

PARENTS *progress*

Messiah actively promotes safe learning and living environment

Parents can encourage students to utilize on-campus resources for personal safety

Issues related to campus security and safety on college campuses have been widely discussed since situations like the tragedy at Virginia Tech and the devastating tornado at Union College dominated national media coverage. Messiah College, like many other institutions across the country, observed the colleges' responses while carefully considering how our own crisis management plan could be strengthened or altered to help ensure that Messiah is well equipped to respond quickly and effectively to an emergency situation of any proportion on campus.

In addition to an effective and efficient response, Messiah also has a responsibility to respond in a manner that reflects our faith commitment and our love for one another as a Christian community. Messiah College is committed to act prayerfully in a crisis with evident compassion, responsibility, honesty,



During the spring semester, 44 Messiah College students and employees completed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, a program designed to prepare citizens to aid emergency responders in times of emergency. Messiah's CERT participants gained hands-on experience in disaster preparedness, terrorism awareness, light search and rescue, and fire suppression.

IMPORTANT DATES

**WELCOME WEEK/
ORIENTATION**

August 28–September 2

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

September 2

FAMILY WEEKEND

September 26–28

FALL RECESS

October 9–12

HOMECOMING

October 18

THANKSGIVING RECESS

November 26–30

and integrity, and in a way that will honor the God we serve.

Parents play an important role in reinforcing for their students the importance of taking appropriate actions to help ensure personal safety. (The partnership between parents and the College is so important that Messiah's Department of Safety created a section on their website with advice just for parents: www.messiah.edu/offices/safety/parent_letter.html.) While having a crisis management plan in place to guide an emergency response is critical, Messiah recognizes that it is also equally important to be proactive in equipping the campus

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AUGUST 2008

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President

Kim S. Phipps

Co-chairs of the Messiah College Parents Council

Chris '79 and Heidi '81 Bingaman

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

Jay McClymont '92

Editor

Beth L. Lorow, Assistant Director
of Public Relations

Contributors

Kay Ben-Avraham '08

Rachel Pease, Director of Annual Giving

Evie Telfer, Associate College Pastor

Parents Progress is published by the Messiah College Advancement Division in cooperation with the Messiah College Parents Council.

Purpose Statement: *Parents Progress* exists to help promote strong parent connections with Messiah College by providing accurate news and information on issues of interest to parents of Messiah College students.

Any questions or feedback regarding this publication may be directed to Beth L. Lorow, Office of Marketing and Public Relations, Messiah College, Box 3020, Grantham, PA 17027

Phone: (717) 691-6027

Fax: (717) 796-5371

E-mail: progress@messiah.edu

Any questions regarding the Messiah College Parents Council may be directed to Chris '79 and Heidi '81 Bingaman, co-chairs, (570) 374-5704.

www.messiah.edu



From the president

Dear Parents:

The Messiah College community is eagerly looking forward to reconnecting with returning students and welcoming the students and families of the Class of 2012 to campus in just a few weeks! I hope to meet many of you during Welcome Week activities or during Family Weekend, scheduled for September 26–28.

Parents Progress is just one way that the College will communicate directly with you throughout your son or daughter's time at Messiah. We strive to make this newsletter as helpful to parents as possible, which is why this issue touches on a variety of topics from campus safety, to the College's upcoming Centennial celebration, to a list of specific prayer requests for the Messiah community.

This issue also introduces you to Jay McClymont, a 1992 graduate of Messiah who has returned to lead our Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. This office is an outstanding resource for the parents of all Messiah College students. You will likely encounter the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations through their e-mail communications and their role with planning important events like Family Weekend and Homecoming.

As you will read in this issue's feature, parents play a vital role in encouraging their son or daughter to proactively pursue ways to be safe and healthy while they are enrolled at Messiah. Please encourage your



student to take advantage of resources such as the text message alert system, first aid classes, or the on-campus Engle Center for Counseling and Health Services. Thank you for your support as the College works diligently to provide its students, employees, and campus guests with a safe environment.

I look forward to partnering with you to help ensure that your son or daughter has an academically challenging, spiritually formative, and personally enriching experience at Messiah College. Thank you for joining us in our commitment to educate students toward maturity of intellect, character, and Christian faith.

Warm regards,

Kim S. Phipps
President



WE ARE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO FAMILY WEEKEND 2008 and look forward to welcoming you to campus. A weekend of fun activities has been planned for you and your family to enjoy together. Check www.messiah.edu/offices/student_affairs/student_programs/family_weekend/ for the latest schedule of events.

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community with information and resources about personal safety. From purposefully placed campus call boxes, to free first aid classes, to an onsite counseling center, Messiah College is committed to creating and maintaining a safe living and learning environment for its students, employees, and campus guests.

Here is a sampling of campus resources and offices devoted to helping individuals and the College in times of crisis or emergency.

Crisis management plan

Messiah’s crisis management plan is thorough — covering everything from responses to natural disasters and fires, to evacuation plans, to inventories of equipment and supplies stored on campus. A team of college professionals, including representatives from student affairs, public relations, facility services, campus safety, and operations, meet regularly to discuss the plan, talk through potential scenarios, and propose recommendations to ensure the plan is a helpful guide in times of emergency.

To minimize security risks, the plan is not a public document. It is, however, shared with local law enforcement agencies that are familiar with campus so that they can assist, or, in some cases, direct an emergency response.

“Messiah College understands its responsibility in contributing to a safe and secure campus environment; however, it needs to be a joint, community effort. We encourage parents to help us spread the message that safety starts with the individual.”

— *Cindy Burger, director for the Department of Safety and Dispatch Services*

Text message alert system

The prevalence of cell phones provides the College with an additional means of communicating quickly and effectively via a text message alert system to a broad distribution of students and employees during an emergency situation.

“Of course, the College would continue to use its website, mass e-mails, voice mails, posted signs, and word of mouth to communicate during an emergency situation, says Kathie Shafer, vice president for operations and crisis controller. “But, even if only one student in a class receives a text message alert, he or she can notify an entire classroom of the situation. The word of mouth potential with this type of alert system adds considerable additional value.”

The text message alert system is voluntarily; students can sign-up by logging onto MC Square and registering their cell phone number. (See page 4 for instructions as to how your student can sign-up for text message alerts.)

For more information about the text message alert system, go to www.messiah.edu/emergency/text_alert.html.

Campus safety department

Messiah’s Department of Safety, comprised of 20 employees, is dedicated to providing a safe and secure living, learning, and working environment for all members of the Messiah community. “Students and their parents are understandably concerned about the issue of safety on college campuses,” says Cindy Burger, director for the Department of Safety and Dispatch Services. She adds, “Messiah College understands its responsibility in contributing to a safe and secure campus environment; however, it needs to be a joint, community effort. We encourage parents to help us spread the message that safety starts with the individual.”

In addition to patrolling campus 24 hours a day, campus safety offers a variety of training throughout the semester: RAD (Rape Aggression Defense), first aid/CPR, and alcohol awareness are just a few of the classes. To see a training schedule, go to www.messiah.edu/offices/safety/training.html.

A complete list of services provided by the Department of Safety can be found at www.messiah.edu/offices/safety/department_services.html.

Emergency phones and on-campus safety escort service

There are 15 emergency phones located at various locations across campus. Each phone has a red emergency button that directly connects the caller to a campus dispatcher in addition to a keypad that allows for calling any extension on campus.

The Department of Safety also offers a free safety escort service from dusk to dawn, seven days a week, so that any student feeling wary about walking anywhere on campus alone can request a safety escort. Students can simply use any emergency phone or campus phone to call ext. 6005, and the escort will be dispatched to pick them up.

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CAMPUS RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Department of Safety

(717) 691-6005

www.messiah.edu/offices/safety

The Engle Center for Counseling and Health Services

(717) 691-6035

www.messiah.edu/offices/engle_center

Residence Life

(717) 796-5239

www.messiah.edu/offices/residence_life

College Ministries

(717) 691-6017

www.messiah.edu/ministries



TEXT MESSAGES SERVE AS AN IMPORTANT ALERT

Students can “get in the know” by signing up to receive text message alerts in case of a campus emergency. Please encourage your son or daughter to sign up for the text message alert system by following these easy steps:

- Log onto MC Square.
- Go to the “Student-Home” tab.
- Click “Text Message Alert System” under the Campus Life heading.
- Complete the brief form to register for text message alerts.
- Once you have entered your phone number, you are registered to receive campuswide text message alerts.
- A text message will then be sent to your phone to confirm your enrollment. (Standard text message rates may apply for any alerts you receive, depending on your plan with your cellular service provider.)

For more information about the text message alert system, go to www.messiah.edu/emergency/text_alert.html.

Meet Jay McClymont, new director of alumni and parent relations

By Kay Ben-Avraham '08

“You know, Muhammad Ali once said, ‘A man who sees the world the same way at 60 as he did at 30 has wasted 30 years of his life,’” remarks Jay McClymont, Messiah’s new director of alumni and parent relations. “I think that’s true of faith, especially. Messiah’s unique in that it’s a place, for me and for others, where your faith is challenged, shaped, and changed.”

For McClymont, a 1992 graduate in communications, Messiah was the place where he first took real ownership of his faith: “It had been spoon-fed to me before I came,” he recalls. “Here at Messiah, I realized, if I’m just looking at Jesus as a train ticket to heaven and not someone who transforms my life . . . well, there’s a problem!”

His enthusiasm extends to his professional life as well. After about 10 years in customer service, recruiting, and training, McClymont was asked by Messiah to consider organizing his own 10-year college reunion. The record for attendance stood at 87; McClymont determined to break that record. One letter-writing campaign and a lot of work later, he watched proudly as the class reunion welcomed 400 returning alumni and family members to campus.

After that point, he became involved with the Alumni Council, often speaking to first-year students or communications classes, as well as leading tours for prospective students. On one visit, he learned that the position of director for alumni and parent relations was opening up, applied for the job, and officially joined the team in March.

“What I’d really like to do is work towards allowing parents to experience what their children are experiencing,” he says. “One idea I have is making chapel recordings available online, or even setting up a webcast.” That way, parents could have access to what their children are hearing, and it would create great opportunities for parents to talk with their



children about what was said in chapel that morning.

McClymont and his wife, Valerie, have spent most of their married lives in community involvement — from giving block parties and hosting Bible studies to helping in a church plant in Harrisburg (The City’s Gate, a Presbyterian church they now attend). In his spare time, he trains for and runs marathons. “I come from a family of runners,” he says, “And to some extent, you have to have amnesia between marathons — forget all the pain of running the last six miles of the race — to be willing to do it again!”

His memory works fine when it comes to recalling his own time as a student, however. The richness of his college years drives him to encourage student involvement in all Messiah has to offer — sports events, speakers and chapels, cross-cultural, and more — and he has an important piece of advice for parents of current or future students. “Although Messiah is feeding students spiritually, socially, and intellectually, nothing can replace parents,” he asserts. “Don’t underestimate the encouragement of care packages and letters from you. Do the extra work to stay in touch with your child. Nothing is more heartening for a student than that.”

You can contact Jay McClymont at (717) 796-5252 or jmcclymont@messiah.edu.

Messiah College prepares to celebrate its Centennial

During the 2009–2010 academic year, Messiah College will celebrate 100 years of educating students toward maturity of intellect, character, and Christian faith. The Centennial theme — “Shared Faith. Bold Vision. Enduring Promise.” — reflects the College’s desire to celebrate this milestone by honoring our rich heritage, recognizing the blessings of the present, and looking ahead to a promising future.

Many events are being planned to involve the entire Messiah College community — students, parents, employees, alumni, donors, community members — in celebrating this milestone. The Centennial committee will be launching a website at the start of 2008–2009 academic year; stay tuned for more information!



Good Samaritan Fund receives commitments of \$20,000

The Parents Council at Messiah College has recently established a new emergency fund to provide assistance to students who are faced with unexpected financial need. Called the Good Samaritan Fund, this fund is designed as a resource for the College’s president and administration to use to help students who face circumstances that could potentially hinder their enrollment at Messiah (i.e. death of a parent, loss of income, etc).

Thanks to leadership commitments from parents and collective contributions from the Parents Council, we have received commitments totaling a little more than \$20,000 for the Good Samaritan Fund! The Parents Council has set an initial goal of \$30,000 (about the same amount as the current cost of tuition, room, and board), and hope to maintain an account balance in that range. This way, the College will have a substantial resource to help students with unexpected financial need.

We invite you to join other parents and contribute to the Good Samaritan Fund. Contact Rachel Pease, director of annual giving, at rpease@messiah.edu or (717) 796-5066.

Can you believe...?

“I turned down a full-ride scholarship and opportunity to play collegiate soccer in order to attend Messiah College.”



Gerard Marrone
Class of 2010

Read my story at www.messiah.edu/admissions/believe.

AUGUST 2008
PARENTS progress

Prayer and praise

Prayer

- For first-year students and their families as they transition to college life (finding a good group of friends, making connections with faculty and staff, adjusting to new responsibilities, choosing their involvements, finding a church and fellowship group)
- Residence Life staff as they support and lead students
- For wisdom and God's direction for the leaders of the new Koinonia small group ministry as they lead this ministry and help students connect in small groups
- Student Government Association Cabinet and the student organizations as they set vision and make plans for the year
- Students who will be studying abroad (protection, wisdom, new friendships, hearts open to God)

Praise

- The work of the summer ministry teams (Agapé Center and Collaboratory teams as well as individuals who served over the summer)
- A season of rest and renewal and new energy for the year ahead
- God's faithfulness through every transition and challenge

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Engle Center for Counseling and Health Services

Beyond taking physical measures to ensure safety protocols are in place, Messiah also cares deeply for the individuals that live, learn, and work on campus. The Engle Center for Counseling and Health Services is a vital component of helping members of the Messiah community maintain physical health and emotional well-being. Their services are confidential and free to students, and their website — www.messiah.edu/offices/engle_center/— offers resources to help student assess their health, make responsible choices, and seek help when needed.

Messiah has undertaken key initiatives to help provide a safe learning, living, and working environment. In addition to these broad campus initiatives, many resources exist to assist individual students facing a personal crisis as well. For more information, including updates related to College safety protocols, please visit www.messiah.edu/emergency.