A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

You may recall in the last newsletter that I was griping about the cold weather and snow. I have to admit, there were days when I thought that I needed to immediately move to Florida. We made it through a rough winter, and the beauty of spring is finally here. I am so thankful for the warmer weather and the multiple signs of spring around us. God is good!!

It is hard to believe another year is over. I am completing my thirty-third year at Messiah. I have been blessed to have wonderful colleagues and dedicated students. Many of our seniors have already been interviewing for teaching positions. The comments that we get from administrators regarding our students are extremely positive. School districts believe our students are well prepared to join their communities. I look forward to hearing about the exciting places at which our graduates will be working.

Our partnership with Downey School continues to grow, with many exciting things happening there. Our juniors and seniors have had a terrific experience working with their mentor teachers at Downey, and the students at Downey love having Messiah students as part of their community.

Our department continues to change. Please remember to wish Dr. Barnes (Joe) a fond farewell. He will be retiring at the end of this semester. Dr. Voelker has also decided to retire, although she will be with us for one more semester.

I want to personally thank all of my colleagues in the Department of Education as well as our students for supporting me throughout this year. Your thoughts and prayers have been greatly appreciated.

Have a great summer and remember to have some fun and to spend time with the people you love.

Department of Education, Chair
SPECIAL OLYMPICS

On Thursday, April 10, 2014 Messiah classes were canceled for a day of service. More than a thousand Messiah students, professors, and employees made their way to Starry Field to volunteer for the yearly Area M Special Olympics. The Messiah volunteers anxiously awaited the arrival of more than 1,200 athletes who came to compete in Special Olympics. This is a day that is always enjoyed by many of Messiah’s education students. The day was a great day of fellowship, service, laughter, and fun. Thank you for making Special Olympics such a success!

CLASS OF 2014: FAREWELL AND COMMISSIONING

On May 7, 2014, the Department of Education hosted its annual Commissioning Service. The service is intended as a farewell to recognize education seniors who are being certified in PreK-4; PreK-4 and Special Education; or 4-8.

Hostetter Chapel was filled with Department of Education alumni, professors, students, their families and friends, and cooperating teachers. The service included scripture reading, a commissioning litany, and the presentation of lapel pins. Dr. Melinda Burchard, Dr. Carol Buckley, and Dr. Maude Yacapsin presented each graduate with a pin as a reminder that they were trained to educate, care, and serve. These words appear on the pin and reflect the mission of the Department of Education.

Special music for the evening was provided by the Cumberland Valley Eagle Singers under the direction of Brent Fisher. Alumni Stacy Musick was the featured speaker, and she presented ten points of advice for success in the classroom. The seniors were further honored through a video retrospective that included pictures from all of their student teaching placements before the presentation of pins.

The Commissioning Service was an inspiring evening, as we celebrated God’s goodness and challenged this year’s Department of Education graduates to lead lives of purpose as they leave Messiah College. A special thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible.
Esperanza Academy Charter School (EACS) is expanding its middle school for the 2014-15 school year. We are hiring in all subject areas. Esperanza Academy Charter School is located in Philadelphia and educates students in grades 6-12. Esperanza Academy Charter School is a structured, disciplined, and safe environment.

**Requirements:**

- Appropriate certification and/or experience
- Resume
- Three references
- Current Child Abuse Clearance
- Current criminal background check
- Current FBI fingerprints are required.

**TO APPLY FOR THESE POSITIONS, PLEASE USE OUR ONLINE APPLICATION AT:**


You may also access the online application at: www.neacademy.net

If you have any questions or for more information, please send an email to: employment@neacademy.net
Did you ever wish that math could be fun? Then you're in luck! Or at least it is highly likely that you will enjoy the book recently written by two Messiah College seniors.

Laura Parks, an Education major pursuing dual certification in Pre-K through 4th grades and special education Pre-K through 8th grades, completed an honors study of content in math-related children’s books and wrote a children’s book about probability to fill one gap.

Katy Bloom, an Art major, completed her honors project by illustrating the story.

Together their honors work resulted in *Take A Chance*, a book about third graders playing probability games at a school fair.

The main character, Cole, plans his strategies as he plays several games at the school fair. As Cole considers the probability of winning each game, he explains the probability of events in ways that kids will find interesting and fun.

On April 16, 2014, Kelly Sullivan presented her Honor's project "Math and Reading: Is there a connection?" The presentation included a literature review on the correlation between math difficulties and reading difficulties in students who are struggling.

Kelly also shared information about math interventions on key early math concepts focusing on the development of number sense.
Juniors are Taking Over Research Symposium

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER ONE MATH PROBLEM AT A TIME

On April 25, 2014, Bri Loop, Emily Buncie, Jordyn Smith, and Dayren Soto participated in the first annual Research Symposium for the School of Business, Education, and Social Science at Messiah College. The students from the Department of Education at Messiah College presented a poster introducing their proposed research entitled “Bringing Families Together One Math Problem at a Time.” In this study, supported by Dr. Carol Buckley, the students will investigate parents’ math attitudes and anxiety levels about math and assess the correlation with their child’s math attitudes. In this study, the Messiah College students will conduct weekly tutoring sessions for the parents of Bermudian Springs Elementary School whose child is identified by the school as not meeting benchmark expectations. The tutoring sessions will cover the math content for the upcoming week and will include instruction on alternative algorithms and appropriate questioning techniques to elicit critical thinking. The goal is to reduce the math anxiety, improve the math attitude in parents, and determine its effect on their child. The research will take place during the 2014-2015 school year.

WEBCASES AND THE RETENTION OF MATHEMATICAL KNOWLEDGE DURING SUMMER BREAK

On April 25, 2014, Mariah Kendrick participated in the first annual Research Symposium for the School of Business, Education, and Social Science at Messiah College. Mariah presented a poster introducing her Honor’s project entitled “Webcasts and the Retention of Mathematical Knowledge over Summer Break.” In this study, supported by Drs. Don Murk and Carol Buckley, Mariah has created a series of webcasts for students to view during the summer. She will attempt to determine if this cost-effective method of instructional delivery during the summer has an impact on the academic decline that has been shown to take place over extended breaks from school. Data will be collected and analyzed to determine the correlation between watching webcasts focusing on grade appropriate math content and the retention of mathematical knowledge over the summer.
The Year In Pictures
WOW! What a Year!