

Student spotlight: three is not a crowd for these siblings

By Adam Davis '07



(Left to right) Alex, Anna, and Jacob Waardenburg

Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School graduates, siblings Jacob, Alex, and Anna Waardenburg not only decided they wanted to stay close to home while attending college, they also wanted to stay close together. So they each chose to attend Messiah College.

Each of the siblings had different reasons why they thought Messiah College was a good fit. Jacob, a senior business and finance major, said that he always knew he wanted to go to Messiah. "I've known since the third grade! We had to write what we wanted to do when we grew up, and I wrote, 'go to Messiah and study business,'" says Jacob. Anna, a first-year student also majoring in business and finance, said that since she grew up in the area she already knew a lot about Messiah. "I used to take gymnastics lessons on campus, and I knew some professors from my church. Also from everything I heard about Jacob's experience, Messiah had the right feel," Anna adds. Alex, a first year engineering major, explained that he became interested in Messiah when he met several students from the College on a service trip to Zimbabwe. "I read that Messiah has an excellent engineering program and I figured, you can't beat a good education that is close to home," he says.

Jacob, twins Alex and Anna, and their parents, Don and Brenda Waardenburg, attend West Shore Evangelical Free Church where all three siblings are involved in the Wednesday night Awesome Adventure program. The program is similar to Sunday School, and Anna and Alex both teach kindergartners through sixth graders while Jacob plays guitar during worship.

Alex and Anna are both enjoying their first year at Messiah. "I love the people and the culture. It is such a great atmosphere," says Anna.

"Messiah has a ton of opportunities and programs for students to challenge themselves," adds Alex. Alex is a member of the Collaboratory, a campus organization that focuses on developing appropriate technology to meet the physical needs of the world's poor and needy. Jacob graduates in May and plans to work full time with UPS in Harrisburg where he is currently working part time. In December he married Kate Rogers, a senior psychology major at Messiah College who grew up in Hershey.

Jacob, Alex, and Anna all enjoy being at the same college with one another. "We decided to just tell people we were married," Alex said while joking about how he and his twin sister are constantly asked if they are related. They each said that there is enough space to feel independent but at the same time it is nice to know that family is nearby.

Community Calendar

Helpful Messiah College dates for the local community

May 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Final exams/ underclass students depart	11	12
13	14 Final exams	15	16	17	18 Commencement weekend (www.messiah.edu/commencement)	19 Summer conference season starts (May 26-Aug 12)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	For a complete list of summer conferences, visit www.messiah.edu/summerconferences	

September 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					30	1 Returning students arrive
2 Returning students arrive	3	4 Classes begin	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28 Family weekend	29

COMMUNITY connection

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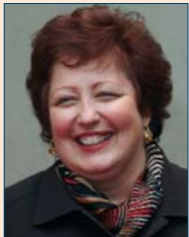
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SPRING/SUMMER 2007
COMMUNITY *connection*

Neighbor to neighbor: a letter from the president of Messiah College



The days of visiting Messiah's campus to enjoy family picnics and tubing on the Yellow Breeches are just around the corner as spring ushers in warmer weather. And though summer is quickly approaching and many students will return home for a few months, the campus remains lively with a variety of camps and conferences. This issue of *Community Connection* describes some of the tangible ways that Messiah College can be a resource to you and your family this summer and throughout the year.

The Oakes Museum is one campus treasure I strongly encourage you to visit. You'll be amazed at the number of Smithsonian-quality exhibits—North American and African mammals, scores of shells, and literally tons of rocks and minerals. Round out your visit to the museum with a stroll across campus to admire the beautiful flowers planted and arranged by Elizabeth Sobrevilla, our resident green thumb, whom you can read more about on page 3. Also, I hope you enjoy reading the story about three local siblings attending Messiah College.

The College's annual Service Day is featured in an article about our partnership with Special Olympics. I am grateful for

the collaborative relationships Messiah students and staff enjoy with various community partners. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Upper Allen Township officials for their commitment to replace Mill Bridge. I am grateful as well for residents who worked with the College to communicate the importance of the project to the township. The bridge reconstruction is expected to be completed late this summer. I also want to express my appreciation to Monaghan Township supervisors for their support during the renovating of our athletic fields.

Spring is a busy time on our campus as students complete their coursework and seniors prepare to graduate on May 19. Please visit our Neighbors and Community website, www.messiah.edu/community, for event highlights, including Commencement and summer events, and for the latest information of special interest to you—our friends and neighbors.

Warm regards,



Kim S. Phipps,
President

COMMUNITY *connection*

Wildlife adventure awaits at the Oakes Museum

Encounter an elephant, giraffe, or alligator in Grantham? Unimaginable! Go nose-to-nose with zebras, crocodiles, and hippos? Inconceivable! Yet an African safari, a shell-seeking expedition, and a grand wildlife adventure await you at the Oakes Museum on Messiah College's campus.

The Oakes Museum spans 10,000 square feet and two floors in the Jordan Science Center. Within its walls are 40,000 specimens, including Smithsonian-quality African and North American mammals, bird eggs, seashells, minerals, insects, and fossils. Six dioramas created by nationally renowned museum artists help visitors visualize the animals in their natural habitats. The Oakes Museum is an educational treasure and a unique museum experience.

The museum, established in 1999 when Jordan Science Center was constructed, serves multiple educational purposes for on- and off-campus audiences. On campus, students studying art or creative writing find inspiration when surrounded by the life-size animals and realistic dioramas. Education and science majors help guide tours and develop educational programs. Busloads of school children visit the museum on field



Two-year-old Larissa Brye practices with a magnifying glass in the Oakes Museum's Sensory Discovery Room. The room contains birds, shells, and rocks for kids to investigate. Because few of the Oakes Museum's displays are behind glass, Larissa is able to get nose-to-nose with this zebra. Photo credit: Brandie Stonge

trips and are treated to informative tours specialized for their age and background. Families fill the museum during its Saturday hours. In all, more than 12,000 visitors experience the Oakes Museum each year.

The museum is staffed by a director, educational coordinator, volunteer student docents, and eight volunteer curators, including members of the community. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the museum and learn primarily from the information placards at each exhibit. Or, student docents stationed throughout the museum can provide insightful commentary about the displays. "We prefer to interact with the visitors from a perspective of critical thinking rather than by telling. It's not a 'tell this, tell that' type of tour," says Ken Mark, director of the museum.

Promoting and practicing careful and responsible stewardship of God's creation

is the core mission of the Oakes Museum. Exhibits and programs encourage lifelong exploration and discussion of nature with emphasis on humankind's responsibility for its care.

Busloads of school children visit the museum on field trips and are treated to well-informed tours specialized for their age and background.

Indeed, most of the collections were donated by individuals committed to elevating understanding and appreciation of natural resources. The collections are distinct and diverse—the largest bird egg (17,000) and African mammal (100 specimens) collections in Pennsylvania; an extensive North American mammal collection containing a Kodiak Island bear, great elk,

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and American bison; 30,000 insects; and more than two tons of rocks and minerals. In addition to regular exhibits, the museum also hosts rotating displays such as the current special exhibit, “Key to the MushROOM.” This exhibit, prepared by the museum’s curator of mycology, Gary Emberger, features displays of wood decay fungi as well as an online guide to wood decay fungi found in local forests.

Creating an enjoyable experience for children is a primary goal of the museum. “We made a very specific effort not to have things behind glass, and that makes us unique,” comments Mark. In addition to mounting animals at child-friendly levels, the museum has a Sensory Discovery Room where children can handle 25 species of birds and scads of seashells, many common on east coast seashores. Jars of salamanders, frogs, and snakes offer a safe, up-close view of critters found in local streams and ponds. And visitors can identify and handle rocks and minerals that are prevalent in this region and likely to be found on local hikes.

In June, the Oakes Museum will launch a summer program — the Curator’s Club —



Wild sheep and goats, arranged according to the altitude of their natural habitats, greet guests on the lower level of the museum.

for children going into grades 3–5. Members of the club will attend six sessions where they will study everything from African animals and culture to fossils and geology to the truth about trash and recycling. The Curator’s Club will convene over the course of six Saturdays, starting June 9 and ending August 18, for a cost of \$40. “Membership in the Curator’s Club provides children with the opportunity

to fuse science, art, and history in a way that’s fun and hands-on,” Mark says.

Even the museum’s website (www.messiah.edu/Oakes) is kid-friendly. Photos of animals in their natural habitats encourage kids to spot hidden critters; “Cool Links” lists helpful resources for research projects or for students who are just interested in learning more about rocks, wildlife, and other aspects of nature; and special exhibit photographs provide a taste of the larger displays.

A trip to the Oakes Museum is the perfect cure for a restless Saturday afternoon. Traverse the wonder of an African watering hole, navigate the network of a beaver dam, and explore the fragile habitats of birds. Enjoy examining wildlife’s extraordinary, dangerous, and delicate creatures and take in the wonder of their amazing habitats. The Oakes Museum has no shortage of awe-inspiring, interesting items!



Read an exclusive interview with long-time Grantham resident Ruth Bierbower, curator of shells for the Oakes Museum, and her son Jerry, an avid outdoorsman, at www.messiah.edu/community.

- The Oakes Museum is open Saturdays from 1–5 p.m. (closed all fifth Saturdays). Groups of 10 or more are encouraged to call ahead and arrange a tour (717) 691-6082.
- Admission prices: \$6 for adults; \$3 for children (ages 3–12) and senior citizens age 62+.
- Special parking for Oakes Museum visitors is available in the lot behind the Jordan Science Center. (View the campus map at www.messiah.edu/visitors/map.html.)
- The museum closes when Messiah College students are on break. Please check the website — www.messiah.edu/Oakes — for such dates.
- Extend your stay on Messiah College’s campus and pack a picnic to enjoy along the Yellow Breeches Creek. Wear comfortable shoes and wander along the Stabler Fitness Trail, a recreational hiking path that loops campus. (A helpful guide to this trail can be found at www.messiah.edu/community/connection/fall06/.)

College prepares to construct a new president’s residence

Messiah College is currently in preliminary conversation with Upper Allen Township regarding plans to construct a new president’s residence on the college-owned Musser Farm property, near the main campus entrance, on Lisburn Road. The current residence, located on campus, was built in 1973 and was not designed to accommodate the hospitality and entertainment responsibilities of today’s college president. The new residence is planned to have ample entertaining space as well as private living quarters for the president and her family.

The Musser Farm property was selected based on the direction of the College’s master concept plan, outlining benefits such as the lot’s

proximity to campus, ample space for guest parking, and appropriate zoning requirements.

Messiah College’s Board of Trustees identified and championed the need for a new residence, generously committing personal funds to cover the construction costs. Depending on discussion and planning with the township, construction could begin as early as July 2007 and be completed by July 2008.

The College will continue to keep neighbors informed through this newsletter and other communications as planning and construction progress.

Local face: resident green thumb beautifies campus

By Kay Feaver '08



For most of us, stopping to smell the roses ends with a quick whiff—if we even manage that! In a busy society, we are rarely able to take the time to pay attention to roses, much less to wonder who planted them and keeps them blooming so beautifully. Yet it is because of the sometimes unrecognized labor of men and women that our workplaces and communities can bring us such comfort and pleasure.

Elizabeth Sobrevilla is the plant care specialist at Messiah College, which means she holds responsibility for the campus' flowerbeds, pots, and hanging baskets, as well as being the point person for ground cover, managing the College's

compost program, and caring for indoor plant growth. Her expertise has gained her the respect of the community, and her love for flowers and plants has only grown over the years.

Although Sobrevilla's interest in gardening is long-standing, her vocational involvement in it is not. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a major in Spanish and studied in Mexico for a while, where she met and fell in love with her husband, Dante. The Spanish culture and language have always captivated her, and she held jobs involving bilingualism for some time before gradually realizing that her vocation lay elsewhere. "I used to have romantic visions of standing with a watering can, watering flowers and little plants," she comments.

In the early 1990s, she began a job at Ashcombe's, where her talent with plants soon became visible to herself and those around her. "If I'd been working with computers," she says, "you'd have to

explain the same thing to me over and over again. But with growing plants . . . well, it turned out that I just had this amazing ability to soak up information about them. My boss could just mention the Latin name of a plant and I'd remember it."

Her career at Messiah College launched in the late 1990s when she took a job as a seasonal temporary worker and kept seeing possibilities for improvement. Lorna Sawatsky, the wife of the late college president Rodney Sawatsky, was heading up a campus beautification project at that time, and Sobrevilla's knowledge was so evident that her boss approached her to ask if she would take a significant role. Over the years, her job expanded to encompass the many responsibilities she now manages—but her passion and gift have remained the same.

She and her husband have been local residents for about 17 years, and have been involved in two churches: St. Catherine Drexel, their parish church, and Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill. Her husband works as a singer and guitarist, and her eyes light up when she talks about their twin, three-year-old girls, Adrienne and Victoria.

Throughout Sobrevilla's years of gardening experience, she has developed a sense of what she likes and what works well. She tends to look for consistent performance through a variety of weather conditions, and she lists plants such as the annual ivy geranium "Lila Cascade" or the perennial geranium "Rozanne" as some of her favorites. Her real love, however, is exploring plant combinations to produce unique mixes of color and texture that only she could have created. A stroll along the sidewalks of Messiah College bears testimony to her talented and loving work, and students, faculty, and visitors alike benefit daily from her unique gift with the flowers and plants that beautify campus.



If you would like to read Elizabeth Sobrevilla's advice for local gardeners, check out her article online at www.messiah.edu/community.

Faith in action: partnership pairs Messiah students with Special Olympians

By Rebecca L. Porterfield '09

Messiah College is a long-time partner with Special Olympics. This is the College's 18th year hosting a fun-filled day of track, field, and swimming events for area Special Olympians. As stated on the organization's website, "Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through sports training and competition." Commitment to empowering others has always been a focus of Messiah's students and staff as evidenced in the success of Service Day, a special day designated to campus-wide service participation. Therefore, being involved with an organization such as Special Olympics was only natural.

A typical day at Special Olympics begins with the excited and nervous athletes being matched with Messiah College "buddies" who throughout the day will be their personal cheerleaders and friends. Marissa Bozman, a junior at Messiah, said her Olympian was "one of the most determined, patient, energetic, and joy-filled people" she had ever met, and that through her participation in the Special Olympics she was able to be "used by God to give and receive."

Messiah College does not have a service requirement for its students; however, in the College community, the desire to serve others is very strong. "I believe that service is an essential part of our faith as it puts God's Word and instruction into action," said sophomore Joseph Fang. Last year around 1,500 students and employees

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participated in the annual Service Day. On this particular day, all classes are cancelled to allow students and faculty to assist with the Special Olympics games and participate in other service opportunities. The act of serving isn't limited to one day of the year. Each week around 600 Messiah students go out into the community to volunteer or participate in service-learning activities. Service-learning goes beyond community service in that it prompts students to use the skills they learn in the classroom and apply them to helping others.

Both in volunteering and service-learning, the reciprocal relationship of giving is evident. “You give to others in hopes of helping them, but what you receive back in return is the surprising part,” says Becky Owen, local community service director of Messiah College’s Agapé Center for Service and Learning. “One doesn’t usually expect to receive anything in return for serving, but often can’t help but receive love and a better understanding of people when they serve. The ‘surprising part’ is the true blessing and what drives us deeper into God’s heart for the world.”

This year’s Service Day and Special Olympics events will take place April 19. Special Olympics will be held at Messiah’s Starry Athletic Complex, and community members are welcome to attend and cheer for the athletes.



For 18 years, Messiah College students and staff have been assisting with Special Olympics by being “buddies” to the athletes.

Township officials pave way for Mill Bridge construction

When Mill Bridge was closed due to safety concerns in 2005, the long-term future of the bridge was uncertain. The bridge, which is owned by Upper Allen Township, serves as an important connecting link to campus, and its closure created challenges for many area residents. Responding to the local community’s appeal to reopen the bridge, Upper Allen Township officials budgeted funds for engineering, design, and construction of a new bridge. The township’s tentative repair timeline (susceptible to permit approval delays or inclement weather) is as follows: receive DEP stream entry permit in April; bid the project in April/May; start construction in May/June; and complete the project in August/September.

Many thanks to the commissioners and administrators from Upper Allen Township for dialoguing with College officials and residents and allocating funds for the replacement of Mill Bridge. Notes of appreciation may be e-mailed to the township c/o Mr. Lou Fazekas, Upper Allen Township manager, at lfazekas@upperallentwp.org.

Messiah College as a community resource

Messiah College offers a variety of programs, facilities, and resources to local residents throughout the year. Here is just a sampling of what Messiah College has available:

Messiah College Choral Arts Society

The Choral Arts Society, dedicated to promoting the appreciation of choral masterpieces, is comprised of students from Messiah College and community members from the greater Harrisburg area. The ensemble provides an opportunity for students and the local community to perform major choral works with an orchestra. The choir is open to new membership through auditions held each January. This year, Choral Arts will perform Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Dona Nobis Pacem* on April 22 at 3 p.m. at the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church. For more information about the concert, including tickets, call (717) 691-6036. For information about

auditions for the spring 2008 performance, call (717) 691-6027, ext. 1.

Employment at Messiah

Looking for job opportunities at Messiah College? The human resources office is responsible for assisting the College in selecting the best-qualified individuals for their administrative and staff positions. You can view an online listing of open positions at www.messiah.edu/offices/hr/job_opportunities/ or call the jobline at (717) 796-1800, ext. 5907, for a recording of available positions.

Summer sports camps

Athletics at Messiah College has set a standard for excellence. Sports camps help young athletes grow in skill and sportsmanship. For more information on sports camps or to request a camp brochure, visit www.messiah.edu/athletics, and choose an individual sport’s homepage for information on its camp.

For information on summer swim school sessions, call the head lifeguard at (717) 766-2511, ext. 5908, or visit www.messiah.edu/athletics/aquatics/school/.

Music camps

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

Chamber Music in Grantham: Performance and Composition Workshop, August 12–17 — an intensive program designed to enhance participants’ ability to communicate musical ideas in performance. For more information, contact Peter Sirotin at (301) 299-6526 or www.messiah.edu/departments/music/chamber_music_workshop.html.

Orchestra Camp, July 29-August 4 — 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) 766-2511, ext. 3310.