

Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN



Fall 2008
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Bethany Board

New Board Members

Justin Heinzekehr ('03)

Justin Heinzekehr is the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Executive Committee rep to Bethany's board. He says, "Bethany was a place where I was able to explore academics and faith issues in a safe and open environment. I hope Bethany con-



tinues to equip students from the church, community, and world for Christian discipleship."

A student leader, Justin was active in music and athletics and received a National

Merit Scholarship to attend Goshen College, where he now works in institutional research. He and his wife Hannah Heinzekehr ('03) attend Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship.

Nancy Rodriguez-Lora

Nancy Rodriguez-Lora, pastor at True Vine Tabernacle, envisions Bethany to be not only academically excellent, but more culturally diverse, spiritually empowering, and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. She says, "I believe we have a lot to offer and should be more bold about who we are and what we stand for. Bethany should be a catalyst for a generation of passionate followers of Christ."



Nancy and her husband Juan Carlos Lora have three children: Clarissa ('10), Nahshon ('15), and Elijah (grade 5).

Jeff Shenk ('94)

Jeff Shenk, who works in sales for Aluminum Trailer Company in Nappanee, hopes to use his business and education experience in helping find ways to improve the school and its outreach.



Jeff and his wife Jen (Helmuth '89) Shenk have three boys: Caleb (grade 1), Aaron (kindergarten), and Jacob (age 1). They attend Belmont Mennonite Church where Jeff has served as a Sunday school teacher and on pastoral search committees.

Barb Smucker

Barb Smucker desires that Bethany continues to provide excellent academic support and nurtures students in Christian faith.



A 1981 Goshen College graduate, Barb is a registered nurse at Goshen General Hospital. She and her husband Greg Smucker (F'82-86) are former owners of Snyder Paints, where he still works. They have three children—Leslee ('05), Simon ('07), and Lana ('14)—and attend Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, where she has served on the leadership selection commission.

2008-09 Board of Directors

Randy Christophel, chair (Silverwood)	2003-11
David Hawkins (Clinton Frame)	2007-10
Justin Heinzekehr (Berkey Avenue)	2008-09
Kathy Hollenberg, secretary (College)	2004-10
Bj Leichty (Holdeman)	2006-09
Linford Martin, asst. chair (First of Middlebury)	2004-11
Nancy Rodriguez-Lora (True Vine)	2008-09
Jeff Shenk (Belmont)	2008-11
Barb Smucker (Berkey Avenue)	2008-11
Rachel Lehman Stoltzfus (Forks)	2007-10
Alan Weldy, treasurer (Yellow Creek)	2006-11
Orville Yoder (Benton)	2006-09

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Innovation for Academic Excellence

Part of Bethany's commitment to academic excellence includes continually evaluating programs to enhance learning. While it may be tempting to not mess with success, the school is committed to making innovative changes that can make a good program even better. During 2008-09 Bethany is focusing on innovation in several areas that relate to academics: music, experiential education, and technology.

Music. In 2007-08 Bethany initiated a thorough review of its music program to better position the program for increasing effectiveness in helping Bethany achieve its mission—to equip students for Christian discipleship. A music review committee gathered information and conducted surveys and interviews of alumni, parents, pastors, and other constituent groups.

Now, in light of that information, a new committee is seeking to fundamentally redesign Bethany's music program. Committee members include assistant principal Hank Willems (chair), academic cluster representative John Mast, administrative assistant Denise Risser, instrumental music teacher Barb Slagel, choral music teacher J. D. Smucker, and two constituents: Anita (Miller '85) Yoder, music minister at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church, and Lisa (Schmucker '95) Showalter, music minister at North Main Street Mennonite Church.



Spanish teacher Marcelo Warkentin prepares to use the mobile Mac lab.

Experiential Education is not new at Bethany. Interterm has engaged students in unique ways for the last three decades. And Bethany's small class sizes and modified block schedule have been conducive for teachers' incorporating much experiential learning into the classroom (for example, see Free Trade Soccer, p. 6). However, Bethany's self-assessment and strategic planning process generated other innovative and exciting possibilities and a commitment to explore together the changes needed to allow for such possibilities to happen. (See "From the Principal" p.12.)

Technology. To help students become more versatile with technology, Bethany, which uses mostly PC's, has added a mobile lab with 25 wireless MacBooks. As a result, *Photography* students are gaining a broader understanding of how to process photos as they learn both systems.

In addition, the mobility of the lab has facilitated classroom innovation. *Health* students have taken virtual tours of body systems and instrumental music students researched music and online recordings.

Students in Bible/health teacher Matt Miller's classes are using the Mac's iWeb software to more easily create websites for class projects, incorporating music they have composed, videos, and slideshows. He says, "The Mac lab has opened up new projects that are more interesting for students who work on them as well as those who see the final project."

Additionally, five iMacs have been added for student use in special services and five for use by student newspaper and year-book staff. The middle school newspaper has moved from print-based to web-based publication; the high school is supplementing its print publication with a smaller-scale web version.

Campus News

On the cover: Juniors Seth Kauffman and Emily Grimes use the MacBooks for an English class project. Seth is the son of Cheryl (Roth '83) Snyder and the late Jamie Kauffman ('80).

New Personnel

Hannah Gerig Meyer ('04)

Hannah, a 2004 Bethany alumna and art purchase award winner, will teach art—primarily drawing and painting. A 2008 graduate of Goshen College (B.A. in art with a minor in graphic design), Hannah is now enrolled in the college's transition-to-teaching program.

"I enjoyed Bethany as a student and am excited to be back in a new role. I'm looking forward to getting students excited about art," she says.

Hannah, who grew up at Kern Road Mennonite Church, now attends Benton Mennonite Church with her husband Jonny ('04).

Juanita Hershberger

Juanita, mother of Jenae ('11) and Brooke ('14), teaches the newly-added second section of grade 6. Working primarily at home when her daughters were younger, Juanita later began studying at Goshen College. She graduated in fall 2007 and began teaching fifth grade for a teacher on medical leave.

She says, "I was attracted to teaching at Bethany because of the faith component at the center of all we do. I knew little about Bethany until I became a mentor to Trisha Handrich ('07) and heard her share about her positive learning experiences here."

Juanita, her husband Jeff, and their daughters attend Silverwood Mennonite Church. They also are host parents of a student from South Korea: Ji Hye Lee ('11).

Eric Good Kaufmann

Having taught art at Bethany for eight years previously (1997-2005), Eric returns to teach ceramics and photography while also developing a part-time pottery business. For the past three years, he and his wife Cynthia (F' 93-03) served as co-leaders of the Service Adventure unit in Raleigh, N.C.

"I'm thankful to return to a school where prayer and faith are shared openly in the classroom. I've become more aware of

student growth and stages of development from having more parenting experience and from working with recent high school graduates in Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure program. I am also excited to share my enthusiasm for pottery and photography while also working in those areas outside the classroom."

Eric served as a servant leader while attending Raleigh Mennonite Church. He and Cynthia are members both there and at Assembly Mennonite Church in Goshen. They have two daughters: Jadyne (age 6) and Rilynn (age 5).

Eliza Stoltzfus

Eliza, who was Bethany's first sixth grade teacher (1996-2001), returns on a part-time basis to teach sixth grade Bible and health. In addition to dynamic teaching, Eliza is remembered at Bethany for writing and producing five original musicals for her middle school students and directing the first four annual middle school plays.

Eliza graduated from Bluffton University (BA in Elementary Education and a double minor in English and Theatre 1996) and Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (MA in Gifted and Talented Education 1998).

She and her husband Chad have four children: Ariana (7), Clayton (6), Carter (6), and Mariah (3). They attend Silverwood Mennonite Church where she served as Christian education coordinator for two years, has served as a junior high youth sponsor and Sunday school teacher, and has directed children's musicals and plays.

She says, "I am thrilled to be back at Bethany and to be immersed in an environment where I can not only use my gifts but also be surrounded by a community of people (faculty, staff, students, and parents) where faith is explored, incorporated, and nurtured every day. Bethany is such an exciting place to be, and I'm so eager to again be a part of that excitement!"

New Personnel



New faculty for 2008-09 (from left): Eric Good Kaufmann, Hannah Gerig Meyer, Jeremiah Wade, Calvin Swartzendruber, Juanita Hershberger, Jason Yoder Rupp, Eliza Stoltzfus.

Calvin Swartzendruber ('89)

A 1989 alumnus, Calvin will teach chemistry and physics and serve administratively in teacher support and curriculum development.

"I was inspired and encouraged by several mentors, including former Bethany teacher Roy Hartzler, to not just learn science but experience it, teach it, and use it to contribute to society in a manner which exemplifies the ways of Christ. Ever since graduating from Bethany, I had felt that at some point I would return; I just didn't know when. Now all the pieces of the puzzle have come together, and my teaching and administration gifts and skills are ready to meet that challenge."

Calvin graduated from Hesston College (AA in Chemistry 1991), Goshen College (BA in Chemistry 1993), and Purdue University (MS in Chemistry 2002). Since 1994 he taught at Elkhart Central High School, where he was chair of the science department since 2005. Earlier this year he completed the principal licensure program at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Calvin is a member of College Mennonite Church where he serves as technology coordinator and Sunday school convener. He also serves the wider church as technical director for Mennonite Church USA general assemblies. He and his wife Karen have four children: Logan ('15), Madison (age 8), Michaela (age 5), and Emily (1 month).

Jeremiah Wade

After a two-year hiatus, Jeremiah returns part-time to teach *English 12*, *Creative Writing*, and *English 9-10 Standard*. "Since leaving Bethany, I've greatly missed the sense of community and close relationships with both students and faculty. Bethany, more than any other place I've known, has taught me the meaning of church."

The past two years Jeremiah has given primary care to his two children, Mirabella (4) and Scarlett (1), while his wife Stefanie completed her doctorate in psychology. In addition he worked part-time at Southside Fellowship and Goshen Public Library. He and his family attend Assembly Mennonite Church.

Jason Yoder Rupp ('95)

A 1995 Bethany alumnus, Jason returns to teach middle school math and high school algebra. "I am excited to be back at Bethany. I look forward to guiding the current students in similar ways to what I experienced as a student here. Bethany's focus on the whole person rather than just the academics sets it apart and persuaded me to return."

A graduate of Goshen College (B.A. 1999) and James Madison University (M.Ed. 2005), Jason previously taught math in Fisher, Ill., and Harrisonburg, Va. In those communities he and his wife Tonya ('96) attended First Mennonite Church of Urbana and Community Mennonite Church. They have one child: daughter Caitlin born Feb. 29, 2008.

Carolyn Miller

Carolyn, mother of alumni Jason ('96) and June ('99), returns



to the Bethany community as a cafeteria aide. She says, "Bethany feels like home. I have good memories from when my children attended Bethany. I'm excited about meeting and working with kind and caring people."

Previously Carolyn worked as a teacher assistant in an elementary school and then as a mental health worker at Oaklawn, where she worked with youth ages 11-18.

Carolyn attended Shore Mennonite Church for her first 40 years, but since moving to Goshen has been a member at Waterford Mennonite Church, where she has served as a youth sponsor and Sunday school and Bible school teacher.

Campus News

News at bethanycs.net

SAT Scores Impressive: In spite of a high rate of participation (86%) that includes academically-challenged students, Bethany's class of 2008 average SAT score easily surpassed averages for national, state, and area schools. See [/SAT_2008](#).

Free Trade Soccer: In an innovative soccer game, one team of *Economics* students was given sight and mobility disadvantages to help the class learn about the inherent disparities of free trade. See [/FTS08](#).

National Merit: Among the eight semifinalists from Elkhart County were seniors **Erin Helmuth**, daughter of Ray ('80, F'93-00) and Sonja Gyori-Helmuth, and **Elias Kehr**, son of Bryan ('78, F'96-) and Anita (Yoder '78) Kehr. See [/Merit_Semifinalists_2008](#).

Faith that Lives. Four anonymous Bethany students recently helped a stranger at a local grocery store. See [/groceries_2008](#).

Diversity Grows: While enrollment for 2008-09 stayed steady at 280, ethnic diversity grew: 22% of students are from groups other than Caucasian. See [/first-day_08](#).

Leadership Development

Church: **Karsten Hess ('10)** is exploring theology, vocation, and cross-cultural experiences through LEAP365, a year-long mentoring program for high school youth sponsored by Eastern Mennonite Seminary. **Johnny Kauffman ('09)** and **Michael Fecher ('08)** explored theology, leadership development, and service in Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary's summer !Explore program. **Jill Eigsti ('10)**, **Sara Klassen ('10)**, **Nick Rebec ('10)**, and **Chris Minter ('11)** participated in Mennonite Church USA's Sept. 12-14 YLEAD, which focused on leading in God's strength. See bethanycs.net/leadership_fall08.

Athletics: **Jesse Ramer ('10)** is serving on the Student Advisory Council of Indiana High School Athletic Association. He and eight other Bethany student-athletes attended a summer leadership conference, which focused on how to become better leaders and help improve your team (see bethanycs.net/IHSAA-Leadership_2008).

Calendar

November

- 3 Hacienda Day
- 10 Visit Day for prospective students
- 21 Associates Dinner, 5:45 p.m.

December

- 4 Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Day
- 6 Alumni Day (see p. 8)
Community Chili Supper, 4:00-6:30
- 11 HS Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m. at Sauder Concert Hall
- 16 MS Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

An ensemble cast tells stories that demonstrate the wisdom of every age.

Three Performances

November 21-23

Tickets

\$8 for adults • \$6 for students

Reservations begin Nov. 3

Call 574 534-2567



Karsten Hess ('10) interacts with children in Colombia as part of his LEAP365 cross-cultural experience this summer.

Class of 2008

Post-high school plans



Sara Alvarez, Goshen College
 Luke Bailey, Vincennes University
 Callie Bontrager, Goshen College
 Emily Bowman, Goshen College
 Alex Brew, George Washington University
 Ashley Culp, Brown Mackie College
 Andrew Culveyhouse, Conservatory of
 Recording Arts & Sciences
 David Eigsti, Hesston College
 Daniel Fecher, Earlham University
 Michael Fecher, Goshen College
 Kelly Frey, Goshen College
 Nathan Gerig, Goshen College
 Daniel Gingerich, Goshen College
 Calvin Graybill, Hesston College
 Sarah Grieser, preschool aide
 Vianey Gudino, Indiana Univ. at South Bend
 Mitch Hawkins, Indiana Univ. at South Bend
 Jessica Herschberger, Hesston College
 Kari Heusinkveld, Hesston College
 Andrea Hochstetler, Indiana Wesleyan Univ.
 Alyssa Jarvis, Intermenno in Germany
 Lyz Kauffman, Bluffton University

Gwen Kelly, Trine University
 Elizabeth King, Goshen College
 Stephanie Loucks, Purdue University
 Jay Mast, Goshen College
 Chi-hah Moon, Purdue University
 Chi-su Moon, Ohio State University
 Karla Mumaw, Eastern Mennonite University
 Ryo Otsuka, higher education in Japan
 Luke Peters, Indiana University at South Bend
 Stephen Pettifor, undetermined
 Yoana Ramirez, undetermined
 Jena Schwartzentruber, Hesston College
 Chang-Wan Seo, Indiana Univeristy
 Jordan Shetler, Eastern Mennonite University
 Jen Snyder, Eastern Mennonite University
 Kelly Snyder, Taylor University
 Simone Sommers, Eastern Mennonite Univ.
 Weston Troyer, Hesston College
 Collette Weaver, Hesston College
 Moon Shik Woo, Goshen College
 Jesse Yoder, Hesston College
 Nicole Yoder, Eastern Mennonite University

Alumni Day

On Saturday, Dec. 6, alumni will have free entrance to the home basketball games: girls vs. Lakewood Park at 1 p.m. and boys vs. Prairie Heights at 6 p.m. Drawings for door prizes available for those who register.

Alumni are also invited to join the Bethany community in the 4:00-6:30 p.m. community chili supper in the school cafeteria.



Class of 2008: (front) Steph Loucks; (row 1) faculty sponsor Christine Stutzman, Kelly Frey, Andrea Hochstetler, Jessica Herschberger, Jen Snyder, Simone Sommers, Yoana Ramirez; (row 2) Alyssa Jarvis, Lyz Kauffman, Nicole Yoder, Karla Mumaw, Callie Bontrager, Collette Weaver, Sarah Grieser, Elizabeth King; (row 3) Mitch Hawkins, Daniel Gingerich, Jena Schwartzentruber, Chi-hah Moon, Sara Alvarez, Kelly Snyder, Chang-Wan Seo, Kari Heusinkveld, Emily Bowman, Gwen Kelly, Stephen Pettifor, Chi-su Moon; (row 4) faculty spouse Glenn Stutzman, Alex Brew, Moon Shik Woo, David Eigsti, Jay Mast, Calvin Graybill, Weston Troyer, Andrew Culveyhouse, Mike Fecher, Luke Peters, Daniel Fecher, Nate Gerig, Ryo Ostuka (hidden), Jordan Shetler.

Alumni News

Missing Alumni

If you have contact information on the following alumni, please notify Scott Richer in the Advancement Office at saricher@bethanycs.net. Your help is appreciated as we keep alumni informed of news via the *BCS Bulletin* and in touch with classmates for reunion planning.

- '55 Mary Jean Yoder Carlin
- '58 Kit Thompson Heard
- '59 Mary K. Miller
- '60 Leora Kauffman Hodge
Carol Yoder Schaaf
Margaret Weaver Woods
Jonathan A. Yoder
- '61 Gary Fulmer
Loren E. Miller
Lewis (Yoder) Robinson
Linda Stevens Hugey
- '62 Jonathan Billheimer
Ray Marks
Richard Slabaugh
- '64 Barbara Birkey
Philip Lehman
Eileen Yoder Miller
Karen Miller Ventura
- '65 Larry Austin
Raymond Johnson
G. Anthony Yoder
- '66 Dennis Roth
Malinda Yoder
- '67 Esther Rocourt Lemler
Julie Kersting Parcel
Janet Swartzendruber Reid
Rhonda Willems Swartzendruber
Jerry O. Yoder
- '68 Edna Yoder
- '69 Denver Troyer
Steve Valtierra
- '70 Marilyn Nisley
Glenn Nunemaker
David Schrock
Golda Yoder Wofford
Alvin Yoder

- '71 Wilma Burkey Kessens
- '72 Steve Ball
Jocelyn Yeater Kauffman
Murphy Lucas
Derrise L. White
- '73 Atsuko Endo
Fideles Ongoa
- '74 Roberta Yoder Bontrager
Bonnie Regier Donnelly
Janet Miller Kauffman
Chrisann Hensler Longstreet
Patricia Taylor
Lamortto Wofford
- '75 Rex Bontrager
Gene Gamber
Reinhard Wolff
- '76 Valerie Davis Daw
Eliza Salvadore
Peggy Snyder Goggins
- '77 Narda Calbemente
Teresa Chupp Cripe
Carmella Reyes
Louis Reyes
- '78 Deb Klopfenstein Daw
Ivonne Ortiz
- '79 Loren Hostetter
Bill Kilburn
Carl Miller
Rufus Miller
Nele Schmidt
Michelle Smith
Rick Weaver
- '80 Terry Bowen
Dunja Moeller
Outi Sarsa
Marc Zimmerman
- '81 Angela Fetz
Carlos Gonzales
- '82 Tony Davila
Carmen Hopkins
Mike Houser
Gordon Stichter
- '83 Robert Beachy
Tony Torrejon
Eric Unzicker
- '84 Johannes D. Lichti
- '85 Romelia Luna
- '86 Caterina Martinez
- Royce Schrag
Jeff Smith
Allan Yoder
- '87 Alex Luna Montelongo
- '88 Lisa Kaiser Klingshirn
Kerwin Miller
Tony Norris
Matthew Thompson
- '89 Kay Mast Bigler
Jered Liechty
- '91 Carrie Snoke Kovac
Brandon Miller
- '92 Daniel Chuen
Luis Francisco
Ross Miller
- '93 Nathan Boughner
Andrea Slegel Pressler
Renee Brooks Stuckman
- '94 Kyro Morales
Matthew Weaver
- '95 James Strouse
- '96 Juan Camacho
Damaris Rodriguez Diaz
Kathy Morales Fisher
- '97 Andrew Burkhalter
Mike Cross
Katherine Turco
- '98 Rachel Wenger-Keller Brice
Daniel L. Mast
Ryan Stiffney
Rachael Yoder
- '99 Miyuki Aoki
Chris Atkins
Zacary Boughner
Dan Charles
Jennifer Mast
Erin Wentorf
- '00 Jason Bryant
Joel Fath
Jason Maxwell
Gloria Figueroa Vargas
Rachel Weaver
Kevin Witmer
- '01 Anthony Slabaugh
- '03 Nolin Chatterjee
- '05 Zack Butler

Phonathon

Student callers will be contacting alumni and friends of Bethany beginning in late October to share about their experiences and ask for support.

Students find this opportunity to connect with alumni enriching and look forward to speaking with you and inviting your financial participation in Bethany's mission to equip students for Christian discipleship.



Class of '63 met Aug. 2 at the Shipshewana Town Center: (front) Anita (Hoke) Stoner, Wealtha (Yoder) Helland, Ardis (Sommer) King, Lynette (Grieser) Slabaugh, Joyce (Byler) Slabaugh, Sharon (Stutzman) Chupp, Sherrill (Martin) Vardaman; (middle) Jeraldine (Lengacher) Bartels, Joyce (Cross) Miller, Karen (Garber) Troyer, Dwight Landis, Rachel (Cross) Brenneman, James Chupp, Thelma (Hershberger) Ramer; (back) Paul Miller, Verlin Troyer, Laverne Davidhizar, class sponsor Leonard Gross, William Hoover, Jerry Carpenter. Attendees traveling the farthest came from Alaska, California, and South Carolina.

Births

Stacy (Haines '82) and **Brian Krahn**, Mishawaka Ind., Sophie Marie Haines, July 16.

Calvin ('89, F'08-) and **Karen Swartzendruber**, Goshen, Emily Paige, July 4.

Jolene (Hostetler '90) and **Doug VonGunten**, Goshen, Molly Grace, May 28.

Bryan Falcon ('91) and **Elizabeth Smucker (ng'02)**, Goshen, Sebastian Alexander, June 14.

Todd ('95) and **Elizabeth Yoder**, Greeley, Colo., Katherine Mae, March 21.

Melissa ('96) and **David Fisher Fast**, Elkhart, Ind., John Micah, Aug. 2.

Chris ('97) and **Hannah Weaver**, Goshen, Timothy Tyrel, Aug. 20. Grandparents are Verl ('71) and Gretchen (Garber '73) Weaver. Chris was licensed for ministry at Mount Joy Conservative Mennonite Church.

Nick ('98) and **Jennifer Clark**, Goshen, Brenna Jenee, July 28.

Alyssa (Wyse '98) and **Duane Chamblee**, Raleigh, N.C., Jackson Duane, May 5.

Heidi (Stoltzfus '99) and **Mike McHugh**, Goshen, Ella Beth Stoltzfus, Aug. 6. Grandmother is Ruth (Horst '74) Stoltzfus.

Gretchen (Stoltzfus '01) and **Jonathan ('01) Paulovich**, Phoenix, Ariz., Owen Reid, June 9. Grandmother is Ruth (Horst '74) Stoltzfus.

Alumni Entering Service

Kristine Bowman ('03), Tucson, Ariz., reenlisted MVS, home repair worker serving low-income households.

Jes Buller ('04), Bogata, Colombia, MCC, two-years in SEED program beginning Jan. 2009.

Hannah Eash ('02), San Antonio, Tex., MVS, legal worker at Refugee Aid Project.

Jonathan Gingrich ('03), Fresno, Calif., MVS, youth worker at Valley Teen Ranch.

Julia Gingrich ('03), Elkhart, Ind., MVS, client advocate for Church Community Services and hospice worker.

Megan Gongwer ('06), La Jara, Colo., MVS, program assistant at Boys and Girls Club.

Larry Guengerich ('85), East Petersburg, Pa., MCC East Coast communication coordinator.

Anna Ruth Hershberger ('00), Elkhart, Ind., MVS, development associate at Church Community Services.

Alyssa Jarvis ('08), Dörndorf, Germany, MCC Intermenno, living with a family and working on their berry farm and ice cream business.

Mary Jo Martin ('03), La Jara, Colo., MVS, community organizer.

Lana Miller ('94), Harrisonburg, Va., MCC rep for Southeast Asia programs.

Michelle Norman ('95), Harlan, Ky., MCC, SWAP location coordinator. Completed four years as MCC material resources coordinator for The Depot in Goshen.

Luke Peters ('08), Johnstown, Pa., Service Adventure.

Bekah Shenk ('04), Bangkok, Thailand, REACH International, leader of six-person team working with women and children.

Kelly Shenk ('04), Manhattan, N.Y.; MVS, intern at World Vision International.

Traci Yoder Stoltzfus ('01), Santiago, Lake Atitlán, Guatemala, Virginia Mennonite Missions' TranSend program, volunteer coordinator at a local hospital. Husband Jared works with sustainable environmental and agricultural programs.

Marriages

Kristen Hooper ('90) and **Mark Leichty**, Ames, Iowa, July 26 in Goshen.

Ami Butler ('94) and **Rich O'Brien**, Elkhart, Ind., June 20, in Three Oaks, Mich.

Jon Christophel ('94) and **Carrie Stoltzfus**, Washington, D.C., May 31.

Joel Bontrager ('01) and **Jessica Binder**, Syracuse, Ind., July 19 in Bad Axe, Mich.

Josh Miller ('01) and **Victoria Adams**, Elkhart, Ind., July 26.

Rebecca Selman ('02) and **George Zuck**, Goshen, Aug. 30.

Victoria Vallejos ('03) and **Alex Miller (ng'00)**, Goshen, Aug. 22. They will reside in Pittsburgh, Pa., where she has accepted a nursing position and he will continue studies.

Roelf David Kuitse ('03) and **Sunny Yoder**, Winona Lake, Ind., Aug. 23. They will reside in Minnesota where he is employed as a software manager and sales rep.

Hannah Gerig ('04) and **Jonny Meyer ('04)**, Goshen, May 25, at Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Mich.

Michael Honderich ('04) and **Stephanie Hirschler**, Goshen, June 7.

Alan Peachey ('04) and **Jenae Boshart**, Goshen, June 21.

Alumni News

Serving at Amigo Centre

Twelve Bethany students or alumni served as 2008 summer staff at Amigo Centre, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference's camp and retreat center:

Maggie Baldrige ('07)
Emily Bowman ('08)
Jes Buller ('04)
Jonna Buller ('06)
Tim Gautsche ('09)
Robby Heydon ('10)
Jay Mast ('08)
Danae Miller ('10)
Darin Schwartzentruber ('06)
Carrie Slagel ('07)
Luke Slagel ('09)
Alisha Snyder ('09).



Bethany grads entering new assignments with Mennonite Voluntary Service include Megan Gongwer, Anna Ruth Hershberger, Mary Jo Martin, Jon Gingrich, and Kelly Shenk.

Alumni News

Notes

John Christner ('64), Goshen, retired from teaching elementary school. This fall he is taking a six-week trip to 13 national parks and visiting relatives.

Larry ('67) and Kay (Troyer '67) Schrock, Goshen, participated in a ten-day mission trip to Belize in August with Hearts of Christ Children's Ministry.

Jane Stoltzfus Buller ('71), Goshen, is part of a three-member team that is filling Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference's position for interim conference minister to youth and young adults.

James Krabill ('69), Elkhart, Ind., is co-author of the new book *Music in the Life of the African Church*, which examines ethnomusicology in Africa.

Kent Dutchersmith ('86), an English as a Second Language teacher at an elementary school in Goshen, received a Teacher Creativity Fellowship Grant from Lilly Foundation to travel in Mexico this summer. Kent and his wife Teresa, along with daughters Magdalena (10) and Luisa (6), stayed with a host family in Olinala for three weeks where they helped Mennonite Central Committee volunteers with community development work including making cisterns, dry latrines, and woodfire stoves. They also had two weeks of language study and spent a week in Apan, where many Mexican immigrants to Goshen come from.

Jon Helmuth ('89), Goshen, is president of Genesis Products, an RV supply company.

Kayla Miller ('02), Harrisonburg, Va., serves as a part-time youth pastor at Grace Mennonite Fellowship. She also works full-time as a service representative at Park View Federal Credit Union. She is starting the youth program from scratch and says, "MYF has not been a part of their normal week or even month. So my biggest challenge is getting them involved, excited, and there! But I like being with the youth and getting to know them."

Jonny Gerig Meyer ('04), Goshen, placed first in the John Horsch Mennonite Historical Essay Contest. In his paper he detailed the conflicting messages from two Mennonite organizations that lobbied Congress during the 1992-94 attempt at health reform.

Angela Gingerich ('04) served in an American coffeehouse with Crossroads International this summer in Hong Kong and Guiyang, China.

Ben Barwick ('05) participated in a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation to the Middle East July 22 to Aug. 4. Barwick said, "I want to give a voice to the Palestinians who are under severe oppression and to the Israelis who want peace and mutuality with their Palestinian neighbors. I want people here in the U.S. to know that what the media and politicians say about Israel and Palestine is only one distorted side of the conflict."

Nathan Grieser ('06), Goshen College, was one of fifty students nationwide to receive a 2008 summer ministry fellowship from the prestigious Fund for Theological Education. As part of this fellowship, he attended the June 11-15 Conference on Excellence in Ministry at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University.

Oren Horst (F'68-71), Salem, Ore., is beginning his second year as a volunteer in the advancement office at Western Mennonite School.

Ted Eash (S'98-05), Bristol, Ind., is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Environmental Achievement

Josh Kanagy ('93), marketing director of Nappanee RV Components, announced that 13 Elkhart County RV manufacturers collectively diverted two million pounds of landfill waste in 2007 through NRVC's innovative Recycled Rout-Out program. Owner/CEO's include **Daryl Zook ('68)**, K-Z RV; **Randy Graber ('79)**, Open Range; and **Derald Bontrager ('75)**, Jayco.



Three alumni and a friend from Maple Leaf Quilters spent May 3-24 in Mongolia helping women develop their sewing skills into a means of income. Serving through Mennonite Mission Network, the four quilters sensed God's love moving in and around them as they met enthusiastic Mongolian Christians, finding inspiration in daily devotionals and talking openly about their faith. Pictured in the home of Chimeddorj Samdan (center back) are: (clockwise from top left) **Marie (Hoover '65) Troyer**, **Carol (Helmuth '68) Honderich**, **Marcia Vierck**, and **Edith (Slabaugh '64) Shanholt**.

Ministry Inquiry

Four alumni pursued ministry and service interests by participating in summer inquiry programs of Goshen College and Mennonite Church USA.

Sara Becker-Hoover ('05), DOOR, San Antonio, Tex.

Charity Grimes ('05), Joshua Farm (Pa.).

Andrea Kraybill ('05), Norristown (Pa.) New Life Church.

Darin Schwartzentruber ('06), Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Mich.

Alumni Serving Mennonite World Conference

Three Bethany alumni living in three different countries have major roles with Mennonite World Conference (MWC), which, as part of its mission, is preparing for the next global assembly, July 14-19, 2009, in Paraguay: Larry Miller ('67), Strasbourg, France; Karen Martin Schiedel ('96), Kitchener, Ont., Canada; and Sarah Thompson ('02), Elkhart, Ind., U.S.

Miller notes that this global assembly (Assembly Gathered) is like the Sunday morning of a local congregation—a time for the global church to gather for worship, teaching, fellowship, networking, inspiration, renewal, and personal transformation. Additionally, Assembly Scattered, before and after Assembly Gathered, will provide multiple opportunities for visits to churches in Paraguay and across Latin America.

Larry Miller, general secretary since 1990, provides leadership in nurturing and implementing the vision and mission of Anabaptist-related churches (1.5 million people in 75 countries) while overseeing those who serve MWC. He says, "Living in and with the global church is a privilege, a source of life and hope for me personally. Mennonites have often acted as if the local church (congregation) is the Church. The New Testament shows that the Church is both local and global or it is only a fragment of the Church of Jesus Christ. MWC provides the opportunity to live as Anabaptist-Mennonite church globally while relating to other expressions of the Christian Church."

A graduate of Goshen College and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Larry previously served with Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Mission Network in Europe, where he also completed his Ph.D. in theology. Larry and his wife Eleanor have three children: Anne-Marie (ng'92), Elisabeth, and Alex (ng'00).

Karen Martin Schiedel, director of finance and administration, oversees all financial aspects of MWC. After graduating from Goshen College with a B.A. in business administration, she initially worked for Mennonite Savings and Credit Union in Ontario. She and her husband Andrew Schiedel are expecting their first child.

Karen says, "My position allows me to use my God-given gifts in the accounting field in ways that help bring the global church together. We have much to share with sisters and brothers around the world and much to learn from each other. I enjoy the challenges of working with different cultures, languages, currencies, and expectations."

Sarah Thompson is the North American representative to MWC's Youth and Young Adult Executive Committee (also known as AMIGOS), whose dream is to create a global community of young Anabaptists. Their work involves planning for the July 10-12 Global Youth Summit as well as fundraising, writing articles, and making presentations.

Sarah, a Spelman College grad, says, "Bethany gave me a great foundation on which to build connections with brothers and sisters of faith around the world. Hearing their stories inspired me to continue witnessing for peace and justice, working for women's rights, and organizing to improve my community. To understand our faith in the 21st century, we North Americans need to have room in our hearts and minds for global realities and recognize the impact our choices make on the rest of the world. I volunteer with MWC because I am intrigued by the deep communion that happens when people from different backgrounds and cultures come together to worship, to support one another, and to share stories of the in-breaking of the kingdom of God! I've been challenged, and even hurt, by members of our global Anabaptist family, but the difficulties have provided opportunities to experience God's abundant grace and reconciliation."

For more on this story, see bethanycs.net/mwc_2008.

Alumni News



Bethany alumni serving with Mennonite World Conference (from left): Larry Miller, Karen Martin Schiedel, and Sarah Thompson.

MWC Assembly Gathered

Asunción, Paraguay

July 14-19, 2009

Registration materials are available at www.mwc-cmm.org. All are invited to consider helping fund an adult or young adult delegate. Many up-and-coming Mennonite leaders from around the world are simply a visa and a plane ticket away from a life-changing experience. Mennonites in North America and Europe can create a financial bridge for Mennonite-Anabaptist leaders from Africa, Asia/Pacific, and Latin America.

From
the
Principal
Allan Dueck



Bethany has a well-established reputation for academic excellence. Despite its open-admissions policy, Bethany perennially ranks at or above the 90th percentile in Indiana on various measures of academic strength—ISTEP and SAT scores, for instance. Furthermore, Bethany does an excellent job of preparing students for success in college. Alumni often express appreciation for how well prepared they are for college studies and life. And professors commend them for their distinctive abilities to engage in discussion, participate and lead in community life, analyze and synthesize information, and write powerful essays.

While this reputation for academic quality is well deserved, Bethany is not content to rest on its laurels. Indeed, many studies of education in the U.S. have pointed to shortcomings of the present educational system and the need to better prepare students for a rapidly changing world. For example, an article in *Time* magazine, “How to Bring Our Schools Out of the 20th Century” (Dec. 18, 2006), proposes changes to better equip students with “21st century skills.” It calls on schools, among other things, to teach students more about the world, to think outside the box, to become smarter about new sources of information, and to develop good people skills.

During Bethany’s own strategic planning process of the past two years, school personnel, board members, students, parents, pastors, and constituents recognized the need to rethink our educational program to prepare students for the future. Our very first school improvement priority relates to programming, with the first goal being to “develop innovative academic programming” that equips students, as Christian disciples, to contribute positively in the church and world of the 21st century.

A particular focus is the call for more real-world, experiential learning. Such learning is already happening at Bethany—when students study the life of the ecosystem in our pond, interview parents or community people for projects, and serve in inner-city Philadelphia during Interterm. However, much more would be possible. Teachers are now engaging in spirited discussions of innovative approaches that would prepare our students for the 21st century.

I invite your interested, prayerful support as we work at this exciting initiative. In seeking innovative programming directions, we aim to actualize Bethany’s vision for education: *Learning that lasts. Faith that lives.*



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