On the Messiah College campus in southcentral Pennsylvania, the seasons are gracefully changing from summer to fall. It is a beautiful transition.

This season of change causes me to consider the transformations that are occurring in other parts of the globe, where students in the Graduate Program in Education reside. In Thailand, the weather is generally warm, but this time of year marks the transition from the rainy season to the cool season. I would image that people there are looking forward to a few days without heavy rain. Germany is experiencing pleasant weather at this time of the year. The temperatures are cooling, the rain is increasing, and the colors of the trees are changing in anticipation of winter. In Indonesia, while the temperatures are warm and relatively stable all year, in October the rainy season begins. With the rain comes an increase in humidity, spurring on what I image is a beautiful growth of the foliage. In Columbia, the temperature is relatively warm and stable given its proximity to the equator, but people can travel to the mountains to experience cooler temperatures. The typhoon season in Japan has ended and the weather there remains warm and comfortable. The trees are beginning to change colors in the northern regions, where they will soon welcome snow.

Thinking about the breadth of representation in our learning community, I am increasingly thankful to God for you and for bringing us all together to study, learn, and grow as a community of people committed to exemplary education.

Warm regards,

Nancy J. Patrick
Nancy J. Patrick, Ph.D.
Director of the Graduate Program in Education
**GPE news . . .**

**Canvas!**
Now Presenting Your Canvas Site!
Find everything you need to know in one place~

The Graduate Program in Education has just launched a Canvas site for you!

Welcome to Canvas for the Graduate Program in Education! An invitation has been sent to you, if you haven’t yet done so, please accept it and join your colleagues in the place for conversation, information, and support.

The GPE Canvas site is your one-stop shop for program information. We invite you to take a look at the features this site offers. Once you log-in, you are directed to the main page where you will see a series of virtual Post-it notes on which you can "click." Clicking on any one of the Post-it notes directs you to a module or a link that features information related to the topic.

For example, clicking on the "Rent or purchasing textbooks" Post-it:

![Rent or purchase textbooks](image)

directs you to the website where you can order all course textbooks. Simply follow the directions to order your texts online. The Canvas site has eliminated three, perhaps more, steps for you. No more browsing to find the Messiah College general website, locating the MC Square login, looking for the link to the bookstore, then searching for the course number, etc., and finally finding the form to order books. It is all here instead. Go ahead--accept the invitation to join the site and enjoy the ease of access.

~Dr. Maude Yacapsin

**TESOL**

The Graduate Program in Education is launching its first ever overseas course! EDME 518 Second Language Acquisition: Theories and Contexts, will be offered as a four-day onsite intensive course (with follow-up work online) in Seoul, Korea, June 20-23, 2016. We are partnering with Chongshin University for this venture. The CELT (Christian English Language Teachers) Conference will be held at the same location immediately following our course, on June 24-25. Dr. Jan Dormer will teach the course and will also serve as a plenary speaker at the CELT conference. Any GPE student can attend the course. For more information, contact Dr. Jan Dormer at jdormer@messiah.edu. Check out the CELT webpage http://www.celea.net/CELT-2016-Seoul

~Dr. Jan Dormer
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

The number of students with autism spectrum disorders in classrooms all over the globe continues to rise. The unique learning needs of these students baffle and frustrate many teachers and administrators, causing them to doubt their efficacy for teaching students on the autism spectrum. Researchers have identified effective instructional approaches and strategies that do help students on the autism spectrum learn the school curriculum, improve social skills, and increase overall adaptability for life in a social world.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has designed a teaching credential called the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Endorsement. The ASD Endorsement is granted to any educator with an Instructional I or II certification who completes an approved 12 credit ASD program. The endorsement does not make the educator "highly qualified" to teach students with ASDs in a segregated special education setting, unless they also have an Instructional I or II certification in special education, but it does prepare them to be effective in instructing students diagnosed with an ASD in their credentialed area.

For instance a music educator who serves all of the students in an elementary school would be much better prepared and effective at teaching her students with autism spectrum disorders if she knew more about the disability, the impact the disability has on learning, and how to design effective instructional experiences that increase the likelihood that the students will participate and learn. An additional benefit is that when students are engaged, participating, and learning they are not misbehaving and detracting from the overall experience for all of the students and for the teacher.

The Graduate Program in Education (GPE) offers the 12 credit PDE ASD Endorsement fully online and at a competitive tuition rate.

The GPE also offers a 12 credit Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders designed for all people who work with children, adolescents, and adults on the autism spectrum. This certificate is appropriate for any person with a desire to earn a post-baccalaureate certificate in this area. This includes counselors, applied behavior analysts, speech pathologists, occupational therapist, nurses, school psychologists, social workers, ministers, non-profit volunteers, librarians, parents, child care providers, tutors, attorneys, and psychologists to name a few.

Interested people can go to the Messiah College website GPE page to learn more about the content of the programs and how to apply for the ASD endorsement http://www.messiah.edu/info/21251/about/1974/certificates_and_certifications/4 or ASD certificate http://www.messiah.edu/info/21251/about/1974/certificates_and_certifications/2.

~Dr. Nancy Patrick
UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children’s (PACEC) Convention Expo
November 19-20, 2015
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
http://community.cec.sped.org/pa/pacecconference

TESOL in Asia Conference
December 3-5, 2015
Singapore**
http://www.tesol.org/events-landing-page/2015/12/03/default-calendar/excellence-in-language-instruction-supporting-classroom-teaching-learning

2016 International Education Conference
January 3-7, 2016
Orlando, Florida

ABAI 10th Annual Autism Conference
January 18-20 2016
New Orleans, Louisiana
https://www.abainternational.org/events/autism-2016.aspx

PDE Annual Conference
February 10-12 2016
Hershey, Pennsylvania
http://www.pattan.net/category/Training/PDE%20Annual%20Conference

Matthew Reardon Center for Autism, 2016 Conference
February 11-12, 2016
Savannah, Georgia
http://www.2016autismconference.com/

Commonwealth Autism 15th Annual Autism Conference
March 9-10 2016
Richmond, Virginia
http://www.autismva.org/2016conference

Save the date:

Journey Through Special Education Conference
March 19, 2016**
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
http://www.cparc.org/#!special-ed-conference/ck5r

TESOL 2016 International Convention & English Language Expo
5-8 April 2016
http://baltimore.org/tesol

CEC 2016 Special Education Convention & Expo
April 13-16
St. Louis, Missouri
http://www.ceccconference.org/

CELT International Conference Collaboration in the Classroom and Beyond
June 24-25, 2016
Seoul, Korea
http://www.clea.net/CELT-2016-Seoul Plenary
Speakers: Chuck Sandy, Jan Dormer, and John Liang

National Autism Conference
August 1-4, 2016
Penn State, Pennsylvania
http://autism.outreach.psu.edu/
Conferences at which GPE faculty have or will present:

In early October, Dr. Maude Yacapsin presented at WELC - Women in Educational Leadership.
The title of her paper was “Effective Strategies for Teaching Online” Lincoln, Nebraska

December 5, 2016, Dr. Jan Dormer** will present “Increasing Engagement, Autonomy, and Output Through Constructive Lesson Planning” at the TESOL in Asia Conference in Singapore

Dr. Nancy Patrick** will present at Journey Through Special Education Conference in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, on March 19, 2016
Title: “Autism Spectrum Disorders through the Lifespan.”
Dr. Patrick will co-present with Katie Siconolfi and Steven Collier on issues related to the impact of ASD on all stages of life. Katie and Steven both have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.
http://www.cparc.org/#!special-ed-conference/ck5r

Don’t forget to register~

January 10 - March 5, 2016
EDME 505 Educational Leadership
EDME 520 Applied Linguistics: Grammar and Phonology in TESOL
EDME 529 High Incidence Populations with Field Experience
EDME 536 Instructional Design and Assessment for Learners with ASD
EDME 537 Transition and Secondary Special Education
EDME 551 Effective Practices for Every Learner

January 10 - May 7, 2016
EDME 530 Special Education Internship and Seminar
EDME 531 Special Education Thesis/Project and Seminar
EDME 532 TESOL Internship and Seminar
EDME 533 TESOL Thesis/Project and Seminar
EDME 534 Curriculum and Instruction Thesis/Project Seminar

Late Spring March 13 - May 7, 2016
EDME 503 Advanced Instructional Design and Assessment
EDME 518 Second Language Acquisition: Theories and Contexts
EDME 527 Positive Behavioral Support with Field Experience