

# COMMUNITY *connection*

## From a humble Harrisburg home to a thriving Grantham campus

*Messiah College celebrates its first century*

In the early 1900s, Messiah College president and founder S. R. Smith wanted to relocate both his flourishing noodle-making business and his new educational endeavor, Messiah Bible School and Missionary Training Home, from downtown Harrisburg to an area with expansion potential. He knew several families living just outside the city, and decided to move both his business and school to the village of Grantham.

The Grantham area was especially appealing to the entrepreneur for several reasons. In addition to acres of available farmland, Grantham was home to the Reading Railroad, an important source of transportation; the Yellow Breeches Creek, a vital power generation source; and a mill, a thriving business where local farmers could grind their grain. Smith saw plenty of potential for both his business and school and purchased land in 1907.

By the summer of 1909, a brick, two-story, noodle-producing factory had been built along the railroad tracks where the College's Lenhart Maintenance Building stands today. Smith's business continued to grow rapidly, and he soon purchased additional land across the railroad tracks so that he could build a home and relocate his family of 10 children.



*In 1909, S. R. Smith moved his noodle-making business and Messiah Bible School and Missionary Training Home from his home in downtown Harrisburg to Grantham.*

Smith wanted his children to receive an education centered in the values of the Brethren in Christ Church, in which he was an active leader. So in 1909 he started a school in the tradition of this denomination—the Messiah Bible School and Missionary Training Home. The school was launched in Smith's home on Twelfth Street in Harrisburg and in its first term enrolled less than a dozen students. Enrollment grew quickly, however, and educators at the school soon saw merit in moving to a rural setting where students could study agriculture firsthand. So, in 1910, Smith set aside five additional acres of his land in Grantham in order to relocate and expand the school.

A building was designed and constructed to meet the needs of the expanding school. Old Main, a three-story structure which remains in use today, originally housed classrooms, study rooms, a small library, dormitory rooms, a dining room, a kitchen, and a storeroom. The building was dedicated in January of 1912.

By 1912, Grantham was a bustling village, complete with a post office, store, printer, bank, railroad station, telegraphic service, and a milk delivery station. Smith and some associates were selling parcels of land under their business enterprise—the Grantham Land Improvement Company—and people, primarily those in the Brethren in Christ denomination, were electing to make Grantham their home. A church congregation and denominational district were soon formally organized.

In 1914, another of Smith's enterprises moved to Grantham—a three-story orphanage referred to as Treona relocated across the Yellow Breeches Creek and adjacent to Messiah in the area currently home to the College's athletic fields.

Smith died in 1916, but Messiah would continue to benefit from the leadership of visionary leaders throughout its next century as the institution worked to build fiscal health, increase enrollment, recruit faculty, gain accreditation, enhance student programs, and expand its physical plant.

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Meet Glen Pierce
- **Local face:** Meet Jess Rhoads
- **Messiah launches graduate school program**

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### 1917–1923

C. N. Hostetter Sr. assumed the College presidency in 1917 after Smith's death. Hostetter's tenure would mark the first of three generations of Hostetters holding the presidency at Messiah. Hostetter donated his services to Messiah; he never accepted a salary and he inspired many educators to do the same, a feat considering that it was an economically tenuous time. During Hostetter's tenure, the school became a junior college, began offering college-level courses, and officially changed its name to Messiah Bible College.

### 1923–1934

Enos Hess, a farmer and teacher, assumed the presidency in 1923. Hess had taught at Messiah for several years and was passionate about helping to raise funds to keep the school financially stable. During his tenure at Messiah, he, too, rarely accepted a salary and worked tirelessly to implement a student recruitment program by maintaining good church and school relations.

### 1934–1960

Upon Hess' retirement in 1934, C. N. Hostetter Jr. took over the role of president. He was a zealous mission worker and pioneering evangelist, and brought both those passions to his administrative role. Hostetter focused his presidency on three specific goals: stabilizing the school's finances despite the constraints of the Great Depression; leading the four-year accreditation process; and building and expanding the campus to accommodate increasing enrollment. Hostetter was especially good



Old Main was Messiah's first building in Grantham in 1912. It housed the library, dining hall, classrooms, and student dormitory rooms.



The Yellow Breeches Creek, which runs through Messiah's campus and marks the boundary between Cumberland and York counties, has always been a popular recreational spot.

at relating to and connecting with students; he even personally helped struggling students pay off their college bills. Hostetter retired after nearly 30 years of service.

### 1960–1964

Arthur Climenhaga, Messiah's fifth president and grandson of S. R. Smith, was born in a house on campus and was no stranger to both the school's strengths and challenges. Climenhaga's presidency is noted for his firm commitment to cultivating strong connections with the community; in particular he fostered these relationships by joining the local Rotary and Lions Clubs. Climenhaga also made visible improvements like doubling the number of books in the library, expanding campus across the Yellow Breeches, and advancing the athletic program. It was during his presidency that Messiah officially declared the Falcon as its mascot and played its first athletic contest against a secular institution. After four productive years, Climenhaga resigned to become president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

### 1964–1994

D. Ray Hostetter, grandson and son of two previous presidents, would lead the institution for 30 years. The College made significant improvements during his tenure, including constructing eight new facilities, increasing the number of faculty, gaining complete regional accreditation, formally partnering with Temple University in Philadelphia, establishing a partnership with Daystar Institute in Kenya, and

enhancing the College's athletic program by adding sports like baseball, wrestling, and field hockey. During Hostetter's tenure, presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter visited campus.

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## COMMUNITY connection

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**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.

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

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### 1994–2004

The College's seventh president, Rodney Sawatsky, had extensive experience in higher education before coming to Messiah College in 1994. Sawatsky's 10-year tenure was marked by several key accomplishments, including the development of the College's mission and identity statements; the reorganization of the College's academic structure; the launch of several service-oriented programs, like the Agapé Center for Service and Learning and the Harrisburg Institute; and the continued expansion of the College in both enrollment and physical size.

### 2004–present

Kim S. Phipps was inaugurated in December 2004. Her ambitious presidential agenda includes a variety of key initiatives, including strengthening the College's reputation on a regional and national level; articulating a compelling vision for Messiah's second century; and creating a campus climate that exhibits hospitality and promotes reconciliation. Phipps is active in the local community, serving on a number of boards, and she is a frequent spectator at student and campus events. A key accomplishment of her presidency was hosting The Compassion Forum, a nationally-televised conversation with then-presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton on the integration of faith and public policy in April 2008.

### Centennial year celebration

For its Centennial year, the College chose the theme "Shared Faith. Bold Vision. Enduring Promise." because it emphasizes Messiah's rich heritage, current strength, and future promise. The College's year-long calendar of Centennial events—including lectures, exhibits, symposiums, worship services, concerts, visual and performing arts expressions—and other educational and social events are designed to embody the theme as we commemorate Messiah's first 100 years of educating students toward maturity of intellect, character, and Christian faith.

For a complete listing of Centennial events and more about the College's history, visit [www.messiah.edu/centennial](http://www.messiah.edu/centennial).

*Much of the historical information provided in this article is taken from Messiah College: A History, an account of Messiah College's early years, written by Professor Emeritus E. Morris Sider. The book is available for purchase in The Campus Store.*

## Test your Messiah I.Q.

How much do you know about Messiah College's first 100 years? Test your Messiah I.Q. by trying these few trivia questions. If you're curious, there will be plenty more questions at [www.messiah.edu/centennial](http://www.messiah.edu/centennial) throughout the Centennial year.

1. What is another name for the Yellow Breeches Creek that runs through campus?
  - a. Minnemingo
  - b. Little Susquehanna
  - c. County Line Creek
2. Which Messiah president was responsible for organizing the Grantham area's first milkman's cooperative?
  - a. S. R. Smith
  - b. C. N. Hostetter Sr.
  - c. Enos Hess
  - d. C. N. Hostetter Jr.
3. Who was the College's commencement speaker in 1965?
  - a. Muhammad Ali
  - b. Coretta Scott King
  - c. Jim Henson
  - d. Dwight D. Eisenhower
4. What is the name of the covered bridge?
  - a. The Stoner Bridge
  - b. The Swinging Bridge
  - c. The Starry Bridge
  - d. The Messiah Bridge
5. When students were not permitted to have milk on their apple dumplings in the dining hall, they took matters into their own hands: they brought in a goat and milked it in the cafeteria. What was their punishment?
  - a. One week suspension
  - b. Washing the dishes for a month
  - c. Praying in the chapel for three hours a day for a week to reflect on their actions
  - d. Working on a chicken farm for three days

Answers: 1. a, 2. c, 3. d, 4. a, 5. d

## World events from 1909 to 2009

- |      |   |      |   |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1909 | Explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson reportedly reach the North Pole. | 1976 | The cartoon "Garfield" is created by Jim Davis.   |
| 1912 | The Titanic sinks.  | 1981 | Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman elected to the United States Supreme Court.   |
| 1922 | The first <i>Reader's Digest</i> is printed.                                  | 1989 | The Berlin Wall comes down.   |
| 1927 | The first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean.                              | 1997 | The Roslin Institute in Scotland clones a sheep named Dolly.  |
| 1937 | The first television broadcasts are made.                                     | 2001 | Terrorists attack the United States by crashing commercial airliners into New York City's World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. |
| 1945 | World War II ends.  | 2004 | Apple's iTunes sells its 200,000,000 song.  |
| 1957 | The Soviet Union launches Sputnik.  | 2009 | Barack Obama is sworn in as the country's 44th president and first African-American president.  |
| 1959 | Alaska and Hawaii become part of the United States.                           |      |   |
| 1961 | Germany begins constructing the Berlin Wall.                                  |      |   |
| 1963 | John F. Kennedy Jr. is assassinated.  |      |   |
| 1966 | The first Super Bowl is held.   |      |   |
| 1968 | Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy are both assassinated.              |      |   |

Source: [www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html](http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html).

## LOCAL FACE

# Jess Rhoads: An extraordinary stretch to home base

by Erin Kriner '10



Local Jess Rhoads is no stranger to media attention. Since winning Messiah College's first NCAA Division III softball national championship in May, she's had so many reporters contact her that she can't keep track. Behind all the media attention—from *Sports Illustrated* to local newspapers—Rhoads is happy to simply be a member of the Dillsburg and Messiah College communities.

The first memory Rhoads has of Messiah is participating in basketball and field hockey camps. After testing out the athletic waters, softball became her niche, and, since fifth grade, Rhoads has been playing softball. What started out as something that might be “fun” turned into a passion. In seventh grade, Rhoads started playing softball all year long and eventually played for a Philadelphia team that traveled around the country.

Now as a second-year student at Messiah, Rhoads is studying sport management. Rhoads is happy to be at Messiah and have a great support system from her softball teammates. After attending another school for a semester, Rhoads made a big decision to move home to be closer to her family. “I always wanted to go to Messiah,” she said. “Eventually things fell into place where I had the opportunity to come here.”

The beauty of the campus and its proximity to home were just some of the things that attracted her to Messiah.

In addition, the pitching instructor she worked with during high school was coaching for Messiah. Now Rhoads herself will serve as a trailblazer for what has become a nationally recognized softball program. “It hasn't even sunk in yet . . . what we've done,” said Rhoads. “We practiced everyday and our team became very close. That continual practice and team bond are what helped us win a championship.”

As a person who has always wanted to get more people involved in softball, Rhoads will continue to take the steps necessary to do so. “You always see kids watching baseball when they are little, so when you see girls get excited when they see a softball team, it is great,” she reflected.

**“I think winning this championship gives us the platform to help more girls get involved and to be an inspiration for them.”**

As she looks toward the future, Rhoads sees many promising opportunities. “Softball is a growing sport, but at the same time other sports are growing,” she said. “I think winning this championship gives us the platform to help more girls get involved and to be an inspiration for them.”

In June, Rhoads got a chance to teach young players alongside former Olympic softball star Michelle Smith. Smith called Rhoads to invite her to help with a clinic that Smith was holding in Hershey.

Rhoads is grateful for all the opportunities she has been given and especially for the chance to meet her teammates. Reflecting on their phenomenal season, Rhoads adds, “By the end we were like family. The whole experience was great.”



To read more about Jess Rhoads and the softball team's amazing season, visit [www.messiah.edu/community](http://www.messiah.edu/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!*

### Archives at Messiah

Want to know more about the early years at Messiah College? The Brethren in Christ Historical Library and Archives/Messiah College Archives are located on the basement level of Murray Library on Messiah's campus. The Archives contain official records of the College's governing boards, administrative and educational departments, and student organizations. The records include photos, minutes, publications, and other related materials from the College's founding to the present. The Archives are open to the public; appointments are strongly encouraged. *For more information, or to schedule a visit, call (717) 691-6048. (Access to some records, because of their sensitive nature, may be restricted.)*

### M. Louise Aughinbaugh Gallery

The Aughinbaugh Gallery in the basement of Climenhaga Fine Arts Center features new art exhibitions on a monthly basis that are designed to be of interest to the campus and community. The artwork displayed is created by nationally recognized artists as well as Messiah's art faculty and students. Gallery shows consider a wide variety of artistic expression, from traditional studio areas and the fine crafts, to conceptual art and installation. *The gallery is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.*

### Championship athletics

With national championships in men's soccer, women's soccer, and softball under their belt in 2008–2009, the successes of the Messiah College Falcons have established the College as one of the elite Division III programs in the country. Messiah is well-known nationally not only for winning, but also for consistently adhering to the highest standards of fine play and sportsmanship. Take advantage of the cool, fall weather and bring your family to cheer on the Falcons, whether on the soccer field, cross country course, tennis courts, or field hockey field. *For a 2009–10 schedule for all of Messiah's athletic teams, visit [www.messiah.edu/athletics](http://www.messiah.edu/athletics).*

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT Glen Pierce: Leaving his imprint in history

by Erin Kriner '10



Sometimes life takes you places you would never expect, and then leads you back to where you started. Glen Pierce grew up in a small Iowa town, and after doing voluntary service in San Francisco, enrolled at Messiah College where he developed leadership skills that helped open doors to an interesting future. He recently returned to Messiah, where he is currently director of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library and Archives and the Archives of Messiah College. As the College's Centennial celebration approaches, Pierce exemplifies how Messiah becomes a significant part of an alum's personal history.

Pierce graduated from Messiah in 1970 with two degrees in Bible and religion. While working towards a master's degree at Temple University, he served for a year as dean of students for the Messiah College Philadelphia Campus. One of his more memorable experiences was the fall 1971 orientation for incoming Messiah students at the Philadelphia campus. "That weekend, the Black Panthers were holding

their national convention in Temple University's gym, two blocks south of us. A few blocks north of us, several hundred police officers were staged in a National Guard armory. And the Quakers, who were helping to calm the neighborhood, were using Messiah as their base. It was a unique orientation weekend," recalls Pierce.

After spending a year in Philadelphia, Pierce served 10 years in administrative posts with Brethren in Christ World Missions (then located in Elizabethtown). In 1980, he moved to Nappanee, Indiana, where he became editor-in-chief for the Brethren in Christ Publishing House. After a successful career in publishing, Pierce and his wife, Linda, took a courageous trek to Africa and from 2002 to 2007 worked at the Theological College of Zimbabwe (TCZ).

Pierce's original TCZ assignment was as vice president of development. But when the college's board of trustees released Victor Nakah, TCZ's president, to pursue his doctoral degree, Pierce served as TCZ's interim president in his absence. "I never expected that I would be a college president," Pierce said. "But then, I had never expected to serve in Africa either."

In 2007, Pierce moved back to Grantham and rejoined the College community. The move also put him and his wife closer to Susan, one of their three children, who lives in Carlisle.

As director of the Archives, Pierce is responsible for securing new acquisitions, cataloging and preserving materials, and conducting research. "Although I grew up in the Brethren in Christ Church and

studied at Messiah, my time spent in the Archives has enriched my understanding of and appreciation for both the College and the Brethren in Christ Church."

Obviously, the Archives is playing an important role in Messiah's yearlong Centennial celebration. While the Archives will have a modest Centennial display, Pierce said that his main task is assisting other departments as they prepare for this significant milestone.

When he isn't working at Messiah, Pierce enjoys woodworking, photography, and reading. He is still involved with the Theological College in Zimbabwe: helping to coordinate TCZ's international communications (including a monthly e-mail prayer diary), editing and designing printed materials, and assisting with fundraising.

From his Messiah days as student body president and co-founder of the student-run radio station, WVMM, to his years as editor and his service as interim president of a college in Africa, Pierce has enjoyed his varied opportunities to serve the Lord. "The courses and the interaction with faculty at Messiah strengthened my faith and deepened my knowledge of God and his Word," he said about the impact of his Messiah education. Now, Pierce will continue his adventures in a new career as archivist as he helps to preserve Messiah College and Brethren in Christ history.



To read some fun facts about Messiah's history as shared by archivist Glen Pierce, visit

[www.messiah.edu/community](http://www.messiah.edu/community)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**AUGUST 27**  
New and transfer students arrive

**AUGUST 29**  
Returning students arrive

**SEPTEMBER 1**  
Classes begin

**SEPTEMBER 18–20**  
Family Weekend

**OCTOBER 17**  
Homecoming

**OCTOBER 22–25**  
Fall recess

**NOVEMBER 25–29**  
Thanksgiving recess

**DECEMBER 18–JANUARY 5**  
Winter recess

**JANUARY 6**  
January-Term begins

**JANUARY 28–31**  
January-Term recess

**FEBRUARY 1**  
Spring semester begins

**MARCH 13–21**  
Spring break

**APRIL 2–5**  
Easter break



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Grantham, PA 17027FALL 2009/WINTER 2010  
**COMMUNITY** *connection*

## Neighbor to Neighbor



I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing summer and created special memories with friends and family. Late August is always such an exciting time on Messiah's campus as we look forward to welcoming a new class of incoming first-year and transfer students and reconnecting with returning students. We are especially filled with anticipation this season as the new academic year also marks the beginning of Messiah's yearlong Centennial celebration.

Centennial planning has been underway for a long time, and our full calendar of events—including lectures, exhibits, symposiums, worship services, concerts, and visual and performing arts expressions—reflects the College's desire to celebrate this significant milestone with not only our community of students, employees, and alums but also with our neighbors and friends in Central Pennsylvania and beyond!

Considering the College's beautiful 471-acre Grantham campus and dozens of buildings, it's hard now to believe that Messiah got its start nearly 100 years ago in

the home of a local civic and church leader who was in the business of making noodles in Harrisburg. Thanks to the vision of founder S. R. Smith and many other courageous leaders, Messiah College continues to thrive today as an institution strengthened by a century of "shared faith, bold vision, and enduring promise." These three elements of the College's rich heritage and future promise define our Centennial year and will be the theme as we commemorate our past, present, and future commitment to educating students toward maturity of character, intellect, and Christian faith.

I hope you will plan to join us as we celebrate this significant milestone. You can see the full schedule of Centennial events, as well as read more about the College's history, at [www.messiah.edu/centennial](http://www.messiah.edu/centennial). I look forward to creating new memories with you!

Warm regards,

Kim S. Phipps  
President

### MESSIAH LAUNCHES FIRST GRADUATE PROGRAM

In June, Messiah College received approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to launch its first graduate program—a master of arts in counseling. Classes began in July and will be offered in eight-week sessions during the College's traditional spring, summer, and fall semesters. The counseling program can be completed in as few as two years or as many as six years.

The counseling program offers three specialized tracks: mental health counseling, marriage and family counseling, and school counseling. In addition to their degree, students completing this program are also eligible for the Certificate of Advance Graduate Studies in Counseling, a Pennsylvania licensing requirement.

For more information about the master of arts in counseling, please visit [www.messiah.edu/academics/graduate\\_studies/Counseling/index.html](http://www.messiah.edu/academics/graduate_studies/Counseling/index.html) or call (717) 796-5061.