

In This Issue

- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

Special Links

School of Health and Natural Sciences

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<http://www.messiah.edu/departments/premedhealth/>

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Students and Faculty Featured in Second Annual SOHNS Scholarship Symposium

The collaborative scholarship of nearly **sixty students and twenty-two faculty, representing every department** within the School of Health and Natural Sciences, was featured during the **Second Annual SOHNS Scholarship Symposium** held Friday, April 21, from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jordan/Kline science complex. The special day of celebration was inaugurated by welcoming remarks from President Kim Phipps and concluded with an Oakes Museum reception to honor presenting students, their parents and their mentors. Presentation abstracts and faculty biographies will be posted soon at http://www.messiah.edu/schools/health_nat_sci/. Many positive comments were overheard from guests including deans from two other schools who were impressed by the intellectual quality of the student presentations and the ability of the students to explain and defend their work during the poster presentations. Most gratifying, however, were the comments of the parents of a student presenter who said that “student athletes always have times of special recognition to celebrate their achievements but student scholars don’t often receive such recognition. **This is their award ceremony. This is wonderful!**” We could not agree more!



New Faculty in Biological Sciences

The Department of Biological Sciences is delighted to announce that **Dr. John Harms** will be joining the faculty this fall as Assistant Professor of Biology. Dr. Harms has a B.S. in Recombinant Gene Technology from SUNY, Fredonia, and a Ph.D. in Integrative Biosciences from Penn State, Hershey, where he also completed a productive post-doctoral fellowship. At Messiah, he will teach primarily in the areas of anatomy and physiology, and mentor students in research projects aimed at understanding cancer metastasis. Dr. Harms, who also serves as an elder at Hershey Evangelical Free Church, is an enthusiastic teacher with a passion to mentor students intellectually and spiritually. We look forward to ministering with him for many years to come!



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- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

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SOHNS Student Research and Humanitarian Awards Announced

The following students have been awarded Fellows Award, including stipends and supply funds, to perform research/service this summer as part of the **2006 Steinbrecher Summer Undergraduate Research Program**.

- **Michael Currie** and **Megan Starace** received internship funding from **The Nature Conservancy of Pennsylvania** and the **Steinbrecher Research Endowment** to work with **Dr. Erik Lindquist**, Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, on a continuing project entitled, *Factors Affecting Diversity of Biota in Vernal Ponds and Adjacent Forests in the South Mountain Ecological Region*.
- **Emily Hugendubler** was named a **Steinbrecher Fellow** to work with **Dr. Gerald Hess**, Professor of Biology and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences on a research project entitled, *Scanning Electron Microscopic Observation of Neointimal Layers in the HeartMate LVAD*.
- **Roseanne Feister** received a **Steinbrecher Fellow** award to perform *Phytoremediation Studies Using Arabidopsis thaliana* with **Dr. Michael Shin**, Assistant Professor of Biology and **Dr. Richard Schaeffer**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry.
- **Miranda Demos** was granted the first **Richardson Fellow** award to carry out research on the *Impact of Seasonal Wetness in Ponds with Nesting Marbled Salamander Populations (Ambystoma opacum) and Potential Predatory Effects of Notophthalmus v. viridescens* under the guidance of **Dr. Lindquist**. **This Fellows Award is supported by the generous gift of the Richardson Family Foundation** established and directed by Charles and Margaret Richardson. Alums **Anne (Richardson) Hussey** (Biology, '00) and **Steve Hussey**, (Chemistry, '98), are the daughter and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson.
- **Ryan Edwards** was named an **American Chemistry Society PRF Fellow**. His project, entitled, *The Synthesis and Characterization of Nanocrystalline Non-Molecular Metal Oxides from a Glow-Discharge Plasma*, is a collaboration with **Dr. Richard Schaeffer** who was award a three year grant for these studies by *the Research Petroleum Fund of the American Chemistry Society (see below)*.
- **Laura Beechy** won the first **Paul and Elaine Wengert Humanitarian Service Award** to support her work this summer with Burmese Refugees in Northern Thailand with the non-profit organization, Empowering Women of Burma. Laura, an honors Nutrition and Dietetics major, will assist in food distribution and assessment of food preparation, nutrition education and **nutritional needs**.

Full abstracts of all projects will soon be posted on the School's website http://www.messiah.edu/schools/health_nat_sci/.

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- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
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- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

Special Links

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In addition, the following students received scholarships for projects to be carried out during the 2006-2007 school year.

- **Anna Wendel** was awarded the **Oakes Museum Scholarship** to study *Antibacterial Activity in Traditional Herbal Topical Treatments* with **Dr. Gary Emberger**.
- **Rebecca Kern** received the **Ray H. Crist Scholarship** to study the *Effect of Partial Reinforcement Schedules on Instrumental Learning in Bufo smarinus* with **Dr. Erik Lindquist**.

SOHNS Faculty Retirements

This school year marked the end of full-time teaching for two of Messiah's best loved faculty – **Barb Burwell and Joan Maybee** – who are retiring after twenty-one and twenty years of teaching at Messiah, respectively. We will miss them both immensely!

Barb Burwell

We talk about institutional fit at Messiah – there may be no better example of that than Barb Burwell. A passionate teacher, she quickly conveys to students that she takes 'education toward wholeness' seriously. In the hallway she is often heard asking 'so how are things going at home, on your team, with your classes, at your internship, with your job search, etc. And it doesn't stop with talk- she regularly attends sporting events, invites students to lunch (even during the summer), and finds ways to get them involved in local churches... Of course students who have Barb in class quickly discover that her compassion does not translate into being a push-over. Tough love often describes Barb's encounters with students who are not working to their potential. Wasting one's gift is not something Barb easily tolerates... Her colleagues know Barb as a strong, effective leader- demonstrated in her roles as Assistant Athletic Director, Department Chair, and Advising Director. Somehow in her busy schedule, Barb always found time to send notes of encouragement, and birthday cards to encourage colleagues and remind them how much she appreciated them... We cannot bring ourselves to say good-bye to such a dear friend and colleague. Rather we look forward to watching her take on new hurdles and endeavors – ones she has laid aside to serve with and for us so graciously for these many years.



Joan Maybee

The best testimonies to Joan's teaching giftedness come from her students. Recently senior nursing students singled out Joan for her excellent teaching. One wrote "The first thing I thought about was how much I appreciate and enjoyed professor Maybee's teaching style on such difficult information. Some concepts were



In This Issue

- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

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School of Health and Natural Sciences

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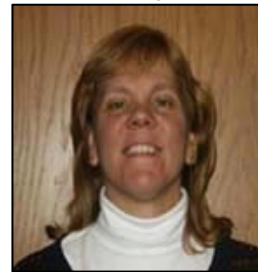
extremely hard to grasp and I feel she did a perfect job . . . Her devotions and prayer before class was such an encouragement. My choice for coming to a Christian college was so I could see how God was integrated within nursing and when dealing with the human body, she made it very clear." Another wrote, "I was hoping to be able to share my feelings about professor Maybee with someone. I had professor. Maybee for Anatomy and Physiology II and it was an amazing course. She genuinely cared for the students and wanted us to learn. She went out of her way to find devotions that applied to the day's lectures and always had a verse on the board for exam days. Professor Maybee is an excellent professor and it was an honor to have her for A&P2." Referring to Joan's retirement, Dr. Sheri Boyce wrote, "Joan has been a wonderful friend and mentor to me. I had very little teaching experience when I came to Messiah and Joan was a constant source of helpful suggestions, tips and words of wisdom. She has taught me as much about teaching as she has taught her students about biology. I will greatly miss her wisdom and her friendship." As will we all. Thank you, Joan, for your many contributions to the science program and to the experience of countless students and your colleagues at Messiah.

SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants

Dr. Richard Schaeffer, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, received notice that his grant proposal to the **American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund** was approved for \$49,500 for the next three years. The funds will provide support for Dr. Schaeffer and his student collaborators to study *Glow-Discharge Plasma as a Synthetic Medium for Nanocrystalline Non-Molecular Metal Oxides*. In lay terms, Dr. Schaeffer is exploring the use of a novel chemical environment (generated by glow discharge plasma) to make a variety of inorganic metal oxides that are refractory to traditional synthetic methods. The PRF grant is a prestigious award in its own right and represents the first grant given to a chemist at Messiah College for the funding of basic research. Congratulations, Rick!



Loren Swivel, Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance, was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the **Keystone Innovation Grant Program** to work with Advanced Composite Products, Inc. of Harrisburg to develop an improved equestrian helmet that more effectively prevents head injuries. This project represents a merger of Professor Swivel's vocation (the study of athletic injury prevention) and her avocation (a love for equestrian sports). Her award is among the first distributed by this program established to encourage technology research and collaboration between colleges and businesses in central Pennsylvania. Congratulations, Loren!



In This Issue

- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

Special Links

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Faculty Honors

Dr. Ted Davis, Distinguished Professor of the History of Science, has been **elected to the Executive Council of the American Scientific Affiliation** (ASA) effective January 2006 through December 2010. In addition, Dr. Davis presented a lecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on "Robert Boyle: Christian Virtuoso." He also presented his lecture on "Honest Talk about Intelligent Design," at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, the National Presbyterian Church (DC), and at Wayne State University.



Dr. Sandra Holmes, Associate Professor of Education and Biological Sciences, has been **elected as President of the Journal of College Science Teaching Advisory Board** for 07-08. She will assume the office of President-Elect June 1, 2006 to Dr Gerald Summers (University of Missouri-Columbia), who is President for 06-07. She is completing a five year term of office to the JCST Advisory Board. Sandra has also been re-elected as President of the Wilkes University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, an international education honorary.



In January, the Messiah College Board of Trustees approved: the promotion of **Dr. Erik Lindquist** from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor, and term-tenure renewal for **Dr. Ted Davis**, **Martha Solomon**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and **Loren Swivel**. **Congratulations to all and keep up the great work!**



Farewell to Paul Darminio

The SOHNS science programs knew the day would come sooner or later when Natural Sciences Laboratory Program Manager **Paul Darminio** (Biochemistry, '03) would leave us for new challenges and opportunities. Unfortunately, that day is very near. Paul and his wife Jill will be moving back to New Jersey this summer to begin an exciting new phase of their lives. Among other accomplishments, Paul has done an outstanding job: transforming the way science labs are prepped, developing protocols for efficiently managing resources, and helping us come into compliance with EPA safety standards. We pray God's blessings on Paul and Jill as they follow God's leading.



In This Issue

- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

Special Links

School of Health and Natural Sciences

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Biology Major Presents Research at International Conference

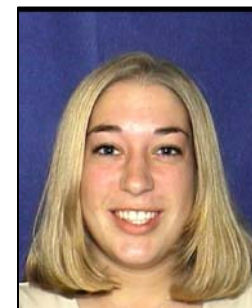
For the past two years, senior biology major **Danielle Shingle** has been employed as a research intern in the Division of Musculoskeletal Sciences at **Pennsylvania State Hershey Medical Center**. Under the direction of **Dr. Henry J. Donahue**, she studied the unique ability of osteocytes to communicate mechanical signals to osteoblasts. Last summer, Danielle submitted an abstract that was accepted for



presentation at **The International Conference of the Orthopaedic Research Society**. Danielle writes of the experience, "I was asked to present a 10 minute talk on the information submitted. I was honored and extremely nervous at the same time! [Danielle was the only undergraduate presenter] After multiple practice talks, I presented the final presentation to a crowd of around 500-600 people. This conference was an amazing experience. It provided me with the opportunity to witness what part of my graduate school experience will be, and gave me a new appreciation for the vast amount of research that is being accomplished in the field of orthopaedics. I am truly grateful for the opportunity I had to not only attend the conference, and represent both Penn State Department of Orthopaedics and Messiah College." Danielle will enroll this summer in the Cell and Developmental Biology doctoral program at the University of Virginia.

Class of 2006 Graduate School Bound!

At least **30 of the 150 students graduating in 2006 from the School of Health and Natural Sciences are known to be heading for graduate/ professional schools in the fall**. The list of students and the programs they will attend are much too long to publish here but you can read about student plans on three posters located in the Jordan Atrium and later this summer on our web site. Faculty are to be commended for the changes we are starting to see in attitudes of students toward graduate studies! As senior HHP student **Kathy Whaley** wrote, "Messiah has helped me build a foundation on which I will continue to build in graduate school. Many of my professors have really challenged me in my journey at Messiah and without them I don't think I would have ever considered pursuing a master's degree. The encouragement and support of many of my professors has been essential in my decision to continue my education after my time at Messiah." Kathy is heading for McDaniel College for a masters in exercise science.



In This Issue

- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

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SOHNS Faculty and Students Engaged in the Greater Harrisburg Community

On Monday, May 1st, Dr. Phipps hosted a *Pillars of the Community* event on the stage at the Forum in Harrisburg. This event was the culmination of the multi year Listening Tour initiative that was funded by Messiah's Lilly Grant. SOHNS submitted the following examples of the way we as faculty and students are involved in serving the Harrisburg Community.

- Nursing faculty, **Dr. Kay Huber and Wanda Thuma McDermond** each direct a nurse-managed **Community Health Center** serving Dauphin County Housing Authority residents at the **Hoy Towers** and the **Cole Crest Center**, respectively, in Steelton. These community health centers are staffed by students and faculty who provide health education, health promotion/illness prevention activities, health screening and health/safety assessments for residents.



- **Dean Moshier** serves on the Regional Healthcare Steering Committee of the **South Central Workforce Investment Board (SCWIB)** and the Science and Technology Cluster Council of the **Mechanicsburg Area High School**.

- **Drs. David Foster and Erik Lindquist** and ten students from BIO 271 donated 130 hours of service learning time to the **Coover Park Project** for the **Dillsburg Jaycees** this past fall. The team developed a comprehensive site master plan for the preservation and management of the riparian resources at Coover Park.

VOLUNTEER AT COOVER PARK!

HELP REVITALIZE AND BEAUTIFY YOUR COMMUNITY PARK

- Biology faculty led by **Dr. David Foster** and **College staff** are working with several community groups such as the **Yellow Breeches Watershed Association**, the **Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement and Trout Unlimited**, as well as Upper Allen Township and Cumberland and York Counties on a project **to restore parts of the Yellow Breeches corridor** that traverse the campus and are community access points to the river. This work is supported by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program of the Pennsylvania State National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



In This Issue

- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

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School of Health and Natural Sciences

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SOHNS Community Engagement cont.

- **Drs. Carolyn Kreamer and Louann Zinsmeister** lead nursing students in a collaboration with advance practice nurses in the **Pinnacle Health System**, called the **Research Roundtable**, to engage practicing nurses, nursing students, and faculty in research based practice projects on critical, clinical questions in order to improve nursing practice in area hospitals.

- For several years, **senior dietetics majors** and **SNAC** (student nutrition awareness coalition) have conducted nutrition needs assessments and nutrition education sessions for **Project S.H.A.R.E.** (Food Bank Survival Help And Recipient Education) - an interfaith cooperative mission sponsored by the Carlisle Area Religious Council that provides food to supplement the income and resources of over 500 families each month in the Greater Carlisle area - and **Messiah Village**. They have also prepared meals at **Bethesda Mission** women's shelter and the **Ronald McDonald House at the Hershey Medical Center**.



- The **Oakes Museum** has hosted over **40,000 visitors** in just 3.5 years of operation. Over **28,000** of these have been pre-school, elementary and middle **school students** from school districts, charter schools and home schools throughout the Harrisburg metropolitan area who participate in educational experiences focused on environmental science, animal behavior and natural history.



- **Dr. Scott Kieffer and other faculty and students** from the Department of Health and Human Performance have worked closely with residents of both **Messiah Village and Bethany Village** to study the impact of physical activity on the physical function of older adults. Over the past two years, students and faculty have conducted six different research programs ranging from group lead water workouts, to supervised walking programs, to the impact of acute bouts of exercise on power performance.



Thank you all for your servant leadership!

In This Issue

- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

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School of Health and Natural Sciences

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Recent Faculty Publications

Conrad M. Zapanta, James W. Griffith, **Gerald Hess**, Bradley J. Doxtater, Trigran Khalapyan, Walter E. Pae and Gerson Rosenberg. **Microtextured Materials for Circulatory Support Devices: Preliminary Studies**. American Society for Artificial Internal Organs Journal; 52, 17-23, 2006.

Hess, G. D. *Review of Viewing New Creations with Anabaptist Eyes*. Brethren in Christ History and Life; April 2006 (Book Review).

Pavel Otahal, Sandra Hutchinson, **Lawrence M. Mylin**, M. Judith Tevethia, Satir S.Tevethia, and Todd D. Schell. **Inefficient Cross-Presentation Limits the CD8+ T Cell Response to a Subdominant Tumor Antigen Epitope**. Journal of Immunology; 175, 700-712, 2005.

Ted Davis. *Intelligent Design on Trial*. Religion in Life; 8.3; 8-11,26 2006.

Ted Davis. *Boyle, Robert*. In The Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics; ed. Carl Mitcham et al, Vol.. 1, 242-245, 2005.

Joseph Sheldon and **Erik Lindquist** and twenty-eight co-authors. **Conservation Theology for Conservation Biologists – An Open Letter to David Orr**. Conservation Biology; 19, 1689-1692, 2005.

David K. Foster. *Green Religion vs. the Greening of Religion: A Case Study of Christian Environmental Stewardship*. Proceedings of The Society of American Foresters Convention, October, 2005.

Let There Be Solar Scholars!

Messiah College's **Department of Engineering, Department of Biological Sciences**, and the **Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research** (Collaboratory) were awarded matching funds of \$15,000 by *Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Pennsylvania's (SEF) Solar Scholars Program* to collaborate on the installation of a solar energy training facility on campus. A solar electric system, to be located on the slope immediately southeast of Frey Hall, will provide a total of 3 kW of electric power from three distinct but interconnected solar power systems. The three systems will demonstrate different energy conversion and solar tracking technologies. Some of the generated electrical energy will be used to supplement the College's electrical supply and some will be directed at the site for teaching demonstrations. The College's contribution (\$6,000) is secured by the Collaboratory but student groups, such as **Dokimoi Ergatai, The Restoration House and Earthkeepers, will be raising contributions and awareness for the project**. The facility will be used for solar energy training of engineering and environmental science students, Dokimoi Ergatai volunteers, Messiah students in general through special training sessions and a future solar technology lab course, and



In This Issue

- 2nd SOHNS Scholarship Symposium p.1
- New Biology Faculty p.1
- SOHNS Student Awards p.2
- Faculty Retirements p.3
- SOHNS Faculty Awarded External Grants p.4
- Faculty Honors p.5
- Farewell to Paul p.5
- Student Presents at Intl Conference p.6
- Grad School Bound p.6
- SOHNS & Community p.7
- Faculty Publications p.9
- Solar Scholars p.9
- From the Dean p.10

SOHNS Programs

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Health & Human Performance
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oakes Museum
- Pre-Health Professions Advising

Special Links

School of Health and Natural Sciences

http://www.messiah.edu/schools/health_nat_sci/

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Oakes museum visitors. The project team includes: **Stephen Frank, David Vader, David Foster, Jeff Erikson, Mark Reiff** (Dokimoi Ergatai), TBD - Chief Student Engineer (Dokimoi Ergatai), TBD - Current President (Earthkeepers), TBD - House Chair (Restoration House), and **Brad Markley**.

From the Dean

The picture below was photographed by Dr. Lindquist during a 2005 J-term course trip to Patagonia. It was used this year in a College advertisement in the Campus Life section of *Christianity Today* where it was rated the most effective ad in that section. It is a great picture and a great enticement to be sure.

The picture also reminds me that this has been another great year for the School of Health and Natural Sciences, yet individually and corporately we have experienced our share of peaks and valleys. Through it all we can rejoice, that even before He created the mountains pictured below, He chose us that we should stand before Him holy and blameless in His sight – Ephesians 1:4.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!



GO AHEAD. TAKE A PEAK.