



2023 Report to Mosaic Mennonite Conference

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND HABITAT RESTORATION

Jacob Buchanan joined Bluffton's faculty in July 2023 as M'Della Moon endowed chair in botany and environmental science. He is currently finishing his doctorate in biology/ecology at Bowling Green State University and has experience with NSF-grant work, habitat restoration and plant surveys. Buchanan splits his time managing the Bluffton University Nature Preserve and teaching. He began conducting surveys of the nature preserve over the summer and is currently teaching Ecology. A \$1.5 million endowment is funding the position, which is named for M'Della Moon, a member of Bluffton's science faculty from 1921-61.

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMS

In addition to long-standing graduate programs in business and education, classes are now underway for Bluffton's Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master of Nutrition and Dietetics (MND). The fully online MSW program is being offered in partnership with Goshen College and features a mental health specialization. Laurel Neufeld Weaver, a 1983 Bluffton graduate, is serving as assistant professor of social work and field director for the program.

The MND program was established ahead of a January 2024 change in licensing requirements. Students will be required to have a master's degree and at least 1,000 hours of supervised experiential learning to sit for the RDN licensing exam. Bluffton's new program fulfills both requirements.

THE LION AND LAMB PEACE ARTS CENTER

During the spring 2023 semester, Tareq Abuhallima, graduate assistant at The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, along with 10 Bluffton University students developed "Teaching Peace to Children." The sessions focus on issues such as conflict resolution and cultural understanding. Abuhallima co-directs the center with Dr. Paul Neufeld Weaver, professor of education and director of global education. A native of Gaza, Palestine, Abuhallima is also pursuing his MAOM graduate degree at Bluffton and is connected with MennoPin.

ANABAPTIST COLLABORATIVE COURSE

Rev. Dr. Randy Keeler, professor emeritus of religion, and Chalsi Campbell, campus pastor and instructor of religion, are working with representatives from the five other MCUSA colleges and seminaries to develop the Anabaptist Collaborative Course. The group is developing six learning modules to provide a better understanding of Anabaptism and its core values to a faculty, staff and student audience who have increasingly diverse backgrounds. The online modules are being designed to supplement instruction or employee training rather than replace current curriculum.

ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY BIBLE

As part of MennoMedia's Anabaptism at 500 project, Dr. Gerald Mast's Religious Communication class worked through assigned passages and developed notes from their discussions of those passages for the upcoming Anabaptist Community Bible. Dr. Mast also gathered notes from historic Anabaptist sources such as Menno Simons and imprisoned Anabaptists as recorded in the "Martyrs Mirror."

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**COLLEGE OF
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TOP TIER
IN "MIDWEST
COLLEGES"

– *U.S. News & World Report's
Best Colleges*

Save the date

**129th performance
of Handel's "Messiah"**

4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10
Yoder Recital Hall

The performance will
also be livestreamed at:

www.bluffton.edu/messiah

Find us on the web
and social media!

www.bluffton.edu

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