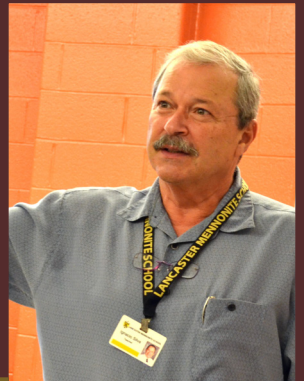
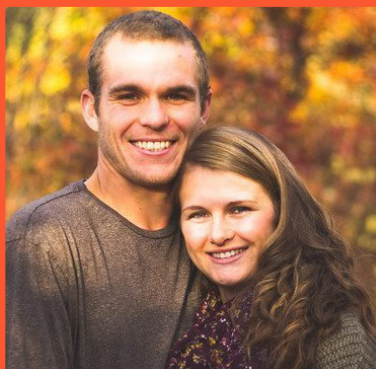


LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

bridges.....

FALL 2017



Teachers, Students and Alumni Making a Difference in
BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY



Connecting the **DOTS**

This issue of
Bridges focuses on
**AGRICULTURE &
BUSINESS.**

GARY HILLER
EDITOR



LM has produced an extraordinary number of entrepreneurs and persons making a significant impact in the business world. LM is also unique among private schools for having an Agriculture and Technology Department, and LM alumni have been notable achievers in those areas as well.

**The next issue of
Bridges will focus
on alumni involved
in health, fitness,
physical education
and medicine.**

If you would like to be considered for a story, or if you would like to suggest someone to be featured, please email hillerg@lancastermennonite.org.

Bridges is the community magazine of Lancaster Mennonite School, sent to alumni, parents and friends. LM exists to transform students so they can change our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service.

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Editor's **NOTES**



When we first conceptualized the focus on alumni involved in business and agriculture, we vastly underestimated the possibilities. The number of alumni who have benefited from these programs is eye-opening if not eye-popping.

Compared to other areas of focus, we have far fewer teachers of business, agriculture, technology and Family and Consumer Science. And, as some of the featured alumni have rightfully pointed out, we tend to pay more attention to students and alumni who have pursued higher education and/or are making contributions in ministry, fine arts, communications, education, mathematics and science. Indeed, the vast majority of public and private schools have eliminated or decimated Business, Agriculture/Technology and Family and Consumer Science departments.

As with all previous issues of *Bridges*, I started with a few leads and then asked each person I interviewed whether they knew of other alumni in their field that should be included. With other topics, the number of new referrals eventually dwindled to a manageable number before the magazine needed to be produced. For this topic, the number of leads snowballed past the amount that could fit into one issue. (Some businesspersons also declined to be included or did not respond to requests.)

What constitutes a "businessperson" is not entirely clear. Some alumni own businesses, but consider themselves to be self-employed in their particular trade (accountant, fitness instructor, carpenter, etc.) and many hire staff to actually run the business while they provide expertise in a particular subject area. In general, these alumni were not included in this issue unless the business was related to Ag/Tech.

In any case, *Bridges* can only be a representative sample of alumni achievements. And, if any were missed, they can be included when the topic cycles around in another three years. If you want to be included in *Bridges*, or to recommend someone, please contact me.

Enjoy this issue of *Bridges* magazine!

Lancaster Mennonite School admits students of any gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally made available to all students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Volume 45, No. 1 Editor: Gary Hiller – hillerg@lancastermennonite.org

www.lancastermennonite.org

Launching the Entrepreneur Ship



Many alumni have been successful in business, but Allon Lefever '64 has written the book on entrepreneurship.

Allon Lefever '64, the 2002 Alumnus of the Year, has launched the book *Launching the Entrepreneur Ship* based on his vast and varied business experience and service on numerous boards of directors.

"There is a special beauty in smaller, community-focused family businesses and the successful entrepreneurs who have a personal relationship with their associates," Lefever said. "Close to my heart is the fact that entrepreneurs have the unique opportunity to form values-driven companies. The importance of values and culture in guiding your business and personal life cannot be underestimated."

If there is a common theme among the alumni entrepreneurs featured in this issue of *Bridges*, it is that they are making a difference in the world through their values. Most were not interested in the full spectrum of academics offered by LMH and were underachievers in

many classroom settings. However, most say that they appreciated the values infused in the school's overall culture, both in and out of the classroom.

To be sure, those values were not all learned at LM, but the school reinforced the values taught at home and church. Particularly important were the social relationships with like-minded peers, many of which have endured throughout adult life.

Louis Pasteur famously said, "Fortune favors the prepared." Many of these alumni reported having opportunities that equally gifted and hardworking people did not have. But when the opportunities came, they were able to seize them.

While LM cannot take sole credit for the business success of its alumni, the school has served as a launching point for many careers, whatever the "ship" may be.

Allon Lefever '64 has 30 years of business management experience spanning agriculture, industrial and Internet executive positions. He has served as Group Vice President of Operations for V.F. Weaver, Inc., Vice President of Affiliated Companies for High Industries, Inc., Founder of SuperNet, and President of the Northeast Region of OneMain.com.

As an entrepreneur, he helped found 22 companies, including six IPO's, raising over \$4 billion dollars in capital. He also spent seven years in academics, serving as Director of the Goshen College Family Business Program for two years, Director of the MBA Program at Eastern Mennonite University for five years, and as a business professor teaching entrepreneurship and management.

Lefever has served on 48 private and public boards. In addition to his current Board service and consulting businesses, he is founder of a hospitality company that recently opened a Hampton Inn and Suites in Woodstock, Virginia, and a small SRI venture capital company.



Monica Marcinkoski teaches a wide range of Family and Consumer Science courses that include Exploratory Sewing, Foods and Nutrition I & II, Nutritional Science, Child Development, Fashion and Design I & II, Housing and Interior Decorating, and Creative Crafts. She holds a B.S. in Family and Consumer Science from the University of Akron.

Monica Marcinkoski brings a holistic approach to Family and Consumer Sciences, and she strongly feels that it is a form of Project-Based Learning. Through the hands-on experience of cooking, students learn the math of scaling recipes, how to read and follow instructions, teamwork, problem-solving and even cultural and ethical insights. "Foods are representations of cultures," she explained. "When we prepare food, we get insight into that culture." As for the ethical dimension, Marcinkoski's classes incorporate lessons about health and the treatment of animals. Some topics in her food-related courses are the pros and cons of organic foods and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

Many of today's parents do not teach their children to cook. Lacking this skill, future generations will become increasingly out-of-touch with how our food is prepared, Marcinkoski said.

Even college-bound students need to learn about food. During the interview for *Bridges*, the teacher

received a visit from former student **Joey Lam '17**, who is currently at St Joseph's University. "It is really important to learn what to eat in college," Lam interjected. "I learned how to eat as well as how to cook."

Marcinkoski made a strong case for Family and Consumer Science as an art form. "We have the joy of creating with our hands," she said. In addition to Foods courses, she teaches Housing and Interior Decorating, Creative Crafts, Fashion and Design, and Sewing. In Sewing, she emphasizes using the skill to help others with projects such as pillowcases for children with cancer and little superhero capes for children who need to feel empowered to deal with their problems.

Marcinkoski also teaches Child Development, a class in which she integrates discussions about corporal punishment, surrogate parenting, artificial insemination and adoption along with practical child rearing skills. Whatever course she teaches, Marcinkoski helps students look at the big picture. "Everything is a social issue and everything has a spiritual dimension," she said.



Aden Stoltzfus '76 teaches Technology and Design, Metalworking, Drafting Technology I & II, Agricultural Technology, Advanced Woodworking I & II, Electronics and Small Engines.

ADEN STOLTZFUS '76

Aden Stoltzfus '76 came to LMH as a farm boy who wanted to be a cabinetmaker when he graduated. He took all the Ag and Tech courses that he could – retired Superintendent J. Richard Thomas was his Ag teacher at the time – but found that he liked mathematics and science, too. Thinking that he might want to make more than cabinets, he pursued a B.A. in Mechanical Engineering Technology at LeTourneau University.

Although he wanted to be an engineer, opportunities beckoned to teach others how to make things rather than just doing it himself. He became certified to teach and obtained a master's degree in Technology Education from Millersville University. He landed his first teaching job at LMH and, 28 years later, is still teaching.

"I enjoy seeing students make things with their hands," he said. "Some of my students have never picked up a tool before in their lives," he related. "I like to open up a new world for them."

Ignacio Silva teaches LMH's business courses from the perspective of an international executive.

IGNACIO SILVA

What do you say when a man with an MBA and more than thirty years of international executive business experience wants to teach business at your school? Ignacio Silva was feeling that he had peaked in the corporate world and was tiring of international travel when he saw an announcement for a business teacher at the school his son was attending. Believing that he had something to offer students, he decided to apply.

Even though he had no previous classroom teaching experience, he was once a flight instructor and also did a great deal of employee training in his various business roles. The school decided to hire the brash businessman and has never regretted it.

Next spring, Silva will launch a new LMH course, Introduction to International Business, in partnership with HACC (formerly Harrisburg Area Community College). With his international business experience and MBA in International Finance and Asian

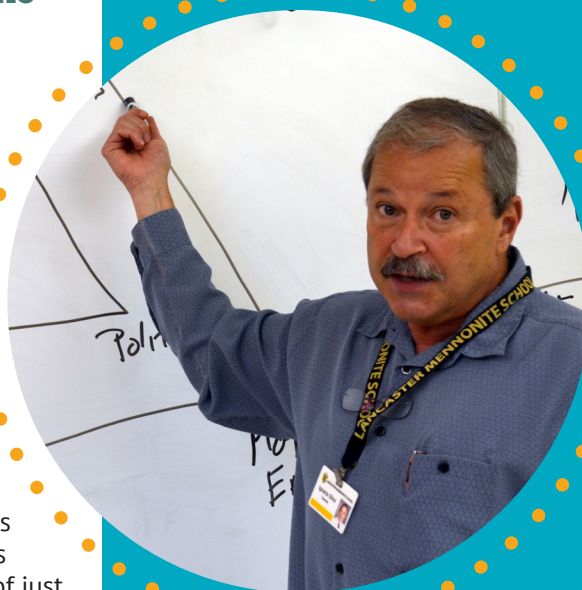
Studies, he is ideally suited to teach this course.

Silva is always pushing "best practices." "Jobs evolve," said Silva. "If you have the 'status quo' you will be eclipsed by the competition."

When asked about recent changes in business education at LMH, Silva said: "Now, business is not so much about skills as it is concepts." For example, instead of just calculating numbers, students need to ask, "What do these numbers mean?"

Students also need to learn how to make sound decisions. "As a teacher my strategic desire is for students to seek and know the truth based on reliable sources and to discern what God wants for them based on the truth digested with critical thinking."

"Some students ask why I teach," said Silva. "My pat answer is, 'Because I do what I love and love what I do.'"



Ignacio Silva, MBA, teaches the full range of Business courses at LMH: Introduction to Business, Contemporary Business (dual enrollment), Business Math, Personal Finance, Financial Accounting and Business Law.

DOTTIE WEBER

From 1980 to 1983, Dottie Weber taught all the course offerings in LMH's Family and Consumer Science Department before becoming director of food services. She continued to impact students' lives by teaching two courses each semester, usually Foods and Nutrition I and II. She currently teaches Exploratory Foods to LMMS students.

Weber is a big advocate of Family and Consumer Science and is quick to point out that cooking involves elements of practical math and science. "Every student will use everything we teach them," she insists. "How many teachers can say that?"

In 1980, to get students involved in the school's benefit auction, Weber started the LMH Pie Baking Contest in which the winning pies are sold to the highest bidder. Along with raising thousands of dollars for the school over the years, the contest also inspired and motivated hundreds of students, some of whom were unlikely winners. The competition aspect has emphasized cooking as a creative process and an art form as students vie to produce the most unique and attractive pie in both taste and appearance. Trying to make a pie that stands out from the competition captures the essence of the entrepreneurial spirit.



Dottie Weber has a B.S. in Family & Consumer Science from Eastern Mennonite University. She currently serves as LM's director of food services while teaching middle school Family and Consumer Science courses.



ALUMNI



Jasmine VanSant '11 is the Agricultural Science teacher at Pequea Valley High School.

"At LM I engaged myself in the Agriculture courses as well as the sciences, which helped me to be successful in the courses that I teach now. I also learned what a good Agriculture program should look like. An Ag program should include Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) and FFA as well as classroom instruction. SAE allows students to apply concepts that they learn in the classroom to a project that interests them outside the classroom. FFA is the leadership component of the program. No matter what career students choose, they can use leadership skills."

JASMINE GRAYBILL VANSANT '11

What is your goal as an Ag teacher in today's changing environment?

I want my students to become active citizens and advocates for agriculture. We need new and sustainable ideas in order to feed our growing population. Classroom instruction involves hands-on learning, which I think is the best way to learn. These are all important concepts that I learned as a student in the Ag program at LM.

Were any LM teachers particularly inspiring?

Ryan King, my Ag teacher at LM, first inspired me to get involved in FFA and take an Agriculture class. After my first Ag class I knew that this was a place I wanted to be. I also appreciated my science courses, including biology with Mr. Buckwalter and chemistry with Mr. Evans.

What do you think was the most important thing you learned at LMH?

I learned many things at LM, but I greatly appreciated that all of my classes were faith based. I was surrounded by teachers and peers who

encouraged me in my Christian walk. Through many difficult situations in my life, my faith stayed strong through their encouragement. They enabled me to develop my current passion for helping others see their own potential.

Are you involved in agriculture or business outside the classroom?

My husband and I are both involved in the agriculture field. My husband works for Hooper Inc. as a specialist in precision agriculture. Between both of our jobs, we attend numerous workshops, trainings and conferences that help to keep us relevant in our fields of study.

Are you in contact with any fellow alumni professionally or with ongoing friendships?

Yes, I work very closely with Mr. King because we serve as the Lancaster County FFA advisors together. He has been a great mentor for me as a new teacher. Also, I keep in close contact with my friends from high school; they are my closest friends to this day. Even though we went to different colleges, we all were able to maintain our friendships. I think that says something about the culture that is created at LM.



KATHERINE ANDREWS RANCK '11

Katie Ranck '11 is the Agriculture teacher and Grassland FFA advisor at Garden Spot High School. Her own experience with agriculture-related classes and FFA at LMH definitely influenced her life. Along with being inspired by Mr. Ryan King to study Agriculture Education at Penn State, Ranck met her future husband, Curtis Ranck '11 at LMH and in FFA. A highlight of her school experience was receiving a Keystone Degree (the state's highest FFA award) at the PA Farm Show.

"The beauty of LM is not only the excellence of the day to day classes, but the experiences and relationships it encourages you to build," Ranck said. "LM prepared me well academically, but the foundation it allowed me to build spiritually and relationally is one that serves me to this day."



RYAN KING

Ryan King is in his thirteenth year teaching agriculture courses and serving as the advisor for LMH's Hans Herr chapter of FFA.

King grew up happily working beside his father (the late **Kenny King '74** married to **Sheryl Smoker '78**) on his grandfather's farm (**Naaman King '47**). He loved farming — and still does — but in high school he developed a passion for teaching and decided to combine both loves by taking college prep courses and majoring in Agricultural Education at Penn State.

King was recruited out of Penn State's agriculture education program by former LM Ag teacher and FFA advisor Lem Metzler.

"I got to know Lem while student teaching at Penn Manor," King related. The G. Parke Book Building for agriculture and technology had just been completed, and almost everyone in the field wanted to see the new facilities. King was among those who visited, and while he was there, Metzler encouraged him to apply to teach Environmental Science at LMH.

Metzler and King taught together for two years as Metzler groomed him to assume responsibility for the Ag program and FFA upon his retirement.

King currently teaches the full array of agriculture courses and enjoys providing students with practical skills to build and repair things. Some will use these skills full time in a future career while others will use them in

unexpected situations or volunteer service. "Technicians are needed like crazy," King said. FFA has many individual and team competitions to develop skills in areas such as public speaking, Ag mechanics, farm business management and forestry.

Students who do well at the FFA State Convention qualify to go to the Eastern States Exposition (known as the "Big E") or the national convention.

"Our teams are doing well," King related, "But only the top two teams get to advance. It's a bit frustrating to have third place teams so often."

"Certain chapters have their niches," King explained. "They tend to put all their resources into a narrow focus to win contests. We like to have a broad, well-balanced approach that develops many interests and talents."

"Some of our best students play soccer, so if they advance to the soccer playoffs (which LMH teams consistently do) they will sacrifice advancing in the FFA competition."

King takes pride in the number of his students who are currently successful in agribusiness or who have followed in his footsteps to become ag-tech teachers and FFA advisors such as **Jasmine Graybill VanSant '11** and **Katie Andrews Ranck '11**.

Ryan King and FFA officers (l-r) **Maria Stoltzfus '19** (chaplain), **David Lambert '18** (sentinel), **Nichole Newswanger '18** (treasurer), **Anna Reyburn '18** (president), **Chet Hooper '18** (vice-president), **Joel Ranck '18** (secretary), **Noel Johnson '18** (reporter) and **Dominic Matillio '18** (student advisor)

FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) builds upon what is taught in Ag classes and is a popular school club. While FFA is an after-school activity for other schools, FFA is included in LMH's class schedule. For this current school year, the Hans Herr FFA chapter has 42 members, only half of whom live on farms.

Service is a big part of FFA. "I try to find service projects related to food," King explained. "Our club has helped a sick farmer and helped clean up a chicken farm after a tornado."



Featured ALUMNI

The Nolan and Nori King family: Broden, Sheyenne '21, Chloe '19, Cassidy '17, Cierra '15, Nolan '85 and Nori.



Maria Hurst Forry '96 and her husband, Tim, manage a 500-cow herd for award-winning Oregon Dairy Farm, LLC, which is nationally-recognized for extensive sustainability practices. Maria's brother, **Chad Hurst '00**, focuses on the field work.

The farm is arguably the best-known dairy in Lancaster County, hosting more than 15,000 visitors each year, mostly during its three-day Family Farm Days Event. The event includes tractor rides and interactive displays throughout the farm. "We believe it is important to educate our community about where their food comes from," explained Forry. "We want them to understand that farmers care about their animals, soil, water and air, and to learn the things that we do to protect these things."

The Oregon Dairy site also draws thousands of people daily to the adjacent Oregon Dairy Restaurant and Oregon Dairy Farm Market (where her uncle **Willie Hurst '70** is an owner/ manager), as well as Oregon Dairy "agri-tainment" venues, such as a corn maze.



NOLAN KING '85

Nolan King '85 farms about 1,500 acres in the Cochranville, PA, area, which includes 800 acres of hay. "The hay business has given us the opportunity to get out of dairy," King said. King can get two or three cuttings of grass hay and five cuttings of alfalfa each season, totaling 6,000 large bales that each weigh 800 pounds. He has no problem selling all his hay locally for a good price. "Good products always sell," King said.

So what makes good hay? "The main problem is moisture," King explained. "Hay needs to be properly dried and cured. If we know we have a bad bale, we don't sell it. If we accidentally have a bad bale in a load we sell, my customers know I'll make it up to them."

King currently has 142 milking cows, but he is phasing out his herd. He will replace the cows with organic beef, which he can feed organic hay and corn. "If you are producing an ordinary product, you are not going to succeed in business today," King said. "You need to find your niche markets."

All the King children work on the farm. Every other weekend the whole family milks the cows, and each family member has a role in harvesting hay. "Family is important," King said. "Farming allows work to be a family affair." When **Cierra King '15** submitted her hours of farm work as credits toward an FFA Keystone Degree, the FFA advisor said, "There's no way you can work that much." But her father backed her up. "Sometimes when we are harvesting late into the night, we tell the girls they can go to bed, but they say they want to keep working

until the job is done," King reported.

Cierra had high praises for the FFA program and LMH's Ag/Tech courses, saying, "In all the classes you learn so much." Her father added another dimension: "When she was around people, she was shy about speaking. The FFA advisor (Ryan King) made her FFA Chaplain, and she felt comfortable with praying out loud. Then Mr. King gradually nudged her into being comfortable speaking as an FFA officer."

Cierra has now graduated from Hesston College and is majoring in Elementary Education while living and working on the family farm. Her sister **Cassidy King '17**, now at Hesston, is majoring in Special Education and playing volleyball.

Going to Hesston is a family tradition: Nolan attended there after graduating from LMH and met his wife, Nori, there. They both majored in Business Administration/Small Business Management. Nori does the bookkeeping for the family business.

While at Hesston, Nolan was an All-American pitcher and received a Division I scholarship to James Madison University. However, the big-time athletics atmosphere did not appeal to him, and he went back to farming with no regrets.

At LMH, athletics was important to him, but more for the life lessons he learned. He especially appreciated Vernon Rice, his baseball coach, who "knew which buttons to push to get me to excel." Today, he feels that he knows how to "push the right buttons" to get his children and employees to excel, too.



LINFORD '06 & JEN GARBER '05 HERSHEY

Two high school sweethearts, four boys, five businesses and 40,000 chickens

Linford Hershey '06 grew up working by his father's side on the family farm (Les and **Lois Hershey '77**) and started his own enterprise — a custom bale wrapping business — during his first year at LMH. He used that business as an FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience project all through high school and received the American Degree for it, FFA's highest national award.

"I thought that there was a growing market for wrapping hay in plastic and that we ought to get a wrapper," Hershey related. "Dad said he would go 50-50 on it with me."

"The main reason I chose to attend LMH was the good FFA program and the Ag classes offered," Linford said. "I learned many things in the shop, as well as the classroom, that I use on my farm today."

At LMH, along with his FFA activities, Linford enjoyed building things for the farm in the school's welding shop. "Farmers always needed to be jacks of all trades," Hershey said. "But now you need to be good at all trades."

Linford also took Accounting I and II as well as Ag Business Economics, and he fondly recalls his practical hands-on involvement with the school's Tech Crew and a stint as stage manager for drama productions.

Jennifer Garber '05 also grew up on a family farm (**David '78** and Shirley Garber), attended LMH and participated in FFA (Jen earned her American

Degree as well). After high school, she obtained a degree in elementary education from Millersville University, but returned to farm life when she married Linford in 2008. Together, they started a custom grain harvesting business.

Last year, they purchased their 52-acre farm and built two layer houses to produce cage-free organic eggs. Organic production has become a niche for many smaller-scale farmers, Hershey explained. The farm also has some pastureland that the Hersheys are using to raise beef cattle, and they are cash-cropping corn, soybeans, barley and wheat.

Jen has her hands full raising their four young sons, but still finds time to help with tasks such as packing eggs. "There is no other job that Linford could have where the children and I could work with him," Jen said. "We got into egg production so the children could be involved."

Although busy with farming, the Hersheys have led mission trips and Mennonite Disaster Service teams. In 2010, Linford led a team to help with Haiti's earthquake disaster.

"Today's farmers need to be innovators to be successful," Hershey said. "We also need to tell our stories so people understand where their food comes from and how it is produced. Many people are out of touch with that."

Jen Garber Hershey '05 and **Linford Hershey '06** with boys Micah (2), Jonathan (6), Andrew (4) and Tyler (2).

"Today's farmers need to be innovative to be successful. We also need to tell our stories so people understand where their food comes from ... Many people are out of touch with that."

Some of the LMH alumni with whom the Hershey's are in contact in the agriculture industry are:

Jay Lehman '03, Meadowview Poultry Farm, Manheim

Derek Umble '03, dairy farm, Quarryville

J. Kyle Hershey '03, dairy farm, Mountville

Jeremy Nissley '06, Grandview Transport, LLC, egg transportation, Elizabethtown

Joella Garber '04, Mirror Image Farms, a Community Supported Agriculture Farm (CSA) raising hogs, beef and poultry

Duane Brubaker '03, Little Britain Ag Supply. LBAS operates a blending plant and a warehouse for fertilizer, agri-chemicals and seed.

Kevin Shaiebly '03, Spring Valley Spreading, LLC, Quarryville



Featured ALUMNI



A few of the alumni who work for Hooper, Inc. (l-r): Gordon Sangrey '67, Tyler Ranck '04, Andy Hershey '72, Chuck Hooper '82, Dave King '77, Rod Lefever '84, Lindsay Putney '09

HOOBER, INC.

The East Coast's largest Case International dealer is loaded with alumni led by Rod Lefever '84, Chuck Hooper '82 and Scott Hooper '85.



Chuck Hooper '82 was excited that this issue of *Bridges* would highlight agriculture and business.

"The farming business is so complicated these days that you need to be balanced between business skills and hands-on skills," Hooper said. "LMH is unique in offering excellent academics along with hands-on training in agriculture and technology."

Hooper was quick to add another dimension to the balance: faith. "LM teachers show you how to live and to apply your faith, not just talk about it. I was challenged to apply my faith to what I learned and then to practice it in the real world."

His three favorite teachers were Janet Banks, who improved his writing skills to prepare him for college; Vernon Rice, his soccer coach, who taught him leadership and teamwork; and Lem Metzler, who taught him many skills related to agriculture.

Hooper decided to major in marketing at Messiah College because he was a sales-oriented "people person," and he currently serves as strategic sales manager for Hooper, Inc. His brother, **Scott Hooper '85**, also went to Messiah, but majored in business and currently oversees all of Hooper's eight store locations that sell parts, accessories and ag-related merchandise.

"I always had an interest in sales," Chuck Hooper said. "Scott was more interested in mechanics, service and operations." Together

they complemented each other in a company that provided sales and service of agricultural equipment. However, as the business leadership transitioned in 2012, they recognized the need for a third team member to administer the overall organization. They did not need to look far.

Brother-in-law **Rod Lefever '84** had a master's degree in Business Administration from Dartmouth's Tuck Business School and a successful career as a technology entrepreneur, creating Lancaster County's first Internet provider. He then became chief of operations for Susquehanna Bancshares, one of the region's leading financial institutions. He currently serves as head of operations for Hooper, Inc.

Lefever echoed many of Hooper's perspectives on his LMH education and added, "The values that LMH promotes are a bedrock that has persisted." The company's three core values, posted throughout their building, are "Integrity, Teamwork and Service."

"The top attribute of a salesman is integrity," said Hooper. "The customer needs to trust you. I coach our salesforce to be honest and transparent."

What if some aspect of a product is not as good as the competition's? "Every product has advantages and disadvantages," Hooper responded. "We stress our advantages."

"We are in the most competitive area of the country," Chuck Hooper

said, "but out of the competitiveness comes high quality performance." The quality born of keen competition keeps Lancaster County as the world's leader in agricultural innovation and draws customers from all over the East Coast.

What is the secret of business success in a highly competitive environment? According to Chuck Hooper, "It doesn't depend as much on the quality of the product as it does on the quality of the employees."

Many of those employees are LMH alumni. Aside from those mentioned above, other Hooper employees who are LMH grads are: **Calvin Eby '92, Carl Hershey '81, Ashley King '06, Paul Lantz '78, Gerald Livengood '01, and Bob Sangrey '88.**

Based in Intercourse, PA, Hooper, Inc. is the largest Case International dealer on the East Coast with eight sales and service locations for agricultural equipment.

NOTE: Lehman "Lem" Metzler is mentioned frequently by alumni throughout this issue. Lehman taught agriculture and technology courses at LMH from 1980 through 2007. When LMH was granted an FFA charter in 1993, he became the school's first FFA advisor.



DONALD L. HOOVER '73

Above all, **Don Hoover '73** sees his business as a platform from which to honor Christ while engaged in “marketplace ministry.” He has countless stories of spiritual conversations and prayer with his customers and vendors, many of whom do not attend church or trust professional ministers. They seem to see a difference because it is not his official job to share his faith with them — and because they see godliness lived out in the everyday business dealings of the company he leads.

Hoover related how a particularly gruff and dour customer asked to speak to him in private one day. Expecting some complaint, Hoover did not immediately know what the man meant when he asked, “How do you make decisions around here?” Hoover handed him his business card and told him to turn it over. On the back was printed, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”

Hoover applies this and other biblical principles to his dealings with customers, vendors and employees. While recovering from a serious car accident in 2004, he took the opportunity to find Scriptures that applied to every business situation he could imagine. He wrote his findings in a document called, “A Biblical Basis

for Business” that is used to guide company behavior.

Few of his former LMH teachers could imagine Hoover at his current level of business or spiritual development. Hoover was quick to admit that a commitment to studies and to a Christian lifestyle was lacking at the time: “I was not a great student ... I got into mischief ... I antagonized some teachers.”

Nevertheless, Hoover said that he could never forget the huge motto painted on the wall of the chapel: “Teach Me Thy Way O Lord.” Although he may not have paid much attention to chapel speakers, “I stared at that motto every school day for four years,” he said.

Hoover also gave some credit to the mandatory Bible classes he had to take. “Despite the fact that I was not embracing it, the Word was still getting in,” he said. “To this day, things I learned there still come back to me.”

Having grown up on a farm, Hoover was initially led to become a farmer himself. However, his small family farm surrounded by suburban sprawl did not provide a promising opportunity. Consequently, in 1983, he decided to apply his hands-on knowledge of farm equipment as a salesperson for a small farm implement dealership known as Binkley & Hurst. Through the years, Hoover advanced through the ranks

of the growing operation. In 2006 he bought the business and became, in his words, “primary steward” and went from “being part of the employee flock to being the shepherd.”

Binkley & Hurst has grown to six locations with 150 employees that provide a wide range of farm equipment and services as well as agriculture-related toys and clothing internationally through the Outback Toys division run by fellow alumnus **Adam Lehman '92**.

“Leadership involves modeling, mentoring and motivating,” Hoover said. He is fond of acronyms, and one of the chief guideposts on the tip of his tongue is LEADERSHIP: “Let Every Action Demonstrate Encouragement, Respect, Support, Humility, Integrity and Purpose.”

When asked about his company's competitive edge, Hoover said, “We endeavor to be on the cutting edge of new technology and best practices. We listen to what farmers want and work with them to find better ways of doing things.” He said Binkley & Hurst has put effort into topsoil conservation by helping customers move into no-till and cover-cropping practices.

In 2012, Hoover received the George C. Delp Ag Industry Award from the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce for his significant contributions to the agricultural community.



Featured ALUMNI



JIM SMUCKER '79 by Jim Smucker

Jim Smucker '79 is Vice President of Enrollment and Student Life at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA. Prior to this appointment in the summer of 2013, Jim served for 27 years as a partner (14 years as president) in the Bird-in-Hand Corporation, a hospitality management company that employs 450 people in the Lancaster, PA, area. He also spent a number of years as an adjunct faculty member at several universities teaching courses in the classroom as well as online in entrepreneurialism, leadership, change, and organizational behavior. He holds a Ph.D. in Management (specializing in leadership and organizational change). His research interests include self direction and empowerment in the workplace, hiring and developing authentic leaders, and the contribution of the Believer's Church to governance and leadership models. He is past chair of the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce.

Three courses stand out to me more for the way the teacher engaged us than for the content itself.

These included Social Studies with Myron Dietz, Business Law with Verlen Rufenacht, and Journalism with Mark Kelly. All three teachers encouraged us to think critically. How do we think beyond what is written in the textbook? How do we engage with the material that transforms our way of thinking? It was a conversation rather than a lecture: they learned with us; they didn't speak at us. My sense is that LMH continues in this tradition, which is much needed in these times.

Outside the classroom, I had two co-curricular experiences that I continue to draw on to this day from a leadership perspective. One was overcoming the disappointment of narrowly losing the election for Student Council president. The second was overcoming being cut from the basketball team as a junior, but making the team as a senior. With the help of caring staff, these outside-the-classroom experiences helped me understand how to work through adversity and develop a sense of resilience in difficult times. Looking back, the most important thing I learned at LMH was that success comes to those that learn the fastest from failure.

The athletic program was instrumental in developing leadership abilities and understanding how to work with others. I still have a number of friends from these teams that I interact with to this day. Our basketball team my senior year was comprised of a number of seniors that are all highly successful to this day: Dale Stoltzfus, Bill Poole, Jerry Hostetter, Jeff Weber, and Kere Frey. There is nothing like being around successful positive people to set a tone for your life. Success becomes contagious. For me, LMH had a positive vibe around high expectations and a can-do attitude.

I remember the time Del Glick, basketball coach, started the first practice of the season by doing nothing. In other words, when the time came to start practice, he just walked around observing us. We all wondered what to do and stood around waiting for instructions. After about 15 minutes, he brought us together and explained that we can't always wait for others to provide structure, you need to provide meaningful leadership when a void exists. It was a great lesson. In soccer, coach Vernon Rice taught all of us the power of hard work; he had high expectations for us and held us accountable.



DAVID HOLLINGER '70

In his early teens, **David Hollinger '70** spent his evenings, weekends and summers working in the produce department of Hollinger's Farm Market. He spent his weekdays at Lancaster Mennonite High School. "My four years at LMS had a very positive impact on my formative teenage years," he recalled. "I didn't like English and science, but I especially enjoyed history and working with numbers." A highlight of the school year for David was the extended chapel services with guest speakers, which often challenged him to a deeper spiritual walk.

He had a strong Christian faith and was interested in youth-related church activities. He originally believed that his career would be focused in some type of Christian service. "In those days, people in business were not as highly regarded as those in church related services and Christian ministry," he said. "We students were challenged and encouraged to do God's work and, at the time, it seemed to me that being in business was just about making money and being materialistic."

Consequently, he decided that doing voluntary service as a quasi-missionary was a higher calling than working at the market. His wife, Debbie, shared his desire for a life of Christian service. The newlyweds headed to Rosedale Bible Institute for some training before going to Mississippi to help disadvantaged farmers through the Agri Business Men's Association.

Although the Hollingers found the work fulfilling, David was drawn back to Hollinger's Farm Market after two years of service. While the interest toward mission work remained, his natural entrepreneurial spirit seized opportunities as they arose. In 1976, after growing the foundation of a wholesale produce operation at Hollinger's Farm Market, a vacant building was purchased and Four Seasons Produce was launched. "I was thinking that perhaps we could own this business for several years and then sell it to finance our personal engagement in missions," he recalled.

From the beginning, Hollinger determined that integrity would be a cornerstone of his business. "I didn't worry about the competition," Hollinger said, "I worried about taking care of our customers."

Hollinger's leadership and business style revealed several enduring traits or principles that would set Four Seasons apart in a highly competitive industry. From the very first, Hollinger hired good people — people with values, energy and a team spirit, not just skills and knowledge. Second, Hollinger let these good, motivated people take ownership of what they did, allowing them to run with their ideas and make them work. Third, Hollinger cultivated a team spirit in which everyone's job was to help everyone else succeed. Fourth, Hollinger would provide whatever he could for the employees' welfare, including the services of a chaplain.

Fifth, he would risk investing in the best technology, equipment and facilities available.

Today, what began as Four Seasons Produce has grown into a family of companies that also includes Sunrise Logistics, Sunrise Transport and Earth Source Trading. These companies work together to provide services across the country and abroad with a primary market area in the mid-Atlantic and northeast. More than 750 people are hired, empowered and cared for like Hollinger's very first employees.

Four Seasons' success has enabled the Hollingers to support and fund Christian-based organizations at home and abroad. One significant endeavor was Debbie Hollinger's birthing and ongoing support of two homes for orphaned girls in India.

In 2002, Hollinger moved from the CEO role to serve as active chairman of the board. In this role, he cultivated and empowered leaders at all levels of the organization, and presently, he guides succession of leadership to the next generation. He is quick to give credit to those people for the success of Four Seasons, but everyone in the organization is as quick to give credit to him. In the words of president and CEO Ronald Carkoski, "David has blessed this company with the freedom to soar because he has the courage to risk, the faith to believe and the will to succeed. He built an organization that honors its associates, customers and suppliers and strives for excellence in service to each of these relationships."



Featured ALUMNI

KEITH BRUBACHER '90



Keith Brubacher '90 is president of Brubacher Excavating, Inc.

Typically working within a 50-mile radius of the main office in Bowmansville, Brubacher Excavating is a full service site contractor for commercial, industrial, municipal and residential construction, doing surveying, site planning, demolition and land clearing, excavation, underground utility installation, drilling and blasting, milling and paving.

The company's Energy Services group operates within the Marcellus Shale region, providing excavation-related services necessary to support the burgeoning natural gas industry.

"In 2009, we had to change or die," said Keith Brubacher '90. "Change sounded better."

"If you are an early adapter, you get to play another inning of the ball game," Brubacher quipped. "If you are too late, you're out."

From the way Brubacher expresses himself, one would never think that his formal education ended with two terms at Rosedale Bible College after graduating from LMH. He speaks in succinct sentences that are quite quotable, and pithy quotations and facts are on the tip of his tongue.

Recounting a few of the life lessons learned during his time at LMH, he easily quoted Myron Dietz as saying, "Don't ever let your education interfere with your learning." Indeed, although eschewing a college education, Brubacher is a model of lifelong learning.

"A four-year degree is not for everyone," Brubacher said. "We should be positioning people to discover and develop their gifts however that best occurs."

"There is no way I could do this unless I felt called," said Brubacher. "Site contracting is too risky."

"Margins are tighter now," Brubacher explained. "At one time, we could miss something in a bid and still make more money than some jobs today when all goes as planned."

Brubacher says that his father, Ben, who started the business in 1971, was the true entrepreneur in the family. He would bid on contracts for which he did not have enough personnel or equipment, then acquire the necessary resources once he won the bid.

The company grew into one of the area's largest excavating companies as Keith worked his way up through the ranks, becoming president in 2004. Then the Great Recession hit in 2008, and work dried up. The following three years were times of financial and spiritual testing.

During those lean years, Brubacher diversified and positioned his company's skills and resources to engage in what he called "collaborative construction." Brubacher's approach is to share insight, reduce stress and manage risk for clients. His team works collaboratively and transparently with clients to consider all options and avoid change-order surprises. Seventy percent of his business is with repeat customers. "We are really in the business of building trust," Brubacher said. "Our future depends on it."

In 2015, Brubacher Excavating was named to Central Pennsylvania Business Journal's 2015 list of Top 100 Private Companies in the midstate. As president, Brubacher currently focuses on corporate culture, strategy and developing leaders within the company.

Brubacher has maintained ties with fellow alumnus, **Brent Kreider '91** (married to **Kristin Wile '92**), president of B.R. Kreider & Son, "a friendly competitor." After Brubacher served a term as president of the Inter-County Contractors Association, he was pleased that Kreider could follow him as president to complete some of the initiatives begun under his leadership.

At LMH, he recalled learning a few useful things in English class, but he especially enjoyed hands-on experiences. Some of the highlights were minicourses that involved "doing practical, outdoor things" and constructing sets for drama productions. He also reflected that, "My Christian worldview was challenged, deepened and broadened."

As the board chairperson of Hinkletown Mennonite School, Brubacher has the opportunity to provide students with the benefits and blessings of Christian education that he himself enjoyed at LMH.



MATT HARTZLER '91

Ethical, honest, and genuine encapsulate the values and personality of Matt Hartzler '91.

Following his graduation from Lancaster Mennonite High School in 1991, Hartzler attended Penn State University and graduated with a B.S. degree in Structural Design and Construction Engineering Technology. He joined Warfel Construction Company in 1995 as a project engineer, was named assistant manager of operations in 2002, and became a vice president/manager of operations and partner in 2007. He assumed the role of president in 2012. During his tenure at Warfel, Hartzler has been involved primarily with construction and renovation projects for senior and health care facilities from minor facility modifications to multi-million dollar expansions.

As partner and president, Hartzler's role is to provide executive oversight on projects from marketing through design and construction. His expertise in building is typically demonstrated during the preconstruction phase as he works collaboratively with architects and owners to choose the best building solutions, materials and methods.

In addition to providing leadership to one of Lancaster County's leading construction companies, Hartzler has a reputation as a community leader and currently serves on the boards of Water Street Ministries and Mennonite Home.

What were your favorite courses at LM?

I enjoyed the social studies and math classes. In particular, I found the study of history and current events fascinating. The teachers challenged me to think critically about the world around us. I eventually pursued engineering in college and felt well prepared by my high school math teachers.

Did you have any particularly inspiring teachers or experiences that shaped you?

My most transformative teacher was my basketball coach, Geoff Groff. He challenged me to give my all and to be a great teammate and leader. He reinforced that hard work, practice and preparation pay off in basketball and in life.

Looking back, what was the most important thing you learned at LMH?

I learned the value of community and still maintain many of the friendships that were created at LMH.

Matt Hartzler '91 is president of Warfel Construction Company, one of Central Pennsylvania's oldest and largest providers of construction management, design/build and general contracting services. Serving clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, Warfel Construction is highly-regarded for its sustainable building practices, ethical standards and innovative construction solutions.

Warfel Construction's value statement, "Fairness and Integrity in all we do," supports its mission to build "Clients for Life." "We firmly believe these values set us apart from the competition," Hartzler said. "Honesty, integrity, accountability, initiative and teamwork describe the attributes we expect in our employees."



Featured ALUMNI

CONNIE BENDER '73



Connie Kreider Bender '73 is president of ShowEase.

In 1963, **John E. Kreider '47** incorporated Show-Ease Stall Company to manufacture and sell special cow stalls, then added a variety of farm products over the years. In 1994, his daughter **Connie Bender '73** got involved in the business, helping with sales, bookkeeping and parts.

In 2009 Bender became owner and president of ShowEase, Inc. She is quick to give credit to her father and her brother, **John E. Kreider, Jr. '82**, for building a solid company and making a smooth transition of leadership.

In 2012, ShowEase, Inc. moved just north of Ephrata and ceased manufacturing John's stalls. Bender and her company now focus on hard-

to-get parts for older equipment, silo unloaders and mats of all types.

"I'm in a man's world," said Bender, "and it's a conservative man's world." Most of her customers are from the "plain" community abounding in the Ephrata area, but also from other parts of the country where conservative farmers like to use and maintain older styles of equipment.

"I had to earn trust," Bender related. "Many times customers said that they wanted to talk to a man." But when the customers came to her father with their questions, he would say, "Talk to that woman over there; she knows the product better than I do."



Adam Lehman '92 (married to **Eunessa Esch '92**) is the manager of Outback Toys, a farm toy store that does business internationally with multiple toy brands.

ADAM LEHMAN '92

A division of Binkley & Hurst, Outback Toys moved to its Lititz location in 2005. The 6,000 square foot showroom attracts visitors from around the world. "I am blessed to say I have had the privilege of serving a vast group of customers both in this country and throughout the world for over 20 years," Lehman said.

"As believers in Jesus Christ, we are often faced with this question: 'What is success?'" Lehman went on. "Success is no more and no less than loving others around us with the example of Christ's love."

Lehman stressed the importance of relationships with customers and his staff. "One of my favorite things is to see the fruit of team unity and effort," he said. "I enjoy the daily task of leading a great team of men and women who represent Outback Toys and the values we count as important." (See **Don Hoover '73** article.)



A graduate of Lebanon Valley College, **Paul Markovits '14** founded Design Cache, a graphic and website design business.

PAUL MARKOVITS '14

Paul Markovits '14 serves individuals and corporations throughout the United States. He takes on an array of projects ranging from wedding invitations to websites, including advertisements for Hyatt Regency and website maintenance for JBT Bank and Gretna Theatre.

At LMH, Markovits was a member of the cross-country team, the track team, Campus Chorale, chamber choir, the musical cast, the yearbook committee, and the National Honor Society.

"I chose to attend LMH because of the welcoming environment and its academic reputation," Markovits said. "It wasn't until I began my studies that I began to love the school and the faculty." His most memorable experience at Lancaster Mennonite School was building lasting relationships with his classmates. He felt the Christian atmosphere was very important: "I was blessed to attend a school where we had chapel and where everyone was treated respectfully."

"At LMH, I learned to persevere. My teachers always pushed me to be my best. I also learned to keep trusting in God."



JAMES W. HOSTETTER, JR. '93

"Whenever people around here think of the name 'PaulB,' they think of our hardware store," Hostetter said. "The store has a pretty high profile from serving local farmers, contractors and homeowners since 1947. In addition to that, we have a strong wholesale business behind the store, literally and figuratively."

Despite its size, Paul B. Zimmerman, Inc. is still a family business with a tradition of serving people and helping customers in the spirit of Christ. The company's mission statement says: "We are called to use our God-given talents and ingenuity to benefit our customers, employees, the church and community." To be able to fulfill that mission, the company requires employees who exhibit good character, honesty, respectfulness, faithfulness and integrity. Employees are expected to contribute to a positive atmosphere, environment and culture.

"As I watched the great teachers I had through the years at LMH, I saw many examples of how you can weave your faith into your work and how you can have a positive impact on those you work with by doing that," Hostetter said. "I appreciated the times when teachers took me aside for an extra word of advice and coaching. This is something that I try to model in the business environment today. Those words of encouragement or constructive coaching have stuck with me and, I believe, made me a better person in work, with my family and in my faith."

Although many LMH teachers made a positive impression, Hostetter especially appreciated Aaron Martin and Lem Metzler. "I remember that, after I expressed my future goals in class – mostly centering about what job I was going to have and what I

was going to do with my career – Mr. Martin took me aside and said: 'Remember to make service to others a part of your plans; you will find tremendous fulfillment in that.' His advice stuck with me, and I have found it to be true!"

"I also enjoyed all my Ag/Tech courses with Mr. Lem Metzler," Hostetter said. "Mr. Metzler had a wonderful way of relating to our classes, and I have found everything I learned there to be very practical in many areas of my life. The things we learned were valuable to me as I entered the construction management field and continue today in my work serving agriculture and mechanical customers with our PaulB hardware and wholesale business."

"Mr. Metzler was always a source of encouragement for me, pushing me to do more than I probably would have done on my own," Hostetter said. "I had a good time in his Ag/Tech classes and FFA activities, and I always learned a lot, too. He showed me that you can do both. I have continued to stay in touch with him, and he has continued to be an inspiration of hard work, service to others and a tenacity for living life."

Along with the Ag/Tech courses, Hostetter had an interest in mathematics all the way up to the advanced college preparation level. "I enjoyed Geometry with Mr. Martin and Advanced Math and Calculus with Mr. Reinford. They invested time in me and, when I went on to Penn State for my engineering degrees, I felt that I was well prepared."

Hostetter graduated from Penn State with an M.A.E. (Master of Architectural Engineering) in 2000 and had a successful career in the construction industry before joining PaulB in 2012.



Jim Hostetter, Jr. '93 is president of PaulB LLC, a hardware retailer and wholesale supplier specializing in providing agricultural, industrial and mechanical parts throughout the country. Products include sprayers, pumps, nozzles, trailer parts, welding supplies and power transmissions. PaulB LLC is a division of the Paul B. Zimmerman, Inc. family of companies, which also includes e-commerce operation PaulB Parts, manufacturing shop PBZ LLC and powder-coating company Keystone Coating LLC.

Jim Hostetter, Sr. '65 has also had a hand in both business and agriculture. A graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, in 1980 he founded the public accounting firm of Hostetter & Hostetter while operating his family farm in Holtwood, PA. **Robert Hostetter '99**, also an F&M grad and CPA, is managing partner. The senior Hostetter serves as chair of the Willow Street Mennonite Church board and is recently retired from the advisory board of Fulton Bank and chairman of the board of Willow Valley Communities.



ALUMNI of the YEAR

BARBARA BEILER STOLTZFUS '59.....



Barbara Beiler Stoltzfus '59 has played a significant role in the success of Dynamic Aviation as office manager, vice president of finance, chief financial officer and vice president of human resources. At the same time, she served on the boards of directors for numerous organizations related to health and education, garnering several awards for outstanding leadership and community service.

As a young Amish girl in Honey Brook, PA, she determined that she was going to break Amish tradition and seek education beyond eighth grade – and perhaps even further. While appreciating farm work as a worthy occupation, she was inspired to do more in life. At the time, she did not know that her opportunity would come when her family left the Amish community and moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

After she attended public school up until ninth grade in Maryland, her parents felt that, if she wanted to get a high school diploma, it ought to be at Lancaster Mennonite School. Consequently, they made the 90-minute trek to Lancaster where she enrolled as a five-day dormitory student.

Although she was not initially enthusiastic about going to a new school, she made new friends and, by her junior year was happy to be at LM. One of the friends she made was Karl Stoltzfus, who started to ease some of her parents' transportation burden by taking her home on weekends.

Along with the good friends she made, Stoltzfus came to appreciate that the values taught at LM were the same her parents tried to instill in her at home. Among those values was, "Whatever you do, do it well."

Stoltzfus also had the opportunity to develop leadership skills that would serve her well in the future. The former LM class treasurer would eventually be the CFO of a large company and the leader of several boards of directors.

When she graduated from LM, the world of finances was not on her mind except for how to fund her desire to be a registered nurse. Working in a shoe store to put herself through the Milford Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Milford, DE, she graduated in 1963. The same year, she and Karl were married, and she worked at Coatesville Hospital until her first child was born.

In 1967 she accompanied Karl to Harrisonburg, VA, where she worked nights as a nurse while he attended Eastern Mennonite University. When they bought the Bridgewater airport and Karl was starting their aviation business, she took accounting and business courses at EMU so she could help the fledgling enterprise take wings.

While working with business finances, she still found time to be involved with the Parent-Teacher Fellowship at Eastern Mennonite High School where her children attended, eventually becoming the PTF

president. Becoming PTF president led to an invitation to serve on the board, and serving on the board led to being elected board chair.

Eastern Mennonite High School was the first of many boards on which she would serve: Eastern Mennonite University, United Way of Harrisonburg, Harrisonburg Community Foundation, Bridgewater College, Virginia State Hospital and Healthcare Association and Rockingham Memorial Hospital as well as the Regional Council and National Governance Committee of the American Hospital Association. She served on the Rockingham Memorial Hospital board for 12 years, six as chair. Under her leadership, a new hospital was constructed and transitioned into the Sentara RMH Medical Center.

Asked why she rose to board leadership so often, Stoltzfus said, "I brought a sense of hearing what everyone had to say, and I wanted everyone to feel free to voice an opinion." She felt that she was able to build consensus among diverse perspectives: "It was my goal to have everyone move forward together."

Stoltzfus shares her husband's values and desire to "give back" to the community, and both have made a significant impact through their service and philanthropy.

• • • KARL D. STOLTZFUS '58 • • •

With more than 50 years of experience in the aviation industry, **Karl D. Stoltzfus '58** is an accomplished aviator, creative problem solver and pioneer in developing custom aviation solutions for commercial and government aircraft applications. Stoltzfus began his aviation career as a partner in his father's aviation company, Chris D. Stoltzfus and Associates of Coatesville, PA. During this time, he was responsible for aerial spray programs to control gypsy moths in North America and was instrumental in designing, building and installing various spray systems for the aircraft.

In 1967, Karl and his twin brother, Ken, left their father's business to attend Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, VA where they began K&K Aircraft to help cover school expenses. Stoltzfus graduated in 1972 with a B.A. in Business Administration, and in 1974 he purchased a small airport in nearby Bridgewater to start an aerial spraying business. In 1992, Stoltzfus developed an air charter division that released the first sterile insects to control, and in some cases eradicate, various pests such as the Mediterranean Fruit Fly.

K&K Aircraft expanded operations and became Dynamic Aviation in 1997, where Karl Stoltzfus serves as the founder and chairman. Dynamic Aviation is the leading provider of innovative special-mission aviation solutions to government and commercial organizations worldwide. Headquartered in Bridgewater, VA, the company employs about 600 aviation professionals and owns over 150 multi-engine turbine aircraft. In addition to running the Virginia base, Stoltzfus supports his worldwide operations with 20 bases in 10 countries on four continents.

Dynamic Aviation delivers world-class aviation solutions that combine mission-modified aircraft, experienced flight crews and comprehensive

maintenance services to deliver customized aerial assets supporting a wide range of customers in airborne data acquisition, public health and safety. His maintenance and modification center includes welding, machine, sheet metal and avionics shops for maintaining and modifying his own fleet of 150 aircraft as well as modifying other aircraft for specialized missions. In 2015, Dynamic Aviation purchased the historic Columbine II, a Lockheed Constellation aircraft and the first "Air Force One" that flew President Dwight D. Eisenhower from 1953-1954. Stoltzfus leads the multi-year venture to restore this important piece of America's history back to presidential configuration for teaching future generations.

With more than 6,000 hours total time as pilot-in-command in multiple aircraft operations throughout the United States, Stoltzfus holds a commercial pilot's license, a multi-engine rating, instrument rating and a DC-3 type rating. In the early 60's, he flew a Cessna 180 on floats and skis for a missionary organization in northwestern Ontario for about a year, and has a heart for using aircraft to aid missionary organizations.

He currently serves on the board of Mission Aviation Fellowship, a nonprofit organization that operates approximately 100 aircraft to provide humanitarian and mission work around the world. He has also served as board vice chair of JAARS/Wycliffe Bible Translators, board chair of Wingfield Ministries, board member of the Harrisonburg Rotary Club, board member for Summit Bank in Harrisonburg, VA, and board member for Mission Aviation Fellowship International, based in the United Kingdom.



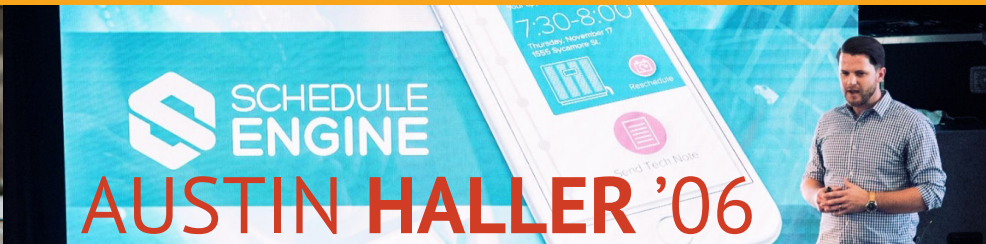
In 1999, Dynamic Aviation received the USDA Small Business Contractor of the Year award. In 2006, Stoltzfus received the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year award and was also inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame. The following year, in 2007, the Virginia Senate commended him for his significant contribution to aviation in Virginia. In 2008, he and his wife, Barbara, were the Rockingham/Harrisonburg Multiple Sclerosis honorees of the year. Karl, Barbara, and Dynamic Aviation earned the Corporate Philanthropy Award for the greater Shenandoah Valley area in 2010. In 2015, the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Aviation presented him with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

"There were many significant benefits of attending LMH," Stoltzfus said. "The values of honesty and integrity learned here have been a wonderful benefit to me in both my personal and business experience. Our company does business all over the world, and those values are one of the major reasons for our success."

"Being taught about the Bible and God's plan for our lives gave me a great spiritual foundation. Most important was the encouragement for continued growth in my walk with Jesus. I am most grateful for my LM experience."



Austin Haller's company was one of nine Central Pennsylvania finalists competing for the investment of \$100,000 as part of Steve Case's Rise of the Rest initiative, which seeks to highlight and fund startups outside Silicon Valley. Each finalist had four minutes to pitch an idea to Case, followed by three minutes of questions. Case is an American entrepreneur, investor and businessman best known as the co-founder, former chief executive officer and chairman of America Online, a pioneer in making the Internet part of everyday life. Case is the author of the New York Times bestselling book, *The Third Wave: An Entrepreneur's Vision of the Future*.



"LM provided a solid foundation that I could build on in any direction I wanted to go."

"There is nothing specific that I learned in a high school class that I use today," said **Austin Haller '06**. "It's really the principles that I learned. If I apply these principles to areas of opportunity, I can have success."

Haller felt that playing soccer under Coach Vernon Rice taught him leadership, teamwork and perseverance that carried through his college career. He went on to play Division I soccer at Duquesne University and then the University of Denver, majoring in Finance with a minor in Economics.

When he graduated, an appealing opportunity arose to spearhead Haller Enterprises' new renewable energy division, so he took it. For about three years, he worked for Haller Enterprises in various positions. In 2015, Austin and his father, Rick, acquired Sauder Fuel and Austin took over as president. While at Sauder, Austin went on to obtain his MBA from Villanova University.

It was during a class at Villanova that Haller's idea for his own start-up company began to crystallize in his mind. "In a world where taxi services are a few taps away on a mobile app, pizza orders can be tracked by the minute to your doorstep from any mobile device, and dentists remind you of appointments via text, there's no reason why home service contractors, can't do the same," Haller said.

He began Schedule Engine (www.ScheduleEngine.com) in July of 2016 with a mission to equip contractors across the country with technology that modernizes their customer experience. Lacking specific technology development expertise himself, Austin assembled a team of experienced software designers and developers from companies like Bank Mobile, Intel and Apple. In

September, they launched the product in Las Vegas and have since received overwhelmingly positive response from the market.

"Getting to this point required the ability to observe a need in the market and then have the confidence to build a team of capable people that could pursue a vision," Haller said.

The company was recently one of nine finalists in Steve Case's Rise of the Rest competition (see sidebar). Haller had the opportunity to personally pitch his company to Steve Case. Although Schedule Engine did not win the \$100,000 investment, Haller said the company was recognized as a formidable competitor by those who attended the public pitch event.

"The role of the entrepreneur is to clearly cast a vision and then rally smart people around it," Haller said. "The vision needs to be bigger than yourself. It also needs to be a worthy cause, to make a difference."

Haller credits much of what he knows to his father, who started Haller Enterprises in 1981 out of his garage. Today, Haller Enterprises has about 350 employees, about 200 trucks and five locations in Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Harrisburg and Exton. The company motto is, "One call handles it all." From commercial to residential, new building to service, the company does air conditioning, plumbing, heating, electrical, geothermal, solar and more. The company credits much of its success to the guiding principles promoted by its founder: Integrity, Excellence, Adaptable to Change, Customer-Focused, Teamwork, Respect, Innovation, Empowerment and Accountability.

Haller still serves with his father on the executive team of Haller Enterprises.

LOREN HERSHEY '04

Loren Hershey '04 grew up on a fourth generation farm in southern Lancaster County. His mother, **Lois Groff '77**, and his siblings, **Linford '06**, **Luke '12**, and **Lisa Neff '08**, all attended LMH.

"Accounting classes with Mr. Rufenacht were a great business foundation and shaped my college studies in accounting," Hershey said.

After graduating from LMH, Hershey attended Grove City College and graduated in 2007 with a B.S. in Accounting. A licensed Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Global Management Accountant, he has public accounting experience in auditing and financial statement preparation of manufacturing, construction and food processing companies.

He lived in Niger, Africa, for the summer of 2007 as a finance volunteer with Wycliffe Bible Translators, then

returned home and spent about three years working in public accounting before spending six years managing accounting operations for HOPE International, an international Christ-centered microfinance organization with a network of operations throughout 16 developing countries.

"At LMH, I was encouraged to view the world from a Christ-centered perspective," Hershey said. "Interacting with international students also provided global perspective."

Hershey joined Fulton Bank in 2016 and is currently an Agribusiness Lending Officer for the Agricultural Financial Services Group based in Lancaster. This role allows him to return to his agricultural roots and apply what he knows about sound farming, business and management practices to support Fulton's agribusiness customers.



LMH alumni working for Fulton Bank's Agricultural Services Group (L-R): **Eric Hooper '10**, Agricultural Lender for Delaware; **Lamar King '02**, Agricultural Lender; **Nathan Hoover '02**, Agricultural Lender; **Loren Hershey '04**, Agribusiness Lender. Not Pictured: **Joe Flanagan '07**, Senior Credit Analyst

BEN & LEE KAUFFMAN '86

Before assuming his role as president and CEO of Dutchland, Inc., in 2006, **Ben Kauffman '86** worked in all areas of the company. "Working for our dad as a family unit growing up is how we experienced life," Kauffman said.

"Everything that we do, we do together," Kaufman said of his brother, **Lee Kauffman '86**. "I take a great deal of comfort in my responsibility, knowing that he's right beside me."

Dutchland has about 120 to 150 employees, down from around 200 about three years ago. "Today we're not trying to reach for something bigger every year, like we used to," he said. Instead, the company is focusing more on high-value jobs and situations in which it can leverage its know-how through patents or strategic partnerships. While sales in 2016 were around \$25 million, profits were higher than in 2014 when sales were around \$32 million. "I would love to see us maximize our intellectual property, continue to develop patents and be a technology provider in addition to the engineering, manufacturing and construction of our core business," Kauffman said.

Looking back on his LMH days, Kauffman reflected on particular teachers as most significant to him. He credited Myron Dietz for his ongoing passion for Anabaptist history, Mary Lou Houser for his creativity and art appreciation, and Kathleen Beck for his love of writing. "These teachers shared a common character trait," Ben said. "Each one was willing to look beyond an adolescent who wanted to stir things up, and took time to develop specific interests in me. Each one focused on my potential, not my adolescent behavior and rule-bending."

One of the most important things he learned was how to make friends with both peers and adults. "That was hard for me before LMH," Kauffman admitted. "I took home a good education that continues to serve me to this day, and I developed deep friendships that will last me a lifetime."

"I continue to be in regular contact with many of my friends from that time in my life," Kauffman said. "Many have created and operate businesses and are entrepreneurs."



In January 2017, **Ben Kauffman '86** was chosen to serve as president and CEO of Dutchland, Inc., which engineers and manufactures precast concrete tanks, custom-designed wastewater treatment plants and other specialized concrete products for the water and wastewater industry. Dutchland ownership also transitioned to Ben and his brother, **Lee**, who serves as COO.



Featured ALUMNI

TIEAGRA McNEIL '15



Tieagra McNeil '15 is in a five-year dual-level business administration and MBA program at Cairn University. She will soon begin graduate coursework and upon completion will earn a B.S. in Business Administration degree and a Master of Business Administration degree.

"I will be able to do much more in business with an MBA rather than just a bachelor's degree, and with more education comes more knowledge,"

Tieagra McNeil '15 said. "Right now, I am interested in administrative roles within business and very interested in the marketing aspects."

During her freshman year, she was chosen to be a part of Cairn University's Enactus presentation team. Enactus is an international organization fostering student-led entrepreneurial projects that serve communities on campus, locally and globally. "The past two years our Cairn Enactus team competed in regional competitions in Washington D.C.," Mc Neil reported. "Each year we were named regional champions and advanced to nationals in St. Louis, and most recently, Kansas City, Missouri." Her Cairn Enactus team planned and executed six projects that included providing job search and interview training, aiding people battling poverty in foreign countries, and implementing a clean, sustainable alternative energy source on the Cairn University campus and internationally.

McNeil was the project manager for the Cairn Enactus team's On Campus Solar project in which she led a team

of seven students to analyze the university's current electricity usage and costs, hire a structural engineer for an expert site survey to determine suitable locations for solar panels and their connection to the electric grid, and determine the costs of different solar arrays and their through-life maintenance costs.

With this information, McNeil created a detailed proposal for the university's review and approval. The team was granted permission to continue the solar project and began grant writing to raise money for the solar installations.

This year McNeil is the president of Cairn's Enactus team.

"LMH gave me many opportunities to get involved," McNeil said. "Whether coaching, being manager for the boys basketball team, serving as student representative of the wellness committee or being vice president of the senior class committee, there was always an opportunity to be involved. Now in college, I am seeing that being involved in campus life is crucial to not only my student life, but my academics as well."



A graduate of Lancaster Bible College, **Leanna Hottenstein Metzler '73** has a sewing business in Bucks County, PA.

LEANNA HOTTENSTEIN METZLER '73

"Thanks to the very good teachers teaching what was then called Home Economics, I learned a solid base of skills I could build on," Metzler said. "My senior year Janet Brenneman taught tailoring; an invaluable class."

"While I was attending college, other students noticed the clothing I had made," Metzler related, "and I was asked to sew some bridesmaid gowns and wedding gowns."

When she moved to Yardley in 1980, people again noticed the clothes she was wearing. Before long she had her own small business. For six years she was a sewing instructor at a sewing supply store while her own business grew. "Word of mouth, multiplied by social media, reached far and wide."

She was voted Best of Bucks County 2016 & 2017 in the *Bucks County Courier Times* readers' poll for tailor/seamstress. "I love helping people to look their best," she said.

JANAE HARNISH DAGEN '04

"I loved taking Family and Consumer Science classes with Mrs. Dottie Weber," reflected **Janae Dagen '04**, owner of the Speckled Hen restaurant in Strasburg. "Learning new recipes and experimenting with all types of food were surely valuable lessons I learned! Little did I know at that time that culinary arts would play such a big role in my career down the road."

Speckled Hen was cofounded by Dagen and her husband, Ryan, whose shared entrepreneurial spirit combined with a passion for the local community, quality coffee and fresh food. "My husband and I also enjoy working together on building design and development," Dagen added. "We've done several renovation projects including the build-out and design of Speckled Hen, which we fully renovated prior to opening our doors for business in July of 2015."

The name "Speckled Hen" represents valuing diversity and embracing differences. "I loved the diversity at LMH and making friends from many places with many different faith traditions, cultures and backgrounds," Dagen said.

"At the Speckled Hen, we believe that the unique attributes or 'speckles' we possess is what makes community

so rich and beautiful," Dagen explained. "It is our belief that when we embrace our differences an even more beautiful type of community can be discovered and enjoyed!"

Dagen's mother, Marcia (Hess) Harnish, grew up on Runnymede Farm, Quarryville, where Speckled Hen gets eggs today. "As a child, I helped to gather the eggs, and I think that's where my love for breakfast foods originated!" Dagen said. "Today, we source many of our ingredients from local farms and purveyors and focus on having a menu that is fresh, local and simple."

"At Speckled Hen our vision is that by serving craft coffee and artisan food we make a positive impression on each guest we serve," Dagen said. "We hope to create a lasting footprint in the community of peace and grace."

Dagen transferred to LMH at the beginning of her sophomore year. "Prior to that, I had only attended public school, so it was refreshing and life-giving to receive spiritual insight and teaching during my time at LMH."

"I treasure the friendships I gained at LMH," Dagen said. "As the president of our Senior Class Committee it was fun to help coordinate our class reunions."



After graduating from LMH, **Janae Harnish Dagen '04** attended Eastern University and earned a B.A. in Organizational Leadership in 2010.

JILL SHEELER-SHENK '86

Doug Shenk '87 worked for 18 years as a civil engineer with an environmental consulting firm, but when he and **Jill Sheeler-Shenk '86** moved to Florida from California six years ago, he decided it was time to do something completely different. He liked the idea of being his own boss, and together the couple thought about opening an ice cream shop. Doing some online research, they found Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream as a franchise opportunity. "We both have scientific backgrounds," Jill said, "and the process of using liquid nitrogen to make made-to-order ice cream appealed to our geeky side." When they learned that they could enlarge the scope of the business beyond a store setting and get into the community through catering and school science presentations, they became even more excited. "We love seeing people's faces light up and their eyes get big when we freeze their ice cream and the clouds of fog billow out," Jill reported. "Witnessing kids' excitement and surprise when we present scientific principles using liquid nitrogen — and then making them ice cream — is very rewarding." They currently have two shops in Sarasota.





Featured ALUMNI



Ryan Rohrer '95 oversees all technical aspects of stage events in the Calvin and Janet High Fine Arts Center. He also assists the Locust Grove and New Danville campuses with sound and lighting. Rohrer attends Stumptown Mennonite Church where he serves as technical director. He also freelances at several theatres in the Lancaster area, does consultation work for many area churches, and provides sound reinforcement services for outdoor events.

Perhaps most significantly, Rohrer leads and mentors students in all aspects of stage production work. Rohrer works with three main groups of Tech Crew students: Chapel Crew, Special Events Crew and Drama Crew. About 30 LMH students are involved in some aspect of Tech Crew each year.



RYAN ROHRER '95

When Ryan Rohrer was a student, he was drawn to work in the new Fine Arts Center — and he still is.

The Fine Arts Center opened in 1991, during Rohrer's first year at LMH. "As soon as the building opened, I got involved," Rohrer related. "I was fascinated with it."

Rohrer did as much as he could with the stage and with tech. He took all the Ag Tech classes and was on the stage crew for all the school's drama productions. Jerry Peters, a dorm advisor who was active in the theatre community, was an inspiration to Rohrer as he handled the school's lighting, sound and set construction needs.

After graduating, Rohrer enrolled in an electronics technician program at DeVry Technical Institute. Yet, he was torn between farming and tech. He might have been a farmer but for a call from then-principal Miles Yoder in 1999 asking him whether he wanted to replace Jerry Peters. Rohrer took the job. The position was only one-fourth time at that point, and he also did freelance theatre work in the community and for American Music Theatre. As the job at LMH evolved and took more time with increasing technical requirements and outside rentals, Rohrer continued to evolve with the job, learning by doing, just like the scores of students he mentors.

The Drama Crew is the starting point, doing lights, sound and set work for the school's three drama productions. Rohrer observes the students' work ethic, ability and reliability. Those who

do well are invited to join the Special Events Crew or Chapel Crew.

Students on the Special Events Crew get paid for any time spent working outside the school's program. Rohrer has 15 students to draw from for special events, which are usually once or twice each week.

"Our systems are capable of handling almost any production," Rohrer said. "People who rent the facilities are sometimes leery of student operators, but the pros are soon impressed with the students' intelligence, ability and creativity."

Students on the Chapel Crew work on their own time. It takes a minimum of nine students to do the lighting, sound and video. Students come to school early to set up what is requested for the chapel program. During chapels, a console operator "calls the shots" for the multiple camera operators and chooses which camera to project onto the big screen. Camera operators can be given free rein to be creative or the console operator can direct them through their headsets. A graphics operator projects computer-generated content. Other students operate the massive sound board and the lighting system.

Many of these students have become full-time professionals in the field, and many others use their skills to operate audio-visual systems at the churches they attend.

STUDENT spotlight



PHOTO: **Leilani Krady '21** and **Dawson Mast '19** in the Fine Arts Center control room.

LEILANI KRADY '21 & DAWSON MAST '19

Leilani Krady '21 is just in ninth grade, but she is already an experienced lighting operator, having helped with middle school chapel while in eighth grade.

Dawson Mast '19 seems to be a fixture in the Fine Arts Center as much as his mentor, **Ryan Rohrer '95**. The energetic junior is involved in every Tech crew and is heavily involved in set construction, lighting and video production.

JOHN KRUIS '15

was able to bring together a diverse group of students to create a positive atmosphere founded on problem solving and loyalty to the team, and he trusted students like me to produce professional-level performances.”

Kruis also appreciated **Aden Stoltzfus '76**. “He quickly recognized how much I enjoyed working with my hands,” Kruis said. “Throughout the many classes that I took under him, he continually encouraged, pushed and motivated me to do my best and also to think outside the box.”

One of the most influential experiences was a tour of local woodworking industries with Stoltzfus’ advanced woodworking class. “It opened my eyes to the possibilities of a career in an industry that had previously been just a hobby,” Kruis recounted. He also appreciated the roles of Shadow Day, the Career Fair and his school counselor in helping him choose an occupation.

“In regard to the work ethic and character needed to pursue any field, my preparation at LMH could not have been better. Not only was I pushed academically at LMH, but I also had the opportunity, through activities such as tech and chapel crews and varsity cross country, to learn the work ethic and dedication needed to succeed in any field.”

Kruis currently makes custom-designed, hand-built furniture and cabinets for Greg Pilotti Furniture Makers.

“Most students who attend a school that stresses excellence in academics, such as LMH, feel pressure to choose a career with a higher emphasis on academics and attend a four-year school,” said **John Kruis '15**. “Even though I did well and enjoyed the higher-level academics, I chose a path in the trades.”

Kruis’ favorite high school memories are centered around his backstage work, whether small events like high school chapels or major theatrical productions like *Fiddler on the Roof*.

“**Ryan Rohrer '95** contacted me before I started my freshman year because I had expressed interest in working in the technical department of the Fine Arts Center. Throughout high school, I climbed the ranks of tech crew, chapel tech and stage crew. I helped with rentals as a part-time job, running daily chapels, and designing and building sets for LMH theater productions. Mr. Rohrer

REECE PEIFER '21

“My favorite parts of school are Intro to Business and Chapel. I was attracted to Tech Crew because I did graphics and sound at my church. I will definitely use this skill because I want to do it professionally and create my own audio/visual company.”



ALUMNI Notes

YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



Keegan Rosenberry '12 played soccer for LMH 2008 and 2012, helping teams win District titles as well as a State title his senior year.

Rosenberry went on to be a standout at Georgetown University between 2012 and 2015. While at college, Rosenberry also played for Reading United AC in 2014 and 2015.

Rosenberry was selected third overall in the 2016 Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft by Philadelphia Union and made his Union debut on March 6, 2016. In the home opener, he was nominated for "man of the match" as well as being selected to the MLS Team of the Week. He was also voted onto the roster for the 2016 MLS All-Star Game and placed second in voting for 2016 Rookie of the Year. After his strong rookie season, Rosenberry was called into a camp for the United States national team. He won the MLS Fair Play Award in 2016.



[MARRIAGES]

Lynae (Harner) HC '13 and David Hansen III, August 19, 2017

Francesca Victoria (Formica) HC '12 and Anthony Joseph DePrator, August 12, 2017

Zachery Shreve HC '13 and Bella Pollero, July 22, 2017

Katia (Merzilus) '08 and Brandon Parker, July 8, 2017

[BIRTHS]

Zachary HC '08 and Sarah **Dixon**, first child, a daughter, Izabella, July 16, 2017

Allyssa (Smoker) '04 and Michael Miles, second child, a son, Asher Wayne, June 17, 2017

Chris '93 and Bonnie **Lehman**, third child, second daughter, Mary Christina, June 5, 2017

Karla (King) '96 and Mike Gibson, a son, Asher, May 24, 2017

[DEATHS]

Vera Mae (Stauffer) Kauffman '44, Harrisonburg, VA, May 3, 2017, nursing instructor

David White '48, Lancaster, Sept. 27, 2017

Namoi Brubaker Rowe '49, June 28, 2017

Helen L. (Heistand) Neuenschwander '53, Lititz, PA, August 31, 2017, homemaker

Frank Kennel '46, Spring Garden, PA, July 19, 2017, machinist

Rhoda M. King '47, Lititz, PA, September 15, 2017, teacher

Lois S. (Stauffer) Nissley '51, Lititz, PA, August 9, 2017, homemaker

Lillian Mae (Smoker) Yoder '52, Belleville, PA, Aug. 19, 2017, registered nurse.

Doris M. (Metzler) Burkhart '54, Lancaster, PA, August 6, 2017, seamstress

Lillian Mae (Smoker) Yoder '56, wife of Roy Yoder of Belleville, August 19, 2017, registered nurse

Glenn Wise '57, Willow Hill, PA, January 24, 2017, teacher

Rhoda J. (Kolb) Nolt '65, Stevens, PA, August 14, 2017, teacher

J. Allen Hershey '66, Lancaster, PA, October 1, 2016

Harold Thomas "Tom" Wert '69, Mount Joy, August 1, 2017, builder

Carroll J. Lehman '60, husband of Marcia Rinehart, Rindge, NH, July 26, 2017, professor of music, singer and conductor

John Frederick Weber '77, Lititz, PA, August 23, 2017, CFO

[ENGAGEMENTS]

Abby Burger '10 is engaged to be married to **Tyler Eckman '10**. Burger graduated from the Vet Tech Institute of Pittsburgh and is currently employed by Knox County Veterinary Services in Barbourville, KY. Eckman, a graduate of Eastern University and Drexel University, is currently studying at Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine in Harrogate, TN.



Old Dominion University inducted **Janelle Engle Benner '02** into the ODU Athletics Hall of Fame. Benner was a First-Team National Field Hockey All-American, CAA Player of the Year, ODU Scholar-Athlete of the Year and CoSIDA Academic All-American. In 2005, she won the Norfolk Sports Club Tom Scott Award, given to the top senior athlete at ODU. Benner graduated with a 4.00 GPA in music education and was the first violinist in the Deihn String Quartet and concertmaster of the ODU Symphony. Benner has entered her seventh season as the head coach of Ursinus College, leading the Bears to five CC championships, including four in a row from 2013 to 2016, and to five NCAA Tournament appearances.



HOMEcoming 2017

The celebration of LM's 75th Anniversary concluded on Friday, Oct. 6, with the final event of the year, "An Evening of Stories and Songs", featuring the engaging personal stories of several alumni and staff. The program was moderated by **Dan Hess '66**, the 2001 Alumnus of the Year, and music was provided by an alumni chorus led by **David L. Sauder '59** (pictured above), pianists **Rosemary Siegrist Blessing '97** and **Jonathan Shoff '03**, singing led by **Margaret Weaver High '93**, and the duo of **Mindy Nolt '96** and **Jared Hankee '98**.

Hess's Famous Pork & Chicken Barbecue was available before the program and provided the meal for several class reunions held on campus in conjunction with Homecoming. At the Homecoming girls soccer game, the Blazer Nation honored the 2008 PIAA State Champion Girls Soccer team, and 2017 Young Alumnus of the Year **Keegan Rosenberry '12** was on hand for the Blazer Nation tailgating event.

Saturday's events included the Iron Bridge 5K Trail Run/Walk, the FFA Pancake Breakfast and the Benefit Auction featuring specialty items such as dinner packages, artwork, the use of vacation homes, event tickets and more. The top two pies in the LMH pie-baking contest sold for \$450 (Melissa Umble's #1) and \$400 (Josh Zhang's #2). The auction highlight, however, was selling Cookie Kids for \$46,350.

Altogether, the weekend raised more than \$116,000 for Christ-centered education.



LM students from China enthusiastically supported Homecoming events such as the FFA Breakfast.

Class Reunions

Class of 1973 — 45th

Date: Oct. 6, 2018

Place: Keefer's Barn, 29 Engle Tollgate Road, Marietta

Contact: Cheryl (Rohrer) Hess, hess197@gmail.com

Send alumni and reunion news to bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org.



Kristopher Mast '10 and **Kara Mast '15**, siblings, recently completed a 2,189.8-mile thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 158 days. They began on top of Springer Mountain in Georgia and wound through 14 states to the northern terminus on Mount Katahdin in Maine. Only 25% of persons who begin this hike complete it.

Esther Snader '68, has returned to the Lancaster area after 19 years teaching English at the Anqing Teachers College with EMM and Mennonite Partners in China. The university's new Foreign Language Department library was named in her honor, and she twice received the prestigious Anqing Friendship Award for outstanding contributions to the life of the city.





School News



LMMS students show paper cranes they made for the International Day of Peace.

STUDENTS CELEBRATE DAY OF PEACE

On the International Day of Peace (Thursday, September 21), LMMS students practiced peace-in-action, festooning the hallways with positive post-it notes, listening to and sharing stories of peacemaking throughout history, and making pinwheels or folding paper cranes as a symbol of peace. Origami cranes became a symbol of peace through the story of WWII atomic bomb survivor Sadako Sasaki, a Japanese girl who tried to fold a thousand paper cranes to be granted one wish – to survive the effects of radiation. She was only able to fold 644 before she died. Classmates created 356 more cranes so that she was buried surrounded by 1,000 cranes. Her story has inspired people all over the world to fold and

display origami cranes as a symbol of peace.

New Danville Campus first graders celebrated International Day of Peace by creating pinwheels. Students drew pictures of ways to show peace to those around them and to the world. Their pictures were then transformed into pinwheels. Pinwheels for Peace is a worldwide art installation project that promotes peace and nonviolence.

In preparation for International Day of Peace, Locust Grove Campus middle school students spent chapel time reflecting on a prayer for peace and then made flags with their prayers for the world. The flags were then hung outside in front of the school.



LMMS's Exhibition Night at Conestoga View Nursing and Rehabilitation was attended by family, friends and members of the community.



Project Based Learning at LMMS

Putting the "I" in Citizenship

The first Expedition of the school year challenged LMMSConnect! students to become active participants in their communities with the theme, "Putting the 'I' in Citizenship." Teachers and students worked from the understanding that active citizens take responsibility and initiative in areas of public concern and use their gifts and talents to better their communities.

"As followers of Jesus Christ, it is our calling to be stewards, mindful of our local and global responsibility to care about our resources and well-being, as well as the resources and well-being of others," said Liz Landis, LMMS principal and Lancaster Campus associate principal.

Service learning was central to this quarter. Each day one group of students visited Conestoga View Nursing

and Rehabilitation Center, building relationships with residents and participating with them in a variety of activities.

After conducting a needs analysis, students worked in groups to design and construct improvements for the residents of Conestoga View. Some of these improvements included a sensory garden, birdhouses, wall art, a wheelchair-accessible picnic table, cushions, a succulent planter and a wheelchair-accessible bench.

The quarter culminated with an Exhibition Evening hosted by Conestoga View. Exhibitions are held each quarter to provide students with the opportunity to show an authentic audience what they have learned throughout the quarter.

LOCUST GROVE PROVIDES FULL MIDDLE SCHOOL

This year, the Locust Grove Campus added eighth grade to provide a full middle school of grades 6-8 with traditional classes as an alternative to the Project Based Learning approach at LMMS. An experienced team of teachers provide the core middle school academic subjects, supplemented by Principal Paul Smeltzer, who teaches sixth grade Bible and eighth grade health.

Jenn Esbenshade teaches Spanish I to the new eighth grade class as well as Spanish Immersion maintenance for students in sixth and seventh grade. In the elementary Spanish Immersion program for native English speakers, all classes are taught in Spanish from kindergarten through fifth grade. For sixth and seventh grade, only Social

Studies and Language Arts are taught in Spanish.

Barbara Josephian teaches Language Arts to those in grades 6-8 who are not taking Spanish Immersion maintenance with Esbenshade. Josephian also teaches grades six and seven Mathematics, while Neil Reinford teaches Algebra I.

Rebecca Wolgemuth teaches science and Technology and Computational Thinking for grades 6-8 and Health for seventh grade. Galen Sauder transferred from LMMS to teach grades 6 and 7 Social Studies and seventh and eighth grade Bible. Anita Dickert will continue to provide Learning Support services for middle school students.



Locust Grove Campus middle school teachers join Principal Paul Smeltzer in enjoying new air conditioning units in the classrooms (l-r): Galen Sauder, Anita Dickert, Rebecca Wolgemuth, Barbara Josephian, Paul Smeltzer, Jenn Esbenshade.

Dual Enrollment Option at Hershey

The Hershey Campus is offering dual enrollment options with Messiah College. A hybrid course is a mix of online and face-to-face learning.

Six hybrid courses are currently available: Introduction to World Literature, Problems in Philosophy, Introduction to Psychology, Music Theory I, Fundamentals of Oral Communication and Fundamentals of Latin I.

With the exception of Latin, all of these courses are specifically for dual enrollment students. Classes meet face-to-face on Messiah's campus one day per week with additional instruction online.

Senior **Morgan Furjanic '18** is currently taking Oral Communication. "This is my third college class, and I think it's great to be able to get a head start on college level classes."



Morgan Furjanic '18 is taking Oral Communication, a dual enrollment hybrid course with Messiah College.

LM is Accredited

The Lancaster Mennonite School system received continuing accreditation from AdvancED and Mennonite Education Agency. Although Lancaster Mennonite has experienced accreditation visits in the past, this was

the first visit with AdvancED and serves as a baseline for continuous school improvement. The External Review Team's findings validated LM's own internal self study.

Hershey Holds "Hooping for Houston"

On October 13, the Hershey Campus held a "Hooping for Houston" basketball game that raised \$5,000 for five teachers at Houston Christian High School who were displaced by Hurricane Harvey. Hershey Campus student athletes competed against teachers and

staff. Admission was by donation, and a concession stand was open to raise additional funds. The campus's new bleachers were used for the first time for this event, which was open to the community.



The community fills the new bleachers at the Hershey Campus to watch the "Hooping for Houston" game.



School News

County Chorus: (front row, l-r) **Noah Schnabel '20**, **Harley Foster '18**, **Ben Greenleaf '18**, **Willa Beidler '19**, **Ellie Stillman '19**, **Olivia Kim '18** (back row, l-r) **Katie Kindelberger '18**, **Jerilyn Lapp '18**, **Joseph Jing '18**, **Sangbin Lee '18**, **Bethany Bronkema '18**, **Sydney Esch '18**, **Javon Thomas '19**



LMH STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR COUNTY CHORUS

Thirteen LMH students qualified for County Chorus this year. This is an exceptional number of students for a school the size of LMH. Last year, 14 students qualified, reflecting a trend to have double-digit representation of LMH students in County Chorus.

This level of vocal excellence in a small school is not just a happy coincidence. All the qualifying students are members of LMH's select vocal group, the Campus

Chorale under the direction of Marcella Hostetter.

Hostetter was available every day before and after school to help prepare students for the auditions, and many students took advantage of this extra help.

Hostetter also teaches sight-reading to the high school choir, a non-auditioned group in which most Campus Chorale members get their start before auditioning for Campus Chorale as juniors and seniors.



Stephen Baak '18 and **Bethany Brokema '18** recently received recognition as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholar competition based on their PSAT scores.

SPORTS Spotlight



Nasser Salim '95 has been named athletic director for Lancaster Mennonite School's Lancaster Campus, where he played basketball as a student. He went on to obtain a B.S. degree in Recreation and Leisure Management at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and has 15 years of experience working with students with Devereux Foundation, Advantage Lancaster and the Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster. Salim brings a passion for athletics and student success to the job of coordinating 18 varsity sports at the high school and middle school levels.



Zhiran "Clover" Zhang '19 and **Alarie Hurst '20** will both be participating in the LLMEA County Orchestra. Hurst tied for first place in the violin section.

BLAZER NATION HONORS 2008 STATE CHAMPIONS

At Homecoming 2017, the Blazer Nation honored the 2008 girls state soccer champions. The girls also won the Section 3 and L-L League championships and had a 27-3 overall record.



2008 STATE CHAMPIONS: (l-r in front) **Taylor Wenger '10**, **Kori Wenger Mast '09**, **Lisa Wingard Thompson '08**, **Bethany Engle Napolitano '08**. (l-r in back) **Danielle Zeamer '08**, **Katelyn Vanderhoff '09**, **Rachel Kennel Mast '10**, **Caroline Augsburg Malpass '11**, **Kelsey Gorman Heisey '08**, **Stephanie Miller Augsburg '09**.



BOYS SOCCER WINS DISTRICT TITLE

On November 4, the LMH boys soccer team (23-1-0) sealed its eighth district title and its fourth since 2009 with a 3-0 defeat of Oley Valley at HersheyPark Stadium. The team's only loss came in

the L-L League championship game, where the Blazers fell to Elizabethtown. As *Bridges* goes to press, the Blazers are in the quarterfinals of the state tournament, seeking another state title.



VOLLEYBALL (back row, l-r): **Ashley King '18**, **Ellen Mann '18**, Coach Hoin, **Melissa Nafziger '18**, **Chloe King '19**, **Sydney Esch '18**, **Kate Kindelberger '18**, **Bryanna Miller '19**. Front row (l-r): **Avonlea Stringer '19**, **Nicole Newswanger '18**, **Janya Stewart '18**, **Carli Costello '18**, **Natalie Willig '21**

Girls Volleyball and Soccer End Seasons in Districts

The LMH girls volleyball team won the Lancaster Lebanon League Section Championship and qualified for the District 3 playoffs. The third-ranked Blazers (15-3) advanced to the semifinal game before bowing to the eventual champion, undefeated Delone Catholic. The sixth-seeded LMH girls soccer team also advanced to the District 3 semifinal game after defeating Delone Catholic in the quarterfinals, but their season ended with a loss to Schuylkill Valley.



CROSS COUNTRY(l-r): **Konrad Martin '18**, **Jared Hooper '19**, **Nathan Yoder '19**, **Jackson Eby '18**, **Rein Wenger '18**, **Abenezer Abebe '18**, **Logan Horst '19**.

The LMH golf team won the Section 3 championship. In the L-L League Tournament, team members included **Mesa Dula '20** (#14), **Jon Glick '21** (#20), **Connor Edie '19** (#33), **Stephen Baak '18** (#73), **Gavin Baer '20** (#42) and **Shawn**

X-Country and Golf Success

Oshikawa '18 (#65). The team placed third in District 3, and Edie qualified for the eastern regional. In girls golf, **Madison Bailey '20** was #12 in the league and qualified for districts.

The boys cross country team finished ninth in the Lancaster-Lebanon League, led by **Logan Horst '19** (#10), **Ebenezer Abebe '18** (#12) and **Nathan Yoder '19** (#17). **Hannah Steckbeck '19** was the top girls runner. The LMH team placed seventh in District 3, where Horst was #4 and Abebe #7. Horst, Abebe and Yoder qualified for the state meet, where Horst led the trio of Blazer runners to the finish line with his 20th-place and medal-earning finish. Abebe crossed the line in 26th place, missing the medal stand by one place. Yoder placed #42.

From the SUPERINTENDENT

In this issue of *Bridges*, we find much for which we can be thankful. From the oldest alumnus to the youngest, we can see God at work through LM to shape successive generations to be of service in whatever field to which they are called.



The need for a Christ-centered education is greater than ever. Along with the spiritual dimension, we must help students to thrive in the 21st century by providing increasingly excellent academic preparation, staying current with trends in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). In the midst of this challenge, LM faces financial challenges. Requests for financial aid have increased and tuition revenue is less than anticipated this year.

LM has taken steps to close this deficit by reducing staff positions, budgets and benefits while limiting staff wage increases. We rely on your support to make up the remaining \$493,000.

LM needs your investment as we build on our faith heritage and prepare students for the challenges of the future. Thank you for considering LM in your year-end giving.

— Pam Tieszen





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Parents: Each alumnus receives a personal copy of *Bridges*. **If this is addressed to a son or daughter who has established a separate residence, please give us the new address.** Contact Keri Bloom at bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 509-4459, ext. 701. Thank you.

Centered in Christ ■ Transforming Lives ■ Changing our World

OPEN HOUSE

VISITOR DAYS

• January 23, 2018 • March 8, 2018

Visitor Days for Hershey Campus and Lancaster Campus are for prospective students to spend a day attending classes with an LM friend or a student guide who has similar interests. While the student is in classes, parents may meet with administrators and/or tour the campus.

DROP-INS

During the first week of each month between 8:30 and noon, drop in to see any of our campuses, chat with administrators and observe classes in action.



All five campuses!

**Thursday,
January 26,
6-8:30 p.m.**

From PreK through grade 12, LM is a place where students are inspired to be the best they can be through an excellent, well-rounded educational experience in a nurturing Christian environment.

**Meet administrators and teachers
and get a campus tour!**

For more information about admissions at all campuses, please contact Christy Horst, director of admissions, at (717) 740-2428 or horstcl@lancastermennonite.org.

www.lancastermennonite.org