploma and certificate programs, the workforce, gap semester or year, and the military.

Watch for the next edition of the MHS Brown & Gold Report; it will include additional details about the Class of 2022.

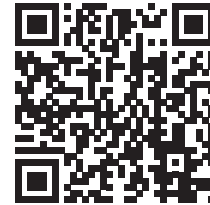




## Alumni and Seniors Connect in Person During Alumni Fellowship Weekend

**M**ilton Hershey School and the MHS Alumni Association thank the alumni who participated in events throughout Alumni Fellowship Weekend, April 8-10. The weekend began with a Career Expo where alumni and MHS industry partners talked with sophomores during panel discussions. That night, alumni hosted more than 200 members of the Class of 2022 for the 66th Alumni-Senior Fellowship Dinner. Guest speakers for the event were 2021 Alumna of the Year, Christine (Brennan) Cook '81, and 2020 Alumnus of the Year, Charles "Chuck" Seidel '87. The weekend continued with a traditional alumni breakfast and the Presidents' Reception on Saturday and finished with a Senior Reception on Sunday at Catherine Hall. 🍷

To view additional photos from Alumni Fellowship Weekend 2022, scan the QR code.





# MHS Honors Outstanding Alumni and Student Achievements

Milton Hershey School proudly honored three outstanding graduates and three members of the Class of 2022 with Alumni Achievement Awards at the 66th Alumni-Senior Fellowship Dinner on April 8. The annual awards, introduced in 1997, honor graduates and seniors for academic, career, and community service accomplishments.

## Alumni Recipients

### Adzua Agyapon '07, Career Accomplishment



**A**dzua is director of policy and advocacy at the KIPP Foundation. In this role, she leads, develops, and executes strategies to advance federal and state policy that—in alignment with KIPP’s mission and vision—dismantles structural barriers and puts kids on the path to opportunity. This includes advancing policies that support excellent schools, stabilize families, and create more just communities.

Adzua previously served as a senior policy advisor for U.S. Senator Bennet, senior senator from Colorado. In this role, she oversaw, advised, and developed the senator’s education, labor, and child nutrition legislative priorities. In 2018, she worked as a policy fellow through the Urban Leaders Fellowship in Atlanta. As a fellow, she worked with the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students. She also developed affordable housing policy recommendations for the Atlanta City Council.

Adzua began her career with Teach for America (TFA) in Metro Atlanta, where she worked as an elementary special education teacher. After TFA, she joined KIPP STRIVE Primary, where she was a kindergarten teacher, grade level chair, and instructional coach. In 2017, she was a candidate for the Atlanta Board of Education. As a first-time candidate, Adzua and her team planned and executed a grassroots campaign. Adzua managed five staff members and more than 50 volunteers to knock on over 2,000 doors, raise \$58,000, and defeat three candidates to advance to the runoff.

Adzua earned her bachelor’s degree from Yale University, where she studied American studies with a concentration in politics and American communities. She received the MHS Alumni Achievement Award for Community Service her senior year. 🏆

### Alphonso Nathan '05, Community Service



**A**lphonso is vice president of Brightside Counseling Services and co-owner of Brightside Medical Associates, LLC. A therapist and author who speaks on Black trauma and healing, he is a celebrated gem in the black and brown mental health community. Alphonso has been featured in numerous publications, podcasts, and interviews. In service to MHS, Alphonso volunteered as a key speaker and facilitator for an alumni mental health virtual program in January 2021. He also participated in focus groups about mental health with other alumni.

Alphonso volunteers and assists in the growth of the Black Men Heal organization, associated with Charlamagne tha God’s Mental Wealth Foundation. “Kings Corner” is a free open discussion forum for black men to express their feelings with licensed mental health professionals. He also continues to work on campaigns with Taraji P. Henson’s Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation, focusing on mental health and Black youth.

Alphonso has been a regular guest commentator on the number-one syndicated morning radio show in Philadelphia, “Rise Grind Morning Show,” featuring Roxy Romeo, Mikey Dreads, and Mother Knows. His pseudonym, “Phonz the Therapist,” is a way for him to connect with his target market and the youth of the black and brown communities. “Representation is the most important step in breaking the stigma of mental health in the black community,” said Alphonso. “I am making mental health ‘cool’ and being the voice of the mental health culture. This generation admires Pop Culture.”

Alphonso is creating a docuseries titled “Healing the Culture,” that will give viewers a “fly-on-the-wall” perspective into a live therapy session with celebrities and tastemakers in the entertainment industry. His YouTube mini-series, “Phonz the Therapist Presents: Search for Self-Care,” features Alphonso traveling to various places to interview innovators, creatives, and entrepreneurs who are promoting self-care and healthy living in their own way. 🏆

### Jessica Bell '14, Academic Excellence



**J**essica graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience and biology from Dickinson College in 2018. Since February 2021, she has been working as a research specialist at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine in Hyejung Won’s lab studying the genetics of neuropsychiatric and neurodevelopmental disorders. She is studying for the MCAT and plans to apply to MD/PhD programs in May.

After graduation from Dickinson, she joined the lab of Elizabeth Engle, M.D. at Boston Children’s Hospital as a research assistant to study the molecular mechanisms of several eye movement disorders. Jessica worked under the supervision of Mary Whitman, M.D., Ph.D. until she helped Dr. Whitman establish her own lab. She volunteered weekly in the hospital’s emergency department and continued to volunteer with her college’s Admissions Office.

At Dickinson, Jessica was active with Alpha Phi Omega, Dickinson College Dog House, service trips to West Virginia and Guatemala, Neuroscience Club, and Don’t Conceal to Heal. She volunteered with the Admissions Office as a tour guide and student interviewer. She also organized and led pre-orientation programming for incoming first-year students for two consecutive years and served as a first-year mentor.

Jessica’s undergraduate honors research thesis in the lab of Professor Mary Niblock, Ph.D. focused on delineating the timeline of respiratory development and the activation of respiratory nuclei in the brainstem. As an undergraduate research assistant, she also worked on research that focused on extracting compounds from marine plants and observing how they modulate the accumulation of amyloid-beta aggregates in vitro. Jessica has numerous scholarly publications.

She continues to volunteer with Dickinson’s Admissions Office, and in her free time, she plays soccer, takes pottery classes, rock climbs, and hikes with her rescue dog Bernie. 🏆

## Class of 2022 Vanessa Frimpong, Career Accomplishment



**V**anessa enrolled at MHS as a sixth-grader and excelled in academic and career preparation. She was involved in student leadership and community service and earned several honors.

Vanessa was president of the Class of 2022 and was active with the Student Government Association and the Hershey Project Planning Committee. In addition, she was a member of the varsity volleyball team and served as a student ambassador with the MHS Admissions Office. In support of her career aspirations, she completed a Career and Technical Education internship at the MHS Supply Center.

In the area of community service, Vanessa has supported younger MHS students by volunteering for the Middle Division Christmas Activity Night and the Elementary Division Halloween activities.

She continued to hold herself to a high standard, and her efforts were recognized with her induction into the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. She also received an MHS Visionary Award, was named to the Distinguished Honor Roll, and was honored as a Rotary Student of the Month. 🏆

### Symyra Byrd, Community Service



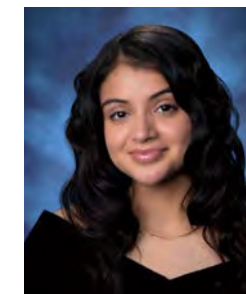
**S**ymyra enrolled at MHS as a fourth-grader. She was actively engaged in the MHS community throughout the years, while also maintaining high academic standards.

As the president of the Student Government Association, Symyra held leadership roles in the SGA and the M.O.L.D. mentoring program. She was active in the Mock Trial competition and was a member of Hershey Community Youth Alliance and Four-Ever Connect. Symyra was inducted into National Honor Society and honored as a Rotary Student of the Month.

She took advantage of additional learning opportunities by participating in communications internships with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts and the MHS Office of Communications.

Symyra’s postsecondary plans include earning a bachelor’s degree in legal studies. 🏆

### Arlene Samayoa-Rodas, Academic Excellence



**A**rlene enrolled at MHS in 2009 as a kindergartner. Throughout high school, she flourished in academics, athletics, and community service.

Arlene was active in a variety of MHS programs, including the Student Government Association, the M.O.L.D. mentoring program, varsity soccer, and softball. Through her academic achievement, she earned induction into the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. In addition, she was awarded a Gold Key in the Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art and Writing competition and was honored as a Rotary Student of the Month.

Arlene also demonstrated her commitment to the community beyond MHS by participating in an internship at Building Our Pride in Chambersburg. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in nursing as the first step toward becoming a nurse practitioner. 🏆



## Alumni Volunteers Support Personal Development Programs for Senior Division Girls and Boys



In March, Milton Hershey School hosted leadership and empowerment programs for Senior Division boys and girls. The annual Girls Grace Empowerment Conference marked its sixth anniversary with 120 high school girls participating. The Boys' Leadership Conference was offered for the very first time. Alumni volunteered as facilitators and panelists for both events.

Girls Grace is an overnight lock-in event—including panels, workshops, hands-on activities, food, and time to network with MHS female staff and alumnae. It was originally created to provide a space where the young women at MHS could come

together and be their authentic selves, while growing alongside their peers and female mentors. The event has grown and continues to be a way for MHS students to learn about themselves, while growing in their character and leadership skills.

"Girls Grace is an event that I wish I had a chance as a student to attend. Being able to come back and run workshops and sit on the alumnae panel was so nostalgic," shared Victoria Warne '12, MHS alumna. "Young women truly need these events as they learn to truly love themselves each and every day. I am looking forward to future events to help our MHS girls love and respect themselves."

The Boys' Leadership Seminar was structured to be a space for male high school students to ask questions about what life looks like after graduation. These crucial discussions were built around the MHS Sacred Values and the Compass Project—the school's character development curriculum. The event—a collaboration between the MHS Student Character and Leadership and Alumni Relations departments—featured a panel discussion and breakout sessions with male alumni from various personal and professional backgrounds.

"I love an event that students can walk away from and say 'I'm really thankful I decided to go—that was impactful,'" shared Tylor Teel '11, MHS Transitional Living Assistant and moderator of the alumni panel. "Seeing our students and alumni connect in ways that produced raw and meaningful conversations is something I am thankful that I was able to witness." 🙌

### Opportunities for Alumni to Give Back

You know what it takes to impact MHS students. Use your time, talent, and unique experience as a Milt to make a positive difference in the lives of fellow Spartans.

Scan the QR code to learn more about opportunities to support current students, recent graduates, and other alumni.



## MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL Graduate Programs for Success Division Supports Career Exploration for Students

To encourage Milton Hershey School students to explore the range of career opportunities available after high school, Milton Hershey School's Graduate Programs for Success Division (GPS) hosted several events throughout the year for Senior Division students and recruited alumni volunteers to support the programs in Elementary and Middle Division. The events highlighted a range of opportunities in various career fields.

Key components of the career readiness process are self-awareness and career awareness. Events like the Postsecondary Fair help students become more aware of the range of careers within various industries. At MHS, college and career counselors work closely with high school students to develop career preparation plans that align with students' personalities, skills, and aptitudes to help them become future ready.

Beyond high school, GPS provides resources to MHS graduates as they pursue career plans they created with their counselors. The Continuing Education Scholarship, accrued during high school, can be used for diploma and certificate programs, apprenticeships, and two- and four-year degrees. In addition, higher education support specialists and a career support specialist are available to help guide graduates as they navigate short-term training programs, apprenticeships, trade school, the military, world of work, or college.

### Postsecondary Fair for Juniors



In March, GPS hosted a postsecondary fair for juniors. Students participated in sessions with representatives from approximately 50 organizations, including colleges, trade schools, and organizations that offer diplomas,

certificates, and apprenticeships. The event also included military recruiters and employers.

### Go R.E.D. Family Reading Night for Elementary Division Students



Alumni Relations partnered with the Elementary Division to recruit alumni for the in-person return of the Go R.E.D.—Read Every

Day—Family Reading Night in March. More than 20 alumni stepped up as guest readers. The event is part of a program designed to encourage students to develop a consistent reading routine and a genuine love for books. The books for this year's program featured careers, and alumni were encouraged to come dressed in work attire or bring props related to their jobs.

### Career Expo for Sophomores



To kick off Alumni Fellowship Weekend in April, MHS high school sophomores

met with alumni, MHS employees, and employees of local businesses to learn more about jobs within the various MHS career pathway. Students were able to ask questions about workplace experience, educational background, professional development, and career advancement.

### Career-Focused Education Nights for Middle Division Students



In May, the MHS Middle Division hosted the very first

Career-Focused Education Nights for students in grades 5-8. Alumni, community members, and staff shared information about their careers during interactive sessions to help increase students' awareness of career opportunities.

Thank you to the alumni and community partners who volunteered for each of the programs. To view a list of alumni who volunteered for events throughout the year, visit [mhsalum.org](https://mhsalum.org). Details about opportunities for alumni to support student programs are also available at [mhsalum.org](https://mhsalum.org). Select the Give Back tab at the top of the page. 🙌

### MHS Values Alumni Support for School Community

A key component of Milton Hershey School's strategic plan, the MILT Plan, focuses on the value of community, including alumni. Among the goals is to deepen the sense of belonging, contributions, and collaboration among staff, students, parents/sponsors, and alumni to strengthen the school community.

Milton Hershey School values the contributions of alumni to student programs throughout the year. Scan the QR code to see how many alumni stepped up to volunteer for student programs during the 2021-22 school year.



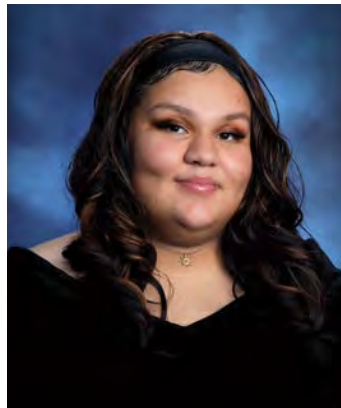




Joshua Bocio '22



Martrecia Zoegar '22



Virginia Cartagena '22



Liliana Yeagley '22

## New Alumni-Funded Awards Presented During Commencement 2022

Three new scholarships were presented to members of the Milton Hershey School Class of 2022 during the senior awards ceremony in June. The awards were created by alumni to support the new graduates in their pursuit of postsecondary education.

The Robin and Zuleika Ferrer Healthcare Leadership Award, was established in 2022 by Robin Ferrer '00 and his wife, Zuleika, for an MHS senior who plans to pursue a postsecondary degree in health science. Robin enrolled at MHS at the age of 13 after experiencing hardship and poverty in New York City. Robin's parents immigrated from Cuba and he was raised solely by his mother after his father's death in 1986. When Robin was about 12 years old, his mother was incarcerated, and she met a Catholic priest, Father Benjamin, who told her about MHS. After learning about the opportunities, Robin's mother took a taxi from New York City to Pennsylvania to tour the school. She was convinced MHS could provide what she could not. Several weeks later, Robin and his family received a phone call informing them of his acceptance. That day remains the most joyous and impactful day in Robin's life and one that would set the course for where he is now. It is out of gratitude for the impact MHS has had on Robin's life that this award was created. The first recipient of the award is Joshua Bocio '22.

The Ethos Scholarship Award was created in 2022 by Corey Dupree '09 and Johnna Tansimore '07 to benefit an MHS senior who plans to pursue a postsecondary degree in education. The scholarship was funded by proceeds from the Layers of Black History Gala, hosted by Corey and Johnna in February, which was Black History Month. The scholarship will benefit a student who found ways to serve their respective communities, specifically through engagement of youth, academic achievement, and community service during high

school. The first recipient of the award is Martrecia Zoegar '22.

The Lewis K. Webster Legacy Scholarship was created to honor the legacy and memory of Lewis Webster and his tireless effort to champion diversity in education and all the students he served for so many years at MHS. The scholarship committee members, led by Deesha Dyer '95, and consisting of Kayvon Asemani '14, Jon Branam '96, Leroy Galloway, retired MHS teacher and track coach; Stephanie McDonald '86; and Aisha Stroop '94; worked alongside the Webster family to develop several scholarships, at least one of which will benefit an MHS senior who plans to pursue a postsecondary degree in education. Web was a beloved teacher, coach, friend, and mentor in the MHS community for over 35 years. He passed away on Jan. 15, 2020, leaving a legacy that is unmatched. He believed deeply in higher education and always encouraged his students to pursue college, find joy in life, and follow their calling. For him, that was education. He loved MHS, and those around him always respected his honesty and friendship. The first MHS recipients of the awards are Virginia Cartagena '22 and Liliana Yeagley '22. 🙌

To view all awards presented during the senior awards ceremony, scan the QR code.



## Alumni Reconnect at MHS Regional Events

The Milton Hershey School Alumni Relations staff were happy to return to hosting in-person regional events during the 2021-22 school year. Alumni and MHS staff connected at a regional reception in February at Manhattan Manor in New York City and in April at Café Fresco in downtown Harrisburg. Graduates networked, received updates about MHS, and discovered ways to give back to the MHS community.

Visit [mhsalum.org](https://mhsalum.org) to view photos from various alumni events and learn more about opportunities for alumni to get involved in student programs. 🙌



Top: Alumni were happy to attend an in-person event at Manhattan Manor in New York City in February.

Bottom: Alumni from Central Pennsylvania connected with each other at Café Fresco in downtown Harrisburg in April.

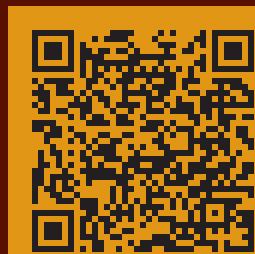


Barbara Polk '84

## Alumna Establishes Award to Assist Recent Graduates Pursuing Postsecondary Education

The Barbara Polk Award was established in 2022 by Barbara Polk '84 to recognize a young graduate who has demonstrated high academic achievement in their postsecondary studies and has minimal family support and a high level of financial need.

Each year, the award will provide scholarship assistance to a graduate who is no more than six years from their MHS graduation date and has successfully completed at least one year of postsecondary education. The very first recipient of the award is Sandra Good-Gonzales '19, who is a student at Widener University. 🙌



## Nominate a Graduate for an Alumni Award

MHS accepts nominations for the Alumnus/na of the Year and Alumni Achievement Awards throughout the year. Nominations received by Oct. 1, 2022 will be added to the candidate review list for the 2023 awards. For nomination details, scan the QR code.





## A Note from the MHS Alumni Association President

Dear Alumni:

The MHS Alumni Association is pleased to welcome our newest members, the Class of 2022! I was able to join members of the class in the closing weeks of life at MHS, a journey that allowed other alumni and me to connect with our newest alumni brothers and sisters.

During the past year, we have been slowly resuming traditional activities. In March, we hosted the first Alumni-Senior Fellowship Dinner since March 2019. It was a tremendous success as we honored the more than 200 members of the Class of 2022. Since the number of students per class continues to grow, we encourage more alumni to support the Alumni-Senior Fellowship Dinner and other rites of passage for seniors as we honor our traditions.

Thank you to those who participated in the Presidents' Reception during Fellowship Weekend. The event, jointly hosted by MHS President Pete Gurt '85 and me, was a tremendous evening highlighted by great food, fellowship, and entertainment by MHS students and recent graduates. This special event helped fund senior awards sponsored by MHSAA.

The MHSAA-supported awards for seniors were presented at the Senior Awards Ceremony in June. Graduating seniors received \$67,800 in scholarships, and many were sponsored by MHSAA and its chapters, foundations, and individual alumni. These scholarships are in addition to the MHS Continuing Education Scholarship funds accrued by students during high school.

To build connections with alumni where they live, MHSAA leadership participated in regional events with the MHS Alumni Relations Office. We shared updates about MHSAA, the school, and opportunities for alumni to support students and staff, including information about recruiting for career and enrollment opportunities.

MHSAA is also collaborating with Alumni Relations to plan an in-person Homecoming celebration Oct. 13-16, 2022. If Alumni Fellowship Weekend was any indication, we will have an amazing weekend, so watch for the Homecoming brochure in Spartan Minute and your mailbox.

The Association also continues to work with President Gurt and Board of Managers Chair Diane Koken to improve our communication and involvement. We appreciate the opportunity to have a voice with the Board of Managers and to offer input in matters important to the Deed of Trust and the mission.

It's been two years since MHS announced the creation of Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning. Your Association leadership has been keeping a close eye on this initiative, and we expect it will change the lives of even more young people who will benefit from the philanthropy of Mr. and Mrs. Hershey.

As your Association continues to advance our mission in support of Mr. and Mrs. Hershey's legacy, we seek your support. It takes all of us. Join us in giving back to MHS—the home and school that richly blessed so many children.

We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming 2022. 🐰

All the best,  
John Foley '83  
MHS Alumni Association President

## MHS Homecoming 2022 Scheduled for Oct. 13-16



Milton Hershey School Homecoming 2022 is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 13 through Sunday, Oct. 16. Information for the 2022 festivities will soon be available, so watch Spartan Minute and your mailbox for details.

Class agents, please contact Amanda Kidhardt in the MHS Alumni Relations Office to share details about your reunion plans and learn about support that is available to classes planning reunions. Amanda may be reached by phone, 717.520.2031, or by email to [kidhardta@mhs-pa.org](mailto:kidhardta@mhs-pa.org). 🐰

## Volunteer to Serve as a Memorial Grove Host During Homecoming 2022



The Memorial Grove Service during Homecoming provides an opportunity for the Milton Hershey School Alumni Association to honor alumni who have passed away. As part of the service, alumni hosts are paired with families of our brothers and sisters who have passed on. If you are interested in volunteering to host a family or assist in some other way with the Memorial Grove Service, please call the MHSAA Office at 717.520.2045 or email [alumnimhsaa@comcast.net](mailto:alumnimhsaa@comcast.net). 🐰

## CHAPTER NEWS Harrisburg Chapter



In April, the Harrisburg Chapter, with the help of MHS staff and Year-Round Experience students, hosted an Easter party for 20 elementary students who stayed at MHS for the holiday. The students were visited by the Easter Bunny's cousin and a giant, animated carrot. Hershey Volunteer Fire Company also surprised the students with a visit from their rescue tanker truck.

## Homestead Chapter

MHSAA Homestead Chapter members gathered on Sunday, March 13 for a Chicken Barbeque and food drive to benefit the MHS Food Bank. Alumni and MHS seniors had an opportunity to share a meal and visit. The event raised more than \$2,000 in donations and gift cards.

The chapter also sponsored its traditional Spartan Pride awards for two graduating seniors. The awards were presented to

## DMV Chapter



The MHSAA DC Chapter remains active in the alumni and school communities. Most recently, on May 15, the chapter participated in the Alumni-Senior Awards Luncheon where it presented the MHSAA DC Community Service Award to graduating senior, Wyatt

## Honorary Member Chapter



The Honorary Member Chapter sponsored gifts for MHS Lifers, and they were presented to 26 members of the Class of 2022 at the Alumni-Student Awards Luncheon in May. "Lifer" designation is given to students who enrolled at MHS in first grade or earlier and remained at MHS through graduation.

In February, the chapter held its meeting at Kinderhaus and

The chapter also worked with MHS National Honor Society students and staff in May for a service project at The Bridge Eco-Village in Harrisburg. Garry Gilliam '09 is founder and CEO of The Bridge, which is working to turn the former Bishop McDevitt building into a comprehensive mixed-use agriculture and innovation education center. More than 30 students, alumni, and staff worked to help create terraced planting beds where community members will be able to grow sustainable crops in what were once McDevitt's stadium bleachers.

The chapter also sponsored its traditional Career and Technical Education Award for a senior. The award was presented to Haley Shurock '22 during the senior awards ceremony in June. 🐰



Symyra Byrd '22 and Jacob Edwards '22 during the senior awards ceremony in June. 🐰

Oatman '22. In addition, the chapter continues to plan events and opportunities for MHS alumni and their families. Spartans Go Camping will be held July 29 and 30 at the Low Water Bridge Campground in Bentonville, Virginia. For details, visit [www.mhsaad.org/camping](http://www.mhsaad.org/camping). Also, tickets for a drawing to win a lifetime membership in MHSAA are available on the chapter website. Future opportunities include an upcoming Fall Ring Raffle and the opportunity to purchase a T-shirt designed by the chapter, at Homecoming in October. 🐰



enjoyed a presentation by Susan Alger, coordinator of Heritage School History. The chapter continues to meet each month. 🐰



1940s

**Anthony Perry ’42**, of Parkesburg, wrote, “I never thought I would reach 98 years.”

**F. Tait Douglas ’45**, of Sun City, Ariz., retired from softball two years ago. He reports he is doing fine and in good health. He has many friends and enjoys keeping up with student home Harris children and houseparents, the Powells.

**Harold Hacker ’45**, of Langhorne, mourns the loss of his wife, Margaret, who died in November 2021.

**Ira Geisinger ’49**, of Indianapolis, Ind., has been living a full, happy life. He says, for his age, his health is good except for needing a cane or walker. He reminisces a lot about his days at HIS and his ’49 classmates.

1950s

**Arthur King ’50**, of Pleasant Gap, is a new resident at The Oaks retirement community. He has two adult children and three grandchildren. His oldest granddaughter passed away in November 2020.

**Raymond Ballard ’51**, of Bethlehem, has been working part time as a clerk at Wegmans for 20 years. He has played in a nine-hole golf league for 25 years.

**Sylvester Buszta ’51**, of Pottstown, retired at age 88. He and his wife, Dorothy, have been married for 60 years.

**Carl Evans ’51**, of Duncansville, and his wife, Donna, have been married for 64 years.

**Charles Hess ’51**, of Southern Shores, N.C., celebrated his 89th birthday on March 12, 2022.

**Edwin Hill ’51**, of West Chester, lives in the same house he and his wife bought in 1965. His daughter, a widower, and granddaughter live with him. His son lives just seven miles away. He says his main job now is keeping the rocking chair rocking.

**George Marks ’51**, of Cumming, Ga., recently celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends. A video tribute was posted to Facebook in his honor.

**John Resanovich ’51**, of Lebanon, celebrated his 70th MHS Homecoming with his daughter, Dawn, and his classmates, having a delicious brunch at Catherine Hall. The building for him was Senior Hall, and it brought back many happy and pleasant memories. Because of Milton and Catherine’s vision and generosity, John says he received a good education.

**Frank Mahoney ’52**, of Camino, Calif., has traveled on the Princess Cruise Line for trips to Hawaii and Alaska. He has three sons, six grandkids, and one great-grandson.

**Gilbert Murray ’52**, of Richmond, Va., is enjoying retirement.

**Cloyd Bare ’53**, of North Bend, Ore., moved into an independent living community.

**Ronald Achey ’54**, of Lititz, celebrated his 21st wedding anniversary with his wife, Barbara, on Valentine’s Day. He is semi-retired from auto sales after 55 years in the business and works on his old car and toy car collections.

**Glenn Good ’54**, moved to Brethren Village in Lititz.

**Bruce Benson ’55**, of Parrish, Fla., and his wife, Carol, have been married 44 years. They have five children, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Their son, Joe, died in March 2021.

**Franklin Leathery ’55**, of Orlando, Fla., enjoys retirement and looks forward to another birthday in December 2022. He says hello to all remaining 1955 classmates.

**George Schumacher ’56**, of Perkasio, enjoys working on his 1966 Corvette convertible.

**James Crowther ’57**, of Mount Royal, N.J., and his wife, Georgeine, have been married for 62 years.

**Ronald Hockenbrocht ’57**, of Temple, Texas, says he is not doing much but helping with cooking at The Elks. He said he hoped all remaining members of the Class of 1957 are OK.

**Joseph Matisak ’57**, of Montgomery, Ala., celebrated his 83rd birthday with family and friends. He still hunts and plays golf. He loves summer and spending time at the lake. He said he hoped to get back to Pennsylvania this summer to play in a golf tournament and spend some time with his brother, Ed.

**William Weaver ’58**, of Sebring, Fla., turned 82, for which he is very thankful.

**William Woods ’58**, of Steelton, is retired from the USMC, Capital Area Transit, Bn Commander, Regimental Commander, Pa. He is in his 12th year as assistant team leader for the Marine Corps League Honor Guard at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, which requires volunteer duty every third week year round.

**Bradford Crowther ’59**, of Vero Beach, Fla., reports that his granddaughter is a heart surgeon and his grandson is a biology professor.

1960s

**James Dayhoff ’60**, of Claremont, Calif., said it’s been four years since his wife, Margaret, passed away, and his family keeps growing. There are more than 20 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, making it a challenge to track birthdays and keep names straight. He is healthy and enjoying it all.

**Clarence Edmundson ’60**, of Auburn, served in U.S. Navy for 20 years and is an avid U.S. stamp collector.

**Walter Johnson ’60**, of Wilmington, Del., has been retired for 20 years.

**Samuel Montgomery ’60**, of Milton, reported that he and his wife, Audrey, have three daughters, five granddaughters, two grandsons, four great-granddaughters, and two great-grandsons.

**Michael Bashian ’61** moved to Bell, Fla., where he lives on 10 acres in the middle of nowhere and loves it. His daughter and grandkids live nearby.

**Fernando Calvarese ’61**, of Swansea, Ill., and his wife, Dianne, have been married for 52 years. He has been retired from the U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense Civil Service since 2014.

**Jacob Detrie ’61**, of Butler, is retired from Magnetics, Inc. electronics company.

**Charles Provost ’61**, of Norman, Okla., enjoys rebuilding old automobiles, including a 1956 Ford pickup and a 1994 Chevy short bed. He also enjoys talking to his great-grandchildren and looked forward to the arrival of two great great-grandsons. He stays in touch with a few guys from MHS and remains grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Hershey for all they did for him and his brothers.

Lee Owen ’40 Celebrates a Century



Lee E. Owen ’40 celebrated his 100th birthday on June 5 with family and friends at the Bellwood-Antis Community Park.

Born in 1922, Lee E. Owen, age 12, was accepted into the Hershey Industrial School in 1934. He graduated in 1940 as a member of the first class to graduate from the new “school on the hill.” When he left his grandparents’ home to come to Hershey, his grandfather advised him to learn a trade. He took that advice, learning in the machine shop until his graduation.

Following his time at the school, Lee continued to ply the trade he learned at HIS. From 1942 to 1946, he served the United States Navy as a machinist aboard the aircraft carrier Midway. He continued to work as a machinist until his retirement in 1989. Lee recalls, “Because of my training at Milton Hershey School, I lived a good life... They taught me how to live in a competitive world.” 🧑🏻🔧

**John Russell ’62**, of Palmer Lake, Colo., is active in the Scottish American Military Society, American Legion, 10th Mountain Division National Association, Military Order of World Wars, and Army and Coast Guard Museum Foundations. His daughter is an Army JAG Colonel assigned to U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, and both sons retired from the U.S. Coast Guard. He has one granddaughter who is assigned to the Coast Guard “Eagle” and another who is in Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal school.

**Richard Subers ’62**, of The Villages, Fla., and his wife, Patricia, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on a river boat cruise on the Mosel and Rhine Rivers in Europe.

**Daniel Bauer ’63**, of Palmerton, still participates in color guard for veterans as chaplain of Vietnam Veterans of Carbon County. His first great-granddaughter, Chloe Sofia, was seven months old when he submitted this update.

**Harold Damp ’63**, of Pittsburgh, and his wife, Barbara, celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary in September 2021.

**Ritchy Estright ’63**, of Elverson, and his wife, Winnie, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in February 2022.

**Raymond Field ’63**, of Johnsonburg, and his wife, Patty, have been married for 55 years. They have six children, 18 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, 11 chickens, four ducks, two dogs, and they are “waiting for a partridge in a pear tree.” Raymond retired in 2001 and enjoys spending time with family and friends, hunting, fishing, and enjoying life.

**Jim Gould ’63**, of Hershey, has been retired for two years and plays golf. He remains active with civic and social organizations.

**Glenn Humbert ’63**, of Phoenix, Ariz., is enjoying life, even with all the COVID restrictions.

**Richard Krause ’63**, of Somerset, Ky., had his third collection of fiction, “Crawl Space & Other Stories of Limited Maneuverability” published by Unsolicited Press. Fomite Press published his third collection of epigrams (and prose poems), “Blind Insights into the Writing Process.”

**Thomas Leonard ’63**, of Monroeville, reported that he is in the third year of a pancreatic cancer fight. “Score: Tom 3, Cancer 0. I will make it to the 2023 reunion.” He retired from Gateway School District where he worked for 14 years.

**John Martin ’63**, of Naples, Fla., retired from Collier County Schools after 31 years of service. He and his wife, Peggy, have lived in Naples since 1979. They love the weather, beaches, and boating in the Gulf.

**Larry Seesholtz ’63**, Orlando, Fla., recently celebrated being an airplane pilot and flying for 60 years.

**William Climenhaga ’64**, Manassas, Va., has been enjoying retirement for 10 years. He travels to his daughter’s house in South Carolina four times a year, has helped his twin brother remodel his house, and works on his old car and truck.



**George Delany ’64**, of Rehoboth, Mass., is fully retired, doing a lot of artwork and some freelance design. He has kept bees for three summers and described it as a great experience.

**Dennis Devers ’64**, of East Windsor, N.J., is staying active at the gym, playing ball, and hiking. He enjoys all the seasons of the year and looks forward to MHS Homecoming.

**James Dunlop ’64**, of Palmyra, and his wife, Ann, have been married for 53 years. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

**Gary Goldsmith ’64**, of Mays Landing, N.J., is retired from the Department of Corrections at Rockview.

**Glenn Hartman ’64**, of Ocala, Fla., is still working. He and his wife also work with animal groups to support cat rescue and adoption.

**John Kriner ’64**, of Ellenton, Fla., has three daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He is retired, and he and his wife, Martha, enjoy living in Florida; they do not miss the cold and snow in Pennsylvania.

**Jim Lantz ’64**, of Cornwall, Ontario, was featured in an article in the Gananoque Reporter (Ontario) for his work as a chaplain at the Meeting Place mobile chapel.

**Sylvester Legutko ’64**, of Newark, Del., remains active in his church and as a member of VFW.

**Clyde Moyer ’64**, of Dover, Del., misses his wife, Penny, who died in October 2021. They had been married for 53 years and had two sons, three grandsons, and five great-grandsons.

**James Simkins ’64**, of Linthicum Heights, Md., is still going strong and working full time.

**Robert Swegart ’64**, of Rome, Maine, has been living in the woods of Maine for 28 years and recently welcomed his 11th grandchild, Finnian. Robert’s brother, John, joined him for MHS Homecoming 2021. He reported that he was impressed with how the town has grown and prospered. “It appears to be the Disney World of the northeastern U.S.”

**Thomas Tilinski ’64**, of Roswell, Ga., is proud of his children. His daughter is a professional ballerina with a Nashville, Tenn., ballet company, and his youngest son is studying to be a professional pilot and will join the U.S. Navy.

**Bruce Campbell ’65**, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., is celebrating 54 years of marriage with his wife, Phyllis.

**Gary Kuhns ’65**, of Palmyra, Va., works at Cunningham Creek Winery one day per week as a wine interpreter. He and his wife, Rebecca, have six children between them and 12 grandchildren.

**Stanley Mitchell ’65**, of Paxinos, reported that it has been three years since he had open heart surgery to replace a heart valve.

**Terry Bittinger ’66**, of Westminster, Md., is retired but still plays ice hockey. He has three children, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Terry Brubaker ’66**, of Lititz, is the owner of Superior Promotions sales and marketing company.

**Stephen Devries ’66**, of Burke, Va., works for Cornerstone Office Systems .

**Daniel Goldsmith ’66**, of Lockhaven, has a new granddaughter, Avery Lynn Gaul, born on Aug. 29, 2019.

**Robert Moreland ’66**, of Hummelstown, is enjoying retirement.

**Charles Welsh ’66**, of Howell, N.J., enjoys opportunities to travel and relax after retiring as a middle school principal. He especially loves being around his four grandchildren. He and his wife, Debbie, celebrated 50 years of marriage in May 2022.

**William Edward Beamenderfer ’67**, of Elizabethtown, and his wife, Kim, have been married for 28 years, and they enjoy time with grandchildren. William enjoys camping, golfing, and time outdoors.

**E. Robert (Bob) Reed ’68**, of York, and his wife, Connie, have been married for 48 years. They have two sons and six grandchildren. Bob remains active in church, bowls twice a week, refinishes furniture, and loves music, reading, and puzzles.

**Thomas Viviano ’68**, of Perkasio, is fully retired and now lives in Fort Myers, Fla., with his wife, Lisa. He does a little freelance writing and always looks forward to spending time with his five children.

**David Zembower ’68**, of Port Charlotte, Fla., is enjoying retirement and stays active by golfing, boating, and fishing.

**Dennis Batrus ’69**, of Altoona, and his wife, Teresa, have been married for 46 years. They have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Daniel Stambaugh ’69**, of Holiday, Fla., is enjoying retirement.

**John Stauffer ’69**, of Phoenixville, has been enjoying 15 years of retirement with his wife, Sally, and helping out with their three grandchildren.

## 1970s

**James Beamenderfer ’70**, of Palmyra, is entering the fifth year of retirement after working for 42 years in dining services at Elizabethtown College. He has been an usher at Clipper Magazine Stadium in Lancaster since the stadium opened in 2005. He enjoys visiting Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia, and the Poconos with his wife of 45 years, Janet. They really enjoyed the Christmas lights drive-thru at MHS in December 2021.

**Raymond Chambers ’70**, of Hummelstown, and his wife, Maria, have been married for 35 years. They have five children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

**William Patts ’70**, of Taylor, Mich., and his wife, Caroline, have been married for 48 years. They have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Christopher John Wayne Jenkins, who was born May 15. William is still employed by the Detroit Tigers as an usher at Comerica Park.

**Edwin Hall ’71**, of Palmyra, and his wife, Carolann, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in March 2022.

**Bruce Hummel ’71**, of Palmyra, is in his sixth year of volunteering at the Milton and Catherine Hershey Butterfly Atrium. He and his wife, Penny, were planning to travel to St. Thomas, V.I. in 2022.

**Albert Leonzi ’71**, of Edinboro, volunteers in campus ministry at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania at Our Lady of the Lake. He is a member of Kiwanis, an AARP Professorial Driver Program Instructor and Zone Director, President of Northwest Pennsylvania Penn State Cooperative Extension, MHSA Board member, and MHS Ambassador.

**Craig Prandini ’71**, recently retired and moved to Merritt Island, Fla. after having lived in Miami for 51 years. He spends time on his fishing boat, usually with his grandsons.

**Dennis Snedden ’71**, of Carnegie, still serves on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation and works with local Masonic Youth, including the Steel City Demolay and Ohio Valley Rainbow. He looks forward to fishing more this year.

**Jon Wilt ’71**, of Middletown, and his wife, Julie, have been married for 45 years. They have one daughter and one granddaughter. He remains active in local and county politics.

**Thomas Connelly ’72**, of O’Fallon, Mo., still sings in his church and with the International Champion Ambassadors of Harmony Barbershop Chorus.

**Oliver Ewing ’72**, of Great Mills, Md., is enjoying retirement. He has two sons, a step-daughter and step-son, 12 grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

**Charles Mintzer ’72**, of Englewood, Fla., is retired from the federal government and lives in southwest Florida.

**Roger Angell ’73**, of Royersford, is looking forward to retirement later this year.

**Alan Kurtz ’73**, of Palmyra, Maine, retired in December 2021 after 28 years at the University of Maine, where he worked in the New Hampshire/Maine Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program. Alan plans to travel with his partner, Mary, write, and do lots of bicycling.

**Regis Koch ’74**, of Palmyra, is retired and enjoying life. He lives with his wife, Barbara, and two grandkids.

**Robert Hissick ’75**, of Reading, has been retired four years. He and his wife, Sue, have four grandchildren.

**David Speelman ’75**, of Pittsburgh, is semi-retired from real estate development. He has two grown sons and has been happily married to his wife, Eileen, for more than 40 years.

**Edward Crews ’76**, of Reading, is retired after working for 23 years at Pottstown Hospital as a facilities engineer and five years at Freedom Village as the facilities engineer.

**Robert Knaub ’76**, of York, and his wife, Donna, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in January 2022.

**Peter Leary ’76** of Cape Coral, Fla., happily retired after 38 years at FedEx. He and his wife, Stacey, moved from California to Florida. Peter reported they are out on the boat frequently to fish, go to the beach, and tie up at local restaurants. “Many thanks to the teachers and houseparents who helped me along in my younger years. To this day, though, I do not miss milking cows!”

**Ronald Rutkowski ’76**, of Kutztown, started a new position as controller with Fleetwood Bank.

**Todd Zehmisch ’76**, of Gibsonia, and his wife, Cynthia, have been married for 37 years. They have two children and two grandchildren, ages 4 and 2.

**Mark Ford ’77** of Signal Mountain, Tenn., retired seven years ago but continues to do contractual work for nuclear plants around the country. He reported that he has fallen for the beauty of the Tennessee mountains, and it is now his home.

**R. Glenn Halteman ’77**, of Reading, started a new job as robot/relief operator at Pepperidge Farm in Denver, Pa., in June 2021.

**Jim Gribble ’79**, of Glenelg, Md., plans to retire and move to Tucson, Ariz., in 2022 after 41 years of federal government service. His son, TJ, a high school senior, was accepted into the University of Arizona Honors College.

## 1980s

**Thomas Camarota ’80**, of Marysville, Ohio, was promoted to safety instructor for Ruan Transportation. He is responsible for safety, training, and education about transportation equipment and is licensed by the N.H.T.S.A.

**Rodney Drake ’80**, of Dillsburg, has worked at MHS for six-and-a-half years, most recently as guest services coordinator at Founder’s Hall. “It is an honor and privilege to come home to MHS to work every day,” said Rodney. He and his wife, Roma, have been married for 30 years and have two daughters, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Mark Hickey ’80**, of Harrisburg, works for FedEx as an operation manager.

**Braden Maines ’80**, of Lebanon, has been working at Milton Hershey School for 35 years. He and his twin brother, Blaine ’80, recently celebrated a milestone birthday–60 years old and counting!

**Michael Winckowski ’80**, of Fort Myers, Fla., started his own internet marketing company, Winner Consulting Solutions LLC. His son, Joshua, is a right-handed pitcher on the 40-man roster of the Boston Red Sox.

**Christine (Brennan) Cook ’81**, of Palmyra, retired from MHS after 35 years teaching kindergarten. Although she occasionally substitutes at Memorial Hall, she enjoys getting more exercise, doing a little bit of traveling, golfing more, organizing her house, and spending more time with family and friends.

**Holly Lehman ’82**, of Millsboro, Del., is director of government sales at Transwall, LLC.

**Marie (Horsey) Taylor ’82**, of Carteret, N.J., celebrated 25 years of marriage in May 2021 with her husband, Josephus “Joe” Taylor. They have one child, Cassandra “Cassie” Jonelle. Professionally, Marie continues to grow by teaching senior level nursing students as they prepare to take the NCLEX, the test administered by the National Councils State Boards of Nursing. She serves as a “champion” to prepare students for the upcoming changes related to testing.

**Anthony Barkley ’83**, of Greensboro, N.C., is still ‘Coach’ Tony, CEO of 3rd Eye Insight, LLC. The company has expanded and is opening offices in the Georgia and Florida marketplace.

**James Carroll ’83**, of Duryea, recently made a career change and now works as the site supervisor for Stanley Black and Decker in Pittston. In 2022, he will be celebrate 35 years of marriage with his wife, Ann Marie. They have two grown children, a daughter-in-law, and a grandson, Cooper James.

**Nicholas Nissley ’84**, of Traverse City, Mich., is in his third year serving as president of Northwestern Michigan College, in Traverse City.

**Joanne Gagnon ’85**, of Jupiter, Fla., is a member of the Board of Directors of Massachusetts Golf and volunteers as championships co-chair, finance chair, and rules official for Mass Golf. In 2021, she worked as golf rules official for the Division Two Women’s Regional and National Championship.

**Robert Halbleib ’86**, of Hughesville, Md., has a new grandson who was born in September 2021.

**Timothy Quade ’86**, of Lancaster, and his wife, Irene, have been married for eight years. They bought their first house two years ago. Their landscape business, Heaven on Earth Landscape LLC, just finished its fifth year. They have traveled to Arizona, Tennessee, and Florida.



## Alumnus Receives an Award for His Professional Work and a Surprise from MHS



Gus Nyekan '94 received the 2020 Barry Graves Award on Nov. 15, 2021 during Undercover Narcotics Investigative Training. The award is presented to a law enforcement officer for excellence in undercover operations, excellence in providing the instruction of undercover work, and everything the individual has meant to the undercover program as a whole. MHS alumnus Jason Chessman '93, an assistant prosecutor in Cumberland County, New Jersey, participated in the award presentation and surprised Gus with an assortment of MHS Spartan gear, courtesy of MHS President Pete Gurt '85.

Barry Graves founded the UNIT School and served as a mentor to Gus and hundreds of other undercover officers. UNIT School is hosted by the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice with assistance from local, county, and state law enforcement agencies. Gus represents the New Jersey State Police as an executive faculty member.

While working undercover, Gus led and contributed to investigations targeting local and transnational criminal threats including violent gangs, narcotics trafficking, weapons trafficking, organized crime, and even international terrorism. MHS honored Gus with an Alumni Achievement Award for Career Accomplishment in 2016. He has also received awards from several other organizations in recognition of his pivotal role in solving major cases.

Gus credits MHS for having provided him with a solid foundation upon which he could build his life and career. Having been involved in wrestling, football, and basketball, Gus said coaches and teachers played a vital role in his development. He also highlights the tremendous influence of his houseparents, John and Renee Forry, and his MHS brothers and sisters. 🙏

**CJ Thomas '86**, of Tampa, Fla., was promoted to director of application development for the Global Business Services division of UPS in February 2022. He oversees more than 85 developers in six U.S. locations, Canada, Mexico City, three locations in Pune, India; and Medellin, Columbia.

**Lee Sorrentino '87**, of Leland, N.C., left Waco, Texas, in January to move back to the east coast to be closer to family and friends.

**Verndell Robinson '89**, of Triangle, Va., works for DHS-ICE as a suspension and bebarment analyst realtor. She also is a licensed realtor in Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Pennsylvania. She is among the top 100 realtors in the DMV region.

## 1990s

**Kerry MacDearmid '90 and Amahl Pitts '90**, of Harrisburg, are co-founders of Harrisburg City FARM. They have been instrumental in transforming the Bishop McDevitt field into a community garden, which will be called The Bridge Bleacher Garden.

**James Rothlein '90**, of Middletown, recently published his third book of poetry, titled “Letters to Roxanne.”

**David Slotter '90**, of Dacula, Ga., was named vice president of legislative affairs for Georgia Parents for Kids' Rights, Inc. The organization seeks to make the law be “a rebuttable presumption for 50/50 shared parenting” in custody cases.

**Shelley (Barton) Leister '92**, of Manheim, purchased a new home and “put down roots.” She is a social worker at Ephrata Social Services.

**Erica Ratiner '93**, of Milpitas, Calif., is living in Milpitas with her partner, Stan. They have a 9-year-old beagle named Kizzy. They both participate in Renaissance Faires and other historical reenactment events and often go camping in their 28-foot retro travel trailer named Cherry Bomb. She looks forward to a trip home for MHS Homecoming 2023.

**Radford Garrison '94**, of Middletown, Del., is system vice president of facilities and operations support at Inspira Health Network.

**Scott Gray '98**, of Ephrata, is pastor at the Lighthouse Church in New Holland, which has purchased 13 acres of land across from Shady Maple Smorgasbord to build a new church building in 2022.

**Daniel Sauder '98**, of Reading, works as a seventh-grade social studies teacher at Reading School District's Central Middle School.

## 2000s

**Christopher Clark '02**, of Fayetteville N.C., is president of and operates a nonprofit organization, High Impact Foundation, that serves underprivileged children of the Fayetteville, N.C. area. The organization provides mentorship, physical fitness, strength and conditioning, and AAU Basketball. In addition, Chris' son, Demaree, placed sixth in the state for high jump, and his daughter, Dezaryah, placed second in the nation in long jump.

**Shanta (Lawry) Mann '02**, of Logan Township, N.J., works as an assessment supervisor at the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging.

**Funmilayo Lediju '03**, of Brooklyn, N.Y., started a new position as alternatives investment due diligence impact analyst and vice president at Morgan Stanley.

**Roberta (Pugh) Proulx '03**, of Attica, N.Y., has seven children and home schools them all.

**John Alleva '04** moved to Athens, Ga., in July 2022 to begin a new position at Advantage CSB in August. He was married in October 2022.

**Shannan (Pugh) Santiago '05**, of Fort Myers, Fla., is married, and she and her husband, Alex, have three children, Jeremiah, Alexander, and Alessandra.

**Jamison Langguth '06**, of San Diego, Calif., is senior manager of health strategy innovation at Stanford University and board member and co-founder of Aero Therapeutics.

**Deitrich Davidheiser '07**, of Norwood, recently relocated to the Philadelphia area, bought a new home, and started a job as a healthcare consultant for McKinsey.

**Tiffany Chang Lawson '07**, of Harrisburg, joined Deloitte Consulting as a senior consultant in their Core Business Operations Group within their government and public services practice.

**Joseph Melo '07** recently relocated from Florida to Pennsylvania to begin working as a senior admissions processor at MHS.

**Daniel Acevedo '08**, of Seldon, N.Y., and his wife bought their first home in April 2021, and Daniel graduated from nursing school in May. Their daughter was born, and Daniel started a job as an emergency room nurse, in August 2021.

**Shawnda (Kohr) Alva '08**, of South Holland, The Netherlands, is a senior business consultant at Tricycle.

## Radio Station Interviews Senate Alexander '06 About Early Childhood Education

Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning Executive Director and MHS alum, Senate Alexander '06, was interviewed by Philadelphia radio host Cherri Gregg of WHY? The interview highlighted his positive experience attending MHS and how CHS will address the critical and growing need for accessible, quality early childhood education.

The first center is being constructed in Hershey, and positions are being filled to support the center when it opens. For details, visit [chslearn.org/about-chs/](https://chslearn.org/about-chs/). 📺



**Nicole (Dallatore) Hoar '08**, of Hershey, started a production job at the Hershey Factory West Plant in November 2020. She and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their second daughter, Olivia, on March 22, 2021.

**Alyssa (Symotsky) Smith '08**, of Enola, relocated with her husband to Pennsylvania, where they are raising their two children, ages five and one.

**Stephanie Brooks '09**, of Hollidaysburg, was married in September 2021, and she and her husband, Luke, bought their first home. She is involved in the Catholic Church and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Blair County. Stephanie recently celebrated a five-year work anniversary with her employer.

**Christian Calle '09**, of Rahway, N.J., is the full-time project manager at a construction company based in New York City. He is managing and leading the renovation of a 107-year-old New York Public Library branch in the Bronx.

**Keith Collins '09**, of Lancaster, S.C., started a new job in January 2021 and learned everything in his department in less than a year. He is an expert operator, knows six machines, and remains ambitious and willing to learn and teach others.

**Daliyi Muhammad '09**, of Norristown, was featured by Grid Magazine in Philadelphia as a NextFab Monthly Maker for his work as a self-taught woodworker.

## 2010s

**Shaquetta Jackson '10**, of Philadelphia, opened Billionaire Babe Co. with a co-worker, specializing in microlink extensions, at MY SALON Suite in the Abington Shopping Center.

**Vincent Klomps '10**, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., celebrated his 30th birthday in St. John U.S. Virgin Islands with MHS friends **Cole Knisley '12; Bryan Varra '12; and Nick Lamoreaux '10**. Vincent is the main provider at a dermatology practice in Myrtle Beach. He enjoys traveling on the weekends and this year traveled to Boston, Philadelphia, Tampa, Miami, Jacksonville, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**M. Jimmie Miller '10**, of Nottingham, is chief information officer at Medtrition, Inc.

**Arman Asemani '11**, of Sterling, Va., earned a Master of Science degree in telecommunications from George Mason University and became a certified information systems security professional.

**Kearasten Jordan '11**, of Lancaster, was one of several artists commissioned by local arts organization, Music for Everyone, to create a music-themed mural in Lancaster. Her work is on the side of the Penn Square Garage on Vine Street.

**Amalee (Archuleta) Lime '11**, of New Ringgold, married Harrison Lime in 2021 and owns a sewing business, Lime Sewing.

**Paola Mateo '12**, of Reading, has been an art instructor for more than two years and a communications coordinator for almost a year. She loves her job and her students, and she is happy where she is in life right now.

**Angel Roman '12**, of Moses Lake, Wash., works for Boeing, maintaining a fleet of 737 MAX's until they are released to the airlines. He is working to finish a bachelor's degree at Thomas Edison State University.



Rebecca Armanor '22 Selected by Penn Live as one of the Best and Brightest



"Rebecca Amanor is not your typical high school student. Marked by determination, and strength, this young lady's character has outshined her past fears and economically challenged background. Her determination and resiliency are paving the way to an exciting and promising future." – Olivia Weidemann, MHS Math Teacher and Mentoring Program Coordinator.

**Hajabowarah (Jalloh-Bruce) Sanders '12**, of Converse, Texas, is serving in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in San Antonio. She has an infant son.

**Jordan Zito '12**, of Lebanon, recently moved from Nashville, Tenn., and was expecting her first child with **Gavin Holter '12** in May.

**Kaelem V. Camper '13**, of Greenlawn, N.Y., is an adjunct professor at Long Island University and Five Towns College.

**Robert M. Evans '13**, of Denver, graduated from Temple University in 2017 and completed Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in 2018. He is a first lieutenant stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Yuma, Ariz.

**Manaury (Garcia) Paulino '13**, of Ewing, N.J., is manager of IMB/finance at The Hershey Company.

**Christopher Fink '14**, of Swarthmore, switched fields from healthcare to insurance by starting a new job with Guy Carpenter / Marsh McLennan in Philadelphia in November 2021.

**Jasmine Harrison '14**, of Mount Joy, is an internal recruiter with Actalent. If you are interested in a job in recruiting or sales, feel free to reach out to her.

**Cassandra Jimmink '14** of Steelton, is enrolled full time in a Doctor of Psychology program at Holy Family University.

**Brett Warkoski '14**, of Williamsport, and his wife, Morgan, welcomed a baby boy, Preston, on March 30, 2022. Brett started a new job at First Quality Enterprises as a design engineer.

**Sahidah Briggs '15**, of Arlington, Va., is a legal assistant at Zell Law.

**Eric Jeffress '15**, of Manheim, was awarded the 2022 Building L.I.E.E Staff Award from Turner Construction Company of Philadelphia. The award recognizes a Turner employee who helps contribute to a culture of Living Injury Free Every Day.

**Clarissa Rhodes '15**, of Lewistown, had a baby girl named Luella in May 2021.

**Ra'ish Andrews '16** is an associate product owner at the College Board.

**Leila Asemani '16**, of Philadelphia, was promoted to human resources business partner at Amazon.

**Omar Barrada '16**, of Ruffs Dale, did two study abroad journeys while in college, one in Dubai and one Semester at Sea. The latter delayed his graduation from the University of Pittsburgh until December 2020. He worked and took Arabic lessons in his father's house in Cairo, Egypt this past year. He plans to return stateside this summer to start his career in Pennsylvania, closer to home.

**Jaritzta Bonilla '16**, of Pittsburgh, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Shadyside School of Nursing.

**Omaris Caceres '16**, of Clearwater, Fla., graduated from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a Master of Public Health degree from the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health.

**Hannah Monette '16**, of Scranton, married her husband, Aaron Brown, on Oc. 9, 2021 in the Pocono Mountains. She was promoted from financial aid counselor to associate director of financial aid at Marywood University.

**Merissa Sweeney '16**, of Hanover, is engaged to be married, bought a home, and has two beautiful daughters.

**Michael Walsh '16**, of Scranton, graduated from a cannabis business development program in May and will be entering the cannabis industry as a cultivator or extractor.

**Chelsey Yoder '16**, of Lancaster, is a staff accountant for Hershey Trust Company.

**Samson Arnold '17**, of Harrisburg, is a case manager for outpatient programs at The GateHouse in Lancaster.

**Alyssa Bailor '17**, of Selinsgrove, welcomed baby Ryker Bailor in October 2021.

**Laila Barrada '17**, of Erie, was featured in a social media spotlight by the Penn State Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering Society.

**Shamira Miller '17**, of Philadelphia, earned a B.S. in marketing with minor in Bible and psychology, from Cairn University.

**Derek Proctor '17**, of Shippensburg, earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**Nathaniel Cunfer '18**, of Anchorage, Alaska, graduated from the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics and moved to Alaska to start his wild adventure as a mechanic and soon-to-be pilot. He also plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in professional piloting.

**Bella Michener '18**, of Hellam, graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology and works full time at a group home for people with mental illness. She is planning to be married in October 2022.

**Abiola Oladipo '18**, of Pottstown, is a mechanical engineering major with a minor in aerospace engineering and was featured in a "Student Spotlight" by Lehigh University.

**Pedro Rodriguez '18**, of Palmyra, recently had the opportunity to talk with student athletes from the Neighborhood Academy School, located in Pittsburgh, and MHS. He spoke about his journey through MHS and Penn State University as a student athlete.

**Nathan Schmigiel '19**, of Harrisburg, started a full-time position at Hershey Lodge in the maintenance department.

**Hunter Hanley '19**, of Houston, Texas, and **Stanford Maison '19**, of Highstown, N.D., are co-founders of a dating app. The app, Blyss Dating, has been featured on several news outlets for its focus on safety, including Yahoo Finance.

**Tatyana Gibson '20**, of Harrisburg, earned NCAA Division III Indoor All-Region honors from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. She had a stellar freshman year, winning the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Championship 800m race. She earned NJAC All-Conference First-Team accolades after setting a program record in the event 2:15.62.

Deaths

**Paul Harnish Jr. '48**, Hershey, April 9, 2022

**William Moore '48**, Elizabethtown, April 18, 2022

**David Hankins '50**, Milford, Del., Oct. 22, 2021

**Daniel Monkiewicz '50**, Danville, April 16, 2022

**Edward Roeser '50**, Tonawanda, N.Y., Feb. 21, 2022

**Orla A. Ross '52**, Littleton, Colo., Dec. 7, 2021

**James Knott '53**, Pendleton, S.C., Feb. 23, 2021

**Robert Perry '53**, York, Nov. 26, 2021

**John "Jack" Cleaver '54**, Brooklawn, N.J., Feb. 1, 2022

**Andrew Litavec '54**, Lansdale, Dec. 26, 2021

**James M. Ayres '55**, Wilmington, Del., June 3, 2022

**Reynold Waltimyer '56**, Mt. Holly Springs, Jan. 7, 2022

**William Lehman '57**, Ephrata, Nov. 5, 2021

**Albert Meitzler '57**, Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 11, 2015

**S. Dale Hess '58**, San Diego, Calif., May 31, 2022\*

**W. James Bosch '59**, Glenn Mills, June 12, 2022

**Linn Walker '59**, Macungie, April 20, 2022

**John Lesnefsky Jr. '60**, Montrose, Colo., April 11, 2022

**Lynn Coleman '61**, Camp Hill, Jan. 20, 2022

**Barry Seidel '61**, Harrisburg, Nov. 18, 2021

**Roger Stewart '61**, Show Low, Ariz., Nov. 19, 2021

**Donald Blimline '62**, Lenhartsville, Dec. 2, 2021

**Roy Bushong '62**, Christina, Nov. 19, 2021

**Joseph Minella '62**, Carmel, N.Y., Feb. 26, 2022\*

**Allan R. Davis '63**, of Leesburg, Va., March 19, 2022

**Leonard J. Erdman '63**, of Millersburg, June 18, 2022

**James H. Gibbs '63**, of Mableton, Ga., April 17, 2022

**Walter Neal Motter '63**, Maryville, Tenn., Jan. 22, 2022

**David Terry '64**, Palm City, Fla., Nov. 20, 2021

**Gary A. Kallman '65**, Latrobe, Oct. 13, 2021

**John Simpkins '65**, Wailuku, Hawaii, June 19, 2022

**David Elm '66**, of Raymond, N.H., May 24, 2021

**Robert MacLean '66**, Allentown, Dec. 30, 2021

**George Pelter '66**, Bradenton, Fla., Nov. 26, 2021

**Thomas Gaffney '69**, Schnecksville, May 21, 2021

**Phillip Struzzi '69**, Pittston, June 24, 2022

**Michael Contino '70**, Margate, N.J., July 23, 2019

**John Gordon '71**, Front Royal, Va., Feb. 2, 2021

**Dennis R. Allen '76**, Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 16, 2021

**Michael Vanderslice '78**, Pottstown, Feb. 21, 2022

**Harry C. Dulio '79**, of Lancaster, Oct. 17, 2019\*

**Andrew Taylor '85**, of Hagerstown, N.Y., April 25, 2022

**Rodney Holland '92**, Hummelstown, Sept. 25, 2021

*\*MHS Lifer*

Staff & Retiree Deaths

**Paul Carey** died on Nov. 13, 2021. Paul worked at MHS from 1999 to 2019 as a Middle Division social studies teacher.

**George Fies** died on March 27, 2022. He worked as a custodian at MHS from 2002 to 2020.

**John A. Hoerner**, MHSAA honorary member, died on May 19, 2022. John worked as a machine shop teacher and as a track and football coach. He was employed by MHS from 1962 to 1991 when he retired.

**Arlie Miller** died on April 4, 2022. She worked as a clothing room seamstress from 1979 to 1990.

**Willie Phillips** died on Jan. 21, 2022. He worked at MHS from 2002 to 2015 as a custodian at Catherine Hall.

**Kim Snyder** died on March 16, 2022. Kim was a dining room worker at MHS from 2000 to 2018.

**Barbara Staub** died on Nov. 29, 2021. She was employed by MHS from 1996 to 2011 as a custodian.

**Marlin Uhrich** died on Dec. 15, 2021. He was employed by MHS from 1967 to 1997 as a custodian at Memorial Hall.

**Grace Willard** died on Jan. 10, 2022. She was employed by MHS from 1973 to 1995 as the executive secretary to the vice president of finance.




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ALUMNI

# Calendar



## August '22

**15** Opening of School

## September '22

**13** Mr. Hershey's Birthday

**23** Cocoa Bean Game

## October '22

**1** Nomination deadline for 2023  
Alumni Achievement and  
Alumnus/na of the Year Awards

**13-16** Homecoming 2022

**14** Spartan Hall of Fame Induction

**15** MHS Alumni Association Annual  
Business Meeting

**15** Homecoming Football Game

**16** Graveside Memorial Service

**16** MHSAA Memorial Grove Service

## November '22

**6-11** Founders Week

**13** MHS Alumni Association  
Reorganizational Meeting

## December '22

**31** Deadline for the 2023 Spartan  
Hall of Fame Nominations

## April '23

**21-23** Alumni Fellowship Weekend

**21** Alumni-Senior Fellowship Dinner

**21** Career Expo

## September '23

**22-24** Homecoming

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

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

