

Happenings In Education

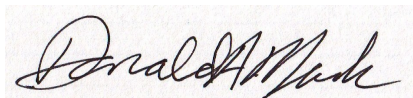
A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

I trust all of you are beginning to get into the swing of the last semester of the academic year. It seems strange to think of this as the *spring* semester, when this past month we have definitely had our share of winter weather.

I have to confess that I was griping about all the snow and all of the shoveling, and I found myself wondering where my boyhood love of snow had gone. I was reminded of two scriptures— Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven.” And Song of Solomon, 2:11-12 NLT says, “Look, the winter is past, and the rains [snow] are/is over and gone. The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come, and the cooing of turtle doves fills the air.”

As we continue through these winter months, my hope for all of you is that you will have a semester filled with growth and that you will continue to grow in the grace of God.

Be well.



Department of Education, Chair



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MLK DAY AT DOWNEY

On

January 20, 2014, Messiah College and Downey Elementary partnered together for a day of service. More than one hundred Messiah students arrived at Downey early in the day to help the school with some much needed renovations. While some students went to work painting the downstairs white and yellow, others painted the upstairs hallway

blue.

Volunteer students also added some colorful new murals throughout the school. Even our very own head of the department, Don Murk, was spotted with a paintbrush!



Other students helped the staff at Downey organize storage closets and book rooms. They also helped input data into the computers as well as cut and hang handprints of the students throughout the school. Everyone who participated found the day to be a resounding success to further the efforts of Together for Tomorrow!



LIVING IN POLAND: WHAT IT'S LIKE TO TEACH ABROAD

One of the programs at Messiah that is rapidly gaining popularity is TESOL. From around the world to just down the street in Harrisburg, our students are finding many opportunities to teach English to speakers of other languages. Messiah graduate Courtney Simonds ('13) is currently teaching English in Europe. In the following article Courtney shares with us a glimpse into her new life as an English teacher in Poland.

I currently live in Elblag, Poland, where I work at a private language school called Regent College.

I teach English to students aged three to 12, as well as to adults. I also work in the local public schools, teaching conversational English. I love both parts of my job because of the many students with whom I get to work.

I love being a teacher here, but it can be difficult at times not being able to speak the language, and not many people speak English. I am very happy on days that I can communicate with people in broken Polish. Since I don't hear much English outside of school, I am more outgoing when I am traveling and hear people around me speaking English. I am often surprised when I hear English being spoken in Gdansk, the city close to where I live.

There are different customs and norms that are assumed in education that I am still learning about. Although it can be tough teaching in Poland, it is also very rewarding. The students often come up



and say "hi," even if they are not in my classes. They are excited to meet an American and I often get asked if I know any celebrities.

I have also been learning a lot about the Polish culture. As a teacher I've had to adjust to Poland's collectivist culture, where greater emphasis is placed on the community's needs rather than the individual. The people though are very nice and welcoming, and they often want to teach me about their culture and have me try all kinds of new foods. The food here is very good. The most common dish is pierogi, a boiled and fried dumpling stuffed with various things, such as potatoes and cheese, meat, or sauerkraut. Coleslaw is also a

very popular dish, along with shredded carrots and cabbage.

For those pursuing a career in TESOL, I would highly recommend living and teaching abroad. This experience has been very rewarding so far. From meeting many different people to traveling around Europe, I'm really learning what it's like to live internationally.

Upcoming Conferences:

On March 15, 2014, the Capital Area Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAAYC) will host their annual conference at Messiah College. The registration deadline is March 3. The student registration fee is \$30. For more information and registration, check: <http://www.caaeyc.org/Events.html>

The Council for Exceptional Children International Convention will be held in Philadelphia from April 7-12, 2014. Students may register at a student member rate. Students who live or work in Pennsylvania may further reduce the cost of attending by registering as a volunteer, which gives them a 40% discount rate for registration. Volunteers must work eight consecutive hours or in two blocks of four hours to receive the discount. Make sure to use your Messiah College email address when registering. If you are interested in volunteering, email volunteer2014cec@gmail.com and provide your name, address, Messiah College information, and a phone number.

AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME: INDONESIA 2014

As many students were returning to snow-bound Grantham for J-term, 15 Messiah College students had the opportunity to travel across the globe to Indonesia as part of Dr. Jan Dormer's cross-cultural course EDUC 308 Instruction and Assessment with English Language Learners.

We flew out of Harrisburg on January 6, and for three weeks we served God in Indonesia through teaching English to students from all ages and backgrounds. While enjoying the 80-degree weather, we visited two big cities, Malang on the island of Java and Denpasar on the island of Bali.

We visited ten schools ranging from elementary schools to middle schools, as well as high schools and universities. For the most part, our mission was carried out at two places—Wesley International School (WIS) and Worldbridge Learning Center, both located in Malang. At Wesley International School, we were placed according to our major and concentration. We got to work with missionary kids whose parents were stationed in Indonesia.

At Worldbridge, we met two wonderful ladies who started an English program that now serves students ranging from pre-school-aged children to adults. While at Worldbridge, we conducted a three-day lesson with different age groups in which we talked about topics such as the American lifestyle, American music, cooking, culture, clothing, and many other things.

We were able to do a lot of work with those two schools, but we also had a lot of time in the other eight schools. We visited two Muslim schools, one in which we

taught English songs and games to children in first through third grade. The other Muslim school was a middle/high school, where we taught more of our topic lessons, including music, clothing, family, etc. The best part about going to these schools was being able to connect with the students, despite our religious differences. The students were eager to learn and welcomed us with open arms.

Next, we taught in two schools connected to people who graduated from Ibu, Dr. Dormer's English program. One of them, named Grace, has her own school. Grace has

two different locations for her schools and although the students are poor, they are receiving the opportunity of a lifetime in Indonesia—an education. We again taught our topic lessons but at this school we



were welcomed a bit differently. The students performed a traditional Indonesian dance and song. Their voices and smiles lit up the room. Another school in which we had the privilege of teaching was Charis National Academy. Much like WIS, the students' English was very good, which allowed us to focus more on content and curriculum.

While in Malang, we also visited Machung University. At Machung, Messiah students and Indonesian students both shared what college life is like for them. It was a great cultural exchange at a beautiful campus. The last stop in Malang was another small English school, led by Ludiya and located on the second floor of her house. Ludiya was Jan's Indonesian assistant during our trip. Her students waited eagerly every day for Ludiya to return home from work, because they were excited to learn! What a great ministry she has started. We encourage you to pray for her and the other missionaries that are serving Indonesia.

Along with visiting schools, we completed our EDUC308 assignments, and had a lot of fun! While in Bali, we teamed up with a Hindu university, Mahasaraswahti, and co-taught with their students who were learning to become English teachers. This was a great opportunity, as we were able to see how the Indonesians taught English which made for great collaboration and conversation.

During our free time in Indonesia, we enjoyed going to church and worshipping with both the Indonesians and English missionaries. We also had the opportunity to go elephant riding and snorkeling and view some amazing sunsets while at Kuta Beach in Bali.

We thank everyone for supporting us and praying for us while we were in Indonesia, and hope that you still continue prayer for the people serving God there.

—Indonesia team 2014



MESSIAH COLLEGE IN *Bali*



We

concluded our time in Indonesia with 4 days in Bali. The first half of our time there was spent with the English Department students at Mahasaraswati University. In some ways, this seemed to be the richest of all of our experiences.

We were warmly greeted with a ceremony welcoming us as special visitors from “The United States of Pennsylvania,”

after which I gave a seminar on “Motivating Methods for Language Teaching.” This ended with the song “Lean on Me,” and everyone leaned on someone from the other culture. Messiah students then formed small groups with the local students to prepare a lesson together to teach English in schools the next

day. The intended goal was for the Indonesian students to take the lead in this activity. This planning time was somewhat of a struggle for our students, as they didn’t know the required content, and some of the Indonesians were reluctant to lead the planning session, but it was a very good learning experience for all.



After the lesson planning session (during which time some lessons got planned and others didn’t!), we went into a “cultural exchange” time. First, I had our students teach their Indonesian counterparts what a KWL chart was. None of their students had ever heard of a KWL chart. Then, each person had to write their “K” (what you KNOW) and “W” (what you WANT to know) about the others’ religion. Messiah students wrote about Hinduism. Indonesian students wrote about Christianity. Then they were to share and conclude by completing the “L” column (what you LEARNED). The discussions that emerged during this task were unbelievable.





Our Messiah students learned such things as the names of some Hindu gods, why cows are holy, and why some Hindus stick grains of rice on their foreheads. The Indonesian students asked questions about who Jesus is, what we celebrate on Christmas and Easter, what is in the Bible, what happens in a church... and much, much more. I heard

Messiah students openly share that they have a relationship with a God who loves them. Some of the Indonesian students had some interesting misconceptions about Christianity – such as that we believe in Vampires!



After this exchange on religion, the groups created Venn diagrams comparing and contrasting their cultures. And the final part of the cultural exchange was learning about each other's dances. They taught our Messiah students Balinese dance moves. And our students taught them a line dance. They had so much fun!

The next morning we arrived at the schools, joined the Indonesian college students, and the groups went into the selected classes to teach English. Some went to elementary classrooms, some to middle school, and some to high school. The rooms were hot, and packed with warm, sometimes unruly bodies. I know our Messiah students got a new appreciation for



what their counterparts will be facing as classroom teachers in this country.

When the teaching was finished, we gathered together for a farewell time. A guitar came out, and there was lots of singing, talking, and picture taking. Lasting friendships were formed. Our Messiah students gave the Indonesians gifts they had brought from the States. The next day, the students



all got together again! This time the Indonesians brought us gifts. More photos and exchanges of email and FB info. God definitely has worked through this encounter. The head of the English department wants me to bring another Messiah group next year. God willing, the seeds that were planted can grow through yearly encounters. Thanks for praying with us! **-Jan Dormer**

CO-TEACHING: PROJECT EXCELLENCE

On a wintry day during J-term break, the walls of Boyer 336 were warmed by the genuine interactions of those chosen to support Project Excellence at Messiah College. Project Excellence is a program geared toward the introduction and implementation of the co-teaching model for pre-service teachers.



Co-teaching is an innovative approach in which two teachers work together in a partnership to enhance the progress of their students. In the co-teaching model, teacher candidates are immediately engaged as the one-teach, one assist strategy is employed. From the first day in the classroom, teacher candidates and cooperating teachers share in the planning, organization, delivery, and assessment of instruction—it is a true collaboration.

When teacher candidates co-teach it leads to an enhanced field experience that includes improved classroom management techniques, heightened collaboration skills, additional teaching time, increased confidence, and multiple opportunities for teacher candidates to pose questions and ponder reflections.



Well planned, team taught lessons exhibit a visible flow of instruction with no prescribed division of authority. Both teachers are actively involved in the lesson. From a student's perspective, there is no clearly defined leader, as both teachers share the instruction, are free to interject information, and are more readily available to assist students.

As teacher candidates and cooperating teachers embark on this Spring 2014 journey to successful co-teaching, it is quite evident that they are not alone. Higher education faculty, local school principals, and college supervisors participated in the orientation event and gained insight regarding their essential roles in this project.



As the training began, ambiguity and doubts were addressed as presenters confronted myths of co-teaching. Apprehensions ranged from the time involved for co-planning to concern regarding collaboration between teachers whose philosophies may differ.

Strong collaboration skills for today's classroom setting are essential qualities for our developing professionals. Teachers no longer regard one group of students as their sole responsibility, rather they consider all classes as a collective whole in which multiple teachers are responsible for each student's education. Teachers network with a myriad of professional teams in areas that include grade level, child-study, school improvement, and special education.

Participants in the training were enthusiastic about the program. According to one principal, "Student candidates are taking more ownership earlier on in the experience." While another observed, "The co-teaching model encourages reflectivity among both cooperating teacher and teacher candidate." With Project Excellence, the Messiah College core planning team continues to strive for *excellence* in teacher preparation.

—The Teacher Education Program

T L C M G E G S
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 general conference

grass
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 Resurrection
 seeds
 spring
 sprouts
 sunshine
 tree
 umbrella



Search for Spring

Spring has sprung!
The first two
students to find all
of the hidden
words will win a
sweet treat from
the Department of
Education!

