A HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCES

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Since the organization of the Middle Atlantic Conference on December 1, 1912, there have been 60 colleges and universities that have been associated with this intercollegiate athletic association in some form. Of these 60, most have been official members of the conference and/or official members of an individual sports association such as the Middle Atlantic Conference Wrestling Association. However, several schools listed may have only attended meetings and/or participated in conference championships without holding official membership.

Because known conference records are incomplete prior to the 1946-47 academic year, the following institutional list, particularly the information concerning length of membership for many schools, is incomplete.

The first part is a list of the 60 colleges and universities whose names have appeared, in any form, as having had an association with the Middle Atlantic Conference. The second part is a breakdown of information on all 60 schools and their known association(s) with the conference. The third part completes the preface with a brief historical timeline.

The majority of the information for the three sections is derived from: David B. Eavenson’s 1987 History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987; Middle Atlantic Conference Fact Books from 1968-69 through 2000-01; and numerous conference committee meeting minutes from 1946-47 through 1993-94.
An Institutional List of Colleges and Universities That Have Been Formally Associated with the Middle Atlantic Conference Since its Founding in 1912

Albright College
Alfred University
Alvernia College
Arcadia University
Bucknell University
Columbia University
Delaware Valley College
DeSales University
Dickinson College
Drew University
Drexel University
Eastern University
Elizabethtown College
Fairleigh Dickinson University, College at Florham
Franklin and Marshall College
Gettysburg College
Haverford College
Hofstra University
Hood College
Johns Hopkins University
Juniata College
King’s College
Lafayette College
LaSalle University
Lebanon Valley College
Lehigh University
Lycoming College
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Messiah College
Misericordia University
Moravian College
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science (Philadelphia and Jefferson Universities)
Princeton University
Rider University
Rutgers University
St. Joseph’s University
Seton Hall University
Shenandoah University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stevenson University
Susquehanna University
Swarthmore College
Temple University
The American University
Union College
University of Delaware
University of Pennsylvania
University of Scranton
Upsala College
Ursinus College
Wagner College
Washington and Jefferson College
Washington College
West Chester University
Western Maryland (McDaniel) College
Widener University
Wilkes University

Institutional Histories as they relate to the Middle Atlantic Conference

The colleges and universities are listed in alphabetical order. The first name listed is the current official college or university name. This is followed, in no particular order, by years of membership, the first year of membership (if known), any institutional name changes while a member of the MAC, type of special membership if applicable, and any other relevant information that may shed light on that institution’s association with the conference.

Institutions represented at the first annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC), held in Philadelphia on April 23, 1922, are italicized. These 13
institutions are sometimes referred in conference documents as the original members of the conference although the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Association (MASCAA) preceded the former group by almost a decade.

**Albright College** - Albright has been an official member since at least the 1945-46 academic year. The college is currently a member of the MAC Commonwealth and Middle Atlantic Conference.

**Alfred University** - Alfred was discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that conference records show that Alfred joined the MAC sometime after 1914 but does not give either the year or the source of this information. Alfred University is not mentioned in any conference records.

**Alvernia University** – Alvernia joined the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference in July 2008. They switched membership to the MAC Commonwealth in June 2009.

**American University** - American was an official member between 1966-67 and 1973-74 when they departed with ten other larger schools to form the East Coast Conference. American returned to the MAC as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) for two academic years (1980-81 and 1981-82).

**Arcadia University** – Arcadia began membership in the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference in July 2007. In 2008 they moved from the MAC Freedom to MAC Commonwealth.

**Bucknell University** – Bucknell, at the very least, was an official member from 1946-47 through 1973-74 when they departed with ten other larger schools to form the East Coast Conference. Bucknell remained in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1974-75 through 1981-82. Bucknell was also discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that conference records show that Bucknell joined the MAC sometime after 1914 but does not give either the year or the source of this information. The university was also represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**Columbia University** - Columbia was an official member of the conference from 1946-47 through 1954-55 when they left in disagreement over the MAC’s first official reorganization. Columbia was also discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that conference records show that Columbia joined the MAC sometime after 1914 but does not give either the year or the source of this information. He also wrote that although Columbia was not represented as one of 13 colleges and universities in attendance at the inception meeting of the conference in 1922, they were one of five additional institutions that approved the original plan for the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference.
**Delaware Valley University** - Delaware Valley became a member of the conference during the 1965-66 academic year. The college is currently a member of the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference.

**DeSales University** - Formerly Allentown College, DeSales became a member of the conference during the 1997-98 academic year. The university is currently a member of the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference. The school became DeSales University in 2001.

**Dickinson College** - Dickinson was represented at the very first gathering in 1912 and participated in the first conference track and field championship in 1913. Dickinson is listed in official records as having held conference membership at least from 1946-47 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference. Dickinson was further discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that conference records show that Dickinson was not represented as one of 13 colleges and universities in attendance at the inception meeting of the conference in 1922 nor as one of the five institutions who did not attend the meeting but that did approve the original plan. However, Dickinson’s F. E. Craver was one of four members on the MAC’s Executive Committee in 1925; the first known assembly of this administrative sub-group.

**Drew University** - Drew became a member of the conference during the 1968-69 academic year. The university left the Middle Atlantic Conference in June 2007 to form the Landmark Conference.

**Drexel University** - Formerly Drexel Institute of Technology and Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry, Drexel was a member of the conference during the 1945-46 academic year and remained until 1973-74 when 11 larger schools departed to form the East Coast Conference. Drexel remained in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1974-75 through 1981-82. Drexel was also discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that conference records show that Drexel joined the MAC sometime after 1914 but does not give either the year or the source of this information. The university was also represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**Eastern University** – Eastern joined the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conferences in July 2008.

**Elizabethtown College** - Elizabethtown officially became a member of the conference during the 1950-51 academic year. The school was listed among the membership during the 1949-50 annual meeting minutes but it was noted that they would not join the conference officially until the following academic year. The college left the MAC for the Landmark Conference in 2014.
Fairleigh Dickinson University, College at Florham (Madison, originally) - Fairleigh Dickinson became a member of the conference during the 1977-78 academic year. The university is currently a member of the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference.

Franklin & Marshall College - Franklin & Marshall was represented at the first annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletics Association on May 16, 1913 and competed in the inaugural track and field championship the following day. The college was also represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Franklin & Marshall is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1945-46 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference. Franklin & Marshall was further discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that Frank C. Garwood of F&M was the first known conference officer with a position that pre-dated the 1922 MASCAC formation. Garwood is listed as Secretary-Treasurer in 1917. There are no other records until 1922 when Samuel C. Palmer of Swarthmore College was named to this position. It is not known if Garfield held the position from 1917 to 1921. However, Eavenson does note that Garfield returned to the role of Secretary-Treasurer in 1925. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

Gettysburg College - Gettysburg became a member of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Association in 1914 according to David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. The college was also represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Gettysburg is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1945-46 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

Haverford College - Haverford was represented at the first gathering of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Association (MASCAA) on December 11, 1912 at Lafayette College. However, the school did not participate in the inception meeting of the MASCAA on May 16, 1913 nor compete in the inaugural track and field championship the following day. Haverford became a member of the MASCAA in 1914 according to David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. The college was also represented at the first annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Further, Haverford’s J. A. Babbitt was one of four members on the MAC’s Executive Committee in 1925; the first known assembly of this administrative sub-group. Haverford is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1945-46 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.
Hofstra University - Formerly Hofstra College, Hofstra became a member of the conference during the 1951-52 academic year and remained until 1973-74. Hofstra returned to the MAC as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) for two academic years (1980-81 and 1981-82). The school became Hofstra University in 1962.

Johns Hopkins University - Johns Hopkins is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1945-46 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference. Johns Hopkins was also discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that conference records show that Johns Hopkins joined the MAC sometime after 1914 but does not give either the year or the source of this information. He also wrote that although Johns Hopkins was not represented as one of 13 colleges and universities in attendance at the inception meeting of the conference in 1922, they were one of five institutions that approved the original plan for the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference. Further, Hopkins’ J. T. Thompson was one of four members on the MAC’s Executive Committee in 1925, the first known assembly of this administrative sub-group.

Juniata College - Juniata is listed in official records as having held conference membership since at least 1945-46. Juniata was also discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that conference records show that Juniata joined the MAC sometime after 1914 but does not give either the year or the source of this information. The college left the Middle Atlantic Conference in June 2007 to form the Landmark Conference.

King’s College – King’s became a member of the conference during the 1977-78 academic year. The college is currently a member of the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference.

Lafayette College - Lafayette was the host institution for the first gathering of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) on December 11, 1912 according to David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson also wrote that Lafayette hosted the first annual meeting of the “Association” on May 16, 1913, though official conference minutes list the 1947 gathering as the 25th annual. This would suggest that the April 23, 1922 “inception” meeting in Philadelphia, also discussed in Eavenson’s history, is accepted as the first annual meeting. The 13 colleges that attended the Philadelphia meeting are referred in various records as the original 13 members, thus adding credence to this assumption. Nevertheless, Lafayette did host the conference’s first sporting event, the first annual track meet, on May 17, 1913. Ironically, there is no record of Lafayette having attended the 1922 Philadelphia meeting, and, as such, they are not recognized by some as an original member. Lafayette was a member of the conference from at least the 1945-46 academic year and remained until 1973-74 when 11 larger schools departed to form the East Coast Conference. Lafayette remained in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1974-75 through 1990-91.
LaSalle University - Formerly LaSalle College, LaSalle became a member of the conference during the 1951-52 academic year and remained until 1973-74 when 11 larger schools departed to form the East Coast Conference. LaSalle remained in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) for two academic years (1980-81 and 1981-82). The school became LaSalle University in 1984.

Lebanon Valley College - Lebanon Valley was the only school not in attendance at the questioned first annual meeting of the “Association,” held at Lafayette College on May 16, 1913, to participate in the first annual track meet the next day. In the History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987, author David B. Eavenson wrote that Lebanon Valley withdrew from the Association sometime in the years after 1914 but does not give either the year or the source of this information. This would of course imply that the college was a member of the conference sometime during this time period. Regardless, Lebanon Valley has been an official member since at least the 1945-46 academic year. The college is currently a member of the MAC Commonwealth and Middle Atlantic Conference.

Lehigh University - Lehigh was represented at the very first gathering in 1912 and participated in the first conference track and field championship in 1913 according to David B. Eavenson’s 1987 History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987. Eavenson also wrote that although Lehigh was not represented as one of 13 colleges and universities in attendance at the inception meeting of the conference in 1922, they were one of five institutions that approved the original plan for the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference. Further, Lehigh’s M. E. Kanaly was one of four members on the MAC’s Executive Committee in 1925, the first known assembly of this administrative sub-group. Lehigh was a member of the conference from at least the 1945-46 academic year and remained until 1973-74 when 11 larger schools departed to form the East Coast Conference. Lehigh was in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1975-76 through 1988-89. They do not appear to have been associated with the conference in any manner during the 1974-74 academic year.

Lycoming College - Lycoming became a member of the conference during the 1952-53 academic year. The college is currently a member of the MAC Commonwealth and Middle Atlantic Conference.

Manhattan College -

Manhattanville College – Manhattanville joined the Freedom Conference as an affiliate member in field hockey in fall 2003. They became full members of the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference in July 2007.

Messiah College - Messiah became a member of the conference during the 1983-84 academic year. The college is currently a member of the MAC Commonwealth and Middle Atlantic Conference.
**Misericordia University** – Misericordia joined the Middle Atlantic Conference as an affiliate in track & field and swimming in June 2007. They became full members of the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference in June 2008.

**Moravian College** - Moravian was an official member since at least the 1945-46 academic year. The college left the Middle Atlantic Conference in June 2007 to form the Landmark Conference.

**Muhlenberg College** - Muhlenberg was represented at the very first gathering of the Middle Atlantic Conference at Lafayette College on December 11, 1912. They were also represented at the first annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletics Association on May 16, 1913 and competed in the inaugural track and field championship the following day. In addition, a Muhlenberg official was in attendance at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, the school is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Muhlenberg is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1945-46 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference. Muhlenberg was further discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that Muhlenberg’s Gurney Afflerbach was named conference Vice President in 1925. After 1925, conference records of officers do not resume until 1946. Afflerbach is listed as MAC President in 1946, 21 years later, and it is logical to presume that Muhlenberg may have been a member during the intervening years. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**New York University** - NYU was represented at the very first gathering of the Middle Atlantic Conference at Lafayette College on December 11, 1912. They were also represented at the first annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletics Association on May 16, 1913 and competed in the inaugural track and field championship the following day. In addition, a NYU official was in attendance at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, the school is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. NYU is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1946-47 through 1954-55 and having been a “non-qualifying” member during the 1955-56 academic year. Though no definition is given for this term, it likely implied that they would participate in regular season competition but were ineligible for playoffs and championships. Finally, David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987* notes that “NYU was forced to relinquish its membership when its student enrollment passed the thousand mark” sometime after 1914. Eavenson then notes that changes to the conference’ constitution allowed NYU to rejoin the MAC. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science** (Philadelphia and Jefferson Universities)

**Princeton University** - Princeton was represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Princeton was an official member of the conference from 1946-47 through 1954-55 when they left in disagreement over the MAC’s first official

**Rider University** - Rider was an official member between 1965-66 and 1973-74 when they departed with 10 other larger schools to form the East Coast Conference. Rider remained with the MAC as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1974-75 through 1990-91. The school, formerly Rider College, became Rider University in 1994.

**Rutgers University** - Rutgers was represented at the very first gathering of the Middle Atlantic Conference at Lafayette College on December 11, 1912. They were also represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, the school is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Rutgers is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1945-46 through 1961-62. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**Seton Hall University** - Formerly Seton Hall College, Seton Hall is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1946-47 through 1955-56.

**Saint Joseph’s University** - Formerly St. Joseph’s College, St. Joe's was a member of the conference from at least the 1949-50 academic year and remained until 1973-74 when 11 larger schools departed to form the East Coast Conference. St. Joe’s was in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1979-80 through 1981-82. The school became St. Joseph’s University in 1980.

**Shenandoah University** – An affiliate member in MAC Commonwealth field hockey and Middle Atlantic Conference track & field from 2009-11.

**Stevens Institute of Technology** - Stevens was represented at the first annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletics Association on May 16, 1913 and competed in the inaugural track and field championship the following day. The school was also represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Stevens is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1946-47 through 1977-78. In addition, John A. Davis of Stevens was elected as the conference’s first vice-president at the 1922 inception meeting in Philadelphia according to David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**Susquehanna University** - Susquehanna was represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes
listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Susquehanna has been a member since at least 1946-47 according to conference records. The university left the Middle Atlantic Conference in June 2007 to form the Landmark Conference. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**Swarthmore College** - Swarthmore was represented at the very first gathering of the conference at Lafayette College on December 11, 1912. In addition, Swarthmore was represented at the first annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletics Association on May 16, 1913 and competed in the inaugural track and field championship the following day. The college was also represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. Swarthmore is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1945-46 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference. Also, Samuel C. Palmer of Swarthmore was elected as the conference’s first secretary-treasurer at the 1922 inception meeting in Philadelphia according to David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. In 1925, Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer of Swarthmore became MAC president. Dr. Mercer would later become a MAC leader when he returned as athletic director to his alma mater the University of Pennsylvania. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**Temple University** - Temple was a member of the conference from at least the 1946-47 academic year and remained until 1973-74 when 11 larger schools departed to form the East Coast Conference. Temple remained in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1974-75 through 1985-86.

**Union College** - The only record of an association between Union and the Middle Atlantic Conference can be found on page eight of David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that sometime after 1914, Union, along with several other institutions, became a member of the conference.

**University of Delaware** - Delaware at the very least was an official member from 1945-46 through 1973-74 when they departed with 10 other larger schools to form the East Coast Conference. They remained in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1974-75 through 1990-91. Delaware was also represented at the inception meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference on April 23, 1922 and, as such, is sometimes listed as one of the conference’s original 13 members. MASCAC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2, April 5, 1947, pp. 1-2. Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, conference secretary, editor.

**University of Pennsylvania** - Penn was an official member of the conference from 1946-47 through 1954-55 when they left in disagreement over the MAC’s first official reorganization. However, the University remained in the conference for 25 years, 1955-56 through 1979-80, as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights). Penn’s Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer, formerly of Swarthmore College, is credited in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987* as having been a
“steadying influence” on the conference during some difficult periods. Eavenson goes so far as to state that, “without his guidance perhaps the MAC would never have been.” Mercer, while still at Swarthmore, was elected as president of the conference in 1925 and, beginning when conference records resume in 1946, was listed as secretary-treasurer from 1946-47 through 1952-53. He was named an honorary life member, a conference first, in 1953. It is likely, based on Eavenson's history, that Mercer was involved with the conference from at least 1925 through 1953.

The University of Scranton - Scranton has been an official member since at least the 1945-46 academic year. The university left the Middle Atlantic Conference in June 2007 to form the Landmark Conference.

Upsala College - Upsala was an official member of the conference from 1960-61 through 1994-95. At that time, Upsala was forced to close its doors due to financial exigencies.

Ursinus College - Ursinus is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1945-46 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference. The college was also discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987. Eavenson wrote that although Ursinus was not represented as one of 13 colleges and universities in attendance at the inception meeting of the conference in 1922, they were one of five institutions that approved the original plan for the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Wagner College - Wagner was an official member of the conference from at least 1946-47 through 1974-75.

Washington & Jefferson College - Washington & Jefferson’s sole appearance among conference records is in 1913. The school was represented at the first annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletics Association on May 16, 1913 and likely competed in the inaugural track and field championship the following day.

Washington College - Washington is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1946-47 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference.

West Chester University - Formerly West Chester State College and West Chester State Teacher’s College, West Chester at the very least was an official member from 1946-47 through 1973-74 when they departed with 10 other larger schools to form the East Coast Conference. They remained in the conference as an Associate Member (no voting, scheduling or championship participation rights) from 1976-77 (two-year hiatus) through 1990-91. The school became West Chester University in 1986.

Western Maryland College (now McDaniel) - Western Maryland is listed in official records as having held conference membership from at least 1946-47 through 1992-93 when 10 schools departed to form the Centennial Conference.
**Widener University** - Formerly Pennsylvania Military College and Widener College, Widener has been an official member since at least the 1946-47 academic year. The university is currently a member of the MAC Commonwealth and Middle Atlantic Conference. The college was also discussed in David B. Eavenson’s 1987 *History of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference, 1912-1987*. Eavenson wrote that although Widener was not represented as one of 13 colleges and universities in attendance at the inception meeting of the conference in 1922, they were one of five institutions that approved the original plan for the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference. The school became Widener University in 1983.

**Wilkes University** - Formerly Wilkes College, Wilkes has been a member of the conference since at least 1946-47 according to conference records. The university is currently a member of the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference. The school became Wilkes University in 1990.

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**A Historical Timeline of Key Events in the Middle Atlantic Conference**

**December 11, 1912** - Delegates from nine colleges and universities meet at Lafayette College and form the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletics Association (MASCAA). It is initially organized as a track association.

**May 16, 1913** - The Association holds the first annual track meeting, again at Lafayette College.

**May 17, 1913** - The Association hosts the first annual track meet at Lafayette College.

**1917** - The Association elects the first Secretary-Treasurer of the conference. Frank C. Garwood of Franklin & Marshall College is the first to hold the office.

**April 23, 1922** - The Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference is officially organized in Philadelphia, Pa. Thirteen institutions attended and are often recognized as original members of the conference. Five additional institutions that were not represented at the meeting also approved the original plan. Dean Howard McClenahan of Princeton is named the first MAC President.

**1925** - Dr. E. LeRoy Mercer of Swarthmore, and later of the University of Pennsylvania, takes over the reins of president. He would later become Secretary-Treasurer during his 30+ years of association with the conference in an official capacity. The first MAC Executive Committee, the conference’s chief administrative group for several decades, was also formed.

**1946** - Official conference records resume; Gurney F. Afflerbach of Muhlenberg is now president.
December 6 & 7, 1949 - The MAC celebrates at the 25\textsuperscript{th} annual meeting. It is noted that there are 32 member institutions - the largest conference in the country holding membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

1956-57 - First full year of operation under the reorganized MAC structure whereby active members must schedule 50 percent of the membership and 15 different schools within a three-year period. Also, conference championships are established in cross-country, wrestling, swimming, fencing, tennis, golf and track replacing association championships.

1957-58 - Leagues are established in soccer, basketball, baseball and tennis. The conference has 37 member institutions (including associate memberships) divided into two divisions; 12 members form the University Division and 25 members form the College Division.

1964 - The NCAA implements the 1.6 Rule in an attempt to enable colleges and universities to establish freshman eligibility for athletic scholarships. The rule would prove to be a sore spot among conference membership. This paved the way for freshman participation.

1971 - The NCAA permits freshman eligibility for varsity competition. Freshman eligibility had long been a major area of contention for conference schools; however, the passage of this legislation did not entirely mitigate the problem among conference members.

1972 - Congress enacts Title IX which eventually led to the inclusion of women’s athletics as an integral participant in all areas of the MAC. Many conference members had long-running women’s programs though they did not participate in either leagues or championships.

June 4-6, 1974 - The first major schism to be focused on this study occurs when the MAC University Division, comprised of 12 members, loses 11 members who leave to form their own conference (East Coast Conference). American, Bucknell, Delaware, Drexel, Lafayette, LaSalle, Lehigh, Rider, St. Joseph’s, Temple and West Chester all leave. Gettysburg, which opts to join the College Division, is the only University Division institution to remain.

1975-76 - Though there is no formal league structure yet, the MAC sponsors women’s championships for the first time in field hockey, volleyball, basketball, swimming and tennis.

March, 1976 - MAC presidents and athletic directors meet to discuss the growing problem in football. As a result, the North and South alignment was continued. It was also determined at this meeting that women’s athletics would now be an integral part of the conference and that the MAC would be fully associated with NCAA Division III.

1977 - Women become members of the MAC Executive Committee for the first time.

December 18, 1978 - David B. Eavenson is named as the first full-time Executive Director of the MAC - 30 years after the position was first discussed.
May 11, 1981 - Messiah became the last school admitted to the MAC before another moratorium was placed on membership.

June 4, 1981 - Keith Spalding, president of Franklin & Marshall College, announced that eight schools would be leaving the MAC in football to form a new conference. Dickinson, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Johns Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Swarthmore, Ursinus, and Western Maryland all left to form the Centennial Football Conference.

1986 - Dr. Carol Fritz, Associate Athletic Director at Western Maryland College, was the first woman elected conference president.

1988 - The Conference entered a new era in with the selection of Nathan Salant as its first full-time Executive Director with his office at Widener University.

April 29, 1992 - Gordon A. Haaland, president of Gettysburg College, announced that the eight Centennial Football Conference schools, as well as Haverford and Washington, would break from the MAC to form the all-sports Centennial Conference. Bryn Mawr was later added bringing the conference to 11 members on the women’s athletics side.

October 1, 1993 - The Middle Atlantic Conference hired its first female Executive Director; Linda E. Hopple, who served through May 2000. She relocated the conference office to Lebanon Valley College. Brad Epps, Jim Miller, and Michael Downey served as her assistants.

1999 - Spurred by changes in the NCAA championship structure, the MAC formed with three conferences – Freedom, Commonwealth, and Middle Atlantic.

May 8, 2000 – Kenneth W. Andrews replaces Linda Hopple as Executive Director. Michael Downey, Roger McAfee, and Katie Imes work as assistants to the Executive Director, focusing on conference sports information.

May 9, 2006 – Arcadia University and Manhattanville College accept membership in the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference, effective June 1, 2007.

May 6, 2007 – Eastern University, Misericordia University, and Alvernia University join the MAC Freedom and Middle Atlantic Conference.

September 1, 2008 – The MAC develops a new logo and launches a new web site.

July 2011 – Marie (Godwin) Stroman, originally hired as an intern to coordinate MAC 100, receives a NCAA Matching Alliance Grant and is named Associate Executive Director in July 2013.

September 2012 – Pat Ross is hired as MAC Director of Media Relations.

June 2014 – The conference office moves from the former Lebanon Valley College property to private office space on West Main Street in Annville.
October 2014 – Jonathan Hower assumes the position of Director of Media Relations.

October 13, 2016 – The MAC announced the addition of men’s and women’s ice hockey and men’s volleyball as conference sports to begin competing in 2017-18.