

## Happenings in Education

### A Word From The Chair...

We all know that with the end of the semester comes stress, exhaustion, and a longing to rest. I pray that during this Christmas season, you can relax and consciously make the most of your time away from school. Shopping and family get-togethers are enjoyable, but do not forget the reason for which we take a break: God entered the world through a miraculous birth to save you and me. My pastor once said this, that really that struck me: If you can believe that God became a human, then all of the other miracles are completely reasonable.

It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season; I encourage you to make a choice to be present and engaged with the people around you. Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season and forget any remaining academic stress that you carry with you.

See you next year!

Donald A. Murk

Department of Education, Chair



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# Fall Forum

In this year's Education Department Fall Forum, we celebrated how faculty can collaborate in scholarship with colleagues across disciplines and with students. Three individuals co-presented: Sarah Myers, Katie Hipple, and Dr. Burchard.





# Fall Forum



Katie Hipple earned a Smith Scholar Internship for 2019-2020, in which she is supporting research about IEP quality. In that role, she helped to plan and present professional development workshops for area special education teachers and administrators. She is also helping to study IEP quality of pre-service teachers, co-presenting about interactions between self-efficacy and IEP quality. She will also co-present these study results with Dr. Burchard at the International Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children in February.

Sarah Myers, Liaison Librarian for the Education Department and Collections Coordinator for the Murray Library, collaborated in co-planning and assessing one unit in a course for which faculty needed help improving information literacy. In that role, she designed two formative assessments, a survey and a ScreenCast video, each of which helped identify students who needed early help to succeed in a research assignment about what worked in teaching. Miss Myers collaborated with Dr. Burchard to investigate interactions between self-efficacy, information literacy experiences, and performance of information literacy skills. Dr. Burchard and Miss Myers also published this study and presented study results at the 2019 national Conference of the American Library Association.





# TESOL Symposium

Messiah's TESOL Symposium was led by 16 students on various TESOL topics ranging from selecting culturally responsive books to advocating for adults to have better programs available to learn English. The audience, consisting of parents, peers and friends were able to rotate through various classrooms to choose presentation topics that were of interest to them!

Some of the powerful moments in several of the presentations were video clips or experiences that allowed the audience to take the role of an English learner. Members of the audience heard lessons in Chinese and/or Arabic and were expected to participate by answering questions. The overwhelming feeling helped put into perspective the way English learners might feel in a classroom setting.

Our presenters offered various ways to combat the anxiety and frustration of not understanding what the teacher is saying. One presentation focused on bilingual education and how it can create a safe and welcoming environment. Another presenter advocated for the use of the students' native languages to be used in the classroom. Other presenters mentioned how to create a culturally responsive classroom environment, the importance of considering the culture of the students, and offering to communicate with parents via an interpreter.

Other relevant topics covered in the TESOL Symposium were how to help students who have experienced trauma and how we can differentiate between students with a learning disability and students that are English learners.

The TESOL Symposium was a success due to the hard work of the students! Their research and preparation helped to engage the audiences and equip them with tools for working with students who speak a language other than English.





16 EDUC 311 students presented at our TESOL Symposium on Tuesday, December 10th from 6:30-8:30pm.





# Featured Alumni

Featuring:

Kelly T. Stief

## Update from Kelly:

I graduated in 2014 with a dual certification in elementary education and special education. Before graduation, I took the Praxis to become certified in elementary education through grade 6 and special education through age 21. I returned to my home district, Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland, and started subbing the week after I graduated. I was hired that June to work in the Autism Resource Services program at Watkins Mill HS, a diploma bound program where I worked with the students on social skills as well as academics. I added a math certification, as I was teaching Algebra to my students. I also was an Allied Sports coach; we competed against other schools in handball, bocce, and softball. After 2 years, I moved down to co-teach in 6th grade math classrooms. Currently, I have 15 students on my caseload and teach my own math class, co-teach 2 math classes, and teach 2 Resource classes. My school is very diverse, so I am often translating phone calls to Spanish-speaking parents. I am also a mentor for a new teacher in my building. I have visited Messiah countless times since graduation, many of which to visit sports events but others to find friends who reside in the area.



Featuring:

Juliana Harris



#### Update from Juliana:

Juliana Harris graduated from Messiah in 2018 with a degree in education and a PreK-4th grade teaching certification, but instead of pursuing a career in a classroom, she is teaching in a museum! After graduation, Juliana moved back to her home state of Massachusetts and began studying for a Masters degree in Museum Education at Tufts University. While attending school, Juliana has worked part time at different science centers, ultimately working her way up to interning at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and now serving as staff at New England's most visited cultural institution!

Juliana currently works as a Program Presenter at the Museum of Science in Boston, Massachusetts. Her primary role is to engage visitors of all ages in hands on activities throughout the Museum's staffed exhibit spaces. Juliana works mainly in the Engineering Design Workshop, where she helps oversee daily operations in the space. In addition to engaging and educating visitors, Juliana also assists in training and mentoring volunteers and interns. When not at the museum, Juliana enjoys skiing, baking, and traveling!


Juliana feels that Messiah prepared her immensely well for both graduate school and her career. Interestingly, none of the other students in Juliana's masters program have undergraduate degrees in education. She has found however, that her experience planning and teaching lessons and managing student behavior, has been a huge asset in both her work and grad classes! Juliana also volunteered at the Oakes Museum and worked on a museum-focused honors project while at Messiah. Beyond academics, Juliana is so thankful for the relationships that she left college with. Despite living in Massachusetts, she still keeps in touch with many of her Messiah friends and professors!

Finally, Juliana's advice for current and future students is to not be afraid to explore career paths that may not be "traditional" for students in your major. Juliana stumbled upon the field of museum education while working as a summer camp counselor at a science museum, and she says that it was the biggest blessing. Juliana would also like to add that although putting yourself out there may lead to rejection, as it has for her many times, you'll never know what you can achieve if you don't try.





# MCEA



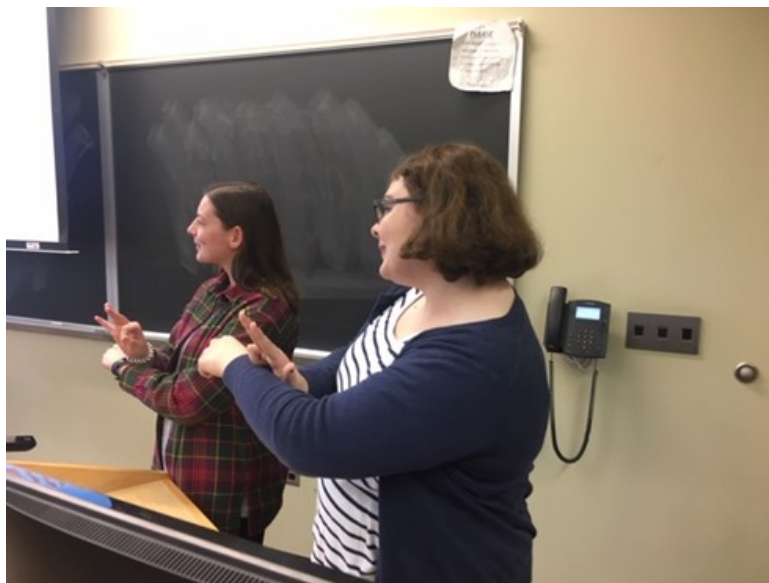
On December 3, 2019, Messiah College Education Association (MCEA) hosted a “New Teacher Panel” discussion. Recent Messiah College graduates who are in their first year of teaching shared with members of MCEA some of the celebrations and challenges associated with the first year of teaching. The panel consisted of Lauren Faircloth (Art Education), Tyler Purcell (Middle School Math), Emily Lockwood (High School English), Kendra Cable (Elementary Learning Support), and Ava Petrosky (Third Grade). We are grateful for the time you invested to make this event a success, and we are blessed by the wisdom you shared. MCEA will be holding more events in the spring 2020 semester. We hope to see you there!



# Physical Activity & Math



In Dr. Buckley's Math: Climate, Curriculum and Instruction classes, students are learning how physical activity can help increase a student's Math achievement. Here, junior education majors learned about creative ways to teach children Math through the use of song and movement. In these photos, students are learning concepts of creating a pattern with movement (left) and counting backwards from five (right) with "speckled frogs on a speckled log".



# Christmas Special

*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"*

*Luke 2:10-14 (NIV)*

Note from the Department:

Let us celebrate the ultimate gift of Jesus's birth that we were all given this Christmas. May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you all through the New Year. We wish you a joy-filled Christmas!

The Education Department

Christmas Joke:

What kind of car do elves like to drive?

A Toy-ota!

