This past April, one determined athlete stood at the edge of the swimming pool, adjusted his goggles, and listened intently for the start whistle. As the whistle blew, he dropped to his knees and cautiously slipped into the pool to begin a 10-meter race. His disproportionately small legs and arms splashed and kicked furiously, pushing and pulling him slowly through the water. His coach and a small group of Messiah College volunteers gathered around him to cheer and encourage him to the finish. He gradually made his way to the finish line and popped out of the water—a huge smile on his face. He had finished the race! Everyone around him celebrated. The stories are all different, but each year hundreds of other athletes like this swimmer come together at the regional Special Olympics, hosted by Messiah College, and receive the gift of hope.

The stories of Special Olympics illustrate just one of the scores of ways Messiah College manifests hope to people in the surrounding region. As a community, our hope is rooted in the promises that God created each of us with gifts and talents to be used to fulfill God's purpose, that in time, good will be revealed, and that peace and justice will ultimately prevail. Because of their faithful hope, Messiah College students and educators, emulating the example of Christ, strive to transform the world into a place of love, mercy, and justice.

Hope is not some ephemeral feeling, but rather a persevering belief in the goodness of God no matter what challenges or triumphs befall us. Messiah College is different today than it was last year. We have experienced a year of great loss and a year of great joy.

During the losses we have experienced—among them the deaths of two former college presidents and a first-year student—we have clung to the hope that God dwells among us. We have had to look beyond circumstances to a deeper belief grounded in our conviction that God has promised to redeem the world.

And in our joy, as we now enter an optimistic era and celebrate the inauguration of President Kim Phipps, hope remains at the core of our mission. President Phipps' hope and love for people, Messiah College, our community, and our world is contagious. This hope propels us to be a prayerful community committed to whom and what God calls us to be in the present and to eagerly anticipate what the future holds.

Kristin Hansen-Kieffer is the dean of students.
Messiah College names Kim S. Phipps as its eighth president

New president receives enthusiastic support

In December, Eunice F. Steinbrecher, chair of the Board of Trustees, announced that after an extensive national search, Kim S. Phipps would become the eighth president of Messiah College.

“I am privileged to be asked to serve as president of Messiah College,” said Phipps. “I am committed to strengthening Messiah’s reputation as a national leader in higher education, and I’m looking forward to working with Messiah’s remarkable students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and community friends to fulfill the College’s mission.”

The Messiah community responded enthusiastically to the news of Phipps’ presidency, a reflection of the overwhelming support she enjoys across campus. “As we reflect on and celebrate the appointment of Dr. Kim Phipps as president of Messiah College, I have been struck by the response of most people. There is an overwhelming joy and enthusiasm that Kim received the job,” Scott Kieffer, associate professor of exercise physiology, said in a January chapel service.

Serving as interim president since July of 2004, Phipps first earned the esteem and trust of senior administrators, educators, students, and staff through her work from 1998-2004 as academic dean and later as provost. During her combined tenure in those two roles, Phipps’ accomplishments included leading a successful restructuring of the College into five schools, co-authoring a $2 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., heading up an educational program review, and providing direction to the
Micah Project Committee, which seeks to address campus issues related to diversity.

President Phipps holds a Ph.D. in communication studies from Kent State University. Before coming to Messiah College, she served in a variety of leadership roles at Malone College in Canton, Ohio, including professor and chair of the Department of Communication Arts, acting dean of the college, and associate dean for faculty development.

Phipps began her presidency immediately following the board's announcement. She succeeds the late Rodney J. Sawatsky, who served as Messiah's president for ten years before retiring in June 2004 due to illness. The College's presidential search committee, chaired by Eunice F. Steinbrecher, conducted the national search for a new president beginning in March 2004 — an endeavor that generated what Steinbrecher characterized as an “impressive and competitive applicant pool” from which Phipps was ultimately selected.

For more information about President Phipps, visit www.messiah.edu/president.

New chief academic officer appointed

Randall G. Basinger was a respected leader in the Messiah College community long before he became provost in spring of 2005. For more than 20 years, Basinger has taught philosophy at Messiah and has twice received the College's “Excellence in Teaching Award.” From 1998 - 2004, Basinger enhanced the academic synergy of campus courses as associate dean for curriculum and later as dean of curriculum. In July 2004, he was appointed interim provost, when the former provost, Kim S. Phipps, assumed the interim president position.

“Dr. Basinger brings exceptional ability and experience to the role of provost, and I deeply appreciate his willingness to assume this important leadership position,” said President Phipps. “I have also received overwhelmingly positive feedback from faculty in support of Dr. Basinger's becoming Messiah's next provost.”

In his role of provost, Basinger is responsible for integrating all parts of campus life — strengthening the bridges between academic schools, student life, and athletics. The provost also oversees the teaching faculty and encourages innovative programming at Messiah.

Basinger received his doctorate in religion from Northwestern University in Chicago. Before coming to Messiah, Basinger served for six years as an associate professor of philosophy and biblical and religious studies at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas.

Class of 2005 charged to remake the world

Messiah graduates 632 students

On May 14, Messiah College officially sent 632 graduates into the world “armed, prepared, and ready,” as Commencement speaker Juan Williams said, “to offer the world talent and energy, and a sense of vision for what is right.”

Williams, a senior correspondent for National Public Radio and author of Eyes on the Prize, an influential book on the Civil Rights movement, was named the 2005 Alumni Merit Award recipient.
book on the Civil Rights movement, spoke to the graduating seniors about identifying their roles in the world and recognizing the history being made all around them.

At Commencement, Jamie Davies ’05, a politics major, was honored with the Alumni Merit Award for her achievements, which include winning a prestigious national Truman Award for her achievements, which include winning a prestigious national Truman Scholarship and being named a semifinalist for a Rhodes Scholarship.

Boyer Hall, which houses the School of the Humanities and the School of Education and Social Sciences, is one outcome of To Serve and To Lead: The Campaign for Student Enrichment at Messiah College. The 95,000-square-foot academic building opened in the fall of 2003, providing students with ample classroom space, state-of-the-art computer and language labs, and a 140-seat lecture hall.

"Participation in and enjoyment of the arts are of pivotal importance for a liberal arts education and are also powerful ways that God speaks to us and focuses our attention on Him."
— Gil Dyrli, member, Board of Trustees

Students reap rewards of successful campaign

Messiah College marks milestones in the campaign’s final year

To Serve and To Lead: The Campaign for Student Enrichment at Messiah College, the largest campaign in the College’s history, concludes in December 2005. The $50 million campaign reached many significant milestones during the past year and has enhanced students’ educational experience in many tangible ways.

"The campaign is about students at its very core," says Jon Stuckey, interim director of development. "It has provided students and faculty with state-of-the-art facilities—like Boyer Hall and Larsen Student Union—in which to learn and build relationships, procured additional financial aid funds in order to reduce the financial burden on students and their families, and enhanced experiential learning opportunities, such as the Harrisburg Institute, so students can more clearly pursue the call of God on their lives."

During the 2004–2005 fiscal year, the campaign raised significant student financial aid dollars, surpassed the $45 million mark ahead of schedule, and dedicated the Larsen Student Union as a social gathering place for students.

The campaign continues to raise critical support for the expansion of the Climenhaga Fine Arts Center. Gil Dyrli, a member of the Board of Trustees and parent of two Messiah alumni and one current student, stresses the importance of Messiah’s arts program. He says, "I believe strongly that participation in and enjoyment of the arts are of pivotal importance for a liberal arts education, and are also powerful ways that God speaks to us and focuses our attention on Him."

As of June 30, 2005, campaign contributions stood at $47.5 million leaving $2.5 million to be raised by the end of the calendar year. To find out more, visit www.messiah.edu/toserveandtolead.
KEITH D. MILLER ’05
Hometown: Lancaster, Pa.
Major: Christian ministries with a minor in theatre

“My favorite aspect of Messiah College was the overall community. I was able to form lasting relationships with both students and professors that have had a profound impact on my personal and faith development. To be able to seek God in an educational atmosphere was extremely beneficial.”