

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

bridges.....

SPRING/SUMMER 2017



Teachers, Students and Alumni Making a Difference in Communications



Connecting the **DOTS**

This issue of *Bridges*
focuses on **ENGLISH**.

GARY HILLER
EDITOR



The
next issue
of *Bridges* will
focus on **BUSINESS,
TECHNOLOGY and
AGRICULTURE**.

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.

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**



One of the essentials of education is to impart the ability to communicate effectively through the spoken and written word. At the secondary level, this task is primarily entrusted to the English Department, which along with basic English courses, embraces all types of writing, literature, journalism, speech and drama. This issue features teachers and alumni who teach these subjects or use these skills professionally as writers, authors, editors, playwrights, etc.

Several of LMH's English teachers are alumni and are also closely connected to outstanding students involved with school publications, so the usually separate sections for teachers, alumni and students are somewhat blended in this issue.

This issue features some rather recent alumni who have already achieved significant success in an English-related field. One of these is **Donovan Tann '04**, head of Hesston College's Language Arts Department, to whom I have given the lead article because he articulates so well the importance of Language Arts in education and reflects the same philosophy and approach that his LM teachers had and continue to have. Many of these teachers are still teaching at LM and are featured in these pages.

Because the featured students, teachers and alumni are skilled writers, many of the articles in this issue are first-person accounts written in their own words. These first-person articles are indicated by large quotation marks in the background of the opening text.

Many times the information I have received from teachers and alumni in other fields has also been very well-written and reflects well on LM's well-balanced educational approach. For example, I particularly noted that the verbal communication ability of many of our alumni artists and musicians has helped the public to better understand and appreciate their work.


Enjoy this issue of *Bridges* magazine!

STYLE NOTE: *Bridges* magazine follows *The Associated Press Stylebook* manual of style except where superseded by MCUSA style guidelines.

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 44, No. 3 Editor: Gary Hiller – hillerg@lancastermennonite.org

www.lancastermennonite.org

A photograph of Donovan Tann, a man with glasses and a dark blazer, standing in a classroom and gesturing while holding a piece of paper. Behind him is a whiteboard with handwritten notes in green and blue ink. The notes include "Attendance", "Reading Quiz", "Intro: Krauss", "Polden-w...", "Schlosser discussion", "Next class:", "debate", "PROS", "Jobs", and "nd=\$".

Donovan Tann '04 teaches English and Literature at Hesston College, where he is chair of the Language Arts Department.

Hesston College photo
by Larry Bartel

The Importance of ENGLISH by Donovan Tann

I am drawn to the field of English because it opens doors for students. On the most practical level, strong skills in writing and communication prepare people to use their intellectual gifts in almost any field or industry. English in particular invites students to recognize and master the details and nuance of language necessary for them to become effective, thoughtful communicators. I enjoy helping students to recognize that effective research involves more than gathering information – we must also learn to read generously and to think critically.

Interacting with other people's stories asks us to consider radically different ideas and perspectives. The questions and exploration that serve as the foundation of literary study prepare students to respond to the world's challenges with intelligence,

clarity and empathy – and to make a difference.

I challenge my students to explore new ideas and perspectives as we master essential skills for the workplace and further academic study. As a teacher, I love to see students develop a more global perspective as we investigate shared questions through reading and research.

I believe that language and literature are critical parts of education because these disciplines give voice to our experiences and lead us beyond our own limited perspectives. At its best, my teaching practice invites students to consider someone else's point of view and to find their voice in our world's broader conversations.

Donovan Tann '04 holds a B.A. from Eastern Mennonite University in English and a Ph.D. from Temple University in English.

As a high school student at LMH, I developed some of my future teaching and research interests by taking an AP Introduction to Literature course with **Jane Moyer '67** and AP US History with Sheri Wenger. Excellent teachers like these inspired me to make student research, critical thinking and classroom discussion central to my own teaching practice. The interdisciplinary approaches that I saw modeled throughout my high school experience also helped to prepare me for my current research work at the intersection of English literature, religious studies and cultural history.

ELIZABETH WEAVER-KREIDER '85



Elizabeth Weaver-Kreider '85 is the instructional leader for LM's English Department and faculty advisor for LMH's *Silhouette* literary magazine. She holds a B.A. in English from Eastern Mennonite University and an M.A. in English Literature from Millersville University. She is pictured with **Alena Clatterbuck '19**, *Silhouette* editor.

After college, I moved back to Lancaster and started working as an editorial assistant for Good Books publishing house and *Festival Quarterly* magazine, where I edited several books. Then, in the early '90s, I earned an M.A. in English Literature (with a poetry emphasis) at Millersville University and got my certificate to teach high school English.

After grad school, my husband Jon and I moved to Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, where Jon got his M.S. in Agroecology, and I taught college English at Butler County Community College. When Jon finished his degree and we moved back to Lancaster again, I began teaching at the Susquehanna Waldorf School in Marietta while Jon started a Community Supported Agriculture business (Goldfinch Farm USA).

Eventually, I heard about the job opening in the English department

at LMH and felt a sense of rightness. It brought me back full circle to my own high school. I stepped into the classroom recently vacated by my own teacher from 30 years prior, Janet Banks, and I was finally teaching the age group that my training had actually prepared me to teach.

I love teaching teenagers – the way high schoolers are making connections between their classes and their lives, between their faith stories and their intellectual processes, between their heads and their hearts – all this is inspiring and heartening to me. I am grateful to be teaching here.

To keep in touch with the writing process myself, I have published two books of poetry: *The Song of the Toad and the Mockingbird*, and *Holding the Bowl of the Heart*. Most years, I participate in Lancaster's Spoken Word Festival, an evening program of local poets and storytellers presenting their work.

ALENA CLATTERBUCK '19

Last year, **Ms. Weaver-Kreider '85**, the *Silhouette* faculty advisor, approached me and asked if I would be interested in joining *Silhouette* the following year. I filled out a *Silhouette* application, and Ms. Weaver-Kreider chose me to be the editor. I was surprised because sophomores rarely get leadership roles, but I am very grateful to her for the wonderful opportunity. As an editor, I love getting my hands on a written piece that needs some revision so I can play with the words that the author provided!

A big part of our work at *Silhouette* is recruiting writers and artists that we want to submit work. One of my main goals this year was to increase the quantity and quality of submissions; this year we had more submissions than in the past, and the pieces we received were impressive.

I love any and all English classes. This year alone I took Journalism, Academic Writing and Creative Writing. Other English-related things I do are: book-writing, submitting works to writing competitions, and participating in local library events such as poetry readings and book signings. I also started my own online political magazine.



Denise Bender teaches middle school English at the Kraybill Campus.

DENISE BENDER

I worked in marketing until my children were born and I tried substitute teaching. I loved teaching and, after being a substitute for six years, I decided to get a teaching certification. I finally found my "calling" in life; it was teaching! I love the daily interactions with students and the knowledge that this career allows you to invest in and influence the next generation. I take my students' growth personally and want to do all I can to make sure they are equipped to be leaders both now and in the future. Words are powerful, and I am excited to help students find their voice in writing. Words have the power to influence and change people. Quality writing unleashes endless possibilities.

JANE PEIFER MOYER '67

Jane Peifer Moyer '67 graduated from LMH at the age of 16 and embarked on a long career of inspirational teaching.

Having started first grade at the age of five and skipping second grade, **Jane Peifer Moyer '67** graduated from LMH at the tender age of 16 and started teaching grades seven and eight at Little Britain Mennonite School. With no college or teacher certification at that point, she says she “basically copied what my teachers did at LMH.”

Those LMH years were exciting years for Moyer, and her face lights up when she recounts the vibrant community life she enjoyed as a dorm student and being part of the school's literary societies and debate teams. She liked it so much that she always wanted to return to the Lancaster Campus as a teacher. It would take her 23 years, but she finally fulfilled her dream in 1990.

In between, she obtained a B.A. in English from the University of Iowa, earned an M.A. in English Literature from the University of Northern Iowa, taught English at North Tama High School, and served as the principal of New Danville Mennonite School (1983-1990), which is now LM's New Danville Campus.

When a full-time English position opened at LMH, she jumped at the opportunity to do what she loved at the school she loved.

“I thoroughly enjoy the interchange with students; I love to see their reactions to stories and read their writing,” Moyer said.

Moyer encourages her students to submit their writing to the Scholastic Writing Competition, where many have won regional Gold Key awards and a number have received national recognition at Carnegie Hall. Twice she has accompanied students to the event in New York City. “Students going to Carnegie Hall is a thrill,” she said.

During her LM career, Moyer has taught all of the courses offered by the English Department except Creative Writing and Drama and Performance. She served on the committee that planned LM's World Literature course based on the best books from around the world. “I'm thankful for the trust parents have given us to choose books that provide different perspectives,” she said. “Reading and analyzing books written by authors from many different countries and time periods opens our minds and hearts to the world and the people God has created. It's not only great fun; it's life-changing.”



For 24 years, **Jane Peifer Moyer '67** served as the faculty advisor for LMH's award-winning *Laurel Wreath* yearbook. The 2014 edition ended her advisory career on a high note with a Silver Crown in the annual Columbia Scholastic Press Association awards.

KATHLEEN ENGLE

Kathy Engle always loved to read. As a middle school student, she enjoyed linguistics as well, and was fascinated by the etymology of the English language and the rules of grammar. After graduating from high school, she went to Millersville University to get a degree to teach the subjects that so interested her as a student.

After beginning her teaching career at Cocalico Middle School, Engle was “on the ground floor” when Lancaster Mennonite Middle School started in the fall of 2000. She moved to the

high school level in the fall of 2004, where she currently teaches Advanced Writing, Academic Writing, U.S. Literature and Communications & Analysis.

Whatever the level, her goal is to instill a life-long love of learning and reading in her students. She helps students to study literature in the context of human nature. “What can we learn about ourselves from the stories written about others?” she asks her students.



Kathleen Engle holds a B.S. in Secondary Education and an M.Ed. in Education/English from Millersville University, and has studied at Oxford University.



FACULTY focus

KRIS HORST



Kris Horst holds a B.A. in English Education from Salisbury University and an M.A. in Education from Eastern Mennonite University. He teaches Journalism, Communication and Analysis, Advanced Writing, Academic Writing, British Literature, and Literature of the Christian Faith. He is also the faculty advisor for LMH's student newspaper.

A youth pastor disguised as an English teacher . . .

I chose teaching as a profession after a church service trip to a community center in Raleigh, North Carolina, where I tutored a few youth and discovered the joy of helping them achieve success. I chose English as my subject because I found my English courses to be the most interesting ones, and I enjoy the creative expression of thoughts.

English literature and writing topics are a window into a student's mind. I try to lead them in how to express themselves, to build up their confidence and to explore literary

themes that apply to life.

I seek to plan lessons that allow students openness in exploring their creativity and building on their strengths while meeting content benchmarks.

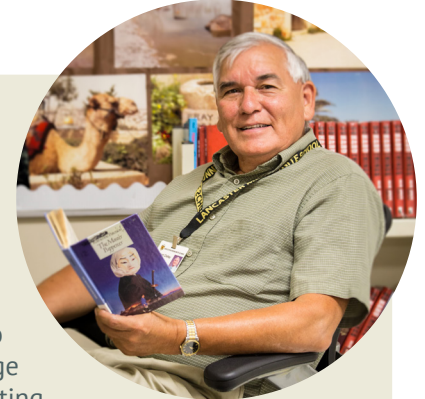
For many years I have considered myself a youth pastor disguised as an English teacher, as I also advise the Friday Morning Bible Study and have led several meaningful small groups on the side. Overall the best part of my career has been building one-on-one relationships.



Curry Snell teaches high school English at the Hershey Campus. Snell holds a B.A. in Secondary English Education from Messiah College and an M.Ed. in Secondary School Counseling from Lancaster Bible College.

ROBERT DAILEY

During my 35 years in public education, I mostly taught language arts and math to sixth graders. I love reading with my students and identifying the life lessons in the stories. At the Hershey Campus I am free to make connections to God as we analyze characters and plots. I challenge students to develop their writing skills by elaborating on themes and revealing the motives for the action in a story. I enjoy the analytical processes in math and the logical problem-solving skills, but I also am thrilled by the creativity that students express in their writing and responses to reading.



CURRY SNELL

In high school, my Creative Writing teacher showed us an article that she wrote for a Christian magazine to illustrate how writing can have power. In that moment, I chose to be an English teacher so that I could have a positive impact on students' lives like she had on mine.

Now, as an English teacher myself, I want students to grow in their understanding and appreciation of the many facets of Language Arts. I help students to see value in reading and expressing themselves through writing.

I enjoy interacting with students and learning from them. Class discussions are one of my favorite parts of my job. I also enjoy those "Aha!" moments when students surprise themselves. Those moments have included seeing something new in a piece of literature, writing a poem for the first time, meeting and exceeding goals, and winning a writing contest they never thought they would win.

ISMAIL YODER SALIM '90

As an LMH student, **Ismail Yoder Salim '90** always loved books and talking about books. He was interested in many subjects, ranging from science to singing, but books were sources of information for all his interests.

After getting a B.A. from Goshen College in English with minors in TESOL and Communication, Yoder Salim taught at J.P. McCaskey High School for ten years before coming to Lancaster Mennonite to serve as director of the Media Center. "I liked LMH as a student, and my daughter started attending the Locust Grove Campus, so I was interested when I heard about the Media Center position," Yoder Salim said.

"As an English teacher, I always liked

talking to students about books, but much of the job involved grammar and grading student writing assignments. Now my job is all about bringing books and students together."

Yoder Salim has the opportunity to talk to middle school students about new books and to high school students about research methods.

The reference material in the Media Center is all online, and almost all the periodicals are online now, Yoder Salim reported. However, he is still acquiring hard-copy books on all subjects and students are still checking them out.

"Print is going to stay around," Yoder Salim said. "Research shows that people learn more thoroughly through print material versus digital."



Ismail Yoder Salim '90, who holds an M.Ed. in Secondary English Education from Millersville University, serves as director of the Media Center and as faculty advisor for the LMH yearbook. He is pictured with yearbook editor **Justice McNeil '17**, who is headed to Temple University to major in Communications Studies.

JUSTICE MCNEIL '17

After taking a journalism course with Mr. Kris Horst during her sophomore year, **Justice McNeil** was encouraged to join the yearbook staff. During her junior year, she served as computer editor, creating layouts and entering pictures and text provided by other members of the yearbook staff. However, she yearned to do her own writing rather than lay out articles written by other people.

She got her chance when the yearbook advisor, **Mr. Yoder Salim '90**, asked her to be the editor for her senior year. "At first I was a little nervous to have so much responsibility," McNeil admitted, "but I felt that what I learned in journalism class prepared me for the job."

As *Laurel Wreath* editor, McNeil wrote the Senior Section and about special events such as the Senior Class Trip. She also wrote catchy captions for work submitted by other writers. "Being involved with *Laurel Wreath* gave me the opportunity to actually apply what I learned in class," McNeil maintained. "I appreciated that."

BREANNA BEERS '17

When I was in middle school, I thought that if I were ever to become a writer, I would be a novelist. Somehow, though, I ended up in Mr. Horst's journalism class, and I fell absolutely in love with news writing.

As a sophomore, I joined *Millstream* as a staff writer, became the news page editor my junior year, and this year was editor-in-chief. As editor, I wrote monthly articles, led discussions of potential article topics, edited and proofread each piece, coordinated with writers and photographers, worked with page editors on layout, and communicated with our publisher about printing and delivery. Just recently, I changed my major from education to journalism. I like the writing, editing and travel aspects that journalism provides, as well as the chance to keep learning and exploring new things throughout my life.



Breanna Beers '17 received the English Department Award as LMH's most outstanding English student. She was editor-in-chief of *Millstream*.



STUDENT spotlight

WANYUE ZHU '17

How did a student whose first language is Chinese win a Gold Key in the National Scholastics writing competition?



Stacie Zhu's Christian faith is very important to her and was a factor in her choosing to attend Lancaster Mennonite High School. While at LMH, she enjoyed going to Mount Joy Mennonite Church with her host family.

"It was not my writing skills," explained **Wanyue (Stacie) Zhu '17**, "it was my story."
"Compared to my American peers, my language skills are not as advanced. But I used very simple language to create visual images of what was inside my head."

Zhu's award-winning story was about emotional abuse she experienced as a middle school student in China. She chose this theme because she had "flashbacks" while taking the Advanced Writing course. "I simply wrote down what I saw during those flashbacks," she said.

Zhu said that the flashbacks were not triggered by anything negative in the class, but by the freedom to think and to express herself as a person of worth with something to say. "Sometimes suffering can be great blessing," Zhu said. "If one expresses it well, those experiences can actually be inspiring or encouraging to others."

Zhu credits several people for helping her to choose the right words with which to express herself. Zhu wrote the piece in Advanced Writing class with **Kathy Engle** and then **Jane Moyer '67**, her AP Literature teacher, encouraged her to enter it into the competition.

Winning writing awards is not new for Zhu. She was a very strong writer in Chinese, winning national awards during primary school and middle school. She feels that she now expresses herself best in English.

"As a sophomore, I couldn't even read a book," Zhu said. "Now I take AP lit and understand enough to be very engaged in classroom discussion." (She got an "A".)

Zhu loves all types of literature and especially appreciated World Literature with Jane Moyer last year. She enjoyed Shakespeare and was one of the few Chinese students to be in an acting role in an LMH production of *Julius Caesar* last year.

Despite her way with words and love of literature, Zhu plans to be a Biology major in college, with a goal of being a veterinarian. "I am very passionate about nature and love working with different species of animals, plants and bacteria," Zhu said.

What about her writing? "I would like to write a novel on the side," Zhu said. "The language I write in would depend on the target readers of my work. I hope my work can serve as a bridge between people from different backgrounds, providing them with a broader world view and deeper insights."



CHARLOTTE HILL '17

Charlotte Hill '17 was selected as Hershey Campus' outstanding English student. In seven speech contests sponsored by the Association of Christian Schools International, she won five superior ratings (the highest award) and two excellent ratings (the second highest award). Her favorite classes have always been Spanish and English, and she will be attending York College of Pennsylvania this fall to major in Spanish Education and minor in Creative Writing. "English is important to me because it allows my imagination to soar wherever I want it to go," she says.

Individually and as a team, Merle and Phyllis Pellman Good have enjoyed notable writing, editing and teaching careers.

Featured ALUMNI



MERLE GOOD '64

I had my first writing published when I was 11. All through my high school years, I was quite active in writing dozens of articles, short stories and poems, many of which were published in church periodicals.

I was grateful for the encouragement I received from fellow students and from teachers. Several of us formed a writer's group at the school while I was a student at LMH.

As a teacher of Creative Writing at LMH for two years, I thoroughly enjoyed seeing students develop their

imaginations and writing skills. The tensions between the discipline of structure and the excitement of experiencing that fresh energy of erupting creativity were ever present.

Some of my better friendships as an adult continue to be with persons I learned to know as students and teachers at LMH. The great good fortune of my life has been a lifelong partnership in the arts, literature, and creativity with my wife and fellow-writer, **Phyllis Pellman Good '66**, whom I first met at LMH.



Merle Good '64 is a writer, dramatist and publisher whose books have sold nearly a million copies and whose Op-Ed essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times*. A motion picture, *Hazel's People*, was based on Good's first novel, *Happy as the Grass Was Green*. His play, *The Preacher and the Shrink*, premiered off-Broadway in New York City in 2013. Good recently completed two plays. His new book, *Surviving Failure (and a few Successes)*, is due out in May 2018.

As publisher for Good Books (1979–2013), Good oversaw the acquisition and publication of more than 1,000 different books by more than a hundred authors, including three #1 *New York Times* bestsellers. He is currently publisher for Walnut Street Books.

Good graduated from Eastern Mennonite University with majors in English and history, and later received an M.Div. in arts and theology from Union Theological Seminary (NYC).

He and **Phyllis Pellman Good '66** have been married for 47 years.

PHYLLIS PELLMAN GOOD '66

My already insatiable interest in books and magazines was heightened while I was a student at LMH. Teachers such as Grace Wenger and Edna Wenger each showed us high school students how stories were constructed and how good language was deftly used in what we were reading. They had high expectations of us — but they did their part by inviting us to read well-written work and then asking intelligent questions of us.

Some years later, when I taught at LMH, I was inspired by **Janet Gehman '52**. She was a great encourager to me as a beginner teacher. I learned how to ask questions that got at the heart of the story or novel or essay I had

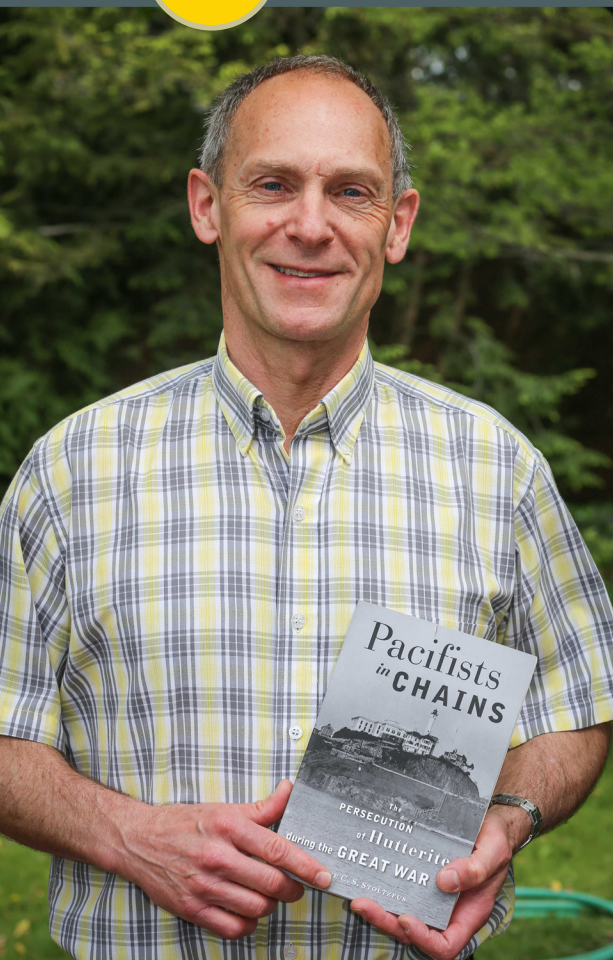
assigned. And then came the payoff: vigorous discussions with bright kids who had been engaged by the novelists, storytellers, and poets we were reading.

These experiences and the reinforcement I received both as an LMH student and teacher have kept me reading widely through my whole life. These teachers asked for well-written papers, and that was good bedrock for my future writing and editing. I'm a complete believer in the value of clear, crisp writing, partly as a result of those LMH classes where sloppy phrasing and yarning answers and mis-spellings were absolutely unacceptable!

Phyllis Pellman Good '66 is a *New York Times* bestselling author whose books have sold more than 14 million copies. In addition to the *New York Times* bestseller list, several of her Fix-It and Forget-It cookbooks have appeared on the bestseller lists of *USA Today* and *Publishers Weekly*. Her latest book is *Stock the Crock: 100 Must-Have Slow Cooker Recipes, with 200 Variations for Every Appetite*. Good holds an M.A. in English from New York University. She taught English classes at LMH from 1972–1974. In 2006 she was chosen LM Alumna of the Year.

PHOTO: Time, Inc. Books





DUANE STOLTZFUS '77

One of the most significant moments in my vocational life came in 1975, when I was a sophomore sitting in a creative writing class taught by Rose Breneman. While I loved to read throughout childhood, I never would have called myself a writer — and for good reason, I hadn't written very much. But in that class Ms. Breneman had us write poems one day. And then she asked me to read my poem aloud. I think that was the first time a teacher had ever asked me to read a piece of my own writing aloud.

I remember feeling a little embarrassed but also pleased to be asked. It's telling that I saved the poem. More than 40 years later, I still have the poem, handwritten in pencil, in a filing cabinet in my office at Goshen College. As a poem, it struggles to stand on its own legs, but as a signpost on the vocational way, it's a sturdy work, even if I did misspell "tomorrow."

Later that year, Ms. Breneman asked whether I would serve as assistant editor of the *Millstream* in the next year, my junior year. And that meant I would become editor as a senior.

Those two years confirmed that I wanted to become a certain kind of writer, a journalist — or at least that I was serious about considering journalism. In the yearbook my senior year, I publicly committed to either becoming a journalist or a psychiatrist. By my first year in college at Goshen, I was busy writing for the weekly paper and well on my way to having chosen arts over sciences.

And I went on to make writing my life's work: first as a newspaper reporter and editor, and now as a teacher. I might have found my way along this path without Ms. Breneman, but maybe not. What's certain is that I never thanked her until much later for noticing my poem and inviting me to serve as assistant editor and editor of the *Millstream*. In 2008, I sent her an official thank you letter. At the same time, I also sent a letter to Mark Kelley, who also taught English at Lancaster Mennonite and who inspired us to think of journalism as an important and adventurous calling.

Duane Stoltzfus '77:

- B.A., Goshen College, 1981
- M.A., New York University, 1988
- Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2001
- 2000-present, Professor of Communication, Goshen College
- 2004-present, Copy Editor, *The Mennonite Quarterly Review*
- 2000-present, Faculty Adviser, *The Goshen College Record*, weekly newspaper
- 1997-2000, Staff Editor, *The New York Times*
- 1989-1997, Reporter and copy editor, *The Record of Hackensack, N.J.*
- Author of *Pacifists in Chains: The Persecution of Hutterites during the Great War, a history of four pacifists imprisoned for their refusal to serve during World War I* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014).

DAYNA REIDENOUER '99

Dayna Reidenouer '99 graduated from Penn State with a degree in Communication Arts & Sciences and a minor in Agricultural Communication. For the past decade, she has been the feature writer and photographer for four local weekly papers printed by Engle Printing and Publishing Co., Inc.: the Penn Manor, Solanco, and Lampeter-Strasburg Advertisers, and the Hempfield Merchandiser.

Reidenouer said that LM greatly influenced her career path. She wrote for the *Millstream* and was news editor as a senior. "Kris Horst, Jon Metzler '91, Dan Dietzel and Jane Moyer '67 come to mind when I think of language arts faculty members who helped me become a better writer and communicator," she said.

Although appreciating all these language arts teachers, Reidenouer credits retired ag-tech teacher and FFA advisor Lem Metzler as the person who had the most impact on her life. "Because I had excelled in FFA speech competitions, I ultimately ended up studying speech communication," Reidenouer said. "Lem also encouraged me to persevere when my personal life threw me for a loop."



STEPHANIE WEAVER '06

Writing has always been something that comes easy for me. I first got a taste of journalism during my sophomore year at LMH when I took Kris Horst's journalism class. I thoroughly enjoyed the class and learning the basics of journalism. I joined the yearbook staff my junior year and served as the editor-in-chief my senior year under the guidance of **Jane Moyer '67**. I loved being on the yearbook staff and the mixture of writing, photography and design along with organization, management and deadlines. As I began trying to figure out what I wanted to study in college, I remember wishing there was a way to do yearbook full-time. I enjoyed it that much. So, that desire led me to look into journalism.

I joined the newspaper staff at Eastern University my freshman year after taking basic journalism and design classes. I became the sports editor of the paper my sophomore year, the managing editor my junior year and the editor-in-chief my senior year. I also did internships with *LNP* (then the *Intelligencer Journal*) during two summers while I was in college.

My main goal as a reporter is to be as fair and accurate as possible with every

story I write. My job is to report things as they happen to keep the community informed and help document history as it unfolds every day. While many people consider the "media" to be a form of entertainment or opinionated commentary, local journalism and daily newspapers are actually a public service.

Beyond that, my goal is to share stories that are important. I've always believed every individual has a story worth sharing that can touch someone else, and I see my role as a journalist as a platform to get those stories out there. I like being able to share others' stories and providing a voice for those who often don't have a voice. The greatest reward after writing a story is to have the main subject, especially victims and their families, contact me to tell me how much they appreciated the article and the way I wrote it.

I also enjoy taking complex or confusing issues and boiling them down so that they make sense to me and to readers, so that people can then develop their own informed opinions. But most of all, I enjoy meeting so many different people and hearing about their life journeys.



Stephanie Weaver '06 is the court reporter for the *Reading Eagle*, Berks County's daily newspaper, covering trials, pleas, hearings and other legal issues. From 2012-2015, she edited LM's *Bridges* magazine while working for the *Eagle*. Before joining the *Eagle*, she was a reporter for *The Sentinel* in Carlisle.

ANNA GROFF '02

Anna Groff '02 graduated from Goshen College in 2006 with a journalism degree and began working for The Mennonite, Inc. as a half-time web editor. The position grew into associate editor and, when former editor Everett Thomas left The Mennonite, Inc., in January 2014, the board of directors named Groff interim editor – then executive director in February. As interim editor, Groff launched a new website. She also edited two ezines – TMail and Meno Acontecer – for more than seven years and started an online edition.

After nine years with The Mennonite, Inc., she became the full-time executive director of Dove's Nest, an organization that works to equip faith communities to keep children safe in their homes, churches and communities. Her story is featured in LM's 75th anniversary book, *Bridging Decades, Embracing the Future*.

As a senior in high school, Groff was the editor of the *Millstream* and honed her writing and editing skills. Groff said that LM's high standards, particularly in writing and critical thinking, prepared her for college and her careers. "I felt that, whatever I wanted to do, the sky was the limit," Groff said.





Featured ALUMNI

EUGENE KRAYBILL '67



For ten years, Eugene Kraybill '67 was a well-known reporter for Lancaster Newspapers, then seemed to drop off the map. Here's his story.

Eugene Kraybill '67 has filled many roles since graduating from Eastern Mennonite University with a B.A. in English:

- High school English teacher in Swaziland
- Editor, weekly newspapers in Bedford and Perry Counties, PA
- General assignment reporter, Lancaster Newspapers
- Editor, computer education company in Perth, Australia
- Freelance magazine writer for *Australian Geographic* and other major Australian magazines
- Computer training officer, West Australian government
- Computer training manager, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia
- Web developer, consulting company, Mansfield, PA
- Web developer for Adelphia Cable TV, Coudersport, PA
- Document manager specialist for Corning Inc., Corning, NY
- Instructional designer for Cornell University (eCornell.com) since 2015

Kraybill in
1967



11

Bridges

While I always knew that I wanted to pursue a career involving writing and the creative use of communications, my days at Lancaster Mennonite definitely affirmed me in those interests. I remember especially Carolyn Charles' English classes. She taught with great enthusiasm for literature and for the writing process. If I remember correctly, she also emphasized keeping a journal — not a diary of routine events, but a journal of your thoughts and responses to events in your life. Today, thanks to that encouragement, in my home office I have a thick stack of journals that reveal a lot about the most formative years of my life. I've started work on a semi-biographical novel, drawing in part from that journal content. I also did a lot of photography for the 1967 yearbook and was active in the Herculean Literary Society, developing photography and writing skills that would come in handy later as a journalist.

I've often explained my career transitions by saying my different roles were all related to communications. Because this field has changed so much, I've had to repeatedly re-invent myself to learn new skills while continually demonstrating to prospective employers how skills I developed in my previous roles were relevant. I've always required my career positions to give me a sense of meaning and fulfillment, not necessarily top pay. Today, I may not be wealthy, but I do look back over a rich career filled with a lot of interesting work.

After a four-year stint as an English teacher with Mennonite Central Committee in Swaziland, I began fulfilling my love for writing and for newspapers by diving into weekly and then daily newspaper work. After 10 years with Lancaster Newspapers, my editorial background got me my first computer-related job, with a computer

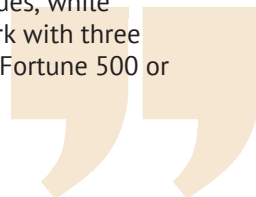
education company in Australia. After several years there, I moved up to better computer training jobs with a large university and then the West Australian government. The Web was just beginning then, and I indulged my love of communications by starting several websites, teaching myself web development and programming skills.

When I moved back to the U.S., to northern Pennsylvania, I was able to exploit those new web development skills with a small consulting company, a major cable TV company and Corning Inc. When much of Corning's IT work was outsourced, it was time once again to move on, this time to probably the best job so far: instructional designer for Cornell University.

Working as an instructional designer involves helping university faculty create online courses, often adapting and reshaping their in-class content for shorter-form professional certificate courses in leadership, management, human resources and other areas. It's perhaps the first job I've had that combines all of my interests and career skills: teaching, analyzing, coaching, facilitating, writing, editing, technology, and website development.

I love the opportunities that come with today's hi-tech communications and with social media. At the same time, media today is so much more fragmented and most of us are only reading the content that we agree with. To a large extent, I believe the current chaotic political situation has arisen not because of the mainstream media, but because of the way the Internet fosters highly partisan silos.

I consider myself so fortunate to be able to live along a dirt road in the mountains of northern Pennsylvania over the past two decades, while maintaining steady work with three major organizations of Fortune 500 or Ivy League caliber.



DAN CHARLES '78

- Daniel Charles '78 is a writer and radio producer. He is
- currently NPR's Food and Agriculture correspondent,
- based in Washington, D.C.

There certainly were experiences at LMH that were important in nudging me toward the work that I'm doing now. The biggest thing was probably working on the student newspaper, the *Millstream*. I had always liked reading and writing, and had fantasies of working as a journalist, but this was the first chance I had to live out the role, interview people and write stories and have them appear in print for everybody to read. Our faculty adviser was a terrific mentor and sounding board. He also taught a journalism class in which he specifically talked about journalism for the radio. It was the first time I was introduced to the idea of writing specifically for the ear.

When I was at LMH, **Duane Stoltzfus '77** was the editor of the *Millstream* the

year before me, and I really looked up to him. Our paths have crossed since then in various ways. He worked at newspapers in New Jersey and then at *The New York Times*; now he teaches journalism at Goshen, and he invited me to come talk there a few years ago.

When I was growing up, I had notions of working as a journalist, but journalism seemed like a far-away, inaccessible thing. Seeing the byline of **Eugene Kraybill '67** in the newspaper, and knowing that he was an LM alumnus, made it seem like something that maybe I could do, too. Around the time I was a senior in high school, I called him and asked if we could meet, and he was kind enough to talk with me at his desk at Lancaster Newspapers.



Dan Charles '78 studied economics and international affairs at American University, then studied in Bonn, Germany, under a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service. He was a guest researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg in 1986 and was a Knight Science Journalism Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Before joining NPR, Charles was a U.S. correspondent for *New Scientist*, a major British science magazine. His work has been published by *Science*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Washington Post*, *Technology Review* and other publications.

He wrote *Master Mind: The Rise and Fall of Fritz Haber, the Nobel Laureate who Launched the Era of Chemical Warfare* (Ecco/HarperCollins, 2005) and *Lords of the Harvest: Biotech, Big Money, and the Future of Food* (Perseus, 2001), a widely praised account of genetically engineered crops.

KARA LOFTON '10



Kara Leigh Lofton '10 is the Appalachia Health News Coordinator at West

Virginia Public Broadcasting. Lofton's

stories are divided between her radio reports and short pieces for Internet readers. Eight stories reached a national audience through NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition."

Previously, Lofton was a freelance reporter for WMRA, an affiliate of NPR serving the Shenandoah Valley and Charlottesville in Virginia. One of her nationally-broadcast reports garnered a first place award for a feature story from the Virginia Association of Broadcasters.

Her work has been published by *Kaiser Health News*, *Medscape.com*, *The*

Hill, *Side Effects Public Media*, *Virginia Living*, and *Blue Ridge Outdoors*, among other outlets. She has also written and photographed for Eastern Mennonite University, from which she earned a bachelor's degree.

"I was a liberal arts major, but I took classes I thought would help me get into the field and did several internships," said Lofton. "I started freelancing for the NPR member station WMRA about a month after I graduated and soon was producing one or two stories a week for them. I was also freelancing for EMU at the time as well as working as a part-time staffer in their communications department."

Lofton credits LMH teacher **Jane Moyer '67** for helping her get into college in the first place. "She must have told me to put away my own book a hundred times over the course of the semester, but she still wrote me probably the best recommendation I have gotten to date," Lofton recalled.



Featured ALUMNI

EILEEN KINCH '00



Eileen R. Kinch '00 received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Chatham College and a Master of Divinity degree from Earlham School of Religion. Her chapbook, *Gathering the Silence*, was released in 2013 from Finishing Line Press. Her poems have appeared in *Topology*, *Calyx*, *Fledgling Rag*, and other journals and anthologies. Her poetry was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

"I am glad I went to a school that recognized writing not just as an academic talent, but also as a gift from God."



It's not easy to come up with an answer as to why I am a poet. The best way to articulate it is that I feel a sense of call toward writing as ministry, and poetry is one way to be faithful to it. I have experienced writing as related to bearing testimony, or truth-telling. God can speak through us or to us in a number of ways, through Christ the Word and through human words. I see my role to be open to hearing, and then to be faithful in speaking or writing, as led.

I have always enjoyed reading, writing, and thinking. I can't say as I can make direct connections between that and my time at school, but I can say that Pat Shelly, who then taught at New Danville Campus, encouraged my writing in middle school. **Jane Moyer '67** and Janet Banks also encouraged my writing, as did **Jon Metzler '91**, although the writing I was doing then was about other literature.

I won an award for an essay from the National Council of Teachers of English when I was in high school. I am grateful for teachers who encouraged me, and glad I went to a school that recognized writing not just as an academic talent, but also a gift from God.

Poetry is not a lucrative career. In fact, many creative writers (and not just poets) have other jobs that support them, and/or working spouses. I have both of these (my paying job is Library Assistant at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, plus freelance writing and editing work), as well as a supportive husband. Poetry also isn't always valued by everyone, either. Poetry often means isolated quiet time or appearing to be not doing much at all. Poetry asks for stillness, not busyness; poetry asks for slowness and careful words, not always quantifiable productivity; poetry asks for time and focus, which are often in short supply. Sometimes the work is in believing, in the face of doubts, whether from others, or simply my own, that writing is worth it. Yet I've heard from people who have read my writing and experienced inner healing. Others resonate with the experiences mentioned in the poetry. Some say the stillness they feel in the poems helps them. Some feel inspired. These are the moments when I get glimpses of the (unseen) work that God might be doing.

Poetry is a discipline. It is also an art form. And, for me, at least, it is a calling.

DIANA ZIMMERMAN '89

After graduating from LMH, **Diana Zimmerman '89** received a B.A. in Theater from Goshen College. Her poetry collection, *Run Blue River*, was published by Goshen College's Pinchpenny Press, and several of her one-act plays, including "Circulos" and "Betsy," were performed in Goshen College's Umble Center. Her poetry has also been published by *Tamarindo*, Costa Rica's *The Howler* magazine, and in bi-annual editions of *Rust+Moth* and *When Women Waken*. In 2012, she self-published a Spanish/English bilingual poetry collection called *Tell me About the Telaraña*.

Zimmerman's first work of prose, an early-childhood memoir called *When the Roll Is Called a Pyonder: Tales from a Mennonite Childhood*, was released in 2014 by Electio Publishing. The book is a memoir of a childhood on a Lancaster County Mennonite family farm in the 1970s. The story unfolds through a series of vignettes from the viewpoint and in the voice of the child she was. The book does not directly address or evaluate Mennonite life or beliefs, but draws from them and describes them by being set in them as in the center of the child's universe. Zimmerman now resides in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, and maintains an active blog and website.

VALERIE WEAVER-ZERCHER '90

Valerie Weaver-Zercher '90 is acquisitions editor for Herald Press trade books and a writer whose feature stories, essays and book reviews have been published in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Sojourners*, *The Christian Century*, *Christianity Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Mennonite*, *Mennonite Weekly Review* and *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, among others. She is also a regular book reviewer for *The Christian Century* and a contributing editor to *Sojourners*.

Her essay "Holding Baby Birds" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and received special mention in the Pushcart Prize XXXIII anthology (2009). The same year, she received an Individual Artist's Fellowship in creative nonfiction from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

In 2013, her book about Amish-themed romance fiction, *Thrill of the Chaste: The Allure of Amish Romance Novels*, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press, exploring the wildfire popularity of Amish novels in the twenty-first century. She recently had an essay included in *What Did Jesus Ask?: Christian Leaders Reflect on His*

Questions of Faith, published by Time Inc. Books.

In the past, she has done developmental editing, copy editing and manuscript review for a variety of publishers such as Brazos Press, Baker Academic, InterVarsity Press, Herald Press, Cascadia Publishing House and Johns Hopkins University Press. She has the distinction of editing a book by **David Shenk '55** — *Christian. Muslim. Friend.* — which won a *Christianity Today* award, and *Living More with Less*, 30th anniversary edition (Herald Press, 2010).

"I remember taking Advanced Writing with Dan Dietzel and the gentle but insistent way he pushed us on craft," recalled Weaver-Zercher. "And of course, **Janet Gehman '52**, Janet Banks, and other teachers helped me gain a love of literature and good writing in general."

"Working on the *Millstream* was an excellent place to gain confidence as a writer and editor, and I have lots of fond memories of working in the *Millstream* office, carefully cutting apart columns of copy and gluing them on the layout boards."



Valerie Weaver-Zercher '90 earned a degree in English from Eastern Mennonite University and went on to obtain a master's degree in Reading/Writing/Literacy from the University of Pennsylvania.



JOEL NOFZIGER '99

Joel Nofziger '99, director of communications for the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, finds writing at the forefront as he works to make the past accessible and engaging. He is the editor of *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*, the quarterly magazine of the Historical Society focusing on the history and culture of Anabaptist-related groups in Central Pennsylvania, and the coordinating editor for *AnabaptistHistorians.org*, a collaborative blog that shares cutting-edge scholarship in an approachable style.

He remembers his first foray into meaningful writing as entering the Lancaster Peace Essay Contest his sophomore and junior years at LMH. He won his junior year with a story on the "ABCs of Problem Solving." "It was the first time I understood that what I wrote mattered and had value to others," he recalled, "not just writing for a teacher."

Nofziger noted that his LM experience was important, not just for providing a strong educational foundation for further work and study, but also in cultivating an attitude toward Christian service. This has continued with his engagement with his home congregation, Pilgrims Mennonite Church, and his work communicating history in the Church.



“LMH teachers never gave their students any idea that they couldn’t be whomever they wanted to be or do whatever they wanted after graduation. Armed with that, how can alumni not succeed?”

MARGARET WEAVER '08

Margaret Weaver '08 is a proposal writer. “It’s not a glamorous job, but I love what I do,” Weaver said. Knowing how to write a persuasive, captivating proposal is essential for success in many fields. The goal of a proposal is to gain support for a plan or proposition, which is more likely to be approved if communicated in a clear, concise and engaging manner.

“Lancaster Mennonite’s English teachers instilled a desire to research, write, edit and read,” Weaver said.

After graduating from LMH, she started at West Chester University as an English major with a focus on writing and research and was on the fast track to law school. But after graduating, she felt that being a lawyer was not what she really wanted to do. So, she got a job as a financial writer for an asset management firm in Harrisburg. “It seemed like a good stepping stone into the corporate world and into writing,” she said. “I wrote proposals and other marketing

materials to help position the firm to win new business.”

After two and a half years, she moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to write proposals in the healthcare industry. “I love my job because I can help people find the right care, for the right price, at the right time,” Weaver said. In addition to proposals, she has written marketing materials, presentations, case studies, and other materials needed to help position the company for success.

“From Mrs. Banks’ British Literature class to AP English Composition with **Jane Moyer '67**, my love for all things related to writing and reading grew into a strong passion that stayed with me through college as an English major and are present in my career today.”

“I would love to share my story with others and help inspire the next generation of writers and dreamers out there,” Weaver said.

“LMH teachers never gave their students any idea that they couldn’t be whomever they wanted to be or do whatever they wanted after graduation. Armed with that, how can alumni not succeed?”



Rebecca Kraybill '09 was formerly a reporter with Lancaster Newspapers and an editorial assistant with *Sojourners* magazine.

REBECCA KRAYBILL '09

I am a writer and editor based in Washington, D.C., and currently a writer/editor at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. I hold a B.A. in English Writing from Goshen College and have since written for magazines, newspapers, nonprofits and digital spaces.

A very formative experience at LMH was my involvement with the *Millstream*. As a writer and page editor, it was my first experience in curating the news and words around me, and realizing that capturing the surrounding stories could influence,

reflect or change my community.

The LMH campus was a safe place to practice journalism and engage with a diversity of opinions. I appreciated Dan Dietzel’s advisory with the newspaper and his guidance and flexibility. I also enjoyed a range of English and literature classes that affirmed my writing voice and helped me discover my joy of reading and words. LMH was also an early foundation for my love of the arts (I was involved in band and drama). In my current job I get to combine both writing and the arts, and that is gratifying.

Alumni scholars in many fields have used their English skills to write books and publish articles in their areas of expertise. Here are a few of them.



DON KRAYBILL '63

Don Kraybill '63 has a doctorate in sociology and is recognized for his scholarship on Anabaptist groups, but his vibrant writing and communication skills have shone brightly in more than 18 books and dozens of professional articles that have been translated into 6 different languages. In addition to academic books — largely published by Johns Hopkins University Press — he also writes popular books sold in gift shops to tourists interested in learning more about Amish and Mennonites. Kraybill's book *The Upside-Down Kingdom* was the winner of the National Religious Book Award in 1979. Other books include the highly acclaimed *Amish Grace* (2007, with Steven Nolt and David Weaver-Zercher), *The Amish* (2013, with Karen Johnson-Weiner and Steven Nolt), and *Renegade Amish: Beard Cutting, Hate Crimes, and the Trial of the Bergholz Barbers* (2014). He was also author of *Passing on the Faith*, a book about LM written for the school's fiftieth anniversary, and he is currently working on a book to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Eastern Mennonite University.



JOHN L. RUTH '48

John L. Ruth '48 was previously featured in *Bridges* as a noted Church leader, but he also holds a doctorate in English from Harvard University and has been an English professor at Eastern University and The University of Hamburg, Germany. He is the author of *The Earth is the Lord's: A Narrative History of Lancaster Mennonite Conference*; *Conrad Grebel, Son of Zurich*; and *Branch: A Memoir with Pictures*.



DAVID SHENK '55

David Shenk '55 is the author of more than 15 books and articles related to missions and the relationship of the Gospel to other religions. Among his books are *A Muslim and a Christian in Dialogue*, *Christian. Muslim. Friend.*, and *Surprises of the Christian Way*.

More Alumni in ENGLISH



Willard Gingerich '63 is provost, vice president for academic affairs, and professor of English at Montclair State University. He holds a B.A. in English from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Connecticut. During his career as an English professor, he has taught all levels of writing courses. From 1980-81, he was a Fulbright professor at the Universidad Nacional de Panamá. He has published widely on contemporary American poetry and Native American literature.



Janet Gehman '52 taught English at LM from 1965-1995 and in China for two years. For seven years, she edited Lancaster Mennonite Conference's newsletter.



ALUMNI Notes

High Scholarship Fund



Sadie Horst High '65 and her husband, S. Dale High, have established the S. Dale and Sadie Horst High Scholarship Fund to provide need-based tuition assistance for students to attend LM. The Highs have demonstrated a heart for the Lancaster community and have generously supported many civic organizations, including significant contributions to educational institutions. A graduate of Millersville University who holds a master's degree from Villanova University, Sadie is recently retired as an organizational development and training specialist. She has served on many for-profit and non-profit boards. She is a trustee emirate of Lancaster Theological Seminary, which said it greatly benefitted from her expertise in organizational management. Her husband, Dale, is chair emeritus of the High Companies, which includes 14 entities in addition to High Steel.

Graydon Briguglio '14 and Cameron Graybill

'14, engineering students at Drexel University, recently competed in Philly Codefest, a 36-hour software and hardware "hackathon" with a goal of developing innovative solutions to help solve real world challenges. Briguglio's team won the overall contest while Graybill's team won the category for best user interface in an app. Briguglio and Graybill both served on LM's website team.



A Lancaster County quilt store owned by **Jan Steffy Mast '85** and **Dean Mast '84** has been named one of the top 10 quilt shops in the country by *Quilt Sampler* magazine. The Old Country Store in Intercourse was featured in the Spring/Summer issue that profiles North America's top quilt shops. Store owner Jan Mast said the recognition is a big deal for quilters. Many quilters try to visit all of the top stores and have the owners sign their copies of the magazine, she said. They are pictured with the magazine and store manager, **Barbara Stoner Carper '79**.



Sharon Lopez '79 received the Women Making Democracy Work Award at the 70th birthday celebration of the League of Women Voters of Lancaster County. The award recognizes a woman whose spirit, purpose and actions are dedicated to improving the quality of life for all women within the community. Lopez is a partner at Triquestra Law in Lancaster and was recently named the Pennsylvania Bar Association's 123rd president, the first Latina and fourth female president since 1895.



Justin Zook '99 has been recognized with a PECASE Award for his extraordinary work in genomic metrology and his humanitarian service supporting healthcare in developing countries. This is the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government on science and engineering professionals. Zook holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Memphis and works for the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the Material Measurement Laboratory. His pioneering work led to the publication of the world's most accurate and comprehensive measurement of an entire human genome for medical diagnostics, clinical research methods, human identity testing, and other critical technologies that rely upon advanced genetic measurements.

[MARRIAGES]

Alex Sadowski HC '07 and Elena Mendoza, May 12, 2017
Joshua Hennigh HC '13 and Karleigh Murphey, May 20, 2017

[BIRTHS]

Sherrie (Reinford) '95 and Matt Johndrow, Logan Harvey, born March 31, 2016, received for adoption April 11, 2016.

Laura (Livengood) '00 and Duane Stoner, third child, first daughter, Ellen Mary, June 10, 2017

Melody (Hunt) '08 and **Ryan '08 Lehman**, a daughter, Magnolia Jane, March 23, 2017

Kate (Musser) HC '09 and Will Wibberding, second child, a son, Hayden Scott, June 6, 2017

Katie (Clinton) HC '07 and Brad Gotshall, first child, a daughter, Adeline, February 28, 2017

Desiree (Sheppard) '07 and Steven McCoy, first child, a son, Quincy, June 17, 2016

[DEATHS]

Lois (Leatherman) Blough '55, Lititz, PA, April 23, 2017, social worker

William C. Leatherman '57, Doylestown, PA, April 21, 2017, vehicle service manager

John B. Leonard '57, Mancelona, MI, October 20, 2016

Roy Lester Brubaker '59, Mifflintown, PA, June 16, 2017, educator, missionary, pastor and organic farmer

Evelyn Louise (Singer) Givens '74, Wrightsville, PA, March 20, 2017

Dale E. Myer '62, Lakewood Ranch, FL, April 3, 2017, sales executive

Daniel G. Eberly '70, Tampa, FL, May 10, 2017, minister.

[TRANSITIONS]

Kathryn "Heidi" Smucker '07, is a Development and Project Coordinator at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and a Senior Aide for Ayanna Pressley, At-Large Councilor of the Boston City Council.

[IN MEMORIUM]

J. Lester Brubaker, age 93, died June 15, 2017, after 50 years of ministry in Christian education that included principal of Lancaster Mennonite High School (1970-79) and superintendent (1979-1983).



J. Lester Brubaker

Class Reunions

Class of 1952 — 65th

Date: Sept. 14 & 15, 2017
Place: Details coming on website
Contact: Galen Benner, 717-752-2298

Class of 1957 — 60th

Date: Oct. 6, 2017
Place: Lancaster Campus, Community Room
Contact: Ray & Dottie Geigley at geigler13@comcast.net or 717-264-9490

Class of 1967 — 50th

Date: Sept. 29 and 30, 2017
Place: Lancaster Campus
Contact: David Weaver at davidweaver1947@gmail.com

Class of 1977 — 40th

Date: Oct. 6, 2017, 5 p.m.
Place: Lancaster Campus, Gathering Area
Contact: Sandy Thomas at sandy@legacylandscapematerials.com or 717-380-7612

Class of 2007 — 10th

Date: Sept. 16, 2017, 5 p.m.
Place: Lancaster Campus — Alumni Dining Hall
Contact: Caitlin Gibson at caitlin.gibson@cancer.org

Address alumni and school news to bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 509-4459, ext. 701.

[STAFF RETIREMENTS]

We are grateful for the teachers and staff who have invested many years in helping our school be centered in Christ, transforming lives and joining with God in changing our world. The following retired this school year:

- J. Richard Thomas, 44 years (effective Dec. 31, 2016)
- Jan Stauffer, 33 years
- Philomena Behmer, 30 years
- Valerie Garton, 21 years
- Judi Mollenkof, 17 years
- JW Sprunger, 15 years
- Steve Behmer, 7 years



Jan Stauffer



Philomena Behmer



Valerie Garton



Judi Mollenkof



JW Sprunger



Steve Behmer



School News



The LM Quiz Bowl team holds a check for \$3,000 that they won with a second-place finish in WGAL-TV's Brain Busters tournament: **Benjamin Jessup '20**, **Alex Beck '19**, **Toby Palmer '20**, **Brandon Roe '17** (captain) and **Jacob Cairns '19**.

LM QUIZ BOWL TEAM PLACES SECOND

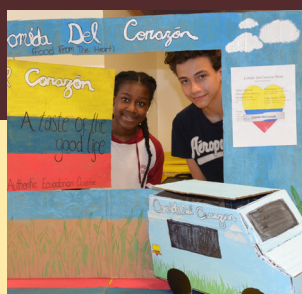
The Lancaster Mennonite Quiz Bowl team recently competed in the finals of WGAL-TV's Brain Busters tournament, placing second to Hempfield among teams from Central Pennsylvania. This marks the second time in three years that the team has competed in the Brain Busters final.

In October, the team – which includes students from both the Lancaster and Hershey campuses – won the Tri-State Falcon Fall Tournament in Philadelphia. This

qualified them for the NAQT High School National Championship Tournament in Atlanta. During the NAQT High School tournament, **Brandon Roe '17** was selected for Pennsylvania's 2017 National All-Star Academic Tournament (NASAT) A team.

Several members – team captain **Brandon Roe '17** (Lancaster Campus), **Jacob Cairns '19** (Lancaster Campus) and **Benjamin Jessup '20** (Hershey Campus) – experienced individual

success this year. All three qualified to compete nationally in the U.S. Geography Olympiad and International Geography Bee, with Cairns placing first in the regional competition. Jessup placed 30th nationally in the JV division of the U.S. Geography Olympiad. During a regional event to qualify for the U.S. History Bee, Roe and Cairns placed first in the JV and Varsity divisions, respectively. Both qualified for national competition in the National History Bee.



Project Based Learning at LMMS

Food Truck Project Conveys Learning

Lancaster Mennonite Middle School students engage in Project Based Learning, in which students gain knowledge and skills by investigating and responding to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem or challenge. This year, the final project of the school year centered on the development of globally-inspired food trucks. Groups of students researched a country of their choice to learn about its food and culture before preparing and presenting a representative recipe from that region at a public exhibition on May 25.

Students researched the specifications of a working food truck, produced scale drawings of the interior and exterior, and developed a pricing

sheet that included all of the tools and equipment required to operate the truck. Groups created original logos that represented the culture and food of the country of origin and drafted advertisements to promote the trucks' signature dishes. Students also constructed 3D truck models for their Exhibition Night displays.

Students also learned basic cooking skills, with a focus on sanitation and safety. Groups created a cooking plan that included a standardized recipe, a quality scorecard, an equipment list and a work schedule. In addition to learning and applying these skills, students researched problems related to food waste and created public service announcements addressing this issue.



The Alumni Dining Hall was filled with people sampling globally-inspired food during LMMS's Exhibition Night.

KRAYBILL STUDENTS READ ONE MILLION MINUTES

Students at the Kraybill Campus celebrated the achievement of corporately reading for more than one million minutes during the 2016-17 school year. The reading event and celebration was organized by Debra Eger, the campus's reading and math support specialist (pictured right, in protective gear).

Most of the reading was done at home, with some free-choice reading in school. "Students could read anything of their choosing," Eger said.

"Pages did not count," Eger explained. "It is minutes spent reading." Younger students had a record sheet that their parents signed to document their progress. Older students noted their minutes in a class notebook each week.

"It has been a very exciting venture,"

said Eger. "In February we were not yet at the 750,000 minute mark, so we changed things to get more kids excited and meet the challenge. And we did it!"

Mrs. Eger generated enthusiasm by offering ice cream vouchers to the top readers of the month. She also recognized the top readers of the year and three-quarters into the year. The top three readers overall were Shylah Searfoss, Marie Gehman and Alina Hofstetter (pictured above left), who received gift certificates. Certificates were also given to the top readers in each grade.

As part of the year-end celebration, students could throw wet sponges at Eger, and Turkey Hill provided ice cream.



Ann Shannon from WGAL-TV news interviews Mrs. Eger at the year-end celebration.

LOCUST GROVE STUDENTS WIN WRITING AWARDS



Out of 350 entries from Lancaster, Dauphin, and Lebanon schools, nine sixth and seventh graders from Locust Grove received honorable mention in this year's Hershey Story history essay contest: (front row, l-r): Valerie Jacobs, Madison Wissler, Paige Riehl, Hiedi Gbotoe, Hannah Whisman; (back row, l-r) Carter Cameron, Seth Forry, Madeleine Gerz, Gracie Rea.



The poems of 13 students were entered in the Celebration of Young Artists poetry competition and were accepted for publication in the 2017 *Celebration!* book published by Creative Communications: (front row, l-r) Seth Forry, Benjamin Nolt, Sarah Steckbeck, Maya Habacivch, Clint Landis, Regan Thomas, Robert Ross; (back row, l-r) Gracie Rea, Sophia Gingrich, Nardos Amare, Paige Riehl, Elizabeth Kreider, Valerie Jacobs, Madeleine Gerz, Hiedi Gbotoe, Hannah Whisman.



Barbara Josephian teaches Language Arts to students in grades 6 and 7 at the Locust Grove Campus. She has been teaching since 1994, with 19 years at LM. She holds a B.A. in English and History from Bucknell University and an M.Ed. in English Education and Elementary Education from Millersville University.



School News



Landis Homes named **Maya Dula '17** as their 2017 Art Student Scholarship Award recipient. Each year since 1995, Landis Homes selects a piece of artwork from the LMH Spring Fine Arts Festival to become part of a permanent art collection on the retirement community campus and makes contributions to the LM art department and to the student.



TOP STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Each academic department of LMH selects one senior to receive the department's award for outstanding work, ability and leadership within the department. This year's Department Award winners were (front row, l-r) Veronica Lopez in Family & Consumer Science, Moon Jung Kang in World Language, Britani Marks in Agriculture, Emily Stevens in Social Studies, Breanna Beers in English, (back row, l-r) Cassidy King in Health & Physical Education, Matthew Schnupp in Technology, Jialiang "Tim" Zhang in Science and Janell Preheim in Music. Not pictured: Jiaxin Wu in Art, Javan Terry in Business, Weifeng Han in Mathematics.



Paul Smeltzer holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Clarion University, a master's degree in education administration from the University of Scranton and a master's degree in education from Eastern Mennonite University.

Smeltzer Named Locust Grove Principal

Paul Smeltzer is the new principal of the Locust Grove Campus, replacing Judi Mollenkof. Mollenkof retired after 17 years in the LM system serving as principal for the New Danville Campus, the Locust Grove Campus and the Kraybill Campus as well as contributing to system-wide decisions as a member of the Curriculum Team.

Smeltzer was a teacher for six years before moving into administration for the past six years. He taught at Johnstown Christian School for three years, then worked for Abraxis Academy for a year before teaching for Camelot Schools. During his first year with Camelot Schools, he received the Teacher of the Year award.

Most recently, he served as principal for three programs operated by Camelot Schools in partnership with the School District of Lancaster. As principal, he helped Buehrle Academy become one of the first alternative schools in the country to receive accreditation.

Smeltzer also spent six years with the Coalition of Christian Outreach doing college ministry at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. While working in campus ministry, he received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for efforts made in ministering to diverse populations.

Smeltzer attends Christ the King Community Church in Lancaster, where he served as men's ministry leader for eight years. He said he loves serving in ministry and has been on multiple mission trips to Peru. He lives in New Providence with his wife, Laura.

"I am so excited to be part of the team and community, and I expect to see God do wonderful things through the students in our schools," Smeltzer said. "My hope is to see students grow in Christ and to plant seeds for where God is calling them to their future roles."

As announced earlier this year, **Michael Charles '05** is the new Kraybill Campus principal.

Wanner and Stillman Players of the Year

SPORTS Spotlight



Will Wanner '17 and **Grace Stillman '17** were each named Player of the Year in their respective sports by PennLive, which covers schools in the PIAA's District III or "Susquehanna Valley." Wanner won the District III tennis title after winning his third Lancaster-Lebanon League title and finished second in the state.

Stillman, the L-L League golf champion and defending District III champion, placed second in the district tournament this year and finished third in the state.



Boys B-ball Bows Out in PIAA Quarterfinals

The LMH boys basketball team ended its season with a 69-56 loss to the eventual state champion, Neumann-Goretti, in the state quarterfinals. The Blazers jumped to an early 6-0 lead and held their own against a star-studded line-up that included two top major-college recruits. With three minutes to play in the third quarter, Mennonite was ahead 43-41.

Despite their huge height advantage, N-G was forced to rely on a flurry of three-pointers – while taking away LM's potent long-range shooting – to pull away in a wild fourth quarter. Despite a considerable disadvantage in height

and weight, LMH's biggest man, **Javan Terry '17** (6'3), had the biggest night of anyone, scoring 21 points.

"I love the fact they played bigger than their size," Coach Groff said. "Somebody said at some point this season we don't strike any fear in anybody's heart when we get off the bus, but when they step on the floor they play big. And they play big together."

LMH held N-G to the lowest point total in the playoffs and scored the most against the nationally-ranked team.

Cassidy King '17 and **Adam Peachey '17** (pictured above) received the Lancaster-Lebanon League A. Landis Brackbill Award as student-athletes who had a 3.5 cumulative GPA and lettered in two or more sports. The award is based on academic excellence (50%), athletic achievements (40%) and leadership (10%):

Katie Will '17 and **Tim Stefanosky '17** received PIAA District III Fackler-Hower Sportsmanship medals for demonstrating the most sportsman-like qualities throughout the year.

All-Stars

BASKETBALL

The following LMH boys basketball players received all-star recognition in Section III of the Lancaster-Lebanon League:

- **Javan Terry '17**, 1st team
- **Isaac Beers '18**, 2nd team
- **Jon Gillespie '18**, HM
- **Ritchie Rosas '17**, HM

Cyleigh Hurst '20 received honorable mention for the girls team.

BASEBALL

Section IV 1st Team:
Austin Martinez '18
Chad Dinger '19
Justin Gibble '19

SOFTBALL

Section IV 1st Team:
 • **Maria Stoltzfus '19**
 • **Cassidy King '17**
 • **Chloe King '19**

Alexandra Butz '19 received honorable mention.

BOYS TENNIS

- **Joseph Jing '18**, L-L League All-Star
- **Will Wanner '17**, L-L Player of the Year, PennLive Tennis Player of the Year

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Section II 1st Team:
 • **Konrad Martin '18**

Section II 2nd Team:
 • **Stephen Baak '18**
 • **Adam Peachey '17**

The E. Jerry Brooks Academic Excellence Award is for seniors that have participated in at least two varsity sports their senior year and earned a minimum of three varsity letters during their high school career, with a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or higher:

- **Ben Coryell**
- **Charlie Gish**
- **Udit Jain**
- **Cassidy King**
- **Adam Peachey**
- **Brandon Roe**
- **Brock Rohrer**
- **Austin Yoder**



Commencement for the 150 members of the Lancaster Mennonite High School class of 2017 was held Saturday, June 3, preceded by a Senior Class Dedication service Friday night, June 2. The keynote speaker for commencement was Elaine Moyer. A leader in public and Mennonite education from junior high through the university level, Moyer served as head of Christopher Dock Mennonite High School for twenty years and as assistant professor at Bluffton University for almost seven years. Three seniors spoke at the Senior Class Dedication service: **Maya Katherine Dula** (p. 21), daughter of Andrew and Michelle Dula, Lancaster (Landis Homes Art Purchase Award); **Jialiang "Tim" Zhang** (p. 21), son of Junfeng Zhang and Ling Wei, Shijiazhuang, Hebei, China (Science Department Award, Presidential Academic Fitness Award); and **Larice Mejia** (above), daughter of Elixandra Bilbao, Lancaster (Peacemaking and Service Award). Members of the Class of 2017 formed a '17 on the front lawn for a drone photograph and video prior to the traditional hat toss.

Thank you to our donors!

With deepest appreciation, we acknowledge you, alumni and friends of Lancaster Mennonite School, for your investment in Christian education. You, along with many other individuals, businesses and congregations, gave more than \$2.1 million during 2016-17, making a huge difference in students' lives. Every dollar counts!

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Nelson W. '63 & Anna M. Martin
Robert A. & Sarah Jane Martin
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Robert W. & Nancy L. Martin
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Sally B. '75 & Randall L. Martin
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Barbara S. Nissley '67
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James K. & Anne M. Ramsay
Joseph P. '69 & Ann '69 Ranck
Stephen & Anne Randall



The Hershey Campus celebrated commencement at the Evangelical Free Church of Hershey on Thursday, June 1. Valedictorian **Rachel Franklin** (right), daughter of Kirk and Cathy Franklin, Hummelstown, and salutatorian **Charlotte Hill** (p. 7), daughter of Charles and Lucinda Hill, Steelton, reflected on their time together as a class. Ten seniors graduated.



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Suzanne Reeps
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Donald A. & Anita Reider
David W. & Amanda Reiff
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Marlin G. '66 & Catherine M. Ressler
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William A. & Peggy M. Risbon
Gloria '54 & Mahlon Rissler
William & Mary G. F. Rivera
Charles C. & Teresa Roberts
Kenneth L. & Linda J. Roberts
Audrey '69 & Richard D. Rohrer
Clara G. Rohrer
Earl W. '45 & Marian R. Rohrer
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J. L. & Lorraine B. Rohrer
Lawrence W. & Carol L. Rohrer
William G. Rohrer '80
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Sam & Deborah J. Rotman
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Bill Ruark
Heather S. & Horacio Ruark
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Chad R. & Kristine A. Rush
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Julia A. Rutt
Rosaura Salazar
Ismail A. '90 & Melanie Salim
Rhoda B. '53 & Ali A. Salim
Kathleen A. Salmon
Virginia Saner '59
Martha C. Sangree
J. Nelson '64 & L. Jane '65 Sangrey
Rolando & Raquel Santiago
Anna Mary Sauder '67
Clair H. '69 & Nancy '69 Sauder

Daniel L. & Anna L. Sauder
David L. '59 & Joanne Sauder
Evelyn '56 & Laurence Sauder
Evelyn M. Sauder '68
Glenn E. '64 & Joyce E. '65 Sauder
Lois J. Sauder '59
Mervin & Mary Sauder
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Nessa R. Stoltzfus Barge '95 & Scott Barge
Carrie N. Stoltzfus '97
Doris G. Stoltzfus
Henry K. Stoltzfus '79
Ken '75 and Karen '72 Stoltzfus
Marjorie L. Stoltzfus
Mary Jane & Kevin Stoltzfus
Omar L. & Sandra D. Stoltzfus
Rhonda K. '73 & Jeffrey H. Stoltzfus
Dr. Robert T. & Joyce K. Stoltzfus
Kristen Stone
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Thank you to all of our Race for Education, campus auctions, and student fundraising donors along with all of our faithful volunteers.

BEQUESTS

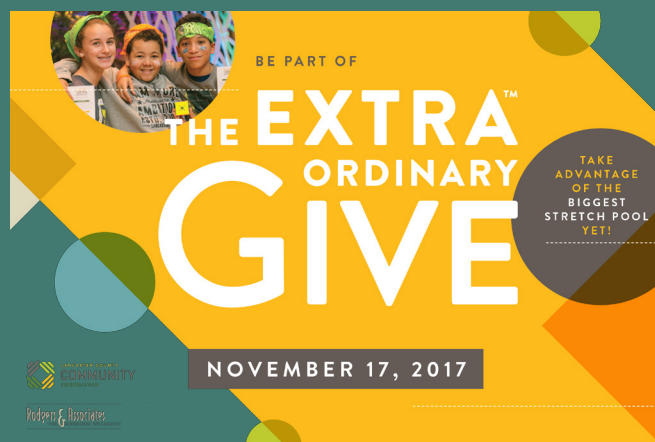
Lancaster Mennonite School would like to recognize with sincere gratitude those individuals who so graciously name LMS as a beneficiary in their estate. Gifts were received from the following individuals' estates.

Ruth E. Breneman
David S. Huber
Frances A. Crawford
Naomi I. Martin
Vera B. and Martin Weaver
Charles F. Frey

Have you included Lancaster Mennonite School in your estate plan?

For information, visit www.lancastermennonite.mylegacygift.org or contact Heidi Stoltzfus, Director of Advancement, at 717-509-4459, ext. 308.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The 2017 Extraordinary Give is set for November 17; mark your calendars and get ready to Give Extra!

The Extraordinary Give has replaced the Alumni Phone-a-thon as a quick convenient way to support LM — and to stretch your gifts with matching funds from the community. This year, on November 17, every dollar donated at ExtraGive.org will be stretched with funds from the Lancaster County Community Foundation, Rodgers & Associates and community partners. LM friends from around the country can participate online at www.ExtraGive.org to have their gifts stretched.



Roy Brubaker '59



Ruth Stoltzfus Jost '67



Peter Dula '88



Jessica King '92



Don Hoover '73



Soojung Ahn Kim '94



Sam Thomas '68



Deborah Weaver '85



Tom Eshleman '91



Ty Bair '95

An Evening of Stories and Songs

The celebration of LM's 75th Anniversary will conclude on Friday, Oct. 6, with the final event of the year, "An Evening of Stories and Songs," at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. As part of Homecoming 2017, the celebration will feature personal stories of alumni (pictured above) that center on four basic themes:

- "In the world, but not of it"
- "Learning to set appropriate goals"
- Good times, hard times"
- "Making a difference"

The program will be moderated by **Dan Hess '66**, the 2001 Alumnus of the Year. Music will be coordinated by **David L. Sauder '59**, **Rosemary Siegrist Blessing '97**, **Margaret Weaver High '93**, **Mindy Nolt '96** and **Jared Hanke '98**.

Hess's famous Pork & Chicken Barbecue is available before the program (take out 2:30-7 p.m.; under the tent 4:30-7 p.m.). A girls soccer game is also scheduled for 7 p.m. At halftime, the Blazer Nation will honor the 2008 PIAA State Champion Girls Soccer team.

Saturday's events include the Iron Bridge 5K Trail Run/Walk at 9 a.m., the FFA Pancake Breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m., and the Benefit Auction at 7 p.m. The Benefit Auction features specialty items such as special dinner packages, artwork, the use of vacation homes, event tickets and more.



At the 2016 benefit auction, **Karl Stoltzfus '58** announced that he would donate the four original **Liz Hess '83** paintings that he purchased at past auctions back to LM in honor of Richard and Joyce Thomas' service to the school. These paintings were hung outside the superintendent's office in the Rutt Academic Center during a brief ceremony involving Stoltzfus' family. Pictured (l-r) are artist Liz Hess, who donated the paintings to be sold at the auctions, Superintendent Pam Tieszen, Barbara and Karl Stoltzfus, Richard and **Joyce Thomas '69**.





Homecoming and Fall Festival

October 6-7, 2017

Mark your calendar now for October 6-7, 2017, and get ready for an exciting Homecoming & Fall Festival at Lancaster Mennonite!

A special congratulations to the classes of '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07 and '12 for celebrating a milestone class reunion!

We hope that you will join us for a time of reminiscing on your LM years, reconnecting with fellow classmates and reinvesting in the LM community.



A diverse group of parents, alumni and friends of the school enjoyed the food, fellowship, humor, special presentations and unique merchandise at the 2016 benefit auction.



Event Registration Form

Benefit Auction

\$35 X _____ PERSONS = \$ _____

Iron Bridge 5K

\$30 X _____ ADULTS = \$ _____

\$15 X _____ STUDENTS = \$ _____

FREE X _____ KIDS (FUN RUN) = \$ _____

\$7 X _____ BREAKFAST FOR NON-RUNNERS = _____

TOTAL FOR ALL EVENTS = \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Information Needed for 5K (one per person)

5K Event: ☐ 5K Run ☐ 5K Walk ☐ Kids' Fun Run (12 and under)

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Birthdate: _____

T-shirt sizes:

Adult Women	XS	S	M	L	XL
Adult Men	S	M	L	XL	XXL

Release Form (mandatory):

I know that there are risks and dangers involved in running in a cross country course. Knowing this, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue; and waive, release and discharge Lancaster Mennonite School from any and all claims of participation in this event. This release and waiver extends to all claims of every kind or nature whatsoever, foreseen, known or unknown. The undersigned further grants full permission to Lancaster Mennonite School to use any photographs of this event for any purpose. Applications for minors will be accepted only with a parent's/ guardian's signature. No refunds — fee will be considered a donation to Lancaster Mennonite School.

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/guardian signature (if under 18 years of age) _____ Date _____

**Make checks payable to Lancaster Mennonite School and send to:
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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

Homecoming 2017



"AN EVENING OF STORIES & SONGS"

Fine Arts Center • 7 p.m.

Featuring personal stories from alumni and staff around four themes that have been basic to LM for 75 years. See inside for more information.

Join us as we celebrate this historic milestone and conclude the 75th Anniversary of LM!

OCTOBER 6 & 7

Friday, October 6

Hess's FAMOUS

Pork & Chicken Barbeque

Take out 2:30-7 p.m. • Under the tent 4:30-7 p.m.

Adults \$12 Children \$6

Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Pequea Valley 7 p.m.

Blazer Nation event honoring the 2008 PIAA State Champion Girls Soccer team during halftime

60th and 40th LMH Class Reunions

See page 18 for details

Saturday, October 7

Iron Bridge 5K Trail Run/Walk 9 a.m.

FFA Pancake Breakfast 7:30-10 a.m.

Benefit Auction 7 p.m.



www.lancastermennonite.org