The end of the spring semester generally signals the end of the academic year for many, but in the Graduate Program of Education (GPE), we are pleased to say that we offer courses year round. The GPE offers courses leading to a M.Ed. in the areas of special education, TESOL, and Curriculum and Instruction. We also offer post-baccalaureate programs that lead to Pennsylvania teacher certification in ESL, Special Education grades PreK-8, Special Education grades 7 to 12, and the ASD Endorsement. Additionally, students in our program may also elect to take courses to earn Messiah College Certificates of Graduate Studies in Autism Spectrum Disorders or TESOL.

I am very excited to report that we have just added a new Certification of Graduate Studies in Bilingual Education and TESOL. This certificate will be of particular interest to anyone working in a bilingual or multilingual school in the United States or abroad. Expert faculty in Bilingual Education and TESOL teach the courses leading to this certificate and all of the courses are available online. The program begins in August 2016.

It is our desire to continue building and refining the Graduate Program in Education to remain relevant, so that we can meet the ongoing needs of educators from around the world. If you have ideas on other types of programs and certifications that could be added to our program to meet educator needs, please send those to npatrick@messiah.edu. I would love to hear from you.

Warmly,
Nancy J. Patrick, Ph.D.
Director of the Graduate Program in Education
**Graduate Thesis Presentation:**
This past April 19, Lilian Schultz delivered her thesis presentation entitled "English as a Foreign Language in Malaysia: Voices from Malaysian English Teachers." Boyer 131 was filled to capacity for Lilian’s presentation. She discussed the findings of her qualitative research thesis that was gathered from interviews with five Malaysian English teachers who have chosen to teach in public schools in Malaysia, because they want to make a difference in the lives of the students there. Lilian explored their frustrations and their joy as they shared with her their journey of teaching in schools that are divergently different. Lilian’s research delved into how Malaysian English teachers feel about their professional lives, what issues these teachers see as having significant impact on their work, and the kinds of resources or development they need in order to support their profession.

Guests to the presentation were treated to some traditional Malaysian fare, that included mini empanadas stuffed with potatoes and curry, assorted Dim Sum, and Teriyaki chicken sates with peanut sauce.

**Dr. Patrick Presents on ASD at Local Conference**
This spring, Nancy J. Patrick, Ph.D., and two Messiah College alumni, Steven Collier and Kati Siconolfi, presented on the topic of “Autism Spectrum Disorder through the Life Span: Joys and Challenges” at the Annual CPARC Journey through Special Education Conference in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

The day-long presentation covered the joys and challenges of living with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) throughout a lifetime, as experienced by teens, young adults, and adults with ASD. The overarching goal for the session was to help participants "think in autism" by learning to view the world from the perspective of an individual with an ASD. Included in the presentation were effective strategies and solutions for common challenges in the home, school, and community. The strategies given were organized by developmental level from preschool to adulthood. Some of the common challenges that were addressed included self-regulation, organization, learning, friendships, siblings, sensory issues, homework, hobbies, discipline, family life, healthcare, going to school, dating, marriage, parenting, and going to work.

The conference session was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.
Transforming Educational Leadership One Student-At-A-Time: Students completing Educational Leadership course look back and reflect on life-changing learning

“My view on leadership in the classroom will never be the same after this course. It has given me a new found purpose to coming into school and teaching each day.” Erin Dean, Curriculum and Instruction track.

After recently completing the course “Educational Leadership,” taught by Dr. Maude Yacapsin, many students in the Messiah College Graduate Program in Education gain an understanding of its meaning and value to teachers and educational leaders.

The course examines the characteristics of ethical and servant leaders and the influence of core values on teaching. Content speaks to the issues involved in being an effective educator/leader and colleague in a work environment that is often challenging and unpredictable. Students reflect on these issues in light of Christian faith and beliefs, and as a result, they not only come to a richer understanding of educational leadership, they experience life-changing learning.

Rachel Rebert, a student in the TESOL track, writes that, “I am starting to understand that being a leader is far more extensive than I ever considered before. Prior to this class my definition was much more narrow; now I am seeing that being a leader is about big and small acts, individual behaviors and actions, as well as how one functions within a group.”

Students explore how teachers influence policy and practice in their schools. Ethical frameworks guide decision-making in the classroom and in the larger school contexts via self-reports and self-evaluations.

After reflecting on current literature, Tyler Herman realizes his value as an educational leader. He writes, “The commonality I see is human connection. In the rush of academic standards, Common Core, and standardized tests, teachers and administrators can easily forget that those affected by these policies are actually the students.”

Education Leadership spans various contexts. “As I also reflected on my own vision for my leadership role and the vision I desire to create in others, it made me realize that, given my personality, given my own beliefs on meaningful education, and given the vision I wish to give those I come in contact with, I should be teaching in a non-traditional setting. I realize leadership comes in all different contexts.” This quote, from Joy Reyes, TESOL track, demonstrates the manner by which leadership transcends typical classroom settings. Leadership is far-reaching, crossing international barriers and impacting individuals as they seek to enhance learning experiences for all students.

“At the beginning of this course, I did not see myself as a leader. That has quickly changed in eight weeks.” Rachel Lerch, Special Education track.

“At the beginning of this course I wasn’t sure what I should expect to learn and take away from it all. However with being in the last week of the course I have learned how to be a much better leader for my students, my colleagues, the parents of my students, and for myself.” Stephanie Grosko, Special Education track.

At the conclusion of the course, students hold Genuine, Authentic, and Servant Leadership in high regard and elevate it to responsible practice. As seen by the transformation in students, the course content clearly holds value beyond traditional definitions for and the practice of educational leadership.

--Dr. Maude Yacapsin
More TESOL News:

As we enter into the warmest months of the year, take a moment to cast your mind back to December and the Christmas season, when Christians around the world reflect on the blessings in their lives and prepare for the birth of Jesus. This past Christmas, in one small corner of Harrisburg, students of the Heart of Harrisburg’s (HOH) evening, English as a Second Language (ESL) program had one more thing to celebrate—they had completed the program through their dedication and steadfast participation. On Sunday, December 6, 2015, as part of that Christian and Missionary Alliance church’s regular worship, the program’s students were recognized and presented with certificates of completion. With family, friends, and the congregation offering applause, it was a proud moment for these faithful learners. The ceremony was followed by fellowship and a delicious meal provided by the church. It was a wonderful opportunity to socialize with students on a more personal level as well as for the congregation to learn about the program.

The Heart of Harrisburg ESL program was established by Dr. Jan Dormer and graduate student Lilian Schultz, in collaboration with HOH Pastor Ricardo Volcy. In just a matter of months, the program grew through the summer and fall from a few students to approximately 20 at its peak. Attracting not only those eager to learn English, but also those seeking to teach, HOH offers an ideal location for Messiah students interested in TESOL to gain hands-on experience. Last fall, 16 undergraduate students served in various ways, from teaching classes and planning activities, to providing help for small group work and even childcare during class.

Thanks to Pastor Ricardo’s unwavering support, Lilian’s excellent leadership, and the enthusiastic commitment of instructors from Messiah, Robby Lyon and Rachel Rébert, the program continues to gain momentum in the community. A second evening class was added along with a Homework Buddies program, where children can get assistance with their schoolwork while their parents learn English.

The Heart of Harrisburg church is located at 1501 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103. For more information on class days and times please contact Lilian Schultz at lschultz@messiah.edu.
Congratulations to our most recent graduates!

December 2015

Master’s Degree
Courtney Book  M. Ed. Special Education Track with teacher certification
Meghan Grove  M. Ed. TESOL with PDE Cert. ESL Program Specialist
Sierra McDonald  M.Ed. Special Education Track with teacher certification
Sarah Mueller  M. Ed. TESOL with PDE Cert. ESL Program Specialist
Emily Showalter  M. Ed. TESOL

Post-Baccalaureate Certifications
Nicholas Wilson  Special Education PDE Certification PreK-8

Messiah College Certificates of Graduate Study
Meghan Grove  TESOL
Sarah Mueller  TESOL
Emily Showalter  TESOL

May 2016

Master’s Degree
Stephanie Johnson  M. Ed. Special Education
Sophie McClain  M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction Track
Lilian Schultz  M.Ed. TESOL

Post-Baccalaureate Certifications
Bonnie Heisler  Special Education PDE Certification PreK-8
Sarah Howell  Special Education PDE Certification PreK-8

Messiah College Certificates of Graduate Study
Michelle Armistead  TESOL
Michael Smith  ASD Endorsement
Lori Lewis  ASD Endorsement

Expected to complete their programs in August 2016:

Master’s Degree
Shannon Barthelmess  M.Ed. Special Education
Denean Bressi  M.Ed. Special Education PDE Cert. PreK-8
Michael Church  M.Ed. TESOL
Sara Coleman  M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction
Patricia Colon  M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction
Tyler Herman  M.Ed. Special Education PDE Cert. 7-12
Lyndi Janny  M.Ed. Special Education
Tina Patete  M.Ed. TESOL

Post-Baccalaureate Certifications
Kyle Lehman  Special Education PDE Certification 7-12

Messiah College Certificates of Graduate Study
Mary Davenport  TESOL
Upcoming Conferences

CELT International 2016 (Christian English Language Educators Association)
Friday and Saturday, 24-25 June, 2016
Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea
Plenary Speakers: Chuck Sandy, Jan Dormer, and John Laing

ISTE Conference and Expo June
26-29, 2016
Denver, CO
https://conference.iste.org/2016/

Teacher’s Institute Leading Change
July 7-8, 2016
Renaissance Glendale Hotel and Spa Glendale, Arizona
http://www.azed.gov/teachers-institute/

Autism Society National Conference
July 14-16, 2016
New Orleans, LA
http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/conference/

National Autism Conference 2016
August 1-4, 2016
The Penn Stater Conference Center
State College, PA.
Autism.outreach.psu.edu

World Congress on Special Needs Education
August 16-19, 2016
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
http://wcsne.org/

CASE NASDSE Conference
September 25-27, 2016
Milwaukee Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee, WI
https://www.edevents.org/conferences/26/case-nasdse-conference

MIDTESOL Conference
September 30-October 1, 2016
Kansas City Mariott, Downtown Kansas City, MO
http://midtesol.org/midtesol-conference-2016/

Special Education Conference 2016
October 24-25, 2016
Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

2016 ACSD Conference on Educational Leadership
November 4-6 2016
National Harbor, MD
http://www.ascd.org/conferences.aspx

Date Saver more information to come!
Pennsylvania Association Council for Exceptional Children, 57th Annual Convention
November 10 & 11, 2016
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania