



May 6, 2015

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Eighty-five years ago, Messiah College students joined forces to create our first ever student government association; they named themselves “Hapantes,” which is Greek for “all together.” Under the leadership of Naomi T. Brubaker, Messiah’s first student body president, their mission was to support and lead the other organizations on campus and to perpetuate a deeper interest and loyalty in the study body.

Naomi and her fellow leaders probably never imagined how exponentially their mission and motto would grow. Today it is clear that their idea of “all together” is not only alive and well, but it has expanded to all aspects of our community life—from clubs and organizations to College committees and the Board of Trustees. SGA continues to build bridges of communication across campus and maintains its strong support for students, all of which bring the campus closer together.

In turn, a big “thanks” is in order to those who have come together with us this year. I wish there was enough time in the semester for the team and me to write notes to each and every individual to whom we owe our appreciation, but please know that we are thinking of you and keep you in our hearts. We have witnessed yaks and tweets, propane shortages and South Side closings, LGBTs and OT/PTs, alcohol and skateboards, and, through it all, we have been met with tremendous hospitality, wisdom and collaboration. We look forward to another 85 years of campus growth and unity!

At this time we must also extend our profound gratitude to Ben Taylor for his incredible service to the College in the last six years, and his phenomenal friendship to student leaders and SGA during the last three. Ben, you will be severely missed, but will always have friends in Grantham.

On behalf of the Student Body President’s Cabinet and the Student Government Association, I wish everyone an enjoyable and restful summer and a special “Godspeed” to our graduating seniors.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Sensenig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Timothy Sensenig
Student Body President



STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT'S YEAR END REPORT

*Timothy Sensenig, Student Body President
May 2015*

The mission of the Messiah College Student Government Association (SGA) remains “to provide leadership for the student body; to promote spiritual growth; to provide opportunities for students to serve others; to support and recognize quality services and activities; and to represent students before the Administration, Faculty, Board of Trustees, and surrounding community.”

In order to fulfill that mission, the Student Government Association continues to rely on over seventy clubs and organizations—including the six executive organizations on Leadership Council—as well as the Student Senate, Peer Review Board, Student Body President's Cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps of Representatives to College Committees. The following report is meant to provide brief highlights from each of the above SGA entities and communicate to the student body and community-at-large the progress and achievements that the student leaders of Messiah College have accomplished in the past semester.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT'S CABINET // Timothy Sensenig, Chair

Student Body President's Cabinet retains its purpose to coordinate SGA operations and functions; channel specific SGA issues to the Student Senate and its Committees; and advise and assist the Student Body President in providing unity, leadership, and purpose to the SGA. The Student Body President's Cabinet meets once a week.

- *Lead Week*
The Vice President of Organizations and an ad hoc committee of students planned leadership-oriented programming for the entire first week of February. These events, collectively titled “Lead Week,” included a leadership fair for all clubs and organizations on campus and a film viewing and discussion of Stephen Frears' *The Queen*, at which over 150 students were present.
- *Donuts and Discussion*
The Student Body President's Cabinet continued these networking events from the fall semester. Held in the SGA Office in the Larsen Student Union, the Cabinet welcomed four groups from campus for donuts, coffee, and casual conversation. This semester's groups included the Career and Professional Development Center, the Engle Center, and the Department of Residence Life. For the final event of the semester, the Student Body President's Cabinet hosted the Messiah College President's Cabinet and both this year's and next year's Student Body Presidents' Cabinets were invited as a way to “pass the torch.”
- *Discussion Surrounding the Student Alcohol Policy*
In February, the Student Body President and Chair of the Peer Review Board (PRB) began collaboration with the Dean of Students and Provost in designing a survey that measured

students' current opinions and perceptions of the College's undergraduate student alcohol policy. The survey was distributed from March 5 through March 12 and received a total of 1,027 student responses, a record for any SGA survey. An executive summary of the survey results will be distributed to students before the end of the semester. The survey results also revealed a strong need for SGA and student affairs to research more about the educational impact of the current policy; therefore the Student Body President and Chair of the PRB proposed the formation of a joint committee with Student Affairs to the Student Senate on April 23, which Senate passed unanimously. Research and conversations on the undergraduate student alcohol policy will continue between SGA leadership and student affairs well into the fall semester of 2015.

- *Body Image Alternate Chapel Event*

As a bookend to the fall semester's chapel on gender equality, the Student Body Vice President hosted an event on healthy body image called "The Body Battle." The March 23 event was held in Hostetter Chapel and was attended by 50 students. This collaborative event led to the creation of a support group for women through the Engle Center.

- *Engaging Culture Wars and Continuing the Commitment to Inclusive Excellence*

The political and religious questions surrounding the institution of marriage and individual sexual orientation continue to be perhaps the most divisive in contemporary American culture and will continue to create challenges for Christian higher education. In order to prepare students for service, reconciliation and leadership in today's cultural climate, the Student Body President's Cabinet launched two initiatives to increase dialogue and educational programming around these issues for all students at the College. At the same time, the Student Body President's Cabinet believes our students who identify with an underrepresented sexual orientation (i.e., LGBTQ) are an asset to these conversations and must be included and consulted. Consequently, SGA's initiatives related to cultural awareness and reconciliation also sought ways to better support our underrepresented students within the unique Messiah College framework and expectations outlined in the Community Covenant. It is important to note that neither the Messiah College Student Government Association nor the Student Body President's Cabinet actively seeks any form of policy change or amendment, but rather, pursues opportunities to equip and support *all* students inside of the College's mission and identity.

- First, the Student Body President and Vice President of Diversity Affairs partnered with the Dean of Students and the Provost to initiate an advisory team for educational programming on campus related to LGBTQ questions, as well as improved support for our LGBTQ students. The advisory team will continue to meet over the next few years with the purpose of providing oversight and coordination of all co-curricular educational and service programming related to LGBTQ awareness and understanding within the Messiah College mission and identity.
- Second, in partnership with the LGBTQ advisory team, the Student Body President's Cabinet distributed a questionnaire to the student body seeking information about where more education is needed and desired. This information will help SGA and the advisory team design and implement developmentally appropriate and comprehensive education around care and support of LGBTQ students, campus climate, theology of sexuality and cultural engagement.

STUDENT SENATE // Abigail Daley, Student Body Vice President and Chair

Student Senate remains the sole representative body to address student concerns. Senate also continues to recommend policy changes to the Student Body President's Cabinet and College administration, faculty and staff. Student Senate meets once a week on Thursday nights and is open to all current students.

- *Club Charters*

This semester Student Senate granted SGA charters to two new clubs. On February 19, the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Club received a charter from Senate. Each member of the EMS club is certified and carries a pager connected to Public Safety's dispatch network; they are able to respond quickly to any medical emergency on campus. Additionally, on May 5, the Marketing Club also received a charter from Student Senate. The Marketing Club provides an avenue for Marketing and Business students to pursue their passions with others on campus. They also lend marketing advice to various groups on campus.

- *South Side Café Closing*

In light of long-term financial difficulties, inconsistent management and profits, and declining student interest, Student Senate voted 42-1 on March 12, 2015 to discontinue the operation of South Side Café after the Spring 2015 semester. This vote came at the recommendation of the Student Body President's Cabinet, the Leadership Council and the leadership of Enactus, who spent a majority of the fall semester and beginning of the spring semester carefully reviewing the Café's performance and impact on campus. More information on the Café's closing can be found in a press release and FAQ on the SGA website:

[http://www.messiah.edu/homepage/2029/south side cafe closing spring 2015](http://www.messiah.edu/homepage/2029/south%20side%20cafe%20closing%20spring%202015)

PEER REVIEW BOARD // Jessica Teeter, Chair

The Peer Review Board maintains its mission to hear student cases involving violations of College behavioral standards contained in the Community Covenant and Student Handbook, while deliberating and determining means of disciplining, educating, and restoring students who have committed infractions. The Chair of the Peer Review Board calls meetings on an as-needed basis and all proceedings are confidential.

- *Parking Appeals Merger*

On Thursday, April 30, the SGA Governance Review Council—which comprises of the three SGA administrative branches and votes on amendments to the SGA Governance Manual—unanimously passed a proposal that merges the Parking Appeals Panel with the Peer Review Board. The proposal was the result of weeks of collaboration among the Chair of the Peer Review Board, the Chair of the Parking Appeals Panel, and the Department of Safety. In addition to housing and discipline appeals, the Peer Review Board will now also hear appeals related to student parking citations.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL and EXECUTIVE ORGANIZATIONS // Timothy Sensenig, Chair

Leadership Council is chaired by the Student Body President and consists of the chief executive officer (or a representative) of the Agape Center, Eyas, Multicultural Council, the Pulse, Student Activities Board (SAB) and the Chaplain Team. Leadership Council serves to foster communication between SGA officers and organizations about SGA operations and College-wide affairs in order to facilitate the effective implementation of SGA purposes and objectives. Leadership Council is required to meet at least three times a year.

Agape Center // Alana Anthony, Director of Human Rights Awareness and Agape Center Representative

- *"Plunge" Days*

Plunge days are those that are intentionally set aside by Messiah College for community service. This semester, the Agape Center provided project management for volunteer proposals for these days, facilitated sign-ups, and collected student hours for service learning transcripts. This past Community Engagement Day, January 19, about 100 students participated: 50 students went to Camp Curtin Elementary and the other 50 students went to Downey Elementary to serve alongside Downey students and faculty as a part of Agape's Together for Tomorrow initiative. Service Day, April 17, was also a success. Over 1,000 students participated in the Special Olympics, which Messiah has

hosted for more than two decades. Another 400 students served on one of the 29 other off-campus volunteer sites that The Agape Center helped set up.

- *International Service Trips Grand Auction*

This spring, World Christian Fellowship (WCF) pursued a new fundraising event in order to raise funds for the International Missions department of The Agape Center. They settled on the idea of a “Grand Auction.” Thanks to the generosity of the Messiah community, WCF gathered a diverse array of items to auction off, from horseback riding lessons to a lavish dinner with the President of the College. Two hundred students attended the event on February 27, and WCF raised over \$2,000, making the auction the most successful fundraising event that the Agape Center has ever put on for International Missions.

- *Creating a Service-oriented Community through Social Media*

The Agape Center used some of its surplus SGA funds this semester to create professional videos and a new blog. The blog will inform students about the different branches of Agape and their functions, as well as update students on volunteer opportunities, upcoming events and human rights issues. The blog will also give students an opportunity to share how their service experiences have impacted their life, thus creating a stronger service community on campus. This blog will be especially helpful because of the new Experiential Learning Initiative that the Director of Curricular Service Learning helped actualize this semester.

Chaplain Team // Jonathan Fuller, Student Body Chaplain and Chair

- *Incense Worship Night*

The Student Chaplain Team collaborated with Powerhouse and Acclamation Dance Ministry to host a three-hour worship event in Brubaker Auditorium on March 26. This event featured worship through song, stations for prayer and reflection, and liturgical events including prayers, Scripture readings, and acts of service. The team expressed gratitude for the Spirit’s movement during this time as over 500 students came together for an extended period of worship.

- *Chaplain Team/World Christian Fellowship Partnership*

As announced in chapel on April 21, the Student Chaplain Team has formed a partnership with the Agape Center’s World Christian Fellowship to co-sponsor a Thursday morning chapel series in the new chapel program. This partnership will allow for increased collaboration between the two organizations—which, until this point, acted as “competitors” on elective chapel days—and allows them to maintain relatively autonomous control over Kairos and Salt and Light chapels. The Student Chaplain team will lead 6 chapels per semester, and World Christian Fellowship will lead 5, with the possibility of a collaborative chapel at the beginning of each semester.

- *New Team Formation: Mentor-Leader Team*

Over the course of this semester, the Koinonia Kore Team has seen a deep need for further interpersonal relationships, especially one-on-one discipleship-oriented relationships. As a response to this need, the Kore Team has developed a subset of their ministry to begin operating next fall: the Mentor-Leader team. This ministry is completely voluntary, but makes good use of the numerous students with a tremendous passion for seeing Jesus work on this campus. The new ministry is comprised of eight people and has tremendous potential to continue to shape committed Christ followers on this campus.

Eyas // Luisa Garcia, Chair

- *Eggstravaganza*

After many years of holding a campus-wide egg hunt for college students, Eyas decided it was time to revamp the event to incentivize participation and add an element of challenge. The Council

planned and executed a “Night Eggstravaganza” on Friday, April 10. Student were encouraged to bring flashlights and team up with friends to find the gold eggs that contained prizes such as t-shirts, gift cards, electronics and cash. Around 395 students gathered at the Student Union to enjoy some refreshments, win some prizes, and participate in the Messiah annual Easter tradition.

- *First Year Engagement*

Eyas continued to explore the possibility of having a stronger presence during Welcome Week to facilitate engagement between the Council and the first year class. After several conversations about the “Traditions Keeper” journal as a long-term project, Eyas has decided to begin with a smaller version of the journal. They will provide each First Year with a list of traditions that can be completed during their first year and, upon completion, can be redeemed for a prize. The Council is hoping it will be able to test run this initiative at the Block Party in the fall of 2015.

- *We Love Messiah*

For the third year in a row, Eyas has partnered with the Development Office to provide the student body with a fun week of celebrating Messiah College, educating students about the many ways they can give back as students and alumni, and providing opportunities for students to thank all of those who have made the Messiah experience possible. The Council decided to maintain past events, such as the Kick-Off party with Messiah Trivia; Leave Your Mark, which highlights the idea of leaving a legacy; and the Falcon Feast, which allowed students to write thank-you notes to donors.

Multicultural Council // Cora Hines, Student Body Vice President of Diversity Affairs and Chair

- *#ITooAmMessiah*

During the fall semester the Vice President of Diversity Affairs began a project focused on race and microaggressions at Messiah College. The project took the form of a photo campaign titled “#itooammessiah,” in reference to a similar project that African-American students at Harvard University undertook last year. Council members wrote statements on posters documenting their experiences with race and microaggressions at Messiah. Council presented the “itooammessiah” campaign at the Humanities Symposium on race this past February. The photo campaign was accompanied by a video in which Council members stated what race and diversity means to them.

- *International Banquet: “Festival of Lights”*

On Saturday, April 11, ISA/MuKappa (a member organization of Multicultural Council) hosted the International Banquet. The event, titled “Festival of Lights,” was held in Hitchcock Arena for the first time in its history, and celebrated the many cultures and ethnicities represented within Messiah’s international community. The evening featured international cuisine, a variety of student performances, and a fashion show featuring attire from some of the countries represented at Messiah. There were roughly 400 individuals in attendance including students, staff, alumni, faculty, and friends of Messiah.

- *Open Council on Privilege*

Over 70 students attended an “open council” alternate chapel event on April 22. The evening focused on exploring various types of privilege that are prevalent in American society and at Messiah. The Director of the Intercultural Office led students through a privilege circle exercise, presentation, and discussion that highlighted racial, religious, socioeconomic, heterosexual, and educational privilege. Students in attendance responded well to the presentation and activities.

The Pulse // Lauren Piccioni, Student Director

- *Wage Reform*

The Student Director of the Pulse and Student Body President collaborated to reduce the wages of Pulse employees and maintain good stewardship of funds. As a result, three positions were removed

from the staff: Assistant Radio Manager, Business Assistant and Opinions Editor. This change saved the Messiah College Student Government Association about \$5,500 difference each year. This change will take effect in the 2015-2016 academic year.

- *Swinging Bridge Magazine*
In February, the Student Director of The Pulse proposed to change *The Swinging Bridge* bi-weekly newspaper to a monthly magazine format. This proposal would end the ninety-five years of newspaper publication on campus, but allow the mission of the paper to remain relevant. The Student Government Association Student Senate voted unanimously in favor of the change at the end of February and the first edition of the *Swinging Bridge Magazine* was released on April 30, 2015. This change was necessary to meet the needs, attitudes and culture of the student body and the campus. The first edition of the magazine will be entered into this year's Pinnacle Awards and The Pulse hopes the outcome will be a positive one. Hard news will continue to be published online at www.swingingbridge.messiah.edu.
- *College Media Association's Apple Award*
The Pulse received second place for the College Media Association's Apple Awards in New York City. The category was "Best Newspaper, four-year school, fewer than 5,000." This is the first award The Pulse has received as an organization. This is the first award in more than ten years that *The Swinging Bridge* newspaper has received. There is no indication of how many entries there were for this category.

Student Activities Board (SAB) // Alexa Kern, President

- *Cultural Engagement Executive*
The executives, advisor, and president all collaborated to create a new executive member on the Student Activities Board: the Cultural Engagement Executive. This position's role is to pursue SAB's mission holistically and assist the Board in furthering cultural engagement and spiritual development on campus. By adding this member to the Board, SAB will be able to plan chapels, talk-backs, and events that deepen the educational mission of its events.
- *Jon Bellion B-Sides/Concert*
On Wednesday, April 29, SAB B-Sides and Concerts brought Jon Bellion to campus. Approximately 400 students attended the event in the Larsen Student Union. The Board was very pleased with the spiritual, relational, and entertaining interactions Jon and his band had with the students and, overall, the night went extremely well.

DIPLOMATIC CORPS to COLLEGE COMMITTEES // Timothy Sensenig, Coordinator

The Student Body President appoints students to almost 30 College governing and operational committees and coordinates efforts among these student representatives, who are collectively known as the "Diplomatic Corps" to College Committees.

- *Collaboration Lunches*
In an effort to continue integrating SGA and students into the College governance system, the Student Body President and Provost partnered to provide each faculty chair the funds to treat their student representatives to lunch at least once during the spring semester. The Provost graciously provided these funds, and the Student Body President communicated to students and chairs about the opportunity.

Any questions, comments or concerns regarding this year-end report may be sent to SGA@messiah.edu.

END OF REPORT