

# YEAR-END REPORT

OF THE

# STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

MAY 2019

## CONTACTS

---

### TODD ABBOTT

Student Body President  
sgapresident@messiah.edu

### JENNY WOOLLEY

President of the Student Activities Board  
sabpresident@messiah.edu

### ISAAC BRUNK

Student Body Chaplain  
studentchaplains@messiah.edu

### DAKOTA VAUGHN

Student Director of The Pulse  
thepulse@messiah.edu

### ASHLYNN YOUNG

President of Minds Matter  
mindsmatterpresident@messiah.edu

### HORACIA CARRYL

Vice President of Diversity Affairs  
sgadiversity@messiah.edu

### TIM MAHONEY

Vice President of Student Review  
sgastudentreview@messiah.edu

### MARIANNE RAMIREZ GOMEZ

Student Body Vice President  
sgavp@messiah.edu

### GLORIA IGIHOZO

Chair of the Multicultural Council  
multiculturalcouncil@messiah.edu

### UNIQUE EATON

Director of Human Rights Awareness  
humanrights@messiah.edu

### SARAH LONG

Eyas Senior Class Representative  
eyas@messiah.edu

### BRIAN GILROY

Vice President of Organizations  
sgaorganizations@messiah.edu

### LOGAN BUFFINGTON

Vice President of Finance  
sgatreasurer@messiah.edu

### SARAH FERTSCH

Vice President of Communication  
sga@messiah.edu



## **Student Body President's Executive Cabinet**

<a href="#"><u>Todd Abbott, Student Body President</u></a>	1
<a href="#"><u>Marianne Ramirez Gomez, Student Body Vice President</u></a>	10
<a href="#"><u>Brian Gilroy, Vice President of Organizations</u></a>	13
<a href="#"><u>Horacia Carryl, Vice President of Diversity Affairs</u></a>	14
<a href="#"><u>Logan Buffington, Vice President of Finance</u></a>	16
<a href="#"><u>Tim Mahoney, Vice President of Student Review</u></a>	18
<a href="#"><u>Sarah Fertsch, Vice President of Communication</u></a>	21

## **Student Body President's Leadership Council**

<a href="#"><u>Jenny Woolley, President of the Student Activities Board</u></a>	23
<a href="#"><u>Gloria Igihozo, Chair of the Multicultural Council</u></a>	29
<a href="#"><u>Isaac Brunk, Student Body Chaplain</u></a>	39
<a href="#"><u>Unique Eaton, Director of Human Rights Awareness</u></a>	44
<a href="#"><u>Dakota Vaughn, Student Director of The Pulse</u></a>	46
<a href="#"><u>Sarah Long, Eyas Senior Class Representative</u></a>	48
<a href="#"><u>Ashlynn Young, President of Minds Matter</u></a>	51

## **Student Body President's Diplomatic Corps**

<a href="#"><u>Student Representatives to College Councils and Committees</u></a>	55
---	----

-

*Editor's Note: this annual report is comprehensive of both the fall and spring semesters in the 2018-2019 academic year and is intended to replace and enhance upon the previously published Mid-Year Report of the Student Body President.*

## **Year-End Report of the Student Body President Todd Abbott**

-

*“Engage the divisive, embrace the universal.”* In adopting this as our vision statement for the year, the Student Government Association has sought to celebrate the commonalities that unite us while thoughtfully and prayerfully engaging the topics of contention that can separate us if not handled with compassion and grace. Embodying the symbolic bridge from our logo and partnering with the campus-wide theme of Promoting the Common Good, we have given our utmost to connect with, support, and provide a voice to all members of the student body. Tangibly, we have prioritized service-based outcomes that we believe benefit all students in the areas of food security, meal offerings, internet connectivity, and campus information flow. As we humbly submit this report to reflect on our successes, failures, and opportunities for growth, our prayer is that the Messiah community will continue to support and partner with future student leaders in seeking the plans that God has ordained for our campus, both in the coming transitions and beyond.

### **Personal Reflection**

Here already, are we? It seems somehow both yesterday and a lifetime ago that we began this journey with a tumultuous but immensely rewarding campaign cycle in early 2018. When I first approached Marianne about taking this leap of faith and seeking elected office together, I truly never could have foreseen the transformative growth that my time with SGA would provide to me; far from just professionally, but on a deeply personal and spiritual level as well. Cliché? Perhaps, but truer than I could ever put into words. I knew that I loved the Messiah community long before stepping into the presidency (I certainly wouldn't have sought such a role if I didn't), and this year of continued exposure to the indescribably caring and dedicated hearts of the student body and administration has only further cemented my suspicions that we are all contributors to something truly special happening here in Grantham. Messiah College is far from perfect, and we face the realities of a fallen world each and every day on campus, manifesting in a plethora of tensions and inevitable conflicts. Yet, it is in and through these challenges that we develop our grit and the strength to engage and tackle the issues of our time with a perseverant vigor and the desire to shine the light of Christ in each of us through it all.

In recent reflective conversations, I've been asked a few versions of the typical “looking back, what would you have done differently?” question. In fairness, I always tend to view the past with rose-colored glasses. Even so, try as I may, I can't say that I would name any explicit regrets or choices from my tenure with SGA that I would undo if given the chance. Don't mishear me on that; I made no shortage of errors, constantly and often ostensibly. Nonetheless, each of these missteps is laced with the evidence of lessons that needed to be learned and growth that resulted from God's faithfulness in the ensuing trials and tribulations. I credit none of this constructive wisdom to my own aptitude, but wholly to the mentorship, accountability, example-setting, and guidance of those around me: Kevin Villegas, Marianne, President Phipps, and our entire cabinet, just to scratch the surface.

If I were to offer a primary word of advice to my successor, Mr. Tetsuo Takahara, it would be bound in the value of healthy prioritization and my shortages on that front early in the year. I entered into the fall semester with a crystal-clear list of ambitions and initiatives, immediately setting out to accomplish them with an insatiable drive to succeed. From smoothies and new Wi-Fi to the Dining Network and the master calendar, I was quickly swept into a mindset of checklists and building a résumé that would make for some stellar Facebook posts and impressive soundbites. While these were all noble goals grounded in a genuine desire to make our campus a better place, I eventually found myself treading a dangerous line between idealizing the accomplishments themselves and truly valuing the people behind them that we were working with and for. A tenure as the Student Body President is filled with validation, recognition, fancy events, and esteemed connections. As with any earthly fulfillments left unchecked, these benefits are invariably accompanied by shadow sides and can easily become blinders to self-awareness and healthy, constructive criticism. Regardless of how many “likes” you may be able to pull on social media by virtue of your status on campus, true validation will ultimately come from vulnerability with God and those around you, particularly in the allowance of your cabinet and trusted friends to know you in your weaknesses and flaws as fully as they do in your strengths. Full surrender to Christ and His immaculate plans for our lives and for the future of SGA is a commitment that must be renewed daily; a commitment that I will certainly continue with earnest imperfection to pursue in my own life for many years to come.

### **Group Dynamics in the Executive Cabinet**

As I first wrote back in January, you simply can’t underestimate the power of a strong team surrounding you. Before the academic year even began, a week of August training sessions warmed my heart with the realization that I had been blessed with an incoming crew of magnificently capable, gritty, and kindhearted leaders. Through gracious and effective work from the LOFT staff in fostering team spirit complemented by inspiring messages from President Phipps and her administrative partners, I was humbled in growing closer with this superbly-balanced and enterprising group. From the start, our six Vice Presidents have amazed me with their thoughtfulness, prayerfulness, dedication, and diligence, and I couldn’t be more grateful for their work and friendship. Every leader needs a support system that will tell them like it is and call them out when they get uptight and overzealous, and that’s just what I was blessed with in Marianne, Brian, Horacia, Logan, Tim, and Sarah. We’re certainly not a group that you would have expected to find hanging out together before this year, but these six goons have come to occupy a significant portion of my heart and will be among my most difficult goodbyes.

### **Edits and Rewrites of the SGA Governance Manual**

In my prior experience as a Student Senator, I often found myself struggling to handily locate much of the information that I needed from the SGA Governance Manual, our 102-page guiding document. While daydreaming through a class in southern India over the summer on the International Business Institute, I was struck by a sudden motivation to tackle the task of rewriting this entire mammoth set of bylaws. Subtle edits and additions happen year-to-year as needed and are useful in keeping the content up-to-date and

relevant, but I ultimately decided that the time had come for broader, more sweeping action to fully recalibrate the Manual's accessibility from start to finish.

Beginning with confusing verbiage and a number of inconsistencies on internal governance and officer role responsibilities, I slowly worked through the first seven sections and three appendices of the Manual. Following presentation to and approval by the Student Senate, these edits were officially adopted in early fall and have already paid dividends by their clarity for those needing to access information regarding our policies and processes. With the newly-redesigned SGA website also improving accessibility to the document, I am thrilled to consider the ways in which future leaders will be able to use this revamped charter to fulfill their own missions and visions.

Working through the administrative and linguistic changes, I also came to identify more substantive needs and authored subsequent proposals that 1) expanded and rebranded the role and title of the Vice President of Student Review and 2) distinguished membership on the Student Senate between two newly-christened legislative bodies: the Primary Forum and the Extended Forum. By differentiating our attendance expectations for certain weeks with these new group titles, we were able to use the former for more focused, intimate discussions and presentations while expanding the latter for broader representation on key voting nights including budget and governance approvals.

There are two sections of the Governance Manual still to be addressed for which I was unable to invest sufficient time: Section 8 on Student Organizations and Section 9 on Financial Policies. During our transition, I have charged the incoming cabinet, particularly Vice President-elect Jordan Sponsler and his capable writing skills, with prioritizing the completion of rewrites for these two sections in the 2019-2020 academic year. In working through our financial policies, next year's cabinet will need to continue conversations that we initiated to re-evaluate our distribution of wages to executive club leaders and the allocation of funds to SGA club sports. These will not be easy roads to traverse, but are long overdue for consideration in our call to most effectively steward the Student Activities Fee.

### **Fruit-and-Yogurt Smoothies and Dining Hall Wi-Fi**

"Todd and Marianne, are you sure that your campaign promises of smoothies and Wi-Fi are really the most important issues for our campus to focus on?" Whether or not that was the exact wording, I'll admit that the spirit of this question in last year's election debate was one for which I had not explicitly prepared. Looking back, as I consider its implications, my ultimate conclusion is still *yes* – an affirmation that seemingly small goals should not be overlooked in their power to unite us. For what it's worth, our multifaceted platform was also balanced by commitments to promoting ideological diversity and supporting mental health initiatives on campus. Even so, I stand wholeheartedly by our dedication to both the lofty and the seemingly trivial: an ideal that ties directly to our vision statement to "*engage the divisive, embrace the universal.*" As you don't need me to tell you, we live in a polarized world of hot takes and sound-bite politics. If our first interactions with certain peers come in diametric opposition on controversial issues, what common ground will we draw from to see the shared humanity in one other? Sometimes, it takes a few small ideas (so simple and pure that they can hardly stoke disagreement or animosity) to foster initial comradery from which to invite further conversation.

Now, with apologies to our lactose intolerant friends, there was just something unifying about the excitement and buzz for a triumphant return of real fruit-and-yogurt smoothies to the Union Café. I first approached Mark Wirtz, Director of Dining Services, shortly after our election to pitch the idea, and his support and responsiveness led to their arrival on the menu promptly at the start of the fall semester! The addition of Lo Mein pasta bowls to the Falcon Café also highlighted an exciting year for the campus dining experience. On the Wi-Fi side, Dr. Bill Strausbaugh and the folks in Information Technology Services were equally receptive and generous in hearing our student concerns for the lack of wireless internet service in Lottie Nelson Dining Hall. After a few consults, six new routers were installed and now support up to 300 high-speed connections for our daily meal-time patrons. Will any of these changes *directly* solve the great issues of our day? Perhaps not, but they certainly cause me to smile each time that I see a bond forming through conversation over a yogurt smoothie or a Kickin' Chicken pasta bowl.

### **“Where Do Our Tuition Dollars Go?”**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, SGA hosted Vice President for Finance and Planning David Walker and Vice President for Enrollment Management John Chopka to an open forum focusing on the inner workings of our tuition cost distributions and fee schedules. President Phipps and our SGA Vice President of Finance, Logan Buffington, were also in attendance and gracefully shared insights from their positions throughout the evening. Though lightly attended, I found that the event was successful in its goal of opening a communication channel for students who may be disillusioned with current school pricing. By putting faces of administrators to names often seen only in emails, students were able to hear more personally from the individuals working behind-the-scenes to ensure the most effective and feasible financing strategies. This event was last held three academic years ago, and I recommend its continuation in perpetuity every second or third fall.

### **Board of Trustees Fall Session**

Later in October, I joined both College Council and the Board of Trustees in a unanimous decision to seek university status and adopt the title “Messiah University” as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Prior to these final approvals, Student Senate welcomed President Phipps to present on the proposal, where she shared her key motivators for the move along with its expected benefits. The fall Board meetings were also highlighted by the semi-annual student breakfast, in which a handful of Trustees meet with selected students to discuss any topic that SGA finds to be a pressing issue for the campus community. This year, Trustees Dr. Emerson Leshner, Dr. Barbara Moses, and Dr. Alan Robinson welcomed Horacia Carryl, Gloria Igihozo, Nora Nworu, Marianne Ramirez Gomez, and Shaun Sukum to share on the subject of inclusivity in the classroom and intentionality in the hiring of a diverse faculty. Following the success of the breakfast, this same group of students was also invited to share their stories with the Provost’s Cabinet later in the fall.

## **Messiah Dining Dollar Network**

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, the Messiah Dining Dollar Network was launched as a private Facebook group with the goal of facilitating connections between two types of students: those with an overabundance of dining dollars remaining on their account and those who were running short. This idea grew from a task force that I joined over the summer at the invitation of the Office of Sustainability, focusing on the rise of food insecurity at campuses across the country. Researchers at Temple University recently found that 36% of college students don't feel that they can consistently find enough to eat, citing financial challenges as a primary cause. Motivated to action by this troubling trend, our goal was to ensure that every Messiah student enjoys equal opportunity to feel secure in knowing where their next meal will come from, thus disallowing food insecurity from adding to already-plentiful stress levels. Our original target of 400 members and 40-50 shared meals was vastly exceeded by 650+ members and 182 shared meals in just the first four weeks of operation!

A spring re-launch campaign over the latter half of April and early May saw another exciting rise of activity and connected dozens of students with meals, though not quite to the extent of our fall numbers. We assume that the slight downturn is likely a result of fewer funds remaining on the accounts of students who were on campus during J-Term. Regardless, the generosity of the Messiah community has continued to amaze, and I am optimistic for the Network to continue battling against food insecurity for years to come! Ownership of the page will be passed to the incoming Student Body President and Vice President to moderate, maintain, and approve new students to membership.

## **Board of Trustees Winter Session**

Continuing in the tradition of each Student Body President since the legendary Timothy Sensenig in 2015, I was generously welcomed to the annual winter retreat of the Board of Trustees, held this year in Naples, Florida. The flurried weekend was a powerful experience of fellowship and comradery with the kindhearted women and men dedicated to the continued guidance and protection of our institution. For what it's worth, their golf game isn't too shabby, either. While there were no major votes slated for this session (certainly none as exciting as the fall name change), we did engage in detailed discussion on tuition pricing strategies, upcoming construction of the Kim S. Phipps Admissions and Welcome Center, long-term strategic planning, and a potential introduction of eSports to the Messiah community. I am grateful to the Office of the President for sponsoring my travel to provide student input in these spaces, and encourage future occupants of this role to take full advantage of this chance to represent their peers before the Board.

## **FalconLink Master Calendar**

*"For the first time ever, a comprehensive calendar of all Messiah College events is now available to view in one convenient and easy-to-navigate destination! From chapel speakers to SAB dances to career expos to MCC panels to housing sign-ups to LOFT excursions to flu shots and beyond, our 'Today at Messiah' feature on FalconLink just became your new best friend. By clicking 'Today at Messiah' from the FalconLink homepage, you'll be able to view all recognized events listed for the current day on the left-hand panel AND your most recent*



*mass email announcements on the right-hand panel – two birds with one stone, anyone? Additionally, for those of us that prefer to plan ahead, you can always click ‘view more’ under the student events tab to check out a full calendar of upcoming campus affairs.”*

Without a doubt, this mass email announcement of our *FalconLink* Master Calendar marked completion of the most ambitious project that we tackled during our term in office. On a campus with so many wonderful and relevant events, the need for one streamlined location to keep track of them all has been glaringly obvious for years. A few offices and student leaders have tried to create this type of platform in the past, but the massive scope of campus-wide commitment and buy-in that it requires to succeed has always foiled their efforts. As one of our primary campaign promises, our team was devoted to following through and finally making this long-awaited tool a reality. To do so, we brainstormed and worked on a “Today at Messiah” widget for an easy glance at all campus events and programming happening on any given day. This overview feature is backed by a full new *Student Events Calendar*, allowing event planners to look ahead and choose days for their programming when other major conflicts are not already scheduled.

Our resident technology guru, Brian Gilroy, had already initiated preliminary conversations with Information Technology Services during the 2017-2018 academic year, and his prior groundwork gave us a crucial springboard from which to enter the first stages of development in early fall. Our key partners throughout the process were Dr. Bill Strausbaugh with the Office of the Provost, Jon Wheat with Information Technology Services, and Kris Hardy with the Office of Marketing and Communications. Providentially, our goals coincided with this year’s arrival of the new *FalconLink* portal to replace the classic *MCSquare*, and we were able to partner closely with these concurrent transitions.

The slow-and-steady work of actually programming, designing, and editing the functionality of the system lasted through the entire fall semester and well into January; let’s just say that my original launch date of October 8<sup>th</sup> was a tad over-optimistic. Nonetheless, Jon and Kris were nothing but friendly and diligent throughout the process, and I’m abundantly grateful for their patience in handling my persistent nitpicking and questioning. Once we began nearing a finished product, I entered into the next phase of training student leaders and administrative assistants on the process for inputting their events to the calendar. With the intricacies of the *Jadu* system that we used, special training sessions and clearances were necessary for each of these key clubs and offices. During J-Term, we were able to train all of our executive clubs as well as SAGE, SILP, College Ministries, the Career and Professional Development Center, the Admissions Office, Residence Life, the Engle Center and the Agapé Center. For any other groups that hold events (chartered and recognized clubs, the College Honors Program, Murray Library, the Collaboratory, the LOFT, etc.), we worked with our invaluable SILP office assistant, Sheryl Scaramuzzino, to create a fillable form through which individuals without direct approval to edit the calendar can submit their requests to the SILP office, who then input them to the system on their behalf. Once the proper structures were in place, my role in the process became a game of gentle but persistent nagging of each club and office to input their events. For weeks, my walks to and from classes would frequently include friendly drop-bys to nudge those still yet to finish their area’s calendar submissions. In moments of occasional exasperation, I came to acutely understand the difficulties faced by those who had considered endeavoring this gargantuan initiative in the past.

Finally, early in March, I began to feel confident in our trajectory and set an official launch date of March 26<sup>th</sup>, coordinating with College Ministries for a chapel announcement to coincide with a mass email and social media blasts. At the same time, we worked with Dr. Strausbaugh to ensure that the proverbial plug would be officially pulled on *MCSquare* before the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>; thus, all students and faculty would be forced to make the switch to *FalconLink*, where they would then find our calendar. Go big or go home, right? The Tuesday morning chapel debut went off smoothly and I was beyond excited to finally share this product with the community. Early reception was strong, and we were heartened to hear that many people hadn't even realized what they were missing until they finally had a simple way to keep track of their many daily event opportunities on campus.

With the news of Sheryl's departure from Messiah in April, the future of the fillable form function on the calendar was thrown into mild uncertainty. When the new hire for the SILP administrative assistant is eventually made, I plan to re-visit campus and help explain to that individual the philosophy and functions of the calendar and their pivotal role in its execution. I have also charged the incoming Student Body President and Vice President with the paramount task of holding clubs and offices accountable to input their events in August so that the calendar is filled and functional upon the return of the student body for the fall semester. The success and sustainability of the calendar is wholly dependent on the willingness of clubs and offices to take the time to input their events; if we continue to apply pressure over the coming semesters, I am optimistic for the day when this will become a natural step in planning an event and the impetus will not fall so heavily on SGA to administer constant reminders. Here's wishing a prosperous future for this labor of love to provide value to the Messiah community for years to come!

### **Harrisburg Senators Baseball Excursion**

Sometimes, it's just out of your control. After four months of planning and coordination, the first annual Messiah College Night at the Harrisburg Senators baseball game on April 5<sup>th</sup> was canceled due to an impending rainstorm. As a baseball junkie and former minor league batboy, I had connected with the Senators in late fall about the possibility of sponsoring an evening at the ballpark. By the time April rolled around, we were more than ready for a memorable night of community and I had excitedly lined up all of the perfect game-time elements: Flex and President Phipps were set to hang in our designated Messiah section of the stands, former Major Leaguer and Messiah alumnus Chris Heisey was ready to throw a ceremonial first pitch, two of Messiah's finest student vocalists had rehearsed to knock the socks off of the crowd with a rendition of God Bless America, eight campus offices were sending over tables of staff and students to recruit and promote, and the evening was to be capped with the finest fireworks display on the Susquehanna. Although these idyllic visions never materialized, I was still encouraged by the willingness of the campus community to band together for a planned night of Messiah pride, and we can simply trust that God had His greater reasons for needing a rainstorm that night. Luckily, in early May, we were eventually able to reschedule on a smaller scale for anyone looking to exchange their tickets. Tables were sent by the Admissions Office, Conference & Event Services, and the School of the Humanities, while Flex and I manned the first pitches. For that future SGA cabinet member who may love baseball as much as I do... take this idea and watch the weather carefully!

## **Diplomatic Corps of Student Representatives to College Committees**

*“The Student Diplomats are perhaps one of the least known but most influential student groups on campus. Born from a joint effort between SGA and the administration to increase the voice of student representation in institutional decisions, these individuals are appointed by the Student Body President to serve on a number of the standing committees and councils responsible for crafting policies and initiatives at Messiah College.”*

Having served as a diplomat for my first introduction to SGA in sophomore year, I’ve long held this often-forgotten branch of our student government in particular affection. Reflecting on my prior experience, I felt that the group lacked unity or clarity and could be improved upon with greater team cohesion and a better understanding of the gravity and influential responsibility inherent to these positions. With that in mind, I accelerated the timeline for making my appointments and, working closely with committee chairs and faculty recommendations, was able to secure our 46 representatives to 26 committees before leaving for summer break. Following a September training session with Provost Randy Basinger and Vice Provost/Dean of Students Kris Hansen-Kieffer, I stayed in close contact with the diplomats throughout the year to encourage them and to stay informed of their activities. For the first time, also, Corps members were invited to multiple Student Senate meetings to share oral reports of their work. I credit these interfaces with the other branches of SGA as a key factor in improving team cohesion and increasing their recognition around campus; I encourage future occupants of my role to continue being intentional with diplomat inclusion and recognition throughout the year. Detailed reflections from each of our esteemed 2018-2019 diplomats can be found in the latter portion of this report, published in official distribution for the first time.

It’s been a privilege to see these appointees thrive in their roles, and I’d particularly like to highlight diplomat Chloe Dickson for her commitment to excellence that earned recognition from the Curriculum Committee, as well as representatives Deanna Preziosi and Jonathan Logan for their stellar work with the Dining Management Committee in bringing healthier meal combo options to the Union Café and friendlier menu items for those with dietary restrictions to Lottie Nelson Dining Hall. Overall, I’ve been thrilled by the commitment of these thoughtful individuals throughout the year and greatly encouraged by the progress that I believe we made in adding esteem and an understanding of the value and pride that should accompany an appointment to membership with the Corps.

## **Board of Trustees Spring Session**

Though the Board has not yet convened for our May meeting as of this publication, we are excitedly looking ahead to expected final approval of construction for the Kim S. Phipps Admissions and Welcome Center, updates on revenue and enrollment challenges, new program announcements for graduate-level strategic opportunities, sneak peeks at logo possibilities for Messiah University, and more information on the Rider-Musser development across the street. Most importantly for my role, SGA is currently in the planning process for the next iteration of our semi-annual student/Trustee breakfast. After a transformative experience on the Agapé Center service trip with Interfaith Philadelphia over spring break, I was invigorated to open conversations as to the approach that Messiah

takes regarding interfaith engagement and experiential learning initiatives with the local community, particularly in this era of perennial inter-religious violence. To instigate campus discussion on this pivotal and relevant issue, I've enlisted input from an all-star team of student leaders including Tabitha Adel, Isaac Brunk, Jill Cuervo, Fatimah Jan, Zhuang Lin Mok, Jordan Sponsler, and Lydia Tamrat.

### **Closing Remarks**

Harkening back to an earlier mention of Mr. Tetsuo Takahara, it is with deepest pride and greatest pleasure (you knew I would get a Disney reference in here somewhere, right?) that I pass the torch to our first international Student Body President: a man of impeccable character and eclectic charm whose love for the Lord is abundantly evident! Tetsuo and his equally-qualified running mate, incoming Vice President Jordan Sponsler, were elected on March 8<sup>th</sup> by a 55% margin in an excitingly competitive two-way race that drew nearly 1,000 student votes. Since that time, Marianne and I have felt exceedingly encouraged by the attitudes and capabilities of these gentleman as we've begun the transition process. Further assured by a weekend of intentional connection at the SGA Summit in Indiana, we have full confidence in their visions, hearts, and competencies to lead the Messiah community faithfully for the next twelve months. I knew that much of my peace about stepping away from this role would depend upon the hands in which we were to leave the keys, and I am so pleased to share that my confidence in Tetsuo and the new executive cabinet is bountiful! My prayers and support will continue to be with these incoming leaders, and I wish nothing but ample fulfillment of their visions and aspirations.

As for me, I depart Messiah College with eternal gratitude to a community that shaped me into the man that I am today, providing the most incredible friends and mentors imaginable to develop and challenge me as a Christian leader prepared to engage with an increasingly-interconnected, ever-changing world. For those interested, my international business degree will first lead me to a fellowship at HOPE International with one of my greatest role models – Messiah alumnus Peter Greer – and subsequently to a year-long assignment in Malaysia on a Fulbright grant with the U.S. Department of State. Regardless of what steps the Lord may establish beyond these adventures, I will never take for granted the role that Messiah College has played in paving the way for the future that I may now enjoy. I certainly don't intend for this report to mark the end of my connection to this community, and I look forward with prolific optimism to following closely along with the coming chapters of this extraordinary institution.

### **In His service,**

Todd M. Abbott '19  
Student Body President

---

## **Year-End Report of the Student Body Vice President Marianne Ramirez Gomez**

### **Personal Reflection**

This position has provided me with the opportunity to learn about leadership: what it entails, how it is practiced, and why it is necessary to challenge oneself to become an effective leader by following Christ's example of leadership. This role has allowed me to see and exercise what the characteristics of a good leader are through interactions with the cabinet, other student leaders, Sheryl, and the administration. Certain topics and decisions I have had to make have challenged me to take a step outside of my comfort zone. Although there is a great amount of growth I have yet to accomplish, I am content with the growth I have made this year in spite of difficult circumstances.

I feel like I have met the main duties of the Student Body Vice President. I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing Student Senate and interacting with my Senators. I strived to use this role to understand and get to know Senators better, and I accomplished this by meeting with them and being more available to receiving feedback from them. I am content with the ground I have set for them to feel comfortable enough to engage inside and outside of Student Senate in their following years as Student Senators. More than my main responsibility of being Student Senate Chair, I was able to execute a Leadership Fair where students were able to see all organizations and offices that were recruiting or hiring positions. Furthermore, I led an SGA service trip where Student Senators and next year's and this year's executive cabinet were able to serve with Tri-County OIC in Harrisburg.

### **Student Senate**

This academic year's schedule was consistent and took place only when necessary. There was great involvement and engagement of Student Senators (total of 26) and organizations. Senate speakers included President Phipps, Megan Eaton, Carrie Widdowson, Lyndsay Grimm, Peter Powers, John Chopka, Cherisse Daniels, Tony Devine, Kathie Shafer and executive club representatives. Approved fall legislation included:

- passage of the fall budget
- approval of appointees to the Diplomatic Corps
- addition of a dormancy clause for independent Senators
- adjustments in the hiring process and title for the Chair of the Student Review Board
- reorganization of the SGA Governance Manual Section III
- addition of new voting rights for clubs of the Multicultural Council
- addition of a Senate representative for the Admissions Office

And approved spring legislation included:

- passage of the spring budget
- approval of appointees to the Diplomatic Corps to replace December graduates

- confirmation of Tetsuo Takahara as the Student Body President-elect and Jordan Sponsler as the Student Body Vice President-elect
- SGA Governance Manual updates to Sections 5, 6, 10, and Appendix A
- changes to the Student Review Board election process
- restructure of the Student Ministries constitution
- Minds Matter leadership position updates
- wage increases for Multicultural Council leadership positions
- dissolution of the Education Committee
- formation of the Campus Engagement Committee
- approval of the 2019-2020 executive cabinet: Vice President of Organizations Yabets Assefa, Vice President of Diversity Affairs Famatta Hne, Vice President of Finance Morgan Orndorff, Vice President of Student Review Matt Jenkins, and Vice President of Communication Zoë Smith

Senate Committees maintained engagement, meeting regularly to ensure that proposals were thoroughly considered and prepared with excellence. As explained by Social Concerns Committee Chair Tim Mahoney in his report, one key proposal on college sexuality policies is still in the editing process and is expected to be presented before Senate sometime in the 2019-2020 academic year.

### ***#WhatsYourTake? Tables***

*#WhatsYourTake?*, a tabling engagement initiative first introduced by our predecessors Jamie-Claire Chau and Megan Eaton, was led in the fall by then-Senator Tetsuo Takahara, with me as an advisor. Tables included collaborations between SGA and different executive clubs and offices on campus. This served as an opportunity for the student body to engage with SGA and other organizations to express their take on relevant matters. Partners included SAGE, the Engle Center, Minds Matter, the Multicultural Council, and independent student representatives. Topics included student wages, inclusive excellence and cultural competence, emotional well-being, sexuality and gender concerns, and multicultural student experience in the classroom.

On a Likert scale, the mean results of one particular table showed that most students think that Messiah lacks intercultural competency, and that this could have a negative impact on students in a classroom. Thus, there was perception that there should be accountability for professors to ensure that they meet inclusive excellence and diversity standards in the classroom setting. Furthermore, 41.4% of survey takers had witnessed microaggression, stereotypes or racism in the classroom setting. After another table, we found that participants wanted more events and presentations around campus on sexuality, gender and relationships. Please contact the respective clubs for full reports.

### **Election Committee**

#### ***Tyjón Culclasure, Chair***

Coming into the spring semester, the election committee had planned to modify all applications for the SGA Executive Cabinet, along with the hope to break the student body

voting record of 1,531 set during the 2016 SGA election. To accomplish our goals for the applications, the committee partnered with members of the executive cabinet and worked tirelessly throughout the month of January. Within these smaller teams, we were able to cater applications to each position, providing more thought-provoking questions to keep the student body in mind. In the committee's attempt to break the voting record, during the voting period of this year's election, multiple voting booths were setup around campus. We worked with Vice President of Organizations Brian Gilroy and SGA Advisor Kevin Villegas to find new ways to get students involved with voting. Thanks to the hard work of Brian, who created a QR code for voting purposes, we were able to make a great stride towards our goals. By a 55% margin, Tetsuo Takahara and Jordan Sponsler prevailed over one other candidate pair by earning 553 of 993 votes cast. Although the voting record was not broken this year, the committee was able to work together to bring new life to the SGA election process. After the election season, I was able to work with the Student Body Vice President to create a database file with election processes, content specifically for the use of future election chairs and committee members. We were also able to work on a formal timeline for future committees to follow as they prepare for and go through SGA elections. I am very grateful for the hard work each member of the 2018-2019 Election Committee put forth to help make this year's season a great success.

### **Closing Remarks**

***Marianne Ramirez Gomez***

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve Messiah, its student body, and the community around it through the role of Student Body Vice President this year. I hope to have left a legacy of commitment to service, love, and Christ-like humility. I pray that future cabinets will continue building upon what we've built and not become discouraged when ideas don't go as planned. I noticed how easy it is to fall into the temptation of letting one's heart become overwhelmed and for it to result in frustration when noticing the flaws of a seemingly perfect system. It is important that as leaders, we use these flaws to recognize the grace we've been given by the Lord and allow them to empower us and motivate us to strive towards excellence while bringing His Kingdom to earth.

**Signed,**

Marianne Ramirez Gomez '19  
Student Body Vice President

---

## **Year-End Report of the Vice President of Organizations Brian Gilroy**

### **Personal Reflection**

This year, I had the pleasure of returning to the executive cabinet as the Vice President of Organizations. One of the benefits of returning was the ability early on in the fall to get started on projects and ideas, without the need for a lot of re-training. A passion of mine is to continue to foster growth within the clubs and various areas on campus so we can live out our mission through reaching both our students and community. Some accomplishments tied directly into my role were fall budgeting, Governance Review Council updates, and club reports. This was my second time assisting with the budgeting, and again, having the prior experience of highs and lows allowed me to really improve efficiency and outcomes. During our club meetings, every club was given a sheet to articulate their goals. These were reviewed during the spring budget meetings. The goal of the evaluations was not to give more work for the clubs or myself, but rather to encourage clubs to do the best they can for themselves and their student members. This system, while important and needed, did not work entirely as planned with the scheduling. So, going forward, I am excited to see my successors take the framework that I've laid out and make the process even more efficient. One proposal that will be taking effect is the dormancy clause, which allows clubs to maintain dormancy status for up to one year to evaluate if there is still a need or desire for the club to continue.

### **Campus Connection Fair**

Last J-Term, we held the inaugural Office Involvement Fair. This event was created to give students, faculty and staff the ability to interact with one another and see how relationships could start, grow and strengthen. This fall, with some new marketing, the renamed "Campus Connection Fair" took place with over 20 offices and many students in attendance. While I may have created the idea for the fair, I couldn't have pulled it off without the amazing support of our cabinet. Turnout was good, but I would like to see improvement on the number of student-to-office interactions. Hopefully, this event will continue and just like many events, grow into familiarity with repetition.

### **Closing Remarks**

The other aspect of my role is to keep open and active communication with clubs and their leadership. I do wish that more clubs would reach out to have coffee or a meal with me to keep me informed. Being able to serve the campus in this role for two years has been rewarding on both a personal and professional level. At the end of two years a lot could be said in both words of wisdom, reflection and tasks which need finished. However, I would simply like to say thank you to Messiah and its community of great leaders – both from an administrative and student level. Coming into this role, I was not sure what I was getting myself into or if I was prepared for the task. Through meaningful and purposeful



connection, my prayer is that many lives were changed for the better, that activities and clubs flourished, and that our community continues to showcase Christ's love to each person they connect with. If I could give one piece of advice to other student leaders, it is to care deeply about the relationship you build, and the rest will fall into place.

**Signed,**

Brian Gilroy '19  
Vice President of Organizations

---

## **Year-End Report of the Vice President of Diversity Affairs Horacia Carryl**

### **Personal Reflection**

This year was a balance of immersive learning experiences and intimate conversations related to matters of diversity on our campus. Stepping into the role of Vice President of Diversity Affairs was nerve-wracking because I was unsure about what to expect. I knew I was passionate about the further development of diversity on our campus and I believed that I could do something through student government's unique perspective as leaders on our campus. In my role, I truly was able to see the ways in which SGA stands as the bridge between students and administration. I enjoyed learning the ins and outs of the many committees I participated in, including Diversity, Gender Concerns and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Planning Committee. I also had the opportunity to create a task force in collaboration with our Vice President of Communication and Vice President of Finance to continue the "Civil Discourse" series that was developed last year by previous Vice President of Diversity Affairs Kelly Hopkins. My highlight of my fall semester would be when myself, along with a few of my peers in student leadership, were granted the opportunity to discuss the importance of diversity amongst faculty with a few members of the Board of Trustees. It was a productive and enlightening conversation.

The spring semester was a busier time with a great array of committee meetings, events and collaboration between organizations. This past semester was focused on being as inclusive as possible with the facilitation of our Civil Discourse, this time on immigration. My Operations Committee drafted a proposal to bring a few enhancements to campus and the other committees that I sat on discussed the ideas through which campus could develop new programming or systems to facilitate diversity in a more natural way.

### **Civil Discourse on Sexuality**

Civil Discourse is a discussion-based event that encourages open dialogue within our community. It is a space to agree and disagree, but with the intention of learning respect and consideration for ideas unlike our own. In the fall, we chose to discuss sexuality and the vast spectrum which it covers. This took two forms:

- small group discussions: event began in small groups where people were “assigned” away from those that they arrived with. There was a list of questions to break the ice on the topic and spark considerations for the discussion ahead.
- fishbowl-style discussion: larger group discussion with all event participants. Questions were a bit more controversial and individuals sat panel-style with time limitations to make their points.

For the future, I recommend that we draw from a vast number of sources and create an environment that humanizes people before any possible debate can begin. I also hope that we can create a system that finds a balance between applause and affirmation and regards matters of inaccuracy and overt negativity with proper responsive actions.

### **Civil Discourse on Immigration**

This semester, we continued our previous structure from the fall and included both small group discussion as well as larger group, fishbowl-style debate. Because we adhered to some of the criticisms that we received from the last event, we pushed to be more inclusive in our planning process. We connected with Human Rights Awareness and La Alianza Latina because of their prior events bringing awareness to issues surrounding immigration, and invited Luiza Cliver to lead the event because of her experience as a peacemaker, alongside her personal connection in being an immigrant. Having this structure worked well and conversation was productive, though I wish the group was more engaged during the fishbowl debate in the ways they were during small group discussion. This may change through time and as the event becomes more refined.

### **Operations Committee**

Earlier in the spring semester, the Operations Committee of Student Senate, which I chair, drafted a proposal to send to the Sustainability Committee to bring more purifying water fountains to campus, bike racks to commuter lots and trash cans to the pit parking lot. While we were ultimately unable to secure funding for our proposals, we did discuss the nature of our committee and the effectiveness of our work. After spending a year on the Operations Committee, my hopes for next year would be to see the committee possibly rebranded or granted a small fund to be able to complete their projects. There were many issues and roadblocks this year when we attempted to follow through on our proposals and it was often discouraging to have them shot down or to not see progress being made in the achievements of the committee. There was little direction in what processes we could take or who we should contact after finding student needs. It would be nice to see Operations Committee refined in some way where students have more power to implement the changes they want to see, without having to wait and hope for year-end capital purchases.

### **Closing Remarks**

Looking back on this year, I am content with the many things accomplished, not only in my position but by SGA as a collective. I hope to leave behind a nature of collaboration

for my position, and I hope all who fill my shoes in the future connect with other leaders on campus and fully embody the many forms that diversity can take on our campus. I am excited to see what the future brings as Messiah grows to become a more inclusive and diverse environment. I advise all future leaders to prepare for the best and to not dwell on the worst. Bad things will always happen, things won't always go according to plan. How you react and adjust as those things come is a reflection of your accomplishments, they do not mark you as a failure. Be bold and optimistic and continue striving for better.

**Signed,**

Horacia Carryl '19  
Vice President of Diversity Affairs

---

## **Year-End Report of the Vice President of Finance Logan Buffington**

### **Personal Reflection**

As Vice President of Finance, I have spent a significant amount of time learning the administrative "behind-the-scenes" work that goes into the finances of clubs and organizations at Messiah College. Throughout the year, I have been trying to streamline the processes of expenditures and money reconciliations and creating governance that is specific enough to maintain a succinct process while allowing some wiggle room for extraneous circumstances. This has proved challenging, but we have been able to adapt new policies that I believe are both fair and efficient.

My favorite part of the year, and the most rewarding, was working with all of Messiah's clubs and organizations. I have been able to work closely with the student leaders that are responsible for maintaining the majority of campus activities. Clubs and organizations are a huge part of my job, but they are also a huge part of what makes Messiah the community that it is. Working with these wonderful people has been valuable to me in learning more about Messiah College and our student body. My work has also provided an excellent opportunity to help clubs and organizations beyond finances, whether it be attending events or arranging logistics. Throughout the year, I feel as though Brian Gilroy and I have supported the student body through clubs and organizations in a manner that sets a precedent for excellence in future SGA work.

On another exciting note, I was able to work frequently with the Multicultural Council this semester. One of our biggest successes was passing a governance change that gave the Multicultural Council greater representation in Student Senate. There are now six representatives, including the Chair of the Multicultural Council and the Presidents of each of their five other organizations. Additionally, Horacia Carryl and I worked together to raise the number of hours allocated to the Chair of the Multicultural Council and their Presidents to be more representative of their work and to make their compensation similar to other executive clubs. This is a great step towards creating a more inclusive viewpoint within

Student Senate and in campus leadership. I look forward to future collaborations with the Multicultural Council that will further this journey towards inclusive excellence. Although there is much work to be done on Messiah's aptitude in terms of diversity and cultural appreciation, I am hopeful that the next SGA cabinet will prioritize inclusive excellence and focus on positive change for the student body.

Undoubtedly, this year has been a period of growth for me as a leader. I am grateful for my position as Vice President of Finance for teaching me practical skills and the value of communication and love in business and professionalism. However, with the changes that are being made in SILP and my passions being considered, I came to the decision that returning to the role would not be in my best interest. I look forward to serving in other areas of student leadership where I feel my passions and values align, including Human Rights Awareness, Sexuality and Gender Education, and the Multicultural Council. I am thankful for the student leaders I have been fortunate to work and grow with and cannot wait to serve campus in these new roles.

### **Fall Budgeting**

The first semester consisted of a lot of growth and learning as our cabinet tackled the fall budgeting process. I worked closely with the Brian Gilroy as we met with every chartered and executive organization to review their proposed expenditures and devise a fair and fiscally responsible budget. We were able to present four budget proposal options, and these were voted on in Student Senate, where we passed a budget within 20 minutes – prior budget senates took upwards of two hours. I am proud of the success and diligence that was put into this budgeting process by each of our SGA cabinet members.

### **Spring Budgeting**

Spring budgeting allowed for a time of peace as we entered into the process. With members of our cabinet now being experienced in these steps and understanding what is most appreciated by Student Senate, we were able to go through this season efficiently and successfully. The spring budget, although it involved a lot of behind-the-scenes work, was passed through Student Senate in seven minutes, exceeding my expectations and the previous record set in fall budgeting. Once again, the SGA team and supporting organizations were vital in this process and it is evident that budgeting continues to become more efficient and successful with experience and due diligence.

### **Adjusting to Sheryl's Transition Out**

It was with great personal sadness that I wished well to Sheryl Scaramuzzino, the SILP office assistant, as she transitioned to a new position off-campus in April. Sheryl's experience and professionalism were of extreme value to the SGA team and all of student leadership. She leaves behind a lasting impact in student programs thanks to her extensive knowledge of the inner workings of the college and student organizations. Without Sheryl in the office, my role became much more challenging and demanding, and there will undoubtedly be transition pains for incoming student leaders learning the ropes next year without her excellence and passion for college students.

## **Closing Remarks**

Overall, holding the Vice President of Finance role has been an excellent opportunity and I am overjoyed to have had the opportunity to serve campus through this position. I am confident and excited about my replacement, Morgan Orndorff, and I have already witnessed her strong abilities and passions throughout the past year as she was a member of the Finance and Organizations Committee. I would advise her to look beyond the numbers and remember that finances are about people, especially the students. This job provides a unique opportunity to exemplify good stewardship in a way that is tangible and directly affects the entire student body. I have no doubt that SGA will continue to be supportive of the campus climate that is provided by our clubs and student leadership.

I would like to extend personal gratitude to the student leaders that I collaborated with this year. Without the guidance and support of the amazing student leaders on this campus, my college experience would not be complete. I would like to specifically thank the members of the executive cabinet as well as Kevin Villegas, Cherisse Daniels, Nora Nworu, Ashley Mathew, Ashlynn Young, Jenny Woolley and Gloria Igihozo for extending opportunities for my role to transcend the bounds of dollar signs and explore the parts of life and Messiah College that remind me of Christ's love. I look forward to using my SGA experience and the professional skills it has taught me as I serve the campus and learn about its needs in new and exciting ways next year.

**Sincerely,**

Logan Buffington '20  
Vice President of Finance

---

## **Year-End Report of the Vice President of Student Review Tim Mahoney**

### **Personal Reflection**

I have really enjoyed the diversity of opportunities provided by my role on SGA. In the course of the fall semester, I was able to learn about the administrative aspect of the college through the Student Review Board. I was also able to participate in the drafting process of law-making through the social concerns committee and I was especially able to learn from the rich variety of talent among my peers. During the spring, I was able to grow through working to draft my own proposal, training the new Vice President of Student Review, and honing my communication skills between the Student Review Board and Public Safety. The administrative aspect of the role had me dealing with the hard cases of the College Review Board. This was a wonderful opportunity to see how Messiah's Administrators think through the community and how we can best serve all the students who inhabit that community.

Within the Student Review Board, we did some drafting of a proposal that looked at how we could make the election process of the board a smoother transition. Seeing all the stages of recognizing a problem, working to draft a proposal, and presenting the proposal was an engaging process. This process of law-making sparked an interest in me to better know the legislative process of Messiah and our governance. With the Social Concerns Committee, it was interesting to see all the members letting their passions and talents drive the work that they did. I had the pleasure of watching one of our members craft an impressive proposal that had substantial data and research to support it. I watched as the Social Concerns Committee worked to talk to different students and administrators to get at some of the campus problems and what could be done to solve those problems. The Student Review Board, under my chairship, has looked at several cases regarding community standards. Our board has sought to uphold college policies while echoing our Anabaptist roots in bringing a mercy-guided perspective. We have met with several students to resolve parking appeals and are working to create a smoother response to the parking citation program. In total, I found that the Vice President of Student Review role has given me a wealth of experiences to dwell upon in this next season of life. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served Messiah College in this way.

### **“Mosaics”**

In the fall, I organized an original story-telling event called Mosaics that focused on creating community, marking the second year that I have done so. This year’s theme followed that of the college’s Common Good initiative and focused around stories of individual journeys to the good life. This event is a wonderful opportunity to allow students to share pieces of their stories in an open forum. The event grew in participation and attendance, boasting an audience of more than 120 people.

When creating Mosaics, I brainstormed the topic before even coming to campus in the fall. I then reached out to MCC, SAB, and the Humanities Fellows. I reached out to the MCC because Mosaics is platform for students to share about their identity, and MCC has a student population that often are not given an opportunity to share about their identity. I reached out to SAB in order to partner and share the cost of the event, as well as to help spread the publicity for the event. Lastly, the Humanities Fellows were super helpful in both the screening of contestants and in the organizing of the mechanics of the event.

### **Social Concerns Committee**

Finally, on the Social Concerns Committee that I chair, our members have been discussing updates to the Student Handbook as well as addressing concerns of commuters and international students. One of our members, Senator Sam Rockhill, worked on drafting an update to the wording of the Student Handbook regarding our LGBTQ+ policies. Sam worked very hard to draft a proposal that better highlights Messiah’s intolerance of harassment towards any students and also looked to change Messiah’s policy about embracing same-sex relationships on campus. Along with drafting the proposal, Sam gathered personal testimonies with many student and alumni signatures to support her proposal. She then brought the proposal to the Social Concerns Committee to be examined, where a task force was created to undertake additional research and refine the proposal.

When it was eventually passed on to the executive cabinet, we reviewed the proposal before sending it back to Sam with suggestions for some additional edits to help strengthen the proposal. Sam will continue working on the proposal into next fall, and we hope to see it reach the floor of Student Senate early in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Aside from this proposal, other members of the committee met with commuters and international students on campus to follow up on some complaints that they had heard. After surveying a variety of students from these groups in our community, they returned and reported on the overlap in complaints. Some of this had to do with housing. The members then went and connected with Rhonda King to discuss issues with housing. This was a great example of SGA in action as our committee was being a bridge between the administration and students to channel both the complaints of the students and the rationale of the administrators.

### **Changes to the Student Review Board Election Process**

A big piece of my role is dealing with parking appeals and citations. This has me corresponding with a lot of students regarding whether or not they will have to pay their parking tickets. In order to make this process move smoothly, it helps to have the board in place as early as possible to keep the citations from building up. With our current election process for the board, there were a couple of factors that slowed the whole thing down.

The process of electing Student Review Board members was failing to get a full consideration of the voters. People were not taking the time to thoughtfully engage in the election process so people were being voted in based off popularity over qualification. I noticed that other SGA positions had more efficient appointment procedures. Because of the delayed nature of electing the board, the responsibilities involving the Vice President of Student Review would continue to stack until the board is created. The process also failed to utilize the training period at the end of spring semester. For these reasons, I found it necessary to make changes to the election process. Realizing this, I sat down with Todd and we drafted the proposal that we brought to Senate.

The proposal made the Vice President of Student Review responsible for organizing the election by the end of the spring semester. This allows the outgoing Vice President of Student Review to help in both the training and formation of the Student Review Board. It allowed for the Board to begin immediately the next year while sharing the experiences of the board members from the previous years. This was a helpful process in developing my understanding of the governance process of drafting proposals. It was also a great way to better connect the experience of the current board members with the new ones. I also found that it set up my successor in a better position for the next year.

### **Closing Remarks**

As I come to the end of my time as the Vice President of Student Review, I think about all that I have learned. I feel that I was really stretched this year as I learned the borders of my talents, endurance, and understanding. This role showed me where I could grow while pairing me with a staff that showed me how I could grow. I was constantly humbled by the amount of talent and grace demonstrated by both my team and my advisors who always extended their wisdom and kindness to me. As I end the year, I

contemplate the work that surrounds doing good in a community. I encourage those who step into this role to consider the administrators, teachers and staff of Messiah. Consider the love, empathy and energy needed to run a prospering community such as our own. Use this as a point of encouragement in the seasons of work to come.

**Signed,**

Tim Mahoney '19  
Vice President of Student Review

---

**Year-End Report of the Vice President of Communication  
Sarah Fertsch**

**Personal Reflection**

This year, I have worked to meet the following goals: complete all of my projects with intentionality and excellence, represent SGA well through strategic communication, and consider my tasks through the lens of legacy. In this report, I will lay out specific projects and detail how they have furthered my professional goals.

**SGA Communication**

After developing our social media platforms in my first term with this role last year, I was able to practice excellence through publishing consistent, strategic content. Our social media presence largely focused on the people of student government. This illustrated the incredible impact of SGA on campus, and highlighting a unique dilemma: the campus community seeks more task-oriented content. Therefore, I have worked closely with the incoming Vice President of Communication to create a database of aesthetic yet informative graphics that detail the significant work of student government. Additionally, with the establishment of the Campus Engagement Committee, I expect brand/name recognition of SGA to thrive in the coming years.

**Professional Development Grant**

This year, I chaired the Professional Development Grant Committee, which allocates funds for students to attend professional conferences. I met with my committee weekly to review applications and grade each applicant with consistency and accuracy. The committee distributed 46 awards and established specific grading criteria for each applicant. Additionally, the committee considered making administrative changes in order to allocate more awards in the future.



### **Hostetter Grant**

I am honored to have managed the Hostetter Grant for the second time. This endowed grant offers financial assistance (currently \$1,250) to a first-year, first-generation college student. In January, I organized the committee and developed a clear rubric for essays and candidate interviews. I worked with Residence Life to publicize the grant application, garnered insights from the Office of Development, and connected with the Office of Financial Services to implement the grant. Our committee interviewed three finalists, and we are honored to name our 2019 grant recipient as Daphne Rinkus.

### **Education Committee**

This year, I chaired the Education Committee of Student Senate, which investigated the ELI credit and orchestrated more conversation on proper practices/etiquette for students volunteering with Special Olympics. Most importantly, per more recommendation, Student Senate voted to dissolve the Education Committee and establish the Campus Engagement Committee, which will manage overarching public affairs projects, such as town hall meetings, engagement tables and student focus groups.

### **Additional Projects**

My other SGA work has included: assisting the Vice President of Diversity Affairs with the Civil Discourse Series, representing SGA on MC-77 television programming, sitting on the Community Standards Committee and College Review Board, actively participating with the Social Concerns Proposal Task Force, assisting with the 2019-2020 SGA Election, and overhauling the SGA website. Moreover, I have also taken minutes for every Cabinet meeting, Student Senate meeting and Leadership Council meeting this year.

### **Closing Remarks**

I am incredibly grateful to have catalyzed important change on campus. Messiah College as an institution has served me well, and it has been a blessing to serve this community for the past 16 months. I have no doubt that Messiah College, and specifically, the Messiah College Student Government Association, will continue to engage and equip students successfully in the coming years.

**Sincerely,**

Sarah Fertsch '19  
Vice President of Communication

---

## **Year-End Report of the Student Activities Board**

### **Jenny Woolley, President**

#### **Personal Reflection**

*“The Student Activities Board strives to facilitate meaningful interactions with pop culture through a wide array of programming focused on welcoming all students to engage in entertaining and thoughtful experiences within an increasingly complex culture.”*

The Presidency of the Student Activities Board proved to be simultaneously difficult and abundantly rewarding. Entering the year with eight returning executives, we focused on acclimating the incoming three individuals while seeking to fill the empty position of Cultural Engagement. From the start, I felt confident in the team’s chemistry and have since found a group of committed and passionate individuals in the leadership of the Student Activities Board. I could not be more grateful for each and every one of them.

Our fall semester kicked off with an analysis of our mission statement, an endeavor we had discussed the previous year. Proudly, we embraced SAB’s new mission this year, wholeheartedly moving forward with programming. We hoped to connect with campus, foster conversation surrounding pop culture, and improve our social media presence. We implemented monthly tabling for marketing and event promotion. We sought feedback and personally advertised for our events. Where branching out is necessary for SAB, it remains an area for improvement. We are aware of goals with committees, strengthening our marketing, and developing more inclusive spaces and events. SAB had a year of close friendship, commitment to the mission, and resilience.

With the spring we refocused again, as I learned is often necessary in leadership. Goal-setting must be tangible; a small step in the process of long-term decisions. We deliberated on what our objective would be in our concluding months. As we face turnover of nine executives, we put our efforts this spring to hiring quality candidates, strengthening our transition materials, and effectively training individuals in their roles and our mission.

#### **Special Activities**

##### ***Megan Anderson, Vice President***

This year, I focused on improving the traditional SAB Special Activities events. From Fall Fest to Spring Shabing, Special Activities aims to build community and provide opportunities for students to make memories and have fun. In the fall, I experimented with hosting Fall Fest on Halloween. I learned it is a good option for the event. However, Saturdays do still work best for Special Activities. Family Fun Fair was kept consistent with past years, while still proving successful. We held a bingo night in the Union, which had an exciting turn out – an event I would encourage SAB to continue in the future. The second Falcon Flea Market was held at the end of the fall semester, which allows students to both buy and sell from one another like a yard sale. In the spring, “Palentines Day” was a repeated event from last year on Valentine’s Day. I highly recommend continuing this event, since numerous students attend and appreciate decorating mason jars with flowers.

In March, the annual Quest was held. This weeklong scavenger hunt brought students out in order to win the grand prizes, including an Amazon Alexa and Apple AirPods. In this role, creativity and innovation is necessary and I hope that each event will continue to seek student feedback, improvement, and progress in the years to come.

## **B-Sides**

### ***Madison Scialanca***

Throughout the year, B-Sides aimed to provide meaningful interactions with pop culture through bringing a variety of genres, cultures, and individuals. B-Sides went under some adjustments this year, scaling back from shows every other week to just once per month. Despite not being in this position the year before, I can attest that the work load has been manageable and focusing on quality over quantity has been beneficial to both the reputation of B-Sides and my sanity as the executive. My ability to communicate efficiently and professionally, manage my time, deepen relationships with others, and explore my own creativity only got stronger in the second half of the year, as we put on shows every other week with the introduction of student openers to the B-Sides programming. The goal of this was to give student musicians and artists a platform to showcase more than what they could in a coffeehouse and to also bring more traffic into the B-Sides shows. This proved to be successful as our attendance increased and the crowd consisted of many new faces. As I look ahead to returning for the fall semester of next year, I plan to keep up with student openers as well as having a solidified set list before coming back to campus. Planning shows ahead of time will give our graphic designer/marketing duo and I time to really advertise and hit the ground running with B-Sides next year. A wide variety of musical genres were represented on campus this year, from post-punk, alternative indie bands, to Christian hip hop. Guests included YOUTHFOOL, The Evidence, Los Elk, Combo Chimbita, The Arcadian Wild, Shortly, Sen Morimoto, Angie Rose, and Nonfiction.

## **Concerts**

### ***Seth Weber, Fall Executive***

### ***Matthew Sechrist, Spring Executive***

Stepping into this role as co-executives had its challenges but was ultimately very beneficial for growth within the position. With how things happened, we made the decision to transition from two small/medium concerts per year to one large concert at the end of the year. We faced challenges in helping coordinate SAB concerts, but ultimately found the experience rewarding. It didn't come together right away but it was a good final result in our opinion. We brought Magic Giant in March, with Los Elk opening. While our attendance was not quite what we had hoped, each student in attendance had incredibly positive feedback. Magic Giant was engaging, energetic, and immensely kind off-stage, as well. Throughout this year, we learned how to communicate professionally, the process of signing and revising contracts, and organizational skills in planning events for groups of people as large as our student body. While those are valuable external SAB experiences, we also grew and learned from an internal perspective as well. We learned how to be a part of a team and accomplish larger goals than just the responsibilities of our position.

**Cultural Engagement*****Britney Yauger***

I started my time with SAB halfway through the first semester, which presented many challenges both personally and professionally as I was integrated into the team. Socially speaking, it was daunting to walk into a team that had already learned how to function together as a cohesive unit. It was even more difficult to figure out the logistics of the position while trying to find my place on the team. My first event, a panel discussion on Seasonal Affective Disorder, presented many external challenges and was a bit of a discouraging start to my time with SAB. Then, for my next event, I organized a panel discussion on Political Correctness. This event had the potential to be divisive and polarizing, but I was intentional in my planning and it turned out to be a nuanced and thought-provoking dialogue. People from varying political backgrounds approached me after the event to say that they felt genuinely represented and welcomed in the conversation. This assured me of my own ability to envision and implement ideas, and gave me the confidence that I needed to continue through the year well. My final event of the year was a talent showcase where students performed original art that was created through their personal experiences of marginalization, called "The Art of Marginalization". In the end, I was pleased with the progress that the board made with engaging in civil discourse, and I was excited by the bridges that SAB continued to build with other clubs.

**Dances*****Christy White***

Throughout this year, SAB provided me with ample opportunities to grow and to provide events for the student body. To begin, there was a new dance policy that limited SAB to six dances a year, and MCC to a total of five dances a year. This was an adjustment, primarily on the MCC side, however, I did work with them on the logistical end of their dances when needed. Starting the year, Festival had wonderful attendance. One of my goals this year was to rid the stigma of when dances begin versus when people normally show up. This year we did not do the "DJ Comp" Dance that is normally the month before Spring Fling to determine who will be DJing at Spring Fling. Due to scheduling conflicts and injuries, this was an adjustment that had to be made, which resulted in bringing in a Messiah alum to perform. I appreciate the ability to make the dances my own and to adjust each one to further cater to the student body. The Spring Fling Dance was held at the Hilton in Harrisburg and over 700 students attended. There were some hiccups with some of our vendors, but they were resolved with somewhat ease. The dances position allows for interactions with many students, DJs, and clubs to bring some of the most memorable and positively experienced events to campus. Dance themes this year included Festival, Homecoming, Christmas Tradition, Carnival, Under the Sea, and Spring Fling.

**Excursions*****George Noble***

As the Excursions Executive on SAB this year, I did my best to execute events that were inclusive to all perspectives and abilities. For more able-bodied students, we went

indoor rock climbing. For those interested in theatre, we visited Sight and Sound Theatres in the fall and Broadway in the spring. Our Broadway shows included both Lion King and Dear Evan Hansen, in addition to a full day in New York City. Other trips included ZooAmerica, Broad Street Market, and a variety of Earth-conscious and refugee-employing companies in the Lancaster area. I hope that the different themes of events I put on allowed for people of all life experiences to be interested in our excursions, and will encourage them to keep an eye out for trips in the years to come. I look forward to seeing how the future occupant of my role will continue to fulfill the mission of SAB as they begin to plan original trips and old favorites alike.

## **Graphic Design**

### ***Hannah Grubb***

Filling the role of graphic designer on the board this year has brought on a lot of challenges, but those challenges have also fostered a ton of growth within my professional skill set. I have become so much more efficient in the time it takes me to research and create each poster, as well as improving my time management. I have loved working with everyone on the board in a different capacity than I did last year in the B-Sides position. As I reflect on the year, I see the improvement in my technique as I observe the 90+ posters that I created. I appreciated working with each executive's creative ideas for the events, helping to form a cohesive vision for the varying SAB events. I then implemented the designs by combining event details with thoughtful and inclusive imagery and messaging. As I leave both the SAB Graphic Designer role and Messiah College, I look forward to building off this experience and continuing to develop who I am as an artist.

## **Lost Films**

### ***Grant Zimmerman***

This year, Lost Films provided students with a wide variety of movies ranging from action-packed blockbusters to lesser-known independent films. For several of the events, we hosted discussions about the film in order to explore various themes. We collaborated with the African Student Union for *Black Panther*, where we discussed the character representations in the film. For *BlackKkKlansman*, we had a panel discussion with several students and faculty. This was an impactful time that exposed people to meaningful themes involving race relations and the role of law enforcement. With *Crazy Rich Asians*, we collaborated with ISA/MuKappa & ASA to inform students about the film before screening it. For *The Hate U Give*, we presented a discussion between two professors, Dr. Charlene Lane and Dr. Drew Hart. They discussed the themes and character representations in this powerful film. Overall, the most popular films for students were *A Quiet Place*, *Incredibles 2*, *BlackKkKlansman*, *Crazy Rich Asians*, *The Hate U Give*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. It was a special year for Lost Films, and I am pleased with the overall enthusiasm and support for this program. Other films brought to campus this year include: *Isle of Dogs*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Ant-Man and the Wasp*, *Tully*, *Leave No Trace*, *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, *Eighth Grade*, *Christopher Robins*, *Creed II*, *If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Mary Poppins Returns*, *Vice*, *On the Basis of Sex*, *Arctic*, and *Dead Poets Society*.

**Marketing*****Lindsey Macariola***

Overall, this year was another successful one for marketing. The number of followers on our social media platforms has continued to increase and, in my opinion, the amount of communication and feedback from students has increased as well. This year I tried to implement a new way to promote feedback and give away leftover posters that we have. Thus, the “Feedback and Poster Pick-Up” stand was born. This was a time where people from SAB sat at a table in the Union and students could give us feedback about what we're doing well or what we could improve. Their feedback could be given face-to-face, or written down on a slip of paper and put into a bowl if they didn't feel comfortable telling us aloud. Like I mentioned earlier, students could also pick up extra posters from this year's events that we had. Overall, this stand was a bigger success than I originally anticipated and students really enjoyed the fact that they could get posters from past events. In relation to social media, something that I think I've utilized more this year (but could still be improved) is using the add-on settings for Instagram stories. These include the polls, questions, and other things that you can add on to your Instagram stories to get quick responses from students. Keeping up with posts on a weekly basis is something that I could improve on, but I hope that because there is a new marketing executive coming into the position next year, he will bring new energy and innovation into the position.

**Student Talent*****Becca Ford***

This year was successful for the Student Talent position, both through attendance of the Coffeehouse events and in second year of the Mosaic storytelling event; Mosaic is on its way to becoming as established on this campus as Coffeehouses have become. The format of this event was drastically improved and is expected to be continually fine-tuned in the years to come. There were several other highlights in the Student Talent position, such as an alumni group performing at the Homecoming Coffeehouse as well as more diversified acts within the Coffeehouses. A large percentage of the student body enjoy coffeehouse events, thus a continued emphasis on a variety of acts and remaining accessible by the whole student body is essential. I hope in the future the events put on by the Student Talent position incorporate active audience involvement. Coffeehouses occur monthly, from First Year Coffeehouse in August to Senior Coffeehouse in May. I have been blessed to help facilitate the growth of these events over the last two years.

**Treasurer*****Kevin Lyon***

As a returner this year, I felt much more equipped to handle the treasury role. For the most part, it has been fairly easy to manage the expense tracking in comparison to last year when I was still getting over the learning curve. Without having to worry as much about the expense tracking, I implemented a petty cash envelope which executives use for a variety of events. In addition, I worked with several executives in creating a collaboration task force which will assist in working with other clubs in the future. This spring, I was in

the unique position of being a graduate that stayed on campus, but had no class work. SAB helped me to stay plugged in to the student body even though I did not interact with them in the classroom. This semester, I assisted in planning SAB's service day activity, and our "Thank You Breakfast" for those individuals who helped the board during the year. Additionally, I had multiple training sessions with the incoming treasurer due to the fact that Sheryl Scaramuzzino will no longer be there to assist the treasurer in the beginning stages of next year. My aim for this training is to equip the new treasurer to handle the day-to-day responsibilities of their role with minimal reliance on a faculty member.

### **Closing Remarks**

#### ***Jenny Woolley***

I reflect proudly on the accomplishments of the year. I stand behind every single executive as they poured an average of twenty hours a week into their positions, the club, and supporting each other. We built lifelong friendships, investing deeply in one another and our organization. While we met some goals and faltered in others, we are finding our success outside of the numerical numbers, concrete data, and visual success. We sought to follow our mission, challenging the student body by providing exposure to different musical genres, challenging films, and opportunities for thoughtful discussion. We are gifted with student activities fees, but does that mean that we must provide the majority of students what they want, at the expense of our mission?

Magic Giant was not the largest known band; however, they are emerging on the festival scene while also using their platform for advocacy surrounding sustainability. By bringing films like *BlackKlansman*, *Tully*, and *On the Basis of Sex*, we are displaying the interaction pop culture has with social issues like race, mental health, and gender inequality. We brought Angie Rose, a Christian hip-hop artist, but we also brought post-punk bands like Nonfiction, not typically a popular genre on campus. We seek to provide spaces to build community through coffeehouses, dances, and other special events. However, we also hope to challenge students to look to the external world, to find the uncomfortable, thinking outside of their box and viewing life from different perspectives. We may not be perfect in our pursuit, but we are making progress in an area that is needed deeply. I desired to see the continued growth of SAB on campus and at times, it was hard when we faced push-back or criticism. Still, the true heart of our mission drove our decisions. With around 90 events each year, we commit to bringing culture, we commit to fostering community, we strive to make student life on campus better. Of course, we met failures, but we took a step forward this year and, in that feat, I am proud.

### **Signed,**

Jenny Woolley '20  
President of the Student Activities Board

---

## **Year-End Report of the Multicultural Council**

### **Gloria Igihozo, Chair**

#### **Personal Reflection**

The main goal of the Multicultural Council was to restructure most of the planning around the theme of the year: *Ubumuntu*, the essence of being human. We hoped to have an equal balance between hard conversations and events that focus on cultural celebration. We aimed to create a safe environment that promotes learning, exchange of ideas, and celebrates differences on the road to equity and reconciliation. Beyond these specific goals, we wanted to intentionally serve the Messiah community through creating discussion spaces where faculty, staff and students could hold challenging and honest conversations on a myriad of issues to encourage more faculty-staff-student interaction. This is mainly because we realized that MCC fell short when it came to faculty and staff engagement. All of these goals were met through different club events, as discussed below. We collaborated with the Pulse, SAB, Human Rights Awareness, the Career and Professional Development Center, Murray Library, Student Ministries, World Christian Fellowship and the LOFT. This enabled us to reach more students that we usually are able to.

We are proud of the work that was done, especially the Open Councils, club culture celebration events (Karibu Night, Diwali Night, Baila, International Gala, and many more), the first ever multicultural student retreat, acquiring more votes in Student Senate, and increasing wages for the presidents to ensure that the new wages reflect the efforts that go into many of the events we host. While the work speaks on the commitment, time, and effort that MCC has spent to better serve the Messiah Community, there is still room for improvement. We need to allow more time for planning and preparations, improve communication, and work on better delegation of responsibilities. Thus, looking to the year ahead, MCC should recognize the power of resourceful teamwork and how far it can take us. Lastly, we worked on adding Dr. Drew Hart as faculty liaison to facilitate faculty and staff interaction and involvement with MCC.

As a leader, I have made tremendous improvements in my ability to lead others and address challenges that arise along the way. I have learned to be patient, above all things, as change takes time. Beyond the transferable skills I have acquired, I also learned of the importance of taking a step back to refresh one's mind. The work of racial justice and reconciliation is exhausting and easily draining. Consequently, I need to be intentional in the ways I pause and recharge to ensure that I am mentally and emotionally ready to deal with any conversations that arise. It is easy to choose not to care, especially given the little response we get from majority students, but I continue to be inspired by the core team that reminds me of why we do this work. I have found satisfaction and gratitude in the work we have done this year and can only hope that MCC continues to leave a lasting legacy, and change individuals' perspectives on conversations on race, racial justice, and reconciliation.



## Fall Events

**Multicultural Student Orientation:** This was to welcome new multicultural students to Messiah and introduce them to the Multicultural Council. We welcomed more than 64 multicultural students and managed to help them settle in. For future reference, different emails should be sent to multicultural students and domestic students with move-in details, as parents expressed that move-in dates were confusing and not clear enough.

**“Know Your Neighbor” Potluck:** In collaboration with the Pennsylvania Center for Refugees and Immigrants (PACRI), we gave students the opportunity to join the refugee community in the area for a chance to get to know one another, share a meal, converse, and share their cultures. This event received positive feedback and we hope that it becomes an ongoing collaboration.

**Multicultural Student Retreat:** 95 multicultural students joined all MCC clubs for an interactive weekend at Roxbury Holiness camp. The keynote speaker was Kevin Villegas, who shared an inspiring message on the theme of a shared humanity. Cherisse Daniels, the MCC advisor, also shared a moving message on being a student of color in a predominantly white institution and learning to be comfortable speaking out and sharing ideas. Students were able to interact with one another through games, meals, and conversations. It is crucial to plan this retreat ahead of time (in the summer, preferably) as there are many details to figure out before school starts.

**Proposal for More Votes in Student Senate:** With the help of Vice President of Finance Logan Buffington, we appealed to have more than just one vote in Senate. It was unanimously voted that MCC clubs would join Student Senate as part of the Extended Forum that meets a few times per semester, and the MCC chair would remain the representative of MCC in the Primary Forum. My recommendation would be that the presidents of the respective multicultural clubs serve as the representative for each club. If this is not possible, a consistent person from the clubs should be selected to represent.

**Open Council on Interracial Dating:** Messiah students, faculty, and staff shared their experiences on interracial and intercultural dating in an event that was attended by 95 people. We received positive feedback and a few requests to have the same topic again in the future.

**Open Council on Masculinity and Femininity:** Messiah students, faculty and staff shared their experiences on how culture and society have affected their perceptions on gender. They each defined what masculinity and femininity meant to them, tying everything back to the environments they were raised in. 93 people were in attendance.

**Multicultural Student Potluck Dinner:** The potluck, attended by over 80 people, was an opportunity to share food and get to know one another. Each club brought a dish that represented their respective cultures. There was also karaoke and games. For future planning, clubs should bring more than one dish as most people did not bring anything to the potluck. I would also recommend having board games in addition to karaoke.

**Open Council on Cultural Appropriation:** The open council, attended by 85 people, discussed the difference between cultural appropriation and cultural celebration. The panel speakers were the presidents of each multicultural club and Resident Director Amy Nicols. The event was extremely well received and defined some blurred lines on cultural appropriation. For controversial and serious topics like this, I recommend reaching out to a few faculty members to be present to mediate the conversation when necessary.

**“Together Every Nation, Every Tongue”:** A night of worship in collaboration with all the multicultural clubs, the LOFT, Student Ministries, World Christian Fellowship, and Powerhouse. The event was in Hostetter Chapel and was attended by over 100 people. We explored worship in different cultural contexts and had interactive stations for students who were taking a break from studying for finals. For the future, I would recommend not relying heavily on Powerhouse for the worship. Instead, it would be better to select singers and people to play instruments and reach out to them at least a month in advance. It would be beneficial to set up practice times at least once a week to ensure that the selected worship team is prepared. Powerhouse or Conference Services could be used for tech.

### Spring Events

**MLK Week Student Celebration with Sho Baraka:** For MLK student celebration, we collaborated with the Pulse, SAB, and Human Rights Awareness to bring Sho Baraka, an artist and writer. He came to campus for a B-sides concert and delivered a remarkable blend of hip-hop, soul, and spoken word.

**MCC Leadership Retreat:** This was a two-day retreat that brought together the leadership teams of every MCC club. It was an opportunity to plan for the spring semester, get to know one another, and rest before the spring semester began. The keynote speaker, Allan Mathew, spoke on racial identity and the concept of humanity. He challenged the leaders to continuously seek ways to reaffirm the humanity of those around them.

**Dessert Reception with Multicultural Faculty and Staff:** This was a night dedicated to connecting with multicultural faculty and staff to get to know them. The main purpose was to let them know that we are available on campus, serving as a resource to anyone who is interested in exploring multiculturalism and interculturalism. Attendance was low, but the few that attended received the attempt positively.

**Multicultural Career Panel:** In collaboration with the Career and Professional Development Center, we hosted a career panel and networking event. This provided students with an opportunity to interact with multicultural Messiah alumni and get advice on life after college, how to narrow down job searching, how to navigate the work place, and more. Students also got a chance to interact with local major companies such as YWCA, UPMC Pinnacle, Hershey Entertainment, and Giant that were hiring for various positions.

**Open Council on “Not Just a Month”:** Focused on the importance of teaching and celebrating black history year-round; in our curriculum and daily lives. Panelists reflected on why it is crucial for this to be an ongoing conversation that we equally participate in.

**Proposal to Increase MCC Wages:** With the help of Vice President of Diversity Affairs, Horacia Carryl, and Vice President of Finance, Logan Buffington, we appealed to Student Senate to increase wages for presidents, the chair, and the MCC treasurer. The previous hours were not reflective of the amount of work and commitment that is poured into MCC. Student Senate unanimously voted to increase MCC wages.

**Service Day Project with Amani Beads:** The main goal was to provide a service project that people could participate in, regardless of physical abilities. Jewelry made was sold to support New Life Homes, an orphanage that supports abandoned infants in poverty-stricken areas of Nairobi, as well as Kazuri Beads, an organization that employs 300+ single mothers in Nairobi, Kenya. Group conversations during the service project were centered around community engagement & empowerment, holistic poverty alleviation, and ethical consumerism.

**Open Council on Sexual Assault and Healing:** In honor of sexual assault awareness month, we facilitated a discussion on sexual assault and healing. The campaign's theme for this year was "I Ask". Through the stories of the brave panelists, we focused on the importance of asking for consent as a necessary part of our daily interactions.

**Genocide Awareness Month:** In honor of genocide awareness month, we organized multiple events around the topics of genocide, genocide ideology, and genocide prevention. The events included a display in Murray Library, documentary and discussion, story-telling through the Human Library Project, and an Allies panel reflecting on faith-based non-profit, policy, and advocacy work for populations affected by genocide.

**African Student Union**  
*Laura Almeida, President*

## **Fall Events**

**"Karibu Night":** We had our biggest event called "Karibu Night: A Night in Africa" on November 10<sup>th</sup> this year. The event had a great turnout of over 300 people, including students, faculty, and off-campus guests. We had an amazing African dinner served by Messiah catering. We also had ten performances of dances, songs, drum performances and spoken word. We also made two videos, one about "Breaking Stereotypes" of Africa and the other a video with five Messiah African students and an African professor, where they answered a couple of questions for people to get to know them and also to show that even though we all come from different countries and backgrounds, in the end, we are all human. We also held a fashion show, which this year we partnered with a shop in Harrisburg called "Nyanga Store" that sells African clothes and other African items. We had the owner of the store come and sell some of her items during the event, and we used her clothes for the fashion show! During Karibu, we also decided to include information about different African influential people between the performances. It was a way to show people that there are many amazing Africans that are currently working to better our world. And finally, we also partnered with The Pulse and they took pictures during the event and had a

photo booth set up. This was the first year that Karibu Night was not free. We sold tickets at \$5 for general audiences and \$3 for students.

**Worship Collaboration with the LOFT:** We collaborated with the LOFT in one of their worship nights. It was a great time where one of our cabinet members was able to give a devotional with a LOFT member, and we were able to teach a couple of worship songs from a few African cultures. We had a time of fellowship and getting to know each other. We plan to do this again next semester and keep doing it in the future. It was a great evening! About 40 students came and worshipped with us.

**“Afro-Fridays”:** We brought back the tradition of wearing African attire on Fridays, except we changed to the first Friday of every month. We call it Afro-Fridays and it is a day in which we all get to showcase our beautiful clothes from different African countries! Many people participated and it was a great time of wearing clothes to remind us of home.

### Spring Events

This semester, ASU did not have any huge events like the fall Karibu Night. We focused on smaller but meaningful events that ranged from educational events to cultural and recreational events. We had a few changes in our cabinet since last semester, with two of our members graduating. This semester was very busy for the African Student Union, but also a time for us to learn more about African cultures and each other. Our main goal for this semester was to have more educational events and be able to have hard conversations. We also wanted to create a more fun environment for African students and our other members. Listening and connecting to people was a huge focus this semester.

**Member Meetings:** We had four different member meetings, two of which were more social meetings where we all got to get to know each other better and have a fun time together. We also had a meeting on beauty in Africa, where we discussed different beauty standards and traditions. Another member meeting that we had was on the topic of culture shock, where the African students got to share their experiences with coming to America, and different things that they have experienced here and miss from home.

**“Colorism and Skin Bleaching”:** We had a panel discussion followed by group conversation on the topic of colorism and skin bleaching. We decided that this topic was so important that we wanted to invite other MCC clubs to be involved in the conversation as well. We held the event in Boyer 131 during our member meeting time and had seven different panelists. The panelists represented different parts of Africa, Asia and the African American community. It was such a successful event! The room was full and the panelists were very real and bold. The group discussion after the panel also helped the students to really think deeply about this topic and about ways in which they can engage more in conversations regarding colorism and the problem of skin bleaching.

**“Shake It” Dance:** We held our annual Afro-Caribbean dance at the Union and we were able to share various different styles of African music and hold a fun event where all students on campus could come and have fun with their friends.

**“Sons of the Clouds” Showing:** This semester, we partnered with the Collaboratory and had a documentary showing on the Sahrawi Refugees called “Sons of the Clouds”. We had a panel discussion after it and were able to talk about a refugee community that lives in southern Morocco that they visited on an economic development trip.

**West African Dance Workshop:** We partnered with Lark Daniel, a local dance and fitness instructor. She teaches West African dance, and ASU partnered with her to offer dance lessons to a group of students. Lessons were conducted for a month, and the dance was performed at International Gala. It was a great opportunity to spend time with other students, get to know Lark and the drummers, share our stories and experiences, and learn more about West African dance.

**Looking Ahead:** Next year, we are excited to having more intentional events for the African students on campus, making them places where all African students can come and feel at home. We also want to have harder conversations that challenge all of us, both African students and non-African students.

### **Asian Student Association**

*Ponphisudti Tangsirisation, Fall President*

*Claire Tiong Ai, Spring President*

### **Fall Events**

**ASA Dance:** ASA's first dance was designed for everyone to have fun while indulging in the rich variety of music from all over the continent that was created and remixed by Asian and Asian-American artists and DJs. In the future, ASA wishes to continue to hold this dance, but find ways to improve our event while holding up to our vision. We seek to reach out more to the greater campus and display more of the beauty and talents of music from the people of our continent that would allow all people to unite under the love of music.

**“Diwali Night”:** An educational, interactive night that was held to display the traditional southeast Asian "festival of lights" celebrated across the globe. It is a tradition to celebrate "triumph over evil", but most importantly to be reunited with family and friends. For the event, we had many different stations, each with its own activity and educational purpose for the participants such as a dessert table, Henna, arts and crafts, textiles and more. It is an event that ASA holds annually and would be recommended to continue but improved upon in the future.

**“Crazy Rich Asians” Lost Film Collaboration:** A successful event that truly reflected ASA's vision of hoping to break Asian stereotypes in the media and reintroducing some Asian cultural values to the campus. It is highly recommended for this event to happen again with any films that would best be suited for our goals and mission.

## Spring Events

**Member Meetings:** Held biweekly on Thursdays from 5-6pm, an opportunity for all Asians, Asian-Americans, and the greater campus to come join us in learning about the diversity and beauty of Asian cultures and traditions.

**Lunar New Year:** Held February 23<sup>rd</sup>, a traditional Chinese holiday held to celebrate the incoming new year; it was festival-style with interactive booths such as Zodiac boards, writing new year blessings, crafting paper lanterns, traditional tea sets and snacks, and historical infographics on the holiday along with countries that celebrate the holiday.

**“Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbor”:** Held April 13<sup>th</sup>, a two-part event. First part with an open panel of individuals from the local Muslim community that answered questions from our audience that pertained to life as a Muslim, societal impact, thoughts towards non-Muslims, and the second part open to several booths (hijab, Quran, and informational board booths) and open-chat with the panelists as well. This event helped to bring awareness about the local and minority Muslim community within the Grantham area, helped to spread awareness and educate others about Islam and life as a Muslim (even as a non-Asian Muslim) and finally bring together our Messiah community in connection to the Muslim community as friendly and loving neighbors.

## Black Student Union

*Nora Nworu, President*

## Fall Events

**“Fall into Homecoming” Potluck:** Through this event, we were able to invite the student body and all of the BSU members to come together in fellowship with the Unity House located on Messiah’s campus. We were able to have fellowship, make conversation, and share a meal together. This allowed our members to begin to know each other, as well as giving Messiah’s campus a glimpse into our BSU family.

**“One World, One Mission”:** This event was to specifically target those within the social work major and provide an avenue to allow future collaborations to begin between the Multicultural Council and the Social Work department. Though this event targeted social work students, it was open to all majors (including the faculty within the represented departments) in hopes to allow each of the departments on Messiah’s campus to begin to interact with MCC. We hope to have more interaction amongst MCC and the departments of social sciences as their missions show many parallels.

**Hair Expo:** This was our final event of the fall semester. Our Hair Expo was centered around the idea of the culture of hair within the black community. This event was to be seen as a celebration for hair that falls outside of the western ideals of beauty. On this day, students were able to get a glimpse into the life of those with kinky and curly hair, while also receiving stories from their peers on their journey of self-acceptance and love through their natural hair stories.

## Spring Events

**“A Reflection on Race and Justice with Robbie Tolan”:** Through this Conversations in Courage event on February 13<sup>th</sup>, BSU was able to kick off our celebration of Black History Month. With the support of collaborators, we were given the opportunity to have a very special guest in Robbie Tolan. Robbie is an activist, the author of the book *No Justice*, and a survivor of police brutality. The event was able to give the community of Messiah College the privilege to hear Robbie’s story of how one bullet changed his and his family’s life. Robbie was able to explain his story and allow those who attended to understand his journey with fighting for justice. Students were also given the opportunity to attend a personal meet-and-greet and book signing following the event.

**“We Matter” Showcase:** On February 15<sup>th</sup>, this event was a continuation of our Black History Month celebration as well. The purpose of the event was to allow students within the multicultural family to have a chance to showcase their God-given talents. From dancing, singing, and spoken word, we urged those who participate to share with us their multicultural experience through the talents of their choosing. This has been an annual celebration for BSU, and we hope to continue this event far into the future of our club.

**“This is How We Do It” Dance:** To end the celebration of Black History Month, we decided to throw one last dance of the year on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Located in the Larsen Student Union, those who attended were given the chance to enjoy the end of February through dance. Food and a photobooth station were also available to all attendees.

**“Waking Up White”:** On March 27<sup>th</sup>, this panel was the second time that BSU was able to put together such an important event for the students of Messiah. The sole purpose of this event was to create a space where white students were able to juggle the concept of what it means to be an ally in the context of social injustice. This panel consisted of white students and faculty of Messiah who have wrestled within this understanding of ways to positively influence social change, without overpowering the voices of vulnerable populations. Though this event was open to all, it was catered towards understanding one’s white identity in the context of social change. The panel was to be looked at as a tool for those who have just started or even have been long traveling on this lifelong journey.

**Looking Ahead:** As we continue into the next year, BSU hopes to create more events geared towards students and faculty that promote reconciliation and difficult conversations. BSU has grown and we hope to see this continue as we enter the next school year. We are excited to see what this new academic year will bring to our organization.

## International Student Association & MuKappa Chapter *Tabitha Adel, President*

## Fall Events

**Familia Fridays:** Every Friday of the fall semester, ISA/MuKappa’s chaplain or the ISA coordinator would organize a group activity followed by a bible study and discussion

which focused on elements of vulnerability, international spiritual experiences, and stories. These events were catered to enrich relationships with God and each other. We found this to be a steady space for people to come, get to know a group and most importantly to unload after a busy or hard week. In changing the name from Rafiki Bible Study to *Familia* Fridays, we hoped to communicate a more inclusive environment where anyone may enter. Moving ahead, it may be worthwhile to advertise these events more than we currently do and elaborate on their purpose of bringing people, thoughts and ideas together.

**Fall Break Activities:** These events are hosted especially during fall break as many international, MK, and third culture students find themselves staying on campus without access to any fun activities. ISA/MuKappa has made sure to provide an alternative for those staying, international or domestic, as well as to support anyone going through homesickness or loneliness. The brunch on the first morning of fall break was a huge success as it brought anyone staying on campus to mingle and connect with others on campus. It is recommended that in the future we plan more indoor activities.

**“Along with the Gods” Screening:** This event was hosted with ASA and consisted of a screening and discussion of the Korean film “Along with the Gods”. Our discussion was focused on the elements of spirituality (specifically Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism) and how we grew up learning about these things in our schools and/or churches. It was a rich conversation on the participants’ journey of spirituality with their non-Christian friends and allowed for understanding the type of Buddhism depicted in the movie.

**“Crazy Rich Asians” Interview Video:** This 10-minute interview was screened prior to each Lost Film screening of *Crazy Rich Asians*. The interview focused on Asian representation in media and personal anecdotes of what the interviewees felt/thought of while watching the movie. The interviewees themselves were Asians or Asian-Americans part of the Messiah College student body.

## Spring Events

This year was a remarkable time for ISA/Mu Kappa. Looking back, it is encouraging to see the many ways we were able to achieve our overall vision of being a bridge between the international, MK/TCK community and domestic student body. Unique to this year was our intentional collaboration with the Multicultural Council (MCC) and other clubs on campus. By linking together pre-existing communities in this way, ISA/Mu Kappa was able to build more relationships.

**Rafiki *Familia* Fridays:** New in spring of this year, Rafiki *Familia* Fridays allowed for faculty members from international backgrounds to pour into the lives of our student members. Through inviting them to share on biblical passages and provide spiritual advice from personal experience, attendees were able to participate in a time of spiritual growth infused with cultural nuances. Likewise, we allowed for other student leaders (such as members of the LOFT) to use their leadership styles to pour into our members.



**International Gala:** Perhaps the highlight of this year, ISA/Mu Kappa successfully transitioned into a new way of celebrating the many cultures represented at Messiah College. Previously known as our annual International Banquet, this event was reformatted to an International Gala hosted primarily at the High Center. The night retained integral elements of the International Banquets of previous years from a feast to a flag procession to performances and a fashion show, but added more meaningful aspects with a dessert reception and gallery of student poetry and art. Doing so allowed us to welcome a greater vision of celebrating our student legacy at Messiah College, and we are still on the horizon of finding more ways to do so. We were honored to have been able to provide a grander platform to showcase our international, MK, third culture and multicultural students.

**Looking Ahead:** All in all, ISA/Mu Kappa has been tested in many aspects of student leadership, but through streamlined communication, constant support from MCC clubs and SGA, and guidance from our advisers, we were able to tackle all of these challenges. Moving forward, it would be important to continue to build rapport with other student leaders on campus to help achieve the greater purpose of creating a safe, enriching environment for all students at Messiah College.

### **La Alianza Latina**

***Luz Nieto-Gonzalez, President***

### **Fall Events**

*Baila* was done in celebration of Hispanic heritage month. We held *Charlas* (member meetings) at least twice a month. During *Charlas*, we had discussions concerning Latino issues. We also had two events with authentic Hispanic food. During these events, we discussed problems in Latino America. We also talked about what it means to be Latino on campus. We ended the semester with our relaxation night. During relaxation night, we had the opportunity to come together as community.

### **Spring Events**

This spring, we focused on strengthening relationships among our members. We had *Charlas* that evoked meaningful conversation that allowed our members the opportunity to share their stories. When we shared stories and experiences, our club was intentional in listening to each other. This semester we wanted to share stories and experiences so that students could relate and learn from each other, and an event that highlighted all of this was our first panel discussion. La Alianza Latina held its first official panel discussion on immigration. This event invited professors, staff, and alumni to share their experiences in regard to immigration. The event was a success and it sparked more conversation on campus. This event branched out as a Civil Discourse event held by SGA in collaboration with us and Human Rights Awareness. We also collaborated within MCC and with Agapé to empower migrant high school students to pursue higher education during the RISE retreat.

**Closing Remarks*****Gloria Igihozo***

This year was challenging, busy, and educational for MCC leadership. Looking to the future, we hope to create more learning spaces and collaborate with different organizations on campus. Above all, we are grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the Messiah College community. As we prepare to pass on the torch to other leaders, we hope that MCC continues to be a space where individuals can challenge one another and learn about the connection between race and identity. I see so much potential in the incoming core team and look forward to what they will offer this campus.

To future leaders, I hope you continue to make MCC a welcoming environment for all individuals, but more importantly, a safe space for students of color. The core team is the backbone and wheel of MCC. So, I urge you to use the resources and support that you have within your core team. Look out for one another, take care of yourselves, and never hesitate to “climb the mountain of injustice no matter how uncomfortable it makes other people feel” (Austin Channing Brown).

To my current core team, this campus is blessed to have had such caring, thoughtful, and fierce women leading difficult conversations on race, gender, and culture. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. I hope you know that your work has set a precedent for generations of students and leaders of color on this campus. You will be dearly missed!

**Signed,**

Gloria Igihozo '19  
Chair of the Multicultural Council

---

**Year-End Report of Student Ministries  
Isaac Brunk, Student Body Chaplain****Personal Reflection**

The fall semester was a semester of growth and development for Student Ministries. Our goals were to create a strong group of Student Ministries leaders that were connected to each other. We also wanted to work on training other students to live in the Lord even without being a part of Student Ministries. Other goals included outreaching to the student body through worship nights and collaboration with other groups on campus, expanding participation in and understanding of prayer through prayer ministry activities, and beginning a Student Ministries restructure for 2019-2020. These goals were met through leadership training before the semester began, collaboration with the LOFT and MCC for worship nights, and prayer ministry meetings that were consistent.

The biggest event of the spring semester was Incense, our annual worship night. It was great to see Student Ministries work together and collaborate with Powerhouse and the United Voices of Praise. The Lord moved in our hearts and the hearts of others on

campus. This spring semester has been a lot of interior work for Student Ministries with the preparation for the new structure that will be applied in 2019-2020. It has been great to see the Lord put everything in place at the right time and to see His faithful hand guiding us. We are excited for each of the new student leaders next year and to see how each of them will grow together, with campus, and in the Lord. The farewell to a great friend and faithful servant, Evie Telfer, has also made this semester bittersweet. We are excited for Evie's new steps she is taking but are sad to see her leave. This adds more to the transition process next year and we are eager to see what new person God has in store to advise Student Ministries. Overall, we are grateful for each other, campus, and most importantly our God. God has been faithful, as always, this year and we are all so grateful for how He has moved. We are proud of our ability to grow together in Christ and to live in authentic love in and out of our job descriptions. Throughout the year we stayed rooted in Christ, built deep relationships and were supportive through the easy and hard times.

### **Restructuring Process**

Student Ministries has restructured and updated in order to follow the spiritual growth that is occurring and will occur in the hearts of students on campus. Our new mission statement is "to equip our campus to live in Christ". Our new vision statement is "to help our students in their understanding of identity, relationships, healing, and calling through a lens of truth and love". My position of Student Body Chaplain will be replaced with an Executive Director of Student Ministries, who will lead a new Student Ministries Council to oversee four teams: Prayer, Chapel Planning, Discipleship, and Events. This updated council will seek to fulfill the mission and vision of our organization through creating a unified voice. The leaders on the council will then be tasked to carry out this unity to their various areas. Under the discipleship team will also fall new focuses on men's and women's ministries. We hope this new mission along with the position changes for Student Ministries will help to grow this campus closer to God.

### **Kairos Chapels**

Throughout the year, the chaplain team worked hard at planning and executing Thursday morning chapels every other week. These chapels were a huge success as the student body was encouraged with the truth of the Gospel through the work of the Holy Spirit in each person involved. A variety of music, messages, creative elements, and overall structure was achieved throughout. The obedience of the chaplain team to follow the Lord's heart made these chapels both meaningful and relatable, but most importantly declared the truth of Jesus Christ. The planning process for these chapels presented its challenges, but God continually reminded us of His faithfulness. As we trusted in the Lord to bring the message that He had for us and the student body, He came through. The chaplain team was also heavily involved in the planning and execution of Incense, and the team took a variety of responsibilities throughout the event. Overall, the event was a huge success for Student Ministries and we are excited for the Lord to continue to move in hearts on campus. The chaplain team celebrates a good year and is looking forward to the new Chapel Planning Team to replace the current chaplain team.

### **World Christian Fellowship** *Jacob Lucas, Director*

Over the fall semester, WCF hosted and co-hosted several events. The first event that we put on was the annual "canoe-a-thon". We had a less than ideal turnout but were still able to run the trip. The next events took place in November, when we hosted the annual Missions Awareness Fair and brought in outside mission organizations and gave them space to interact with students for an afternoon. We also hosted a panel discussion about initial entry into the mission field and fears or concerns that could go with that. This event was not as well attended as we had hoped but was a great opportunity for those that did attend to hear the testimonies and "I wish I'd done it this way" stories from the experienced missionaries who sat on the panel.

The spring semester has also been a great experience for the WCF team in putting on events and running bi-weekly Thursday chapels. They have been stretching due to the condensed time schedule compared to the fall semester but have also been a good time of growth as all team members have pitched in to carry the weight. I think that these chapels have gone much more smoothly than in past semesters, mostly due to practice but also that we have put a larger emphasis on the team and working together. The collaboration has seen a broader scope of ideas being thrown into the mix and I believe an overall better product for the students. Our main event this spring semester was Incense. My team and I were responsible for one of the reflection stations as well as assisting with some of the prayer ministry and set up/tear down. I think this event went off without a hitch and we had great involvement from the whole WCF team and volunteers.

### **Koinonia Small Groups** *Monica Blair, Director*

In the fall semester, Koinonia worked on vision-casting for the future. We worked at figuring out what this ministry would look like in the year to come as Student Ministries worked on restructuring, while also focusing on the current ministry that we had and the students who were currently involved. In balancing these two main goals, the Koinonia team was vigilant in providing meaningful events for current members of the ministry in a way that demonstrated our core values to be carried into the new structure.

In the spring semester, Koinonia has continued to plan for the future by ushering out a current ministry that has functioned for about ten years and welcoming in the new structure for next year. This semester has been very transitional for many of the members of our team, where half the members are graduating and won't be able to see the full result of their restructuring efforts, but the other half will be taking on leadership positions next year in the new structure. There was some difficulty in participation from members of Koinonia and we struggled with getting students on campus to sign up to be in a small groups. This is another part of why Koinonia will be transitioning out and the new men's and women's ministries will be taking form so that students find a better fit in these groups. Our "Kore Team" has been planning events and logistics for how Student Ministries will continue their functions in the new teams for next year, and our mentor team has been very diligently preparing leaders for next year's small groups by mentoring potential leaders and encouraging leaders to continue from this year into the future.

**Koinonia Small Group Chapel:** Each year, we have the privilege of planning a six-week chapel for the first half of the semester. The Koinonia team arranges for a speaker (this year and last year we welcomed Stephen Gallaher to speak) who provides guidance in how to work well with a small group and provides direct biblical support. This year, we described the chapel in a way to draw in students who were or were not already involved with Koinonia, so we feel this was helpful in allowing students to learn interpersonal and Bible study skills without needing to formally commit to leading a group at that time.

**Koinonia Fall Retreat:** Each semester, we hold a retreat for the leaders of Koinonia to attend. This year, we chose to invite all members (leaders and group members) to our retreat as well as some other student ministry groups such as Logos and the prayer team. The Koinonia Kore Team planned this event and orchestrated all of the major elements such as speaker, meals, activities, transportation and more.

**Gingerbread House Competition:** This event is held annually at the end of November and we decided this year to open it first to Koinonia small group members, then later opened it to all students to form groups to compete. In this event, each group (4-8 people) is provided with the materials to build a gingerbread creation. After an allotted time, three special guest judges determine the groups who win in each of several categories, such as most biblical, most creative and best overall. This event was a lot of fun for our leadership team and for the students who participated, and it also gave students the chance to spend meaningful time with their small groups and friends. It is something students look forward to each year and we plan to continue holding this event in the future.

**Spring Involvement Fair:** Koinonia had a table set up in the Union for students to sign up to join a small group. While we did have a number of people ask for more information, we did not have as many students sign up as we had hoped, and those who did sign up did not end up committing to the groups they were placed into. This was still a valuable way to let students see what ministry opportunities are available on campus.

**“Min It To Win It”:** Koinonia held a game night for all members of Koinonia, which we then opened for all of campus to attend. We collaborated with members of the LOFT to facilitate large group games, then members of our leadership team planned and led smaller “minute to win it” games. The goal of this event was to provide a fun environment for groups to come and relax while also enjoying time for group bonding. The attendance was much lower for this event than we had anticipated, but those who did come, even those who only stopped in for a few minutes to play a game or two, seemed to enjoy themselves. Our leadership team members were able to connect with other students and encourage their participation in small group ministry.

**Spring Leadership Retreat:** Koinonia planned and led a student leadership retreat for current Student Ministries leaders and those who will be stepping into leadership positions next year. The goal of this event was to prepare leaders for their roles next year and to provide guidance for how to productively participate in team ministry. The event was well-attended and had a good response from participants. Our leadership team had a

poor experience with the camp owners/leaders/directors and will most likely not return to the same camp in the future.

### **Logos Bible Studies**

***Olivia Essig, Director***

Throughout the year, Logos Bible Studies continued to hold three weekly bible studies in the first-year dorms. We studied passages in Acts and Luke, and we had one co-leader change with a student returning this spring. Moreover, each study saw the common shifts in attendance with a new semester. To varying degrees, our bible studies lost and gained regular attendees. Nonetheless, we saw growth in the students who came regularly. They dug into the passages we were studying beyond what we were expecting, and they shared great applications for the passages. Additionally, Logos held a bible study for both faculty and students for the first time. It was a one-time event, and we had about twenty-five faculty and students come to study a passage in Luke 13. Overall, the integrated study was short but had some good discussion and went well. We are considering doing another event like it in future semesters. Furthermore, we would love for more students come and study Scripture inductively in community over the upcoming years.

### **Closing Remarks**

***Isaac Brunk***

I can't help but be grateful and give praise to God for this whole year. He has been faithful, and it is an honor to represent His Kingdom every day. Through the challenges and celebrations of the year, He unified us and continued to touch hearts on this campus. Many lives are being changed on this campus as people are hungry for Him. For the whole of Student Ministries, I hope that the team this year has set an example of obedient followers of Christ that always remained in Him. I pray that future Student Ministries leaders will continue to abide in Him and live out their true identity. It may be hard at times and opposition may come, but stay connected to "The Way, The Truth, and The Life". He will always guide you and He always goes with you.

**Signed,**

Isaac Brunk '20  
Student Body Chaplain

---

## **Year-End Report of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning Unique Eaton, Director of Human Rights Awareness**

### **Personal Reflection**

The mission of the Agapé Center is to cultivate holistic learning experiences through service with community partners to foster an ethic of discipleship, service, and civic engagement in students. This mission was met this year through numerous educational programs and service opportunities. For Human Rights Awareness, the goal for the fall was to participate in more collaborations. Our spring goal was to increase participation in our outreach programs, service trips, and educational events. We are proud of the number of students who serve in both local outreach and service trips and we continue to strive for more service campus-wide. However, our participation numbers in our educational events did not change much this past semester. Due to the transition between directors and the timing of spring semester, there wasn't much preparation. We hope that with the new year, we will be able to prepare and plan earlier and as a result, hold more educational events.

Transitioning from being a part of the team to a director role taught me a few things. First, I learned how important preparation is to the success of a group. Since we did not have much time to plan, we did not have as many events as we did in the past. While I am proud of the things that we did do this year, I hope that in the future we will be able to do more and reach more people. I also learned a lot about myself as a person and as a leader. This was the first semester where I was responsible for my own team and I acquired skills like patience and communication skills that are necessary to lead others. I learned about new areas where my passions lie and how I can share my passions with other people so that as a Christian community and a future generation of leaders, we can make a difference in the lives of more people.

### **Human Rights Awareness**

***Megan Eaton, Fall Director***

***Unique Eaton, Spring Director***

This fall, Human Rights Awareness held a number of education events that focused on various human rights issues. Our events included the Justice for the Poor Podcast, Sustain-a-Fest, the SNAP Challenge, a six-week chapel series, and the Swap-and-Mend. HRA's spring events included the Rhetoric of the Refugee simulation event and a five-week chapel series. During the Rhetoric of the Refugee simulation event, students participated in a simulation of a refugee's journey into America. Students were separated into family groups and taken through stations that represented various conflicts typically experienced by refugees. The five-week series was based on the book *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. Throughout the series, students and faculty reflected on the book and their own experiences. Human Rights Awareness also hosted Austin Channing Brown for a day; in addition to speaking in both morning and evening chapels, students and faculty had the opportunity to eat lunch with her and students of color were able to have dinner with her.

## **Local Outreach**

***Dakota Kelso, Fall Director***

***Ben Baddorf, Spring Director***

This spring, local outreach sent out a number of teams to various locations in the Harrisburg and West Shore area. This was done mostly in the form of our weekly, biweekly and monthly volunteering trips. Our outreach leaders also led their volunteering teams in reflection activities to process what they learned from their work. This helps students to process and understand the implications of their service and increases sensitivity to the surrounding community.

## **Domestic Service Trips**

***Maura Giannone, Fall Director***

***Courtney Catlin, Spring Director***

In the fall, service trips sent out four teams to various locations. Our team spent months preparing by coordinating with the agency, training leaders, and strategically planning orientation. Of 43 total students, we worked with 10 multicultural students and four male students. We worked with ten first-years, nine sophomores, twelve juniors and twelve seniors, who were distributed as follows:

- 11 to Catholic Charities
- 9 to Priority One
- 11 to Urban Tree Connection
- 12 to the Steinbruck Center

In the spring, service trips sent out four teams over J-Term break and five teams over spring break to various locations. Our team spent months preparing by coordinating with the agency, training leaders, and strategically planning orientation. Of 96 total students, we worked with 33 multicultural students and 15 male students. We worked with 15 first-years, 20 sophomores, 26 juniors and 26 seniors, who were distributed as follows:

- 13 to Steinbruck Center (J-term)
- 13 to Priority One (J-term)
- 13 to CBFNY (J-term)
- 12 to Catholic Charities (J-term)
- 7 to WorkFest (spring)
- 15 to Vigilant Hope (spring)
- 9 to Priority One (spring)
- 6 to Interfaith Philadelphia (spring)
- 8 to Catholic Charities (spring)

After the trips returned home, we engaged students in a debrief night that included a strong focus on students' calling to service and their personal journey of faith. The students gave feedback through a Qualtrics survey and the conclusions for those surveys were very positive.



**Closing Remarks*****Unique Eaton***

This year presented a lot of transition and revelation for HRA, including the transition of people with many current team members graduating and revelation of the work that needs to be done to make a bigger impact. As we move into a new school year, I hope that HRA will be able to do more on an individual basis as well as in collaborations with other groups on campus. I am excited to see what the new team members will bring to the team and how they will grow as leaders next year. I am also looking forward to seeing how, overall, the Agapé Center will continue to foster learning experiences campus-wide and the impact that students will make in the community.

**Signed,**

Unique Eaton '20  
Director of Human Rights Awareness

---

**Year-End Report of The Pulse**  
**Dakota Vaughn, Student Director**  
**Amber Clemens, Assistant Student Director**

-

**Personal Reflection**

At the start of the fall semester, The Pulse staff set five goals:

1. To partner with a variety of voices in order to represent a broader campus community.
2. To foster an office culture that promotes collaboration, relationships and communication.
3. To maximize our resources in a hospitable way in order to invite members of the Messiah community to learn who and what The Pulse represents.
4. To produce professional content that truthfully represents our unique community and furthers our relationships with God and one another.
5. To develop a level of creativity that reflects the organizational brand and communicates a vibrant, unified public image.

Reflecting back on this year, The Pulse has achieved so much. We are most proud of our successful rebranding and overall growth on campus. We have focused heavily on fostering a collaborative and relationship-based office culture. We have effectively

translated this hospitable culture to members outside of the organization through our open office hours, free merchandise, and office tours whenever possible. It was our goal to eliminate any sense of exclusiveness, focusing on making campus aware of who we are and what we do. We have also successfully partnered with other organizations in greater and different ways than before. We wanted to make it clear that we don't just cover the news that happens on campus, but that we are involved and passionate about other organizations and people around us. At The Pulse, we seek to tell everyone's story on campus and provide students with information on important current happenings.

A goal we had entering the spring semester was to be more open and willing to help other clubs with their needs, participating in their events and educational opportunities. As a club we feel we have successfully grown and accomplished this goal. We increased our communication with other clubs, encouraging them to reach out to us with information and to convey their ideas and potential needs. We have helped several clubs with events by providing photographers, radio ads, interviews, social media marketing and more. We have helped with events such as Martin Luther King, Jr. week, the International Gala, SAB dances, and B-sides to name a few. This goal required greater external communication. In some areas, The Pulse has fallen short of our goals. Busy schedules and schoolwork have prohibited us from doing more to foster relationships within our club. Unfortunately, we had hopes to hold more team-building and office hang-out events. This is something we look to continue developing in the future, so that our team can be strong and committed to helping each other in any and every way.

### **Swinging Bridge Magazine**

We published 3 issues of the magazine this spring semester as usual. At the beginning of the year, we decided as a club to increase the amount of magazine copies from 700 to 750 per issue due to increasing popularity last spring. All but a few of the 750 copies we have ordered this year made it into the hands of students with little leftover. We are encouraged by the great support and interest our student body has shown us with the Swinging Bridge. We have seen success with the added magazine rack to the Commuter Lounge and relocated rack in the library as well.

### **Pulse Radio**

At the beginning of the year, the Pulse felt that our radio station was the weakest and required the most work. Reflecting on the semester, Pulse Radio has boasted nearly 20 active DJs as well as several weekly podcasts – a new addition this year. Pulse Radio has also faithfully broadcast Messiah's soccer and basketball games. We continue to receive new music from up-and-coming artists and have had the opportunity to interview several of those bands and air those interviews on our station. We have also had the opportunity to record events for other clubs, such as the Open Councils for MCC and the live podcast panel for Human Rights Awareness.

## **Online Content**

We are continuously updating our online content, from weekly recurring columns to individual news stories on events happening around campus. A few highlights from this semester's online news include Tattoo Tuesdays, Weekly Sports Updates, and "Know Before You Go". These, among others, are faithfully published weekly columns regarding campus sports, students with tattoos, and reviews of upcoming Lost Films – content which is sure to engage our campus community. We also want to highlight our breaking news coverage, through which we brought awareness to students of important incidents concerning campus. Though not the most joyful topics for our team to cover at times, they were done so in a professional and timely manner and have helped to alert students of vital information and keep students safe.

## **Clarion Yearbook**

At this point in the semester, our yearbook manager has worked tirelessly with design assistants to complete this book. What better way to reflect back on our year than through the yearbook? All senior portraits, clubs, events, and more have been completed with final drafts and edits being made. We are happy to report we have had hundreds of seniors sign up to receive a free yearbook and are excited to mail them out soon.

## **Closing Remarks**

As we look back on this school year, we set lofty goals for ourselves. While schoolwork and busy schedules kept us from achieving everything we had hoped, The Pulse has grown in so many positive ways. We have laid the foundation to continue achieving great things in the future and being Messiah's heartbeat of campus. We will continue developing and maintaining our strong relationships with other clubs on campus, collaborating and encouraging everyone on campus to feel welcome in our office.

## **Signed,**

Dakota Vaughn '20 & Amber Clemens '21  
The Pulse Student Director & Assistant Student Director

---

## **Year-End Report of the Eyas Student Alumni Council Sarah Long, Senior Class Representative**

-

## **Personal Reflection**

Eyas executed fourteen events this year and continued to gain popularity and understanding of our mission and vision. This year, there has been an increase in student awareness of Eyas, an increase in the popularity and diversity of our events, and new

partnerships with offices on campus. Overall, the Council has had an extremely successful year with creating new ideas, developing better communication with other offices on campus, and relating to the student body.

## Fall Events

**“Last First”:** Between 200-300 seniors gathered at the Last First ice cream social to celebrate their last first academic day of undergraduate careers. The event took place on the lawn of the legacy park.

**“First Friday”:** This is the second year Eyas has taken on the freshman dorm v. dorm dodgeball tournament and there were hundreds of first year students who came out to compete and enjoy ice cream together.

**“Sophomore Mugging”:** Sophomore mugging in the rain location of Boyer Atrium. Hundreds of sophomores gathered for root beer floats, music, and fellowship provided by Eyas to welcome them into their sophomore year.

**“Two S’more Years”:** This year’s Two S’more year about 300 juniors gathered at the rain location of Jordan lobby in order to celebrate their “two more years” of college.

**Soccer Tailgate:** As has become commonplace, the soccer tailgate was a huge success with around 200 students and alumni joining in the BBQ before the women’s and men’s soccer games. Most participants also stayed to enjoy the men’s game. The event took place in front of the softball fields.

**Homecoming Whiteout March:** With many students in attendance, the homecoming whiteout was again a great success. Students received free shirts and were given preferential seating on the track during the game.

**“Bombardment”:** This year, we were going to not have a dodgeball tournament. It was our least attended event. However, a social work major reached out to Eyas and asked to joint sponsor an event. We had about 10 teams from 8-12 play each other to win championship t-shirts.

## Spring Events

**“Give Big”:** This year is the second year with this new event. In years past a similar event was called We <3 Messiah. It is aimed at developing philanthropy in students and increasing awareness of how donations work for the college. We had a donor representation station, a thank you note station, a give one/get one station, and more. Hundreds of students were touched by this event.

**“The World Through My Eyes – Four Stories on Going and Doing”:** This was the first year we ever tried to create a TED style panel event. We did not have many attendees, in part due to the rescheduling of a common good speaker during our event. We had four

amazing speakers share with us what it meant for them to “go and do” and how God has worked in their lives.

**Alumni and Student “Eggstravaganza”:** While we have to reschedule the student egg hunt for another time, the events went very smoothly. We had around 220 students participate in the egg hunt and many alumni/community members came to campus with their families to participate in the egg hunt on Eisenhower lawn. This location worked well for us this year. We will be doing the event again next year to continue the tradition.

**Impact Venture Challenge Dessert Reception:** As in the last few years, Eyas funded a dessert reception after the Impact Venture Challenge finale in order to promote a spirit of networking and togetherness. We think that it has been consistent with the pillars of our organization so far, and will likely continue this sponsorship in the future.

### **Recruiting & Alumni Council**

This fall, Eyas acquired four new first-year members, three new sophomore, and one new junior member. Eyas student leadership continues to be wonderfully strong and reliable, as well as very creative and diverse in ideas. Additionally, Eyas once again had the honor of a non-voting seat on the Alumni Council granted to the Chair of Eyas. This position allows for feedback and representation from a student perspective.

### **Closing Remarks**

Next year we are looking forward to revamping some events, creating new ones, and retiring some others. We will be onboarding at least 4 first-years. We will also be absorbing the Senior Class Gift Committee for future years. Eyas hopes to continue have a positive influence on the Messiah College community. Our goals next year will be to facilitate student/alumni interaction, to enhance school spirit while unifying the classes, and to increase tradition and legacy. Our new leaders will be Senior Rep. Emily Tinguely, Junior Rep. Alyssa Smoker, and Sophomore Rep. Haley Blauch.

**Sincerely,**

Sarah Long '19  
Eyas Senior Class Representative

---

## Year-End Report of Minds Matter Ashlynn Young, President

### Personal Reflection

I believe that as an organization, we were able to effectively fulfill most of our goals for the year and were able to hold many events that fell in line with our mission. In the beginning of the year, we set out goals to expand our outreach, make the organization more effective, better our educational programming, and improve our media and overall presence to those on campus. I believe that all four goals have been met in one way or another. One way in which we were able to accomplish our goals this year was by restructuring our leadership positions to allow for more efficiency and cohesiveness as a group. We were able to bridge certain positions in order to cluster the descriptions together that were closely related. For example, we combined the Vice President of Media role with the Communication Coordinator role, thus forming the Vice President of Media and Communication. We hope that this will help our organization to focus more on achieving bigger and better goals throughout the upcoming years.

Additionally, we tried very hard to make our organization more accessible and more encompassing of multiple areas within the Messiah community that we have not been able to do in the past. We made our weekly meetings more discussion-based to provide opportunities for more student engagement and to make the meetings more meaningful as well. We want the students to be able to talk about topics they are passionate about, and by changing the meeting structure, we were hoping to provide an outlet for such discussion, making it more student driven. I think that, through our work this year, we have been able to show how and why these changes have been enacted. We are very pleased with how we have done this, specifically through collaboration with groups we have not partnered with before, presenting topics we have not before (mental health and spirituality, ADD/ADHD, anxiety, struggles of going home, homesickness, etc.) as well as listening more to the needs of the student body by revamping our meetings and getting feedback from our chapel series and *#WhatsYourTake?* table.

As a leader, I have learned so much throughout this experience as the leader of an executive organization. There were challenges, hardships, successful and unsuccessful events and more, but it took me a long time before I realized that being a leader is not about the success or perfection of the job that someone is doing. It is about the quality of the work and the motivation behind it that truly matters. Our organization will never be perfect, but we can rest in the relationships made, the effect of our work on the student body, and the growth that happens as result. In addition, our organization has been learning how to eliminate confusion and lack of communication. We have implemented a Canvas page to store our documents, as well as a Basecamp account to keep track of our progress and plan our events to aid in better communication. This was part of our struggle this year, so for next year, I believe we can use what we have learned through this, fostering it to benefit from and grow as a team and an organization.

## Education Team

**“No Place Like Home”:** This event was an informal discussion and personal experience sharing with five panelists. Three of these were international student resident assistants and one was a Residence Director. Each of the panelists described their own personal experiences with homesickness and shared some various ways in which they have been able to work through it as well as tips for anyone in the audience who may have then currently been struggling, or those who have before. This event was one which we as a club have not done in previous years, and I felt personally that, overall, it was very well-received and allowed us to reach more students with a topic that was relevant to their lives. This was our first event and even though it went well, there were many last-minute difficulties that could have been prevented, so I hope for the future to better prepare our new student leaders and to be more prepared for these types of issues.

**Mental Wellness:** This event was a discussion by the team leaders of the Fitness Center, followed by personal experiences from two Minds Matter leaders. Leaders of the Fitness Center prepared an informational presentation on how wellness can affect our mental health and what students can do to better their mental state. Overall, this event seemed to be well-received, even though few students were able to attend.

**“Requiem”:** This event was focused on grief and loss. We were able to have Dr. Charles Seitz, chair of the Social Work department, speak in an informal setting about how grief and loss can affect our mental health and inform us of some ways that we may be able to utilize to help ourselves, and others, who may be struggling with some form of loss or grievance. We were able to listen to others share their experiences and pray with one another, which overall, allowed us to just be present with those who attended. I thought this was very powerful. A few students stayed after to pray and continue chatting with one student in particular who was struggling, which was absolutely incredible to see God at work through this event and the students who attended.

**“When Anxiety Attacks”:** This event mainly focused on education regarding panic attacks, anxiety attacks, and the differences between them. Two graduate school interns associated with the Engle Center were able to come speak on this topic and gave helpful resources, tips for how to recognize the signs in those who may be experiencing anxiety or panic attacks, and suggestions for those who attended who may struggle with these attacks to help them as well. This event was very informative and seemed to be very effective in educating on these attacks and how to help those in our own community who may not know how to handle them when they arise. We had a few last-minute setbacks with this event, so I hope in the future we can be more diligent and more prepared overall in order to prevent them from happening with others.

**“Hard to Go Home”:** This event was focused primarily on various aspects that may make it difficult for students to want to go home during breaks, on weekends and so forth, specifically looking at gaslighting, triangulation, and relational abuse within the home. Hannah McBride was able to speak on these topics to educate the students that attended and gave helpful handouts, encouragement, and opened up discussion for brainstorming

how students can manage and be uplifted when going through situations such as these. This even had a heavy nature, yet a nurturing and family-like one as well. It was very influential to hear how students were struggling and to see how others came around them with love and support.

**“Everywhere at Once”:** This event was planned to help educate the student body on Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Amy Slody from Disability Services and two Mu Chi members came to educate on the effects of these disorders and how they can be seen in others. In addition to this, they described ways in which students can help others who may have them. It was a well-attended event.

**Five-Week Chapel Series on Mental Health and Spirituality:** This event was set up to help educate the student body on how mental health and spirituality are related, and also how they may be stigmatized. There were various speakers discussing different topics each week. The basis of these different topics was to educate students on how mental health, depression, anxiety, and others may be viewed by the church and how we, as Christians, can break the negative stereotypes surrounding them in the church as well. This was the first chapel series that our organization has done and was well attended.

**Wellness Fair:** We were asked to participate in the wellness fair to promote the importance of mental wellness to the student body. We provided resources, stickers, stress-balls and more that the students could take with them, in hopes that they always remember to take care of their mind and mental well-being, especially in times of stress.

## Activities Teams

**Fall “De-Stress Fest”:** This is Minds Matter’s annual event to help eliminate stress during the semester’s mid-term and final exam periods. The week prior to this we had people from in and outside of the Messiah community bring in their dogs and puppies for students to pet and play with. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, we partnered with Order of the Falcon for a game night with video games, card games and board games in the Union and on the 30<sup>th</sup>, we held a yoga class and a Pilates class with professors in the Fitness Center. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, we had a make-your-own trail mix table set out for people to make as they were heading to class or passing by. Finally, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, we set out bubble wrap so that the students could walk on it and pop it as they walked by. This event is typically well-attended and seems effective in helping the students to take a break, even if just for a few minutes.

**3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:** This was another stress-relieving event that we held to allow students to slow down in the midst of their preparation for the fall semester finals week and have fun with their peers.

**“Untold Stories”:** This event partnered with Acclamation Dance Ministry to help share personal experiences with mental health struggles. We sent out a forum to have people anonymously write their stories and submit them to us. Then, the dancers used those stories and their own to choreograph a dance to each one that they would perform onstage. There was a talk-back and time for questions at the end, with prayer chaplains and



an Engle Center counselor available as resources. This event yielded positive outcomes and helped students to know that they are not alone in the struggles they may be facing.

**Spring “De-Stress Fest”:** For the spring version of this event, Minds Matter incorporated a few different activities to help students de-stress before finals. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, we held a movie night where students could take some time and relax and watch the movie *Inside Out*, which was followed by a discussion. Although this event was not well-attended, we attempted to help students de-stress. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, we held a fitness class in the new Fitness Center classroom and on May 1<sup>st</sup>, dog therapy was held on Eisenhower Lawn for students to stop by before or after classes. Lastly, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, we set up two tables, one with a make-your-own trail mix station, another with pots, soil, and plants for students to choose and take to enjoy for themselves.

### **Media Team**

The media team did amazing work in keeping our social media accounts active and engaging for the students who follow Minds Matter online. They made beautiful and well-crafted posters for each of the events that were held and found great memes to post, especially during stressful points in the fall and spring semesters.

### **Summary of Collaborations**

- PRSSA: Mental Health Awareness Week
- Residence Life: “No Place Like Home”
- The Fitness Center: Mental Wellness
- Graduate Interns with the Engle Center: “When Anxiety Attacks”
- Order of the Falcon: De-Stress Fest Game Night
- Social Work Department: “Requiem”
- Mu Chi Honors Society: De-Stress Fest hot chocolate and muffin table
- Hannah McBride: “Hard to Go Home”
- Student Government Association: *#WhatsYourTake?* Table
- Disability Services and Mu Chi Interns: “Everywhere at Once”
- Acclamation Dance Ministries: “Untold Stories”
- College and Student Ministries; Mike Blount, Dr. Valerie Lemmon, Rob and Jan Dormer, Beth Clark, Dr. Stan Hoover, Maya Georgieva, and Dr. Carol McGinnis: Five-Week Chapel Series on Mental Health and Spirituality
- Fitness Center: Wellness Fair

### **Closing Remarks**

Despite any challenges that may have arisen throughout the past year, this leadership experience has been filled with wonderful relationships, amazing and powerful events, and great collaborations that we hope to continue in the future. Going forth, we hope to make more positive changes to the organization in order to improve our overall effectiveness in and outside of it. We also aim to reach more of the student body to show

others what we stand for and support with even more collaboration of other clubs on campus. I hope that Minds Matter continues to grow and improve, and that we become more cohesive as a unit, working together to promote positive mental health.

**Signed,**

Ashlynn Young '20  
President of Minds Matter

---

## **Year-End Reports of the Diplomatic Corps Student Representatives to College Councils and Committees**

*“The Student Diplomats are perhaps one of the least known but most influential student groups on campus. Born from a joint effort between SGA and the administration to increase the voice of student representation in institutional decisions, these individuals are appointed by the Student Body President to serve on a number of the standing committees and councils responsible for crafting policies and initiatives at Messiah College.”*

### **Academic Council Todd Abbott**

Chaired by the Provost, this group of deans and faculty is an engaging forum through which come most proposals in the world of academia, typically before continuing on to the Community of Educators Senate. In my role, I am granted both voice and vote to this body, and felt welcomed warmly with open arms throughout the year. Major decisions in the fall semester included the finalization of our new Guiding Educational Assumptions (to which my predecessor, Jamie-Claire Chau, was a significant contributor last year), discontinuation of our Theatre Business and Spanish Business programs in lieu of the new B.A. in Business Administration, and approval of December candidates for graduation. The spring semester saw a number of new approvals for modifications and additions to minors and concentrations as well as decisions to limit “cross-listed” course confusion, to allow first-year students to declare minors, and to begin the development of undergraduate certificates in both TESOL and digital marketing. Following the tragic passing of our beloved classmate, Ethan Van Bochoven, we also engaged in a difficult discussion on future policies for the awarding of posthumous degrees to late students.

The most significant opportunity for my contribution to discussion came in late April as a proposal neared to discontinue the Adventure Education major. Before I had even learned of the upcoming vote, I was contacted by multiple concerned students for whom Adventure Education has left a profound impact. As a strong supporter of the LOFT team and Outdoors Club (groups to which Adventure Education plays an indirect but pivotal role), I was admittedly uneasy about the possibility of losing a program that offers such deep benefit to so many groups on campus. This was a rewarding opportunity for me

to fulfill the “bridge” portion of this role by meeting with my peers and representing their concerns to relevant members of the administration. Specifically, I worked with two dedicated and experienced LOFT members to focus in on the proactive benefits to mental wellness that Adventure Education programming can provide.

From the administrative standpoint, it was a sensible choice to part ways with the program, as enrollment has consistently fallen short and its courses rarely overlap with other degrees. Thus, I was conscious of the fact that this decision would likely pass through Academic Council regardless of my objections, and elected not to lobby for its denial but rather for the inclusion of an expanded section to the proposal: one that would acknowledge the inevitable trickle-down effects of losing the program and offer a commitment to prioritizing the future well-being of the LOFT through other means. To that end, the current half-time position to coordinate the LOFT will remain, and I am reassured to know that the importance of this organization was recognized by my strong support as shared in the meetings. After passage of the proposal by Academic Council, the document continued on to the Community of Educators Senate, where Marianne was able to reiterate student hesitations and where it was ultimately voted down. Regardless of what next steps may be taken by the administration, I was and am greatly encouraged to see the tangible effects that student representation can lend to institutional decisions.

### **Assessment of Student Learning Committee**

#### ***Abigail Ruth***

The Assessment of Student Learning Committee evaluates how well student progress is being measured, looking at specific curriculum changes to majors and departments, while also trying to improve assessment and clarify expectations. This semester, the committee updated and improved AEFIS, which is a system that will be used more in the future for storing files and evaluating progress. The QuEST curriculum was the first to be mapped onto it, with plans for other programs in the future. Our committee now also has a newsletter which is regularly sent to faculty and other interested parties of the college, and we revised the annual survey that faculty take and the executive summary. Lastly, we revised assessment plans and potential department and major changes including Environmental Science, Spanish/Chinese Business degrees, and assorted Music degrees.

My experience with the committee was a very positive one, encouraging me to share my opinions and perspectives and offering another eye on issues that seem mostly to pertain to faculty but that ultimately do affect the students. For example, we were discussing some aspects of the business degree, including the assessments in Accounting 242. I had just received the project guidelines for the main assessment in the class, and so I was able to explain it and how it pertains to the class in detail. I think I provided an interesting perspective being from two different schools and two different small majors, and I hope to continue to be able to provide more next year!

### **CCC Steering Committee**

#### ***Logan Knepper***

We had three main decisions reached throughout the fall semester. Firstly, we changed the opening CCC convocation to be flipped process, where students will watch a

video of Provost Basinger instead of attending the convocation in person. Secondly, a consolidated resource tab was created on Canvas to allow professors teaching the course to have a variety of resources at their fingertips. This included tips on teaching writing to those who are new to the course, as well as content-specific advice to allow professors the chance to see how others teach specific lessons on readings. This carried over into specific training before the course begins. Finally, the vocation essay prompt was revised to allow it to hopefully be more beneficial and allow students the chance to reflect on something that they care about and research it extensively. The goal was for it to be more succinct and meaningful for students.

The overall focus of the spring semester was also threefold. To begin with, there was a portion of focus placed on the changes we had decided upon in the fall as they were carried out. We had continual conversation to see how successful the changes were. Next, we worked on planning for May staff development. We determined to bring in several people who are excellent at teaching specific topics to share how they do so to professors who may struggle with those topics. Finally, we focused on looking towards possible changes for next year. We decided to keep the reader the same for at least another year, as the bookstore had ordered several hundred extra copies. The plan for next year is to look at shrinking down the size of the reader for spring of 2021.

It has been an enjoyable year working with the committee. I have done my best to give a student opinion on topics we discuss. I brought forth the idea of adding readings that are from contemporary writers, such as within the past decade. They are looking into it as it could be a better way for students to create more meaning for themselves without the additional hurdle of understanding older writing styles. However, I encouraged them not to simply cut out readings because they are difficult for some students, especially if there is something extremely valuable that can be gained.

### **Co-Curricular Education Committee**

***Brian Gilroy, Laurel Hicks, Ines Yoon***

This year, the Co-Curricular Education Council (CEC) reviewed the updated Guiding Educational Assumptions (GEAs) for what should guide the learning experience of Messiah students. We reviewed the changes and talked about the implementation and usage of technology as something with the potential to greatly alter the furthering of education. We decided to keep the GEAs as were submitted to the committee for approval, but with a suggestion that there is a change back to the original wording of "Christian faith", and not simply "faith." Despite wanting to be inclusive, we felt it was more important to the Messiah identity to discuss and think about the Christian faith. We also reviewed clubs that were seeking recognized status and approved special interest housing applications.

The Spanish Club was passed with hopes for further collaboration with La Alianza Latina and the Multicultural Council. The Conservatives of Messiah College Club, Politics Club and Messiah College Percussion Society were also approved this year. The CEC has also voted to allow up to 3 members from clubs wanting to become recognized to come to committee meetings in order to voice their opinions. This will alleviate some stress from the Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Programs in having to represent them, as well as allow the committee to have a better understanding of the student intentions. Finally, the main addition to Special Interest Housing was the addition of a College Honors

Program house, in collaboration with the College Honors Program. We are excited to see how this addition helps special interest housing to flourish.

### **College Council**

***Todd Abbott***

As one of the final stops in the governance hierarchy, the nature of College Council is such that decisions are typically known and supported before ever reaching our agenda. Thus, from my admittedly limited one-year perspective as the student representative with voice but no vote, I experienced the Council as fulfilling a “rubber stamp” duty more often than not. Throughout the fall and spring semesters, Vice President for Finance & Planning David Walker kept us apprised of progressions in tuition pricing, budget strategies, and fiscal reviews for both the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years. The group was also informed of changes to both institutional travel policies and expenditure policies, the latter of which did directly affect SGA as we were forced to relay that school funds may no longer be used for the purchase of gift cards as club rewards or guest speaker honorariums (primarily due to tax complications). Program reviews were also presented for the Office of Alumni & Parent Relations as well as College Press & Postal Services. Most notably, we were joined by President Phipps for a final presentation of the proposed name change to Messiah University and supported her recommendation with unanimity as it was passed along to its final destination with the Board of Trustees.

### **Community of Educators Senate**

***Marianne Ramirez Gomez***

This year consisted mostly of approvals for both fall and spring graduates, the discontinuation and addition of majors, minors, and concentrations, and the affirmation of budgets. COE Senate discussed items such as the school’s University status, projected tuition and fees, assessment of the Student Learning Strategic Plan, and the restructure of the Diversity Committee. We also voted to discontinue the B.A. in Theatre Business, B.A. in Spanish Business, and Certificate of Graduate Studies in Online ESOL as well as adding a Web Development minor, a Professional Writing concentration and an M.A. in Intercollegiate Athletic Leadership. After much discussion and consideration of potential implications, COE voted not to approve the discontinuation of the Adventure Education major and minor. This forum did not require anything from me outside of what takes place in our Senate meetings. However, I enjoyed being able to interact with educators and witnessing their attempts to make decisions that are God-honoring and beneficial for this campus in its entirety. It was an honor to represent the student body and my fellow classmates through this experience.

### **Community Standards Committee**

***Sarah Fertsch, Tim Mahoney***

This year, the Community Standards Committee enacted a new chalking policy and poster policy, barred 3-D printers from residence halls, and reviewed an external audit of conduct at Messiah. Regarding the chalking policy, the committee limited the areas in

which students can draw or write on with chalk. The committee also adjusted the campus poster policy, meaning only posters that are sponsored by an official department, organization, or pre-approved content can utilize bulletin board space. Further, the committee investigated the health dangers of 3-D printers. When used in an open space, nanoparticles can cause organ damage and lung deficiencies. Therefore, the committee voted that 3-D printers would not be allowed in residence halls.

Throughout this year, the committee has executed the covenantal creed campaign. This campaign promotes the values of our community covenant to students, hoping to assert that the community covenant is not merely a student book of rules, but rather a promise of values (honesty, respect, integrity and reconciliation) that students adhere to while they live and interact with the college. Last spring, the committee designed and printed stickers with the covenantal creed logo. In the spring, college conduct was audited and the committee reviewed the findings. In coming years, the committee will establish a task force to write a mission statement for college conduct. Furthermore, specific guidelines for disciplinary action and clear-cut language surrounding disciplinary outcomes will be determined in the coming months.

### **Curriculum Committee**

*Chloe Dickson, Pascal Spronk*

This year, the Curriculum Committee has approved prerequisite changes, fee changes, and title changes. Specific items presented by the Biology department involved updating their course descriptions to be more accurate, focusing on teaching the genetics and phylogenetics necessary for graduate school. Animal Form and Function, a 3-credit class, is separating into two 2-credit courses: Animal Form and Systematics - BIOL 164 (during J-term) and Principles of Comparative Physiology - BIOL 166 (spring term). A new minor of Web Development (Computer and Information Science) has been approved, and the Web Management concentration has been renamed to "Web Development." We also approved the addition of a Professional Writing concentration to the English major, as well as the discontinuation of the B.A. in Theatre Business since students can now double major in theatre and the new B.A. in Business Administration. The department will teach out the courses for students currently in the major. In total, the Curriculum Committee approved revisions to 97 courses and small revisions to 24 majors this academic year.

### **Dining Management Committee**

*Laura Hudson, Jonathan Logan, Deanna Preziosi*

The Dining Management Committee polled current students using social media and face-to-face discussion about suggestions for improvements to dining options on campus. We then discussed this information with Director of Dining Service Mark Wirtz and Head Chef Percell Green in meetings and via email. We discussed dining improvements to Lottie, the Union Café, and the Falcon Café. As a result, the Union now offers healthy side options, such as fruit or vegetables, as an alternative to fries. There are now 12 new gluten free options and 10 new plant-based proteins at Lottie. The Falcon and Union now have bagels from a local bakery for those who cannot get breakfast in Lottie on the weekends, such as those on athletic teams or the LOFT team. Weekly specials are now in rotation to provide

more variety at the Union and Falcon. Thanks to Todd Abbott, a new smoothie program was implemented at the Union. Beginning next year, vending machines in the High Center will include fresh foods and entrées, such as sandwiches. Fall of 2019 will also bring additional grab-and-go options to the Union. All these changes are low cost, but positively impact a significant portion of students on a dining plan.

Mark Wirtz and Percell Green have been invaluable resources, being open to discuss options and implement suggestions. Deanna and Jonathan were both able to offer feedback about living with allergies on Messiah's campus, and Laura was able to offer suggestions for Union grab-and-go options and communicate with Mark about student dining requests. We have received positive feedback about these changes, especially regarding updates made to the High Center vending machines and healthier side options at the Union.

## **Diversity Committee**

### ***Horacia Carryl***

This year on Diversity Committee was dedicated to exploring the intricacies of an evolving issue like diversity. During the fall semester, the committee reviewed the Diversity Strategic Plan and made a switch from three-year plan to a rolling plan. There were discussions about how the campus climate survey will play a role in future strategic plan. The committee also revisited the Civil Rights Bus Tour application and focused on the creation of an FAQ page. We discussed the positive results of the implementation of Spanish language (Spanish brochures at the help desk & higher Latino enrollment) because Latinos have become the largest group of underrepresented students on campus. There was the facilitation of a cultural intelligence workshop where a group of faculty members were evaluated by other faculty and themselves and held open discussion based on where they fell on the spectrum. The follow-up focused on how their results could be more helpful to students and other faculty. We discussed a follow-up to the student meeting with Trustees about faculty of color, and asked how we can do a larger scale cultural intelligence workshop for all faculty. During the spring semester, there was a mix between presentations and event facilitation. We focused on supporting events like the human library and the Civil Rights Bus Tour club. During our meetings, we heard presentations from the chair of gender concerns committee, updates from the campus climate action team and the results of Multicultural Scholarship Day. This year has been focused on faculty accountability and the implementation of programming that creates accessible education and opportunities related to diversity.

This committee was a great opportunity for someone in my role to look into the administrative processes related to diversity. It is a great balance of having the opportunity to input a student perspective as well as an opportunity to connect with the real processes of what it means to carry out diversity work in an educational setting. Having an opportunity to sit in the CQ workshop last semester was an opportunity to gauge my own strengths and weaknesses as a culturally competent person, as well as give critique on how we can improve our institution.

**Educational Technology Committee*****Jared Butler, Aveyah Craver, Tanner Stern, Ethan Wong***

The Educational Technology Committee is dedicated to improving the experiences of both educators and students through information and technology services. This semester, we set into motion a variety of initiatives including updates to Canvas, classroom upgrades, and easier student access to Qualtrics and other online tools. As you may have noticed, some of these changes have already taken effect. MCSquare has been officially retired and replaced with FalconLink. And, as a measure against phishing scams, a warning message has been applied to all emails sent from accounts not associated with the college. We have also released next year's list of Sawyer Digital Proficiency Initiative Faculty Fellows. As we approach summer break, there are several things to look forward to for next school year. At the library, the Institutional Repository Task Force is opening MOSAIC: a space for students to showcase and archive their digital work. Learning Technology Services is considering changes to the Sawyer Digital Proficiency Course to maximize benefits for students. Keep your ears open for further developments in eSports on campus. Your student representatives will continue to do our best in providing a student point of view in the Educational Technology Committee's idea generation and decision-making!

**First-Year Experience*****Emily Tinguely***

In the fall semester, the committee discussed the transition of welcoming new first-year students to campus. To that end, a new FYS class called "Designing Your Messiah Experience" was offered as a pilot program by SILP Director Kevin Villegas and Vice Provost/Dean of Student Kris-Hansen Kieffer, which gave students a chance to dive deeper into their transition to college. We also talked about retention rates from the prior school year. This spring, we agreed to keep Pastor Opitz's "Learning for the Love of God" as the common text for the 2019-2020 academic year. Service day was discussed, and it went very well this year! We also reviewed possible Welcome Week themes for the fall.

**Gender Concerns Committee*****Logan Buffington, Horacia Carryl, Verity Hwang, Josiah Nisly, Ronnie Woodring***

This year, the Gender Concerns Committee was active in many small ways across campus. We did not have a large project that we were working towards, but we were able to assist many other groups by providing insight towards their projects. The Gender Concerns Committee had the opportunity to provide feedback for the college's Diversity Strategic Plan. The Diversity Committee really appreciated our perspective, and we are currently trying to coordinate a Gender Concerns representative to sit on the Diversity Committee. We helped to review Compositional Diversity Protocol, and we revised the COE Handbook parameters for the Gender Concerns Committee. We also had the opportunity to give our opinions on the Riegsecker Grant applicants. As students, it is very empowering to know that our opinions are being considered and making an impact on campus, however small or behind-the-scenes it may be. There were several times that one of us would bring



up the student perspective on a topic of discussion and it would be something that the administrators proposing the topic had not considered.

This spring semester, the Gender Concerns Committee had the privilege of hosting two events on campus. The first event, which was co-sponsored by the Diversity Committee, invited the Sisters of Salaam Shalom to give a presentation and answer questions on campus. We were fortunate enough to have local members of the Sisters of Salaam Shalom to come for the event as well as the executive director of the organization and some members of their board of directors. We are hoping to invite this group back to campus next year as the event was very successful and thought-provoking. The Gender Concerns Committee's second event of the semester was the Women in Sport Event which was a night of community and growth for the female athletes at Messiah College.

### **General Education Committee**

#### ***Caroline Hickam***

This semester, the committee reviewed GELO (General Education Learning Outcomes) data to ensure that each of the four main GELOs are met. The four GELOs are: foster students who discern and communicate effectively, promote students' grasp of the larger picture, encourage the development of informed Christian convictions, and spur students to know self, know good, and do good. Response rates to these surveys have increased which better allows the committee to ensure that QuEST is properly relating to undergraduate outcomes prescribed by the college. We also reviewed and approved a course proposal called Non-Western Foods that is to meet not only the non-western requirement but is also an option for HDFS majors. This course brings a hands-on opportunity that allows students to experience other cultures in a unique way while also developing some life skills in the kitchen.

Our committee worked to approve a new definition for explaining the cross-cultural experience. This will help students trying to fill out a past experience waiver better understand if their experience will qualify or not. The definition helps outline the distinct cultures that are acceptable as well as the experience necessary; it can't just be a week-long tourist trip. The new definition is as follows:

*“Cross-Cultural Studies courses involve immersion in social and geographic context that is significantly different from the American context. Culture refers to shared macro-level traditions of language, religion, mythology, beliefs, values, social norms, customs, knowledge and other aspects that guide how the community's life functions. Within the United States only ethnic-linguistic communities with different macro-cultures may qualify. The Cross-Cultural Studies requirement differs from other requirements – such as Pluralism – which include sub-cultural difference within a larger population, including the way that those individuals in different categories of the sub-culture interact with each other on the basis of gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, region, urban/rural, etc.”*

The committee also took some time to evaluate writing courses to ensure that students are getting the proper writing support. Through the analysis of the three writing courses required of students Major Writing (Major W) in each student's specific discipline, FYS and CCC, the committee wanted to find ways to best analyze and ensure that proper

outcomes are achieved. We have lots of data for FYS and CCC but not very helpful data for Major W, so we have a proposal to improve our ability to get data from each department. In relation to that, the committee reviewed capstone courses for seniors by evaluating them in three categories and comparing this year's courses to previous courses. The categories reviewed were philosophical assumptions and ethical principles, faith connections, and post-graduate preparation and planning. It was suggested to consider courses on a case-by-case basis because some major courses cover these topics extensively, and although that is true there is still room for a final wrap-up of each of these three categories.

As Dean Lauermann's time in General Education comes to a close, it has been nice to see the ways that she has impacted General Education and the analysis of various programs within QuEST to focus not only on the college's goals, but also strongly consider student feedback and suggestions. As a work study and prior student of Dr. Lauermann's, it has been a unique experience to see data that I've put together using my skills from her class into charts that the committee has been able to use to its advantage to help better the general education undergraduate experience here at Messiah College.

### **Information & Web Technology Committee**

***Brian Gilroy***

Our committee went over some of the improvements that took place over the summer. Among these, we completed all-new wired and wireless connections as part of the Witmer Hall renovations. We also discussed the transition of the MC-WPA Wi-Fi network to Messiah Secured. Other key points were the transition of MCSquare to FalconLink and faster network bandwidth. Topics to be discussed further are the renewal of our Banner System and Canvas. In regard to these systems, some future network downtime will be needed to upgrade these core servers. Some of the other points of discussion were the eSports task force, multi-factor authentication, and external email warnings. We had a great discussion around a new contract platform that will be coming online very soon to help organize contracts for administration, faculty and student groups. Finally, we had discussions around Office 365 sharing properties and website audits. These discussions were helpful to be a part of and to understand the behind-the-scenes support and care to make our campus systems work as well as they do.

### **Library Committee**

***Rebecca Hegman, Rachael Jasitt***

This fall, we had a total of four meetings from September through December. Many topics were discussed such as the four-year strategic plan, creative commons licensing, the information literacy among students, and budgets, among other topics. While we did not officially finish the four-year strategic plan during the fall semester, much time was dedicated to gathering information from faculty, students, and other library staff on strengths and weaknesses of the library as well as areas that we should focus on for the strategic plan. After gathering this preliminary information, we assisted in editing and discussing the official document to be sent to other committees and groups for review. Another large part of the fall was spent discussing creative commons licensing in preparation for our digital repository and looking at statistics of information literacy

among first year students. These statistics were then used to aid the librarians in reforming the first-year library curriculum that is presented during the First Year Seminar and Created and Called for Community courses in the fall and spring semesters, respectively.

This spring, we have had a total of 4 meetings with our final meeting coming up at the beginning of May. We have covered many topics including the addition of an Institutional Repository, the use of Open Access resources, the review of the Collection Development Policies, revisions to the First Year Seminar (FYS) and Created and Called for Community (CCC) library curriculum, and the creation and revision of a survey about Murray Library that will be sent out to students and faculty in the fall. Out of all of this, the most exciting is the addition of an Institutional Repository. The institutional repository has an official name. 50 naming ideas were submitted and the name MOSAIC was selected by the task force! This naming idea came from Andrew Zimmerman. Submissions from Matthew Roth and Earl Henry were also top finalists. MOSAIC stands for Messiah's Open Scholarship And Intellectual Creativity. The institutional repository will be an online website that will showcase faculty and student scholarship and creative works plus college and church archival collections. It will include text, images, sound, and video, and will freely share high quality content to users around the world. The institutional repository is funded by the Sawyer Digital Proficiency Initiative and will go live in September 2019.

*Becca:* This is the second year that I have served as a Student Representative on the Library Committee. With the addition of our new Library Director, Linda Poston, this committee has been given new life. Linda and her administrative assistant, Tracy, have done an amazing job with organizing the committee and all of the written materials that are needed for each meeting. For me, I think the most impactful experience has been helping to revise the FYS and CCC curriculums as it pertains to the librarians. I was able to share from my own experience at Messiah as both a student and a Circulation Assistant at the Circulation Desk in Murray Library. Often, the committee would specifically ask for the student perspective during discussions. They were open and willing to listen to all that Rachael and I had to say and valued our ideas.

*Rachael:* I greatly enjoyed my time spent on the library committee this year. Throughout all of the topics that we discussed, I felt that my input as both a student and a circulation worker was taken seriously and considered among the other opinions that were offered as well. There was not any specific task that I was assigned to over this year, but I appreciated giving my input on the strengths and weaknesses of the library and categories that would be helpful to use in the four-year strategic plan. Having worked at the library all four years of my college career, I was glad to be able to share my opinions of where I saw strengths and where we needed growth. I hope that the input I have had on this committee will continue to propel the library forward as new projects and ideas are formed.

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Planning Committee** ***Adriana Lima***

Since our events take place the third week of January, this committee only meets during the fall semester. On the committee, there is a representative from each the Multicultural Council, Agapé Center, Murray Library, the Civil Rights Bus Tour, the Student

Activities Board, and the Student Government Association. We focus on how we can teach Messiah students about Martin Luther King, Jr. in a new way and that relates to the social issues we face today. There are many events throughout the holiday week dedicated to commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. and the work he did in the Civil Rights Movement. Our goal is to get students to think about how we are called to justice by God and how we can be a part of helping people who are marginalized by society like Jesus did.

The first event of the week is always the Agape Center's MLK Service Day, where students can volunteer to work with children for the day and learn more about African American history. Then we invite a chapel speaker whose message is based on civil rights. After, there is a panel discussion where people share their experiences about being on the Civil Bus Tour and a reception is held. Usually on the Wednesday night of the week, the Multicultural Council hosts a student celebration portion where we bring an artist that is passionate about social justice. This year we brought Sho Baraka. During the week, the library also puts up a display and SAB chooses a relevant Lost Film to play for the weekend. The movie is something that they want to also represent African American history and information on racial justice and injustices. There is also a debrief to discuss the film if it has heavy topics. The events mentioned above are what we usually do every year but more specifically what we did this year. Things can change depending on who is on the committee, but it wasn't something that was discussed often during our meetings.

Since I was the Multicultural Council Student Representative, my job was to put together the student celebration portion of the week. As mentioned before, with help from my advisor, Cherisse Daniels, and Sheryl Scaramuzzino from the SILP office, we were able to book Sho Baraka to perform for a second year. Unfortunately, since this was MCC's first year funding and hosting the event personally, we did not have a budget for the event. As a result, I was able to work to SAB and The Pulse and gain their support to help fund the event. Costs were split three way between each of us. Costs included flights for the performer and performer fees. Human Rights Awareness also helped by providing catering for the event. Overall, although it was a bit stressful to find funding in the beginning, my experience was pretty great. I had a lot of support and we were able to pull it off. Being a part of this committee was eye-opening to all the work that goes on to pull off events on campus. It was a great experience and I really enjoyed being part of this committee.

## **Oakes Museum Committee**

### ***Annelise Cruzan***

The Oakes Museum is an educational outreach of the college with a mission to create exhibits, programs and research to inspire wonder, discovery, and love of the natural world. This year, we have collaborated with the college for over 35 events (including Open House days, classes, dinners, and special events), engaged with over 3,550 visitors during our Saturday public hours, hosted over 130 school groups for field trips (10,000+ school kids), offered over 15 science classes for homeschool students, and had over 390 children come to our Curator Club and CC2 science programs! Our community engagement includes holiday and spring Open House days along with hosting off-campus events. In the last year, the museum restructured the staff giving the Assistant Director responsibility for managing the museum's collections. This will allow for better care of the collections, along with being able to partner with departments and classes on campus to

enhance teaching and offer research opportunities to Messiah students. Finally, we've had over 20 students volunteer with our Saturday public hours Curator Club/CC2.

This was my first semester serving on the Oakes Museum Committee, and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I have volunteered with the Curator Club program and at Open House days at the Oakes Museum for the past three semesters, and have appreciated being able to get more involved with the museum through serving on the committee. It has been a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the programs and occurrences at the Oakes Museum, as well as to be a part of the decision-making process for the museum. I look forward to serving on the Oakes Museum Committee again next year.

### **Peace & Conflict Studies Committee**

***Jill Cuervo, Chloe Oustrich, Kelli Reinbold***

During the fall semester, the PACS Committee nominated Dr. Jackie Ogega to give the Peace Lectureship for the Humanities Symposium in February. Her mission was to promote gender equality and reconciliation. Additionally, the committee updated our peace statement and later, the PACS major curriculum map. We coordinated with the heads of affiliated departments and gathered a synopsis of the most important objectives for the major courses. We also sponsored a group of Messiah students to attend the Mennonite Central Committee U.N. Conference in New York City. Students learned about the work that Mennonite Central has done in North Korea and some of the past and current diplomatic dynamics between our two countries. Shortly thereafter, we hosted a panel of students and they presented their experiences at their summer internships. Lastly, we sponsored a field trip to the Pennsylvania Center for Refugees and Immigrants; the trip was so impactful that three Messiah students actually arranged internships with the center for the spring!

In the spring, we discussed the future of the Social Justice House and whether the PACS committee will still sponsor it. After much discussion, members made the decision not to renew the SoJo house due to lack of student interest and tangible benefit to the PACS program. We also voted new a faculty member, Dr. Jason Renn, into the committee with a unanimous decision. In the next meeting, committee members discussed PACS senior presentations and the senior graduate dinner. We also sponsored a PACS-affiliated five-week chapel series on liturgical prayer and a PACS Service Day project with Christian Churches United in Harrisburg. Committee members also selected Galen Fitzgee to serve as a student representative on the Mennonite Central Committee Board.

### **Sustainability Committee**

***Sarah Fertsch, Dan Fliehler, Zhuang Lin Mok, Kate Witte***

Over the course of this year, the Sustainability Committee created a Sustainable Development Grant program. This program allows students, in partnership with faculty or staff, to submit a project proposal for a sustainable development project on campus. The committee reviewed the proposal process and the scoring rubric for the grant in the fall. In the spring, the committee awarded \$9,500 to an LED retro-fitting project for the lighting in "The Pit" parking lot. Additionally, the Sustainability Committee developed an internal document outlining Messiah College's commitment to sustainability and Creation care. The College's Climate Commitment has been reviewed and signed by President Phipps and we

are committed to reducing our carbon footprint 100% by the year 2050. As students who serve on this committee, we were able to provide a different perspective on the grant program and adjust some language and requirements that were outlined. We were also able to review the documents that were given to the President and provide input on them.

### **Teacher Education Committee** ***Patrick Mullin, Sarah O'Donnell***

In the fall, our committee (TEC) discussed class title variables, such as "EDUC", the usefulness of the English linguistics course for Teaching Certification students, and a potential laboratory science pedagogy course. In the spring, the TEC reviewed curriculum for the B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences Education with K-12 Teaching Certification. The changes to this program included the additions of Personal Money Management (BUSA 110), Textile Construction and Interior Design (HDFS 236), International Foods and Basic Culinary Practices (HDFS 231), Early Childhood Administration and Practice (HDSF 4xx), and Early Childhood Administration and Practice Experience (HDFS 4xx). Also in the spring, a draft was completed to serve as a plan for undergraduate students taking graduate level classes through Messiah College (similar to dual enrollment). This plan will allow students to pursue credit in a Master's program to make them more marketable. Special consideration for dual certification students was taken into account due to Pennsylvania's shift from Special Education certification from PreK-8 to PreK-12. No more actions have been taken on this drafted plan.

*Sarah:* This academic year, I was assigned the task of attempting to bridge student relationships through the Education Association, which is in place for practical and pragmatic values, such as sharing student voice with the usefulness of the linguistic course for English with Teaching Certification students, or adding/removing courses from certification programs. Being a part of this committee allowed me to appreciate the thoughtfulness and intentionality behind designing a Teacher Certification program for students and to grow professionally by participating in and giving student input.

### **Undergraduate Research Committee** ***TyJón Culclasure, Sarah O'Boyle, Katie Phykitt***

As the newly formed Undergraduate Research Committee, most of our meetings revolved around the structure and goals of the committee. Through this, we were able to restructure the committee to better represent the campus as a whole and anyone that is involved with undergraduate research support. Our main task for the fall was to develop goals and set up what it looks like for those goals to be met. We worked closely with the Digital Repository Task Force to deliver valuable input regarding undergraduate research considerations as a part of integrating the committee into the structure of the college.

During the spring semester, the committee turned its attention to designing and creating a well-functioning, multi-faceted website. In discussions about the website, we developed a clear, concise definition of the term Undergraduate Research for Messiah College. That definition is as follows: "*Undergraduate Research is an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual, applied, or*

*creative contribution to the discipline. Upon completion, quality undergraduate projects have potential for peer reviewed dissemination in forms such as presentation, publication, exhibition or performance.”* We also wanted to get a sense of student awareness around undergraduate research opportunities. The committee, with the assistance of the Institutional Research Office, developed and sent out an Undergraduate Research Survey. The data from this survey have been collected and will serve as a starting point for awareness of research opportunities. More information can be discerned from this survey data, and the committee will continue to analyze this data as a part of figuring out how we can best serve the campus in this area.

Because this is a brand-new committee, we feel that our experience will not be representative of our successors. The focus of the group was establishing a strong baseline and definition of undergraduate research, and while we were able to accomplish this, we did not go much past this point. Now that the groundwork has been laid, we hope the future representatives to this committee will be able to participate more actively and be more vocal about the presence of undergraduate research at Messiah College.

### **Wellness Committee**

***Logan Buffington, Jackson Lohr, Madi Morris, Kiera Wells***

In the fall, our committee began eight-week closed courses in yoga and anxiety management. Students are referred to these opportunities by the Engle Center, Minds Matter or Residence Life. If interested, they can pay \$15 for group exercise membership and are automatically booked for the eight classes, but can also attend other group exercise classes that are available into the spring. We also started personal training for faculty and students on campus, who can sign up online and schedule a time for them to work one-on-one or with a group at the fitness center. Lastly, we submitted a proposition for more standing desks on campus and brainstormed a faculty/staff walking campaign.

In the spring, we also worked diligently at many items, with the main event being the Wellness Fair. Our committee decided which events should be present at the Wellness Fair and approved different clubs and organizations around campus to host these respective events. The Fair was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience physical, mental, and spiritual wellness in different ways than their normal routine. The committee also discussed new additions to campus which can help students to improve their overall wellness, with one of those items being a massage chair that has been added to the Engle Center. This chair is open to all students and staff and can be reserved for 30-minute periods by calling the Engle Center.

*Kiera:* I recently had the opportunity to join the Wellness Committee as a student diplomat and, in the short time that I have been involved, I have noticed the talent and passion that the committee envelops. The Wellness Committee truly strives to serve the Messiah College community and desires to implement wellness into the everyday lives of all individuals on campus. I was able to attend several committee meetings and provide a student perspective on the events and ideas that were brought up during the sessions. This experience has been exciting, and certainly helped me to appreciate more of the behind-the-scenes work that goes on all around campus.

“The leadership of SGA shall have the following purpose:

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 & activities;

and to **represent students** before the administration, faculty, Board of Trustees, and surrounding community.”

