



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

The Martindale Center for the Study of Private Enterprise, through the leadership of Dr. Todd A. Watkins, has been working collaboratively with the Lehigh Office of International Affairs (OIA) to strengthen partnerships with leading African institutions in Ghana and Kenya. The countries represent opportunities to connect with alumni across the African continent and for new educational programming, internships, and joint research. Current initiatives include exploration of research in economic governance, environmental sustainability, and entrepreneurship.

Watkins and Stacy Burger, Director of Global Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives at OIA, visited the African Center for Governance and Economic Management (ACGEM) to formalize a new partnership with the Martindale Center and Lehigh. With the ACGEM think tank focusing on economic governance across Africa, this collaboration is creating internship opportunities and co-developing capacity-building programs and research efforts. Burger and Watkins visited Ashesi University while in Ghana. They also hosted dinners with alumni from Lehigh and from the Lehigh Iacocca Institute programs Global Village and Mandela Washington Fellowship.

“There’s really no substitute for having strong connections on the ground in places where we want to do substantive programming or research,” said Watkins.

The next steps in planning include co-sponsoring workshops and conferences with our African partners on economic governance issues across Africa.

Student Associates Honors Program



MOROCCO COHORT 2024 at Harmonie Club, L to R: Alexander S. Damle, Emily Michnowski, Lauryn C. Holgado, Ben Murphy-Schmehl, Manoj K. Malhotra (Lehigh Dean of Business), Kyra R. Boston, Sarah A. Mixsell, and Layan Suleiman.

HARMONIE CLUB ALUMNI EVENT

November 21, 2024

The Martindale Center is thrilled that Nathan Urban, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Manoj K. Malhotra, newly installed Dean of the College of Business and Professor in the Decision and Technology Analytics Department, joined us at the Harmonie gala on November 21 to celebrate the unveiling of volume 42 of the *Perspectives of Business and Economics: Emergent Morocco*.

Provost Urban delivered the welcome speech to 110 alumni, students, faculty, and guests, including 14 consulate officials from 10 countries. He believes that it is experiences like Martindale that bring students out of their comfort zone to create both strength of outcomes that lead to students thriving and strength of networks that are impactful in fostering the Lehigh community. “So many of the most important things that happen at a university require both big ideas and philanthropy,” said Urban. He added that he was so appreciative of Rich Aronson and Harry Martin-

dale for conceiving the Martindale program, creating an enduring legacy for Lehigh.

Dean Malhotra accepted the Morocco journal on behalf of the College of Business and thanked the students for their hard work. “We must continue giving our students and faculty opportunities, like the ones we are celebrating here today, so they can go forward and affect a positive change in the world,” said Malhotra.

At Harmonie we celebrated the hard work and achievements of the Morocco cohort: Kyra R. Boston ‘24, Kate Brown ‘24, Alexander S. Damle ‘24, Tessa Dougan ‘24, Samuel R. Ginn ‘24, Lauryn C. Holgado ‘24, Christopher J. Marina ‘24, Emily Michnowski ‘24, Sarah A. Mixsell ‘24, Ben Murphy-Schmehl ‘24, Layan Suleiman ‘25, and William Yaeger ‘24.

The cohort was inducted into the Martindale Society by Sarat

...continued on page 2

HARMONIE con't...

... *Harmonie continued from page 1*

Sethi '92, Managing Partner of Douglas C. Lane & Associates and President of the Martindale Society.

Ben Murphy-Schmehl '24 gave the senior class remarks. He rates Martindale as one of his premier learning experiences especially as it was his first trip outside the US. Kyra R. Boston '24 briefed the guests on her topic "Resolving Water Scarcity in Morocco." Emily Michnowski spoke about "Agtech: The Future of Moroccan Agriculture."

The junior class reports were given by Jonathan Osika '25, Anoushka Nambiar '25, and Sean M. Davis '25. They spoke respectively about water resource management in Taiwan, precision health initiatives in Taiwan, and the geopolitics of Taiwan's energy transition.

Todd A. Watkins, Executive Director of the Martindale Center, gave the closing remarks.

MARTINDALE FAMILY SHOUT-OUTS

Congratulations to

- Aneesh Varma '06 (Hungary) for launching a new fintech company, ARGO, with another Lehigh alum, Jeff Doran '04. The company is based in London, and is a full-stack provider of business insurance aimed at SMBs and startups.
- Karen Konkoly '17 (Peru) for finishing her PhD in psychology (cognitive neuroscience) at Northwestern University. Her dissertation is titled, "Dialoguing with Dreamers in REM sleep to Explore Why We Dream."
- Whitney (Challenger) Bernstein '15 (Portugal) and her husband, Matt, on their first child, Bridget, born in July.
- Kathryn Kunrod '15 (Portugal) and her husband, Miller Write, on their baby, Elodie Wright, born in June.
- Elena Martin '16 (Czech Republic) and Dan Tanis on their marriage on June 8 in New Jersey. Elena also recently graduated from medical school at Stony Brook School of Medicine and started her internal medicine residency at the University of Pennsylvania.
- CJ Berzin '10 (Turkey) for being recently promoted to Head of Finance Operations for Shockwave Medical, after their recent acquisition by Johnson & Johnson. With this new job, CJ and his wife, Natalie, have relocated to Santa Clara, CA.
- Ashley Pritchard '09 (New Zealand) on her appointment to serve on the new Lehigh University International Advisory Council.

THANK YOU

Thank you for helping us offer Martindale programs—notably the Student Associates Honors Program—at no cost to deserving students and their families. We hope that all Martindale graduates will join us in honoring and sustaining the legacy of Richard Aronson by contributing whatever they can to ensure that the benefits of Martindale will be there for the next generation of Lehigh's best students. To that end, the Judith L. '80G and Richard Aronson Martindale Student Travel Fund was founded. We enclose a solicitation card and ask you to kindly give as you are able.

Or, to make a gift or multi-year pledge for the new fund, this URL will direct you to the giving page.



VISITING SPEAKER

On November 7, Alan Ahearne, PhD, one of the most influential, practical, policy-focused economists globally, spoke with 25 Lehigh students, staff, and faculty about his experiences as an economic advisor to the taoiseach (prime minister) of Ireland and his earlier work as a senior economist at the Federal Reserves Board in Washington D.C. Ahearne worked with the Fed to advise Alan Greenspan, Ben Bernanke, and other Fed governors on developments in the global economy. He has also served as professor at the University of Galway, advisor to the IMF, consultant to the UK Department for International Development, and a research fellow at Bruegel in Brussels. The Martindale Center, in partnership with the Lehigh Economics Department, was pleased to host Dr. Ahearne.

FACULTY AWARDS

The US National Science Foundation has awarded \$26 million to 6 collaborating universities to establish a new Gen-4 Engineering Research Center (ERC). Congratulations to Todd Watkins, Executive Director of the Martindale Center, for being part of the interdisciplinary Lehigh University team. Watkins will serve as co-lead of the ERC EARTH Innovation Ecosystem group. The team is focused on developing sustainable refrigerants to address climate change and create a circular refrigerant economy.

IN MEMORIAM

Longtime supporter, Phyllis Lieberman '94P, wife of Ira W. Lieberman '64, '94P (Martindale Center Advisory Committee), recently passed away. We give our heartfelt condolences to Ira and his family on their loss.