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Alumni Reunions

Past Reunions

For additional photos, see pp. 6-7.

Upcoming Reunion

Class of '88:
March 14, 2009, at Bethany. Contact John Troyer at johnshelia@troyernet.com



The class of '58 met for its 50-year reunion Sept. 27-28 at Essenhaus Conference Center in Middlebury, Ind. Pictured above: (front) Joann (Miller) Buerge, Ruth (Yoder) Graber, Fanny Ellen (Miller) Yoder, Pauline (Kaufman) Bontrager, Carolyn (Hershberger) Miller, Rosalyn (Grieser) Ledyard, Ruthann (Gardner) Miller Brunk; (middle) Dorothy (Hershberger) Hooley, Gerald Leinbach, Ned Miller, Karen (Erb) Schmucker, Carolyn (Yontz) Yoder; (back) Roger Eby, James Kauffman, Dewayne Carpenter Jr., Steve Kauffman, Phil Seitz. Pictured below: (front) Alice (Yoder) Risser, Edwin Bontreger, Grace (Hochstedler) Graber, Judy (Slabaugh) Hochstedler, Fern (Cender) Yoder, Rachel (Holaway) Garot, Rosa (Yoder) Shetler; (middle) Carol Ann (Stutzman) Walls, Glenwyn (Bollman) Vos, Myrna (Miller) Kauffman, Ruby (Bontrager) Bontrager, Ruby (Bontrager) Wilden, Jeannette (Eby) Hostetler, Marcile (Kauffman) Miller, Suzanne (Johnson) Breniser; (back) Phillip Dintaman, Elmer Stutzman, Myrl Nofziger, Paul Borntrager, David Ray Miller.





Forty members of the class of '68, along with guest speaker Dan Bodiker (faculty 1964-2008) met at Bethany for their 40-year reunion on Sept. 27: (front) Daryl Zook, Owen Weaver, Gary Miller, Gene Newcomer, David Weldy, John W. Yoder; (row 2) Barbara Troyer, Susan (Schertz) Moreno, Kathy (Bennett) Stiffney, Anne Birky, Jeannette (Miller) Patches, Irene (Burkey) Hargrove, Linda (Kuhns) Unzicker, Mary (Bontrager) Lakner, Peggy (Troyer) Garcia, Gloria Miller Holub, Donna (Shrock) Quiring; (row 3) Larry Bontrager, Verton Troyer, Elroy Bontrager, Michelle (Sullivan) Bontrager, Gwen (Miller) Newcomer, Mary (Davidhizar) Lambright, Linda "Pert" (Miller) Shetler, Sharon (Yoder) Heatwole, Cheryl (Miller) Cotter, Brenda (Tyson) Buller, Julia (Hartman) Stech, Carol (Helmuth) Honderich, Sandra (Lambright) Yoder; (back) John Bauman, Charles Bontreger, Martin Honderich, Wes Yoder, John S. Miller, Wilmer Hollinger (class sponsor), Paul Hartman, Dale Nunemaker, Dan Shenk, Ernest Yoder, Janice (Riegsecker) Yoder.

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Editor: J. Kevin Miller
Consulting Editors:
Allan Dueck,
Scott Richer,
Karen Shenk,
Hank Willems,
Sarah Yoder
2904 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-5499
574 534-2567
info@bethanycs.net

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to Bethany *Bulletin*,
c/o Evangel Press
2000 Evangel Way
Nappanee, IN 46550

Alumni Survey

Survey Says…

In January 2007 the administrative team formed a research team to gather, analyze, and report data for the *Validating the Vision* accreditation and strategic planning process that included conducting a long-desired alumni survey as part of its commitment of accountability to constituent groups. The team consisted of three Bethany employees and three community members with expertise in statistical analysis: Galen Graber ('79), chair; Karen Kieper; and James Nofziger.

The team invited all Bethany alumni to complete the survey via mail or internet, and received a very good response: more than 500 of Bethany's approximately 3,000 alumni. The team received a higher response from women than men (almost 2:1), and a good representation by age. About one-third of respondents indicated living in a rural area/small town, one-third in a city of 10,000-50,000 people, and one-third in a larger city (20% in cities with populations over 250,000). Nearly one-third of respondents live within 10 miles of Bethany, while half live over 50 milies away.

The survey showed that Bethany alumni are still largely print-oriented as 92 percent of respondents read the *BCS Bulletin*, whereas only 17% visit the school's website (higher among alumni graduating since 1980). Following are additional insights the research team gleaned from the respondents on their attitudes toward Bethany, their faith and church life, and their education/career.

Attitudes

Generally alumni feel positive about Bethany with 82% proud to be a Bethany alum (3% not proud; 15% marked neither), feeling Bethany has a positive reputation in the community with a strong academic and spiritually-nurturing environment. (This was true of the most recent alumni as well as the oldest alumni). Most alumni feel welcome to participate in school activities and affirm the frequency of communication from Bethany to alumni.

Alumni Snapshot

Based on survey results, a prototypical Bethany alum feels Bethany has had a lasting positive impact in her/his life, attended a religiously-affiliated college, regularly attends church and teaches Sunday school, participates in church work and service/mission assignments, and is financially successful.

Faith and Church Life

Eighty-seven percent of respondents indicated that religious beliefs are important to them and reported high levels of participation in church life, church work, and service/mission assignments. Two-thirds of alumni have taught Sunday school. Nofziger, who serves as a research analyst for Mennonite Mutual Aid, noted this seems significant, much higher than a typical congregation. More than one-fourth have served in voluntary service for three months or more and one-fourth have worked for a Mennonite church agency.

Education and Career

Respondents overwhelmingly affirmed Bethany for providing a strong academic environment, excellent preparation for college, and an education with lasting value in their lives (over 90%).

Indeed 85 percent chose to further their formal education beyond high school, with more than 70% of those attending religiously-affiliated colleges—85% of these attended Mennonite colleges (almost identical to actual statistics of graduates from the past five years).

As a group, alumni have been financially successful. Nofziger noted that respondents indicated higher levels of household income than typical in U.S. census data as well as what he has seen reported in Mennonite Church USA and MMA research.

Encourage someone you know—
a child,
a grandchild,
a friend
—to consider Bethany.

Visit Days:
Feb. 16, March 9

Campus News

Fun Fest

BETHANY FUN FEST

March 27, 2009

Fun Fest on Friday, March 27, will provide financial assistance to Bethany students. Activities will include live and silent auctions, a carnival for youth and children, a bake sale, and food. Auction items will be published in an auction catalog, available at bethanycs.net/Fun_Fest by late February. Everyone is invited to participate as a donor and/or buyer. Contact the office to donate auction items, baked goods, money to cover expenses, and volunteer help.



Renae Yoder (F'96-) and Gwen Kelly ('08) preview the 2008 quilt auction.

Fall Sports Success

More than two-thirds of Bethany's 279 students participated in a highly successful fall sports season in which Bethany teams integrated faith and play, developed leaders, and combined for a 73-36-3 varsity record. New achievements included boys tennis winning sectionals, girls cross country advancing to regionals, and Bryan Kehr ('78, F'96-) receiving athletic director-of-the-year honors. See bethanycs.net/athletics/fall08.

2008 Boys Tennis Sectional Champions



Front: Daniel Buschert, Luke Hostetter, Jeremy Thomas, Mikey Kelly. Back: Assistant Coach Andrew Lanctot ('00), Johnny Kauffman, Matthew Amstutz, Jared Schwartzentruber, Jonny Shenk, Coach Matt Miller.

News at bethanycs.net

Joy of Giving: Responding to the needs of others, students/faculty participated in food and toy drives for local elementary schools, a Giving Tree for Faith Mission, and buying trees for Haiti. See /Christmas_drives_2008.

Honors Choir: Eight students performed with Goshen College choirs and Toledo Symphony Orchestra. See /GChonorschoir_2008.

Students Excel on ISTEP: Class of '09 has nearly 100% pass rate; 97% of returning students taking the fall 2008 test improved their individual scores. See /istep_2008.

Olympian Speaks to Students: In a special all-school chapel, Amy Yoder Begley, a 2008 Olympic long-distance runner and family friend of assistant principal Hank Willems, challenged students to set big and small goals. See /Olympian_2008.

Calendar

January

21 Pastors' Day

February

2-6 MS Spiritual Life Week
26-28 and March 1 *Rags* (see page 5)

March

14 Spring Arts performance, 7 p.m.
16-19 HS Spiritual Life Week
20-22 MRM Orchestra Festival, Kalona, Iowa
27 Fun Fest (details above left)

April

6-10 Spring Break (offices closed)
17-20 MSC Choir Festival, Chambersburg, Pa.
24 Fish Fry, 4:30-8:00 p.m.



Music Calendar

For church itineration and concerts, see bethanycs.net/performingarts/schedule

Lehman Helps Test Innovative Map Curriculum

Campus News

Social studies teacher Tim Lehman (cover photo) is helping test an innovative curriculum developed by National Geographic Society that uses maps to teach middle school geography students in a new way.

Selected by Geography Educators Network of Indiana (GENI) as its representative, Lehman met with educators from across the United States and Canada in July at NGS headquarters in Washington, D.C., to begin a two-year process of evaluating this curriculum called "Beyond Borders: Maps to Understand European Physical and Cultural Landscapes."

The curriculum goes beyond simply identifying places or features on a map by focusing on developing students' thought processes. "Students synthesize information on a map to come up with something new," says Lehman. For example, in one lesson he taught this year, students drew their own national boundaries into a map of an actual, but undisclosed, land mass based on information gleaned from other maps that showed physical features and concentrations of religious groups and languages in that land. They then compared their conclusions with actual national boundaries.

In this lesson students discovered from using maps that not all areas of France speak French or all areas of Germany speak German. "But more importantly," says Lehman, "the lesson helped students better understand why some national boundaries exist as they do and why they can lead to conflict. They are not always formed along ethnic, religious, or linguistic lines." Now Lehman is excited about extending the ideas and concepts to other geographic regions.

Lehman, whom GENI named Indiana's social studies teacher of the year in 2005, continues to search for innovative ideas to enhance his teaching and used the institute as a way to form new connections with other top educators from across the country.



Seventh graders Lorae Weaver and Aaron Maust work on a map assignment. Both are third-generation students: Lorae is the daughter of Lisa (Nunemaker '86) Weaver and granddaughter of Paul Nunemaker ('61); Aaron is the son of Amber Maust ('93) and grandson of Jerry Maust ('70).

In current event discussions, Lehman has adopted one colleague's practice of asking students "who there, why there, why care" which helps students think about an event in the context of who is involved, how they came to be involved, and why it is important to understand what is happening. From another colleague he borrowed the concept of assigning geographical terms to students and then referring to them by their associated terms. For example, Lehman might say, "Caucasus Mountains, tell us …" He says, "The idea is to use the terms frequently so students become more familiar with them."

Lehman and the evaluation group continue to support each other via email and internet. They will gather as a group July 20-25, 2009, to further evaluate the curriculum based on their experiences this school year and then lead seminars in their home states to introduce the curriculum to colleagues.

Rags

With humor and an energetic score, this musical explores human relationships through an early 20th century Russian-Jewish immigrant family's encounters with poverty, cultural change, and exploitation—and the inner strength that helps them survive.

Four Performances
February 26-28 and March 1

Tickets
$8 for adults • $6 for students
Reservations begin Feb. 9
Call 574 534-2567

www.bethanycs.net/rags

Alumni News

All Americans

One-fourth of Goshen College's record 27 NAIA-Daktronics All American Student-Athletes this fall are Bethany alumni: (soccer) **Alex Caskey ('06)**, **Ben Martin ('05)**, **Liz Nafziger ('06)**, **Laura Schlabach ('06)**, **Kyle Stiffney ('06)**; (volleyball) **Alli Hawkins ('06)** and **Gina Richard ('06)**. Congratulations on your accomplishments on and off the field/court.

Births

Steve Voran ('81) and Gwendolyn Grasse, Boulder, Colo., daughter Elleanna, Jan. 9, 2008. Grandparents are Marilyn (F'56-59) and Melvin Voran.

Marc ('83) and Wendy **Zook**, Austin, Texas, daughter Olivia Rose, Aug. 4. Grandparents are John (F'78-97) and Rosemary Zook.

Natasha ('90) and **Aaron ('92) Sawatsky-Kingsley**, Goshen, daughter Ania Maret, Nov. 5.

Tammy Sawatzky ('94) and Reynold Friesen, Winnipeg, Man., son Jesse Erick, Nov. 19.

Lisa ('93 Gingerich) and Brian **Keim**, Bay Port, Mich., son Hesston James, Aug. 5. Grandparents are Merrill ('71) and Lola (Albrecht '71) Gingerich.

Tim ('93) and Michele **Hochstetler**, Three Rivers, Mich., son Makai Levi, Oct. 6. Grandparents are Betty (Mullet '61) and Lee Hochstetler

Jason ('96) and Andrea **Golden**, Goshen, son Carson Lee, Nov. 15.

Karen ('96) and Andrew **Martin Schiedel**, Kitchener, Ont., son Caleb John, Oct. 1.

Nita (Yoder '98) and Jeff **Miller**, Elkhart, Ind., son Tyler Jeffrey on Feb. 20, 2008.

Crystal (Nofziger '99) and Anthony **Demetz**, Goshen, daughter Chloe Dawn, Oct. 17.

Danielle (Anderson '04) and Travis **Faulkner**, Goldsboro, N.C., son Aiden Scott, Nov. 11.

Marriages

Amy Thut ('94, F'06-) and Greg Imbur, Goshen, Oct. 18.

Brittan Frey ('99) and Douglas Bright, Fishers, Ind., Sept. 18; stepson Maddix. She works as an international solutions engineer for monster.com.

Elizabeth Collins ('02ng) and Jeremy Hammock, Macon, Ga., Oct. 18.

Addie Miller ('06) and Jared Leaman, Harrisonburg, Va., June 7. A senior congregational/youth ministries major at Eastern Mennonite University, she plans to serve as summer camp director for Amigo Centre.

Deaths

Leah Beachy ('60), Goshen, Nov. 29, 2008. She had volunteered in Bethany's office since fall 2006.

Wilma Burkey Kessens ('71), Rock Hill, S.C., Dec. 16, 2007.

Boyd Nelson (F'83-89), Goshen, Nov. 18, 2008. Survivors include sons Ben ('67) and Paul ('69), daugther Barbara Nelson Gingerich ('72), and grandson Daniel Gingerich ('08).



The class of '73 met Aug. 28 in Bethany's Friendship Garden: (front) Cindi (Slabaugh) Dixon, Tim Baker, Lynda Hollinger-Janzen, Danile Stoltzfus Martens; (back) Marcia (Mumaw) Jantz, Enos Davidhizar, Randy Troyer, Mark Bontreger, Paul Newcomer, Norm Mast.



The class of '83 met Sept. 26 at the Goshen Travelodge and Sept. 27 for a noon meal catered by Bread and Chocolate: (front) Eric Unzicker, Courtney Hess, Karen Miller Rush, Becky Troyer Fontaine, Cheryl (Roth) Snyder, Darla Schumm Harris, Nancy Chupp, Peter Burkholder, Tim Good; (back) Lynelle (Miller) Clark, Betsey Zook, Karyn Mierau, Rhonda (Clemens) Talbott, Tina Birky, Lynda Gingrich Troyer, Elaine Meyer-Lee

Alumni News

Notes

Paul Myers ('57), Akron, Pa., received Goshen College's 2008 Culture for Service Award. He has served with Mennonite Central Committee as Bangladesh country director (1975-81), director of Middle East and South Asia programs (1981-89), and CEO of Ten Thousand Villages (1989-2005). He is president of the International Fair Trade Association.

Merrill ('71) and **Lola (Albrecht '71) Gingerich**, Milford, Ind., visited Benin Bible Institute in October on behalf of Waterford Mennonite Church.

Paul Steury ('81) education coordinator at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, was in the first *Climate Project* group trained by Nobel Laureate Al Gore to speak to the faith community about the challenges of and solutions to the climate crisis.

Peter Burkholder ('83), his wife Shannen, and sons Linus and Jonah moved to Hyattsville, Md., in 2007. They have lots of space and welcome visitors.

Derrick Ramer ('98) was ordained Oct. 12 as youth pastor at North Main Street Mennonite Church, Nappanee, Ind.

Hannah Livengood ('99), Goshen, is operations manager for RedPost, a digital sign company.

M. J. Sharp ('01) counsels U.S. soldiers in Germany about conscientious objection for Military Counseling Network, which recently was recognized for its work by a German evangelical church group.

Joanna Shenk ('01), Elkhart, lives at Mennonite Voluntary Service's Jubilee House while completing a master of arts in theological studies at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She recently became a member at Fellowship of Hope.

Andrea Kraybill ('06) is a member of Goshen College's student-led worship team, *Parables*.



Sarah Thompson ('02) with her former coaches: Joy Hess (tennis) and Bryan Kehr (soccer).

Sarah Thompson ('02), Elkhart, was inducted into the Elkhart County Sports Hall of Fame (see photo at left). She is studying at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary while serving with the Elkhart Mennonite Voluntary Service unit. In February 2009 she will begin a four-month internship at Mennonite World Conference headquarters in Strasbourg, France, and will attend Assembly Gathered in Paraguay in July as a member of MWC's young adult executive committee. In fall 2009 she plans to study at Good News Seminary in Accra-North, Ghana.



The class of '93 met Sept. 13 at Belmont Mennonite Church in Elkhart: (front) Beth (Swartzendruber) Goertzen, Danielle Miller, Gretchen (Newcomer) Miller, Lisa (Miller) Miller; (middle) Kris (Sommers) Shenk, Lisa (Gingerich) Keim, Laura Gilbert, Carla (Nunemaker) Richer, Jessica Whicker; (back) Mark Moyer, Eric Risser, Kevin Miller.



The class of '98 met July 25-26 for informal gathering and a tour of Bethany: (front) Laura Sommers, Rachel (Wenger-Keller) Brice; (middle) Rachel (Paulovich) Sartori, Melinda (Miller) Hull (holding Owen), Jennifer McFarlane-Harris, Rebekah Yoder, Ryan Stiffney; (back) Angie Garber, Nate Sohar, Matt Eash, Kevin Lehman, Josh Nice, Preston Hall; attending but not pictured: Derrick Ramer, Gretchen (Gusler) Sommers, Justin Yoder, Dan Mast, Rachel Koontz, and Kyle Miller.

From the Principal

Allan Dueck



An important outcome of Bethany's *Validating the Vision* self-study was development of a graduate profile. To create the profile, Bethany stakeholders—including faculty members and parents, students and donors, board members and pastors, alumni and friends—reflected on the skills and qualities they would like to see in graduates. The resulting graduate profile (see bethanycs.net/graduate_profile) describes the desirable skills and attitudes of graduates in three areas: academic competence, spiritual growth, and lifestyle integrity. For each area it provides a list of specifics.

With reference to spiritual growth, the profile lists eight specific skills and qualities. Among other things, the profile says Bethany graduates possess basic biblical literacy and know how to draw on the Bible for spiritual discernment; they explore the implications of Jesus' call for their lives, grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and the faith community, and understand faith as a life-long journey; and they practice service and peacemaking as practical expressions of Christian discipleship.

One way to assess Bethany's effectiveness as a school would be to ask where and how current students develop these skills and qualities. Another way to make such an assessment would be to ask whether Bethany graduates in fact embody them. To help answer that question in a quantifiable way was one central goal of Bethany's recent alumni survey. Indeed, the data were encouraging.

The survey showed that most alumni (83.3%) attend church regularly, religious beliefs are very important to most alumni (87.3%), and two-thirds of alumni have taught Sunday school. Furthermore, the survey indicated that nearly one in four alumni has worked as an employee of a Mennonite Church agency, and a significantly higher percentage than would be true for the broader Mennonite population have participated in voluntary service and overseas missions.

These survey results corroborate what recent denominational studies, notably *People in the Pew* and *Church Member Profile III*, have shown: that people who have attended a Mennonite church school at any level, from pre-kindergarten through seminary, are more likely than others to place priority on Christian discipleship and active participation in Mennonite congregational life.

Mennonite schools equip students to be the hands and feet of Christ wherever they are called to serve. And, indeed, Bethany graduates strengthen the church and transform the world.

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