



Good News Notes!

School of Health and Natural Sciences
Messiah College (SOHNS)

Summer 2005

Volume 1, Number 1

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God and Science

<http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/>

Oakes Museum

<http://www.messiah.edu/Oakes/>

American Scientific Affiliation

<http://www.asa3.org/>

Steinbrecher Summer Research Program

The **Steinbrecher Summer Undergraduate Research Program** premiered this summer thanks to the generous support of the *Steinbrecher Endowment for Research in the School of Health and Natural Sciences* and grants awarded to **Dr. Erik Lindquist** from *The Nature Conservancy*, and the *Department of Conservation and Natural Resources*. Research proposals from six students and six faculty mentors were approved to fund student salaries, faculty stipends and research supplies for collaborative science projects carried out over a period of 10 to 14 weeks.

Duane Currier, (Biochemistry '06) and **Dr. Roseann Sachs**, Professor of Chemistry, worked on *The Effect of Electronic Environment on Transannular Hydrogen Bridging in Carbocations*.

Amanda Shirar (Chemistry '06), and **Dr. Richard Schaeffer**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, studied *The Glow Discharge Synthesis of Ionic Conductors for Chemical Sensors*.

Rebecca Kern (Biology '07), **Ashley Beck** (Biology '06), **Michael Currie**, (Biology '06), and **Megan Starace** (Environmental Science '06) led by **Dr. Erik Lindquist**, **Dr. David Foster** and **Prof. Jeff Erikson**, Department of Biological Sciences, continued a long term study of the *Factors Affecting Diversity of Biota in Vernal Ponds and Adjacent Forests in the South Mountain Ecological Region*.

Abstracts and information about the Steinbrecher Endowment can be found on the SOHNS' website (see margin links).

Messiah Hosts Science Conference

The **60th Annual Meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation** was held on our campus August 5-8. The ASA is a national organization of Christians in science who seek "to provide fellowship with Christians in science, to provide resources to the Christian community, and to reach out to the scientific community and the public to explain the relationship between faith and science", according to Executive Director Randy Isaac (see margin link).

Drs. Ted Davis and Jerry Hess served as local arrangements co-chairs. The meeting's theme was *Alternative Energy Resources, Conservation and the Environment*. A number of Messiah students and faculty, including, **Joe Sheldon**, **Dave Vader**, **Carl Erickson**, **Ted Davis**, **Ray Norman**, presented on topics covering basic and applied science, science pedagogy, and history of science. A special highlight of the meeting was a symposium on Sunday afternoon on *Models of Creation: Intelligent Design and Evolution*. Special

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presenters included well-known authors William Dembski, Michael Behe, Keith Miller and Darrell Falk. More than two hundred conferees, including many SOHNS faculty, were treated to a program that was characterized by excellence throughout. Congratulations, Ted and Jerry for your part in the planning and to the entire ASA conference committee.

Humanitarian Endowment Established

The Paul and Elaine Wengert Endowment for Humanitarian Service Award was established by Dr. and Mrs. Wengert this summer to support student participation in cross-cultural, humanitarian service to relieve human physical suffering. Their initial gift is seed money for an endowment we hope will grow to \$250,000. Any student majoring in a discipline of the School of Health and Natural Sciences is eligible to apply for competitive funding for as much as \$2,500 to participate in a qualifying project. Such projects must focus primarily on providing for basic life-sustaining needs such as adequate medical care, food, shelter, clean water, sanitation etc. Students are required to propose projects in collaboration with reputable agencies/institutions with ongoing initiatives that match the student's interest. More details about projects, number of awards and application procedures will be announced this fall. Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Wengert for this generous and creative gift!

Praise for the Nursing Program

We know we have great students, faculty and programs, but every now and then it helps to hear an encouraging word of praise from those we serve. The following note sent to **Dr. Kreamer, Chair, Department of Nursing**, ought to keep us going for quite awhile!

"Not sure where the questionnaire is, but we've been looking to share our thoughts on Messiah's Nursing Program with someone. Our daughter graduated May 2004 and passed her state nursing boards in July. Her test time for the boards was not very long. She began working on a med-surg floor of a Philadelphia hospital. A supervisor told her several months later how qualified she was and the good reports she was hearing from hospital staff. **My daughter has said many times how prepared she was for her job. She's felt comfortable and confident.** Another supervisor who also works at Abington Hospital, a "magnet" hospital, told my daughter she has a job any time with her at Abington. She has also been given a new nurse to "train". **We have shared with everyone Messiah.** We want to thank you for that preparation for our daughter. "To God be the glory". We are now sending our son to Messiah, starting this fall. He'll start as an accounting major and we pray they prepare him as well as you have our daughter. Thank you again and God bless"

Pre-Physical Therapy Rocks!

Interest in physical therapy is at an all time high and Messiah students are finding great success in competing for positions in graduate physical therapy (PT) programs – and not just any programs, but some of the nations best. This year, students

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applying to PT doctoral programs from the Department of Health and Human Performance were 100% successful! The following is a sampling of where our students are heading.

Marie Attanasi (Sport and Exercise Science) was accepted into 11 PT schools, including University of Southern California, Boston University, and University of Pittsburgh, and has chosen to attend **Columbia University**. **Brandis Bolin** (Sport and Exercise Science) has selected the PT program at **Thomas Jefferson University**. **Julia King** (Biology) decided on **East Carolina State** over Duke University, North Carolina University at Chapel Hill and Elon University. Sisters **Laura and Emily Nye** (both Sport and Exercise Science majors) were both accepted into the PT program at **Massachusetts General Hospital** – associated with Harvard University. Emily has deferred enrolling for a year to participate in medical missions. **Aaron Thrush** (Sport and Exercise Science) has also deferred his enrollment into **Temple University's** PT program, so he can teach in Ethiopia for a year.

Dr. Holmes Selected by NSTA

Dr. Sandy Holmes, Associate Professor of Education and Biological Sciences, was chosen from a national pool of educators to be one of 30 participants in the **National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Science Program Improvement Review (SPIR) Training Program** offered September 8-9, 2005 in Arlington, Va.

The SPIR program is a new NSTA initiative designed to help K-12 teachers and administrators strengthen their science programs. As one of the first certified NSTA SPIR reviewers, Dr. Holmes will conduct comprehensive reviews for schools requesting assistance to meet national standards for science teaching, professional development, content, and assessment. Sounds like a lot of work, but it also reflects just how highly Sandy's expertise is valued and recognized by her peers.

Science Education Workshop a Success

With financial support from the Templeton Foundation, **Dr. Ted Davis** and colleagues presented a workshop for educators and clergy focusing on **Evolution, Religion and Education** this past June 27th through July 1st. The workshop, offered for the second consecutive year, was designed to: acquaint participants with the history of the controversy about evolution, creationism, and public education; help teachers meet the expectations of the new Science & Technology standards and the new Environment & Ecology standards; provide teachers with a basic understanding of biological evolution and the "big bang" theory and the diversity of religious views that Americans hold concerning evolution and the "big bang" theory (see *God and Science* web link in margin).

The workshop received rave reviews from participants. One wrote to **President Phipps**, "All the sessions were captivating, even the several I hadn't expected to be greatly interested in prior to the workshop. **Dr. Davis, Dr. David Foster, Dr. Robin Collins** and **Dr. James Makowski** are all talented presenters and remarkable scholars. . . All four faculty members are great assets to Messiah's

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community of educators. . . Thank you for making it possible for Messiah's faculty and staff to put on such quality events."

Grants Funded

The **Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation** awarded two grants to the **Department of Nursing** to be used for nursing student scholarships in the 2005-2006 academic year: a **Nursing Education Grant** (\$35,000) and a **Capital BlueCross Supplemental Nursing Education Grant** (\$5,000) . . . In addition, the Department of Nursing also has received another \$5,000 from **Johnson & Johnson** for nursing faculty development.

The **Department of Biological Sciences**, **college grounds department**, and **community partners** (Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Upper Allen Township et al.) were awarded \$46,000 from the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** to support the Yellow Breeched Stream Restoration Project on campus. Funding will be used to repair eroded stream banks below Stoner Bridge.

New Oakes Museum Director Appointed

Ken Mark has been appointed **Director of the Oakes Museum**, effective July 1, 2005. Ken has served as Assistant Director of the Museum since 2001 and played a vital role in establishing the Museum, administering day-to-day operations and directing its educational outreach programs. Prior to joining the museum staff, Ken was an award winning elementary school teacher in the Mechanicsburg School District for 30 years. His teaching expertise and experience make him a perfect fit for the director's position since the museum's mission focuses on pre-service training of education majors, providing customized school tours that meet PDE science standards, in-service training for school educators, as well as general public education. A Messiah alum (class of '72), spouse of a Messiah alum and father of two more alums, Ken's passion for the College also makes him a wonderful ambassador for the College to the thousands of guests that tour the museum yearly. A fall reception to welcome Ken to his new position is being planned.

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

The SOHNS' family grew by three during the summer. We are pleased to welcome **Justin Rodkey**, **Robin Boldosser** and **Krista (Larson, '05) Frank**. **Justin** accepted a full-time temporary appointment as **Lecturer in the Department of Health and Human Performance** to teach community health strategies, personal health strategies, life fitness and activities courses. **Robin** is the new **Education Coordinator of the Oakes Museum** responsible for development of educational programming including school tours and summer camps. **Krista** is serving as **Laboratory Program Assistant Manager**, a new position designed to enhance the efficiency, efficacy and safety of our lab science program. We are so glad that each of you has joined our ministry!

