

COMMUNITY *connection*

Caring for creation comes naturally at Messiah

Whether studying bank erosion along the Yellow Breeches Creek, identifying plants and trees along the Stabler Fitness Trail, or recreating in the lush green space of Starry Athletic Field, Messiah students have many opportunities to enjoy the natural environment of the College's scenic 471-acre campus. Elements of the campus—such as the creek—provide a unique learning lab for students who are partnering with educators to use the wide-open spaces of the Grantham campus to practice environmental stewardship locally.

A sampling of Messiah's conservation efforts includes an on-campus garden and development of alternative energy including solar and biodiesel. In addition to these ongoing projects and a 30-year campus-wide commitment to recycling, a team of students recently designed and implemented a rain garden stormwater management system for the new Cottage Brook Lane housing development.

Rain gardens provide ecologically and visually pleasing solution

Whenever it rains (or pours) in the new Cottage Brook Lane residential development on Mill Road, homeowners will reap the rewards of the beautiful and functional flowering rain gardens that David Foster, associate professor of biology and environmental science, and a number of his Messiah College biology students designed



Students and their faculty advisor, David Foster, pose with one of three rain gardens that they designed and installed at the Cottage Brook Lane development on Mill Road.

and built last year. These three rain gardens form the first such system in Upper Allen Township to combine bio-filtration and stormwater management on the scale of a residential subdivision.

Traditionally, stormwater flowing along the streets of a residential subdivision has been collected and held in a detention basin, so as not to overwhelm nearby streams and creeks with excessive and possibly contaminated runoff. These earthen berm and concrete detention basins, while functional, can be an eyesore and the standing water sometimes creates a breeding ground for buggy pests. Rain gardens, when properly designed and maintained, are a visually delightful and ecologically-sound alternative with root and soil systems which treat many contaminants found in residential runoff and permit the clean water to percolate naturally through to nearby waterways.

The developers of the Cottage Brook Lane project, Jim and Joy MacDonald, are Messiah College alumni and had talked with Foster about the possibility of this

project during the design phase in 2007. The project engineer, Fischbach Morgan & Associates, LLC and, later, J.W. Gleim Excavating, was involved in the project to create site grading that would deliver the stormwater to the area designated for the three rain gardens. In addition to the need for selecting plants that could bio-remediate runoff water and tolerate a broad set of soil moisture conditions, the developers also desired to improve site views by obscuring infrastructure and walls and providing a spread of texture and flower colors across the various seasons of the year. An additional objective was to plant primarily native species of plant that would spread vigorously within the rain garden area.

Last spring, students enrolled in Plant Ecology worked together with Foster to create the planting design and select the plants for the principal rain garden, which covers approximately 275 square meters. The grouping of plants was selected to give the appearance of a naturalized wetland.

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Once the plants were selected, students in the Ecological Field Techniques class worked with Foster and Black Landscape Contracting to locate and plant the rain gardens. Evaluation and ongoing maintenance of this multi-faceted project will be undertaken by future students in the College's Plant Propagation course.

The beautiful flowers that bloom at Cottage Brook Lane each season are a visual reminder of the cooperation of the participants; the students, community, township, environment, and clients all continue to benefit. Foster, summing up the positive nature of this effort, says, "This project is a model of service learning for students in technically demanding areas. It combines professional knowledge, skills, and community service with real projects. It benefits the community and builds community and expertise at the same time."



The Clifford L. Jones Solar Scholars Pavilion is located on the southeast corner of Frey Hall academic building.

Grant supports development of biodiesel technology

For more than five years, a team of engineering students within the College's Department of Engineering and the Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research* have been striving to perfect a process for converting waste vegetable oil from Messiah's dining facilities into biodiesel fuel for use in campus vehicles and as a substitute for petroleum heating oils. Given the project's initial success, the U.S. Department of Energy recently awarded the Collaboratory a grant for nearly \$500,000 to further research and refine the process.

Biodiesel fuel is appealing as an alternate energy source because it's non-toxic, renewable, and utilizes an organic product that was previously disposed of as waste.

For more information about the biodiesel project, go to www.thecollaboratoryonline.org/wiki/Biodiesel_Project.

Solar structures generate energy locally and abroad

In September 2008, the College dedicated the open-air Clifford L. Jones Solar Scholars Pavilion. The pavilion, funded by a grant from the Sustainable Energy Fund of Central-Eastern Pa. and contributions from local businesses and contractors, serves as an educational lab for Messiah students as well as the more than 7,500 elementary school children who visit the on-campus Oakes Museum each year. The solar structure includes four photovoltaic arrays which generate three kilowatts of power, enough to offset the utility usage of a computer lab in Frey Hall. The pavilion itself is constructed of 100 percent sustainable resources, including a green roof, recycled materials, and regionally manufactured materials.

For years, the Collaboratory has been designing, constructing, and implementing solar structures in Burkina Faso where the generated solar electricity is helping run medical equipment at a maternity clinic and powering a pump to provide clean drinking water at various locations throughout the underdeveloped country.

For more information about the College's solar projects, go to www.thecollaboratoryonline.org/wiki/Solar_Scholars_Project.

On-campus community garden demonstrates sustainable agriculture

In April of 2007 a quarter-acre plot of land between Mountain View Residence Hall and the greenhouse attached to Kline Hall of Science was tilled and prepped for what is now known as the Grantham Community Garden.

This organic garden is a model of community supported agriculture (CSA). The practice with CSAs is that community members, or "share holders," purchase a portion of the garden, helping to offset any expenses, and then receive produce as it is harvested. For example, the College's dining services operations owns 2/11 of the garden and incorporates the fresh produce supplied by the garden into its summer menus.

Now students have also begun to

operate a compost system that collects organic waste from dining services and combines it with waste materials currently being composted by Facility Services. The resulting compost will be used to provide nutritious soil for the garden's next planting season.

For more information about the community garden, go to www.messiah.edu/org/garden/.

*The Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research is an organization of students, educators, and professionals affiliated with Messiah College who aspire to fulfill Biblical mandates to foster justice, empower the poor, reconcile adversaries, and care for the earth in the context of academic engagement in the disciplines of the School of Mathematics, Engineering, and Business. Read more about the Collaboratory at www.messiah.edu/schools/math_eng_bus/collaboratory/index.html.

For more information about Messiah College's environmental stewardship efforts, visit www.messiah.edu/community.



COMMUNITY connection

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Community Connection is published by the Messiah College Advancement Division.

PURPOSE STATEMENT: Community Connection exists to help create strong connections between Messiah College and the surrounding community by providing accurate news and information on issues of interest to residents of the Messiah College community.

Any questions or feedback regarding this publication may be directed to Beth L. Lorow, Office of Marketing and Public Relations, Messiah College, Box 3020, Grantham, PA 17027

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Any questions regarding Messiah College community relations may be directed to the community message line at (717) 796-5215.

New head men's soccer coach hired



The Messiah College intercollegiate athletics department announced Brad McCarty as its new men's soccer head coach, concluding a national search by appointing one of its very own.

Messiah's top assistant coach for the past eight years, McCarty becomes the seventh head coach in the program's 42-year history, taking over for 12-year leader Dave Brandt who resigned in

December to accept the same position at the United States Naval Academy.

"We are thrilled that Brad has accepted this new role," said Jerry Chaplin, Messiah director of athletics. "His commitment to Messiah men's soccer, as well as to Messiah athletics, has been both significant and noticed."

A 1993 Messiah grad, McCarty helped the Falcons' program to five of its six NCAA Division III National Championships, returning to his alma mater at the outset of the 2001 season as the program's top assistant. Success was quick to follow, as Messiah claimed national titles in the

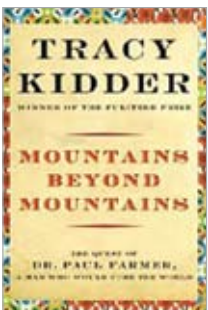
2002, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008 seasons — posting an overall 173–14–8 record (.908) with McCarty on staff.

"I'm extremely honored and excited about the opportunity to be the head coach of Messiah College men's soccer," McCarty said "My desire is to work as hard as I possibly can to maintain our core ideology. The principles and values of our program are what makes this a special place, and I see it as my responsibility to be true to those ideals."



To read more about Messiah College's successful men's soccer program, go to www.messiah.edu/community.

Lecture kicks off public celebration of College's Centennial



Paul Farmer — "doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, the recipient of a MacArthur 'genius' grant, and world-class Robin Hood" — is the subject of

the non-fiction narrative by Pulitzer Prize-winning and best-selling author Tracy Kidder. His book, "Mountains Beyond Mountains," is the common reading text for Messiah's incoming first-year class.

Since 2004, the College has used a common reading text to foster a sense of community among the campus community and first-year students.

This year's selection, "Mountains Beyond Mountains," tells the inspiring story of Farmer — how he journeyed around the world and discovered his true passion was to diagnose and cure infectious diseases by bringing lifesaving tools of modern medicine to communities that need them the most. His adventures eventually landed him in Haiti where he established a small public charity, Partners In Health, in his quest to cure the world.

Kidder will speak about Farmer and his book, "Mountains Beyond Mountains,"

on September 14 when he delivers one of the keynote lectures in the College's Centennial year celebration.

Yearlong Centennial celebration planned

The College will celebrate 100 years of "shared faith, bold vision, and enduring promise" with a variety of lectures, exhibits, symposiums, concerts, and visual and performing arts expressions. The College will conclude its celebration in May 2010.

Our friends and neighbors are encouraged to celebrate this significant milestone with us! A complete schedule of events

can be found at www.messiah.edu/centennial.

Throughout the Centennial year, we also encourage you to share memories of your Messiah College experiences. You can respond to memory prompts at <http://blogs.messiah.edu/centennial> or submit stories and reflections to centennialstories@messiah.edu. Everyone's contributions — parents, students, alumni, employees, friends, and neighbors — will help capture the impact of 100 years of "shared faith, bold vision, and enduring promise," the tri-part Centennial year theme.

MESSIAH COLLEGE 2009
SUMMER ACADEMY
FUN, INTERACTIVE learning in a college setting for motivated students in grades 6–11
AUGUST 3–7

Morning or afternoon sessions. Register by July 15.
www.messiah.edu/academy • or call: 717.796.5219

LOCAL FACE

Dana Britton: Bridging generations to recruit students

By Erin Kriner '10



The ability to develop relationships with people of all ages is an extraordinary gift perfected only with time and experience. Messiah College Director of Admissions Dana Britton has that remarkable ability and uses it to build relationships with college-age students, their parents, and senior adults, creating connections that provide a lasting impact on students and seniors alike.

Professionally, as admissions director, Britton creates bonds between prospective students and their parents, administrators, and the College's mission by articulating the quality and uniqueness of a Messiah College education. "I enjoy having the ability to speak with students and parents one-on-one," said Britton. "I am able to promote Messiah by showing these prospective students how academics and a commitment to a Christian worldview make Messiah distinguishable from other Christian colleges, whether it be through transformative outcomes seen in current students, excellent external programs, service opportunities, or our emphasis on reconciliation at Messiah."

Working with college students is not new for Britton. She has worked in Messiah's admissions office for nearly 11 years. She previously worked for several other colleges in their admissions departments — totaling 20 years of involvement in student life. However, it is

Messiah that she calls home. From meeting with prospective students and their families at Open Houses, to supervising admissions counselors, to reviewing applications, Britton works with her staff on every aspect of admissions to Messiah College. "I get to meet with students and parents in different venues," Britton points out. "I get to effectively show the Messiah story and communicate that it is a worthwhile investment."

Britton even experiences Messiah from a parent's point of view. Her oldest daughter, Andrea, is a senior at Messiah and will graduate in May; her youngest, Lindsay, is a senior in high school. With all her job responsibilities, Britton loves nothing better than spending quality family time with her daughters and husband, Tom, a pastor of counseling and senior adult ministries at Christian Life Assembly in Camp Hill. As a pastor's wife, Britton provides a sound support system for her husband, working as a prayer partner for church members and also assisting with senior adult ministries. Through these ministry opportunities, Britton discovered her desire to work with senior adults.

In addition to all of her work and community duties, Britton loves to spend time visiting her mother at Messiah Village. Britton also keeps in touch with friends from college and is an avid Facebook user. After all of that, if she happens to find a spare moment of time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family at their pool.

Through all her endeavors, Britton is constantly working to build new relationships or further develop her current ones. It is no wonder as to why she enjoys her job so much; she is enriching lives daily and providing guidance and assurance to both current and prospective members of the Messiah College community.

Messiah College as a community resource

Messiah College strives to be a good neighbor through purposeful communication, resource sharing, and community service. We seek to provide educational and cultural opportunities not only to our campus community, but to our extended local community as well. The College is committed to listen, understand, and respond to community concerns and interests. As friends and family in central Pennsylvania, we warmly welcome you to get acquainted with Messiah College. Visit, learn, and experience all our campus has to offer!

OAKES MUSEUM — CURATOR CLUB

With programs for students in third through fifth grades, this activity club studies everything from birds and plants, to volcanoes and earthquakes, to the secrets behind Punxsutawney Phil and weather prediction. Each session is held onsite at the Oakes Museum. The summer Curator Club begins in June. For more information, call (717) 691-6082 or go to www.messiah.edu/oakes.

SUMMER ACADEMY 2009 (AUGUST 3–7)

Summer Academy offers motivated, middle and high school students the opportunity to experience collegiate-level learning in a nurturing, fun-filled environment. Cultivate a curious mind. Encourage a budding intellect. Awaken an academic passion. It's a summer experience they won't forget. Class sizes are limited; for more information, contact summeracademy@messiah.edu or (717) 796-5219.

ATHLETIC CAMPS

Athletics at Messiah College has set a standard for excellence. Sports camps help young athletes grow in skill and sportsmanship. Positive attitude, skill development, and sound game knowledge provide players with strong foundations upon which to build success. For more information on camps, registration information, and applications, visit www.GOMessiah.com and click on "Camps" in the header.

MUSIC CAMPS

This summer the School of the Arts is hosting two summer sessions for musicians:

Orchestra Camp, July 26–30: Designed for string players in grades 7–12, this camp offers instruction in orchestral and chamber music, as well as master and musicianship classes. For more information, contact the music department at (717) 796-1800, ext. 3310.

Chamber Music in Grantham:

Performance and Composition Workshop,

August 7–14: An intensive program designed to enhance participants' ability to communicate musical ideas in performance. For more info, contact Peter Sirotnin at (301) 299-6526 or www.messiah.edu/departments/music/chamber_music_workshop.shtml.

ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

Debra Pierson: Inspiring entrepreneur earns regional recognition

By Rebecca Porterfield '09



Debra Pierson's company, Pierson Computing Connection, Inc., provides and maintains customized laptops for each member of Pennsylvania's House of Representatives.

For Debra Pierson, a 1989 Messiah College graduate, success begins and ends with family. Pierson began working in the 1980s at her parents' small business, and since opening her own business in 1993 has won prestigious awards throughout the region. Though recognized by "Enterprising Women" magazine as a 2008 Enterprising Woman of the Year finalist, Pierson says that her greatest accomplishment "is raising my two daughters who love God and who know how to work."

Pierson, a computer science major, enjoyed spending time with friends while at Messiah, and especially remembers a pivotal moment of her sophomore year.

"During an all-nighter computer programming session in the basement of Kline, I realized that I did not want to program computers for the rest of my life. It was a defining moment for me." Pierson soon got an internship with IBM and discovered her passion for the technical side of the business, including system configurations, computer networking, and installations, that has led to amazing success. She worked for IBM throughout the rest of college and received the only Central Pennsylvania job offer from the company upon graduating.

Family also would steer the success of her professional life. Pierson stayed at IBM for four years during which she met her husband and they had their first child, Jackie. When Jackie was only six months old, IBM offered its employees a buyout package, and she decided to make a change. "It took a lot of soul searching and prayer, but I decided to work as a consultant. It was the best decision I could have made—it allowed me to enjoy being a mom." Pierson's consulting business soon flourished, and today she is the president and CEO of Pierson Computing Connection, Inc. (PCCi), an information technology company with 40 employees. She works daily to help her team solve problems and discover more efficient ways to serve customers, claiming that her "favorite part is doing project planning for customers." In 2008, she received the Small Business of the Year award from

the Harrisburg Regional Chamber in recognition of the significant growth of her company. Pierson credits this success to her amazing team at PCCi. "I try to remain very flexible with my employees. Whether they have events for their kids, or they are going through difficult times, I try to say 'I am praying for you.' As a Christian, I see God using my business ownership as a way to help handle difficult situations." Clearly, the combination has been a success.

Throughout her entire professional journey, Pierson has kept her own family and community in the forefront of her focus. This passion also helped her determine which organizations to support in the local community. For example, Pierson is a strong supporter of Dress for Success South Central PA, a non-profit organization that offers services to help women re-enter the workforce and maintain employment. "I wanted to help women who weren't as fortunate as I was to be able to pursue their dreams in business," she commented. And she truly is giving them a reason to dream: in 2008, Diversity.com named PCCi one of the Top 100 Women Owned Businesses.

But aside from all of her business success, Pierson comments that she truly enjoys spending time with her family. She lives with her two daughters, Jackie, 16, and Elizabeth, 13, and her husband Jeff, who works at PCCi as the director of facilities. "From the beginning of this journey until today, I wouldn't be where I am without all their support," said Pierson.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 2009

May 7–12: Final exams/Underclassmen depart
May 15–16: Commencement Weekend
(www.messiah.edu/commencement)
May 22: Start of summer conference season
(May 22–Aug 14)

For a complete list of summer conferences, visit www.messiah.edu/summerconferences; click "List of Conferences"

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 2009

August 27: New and transfer students arrive
Aug 30–Aug 31: Returning students arrive
September 1: Classes begin
September 14: Common Reading Lecture: "Mountains Beyond Mountains"
September 18–20: Family Weekend

SPRING/SUMMER 2009
COMMUNITY *connection*

Neighbor to Neighbor



Celebrating Commencement with our graduates and their families is always a significant milestone in the annual life of the College. On May 16, we will graduate more than 600 students, trusting that their Messiah experience has instilled in them the desire and ability to lead “lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.”

During the summer months we will be busy preparing to kick off the College’s Centennial—a yearlong celebration that will span from August 2009 to May 2010 and include lectures, exhibits, symposiums, concerts, and visual and performing arts expressions. I invite you to join us in celebrating 100 years! For the latest schedule of activities and events, please visit www.messiah.edu/centennial.

As we reflect on a century of educating students, there is much to celebrate! Our graduates are making a positive impact, serving and working in all arenas of contemporary culture and society—both in the U.S. and abroad. This issue introduces you to alumna Debra Pierson, a businesswoman whose outstanding information technology consulting work and commitments to her employees and the local community have earned regional recognition. And, much like Debra, Dana Britton, Messiah’s director of admissions, understands the value of relationships and community service. I trust that you’ll enjoy reading about these accomplished women.

Messiah students, educators, and alumni are also contributing to environmental conservation efforts. Our students’ passion for caring for creation dates back many years; it was nearly 30 years ago that students lobbied for the first recycling bins on campus. Now, in addition to recycling efforts, students are researching small-scale biodiesel production, growing an organic community garden and composting waste from the dining hall, learning about the capabilities of energy generated from solar panels installed on campus, and developing sustainable energy conservation and water purification technologies in underdeveloped countries around the globe. Locally, Messiah’s environmental science students recently designed and implemented a rain garden stormwater management system at the Cottage Brook Lane housing development on Mill Road; you can read about the project, the first of its kind in Upper Allen Township, in this issue’s feature story.

As the weather gets warmer, I hope you and your family will take the opportunity to visit campus. Perhaps you’ll want to check out the solar panels installed along the southeast corner of Frey Hall academic building or see what’s growing in the community garden? While on campus, tour the Oakes Museum, enjoy a stroll on the Stabler Fitness Trail, or pack a picnic to enjoy along the banks of the Yellow Breeches. Enjoy your summer!

Kimi S. Phipps