Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN

Learning Across Cultures



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Bethany
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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J-Term

Cover photo: Blake Shetler ('12) and a group of Hopi boys. The Hopi History and Culture J-Term was led by Peter Shetler, Bethany's technology director, and his wife Dr. Jan Bender Shetler, professor of history at Goshen College.

Hopi History and Culture

During a two-week trip to Kykotsmovi, Ariz., students learned about the history, religion, and culture of the Hopi—a puebloan people living in southwestern U.S.—as they visited historic sites, served in an elementary school, and lived among these native people.

Distance and difference summarized students' experiences as they traveled more than 3,000 miles (spanning 11 states) and were astounded by the vast open spaces in the landscape and between communities in the southwest. Though never leaving the U.S., students discovered an environment quite different from Goshen—in geography (high desert), politics (autonomous government within reservations), and economic realities (80% unemployment, severe poverty, subsistence living).

While visiting Third Mesa, Ruby, a Hopi who believes in following Jesus, invited students into her home—a rare honor—and shared stories of her life, including her walking eight miles a day to tend her crops! And like the widow who fed Elijah (1 Kings 17), Ruby offered hospitality and generously prepared food—from the little cornmeal she had—for her student guests.

Junior Siobhan Mahnken was particularly impressed by Ruby, her much simpler lifestyle, and her priorities. She says, "Most people I know are concerned with image, but not Ruby. Family is her priority."

Other highlights included visiting centuries-old petroglyphs and cliff dwellings, helping teach young children at the Hopi Mission School, and attending a church service at the Kykotsmovi Mennonite Church. Junior Blake Shetler, in contrast to his church, noted a difference in gender roles, attentive listeners through a *long* service, and enthusiastic singing. He says, "Even though they never skipped a verse, the singing was quite enjoyable. They were intent on praising the Lord."

From the Principal

In a recent chapel, sharing from her MCC experience in Colombia, Bethany alumna Jes Buller ('04) identified her growing understanding of the worldwide nature of Christ's family. As a young person she saw New Testament references to the church chiefly in local terms. She now sees Paul's prayer for "all the saints" (Ephesians 3:18) as a prayer for Christians everywhere.

This *Bulletin* celebrates Bethany's cultivation of cross-cultural understanding—for example, through J-Term courses with the Hopi in Arizona and among Choctaws and African-Americans in Mississippi.

Getting to know international students at Bethany also helps students to see themselves as part of the global family. Students from Anabaptist-related churches in Korea, as well as other parts of Asia and Africa, enrich our school community. Students from Paraguay attend Bethany each year and a Brazilian Mennonite family just completed four months with us.

Students also learn from Bethany faculty with international and cross-cultural experience—for instance, Eileen Becker-Hoover who served with MCC in Poland and Marcelo Warkentin who grew up in Brazil. Jarrod ('05) and Emily (Shantz '05) Huffman's service in India underscores our recent survey in which more than 75% of alumni agreed that Bethany strengthens cultural sensitivity and respect for others.

As Jes Buller said, Jesus calls us to love and respect everyone. Building relationships with people in Mississippi or Colombia or India underlines our kinship in Christ and creates a path to "peace on earth."

—Allan Dueck



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Civil Rights in Mississippi

Students learned about civil rights in Mississippi as they visited historical sites in Noxubee County, Miss., and studied the historical relationship and general histories of Mennonites, African-Americans, and Choctaws there. During their week in Mississippi, students stayed at the Mashulaville Dormitory, operated by Larry and Maxine (Kauffman '64) Miller—see related story on p. 7—where they interacted with people in the community.

Topping students' lists of what stood out the most for them was the racial segregation that still exists at all levels of community life—in schools, churches, and economic opportunities. African-Americans, Caucasians, and Choctaws live alongside each other, but many have little interaction with people outside their own race. When visiting a Choctaw high school, a Choctaw youth told Bethany students that people of different races will often ignore each other and avoid eye contact when meeting in community places such as a store.

Students also met with, and heard stories of, people who, like the Millers, are working proactively for improved race relations. One such example is James Young, who in 2009 became the first African-American mayor of Philadelphia, Miss., a town remembered for the 1964 murder of three civil rights workers by white supremacists that inspired the 1988 movie *Mississippi Burning*.

Mayor Young met with the Bethany students and shared how he and others have crossed racial lines to work together at building trust among ethnic groups in the area. At the same time he told the students that just because the lion doesn't run with the leopards, doesn't mean the lion is racist—it is human nature to gravitate toward people most like you.

Likewise, sophomore Tyler Brenneman noted some similarity to what he saw in Mississippi and relationships between Hispanics and Caucasians in Goshen. Even though he and his family enjoy relating with people of other races, including several Hispanic families in Goshen, most of his friends are Caucasian. He reflected, "We don't necessarily mean for it to be that way, but it is."

Witnessing segregation and racism, as well as those who are working for change, has caused Brenneman and his classmates to consider their own attitudes and actions. Junior Megan Schmucker says, "Being in Mississippi has forced me to see my world from a different perspective. Many stereotypes that I held have disintegrated. I began to see beyond race, to individuals with unique personalities. When I return to Bethany, I hope to see people there in a different way."



Meeting with Philadelphia, Miss., Mayor James Young in his office are (l to r): Jesse Loewen, Natalie Thorne, Josh Plank, Megan Schmucker, Hanna Hochstetler, Dwight Markham, Lana Smucker, and Tyler Brenneman.

J-Term

2011 J-Term Courses

High School

Literary Chicago
Private Pilot Ground School
Winter Sports
Civil Rights in Miss.
Hopi History & Culture
Comparative Mythology
New Testament
Technical Theater
Spanish Language Trip

Middle School

Cooking
Mystery Behind the Game
3-D Art
Axis and Allies
Mystery Mayhem
The Cowboy
Sports Journalism
Called to Be
Performance Arts

For photos, stories, and more information on courses, see bethanycs.net/jterm.

Campus News



New Girls Soccer Coach

Thavisith "Coach T" Mounsithiraj is the new Bruin girls soccer coach, having served as the women's soccer head coach for the past nine years at Goshen College. See bethanycs.net/gso_2011_coacht.

Bethany Expands Services

Offering Grade 4 and 5: Beginning in fall 2011 Bethany will begin a two-year pilot program for a 4th-5th combined class. The curriculum will be interdisciplinary, hands-on, and innovative and meet Indiana state standards. Eliza Stoltzfus and Linda Hochstetler, experienced teachers who are providing enrichment programming for middle school students this year, together will teach the combined class.

Bus Service: Beginning in fall 2011 Bethany plans to offer a daily transportation service with selected pick-up points in Elkhart and extending west to Mishawaka.

International Recruitment: International students have found Bethany to be a welcoming place that prepares them well for succeeding at U.S. colleges and universities—and Bethany has been enriched by their joining our community. As one of the few high schools in Indiana for which international students can get multiple-year visas, Bethany is working with international agents to place interested international students that would be a good fit for Bethany.

For more information regarding these services, or to serve as a host family, contact Rachel Roth Sawatzky at 574 534-2567 or admissions@bethanycs.net.

Bright Time
Summer Camp Programs 2011

June 13-17, 2011

+ Camp Invention June 6-10

- For age 3 through grade 12
- 26 camps: athletics, fine arts, and academic exploration
- 15 new camps @ $35
- Shine on Campcare for before, between, and after camps

Download a camp brochure at bethanycs.net/brighttime

Things My Mother Said

(middle school drama)

7 p.m May 6-7, 2011

adults $4 • students $2

Reservations begin Apr. 18

Call 574 534-2567

News at bethanycs.net

Learning About Lent: Sixth-graders learn about and observe Lenten practices in Bible class. See /Ash_Wednesday_2011.

MCC Essay Contest: James Helmuth ('11), son of Ray ('80) and Sonja Gyori-Helmuth, won honorable mention in this national contest. Read his winning essay on military spending at /MCC_Essays_2011.

NFL a Success at Bethany: In its second year, the debate team qualified for state competition (see /debate_state_2011) and six students qualified for the state speech competition (see /speech_sectional_2011).

Chess: Adam Krahn ('14), son of Brian and Stacy (Haines '82) Krahn, was Elkhart County chess champion and finished fourth in the state competition. See /chess_indstate_2011.

Science Olympiad: High school team places second at regional. See /science_olympiad_2011.

Instrumental Contest: Bethany musicians earned a school record 49 gold medals. See /district_contest_instrumental_2011.

Calendar

April

7-12 MSC Choir Festival, Salem, Ore.
15 Fish Fry, 4:30-8:00 p.m.

May

6-7 MS drama, 7 p.m. (see above)
13 HS spring concert, 7:30 p.m.
17 MS spring concert, 7 p.m.
22 *Emmaus* concert, 7 p.m.
26 Grade 8 recognition, 7 p.m.
29 Commencement, 3 p.m.

Jarrod Huffman ('05): Fulbright Scholar in India

Alumni News

"The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship." —Senator J. William Fulbright

Why apply for a Fulbright scholarship? During my time as a volunteer in India I saw firsthand the power of education: children who were given educational opportunities advanced their position in life as they went on to college and pursued careers unavailable to their parents' generation. In 2009 the Indian federal government passed legislation that aims to provide universal free and compulsory education through eighth grade and contains provisions to ensure minimum standards of quality are met. However, education is administered by state governments and the state in which Kolkata is located has been pursuing a different course in universalizing education. With a desire to return to India and my newfound interest in education in India, I submitted my research proposal with the hope that my findings might be helpful to those making decisions about education policy or those simply wishing to be better informed.

What do you do as a Fulbright scholar? All scholarships focus on research or education with an aim of increasing mutual understanding and creating partnerships with people around the world. It contains an initial period dedicated exclusively to language study and then a period where language study and research are concurrent. Thus far I have conducted background research to make sure I understand the situation reasonably well. I will conduct a public awareness survey among parents of elementary school-aged children to determine the level of knowledge about new education-related legislation. Currently, enforcement of this legislation requires complaints to be lodged. My research aims to assess whether or not an awareness campaign about the legislation will be necessary.

How have you fostered crosscultural understanding? By conversing in Bangla in my day to day public interactions. Whether in a store, an office, or a school, people are really excited when I speak Bangla at even the most basic level. Part of this is due to the perception, which is in many ways true, that people in western countries only care about culture and events in other western countries. By speaking Bangla I become a counter-example to this perception by demonstrating that I have invested a reasonable degree of time in learning something unique to their culture.



Jarrod Huffman ('05) received a Fulbright scholarship, the U.S. government's premiere international exchange program, to research access to elementary education in Kolkata, India. A 2010 graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a B.S. in physics and a commission as second lieutenant, Jarrod developed his interest in education in India while teaching physics in a rural Indian village for seven months in 2007-08. In June 2010 he married **Emily Shantz ('05)**, who graduated from Goshen College in 2009 with a major in art and a minor in writing.

How has Bethany impacted your life? The most obvious way is academically. The Air Force Academy admissions process is highly competitive, and although I was in the middle of my class at Bethany, I found that I was ahead of most of my peers in college. Although military service is unorthodox for a Bethany alum, having been exposed to different perspectives at Bethany taught me to think critically about the implications of my future actions and the role I play in an ever more globalized world.

Emily, how has Bethany impacted your life? Had I not attended Bethany, I would not have met and eventually married Jarrod—and would not be in Kolkata! On a more serious note, when I attended Bethany, its slogan was "a good place to grow." Bethany has fulfilled its promise to me in every way. Not only did I grow incredibly regarding my faith, but I also discovered a passion for writing and language. Now I'm studying Bangla, my third language other than English (German at Bethany and Spanish at Goshen College), and Jarrod and I will have a secret language to converse in when we return to the U.S.!

Alumni News

Nation's Best College Radio

Trisha Handrich ('07) and WGCS The Globe were recognized as nation's best at the March 12 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System's annual awards. Handrich is student station manager for The Globe, which was named the best college station from more than 700 college and universities. In individual awards, Handrich received first place for best promotional series. See /thandrich07_11.

Births

Scott Schmucker ('87) and Lisa Gunden, The Woodlands, Texas, daughter Mikayla Jade, Jan. 28, 2011.

Tara and Lucas **Swartzendruber-Landis ('95)**, Philadelphia, Pa., daughter Adah, Dec. 21, 2010. Grandparents are Larion (F'70-75) and Nancy Swartzendruber. Tara has started a garden project in the city for senior immigrants and refugees. See bethanycs.net/tswartzendruberlandis95_11.

Michelle Thomas ('98) and Ryan Brenneman, White Pigeon, Mich., son Samuel Jay, Jan. 12, 2011. Grandparents are Ev (F'72-89) and Barb Thomas and Bob ('61) and Rachel (Cross '63) Brenneman.

Chris ('00) and **Gretchen (Miller '00) Kingsley,** Goshen, daughter Isa Kathryn, Feb. 20, 2011.

Jill (Graber '00) and Alex **Mast**, Middlebury, son Truman Stanley, March 7, 2011. Grandmother is Cathy (Miller '77) Graber. Great grandmother is Eunice (Troyer '59) Chupp.

Carrie Hartzler ('00) and Suman Bhandari, Irving, Tex., son Harold Suman, Jan. 15, 2011.

Traci (Yoder '01) and Jared **Stoltzfus**, Glendale, Ariz., son Graham Eliot, Sept. 23, 2010. Grandparents are Delvon ('66) and Shirley (Sawatzky '65) Yoder.

Kevin ('02) and **Kristen (Oswald '02) Hochstetler**, Goshen, daughter Jarvinia Claire, Jan. 13, 2011.

Jennifer (Klassen '04) and Kristopher **Troyer**, Goshen, son Matthew Allen, Feb. 7. 2011.

Breanna (Baldridge '05) and Mike **Sauerwein**, Manhattan, Kan., daughter Mollie Rose, Feb. 12, 2011. Grandmother is Rose (Stutzman '72) Baldridge.

Alum Stories at bethanycs.net

Collegiate All-American: Erin Helmuth ('09), Goshen College, in the 3,000 meter race walk at the NAIA nationals in March. See /ehelmuth09_11all-american.

Peace Oratorical Contest: Sae Jin Lee ('06) earned second place in C. Henry Smith contest. See /saejinlee06_smith11.

Peacemakers: Sarah Thompson ('02) and Tim Nafziger ('99) featured in articles on peacemaking. See /CPTXX4.

Entrepreneurial Vision: Niles Graber-Miller ('10) creates ad van as moving billboard. See /GraberMiller10_10.

For these and other alumni stories, see bethanycs.net/alumni.

Deaths

See online obituaries at bethanycs.net/alumni/obits

Elaine (Hochstetler '67ng) Strausser, Goshen, Oct. 29, 2010.

Jerold Troyer ('86ng), Goshen, Jan. 31. 2011.

Jeff Bauman ('03), Goshen, Feb. 26, 2011.

Marriages

Malinda Berry ('92) and John Stoltzfus, Richmond, Ind., Dec. 24, 2010.

Brenna Steury ('03) and Brad Graber, Sarasota, Fla., Jan. 2, 2010. Brenna is administrative assistant to the superintendent at Sarasota Christian School.

Jessica Fridley ('04) and Jonathan Huber, Newton, Kan., Aug. 14, 2010.

Lauren Eash ('05) and Mark Hershberger, Goshen, Nov. 6, 2010. She is employed by ADEC.

Nick Miller ('05) and Katelynn Jessie, Goshen, Aug. 14, 2010.

Notes

Fran Hassencahl ('59), communication faculty at Old Dominion University, presented papers at conferences in Turkey, Israel, and Spain in 2010.

Melodie (Miller '70ng) Davis, Linville, Va., has authored, *Whatever Happened to Dinner? Recipes and Reflections from Family Mealtime,* published in October by Herald Press (www.mpn.net).

Rachel Wise Martin ('80), Gastonia, NC received a master of school administration with certification in curriculum and instruction supervision in May 2010 from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

Carey Miller ('82), Harrisonburg, Va., is director of finances for Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Eric Mast ('85), Goshen, has been a truck driver for 17 years. He says, "I get to see the country and wouldn't change it for anything."

Cynthia Friesen Coyle ('86), Goshen, joined Mennonite Mission Network as a graphic designer in October 2010. She had served with Habitat for Humanity International for 18 years before working freelance the past two years from Bothell, Wash.

Britt Kaufmann ('92), Burnsville, N.C., wrote "An Uncivil Union: The Battle of Burnsville" a full-length romantic comedy that will be staged in June. A stay-at-home mother of three, her poetry chapbook, *Belonging*, was selected as a semi-finalist in the New Women's Voices series contest. Her husband, **Chad Smoker ('92)**, is a family physician. See brittkaufmann.com for more information.

Heather Graber Potsander ('93), Goshen, teaches art at Parkside Elementary School. She and her family moved to Goshen in July 2010 after 7.5 years in Anchorage, Alaska.

Kyle Miller ('98), South Bend., Ind., works as an assistant producer for NBC Sports.

Sarah E. Miller ('01) graduated with honors from Vancouver Film School, B.C., in Dec. 2010. She plans to live and work in Vancouver as a make-up design artist in film, TV, and theatre.

Jenna ('03) and Peter **Liechty Martin**, Belfast, Northern Ireland, are serving with Edgehill Theological College Reconciliation and Integration Partnership Project through Mennonite Mission Network.

Elijah Martens ('06) teaches English at Fuzhou University, China, through Mennonite Partners in China.

Help youth impact their church and world at

Bethany Christian Schools

Share your experiences of Bethany with others and encourage youth you know to consider attending Bethany.

Refer students: Send names and contact information to Rachel Roth Sawatzky at admissions@bethanycs.net or 2904 S. Main. St., Goshen, IN 46526.

Thank you!

Alumni News

Reunions

Sept. 23-24, 2011, will be alumni weekend with reunions for classes ending in 1 or 5.

For more information, see bethanycs.net/reunions.

Maxine (Kauffman '64) Miller

In my early teenage years I went with my parents to the Ozark Mountains to help with a Bible school. That experience opened my eyes to service opportunities beyond my home community of Middlebury/Goshen. My husband-to-be, Larry Miller, worked for two years in Mississippi in alternative service instead of going to Vietnam. At the end of those two years we got married and made our home in Mashulaville, Miss. We both taught in the public schools for twenty-five years and are now retired.



Maxine (Kauffman '64) Miller with her grandson Jamie. Maxine and her husband, Larry, have three children—two whom they adopted—Jennifer, Jeffrey, and Judith. They have three grandchildren: Jermaine (20), who helped guide the Bethany J-Term group in January (see related story on p. 3), Nailah (6), and Jamie (4).

Throughout these past years we became good friends with our African-American neighbors and participated in local community activities. Racial tensions during the seventies pushed us to decide with whom we would identify. We felt uncomfortable to become typical white Southerners and were led to be a part of the struggles of our African-American friends and neighbors. This led to political involvement, pushing for African-American leadership in our county's political positions. Changes slowly came, but we still see the need for more racial equality.

We continually encounter economic poverty that often leads to hopeless attitudes. So we move ahead trying to impact youth and children. I do some tutoring and my husband mentors teenage guys. We own a large, old dormitory, which we use for community activities. In the summer we sponser a day camp for neighborhood children. The call for justice from Old Testament prophets and Jesus' call to give a drink, serve a meal, and house the homeless continue to motivate us to look for ways to better someone's life.

The past winter we spent six months at Menno Hof in Shipshewana, Ind. It was refreshing to reconnect with old friends and all our relatives in the community in which we grew up. We really enjoyed meeting new people and deepened our interest in the history and beliefs of our Mennonite heritage.

Bethany CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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Three Cups of Tea

Students learn of education, friendship, peace

While reading Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea*, seventh-graders are learning that around the world 110 million children ages 5 to 15 do not have the chance to go to school.

"Education is a privilege that we take for granted; some kids in Pakistan, especially girls, don't have the same chance that I do," says Darienne Maust, a seventh-grader in the class.



Seventh graders Kyle Snyder and Darienne Maust

Seventh-graders are studying *Three Cups of Tea* as part of a language arts and social studies unit. The book describes life in Pakistan from the viewpoint of children, and an American mountain climber's mission to promote peace, one school at a time.

Evie Nafziger, a language arts teacher, finds *Three Cups of Tea* particularly helpful in extending students' thinking. In addition to studying the story, she said, students are discussing how they can apply ideas in real-life situations.

While they are learning about the lack of educational opportunities for girls in Pakistan, Nafziger hopes that at the end of the unit students will not only recount facts but write an essay on why educating girls is important.

Through the book, students are learning of the effects of war on people's lives, stories of Muslims who are doing good—in contrast to the negative images often portrayed in the U.S.—and geography of the region.

Tim Lehman, a social studies teacher, asked students to think about how geography can affect culture and daily life. He created a mountain-climbing simulation in which some students climbed a 20-foot snow pile.

Cultural awareness and sensitivity are a key part of the students' study. "I hope they gain a better appreciation for why we do certain things one way and why another culture may do something another way," Nafziger said. "It's not about right and wrong, or better or worse, but understanding why each does what it does."