



2023 Report to Western District Conference

\$1.5 MILLION ENDOWED CHAIR IN BOTANY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Jacob Buchanan will join Bluffton's faculty as assistant professor of environmental science and M'della Moon endowed chair in botany and environmental science this summer. He is currently finishing his doctorate in biology/ecology at Bowling Green State University. Buchanan has experience working on an NSF grant on crustaceans in the Great Plains, doing habitat restoration, and conducting plant surveys and collecting plant specimens for the H2Ohio Wetland Monitoring Program. He will split his time managing the Nature Preserve and teaching. A \$1.5 million endowment is funding the position and is named after M'Della Moon, a member of Bluffton's science faculty from 1921-61.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK OFFERED

Bluffton will offer a Master of Social Work (MSW) graduate degree with a mental health specialization starting in the 2023-24 academic year. The program, conducted in partnership with Goshen College, is designed to equip students with the advanced knowledge and skills required to meet the mental health needs of their communities and offers students a holistic approach to the field of social work. Coursework will be delivered online with weekly zoom classes and will prepare students to sit for licensure in any state.

THE LION AND LAMB CONNECTING WITH CURRENT STUDENTS

Starting this academic year at The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University, an emphasis is being placed on training and empowering university students to lead sessions with school children on cultural understanding and conflict resolution.

To facilitate that connection and more directly align the work with Bluffton's education program, **Dr. Paul Neufeld Weaver**, professor of education and director of global education, is serving as director of The Lion and Lamb. **Tareq Abuhallima**, from Gaza, Palestine, is serving as a graduate assistant to staff the center. He is pursuing an MAOM graduate degree at Bluffton and is connected with MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestinian Israel Network). Bluffton senior **Grace Liechty Zickafoose**, from Lima Mennonite Church, served as the undergraduate student assistant during the fall 2022 semester. In addition to work on peace and cultural understanding, trainings will cover peer mediation, including connections to social media usage and cyberbullying.

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 is also gathering notes from historic Anabaptist sources such as Menno Simons and imprisoned Anabaptists as recorded in the "Martyrs Mirror" for the project.

NAMED A
**COLLEGE OF
DISTINCTION**
FOR 2022-23

TOP TIER
IN "MIDWEST
COLLEGES"

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

**ENDURING
VALUES**

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SERVICE

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