

MILTON
HERSHEY
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ALUM

WINTER 2023

THY *Traditions*

MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL® ALUMNI MAGAZINE

DEAR



A Note

BY WILL OGLE, PASTOR



Dear Alumni:

Privileged. That's the word that comes to mind when I think about my time at Milton Hershey School so far.

I can remember the first time I walked into the Founders Hall Auditorium. In the fall of 2011, my wife and I started working as houseparents in Senior Division. When I attended Chapel with our students for the first time, I was struck by the Auditorium's architecture; I remember walking down the brick aisle and marveling at the stage.

It was a privilege getting to serve as a houseparent for 10 years. Getting to live and work alongside my wife and children and the amazing young men at student home Ridgeview was an amazing opportunity filled with memories I will cherish forever. I am thankful for all the students who graduated from our student home over the years that we still keep in contact with. It is a privilege to remain a part of their lives as they grow into successful adults and now MHS alumni.

It is a true privilege to get to be a part of this community: both the part that is physically here in Hershey, and the part that reaches across the country and the globe as the impact of the Hersheys' legacy is felt in so many places each and every day.

When the MHS community gathers for Chapel, it reminds us that we are a part of something bigger; something that has endured for decades before us; something with an influence that reaches around the world, and a story that we now get to enter.

And now, I have the privilege of serving as the MHS Director of Religious Programs. I've gone from being "Mr. Ogle" to "Pastor Ogle." Every week at Chapel, I have the privilege of speaking to our Middle and Senior Division students. I had the privilege of being involved in the Sunday Services during Homecoming Weekend 2022, including the Graveside Service at Hershey Cemetery, Memorial Grove Service, and together in Founders Hall for the first time in several years. My wife and I even had the privilege of attending the Homecoming Banquet for the first time ever. Hearing the stories, seeing the camaraderie, and sharing in that fellowship was a true blessing.

MHS founder, Milton S. Hershey, echoed the Biblical sentiment that to those entrusted with much, much will be expected of them. I am well aware of the incredible opportunity and weighty responsibility I have been entrusted with. It is my desire every day to live in light of the legacy of our founders, to uphold the Deed of Trust, to model our Sacred Values, and to inspire our students to take the blessings they have received and turn them into blessings for others.

As I end this letter, I express the privilege it is to welcome you to this edition of Thy Traditions Dear. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Pastor Will Ogle

Editor's note: On Sunday, Aug. 14, the MHS Class of 2023 attended their first All-Senior Chapel Service of the school year with Pastor Ogle, MHS Director of Religious Programs, who stepped into this new role over the summer, following the retirement of Pastor Mike Wagner at the close of the 2021-22 School Year.

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

On the cover are MHS President Pete Gurt '85 and MHS Pastor Will Ogle with the newly renovated Founders Hall Auditorium in the background. MHS rededicated Founders Hall during a ceremony on Sept. 28, 2022. Pastor Ogle officiated the first Chapel Service in Founders Hall on Oct. 1, 2022. In this issue of *Thy Traditions Dear*, you will find more information about the rededication of this MHS icon, built in tribute to MHS founders, Milton and Catherine Hershey, and first dedicated on Sept. 13, 1970.

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ALUMNUS RETURNS

to MHS as a Psychologist

BY CATHERINE SKENA, GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR SUCCESS DIVISION



When Jacob Wadsworth graduated from Milton Hershey School in 2008, he knew that he would someday like to return to work at the school. In June 2022, he joined the MHS staff as a school psychologist.

When Jacob first heard about MHS from a cousin who was a current student, he did some research to learn more about the

school and then begged his mother to let him apply. Recognizing the opportunity, his mother agreed. Jacob attended MHS all four years of high school.

During his senior exit interview, he mentioned to President Peter Gurt '85, who was a vice president at the time, that he would like to come back to work at MHS. President Gurt encouraged him to do so, but to first continue his education and gain experience, so he would have more to offer students and others in the MHS community.

After graduating from MHS, Jacob earned a bachelor's degree at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He majored in political science and theater arts

with a minor in psychology. He thought about being a lawyer but discovered he was not inspired by that type of work. His interest in theater and its association with the study of the human condition, however, remained strong.

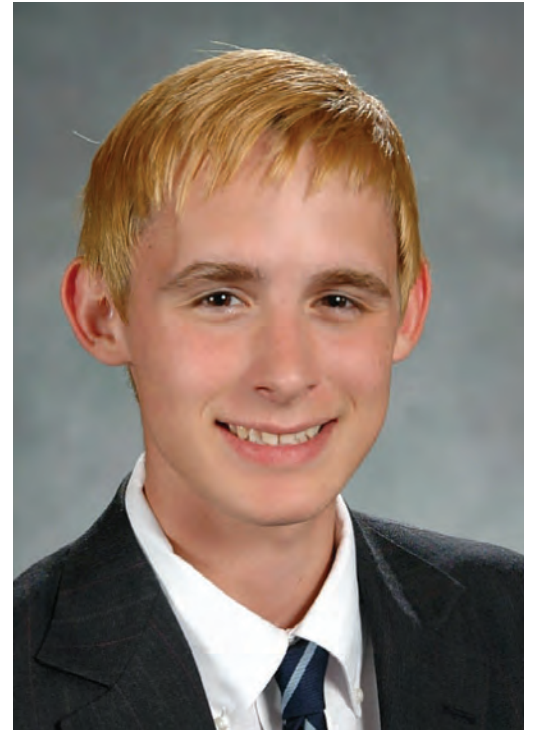
At Duquesne, Jacob worked in a support role for the director of the reading clinic,

where he helped put together evaluations for students with reading disabilities. He remembers a conversation with the director who mentioned that reading specialists could benefit from the input of a school psychologist when evaluating students. That comment led Jacob to learn more about school psychologists. One of three major fields of psychology, school psychologists are experts in working with children from birth to 22-years-old, and Jacob knew he wanted to work with kids. He went on to earn a doctorate in school psychology at Duquesne University.

Until he began his doctorate studies, Jacob was involved in community, semi-professional, and professional theater in the Pittsburgh area. He acted and directed and even won an award for best direction in the Pittsburgh New Works Festival in 2013. Through theater, Jacob developed creativity and the ability to think on his feet, skills that he uses when adapting interventions that will be a good fit for students.

At MHS, Jacob works primarily with Senior Division students. His work also extends to working with students of all ages, parents and families, teachers, houseparents, and even with services outside of MHS. "I don't just work as a psychologist; I work one-on-one with kids through therapy and evaluation," Jacob said. "I love what I'm doing, because it's really navigating systems to help support our stakeholders."

Jacob said he thinks having attended MHS helps him understand the students' perspective while also realizing that every



On this page, left: Jacob was a member of the Mock Trial Team at MHS; right: Jacob graduated from MHS in 2008.

student's story is different. "It's not lost on me that this place inspired me to do the work I've been doing," Jacob said. As a student, he was involved in theater, the swim team, mock trial team, Future Farmers of America, Truth Seekers Club, and Home Life Student Government Association.

Jacob was particularly inspired by his high school houseparents, Karen and Allen Brown, and teachers, Sharon Henry and Dr. Freda Martine. "There are just some people that come into your life that are so good at what they do," said Jacob, "and you could tell there was a passion behind that."

As a graduate, Jacob wants students to know that there is hope for their future and that they are supported as they work toward building a fulfilling life. "All of my clinical work was built on working with underserved populations, and I enjoy supporting our students by helping them

navigate the systems and resources available to them at MHS. There is a bright future for them." 🙌

MHS Recruiting Top Talent to Support Students

Recruiting top-notch staff at Milton Hershey School is our priority. With such a variety of employment opportunities to fill, we need to engage everyone—including alumni—in helping us find top talent.

As alumni are aware, working at MHS is much more than a career. Each employee helps shape the lives of the students we serve. All careers at the school are designed to help our students thrive on campus and beyond.

Do you know anyone who fits this criteria? Visit www.mhskids.org/careers to learn more about the rewarding career opportunities available at Milton Hershey School. 🙌



A Note from the MHS President

Dear Alumni Brothers and Sisters:

The past several months have been nothing short of an extraordinary time in the history of our Home and School. As I look back on what we accomplished in 2022, I am filled with pride for the way our students, staff, alumni, and broader Hershey community came together. Most importantly, I've been reminded of our founders, Milton and Catherine Hershey. They were the humblest and greatest of visionaries who left a legacy of kindness that will forever be felt on our campus and beyond.

Earlier this school year, the MHS community gathered in Founders Hall for the first time since 2017 to rededicate the iconic building in honor of the Hersheys. That same week, on Sept. 25, marked the 50th anniversary of my enrollment at MHS as a 5-year-old.

I didn't have the words to express it then as a young child, but I can describe the feelings that I had as if it were yesterday. I knew on that day that I was going to be part of something big. Standing in the Rotunda, I realized that it was the largest indoor space I had ever been in.

The building made me feel that I was significant enough to deserve such a beautiful space. A space that was pristine, durable, and felt safe—a place so well maintained that it commanded a different kind of respect, reverence, and behavior when inside of it. For 13 years, participating in Chapel services, hundreds of Visual and Performing Arts performances on the Auditorium stage, watching school assemblies, and so much more—I felt I had no other choice than to live up to the high expectation that the building and environment with which I was entrusted required. It instilled in me the belief and understanding that “to whom much is given, much is expected.”

Outside the Auditorium doors, in the Rotunda, is the bronze “Milton and the Boy” statue, which was a gift from the MHS Alumni Association. Many of us know the inscription by heart: “His deeds are his monument. His life is our inspiration.” As graduates, we get to define what our founders' legacy inspires in us. What passions it stirs inside of us. Our founders created opportunity for us to pursue excellence—something each of us should be incredibly proud of. Because of their foresight, we have an opportunity to look at the bright future ahead.

I encourage you to continue your involvement with students and staff on campus and in your own communities. From volunteering at Career Mondays with our Elementary and Middle Division students, to gathering in fellowship over our first in-person Homecoming Weekend since 2019, I am proud to be a part of this robust and engaged group of more than 11,000 MHS alumni. You are an incredibly important part of our community, and we want to stay connected with you.

Founders Hall—and the entire MHS community—will always be here to welcome you home as a symbol of our gratitude to Milton and Catherine Hershey. Every day that I walk into my office, I am reminded of our School's rich history and my deep appreciation for the shared experiences I have with each of you and all of those who will come after us. 🙏

Sincerely,
Peter G. Gurt '85
MHS President



MHS Founders Week Begins with a School-Wide Assembly

Milton Hershey School kicked off its weeklong celebration of the school's founders, Milton and Catherine Hershey, with a Founders Week Assembly on Nov. 7. Nearly 113 years after the Hersheys signed the Deed of Trust, the legal document that guides the school, this special event paid tribute to their legacy and the important role that students and staff play in continuing their generosity.

The assembly—which was held in Founders Hall Auditorium for the first time since 2016—featured speeches from President Peter Gurt '85 and Senate Alexander '06, Executive Director of Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning, a special musical performance by New Horizons; historical content; and essays offering student perspectives.

Several students addressed the audience with essays about the Day 1 ... Day WON school year theme, and Alexander, who has led the school's early childhood education initiative for over a year, gave a special message about his experience as a student, graduate, and now employee.

He shared his mother's impact on his MHS experience with the audience. “When my mother made the courageous decision to send me to MHS, she knew she was saving my life,” said Alexander.

Additionally, he shared that because of the generosity of Milton and Catherine Hershey, he was inspired to make his own impact on the world. Alexander added, “I made a commitment with myself that I was going to make a positive impact on those around me. I did this because I believed it was the best way to give back for the gift that was given to me by the Hersheys' generosity.”

Following the assembly, the senior class planted a tree honoring the opportunity they were each given by Milton and Catherine Hershey. This time-honored tradition is a physical representation of the impact that Mr. and Mrs. Hershey have had on the lives of thousands of young people. 🙏

NASA Astronaut Bob Hines Speaks with MHS Students from Space



This school year, Milton Hershey School students spoke live with NASA astronaut Robert (Bob) Hines who shared career and life lessons from space.

Hines is aboard the International Space Station (ISS) on the SpaceX Crew-4 mission.

A central Pennsylvania native, Hines shared with students his special MHS connection.

“My grandfather taught [at MHS] for so long,” shared Hines. “It was such a big part of my growing up. I was probably one of the only kids that during holidays and vacations visiting my grandparents, I would go to school and go with him into his classroom.”

Hines' grandfather, the late Roy Dice, started teaching at MHS in 1967 and was named an honorary alumnus in 2007. He was a science teacher until his retirement in 1991—teaching MHS President Peter Gurt '85 as a sixth-grader.

During the 25-minute conversation, MHS students across all divisions were able to ask Hines questions about his background, career path, astronaut training, and what it's like to live in space.

“To the kids out there, don't be afraid to dream big. Set big goals and go after them,” said Hines. “Realize that you need help along the way. Look around; those are your teammates and crewmates on spaceship Earth as you go through life. Anywhere you want to go, it's going to take a team to do it.” 🙏

MHS Partners with World of Outlaws to Expand Hands-On Opportunities



This fall, four Milton Hershey School students got an out-of-this-world experience working in the pits alongside World of Outlaws and local drivers and their crews at Williams Grove Speedway. These students got to step into the shoes of a dirt track racer and their team during one of the most prestigious dirt track races of the year—the National Open—as the World of Outlaws took on the Pennsylvania Posse.

Each of the students was invited to be a part of four race teams. They were mentored during the race and gained professional insight into the sport of dirt track racing. The four students—Tia Willis-Cooper, Rayshawn Shuler, Gage Thomas, and Dante Thomas—are interested in the field of automotive technology and hope to use the skills they learned during this unique and fun experience in their future careers.

“My experience at the race was the best opportunity I have ever had,” shared Tia Willis-Cooper, MHS senior. “What I enjoyed the most was being able to actually work with the pit crew and get a little dirty. Also, I liked seeing the teamwork and how well they worked together. The crew made me feel like I was a part of the team.”

As a part of the pit crews, the four MHS students put fuel in the cars, balanced, grooved, and siped tires, and cleaned the cars as they came off the track. They also



spoke with crew members about how to assess current track conditions to properly set the cars up for each race.

MHS has partnered with World of Outlaws to offer educational and hands-on opportunities to students interested in automotive-centered careers. This partnership expands on the school's Career and Technical Education curriculum, which focuses on 12 career pathways for students to choose from, including automotive technology. 🙏

Milton Hershey School Students Place at the Pennsylvania Farm Show



In January, several Milton Hershey School students took a break from their classroom-style learning and immersed themselves in hands-on learning at the 107th Pennsylvania Farm Show. These agriculture students worked for several weeks to prepare their animals for the big show by practicing their showmanship, ensuring each animal was properly groomed, and other tasks.

“For students it is more than just washing a cow or walking a goat around the ring. The PA Farm show and other events like it show students the real-world opportunities

that exist in the agricultural field. It allows them to be exposed to more than just becoming a dairy or beef farmer. It incorporates other fields of the industry such as agriculture business, marketing, nutrition, production, and the list goes

on to include many career opportunities they would never consider,” shared Peter Tantillo, MHS Animal Center Instructional Advisor.

2023 Pennsylvania Farm Show Award Highlights

Congratulations to all the MHS students who participated in the 2023 PA Farm Show. See the award recipients from this year’s farm show below.

Cows

- Timothy Geynovich, MHS Sophomore: 4th in Late Spring Heifer Calves Class

- Melanie Bartholomew, MHS Junior: 10th in Late Spring Heifer Calves Class
- Jenna Allencastre-Doersom, MHS Senior: 4th in Junior Heifer Calves Class
- Charlene Pierce, MHS Senior: 1st in Early Junior Yearling Heifers and Senior Champion Heifer

Dairy Goats

- Jenna Allencastre-Doersom, MHS Senior: 1st in Class, Reserve Senior Champion Lamancha, and Reserve Champion Lamancha in the Open Show
- Nikkilee Hockenberry, MHS Senior: 5th in Class Nubian in the Open Show and 7th in Class for Recorded Grades
- Charlene Pierce, MHS Senior: 3rd in Class Saanen in the Open Show
- Melanie Bartholomew, MHS Junior: 10th in Class for Recorded Grades in the Open Show 🐐

In Conversation with Andrea Elliott and Trymaine Lee '96 at MHS



Milton Hershey School welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, Andrea Elliott, New York Times investigative reporter and best-selling author, and Trymaine Lee '96, MSNBC correspondent and podcast host, to campus for an in-depth conversation about childhood poverty in America. The conversation focused on Elliott’s best-selling

book, “Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival, and Hope in an American City,” which follows the life of former MHS student, Dasani Coates, and her family through the challenges of homelessness and poverty.

Elliott and Lee spent much of their discussion exploring the barriers

that Dasani faced, her time at MHS, and the larger epidemic of childhood poverty.

This important community-wide discussion was held in the newly renovated Founders Hall Auditorium and also included a reception and book-signing experience for guests. To kick off the program, staff members who worked with and supported Dasani during her time at

the school, including her houseparents, mentors, and coaches, read excerpts from the book to introduce Dasani’s story.

“This book is as long as a presidential biography, and I believe that Dasani’s life is worth every bit as much,” Elliott said. “And it’s as important of a vehicle for understanding history and policy.”

As an MHS alumnus, Lee brought a unique perspective to the conversation, understanding the experience that MHS students face as they balance the expectations at MHS and those of their families.

“MHS was a safe environment for me to blossom,” added Lee. “We arrive here with hurts and traumas, but ultimately MHS students have to see the possibility of wanting more. There is inevitably going to be challenges, but you must see this as a way to be a beacon for those who will come after you.” 🙌



What I’ve Learned as a Student Athlete at MHS

BY MEGAN FORTHOFFER, MHS SENIOR

Being a member of the field hockey team has shaped my Milton Hershey School experience by giving me an outlet, helping me to make new friends, and providing me with opportunities I couldn’t even imagine before coming to MHS. Without being involved in field hockey as a student athlete, my MHS experience would not be the same.

I love being involved with a team and being a part of something bigger than myself. Through this experience, I learned to value teamwork, and understand the importance of trusting coaches, teammates, and supporters, while also learning how to hold myself and others accountable.

As I prepare for life beyond MHS, I know that what I’ve learned as a student athlete will stay with me for years to come. MHS has paved the path for me to be a great leader in college, field hockey, and one day, a career.

I’ve always been amazed by the incredible support system every student has at MHS. Besides the positive relationships I had with coaches and teammates, I knew that I could always count on the MHS community to cheer us on from the sidelines. Without this community behind me, I wouldn’t be the student or athlete that I am. 🙌



Celebrating My Heritage through Performing at MHS

BY SOPHIA LOZADA-DELZELL, MHS SENIOR

The first time that I tested my musical abilities was in seventh grade when I auditioned to be a cast member in Milton Hershey School’s production of The Lion King Jr. I didn’t make the cast, but instead of discouraging me, this rejection motivated me to try out the following year—this time I made it.

Last spring, I was encouraged by my dance teacher to participate in the local Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition in Harrisburg. I was awarded a silver medal for my ballet performance.

Due to my success, I was invited to perform a ballet dance for the opening of the Harrisburg Civic Club’s Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. I was deeply honored to be invited to celebrate my Mexican heritage.

I know that at the heart of both my cultural and personal identities is perseverance. In high school, I’ve tried out for several plays and musicals but wasn’t cast to all of them. Instead of giving up on my passion, I honed my skills even more. Finally, I was cast in the spring musical and not only was I excited, but I knew that performing would always be a large part of who I am, just like my Mexican heritage. 🙌



My Day 1: A Student at MHS

BY AVERY HULLIHEN, MHS SENIOR

My Day 1 at Milton Hershey School was Aug. 1, 2009—13 years ago. I don’t remember exactly what transpired on that day—but I remember the feeling of nervousness and excitement as I began a new journey.

After I had gotten over my nervousness and picked out the perfect Day 1 outfit, I was ready to tackle the road ahead. What I didn’t know then at 4-years-old that I know now is that I would make so many life-long friends along the way. These connections, not just with classmates, but houseparents, teachers, and staff, too, have helped me on my hardest days.

Since my Day 1, I have grown so much and learned so many lessons about always being true to myself and others. Now in the last chapter of my journey at MHS, I often reflect on those moments—and on all that I’ve overcome over the past 13 years.

My Day 1 has molded me into the person I am today. It has taught me to care for myself and be loving toward others. My Day 1 and the days that followed were not easy—there were hardships along the way—but it has prepared me for a brighter future. 🙌

Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Supports CAREER-FOCUSED EDUCATION for MHS Students



Many Milton Hershey School alumni have fond memories of visiting Hersheypark as students. While current students still enjoy visits to Hersheypark for leisure, many of them now also benefit from internships, part-time work, and other career exposure opportunities with Hershey Entertainment and Resorts (HE&R) staff members.

In addition to Hersheypark, HE&R owns and operates The Hotel Hershey, Hershey Country Club, and Hershey Lodge. It was founded by Milton S. Hershey in 1927, and its core purpose is to provide value to MHS in its mission. HE&R provides students with career-focused education and employment opportunities and offers them intentional life and social skills development. HE&R staff also participate in career awareness programs for MHS students in Elementary and Middle Division.

Hershey Project Pathways Provides Hands-On Opportunity

The Hershey Project Pathways program provides MHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) students with real-world, hands-on learning opportunities with HE&R staff. MHS students designed, created, and refurbished unique



projects for the launch of Hershey's Chocolatetown—a region of Hersheypark that opened in 2020. Among many projects, students restored an antique car and lighthouse, grew and planted flower displays, and designed a children's menu.

The Pathways program also created a collaboration between MHS horticultural staff and The Hotel Hershey's executive sous chef to teach Agricultural and Environmental Education students start-to-finish agriculture techniques. Students learned to grow hydroponic produce, which they sell at their student-run farmer's market. The Hotel also purchases produce to serve at its acclaimed restaurants. Students are gaining a greater understanding of agribusiness and an appreciation for where food comes from.

As a high school student, Vanessa Frimpong '22 helped to develop a chicken and waffles recipe inspired by Mr. Hershey's

favorite meal. The dish is a featured item on The Chocolatier restaurant's menu.

Vanessa also gained valuable experience during Summer 2022 as the first MHS Intern at The Chocolatier Restaurant Bar+Patio. While learning about the behind-the-scenes, managerial work of restaurants, she also experienced various aspects of restaurant hospitality working as a hostess, server's assistant, food runner, dining room supervisor, prep cook, and line cook.

"It was a challenging environment that put me out of my comfort zone," said Vanessa. "Additionally, I was given the opportunity to explore my passion for desserts at The Chocolatier and The Sweeterie Confectionery Kitchen with HE&R's Corporate Pastry Chef, Cher Harris (CEPC) and Pastry Chef, Courtney Dimond. Essentially, I received a crash course in restaurant operations and hospitality in about two months."

Vanessa's experience led her to change her postsecondary education plan. "Seeing the industry firsthand and having the opportunity to learn while working at successful establishments strengthened my desire to turn my passion for food into a thriving career," Vanessa said. "These experiences and crucial career conversations I had with my HE&R mentor of two years, Brian Dailey (Managing Director of the Downtown Hershey Restaurant Group), fueled my decision to switch my post-graduation plan."

Vanessa worked with her MHS higher education support specialist to develop a new Graduate Programs for Success Plan for her postsecondary education. She is enrolled in the baking and pastry arts program at the Culinary Institute of America, where she plans to complete an associate degree, and soon after will begin work toward a bachelor's degree in food business management.

Having enrolled in MHS as a sixth-grader, Vanessa was involved in student leadership and community service and earned multiple honors. She was an active leader for her class, the Student Government Association, and the Hershey Project Planning Committee.

Vanessa was also a member of the varsity volleyball team, served as a student ambassador with the MHS Admissions Office, and completed a CTE internship at the MHS Supply Center. She was the senior recipient of the 2022 MHS Alumni Achievement Award in the area of career accomplishment.

Opportunities for Students of All Ages

HE&R works with MHS to provide students with a variety of career-infused activities, including networking events, mock interviews, career fairs, and guest speakers. Middle Division students accelerated their learning by shadowing HE&R employees. Elementary students participated in Career Mondays, a new initiative to expose pre-K through fourth-grade students to the full range of career options. 🍌



Eighteen MHS carpentry students built a tiny house from the ground up for the Hersheypark Camping Resort.



Hersheypark became an experiential classroom for eighth graders learning the importance of physics in roller coaster safety from HE&R engineers.



The Hotel Hershey purchases produce grown by MHS students to serve at its acclaimed restaurants.



Read more about the HE&R partnership with MHS and watch a video to see how MHS students were involved in creating Chocolatetown at Hersheypark.

Shhhh, Quiet Please



Sitting majestically atop a hill on the Milton Hershey School's sprawling campus, Founders Hall is an impressive and iconic landmark. The domed building, dedicated on Sept. 13, 1970, was re-dedicated Sept. 28, 2022. Its majesty lives in the hearts and minds of the many alumni whose lives are entwined with the school.

Alumna Molly Ingram '16 described her feelings when she came to the school. "The first time I entered this rotunda I was awestruck. I looked around and I looked up. I just kind of thought to myself, this is home. It really does give off that feeling, just a feeling of family. I just felt like I was where I was meant to be," she shared. That feeling of awe was intentional and came from then school president, Dr. John O. Hershey, who said "Founders Hall had to make a statement and be worthy of the memory of the founder."

Upon its completed construction, the building's auditorium originally seated more than 2,500 people and featured an immense stage. Found within this grand building is a very small detail that remains a special memory for many alumni. Alumnus Terry Donaher '98 shared the significance to him.

Founders Hall is at the core of many of my fondest Milton Hershey School memories. I immediately knew what a special building it was from the moment I stepped foot into the Rotunda; the grandeur was like nothing I had experienced before enrolling and hasn't been matched since graduation. The rich history of Founders Hall was always on full display; whether it was the awe-inspiring scale of the chandeliers to the iconic marble that lined the floors and walls, I knew there was no other place like Founders Hall. For me, one of the most unique and poignant parts of Founders Hall was one of its smallest features; the "Shhhh" sign



above each door that led into the grand Auditorium. Whether it was for Chapel, a Parent Weekend Show, or Commencement, I distinctively remember entering the Auditorium and being engulfed with a feeling of reverence. Every time I walked into the Auditorium, the "Shhhh" signs set a tone for me of what was to come. Their backlit silhouettes will forever be tied to some of my most meaningful Milton Hershey School memories.

A recent discovery of photo negatives in the MHS archives adds another story. We now know those six students modeled for the signs. We know the photos were taken on March 3, 1968, while Founders Hall was under construction, but the students are not identified.

When the school began renovations to Founders Hall in 2016, many updates were necessary for the almost 50-year-old building, including the auditorium. One detail did not go unnoticed by the architects and engineers on the project. They noted that the "Shhhh" quiet signs were unusual and unique to Founders Hall, and that they should somehow maintain or re-create them to capture the sense of history in the building. The senior project manager stated, "We discussed salvaging or reconditioning the old signs with [the engineering firm], and they suggested we could re-create the graphic on new technology. I am glad that others are pleased with the decision. We think they are wonderful."

While visitors will be awed by the grandeur of the new auditorium, many alumni smile when they notice the small feature's nod to fond memories from their time here at MHS. 🍫



Hartmans and the Main 100 Years Later

A few years after the school began operation, it expanded into the complex of old chocolate factory buildings located north of the Homestead. In 1917, with enrollment continuing to grow, Milton Hershey remodeled what was then known as the experimental factory located at the heart of this complex to include a central kitchen, canning and processing room, bakery, and central dining room along with some dormitory space for students, a sewing repair room, and clothing fitting room and repair shops. The facility, which was soon known as "the Main," became the main area of the school for supplies and services needed by staff and students.

By the early 1920s, Milton Hershey School had grown to include buildings surrounding the original Homestead and the Main. At the Homestead, George Copenhaver, the first superintendent of the school, maintained his office. Prudence Copenhaver, whose responsibility was to see to the needs of the boys in her husband's charge, spent most of her time at the Main. As enrollment at the school increased, so did the need for qualified help. In September 1922, Mr. Copenhaver invited Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hartman to join the school staff. Helen Hartman immediately became housemother to the boys living at a new school building opened in 1921 called Ivanhoe. Mrs. Hartman, by the way, was Mrs. Copenhaver's younger sister and also the sister of John Daniel, one of the first employees of the school and superintendent of the Junior Division. Like the Main, Ivanhoe provided both classroom and dormitory space for students. Mr. Hartman became assistant superintendent to Mr. Daniel, which put him in charge of the boys living at the Main. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Hartman were the houseparents for the boys at Main and Ivanhoe.

During their years of service to the school, both Mr. and Mrs. Hartman contributed to the life of the school and the betterment of the students in their care in countless ways. In 1940, Mr. Hartman started a post office at the Main. In 1941, Mrs. Hartman was placed in charge of the Clothing Room at the Main where she and her staff saw every boy each spring and fall for a fitting. The 1949 photograph shows Mrs. Hartman measuring two younger students for their "best" suit. In 1953, Mr. Hartman became manager of the school's Business Division where he was ably assisted for a time by William Dearden '40.

Because of their familial relationship to the Copenhavers and their close involvement in the daily lives of the school and its students, the Hartmans lived for a time at the Homestead with Mrs. Copenhaver after the passing of her husband. When Mrs. Copenhaver then passed away in 1949, the Homestead was remodeled to serve as a duplex for staff as well as a central office. The remodeled Homestead

became home to both the Dearden and Hartman families. The Deardens remained at the Homestead until Mr. Dearden left the employment of the school for the Hershey Company in 1957. The Hartmans continued to live at the Homestead until their combined retirements from the school on May 1, 1959, 36-and-a-half years after coming to the school, 100 years ago. At their retirement, Mr. Hartman aptly and poignantly stated, "We will miss the boys, because we lived their lives."

Recently, the Hartmans' granddaughter donated a set of china and glassware that belonged to the Copenhavers and then the Hartmans. The MHS archives are happy to have these dishes that were used at the Homestead and probably by Milton Hershey himself. 🍽️



70 Years of A Living Heritage for Boys

Soon after becoming MHS school superintendent, John O. Hershey embarked upon a plan to make more people aware of the opportunities available for children at the school. His idea was to create a short, professionally produced color film that would be distributed to any civic, church, or school group who wanted to show it to potential students or their families. After speaking with representatives from several regional and national production companies—including Warner Brothers—and viewing many examples of film, the school selected News Reel Laboratory of Philadelphia in March 1952 to produce what we know today as "A Living Heritage for Boys." The film was released to the public more than one year later in April 1953.

The producer of the school film, Louis Kellman, owner of News Reel Laboratory, was a pioneer in the film industry. He is credited with being the first cameraman to shoot football games above ground level—a technological breakthrough. Prior to the formation of NFL Films, he and his crews traveled the country shooting all NFL games and many college football games.

"A Living Heritage for Boys" was shot on site at the school and used students and staff portraying themselves in real-life activities. Professional actors were only used to portray Milton S. Hershey in the opening scenes and to provide voice-over narration. Shooting took place at various times throughout 1952 to show the school during all four seasons and to show students engaged in various year-round activities. The movie was exceptionally well received and helped to spread the word about the opportunities of MHS all over the country. 📺



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 November 2022. If we inadvertently missed listing your gift, please contact us so we can include recognition in the next issue of Thy Traditions Dear. 📺

Gerald Balliet '57 | Lu Bennett '87 | Elaine Cassel | Donald Clegg II '85 | Daniel Webb, on behalf of the late S. Dale Hess '58

Your Memories Update

The Department of School History is continuing the multi-year project to modernize the school's archival collection, and we will give an update in each issue. The archivists have been organizing clothing, including scouting and band uniforms, letter jackets, and athletic clothing. This cape is a one-of-a-kind article in the archives, and we believe it was used for boxing since it has the Everlast brand label. If you know anything about the cape, contact Susan Alger at 717.520.2010 or algers@mhs-pa.org. 📺



LancasterHistory Exhibit Honoring Milton S. Hershey's Lancaster Connections Open Until June 2023



On May 25, 1898, Milton S. Hershey, then a resident and successful businessman in Lancaster City, married Catherine Sweeney of Jamestown, New York. On the occasion of their 125th wedding anniversary, LancasterHistory is hosting an exhibit of photographs highlighting Mr. Hershey's personal, professional, and philanthropic connections to Lancaster City and County. The professional connections Mr. Hershey established in Lancaster helped to mold his character and lay the foundation for his future successes. The exhibit, on display in Stoudt Gallery, opened in January and will close at the end of June 2023.

The exhibit will include photos from LancasterHistory and other institutions, including Milton Hershey School. 📺

ALUMNA SHARES MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

During Rededication of Founders Hall



This historic moment in school history is the first time that the MHS community was invited into Founders Hall Auditorium since 2017. The Auditorium is completely renovated and includes state-of-the-art lighting and technology, brand new seating, and a completely new look.

The renovation of the building weaves together historic artifacts and moments in time with modern upgrades and features—among these are: an interactive Visitors Center, newly designed meeting areas and office spaces, and a redesigned dining hall for students.

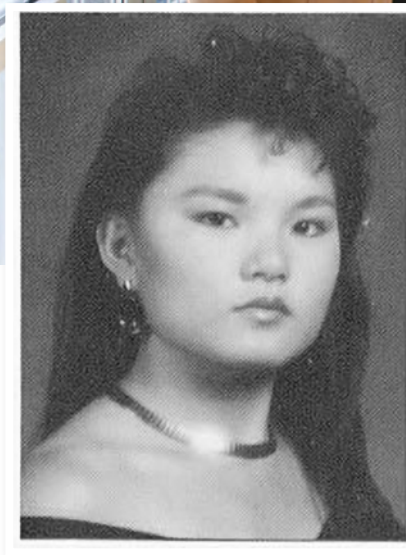
“It was nearly 41 years ago when I enrolled at MHS on Dec. 3, 1981, as a fifth grader,” said Maria Kraus '89 during the ceremony. “What I remember most is being surrounded by remarkable people—caring houseparents, smart and passionate teachers, and peers with dreams as big as our campus. There is nowhere in the world like Milton Hershey School. There is no building like Founders Hall. And there is no family like ours.”

Maria said she and her four siblings found a forever home at the school and made memories that she continues to hold dear. “Being here tonight and in this space is bringing back a flood of emotions for me, and the most overwhelming one is gratitude,” Maria said. “Thirty-three years ago, I graduated from MHS, Class of 1989, on this

On Sept. 13, 1970, Milton Hershey School dedicated the iconic Founders Hall to the legacy of the school's founders—Milton and Catherine Hershey. Fifty-two years later, on Sept. 28, 2022, MHS students, staff, alumni, and community members, gathered to rededicate the building after five years of renovations.

The ceremony included video tributes, student speakers, and inspirational messages from MHS President Pete Gurt '85, MHS Board of Managers Chairman Diane Koken, and Vice Chair Maria (Trinh) Kraus '89. Students also led the audience in the School Pledge and Alma Mater; and, a rededication plaque was unveiled.

“What I remember most is being surrounded by remarkable people—caring houseparents, smart and passionate teachers, and peers with dreams as big as our campus. There is nowhere in the world like Milton Hershey School. There is no building like Founders Hall. And there is no family like ours.”



Left page: Maria (Trinh) Kraus '89, vice chair of the Milton Hershey School Board of Managers, was among the speakers during the rededication of Founders Hall in October.

Above: Maria remembers being surrounded by remarkable people, houseparents, teachers, and peers. In this photo taken during Alumni Fellowship Weekend 2022, she is pictured with her husband, Peter, Barbara Polk '84, the late Don Witman, MHSAA honorary member, retired teacher, coach and administrator; and Phillipa Ashby '89.

Left Inset: Maria graduated as valedictorian of her class in 1989.

very stage. As an alumna, I have a reverence for this building. To me, it is a sacred place that personifies our founders, their spirits, and their aspirations for me as a student and a contributor to society.”

Having been a member of the band front, cheerleading, track and cross-country teams, student government, and choir, Maria also excelled academically and graduated as valedictorian of her class. She remembers walking, as a Middle Division student, from what is now Copenhaver Center to have lunch in Founders Hall Dining Room, then known as the Camelot Room that featured medieval chandeliers and a knight above the fireplace. She also remembers the dedication of Henry Hershey Field where the Spartan football team won the Cocoa Bean trophy every year when she was in high school.

After graduating from MHS, Maria earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Penn State University. She has more than 25 years of experience and leadership in finance, strategy, and corporate development. She is a Certified Public Accountant and qualifies as a financial expert, as defined by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. She is currently the chief financial officer of Wedgewood Pharmacy. Maria also sits on the board of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania and is a recipient of the MHS Alumni Achievement Award for Career Accomplishment.

Maria was appointed to the MHS Board of Managers in 2018 and became vice chair in 2021. Enthusiastic about the mission of the school, she serves as a role model

for future generations of students. As vice chair of the Hershey Trust Company and MHS Board of Managers, Maria is proud to advance the legacy of Milton and Catherine Hershey. 🙌



ALUMNI HAPPY TO RECONNECT WITH MHS COMMUNITY AT HOMECOMING 2022

Homecoming Weekend 2022, Oct. 14-16, 2022, marked the return to a traditional, in-person celebration. Highlights of the weekend included a Paint and Sip Event, the Spartan Hall of Fame induction ceremony, tours of Founders Hall for alumni, class reunion events, a Family Fun Night, and the annual Homecoming Banquet. The weekend closed with several Sunday services and an Alumni Brunch in Founders Hall Dining Room.

New this year were a job fair hosted by MHS Career Services and several Hershey Entities and a workshop about purchasing your first home. MHS alumni, students, and staff also celebrated a football victory over Lower Dauphin High School. Make your calendar now for Homecoming Weekend 2023, Sept. 22-24, 2023. Classes ending in 3s and 8s will celebrate reunions.



MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL INTRODUCES 2022 SPARTAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Milton Hershey School inducted 10 graduates into the Spartan Hall of Fame on Oct. 14 during Homecoming Weekend 2022.

Inductees include Terrance Bradford '92, Christie (Johnson) Lathan '00, the late Andy Menschik '76, the late David Pepka '92, and Christina (Burge) Sage '92 for accomplishments in visual and performing arts (VPA), and Fontai (Ward) Abrokwa '01, Judith Akua Agyepong '92, Ryan Blom '15, Garry Gilliam '09, and the late Thomas Johnson '81 for athletic accomplishments.

VPA Inductees

Terrance Bradford '92

Terrance was an outstanding student in the performing arts, where he excelled in instrumental and vocal music, and theater. He demonstrated his instrumental music talents through his participation in several ensembles, including the marching, jazz, honors, and varsity bands. Terrance also served as first chair tuba in the district and regional bands and regional and all state orchestra. In the area of vocal music, Terrance participated in a number of vocal groups on and off campus, which include varsity, chamber, honors, and gospel choirs, Men of Song, and New Horizons. In theater, he was a member of the Spartan Players, participated in the Harrisburg Arts Magnet School, and acted in “The Teen Age,” an ensemble play that placed first in All State Theater. In recognition of his achievements in theater, Terrance was inducted into the International Thespian Society.

Beyond his participation in visual and performing arts, Terrance was a member of the

an honorary member of the MHS Alumni Association and a Spartan Hall of Fame inductee, offered remarks on behalf of Andy and his family.

David Pepka '92 (deceased)

David participated in a variety of performing arts activities during high school. He was a member of the Spartan varsity and jazz band, participated in the district orchestra and band, and was a Spartan Player. He also was a vocalist and performed with the varsity chorus, New Horizons, and the brass and chamber choir. He was also a proud member of the International Thespian Society.

In recent years, David inspired alumni and a few current and retired teachers to return to MHS during Homecoming to share their talents with the MHS community by performing as members of the alumni jazz band. The alumni jazz band performed several years at various locations on campus during Homecoming Weekend. In 2019, David's dream was realized when the Alumni Jazz Band was invited to entertain Homecoming Banquet guests as they entered Hershey Lodge. Sadly, David died earlier that year. To honor his memory and his inspiration to them, David's friends and fellow musicians placed an empty chair amongst the group while they played. Beyond MHS, David was a well-known and talented magician who brought joy to his audiences.

Christina (Burge) Sage '92

Christina was a musician and a vocalist as a student at MHS. During her freshman, sophomore, and senior years, she performed as a musician with the jazz, varsity, and district bands. Also, during high school, she performed as a vocalist with the varsity chorus and was selected as a member of New Horizons during her senior year. She also sang with the chamber choir and was involved with MHS Today. During her junior year, Christina was a Rotary Exchange Student and studied in Osaka, Japan.

In addition to her year-round visual and performing arts commitments, Christina was a member of the MHS swim team, Leadership Society, and Library Club. She also held an officials post. She was selected as a Rotary Student of the Month and inducted into the National Honor Society.

Leadership Society and Student Senate. He was a student home chaplain, a member of The Spartan staff, and a student athlete on the track and field team.

Christie (Johnson) Lathan '00

Christie was awarded the Visual Arts Award during her senior year at MHS. In addition, she was a standout in visual and performing arts throughout high school. She was a member of the International Thespian Society and a Spartan Player.

Beyond her involvement in the visual and performing arts, Christie participated in the Lebanon Valley College dual-enrollment program, Acropolis, and the Service-Learning Club, and served as student body secretary. In addition, she played on the girls' basketball team and ran with the MHS cross country team. She was a member of Future Educators Association, Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, and Oxfam. She was also selected for induction into the National Honor Society.

Andy Menschik '75 (deceased)

Andy excelled in the performing arts. He was the set designer for “The Legend of Arthur Banana Plant,” participated in handbell choir, and sang in the choir. In recognition of his achievement in the performing arts, he was inducted as a member of the International Thespian Society. Andy's commitment and interest in the performing arts continued after MHS; he created his own prop company called “Imaginations” with another MHS graduate, Michael Fuller '94, who also worked as a production manager during his time at MHS.

Having died in March 2020, Andy was inducted posthumously. George Hollich,

Athletic Inductees

Fonati (Ward) Abrokwa '01

Fonati was a stellar athlete in three sports: track and field, field hockey, and basketball. From 1998-2001, she was a member of four conference and district track and field championship teams and three state track and field championship teams. During that same period, Fonati earned varsity letter awards in track and field, basketball, and field hockey. In 2000 and 2001, she was named a Mid-Penn Field Hockey All Star.

During freshman year, Fonati placed fourth in the 200-meter dash during the conference championship meet and placed fifth as a member of the 4x400 relay team at states. As a sophomore, she was a member of the Spartans 4x400 and 4x100 relay conference championship teams, placed third in the 300-meter hurdles, and fourth in the 200-meter dash at the conference meet. At the district meet, she ran as a part of the 4x400 relay championship team and placed third in the 300-meter hurdles. At the state meet, she was a member of the Spartans 4x400 relay championship team and placed fifth in the 300-meter hurdles.

As a junior, Fonati was a member of the Spartans 4x400 relay team that won championships at the conference, district, and state meets. In addition, she placed second in the 300-meter hurdles and third in the 400-meter dash at the conference meet, second in the 300-meter hurdles at the district meet, and eighth in the 300-meter hurdles at the state meet.

During senior year, Fonati again was a member of the Spartans 4x400 relay team that won championships at the conference, district, and state meets. In addition, she was the 300-meter hurdle champion at the conference and district meets and placed third in that event at the state meet. At the conference meet, she placed second in the 400-meter dash and second as a member of the 4x800 relay team. At the district level, Fonati placed third in the 400 and fourth as a member of the 4x800 relay team. At states, she placed third in the 300-meter hurdles.

As a member of the girls' basketball team her senior year, Fonati earned a place on the all-time leader board for steals, assists, and three-pointers made. She was a Pop Kelchner nominee and received the Latoya Lawton Award, Hershey Lions Club Scholar Athlete Award, the PIAA District III Sportsmanship Award, and the PIAA District III Jerry Brooks Academic Excellence Award.

Judith Akua Agyepong '02

Judith participated in three sports while a student at MHS: track and field, field hockey, and basketball. She is probably best known, however, for placing at the top at state meets in track and field. In 1999, Judith was a member of the 4x400 relay team that placed first at the state meet. The following year, she was a member of the 4x100 relay team that placed first again at the state meet and placed sixth as an individual in both the 100- and 200-meter dash. In 2001 at the state meet, Judith placed second in the 100 and 200 and second as a member of the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams. During her senior year at the state meet, she placed first as a member of the 4x400 relay team, second as an individual in the 200, third in the 100, and second as a member of the 4x100 relay team.

As a field hockey player, Judith was named Offensive Player of the Year as a forward in 1999, and in 2000 received the All Around Player Award. She also played as a member of the junior varsity and varsity girls' basketball team.

In addition to her incredible performance in track, she played field hockey from sophomore to senior year and was a vocalist for the varsity choir.

As a senior, Judith received the Athletic Commitment Award from the MHS Alumni Association and was recognized as a Senior Salute Honoree by the Epsilon Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

After MHS, Judith was a member of the women's track and field team at Delaware State University. She later served as assistant track and field coach for Monroe College of New Rochelle from September 2009 to May 2010, and as assistant basketball coach for Alamance County Recreational League for seven years and for the Tiny Tots for one season.

Ryan Blom '15

A triple-sport athlete, Ryan was a valued teammate for the swim, soccer, and track and field teams. In 2013, he placed second at districts and fourth at states for the one-meter diving event. The following year he placed third at districts and fifth at states. Ryan also set school records for one-meter diving, and some of his records still stand.

In addition to his performance on the swim team, Ryan was a varsity starter all four years for the soccer team and served as captain his senior year.

After MHS, he took his talents to Georgetown University where he received a full scholarship. In 2018, Ryan received the most prestigious award for a student-athlete at

Georgetown University, which recognized his leadership and impact on academics, athletics, and the community. While in college, Ryan was a back-to-back individual Big East champion in one-meter diving in both 2016 and 2017. From 2016-2018, he placed second four times in the Big East Conference competition. Ryan was awarded the Big East Most Valuable Diver Award in 2018.

Garry Gilliam '09

A scholar-athlete, Garry was on the MHS honor roll for three years and lettered for three years in football and basketball. As a football player, he played one year as a freshman on the junior varsity team; the following three years, he was a starter for the varsity team, playing tight end and defensive end. Garry finished with 350 receiving yards, 153 tackles, five interceptions, and four touchdowns. He was named to the Mid-Penn Conference First Team as a tight end/defensive end, to the Patriot News Platinum 33, and to the Pennsylvania All-State First Team. He was also selected to the Pennsylvania football squad as a tight end in the 2009 Big 33 Classic and named as a USA Today All-American tight end. As a senior, Garry was a John Travers Award Finalist. As a basketball player, he was a Pennsylvania Big 15 selection.

After MHS, Garry earned a bachelor's degree at Penn State University on a full athletic scholarship. In 2014, he entered the NFL after signing with the Seattle Seahawks. Three years later, he signed with the San Francisco 49ers where he played offensive tackle.

Thomas Johnson '81 (deceased)

Thomas is remembered for his participation and talents in track and field at MHS. His achievements contributed to the track team winning the state championship for the first time in 1980. At the district and state meets, he won the 100- and 200-meter dash. During his high school years on the track team, he contributed to the track team's earning the Capital Area Conference Team Championship, PIAA District 3 Team Championship, and the PIAA State Championship titles.

In addition to his outstanding performance as a member of the track and field team, Thomas also played football. Beyond athletics, he was a member of the Student Home Council, Student Senate, and the Student Leadership Society.

Thomas was inducted posthumously, and members of his family offered remarks in his honor. 🙏

MHS OFFERS CAREER RESOURCES FOR ALUMNI

Milton Hershey School offers online career resources to help alumni find job opportunities, complete job applications, prepare for interviews, and accept a job. Learn more about the resources below.

Online Job Board

To better connect students and graduates with Milton Hershey School partner employers, the Graduate Programs for Success Division launched a no-cost, online job board. The no-cost platform is accessible only to MHS students, graduates, and partner employers.

Why should I use the MHS Online Job Board?

- Search seasonal, part-time and full-time jobs, and internship and apprenticeship opportunities posted by MHS partner employers.
- Post your resume so recruiters can view it to further understand your qualifications. Employers can reach out to registered alumni who meet their hiring requirements.

- Get announcements about career services events, such as MHS employer information sessions and career development workshops.
- Access the library of career development articles and podcasts to help you with your job search efforts.
- Take advantage of the user-friendly resume builder template to help you create your resume.

To access the online job board, scan the QR code or visit:

collegecentral.com/mhs/

- Select: I am an Alumnus/a
- Need an account? **Sign up**
- Follow directions after selecting Sign up

To search for jobs once you have registered:
Select: Search My School's Jobs



What Can I Do with This Major?



If you are thinking about going to college but not sure which major to choose, it can be helpful to know what careers are possible with certain majors. MHS Career Services has an online tool, called “What Can I Do with This Major,” that provides the opportunity to review different careers associated with specific majors and types of employers that hire individuals with those majors.

Visit mhsalum.org/graduate-resources/career-service/career-exploration/ to access the “What Can I Do with This Major Tool.”

Short-Term Training

Postsecondary education includes a range of options beyond four-year college degrees, including short-term training programs, certifications, and apprenticeships.

Short-term training might be a good fit for you if:

- You want to enter the world of work after high school
- You have been a stay-at-home caretaker or parent, and you want to enter or re-enter the workforce
- You want to make a career change

To view details about several jobs that require short-term training programs, visit mhsalum.org/short-term-credentialing/.



Big Interview



Big Interview is an online system that combines training and practice to help you improve your interview techniques and build your confidence.

Big Interview offers a variety of tools including:

- Mock video interview practice and recording tool
- Written and video curriculum covering the entire job search and interview process
- Practice answering interview questions with the STAR technique
- Ability to share videos externally or internally for feedback
- Resume creator tool

First-time users can create an account by visiting

mhsalum.org/big-interview-registration-request/.

Visit MHSAlum.org for additional details about MHS Career Services: mhsalum.org/graduate-resources/career-service/.

If you have questions, you may email MHSCareerServices@mhs-pa.org.

MHS Students, Staff, and Alumni Honor Veterans Day



Senior Division students and staff at Milton Hershey School welcomed MHS alumni who have or are currently serving in the United States armed services into their history classroom in honor of Veterans Day. Alumni shared with the students the characteristics and traits required for a career in the military—while also giving students hands-on opportunities to try on gear, watch videos, and more.

“MHS has meant so much to me in my life, and I’m incredibly grateful to Mr. and Mrs.

Hershey. I’m happy to come back to share this Veterans Day with our students—they are interested and engaged and asked terrific questions,” shared Kimberly Elenberg ’88, 2012 MHS Alumna of the Year.

Students learned about the many career opportunities in the military. Many students saw the connection between the topics they learn about in history class and the stories that alumni shared. Some alumni also shared about their lives at the school, how much has changed since they left, and what time-honored traditions continue.

The school focuses on developing a service-minded attitude through the MHS Sacred Values—commitment to mission, mutual respect, positive spirit, and integrity. These values show when alumni come back to invest in the lives of current students—just as the school’s founders, Mr. and Mrs. Hershey, intended.



“I appreciate the time these alumni and veterans took out of their day to tell us stories. It’s great learning more about history and the military,” said Andrew Flores, MHS ninth grade student.

MHS students can learn about many career paths through the school’s Career and Technical Education program that offers 12 pathways for students to choose from. For many MHS students, being able to hear about the careers of current alumni is helpful as they think about their own futures. 🙌



MHS Hosts Alumni Reception in Pittsburgh

The MHS Office of Alumni Relations and the Graduate Programs for Success Division held a regional reception to reconnect with alumni. Alumni who attended ranged from the classes of 1969 through 2022, including graduates who are

pursuing postsecondary education at colleges and universities in the Pittsburgh area.

Watch the Spartan Minute e-newsletter for details about upcoming regional alumni events.

View more photos at mhsalum.org.



Spartan Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations for candidates for Spartan Hall of Fame induction are accepted year-round; however, nominations for the 2023 awards are closed. Nomination instructions can be found online at mhsalum.org.

A Note from the MHS Alumni Association President

Greetings Spartans!

2022 was a remarkable year for reconnecting and refocusing our purpose.

After three years' hiatus, we were able to enjoy many of our time-honored alumni traditions. Alumni Fellowship Weekend in April 2022 marked the return of in-person gatherings on campus.

The Alumni Association, together with MHS, hosted a reception for alumni in Pittsburgh. Among those attending were 16 recent graduates who are pursuing postsecondary education in the area. It was amazing to see the connections being made between younger and older alumni as we celebrated our common bonds by building friendships across generations.

Homecoming 2022 was one of our best to date with a large number of alumni returning to participate in traditional, and some new, in-person events. A Paint and Sip event on Thursday night kicked off a fabulous weekend for all who attended. Alumni who attended the Homecoming Banquet had the opportunity to congratulate Jocelyn Bioh '01 who was introduced as the 2022 Alumna of the Year at the Opening of School Assembly in August. She also participated in several events on Sunday morning. As is typical of Homecoming, members of the Alumni Association elected four new MHSAA Board members, Terry Arnold '82, David

DuCharme '15, Alfredo Gonzalez '87 and Tom Trispagonas '99. In addition, I thank those members who concluded their terms in 2022, Mike Baer '77, Barbara Polk '84, and John Whitehead '71.

During the Annual Business Meeting at Homecoming, the MHSAA Board introduced two new initiatives for alumni. The first initiative is a commercial auto insurance program for members of the senior class, beginning with the Class of 2023, and the other is an initiative to honor alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation, the MHS Gold Star Alumni Memorial Campaign.

This commercial auto insurance policy project was the result of recent grads' finding it difficult and expensive to obtain auto insurance after graduation. Now, the Association will provide auto insurance coverage for members of the senior class. This will enable new graduates to obtain auto insurance plans of their own with "seasoning" of coverage rather than starting with no history. This has the potential to reduce their auto insurance costs by as much as 40 percent.

As you know, MHS has a long-standing tradition of honoring alumni who serve in the military. During World War II alone more than 1,000 alumni served their country. During World War II and since then, 57 alumni have died during service to our country; they are the MHS Gold Star Alumni.

Milton Hershey himself requested that the school honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In 1943, Milton S. Hershey purchased large plaques honoring those who died during military service to the country for display in the community, and that memorial was a focal point for Memorial Day remembrances for generations. The display was recently dismantled, and today the Hershey community is working to restore it. MHSAA pledged to donate \$25,000 toward the effort to ensure that MHS Gold Star Alumni will continue to be properly recognized in Hershey. We would like to raise more than the initial commitment, but we need your help to establish this lasting tribute to the MHS Gold Star Alumni, to whom we remain forever indebted.

As we look forward to 2023, we are excited to test new programming for alumni. We have heard your concerns, and we are working to reduce some of the barriers to participating in events. The Alumni Fellowship Weekend schedule will reflect some of the changes, and we hope to attract more alumni while also creating a memorable experience for our seniors as they enter the home stretch toward graduation. We look forward to seeing everyone April 21-23, 2023. 🍷

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

MHSAA Announces the 2023 Board of Directors and Officers



The following alumni were elected to serve terms on the MHSAA Board of Directors through 2025: Terry Arnold '82, Alfredo Gonzales '87, and David DuCharme '14, and incumbent board member Tom Trispagonas '99, who had previously been appointed as treasurer.

At the board's reorganizational meeting in November, the following board members were selected as officers: John Foley '83, president; Michael Mulderig '71, past president; Angela Shade '95, vice president; Francine Serafin '93, vice president/legal counsel; Terry Arnold, vice president/communication; Tom Trispagonas, treasurer; Kimberly Elenberg '88, secretary, and Lorraine Romberger '83, ex-officio.

Returning members include Joe Aurelio '84; Paul Aurelio '84; Julee Hixon '84; Albert Leonzi '71; Jack Swofford '73; Virgil Whitsett '81; Amanda DuCharme '13, Harrisburg Chapter representative; John Grab, Honorary Member Chapter representative; Bob Gurt '82, Homestead Chapter representative; and Mel Horn '69, DMV Chapter representative. 🍷

MHSAA Presents Alumni Service Award to Dave Maitland '69



The Milton Hershey School Alumni Association presented the MHSAA Service Award to Pastor David Maitland '69 at the Homecoming Banquet on Oct. 15, 2022. Maitland has been involved with MHS and MHSAA Homecoming worship services for 40 years. For the past 20 years, he has served MHSAA and the MHS community by coordinating the Memorial Grove and Homecoming Graveside services and assisted with coordinating MHS Chapel Services during Homecoming and Fellowship weekends. 🍷

Photo: MHSAA President John Foley '83 presents the Alumni Service Award to Pastor David Maitland '69.

MHSAA Inducts Honorary Members During Homecoming

The Milton Hershey School Alumni Association inducted two new honorary members at the Homecoming Banquet on Oct. 15, 2022, and publicly honored two others who were inducted in 2020. To name someone as an Honorary Milton Hershey School Alumnus or Alumna is to recognize their distinct and enduring contribution to the MHS community. The new honorary members are retired houseparents, Julie and Randy Mladenoff. The 2020 inductees are Cristal Sheaffer, retired music teacher, and Ken Snyder, former coach. 🍷

Photo: From left are MHSAA honorary members Ken Snyder, Cristal Sheaffer, and Julie and Randy Mladenoff.



Alumnus Wins Top Prize in MHSAA Homecoming Raffle

Richard Ayres '60 won the top prize of \$10,000 in the Milton Hershey School Alumni Association Homecoming Raffle. Winning tickets were drawn during the 90th Homecoming Banquet on Oct. 15, 2022.

Additional winners include: \$1,500 each: Richard Frees '65 and Steven Polini • \$500 each: Sheila Deitrich '92, Skip Kennedy '77, John Masker '79, and the Rife Family (c/o Ivan Rupert '50). MHSAA thanks everyone who supports the Association throughout the year. As a volunteer organization, MHSAA would not exist without your support. 🍷



CHAPTER NEWS



Harrisburg Chapter

The Harrisburg Chapter hosted its annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at Hershey Cemetery on Sept. 11, 2022, two days before Milton S. Hershey's birthday. The annual ceremony was inspired by chapter member Jim Hanawalt '65, and he continues to be the driving force behind it. He also made the wreath that was placed at the gravesite in honor of MHS founders, Milton and Catherine Hershey. The late Don Witman, MHSAA honorary member, was the featured speaker. 🍷

Homestead Chapter



Since the opening of school, the Homestead Chapter has been active by conducting a food drive with assistance from Transitional Living home Ivanhoe to benefit the MHS Food Bank; hosted a Christmas party for Elementary Division students at Founders Hall; and celebrated the holidays with a festive dinner at Purcell Friendship Hall. During the dinner, the chapter presented the Homestead Chapter Service Award to Lorraine Romberger '83, MHS Manager of Alumni Relations, for going above and beyond to provide service to the chapter to help it further its mission. 🍷

Honorary Member Chapter



The Honorary Chapter met at the Hershey Story Museum in November 2022. President Cristal Sheaffer presided at the business meeting, and secretary Ann Reigle and treasurer John Gräb gave reports. Following the business meeting, members enjoyed a tour of the museum, guided by Don Papon, Executive Director of the M.S. Hershey Foundation. Don has a wealth of knowledge and history which he shared with Honorary Chapter members. 🍷

CLASS

Notes

1940s

Harry Kelly ’45, of Timonium, Md., and his wife, Eve, celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary at their retirement residence. They have two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Ralph Greer ’46, of Littleton, Colo., has given presentations about Milton Hershey School to more than 1,500 residents of senior living groups, 20 to 30 people at a time.

1950s

George Marks ’51, of Cumming, Ga., had 87 people, including Howard Woodrow ’51, attend his 90th birthday party. George went snow skiing in Canada in January 2022, and was going water skiing the afternoon he submitted this class note. He also continues to play golf.

John Buker ’52, of Wellsboro, retired from the Navy in 1972 after 20 years. He received a bachelor’s degree in 1979, and was a county detective from 1980-85. He was also an adjunct instructor at Mansfield University for six years, a private investigator for 10 years, a census taker in 1998, and a home inspector for one year. He also has been a substitute teacher at several high schools in his area. John’s wife passed away Aug. 7, 2020. They were married for 62 years.

Richard Balliet ’53, of San Diego, Calif., served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 21 years, including as a drill instructor. He was the landscape supervisor for the South Bay Union School District for 17 years. He is a member of the Corvette Club, Corvettes of San Diego.

Ronald Dionisio ’53, of Baden, is retired and spending time volunteering for community services. He has three children.

Paul Taylor ’53, of Centennial, Colo., and his wife, Judy, have been married for 58 years. Their son is a manager with Amazon, and their daughter is a pilot with American Airlines.

James Murray ’54, of Warriors Mark, and his wife, Beverly, have been married for 66 years. They have three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is a U.S. Army and Pennsylvania National Guard veteran, and he served at the Redstone Arsenal, Ordnance Missile School Tank Command.

Aristide Adelizzi ’55, of Akron, welcomed his fifth great-grandchild last year.

Paul Azarian ’55, of Garnet Valley, retired from the U.S. Navy as an E8. He and his wife, Carole, have been married for 61 years. They have four children and five grandchildren.

John Feeney ’56, of Laguna Niguel, Calif., is retired, and he and his wife, Donna, have been married for 62 years.

Lawrence Yoder ’56, of Dalmatia, recently turned 84. His advice: “Live when you are young.”

Michael Beltz ’57, of Highland, Md., retired from the U.S. Department of Defense in September 2019 after 57 years of service. He was deployed to Vietnam and Iraq. With the recent birth of a new granddaughter, he has 12 grandchildren. He and his wife enjoy traveling in the U.S. and abroad.

Art Bossler ’57, of Lebanon, and his wife, Dorothy, have been married for 62 years. He is still working full time. They moved to an over-55 community in April 2022.

Marlin Boyd ’57, of New Port Richey, Fla., is enjoying life in Florida; he is retired but keeping busy.

Jules Bosch ’58, of Warren, N.J., is retired, playing golf, and writing a memoir. He also does a lot of gardening.

George Hannold ’58, of Meriden, Conn., has been retired from the U.S. Air Force for 26 years, Pratt & Witney for 13 years, and as a private security supervisor for 13 years. He fully retired in 2010.

1960s

Edward Beck ’60, of Ocala, Fla., and his wife, Lynne, have been married for 60 years. They have three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He retired after 29 years with Bethlehem Steel.

Ralph Eckert ’60, of Martinsville, Ind., is still going strong—both work and play—but not as strong as 20 or 30 years ago. He says, “life is good,” and he tries to keep up with everything going on at MHS.

F. Loyal Findley ’61, of Flint, Mich., moved in with his brother, Myron Dennis, to help his brother. Loyal is retired but works part time driving for a painting supply business that serves collision centers. He also has a black raspberry patch.

Robert Stewart ’61, of Old Zionsville, and his wife, June, have been married for 13 years.

Edward Fowkes ’62, of Wexford, has been retired for two years and is enjoying life.

Edward Strayer ’62, of Gardners, retired as a lineman 1st class H.S. from Met-Ed in 1980. He also retired as production superintendent from U.S. Naval Engineering Command in 2017. He is presently serving on the Board of Supervisors for Cooke Township, Cumberland County.

Robert May ’63, of Hummelstown, is retired and has seven grandkids. He was recently invited to discuss his Vietnam experiences as a platoon commander during the Central Pennsylvania Vietnam Round Table.

Larry Seesholtz ’63, of Orlando, Fla., has been flying airplanes for 60 years, since he left MHS. He would be glad to share his experiences, employment, and educational opportunities in the aviation career field.

Thomas Blizzard ’64, of Conway S.C., was looking forward to the birth of his fourth and fifth great-grandchildren around the holidays.

Richard Climenhaga ’64, of Manassas, Va., and his wife, Penny, have been married for 53 years, and they have five grandchildren. He is remodeling their second house for retirement. He retired from Xerox Corporation after 33 years and is in his 15th year at Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia.

Ernest Corson ’64, of Harrisburg, and his wife, Joanna, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 23, 2022.

David Law ’64, of Trenton, Mich., has six children of his own and adopted three. He has 11 grandchildren. He has been working for 42 years as a urologic surgeon in Michigan. He loves to play golf and is grateful for the support and help given to him by MHS when he was in need of structure as a child; he remains forever thankful.

David Gallant ’65, of Morrisville, retired from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve after 22 years of service. He also retired from Amtrak railroad after 36 years.

Carl Glass ’65, of East Greenwich, R.I., has one daughter, Brandee, and three grandchildren. They all reside in Parrish, Fla. He says, “May the honor, integrity, and compassion with which Milton and Catherine Hershey nurtured us at a time we most needed it be cherished and nestled in our hearts always. As guardian angels, may they continue to keep us safe, warm, confident, and secure.”

Donald Hart ’65, of Kennewich, Wash., and his wife, Lisa, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a trip from Washington state to Myrtle Beach, S.C. While there, they caught up with classmate **Bruce Campbell ’65** and his wife, Phyllis, and spent a very full day seeing some interesting historical locations. Don is active in Rotary Club and District with a current project to launch education about human trafficking in the local school district.

Roy Samras ’65, of Savannah, Ga., is retired, does volunteer tutoring/mentoring at elementary schools, and enjoys boating and visiting his 11 grandchildren.

Ronald Scott ’65, of Blackwood, N.J., enjoys traveling with his wife, Joan. He plays lots of golf and goes fishing, but spoiling his five grandchildren remains a top priority. He has been meeting with friends of Dill W. and Dr. Bob for 33 years.

John Vine ’65, of Ringwood, N.J., and his wife, Patricia, have been married for 51 years. They have two children and three grandchildren. They have been fortunate to travel to the Middle East, Europe, and throughout the United States, and feel very blessed. He is semi-retired and loves working three days a week. He is responsible for keeping golf courses, professional sports fields, and universities green.

Robert Chalmers ’66, of Blue Bell, has been in the security business since 1966. He started his own company in 1980 installing CCTV fire alarm, intercom, and security systems in homes, industrial locations, schools, businesses, and commercial sites.

Gary Hartman ’66, of Ponchatoula, La., is enjoying retirement with Bonnie. They love travelling and had a chance to come visit MHS in June with Jeffrey Beam and **Chuck Welsh ’66**. They visited with Linda Weller, widow of deceased classmate, **Mike Weller ’66**, and were amazed at all the great changes at MHS. They had not visited MHS in 30 years. Gary still enjoys all sports and working out.

John Hughes ’66, of Livonia, Mich., and his wife, Eileen, have been married for 50 years.

John Laskey ’66, of Apex, N.C., is enjoying life and playing golf. He and his wife, Barbara, have been married for 51 years.

Fenton Harpster ’68, of Hanover, and his wife, Cheryl, have been married for 53 years, and they have three children and six grandchildren. He retired 11 years ago from Harley Davidson and is enjoying life.

Michael McCarthy ’68, of Longmont, Colo., and his wife, Mona, will celebrate 50 years of marriage in March 2023.

James Rupp ’68, of Fort Myers, Fla., moved into a new home.

Donald Gates ’69, of Corona, Calif., works part time as a physician. He is married, and his children are grown.

Gary Hilton ’69, of North Brookfield, N.Y., is enjoying retirement and three grandsons.

Edward Kershner ’69, of Crestview, Fla., worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, The Hershey Company, and Milton Hershey School until he retired fully in 2016. In 2018, he moved to Florida because the winters got too cold and snowy.

Laura Maria McCullough-Linver ’69, of Pittsburgh, has composed 436 music compositions across 10 genres, including classical, semiclassical, marching bands, jazz, ballads, waltzes, music



Members of the Class of 1972 celebrated their 50-year reunion during Homecoming Weekend 2022, Oct. 14-16, 2022. 📷

therapy, swing, and blues. Having won two women’s chess championships in the 1990s and coaching two Pennsylvania chess championship teams, she teaches chess and music at a local senior center. Laura has also been a Judge of Elections for her election district in Pittsburgh for more than 22 years.

Kenneth Schreffler ’69, of Southampton, retired from his law practice after 36 years. He welcomed his newest granddaughter in February 2022.

1970s

Davey Gregg ’70, of Priest River, Idaho, is enjoying retirement in North Idaho with three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Bruce Whitehead ’70, of Ocean Pines, Md., retired after 48 years in respiratory therapy in 2019. He and his wife, Joy, have been married for 46 years, and they have three sons and four grandchildren.

Albert Leonzi ’71, of Edinboro, works at Penn West University at Edinboro in campus ministry. He is also an AARP driver safety program instructor and zone coordinator for 50+ drivers; Penn State Cooperative Extension President for Northwestern Pennsylvania; Kiwanis member; Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church cantor, choir member, eucharistic minister, lector/reader, greeter, and confirmation instructor; MHS ambassador; MHSAA board member; and Edinboro Senior Citizens vice president for programs.

Sean Ryan ’71, of Perkasio, works one day a week for the Bucks County Courts and volunteers three days a week at a local food bank. He enjoys traveling with Twyla, his wife of 45 years, and is enjoying retirement.

Donald Shannon ’71, of Palmyra, N.J., and his wife, Debra, will celebrate 50 years of marriage in April. They have two daughters, one granddaughter, and a great-granddaughter.

Royal Spellmeyer ’71, of Carrollton, Texas, moved to Carrollton, a suburb of Dallas, from Oklahoma City, Okla.

Charles Winkler ’71, of Mount Bethel, is retired and lives in the surrounding countryside of Mount Bethel. He does small carpentry jobs for friends and family.

Cecil Johnson ’72, of Dauphin, is an author and an instructor and service technician in the heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC-R) industry. He was the HVAC-R instructor at Dauphin County Technical School in Harrisburg, Pa., for 35 years and an adjunct professor with Harrisburg Area Community College for more than 20 years. He developed specialized HVAC-R training programs for the U.S. Air Force (Pacific Command) and authored three books geared toward practical application and understanding of HVAC-R theory, operation, troubleshooting, and maintenance. He was a primary developer of the General Services Administration and Salvation Army’s facilities maintenance training programs for The Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute.



Alan Krashesky ’78 retired as anchor at abc7 Chicago in November 2022 after a 40-year career. He started his career at WLS as a reporter in 1982 when he was 21 years old. Alan was named MHS Alumnus of the Year in 2005. 📷

Former Alumnus of the Year Elected to Boards of Hershey Trust Company and MHS



The Hershey Trust Company (HTC) Board of Directors and the Milton Hershey School Board of Managers announced on Jan. 9 the recent election of three new directors/managers: Michelle Figlar, Harold Singleton III, and **Jason Wolfe '87**. Jason enrolled at Milton Hershey School at the age of 11. After graduating from MHS and Bloomsburg University in 1992, he became an entrepreneur and self-taught programmer and started a series of internet companies, including MyCoupons. Jason later built Direct Response Technologies, Inc., an affiliate tracking platform which scaled to 12 billion monthly transactions. Most notably, he created GiftCards.com, which is the largest gift card website in the world generating more than \$1 billion per year in sales. Jason was chairman of the Pittsburgh Technology Council and serves on the board of Family Design Resources, which provides adoption/foster services for needy children. During his career, Jason has received a variety of honors, including Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year, the Pittsburgh Technology Council's CEO of the Year, and Milton Hershey School's 2014 Alumnus of the Year. 🏆

Daniel Rice '72, of Glenside, has been retired for several years. He was self-employed as a financial consultant and helped troubled companies for the last 35 years. He has been married for 43 years and has two daughters and two grandchildren. He enjoys travel, golf, and fishing, and continues to use the shop and carpentry skills he learned at MHS.

J. Steven Warner '72, of Keene, N.H., retired on July 31, 2022. He has four daughters and five grandchildren.

Julien Alexandre '73, of Harrisburg, and his wife, Kimbra, enjoy travel, hobbies, and visiting family, especially their four grandchildren.

Ralph Carfagno '73, of Hummelstown, is retired. Noting that he had a great team at his last job, Ralph also said, "Life has become immeasurably better since I have been forced to stop taking it so seriously!"

John Carlson '73, of West Middlesex, retired in January 2022. He and his wife, Georgia, have been married for 42 years, and they have three daughters and six grandchildren, two boys and four girls.

Michael Kudrick '73, of Vineland, N.J., retired from the National Constitution Center in July

2019. He worked in building maintenance as a plumber for 16 years. He is married and has three daughters, three stepchildren, five grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Joseph Mitchell '73, of Cocoa, Fla., is a retired systems analyst, software engineer, and quality control engineer for Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Cape Canaveral AFS. He provided software support to the Hubble Space Telescope and the Space Shuttle Program.

Nicholas Ruggiero '73, of Las Vegas, Nev., recently launched Spartan General, an insurance agency serving Pennsylvania, Ohio, Nevada, Texas, Florida, and California. Spartan General provides personal and business insurance coverage consultations on term life, whole life, indexed life, and annuity policies, as well as Medicare Advantage and personal indemnity policies.

Craig Tanzola '73, of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., is still working. He survived COVID and has been married for 33 years. He has three sons and two dogs, and he is enjoying every minute of life.

Jeffrey Godwin '75, of Stockton, N.J., and his wife, Patricia, have been married for 39 years. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Timothy Rockey '75, of New Cumberland, retired in June 2021 after 14 years at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and 27 years with the Patriot News. He has two grown sons and two granddaughters. Tim studied business at MHS and still uses a few skills learned while a student. He enjoys being retired and has a small lawn-mowing business and is a PIAA football official on weekends. He is also an amateur writer, enjoys a good book by John Grisham, and has dabbled in standup comedy. He loves helping family and friends with small home or landscape projects. He is treasurer for the MHSAA Harrisburg Chapter.

Robert Gogol '77, of Somerton, Ariz., has six grandkids, four girls and two boys. He recently passed 33 years at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., U.S. Marine Corps Squadron VMFT-401. They fly F5 Tigers in support of air-to-air combat for WTI and Topsun. He served 13 years as a Marine, 33 years as a Marine contractor—46 years supporting the Marines in total.

Anthony Palmieri '77, of Chester Springs, graduated from Drexel University in 1982 with a bachelor's degree of Science in electrical engineering and received a master's in engineering from Cornell University in 1987. He married Robin Dinning in 1990, and they have three children. Anthony's mother passed away in August 2022 at the age of 92. She is sorely missed.

William Harding '78, of Tampa, Fla., completed his Ph.D. in technology integration, published his third book, and was awarded four more biomedical patents/trade secrets with a total of 38 published patents; moved from Arizona to Florida; and started building a forever home. He and his wife, Madeline, celebrated 30 years of marriage and 36 years together. They are enjoying beach life with their fur babies, Roo and Ivi.



Amanda DuCharme '13, who teaches French at Linden Hall School for Girls, took her students to Susquehanna University for Journée de la Francophonie, an interactive day of French activities and conversation. Amanda helped plan the annual event when she was a student at Susquehanna University. Amanda serves on the MHSAA Board as the Harrisburg Chapter representative. 🍷

Daniel Medis '78, of Altoona, is still working and needs to plan what to do in retirement. He wants to go to all the Major League ball parks. He is widowed with no children, and he is healthy.

James Gribble '79, of Tucson, Ariz., retired on Oct. 31, 2022. His son, TJ, is a freshman at University of Arizona. His wife, Christine, retired from the National Security Administration, and they are building a house in Vail, Ariz.

1980s

Rodney Drake '80, of Dillsburg, has been working at MHS for seven-and-a-half years. He works in Founders Hall providing safety, security, and emergency preparedness for the entire building. He said the best part of the job is interacting with MHS students.

Timothy McDevitt '83, of Palmyra, retired on Aug. 1, 2022 after 25 years with the Philadelphia Fire Department.

Deborah (Yentzer) Jackson '85, of Coudersport, welcomed her eighth grandchild on April 1. Her grandchildren are ages four months to 15 years old. They keep her busy and make her happy. When she is not working, she is with them or in her veggie patch or her beautiful flower garden.

Brian Kilpatrick '85, of Charlotte, N.C., is president-elect for the North Carolina Ultrasound Society, one of the largest in the country. He is still singing and playing clarinet and sax.

Thomas Sorrentino '85, of Allentown, and his wife, Carol, celebrated 31 years of marriage.

Agoi Ombima '87, of Cheltenham, was presented with an Outstanding Service Award by the DeMolay Consistory No. 1 of the Ancient and Accepted Sottish Rite of Freemasonry.

Paul Sheehan '87, of Elizabethtown, hosted a group of students from the MHS Year Round Experience program at his restaurant, The Hershey

Bistro, as part of a career exploration opportunity.

Melissa (Federinko) Alvarez '89, of Tampa, Fla., is a first-time grandma to Antonio, who was born in May 2022.

Robert Gilbert '89, of Grasonville, Md., started a new position as branch manager at Hachik Distributors. Since 1923, Hachik Distributors has grown to become a major regional supplier to the pool and spa industry.

Verndell (Williams) Robinson '89, of Triangle, Va., has several careers. In her position with ICE, she is a debarment analyst located in the procurement section. As a realtor, she has four licenses in Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. She was awarded the Sterling International Award for sales in the DMV and is one of Coldwell Banker Realty's top 100. She also earned a law degree from Handong Global University.

1990s

Sheila Dietrich '92, of Winchester, Va., accepted a new position at Loudoun County Public Schools in Virginia for 2022-2023.

Carrie Kulp-Hanna '93, of Fredericksburg, Va., started a new position as senior partner account manager - public sector at Amazon Web Services.

Laura Seifert '93, of Aspinwall, was promoted to fiduciary advisor at PNC.

Thandeka (Cummings) Berg '94, of Winchester, Va., married Jeffrey Berg on June 26, 2022, in Winchester.

Anshu (Shrestha) Park '96, of Naperville, Ill., started a new position as commercial lines global account executive at USI Insurance Services.

Hershane Jones '97, of Lansdowne, started a new position as marketing delivery lead, vice president at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

2000s

Aurita Maldonado '01, of Vieques, Puerto Rico, authored a book titled "The Zen of Dancing in the Rain: Becoming One with the Storm."

Jay (Diaz) Auxier '02, of Finleyville, moved to a new home and had a baby boy with her fiancé.

Christopher Clark '02, of Fayetteville, N.C., started a logistics company with his wife. He is co-owner and logistics coordinator at Triple E Logistics LLC.

Trachanda (Brown) Garcia '02, of Downingtown, left Haverford College in May and started a new position with West Chester University in the Center for International Programs.

Derek Martin '02, of San Francisco, Calif., started a new position as owner at Martinomics, which focuses on digital marketing-based software and development.

Robert Summerton '02, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., started a new position as operations manager at REMAX Real Estate Group in Bonita Springs, Fla.

Marilyn (Weaver) Guzman '03, of Coatesville, was married on Aug. 20, 2022.

Amber Masinos '05, of Mount Carmel, has two daughters, one age 13 and one 20 months.

Lisa Prough '05, of Kingwood, Texas, was married on Oct. 1, 2022.

Cassanrda (Wentzel) Razzi '05, of Jenkintown, and her husband, welcomed second son, Everett Sinclair Razzi, on Dec. 31, 2021.

Rachel (Light) McCoy '06, of Montgomery Village, Md., married **Brandon McCoy '08** in 2020. Their daughter was born in November 2021.

Alexandra Cruz '07, of Philadelphia, was promoted to executive director of Girard College Alumni Association.

Shyla Booker Bradbury '09, of Brattleboro, Vt., bought her first home and had her first child in the last year. She works with the elder population and cares for a 107-year-old woman. She is in nursing school to become a registered nurse.

Stephanie Brooks '09, of Holidaysburg, and her husband are expecting their first child in January 2023.

Joshua Chaplin '09, of Los Angeles, Calif., was promoted to director of influencer relations and campaign execution at Cashmere Agency.

Nia Cobb '09, of Philadelphia, started a new position as customer experience assistant at Spring EQ LLC.



In honor of Milton S. Hershey's 165th birthday, **U.S. Navy Lt. Seneca Ambrosino '97** purchased and handed out 100 Hershey's chocolate bars to children from Afghanistan waiting to travel to and start new lives in the United States. The children were able to experience a glimpse of the legacy that lives on in each graduate of HIS/MHS. 🍫

Alexander (Ortiz) Dissinger ’09, of Dallas, Texas, is living and thriving in Dallas, where they currently work for Salesforce.

2010s

M. James Miller ’10, of Nottingham, started a new position as chief information officer at Medtrition, Inc.

Helen Ard ’13, of Philadelphia, recently celebrated her third wedding anniversary with Zakaria Hsain. She received acceptance into a fellowship for college and career advising for nonprofit, 12 Plus. The organization partners with schools in underserved communities to build “plus” centers and provide individualized academic and postsecondary counseling for students to ensure they graduate with a path forward.

Elizabeth (Shaffer) Cabrera ’14, of Shippensburg, and her husband welcomed baby Lewis on June 25, 2022.

Allison Beane ’15, of Barre, Mass., graduated with highest honors from Mount Wachusett Community College with an associate of science in natural resources.

Haley Dennis ’15, of Centreville, Va., has accepted a new position with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority as a ramp tower controller at Dulles Airport.

Christopher Bonanny ’16, of Murrells Inlet, S.C., moved to South Carolina after graduating from Shippensburg University in 2020. They have worked as a teacher for two years and are attending a master’s program in language, literacy and culture at Coastal Carolina University. After graduating in May, they plan to pursue a Ph.D. in education. They are married and have three cats.



Rasheeda McLean ’11 has always had a passion for education. That passion inspired her to publish her first book titled “The Student Teachers.” Rasheeda enrolled at MHS when she was 8-years-old after her biological parents gave custody of her and her two siblings to their aunt. While hesitant at first to like MHS, she embraced every opportunity the school presented to her. After graduating, she went on to pursue a bachelor’s degree in early childhood and special education before earning her master’s degree. 📖

Omaris Caceres ’16, of Clearwater, Fla., graduated with a Master of Science in public health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health.

Nathan Fullam ’16, of Allston, Mass., is an automation engineer at Ginkgo Bioworks, Inc. He looks forward to growing his knowledge of biology and robotics.

Laila Barrada ’17, of Ruffs Dale, works for Wabtec in their two-year rotational program, the LEAD Program, on the operations track. They are currently based at the North Carolina plant doing a technical role as a manufacturing engineer. Every six months, they will move to a new plant in the United States or internationally and take on a new role.

Nathaniel Brown ’17, of Altoona, made the Dean’s List at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Brianna Sailor ’17, of Philadelphia, started studying at the Philadelphia Police Academy in June 2022. She is training to become a Philadelphia Police Officer, and hopes to someday be a detective.

Emily Smith ’17, of Selinsgrove, bought a house with her fiancé in July 2022. She and her college sweetheart were married on Oct. 29, 2022.

Emily Cooper ’18, of Elizabethtown, graduated with honors from Harcum College with an Associate of Science in dental assisting and was then hired at her internship site.

Lauryn Hershey ’18, of Bird in Hand, finished cosmetology school in 2020, and opened her own salon in June 2022 in Strasburg.

Marrika Phillips ’19, of Reading, participated in an internship with JPL.

Aidan Cameron ’21, of Middletown, made the Dean’s List at Pennsylvania College of Technology and had a summer job with Clinton County Corrections; they are majoring in human services and restorative justice.

Virginia Cartagena ’22, of Jenkintown, was featured as a first-year student in the Early Childhood Education program at Manor College.

Renee Donohue ’22, of Frederick, Md., earned national emergency medical technician certification.

Alumni Deaths

Robert Pike ’42, of Cornwall, Pa., Dec. 15, 2022

Herbert Wignall ’42, of Pearland, Texas, Aug. 5, 2022

Robert Newcomb ’45, of High Bridge, N.J., Feb. 26, 2020

Marlin Goodyear ’46, of Lower Paxton, Pa., May 5, 2022

Clair Groff ’47, of Lake Charles, La., Sept. 9, 2022

Stanley Maston ’47, of Rehoboth, Mass., Sept. 20, 2022

Charles Miller ’47, of Lebanon, Pa., Nov. 5, 2022

George Berryhill ’48, of Hershey, Pa., Dec. 21, 2022

Louis Bocian ’49, of Hershey, Pa., July 14, 2022

Adam Fisher ’49, of Smyrna, Del., Nov. 27, 2022

Arthur King ’50, of Bellefonte, Pa., April 5, 2022

Robert McCann ’50, of Seven Valleys, Pa., Oct. 11, 2022

Joseph Gosik ’51, of Lebanon, Pa., Sept. 19, 2022

Gilbert Murray ’52, of Mechanicsville, Va., Jan. 21, 2022

Cloyd Bare ’53, of Coos Bay, Ore., June 3, 2022

Glenn Good ’54, of Lititz, Pa., May 21, 2022

James Ayres ’55, of Wilmington, Del., June 3, 2022

Gerald Hedenberg ’55, of Lebanon, Pa., July 14, 2022

Walter Brooks ’56, of Philadelphia, Pa., May 1, 2022

John Bellis ’57, of Largo, Fla., Mar. 7, 2019

Gary Daum ’58, of New Oxford, Pa., May 23, 2022

S. Dale Hess ’58, of San Francisco, Calif., May 31, 2022

M. Luther O’Shell ’58, of Greensburg, Pa., Aug. 30, 2022*

Ronald Brooks ’60, of Glade Spring, Va., Feb. 3, 2018

James O’Donnell ’60, of Marco Island, Fla., Dec. 29, 2022

Lynn Coleman ’61, of Camp Hill, Pa., Jan. 20, 2022

Dennis Hall ’61, of North Apollo, Pa., June 27, 2022

Roger Stewart ’61, of Show Low, Ariz., Nov. 19, 2021

Harry Irvin Davis ’62, of Newburgh, N.Y., Jan. 14, 2023

Donald Felty ’62, of Lititz, Pa., Nov. 15, 2022

John Fisher ’62, of Riley, Mich., June 29, 2022*

Thomas Moyer ’62, of Shavertown, Pa., June 3, 2022



Captain Kimberly (Bishop) Elenberg ’88 retired from the U.S. Public Health Service on Nov. 18, 2022, after 27 years of service. Kimberly was named the MHS Alumna of the Year in 2012 and is currently an MHSAA Director. She regularly returns to MHS to engage and mentor students. She has begun the next chapter of her career as a principal scientist at Carnegie Mellon University. 📖

Francis Blizzard ’63, of Hershey, Pa., Aug. 15, 2022

James Lang ’63, of St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 17, 2022*

John Simpkins ’65, of Maui, Hawaii, June 19, 2022

Timothy Day ’66, of Lyon Station, Pa., Oct. 3, 2022

Jessie Balliet ’68, of Phelps, N.Y., Oct. 6, 2021

Richard McClure ’69, of Chillicothe, Ohio, Aug. 17, 2022

Phillip Struzzi ’69, of Pittston, Pa., June 24, 2022

Donald Chappell ’70, of Hummelstown, Pa., Oct. 3, 2022

Thomas Rothert ’71, of Silver Spring, Md., Dec. 25, 2022

Robert Maloney ’72, of Millsboro, Del., Oct. 17, 2020*

Richard Kern ’74, of Slatington, Pa., Nov. 30, 2021

Michael Miller ’74, of Chippewa, Pa., Apr. 28, 2022*

Raymond Gurt ’76, of Hershey, Pa., Oct. 5, 2022

Dennis Horsefield ’77, of Berwick, Pa., Feb. 2, 2020*

John Murrain ’82, of Riverside, Calif., Aug. 29, 2021

Brandt Henderson ’84, of Harrisburg, Pa., June 21, 2022

Ronald Moll ’85, of Hershey, Pa., Aug. 30, 2022

Steven Adams ’87, of Philadelphia, Pa., July 23, 2021

Lee Pollard ’87, of El Centro, Calif., Aug. 2, 2012

Jose Vega ’89, of Arlington, Va., Dec. 8, 2021



Pedro Rodriguez ’18 is excited to give back to fellow Spartans as an assistant basketball coach. While in middle school at MHS, Pedro sharpened his basketball skills, tried out for the team, and made it. During high school, he led his team to play in post-season competitions his sophomore, junior, and senior years. In his final season as a Spartan, Pedro and his teammates won the district title before placing fourth in the state championship tournament. After graduating from MHS, Pedro earned a degree

in communications from Penn State University. While attending the university’s campus in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he once again played basketball, serving as a leader for his teammates on and off the court. 📖

Photo: MHS Athletic Director and Head Varsity Basketball Coach, Mark Zerbe, welcomes Pedro.

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ALUMNI

Calendar



April

21-23	Alumni Fellowship Weekend
21	Career Day
21	Dedication of Career and Technical Education Building in Memory of Mike Weller '66
21	MHS and MHSAA Presidents' Reception
22	Alumni-Senior Fellowship Brunch
22	MHSAA Cancer Care Walk

May

8	Dick Purcell Spartan Classic Golf Tournament
21	Alumni Student Awards Brunch, by invitation

June

12	Commencement
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September

22-24	Homecoming 2023
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October

1	Nomination Deadline for Alumnus/na of the Year and Alumni Achievement Award candidates for 2024
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All dates are tentative. Please refer to
mhsalum.org and Spartan Minute for
updates.

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