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## Swinging Bridge - November 5, 2009

Tim Mackie

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# THE SWINGING BRIDGE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2009

## Upper Allen Police Department to Increase Campus Patrols

*Results of a Grant from the PA Liquor Control Board*

By Sari Heidenreich  
News Editor



Upper Allen Police plan to crack down on underage drinking. Photo courtesy of HampshirePolice.uk

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) announced that the Upper Allen Township Police Department (UAPD) would receive a \$11,500 grant "to support initiatives aimed at preventing underage and dangerous drinking."

Sergeant Parsons of the UAPD, says his department covers 13 square miles with roughly 17,000 residents, two elementary schools, a middle school, and portion of the Messiah College campus.

"We were given the grant and one of the aspects of it was to work with Messiah College in partnership with the Department of Safety to address any problems that they might have as a result of underage drinking," Parsons says. "So far we have bike patrol on campus for one event and there's plans possibly to provide some sort of preventative patrol."

Cindy Burger, Director of Messiah College Public Safety, says that as a result of reviving the grant, the UAPD approached the college about working with them to combat underage and dangerous drinking. However, Parsons says "the township will receive most of the enforcement activities" that are a result of the grant.

"We're very receptive to the Upper Allen Police having more of a presence on our campus. Even though it's directly related to underage drinking, in light of the recent attempted assault on our campus we're very receptive to a larger police presence on campus," Associate Dean of Students, Doug Wood says.

"The overall intent of the grant is to address any problems with drinking and DUI," Parsons says. He says Messiah College "students can expect to see a little bit more of us down there [on campus]."

Parsons says the department is hoping to increase

bike patrol of the campus but might also come through with marked units. He says that students will not see an officer on campus every day.

Burger says the college has selected several dates, such as dances and soccer games, for the UAPD to have an increased presence on campus. "You're going to see them on campus more than you have in the past," Burger says. "They're going to come to campus when there's an increase in activity, where we've seen one or two alcohol incidents in the past," Burger says.

In regards to their relationship with Messiah College, Parsons says "We work together closely already but hopefully we'll become more familiar with each other as part of this process. Any type of thing that we can work in cooperation with is good because it lets our office become more familiar with the campus. . . They have their own Department of Safety [but for us] to be present at some of the larger events will be a good thing and make us more aware of what's going on at the college."

Parsons says the UAPD has had a few but not too many incidents at the college in the past. "But yes, we've been down there for some underage drinking incidents. Fortunately, it's not been a major problem. I know the college wants to keep it that way," he says.

Wood says, the number of alcohol violations at this point in the year, is twice the number of violations the college had at this point last year. He says the college averages about 50 alcohol violations per year. This includes both underage and of-age drinking.

Wood says "I do not believe [Public] Safety has done anything that differently this year. "Most of our alcohol related reports come from Residence Life," Wood says. "Although we did have a situation in which we found out about some students

*continued on page A2*

## Messiah College's Faith Commitment

*And it's impact on the classroom*

By Carly McFerren  
Student Writer

Messiah College Provost Randy Basinger says educators and administrators applying to work at Messiah College are made aware of its statements and confessions of faith. "We're a Christian college and hire professors who are Christian. It's key in recruitment and ongoing life at the college," he says.

Basinger says that all educators and administrators must affirm the Apostle's Creed and Messiah College's Confessions of Faith. He describes these commitments as "the focal point of the college's core."

Basinger says, that aside from these commitments, educators and administrators are allowed personal beliefs that may not align with those of the college, such as pacifism. Basinger said that in the classroom teachers must support pacifism because of the traditions of

the college, but they do not personally have to be pacifists. Basinger adds that "There's room for a lot of diversity."

A few of the college's Confessions of Faith include belief that humans are created in the image of God and are accountable in decisions and actions, God calls the church to unite as a community of believers, that the Bible is the inspired, trustworthy, and authoritative Scripture to reveal God's way and purposes, and God instructs us to pursue the kingdom of peace, righteousness, and justice. "Every year professors sign a contract and reaffirm beliefs," Basinger says.

"We're conscious about being a Christian college," says Basinger, "The key is to have professors understand these affirmations to avoid potential problems." He says there have been no major changes to the statements since the mid 90's when they were made more specific.

These beliefs should come as no surprise to students. "Messiah is similar to sister schools but the schools differ,"

says Basinger. "Messiah has a strong core but we're not as detailed, not as expansive, as other schools might be. This allows for a broad range for committed Christians at the college."

Basinger explains that there are three types of colleges and universities. There are "orthodox" schools, like Messiah College, where all educators and administrators are required to affirm a set of beliefs. "Critical mass" schools like Notre Dame or Baylor only require that most of the educators affirm a set of beliefs. Finally, "pluralistic" schools have no specific set of religious beliefs that are required to be affirmed. These schools include Penn State and Shippensburg University.

Within "orthodox" schools, such as Messiah College, there are a set of beliefs that all educators must affirm. At Messiah College, Basinger says, educator and administrators affirm that God exists, that Jesus is the son of God, that God is the creator of heaven and earth, and that the Bible is a trustworthy and au-

thoritative guide for thinking and living.

Basinger says, there are also some beliefs which educators and administrators may or may not personally affirm but are asked to support by the college. These beliefs include the ordination of women in pastoral ministry, that biblical authority does not imply inerrancy, and that as members of a residential Messiah College community, students should not drink.

Finally, there are beliefs on which the college is neutral and educators can agree to disagree with. Basinger says examples of these are topics like voting for Obama or that the Ohio State Buckeyes are the best college football team.

Sometimes the lines can be blurred between whether the college supports a belief or is neutral. Basinger says that these topics include affirming both divine creation and forms of evolution. In areas such as these, it is up to the professor to present several beliefs.

The Department of Biological Sciences' Statement of Origins is the perfect example of how the college approaches this, Basinger says. Professors in this field af-

firm the authority of the Bible and that God created the world. The college does not require faculty to agree with a specific interpretation of Genesis. "Within the Biological Sciences Department there is no single interpretation that all faculty would endorse...the College expects faculty to form their own positions thoughtfully and to communicate these to our students in appropriate ways." The college is neutral about theories such as evidence for an old earth.

Basinger says that teachers have academic freedom even though it may seem limited because of the college's commitments. "We're up front about the beliefs we require," he says, "there can and will be ongoing discussions about what we believe. It's important for students and faculty not to create the college in their own image."

Crystal Downing, professor of English, agrees: "At Messiah College I have much more academic freedom than when I taught at a major research university. In my English classes here, I feel free to talk about everything I talked about in classes at UCLA but here I

*Continued on page A3*

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INDEX:

News	A 2-3
Opinions	B 4-6
Arts & Ent.	C 7-8
Sports	D 9-12

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A

## Loose Change to Free Slaves

By Janae Lapp  
Student Writer

Throughout the month of October, students passing through campus foyers encountered displays with images of children, heavy chains, and collection bins. "Loose Change to Loosen Chains" is a fundraiser held by Messiah College's International Justice Mission/Love 146 chapter. The coins, collected from students' pockets and between couch cushions, go to cover the costs associated with releasing girls from forced prostitution.

Last year Loose Change to Loosen Chains garnered over \$2,000 worth of change, enough to free two girls. This year the fundraisers' goal was \$3,000.

"Our total amount (as long as I counted correctly) is \$2001.56. This total will be doubled when we donate it in December, so ultimately, we not only reached, but we exceeded our \$3,000 goal," says Kristin Miller, president of Messiah College's International Justice Mission (IJM)/Love 146 chapter. She explains that she will take this money to the annual IJM banquet in Washington DC, where a donor will match the amount.

According to Miller, the fundraiser has more to it than a catchy name. IJM is an

organization based in DC with offices in fourteen countries, Miller says. She says its social workers and lawyers work within local justice systems to combat injustices like illegal land seizure, child slavery, police brutality, and unlawful confinement.

A smaller organization, Love 146, concentrates on the issue of child trafficking, giving attention to prevention and aftercare, Miller says. Instead of taking a legal approach, Love 146 often employs creative solutions to end trafficking: they might build wells so children are not seized when they leave their village to get water, or find sources of income so that girls have an alternative to prostitution, Miller says.

While the two organizations are separate entities, they may work together in countries and situations where their goals overlap. At Messiah they are a unit. "I'm passionate about both," said Miller, "so we decided to just combine them." The Messiah College chapter is only a few years old, but has eight to ten members who actively plan events. There are also about a hundred and sixty students on its mailing list.

IJM/Love 146 hosts multiple events throughout the year, including several alternate chapels, monthly prayer meetings, and two to three large events, such as concerts to raise awareness and funds. "We want to educate, but our goal is also to raise money," said Miller.

## Campus Patrol

Continued from page A1

drinking from a local newspaper." "It's not that we're actively looking for it but if we come across it, we'll address it," Wood says of alcohol on campus.

Wood says the college's "main concern is student safety." "We don't want to see anyone get hurt from alcohol poisoning," says Burger.

Wood says the UAPD will be participating in some joint patrols with Public Safety and if the UAPD happens to be with Public Safety when there is an alcohol incident, the students will get cited by both Public Safety and the police.

If the UAPD are not already present, an alcohol incident involving exclusively Messiah College, will be handled internally, Wood says. If any non-Messiah College students are present, Wood says it is policy to always call the police, even if the persons are of-age.

Burger says the college will be notified if a student is charged with a serious crime by the UAPD, the Lower Allen Police Department, or the Carroll County Police Department, as required by the Clery Act.

According to Wood, "Students who are allegedly in violation of the col-

lege's alcohol standards are invited to a disciplinary hearing" with either the Peer Review board, a Residence Director, or the College Review Board (comprised of faculty, two SGA representatives, and some administrators).

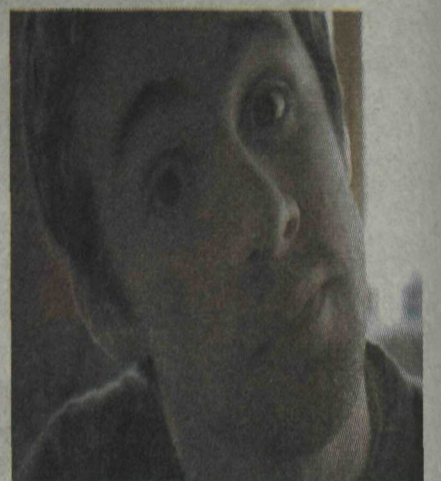
Wood says that the hearing officers know in general the sanctions that could be imposed as a result of the student's alleged breach of policy and that student will have a general idea of what could happen. He says that it is a not an "a+b=c" equation.

"For our community's sake, there's nothing beneficial for allowing drinking," Wood says. "We're not saying it's a sin. . . [but] as an academic institution, there's not benefit," Wood says. "We're a dry campus and a dry township and we want to keep it that way," says Burger.

More details on Messiah College's alcohol policy can be found in the Student Handbook.

## Student Profile: Jermey Gruszewski

By Sarah Fleischman  
Student Writer



"The biggest myth here is [that] we enjoy getting people in trouble. We hate it (at least I do). That's not why we take this job. We take this job to do something for other people, says senior Jermey Gruszewski, Resident Assistant of Kelly Apartments C section. In his third year being an RA (He has also been an RA in Bittner and Mellinger), Gruszewski says he loves being an RA so much he wants to go to school to be an RD.

Q: What interested you in being an RA originally?

A: My freshman RA suggested that I become an RA and my friend's RA also talked to me about it. I really looked up to the RA on her floor. She was really involved in the girls' lives on that floor and there was a real sense of community on their floor.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being an RA?

A: Getting to know the people on my floor or section.

Q: What are some funny things that have happened while you have been an RA?

A: Our staff retreats are always hysterical. There's also always guys showing up at random times in the middle of the night. Things like having my room "cupped" or "baptizing" other staff members (formerly known as "creeking").

Q: What are some scary things you've had to deal with?

A: When people had to be rushed to the hospital.

Q: Students living in apartments are obviously more independent than students living in traditional residence halls. How do you encourage unity on your floor or section when residents have friends in other places?

A: We try to know each apartment and be really intentional about letting them know the RA's apartment is a safe and open place for each resident. [For floor activities, we have] dessert nights, spaghetti dinners and, cookouts.

Q: Why have you continued to be an RA for three years?

A: I love the idea of servant leadership. I am able to do things for students here, from something as simple as letting a locked-out person in to being someone to talk to.

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month at Messiah College

By Anthony Francesco  
Student Writer

Years ago, a diagnosis of breast cancer, the second most common cancer in women after skin cancer, was a death sentence. Not anymore. "Prevention is what is important," says Judy Groop, the coordinator of health services at Messiah College. October at Messiah College, and across America, is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Donned with pink ribbons, flyers, and banners, Messiah College's "focus is for women to be aware of breast cancer," says Groop. Although H1N1 flu has been paramount for health services these past months, students have been doing a lot to raise awareness of breast cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS) on nbcam.org, an estimated 192,370 women are expected to be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in the United States this year. Hardly small figures, but many of these cases, if proper action is taken early, are preventable.

Although the size of the "at risk" demographic for new breast cancer diagnoses are outside of the standard college ages, encouraging "healthy practices as well as regular self checkups are key," says Groop. For college women this means annual visits to their GYN as well as the bolstering of support among friends and classmates to follow suit.

According to nbcam.org, even though only a small handful of college women are diagnosed with breast cancer, staying informed about the state of their bodies through early education can prevent trouble down the road. Some initiatives that can be taken, as stated before, are annual doctor visits as well as self examinations every few months.

So what should college women do? Groop says that knowledge of ones body is the first step. "Women's bodies go through a lot of changing, especially at this age," says Groop. "You need to know your own body so when a one does happen, you can spot it." And a message to the guys: "Encourage the women in your life! Tell your girlfriend or your mother to get informed and get active," says Groop.

Although a potentially deadly disease, breast cancer is a highly preventable cancer, especially with modern medicine. NBCAM (National Breast Cancer Awareness Month) is a group devoted to this idea. Since its inception 25 years ago, it has been, according to the site, "at the forefront of promoting awareness of breast cancer issues and has evolved along with the national dialogue on breast cancer."

Although many strides have been made in breast cancer awareness and treatment, much is left to be accomplished. Celebrating their

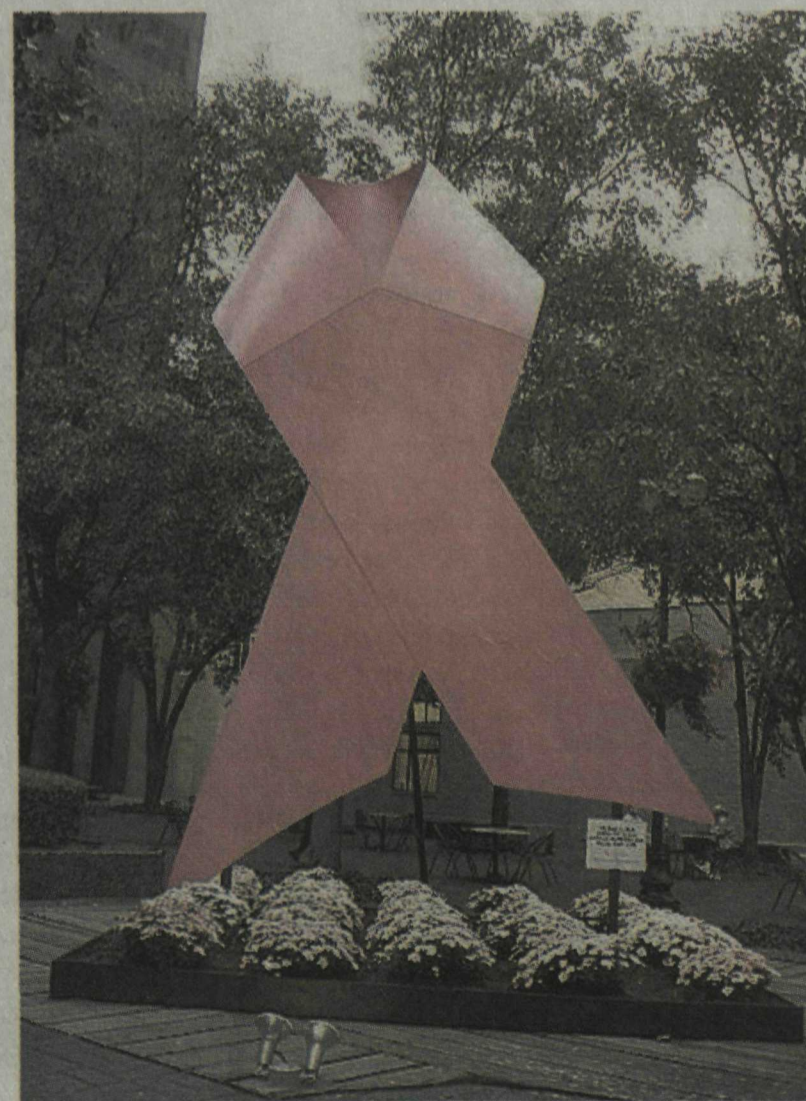


Photo courtesy of i.ehow.com

25th anniversary, the organization remains dedicated to educating and empowering women to take charge of their own breast health by practicing regular self-breast exams to identify any changes, scheduling regular visits, and annual mammograms with their healthcare provider, adhering to prescribed treatment,

and knowing the facts about recurrence. Although October is the official month, NBCAM stresses the importance of year round consciousness.

For more information regarding diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and just some general facts, visit www.nbcam.org

## Student Profile: Liz Arnold

By Sarah Fleischman  
Student Writer



Sophomore Elementary Education major Liz Arnold is the Residence Assistant on Solenberger first floor. Arnold says being an RA is, "a wonderful experience. I've learned so much already in the last three months!"

Arnold's first year as an RA has brought fun times and challenges. Some highlights of her experience so far have been her interaction with her RA staff and getting to know the girls on her floor. She says she likes being able to build relationships with the residents on the floor in a way that doesn't make her some scary authority figure.

**Q: Why did you decide to be an RA?**  
**A:** As a freshman, I wanted to be an RA because I thought it would be fun to introduce new students to Messiah. But the RDs thought I fit better in an upperclass dorm. I love meeting people and I'm outgoing.

**Q: How did your experiences living in a freshman dorm last year shape your decision to become an RA this year?**  
**A:** Last year I was in a quad. Now I'm living by myself. Last year my room took the initiative on our floor and started a Bible study. I liked having people over in our room all the time. My freshman RA was very chill and relaxed. I formed a really good relationship with her.

**Q: What is the best part about being an RA?**  
**A:** I love my RA staff. We got to know each other very well during our training; we had to spend every moment with each other. We went on a fall Staff Retreat at the end of September and it poured [rain] the whole weekend. We were stuck under this tarp for eight hours, so we did random things like go to the movies and out to dinner instead of camping.

**Q: What is the worst thing about being an RA?**  
**A:** Having to confront people about issues. No one wants to be the bad guy.

**Q: What are some fun things you have done on your floor so far this year?**  
**A:** Pancake breakfast, tea and cookie nights, movie night

**Q: What is a myth about RAs you have to confront?**  
**A:** People think we have it all together. We are human beings. We make mistakes and have flaws. We don't want to be seen as someone who will get you in trouble.

## Travel Column

# From Russia with Love

By Maria Toews  
Student Columnist

Maria Toews is a sophomore sociology major from northwestern Canada. She plays the piano and likes spinach.

October 26, 2009

So every other Saturday night some Malaysians from the medical academy, whom I met at church, have a Bible Study. I have been meaning to go since they meet only 2 bustops from where I live. This weekend it was supposed to be arranged that I meet someone at the medical academy bus stop, and they would show me where to go.

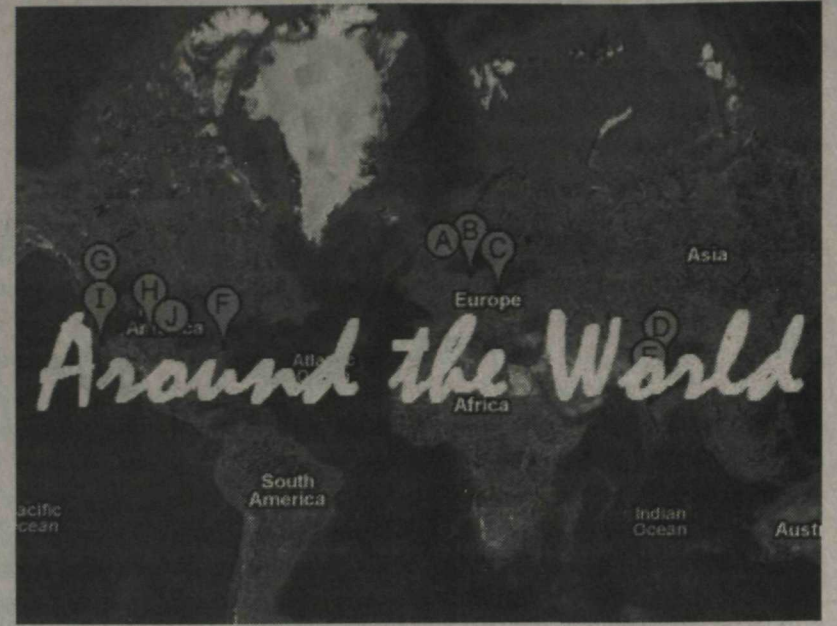
However, Saturday night, after nonchalantly standing at the darkened bus stop next to some drunk guys, 15 minutes beyond the planned meeting time, I decided it wasn't going to happen. I saw some Asian students get off one bus and tried following them to see where they went; I felt like a KGB agent or something that I've heard so much about! But after they entered a building inside the Medical campus I gave up the fruitless stalking.

Disheartened, I thought, "God, I've put quite some effort to get here, and it would be really nice if I could find this meeting. I know they're meeting somewhere, and I

know you could help me." There were multiple 10 story dorms with lit up windows, and I knew that somewhere the meeting was happening. I, decided to make one more round of the darkened campus, in case I'd hear music coming from somewhere. By the street, I saw some girl get out of a car with a middle aged man, and meet a jolly, large Asian student. I realized that the man looked familiar. When I heard them speak English, I materialized out of the shadows and realized the man was the missionary from the church I went to a few weeks back (the girl was his daughter). Yes! I'd found them!

It turns out this Saturday it wasn't a Bible Study, but a Diwali party! Yes, I went to an Indian Diwali party, while in Nizhni Novgorod, Russia, with around 200 other medical students from India, Malaysia, and Kenya. It was complete with a show of dancing, skits, and music, and then they brought out storage bins - yes, storage bins - full of Indian food: curry, yellow rice, chicken, sweets, watermelon... and everyone pulled out their tupperware containers and feasted.

It was surreal to be in a room full of English speaking internationals. Surreal.



By Paul Nickerson  
Student Writer

With the Loose Change to Loosen Chains campaign on campus over the past few weeks, it is common for students, when thinking about the idea of child sex trafficking, to immediately picture distant countries, ridden with war and poverty: breeding grounds for such heinous crimes. What is usually forgotten, is that these very horrors frequent the streets of our own cities here in the United States.

According to the article, "52 children rescued in nationwide sex-trafficking raids," written by Joe Markman in the *Los Angeles Times*, the FBI, local law enforcements, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, worked together over the past few days to execute Operation Cross Country: a sweep of US cities that resulted in the arrests of over 700 people involved in child sex trafficking. This past sweep also led to the rescue of 52 children from the bond of sex slavery.

Markman reports that Operation Cross Country began in 2003, and has led to the rescues of nearly 900 children, and the convictions of over 500 pimps involved in the crimes. Assistant Attorney General, Lanny Breuer states, "It is repugnant that children in these times could be subjected to the great pain, suffering and indignity of being forced into sexual slavery for someone else's profit." President of the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children, Ernie Allen, states that they are having an "enormous impact" on the business of child slavery, which he estimates to still con-

sist of more than 100,000 children.

In news more specific to Pennsylvania, *The Herald*, recently released the article "Soccer Star Facing 10 Years for Drunk Driving Death Speaks to Students." This article outlines the story of Matt Maher, of Cape May County, an upcoming student athlete, who earned a soccer scholarship to nearby Temple University. Maher, awaiting a ten-year sentence for a fatal drunk driving accident, is using his time to speak with high school students about the importance of sobriety.

In his lectures, Maher shares with students his success story, and, as stated by the Herald, his "well thought out decisions to get to where he was." When students understand the great life that Maher had before him, he shares with them the fatal, life changing reality that he faced due to "one night of poor, reckless decisions fueled by emotions."

Maher is working with The Alliance, an organization formed to unify the work of traffic safety professionals, law enforcement, emergency services, and other safety programs, in order to effectively reach students before they make the same mistake he did. *The Herald* states Maher's message as being a simple one, that "Decisions determine destiny," that he hopes his story will "influence others to think before they act and to make every decision like their life and future depends on it because it may."

## Faith Commitment

Continued from page A1

can also talk about more," she says.

"I can bring my faith to bear on the subject matter, thus expanding my range of intellectual engagement," Downing says. She says she feels free to question what and why she believes and that this expands the topics of the classroom discourse beyond those allowed in many Christian colleges.

Jay McDermond, professor of Christian Ministry and Spirituality says, "I am inclined to think there is very little influence or conflict running between what I must affirm and what I teach. This is, in large measure, due to the fact that I accept the Apostles' Creed as a historically affirmed and theologically concise expression of widely accepted Christian beliefs. Additionally, as an ordained minister in the Brethren in Christ Church our denomination has never understood the Scriptures as "inerrant," as some of Christians do."

Brian Smith, Senior Lecturer in Biblical and Religious Studies, agrees with McDermond and Dr. Downing: "I have a fair bit of latitude in my teaching; I can expect and celebrate theological diversity

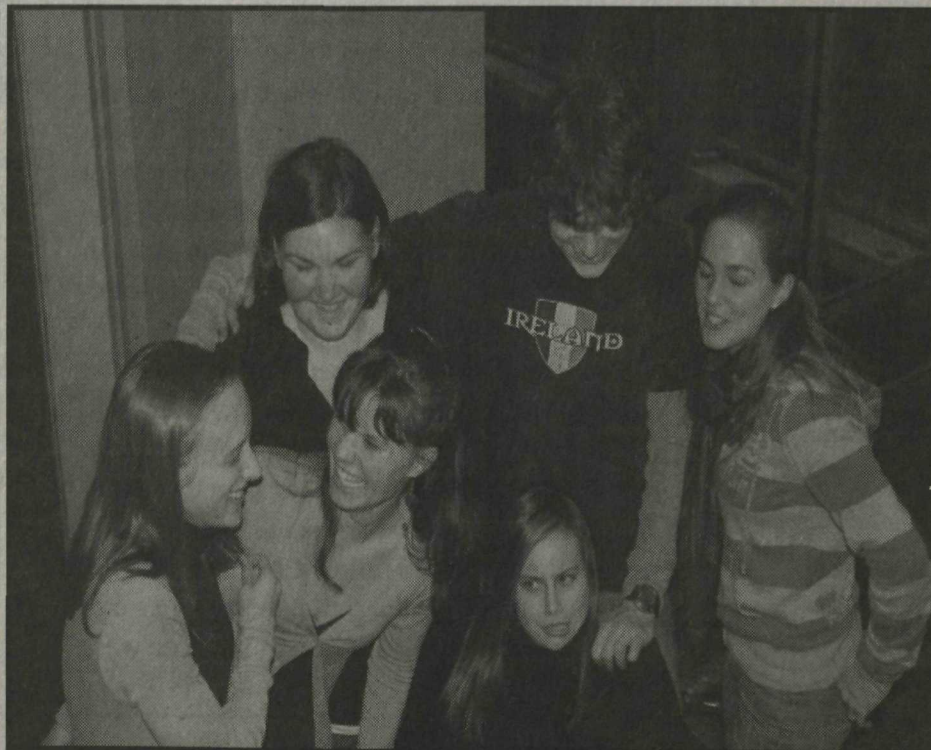
in the classroom around the Bible, theological beliefs, and ecclesiastic tradition. I also understand that the school expects me to support the college's positions on certain behavioral expectations it places on the students. On occasion, I have felt a certain tension between what I feel permitted to say and what I might say if the school did not expect me to publically support its policies. Having said that, I willingly adhere to the school's expectations, and find that I can quite easily facilitate student discussions around particular grey areas without explicitly stating my own perspectives."

Basinger says that, though some students may not be aware of it, teachers are very conscious about how they interpret faith in their classroom, Basinger assures students that their faith is not taken lightly. "There's sometimes a misunderstanding when a professor disagrees with a student, but we're very serious about Christian faith here," Basinger says. "We may not always agree, but we can grow and learn together."

The Swinging Bridge  
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## The Best of Both Worlds

*Forming Cross-Cultural Friendships*

By Thomas Brown  
Opinions Editor

We are designed to desire relationship, comfort, and community. We all wish to be loved, accepted, and understood. But when does this desire lead to non-Christ-like lifestyles? Simply put, when we become afraid to reach out. As Revelation 7:9 reminds us, "People from every nation, tribe, people and language" will be united in Heaven. This is a reminder that cultural boundaries and one's nationality should never separate us from each other. It is clear that Messiah College's goal is to create a diverse atmosphere. However, a natural gap is often created between international and American students.

The first question is, "Is there really a problem?" If it is only human to associate with those who understand us, then how is it bad that we don't reach out to those who seem "different" from us? Or, maybe it's all about personality traits. That is, some people are outgoing while others are not. Or maybe it's a problem of feelings. Perhaps those with cross-cultural experience feel resentment toward those without. According to one international student, "Many of us come to America with little knowledge of the American culture...It's hard for one to leave their culture behind and adapt to another one in four years. However, appreciation for each other's cultures makes the journey worthwhile."

Or, maybe there's no problem at all. Somewhat ironically, I think this may be the best answer. But there is an "issue," and the issue is this: we have trouble seeing the "common denominator" that all of us share. We're intimidated by, or afraid of, those who look or speak differently from ourselves. The silliness is that if both parties feel this way, the "boundary" will never be crossed. Jesus crossed social and cultural boundaries, and we should too.

Let me preface some solutions to this issue with a personal blurb. Often my own experience seems to defy what I believe or prove an important point. For the present discussion, I'll submit that I have had no serious cross-cultural and absolutely no international experience. However, I can relate to international students and people from other cultures. How? I don't know for sure. Part of it may be that I've never felt completely at home in my own culture; another part of it may be that I want to

be a friend to those who come as "outsiders," embarking on an adventure in a new country for the first time. Regardless, I'm not better than anyone else; the ability to reach out cross-culturally seems to come naturally to me.

With that being said, let me offer some ideas for us to consider. For U.S. citizens: we must recognize that there is a world beyond here. Our way of living is not the only one, and we can learn much from other cultures! Moreover, we mustn't be afraid to do so. Americans sometimes feel intimidated by people from other cultures and this is not good. A cross-cultural experience may help, during which an American student may endure a period of uneasiness leading to greater comfort among internationals.

For international people in the U.S.: patience! Remember, you may be an American person's first encounter with someone from another country. You may need to answer the same questions 100 times, but patience and tolerance are good traits to adopt when coming here. Most Americans do not have extensive international knowledge, let alone knowledge of their own country. As one American man asked a Guatemalan immigrant, "Are you a Mexican from Guatemala?"

None of these solutions is possible without humility. The willingness to see others as better than ourselves and to listen to those who are "different" from us cannot be done without a humble spirit. To form partnerships we must be willing to spend time with others-to treat others the way we would like to be treated. As another student indicated, "The atmosphere at Messiah College creates room for one to analyze the word 'diversity.' We may never be able to fully grasp each other's culture, but this is the perfect environment for exploring our similarities."

As I wrap up my thoughts on the issue, let us consider our Savior. Jesus reached out to the Samaritan woman; he healed the culturally-unclean woman who had been bleeding for 12 years; he even healed the centurion's daughter, thereby working on behalf of his oppressors. He healed the daughter of Jarius, one of the "rulers of the synagogue"-thereby working on behalf of the group in which he found the most fault.

*Continued on Page B2*

## Messiah College - Rubbing Alcohol the Wrong Way?

By Michelle Canales  
Layout Editor

We are young, we are impressionable, we are reckless? We are akin to 1920's prohibition: "Speakeasies" bootlegging up the hoo-haa's of Messiah's Campus. We are the Underground Railroad for moonshine guzzling and penetrating the covenant's seal. We are elitist, pseudo-Satanist, and perhaps even masochists (we eat in lottie after all). We are labeled all because of the lust and allure of the fermented grape, pressed hops, condensed sugar cane, and the distilled potato.

We are adults floating inside an institutionalized bubble. We bounce off the walls along with the same prescribed jargon circulating the "Christan Church Scene". We are carrying a "cross" that no longer has significance or reason. And should we mess up, should we be in the presence of the holy *spirit*, we are discarded like lepers. We are in George Orwell's Novel, 1984: Big Brother is watching us. And it is true. Messiah College is watching us.

That watch extends far beyond the public safety vehicles' patrolling parking lots and preying on unlucky, intoxicated victims. It extends beyond the R.A.'s dogmatic instruction to put his or her ear to the door of residents' dorm rooms and apartments in anticipation of loud upheaval. As if those doors whisper "We have alcohol in here, come save me." It extends beyond Abe Lincoln's "ability to add or detract" or having one's case appealed to the peer review board.

I am not undermining the worth of Public Safety or Resident Asisitants. Public Safety has successfully protected us from bears and masked menaces. Nor am I denying the R.A.s' abilities to aid us in our toilet-paper rationing emergencies; they do their job. It even extends beyond the School Covenant which acts like the Ark in its curtain-shielded glory. However, as I recall, that curtain split in two before a certain resurrection occurred.

We, in hindsight, are either Christians at the hand of misconstrued legalism and private funding or followers of the Book of Mormon. Nowhere in the Bible, regardless of the version, does it state that Christians should not drink. If we as believers are to follow Christ's Example, we would find ourselves attending parties and drinking wine. That was the culture, those were

the times. In the same vein, this is the culture, these are our times: to experience and partake in social and responsible drinking.

It is very normal for adults in our culture to consume alcohol. The U.S does not have the same reputation as France for producing exceptional wine, nor Germany for it's refined beer, but it does have an entire night-life scene directly revolving around alcohol. It is no longer the norm to just limit social encounters to coffee and catch up with friends. However, Messiah's Campus is limited in it social beverage. So we find ourselves saying, "Hey lets grab a cup of coffee," more often than not. That is not to say non-alcoholic beverages are antiquated once we turn 21.

Even though dating, especially through online mediums such as match.com, constantly meet for drinks rather than dinner. "Getting a drink", has become a social norm. It is not used as a means to get drunk. It merely serves the purpose of drinking moderately while conversing or "communing".

However, I am not, in any way, excusing drunkenness and crude behavior. I ask for lawfulness and for persons of 21 years or older to be allowed to exercise the right to drink off campus.

The 2002-2003 members of SGA proposed to change Messiah College's alcohol policy and implement a revised policy constructed solely from the Student Forum. The policy was considered and reviewed by the college's board of trustees but ultimately rejected.

The writer of the proposal, Jason Hobbes, a 2005 graduate and 2003 member of the peer review board, said, "It was to be expected. It was clearly political. A change like this would upset a lot of alumni and hurt Messiah's funding."

The result rejected the idea to allow 21-year-olds to drink off campus, but caused the college to modify the policy to a more precise criterion. "Messiah ended up mak-

*Continued on Page B3*

## SGA Column

*What's going on with your student gov't?*

By Kyle McGrath  
Student Writer

Two months into the school year and the centennial has started off with a bang. This year at homecoming a time capsule set to be opened in 25 years was closed. Included in this blast from the past was a letter and photo from this year's SGA cabinet as well as the budget for Fall club funding.

The finance and organizations committee within student forum decided upon the fall budget, and then the forum approved it. A

general breakdown of what each club got can be found on the bulletin board in the downstairs of Eisenhower and a more in depth budget can be found online at [www.messiah.edu/org/sga](http://www.messiah.edu/org/sga) under the financetab.

Other happenings in forum included Rhonda Good and Amy VanDerWurf coming to talk about housing, Mark Wirtz speaking about changes and ideas regarding Lottie, The Falcon, and the Union Caf&eacute;, and also Richard Dent and Jeremiah Griswald speaking for ITS. Future guests include Cindy Berger from

the Dept. of Safety coming on the 12th and Provost Randy Basinger the following week. If you are interested in joining student forum or have an interest in these matters, you are more than welcome to sit in on a meeting. If any questions regarding topics coming up in forum arise each person can feel free to make them aware to one of the representatives from each residence hall or they can be emailed to [sga@messiah.edu](mailto:sga@messiah.edu). Sophomore Kathleen Sampson is Student Body vice president and Chair of Student Forum and is always looking to hear from the student body.

SGA decided to hold a competition this semester to have clubs get con-

nected and work on creating a fun event for the student body. The winners of this competition were a group of over 14 different clubs ranging from EYAS to Outdoors Club and Acclamation to the Asian Student Association. The event is going to run like a block party and is anticipated to be a great time for the whole student body.

Events that day will include a build your own cardboard raft and sail it down the breeches, henna tattoos, ultimate Frisbee games, and a tailgate at the Homestead. Due to a rain out at homecoming, it is anticipated that this day will also feature the postponed "white-out" at the day's sporting

events. This event will be held on November 7th from two until seven. Student Government is looking to have a great rest of the year and is always looking to hear from the students they represent. Our office is located in the upstairs of the Larsen Student Union with office hours listed on the door or at our website. If you are interested in running for a position for next year or looking to join the Student Forum in the spring, feel free to drop by and ask or send an email.

## Life in Christian Community

...And Why Alcohol Shouldn't be a part of it

By Zachary Vincent  
Student Writer

Many, including myself, have poked fun at the Core class "Created and Called for Community." We have even accused it of being a tool for indoctrination. However, in the light of Messiah College's centennial year, I will consider what we learn in "CCC" and draw some light on the issue of alcohol consumption.

Many may wonder how CCC intersects with the issue of alcohol. The answer is that it doesn't. But the principle behind CCC does, and therein lies the purpose for bringing this class up from the depths of our repressed memories. One of CCC's objectives is to bring us together. In President Kim Phipps's (2005) inaugural address, she states the following: "At Messiah College, we understand that we have been called to live as a community characterized by deep Christian conviction, accompanied by a gracious and kind attitude toward others." We have been called to participate in a community of fellow Christians to help encourage and strengthen each other's faith. This means everything with relation to Messiah College's alcohol policy.

Being part of a community means that you look after your brothers and sisters. This is

supported by the biblical mandate of Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (NRSV). I believe we can all agree that drinking is an activity that we choose to take part in. Yet, once we begin to drink, our physical inhibitions are taken away. This means that we are more likely to act in manners contrary to how we would normally act. This could mean any number of different scenarios that may not end well for the parties involved.

I know this author may take the heat for saying this, but there are individuals who walk alone at night. All it would take is for one person to come back on campus slightly intoxicated and a young woman's life is changed forever. My friends, this is too great a risk to take. I do not wish to see any of my brothers or sisters emotionally crippled due to the consumption of alcohol. According to Kansas State University (2003), "Alcohol also lowers inhibitions and reduces one's 'normal' checks on behavior. A perpetrator is less likely to notice and to respect subtle or direct messages to stop." Why take the risk? Giving up alcohol is a small price to pay if it means the people that we see are not at risk.

Above the cause of rape is the cause of looking after those who come after us. I know

one individual who is in an environment in which all of his friends drink, therefore he drinks. This person is not yet 21. The atmosphere in which he lives influences him to drink and to therefore do something illegal. My point is this: as people in a Christian community, we should do nothing which might cause others to stumble. As Paul says in Romans 14:19-21, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall." If we are a loving community of Christ followers, then we must look at our actions and determine if they are hindering others. The question of alcohol at a scholarly institution is not a matter of policy but a question of morality.

On a more personal note: I find it sad that we are having this discussion over drinking. The school has a covenant to uphold the integrity of the students. Is that a bad thing? Is it so hard to reach for a can of soda instead of a beer in order to socialize? How far we have fallen? How far have we come to believe that fun comes in the form of a little drink?

## The Best of Both Worlds

Continued from page B1

Let us, like Jesus, not be judgmental. If society says one should be avoided, God probably says the opposite. If the "norm" is to not associate with those from other cultural backgrounds, let us step outside of our comfort zones and do differently. I'm not saying to get up and move to Africa; I'm suggesting cultural awareness-recognition that each person has a story, and the boldness to ask about that story and to make friends with someone whose story is quite different from your own. As a student from Ecuador observed, just saying "Hi" can go a long way.

This information is based on a group interview with several students--Americans with cross-cultural experience, an American without such experience, and international students

## Where do we Stand on Homosexuality?

By Timothy Mackie  
Editor-in-Chief

Some of you may remember that one year ago I wrote two "Gay at Messiah" articles on Messiah College's stance on homosexuality that stirred up a considerable amount of controversy. In those articles (Published 11/06/09 and 12/06/09), I explored several faculty and student reactions to the policy including several interviews with LGBT students. These articles provoked numerous discussions, both formal and informal, about how Christians should address the issue of non-heterosexual orientations.

So why am I reopening this messy file? Am I just trying to milk a dead cow at this point? Well, no. I don't want to let last fall's hullabaloo be the final word on this discussion. The political and religious climate in America with regards to homosexuality and society has changed dramatically in the past year. Furthermore, I believe that issues of sexuality, specifically sexual orientation, are seminal to the human experience, especially at this point in our lives as we enter adulthood. This conversation *must* continue for our benefit as educators, learners, and human beings.

I wrote the first "Gay at Messiah" article amid a time of great concern for advocates of gay rights. California voters had just passed the groundbreaking "Proposition 8" amending their constitution to limit marriage to heterosexual couples. Only Massachusetts allowed same-sex marriage, although New Jersey allowed "civil unions" which conferred almost all the same rights as ordinary marriage.

The political situation has changed dramatically since then, reflecting a corresponding shift in cultural attitudes toward sexuality which has been building for almost half a century in America. I could probably waste a lot of ink and paper enumerating all of these political changes, but I'll limit myself to three for the purposes of this article.

First, four more states--Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Iowa--joined Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to tie the knot. Iowa stands out among these since it is not located in the politically liberal northwest, indicating that all regions of the nation are wrestling with this issue. Opponents of gay marriage have accused the court cases which declared it legal as "legislating from the bench," but gay marriage in Vermont came about through a legislative decision, not a judicial ruling. Of course, the trend has not been consistent throughout the nation as evidenced by yesterday's revelation of the defeat of marriage equality legislation by referendum voters in Maine.

Second, the movie *Milk*, Gus Van Sant's biopic about San Francisco city supervisor and gay rights activist Harvey Milk, made major cultural ripples in the world of cinema, garner-

ing eight Oscar nominations and winning two of them. Unlike previous well-received gay-themed films, (Ang Lee's schmaltzy *Brokeback Mountain* coming to mind) *Milk* made no pretensions of cinematic abstraction, instead dealing with a real gay man with an extraordinary story.

Finally, the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA), one of the nation's most influential and historically significant Protestant denominations and the US branch of the worldwide Anglican Communion, voted to uphold their policy permitting ordination of openly gay or lesbian clergy. The denomination had previously held an unofficial moratorium on ordaining gay bishops after the 2003 ordination of Bishop Gene Robinson in New Hampshire caused liberals and conservatives in the denomination to start drawing battle lines.

In addition, the (ECUSA) joined the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Reform and Reconstruction branches of Judaism in granting individual clergy discretionary authority to bless same-sex unions, particularly in states where gay marriage is legal. The new policy stops short of developing a liturgy for same-sex weddings, although the governing body has expressed the desire to begin developing it. This move has been heavily criticized by both conservatives within the ECUSA and global voices in the Anglican Communion, especially conservative dioceses in sub-Saharan Africa.

Global Christianity is at a crossroads. Traditional church teaching on homosexual activity labels it sinful, yet Western culture has been leaning more and more pro-gay in recent years. We have a vocabulary and mode of discourse for discussing issues of orientation that did not exist 50 years ago. Most of us accept that some people are attracted in whole or in part to the same sex. This experiential acceptance is supported, though not entirely understood, by the findings of science. Our conundrum as Christians is how far we are willing to take that acceptance.

I had the privilege last week of sitting down with three faculty in Messiah College's Department of Biblical and Religious Studies--Professor of American Religious History, Dr. David Weaver-Zercher, Senior Lecturer in Theology Dr. Richard Crane, and Teaching Pastor Dr. Brian Smith--to discuss how their disciplines inform this debate. These professors support and uphold the Community Covenant, but they also understand and respect the broad spectrum of views on the subject of homosexuality.

Much of the debate over homosexuality stems from disagreement over biblical terminology. Smith and Crane point out that neither Greek nor Hebrew had a word for "homosexual" and that even in modern languages the word is quite new. An OED search places its first known use in English in 1895. Smith notes that sexual ethics in the world of the Old Testament were strictly patriarchal.

Crane said that the main concern of the early church was to set themselves apart from the sex-

ual practices of the Hellenistic culture surrounding them. This culture legitimized such sexually exploitive practices as religious prostitution and pederasty. However, the New Testament word that some modern English translations render as "homosexual" could also mean "pervert," "male prostitute," or "effeminate." Crane says we make a categorical error when we simply assume that Paul and other pre-modern people thought about sexuality the same way we do.

While the Bible is ambiguous on questions of orientation, it seems more cut and dried on issues of who has sex with whom. Indeed, all historical Christian traditions are tacitly, if not explicitly, proscriptive of "homosexual behavior" to borrow the language of the Messiah College Community Covenant. Yet as various denominations grow more and more accepting of practicing LGBT people in their congregations and clergy, it seems that contemporary Christians must take sides in an increasingly contentious debate.

Crane describes both traditional and "liberal" (for lack of a better term) views of sexuality as legitimately concerned with the heart of Christian teaching. Proponents of the traditional view argue that those attracted to the same sex must simply bear the burden of celibacy. Conversely, proponents of the liberal view argue that the gift of celibacy is given to some, but that most people are made for sexual union. In this case, either traditional interpretations of sexual ethics are wrong and must be revised or God's grace supersedes biblical law.

Weaver-Zercher says that Christians have traditionally placed such a high value on sexual ethics, including prohibition of homosexuality, because sexual sin is such a tangible breach of our common values. Sexuality is something very public that people can see and judge, as opposed to more subtle behaviors such as greed or pride.

Smith says he believes many also see the issue as a question of biblical authority. Traditionalists say that to bless gay unions is to allow our fellow Christians to live in sin and undermines the moral authority of God's word. Liberals, however, see rejection of gay unions as perpetuating inequalities and heaping more suffering and insults on an already marginalized group.

Weaver-Zercher says that denominations such as the ECUSA may be responding to a shift in secular Western cultural attitudes toward non-heterosexual orientations. There are numerous precedents in the history of Christianity of the church altering its stance in response to cultural realignments. He notes that many churches in the past century have undergone a sea change in their treatment of divorce and remarriage in reaction to the prevalence of high divorce rates in our culture.

So are traditionalists just lagging behind the times? Well, no, says Crane. He argues that churches and Christian organizations that take a prohibitive stance toward homosexual behavior do so out

of concern for allowing their LGBT members to live in sin. They would not be doing anyone a favor by discrediting their faith and allowing their members to engage in a lifestyle they view a patently immoral. "There's a lot at stake here" says Crane "and if we're wrong, someone gets hurt."

So where does Messiah College sit in this debate? As we all learn in CCC, our college was formed out of Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan traditions, and though we are no longer owned by a particular denomination, we maintain a close "covenant relationship" with the Brethren in Christ church. "Churches in these traditions have a traditional view of human sexuality and marriage" says Weaver-Zercher.

Provost Randy Basinger says that Messiah College has taken more of a moderate stance on homosexual behavior in that we are tolerant and supportive of students with non-heterosexual orientations while maintaining a traditional stance on homosexual behavior. "The College's view stands with the church's traditional view that homosexual behavior is morally sinful while at the same time acknowledging that it is not inherently sinful to have same-sex orientation." He says that the college has received criticism from Christians who argue our practice is too narrow and others who argue it is too open.

Basinger says that our institutional sexual ethic follows the traditional (and still dominant) Christian understanding of sexuality as intended for monogamous union of a married heterosexual couple. Messiah College's stance on homosexual behavior fits within this broader theological understanding of marriage and human sexuality.

Despite the increasingly visible presence of openly LGBT members of our community, many of whom have held high-profile leadership roles in recent years, our institutional stance on the matter is that these students must refrain from homosexual behavior while enrolled at Messiah College. Yet, as students, faculty, and administrators, we come from a variety of denominational and experiential backgrounds that affect how we personally approach this issue.

With the political and religious climate in America slowly shifting towards greater acceptance of homosexual practice, we can no longer assume that everyone shares the convictions espoused in the Community Covenant, even if they agree to live by its standards. In addition, as an institution of higher learning, we have a call to challenge students with views different from their own. I cannot say that I am confident enough in my own position to openly advocate for or against the current policy, yet I believe that the college could do two things to better their handling of this sensitive issue.

Continued on page B3

## Alcohol

Continued from Page B1

ing the policy more specific like we proposed, however, it also made it more strict, which is not what we intended," Hobbes stated.

The fact is, sobriety is not "biblically mandated" as it is stated in Gordon College's student handbook:

"Members of the Gordon community will neither possess nor use alcoholic beverages on campus, on adjacent properties or while attending College-related events (see page 53). While it is recognized that abstinence is not biblically mandated, members of this community are encouraged, for reasons cited above, to consider abstinence as a personal practice."

Other Christian colleges, like Geneva and Wheaton, only prohibit alcohol consumption on campus, though they ultimately encourage abstinence. So why will Messiah College not adopt these policies? According to Hobbes, the clear answer in the past was due to alumni funding. However, does that mean that the students feel the same way? A survey in 2003 proves that Messiah's student body desires the change. The poll for the 2002-2003 upperclassmen showed that 57% of the 315 students wanted to change the policy and 67% admitted anonymously to consuming alcohol.

In the same vein, I propose a second (third, fourth, and perhaps even seventy times seven) look at the alcohol policy at Messiah College. I ask that SGA re-survey the student body, and the board of trustees consider our rights as young adults in society. Though I agree with keeping the campus dry to ensure safety, I hope that we, the student body, can enjoy alcohol, without abuse, in the same way that Jesus Christ practiced.

For better or for worse, alcohol is apart of our culture. To practice total abstinence is to unnecessarily limit ourselves in the fruits of the *spirit*.

Visit [http://www.messiah.edu/alcohol\\_policy/SGAAlcoholPolicyProposal.pdf](http://www.messiah.edu/alcohol_policy/SGAAlcoholPolicyProposal.pdf) for more information about the "Student Government Association Proposal to Change Messiah College's Alcohol Policy".

## Homosexuality

Continued from page B2

First, there should be a regular forum for students, faculty, and administration to meet and discuss issues of sexuality and orientation. Participants in this forum must feel that they are free to express their own views without worrying about the consequences of deviating from the official view. Both Issachar's Loft and the Reconciliation House held superb discussion groups last fall in response to my articles, but I believe that these conversations must be proactive, not reactive.

Second, there should be some sort of curricular addition which exposes all students to the spectrum of Christian views on human sexuality. This could be written into CCC, theology, or ethics/world-view/pluralism courses. This would promote greater understanding among students and provide the administration with a means to defend its stance theologically and philosophically. Provost Basinger has already taken some preliminary steps toward opening dialogue on the school's statement on homosexual behavior with student leaders.

To quell any rumors, I wish to assert my personal stake in this matter. I'm not gay. My PC title is "ally," meaning that I'm a straight guy with some LGBT friends, including a former roommate, a co-worker from my summer job, and several fellow students. My experience with those friends has been that they are not categorically different from me in terms of how they view the world or how they express their desires, hopes, and fears. I do not allow sexual orientation or gender identity to get in the way of meaningful relationships any more than I would allow race or ethnicity.

The bottom line here is that "the times they are a-changin'" both in American culture in general and within the Church specifically. Messiah College students must recognize that this is not the cut-and-dry moral issue that radicals on both sides claim. We are part of a nationwide and ultimately church-wide discourse on how to address the reality of our LGBT neighbors and their behavior, and we cannot rely on trite arguments and verbal mudslinging if we claim to be educated and thoughtful Christians.

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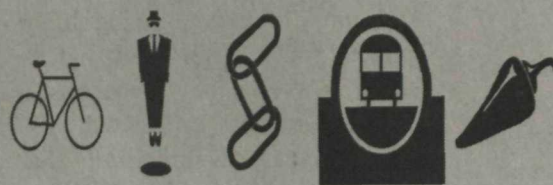
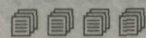
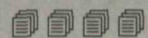
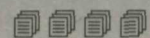
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## American Indian Singers and Dancers to Share Their Culture with Messiah College

By Lindsay Prior  
Student Writer

Are you interested in learning more about Native American culture and seeing a traditional performance by a bona fide Native American tribe?

On November 6, Messiah College will host the Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers, who have been traveling throughout Europe, Canada, and the United States with their authentic Pow-wow dance, song, and drumming.

The Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers are famous for their "Living History" program, a presentation that incorporates lectures, workshops, and a traditional dance, drum, and song performance. Members of the group made appearances in the 1990 film, *Dances With Wolves*, with Kevin Costner. They also contribute often to the History Channel and the Discovery Channel and appear frequently at the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian.

The Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers, also known as the Tayac

Territory Singers and Dancers, was founded by Mark Wild Turkey Tayac, the current leader of the group. Mark is the son of the present chief of the Piscataway Indian Nation - Chief Billy Redwing Tayac. Mark and his group travel throughout North America and Europe, participating in various competitions and performing at college campuses. They have also performed with many children's groups, receiving awards from various school districts.

"The Piscataway Indian Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation," says Bob Klages, the group's agent. "They are from 'Tayac Territory,' near Port Tobacco, Maryland." He says that the Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers are "in demand in November because of Native American History Month."

Klages says that, during their performances, the Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers "encourage audience participation" and intend to help the audience "learn about [his] culture and tradition."

Although November is the group's busiest time of year, Messiah College was able to book the Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers.

The purpose of the event is for students to develop a greater understanding of Na-

tive American culture and experience the traditional art forms of that culture. "The group was selected by the Office of Multicultural Programs and the student organization Multicultural Council as the opening act for Native American Heritage Month," says Hieraal Kane-Osorto, Interim Director of Multicultural Programs. "This is one of several other events on campus that we will be sponsoring to remember and tell the story of our indigenous brothers and sisters within the U.S. and around the world."

According to the Messiah College website, the Office of Multicultural Programs seeks to "provide educational programs, services, and resources that promote racially, ethnically, culturally, and globally diverse, safe, and transformative learning environments for all domestic and international members of the college community." Kane-Osorto says that *The Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers* were chosen to kick off Native American History Month at Messiah College in the hopes that they "will expose students to an aspect of Native American culture we don't often see or experience on our own campus."

Be sure to clear your calendar this Friday for an immersion in authentic Native American dance, song, and drumming.



Photo by "Anthroscribe" on Flickr.com

## Acting Scholarship Recognizes Hard Work of Theater Students

*Gabriella Saramango one of four Messiah College students to be nominated for scholarship*

By Elizabeth Stevens  
Student Writer

Four Messiah College students are diligently selecting and rehearsing their chosen competition pieces for the upcoming Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in January 2010. Sarah Burgess, Ashley James, Kimberly Lambertson, and Gabriella Labato Saramango were nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, a scholarship, according to the Kennedy Center, designed to "provide recognition, honor, and financial assistance to outstanding student performers wishing to pursue further education."

The Swinging Bridge has chosen to spotlight one particular student and her passion for theater and how her faith informs this passion. Gabriella Labato Saramango was nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship for her role as Hannah Ferguson in Messiah College's musical production of *Spitfire Grill* last spring. Saramango, a junior theater major, is grateful to be nominated for the scholarship is simply "glad somebody recognized the blood and sweat I poured into that role."

The Irene Ryan Foundation gives 19 regional awards: 16 awards contain a \$500 scholarship, and two awards that contain a \$2,500 scholarship and a chance to compete in the national festival in Washington D.C. Further

information about the competition can be found on the Kennedy Center Website.

Although Saramango knows that her nomination contains honor and recognition, she also recognizes that the competition is also "a great opportunity to mingle with other artists and participate in workshops during the festival." She also knows the work does not stop after the nomination is received.

The KCACTF guidelines for the regional preliminary round require that each nomi-

nated section of the competition to make sure [she will] abide by all the rules." She not only prepared a piece for the preliminary round and a second partner piece for the semifinal round, but also prepared a solo piece for the final round.

After notice of her nomination, Saramango started preparing immediately to make up for time she will lose by being abroad in Australia this fall. Saramango said, "I read dozens of plays [and] called up my old theater friends and asked for suggestions."

paring by focusing on her duty as a student of Messiah College and as a follower of Christ to "represent... [both] in an honorable and excellent manner." Her experience with theater also gives her a confidence for the competition.

Not new to the idea of competing through theater, Saramango is excited to compete "like the ancient Greeks" and help spread such "exciting and vibrant activity that should involve the whole community." Despite her discouraging results in competitions in high school theater, Saramango attributes her recent success to God, who allows "new opportunities to arise and...opens doors."

Planning to include theater in her future, Saramango recognizes her strengths and skills in physical and musical theater, but realizes the limitations of acting. "Actors are, unfortunately, under an enormous hierarchy of other artists, and frankly, I feel called to lead instead of always be at the mercy of other people's visions," she says. Despite this recognition, Saramango's passion for theater makes it imperative that theater is part of her future.

Saramango believes that actors have the gift to understand a character and in turn, a real person, because they "choose to step into their shoes and walk a few hours in their life." They are like Christ in this capacity, and she believes it is a great opportunity to have.

Making sure she complies with copyright and performance rights, Saramango has narrowed down her audition pieces to two of Christopher Durange's one acts for the preliminary round, a friend's one act for the semifinal round, and has chosen a song for her solo piece in the final round.

Although Saramango has deliberated on the technicalities of the competition, she is also pre-

**"I'm glad somebody recognized the blood and sweat I poured into that role."**

nee have "an audition comprising of a two-person scene not to exceed three minutes in length." The partner performing alongside the nominee must be a student at the time of the KCACTF nomination or the term in which the festival takes place.

Saramango, aware of the general requirements for the competition, "nearly memo-



# When We Were Wild

*Reflections on childhood from Spike Jonze's latest film*

By Thomas Breiter  
Student Writer

There was a time in the early years of my life when everything was wonderful. Or at least, I remember it like that. When I looked up and around at my surroundings, I didn't see an ordered, structured world where most things could easily be explained. In my ignorance in the ways of such a world, everything seemed to hold meaning, even if I couldn't explain what I felt. I had not yet learned to control my curious creativity.

*Where the Wild Things Are* is an accurate portrayal of these memories I hold dear. Spike Jonze got pretty close to encapsulating the sights and sounds of a world where everything is big, intimidating, worthy of curiosity and, above all, a world that can be felt.

Based on the classic, 12-page children's picture-book by Maurice Sendak written over half a century ago, *Where the Wild Things Are* follows the story of a young boy, Max, who is sent to his room for misbehaving, where he imagines a fantasy world. It is an island where a group of monsters runs free, and declare Max their king when he is able to scare them. I won't spoil the story for those who haven't read the book and don't want to do so before seeing the film, though I highly suggest doing this in order to understand the liberties Jonze and his crew took with the story.

One might assume that the film's premise is a bit meager. However, that is

the beauty of it: a simple storyline that allows the director's mind to go wild.

And Jonze delivers, giving life to the colorful pages of the book. Here is an island where a boy befriends imaginary playmates, each with its own unique yet identifiable character. These are not your typical monsters. They are fragile, vulnerable individuals who act on their fears and passions.

For these reasons, *Where the Wild Things Are* is not a children's film. Although it is based on a children's book, there is a deep and artistic message here for adults to take back with them.

Jonze provides unique foils for the young Max with the "wild things". There is a shy wild thing, and another wild thing with a desire for attention. Another, also seeking attention, cries out with her loud mouth, and another is generous and wise but weak in body. Carol, the most prominent, becomes closest to Max and is motivated by the fear of losing his friends—namely, the female he loves, K.W. I suppose this is the closest to love interest that the film has to offer. Carol has a number of temper tantrums in the movie, scaring his fellow wild things. The wild things may act like children, but they also act on emotions that people of all ages can empathize with.

Max and his new friends playing and exploring a wide, diverse landscape, building a huge fort to keep out the "sad" stuff (Carol is most afraid of this, and later in the film accuses Max, their king, of lying to them about not being able to make

everyone happy all the time), and having dirt-clod fights (you remember things like these—someone always ending up crying and going home.) It is easy remember the innocence of childhood, where a temper-tantrum is still a temper-tantrum, but there is rawness to the way a child reacts to something that upsets or scares him or her that brings out visceral sympathy.

It is this rawness that Jonze has portrayed best with *Where the Wild Things Are*. He makes sure to represent the themes that are present in the book, while adding a complex array of characters that reflect the emotions of not just a boy, but a person. This is a film not made for kids, but rather, the kid within each of us.

Thus, while we are reminded of our early youth and imaginations in this film, we are also reminded of our current selves and our vulnerability, regardless of the outward "forts" we put up against people to defend our emotionality. *Where the Wild Things Are* delivers a clear message about the value of sometimes letting our imaginations fulfill our fancies, inspiring life beyond this immediate reality, and about the true desire for beautiful, satisfying relationships.

## SAB Corner: Baltimore Aquarium

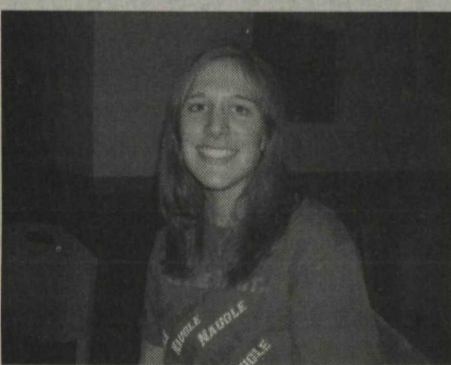
In honor of the the SAB sponsored Baltimore trip this Saturday, here are several facts about the city and aquarium:

- Baltimore is the 12th largest city in the United States.
- It was named for Lord Baltimore (Cecilius Calvert) in the Irish House of Lords and attracted residents and trade because its proximity to water.
- Francis Scott Key wrote the national anthem at Baltimore's Fort McHenry
- Edgar Allen Poe lived in Baltimore. Today his house is open to the public and the city erected a monument in his honor.
- The Baltimore Museum of Art exhibits' of American and international art, include works by Matisse, Gauguin, Picasso, Van Gogh and others.
- The Cylburn Arboretum is a 207 acre urban park with collections of Japanese maples, hollies, conifers, Maryland oaks beeches, tree peonies, maples and magnolias.
- The Baltimore Aquarium is home to approximately 16,500 specimens and more than 660 species of animals.
- The aquarium also hosts a 4-D Immersion Theater, a combination of a 3-D movie with special sensory effects such as mist and wind.

## Photo Poll: 30 Day Fast

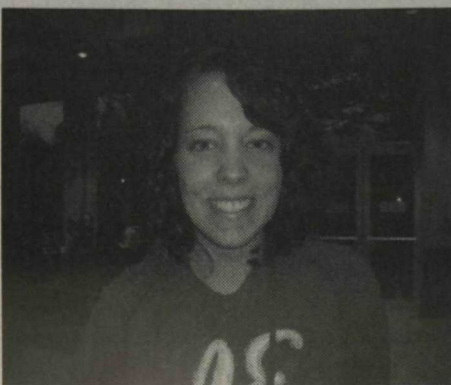
*What did you give up for the fast? Did your relationship with God improve at all?*

Poll Conducted by Morgan Lee  
Magazine Editor



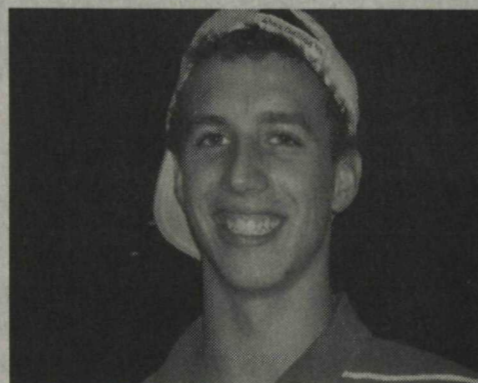
**Jada Vance:**

I gave up being negative about myself and tried to be positive whenever I felt like I wasn't going to do well. God really gave me a power and strength to tell myself I could accomplish these things and also to be less negative. 30 Days Fast helped me a lot with determination and perseverance.



**Kara Hench:**

I tried to give up desserts but it wasn't that different for me really. I learned that desserts don't really separate me from God.



**Dana Miller:**

I feel like I've grown closer to God this past month. I gave up Lottie desserts; every time I had that choice it was like do I want to eat this or take this opportunity to get closer to God.



**Freddy Love:**

I gave up Facebook and YouTube. It went pretty well; I wasn't really begging to go on it. Since I wasn't constantly on checking my Facebook I had a lot more time to reflect and pray more.

Philly friends are  
the best friends.

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## A Word about the Hand Sanitizer

According to Barry Goodling, Messiah College Vice President for Advancement, "The bottles of hand sanitizer were donated to Messiah by Sawyer Products. This is a company that is working with Messiah's Collaboratory on water filtration systems for developing countries. You can learn more at [www.PointOneFilter.com](http://www.PointOneFilter.com)."

## Video Game Reviews

*New Titles in Halo and Assassin's Creed Series*

By Scott Endicott  
Student Writer

**Halo 3: Orbital Drop Shock Trooper:** Bungie returns to its roots

What started as some extra content to hold everyone over until the release of Halo: Reach is now its own separate title with a new hero and a new campaign, in combination with some additions suggestive of the original title. Orbital Drop Shock Trooper (ODST) disappointed some with its hefty price tag but the amount of new content available has convinced most that this game is worth the hit to their wallet.

Once you delve into the story of a few highly trained marines battling the well-known alien race, the Covenant, you are swept away by the performance Bungie Studios brings to the table. Rather than the usual fast-paced, blood-pumping background music, they switched gears to a more soothing and almost introspective style to match the shadowy aura this game produces. For weapons, there is no dual-wielding (having a gun in each hand, just one gun for both hands this time), but the pistol has finally found a happy medium. Entire games will not be won solely through this little killing machine but with its scope back and packing a little more punch than in Halo 2 and 3, it is once again a formidable option.

Not only is there new content for the plot and smart changes to the game play, a second disc contains all of the currently available Halo 3 multiplayer maps in addition to a few new ones. In addition, a new mode, called Firefight, is reminiscent of *Gears of War's* Horde mode, where the player and up to three friends hold out as long as they can against wave after wave of enemies.

Despite its connection to Halo 3, this game stands out because of the addition of its new features. This studio gave ODST its full effort, ending with a little smiling icon and a short message: "Love, Bungie".

4 Stars

**Assassin's Creed 2:** Altair was Just the Beginning

In about two weeks, the highly anticipated *Assassin's Creed 2* will be coming out, and it looks like the few problems voiced by gamers have been duly noted and taken care of by the executive producer Jade Raymond and her team. Although the first game wowed their audience with an expansive world that included ancient cities such as Jerusalem and Damascus for players to explore, issues such as lackluster

chores to complete before assassinations and repetitive game play plagued the original title.

Thankfully Ubisoft has not diminished their devotion to this new franchise, for it is a perfect example of a game not only dedicated to entertaining game play but a rich story that brings to life some of the most important times in history. In the first game, the minds of Ubisoft took an ancient environment where the law was brutal and the leaders often corrupt and they implemented a secret society that uses its skill in the art of assassination to be a catalyst for change.

This time around, the game is taking place in Renaissance Italy with a new main character by the name of Ezio, another descendant of Altair, from the first game. Not only does he have cool new features like a second hidden blade for double assassinations, but this hero can disarm enemies and use their own weapons against them.

The landscape is much more influenced by water with cities such as Venice appearing in this promising sequel. Swimming will be a prominent feature, Ezio being able to escape guards by diving into the waterways of Italy and even pulling in his foes to an aquatic demise. Other additions include some sort of economic system where Ezio can buy new toys like smoke bombs to further impede capture.

Without a doubt this is one of the most wanted games this fall. Gamers on campus, check November 17th on your calendars, *Assassin's Creed 2* is almost here.

5 Stars

Rating System

5 Stars: Must have

4 Stars: Definitely worth getting but a few issues here and there

3 Stars: Decent game, entertaining but probably best to wait for a few months for the price to go down 20 bucks

2 Stars: Unless you want to be frustrated/bored/confused or all of the above, just avoid this

1 Star: Good gift idea for sworn enemies and annoying little siblings



Photos used with permission

## Employee Profile

By Grace Park  
Student Writer

Thirty-four years later, the tragedy of the Vietnam War continues to speak through the lives of people such as Bich-Thuy Nguyen, a seventh year employee of Lottie Nelson Dining services. Dressed in a white uniform with a black apron, Nguyen is one of the head bakers of Lottie Dining Services.

With a silver whisk in one hand and a large bowl in the other, Nguyen prepares a breakfast omelet for herself at the Lottie Grill. Nguyen says that baking is something she finds to be both rewarding and fun because she is able to interact with young Messiah students as well as her co-workers.

It has now been two decades since Nguyen came to the United States with her 11 year old son. Growing up in a family of six children, she has three sisters and two brothers, both whom served with the U.S. Navy and Air Force during the Vietnam War. From 1959 to April 30, 1975, Vietnam was devastated by a civil war, a war which thousands of civilians, including Nguyen, were deeply affected by. During this time, Vietnam was split between the Communist North, supported by its Communist allies and the government of South Vietnam, supported by the United States and other members of

the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

When Nguyen was just fourteen years old, she says that her father died in her arms. A bomb had landed near her father's farm. He was hit in the chest, and Nguyen carried him for a distance of twenty feet until she had to let him down because she couldn't carry him anymore.

The bombs were constantly going off in one area to the next, therefore, it was difficult for Nguyen to get help for her father. She says, "They keep bombing, so everyone's running". Half an hour later, her father was dead.

Pulling out a box of ripe, red strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries, Nguyen begins to recall the many miles of blood she had to walk in order to get home.

"The day my country lost, 1975, we had to walk home", she says.

It took about ten to twelve miles to get home, and Nguyen and her siblings learned quickly to walk over the dead bodies. "I keep walking, trying to step over dead people", she says. By the time she got home, her clothes were soaked in blood.

With about thirty people living under the same roof, it was a rough time for the Nguyen family. There was no food, nor clothes, and so she says

she learned quickly "to eat whatever you can".

As she is saying this, Nguyen is busy tapping the cake pan on the counter. Her gentle smile lights up the bakery as she interacts with the other workers in her area.

"It's crazy in here", she says.

Her brothers have told her many horror stories of the atrocities committed against prisoners of war. They would bury people deep in the ground, leaving only their heads to stick out, and leave them there for a period of days. Most people, Nguyen says, ended up dying in these jails.

While her brothers were in jail, her mother stayed with her sisters, and took care of twenty-five other children around the community, as the war left many children orphaned and homeless. "We lived through a really hard time", Nguyen says.

After the South lost the war, Nguyen was forced to work as a cleaning assistant in the laboratory where she had once been a medical graduate. It was a difficult three years for Nguyen and her family.

She says she worked eighteen hours every day but only got paid for eight hours of her shift. The communists took everything from the people- their valuables, food, and money.

The education system, she says, was also corrupted. No matter how well you tested, getting into a college depended on your resume as well as your family status.

As a result, Nguyen says that many people did not trust going to professionals such as doctors, because they knew that they would give the wrong prescription for medicines. She says that her sister went through this experience when she was given the wrong medication by a doctor.

Her sister ended up getting sicker after taking the medication the doctor prescribed to her. "We can't believe the doctors", Nguyen says.

From 1975 to 1985 the currency of Vietnam changed three times. The conditions, during this time, were unstable.

Nguyen says, although she loves her country, it was difficult for her to live there because of the instability of the economy. "One day you will have \$100 and the next day, only \$10", she says.

Now, Nguyen lives in Mechanicsburg, PA with her husband and twenty-year old son. She makes trips to Vietnam to visit her family, and says that conditions have improved since 1975.

Although she would like to move back to Vietnam one day, she says that she is content and happy living in Pennsylvania for now.

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## Raucous Crowd No Match for Falcon Focus

*Men's soccer takes infamous Marshmallow Cup*

By Ashley Dorty  
Photo Editor

It's one thing to play E-town at Messiah College; it's another thing to play at E-town on Halloween, at 7 pm, after an afternoon of on and off rain, and on the day of the Marshmallow Cup. The game against Elizabethtown is famously known each year for the high competitiveness between the two teams and for the hundreds of marshmallows that are thrown throughout the game.

The men's team entered their last Commonwealth Conference regular season game against the Blue Jays of Elizabethtown on October 31st with a spotless record in the conference.

Many came out for the highly anticipated Messiah vs. E-town game: the stands were packed. As E-town fans filed in, a few black shirts saying, "Trick or Treat. Messiah's Beat" were scattered amongst the crowd.

This game is known for its extreme competitiveness—consequently, the crowd was pumped—but, unfortunately, sometimes the competitiveness leaves the field and enters the stands. One could assume it would become highly distracting to the players. However, according to first-year forward Josh Wood, "I don't think it was hard to keep focus. I think that the whole atmosphere was great; while a little distracting it really kept me motivated when I got tired."

On the flip side, sophomore midfielder Derek Black found it challenging. He says,

"For me it was probably the fans and what they were saying. They were making pretty vulgar and inappropriate comments to me while I was playing. It was a challenge but the key was just to ignore it and keep playing."

At the start of the game, it was evident that the Falcons would be able to ignore all things coming from the crowd. Unfortunately, just one minute and 33 seconds into the game, the Blue Jays scored, and the E-town fans erupted into cheers. Only 27 seconds after E-town got on the board, the Falcons responded



with a goal scored by junior Nick Thompson off a ball fed by fellow classmate Geoff Pezon. The Falcon fans went crazy and the marshmallows went flying in excitement.

The intensity and pressure stayed constant throughout the game. Just a little over three minutes after the Falcons' first goal, Messiah scored again, courtesy of first-year Josh Wood. He scored off of a ball once again fed from junior Geoff Pezon. The crowd erupted with exultation.

The rest of the first half went on with the same consistent pace, but no more goals were scored. The first half ended with a 2-1 score in favor of the Falcons.

Both teams came back on the field for the

The Falcons would not score again for another 30 minutes, but when they did, it was once again by Wood, who got the ball from Pezon.

This goal gave Wood his second career hat-trick after scoring his first hat-trick less than a week prior, in the conference match up against Arcadia.

Josh Wood scored five goals in the Falcons' last two games prior to E-town and a total of seven goals in their last three matches. How is he able to get the ball in the net so much?

"Well I don't really know. My mission is just to work as hard as I can for as long as Coach needs me. It just so happened that in that span of 25 minutes my teammates worked three great opportunities for me and by the grace of God I buried them," states Wood.

Wood's third goal during the Elizabethtown game gave him his 14th goal of the season. He talked afterwards about the challenges he faces in the games. "My biggest challenge during the game is keeping up with the speed at which my teammates pass and move. Being a freshman I still feel a few steps behind the center three (Faro, Nicky, Pez) who I pass to most. They play with such pace and quickness it can be hard to handle and keep up with," says Wood.

A fifth and fate-sealing goal for the Falcons came approximately six minutes before the end of the game. It was scored by junior Nick Thompson, assisted by Josh Wood—giving Thompson his 15th goal of the season.

The final score was 5-1 in favor of the Falcons. This was the eighth straight win for the men. Messiah's Falcons entered the Commonwealth Conference Semi-Finals with a 7-0 record in the conference and an overall record of 17-1.

## We Have a Golf Team?

*Men's Golf subtly makes its mark on the fall season*

By Jeff Dembeck  
Student Writer

The Messiah College Men's Golf team has really come into their own this season: they have had come away from their fall season with the best record in their history. This is generating a lot of new excitement about the team, and foreshadows a bright future for the program.

Head Coach Troy Boone leads a team of eight men onto the green this Fall 2009 season. Seniors Ben Horst, Corey Wenger, Jamie Yoder, and Mike Walker provide leadership and experience for the underclassmen: junior Dan Wort, sophomore Joshua Winn, and first-years Matt Burkhart and M'Cheyne Farling.

Athletics Director Jerry Chaplin is full of praise for Boone, and says "[he] has done a great job of recruiting student-athletes who know the game well and represent Messiah well on the course, and he is working very hard to develop the program. It's been exciting to see the team's progress."

In the fall the team played in six different Division III tournaments. Messiah won two of those tournaments out-

right, and in the tournaments that they did not win, they finished no lower than third.

To start off the season, the team played in the Bucknell University Invitational, a Division I tournament, and finished eleventh overall. The



tournament had fourteen other teams competing, and Messiah shot a school record low of 299, setting the tone for a great season to come. Members competing were first-year Matt Burkhart, senior Corey Wenger, senior Dan Wort, first-year M'Cheyne Farling, and senior Ben Horst.

Next up for Messiah was the September 21st Lebanon College Invitational. The men finished the tournament with a combined score of 311, good

enough for third place in a large field of twenty-three teams. Burkhart, who has consistently shown impressive scores for the team, finished tied for second overall after Mike Kachurak (Delaware Valley College) won on the first play-off hole. All top three finishers (Kachurak, Burkhart, and Thorn of Albright College) shot par. Following scores were made by Wenger (+3), Farling (+10), Wort (+10), and Horst (+15).

Unfortunately, only three days later, the team lost their next matchup, against Albright College. However, they would soon bounce back in a big way, with a second place finish at their own Messiah Falcon Classic, held on October 1st. The top four players, Matt Burkhart, Cory Wenger, M'Cheyne Farling, and Ben Horst came away with a combined score of 322.

Messiah won their first tournament of the season on October 5th. At the Bent Creek Invitational, they walked away with a score of 303, sixteen strokes better than the second place team Franklin and Marshall, and just nineteen over par. The top four finishers were Burkhart (+2), Wenger (+3), Farling (+7), and Wort (+7), and rounding out the team was Horst (+22).

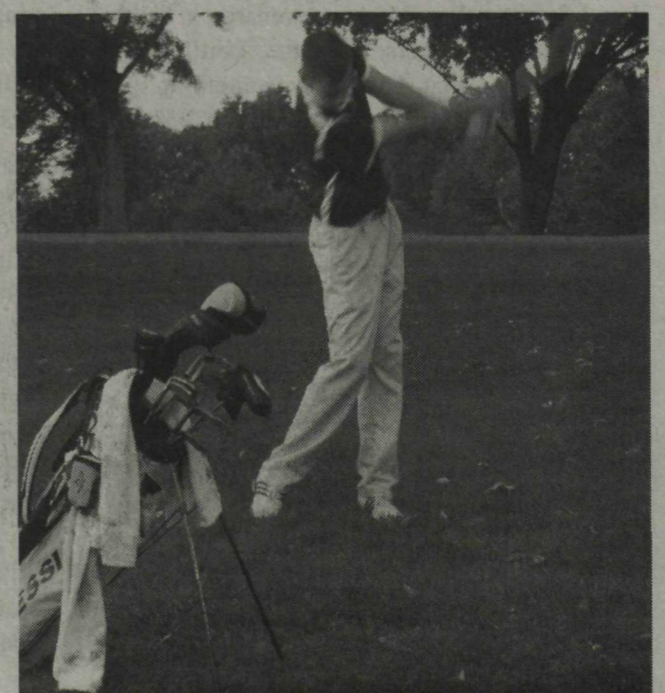
The next tournament was the Elizabethtown Blue Jay Classic on October 7th, which would end in another second place finish, two strokes back of the winning host team.

The team seemingly saved their most impressive scores for the fall season finale at the Gettysburg Fall Invitational. Messiah's golfers shot a twelve over 300 (team par) to win the tournament, an incredible thirty-one strokes

better than the second place finisher Albright College, whom they had lost to earlier in the season. The team's top four finishers were Wort (+1), Wenger (+2), Burkhart (+4), and Horst (+5). They were also the top finishers in the entire tournament.

Director Chaplin is excited about the success the team has had, and says, "The golf team is becoming one of the best Division III programs in our conference and along the East Coast. The men are well on their way to contending for an automatic berth to the national championships -- which they will do if they win the Middle Atlantic Conference title this spring."

The fall ended on a very good note for the Messiah Golf team. Let's tune in to see if they can carry this momentum into the spring season!



# No Complacency Zone

## Women's Field Hockey Continues Conquering

By Cody Swartz  
Student Writer

They just finished the regular season with a perfect 17-0 record, following a 7-0 drumming of Arcadia University. They're ranked No. 1 in the nation for their sport. And they were mentioned in USA Today as part of a "Division III powerhouse."

So what's left for the Messiah Falcons' women's field hockey team? Well, a national championship would be pretty nice.

The Falcons begin postseason play this week and are favorites to contend for a national title. After playing eight top-

ranked teams this season--and beating them all--it's probably not wise to bet against this team. The Falcons have won games both offensively (averaging over five goals per game) and defensively (eight shutouts). After a trip to last year's Final Four, these Falcons are experienced, determined, and ready to bring home a championship.

"It feels great to go undefeated in regular season--and it means so much more to know that everyone contributed to that, and in more ways than one," says senior Jenna Max.

There were many signature moments this year. There were the back-to-back thrilling overtime wins, the second one of which came against Salisbury University, the No. 2 team in the nation. There was also the streak

of three consecutive shutouts in the middle of the season and a 13-0 domination in the final home regular-season game of the year. After finishing the season unbeaten and untied against all opponents, these Falcons are battle-tested and ready to march through the playoffs.

The offense is led by junior Kourtney Ehly and senior Katie Love - the team's top two goal scorers this season. Ehly (21 goals) and Love (19) have each averaged over a goal per game, and have been major factors in the team's undefeated season. With Jenna Max and first-year Emily Hursh, the Falcons have a dominant group of forwards who cause a lot of trouble for opposing defenses.

Feeding them the ball is a talented group of mid-fielders, led by juniors Julie Barton and Lauren Tennis, accompanied by senior Emily Sauder, with Amber Philpot providing strong depth off the bench. The defense has kept the opponents he board consistently, while limiting teams to just 14 goals on the season.

While the entire defensive unit has played well, standouts include seniors Mary Hoover, Brittany Godshall, and Liz Ziegler, as well as sophomore Nikki Carroll. Goalie senior Ashley Mowery has played well in goal, allowing just 13 goals in over 1,100 minutes of action, and first-year Angie Klaczak allowed just one goal in close to 100 minutes of play. The Falcons have a strong bench, an aspect that should help the Falcons in upcoming years, especially with eight seniors graduating.

"Our team has a dynamic like no other," says Max. "I have never been on a team that has as much genuine love for our opponents, the officials, our coaches, for one another, and most importantly for the Lord."

The Falcons are coached by Jan Trapp, a member of the Hall of Fame who is in her 37th

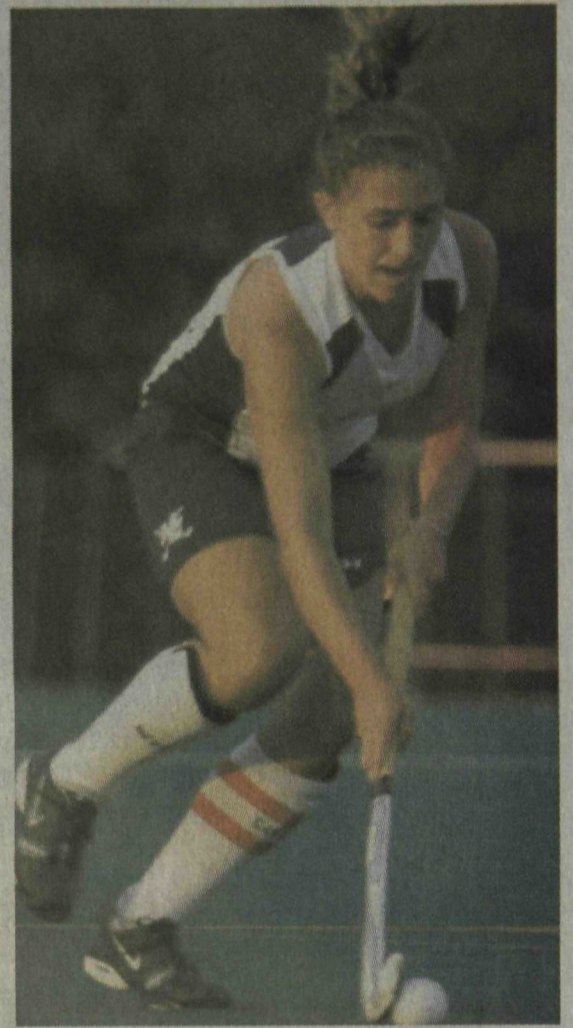
season as head coach at Messiah. Under her tutelage, the Falcons have advanced to the Final Four twelve times and appeared in six national championship games. This year's Falcons hope to add to those totals, while bringing home a Division III title as well.

Trapp is assisted by coaches Jennifer Jacobs, Brooke Wood, and Michael Warari. The entire staff's dedication to these talented young women shines through an anecdote from USA Today featured player Julie Barton, who says "just this past weekend we didn't have a game, so the coaches traveled to go scout other teams that we may see in playoffs. Between three of the coaches they saw about five games, show[ing] their dedication to the team, even on our weekend off."

When asked about what makes this year's team successful, Philpot says, "No player is ever complacent during practices and games, which has allowed this team to progress to a whole new level each day. We never give up, and will not stop playing our game until the final second of our final game. That is a promise."



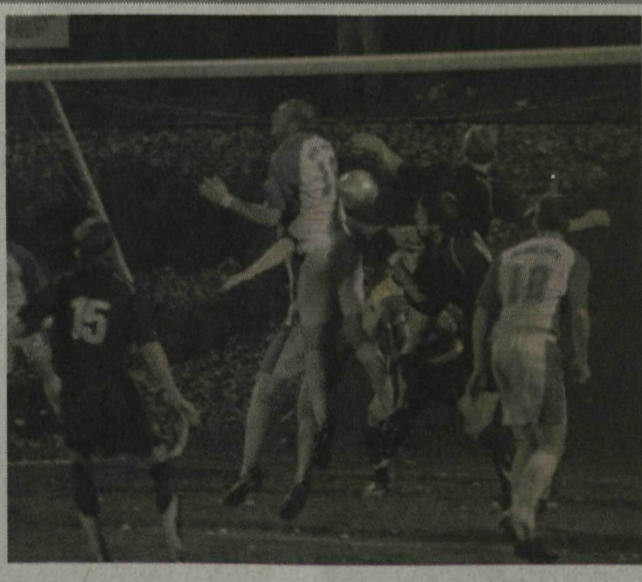
Messiah Field Hockey at Ursinus. Photos used with permission.



# Messiah Men's Soccer Marshmallow Madness

By Ashley Dorty  
Photo Editor

A Photo Essay



# COACHING Profile

Women's Volleyball Coach: Judi Tobias

By Bryn Swartz  
Student Writer

For the past fourteen seasons, Judi Tobias, a 1980 Messiah graduate, has coached Messiah College volleyball. Tobias' tenure at Messiah has included a slew of winning seasons, including a 25-8 finish in the 1999 season that earned her MAC Commonwealth Coach of the Year honors.

Tobias previously played volleyball at Mount Union Area High School and Messiah College. She credits these experiences with helping her to become a better coach. "I appreciated the development I got from playing here. Playing in high school and college was a really good confidence builder. I learned to work really hard at being a better player. It motivates me."

A typical women's volleyball practice consists of work on two major areas: serving and serve receive. Most practices do not consist of an actual 6-on-6 game to 25 points but she usually implements some form of a game situation. Tobias' players love playing "Four on Four Rotate," a popular warm-up game, consisting of player practice at each position on the court.

Before each game, Tobias sets goals for her team to achieve throughout the matches. "Goals are really important," says Tobias. "It helps keep you focused. It's easy to want to win. Goals provide a road map

on how to get to the final destination." Tobias believes that playing for God is far more important than winning, and calls Jesus Christ her personal hero. She proudly recalled her favorite Bible verse, Hebrews 12:2, which states, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus." She further commented, "If I keep that in perspective, everything else falls in."

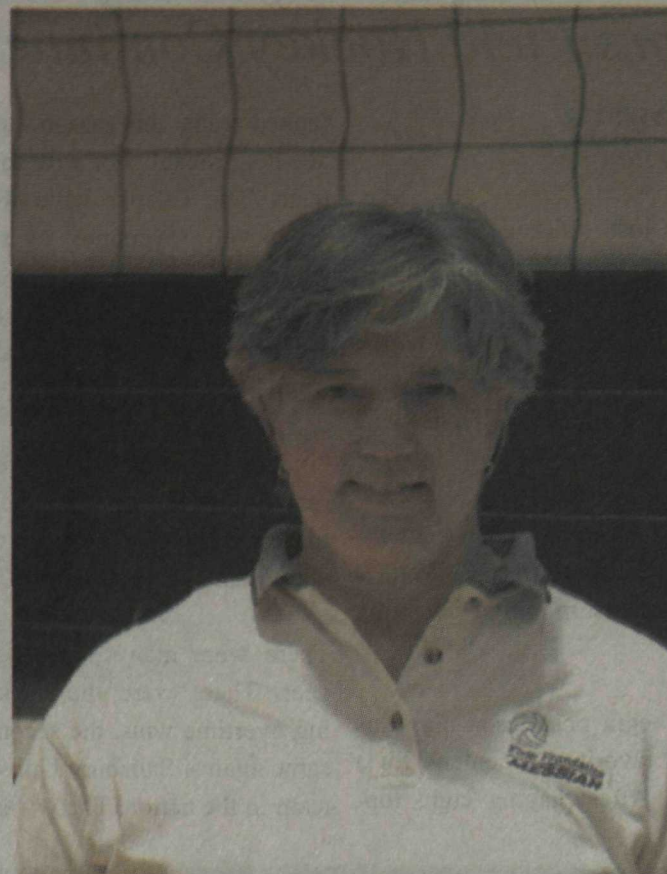
Tobias also implements a pregame thought or verse. "It might just be something that has impacted me throughout the day. We talk about playing not just for Messiah College, but for The Messiah's name on the back of our shirts. We play as if Christ is the only person watching us. We try to remember that when we're on the court, whether it's playing the actual match, dealing with winning and losing, or handling bad calls by the referees."

The volleyball team is also known for singing their own version of the song Amazing Grace. "This song has been [sung here] since before I came to Messiah," says Tobias. "We've added verses since and before each home game we sing the song when we're coming up the back steps by Brubaker. We also sing it for on the road games."

When she is not coaching or teaching wellness classes, Tobias enjoys spending time with her husband, four children

(ages 16 to 23), and grandson. She has also played in a volleyball league in Lower Paxton for over 20 years, and enjoys tennis and golf, but says she wouldn't want to coach any other sport besides volleyball. Tobias also played softball growing up, but recalls taking a liner to the stomach in a co-ed league when she was about 10 or 12 years old. "Believe me, that ball is not soft."

Simply put, Judi Tobias just loves coaching. She loves interacting with the players, winning games, and of course, striving to serve God. When asked how long she plans to keep coaching, Tobias replied immediately, "Until I don't like it or until God calls me to do something else. I feel good about it right now. I enjoy it a lot."



Judi TOBIAS

Women's Volleyball



## WOMEN'S Profile

## MEN'S Profile

By Ashley Dorty  
Photo Editor

**Full Name:** Joanna Abdul Haqq

**Major:** English

**Hometown:** Belchertown, MA

**Year:** Junior

**Favorite Color:** Green and Red

**Most Memorable Sports Moment:** In my sophomore year of high school, my team was in the Western Mass semi-finals. We were losing the game two to zero with eighteen minutes left. In the next fifteen minutes, we scored three goals to win the game, and went on to win it all.

**Favorite Sports Team:** Boston Red Sox/ New England Patriots!

**I've been playing soccer:** Since I was five, so almost sixteen years.

**Siblings:** Naomi (26), Jesse (23), and Rachael (17)

**Favorite Food:** I'm a big food fan in general, but I love BONELESS buffalo wings!

**Hobbies/Interests:** Music, Reading, Movies, Piano, Family, Friends, Soccer?

**My Inspiration:** My daily inspiration comes from every single one of my teammates. They push me to grow as an athlete and in my faith.

**Superhero Icon:** Definitely Batman! He saves lives, and manages to do so without having extraordinary power. He has a sweet ride, and his uniform is extremely flattering.

**Ideal Travel Destination:** I absolutely love experiencing new cultures. I'd have to say that Africa is next on my list of continents to visit!

**Dream Job:** If only I knew...I think I need to get through undergrad and grad school before I know.

**Music Most Likely Playing in my Car:** John Legend, with my whole heart. Third Eye Blind, Nickel Creek, Beatles, Bob Dylan, Alison Krauss

**Favorite Childhood Memory:** I was a pretty bad kid...my childhood memories mainly consist of numerous spankings.

**Favorite Movie:** *Heavyweights*; *Josie and the Pussycats* (Don't knock it 'til you watch it); *Dirty Dancing*

**Favorite Book:** *Daddy Long Legs* (Jean Webster), *The Harry Potter series* (J.K. Rowling)

**Drink of Choice:** Coca-cola, milk (none of that skim stuff)

**Position:** Right Wing

**Favorite Animal:** Dolphins and puppies

*"When it comes down to it, what I love most about Messiah Soccer is the twenty-four girls I have the privilege to see and spend time with every single day. Although it's fun to score goals, win games, and improve, these accomplishments are only special because the feeling of fulfillment is shared with my best friends."*



Joanna HAQQ

Women's Soccer

By Ashley Dorty  
Photo Editor

**Full Name:** Edward Langdon Palmer

**Major:** Accounting

**Hometown:** York, PA

**Year:** Senior

**Favorite Color:** Red

**Most Memorable Sports Moment:** Indoor track and field MAC championships when the meet came down to the last event, the 4x400 meter relay and we tied E-town as MAC champs. It was the best track meet I have ever seen or been a part of.

**Favorite Sports Team:** USA Olympic team

**I've been running cross country for:** 4 years in high school, 2 in college

**Siblings:** Maxfield (17)

**Favorite Food:** I love protein - beef and seafood

**Hobbies/Interests:** running, skiing, golfing, and reading

**My inspiration:** My teammates inspire me daily

**Superhero Icon:** Super Man! Who wouldn't want to be as fast as a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, or able to leap tall buildings in a single bound?

**Ideal Travel Destination:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Edward PALMER

Men's Cross-Country

**Dream Job:** Founder and CEO of my own business

**Music Most Likely Playing in My Car:** Keane and Coldplay

**Favorite Childhood Memory:** Running my first 5k race with my Dad in 3rd grade

**Favorite Movie:** *The Matrix*

**Favorite Book:** *The Perfect Mile* (Neal Bascomb)

**Favorite Drink:** Water

**Favorite Animal:** I love my two cats

*"I love how much cross-country resembles the metaphor used in the Bible to describe the race of life. It's a race of endurance, perseverance, trial, tribulation, and final victory when you finish. Yet, the only way you are able to finish the race is through the encouragement of your family and friends, and by keeping your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."*

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INDEX:

News A 2-3  
Opinions B 4-6  
Arts & Ent. C 7-8