



AGAPÉ CENTER

For Service And Learning

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

MISSION STATEMENT

The Agapé Center's mission is to cultivate experiences with community partners that prepare individuals for lifelong service.



PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Agapé Center develops, administers, resources and coordinates programs of service-learning, community service and mission, contributing to the mission of Messiah College to “educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.”

The Agapé Center: Who We Are

This annual report chronicles the service-learning opportunities of 2013-2014 at the Agapé Center. As you explore it, I hope you will be inspired by the many ways that Messiah students continue the legacy of service and community engagement all around the world that began in 1909 with a class of 12 that met in the Harrisburg, Pa., city home of local civic and church leader S.R. Smith. When asked about Messiah College's institutional commitment to community engagement, President Phipps says warmly, "As president of Messiah College, one of my most important roles is to steward the institution's heritage of service and community engagement—whether providing advocacy and resources for these essential programs, modeling service on a personal and professional level or by celebrating the stories of faculty, students and alumni who demonstrate lives of serving others. I am truly privileged to be a part of a campus community like Messiah College that has been educating students in a complex, ever-changing society towards lives of service, leadership and reconciliation for more than 100 years—and to help advance this legacy into our second century and beyond."

Service and reconciliation are among five institutional foundational values that summarize how Messiah defines its distinctive Christian character: ". . . to build bridges of understanding and peace across the dividing lines of race, class, age, gender, religion and ethnicity; to demonstrate the love of God in service to others; to open our hearts to the poor and needy; and to work for justice wherever injustice prevails." This integrates with Messiah's college-wide educational objectives, one of which is "To become servants, leaders and reconcilers in the world," including commitments to "developing a sense of civic responsibility and commitment to work with others for the common good" and "making decisions that reflect an ethic of service; a concern for justice; and a desire for reconciliation." Our dedication to this ethic is expressed through faithful, consistent connections with community partners that are detailed within the pages of this report. Enjoy.

Sincerely,



Chad Frey, Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning

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2014 events

AUGUST

- Fall Student Leadership Training Week
- Into the Streets
- Opportunities Fair

SEPTEMBER

- Ice Cream Social
- Volunteer Orientation and Clearance Night

OCTOBER

- Canoe-A-Thon
- Fall Break Service Trips
- Faith-in-Action Training with Lisa Sharon Harper

NOVEMBER

- Mission Awareness Day

DECEMBER

- Agapé Center Christmas Party

JANUARY

- Spring Student Leadership Training

- MLK Jr. Day of Engagement

- Migrant Ed Retreat
- January Term Service Trips
- Reconciliation Retreat

FEBRUARY

- Snack and Serve
- Volunteer Orientation and Clearance Night
- Justice Conference

MARCH

- Spring Break National Service Trips and International Missions
- Social Justice Week

APRIL

- Community Partner Luncheon
- Service Day
- Migrant Ed Retreat

- Ducky Derby

MAY

- Agapé Center End of Year Celebration

The Agapé Center staff

Agapé Center Office Staff

Office Assistant: Angie Yong
 Tracking and Programming Coordinator:
 Jonathan Kennedy
 Treasurer: Jonathan Redding

Outreach

Director: Kelsey Kreider
 Companionship Ministries:
 Alexandra Cacciola
 Health and Special Needs: Courtney Beiler
 Hunger and Homelessness: Kelsey Cooper

Latino and Migrant Partnerships:

Carey Heisey
 Sustainable Agriculture: Alexandra Correia
 Tutoring and Literacy: Tierney Wallace
 Youth Mentoring: Dani Pianucci (fall);
 Megan Harbert (spring)

Service Trips

Director: Rachel Peterson
 Agency Coordinator: Jessica Teeter
 Participant Coordinator: Mya Johnson
 Leader Coordinator: Sandi Pope

World Christian Fellowship

Director: Ashley Stock
 Chapel Coordinator: Sallie McCann
 Events Coordinator: Marlene Mhangami
 (fall); Luisa Garcia (spring)

Human Rights Awareness

Director: Breezy Mehringer
 Agency Coordinator: Tiffany Burrows (fall);
 Johnathan Hershey (spring)
 Events Coordinator: Sikholiwe Vundla

Recruitment and Training

Note from the program manager:



In its more than 15 years, the Agapé Center has functioned as an integral path for Messiah students to not only act on their faith but also on their vocations. We believe that service is a learning experience, something that needs to be done in partnership, in awareness of systems of power and privilege, and in light of a Biblical worldview. These experiences complement the learning done in the classroom and allow space for students to reflect on their place in church and society.

Our student programs help us to “cultivate experiences with community partners to prepare individuals for lifelong service.” We see these partnerships as reciprocal and mutually beneficial. Without partnership, our mission rings hollow, and it is only together that we can change ourselves and the world around us. These student-led programs do the legwork of almost all of the Agapé Center’s programming. Their work is essential in furthering partnerships and expanding service-learning at Messiah College. The student programs located within the Agapé Center provide multifaceted ways to connect service and learning:

- Outreach Teams work on a regular, ongoing basis within the greater Harrisburg area, partnering with organizations that are invested in their communities and working towards holistic, capacity-building efforts.
- Service Trips work with a variety of partners throughout the nation during our fall, J-Term and spring academic breaks.
- World Christian Fellowship works to raise awareness of issues that affect the global Church, as well as helping to educate students about service opportunities locally, nationally and internationally.
- Human Rights Awareness works with international organizations to raise awareness of injustices both locally and globally, creating proactive approaches to these issues.

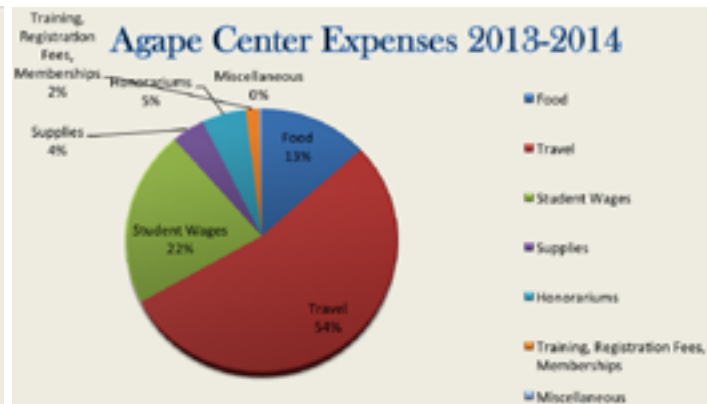
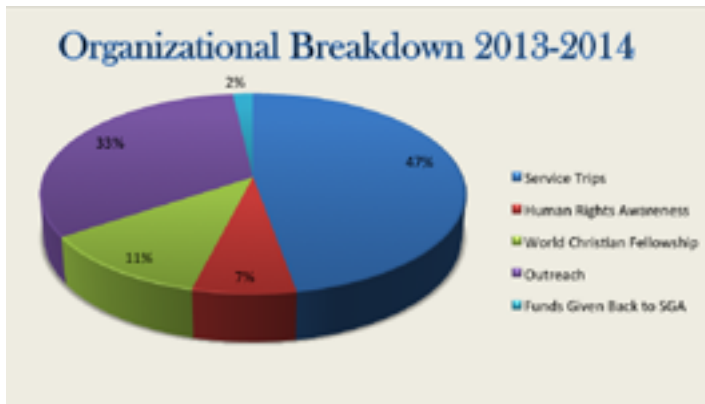
These groups have helped the Agapé Center to involve the campus in a widespread campaign that calls students to action, to working with and for the “least of these” and to recognize their place in an increasingly globalized, pluralistic society.

—Keith Jones Pomeroy

Recruitment and training at a glance:

- **Ice Cream Social-** At the beginning of each fall, the Agapé Center hosts a recruiting event for all students to come check out the opportunities to serve while enjoying free ice cream. Attendance in the fall was more than 761 students.
- **Snack and Serve-** Like the Ice Cream Social, Snack & Serve is a time for the Agapé Center to highlight its service opportunities. Attendance in spring was more than 200 students.
- **Volunteer Orientation-** After our recruiting events in both semesters, we hold a volunteer orientation and clearance night that holds three separate sessions for volunteers:
 1. **general orientation-** What service-learning is, why reflection is important and logistics of serving
 2. **site specific orientation-** Community partners help orient volunteers to the strengths and challenges of the communities in which they are working.
 3. **clearances-** Our outreach director helps walk volunteers through the clearance process. Attendance was more than 200 students for the year.
- **Team Time-** In addition to our trainings in fall and spring, we continued ongoing team development through a program called Team Time. During this time, all Agapé Center student leaders gathered to discuss issues of power, privilege and professional development. Program Directors and coordinators helped to lead these sessions to help our staff better connect why we do what we do.

Total student organizations budget breakout:



SERVICE-LEARNING

Community service and engagement at Messiah College derives from the biblical commandments to love God and one's neighbor as oneself. It is through Jesus' example, which was characterized by proclaiming God's Word and serving the needs of others, that we are called to acts of service similar to those that Jesus pursued: engaging in acts of reconciliation, justice and love. It is through this call to serve that the Agapé Center for Service and Learning finds its mission to "address community needs, to provide holistic learning opportunities for students and to encourage students toward an ethic of discipleship, service and civic engagement." Fulfilling this mission through its programming, the Agapé Center for Service and Learning offers numerous opportunities for students, faculty and staff to participate in community service and engagement. These opportunities are classified into three types of community service and engagement categories:

- **Curricular service-learning** is a pedagogical model that intentionally integrates academic learning with community service in a credit-bearing academic course. Students participate in an authentic service activity that meets needs identified by the community (designed within the framework of a mutually beneficial relationship) and critically reflect on that activity. Thus, students gain a deep understanding of course content, a commitment to socially responsible citizenship and skills and understanding needed to contribute to civic well-being.
- **Cocurricular service-learning** or learning-guided service-learning, differs from "community service" because it recognizes that much learning can occur when proper training and reflection is incorporated. Intentionality in purpose, placement, effective service outcomes and applied holistic learning in relationship with the community partner remains a priority. Cocurricular service learning is a non-credit-bearing activity where students, educators and staff volunteer in a service that meets community need.
- **Community service and volunteerism** is a non-credit-bearing service activity that involves a commitment to working in partnerships with local community agencies to address real local needs. This often involves students initiating relationships and working with agencies outside of structured College programming.

Characteristics and classifications of community engagement

	Service	Content*	Reflection**	Academic Credit
Curricular Service-Learning	X	X	X	X
Cocurricular Service-Learning	X	X	X	
Community Service/Volunteerism	X			


*Curriculum or Cocurriculum
 **Students engage in reflection before, during and after service activities

Service-Learning at a Glance

	Fall '13	Spring '14
Number of Service-Learning Courses	21	26
Number of Service-Learning Faculty	22	22
Number of Students in Service-Learning Classes	424	299

What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is a form of community engagement which is understood more broadly to describe the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. Service-learning is also a particular kind of high impact experiential learning strategy in that students are given direct experiences with issues under study where they can analyze and solve problems alongside community partners. Through service-learning students are guided by educators and community partners as they learn how to responsibly apply what they are learning and reflect on their experiences.

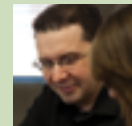
 [LEARN MORE messiah.edu/Agapé-SL](http://messiah.edu/Agapé-SL)

The Service-Learning Committee



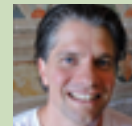
Chair

Chad Frey, *director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning*



School of the Arts

Dave Kasperek, *assistant professor of graphic design*



School of Business, Education and Social Sciences

Milton Gaither, *professor of education*



General Education

Robin Lauerman, *assistant dean of general education and common learning*



School of Science, Engineering and Health

Wanda Thuma-McDermond, *associate professor of nursing*



School of Humanities

Sheila Rodriguez, *associate professor of Spanish*

President's Interfaith Community Service Campaign

Interfaith service involves people from different religious and non-religious backgrounds tackling community challenges together. For example, Protestants and Catholics; Hindus and Jews; and Muslims and non-believers building a Habitat for Humanity house together. Interfaith service impacts specific community challenges, from homelessness to mentoring to the environment, while building social capital and civility.

American colleges, community colleges and universities have often been at the forefront of solving our nation's greatest challenges. In response to the first year of the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, this year more than 250

institutions of higher education are making the vision for interfaith cooperation and community service a reality on campuses across the country.

The White House invites all institutions of higher education to join this powerful movement for the coming year.

This is the third year for Messiah's participation in the Presidential Challenge. Through a variety of student-led programs, students regularly serve neighbors from a variety of faith traditions. For instance, students serve Somali refugees at New Hope Ministries (Mechanicsburg) who primarily come from a Muslim tradition.

Interfaith Spring Break Trip

Eight students attended a spring break service trip to the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. During this time, the team worked on service projects while learning about different religions from faith leaders around Philadelphia.

INTERFAITH CENTER
OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA



Messiah students enjoying a halal meal at the Interfaith Center in Philadelphia.

President's Interfaith and Community Service National Gathering



On Sept. 23-24, the White House partnered with the Interfaith Youth Core for the third annual President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge National Gathering at Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C. Messiah College was invited to give a plenary session on the Together for Tomorrow program as it relates to interfaith engagement. Chad Frey, Jean Corey, Margarita Gonzalez, Sybill Knight-Burney, the superintendent of the Harrisburg School District, and Travis Peck, principal of Downey Elementary School, were all involved in presenting a plenary session on Sept. 24.

Photo by Paul Wood, U.S. Department of Education, Pictured from right to left: Chad Frey, Director of the Agape Center, Alison French, Together for Tomorrow Coordinator PACC-VISTA, Jean Corey, Director of Center for Public Humanities, Melissa Rogers, Executive Director, Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, White House, Sybil Knight-Burney, Superintendent of Harrisburg Public Schools, Margarita Gonzalez, Downey Parent and Hoverter Course Student, Raymond Bennett, Downey Parent Liaison, Arnie Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, Keith Jones-Pomeroy, Agape Center Program Manager, Travis Peck, Principal of Downey Elementary School, Don Murk, Education Department Chair

Together For Tomorrow



TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW

The White House Office for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the U.S. Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) announced that Messiah College was an award-winner of Together for Tomorrow, a new initiative to spotlight existing partnerships and spur

new community engagement to turn around persistently low-performing schools. Messiah was recognized for its partnership with the Harrisburg School District.

“Together for Tomorrow is aimed at changing the relationship between schools and community partners so everyone feels a shared responsibility to improve low-performing schools,” said Joshua DuBois, special assistant to the president and executive director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood

Partnerships. “Every child deserves an education that will enable them to succeed in a global economy. Faith and community groups are critical partners in this all hands on deck moment.”

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the initiative during a town hall meeting at Memorial Middle School in Orlando, Fla. “Community and family involvement can be the make or break factor in successfully turning around low-performing schools,” said Duncan. “Together for Tomorrow will provide real-life examples of how to effectively transform our struggling schools, and build a community-to-community support system that can help take this critical work to scale.”

Harrisburg School District is one of the poorest districts in Pennsylvania and 78 percent of students come from low income families. This year, the initiative is focused solely on Downey Elementary School. The aim of the initiative is to improve student achievement, specifically: academics, behavior, course completion, employability and college access. To accomplish these goals, we have formulated eight sub-committees, including media and technology, social services, art, green initiative, government, business and faith community. Each subcommittee is made up of Downey teachers, parents, Messiah faculty/staff, Messiah students and community members.

A. ATTENDANCE

The total number students in 2012-13, grades K-4 was about 375. For that year, there was a total of 2,350 unexcused absences. In the 2013-14 school year, grades K-4 included about 360 students with total unexcused absences at about 3,710. There has been a significant decrease in tardies from 2012-13 school year to 2013-14.

B. BEHAVIOR

There were drastically less out-of-school suspensions. In 2012-13, Downey School was K-8 with about 700 students and in 2013-14, it was only K-4 with about 360 students. In 2012-13, there were 74 out of school suspensions while in 2013-14, there was only 13. Obviously there were fewer students this school year, but the principal also implemented several tactics to try and deal with behaviors in school instead of suspending the child to go home. For example, a system has been set up where students are sent to a “buddy classroom” for a break. In-school suspension has also been an alternate option from out of school suspension. Discipline write ups have also decreased from about 1,500 in 2012-13 to 500 in 2013-14.

THE LEADER IN ME

The Leader in Me Program has been implemented at Downey School through the Stephen Covey Foundation. This program recognizes that education needs to be more than just academics. “The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model that acts like the operating system of a computer — it improves performance of all other programs. Based on “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”, The Leader in Me produces transformational results such as higher academic achievement, fewer discipline problems and increased engagement among teachers and parents. Better yet, The Leader in Me equips students with the self-confidence and skills they need to thrive in the 21st century economy. The vision is to profoundly impact education across the globe by enabling millions of educators and students to achieve their own great purposes and potential. Stephen R. Covey said, ‘Inspire a child to discover in themselves ‘the leader in me’ and you change the child and, ultimately, the world forever’” (www.theleaderinme.org). This new addition has added a positive atmosphere to the school and has challenged students to become leaders and change their behavior to be responsible and well behaved children. This year, Downey teachers and staff came up with a school mission statement which encompassed the efforts of both the Leader in Me and Together for Tomorrow: “Together We Lead.”

DOWNEY DOLPHINS BASKETBALL TEAM AND CHEERLEADING SQUAD

Downey had their first basketball team this year in which they played five games throughout January and February. The team included about ten players and eighteen cheerleaders. All games were played at the Boys and Girls Club of Harrisburg and our team was coached by parents and our very own Parent Liaison, Mr. Bennett. Ms. Echols, PTA president, coached the cheerleaders and was very involved in heading up this new program. Students had practice two times a week and were taught not only athletic skills, but also life lessons and leadership. The teams encouraged a great deal of parent involvement which is very exciting and one of our goals for Together for Tomorrow. We hope for many more sports and exciting games in future years.

Together For Tomorrow

C. COURSE COMPLETION

Course completion was measured through retention rates and Dibels test scores. In the 2012-13 school year, about 25 students grades K-4 were retained. In 2013-14, only about 15 students were held back. The retention guidelines for K-4 from Harrisburg School District's superintendent's circular state that students will not be retained unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances. Then, after the Student Intervention process has been followed, interventions are in place, and the parent(s) is in full agreement, retention may be considered.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIP WITH SALVATION ARMY

Throughout this entire school year, the Salvation Army has been a part of Downey's afterschool program assisting with EXPLORE and then teaching an interactive nutrition program. April 23 was Parent Appreciation Night where the students put their skills to use and prepared a delicious dinner for everyone. This partnership has been extremely successful and beneficial. We hope to get even more afterschool programs involved at Downey next year as well. A big thank you to Beth Johns and all the Salvation Army Volunteers for committing to serve our Downey students for a great year.



MESSIAH STUDENTS ENGAGED AT DOWNEY

Messiah students are actively spending their time at Downey, integrating their learning into the actual field. This past year, Downey has had 7 full-time student teachers and 14 Messiah social work students involved doing projects and research. Messiah graduate, Luke Redding '14 was hired as Downey's new second grade teacher in January of 2014. Molly Thompson '13, was hired for the 2014-15 school year as the new reading specialist. Lauren Popeck '13 will be the new kindergarten teacher at Downey for the 2014-15 school year.

D. COLLEGE ACCESS

DOWNEY PARENTS AND STUDENT ATTEND MESSIAH WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME

Forty Downey parents and students boarded a school bus on the evening of Feb. 18 to travel to a Messiah Women's basketball game. They experienced the excitement of Senior Night for the players and also came to support former Downey student teacher Taylor Miller. It was an outstanding night with Messiah souvenirs given out and signed basketballs raffled off. Thank you to the Millers and so many others who helped make this night possible. In the words of a cheering 2nd grader, "Way to go, ladies!"

DOWNEY DAYS AT MESSIAH COLLEGE

On April 14 and 15, all of Downey Elementary came to Messiah College as a way to expose children to college at a young age. The students participated in many activities throughout the day including a campus tour by Messiah College's admissions office, story time with Education majors, lunch with Messiah students, visiting the Oakes Museum, and games with AROMA Sports Ministries and college athletes. One 2nd grader remarked that it was the best field trip in her whole life while other students proudly exclaimed that they wanted to attend Messiah some day in the future. Overall, the day was a huge success for both Downey and Messiah, truly strengthening this partnership and renewing our commitment to be "together for tomorrow."



Messiah and Downey students work together to paint a wall mural.



Head of education department at Messiah College, Don Murk, paints Downey hallways.

Together For Tomorrow



A team of students work together to beautify the playground at Downey Elementary School in Harrisburg.

THREE PLUNGE DAYS AT DOWNEY:

1. INTO THE STREETS

On Aug. 30, 2013, 80 first-year students from Messiah College volunteered at Downey and successfully painted the main office and numerous murals throughout the school. They also picked up trash, mulched, organized the book room, cleaned out closets and so much more. The school students were beyond thrilled to have fun paintings all through the halls, and the secretaries and parents could not be happier about the new bright yellow office space. Projects such as these help to enhance the school environment and make it an enjoyable place to learn.

2. MLK JR. DAY- JAN. 20, 2014

We were thrilled to have more than 100 Messiah students come to Downey on MLK Jr. Day for a much-needed renovation. Some were put to work painting the downstairs white and yellow, while others painted our upstairs hallway blue. We added some colorful new murals in the school. Students helped sort and organize seven storage closets and the book room. Other students helped input Leader in Me data into the computers as well as cut and hung handprints of the students. Overall, the day was a resounding success. The school is bright and vibrant with the colorful walls and the organized closets help boost morale. We are so grateful for the students and teachers who volunteered to help us with the efforts of Together for Tomorrow.

3. MESSIAH COLLEGE SERVICE DAY

Messiah College cancels classes for one day every spring so that students are able to participate in a day of service. This year on April 10, about 70 students came to Downey Elementary School to serve. It was a beautiful day outside to complete numerous projects to beautify the school, such as painting sidewalk murals, gardening and picking up trash in the surrounding neighborhoods. It was a wonderful thing to see Downey and Messiah students partnered up and working together for the good of the school and community. Messiah students also helped organize Downey's book room, facilitate science experiments, work on the school newspaper and run poetry workshops.

DOWNEY DIGEST NEWSPAPER

Our eight Together for Tomorrow sub-committees all decided to focus their efforts in creating a self-sustainable school newspaper written by the students. It is called, "For Leaders, By Leaders." The newspaper is filled with current Downey updates, student interviews, photographs, poetry, articles and so much more. Ads were sold to help fund the newspaper.

2ND ANNUAL TFT DOWNEY BLOCK PARTY

April 26 was a much anticipated day as so many people worked all year to prepare for the 2nd Annual Block Party. The event was a huge success with more than 2,000 people from the local community that attended. We also had 40+ organizations that came to inform the families of various services and activities available to them throughout the Harrisburg region. Children came and played outdoor games, had lunch and ice-cream, won prizes and enjoyed fellowship. The second large wall mural outside of Downey was also started which will illustrate the school's mission statement: "Together We Lead."

E. EMPLOYABILITY

PA REPRESENTATIVE DAVE REED AND LEGISLATORS VISIT DOWNEY

On Feb. 25, PA House Majority Policy Committee Representatives gathered alongside school district officials to talk about the positive changes occurring at Downey and beyond. We had the opportunity to share about all of the positive changes that are occurring through our TFT partnership. College and career pathways were also discussed by Superintendent Dr. Knight-Burney, followed by a presentation on the District's Pre-K program and Harrisburg Foundation's Adopt-a-Classroom program. Representative Dave Reed summed it up well after the meeting when he said, "Let's find successful programs and let's see how we can replicate those programs across the state. We don't need to re-invent the wheel; we have to find what one community is doing well and take it to another community and help them do it well." We are extremely proud to be recognized as a successful model program that is creating significant changes in the students and community. Thank you to Rep. Dave Reed (Indiana County), Rep. Bryan Cutler (Lancaster County), Rep. Rosemary Brown (parts of Monroe and Pike Counties), Rep. George Dunbar (Westmoreland County) as well as many others for coming out to see our wonderful school. Please check out the Fox48 News video that was aired at: <http://fox43.com/2014/02/25/lawmakers-tour-elementary-school-to-improve-student-achievement>.

MAYOR PAPENFUSE AND MAJORA CARTER LEAD COMMUNITY LUNCH AT DOWNEY

Urban revitalization strategist Majora Carter visited Downey to have a lunch conversation with Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse, various community leaders, Messiah professors, Messiah students, Downey staff and so many more. Our student greeters enjoyed getting to meet the mayor and practice their leadership skills including, firm handshakes, eye contact and starting conversations. This gathering is a perfect example of what Together for Tomorrow is all about—bringing people from all walks of life together to work for unified positive change.

STUDENT JOBS AT DOWNEY

- Through Leader in Me, students are encouraged to apply for jobs within classrooms and in the school. These jobs may include line leader, attendance secretary, teacher's assistant, clean-up crew and various other positions.
- Students are continually learning about different careers options through assemblies and in the classroom. Downey hosted a day where students were to come to school dressed in the attire of their desired future profession. Some included doctors, business men/women, construction workers, teachers and the President.

About Alison French



Alison French served as an AmeriCorps PACC VISTA for 2013-2014. Alison's primary focus was on the Together for Tomorrow partnership between Messiah College and Downey School in the Harrisburg School District. Alison graduated from Messiah in 2013 with her degree in social work and a minor in business administration. She is extremely passion-

ate about working for sustainable change in the schools, believing that every child deserves to have the chance to succeed through

access to quality education, the resources to function, and support. Her role included developing and coordinating a partnership between Messiah College and the Harrisburg School District as part of a White House-based initiative to improve struggling schools. She was responsible for promoting the program, co-chairing eight subcommittees to advance student achievement, performing community outreach, serving as liaison between college and school district, planning and leading days of community service for thousands of students, fundraising campaigns, monitoring and reporting outcomes through annual reports, and supervising social work students.

Other Successes

- All classrooms at Downey have been adopted by local organizations in the city which included an upfront \$500 donation and increased involvement at the school.
- Parental engagement has increased significantly this year. Downey had 150 parents attend open house compared to only 30 last year. More than 225 parents came to enjoy the holiday concert in December. Mr. Bennett, Downey's parent liaison has also worked very hard to facilitate monthly events called "Moms and Muffins" and "Dads and Doughnuts," where parents can come into the school with their child in either the morning or evening and learn about what is going on as well as fellowship. On average, there has been 225 parents that participate in monthly activities. Parent-teacher conference attendance rates have also significantly increased with 39 percent of parents attending in 2012-2013 and 68 percent of parents attending during the 2013-2014 school year.
- Another result of this partnership allowed us to speak at a White House-based conference as the keynote presenters at Georgetown University for the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge. The Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was in attendance as well as other prestigious leaders such as Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps, Corporation for National and Community Service.
- The Hoverter Course in the Humanities bridge course provides access to higher education for those whose circumstances have prevented them from considering a college education. The Hoverter Course provides tuition-free, collegiate instruction for credit to economically and educationally underserved individuals 18 years of age and older who are either high school graduates or GED recipients. The hope is that a humanities-based exposure to higher education will equip students with basic liberal arts skills and encourage them to aspire to college study. Course participants receive instruction in five humanities disciplines (writing, communication; critical and ethical thinking; American history and civics; and creative arts) from experienced college faculty members. Classes meet once a week, books are provided as well as childcare and three college credits are awarded to those who successfully complete the course.

The Barnabas Servant Leadership Award

STAFF AWARD-WINNER

JEAN COREY

Jean Corey is the director of the Center for Public Humanities and associate professor of English. She has taught many of her courses as service learning courses. Along with Professor Helen Walker she has been responsible for developing the Amani Beads program, a project in which Messiah College students partner with community leaders and students to create Amani jewelry from ceramic beads made in Kenya. 100 percent of their profits go to care for babies at New Life Home in Kenya. As director of Center for the Public Humanities, Jean has worked to further its public mission by connecting CPH programming to the Downey School and the Together for Tomorrow project. In the fall she will be launching a new Humanities Fellows Program that will connect Humanities students to meaningful public projects in the Harrisburg area.

Jean Corey, right, and Tetyana Pyatovolenko proudly wear Amani Beads while holding the Barnabas Award basin.



STUDENT AWARD-WINNER

TETYANA PYATOVOLENKO

Cellist Tetyana Pyatovolenko is a senior music performance major at Messiah, where she studies with Fiona Thompson, and is a recipient of a Daniel Vollmer Scholarship in the Arts. Tetyana began her cello studies at the age of eleven in her native Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, and in the same year performed as a soloist in Dnepropetrovsk's opera hall. In 2009, Tetyana won the international musical competition "Akordi Khortizi" in Zaporogie, Ukraine, and the following year played a solo concerto with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine. In 2006-2010 she became a principle cellist of the nationally recognized youth chamber orchestra Young Virtuosi.

In March, Tetyana organized a benefit concert to aid the Amani Children's Foundation. The goal of the Amani Benefit Concert was to support caregivers in Kenya, and also to show the Messiah community that music is a powerful tool which can change thousands of lives and give hope to those who seek it. "I was amazed to learn how much support I was provided from Messiah faculty, staff and students. Some of the people who played a significant role in bringing this concert into life were my supervisors, Jean Corey and Helen Walker, President Phipps, and the Glessner family. Although the entire organization took us a long time and hard work, the result was incredible. One concert collected \$1,300 of donations that were sent to caregivers in New Life Homes, Kenya."

This concert gave Tetyana the opportunity to encourage her music major peers to think of ways to use their gifts in music to serve others. Tetyana has named Amani Children's Foundation as her charitable recipient of a \$500 cash award.



EMILY GREENPLATE

Emily Greenplate is our talented designer and potter of this year's Barnabas Award basin. Emily is a junior studio art major. She is from Landenberg, Pa., where she has a ceramic studio at her home. She has been making pottery for 10 years and has been selling her work for about six years. She primarily works in stoneware fired to cone six in an electric kiln. Most of her work is food safe and utilitarian. To see more of Emily's work, visit emilyhampsoncerami.wix.com/emilyhampsonceramics.

ABOUT THE BARNABAS AWARD

Each year we ask the campus community for nominations of individuals who have demonstrated significant contributions in the areas of ministry, community service and leadership. The community service that the Barnabas Award seeks to reward is unpaid service that is done off-campus through community partners. The finalists were selected in light of the following factors:

- The level of spiritual maturity and commitment to ministry and community service
- The ability to integrate his or her ministry and community service with other aspects of his or her life and work including academic work, faith perspectives and sense of vocation
- The impact of the ministry and community service on the community in which he or she served and his or her ability to effectively work with and respect persons with whom he or she worked.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Service Plunge Days: Into the Streets

College is the beginning of a brand new adventure for hundreds of incoming Messiah students. In the midst of orientations, placement exams and settling into dorm rooms, the second day of orientation week is set aside to expose first-year students to life beyond the Messiah College campus. Before syllabi are distributed or textbooks opened, students have the opportunity to build new relationships with their peers while being immersed in the surrounding community and serving those in need.

Into the Streets is a nationally recognized program. The hope of this program is to simultaneously inspire students to invest their time and talents in the community while also reflecting and considering what the community can teach them.

 **LEARN MORE** messiah.edu/IntoTheStreets



Messiah students go "into the streets" for community engagement.



Messiah students serve in the community on the second day of orientation week.

Into the Streets: At-a-Glance

First-Year Students **640**
Community Partner Participants **31**

Community Partners

- Abba's Place
- Allison Hill Community Ministry
- Ben Franklin School
- Bethesda Mission Women
- Brethren Housing Association
- Camp Curtain
- Camp Sertoma Service
- Catholic Worker House
- Center for Champions
- Community Action Committee
- Danzante
- Downey School
- Friendship Center
- Grace United Methodist Church
- Habitat for Humanity
- Harrisburg Brethren in Christ
- Harrisburg Salvation Army
- Humane Society
- Joshua Group/Joshua Farm
- Martin Luther King Baptist Church
- Morning Star Pregnancy Services
- Paxton Ministries
- Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg
- Scott School
- Shining Light
- Silence of Mary Home
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- The Civic Club of Harrisburg
- The MakeSpace
- The Neighborhood Center
- The Reforest Harrisburg Initiative

Service Plunge Days: Dr. King Community Engagement Day

In 1994, the King Holiday and Service Act was passed by Congress, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service; the purpose of which is to encourage Americans of all backgrounds and ages to celebrate King's legacy by turning community concerns into action. In order to celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., students, faculty and staff at Messiah College are given an opportunity to join others throughout the nation as they participate in a day of service. Classes are cancelled to celebrate the amazing life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On that day, students, faculty and staff are given an opportunity to represent Messiah College by volunteering on MLK Day.

 [LEARN MORE messiah.edu/MLKday](https://messiah.edu/MLKday)



Messiah students cut out Downey elementary student handprints to decorate the school.



Messiah students take a break from their work at Downey Elementary.

MLK Day: At-a-Glance

Students	173
Employees/Admin	7
Community Partners	3

Community Partners

Downey Elementary School
Harrisburg City Hall
Joshua Group

Service Day Mission Statement: to encourage students, faculty and staff alike to participate in service and engage with and contribute to the local community on a personal level. Service Day is designed to help fulfill Messiah College's mission to prepare students "for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society."

Service Plunge Days: Service Day

Service Day was officially founded in 2000 as a result of the strong student support of the Area M Special Olympics games held on campus each year. Because so many students requested to be excused from class that day to help out, it just made sense to take the day off as an institution to give everyone the opportunity to serve. Today, students, faculty and employees are also given the option to serve off-campus on various projects with local churches and organizations.

 **LEARN MORE** messiah.edu/ServiceDay



Special Olympians race toward the finish line.



Pool-side buddies at the Special Olympics.

Service Day: At-a-Glance

Messiah Student Buddies	830
Community Volunteers	1,104
Special Olympians	1,047
Off-Campus Community Partner Sites	22
Off-Campus Student Participants	245
Off-Campus Faculty, Staff and Alumni	46

Community Partners

American Foundation for Children with AIDS
Asper Burial Grounds and the Little Bermudian Brethren Cemetery
Brethren Housing Association
Camp Hebron
Camp Yolijwa
Carlisle YMCA New Frontier Camp
Deer Valley YMCA Family Camp
Downey Elementary
Gettysburg Soup Kitchen
Grantham Community Garden
Hampden Elementary
Harrisburg Playground and Park
Lamberton Middle School
Lewisberry United Methodist Church
Mission Central
Northern High School
Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry
Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg
Reservoir Park
Spring Work Day at Freedom Valley Church
West Shore E-Free Church
Yellow Breeches

Outreach Teams



LEARN MORE messiah.edu/OutreachTeams



Samantha Alderfer '15 and Johannah Williams '16 pose with Naed Smith at the Catholic Worker House.

The purpose of Outreach Teams

is to express faith through action by partnering with local community organizations to assist in fulfilling their needs and to facilitate student learning and growth. This is accomplished through pursuing six key objectives:

1. To help meet needs in the local community by organizing teams of volunteers
2. To enhance the learning experience of service by offering educational opportunities
3. To shape student growth through a process of orientation, reflection and evaluation
4. To nurture volunteers in embracing a lifelong commitment to service
5. To break down barriers by creating transformative relationships between volunteers and the community
6. To develop the leadership capacity of students within Outreach

Raising awareness about issues surrounding service and social justice is a key part of Outreach Teams, and this year numerous events were held to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of a diverse set of issues through alternate chapels. Additional events were designed to bring volunteers and community members together to foster transformative relationships, such as:

- Residents from Messiah Village came to campus to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with volunteers. Messiah students and Messiah Village senior citizens join together to give thanks for their time and friendship.
- Migrant Education retreats brought middle and high school students to experience a taste of college life while also encouraging students to embrace their cultural heritage within their studies.

From the director:

Outreach aims to send students into the local community to participate in a service experience that will challenge them to think differently and more deeply about major issues that shape our world. During the 2013-2014 school year, Outreach Teams continued to serve our local community and student body, while also trying to enhance our programming through better assessment and reflection.

During the fall semester, 329 students volunteered at 28 community partner sites. The fall semester was a great time for coordinators to acclimate to the job and understand their roles as student leaders in the campus community.

Over J-Term, we attempted to work with male RA's to create one-time, male-floor volunteering events. Four floors of guys went out to volunteer with two of our community partners, engaging more males in one month than we had the entire fall semester.

This spring semester, 293 students volunteered at 29 community partner sites. This is the largest amount of volunteers Outreach has ever had during a spring semester. These numbers contributed to the highest yearly volunteer numbers ever; 507 students volunteered during the 2013-2014 school year. During this spring semester we also welcomed a new community partner to our sustainable agriculture coordinator: Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse, which works with students in the juvenile justice system. Future goals for Outreach include improving the quality of reflection during service experiences, increasing the number of male students involved, and forming better relationships with Service Learning Courses. So much change has occurred in Outreach over the past year, and it's exciting to see those changes have a positive impact on our programming and student experiences.

— Kelsey Kreider '14



Outreach Team Community Partners

Companionship Ministries

Bethany Village
Messiah Lifeways
Maplewood
Promise Place

Health and Special Needs

Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association
Morningstar Pregnancy Center
Paxton Ministries

Hunger and Homelessness

Bethesda Mission
• Mobile Mission
• Men's Shelter
Silence of Mary Home
Tabitha's

Latino and Migrant Partnerships

Center for Education, Employment and Entrepreneurial Development
Danzante
Lincoln Intermediate Unit Migrant Education Program, Chambersburg

Sustainable Agriculture

Catholic Worker House
Diakon Youth Services
Joshua Farm
Project SHARE

Tutoring and Literacy

Allison Hill Community Ministries
Center for Champions
Bethesda Mission
• Bethesda Youth Center, Youth Mentoring
Boys and Girls Club
Salvation Army
Amani Bead Project
Youth Ministries
Abba's Place
New Hope Ministries
• Dillsburg
• Dover
• Mechanicsburg
Young Life Cumberland County

Outreach Teams By the Numbers

Outreach service in the community:

	<i>Fall / Spring</i>	
Companionship Ministries	48 + 52	100 students
Health and Special Needs	48 + 54	102 students
Hunger and Homelessness	54 + 83	137 students
Latino and Migrant Partnerships	103 + 49	152 students
Sustainable Agriculture	28 + 29	57 students
Tutoring and Literacy	29 + 36	65 students
Youth Mentoring	64 + 77	141 students

Total Students 754 participants served an estimated 8,842 hours in the local community

The number 754 reflects a duplicated head count for students serving in more than one CP. The unduplicated head count for the year is 507 students, which is an increase of 61 from last year. These numbers are tallied through student fact sheets but there may be a slight deviation from actual numbers of service, as some students do not swipe their cards.

Outreach service through on-campus events:

Fall Migrant Education Retreat	40 migrant student participants 45 Messiah student volunteers
Messiah Lifeways Thanksgiving Dinner	13 Messiah Lifeways residents 11 Messiah students
Promise Place Dinner	10 CP participants 10 Messiah students
Fall Tutoring Pool Party	41 children participants 15 Messiah student volunteers
Spring Migrant Ed Retreat	49 migrant student participants 23 Messiah student volunteers
Spring Tutoring Pool Party	29 child participants 10 CP staff 13 Messiah students



Outreach Team staff



Johnny Scollo '15 and Michael Stephan '15 work on some transplanting in the Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse.



Liz Gallo '13 and her Buddy from Paxton Ministries decorate pumpkins together at the Halloween Best Buddies Event.

Volunteer quotes

“I enjoy volunteering with Danzante because it reminds me that I’m a part of a bigger community than the one here at Messiah.”

— Emily Price '17

“When I reflect on my time in Best Buddies this semester, I can’t help but smile. We all come into Best Buddies hoping to give our time to another in need. However, we leave knowing we have been given more than we could possible give. The friendships formed through the Best Buddies program are truly special and I am so grateful for my Best Buddy, Jeanie.” - Kelsey Cooper '15

What do you feel you learned most from this service experience? “I have learned to not assume I know how to help people, but to get to know them on a personal level and ask them what they feel they need help with. Working side-by-side is the best way.” — Johanna Williams '16

“That everyone has a past and is looking into their future. Whether it is Messiah girls or Promise Place women we all have a past in which we have done beneficial things and things we regret, as well as have bright hopes, and things we are looking forward to in the future.” — Chelsea DeWalt '14

How has this service experience helped you to grow as a leader?

“This experience has helped me to grow as a leader because I am required to be accountable, present and engaged every week. I am thankful for this opportunity because it has allowed me to step out in service and increase my self-awareness and confidence.” — Courtney Beiler '16

“This experience has helped me to hone my social pulse and to know how people are feeling in a given moment. This has helped me to make sure everyone felt valued and respected through the entire process.”

— Joel Bauman '14

Community Partner Quotes

“The Agapé Center is at the forefront of service learning and I hope we are viewed as a valuable partner in that effort. Volunteer experience can be some of the more transformative of one’s college experience. Being able to leave the utopia of campus and get into the real world allows students to test their belief system in a real way. If Danzante can be a part of that, we are very proud to be able to do so. The Agapé Center staff is incredibly valuable to the community, being able to focus on the needs of the community and the development of their students.” — *Duane Shearer, Danzante*

“We love Messiah students here at Paxton. They are consistently helpful, enthusiastic, compassionate and fun. Thank you.”

— *Janet Sommes, Paxton Ministries*

What did you hope Messiah students would learn through their volunteer experience?

“Students learn so much it is difficult to list here... a few things they learn about are their faith and its impact on the world we live in, the importance of prayer in life and ministry, time management skills, public speaking skills, listening and compassion, what life is like in outside the Messiah/Christian bubble, the importance of spending time with Christ daily, the battle of doing God’s work vs. being who God called us to be.”

— *Mike Barbetta, Young Life*

Service for Chapel Credit

A unique opportunity for students to serve locally is through the Service for Chapel Credit program, a partnership with the College Ministries Office and the Agapé Center. In place of attending chapel services throughout the semester, students serve as team leaders alongside local community partners through Outreach Teams. By being a team leader, participants will:

- Help drive to and from the location of service
- Facilitate reflection around spiritual formation relating to their service experience (either on site or during the ride)
- Serve regularly with a specific team and community partner
- Maintain regular communication and attendance tracking with community partners and outreach coordinators

Chapel Credit	Fall / Spring
Student Participants	40 55
Community Partners	20 21



LEARN MORE messiah.edu/Agapé-ChapelCredit

Service Trips



LEARN MORE messiah.edu/Agapé-ServiceTrips



Service Trips staff

Service Trips sends students to organizations throughout the nation over each academic break (fall, J-Term and spring). We partner with a wide variety of ministries: after-school programs, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, sports camps and construction organizations. Through these partnerships we expose our students to issues such as immigration, homelessness, poverty and racism. Our hope is that through experience of these issues, students will be motivated to develop a lifestyle of service, a passion for a reconciled and just society, and a commitment to working toward change in these areas through whatever vocation they pursue.

When asked what was the best part of Messiah volunteers' coming:

"Everything, they were another incredible team and a blessing to our staff and the people of NYC."

— Priority One Ministries

"I think that the Messiah volunteers were most helpful by doing whatever was on the schedule and having a great attitude about every single serving opportunity. They were always full of passion and building relationships and showing God's glory in everything they did from painting to playing with the kids for many different communities."

— Praying Pelican Ministries

Participant Quote:

"My stereotypes have definitely changed. People are no longer one homogeneous group to me... they have faces and stories."

— Ally Olkowsky '16

From the Director:

Coming from the position of Participant Coordinator last year, I was very excited to take on the role of the Director. It was a challenging transition, but I have seen so much growth in myself through the process. Although we faced challenges this year due to unforeseen circumstances, we sent out some wonderful trips. We were able to see a change in the hearts of many students, and were given amazing reviews from both our participants and agency partners. I have even seen many changes in myself in regards to service. I hope that these trips continue to change lives as they have changed mine these past two years.



— Rachel Peterson '15

Service Trips By the Numbers

Trip	Participants
FALL BREAK (4 DAYS): 41 PARTICIPANTS	
Rolling Ridge Retreat Center (Harpers Ferry, W.Va.)	6
Meadows of Dan (Meadows of Dan, Va.)	10
Syracuse Rescue Mission (Syracuse, N.Y.)	9
Priority One Ministries (Bronx, N.Y.)	10
Fellowship House (Camden, N.J.)	7
JANUARY TERM BREAK (4 DAYS): 56 PARTICIPANTS	
Camp Bethel (Wise, Va.)	7
Steinbruck Center (Washington, D.C.)	15
Youth Development Inc (Headwaters, Va.)	7
Priority One Ministries (Bronx, N.Y.)	15
World Impact (Newark, N.J.)	12
SPRING BREAK (THREE 8 DAY TRIPS, THREE 4 DAY TRIPS): 53 PARTICIPANTS	
Appalachia Service Project (Johnson City, Tenn.)	8
Praying Pelican (Miami, Fla.)	12
Push the Rock (Allentown, Pa.)	6
Center for Student Missions (New York, N.Y.)	11
Interfaith Center (Philadelphia, Pa.)	8
AROMA (Charlotte, N.C.)	8
TOTAL	150

Human Rights Awareness



LEARN MORE messiah.edu/Agapé-HRA



Human Rights Awareness staff

Human Rights Awareness (HRA) works with several groups on campus to shed light on the many human rights abuses around the world. HRA hosts events and meetings to educate students about issues of human rights abuses and to connect these to Christian faith, as well as provide opportunities for action locally and internationally.

HRA events:

- Hosted a lunch with Helene Cooper, author of "The House on Sugar Beach," the Common Reading Convocation speaker. Attendees: 15
- Hosted an informational conversation on Christians in Syria and the civil war at the Social Justice House. Attendees: 10
- Invited Harrisburg Habitat for Humanity staff to an alternate chapel on World Habitat Day. Attendees: 161
- Partnered with College Ministries and other departments to have Lisa Sharon Harper, director of Mobilizing at Sojourners, give a Faith in Action Training, as well as the opening event in her UnCommon Poverty Tour. Training attendees: 45; chapel attendees: 85
- Hosted a live streaming of the Justice Conference, which was held in Los Angeles. This conference highlighted speakers and artists who focused on mobilizing Christians to address issues of justice in the world. Attendees: 68
- Collaborated with the Career Center and others to help bring the documentary, "Girl Rising," on campus, and led the discussion following the viewing. Attendees: 140
- Partnered with the Gender Concerns Committee and Women's Herstory Month to host a dinner with Noorjahan Akbar, an Afghani women's rights activist. Attendees: 24
- Hosted a screening of the "Evidence of Hope," a documentary following the lives of individuals who have affected change in their communities. The director, Chad Amour, was present for questions and answers following the screening. Attendees: 30

From the Director:

I am very pleased with the growth and development of HRA this year. I feel that the organization has matured a lot since the time I first got involved three years ago. The structure of HRA saw a lot of progress this year in the areas of goal setting, planning, and assessment. We were able to meet, in some capacity, the goals we set at the beginning of the year; we took steps toward a system of planning events a semester ahead; and we placed more emphasis on assessing our events for improved future programming.

This year we did fewer events with the intention of placing quality over quantity. This enabled more partnership and collaboration with other groups and events on campus, and it enabled us to take on some of the biggest projects HRA has ever done. We received positive feedback from these events, and will pursue similar events in the future.

HRA also acts as the umbrella organization for some student-led clubs. This year's charter club was the International Justice Mission club (IJM). IJM hosted several events, including "Stand for Freedom," a nationwide initiative to raise awareness about modern day slavery.

I am so thankful for my time at the Agapé Center working for HRA. It has been such a significant part of my college career, providing me with opportunities and experiences I would not have had otherwise. Although I am sad to leave HRA, I am excited for all the things it has in store. I have confidence that next year's team will continue to make HRA the best it can be.

— Breezy Mehringer '14



Participant quote from the Justice Conference:

"As a result of the Justice Conference, it clicked in my head that not only is God calling me to work toward social justice, but that it's my main calling. I'm so excited to see what God will do through me, and I know that the first step toward making a difference is being educated. The conference did just that."

— Shannon Leary '17



Student attendees gather during a break and discuss content from the Justice Conference.

World Christian Fellowship



LEARN MORE messiah.edu/Agapé-WCF



World Christian Fellowship staff

World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is an organization which acknowledges the world's greatest needs while providing avenues for students to ask challenging questions. Students are challenged to contribute to global and local projects as well as organizations whose mission encompasses service, missions and social change.

The Purpose of World Christian Fellowship is to:

- Educate the Messiah College community to become aware of the worldwide fellowship of believers and of the world's physical and spiritual needs.
- Equip the community to act upon this awareness: to go, to send and to pray.

WCF Events

Salt and Light Chapels

- Salt and Light chapels are one of the Agapé Center's best platforms to increase awareness in the student body regarding the local and global issues we work towards. WCF invited speakers who presented on a wide variety of issues following two main themes of reconciliation and missional living. The specific topics addressed included state-level reconciliation, racial and cultural reconciliation, missional living, reconciliation in tragedy, contextualized worship, restorative justice, diversity and self-awareness in missions.
- Student attendance: 848, for the 11 chapels (includes students who came more than once).
- Speakers: Pedro Cortez (Lawyer and former PA secretary of state); Jonas Beiler (author of Think No Evil); Richard Slimbach (Director of the Global Studies Program at Azusa Pacific University); Mark Charles (Navajo Public Speaker and Writer); Clay Lambert (Leader of Racial Justice and Understanding ministry in Harrisburg); George Pickens (MC Professor of Theology and Missions); Carol Zook (Mennonite Central Committee Missionary); Tim Samuels (Messiah alum and CFO of Bridgeway Community Church); Pat Krayner (Executive Director of Interserve Missions); Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz (Coordinator of Mennonite Central Committee's Restorative Justice Program).

From the director:

This year the new staff of World Christian Fellowship became aware of the organization's floundering vision and purpose in light of the recent structural and event changes. A large emphasis was placed on re-envisioning and refocusing the organization. Positive steps were taken towards this and the year held many great events for us. All events increased from recent years in participation and the fundraisers raised more for the teams. Salt and Light chapel had an encouraging number of off-campus guest speakers, many of whom have widespread acclaim and were able to bring a unique and expert voice to the topics discussed. We are optimistic that WCF is in a much better place this year, and is on the road towards an effective and meaningful future.



— Ashley Stock '15

Canoe-a-thon

- One of the oldest traditions that Messiah has, going all the way back to 1978, Canoe-a-thon has been a means to raise awareness and funds for summer missions teams. Participants raise funds through sponsors and then paddle 20 miles from the Yellow Breeches to the Susquehanna River. We partner with the LOFT team to help facilitate and lead the trip.
- Attendance: 49 participants (up from 31 last year)
- Funds raised: \$3500+ for spring break and summer missions teams

Mission Awareness Day (MAD)

- MAD focuses on raising awareness of the active partnerships Messiah College has with different mission organizations. WCF hosts these groups so the student body can find out about different opportunities in missions. This day is part of a larger International Education Week. Bernardo Michael spoke about intentional, missional living in common chapel. WCF also hosted a dinner discussion on the changing face of missions, facilitated by Winnie Thuma, country coordinator for interserve missions.
- Agency Attendance: Eastern Mennonite Missions, Push the Rock, BICWM, CoLaborers International, SIM and One Mission Society.

Reconciliation Retreat

- The Reconciliation Retreat is a collaboration between College Ministries, Multicultural Programs and WCF. During J-Term break, 15 students from different backgrounds gathered to discuss how racial reconciliation can occur at Messiah, in the church and in larger society. The retreat was partly facilitated by Harrisburg Brethren in Christ pastors Woody Dalton and Cedra Washington, as well as by Messiah facilitators, Cathy Coleman and Keith Jones Pomeroy. This group met every month for the rest of the semester to talk about specific goals and plans for fostering reconciliation interpersonally and structurally.

"The reconciliation retreat was an eye-opening and challenging time of reflection and realization that I will never forget. Previous misconceptions I had about diversity and reconciliation on this campus were unraveled, and a burning desire for change was inspired"

— Steven Haverstick '17

Ducky Derby

- This was WCF's second fundraiser for the international missions' team. This year we sold 181 ducks, which raced down the Yellow Breeches, and raised \$905.

International Missions



LEARN MORE messiah.edu/Agapé-international



International team serving Bolivia

TORO TORO, BOLIVIA, March 14-23, 2014

10 Students, 2 Advisors

The Bolivia team partners with Food for the Hungry and members of the Toro Toro community to focus on sustainable development. The team was able to affirm and encourage the Food for the Hungry workers as they learned about their various projects. The team learned more about eco-tourism models and the women's co-op in the economically impoverished community.

"Building relationships with the people in Bolivia and experiencing a new culture, learning and seeing with my own eyes the work that a nonprofit does and how they invest in a community were very positive results from my experience."

— Alexandra Correia, class of 2015



Brazil team at the airport.

LONDRINA, BRAZIL, May 25- June 10, 2014

12 Students, 2 Advisors

This was a new summer international mission's trip. Londrina is a city located in the state of Parana, South Region, Brazil. The purpose of this trip was to learn about sports and English Evangelism, to visit Brazilian schools teaching English and/or English through sports. The team also helped to run a weekend camp for Brazilian adolescents and teens.

From the coordinator:

It has been a joy to work with the students and advisors preparing for their international service/learning experiences. One of the goals of these experiences is to enable students to see how God is working in other parts of the world. Many students had the opportunity to speak about their faith journeys while listening to others stories as well. Several students have said that it was good to see how others experienced God. Students from each of the trips have spoken about the strength of the long-standing relationships that their advisors have had with the people in the communities they visited. They realize that the longer relationships are so valuable to enabling real interaction and mutual learning between them and those they are serving and learning from. These experiences, to Northern Ireland, Bolivia and Brazil were amazing opportunities for service, learning and development for these students, and I've been privileged to be a part of it."

— Carol Zook, international missions coordinator



International team serving Northern Ireland.

NORTHERN IRELAND March 14-23, 2014

10 Students, 2 Advisors

The Northern Ireland team serves educators at the Lurgan Jr. High School as they seek to engage youth in cross-community service-learning. In an area greatly divided by Protestant and Catholic rivalries, this team seeks to better understand youth culture while empowering students to tell their stories both in and out of the junior high classroom.

"The community partners in Lurgan love to see us learn and love to see our eyes open just as we love to see the eyes of the students open. It is a mutual learning experience between the community and us as the visitors."

— Mikaela Bennett '15, co-team leader

"I would say the entire experience, not just the trip itself, challenged me to think differently about things. We had team meetings beforehand, and because I was a team leader, Chad Frey's service-learning class, and then the trip and the various things we've done since coming back have challenged me to think in new ways."

— Jonathan Redding '15, co-team leader

Looking Forward



There are many changes on the horizon for 2014-2015 as several professional and student staff will be transitioning. After five years of serving in the Agapé Center, Keith Jones Pomeroy will be leaving his post as program coordinator for the hills of West Virginia to explore, what Bonheoffer called “Life Together” with several Messiah alumni and close friends. Keith will be greatly missed as he brought an exceptional blend of creativity, attention to detail and student development skill to the Agapé Center team.

Although Keith cannot be replaced, Ashley Sheaffer will bring the energy, experience and care needed to a newly established position of Director of the Agape Center for Cocurricular Service Learning. Ashley was a former resident director and most recently the director of the Harrisburg S.a.L.T. House. She holds a master's in higher education from Shippensburg and completed her undergraduate work at Messiah.

Carol Zook will also be transitioning out of her graduate assistant role to join her husband Gordan in Calcutta, India where he was recently promoted as Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Country Director. Ashley Ober, a recent 2014 Messiah graduate, will be taking the helm as our coordinator of international

service-learning. We are excited to have Ashley join our team as she promises to advance and continue Carol's good work.

Finally, Alison French will be completing her term as our Together For Tomorrow (TFT) PACC-VISTA. Alison has done excellent work throughout the year to establish eight TFT sub-committees at Downey Elementary School in Harrisburg, Pa. We are looking forward to welcoming Jaylene Nissley as our new PACC-VISTA. She is a 2014 Messiah social work grad. We are excited to have Jaylene join our team as well.

Please keep our staff in prayer as we anticipate the new 2014-2015 academic year. There will be much to learn but we are poised to accomplish great things by God's grace. Thank you for your continued prayers and encouraging notes.

“Please keep our staff in prayer as we anticipate the new 2014-2015 academic year. There will be much to learn but we are poised to accomplish great things by God’s grace.”

Chad Frey
Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning



AGAPÉ CENTER

For Service And Learning



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