

1-2022

## Education on Boyer 4th Newsletter - January 2022

Tina Keller

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Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

# EDUCATION ON Boyer 4th

The campus newsletter of the Messiah University Education Department

Issue 14 | January 2022

## TUTORING ENGLISH LEARNERS

EDUC 208 STUDENTS TUTORED  
PEOPLE LEARNING ENGLISH AS A  
NEW LANGUAGE

## SUPERINTENDANT OF THE YEAR!

MESSIAH ALUM NAMED  
FLORIDA'S SUPERINTENDANT  
OF THE YEAR

## PA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

MESSIAH ALUM NAMED  
PENNSYLVANIA'S TEACHER  
OF THE YEAR

*In Every Issue*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT,  
TECHNOLOGY CORNER, PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD, PROFESSOR  
SPOTLIGHT, ALUMNI ADVICE, DEVOTIONAL, UPCOMING EVENTS



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. TINA KELLER

January 2022

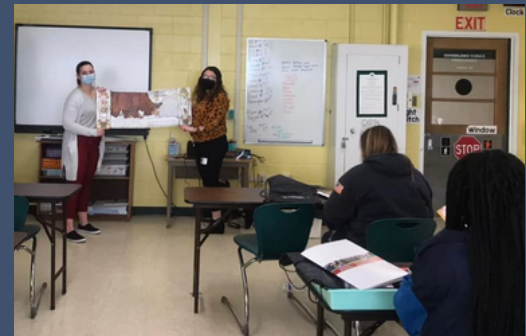
Happy New Year!

During the past year and a half as Chair I have had a front row seat to view the ways that our students are preparing to enter the classroom ready to make a positive difference. I am constantly inspired by our Messiah preservice teachers. Last month, I had the chance to co-present with junior education majors, Kelsey Sharpe and Erin Haines. We were invited to Carlisle High School's Preschool lab to share how best to meet the needs of multilingual preschoolers. During their parts in the presentation, I sat back and was inspired by their wisdom and insights into how best to teach English Learners. They were able to make clear connections to important theory as well as best practice. They spoke to the rights that students should have to speak their first language and advocated for a more equitable learning experience. Simply put, I was so proud of them!

I hear similar reflections from my colleagues in the department. We are routinely impressed by our students. We see our students growing and stretching into the kinds of teacher professionals that we need in our classrooms. It is an honor to be a part of this process.

In just this past month, two of our alumni were recognized at a state level. Dr. Kamela Patton was honored as Florida's Superintendent of the year. In her tenure as superintendent at Collier County Public Schools, she has worked to increase achievement and graduation rates of the students in her district. Learn more about her work on page four in this newsletter. Another outstanding alumni, Elizabeth Raff, a sixth grade teacher in the Penn Manor School District, was just named Pennsylvania's teacher of the year. She was recently quoted in the Lancaster Times, "Kids know when you're in it or when you're not. Sometimes, it can become just a job to show up, but it's my passion, and it's something that makes my heart beat. So I think that they can definitely pick up on that." Reading her quote brought such joy to my heart. To learn more about Ms. Raff check out page 11. We trust in God to guide us as we prepare the next generation of change makers.

Dr. Keller



Using the picture book, *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, Erin Haines and Kelsey Sharpe demonstrated how to support preschoolers' receptive and expressive language

**On the Cover: Senior Dual major Victoria Wheaton student teaching**



# Scholarships

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE 12:00 NOON ON THE LAST THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY

## Ethel Brandt Bigham Endowed Education Award

All PK-4 and Grades 4-8 juniors with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and a desire to teach in an urban or rural setting are encouraged to apply for this approximately \$1200 award.

## Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. Teacher Scholarship

All current Teacher Education Program students (all certification programs) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and an outstanding record of community service and leadership are invited to apply for this \$3000 award.

## Suzanne Joy Johnson Endowed Scholarship Award

All current Teacher Education Program students (preference given to PK-4 and Grades 4-8 majors) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and demonstrated dynamic interpersonal skills are invited to apply for this award (approximately \$1300).

## Terry L. Stoudnour Endowed Education Award

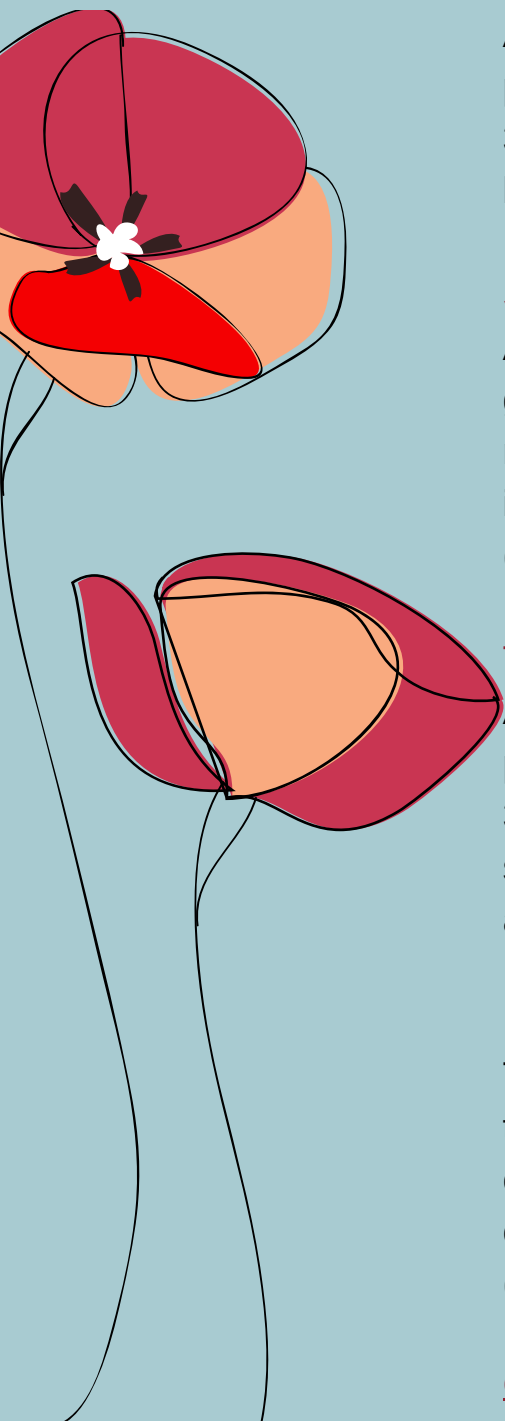
All current Teacher Education Program students (all certification programs) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60, an exemplary record of leadership, service, ethical standards, and academic achievement are invited to apply for this approximately \$1400 award.

## Murk-Hayes Endowed Education Award

The award is open to candidates of any Messiah University teacher certification program and seeks to recognize a teacher certification candidate who has a demonstrated interest and capacity for serving K-12 educators in urban contexts (approximately \$1000).

[Click Here for the applications](#)

All of these awards are add-on awards. They will be added to, not substituted for, any financial aid the recipient already receives. Award amounts may vary slightly, based on market performance.





# Congratulations to Messiah alum Kamela Patton!



She was named Florida's 2022 Superintendent of the Year! Patton received this honor from the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

[To learn more about Dr. Patton's Work Click Here](#)  
[Read an interview Here](#)



**Ana Sakore**  
**Secondary English**  
**Catholic Charities**

**Julie Nelson**  
**PreK-4 Major**  
**Tri-County OIC**

**Kiana Halderman**  
**Spanish Education**  
**Highland**  
**Elementary School**

TEACHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

**EDUC 208 STUDENTS TUTORING ENGLISH LEARNERS**

As part of the required course, Educating English Learners, all teacher education students experience tutoring people learning English as a new language.



**Haylee Miller**  
**Dual Major**  
**Spring Grove**

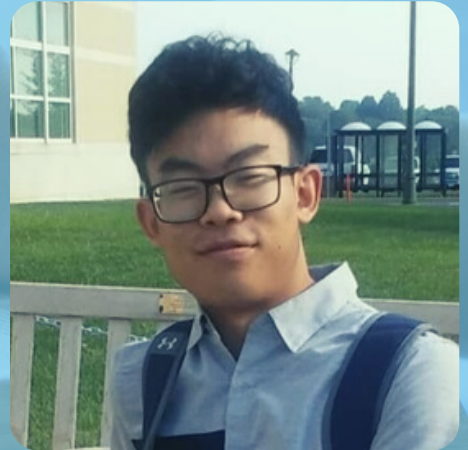
**Mary Krauss**  
**Dual Major**  
**Immanuel Church**

(Dressed for the Christmas Pageant  
Tutors put on for English Learners)



# DEVOTIONAL

A MONTHLY DEVOTION WRITTEN BY MESSIAH  
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION STUDENTS.



## LET MY WALLS DOWN

*Written by: Ezra Lee*

“Through my experiences, I have learned to find how powerful worshipping through song is in connecting directly to the love, power, and grace of God. In worship, the walls we’ve placed between God and us get broken down and our hearts become aware of his glory as he makes his presence near to us. As psalm 95:1-3 says “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.” In the act of worship, we lay down everything we’ve allowed to matter more than God’s will for us and receive the grace to love him above all else. There is never a greater time to be completely vulnerable to him and express what’s on your heart as through worship it is just you and him. When I was younger, I never realized how much I engaged in worship because I felt that I had to, or I was allotted a time in church to do so, never really having a desire to worship him. God is however not a prideful King who desires perfect praise but rather he simply wants a time of sincerity and truth.

So, as you continue to worship, either in a personal devotional setting or in a small/large group setting. I hope that you begin by opening your heart and asking the Holy Spirit to help you receive God’s everlasting affection and love for you as 1 John 4:19 says, “We love because he first loved us.” I personally continually forget too easily how deeply God truly loves me as I instead fill my mind with stressors and desires. So, I continually need reminders of his love so that I may live my life in response to him rather than singing and playing just because I should. So as we continue to worship, I pray that we may all open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to fill us with a knowledge of his love and nearness, growing in our relationship with him each and every day.

**Psalm 95: 1, 3 "Come, let us sing unto the Lord; Let us make a joyful noise... For the Lord is a great God."**





# Do you want to be a teacher?

## Then you need to take educational psychology!

Messiah University is offering a dual enrollment educational psychology course next year in both the fall and spring semesters. If you want to be a teacher, you should take it.

If you want to be a teacher, one of the required courses you will need to take is Educational Psychology. A standard introductory or general psychology course may not count towards degree or licensure requirements. Educational Psychology is a required course at the following colleges and universities: **Messiah University**, Penn State, Grove City, IUPA, Wilkes, Pitt, Temple, Kutztown, Gettysburg, Susquehanna, University of Scranton, Bucknell, LVC, Dickinson, Villanova, Geneva, Eastern, Lafayette, Swarthmore, Drexel and many more. Instruction will be delivered online, providing an opportunity for you to learn alongside Messiah undergraduate students. **Get a head start today on your journey towards becoming a teacher!**

- Fall and spring 2021-22
- Earn credits towards your teaching degree
- Learn alongside on-campus students
- Asynchronous delivery with on-campus learning opportunities

### Questions?

Contact: Matt Reitnour

Associate Director of Admissions/Coordinator of Dual Enrollment

Email: [mreitnour@messiah.edu](mailto:mreitnour@messiah.edu) | Call: 717-691-6000



### Benefits of being dual enrolled at Messiah University

- Create a more flexible schedule as a college student
- Strengthen your potential to graduate from college in less than 4 years
- Experience college life by taking classes taught by Messiah University professors
- Take college courses that may satisfy both high school and college credit requirements

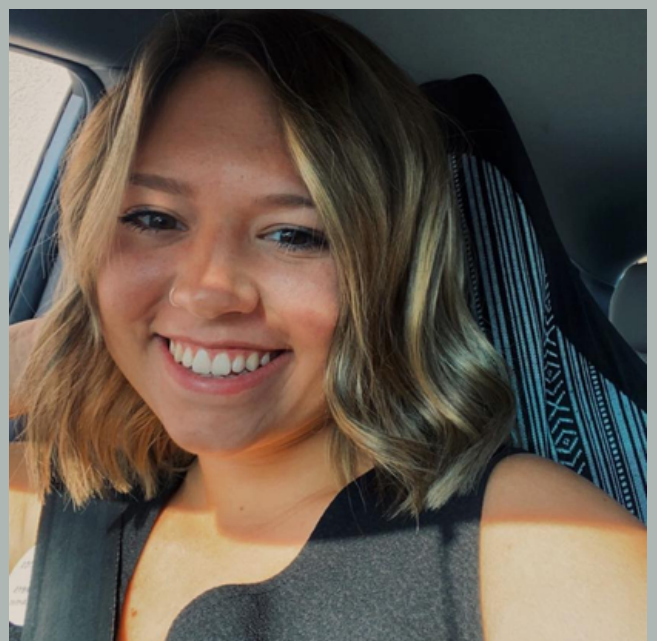
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# DR. DOROTHY J. GISH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

**JULIA SOWERS WAS CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THE DR. DOROTHY J. GISH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR THE FALL 2021 SEMESTER. SHE WILL USE THIS GRANT TO HELP OFFSET THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH HER HONORS PROJECT ON MAKERSPACES**





# **Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year**

## **Elizabeth Raff**

### **Messiah Graduate**



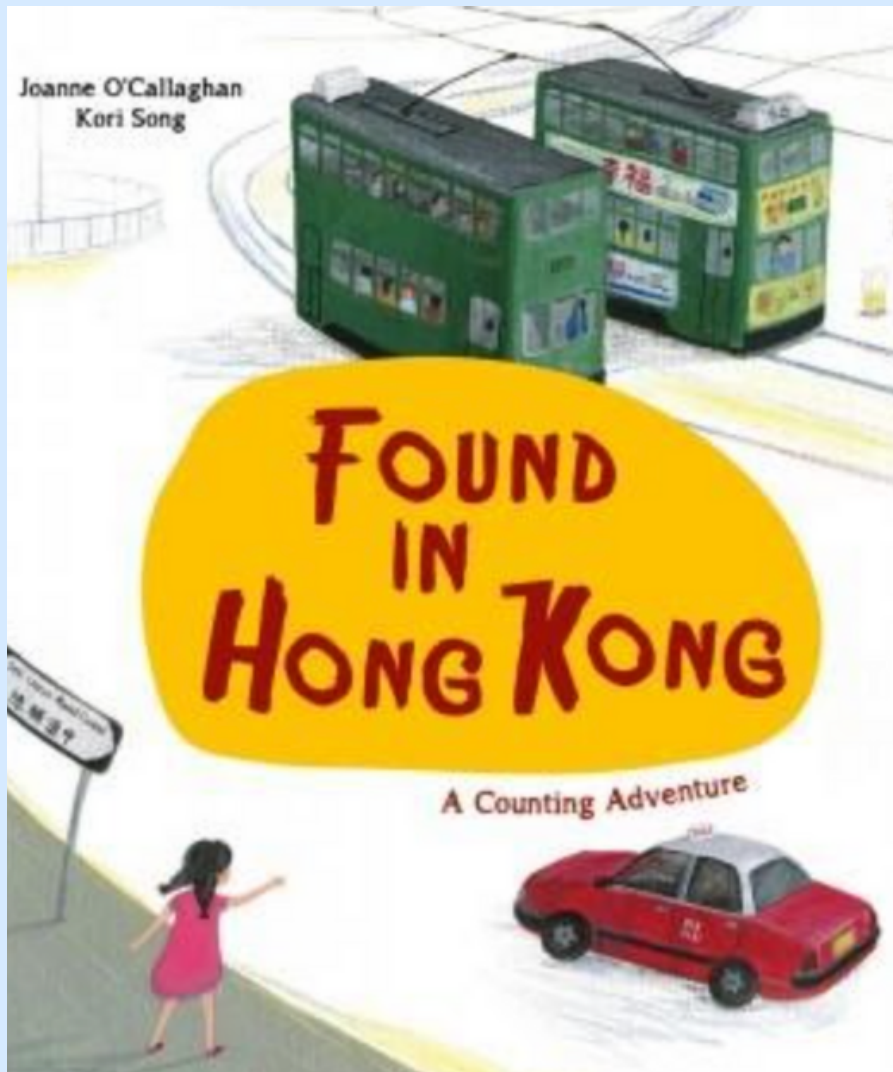
[Watch a video to learn more](#)



**Elizabeth Raff, a sixth grade teacher in the Penn Manor School District**

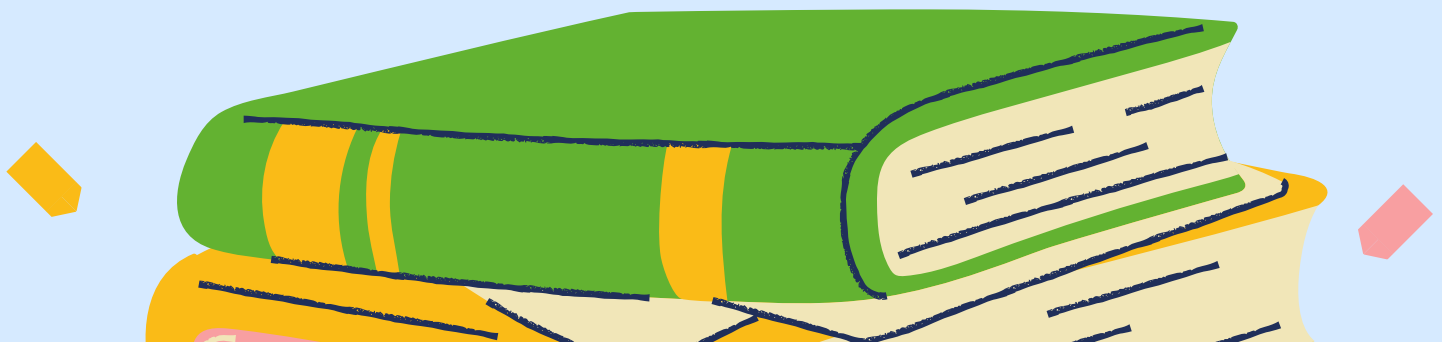


# Check Out This Children's Book!



Reviewed By: Hannah Galen

The simplicity of the book is very inviting to the reader and the illustrations also make you very curious. This book would fall under the multicultural genre because it shows you different things that would be found in Hong Kong and you are able to learn a little bit about the culture and some of the common things that you would see if you lived there. This book was written by Joanne O'Callaghan and Kori Song. Something interesting about both of these authors is that they have written other multicultural books like this one that are set in different locations around the world. Other readers of this book have said that this book is about so much more than just counting but it is a cultural education as well. I think this description of the book is very accurate because this book is very informative and you can learn a lot about Hong Kong by reading this. If you are looking for a picture book where you can learn about other cultures then you should read Found in Hong Kong.



# TECHNOLOGY CORNER

*Our Favorite Online Resources and Tools*



RESOURCES FROM

*Dr. Keller*



## SOME OF MY FAVORITE TOOLS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Here are three free apps that can help you communicate with multilingual families.

**Talking Points** <https://talkingpts.org/>

**Microsoft Translate**

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/translator/personal/>

**Say Hi** <https://www.sayhi.com/en/translate/>





# ALUMNI ADVICE

LESSONS FROM MESSIAH ALUM



## ALUMNI PROFILE

*Brianne  
Torres*

CLASS OF 2015

Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School  
Erie Public Schools - Erie, PA

First Grade

## ADVICE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

My name is Brianne (Loop) Torres. I graduated from Messiah in 2015 with a dual certification. I live and teach in inner-city Erie. I have been teaching first grade for the past five years. If asked, I have two pieces of advice for new teachers. The first is to breathe. Your first year can feel overwhelming. You will have e-mails, meetings, assessments, observations and much more. It may feel like the workload never stops. Even as a graduated educator you will constantly be changing, adapting, and learning new things. You do not need to have every task and paper graded by the end of each day. Set a time each day that you will stop what you are doing and come back to it tomorrow. It can wait. You cannot. Breathe and know that you are doing the work that you were called to do.

Secondly, be real. The students learn quickly who is genuine. Form relationships, make mistakes, be yourself, and laugh with your class. Once they know that you care for them, you will be amazed at how hard they will work and what your class will be able to accomplish. They need to know that there is an adult in the world that is fighting for them. It makes all the difference. In the words of Rita Pierson, "Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."



# Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## JANUARY

December 5-Jan 9-Winter Break

January 10-Welcome BACK!!  
Start of the Spring Semester

January 17- MLK Day-No classes



Would you like to contribute to our newsletter? Do you have an idea for an article? We would love to hear from current students or Messiah Alumni!

Email ideas to [tkeller@messiah.edu](mailto:tkeller@messiah.edu)



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