Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

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Classroom/Hallway Renovations Done



Before Renovations

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New Personnel

Front cover: Students enjoy the hallway renovations, which include new carpet, drop ceilings to hide wires and pipes, increased lighting, and bigger lockers. Pictured in foreground from left are sophomores Alex Brew, Emily Bowman, and Angela Carlson.

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Board

Michael Nolt



Michael Nolt is Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference executive board's liaison. He believes Bethany is "positioned well with new, modern facilities and an excellent teaching staff to carry out the school's mission of offering a Christ-centered education to those in our community and conference."

Michael graduated from Goshen College with a secondary teaching license in chemistry and natural sciences and an M.A. from Lehigh University in school pyschology and human development. He teaches chemistry at Goshen High School and teacher education at Goshen College.

Michael and his wife Jennifer are members at Belmont Mennonite Church, where he recently completed a term as the congregational chair.

Rhonda Yoder



Since Christian education has played an important role in Rhonda Yoder's life, she wants to help promote Bethany so others can also benefit. She says, "I hope Bethany can offer students a place to test their thoughts, ideas, and abilities: a place where they learn academics as well as social skills, spiritual understandings, and Christian values.

A graduate of Central Christian High School and Hesston and Goshen colleges, Rhonda works part-time in a retail business and volunteers in various capacities at Bethany. In 1988-89 she taught business at Bethany while Mary Swartley was on leave.

Rhonda attends East Goshen Mennonite Church, where she teaches Sunday school and leads worship. She and her husband Roger have two children, Matthew ('04) and Amanda ('06).

Faculty and Staff

Tracy Byler

Tracy Byler began May 2 as groundskeeper, having completed master gardener certification at Michigan State University in 2004. Tracy also earned a B.S. in child development and family studies from Purdue University in 1989 and worked for 15 years as a child life specialist in several medical settings, most recently in Kalamazoo, Mich. Tracy has been a life-long attender and member of College Mennonite Church, where she now serves as a youth sponsor. She also completed the Ministry Inquiry Program and then studied one year at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Mark Daniels

Mark Daniels teaches art. He graduated from Goshen College with a B.A. in art education in 2000. He periodically shows painting and drawing pieces at the Washington Street Gallery in Goshen. Mark and his wife Krista attend Waterford Mennonite Church, where they serve as sponsors for the junior youth group. They have two preschool-aged children, Tyler and Lindsey.

Gwen Gustafson-Zook

Gwen Gustafson-Zook teaches Bible and enrichment courses and coaches volleyball in the middle school. She taught *Church History* at Bethany in 2003-04.

A 1983 grad of Lewis and Clark University with a B.S. in elementary education, Gwen, along with her husband Les, served with Mennonite service organizations for 12 of the next 14 years. She also completed an M.Div. from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 1990 and pastored at Faith Mennonite Church 1997-2005.

Gwen and Les have performed folk music for 17 years and had the honor of performing at the 2004 Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kans. They also lead singing and speak at church retreats, conferences and camps. They have two children, Si ('09) and Sadie (grade 5).

Joy Houser

Joy Houser teaches sixth grade. A presidential scholar at Goshen College, she graduated this spring with a B.A. in elementary education. A native of Phoenix, Ariz., Joy has worked with middle school children in camp and church settings and brings gifts in worship leading, Bible study, and music and drama. During college, Joy was a member of the planning team for Morning Song, a student-led worship service.

Bradley Kauffman

Bradley Kauffman teaches instrumental music. He graduated from Goshen College in 1996 with a B.A. in music education and then completed an M.A. in choral conducting at the University of Iowa. He taught instrumental and vocal music at Iowa Mennonite School the past eight years.

Bradley served as youth group sponsor, song leader, and worship commission member at First Mennonite Church in Iowa City. He and his wife Renee Kanagy, have a six-month-old daughter, Lucca.

Amy Thut ('95)

Amy Thut teaches *Biology* and *Environmental Science*. Amy is a 1995 graduate of Bethany, a 1999 graduate of Goshen College with a B.A. in biology and a minor in peace studies, and a 2004 graduate of Antioch New England Graduate School with an M.A. in environmental education.

Amy has worked with youth in various wilderness and agricultural programs and summer camps. After working for two years with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, she worked as an educator at Goshen College's Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center last year. Amy serves as a youth group leader at Faith Mennonite Church in Goshen.

Hank Willems ('89)

Hank Willems is assistant principal and middle school boys soccer coach. A 1989 graduate of Bethany, Hank earned a B.S. in secondary math education from Tri-State University in 1993 and an M.Ed. in instruction and curriculum development from Olivet Nazarene University in 2001. He is in the process of completing work for an administrative license from Indiana Wesleyan University.



Front: Mark Daniels, Amy Thut, Joy Houser, Sarah Yoder. Back: Tracy Byler, Gwen Gustafson-Zook, Bradley Kauffman, Hank Willems.

Hank taught math for 12 years at East Noble, Logansport, and Fort Wayne Canterbury high schools. During his years in teaching, Hank established a strong reputation as a soccer coach.

Hank and his wife Cori have a two-year-old son, Beck, and are expecting a child in October. Though Hank attended College Mennonite Church during high school and college, he and his family are in the process of visiting area churches.

Sarah Yoder ('01)

Sarah Yoder is admissions director and girls tennis coach. A 2001 Bethany grad, she graduated from Goshen College in 2005 with a B.A. in psychology. In addition she coaches women's tennis at Goshen College. Sarah is a member of Goshen City Church of the Brethren. During college she and her husband Seth Yoder ('01) attended a student-led worship service, Morning Song, of which Sarah was a member of the planning team.

Campus News

Spanish Language Trip

by juniors Priyata Patel and Hannah Roth

On June 1-18, fourteen students and two teachers traveled to Paraguay and Brazil to learn Spanish and build relationships.

We were challenged in our abilities to adapt, to relate to new people, and improve our language skills. Spending less than three weeks in South America did not make us cultured individuals, but it gave us an idea of what life is like beyond our middle-class, suburban area.

In Asunción, Paraguay, we attended classes at a private high school, Colegio Alberto Schweitzer. Although few of us understood the fast-paced lessons, we observed differences between their school and Bethany. For example, their classes were less structured—students would hold loud conversations or sit on desks playing the guitar while the teacher was trying to teach.



Spanish language trip participants at Foz do Iguacu: (front) Andrew Buschert, Priyata Patel, Alicia Schwartzentruber, Becky Plaster, teacher Anne Waltner; (back) Kenyon Lederman, Jakob zumFelde, teacher Marcelo Warkentin, Kaila Swartley, Reanna Kuitse, Hannah Roth, Quinton Huffman, Jennifer Miller.

One day we visited Sotero Coleman, a small elementary school in a poverty-stricken area. We brought a dozen suitcases containing clothing for the children and $1,700, the tithe from Bethany's Tuition Assistance Day last year. The money will be used for new floors in the classrooms, glass for the windows, and railings on the stairwell.

We then visited Mennonite settlements in the Chaco region of northern Paraguay and Curitiba, Brazil, hometown of our leader Marcelo Warkentin. Our last stop was to see Foz do Iguacu, a series of beautiful waterfalls along the Brazilian border with Argentina, and Itaipu, the world's largest power plant.

Building Dedication Nov. 6

Bethany Christian Schools will dedicate new facilities and renovations from its Capital Campaign project at 3 p.m. Nov. 6. The $4.63 million project included new middle school classrooms, an auxiliary gym, media center, and renovated classrooms and hallways. The public is invited to attend.

Calendar

October

28 Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m.
29 Fall Festival (see p. 5 sidebar)

November

6 Building Dedication, 3 p.m.
18-20 HS Musical: *Brigadoon*

December

9 HS Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m., Sauder Concert Hall
13 MS Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

January

6 Alumni Night basketball game

Admissions Calendar

Discovery Day for prospective students and their parents: November 14

Brigadoon

In this Broadway classic by Lerner and Loewe, two 20th-century New Yorkers happen upon a mythical village in the Scottish highlands that comes to life for one day every 100 years. One of them falls in love with Fiona, a girl from the village, and must choose between returning to New York or remaining in Brigadoon with her.

Three Performances

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 18-19
3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20

Tickets

$8 for adults • $6 for students
Reservations begin Oct. 31
Call 574 534-2567

Alumni News

Births

Julia Reimer ('81) and Philip Lund, St. Paul, Minn., a son, Henry David, July 15. Step-grandmother is **Rosemary Wyse (F'58-62, 65-66)**.

Chad Martin ('93) and Jessica King, Pittsburgh, Pa., a daughter, Esme Rebecca, Aug. 15.

Joanna Friesen Parks ('94) and Steve Parks, Wichita, Kan., a son, Samuel Todd, June 5.

Eric ('94) and Renee **Yoder**, Goshen, a daughter, Natalie Marie, Sept. 8. Grandparents are **Wes ('68)** and **Ruthie (staff '88-present) Yoder**.

Brooke (Steury '97) and Nate **Clemmer**, Souderton, Pa., a daughter, Adelyn Brooke, Sept. 1. Grandfather is **Bob Steury ('73)**.

Cecilia (Lambright '99) and Jeremy **Nuzum**, LaGrange, Ind., a daughter, Kaitlin Renee, Aug. 14. Grandparents are **Mary (Davidhizar '68) Lambright** and the late **Weldon Lambright ('68)**.

Brittany Schroeder ('03), Goshen, a son, Julian Patrick, July 3. Grandmother is **Deb (Hochstedler '77) Hershberger**; great-grandfather is **Lewis Hochstedler ('55)**.

Eliza (Jacoby F'96-01) and Chad Stoltzfus, Goshen, a daughter, Mariah Grace, July 13.

Deaths

Russell Krabill (board '53-54, '62-67, '68-71, '72-76), Goshen, July 16. His children are **Mary Ann Hollinger ('67)** and **James ('69)**; grandchildren **Matthew ('98)**, **Elisabeth ('00)**, and **Mary-Laura ('04)**.

Larry Welty ('58), Elkhart, Aug. 27. He is survived by his wife **Marilyn (Kortemeier '59)**, sons **Arlen ('81)** and **Ron ('84)**, five grandchildren, and siblings **Lavon ('61)**, **Merritt ('71)**, and **Ellen (Welty '73) Nussbaum**.

Daniel Rodgers ('02), Bethel College (North Newton, Kan.), Sept. 16.

Marriages

Eric Unzicker ('83) and Sheri Caywood, Jemez Springs, N.M., June 11.

Joel Hartzler ('92) and Tarah Nimz, Portland, Ore., Aug. 27.

Jason Steiner ('93) and Kylee Denhart, Noblesville, Ind., June 17, in Mayan Riviera, Mexico.

Lisa Koop ('95) and Breck Herber, Goshen, June 18.

Melinda Miller ('96) and James Hull, Elkhart, Ind., July 30.

John Leigh ('96) and Laura Yoder, Kalona, Iowa, Aug, 14, 2004.

Brad Schrock ('98) and Megan McBee, Asheville, N.C., Aug. 3.

Amanda Friesen ('99) and Kyle Krabill Detweiler, Elkhart, Ind., July 16.

June Miller ('99) and Russell Entz, Whitewater, Kan., July 23. June works for a nonprofit foster/adoption organization, assisting foster teens and young adults (ages 15-23) in employment and educational opportunities.

Tim Nafziger ('99) and Charletta Erb, Goshen, Sept. 9

Andrew Kauffman ('00) and Stephanie Richer, West Unity, Ohio, July 23.

Andrew Lanctot ('00) and Caitlin Wade, Elkhart, April 2. He is a first grade teacher in Bradenton, Fla.

Matthew Gongwer ('01) and Megan Chamness, Goshen, July 16.

Anna Newburn ('01) and Evan Parker, Goshen, Sept. 3.

Lisa Bergey ('99) and Welby Lehman, Blacksburg, Va., Aug. 6, in Goshen.

Fall Festival

Events traditionally held on Saturday of the spring Fun Fest have been moved to **Saturday, Oct. 29** (Friday events will be held Mar. 17, 2006).

The fall festival will include a pancake and sausage breakfast (7-10:30 a.m.), 5K run/walk (8 a.m.), 3-on-3 basketball tournament (9 a.m.), caricature artists, and educational displays. For more information, contact the school at 574 534-2567.



The **class of '80** met July 16 at Bethany: (front) Deb (Homes) Krawiec, Dianne (Kehr) Hogan, Krista (Miller) Murray; (middle) Willie Hostetler, Lois (Stoltzfus) Mast, Marla (Graybill) Brenneman, Bonnie (Bufton) Blessing, Cindy (Troyer) Lederman; (back) Jonathan Eash, Greg Leatherman Sommers, Curt Yoder, Bruce Slabaugh, Rene Maust.

Alumni News



The **class of '85** met August 6 at Bethany: (front) Doug Fisher, Les Stutzman, Kim (Riegsecker) Lehman, Lonna Stoltzfus, Anita (Miller) Yoder, Margaret Jeschke, Jen (Herr) Drescher, Linda Martin Burkholder, Lori (Miller) Nester, Darrell Gingerich, Troy Risser; (back) Brian Loucks, Kevin Miller, Rob Miller, Eric Mast, Darrell Gascho, Doug Kaufman, Cheryl Nester-Detweiler, Brad Yoder, Vonda Litwiller.

Benefit Days

Hacienda Restaurant Nov. 28 and Feb. 7: Bethany receives 20% of sales from patrons presenting coupon. Coupons available at the school and local congregations several weeks prior to events.

Ten Thousand Villages Dec. 8: Bethany receives 25% of all sales this day—no coupon required.



The **class of '90** met July 22 at Essenhaus Inn and Conference Center, Middlebury, Ind.: (front) Joel Miller, Rob Yoder, Ed Detwiler, Aaron Mortrud, Ryan Schrag, Jeff Miller, Jeff Vardaman; (back) Marisa (Schipani) Klopfenstein, Lesley Rutt Dyck, Lori (Mast) Miller, Karla (Miller) Shephard, Melinda (Birky) Brown, Christi (Newcomer) Schrock, Tonja (Zook) Nicholas.

Notes

Rollin Newcomer ('61), Wakarusa, Ind., and his sons **Robert ('87)** and **Kevin ('91)**, are Elkhart County Agriculture Society's Farm Family of the Year. They have been farming together since 1998.

Rene Horst ('85), a professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., had an article "Breaking Down Religious Barriers: Indigenous People and Christian Churches in Paraguay" published in *Resurgent Voices in Latin America, Indigenous Peoples, Political Mobilization, and Religious Change* (2004).

Judy Clemens ('87), Bluffton, Ohio, recently published her second crime fiction book centered on Stella Crown, a 29-year-old Pennsylvania Mennonite dairy farmer and dedicated biker. *Till the Cows Come Home* and *Three Can Keep a Secret* are available at www.poisonedpenpress.com.

Cara Jones ('89), Garden Valley, Tex., works in the kitchen and advancement office of Youth With a Mission, supporting the training of teams sent throughout the world for mission work.

Jon ('92) and **Kris (Sommers '93) Shenk** recently moved to Elkhart, Ind. Jon began working in the emergency department at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend.

Jeff Miller ('94), Middlebury, Ind., is controller for Chore-Time Egg Production Systems in Milford.

Megan Ramer ('94), Chicago, graduated in May from Iliff School of Theology with an M.Div. and pastors at Chicago Community Mennonite Church.

Jason Lehman ('95), Goshen, is controller for LaCasa of Goshen.

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Alumni News

Kent Yoder ('97) is on a two-year assignment as a research assistant to Hansulrich Gerber, who is the coordinator of the Decade to Overcome Violence for the World Council of Churches.

Angie Garber ('98), Clovis, Calif., is assistant to the dean of students at Fresno Pacific University. She is training for a triathalon as a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Lisa Koop ('99), attorney and immigration fellow at Notre Dame Legal Aid Clinic, received the Indiana Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders for community leadership and educational achievements.

Anne Liechty ('00) began a ten-month voluntary service assignment in the Dominican Republic, where she will teach children of sugarcane workers.

Sarah Thompson ('02), student body president at Spelman College, was featured as one of the top ten college women to watch in the October 2005 issue of *Glamour*.

Kristine Bowman ('03), Goshen College, participated in the summer Ministry Inquiry Progam with The First Mennonite Church, Vineland, Ont.

Destiny Peshina ('04) and **Casey Diener ('05)** began one-year service assignments with Reaching and Discipling. In December they will begin teaching English among the Isaan people in Borabur, Thailand.

Leah Roth ('05) participated in a 12-day Youth Venture trip to Colombia, learning how peace and forgiveness has become central to the Colombian Mennonite Church's understanding of Christ.



The **class of '00** met July 2 in rural Goshen: (front) Brandi (Schroeder) Gingerich, Jason Bryant, Derek Bontreger, Jennifer (Gingerich) Yoder; Janice (Miller) Troyer, Jill (Graber) Mast, Rochelle (Zehr) Miller; (middle) Brad Gingerich, Aaron Wieand, Eric Saner, Gretchen (Miller) Kingsley, Chris Kingsley, Eileen Becker-Hoover (sponsor), Emma Loewen, Anna Baer; (back) Joel Fath, Eric Meyer, Chris Westerbeek, Andrew Histand, Dale Shenk (sponsor), Jason Kauffman, David Martin.



The **class of '95** met July 23 at Rulli's Italian Restaurant, Middlebury, Ind.: (front) Amy Thut, Peter Gilbert, Kurt Vasbinder, Jason Yoder Rupp; (middle) Natasha Loop, Mandy Yoder, Beth (Kanagy) Miller, Steve Miller, Sandra Rolon Miller, Monica (Reinford) Stutzman; (back) Fritz Hartman, Jason Lehman, Anthony Showalter, Jeff Miller, Nate Lichti, Rachel Hershberger.

Upcoming Reunions

Class of '56: 5 p.m. Sept. 9, 2006 at Das Essenhaus Inn and Conference Center, Middlebury, Ind. Contact Clifford Frey (260 768-4462) or Glen Hochstetler (574 862-4239 or grhoch@bnin.net).

Class of '66: Sept. 16-17, 2006, at Das Essenhaus Inn and Conference Center, Middlebury, Ind. Contact Jeanne Riegsecker (cjrieg@juno.com or 574 642-4459).

To arrange a reunion, contact Susan Gingerich at sdgingerich@bethanycs.net.

From the Principal

Allan Dueck



According to a popular African saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." While this proverb has various nuances of meaning, it underlines the fact that educating young people requires more than a parent or two.

We at Bethany sometimes point to this shared responsibility for educating young people by talking about the partnership of home, church, and school. When these three are together, children have a unique opportunity to acquire and own Christ-centered values.

This issue of the *Bulletin* introduces board members and employees new to BCS. I'm excited about the dedicated Christian people already at Bethany and those joining this "village": people with a clear-sighted commitment to Christ and a passion for working with young people to equip them for successful lives as followers of Christ.

What values does Bethany teach? The foundational value is that the basis for meaningful living is to accept Christ as Savior and Lord and to commit ourselves to live as he lived and taught. Flowing from this starting point are other values Christ taught: loving others, including those who are like us and those who are different, as God loves us (respect for ourselves and for others); working conscientiously to develop our gifts and using them to build God's kingdom; finding peaceful ways to get along with others here at home and internationally; taking care of God's creation and the good things we enjoy; participating in Christian community; and sharing what we have with others.

Today's world is as complex as it has ever been. For young people to grow into generous and productive adults, they need to do much more than gather information, learn facts, and find out how a computer works. They need to learn these and a myriad of other practical skills, yes, but much more than that they must learn how to get along with others and acquire convictions that will empower them to live out Christ's call.

As this new year begins at Bethany, I invite you to pray for the village that is Bethany—students, faculty and staff, parents, and congregations. Pray that God will bless this vital undertaking of equipping young people to live as Christ's ambassadors in the church and world.

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Please notify the BCS Bulletin of the new address of your son or daughter.