



# Happenings In Education

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

What an exciting year we have had in the education department! We welcomed Jan Dormer to our faculty to handle all of our department TESOL needs, and she has been recruiting students at a feverish pace throughout the year. Clif VanArtsdalen was brought on board as a one- year interim for our math courses. We have really enjoyed working with Clif, and the students have really appreciated his expertise in the classroom. Clif will be missed by all of us.



My first year as department chair has been filled with many high points and a few low ones. It has been difficult to manage the workings of the department while trying to keep up on my lectures and grading. They say it will be easier next year and I am looking forward to that. I, as well as the department have been blessed with the addition of Allyson Patton (Carol II) as our administrative assistant. What a joy it is to have someone permanently in that position.

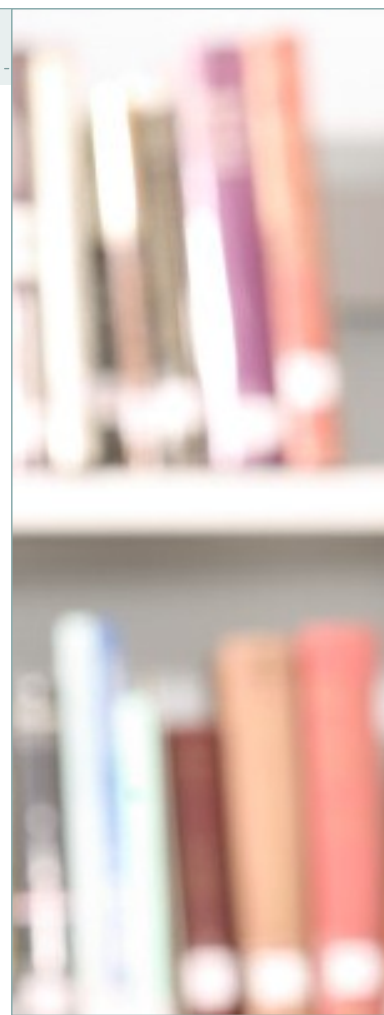
I want to personally thank all of my colleagues in the education department as well as our students for supporting me throughout this year. Your prayers and thoughts have been greatly appreciated.

Our partnership with Downey School is continuing to grow. This semester we had five student teachers and one social work student in the building. Downey received a "Leader in Me" grant which will put focus on developing students as leaders. The program will be implemented next year. I trust our students who are placed at Downey will be able to experience the effectiveness of this addition. The staff at Downey agreed unanimously to adopt this program.

Downey will be hosting a Block Party this Saturday, May 11, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This is in partnership with Messiah College, community businesses, local churches, and a strong group of parents who are overseeing the planning of this event. It will be the big kick-off for the partnership between Messiah College and Harrisburg School District and it is called "Together for Tomorrow."

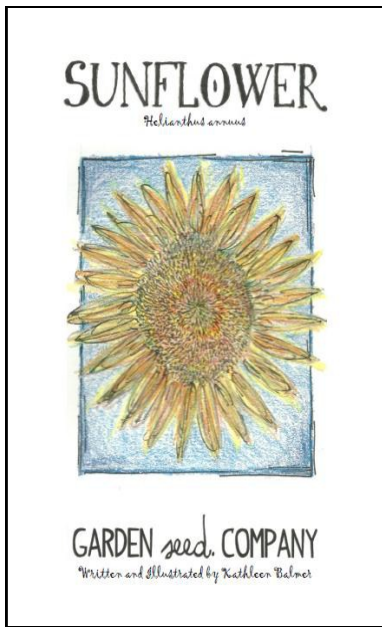
There are many exciting things in the works for next school year. The education department will have two new full- time faculty, which will make our team better prepared to serve the needs of our students and of the college. Stay tuned for the first fall newsletter where they will be introduced.

Have a great summer! Remember to take some time for yourself but most importantly remember to read, read, read!



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## A SENIOR HONORS PROJECT: *SEEDS*

On April 3, 2013, Kathleen Balmer presented her Senior Honors College and Education Departmental presentation, “*Seeds: Cultivating Critical Conversations through Children’s Literature.*” *Seeds* is a piece of Kathleen’s own original children’s literature for the upper elementary and middle school audience.

During the presentation Kathleen read excerpts from her book and discussed the process involved in writing and illustrating *Seeds*. Kathleen also involved the audience in a critical dialogue activity that incorporated the text and themes of environmental stewardship and community engagement.

*“Develop a passion for learning. If you do you will never cease to grow.”  
- Anthony J. D’Angelo*

## CLASS OF 2013: FAREWELL AND COMMISSIONING

On May 8, 2013, the Education Department hosted its annual Commissioning Service. The service was intended as a farewell that recognized 50 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, prayer, a commissioning litany, and the presentation of lapel pins. Dr. Melinda Burchard, Dr. Jan Dormer, and Dr. Jennifer Fisler 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 education department.

Special music for the evening was provided by the Lower Dauphin HS Chamber Singers under the direction of Elizabeth M. Colpo. The seniors were 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.





*Seniors being honored at the Farewell and Commissioning Service on May 8, 2013.*

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT ESPERANZA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Esperanza Academy Charter School is hiring for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year with both instructional and administrative openings. Esperanza is a comprehensive college preparatory four year high school that strives to provide Hispanic youth with quality education. Despite the challenges faced by minority students, Esperanza achieves impressive success rates with a dropout rate of less than one percent and a four-year on-time graduation rate of 90.78 percent.

For more information on Esperanza and employment opportunities, visit the Esperanza Academy website at [http://www.esperanza.us/site/c.inKOIPNhEiG/b.5570895/k.A112/Esperanza\\_Academy.htm](http://www.esperanza.us/site/c.inKOIPNhEiG/b.5570895/k.A112/Esperanza_Academy.htm) or email Jelissa Carias at [jcarias@neacademy.org](mailto:jcarias@neacademy.org).



## POST GRADUATION PLANS

Lauren Popeck is a senior education major with teaching certification in grades PreK-4. Next year she will be completing a year-long urban fellowship program in the Match Corps. She will be tutoring ELLS in grades PreK-4 at Match Community Day Charter School, located in the Jamaica Plains district in Boston, MA.

Ronald Alba is a senior health and physical education major. This summer he will be working in Mechanicsburg at Summer Camp Adventure. He is also currently applying for teaching jobs in the area.

Kathy Balmer is a senior education major with teacher certification in grades 4-8. She has applied to some summer school and summer tutoring programs. Kathy is hoping to use this coming year to get a feel for the classroom and gain some valuable teaching experience before she takes a second look at teaching abroad or in a different location.

## EDUCATION STUDENTS SUPPORT AREA TEACHERS

MELINDA BURCHARD, PH.D



Using pieces of straws and lengths of pipe cleaners, Vicki Hepp demonstrates a manipulative she made that helps students make the various types of angles.



One of our CAMP client teachers, Wendy Hess, a 6th grade teacher at Northern Middle School, explains the needs and interests of her students who struggle with mathematics.

Robust partnerships with area schools is one distinctive strength of Messiah College's education program. This spring, 22 Messiah College juniors participated in the second annual project CAMP, Consultations in the Advancement of Math Proficiency. All 22 Messiah students are education majors with dual teaching certification in PreK– 4 and Special Education (N-8). They are also enrolled in EDSP 397, Instructional Strategies for Individuals with Mild and Moderate Disabilities.

CAMP is an annual event sponsored by Messiah College and an area school. The partnership emphasizes the use of evidence-based practices to support narrowing of achievement gaps in mathematics.

Three special educators from Northern Middle School served as our clients for the project: Wendy Hess, Connie Dunlop, and Connie Lavella. Our client teachers presented about their role in math interventions, their students' needs and interests, and what standards could use some help.

Messiah students each had one month to create five intervention activities that help teach a math standard, directions for the teacher to use the activity, plus all the low-cost materials for each activity. Support in brainstorming and development was provided by Assistant Professor Melinda Burchard.

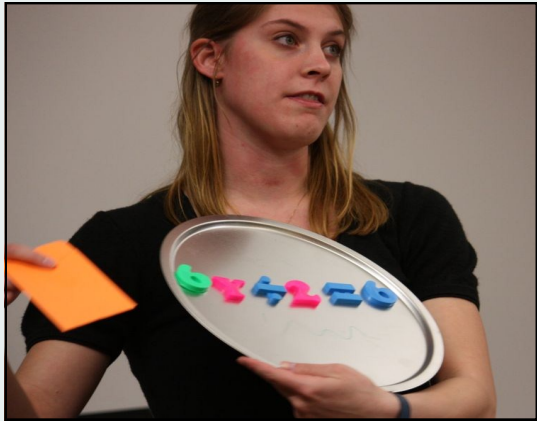
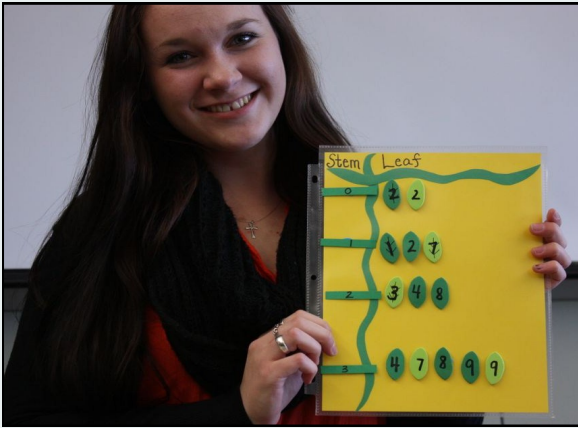
When our client teachers came back to Messiah, each student presented their intervention kits and demonstrated how to use each activity. The Northern Middle School teachers now possess 110 new intervention activities and are implementing these activities in their small group interventions.

This is an exciting partnership! Local teachers give two sessions as guests in our classrooms and benefit by receiving free materials and teaching ideas to help narrow achievement gaps. Messiah College pre-service teachers benefit from an authentic experience, while learning how to meet the needs of students who struggle learning mathematics. Win! Win!



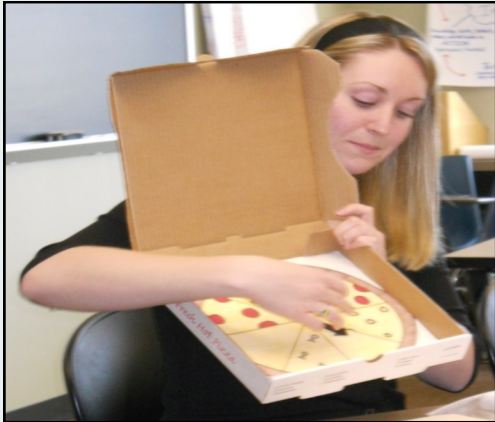
Domenic Andolina demonstrates how one of his intervention activities actively engages students in identifying parts of a graph. Students throw a ball in the air, and wherever their thumbs land on the ball when they catch it determines what part of the graph they have to identify.

Stem and leaf plots suddenly become lots of fun when manipulating the stickers created by Danielle Gingrich.



Molly Gebrosky demonstrates a manipulative she created out of a pizza pan and number and letter magnets. This tool will introduce students to the use of algebraic letters to represent unknown variables.

Elizabeth Duriske demonstrates a pizza manipulative that she created to instruct about fractions.



## Post Graduation Plans

Dylan Holford is a senior English major with a teaching certification. He will be going to California during the summer to work at a summer camp. He has had a couple of interviews for teaching jobs in the fall.

Megan Shipe is a senior education major with teaching certification in grades PreK-4. This summer she will be working at Lilly Manor, where she will help coordinate weddings, parties, and receptions.

Rebekah Landis is a senior education major with teaching certification in grades PreK-4. She is hoping to find a job in education, but her foremost plans are to go wherever the Lord calls her. Rebekah plans to spend the summer looking for a job, working, and having fun at the beach.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKSHOP

More than 40 regional workers in children's ministry from many different churches attended a half-day workshop presented by senior PreK-4 and special education dual majors from the education department. The workshop was designed to help prepare the volunteers to work more effectively with children experiencing emotional, social, and behavioral challenges.

The event was hosted by the Harrisburg Brethren In Christ Church and was offered at no cost to the participants. The students presented the workshops as part of their coursework in EDSP 399 **Positive Behavior Support for Learners with Emotional, Behavioral, and Social Disabilities**. Everyone agreed that this event was a positive experience.



*Workshop presenters from left to right: Alexa Wickham, Amanda Nelson, Dr. Nancy Patrick, Amy Colpo, Alexandra Condit, Linnet Schoenthal, Kristie Rank, Christine Greulich, Sarah Adkins, Amy Ahlbrandt, Luke Redding, Cassandra Rollins, Emily Gerlach, Rebecca Brockman, and Katie Stuck.*

MESSIAH COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION

The mission statement of the Messiah College department of education is to develop exemplary educators who apply their knowledge, skills, Christian faith, and ethical principles to decision making, reflective thinking, and problem solving in diverse learning environments.

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## SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW YOUR PROFESSORS?

The 2012-2013 academic school year is coming to a close, and most of you have probably gotten to know your professors very well this past year. But how well do you REALLY know them?

Here's a chance to put your knowledge to the test!

See if you can match each professor with their fun fact. The first five students to submit the correct answers to Allyson Patton at [apatton@messiah.edu](mailto:apatton@messiah.edu) will win a sweet treat!!

### PROFESSOR

1. Maude Yacapsin
2. Nancy Patrick
3. Ariela Vader
4. Jan Dormer
5. Anita Voelker
6. Jennifer Fisler
7. Milton Gaither
8. Melinda Burchard

### FUN FACTS

- A. Was an immigrant child, and had to attend school in a language they didn't know.
- B. Grew up in Oneonta, NY
- C. Maintains a blog that reviews recent research on homeschooling here: [icher.org/blog](http://icher.org/blog)
- D. Coached Water Polo for the Junior Olympics
- E. First real job was demonstrating how an ATM machine works. The very first ATM machine was in their home county.
- F. Has a black belt in Tang So Do karate
- G. Spent their childhood summers riding horses
- H. Was on the Texas A&M University handball team

Wishing you a safe and relaxing summer from the education department.

*"There are three good reasons to be a teacher - June, July and August."  
-Unknown*