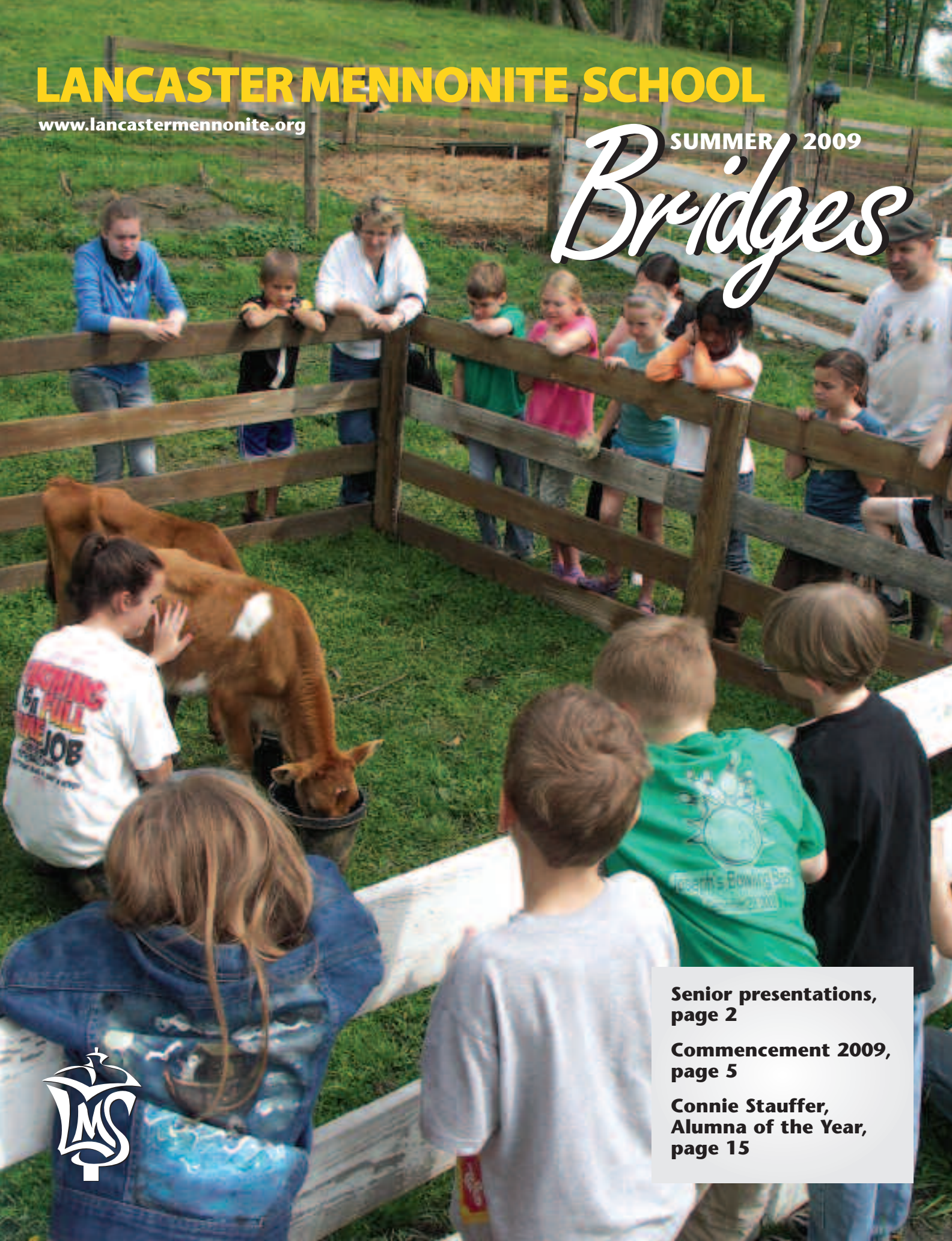


LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

www.lancastermennonite.org

SUMMER 2009

Bridges



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Bridges is the quarterly magazine of Lancaster Mennonite School, sent to alumni, parents and friends. LMS exists to transform students so they can change our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service. The school welcomes students without regard to sex, race, nationality or ethnic origin.

Lancaster Mennonite School has four campuses:

Kraybill, grades PreK-8

598 Kraybill Church Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552
(717) 653-5236

Lancaster, grades 6-12

2176 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 299-0436

Locust Grove, PreK-8

2257 Old Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 394-7107

New Danville, grades PreK-6

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Lancaster, PA 17603
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Cover photo: FFA students Megan Lehman (with calf) and Karisa Martin (blue jacket) talk to Locust Grove students about the nutrition of calves during a unique learning opportunity that took place May 8 at the LMS farm. See story on page 7. Adults on the picture are Locust Grove third grade teacher Jessie Newswanger and system Spanish teacher Brent Hartzler.

PHOTO: FERN CLEMMER

HELPING STUDENTS IDENTIFY GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

Senior presentations reflect LMS journey

At Lancaster Mennonite School, students at all levels are encouraged to develop their gifts and abilities in preparation for college and career planning. For the past two years, seniors have been encouraged to give a senior presentation in which they share their PreK-12 pilgrimage and post high school plans with family, faculty, pastors and classmates.

Senior presentations, which will be required for all seniors in 2009-10, grew out of the school's goal to become more deliberate in helping students identify God-given gifts, interests and career options. Following are excerpts from several senior presentations given this past spring.

Lauren Fueyo

I can honestly say that every year at Lancaster Mennonite has been an amazing adventure, stretching me intellectually, socially, and spiritually. I love this place and feel prepared to face what lies ahead because of my experiences these past four years.

One of the greatest blessings during my high school experience has been the overwhelming support of the teachers here. Teachers like Mr. Buckwalter, Mr. Steiner, Mr. Sprunger, and so many others have been absolutely key in challenging me to integrate my faith with learning in a way I never thought possible. Academics and my relationship with Christ had always been two very distinct categories in my busy life, but I am so thankful that God opened my eyes through these teachers to recog-

nize Him as Lord of my entire life.

Adults who are genuinely interested in the students' lives are not limited to the classroom. I had the blessing of getting to know Coach Erin Martin through volleyball and drama director Danielle Hofstetter through *Play On*.

"LMH is a place of incredible opportunity."

Both of these women have a sincere and contagious faith and made sure we prayed before games and performances. Here at LMH, Christ is the core and everything else comes second.

I also have greatly found my niche in being involved with the Peer Assistance Leadership (PALS) program with the middle school students and Friday Morning Bible Study. If I could summarize Lancaster Mennonite, it would be this: LMH is a place of incredible opportunity.

Sheila Talbott

My goal for my senior presentation was to demonstrate the last part of one of my favorite verses, Psalm 103:2, which states: "Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me." Many times I can focus on how I am hoping God will use me in the future while I overlook how he is using me now or even in my past.

During my senior presentation I talked about my involvements both at school and church, as well as my relationships with friends, family and most

importantly, God. Some of my involvements at school, which have helped remind me of God's goodness, are field



PHOTO: GEOFF GROFF

Sheila Talbott, left, and Lauren Fueyo share a song that is meaningful to them at the end of Sheila's senior presentation.



hockey, PALS, planning for Friday Morning Bible Study, and National Honor Society. I also have various involvements at my church with music, leading Bible studies, helping in the nursery, and mission trips. My volunteer involvement at Landis Homes in the dementia unit has showed me the joy of giving of myself to other people.

All of this to say, I am extremely grateful to the Lord for giving me the opportunity to be involved with these things as well as to my parents for sending me to Lancaster Mennonite. As I press on toward next year at Cedarville University and the years to follow, I want to continually be available to the Lord but not forget the ways he has so richly blessed me in my past.

Darshika Kirubaaharan

The last three years at LMH have been a wonderful experience. I definitely learned more about the Mennonite faith—which I never heard of until I came to the U.S.—and have been challenged to think more about what I believe in.

In the years at LMH, I have been involved with the art department, paint crew, and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). I have made great connections and learned amazing life skills through these different groups, and FBLA has definitely been the biggest involvement. I was part of the organization for my junior and senior years and served as treasurer my second year. During this experience I became more comfortable being in a leadership role.

LMH is more than just an institution that provides amazing opportunities to many different people, it is my home.

I've lived in the dorm since the second semester of my junior year, and I've met wonderful people who have been best friends, family, and mentors. I've learned a lot through the different cultures represented and have also grown spiritually.

Dorm adviser Stephanie Ross has been a great influence, friend, sister, and authority to me. She has always been there when I needed her, whether it was just to hang out or learn about God. She has given me great advice and has stood by me through the entire spiritual journey I've gone through this school year.

Overall, my high school experience has shaped me and strengthened me in many ways—physically, mentally and spiritually. I've learned and grown a lot through LMH and the people involved in it.

Jordan Keener

If I were to summarize my 13 years of Mennonite schooling into one word, it would most definitely be “enriching.” From my very first day of kindergarten at Kraybill until my last days at LMH, my mind has been challenged, my character has developed, and my relationships with God and people have grown. At Kraybill, I formed close friendships that last to this day. The teachers there helped me to grow toward maturity academically, as well as spiritually.

At LMH, the variety of activities I participated in allowed me to learn life lessons that I will always hold on to. Basketball helped me develop teamwork skills, confidence and persistence. PALS allowed me to develop communication and interpersonal skills that I will use all my life. Academically, the



Top right: Jordan Keener. Above: Blene Hailu. Top left: Darshika Kirubaaharan is flanked by Wilmer and Doris Nolt, friends from Mellinger Mennonite Church who attended her presentation.

variety of classes provided me a mix of fun and challenging courses that will prepare me for the next step. I have enjoyed my experience in Mennonite schooling and am grateful to Kraybill and LMH for all the opportunities I have been given.

Blene Hailu

After being born in Washington, D.C., growing up in Ethiopia till I was 12, living in United Arab Emirates till the age of 17, and finally residing in Lancaster, Pa., for one year, I've seen significantly different cultures.

Moving to Lancaster Mennonite High School for my senior year has been a great experience. Now that I've graduated, I look back and realize that LMH offered me so many opportunities in the one short year I attended the high school. The faculty of LMH is one of the best parts of the school. The teachers truly try to make sure we find our

Continued on page 4

place in the school. They are open to questions and assistance, and that makes it easier for students to communicate with the faculty.

While at Lancaster Mennonite High School, I lived with a host family for the first semester. Living with a host family allowed me to settle down in a new city and try to adjust to a new community. During my second semester at LMH, I moved into Graybill Residence Hall. Being a dorm student was a different experience that I truly enjoyed. Close friendships and bonds were formed as we lived together and spent several hours a day together. Dorm students come from places as far away as North Korea, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Rwanda and Japan, while others come from York, Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

Lancaster Mennonite High School allowed me to look into my spiritual

life and question my beliefs as well as accept the beliefs of others. In the one year I attended LMH, I've learned a lot. I've found friendships that I will hold on to, and the residence hall and advanced classes definitely prepared me for college.

Nicole Simpson

I have attended a Mennonite school all my life, but I'm not Mennonite. For kindergarten through grade eight, I was home-schooled some of the years and attended Linville Hill Mennonite School for the rest. For high school I went to Lancaster Mennonite School. Some of my extra-curricular activities at LMH were JV soccer my freshman and sophomore years and FFA for parts of my sophomore and junior years.

As I look back through high school I am really grateful for all the art classes LMH provided. I loved drawing since I was a little girl, and the art classes at LMH have helped me improve my skills greatly. I took artbeat, drawing, painting, 2-D, and advanced studio. I have also entered many pieces of artwork in the Solanco Fair, and I won one first place ribbon and two second place ribbons. I also entered artwork in the Scholastics/Young Artist competition, and this year I won my first Gold Award. If it weren't for Mrs. Ciacca saying I should enter my boot drawing, I never would have won that Gold Award, because I had forgotten all about that piece.

Some of my personal interests are art and hunting. Hunting will always be one of my passions. I have gone dove and whitetail hunting. Hunting is a great way to observe God's creation, and a great way to learn patience. It is also a great way to spend time with family.

I plan to attend Penn State Brandywine for my first two years of college and then transfer to University Park. I plan to major in Animal Bioscience or something that has to do with biology. My plans are to go to vet school to become a large

animal veterinarian. I also want to continue with art. In addition, I hope to go on mission trips and maybe go hunting in other states.

Eileen Darby

I attended St. Leo the Great Catholic School from kindergarten to eighth grade and spent my freshman year of high school at Lancaster Catholic. Despite being in a Catholic environment, I was unhappy and needed a change physically, mentally, and spiritually. After shadowing my church friend at Lancaster Mennonite in the spring of 2006, I made a huge and unexpected transition by transferring to LMH for 10th grade. Who would have thought a Catholic girl would come to a Mennonite school? It sounds corny, but when I stepped on the campus of Lancaster Mennonite, it just felt right. I received smiles from students and teachers I didn't even know, and I felt welcomed.

Over the past three years I've made many lasting friendships through activities like sports, newspaper, music, and drama. My friends, as well as my family, have helped me through some rough times during my high school years. I tore my ACL in my left knee in my junior year, ending my basketball sea-

"When I stepped on the campus of Lancaster Mennonite, it just felt right."

son early that year and quitting for good the following year.

They often say that when one door closes, another opens. Though I've always been interested in theater, I never went beyond my comfort zone to try it. When I quit the basketball team, I auditioned for the musical and had a great time meeting new people and improving my acting skills. I am gradually learning that while life isn't easy, it doesn't have to be hard. I credit LMH for helping me learn these life lessons that will assist me in my future.

I plan to attend De Sales University as an English major in the fall. I can't wait to see what God has in store for me. ■



Top photo: Nicole Simpson uses a PowerPoint presentation to give her senior presentation. PHOTO: GEOFF GROFF. Above photo: Eileen Darby poses with her parents—James and Colleen Darby—after her evening presentation. PHOTO: DENNIS KAUFFMAN

Know whose you are

At the school's 67th commencement on May 30, guest speaker Dr. Kim Phipps, president of Messiah College, told the 194 graduates that building an identity with Christ will carry them through life's challenges and guide them in making important decisions.

"You will have confidence because your identity rests in Christ, not in life's circumstances or in living up to the expectations of others.

"So, welcome the difficult challenges, the unexpected opportunities, the painful failures, the glorious successes and the epiphanies that life has in store for you. Be hopeful because you know who you are and, even more importantly, whose you are."

The class of 2009 already knows something about difficult challenges. On April 8 they lost classmate Micah Berthold who died from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident. During the commencement ceremony the class placed on Micah's chair a picture of him along with his cap and gown. Micah's father, Josef Berthold, accepted his

son's diploma as the audience surrounded the family with a long supportive applause.

At Friday evening's Class Dedication program, three senior speakers centered their talks around Joshua 1:9, the class verse: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." The student speakers were (pictured above, left to right): Matthew Wier, Kaela Landis, and Andrew Kreider. ■



Top photo: LMH seniors file into the school for their May 30 commencement ceremonies. Bottom photo: Dr. Kim Phipps delivers the commencement address.

Forsheys graduate 10th

For Jean and Ernie Forshey, the score is now 10-0. As of May 30, all ten of their children have graduated from LMH. The Forsheys' 22-year relationship with Lancaster Mennonite began in 1986 when their oldest daughter, Melanie, learned about the school through a middle school friend. One visit to LMS was all she needed.

"Melanie just loved the school when she came to visit," Jean said. "LMH was a great place for her to build friendships, and it prepared her well for further schooling that resulted in her becoming an attorney."

Jean, who teaches family consumer science at LMH, says the school's academic standards "have proven to be vitally instrumental" for all of her children, named here with their grad year and current work or school:

Melanie, 1991: senior staff attorney at the law firm of Wilmer, Hale, LLP in Washington, D.C.

Brett, 1993: virologist researching tropical diseases in the Amazon River Valley in Peru, near Iquitos

Jason, 1995: author and internet bookseller

Mark, 1996: senior engineer at Lockheed Martin

Laura, 1998: operations and sales manager at VOTG, an international shipping firm

Lee, 1999: Geographic Information Systems analyst

Neil, 2003: completing an engineering degree at Drexel University in Philadelphia

Craig, 2004: studying business administration while working for Verizon

Clay, 2008: pre-med sophomore at LaSalle University

Amber, 2009: entering Messiah College to study biology ■



The Forshey family pictured at commencement are front row, left to right: Clay; Laura; Melanie; Neil; and Mark. Back row: Wendy Stauffer, married to Jason; Jason; Kiima Cox, married to Lee; Lee; Jean; Amber; Ernie; and Jason Stewart, married to Melanie. Craig and Brett were unable to attend Amber's graduation.

Webinar a fun way for Kraybill students to learn about Pennsylvania

What is a webinar?

A webinar is a type of web conferencing that is used to conduct live meetings or presentations via the Internet. In the “Where in PA?” webinar, the four schools each used a video camera, microphone and “Elluminate” webinar tool to interact in a virtual environment.

A nervous hush fell on the room when Kraybill’s 35 fourth graders heard “Welcome, everyone! ... OK, classroom 3, I can see you on the screen!”

It was April 20 and the two fourth grade classes were participating with three other Pennsylvania schools in a webinar called “Where in PA?”—designed to make Pennsylvania history a fun part of their social studies curriculum.

At the beginning of the webinar, each school spent five minutes providing clues about the town nearest them, and later the schools had a chance to guess the name of the town (Kraybill is located in Mount Joy). Students used skits, puppets, poems, drawings and PowerPoint presentations to share clues about transportation, landforms/bodies of water, human-environment interaction, location, places, and history/civics.

According to Kraybill’s technology coordinator/computer teacher Valerie Garton, Kraybill was the only school to include a video they filmed and edited. Their video showed the students getting splashed by a water ride at Hershey Park—complete with roller coaster sound effects and water

being thrown on the students.

Following the presentations, the schools had 30 “very short” minutes to discover the location of the others by hurriedly scrolling through maps on the Internet, googling names of landmarks and other clues, pouring over maps on the floor, and conferring with each other.

When the four schools came back together, each was allowed to ask one question before the final guesses were made. Students eagerly waited their turn to ask their yes/no question and, said Garton, “jumped up and down cheering when the other classes answered, ‘Yes!’ and our students knew they were on the right track.”

For Kraybill student Amanda Long, one of her favorite parts of the exercise was revealing their town and yelling, “Mount Joy!”

The whole event lasted about two hours. Kraybill guessed two of the other three schools which were: Ross Elementary School in Sweet Valley; East Coventry Elementary School, Pottstown; and St. Joseph the Worker School, Orefield.

According to Garton, it was a challenge to provide clues that are important, yet not too easily found by googling. For example, the Kraybill students could say their town was named after a ship (Mountjoy) that was sent with provisions to save the starving Scottish Presbyterians in Ireland 30 years before they came to America, but they couldn’t give the name of the ship. They could say the town has feed mills and a popcorn factory, but they couldn’t give the exact names of the businesses. They could say the town is located five miles east of the Susquehanna River, 14 miles southeast of “Chocolatetown, USA,” and 15 miles west of President Buchanan’s birthplace.

“The webinar was great,” Garton added, explaining that it offered “a tremendous learning experience” that, besides combining technology, geography and history, also included lessons in reading, writing, listening, speaking, research, information fluency, critical thinking, problem-solving and decision making. The students spent weeks making posters, taking photos, assembling pictures, gathering information, practicing lines and skits, and creating their PowerPoint and video.

Preparing for the webinar was a team effort among three teachers—Garton, who oversaw the

Continued on page 7



Kraybill's fourth grade students pose in front of a replica of Mountjoy, the ship for which the town of Mount Joy is named. PHOTO: VALERIE GARTON

Continued from page 6

technology aspect; fourth grade teacher Mary Jane Smith, who grew up in Mount Joy and acted as tour guide as the students visited local landmarks; and fourth grade social studies teacher Gena Fisher who helped students create props, skits,

and PowerPoint presentations. Garton learned about the webinar from the technology division of the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13. ■

LMS farm becomes animal science classroom

When LMS purchased an 18-acre farmette 10 years ago, board members and school administrators were preparing for future needs, including the possibility of turning it into a learning facility. This past year that dream took shape as agricultural science teacher and FFA adviser Ryan King turned it into a laboratory for FFA, his animal science classes, and the middle school Explore class. And this past spring its educational potential reached beyond the Lancaster Campus to include elementary students from Locust Grove.

On May 8, 13 Hans Herr FFA students welcomed about 80 K-3 Locust Grove students to the LMS farm that is located behind the high school at Gridley and Millstream roads. The FFA students helped the young students learn how calves graduate from bottle feeding to drinking out of a bucket, chickens lay different colored eggs, sheep are shorn, and horses are groomed and managed. The FFA students also helped their young visitors plant pumpkin seeds with the hope they can return in October to select ripened pumpkins.

"This was the first (Spring/Fall Day)," King said, explaining that it was planned to get the younger students excited about agriculture and help them understand where food comes from.

"It's also an opportunity for the FFA students to provide leadership in teaching," he added.

The goal is to hold a similar event each spring and fall, hopefully including elementary students throughout the LMS system.

The process for turning the farm into a hands-on learning facility began several years ago when newly-hired King learned about the property and shared his ideas with Spanish teacher Brent Hartzler who lives next door to the farm and was renting space there for his sheep and heifers. (Hartzler helped plan the May 8 event.)

Hartzler was supportive of King's ideas and when King added chickens and goats to the farm, he offered to feed them along with his own cattle. Charles and Ann Palmer, LMH parents who rent the house, also pitch in sometimes to help care for the animals.

According to King, the farm has been a great place to familiarize LMS students with animals and their health and nutritional needs.

"The more contact kids have with animals, the more comfortable they become with them," he said. "Hopefully this contact will promote an interest in animal science."

This spring the FFA Livestock Judging team used the facility to prepare for FFA Week which was held in June. There is also talk about having the students harvest and sell hay on the property which would tie into an ag business class that King teaches. In addition, there may be an opportunity for students to raise produce for the LMS food service department or, with growing



FFA student Kelsey Clemens talks to Locust Grove students about horse management—how they are groomed and their different runs and gaits—during a Locust Grove field trip to the LMS farm. Kelsey's father, Gene, is in the background.

interest in Community Sustained Agriculture (CSA), sell it to local families—both excellent ways for FFA students to learn about ag business.

As the learning facility increases in use, King hopes even more high school students will take leadership in helping to run it. And Hartzler has dreams for community persons becoming involved.

"We are in the beginning stages of how we can best use the farm as a resource for students," Hartzler said, "and we would appreciate ideas from the LMS community to grow the program." ■

■ Twelve seniors received top department awards at the high school awards assembly in May. In photo at right, they are, front, left to right: Sharon Shepard, business; Brittany Rohrer, art; Kaela Landis, mathematics. Middle, left to right: Abigail Hertzler, English; Devin Troy and Eric Umble, music (a tie); Elizabeth Hoffer, world language; and Emily Hess, family and consumer sciences. Standing, left to right: Mary Elizabeth Keeney, agriculture; Joel Nofziger, social studies; Troy Losey, physical education; Bryan Miller, technology education; and Andrew Kreider, science.



Students excel in spring sports

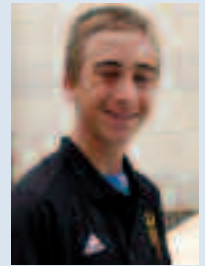


On May 29, the LMH girls soccer team (in white) played Christopher Dock Mennonite in the state quarterfinal game, the first post-season game between the sister schools. Lancaster Mennonite won 2-1 in double overtime. From left are Rachel Martin, 19; Denali Althouse, CD goalkeeper; Ally Brown, 3; Taylor Wenger, 4; Laura Swintosky, 33; Karli Balmer, 21; Brittany Moyer, 13; and Beth Miller, 39.

PHOTO: LINDA WINGARD

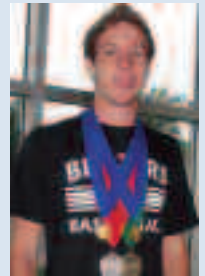
Students participating in spring sports enjoyed the following accomplishments:

- Freshman Nick Bybel remained undefeated in the regular boys tennis season, won both the Lancaster Lebanon League Class AA crown and the District 3 Championship, and finished third in the PIAA AA Tennis Tournament.



Nick Bybel

- In May, senior Matt Hostetter won golds in the long and triple jumps during the L-L League Track and Field Championship Meet.



Matt Hostetter

- Girls soccer won their section championship and advanced to the District and State championship games, losing to Donegal at both levels.
- For the 12th consecutive year for the girls and the seventh for the boys, Kraybill track teams placed first in the Commonwealth Christian Athletic Conference (CCAC) and the Mid-Atlantic Christian Schools Association (MACSA) Track & Field championships. ■

■ In the Lancaster-Lebanon County Safe Driving Competition, Andrew Kreider finished first in the Perceptual Driving Test with the highest score ever recorded in this particular category. Kori Wenger tied for first in the Pre-trip vehicle check, and Brandon Dimmig finished third in Perceptual Driving.



Andrew Kreider

August 21	Lanc. Campus New Student Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
August 25	First day of school
Sept. 18 & 19	Alumni Athletic Weekend, Lancaster Campus
October 11	Fall Open House, 1–3 p.m., Lancaster Campus
October 29	Prospective Student Day—All Campuses
November 19–21	Fall Festival & Homecoming—Lancaster Campus High school play, <i>Charley's Aunt</i> , 7:30 p.m.

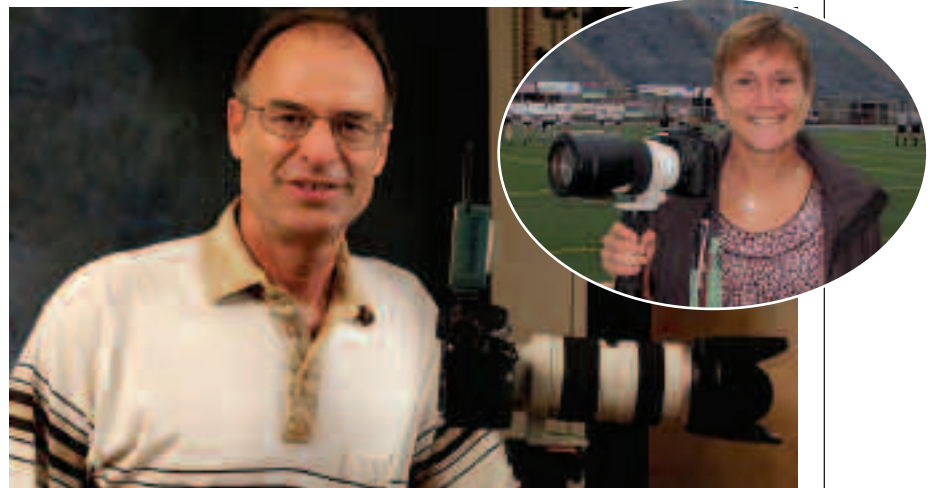


J. Richard Thomas

■ Superintendent J. Richard Thomas has been named moderator elect of Mennonite Church U.S.A. In this volunteer position, Thomas will serve as moderator elect for two years and moderator for another two years.

■ During the annual FFA Activities Week held June 9-11 at Penn State University, the school's Ag Mechanics team placed first in their competition and will represent Pa. at the National FFA Convention in October. The team consists of Casey Kelly, Josiah Rohrer, Brandon Dimmig, and Bryan Miller. Team coaches are teachers Ryan King (FFA adviser) and Andrew Hershey.

Thank you, our valued volunteers!



LMH alum/former parent Jonathan Charles and former parent Linda Wingard are two of our many volunteers who help to provide an affordable, quality Christian education at four campuses. Both have often shared their excellent photos with the school. Linda has covered many high school athletic events (most recently girls soccer), and Jonathan, owner of Charles Studio, has provided photos taken at all four campuses. In addition, Jonathan serves on the LMS Board of Trustees and is helping to fund the tuition of two LMS students. Thank you, Linda and Jonathan, and all our volunteers, for your kindness and generosity.



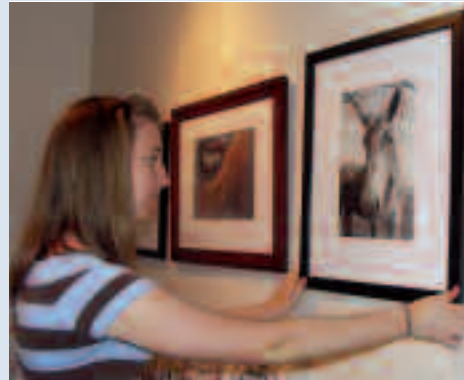
FFA Ag Mechanics Team, left to right: Josiah Rohrer, Brandon Dimmig, Bryan Miller, Casey Kelly, and adviser Ryan King. PHOTO: KATIE KURTZ

Glick art show features LMH photos

A summer art exhibit at Glick Audio and Video's gallery features photos by 14 LMH Photo 2 students. The show, which will run through August, includes black and white images as well as digital color prints, framed and ready for sale. The photos were printed in the school's labs.

Brubaker says his Photo 2 class, mostly seniors, was an exceptional one with plenty of "very good" pieces to produce a quality show. Although most of the pieces are from this year's classes, two students are displaying photos submitted to Lancaster's 2008 Scholastics Art Show that went on to receive national gold awards. Several other students received awards for photos accepted into this year's Lancaster County Young Artists Program.

Glick manager Jim L. Bowman, a 1965 graduate of Lancaster Mennonite and an artist himself, said he is quite impressed with the level of creativity he sees in the work of the students. "I know how instrumental LMS was in affirming my own life's work," he said. "Over 40 years later, my LMS teachers still 'speak' to me today." Bowman's panoramic photo artwork is part of the permanent collection on display in the Glick theaters and showrooms. ■



Bria Klase, 2009, (left) hangs her photo at Glick Audio and Video.

When the students hung their show, Glick manager Jim Bowman, 1965 (below), had a chance to talk about his own work on exhibit at the audio and video business.



L-R: LMS board member Gerald Horst, Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus, Assistant Superintendent Miles Yoder, Calvin High, Janet High, Chief Financial Officer Marlin Groff, and LMS board treasurer John Rutt.

■ In May the school's Fine Arts Center was named the Calvin and Janet High Fine Arts Center to honor the Highs for their strong support of LMS students. Their financial leadership has provided significant funding for capital projects at the Lancaster Campus, including the fine arts center that High Construction completed in 1991.

Besides greatly enhancing the fine arts curriculum for middle and high school students at Lancaster, the premier facility has been a valued resource for the broader community.

■ This spring a gospel choir (photo at bottom left) energized students at the Lancaster Campus as it provided a new style of worship during middle and high school chapels. The choir, begun as a club under the direction of music teacher Marcy Hostetler, attracted more than 40 students in grades 9–12.

"This group was totally student driven," said Hostetler. "Those who had never attempted singing in this style seemed to enjoy participating in a new style of worship. Those more experienced enjoyed some leadership responsibilities."

She said the choir will add the May concert to its repertoire this year if there is continued interest in the club.



■ Lancaster Mennonite School recently named Matthew Weaver, 2003 LMH alumnus, as an advancement associate and director of alumni relations (more information on page 16).

In addition, Miles Yoder, former Lancaster Campus principal, has accepted the position of assistant superintendent for LMS; Steve Geyer, former assistant principal at the Lancaster Campus, will serve as interim principal; and Dawn Landes, who previously taught at Manheim Christian and Locust Grove, will serve as interim assistant principal. Marlin Groff, former assistant superintendent, will continue his work in business and finance but with a new title—chief financial officer.

■ This winter an article in USA Today projected that the air in the community around the Locust Grove Campus might have toxic chemicals at dangerous levels. Based on this article, Lancaster Mennonite School asked the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct actual tests. On May 26 school administrators met with two representatives of the Pennsylvania DEP to review the air quality test results in the Locust Grove community. According to the DEP tests, the air quality at Locust Grove is actually better than state background levels. The school is grateful to be assured by the DEP that there is no cause for concern about the air quality around the Locust Grove Campus.

■ Colleges and universities awarded over \$1 million in scholarships to LMH seniors this year. ■

Host families needed—can you help?

Numerous international students want to attend Lancaster Mennonite High School this year but do not yet have a host family. Would you consider opening your home to such a student? This is not only a significant way to help the school, it also is a ministry to these students from around the world. Students need a bedroom with a dresser and desk. Host families receive a monthly stipend to cover expenses. For more information, contact Curtis Edwards at edwardscg@lancastermennonite.org or (717) 299-0436, ext. 721.

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MENNONITE SPORTS ORGANIZATION

Providing Christ-centered sports opportunities for elementary-age children

Approximately 170 children are registered for the Mennonite Sports Organization's fall season which will include boys soccer for PreK–6 and girls field hockey for grades 1–6. Please register for the boys/girls winter basketball season in late August and early September. For registration and additional information go to www.mennonitesports.org or contact Susan Burkholder at burkholdersr@lancastermennonite.org or (717) 394-7107.

Track and field to create more opportunities for students



LMS board members and staff visited the construction site of the new track and field facility during the school's July quarterly board meeting. B. R. Kreider employee Daren Good, 2001 (far right in photo), helped answer questions about the project. The facility, which will provide more opportunities for students at the Lancaster Campus, will allow the track and field team to practice at home and host meets. It also will enhance the physical education curriculum and encourage students to develop lifelong health habits. The project should be finished this fall; \$150,000 is needed to complete the funding.

CLASS NOTES

Cheryl Weaver, 1970, Landis, Lancaster, recently graduated from Millersville University with a master's in nursing. She was the recipient of the D. Joan Godfrey Nursing Award. She continues to teach practical nursing students at the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center in Willow Street.

Tabor Community Services, Lancaster, named **David Gingrich, 1971,** Mountville, as their Landlord of the Year for maintaining safe, affordable housing and by treating tenants with dignity and respect.

Andrew Dula, 1987, Lancaster, will assume chair-elect of the Eastern Mennonite University Board of Trustees, and **Susan Godshall, 1961,** Lancaster, will complete a six-year term as chair in June of 2010.

Karla King, 1996, Gibson, Lancaster, completed her master's in education (TESOL concentration) from Shenandoah University this spring.

Nathan Darity, 2000, and wife **Valerie Hess, 2000,** are living in Santarem, Para, Brazil, where they are acting liaison for a partnership between the Fun-

dacao Esperanca Clinic in Brazil and Amizade, a service-learning and volunteer program based in the United States. Darity holds a master's of international development and a master's of public health from the University of Pittsburgh. Valerie graduated from University of Pittsburgh with a degree in nursing.

Matthew Eby, 2003, Mount Dora, Fla., will compete in the Summer Deaflympics in September in Taipei, Taiwan. To learn more, go to www.usadsf.org.

Johanna Josephian, 2005, Drumore, traveled to Kenya with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship this summer on a seven week mission commitment. The trip began with several days of training and cultural immersion, followed by three weeks of living and working with pastors. The group is comprised of 25 students and six staff members from colleges throughout the United States.

In May, **Charles Engle, 2005,** Mount Joy, graduated magna cum laude from Boston College's Wallace E. Carroll School of Management with a Bachelor of Science degree. In April he completed the Boston Marathon in three hours, 20 minutes and 39 seconds.

Laura Cattell, 2005, Honey Brook, was one of 10 members of Eastern Mennonite University's class of 2009 to receive the highest honor of Cords of Distinction.

Victoria Bybel, 2007, Lancaster, was named women's tennis player of the year in the Freedom Conference. She plays tennis at Wilkes University.

MARRIAGES

Kevin Good, 1998, and Heather Smith, January 31, 2009. They live in Mountville.

Samuel S. Sonne, 1999, and Minhui Lin, May 25, 2009. They live in Seattle, Wash., where Samuel works as a software engineer for Amazon.com.

Douglas Hess, 2001, and Jacquelynne Daly, May 16, 2009. They live in Lancaster.

Jonalyn Denlinger, 2002, and Jon Risser, October 18, 2008. They live in Baltimore, Md., where Jonalyn is a graduate student at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

CLASS REUNIONS

1974

On the balmy, low humidity summer evening of July 18, members of the LMH class of 1974 gathered on the patio near the Calvin and Janet High Fine Arts Center and Rutt Academic Center for an evening of "Memories" and catching up with friends.

The 39 former students and their spouses/friends were treated to a buffet supper and short program of reminiscing about their LMH days, including a slide show (set to 1973-1974 music) of never-published pictures by *Millstream* and *Laurel Wreath* photographer Steve Charles, a member of the class. Highlights of the evening included singing hymns in four-part harmony, the class picture, and class members spontaneously breaking out in "The Laughing Song," a favorite that was sung many times during their years at LMH.

The evening ended with a rousing rendition of 606 ("Praise God from



Class of 1974, 35th reunion. PHOTO: STEVE CHARLES

Whom") "that would have made Arnold Moshier proud!" - Taken from a report by Sue Patterson Martin

1959

The class of 1959 met at the Lancaster Campus on July 27, a picture-perfect day weather-wise. Classmates began congregating on the lawn by the Mill Stream around noon. After this informal

Justin Shenk, 2002, and Valerie Showalter, May 24, 2009. They live in Lancaster.

Ashton Wenger, 2002, and Christine Schmidt, June 30, 2007. They live in the Elizabethtown area where Ashton is owner of AKW Perfection Flooring.

Matthew A. Weaver, 2003, and Lindsay Dilworth, 2005, June 27, 2009. They live in Lancaster. In August, Matthew joins the LMS advancement team as an advancement associate and director of alumni relations.

Adam Reeser, 2004, and Carina Sensenig, June 21, 2008. They live in Manheim.

Chanea Wenger, 2006, and Josiah Becker, April 17, 2009. They live in Mount Joy where Chanea is employed at Masonic Homes.

BIRTHS:

Rosene and **Douglas Kurtz, 1985**, Shoemakersville, third child, first son, Colby James, born June 29, 2006, adopted January 14, 2009. He joins siblings Brittany, 15 and Bridget, 12.

Former teacher/ administrator dies

Former LMS teacher and administrator Betty Louise Hershey Newswanger, 1960, Lancaster, died of cancer July 4, 2009. Betty was involved in Christian education for more than 40 years, including assignments at the school's Kraybill, Locust Grove and New Danville campuses. Most recently, she provided leadership at the lower elementary grades at the Locust Grove and New Danville campuses.



Jonathan and **Elizabeth (Beth) Weaver-Kreider, 1985**, York, a son, Josiah Pearse, March 30, 2009.

Michael and **Allison Hooper, 1989, Ponsell**, Morgantown, a son, Emmett James, born June 16, 2008 and adoption finalized June 2, 2009.

Melanie Forshey Stewart, 1991, and Jason Stewart, Alexandria, Va., first child, Madeline Victoria, July 14, 2009.

Teaman Cooke and **Susan Gascho, 1993, Cooke**, Atlanta, Ga., a daughter, Vivienne Annali, May 7, 2009. Susan was ordained as chaplain at Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship in November.

Steve and **Lori Thomas, 1994, Heitland**, Willow Street, fourth child, Greta Rachel, August 26, 2008.

Mark Cote, 1995, and wife Kristin, Millersville, a daughter, Rachel Elizabeth, July 6, 2009.

Continued on page 14

time of visiting (12:00-4:00 p.m.), Assistant Superintendent Miles Yoder led a tour that included the new Rutt Academic Building and other newer campus buildings. Afterward classmates met for a formal class picture by Jonathan Charles.

The 6:00 banquet in Alumni Dining Hall included welcoming remarks by class president Ernie Mast, a delicious meal by Dottie Weber and staff, and a program that consisted of music by the ladies' quartet, a brief time of remembering the class's 13 deceased classmates (led by David Myer), music by the men's quartet, a time of sharing guided by Lloyd Wert, singing of the class dedication song and class song, and a sending prayer by Lucille Mack Stoltzfus.

Of the 97 classmates still living, 76 registered to attend some portion of the reunion. Forty-nine spouses and friends also attended the reunion. According to the planning committee, many felt the "1959 Class Memory Book," sent to class members in May, was a factor in bringing so many classmates together,



Class of 1959, 50th reunion. PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES

some for the first time in 50 years. The book, designed and edited by classmate Esther Mast, includes a page for each class member. An anonymous donor paid for the printing of the book. ■

Watch for more reunion reports in the next issue of Bridges or go to the alumni section of www.lancastermennonite.org.

Continued from page 13

Jake and **Janelle Beiler, 1997, Stoltzfus**, Strasburg, third child, first daughter, Naomi Paisley, April 30, 2009.

Jordan, Moyer, 1999, and Corlissa Nolt Moyer, Mount Joy, a son, Blake Emerson, April 13, 2009.

Eric and **Michelle Bogedain, 2000, Moser**, Manheim, first child, a son, Justin Lee, April 18, 2009.

Brad and **Heather Keesler, 2000, Hairhoger**, Elizabethtown, first son, Bradly Thomas, October 31, 2008.

Ezequil and **Krista Harnish, 2001, Cruz**, Lititz, first child, a daughter, Zelia Joy, May 12, 2009.

Ashton Wenger, 2002, and Christine Schmidt Wenger, Elizabethtown, first child, Angelina Faith, January 29, 2009.

John and **Melissa Weinhold, 2004, Irwin**, Ephrata, a son, Chase Adam, April 16, 2009.

Danny Booth and **Veronica Bonner, 2008**, Lancaster, a son, Michael Josef, December 20, 2008.

DEATHS

Ruth Longenecker Bechtold Fisher, 1946, Bainbridge, July 1, 2009.

Paul W. Gehman, 1955, Lancaster, June 22, 2009.

Doris Jean Swartzentruber Ebersole, 1969, Blountstown, Fla., March 19, 2009.

Milton G. Howe, 1971, Stevens, July 6, 2009, as a result of an automobile accident.

J. Robert Miller, 1985, Morgantown, July 20, 2009, as a result of a motorcycle accident on July 11. ■

Class Reunions

1952	September 24, 2009
1954	November 21, 2009
1964	October 10, 2009
1994	August 22, 2009

For more information, go to www.lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 299-0436, ext. 701.

Alumni Phonathon has record-breaking year

Lancaster Mennonite High School (LMS) alumni raised \$230,303 during the annual phonathon. These gifts to the Annual Fund help make a Christian education accessible to interested students. To encourage alumni to give in this time of recession, a group of alumni contributed \$116,880 to a 2-for-1 Challenge Fund. Thank you for supporting current and future students at LMS and making this record phonathon possible. Your investment is changing lives and sharing the love of Christ with the world. ■



Jim Gingrich, 1951, chats with classmates during the annual phonathon which was held in February and March.

Mark your calendar for these fall alumni events!



Alumni Athletic Weekend September 18–19, Lancaster Campus

Since the Fall Festival and Homecoming has been moved to November, an Alumni Athletic Weekend has been set for September 18 and 19 to bring alumni and friends together who enjoy participating in or watching sporting events. Here is the lineup so far:

Friday, September 18

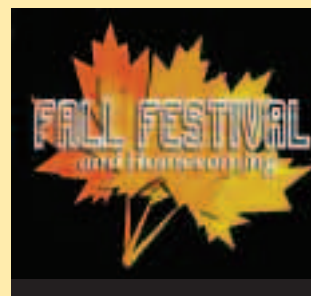
- Linda M. Ebersole Memorial Golf Tournament, 1 p.m. shotgun
- Meal following golf tournament in Alumni Dining Hall, public welcome, 6 p.m.
- Alumni Soccer Game, 7 p.m.



Saturday, September 19

- Mennonite Sports Organization games (field hockey and soccer), 8:30 a.m.–12 noon
- Field Hockey Games—LMS vs Conrad Weiser, 5:30 JV, 7:00 V

For more information go to www.lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 299-0436, ext. 701.



November 19–21 Lancaster Campus

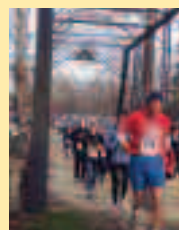
Watch for the flyer that will include more details about this November event. Note that the annual Lancaster Campus auction has changed from its normal day time format to an evening event that will be preceded by a dinner.

Thursday, November 19

- High School Play—*Charley's Aunt*, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 20

- Barbecue, 2:30-8 p.m.
- *Charley's Aunt*, 7:30 p.m.



Saturday, November 21

- 3 x 3 Basketball Tournament, morning
- Iron Bridge Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m.
- Alumni Art Exhibit, all day
- Dinner/Benefit Auction, 5 p.m.
- *Charley's Aunt*, 7:30 p.m.

Former board chair named LMS Alumna of the Year

Lancaster Mennonite School has named 1955 graduate Connie Heisey Stauffer as its 2009 Alumna of the Year. During the school's annual dinner theatre on May 2, Gerald Horst, vice-chair of the LMS Board of Trustees, recognized Stauffer for the optimistic and fun-loving spirit she brought to her role as school board chair. Stauffer served on the LMS board for 23 years—11 as board chair—and afterward was an early childhood consultant for the school.

In her acceptance speech, Stauffer talked about her strong support of Mennonite education.

"Our Mennonite schools exist as missional centers of the church," she said, "places where leaders and faithful service workers are trained and prepared to serve God in the world.

"I have a dream that someday all Mennonite Church USA congregations and members will count it a joy and privilege to financially support our schools PreK to seminary; that we will recognize our support as an investment in the nurture and faith development of our children, youth and young adults, rather than as an expense; and that anyone who wishes can attend Mennonite schools without the need to worry about cost because schools will be fully funded by the Church."

Stauffer taught 30 years at Pequea Valley School District as a fourth grade teacher, reading specialist and Instructional Support Team teacher and leader. She also taught two years at Eastern Mennonite University's Lancaster campus as an adjunct professor of the Practicum for Reading Specialty and

Would you like to receive our Prayer and Praise publication?

Because we value your prayer support, a Prayer and Praise flyer is sent out bi-monthly that includes numerous LMS prayer requests and praise items. If you do not receive this flyer and would like to, please contact Deborah Sprunger at sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org or (717) 299-0436, ext. 701.



Connie Heisey Stauffer, who graduated from Lancaster Mennonite School in 1955, was recently named the school's 2009 Alumna of the Year. She received a framed fraktur that was donated by artist and LMS parent Emily Smucker Beidler. In the photo she is flanked by Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus and LMS Board Vice-chair Gerald Horst.

Foundations of Literacy for students in the masters program.

She served on the Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) board and recently worked at MEA as interim director for relationships with Mennonite Schools Council.

In addition, Stauffer serves on numerous other boards, including the Landis Homes Retirement Community Board and the Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning Advisory Board at Landis Homes. Earlier volunteer work with husband and LMS classmate Harold Stauffer includes a two-year voluntary service assignment in Potter County/New York City, and a four-year assignment in Somalia under Eastern

Mennonite Missions. Harold died in February of 2008.

Since the 1970s, Stauffer has been a strong advocate for women in church leadership within Lancaster Mennonite Conference. She recently advocated for the ordination of women in the conference.

Stauffer attended the Kraybill Campus of Lancaster Mennonite for grades 8-10 and Lancaster Mennonite High School for grades 11 and 12. She attends East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church. ■



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Centered in Christ • Transforming Lives • Changing our World

from the superintendent

Gratitude and transitions

There is something about the rhythm of a school year that I love. Each year has a clear beginning and a clear end, followed by a break before the next year begins. Summer is a time to reflect on the school year just past and to dream about the future.

Looking back at the 2008-09 year fills me with gratitude for a supportive community that understands the value of an LMS education and why it is a strong investment in the future. An LMS education pays great dividends as it sends forth alumni who are centered in Jesus Christ so they can become positive agents of change in our world.

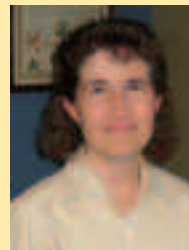
Summer also is often a time of transition. On August 1, Miles Yoder, who has served as Lancaster Campus principal, begins serving as assistant superintendent. In this position he will oversee daily operations on the four campuses, recruit staff, and forge a partnership with congregations to help students understand their gifts and the call of God on their lives. This new position will free me to work on broader strategic goals, make more campus visits, and lay the foundation for the Sustaining Hope Endowment Campaign so LMS can continue to offer an outstand-

ing, affordable educational program.

Also in August, Steve Geyer will begin serving as interim Lancaster Campus principal after serving as assistant principal, and Dawn Landes will begin as interim Lancaster Campus assistant principal. Dawn, who has

nearly completed her master's degree in school leadership, has taught at Locust Grove and Manheim Christian Day School and also served as an administrator and teacher in Cambodia. Dawn and her husband, Chris, also served in Graybill Residence Hall at LMH.

In addition, Matthew Weaver has been named an associate in advancement with a focus in alumni relations. Matt, who attended Kraybill and graduated from LMH, has an accounting back-



Dawn Landes



Matthew Weaver



J. Richard Thomas

ground and is completing a master's degree in business administration.

In this issue of *Bridges*, senior reflections highlight the importance of faculty and staff in the students' holistic formation. I welcome our new staff, including the new teachers who will be recognized in the next issue of *Bridges*. I dream of the contributions they will make as we journey on the road that transforms students, helps them find their center in Christ, and gives them a vision of service in a needy world.—jrt