

Goshen College Report to the Allegheny Mennonite Conference, 2013

President opens year with message on passionate learning

Goshen College President, James E. Brenneman, opened the new school year by encouraging students to dare to be Christ-centered passionate learners. Passionate learning is one of the college's core values and was the theme for the 2012-13 school year. Brenneman alluded to the work of History professor, John D. Roth, who writes in his book, *Teaching that Transforms*, that a good Christ Centered education must involve all our of our senses: our sight/ perception, our touch/embodiment, our taste/discerning the better and the less good, our hearing/listening, our voice/ vocation, our smell/attending to the presence around us that is not seen but can be known. This integration of the whole self is not only important for in the realm of education. It is vital for the whole of our lives.

"When Jesus claimed that all scripture could be summed up in two phrases, it's that first one, that theologically defines the meaning of passionate learning: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your might. Jesus uses the word love and adds intensity to it. Love combined with passion creates endurance, discipline, self-sacrifice - all the ingredients you need to succeed over time."

This year Goshen College introduced a unique approach to general education focusing on "integrative learning" called The Goshen Core. The Goshen Core helps students see the connections between everything and build a deeper understanding of the complex world we live in and the roles we play in it. Students are being prepared to **relate with people different from themselves, investigate complex problems** within different disciplines and simultaneously **deepen faith and develop critical thinking skills**. Learn more about what we call **the Goshen Core** on the Goshen College website: www.goshen.edu.

For more information, contact Gwen Gustafson-Zook, Minister of Worship and Church Relations. Call (574) 535-7563 or e-mail churchrelations@goshen.edu.

Conference connections

This summer 15 students are participating in Inquiry Programs, exploring Congregational Ministry, Service Assignments or Christian Camping in their process of vocational discernment. Last summer, Annika Miller from Scottsdale Mennonite Church was one of those students serving with Ministry Inquiry at 1st Mennonite in Denver, Colorado. Annika, along with the other inquiry students, contributed significantly to the ministry settings in which they served while also gaining insight into the rewards and challenges of living life as a ministering person.

Allegheny Mennonite Conference nurtures and supports 7 students from 5 congregations who were enrolled at Goshen College for the 2012-2013 school year. Those churches gave \$11,500 in congregational student aid for the academic year, of which \$7,014 was matched by Goshen College. The Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

Campus ministries theme

The Campus Ministries theme this past year was "Spirited Life: Encounter, Discern, Respond." Using the story of Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John, the Goshen College community was challenged to live from a center grounded in the Spirit of God. Living from this

center, we were encouraged to follow the lead of the Spirit and take the risk of encountering, discerning and responding to the needs of our world in light of the experience of God in our midst.

