

Graduate Program in Education... see US anew



Each time we assemble our bi-annual newsletter it is my privilege to comment on the graduate program in a pithy note from the director. Sometimes I find this to be a difficult task, but not this time. My thoughts this spring are focused on our students and the tremendous gratitude I have toward you, who have elected to enroll in the Messiah College Graduate Program in Education. You represent educators from all over the world, and I have no doubt that you could most likely attend any distance graduate program that you desire, but you selected Messiah College. This is an honor and a responsibility that I, along with our faculty and staff, take very seriously. Your enrollment, learning, retention, and successful completion of your program matters to us, as does your success in your career. Our focus as a program is to meet your educational needs and graduate you with a greater understanding of your discipline.

It is with this in mind that I am pleased to announce that the Graduate Program in Education at Messiah College was recently named a [top online program](#) by Best.Colleges.com, which utilizes admissions, enrollment, retention, and graduation data to assemble the rankings. BestColleges.com notes that our program demonstrates "a dedication to building a quality online program for working professionals who seek more flexibility than a traditional campus-based program can provide" and affirms that we are enabling students "who might not otherwise have the opportunity, to earn an advanced degree and build a strong foundation for their career."

It is our privilege to serve you as instructors and advisors, and we thank you for your trust.



Nancy J. Patrick, Ph.D.
Director of the Graduate Program in Education

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Experiencing Toronto

By Lillian Schultz

“**C**rossing Borders and Building Bridges” was the theme for this year’s Christian English Language Teachers (CELT) Conference and the TESOL International Convention that convened in Toronto from March 25-28. Dr. Jan Dormer attended the event with GPE students Lillian Schultz, Lisa Walker, and Rebekah Watt, and they were accompanied by undergraduate TESOL minor Jodie Howard ‘15 and Academic English Program (AEP) instructor Beth Khoo.

Dr. Dormer and Lillian Schultz co-presented a session entitled, “A Compassionate Community Bridging English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and TESOL Students,” and they both joined Dr. Kitty Purgason from Biola University, located in La Mirada, California, to present a session on “Building Bridges between Generations of Teachers.” This presentation focused on how TESOL professionals can mentor emerging professionals as they enter the field.

One of the best aspects of the conference for our GPE students was being able to connect and reconnect with other Christian TESOL professionals. Says Lillian Schultz, “the most meaningful time for all of us was the ability to meet up with our online classmates in our graduate program. We just picked up where we left off on Canvas. We were able to reminisce about past courses that we had taken together and even some of the wonderful discussions that we have had online.”

Their time in Toronto was invaluable. Lillian notes, “We came away from the conferences encouraged and refreshed, knowing that our profession as TESOL educators is indeed a calling and not just a job.”



More in TESOL news...

This summer Messiah College TESOL students will complete their field experience course by teaching international students at Powerhouse English Academy, an intensive English learning program to be held in July at West Shore Christian Academy. International students ages 13-25 from Indonesia, China, Korea, and Brazil will attend to improve their English. Messiah College students will create and teach lessons within an exciting curriculum that will build friendships and cultural understanding. Trips to NYC, Philly, D.C., and Hershey Park will complement the in-class learning, making this a fun and rich experience for both the English learners and the Messiah College TESOL students!



**WEST SHORE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

The Graduate Program in Education



Master's Thesis Presentations:

"Stepping into a New Space"

by Hope Newcomer B.A. '05, M.Ed. '15



*L*anguages are imbued with history, culture, and identity. Learning additional languages creates the potential for language users to express themselves in ways that might be difficult or unwelcome when using their first language. "Stepping into a New Space" applies theories of learner identity, learner motivation, and conflict resolution to develop an English program that brings conflicted parties together. Through the study and use of English as an additional language, learners will be able to practice and implement conflict resolution techniques in ways that might not be possible in their first languages.



"Creating a Bridge between English as a Second Language and General Education Development for Adult Learners' Training and Assistance Programs' English Language Learners"

by Quinn Dyrli B.A. '93, M.Ed. '15

*T*he natural progression for many adult students who complete classes for English as a Second Language (ESL) is to take the General Educational Development (GED®) tests. However, in most instances these students are not academically prepared for the rigors of the GED® classes. Quinn investigated the challenges unique to this population of English Language Learners (ELLs) and designed a research-based curriculum that aims to successfully transition these students from ESL classes into GED classes. Her program includes instruction to help students acquire the academic and non-academic skills that the literature review and research indicates are necessary for academic success.



When: Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Time: 4:00-6:00pm

Where: Parmer Cinema

Refreshments will be provided.

Logan's Run & Walk for Autism

RUNNING FOR DISCOVERY...

WALKING FOR HOPE.

The Autism Society of the Greater Harrisburg Area is sponsoring its 10th Annual Logan's Run & Walk for Autism on Saturday, April 11, 2015, on City Island and Riverfront Park in Harrisburg.

The event is named for Logan Mitcheltree, a nine-year-old boy with Autism who in December 2004 wandered away from his home in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, during an intense cold-snap. He was found three days later less than two miles from his house. He had frozen to death.

The 5K run will begin at 10:00 a.m. Check-in and registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The Autism Awareness Family Fun Walk begins at 12:00 noon. Check-in and on-site registration at 11:00 a.m. PARKING is FREE on City Island.

Proceeds raised from the event go directly to help children, teens, and adults living with Autism in Central Pennsylvania by providing educational, social, and recreational opportunities for the local Autism community.

April Marks Autism Awareness Month

And with that comes the goal to arm parents and teachers with knowledge of signs for early diagnosis and early intervention. While there is no cure and children do not outgrow autism, according to the Autism Society website, "studies show that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes." In short, the earlier parents know, the earlier they can provide intervention services, resulting in a better quality of life for their child.



ASD presents with deficits in the use and interpretation of social skills and the presence of stereotypic repetitive behaviors that range from mild to severe, and in every grade level of 100 students, teachers will have at least 1.47 students who have an ASD.

To help prepare teachers, parents, or caregivers for meeting the needs of children on spectrum, the Graduate Program in Education offers two options, Autism Spectrum Disorders Endorsement (PDE, K-12) for teachers who are already certified in Pennsylvania, and the Messiah College Certificate in ASD, which was created for teachers as well as for service-minded community members—such as those in ministry, law, business, *medicine or social service agencies*.

Both graduate level tracks require only 12 credits of course work. Both also include the course EDME 522 Autism Spectrum Disorders, that provides effective educational practices designed to meet the needs of children and early adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. Within this course, teachers, parents, or caregivers will gain an "understanding of the characteristics and impact of these disorders on learning, assessment for the purpose of designing instruction and monitoring progress, curriculum selection and development and implementation of evidence-based practices and strategies found to be effective in supporting students with autism spectrum disorders."

Great strides are being made, and we are committed to providing excellent educational options.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children's (PACEC) Convention Expo
April 8-11, 2015

https://www.cec.sped.org/Professional-Development/Annual-Convention?sc_lang=en

TESOL Academy 2015: Stockton University
June 19-20, 2015

<http://www.tesol.org/events-landing-page/2015/02/25/tesol-academy-2015-stockton-university>

2015 National Autism Conference
August 3-6, 2015

<http://autism.outreach.psu.edu/>

Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children (PACEC) Convention
Date TBD

Don't forget to register~

SUMMMER 2015

(May 17 - July 11, 2015) - all online

EDME 525 Curriculum and Learning
EDME/HIED 580 Educational Research Methods

(May 17 - August 22, 2015) - online

EDME 530 Special Education Internship and Seminar
EDME 531 Special Education Thesis/Project and Seminar
EDME 532 TESOL Internship and Seminar
EDME 533 TESOL Thesis/Project and Seminar
EDME 534 Curriculum and Instruction Thesis/Project Seminar

Late Summer (intensive July 27 - 31, 2015) EDME

502 Adv. Socio-Cultural Persp. on Education (intensive July 27-31, 2015) - **on campus**
EDME 504 Family and Community Partnerships (intensive July 27-31, 2015) - **on campus**



FALL 2015

(August 23 - October 17, 2015)

EDME 521 TESOL Methods and Assessment with Field Experience
EDME 522 Autism Spectrum Disorders
EDME 528 Infants, Toddlers, and Families with Field Experience
EDME 551 Effective Practices for Every Learner

(August 23 - December 19, 2015)

EDME 530 Special Education Internship and Seminar
EDME 531 Special Education Thesis/Project and Seminar
EDME 532 TESOL Internship and Seminar
EDME 533 TESOL Thesis/Project and Seminar
EDME 534 Curriculum and Instruction Thesis/Project Seminar

Late Fall (October 25 - December 19, 2015)

EDME 502 Advanced Socio-Cultural Perspectives on Education
EDME 504 Family and Community Partnerships
EDME 525 Curriculum and Learning
EDME 526 Low Incidence Populations with Field Experience
EDME/HIED 580 Educational Research Methods

Here is what some of you had to say about GPE summer intensive courses:

"I love the connections that were made with my peers as well as professors."

"I found the class discussions especially valuable in processing theories and subject matter in EDME 502."

"I loved working with my peers face-to-face and in EMDE 504 we were grouped often that we made great connections."

"Fantastic. exactly what I expected!"