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Department of Nutrition and Dietetics Hosts Outstanding CADE Site Visit

Program reviewers from the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association (ADA) were on campus for a site visit September 18-21st as part of the re-accreditation process for our Didactic Program in Dietetics. Referring to the department's **self-study report as one of the best they had ever seen**, the two visiting reviewers had mostly strong praise to report as they summarized their findings, including:

- Overall Messiah offers a very strong dietetic program
- Our students are well informed, articulate, and can relate examples of the integration of Christian faith with nutrition and dietetics practice.
- Graduates have a "phenomenal" pass rate on the national exam to become a Registered Dietitian, and the
- Program has a very high internship acceptance rate (100% in the past 4 years).



The one weakness of the report cited by the reviewers was that we did not do a good job of "tooting our own horn" with regard to the many strengths of our program! But then again, maybe CADE does not appreciate the importance of humility at Messiah!

Congratulations to Drs. Mary Ann Mihok, Kay Witt, Amy Binkoski and their team of adjunct faculty and program advisors for the wonderful program they have developed and for an excellent site visit. The final results of the re-accreditation process will be released late next spring.

SOHNS Home Coming Events

This year's Homecoming Day, October 15, features several events of particular interest to the School of Health and Natural Sciences.



- Nutrition Reception honoring Associate Professor Emerita **Dr. Mary Ann Mihok**, 11:00 a.m. Hollinger Atrium, Jordan
- Nursing Department Luncheon celebrating twenty years of accredited nursing at Messiah College, 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m., White Tent, Bittner Lawn, tickets \$8 each.

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- Alumni Awards Luncheon honoring **Robert D. Snyder '72, M.D.** as recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Noon- 1:30 p.m., Grantham Church
- Department of Health and Human Performance Alumni Reception honoring retiring professor **Barb Burwell**, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Sollenberger 165
- School of Health and Natural Sciences Alumni Reception for all departments, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Hollinger Atrium, Jordan Center
- The Oakes Museum Open House, 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Twenty Years of Accredited Nursing at Messiah!

We are celebrating twenty years of accredited nursing education at Messiah College! In 1985 the first class of 22 nursing students graduated from the new baccalaureate nursing program. Since then more than **800 nurses have graduated and served** all over the world. The Department has published a special commemorative newsletter highlighting some of the many special memories generated over the years. The newsletter may be viewed at http://www.messiah.edu/departments/nursing/newsletter/spring_05.pdf.

The following quote and the accompanying picture are from the newsletter. "... approximately **10–30 percent** [of the 800 graduates] have pursued **advanced degrees in nursing**, and many have assumed leadership positions in practice and education. Perhaps most rewarding, several have joined the Department of Nursing as clinical teaching faculty. We know that **Messiah College nurses have practiced in many parts of the world including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America, India, Asia, the Middle East, Africa**, and more. Frequently, we are told about the excellence of our graduates, and how they are "somehow different" in their nursing practice. Naturally, we believe that the unique perspective of the curriculum with its focus on the Christian worldview explains that "difference." Those of us privileged to be a part of this two-decade adventure believe passionately in its importance and value to nursing now and in the future. **We applaud that brave first class and its educators**, and we thank them for beginning this wonderful journey."

The early years: Left to right, (sitting) Ruth Stoll, Kay Huber, Carolyn Kreamer, Sandra Goodling; (standing) Jan Towers, Joan Rice, Martha (O'Donnell) Solomon, Arlene Miller, Eileen Gardner, Susan Gray, Elaine Hagenbuch



We too congratulate the accomplishments of the faculty and students who have made this a model nursing program.

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Faculty Retreat Focuses on Health and Science "Viewed from the Cross"

Sponsored the Lily Grant on Vocation, over 40 faculty and staff from the School of Health and Natural Sciences attended a two-day retreat in Gettysburg, this past August, to study and play together. The goals of the retreat were to: 1) help us more fully integrate Christian perspectives into our ministry at Messiah, and 2) continue to build community within SOHNS. Our guest speaker, author, astrophysicist and pastor, **Dr. George L. Murphy** lectured on the *Theology of the Cross* and its implications for questions about divine action, origins/evolution and suffering/death. The highlight for most participants was the sharing by eight **faculty** members of how their **personal faith journeys** impacted their vocation as Messiah College faculty. On the lighter side, we also enjoyed times of relaxation either on the golf course, or riding go carts, playing miniature golf, shopping, hiking, looking for dinosaur fossils and tracking Gettysburg ghosts!

One faculty member wrote afterwards, " . . . I consider the SOHNS Retreat this August one of the best academic retreats that I have attended. The combination of George Murphy's presentations and testimonies from colleagues provided a variety of ideas and moments that I am still thinking about. Also, great setting, and enjoyed opportunities to converse with others outside of [my] Department."



Bioethics Seminar on Redefining Death

Combining her training in neuroscience and her interest in questions about the differentiation of body, soul and mind, **Dr. Sheri Boyce, Associate Professor of Biology**, chose to write her Christian Scholarship Promotion Essay on the topic, "When does life end and death begin?" On September 14, 2005, Dr. Boyce presented a lecture/discussion, based on her essay, entitled "**Not Dead But Not Living: Using the Terri Shiavo Case As An Impetus to Redefine Death**" in Parmer Cinema for students, faculty and staff. Beginning with the problems inherent in defining death using biological parameters, Dr. Boyce delved into questions about what makes us human and suggested that psychological and biblical understandings of personhood may yield better criteria for life and death decisions. A thought provoking discussion followed the presentation.



Nurses Establish Cole Crest Community Health Center

The Department of Nursing has entered into an agreement with The Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin to establish a nurse-managed **Community Health Center** serving Housing Authority residents of the **Cole Crest Center** at 900 Cumbler Street in Steelton. The State Board of Nursing has approved utilization of the site for student nurse clinical education. Modeled after the **Wellness Center at Hoy Towers** in Steelton, managed by **Dr. Kay Huber**, the Cole

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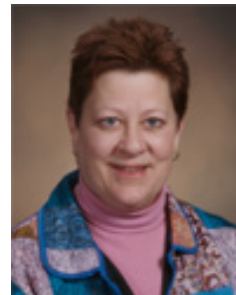
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Crest Community Health Center will be staffed two days a week by students and faculty who will provide health education, health promotion/illness prevention activities, health screening and health/safety assessments for residents. Assistant Professor **Wanda Thuma-McDermond** (see photo) is the designated nurse manager of the Cole Crest program.



Faced with rapidly expanding competition for access to clinical sites, especially in community health, this initiative illustrates the proactive steps the Department of Nursing is taking to develop new clinical sites and serve our community.

More Kudos for Nutrition and Dietetics

Congratulations to the 2005 Nutrition and Dietetics Graduates!

All six of the graduates who applied to dietetic internships were successful - extending the department's 100% dietetic internship acceptance rate to 4 years in a row! In addition, two of these students received scholarships from their dietetic internships. The other 3 graduates quickly were hired for jobs in health care, two in public health nutrition and one in mental health care.

Dr. Amy Binkoski, Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics,

was first author on a research article published this past July in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, entitled, *Balance of Unsaturated Fatty Acids Is Important to a Cholesterol-Lowering Diet: Comparison of Mid-Oleic Sunflower Oil and Olive Oil on Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors*, vol. 105, 1080-1086, 2006. The study shows that polyunsaturated fats are an important component of cholesterol lowering diet.



Specifically, a diet rich in polyunsaturated fats from sunflower oil lowered total cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, 4.7% and 5.8% respectively, compared to olive oil-substituted diet or the average American diet. The findings will help further define optimal diets for reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Hollinger Endowment for Oakes Museum

Bill and Lucille Hollinger were wonderful friends of the Oakes Museum and Messiah College. Introduced to the College by the late Leonard Hinckley, a Harrisburg business man who donated his collection of African mammals to the museum, the Hollinger's followed suit by donating their extensive collection of North American mammals. Their generosity did not stop with the donation of their animal collection,



however. Soon thereafter, the Hollinger's worked with Robert Brown, director of planned and leadership gifts, to give one million dollars in exchange for a charitable gift annuity. Bill and Lucille have since passed away and the remainder of their gift annuity, approximately \$668,000, has been transferred to the **Hollinger Endowment for**

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the Oakes Museum to support museum operating and maintenance expenses. We are so grateful to the Hollinger's for their generosity and will do our best to honor their legacy.

An Encouraging Word

We received a note from alumni **Anuj Kalsy, Biology '04**, who is currently a Sr. Research Technologist in the Division of Medicine/Infectious Disease at Harvard Medical School. He had many kind things to say about Messiah and especially his mentor **Dr. Larry Mylin**. Some of his letter will be reproduced and distributed at Homecoming. Presented below is his final paragraph.

"Upon reflection, I realize that the skills that have brought me success in my current role and will most certainly aid in my future roles will be the skills and insights that I gained through my undergraduate research experience and classes at Messiah College. Organization, determination, persistence, the ability to focus, problem solving skills, an ability to analyze situations, the desire to strive for excellence, and personal confidence -these are attributes and values that I am very often told are my assets. The training and knowledge I have gained at Messiah College will always remain instrumental in my future success. **Thanks to Messiah for helping me attain the goals that God had for my life and for molding me into a responsible, budding, early-career Christian Scientist.**"



Pictured above: Anuj (3rd from right) Dr. Mylin (far right) and other presenting students at the 2003 ASA conference in Colorado.

It's About Time . . .

We all know that **Deb Poplaski**, Assistant to the Dean, is a special blessing to the entire School. Finally, a faculty member had the gumption to write her and tell her so. Fortunately, the following note of praise fell into the Dean's hands or we would never have learned about it. We could not have said it better!



Hi Deb,

I just want to tell you **how much I appreciate your work**. You really do a wonderful job of facilitating much of what goes on around here. You are always helpful (even when the questions are not directly related to your area) and you do it cheerfully! You are (by far) **the most supportive and simply the nicest person I've ever encountered performing your demanding job**. Your positive attitude and joyfulness help to create the great atmosphere we all enjoy in the SOHNS. Thanks, A Grateful Faculty Member

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Finally, from the Funny Papers



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In case you did not know, the Dean writes our Good News! Notes.