

### Work-study jobs provide students more than just financial aid



*Junior Kristin Russell (right) says working with children in the College's Early Learning Center greatly impacted her educational journey.*

**"This job is a great way to prepare me for my career."**

*—Kristin Russell, junior early childhood education major from East Brunswick, N.J.*

Junior communication major Kathryn Tarquin says her work-study job is a blessing. For Tarquin, and hundreds of students like her at Messiah, participating in the Federal Work-Study Program provides significant funds for college. Last year alone, 850 Messiah students received more than \$1 million in aid from participating in the program. But the blessing to which Tarquin refers is not just of the financial sort.

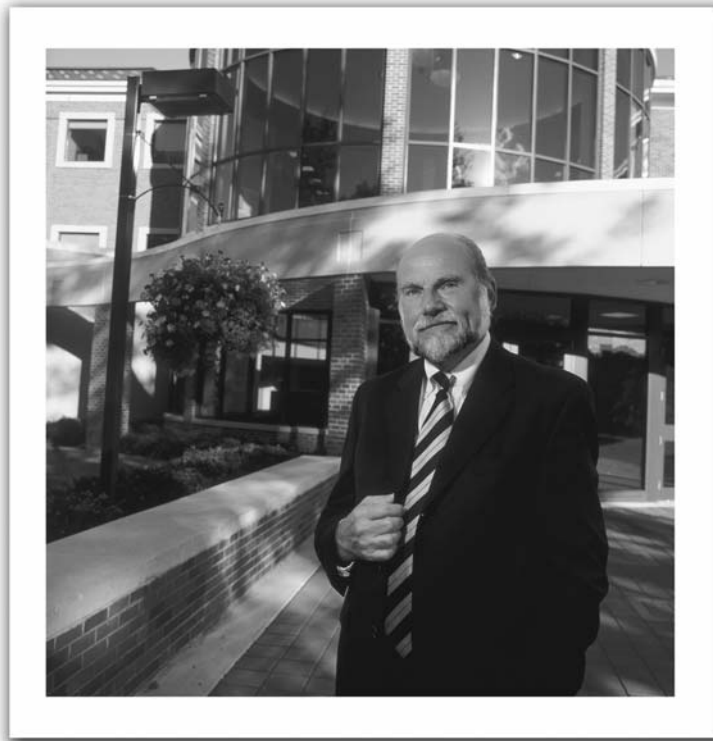
When first established as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Federal Work-Study Program was designed to promote part-time employment of college students at their schools for the purpose of creating financial aid for them. In essence, it was another way to provide funding for a college education. Over the years, however, the federal-

ly subsidized work-study program at Messiah has become much more than just another resource for financial aid.

While on-campus work-study jobs do supply students with extra money for college, they also provide very practical experience that better prepares them for employment or graduate school. Students often find that their work-study positions enhance their education as they learn and apply marketable skills.

"Being a work-study in the College's public relations office helps me to grasp a lot of what goes on in an in-house PR office," says Tarquin, who is from Buffalo, N.Y. "It's given me great experience that directly relates to my major and career goals."

Tarquin says that she learned everything from how to write using Associated



True, such times can also evidence self-righteousness and encourage conflict. Such polarizing is not absent at Messiah. Yet I am deeply gratified with the civility and seriousness of the conversation on this campus about very important issues over which committed Christians can be deeply divided. Particularly our senior students are evidencing a maturity ready to engage the world as servants, leaders, and reconcilers wherever they are called.

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*“So we prepare, especially in the midst of heaviness, to be agents of reconciliation within a broken world in the confidence that the resurrection rather than death and destruction is ultimately triumphant.”*

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Thankfully, young people are also resilient. Even while they are burdened by the times and pursuing their studies with diligence, they are not overwhelmed. In the midst of these challenging months, Messiah’s wonderful sledding slopes have seen more action than ever before; we have once again been impressed by exceptional athletes and entertained by great musical and dramatic performances; and our worship together remains truly joyous. Seriousness and celebration, hard work and excellent play are both thriving on the campus today.

Here at Messiah we know the hard realities of Lent and Good Friday, but even more, we know the wonderful truth of Easter. Because Jesus lives and reigns, we do not live in fear and despair but in hope. So we prepare, especially in the midst of heaviness, to be agents of reconciliation within a broken world in the confidence that the resurrection rather than death and destruction is ultimately triumphant.

I hope that you and your families enjoyed a wonderful Easter together in the power of the Prince of Peace!

Your Colleague in Christian Education,

Rodney J. Sawatsky  
President

## From the President

Dear Parents:

Snow and more snow, cold and more cold—this winter was a rough one. Combined with the unpredictable future that war will bring and a very sluggish economy, we have been living in unusually challenging times. These are especially heavy times for students who have known only the optimistic ‘90s.

As I write this during Lent, this season is unusually relevant. Lent is a time of self-examination and penitence, a season of humility before the almighty God. The diverse denominations represented in the Messiah community observe the days of Lent in many different ways. So too, our students are processing the challenges of these times in a variety of ways. Some have been systematically fasting and praying, others are debating and protesting, most are seeking to sort through their own beliefs and emotions, and none are able to avoid the realities of war since at least six of their fellow students already have reported for active duty. All, we hope and pray, are maturing in intellect, character, and Christian faith in the Lenten spirit of humility before their God.

Paradoxically, very difficult times can be good times for education and growth.

## Parents

### *Progress*

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**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.

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*Work-study jobs continued from page 1*

Press Style (the industry standard for newswriting) to the complexities of crafting marketing and promotional plans. But aside from the experience they provide, some work-study positions can even shape a student's career path in dramatic ways.

When she began her first semester at Messiah in the fall of 2000, Kristin Russell, a junior from East Brunswick, N.J., enrolled as a pre-nursing major. Now an early childhood education major, Russell's decision to change career tracks came largely from her experience working in the College's Early Learning Center—a multi-age lab school and childcare facility, located on campus.

Russell says that she enjoyed working with children so much during her first semester that she needed to reconsider her future vocation. "I was working with the preschool children and I absolutely love the interaction I had with them," she says.

"Throughout that first semester I prayed about switching majors, and by January I felt God telling me my calling was in education. Working at the Early Learning Center certainly had an impact on my decision to switch majors as well as my career goals."

And while the type of work that students perform can often shape future decisions, many students also learn from the relational component of their jobs.

Sonja Bontrager, a junior music major from Berrien Springs, Mich., is quick to credit her work-study supervisor, Doug Curry, for his influential role in her educational choices and career journey. She says that Curry, who is the minister of worship at the College, gave her a lot of good direction and assurance of his prayers as she considered changing her major from nursing to music.

"Working with Doug in college ministries did impact my choice of major and the way I view vocation," she says. "Doug is available whenever any of us want to talk, and he takes a serious interest in the lives of the work-studies."

Bontrager now plans to pursue graduate studies in music theory after finishing at Messiah. "My work-study job has definitely been a significant influence on the direction I'm taking," she says.

Brendan Post, a junior from Albion, N.Y., double-majoring in mathematics and

computer science, also believes that his work-study position has played an integral part in shaping his career ambitions. "My work involving web development and software project management in the admissions office allowed me to picture myself pursuing these areas beyond a part-time position," says Post, who now hopes to put his experience to work in the software engineering field after finishing at Messiah. He says that the experience has been great.

The students' supervisors agree that work-study positions are an excellent way for students to gain practical experience that directly relates to a student's major. "Students studying early childhood education, a behavioral science, or elementary education often view their work at the Early Learning Center as an extension or application of what they're learning in the classroom," says Alice Kustenbauder, assistant director of the Early Learning Center's childcare program.

"Working at the Early Learning Center over the past three years has been extremely informative and rewarding," says Jill Fortna, a senior double-majoring in early childhood education and Christian ministries. "Because of my job here, I've obtained a great deal of interaction with children and now feel I can go into a teaching job having seen all of the developmental stages children have gone through before my teaching them."

Russell agrees that having a work-study position in her field of study is a bonus. "This job is a great way to prepare me for my career."

Like Fortna and Russell, many work-study students view their jobs as an extension of their education at Messiah. It is education outside of the classroom.

But the benefits of work-study does not end with the students. The program also profits the College.

"The Early Learning Center's professional atmosphere is enhanced by the work-study students because their course work, training, and passion relate directly to their work with young children," says Kustenbauder. "Teachers and parents alike take confidence in working with students who are devoted to caring for and educating children and families."

Bontrager's supervisor, Doug Curry, agrees. "We view our relationship with



*Junior Sonja Bontrager (right) credits her supervisor, Doug Curry, for his influence on her educational choices.*

work-study students in large measure as a mutually beneficial partnership," he adds. "The students assist us in accomplishing goals and objectives, and they also help us to understand concerns, issues, and thoughts from their perspective."

In this way, the perspective of both work-study students and supervisors seems to be the same. The benefits of the work-study program are priceless. Students receive more than just financial aid and the College gets more than just part-time assistance. Through meaningful work-study positions, students gain tangible and marketable skills, define career tracks, create and strengthen relationships and meet goals and objectives. Ultimately, the work-study program at Messiah is really about a community meeting each other's needs. It is about education.

## Commencement fast approaching

On Saturday, May 17, Messiah College will hold its 2003 graduation ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Starry



Athletic Complex. The outdoor ceremony, a popular tradition started six years ago, benefits the graduates by enabling them to invite an unlimited number of guests and eliminating the need for tickets. To stay current with the most up-to-date details on Commencement 2003, visit [www.messiah.edu/commencement](http://www.messiah.edu/commencement).

Commencement 2003

## Traveling Music Ensembles take Messiah College "on the road"

This year, the department of music and the office of public relations have expanded the College's existing traveling music ensemble program to satisfy a greater variety of musical tastes and event needs. In addition to high-quality vocal groups, the music department has also made available several very fine instrumental ensembles to now travel. The College's traveling repertoire now includes everything from classical, sacred and contemporary music to jazz, big band and gospel. To request a group to perform for your church, school, community or business organization, or for a complete list of the ensembles, visit [www.messiah.edu/travelingensembles](http://www.messiah.edu/travelingensembles) or contact Eunice Hager, performing arts coordinator, at (717) 691-6027, ext. 1.

## Parent relations to get new home

The role of coordinating parent relations will shift from the division of student affairs to the advancement division. The move will help the college more strategically engage two of its most loyal and enthusiastic groups. Maximizing relationships with both groups will benefit the educational and spiritual growth of students.

Beginning July 1, the alumni office will become the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations will be directed by Randy Ness '77, current director of alumni relations and a parent of a current Messiah student, and will be housed in the McBeth Alumni Center. In the coming academic year, expect to learn more from this office about the opportunities available for parents to become involved in the life of the College.



Current director of alumni relations, Randy Ness, will also work closely with parents beginning July 1.

"As an alumnus and a parent of a current student, I look forward to serving both alumni and parents and exploring opportunities for synergy between these two enthusiastic groups."

## What's new at [messiah.edu](http://messiah.edu)?

- ▶ **Virtual "Viewbook"**—Visit [www.messiah.edu/viewbook](http://www.messiah.edu/viewbook) to get an informative overview of Messiah College's many offerings, including information on academics, spiritual life, financial aid, campus life, athletics, and more.
- ▶ **"Challenge from the Chair"**—Learn more about the generous \$250,000 challenge gift issued by Eunice Steinbrecher '58, Messiah's Board of Trustees Chair, by visiting [www.messiah.edu/giving/cftc03.shtml](http://www.messiah.edu/giving/cftc03.shtml). Supporting the College's Student Impact Fund, the Challenge from the Chair has already raised more than \$150,000 to directly support student scholarships, student mission trips, and to help make other educational opportunities a reality. At the website, you'll find out how the fund is already making a difference in the lives of students by reading online testimonials.



## Women end successful basketball season in tournament's Elite Eight

For the third year in a row, the Messiah College women's basketball team reached the NCAA Division III championship tournament, making it all the way to the quarter-final round of competition before falling to the University of Rochester. The Falcons' successful season included finishing with an impressive 28-3 record and capturing their second straight Commonwealth Conference cham-

ampionship title. Two players—seniors Christina Vouriotis and Amie Kretzing—were first-team selections to the Conference All-Star team for the second year in a row. Coach Mike Miller was named Commonwealth Coach of the Year for the second time in three years and Vouriotis earned the league's Most Valuable Player title for the third consecutive year.

# Students take spring break journey to civil rights—era South

While cold winter weather prompts many students at northern colleges to book traditional spring break trips to southern climates in search of fun and relaxation, more than 20 students from Messiah headed south for a very different reason.

After a rigorous application process, 21 Messiah students were selected to take a “Civil Rights Journey” during the college’s spring break, March 14–22. The students traveled through four southern states—Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee—to experience history and events to build a deeper personal understanding of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and ’60s.

“This trip was an eye-opener for most of these students,” says Deborah Richardson-Bouie, Ph.D., associate dean for multicultural programs and special assistant to the provost for diversity affairs at Messiah College. “It shed a lot of light on the history of the African-American struggle for justice, giving students the closest look possible to monumental events that happened before their time.”

Prior to leaving for their nine-day journey, the racially diverse student group, made up of African-American, Caucasian, international and Latino students, participated in a series of workshops that focused on team building, civil rights history, and discussions on peace, justice, race, and reconciliation. The “Civil Rights Journey” was created with funds from a \$2 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., which the College received in 2001 to explore Christian

vocation, including peacemaking and reconciliation initiatives.

**Highlights of the trip included visits to:**

- **The King Center in Atlanta, Ga.**—the official, living memorial dedicated to the advancement of the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- **The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in Selma, Ala.**—a museum founded by the survivors of America’s “Bloody Sunday” massacre to honor the courage of civil rights supporters who endured hatred and violence and died to gain the right to vote for Black Americans.
- **The Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Ala.**—an educational museum that uses targeted curriculum to promote discussion and understanding on race and justice issues, as well as multimedia exhibits that depict the dramatic events of the civil rights era.
- **The Rosa Parks Library and Museum in Montgomery, Ala.**—where the students experienced a recreation of what segregation was like by taking a “ride” on a 1950s-era bus that used a multimedia presentation to simulate the Rosa Parks incident.

Students also walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge where the “Bloody Sunday” massacre occurred, took visits to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University Library and the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center. Additionally, the students met with southern politicians,



*The Messiah students take a somber walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala.—sight of the “Bloody Sunday” massacre of 1965*

dined on soul food, were immersed in southern Black culture, and visited key churches that supported and helped to define the American civil rights movement.

Four Messiah educators accompanied the students on their journey, which was facilitated by the Reverend Robert Graetz. A Lutheran pastor for more than 30 years, Graetz was in Montgomery during the 1955 bus boycott—the event that many historians cite as placing civil rights for Black Americans on the national agenda. Graetz, along with his neighbor Rosa Parks, and friends Reverends Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ralph Abernathy, was a participant in and a witness to one of the most tumultuous periods in America’s history. His book, *A White Preacher’s Memoir*, offers a look at what Graetz called “a white pastor and his wife from the North serving a Negro congregation in the South in the middle of a totally segregated society.” All of the students who took the journey read and discussed Graetz’s book during their time together.

## Distinguished, long-time educator to present commencement address

Dr.Carolynn Reid-Wallace, president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., will deliver the address at this year’s commencement ceremony. The first female and 13th president of Fisk University, her alma mater, Reid-Wallace also served for five years as senior vice president for education and programming at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

In 1991, she was a presidential appointee to the position of assistant sec-

retary of postsecondary education in the United States Department of Education. As the nation’s chief spokesperson for higher education, postsecondary policy and student financial aid, she managed a \$12-billion budget and a workforce of more than 1,200 employees.

Prior to her DOE assignment, she was the vice chancellor for academic affairs (chief academic officer) of the City University of New York—the third largest

public university system in the United States. Considered by her peers to be a distinguished and gifted teacher and administrator, Reid-Wallace is renowned for carrying out her vision of excellence in higher education.

To learn more about Dr. Reid-Wallace, visit Messiah’s commencement website at [www.messiah.edu/commencement](http://www.messiah.edu/commencement) or go to Fisk University at [www.fisk.edu](http://www.fisk.edu).

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*Address Service Requested*

# WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

*Parents Progress* exists to provide information on issues relevant to you as parents. Let us know what topics you would like to know more about: Academics? Spiritual matters? Parent-to-parent advice? Athletics? Personal profiles of students, faculty, or parents? We want to know! Please give us your feedback and let us know what you'd like to read in this publication. E-mail [progress@messiah.edu](mailto:progress@messiah.edu) with your thoughts and suggestions.



## Prayer & Praise Items

As parents, you are valued members of the Messiah College community, and our College Ministries staff invites you to partner with Messiah in prayer and praise for the following:

### Praise Items:

- Praise God for the sacrificial service students provided during spring break service projects.
- Praise God for the healthy dialogue that occurs on campus over global issues that affect all.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the individuals and teams preparing for summer mission trips to Guatemala, the Philippines, and Uganda.
- Pray for the recently elected leaders of the Student Government Association.
- Pray for wisdom in selecting Life Group floor coordinators, interns, and leaders.
- Pray for the safety and spiritual impact of the New Light music ministry team this summer.
- Pray for the graduating seniors as they transition to new endeavors.