BCS Bulletin

Summer 2000 Vol. 45 No. 4

Published for alumni, parents, and the church constituency

As a Matter of Fact…

The class of 2000 has been noted throughout their four years as being different. As a matter of fact, this class is only the second class in 46 years—the other being the class of 1976—that did not have a class member with which of the following surnames:

a) Miller?

b) Yoder?



For the answer see the graduation report on page 5.

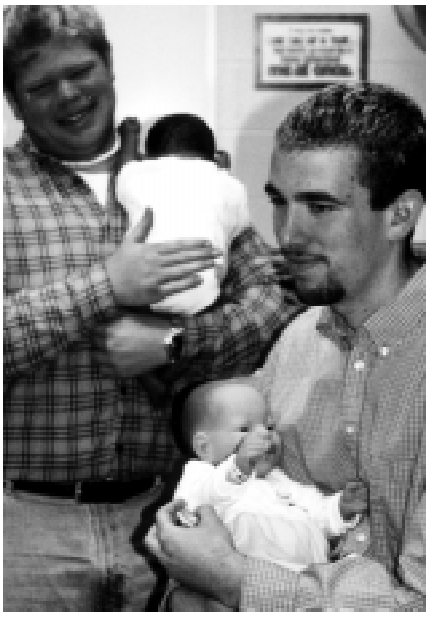
Computerized Babies Teach Parenting Skills

Students in Christine Stutzman's Family Life class no longer simulate parenting by carrying raw eggs with them—drop a "baby" and get a new one after a quick clean up—but with two computerized life-size babies that let the instructor evaluate care given.

Based on actual parenting logs, Stutzman programs a baby with its own temperament and unpredictable schedule of feedings, diaper changes, and need for comfort.

An array of computer chips and sensors embedded in diapers, bottles, and throughout the baby's body record the amount of time spent with the

See **Babies** on page 4



Joel Koeneman and Eric Saner hold two life-sized computerized babies that help students learn parenting skills.

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Families Serve by Opening Their Homes

Providing a home for five Bethany students from a distance during the past ten years has been one way that Merv ('71) and Kathy (Miller, '72) Bontrager of Shipshewana have served the church and Bethany community and made a positive impact on the lives of youth.

"Merv and Kathy taught me so many things I didn't understand about church, U.S. culture, and relating to others," says Larissa Lugo-Colon who lived with the Bontragers from 1992-94.

Many other Bethany students who have lived with host families also share how Bethany and their host families have altered their lives dramatically.

See **Host Families** on page 2

For related student experiences see alumni profiles on p. 3.

Interested in Hosting?

While Bethany is primarily a "commuter" school, each year five to ten students desire to attend Bethany, but because of distance need a place to stay.

If you are interested in joining families like Merv and Kathy Bontrager in sharing your home with such students, contact Jim Buller at 219 534-2567.

Host Families (from page 1)

But the impact goes both ways. Since boarding students come from various cultures, both students and hosts learn new ways of doing things. Incorporating persons with different cultural values, beliefs, and lifestyles into a family means adjustments for all—boarding students and host parents and their children.

Merv and Kathy's son Anthony ('97) notes, "You have to share your parents, but this helped me learn to deal with my own needs in other ways." Brother Ryan ('95) concurs and adds, "I have developed relationships that will last a lifetime; I consider each one as if they were my brother or sister."

While families typically choose to host students similar in age to their own children, others have not done so. Jim and Kathy Holsopple of New Paris chose to host before their own children were in school and found that their children enjoyed having older playmates. Ron and Betty Lou Collins of Goshen chose to host after several of their own children had graduated from high school and enjoyed the zest the youth added to the family.

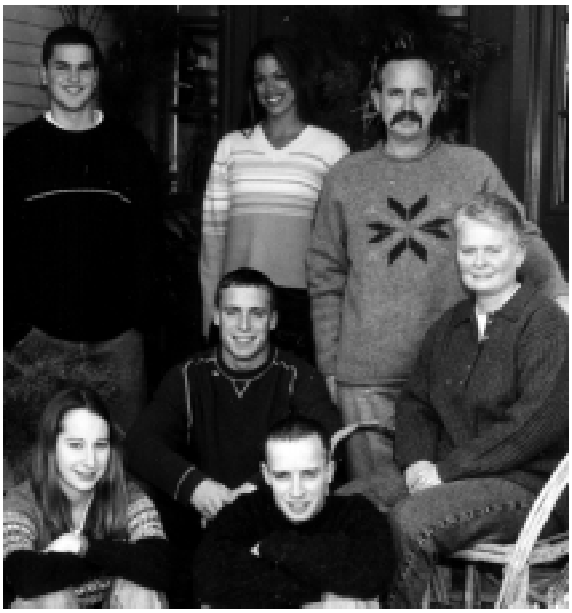
While some situations don't work out, many hosts echo Kathy's feelings that the "benefits outweigh the frustrations."

Delvon ('66) and Shirley (Sawatzky, N'65) Yoder of Goshen, not only shared their faith with Ulrike Voigt (see p. 3), but celebrated her decision to become a Christian.

One student who lived with Eva (Hoover, '59) and Basil Borntreger of Goshen was pregnant when she came to Bethany as a frosh and chose to give up her child for adoption. After her graduation from Bethany, Eva and Basil continued to relate to her through the pain of a disastrous first marriage and the joys of a successful second marriage with three children. They recently joined her for a reunion with the daughter she gave up for adoption 19 years ago. "She is still part of the family," says Eva.

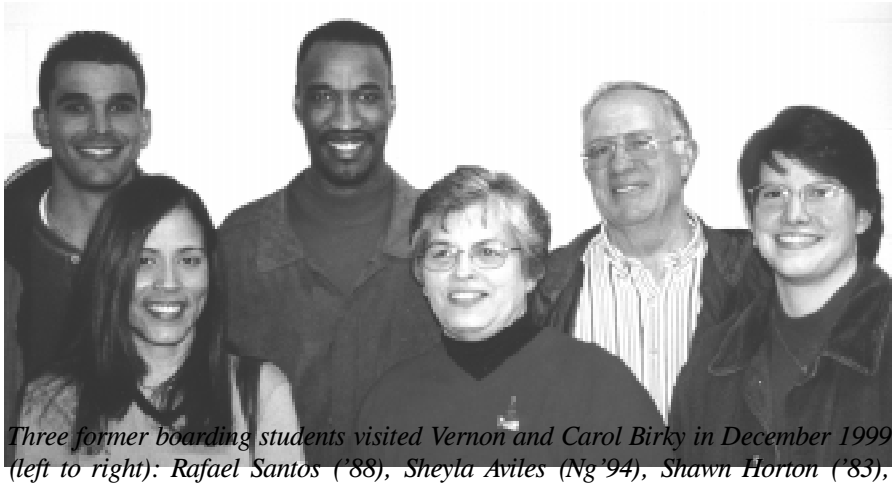
In fact for many hosts the most significant benefit is the long-term family relationships that develop.

James and Barbara Miller hosted three students in the 1970s, including Ed Mendoza (see p. 3), and are now "Grandpa and Grandma" to their children.



Part of the Merv and Kathy Bontrager "extended family reunion" in January (clockwise from top left): Jose Ortiz ('01), Larissa Lugo-Colon (Ng'96), Merv ('71), Kathy (Miller, '72), Ryan ('95), Anthony ('97), and Sara Penner ('98).

Vernon and Carol (Dintamin, '62) Birky first hosted Shawn Horton (1979-83) who visits them regularly from his home in Chicago. Later they hosted several Puerto Rican students whose experiences influenced others, including current students Jose Ortiz and Jose "Monche" Rivera, to attend Bethany.



Three former boarding students visited Vernon and Carol Birky in December 1999 (left to right): Rafael Santos ('88), Sheyla Aviles (Ng'94), Shawn Horton ('83), Carol (Dintaman, '62) Birky, Vernon Birky, and Amy Birky Mounsithiraj ('88).

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Editor: J. Kevin Miller
Consulting Editors: Allan Dueck, Margaret Fisher, Susan Gingerich, Cynthia Good Kaufmann
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Ed Mendoza ('76)



As a sophomore in 1973 I first went to live with James and Barbara Miller in Shipshewana, Ind., and along with their children, Cheryl and Steve, began a relationship of 27 years.

I quickly became both bilingual and bicultural. Being a city boy from Chicago and moving into a farming community allowed me to experience the world in a very different way.

During my three-year stay, I learned much about crops, animals, farm implements and hard work. I learned how to drive a car and a tractor—and what happens when you spread liquid manure on a windy day.

I appreciate most how the Millers supported me during my formative teenage years and later in adult life. They participated in my school activities in the place of my parents.

They continued their support while I attended college, participated in my wedding, and were close when my children were born.

We share many happy memories of gatherings at holidays and even spent a few days in Oregon on a family vacation. They continue their support by visiting our home and watching my children in their school events.

The Millers have been good family role models. I have a new appreciation of this since I am now the father of two teenagers. The Millers' Christian walk and the devotion to their church and community continues to impact me.

The Millers give, and expect nothing in return. Strong family ties and supporting one another are common practice. I feel blessed to have been given such an opportunity to be a part of this wonderful family experience.

In his fifth year as the principal of Westfield Middle School, Ed has been selected Indiana's district 5 principal of the year. He is married to Mable Bontrager ('77) who drives school bus and volunteers with Mom's in Touch and with the children's ministry at their church. They have two children: Adrian "A.D." (16) and Maeven (13).

Robinzina Bryant ('84)

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to speak in a BCHS chapel service. Ten minutes before starting, God told me to ditch my prepared notes, organized under the title of "How to Be a Winner."

As I stepped to the podium, God unfolded the new topic, but I balked and proceeded as I had planned. My presentation was clearly a loser!

God had instructed me to walk the BCHS family down the road of my past experiences and to share how my stop at BCHS impacted my travels. I view being asked to contribute to the *BCS Bulletin* regarding living with a host family as God's way of giving me a second chance to be obedient.

I was raised by an alcoholic single mother whose numerous boyfriends were extremely abusive towards me. School and church were my means of escaping the reality of my home life.

The older neighborhood women took me to a Mennonite church pastored by Mark Lehman. It was through his influence that I enrolled at Bethany, but the influence of my second host family, Don and Shirley Fike, caused me to stay.

In the Fike household I saw a family who loved God and each other and lived to show that love to everyone they encountered. I saw for the first time how God intended a family to function, and I was a part of it. They did not only host me, they loved me. They invested time in me and prayed for me.

Over the years I have maintained contact with the Fikes. Ours was a divine connection and I am eternally grateful for their presence in my life.

After practicing law for a few years, Robin joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent.

Ulrike Voigt (Ng'99)

Living in the U.S. for a year—what a great prospect. Meeting interesting people and seeing astonishing things all seemed exciting, though I was a little scared of what kind of family I would be living with.

Looking back, I believe it was providential to be chosen to live with Shirley (Sawatzky, N'65) and Delvon ('66) Yoder. We were a good match, like "the fist to the eye" (German expression).

I believe it is important to share interests in order to get along well. To my host family it was important that I attend church with them—and a spirit for sports was advantageous too—so I became involved in both.

The more I grew into the family, the more their life affected mine. I learned about their traditions and beliefs and compared them to my German ones. I especially liked Christmas here. My host sister Traci ('01) and I built an intensive relationship that I cherish.



Rike (left) and Traci

Bethany also impacted me greatly. I was impressed by its friendly and informal atmosphere. Students lay on the floor, never locked their lockers, and everybody gave me a huge smile. It was amazing to see how Bethany combines teaching with Christian faith.

So what have I learned during my stay in America? To adjust to a different culture is not that hard as long as you are open to new experiences. Prejudices do not help, but honesty and trust are very important.

Through my family, church, and Bethany I learned to know Jesus Christ and decided to follow and serve him. I am thankful for all the support I received from everybody.

Ulrike recently completed her post-high school examinations in Germany and anticipates attending college.



Members of the state champion Hoosier Academic Superbowl fine arts (FA) and social studies (SS) teams (clockwise from top left): coach Eric Good Kaufmann (FA); David Glick (SS); Joel Fath (FA); Jed Wulliman (FA); Dan Eash (FA); Eric Meyer (SS), son of Brenda (Hostetler, '75) and Rich; coach Shannon Wetzel Gall (SS); Academic Superbowl coordinator/coach Beth Berry; Erin Bontrager (FA), daughter of Gene ('70) and Cinde; and Abby Nafziger (SS).

Two Academic Superbowl State Champions

For the fourth consecutive year Bethany has a state champion in the Academic Superbowl with both the social studies and defending champion fine arts teams winning this year.

Teams compete in six areas: math, science, fine arts, English, social studies, and interdisciplinary. This year's theme was westward expansion: 1785-1900.

Spring Athletic Awards

Baseball

MVP: Chris Kingsley
Best Defense: Andrew Lanctot
Mental Attitude: Sam Nice
Most Improved: Greg Koop
JV Award: Jeff Landis

Golf

MVP: Forrest Ramser
Most Improved: Chad Culver
Mental Attitude: Andrew Kauffman
JV Award: Josh Anderson

Softball

MVP: Rochelle Zehr
Best Hitter: Brandi Schroeder, daughter of Debra (Hochstetler, '77) and Dale Hershberger
Mental Attitude: Renee Glick
Most Improved: Jayme Sample

Girls Tennis

MVP: Sarah Yoder
Mental Attitude: Kate Showalter
Most Improved: Mandy Schwartzentruber, daughter of Becky (Maust, '77) and Dave ('77)



Special 1999-2000 award winners include (clockwise from bottom right): Betsy Leinbach, Cup of Kindness ; Renee Glick, Art Purchase; and outstanding senior athletes Andrew Lanctot and Rachel Weaver, daughter of Dennis ('70) and Pat (Troyer, '71). Not pictured was Elisabeth Krabill, daughter of James ('69) and Jeanette, who is recipient of the Marlin Miller Memorial Scholarship given to a graduate planning to enter or prepare for church leadership or service.

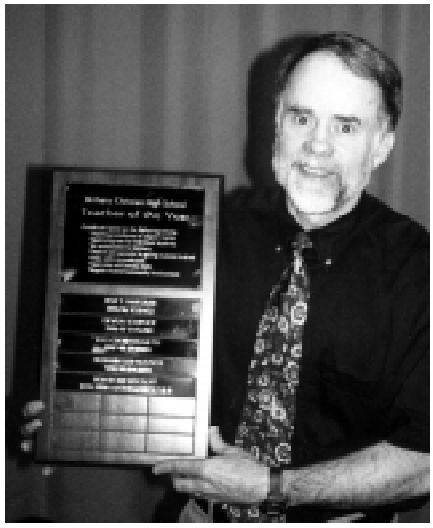
Babies (from page 1)

baby, the number of times fed, burped, rocked, diapered, neglected, or put to sleep on its side or stomach which heightens the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

The purpose of the assignment is for students to understand that the demands of infants are unpredictable but must be met promptly, that infants require a great deal of time and attention, and that the responsibilities of parenting changes lifestyle profoundly.

After caring for a baby over an extended weekend, senior Gretchen Miller noted that her moral decision to not have sex before marriage was reinforced and that even after marriage she would wait to have a baby.

Students needed to care for their baby wherever they went—ballgames, church, stores. Many people inquired about the assignment. One teenage clerk, a single mother exhausted from working and parenting, said, "I wish I would have had that opportunity in school—it would have made a difference for me."



Ron Kolb-Wyckoff received Bethany's 1999-2000 teacher-of-the-year award. Ron has taught grade 7 and 8 math since the inception of the middle school in 1996. He introduced a connected math program, a problem-based curriculum for grades 6-8. He has also been a leader in the development and use of rubrics for student assessment.

Parent-Principal Forums

In a renewed effort to strengthen dialogue between school and home, Bethany held two forums this year.

Actions taken to address issues raised include written school-home communication guidelines, adding a spring parent-teacher conference, posting grades every 2-3 weeks, assignments given both in written and oral form, and planning socials for grades 6-9 prior to the start of school to assist in the social integration of incoming and returning students.

Helmuth Resigns as Assistant Principal

After five years as a Spanish teacher and two as assistant principal, Ray G. Helmuth ('80) has resigned to become principal at Westview Elementary School in Emma, Ind.

"It has been a privilege to serve the Bethany community and I will continue to be a Bruin fan," says Ray. "I look forward to my children attending school here, as I did myself 20 years ago."

Bethany Purchases Historic Violett House

In April Bethany Christian Schools purchased the William Violett House and property which borders the south side of the school's driveway.

The house dates back to 1854 and as a condition of purchase Bethany must maintain the house on the national registry of historic properties for at least 15 years.

Since the historic properties' designation requires only that the exterior of the house be maintained in its present appearance, the purchase of the land adds flexibility in developing a campus master plan in preparation for adding new facilities.

At present the Community Church of Waterford, which worships at Bethany, plans to rent the house for use as its church office.

The property is a capital asset and the purchase will not affect tuition or the operational budget since rental revenue should cover financing costs.

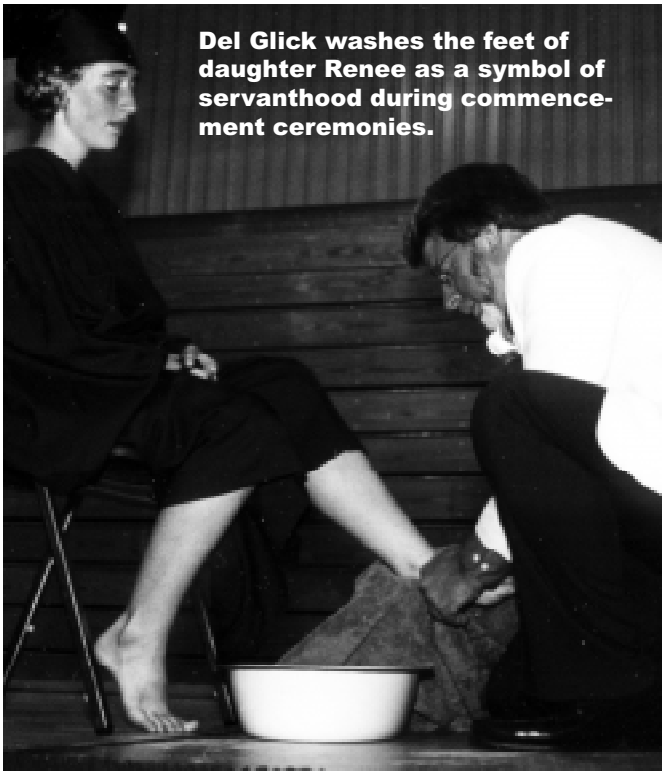
New Board Member

Paul T. Yoder has been appointed to serve on Bethany's board, filling the vacancy left by the death of Harold Hartzler last fall.

A past member of the board of elders at College Mennonite Church, Paul is interested in encouraging Bethany to provide opportunities for students in areas of their interest while continuing to be a place where students can interact in socially healthy ways and explore faith issues.

A graduate of Goshen College and the Medical College of Virginia, Paul is a family physician who is in the process of transitioning to emergency medicine this summer.

Paul and his wife, Suzanne, are the parents of three children: Laurel, grade 11 at Bethany; Valerie, grade 7; and Adam, grade 5.



Del Glick washes the feet of daughter Renee as a symbol of servanthood during commencement ceremonies.

Class of 2000 Called to Be Different

Del Glick and Nina Lanctot, area pastors and parents of graduating seniors, noted in their commencement address how the heart and imagination of this class is in a different place than most American teenagers—the class theme of service is mentioned only twice in a 20-page May 8 *Newsweek* article on what American teenagers believe in.

Graduate Elisabeth Krabill said, "God calls us to challenge the set rules that this world expects us to follow." Classmate Chris Kingsley shared how as a frosh he wanted to fit in and be cool, but soon realized that this class was not concerned with being cool—it was "cool to not worry about being cool."

Renee Glick was named valedicatorian and Amber Kaufman salutatorian.

The class gift provides funds sufficient for installing bells in the Friendship Garden, an area seniors felt is most in need of an audible reminder that class is about to begin.

The class of 2000 became the second class in 46 years to not have a member with the surname Yoder—every graduating class has had a member with the surname Miller.

Eudean (Schlabach, '55) Broni received a twenty-year pin for her service to Greencroft, Inc. in Goshen.

Sylvia (Steiner, '56) Miller and husband Don took a ten-day trip to Europe in May in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary last September.

Ruby (Ramer, '62) Panyako is a night shift nurse supervisor at Oaklawn Psychiatric Center in Goshen.

Sandra (Lambright, '68) Yoder was named executive director of Southfield Village, a continuing care retirement community being constructed in South Bend by Greencroft Inc., Goshen.

Mike Stutzman ('72) married Lillian Braun on April 15 in Goshen.

Don Grieser ('73) plays mandolin for a bluegrass band, Red Mesa Rounders, and has recently released a CD called Adobe in the Pines—his southwest contribution to the cabin song genre in bluegrass. If you are interested in a CD ($12 postage paid), email Don at dgrieser@nedcomm.nm.org.

Jon Yoder ('73) was selected by the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation at Princeton University to participate in a three-week rain forest research program in Costa Rica that focuses on the human impact on environmental systems.

Rick Yontz ('75), owner of Lar-Lee Farms in Goshen, graduated from Leadership 20/20, a program that builds awareness of community issues related to agriculture and develops leadership.

Rebecca Bauman ('77), Los Angeles, Calif., finalized adoption in January of Corey James (5) and Margaret Elizabeth (3), both of whom have been with her since their infancy.

Doug Minter ('78) and wife Jill, Louisville, Colo., gave birth to daughter Laura Elizabeth on March 4.

Sherri Martin ('79) married Daniel Grindle on April 15 in Goshen.

Paul ('79) and **Kathryn ('79) Meyer Reimer**, Goshen, gave birth to daughter Elaina on April 29.

Keeping Pace

Craig Martin ('81), Hilliard, Ohio, married Laura Iverson on January 1.

Tony Godshall ('83), Alameda, Calif., rewrites computer code for an automated beef warehouse.

Robert Kurtz ('84) and **Heidi Kauffman ('86)** live in West Lafayette, Ind., with son Stuart (5). Robert is a doctoral student in speech-language pathology at Purdue University and Heidi is an Impact caseworker.

Susan (Mann, Ng'84) Raines, Concord, N.C., is a director of the Busch Ladies Auxiliary—husband Tony races car no. 33 on the Nascar Busch series—and is involved in a ladies fellowship group that meets on race day. She also enjoys gardening, playing softball, and fishing with family.

Randy R. Miller ('84) and wife Barb, Goshen, gave birth to sons Trevor Jon and Braden Drew on March 27.

Joleen (Miller) Myers ('84) and husband Gary, Harrisonburg, Va., gave birth to son Corin Elias on March 13.

Kent (Smith, '86) Dutchersmith began quarter-time as associate pastor for music ministry at Sunnsyide Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind., in June 1999. He is also in his fifth year at Mennonite Board of Missions, recruiting for Service Adventure and Mennonite Voluntary Service.

Lyle Stutzman ('86) and wife Shauna, Sarasota, Fla., adopted on May 1 daughter Rylee Dawn, born April 27.

Myron Bontreger ('87, F'98-) and wife Fran, Goshen, gave birth to son Lucas Andrew on April 2.

Lois Hochstetler ('87) married Kent Fisher on March 18 in Columbus, Ohio. She works as a program director with Alvis House Residential Program for Offenders with Mental Retardation in Columbus.

Edward McKenna ('87) and wife Angela, Goshen, gave birth to daughter Morgan Elizabeth on Feb. 22.

Erika (Yoder, '89) Meyer, who once told a friend she would never live in Chicago, just completed her sixth year of teaching at Chicago Mennonite Learning Center. "I was prepared by God to teach here and am humbled by my calling" she says.

Jeff Miller ('90), Middlebury, Ind., was recently promoted to assistant restaurant manager at Das Essenhaus.

Lesley Rutt Dyck ('90), Elkhart, Ind., is an adult therapist for Oaklawn.

Ryan Miller ('91) began in February as assistant director of public relations at Goshen College. He continues to cover religion issues for the *Elkhart Truth*.

Steve Sauder ('92) and wife Gretchen, South Bend, Ind., gave birth to son Lucas Stephen on April 29.

Marla (Yoder, '92) Jones travels as a development specialist for Cerner Corporation and is currently providing consulting and database programming for St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Josh Phillips-Kanagy ('93) and wife Diana, Goshen, gave birth to son Quinlan on June 13.

Ben Rutt ('93), Salt Lake City, Utah, is a software engineer for Novell.

Nakeisha Miller ('95) and **A. Jon Hartzler ('95)**, Goshen, gave birth to daughter Juna Marie on March 22.

Jason Rupp ('95) and **Tonya Yoder ('96)** married on May 27 in Goshen.

Anthony Showalter ('95) married Krista Zimmerman on May 27 in Harrisonburg, Va. They reside in Goshen, Ind.

Ben Hartman ('97), Goshen, began a community garden project in response to the exploitation of land and people he witnessed in Central America. An article on his experience appeared in the April 4 issue of *The Mennonite*.

Joel Graber ('99) married Jessica Schlabach on April 15 in Goshen.

Orris Yoder (B '73-81) died April 26. He and his wife Doris had three children and two grandchildren attend Bethany: J. Byard ('71), Paul J. ('73), Regina ('75), Landon ('99), and Adrienne ('01).

Everett Thomas (F'72-89), Goshen, will conclude his duties as president of Mennonite Board of Congregational Ministries in October to become editor of *The Mennonite*.

Don Miller (F'80-94), a certified nursing assistant, was named employee of the year by Greencroft in Goshen.

J. D. Smucker (F'87-) and wife Beth, Goshen, gave birth to daughter Anna Catherine on February 23.

Brent Reinhardt (F'97-) and wife Marla, Wakarusa, Ind., gave birth to daughter Brooke Mae on April 19.

Disney Movie Portrays Myron Yoder ('73) Family

"Miracle in Lane 2," a Disney channel movie which premiered in May, portrays a story based on factual experiences of Myron ('73) and Sheila Yoder and their sons Justin and Seth ('01) of Middlebury, Ind.

One of the conditions the Yoders set before agreeing to this project was that faith be a part of their story. While local writers Joel Kauffmann and Don Yost use creative license to increase the suspense and heighten the humor, the basic story line is true.

Justin, the main subject of the movie, was born with spina bifida, which caused waist-down paralysis, and uses a wheelchair for mobility. He envies brother Seth's athletic trophies and his determination to get one of his own leads him to soap box derby racing.

Seth shared in chapel that, while he is sometimes uncomfortable having his life—good and bad—bared in public, he has also been able to step back and look at himself and say, "yeah, I am like that."

Beachy Creates Disease-Resistant Tomato

Roger Beachy ('62) was named 1999 Scientist of the Year by *Research and Development Magazine* for his role in producing the first genetically-altered tomato resistant to virus and disease.

As a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, Beachy began experimenting with cross-protection, a technique of infecting plants with mild strains of viruses to prevent more virulent strains.

He also helped establish the International Laboratory for Tropical Agricultural Biotechnology to assist developing countries in the use of this technique and other modern technologies.

Currently, Beachy is president of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, established to be the premier research center for biotechnology and plant science research.

Beachy has also been involved in research on gene regulation and the development of vaccines in plants.

Future Class Reunions

Class of '70: August 19, 4:30 p.m. tour of school followed by 6 p.m. meal at Bread and Chocolate. Contact John King at 219 533-2818 (johnrk@mma-online.org).

Class of '75: September 2, 4:30 p.m. tour of school followed by 6 p.m. meal at Bread and Chocolate. Contact Brenda Hostetler Meyer at 219 642-3963 (hmeyer@npcc.net).

Class of '80: July 29, 5:30 p.m. at Greencroft Center in Goshen. Contact Marla Grabill Brenneman at 219 534-3816 (marla@cyberlink.com).

Class of '85: Date to be announced. Contact Ric Troyer at 206 706-0529 (troyer@writeme.com).

Class of '90: September 24. Contact Tonya Kauffman Miller at 317 290-9916 (tbmiller2@home.com).

Class of '95: September 9 at 54268 CR 37 in Middlebury. Contact Kristen Stiffney Grantham at 219 206-8142.



Justin Yoder (center), surrounded by brother Seth ('01) and parents Sheila and Myron ('73), is the subject of "Miracle in Lane 2," a Disney Channel movie that premiered in May. See related story at left.

From the Principal

Allan Dueck

Recently, I enjoyed a surprise that adds zest to an administrator's life. Marion Bontrager, a friend and former colleague at Hesston College, dropped by for a chat. While at Hesston I had no idea that Marion had been a Bethany alumnus. However, since my coming to Bethany our paths have crossed several times, and I now know that he was a member of the first BCHS graduating class (1955).

During this recent visit Marion reminisced about superintendent John Steiner's impact on him. Having planned to attend Millersburg High for his senior year, Marion says Steiner often encouraged him to attend Bethany. Just a few days before school, after the superintendent had visited him at his home, Marion decide to enroll. Beginning with that contact, and throughout the school year, Steiner became a towering influence in his life —giving him the "blessing" that has nourished him throughout his life.

This anecdote brings me to an exciting new project now unfolding. With Bethany's fiftieth anniversary fast approaching, the History Book Committee has begun planning a book to commemorate the anniversary. During our meetings, a host of stories—some prosaic and many fascinating—have emerged.

We hope the book will identify and clarify broad themes and issues during the school's five decades. Within those themes, vignettes and anecdotes—such as the story of John Steiner's impact on Marion Bontrager—will provide the human, personal stories that are the school's soul.

Telling a story that involves as many people and perspectives as the history of an institution over fifty years is not easy. Success will depend on the breadth and quality of the perspectives we can gather, of photographs we can find. On behalf of the committee, I invite your engagement in this intriguing task. If you have a story to tell or photo to share, forward it to Roy Hartzler, History Book Committee Chair, Bethany Christian Schools.

This enterprise is a significant one. To know who we are as a people and where we want to go, we need to know from where we have come.

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Notice to parents:

If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who has established a separate permanent address, please notify the *BCS Bulletin* of the new address.