



2026

Soaring Together

IMPACT REPORT



About Soaring Together

What began in 2021 to mark the 50th anniversary of undergraduate coeducation at Lehigh has grown into something far more expansive. Soaring Together celebrates the impact and contributions of Lehigh women past, present, and future across academics, athletics, industry, leadership, innovation, research, the arts, and community engagement.

It has helped the alumnae network connect and grow through social and professional opportunities, including Dinners for 12, webinars, and a women's summit. It has also attracted dozens of students to Lehigh through a full-tuition merit scholarship and supported them with hands-on experiential learning opportunities.

Soaring Together represents the university's ongoing commitment to building a welcoming community where everyone can thrive.



Five Amazing Years

"Reflection" and "gratitude" are the two words that come to mind when I think about all that Soaring Together has brought to life over the last five years.

Think of the women who bravely embraced the spirit of Lehigh in 1971 when they arrived on campus and rolled up their sleeves to take this place in a new direction — forming athletics teams, starting sororities, bringing new perspectives, and creating opportunities. These women profoundly shaped the Lehigh experience. It was an honor to recognize and celebrate them as pioneers both on campus and in the world.

These women blazed trails across industries and today serve as role models and mentors who inspire, engage, and support students on their own pathways to success.

It's the same spirit that lives in today's Soaring Together Scholars, who are engaged across a wide range of experiences that deepen their learning, develop their leadership, and build lasting connections. These students have immersed themselves in all that Lehigh has to offer and redefined many aspects of both their own lives and life at Lehigh.

These experiences happen thanks to your generosity. Your support allows Lehigh to be a place that makes a lasting impact and upholds the vision that inspired Soaring Together from the start: celebrating a community where student success and academic excellence create empowering opportunities for problem-solvers who seek to lead in an ever-changing world.

Morgan Nelson M.Ed.'19

Senior Director, Strategic Engagement



50 Years of Coeducation

The 50th anniversary of coeducation at Lehigh wasn't the only milestone honored at the university. As the first women defined their Lehigh experience, these pioneers helped launch foundational programs in athletics, Greek life, and beyond. Part of an adoptive class tradition, **Karen Stuckey '75** rang the bell with the president of the Association of Student Alumni, **Ethan Riester '25**, at Commencement.



Toasting the Class of 1975

Members of the Class of 1975 not only soaked in the joy of celebrating their 50th anniversary at Reunion — Lehigh also raised a glass in recognition of the first coeducational undergraduate class.



50 Years of Sorority Life

Lehigh celebrated the legacy of sorority life at Reunion 2025. The first sorority, Alpha Phi, was founded in November 1975, and today 11 sororities play a vital role in shaping the Lehigh experience.



50 Years of Women in Athletics

Over the course of 2025, Lehigh honored 50 years of women's athletics, recognizing 30 Patriot League championships, 10 East Coast Conference titles, and more than 200 accomplished student-athletes.

Lehigh Athletics also inducted eight outstanding women into the Roger S. Penske/Lehigh Athletics Hall of Fame, including basketball standouts **Jessica DePalo '05** and **Erica Prosser '11**, field hockey and lacrosse great **Sue Coursen '85**, multi-sport standout **Susan Sachs '77**, plus four former coaches and administrators: **Judy Turner Baxter**, **Roseann Corsi**, **Barbara Everhart Lipkin**, and **Muffet McGraw**.





Soaring Together Scholars

The Soaring Together Scholarship Program provides full-tuition merit scholarships, experiential learning opportunities, and an unprecedented level of alumni support to students who excel academically and demonstrate a commitment to advancing Lehigh's principles of an equitable community.

44 Scholars

- Class of 2027 – 27
- Class of 2028 – 9
- Class of 2029 – 8

64% of scholars participate in experiential learning
1,647 scholarship applications for the Class of 2029

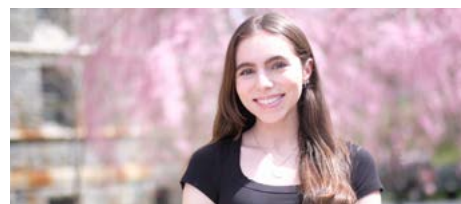


OLIVIA MEYER '27
Mechanical Engineering
Naperville, Illinois

Class of 2027



KATHRYN LYNN '27
Bioengineering
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania



KRISTEN LOMUTO '27
Chemistry
Freeport, New York



CLARA MCAULEY '27
Biology and Creative Writing
Portland, Oregon



EMILY KY '27
Computer Science and Engineering
Doylestown, Pennsylvania



LILY PASCHKE '27
IDEAS: Environmental Engineering and Chemistry
Riverview, Michigan



LUCY ROGERS '27
Biochemistry
Lexington, Kentucky



ZOE ZERWIG FORD '27
 IDEAS: Computer Science,
 Philosophy, and Global Studies
 Memphis, Tennessee



MADISON SAKS '27
 Cognitive Science and
 Creative Writing
 Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey



COURTNEY BAKER '27
 IDEAS
 Abingdon, Maryland



ALEXANDRA TSARENKOV '27
 Chemical Engineering
 New York, New York



LYDIA SHEESER '27
 Health, Medicine, and Society and
 Global Studies, Double Major
 Burlington, Vermont



ALEX MCWATTERS '27
 Statistics and Economics
 Newark, Delaware



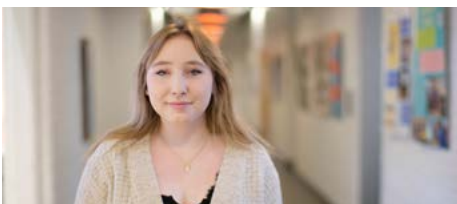
LILLIAN WU '27
 Chemical Engineering
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



POLINA MALLER '27
 Engineering
 New York, New York



CHELSEA BERSON '27
 Math and Women, Gender, and
 Sexuality Studies
 Westchester, New York



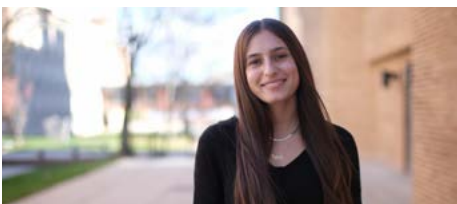
ISABELLE CANADINE '27
 International Relations and Spanish
 Leesburg, Virginia



FORUM PATEL '27
 Computer Science and Business
 Allentown, Pennsylvania



SEAN HENRY '27
 Business
 Bridgeton, New Jersey



ASHA MARWAHA '27
 Population Health
 Lancaster, Pennsylvania



ROISIN GAFFNEY '27
 Business
 San Francisco, California



JYANA FRANCOIS '27
Bioengineering
Lebanon, Pennsylvania



ISAAC HUBER '27
Chemistry
Albuquerque, New Mexico



STEPHANIE PERCELLO '28
Accounting and Finance
Lincroft, New Jersey



MCKENNA LITTLETON '27
Global Studies and Spanish
Midlothian, Texas

Class of 2028



ABBY FISCHLER '28
Computer Science and Business
Los Angeles, California



CHARLOTTE WITMER-RICH '28
IDEAS
Chagrin Falls, Ohio



JING YAN '27
IDEAS
Sioux Falls, South Dakota



AIDAN OLIVER '28
Psychology
Wayne, Pennsylvania



SOFEE RIEKER '28
Accounting
Las Vegas, Nevada



AMELIE FRY '27
IDEAS
Seattle, Washington



CALAN ARMITAGE '28
Economics and Finance
Whitehouse Station, New Jersey



SAMANTHA SANDHAUS '28
IDEAS
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



KRISTINA CAVALIERE '27
Business
Westhampton, New York



HANNAH NULL '28
Math and Environmental Studies
San Jose, California



SOFIA SCHNERR '28
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Class of 2029



LILY OSIAS '29
Population Health, Pre-med
Manalapan, New Jersey



PAIGE DE CARO '29
Environmental Engineering
Hardwick, New Jersey



SIMEON VIELAND '29
Environmental Engineering
Lancaster, Pennsylvania



ANNIKA LILJA '29
Political Science and Economics
Minneapolis, Minnesota



RILEY ALTMAN '29
Accounting and Finance
Babylon, New York



SEJAL BUTALA '29
Integrated Business and Engineering
Parsippany, New Jersey



DHYANA ABEYSINGHE '29
Integrated Business and Health
Flemington, New Jersey



BRYN KIDD '29
Psychology and Global Studies
and Spanish
Truckee, California

Scholars Make Their Global Impact

As of May 2025, 64% of Soaring Together Scholars have participated in experiential learning opportunities funded by the Soaring Together Impact Fund in partnership with Lehigh360, an initiative that equips every Lehigh student with the information, access, and support needed to pursue Lehigh's wide array of signature high-impact programs.

The 20 students who have utilized the funding so far have engaged in:

- Global Social Impact Fellowships in India, Sierra Leone, and the Philippines
- The Uganda Sustainable Livelihoods Program
- Internships with GPI, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, and Astroscale
- The Rossin Research Scholars Program
- The Clare Booth Luce Research Scholars Program
- The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Study abroad in Spain, Germany, Belgium, and Ireland
- LehighSiliconValley



An Investment in Lehigh Women

Lehigh is committed to creating a welcoming and supportive community that offers dedicated guidance from alumni, faculty, and staff throughout students' journeys on campus and beyond. Student outcomes remain a key measure of success as Lehigh prepares students to learn, graduate, and navigate a range of professional challenges. Soaring Together is a perfect example of a program that brings together community and measurable outcomes.

The Soaring Together Scholarship Program and the Women of Lehigh Scholarships help cultivate a more diverse and inclusive campus, attracting students with a range of interests and backgrounds who share a common desire: to transform curiosity into action that creates impact. This mindset fosters innovation and collaboration across campus and, thanks to the Soaring Together Impact Fund, extends that impact around the world.

Gifts to these scholarships and funds also help attract prospective students who are thoughtful, engaged in their communities, and passionate about the Lehigh community. These gifts foster a welcoming and supportive experience for students while strengthening the faculty and programs that support them. Their impact spans women's athletics, academics, and the student experience, helping students grow into leaders who are active both on campus and in building their futures. These students lead initiatives and experiences that truly have global reach.

Your investment in them is an investment in the Lehigh you love: results-oriented, progress-minded, hard-working, authentic, collaborative, determined, and charismatic. These students love what they do — and they love doing it at Lehigh.

Carol Packard

Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations



Engagement Highlights

By the Numbers

since July 2021

- **2,600+** unique alumni engaged
- **15–25** alumnae events annually across the country
- **900+** participants engaged annually through webinars, dinners, and networking events



Soaring Together Summits

The summit in 2025 drew more than 160 participants for a day of networking, workshops, and a moving virtual keynote with **Brooke Eby '10**, who was diagnosed at age 33 with ALS and has since become a social media influencer and advocate, raising more than \$1 million for ALS research.

In 2023, as part of the university's celebration of 50 years of coeducation, the inaugural summit featured breakout sessions as well as a fireside chat with six-time Olympic medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, named the greatest female athlete of the 20th century by *Sports Illustrated for Women*.

Dinners for 12

Dinners for 12 have brought together countless alumnae to share lively conversation, their love of Lehigh, and their unique connections.



Executive Events

Industry leaders and C-suite professionals gathered for executive events on each coast. On the East Coast, WNBA Commissioner **Cathy Engelbert '86 P'23** hosted a conversation at WNBA headquarters about how women can pivot their careers to create lasting impact. Out West, **Kendall O'Brien '84**, **Ann Lewnes '83 P'22**, **Sandy Stelling '91**, and **Amy Weaver P'23** discussed how to create meaningful professional impact.



Webinars

Many alumnae stepped forward to share insights, stories, and advice with the Lehigh community.

- **Nadia Sasso MA'14**
- **Maura Walters '05**
- **Erin Talgo '14**
- **Sarah Mack '14**
- **Rachel Kourakos '14**
- **Shira Abel P'28**
- **Lyasha Bishop-Gaines '16**
- **Kyle Greenberg '85 P'17**
- **Lakshmi Reddy '93**
- **Olivia Abrams '21**
- **Dori Jones '07**
- **Kate Schartel Novak '04 M.Ed.'05**
- **Rebecca Merola '06 M.Ee.'08**
- **Cheri Torres MBA'75**



More Stories

Read articles about our Soaring Together Scholars and events. Join our Soaring Together activities for alumni!



Supporting Soaring Together

By the Numbers

since July 2021

\$17.9M total raised for Soaring Together

\$6M raised for the Soaring Together Scholarship Program

8,400+ total donors

Soaring Together Scholarship Program

9 scholarships created

- **Mark E. Alpert '70** and **Caryn Osterman**
- **Mark C. Stutzman '81** and **Susan R. Stutzman**
- **John R. Chrin '85 '86 P'10** and **Maria L. Chrin '87 P'10**
- **John R. Staub '86**
- **Ann Lewnes '83 P'22** and **Greg Welch P'22**
- **Kendall B. O'Brien '84** and **Kevin O'Brien**
- **Richard C. Andler '58** and **Carole E. Rush**
- **Thomas A. Bartlett '80 P'11** and **Francesca A. Bartlett '81 P'11**
- **Deirdre D. McGraw '92**

Key Gifts

\$11.9M for a portfolio of academic, experiential, and athletics programs designed to support the success and growth of coeducation.

\$742K for the Women of Lehigh Scholarship Fund

\$105K for the Soaring Together Impact Fund

- The Society of Women Engineers received 27 gifts totaling more than **\$16,000**.
- WNBA Commissioner **Cathy Engelbert '86 P'23** established the Cathy Engelbert LEAD (Leadership, Empowerment, Athletics, and Distinction) Scholars Program, bringing together cohorts of women and male allies to empower and impact the development of women athletes, staff, and girls in the Bethlehem community.

- **Amy Gare '97** made a significant gift to the Gender, Leadership, and Empowerment Center to support on-campus programming during the 2025–26 academic year.
- **Susan Sachs '77** created an endowment for an international travel program for the women's basketball team, the first of its kind for Lehigh Athletics. The Mountain Hawks will go to Greece in August to compete against international teams and enjoy sightseeing and cultural excursions that will enrich the student-athletes and spark team bonding.
- Lehigh's CHOICES (Charting Horizons and Opportunities In Careers in Engineering and Science) program, designed to spark girls' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, received gifts totalling **\$40,000**.

Giving Day + March Mania Impact

Giving Day + March Mania has inspired a number of gifts that activated matches and challenges.

- **\$3K** match funded by trustee **Sandra Denton '83** in 2026 for the Women of Lehigh Scholarship Fund
- **\$50K** match fund from **Maria Chrin '87 P'10** in 2025 for Soaring Together Impact Fund
- **\$50K** match fund from **Michael Gordon '61** in 2025 for Soaring Together Impact Fund
- **\$153.1K** in match funds from the women of the Board of Trustees in 2023 for the Women of Lehigh Scholarship Fund

Making a Gift

Every gift to the Soaring Together Scholarship Program, Soaring Together Impact Fund, and the Women of Lehigh Scholarship Fund celebrates and supports Lehigh students. There are many ways to invest in them, as well as the community and programs that support them.







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