

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

bridges

WINTER 2017



Teachers, Students and Alumni with Global Perspective



Connecting the **DOTS**

This issue of *Bridges* focuses on **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**.



GARY HILLER
EDITOR

The next issue of *Bridges* will focus on **COMMUNICATIONS**.

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. The next issue will feature teachers and alumni who teach these subjects or use these skills professionally as writers, authors, editors, playwrights, actors, etc.

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 or submit information online at www.lancastermennonite.org/alumni/update.

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

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Editor's NOTES



Almost three years ago, we mapped out a systematic series of topics for *Bridges* magazine that would eventually feature all academic and co-curricular aspects of school life. Back then, the “Global Perspective” focus was chosen to appear at this time in the series, highlighting teachers of subjects such as world languages, global studies, world history and comparative government, along with teachers involved in programs such as Spanish Immersion, international travel and student exchanges.

According to the recently-published book commemorating LM’s 75th anniversary, “LM administrators and staff have worked to become a school that welcomes people of all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic levels in alignment with the missional vision of embracing an increasingly global society. LM equips students to walk in the way of the risen Christ, interacting with and connecting to people of all faiths and cultures across racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and other human divides, while keeping Christ at the center of their interactions.”

LM’s global perspective is nothing new: the school’s historic missionary emphasis helped shape a global perspective, and missionaries were duly noted in the Spring/Summer 2016 *Bridges* issue that focused on the school’s spiritual life. The Spring 2009 and Winter 2011 issues of *Bridges*, written years ago, contained several articles and ideas about global perspective that are similar to those in this issue.

With a diversity of international students and teachers who have different cultural heritages, LM’s global perspective is more than academic; it is experiential. As former superintendent J. Richard Thomas often said, LM is truly a place “where local and global meet.”

While not all LM students will serve internationally or equip others to do so, all LM students can benefit personally from the school’s global perspective and can work for peace, justice and mutual respect among all people of the world.

Enjoy this issue of *Bridges* magazine!

STYLE NOTE: *Bridges* magazine follows *The Associated Press Stylebook* manual of style except where superceded 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. 2 Editor: Gary Hiller – hillerg@lancastermennonite.org

www.lancastermennonite.org



Flags exhibited at each campus represent students from more than 20 countries.

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT.

“For GOD so loved the WORLD...” The Theology of Global Perspective

As LM helps students “put on the mind of Christ” and develop a truly Christian world view based on how Jesus sees things, a global perspective is essential.

Since the dawn of humanity, gods have been conceived of as tribal or national gods and, even with the revelation that there is only one God, nations have claimed his special favor over all others. Although the earliest Christian creeds proclaimed that there was only one universal Church, Christianity also became fragmented along cultural and national lines.

In their focus on the salvation message of John 3:16, evangelical Christians often overlook Jesus’ radical concept that God loves the *world* – cares about all nations, not just one particular tribe, culture or race. This concept was so radical that the Jews wanted to throw Jesus off a cliff when he stated that his mission had a global perspective, not just a national scope (Luke 4:29).

Throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly built bridges of inclusion rather than walls of exclusion, showing love and respect to those outside the Jewish circle, even enemies such as the Romans. The disciples could not grasp his global vision until the miracles recorded in the Book of Acts convinced them that God was the god of the Gentiles as well as the Jews. Along with the conversion of Cornelius the Centurion and Paul’s confrontation of Peter before the Jerusalem Council, the miracle at Pentecost reinforced the multilingual, multicultural, multiracial mission of the Church.

Pentecost was a reversal of the curse of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9) that caused a unified human race to fracture along the lines of language. Today, we find that learning other languages helps make connections

between cultures and people instead of fostering separation and misunderstanding.

The vision of God for all nations is shown completed in Rev. 7:9: “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

Although Christ is central to this global vision, the attitudes and behaviors he encourages are helpful and beneficial in their own right. For example, it is always better to make a friend than an enemy, regardless of either party’s relationship with Christ. In a broken and hurting world, LM seeks to nurture more bridge-builders.



FACULTY focus

Exceptional teachers bring a wealth of experience, both from living abroad and from graduate studies. Here are a few of them.

TIM YODER



Since 1989, **Tim Yoder** has been teaching social studies courses at LMH. He holds a B.S. in History and Social Science Education from Eastern Mennonite University and an M.A. in History from Millersville University. He advises the International Student Association along with **Alice Lauver**.

From the earliest years, teachers and guest speakers who had served as missionaries and overseas workers brought global perspective to LM.

Tim Yoder taught AP European History for ten years, then advocated for the course to provide a broader view of the world. Now, AP World History is offered instead. US Government became Comparative Government, which deepened students' understanding of the US system by offering comparisons and contrasts with other government systems. "When you look at other countries, you get into broader issues such as the role of the citizen and the role of religion in society, culture and politics," Yoder explained.

Yoder said that international students have enriched class discussions as they speak from their personal experiences and understandings. For example, Chinese students can engage with each other on the merits of joining the communist party and debate issues such as trade with China from the perspective of China and the other nations represented in the classroom.

"I really value the input of

international students," Yoder said. "I can talk about it, but they can relate real-life examples."

"It's almost like a current events class. The students need to know what the issues are."

"American students are often surprised when Chinese students say they cannot protest or can't go on Facebook or have limited access to the Internet," Yoder said. "And some find out about Tiananmen Square for the first time in our social studies classes." At the same time, US students can be challenged as to whether their right to protest, demonstrate or share views on social media is being used constructively or destructively.

Yoder cited a few students who were particularly helpful in helping his classes understand other cultures. "**David Allejos '15** was very helpful in helping the class to understand Mexico," Yoder said.

He currently teaches three classes of 28 students in AP Comparative Government plus Comparative Government and Global Studies.

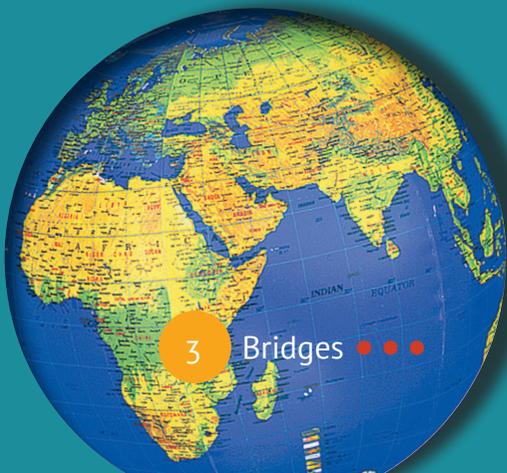
Yoder has also taught Global Christianity, which is currently taught by Bible teacher **J.W. Springer**.

Why adopt a global perspective?

A global perspective offers students and teachers:

- An opportunity to develop positive and responsible values and attitudes that consider the needs and feelings of others outside one's racial/ethnic, socio-economic or cultural group
- An approach that takes into account the whole of human society and the environments in which people live
- An opportunity to explore important themes such as interdependence, identity and diversity, rights and responsibilities, peace building, poverty and wealth, sustainability and global justice
- An emphasis on critical thinking and communication to make fair and reasonable decisions
- An emphasis on the future and the capacity to shape it.

The heart of global education is enabling young people to participate in shaping a better, shared future for the world.



SHERI WENGER

As the instructional leader for LM's Social Studies and Bible Department, **Sheri Wenger** has been involved in infusing a global perspective into LM's social studies and Bible curriculum.

Wenger's first teaching job was at Rosslyn Academy in Nairobi, Kenya, where she worked with students from countries such as Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Ethiopia and Canada (1984-86). "For me, the world no longer revolved around Lancaster County or the U.S. as I gained a global perspective by living in East Africa and interacting with my students," Wenger said. "My travels in Europe, Israel/Palestine and Turkey along with being a chaperone with LMH Campus Chorale tours in South Africa and Brazil/Paraguay, have further deepened my appreciation for the rich diversity of our global community."

As a social studies teacher, Wenger challenges her students to understand their roles as citizens of the United

States, citizens of the global community and citizens of God's Kingdom. "This means asking students to think about how our nation's domestic and foreign policies impact persons of other countries," Wenger said. "It also means pushing students to think about how they might be called to be peacebuilders who are willing to hear the struggles of others and work for justice."

Wenger believes that one of the foundations of democracy is civil dialogue. "My hope is to provide a classroom where students can raise questions, hear about the experiences of others, and consider the implications of public policy," Wenger said. "This connects to one of our school's Faith Practice Statements: to enable students to practice global awareness, cultural sensitivity, anti-racism, and compassionate living."



Sheri Wenger (right) with **Marcy Hostetler** (center) and **Gabi Penner** (from Colegio J. Gutenberg in Paraguay) during the recent Campus Chorale tour to South America. Wenger holds a B.S. in Social Studies Education from Millersville University and an M.A. in American Studies from Penn State.

ALICE LAUVER

Having missionaries in her home as a child "grew a heart for reaching out to other cultures," said **Alice Lauver**.

Lauver obtained a B.A. in Humanities from Messiah College and, for four years, worked as an editor and writer for Brethren in Christ World Missions, often interviewing missionaries and communicating their inter-cultural experiences in agency publications. While further stimulating her interest in other cultures, she was telling others' stories and not her own, so she earned a teacher certification in English and went to Tokyo, Japan, to teach English for two years. Upon returning to the States, she taught English at Manheim Christian Day School for four years and then at the Locust Grove Campus for six years.

With 25 years of overall teaching experience, Lauver is now in her thirteenth year at the Lancaster Campus, during which time she has taught English at the high school

and middle school levels. With an expanding international student population, the high school needed someone to teach English as a Second Language (ESL), so Lauver took classes to become certified and started as an ESL teacher in 2010.

"I feel I found my niche," she said. "I think it is an important thing to teach. It's a skill they need academically – and also just to live in the USA."

"My students are respectful and motivated, which makes the job more enjoyable," she added.

"I enjoy getting perspectives from other cultures," she said. "It has broadened my world view."

Lauver is now in her second year of being an advisor to the International Student Association, along with fellow teacher **Tim Yoder**. With their facilitation and guidance, the student-led club gathers weekly for international discussions, presentations and food.

Alice Lauver enjoys being an ESL teacher and advising the International Student Association.





LM Chinese teacher Xiaodong Fan regularly leads LMH mini-courses to China.



XIAODONG FAN

Through a one-year Mennonite Central Committee program in 1989, **Xiaodong Fan** came to Goshen College to study English and was exposed to Bible classes and Anabaptist beliefs. Although not yet a believer, Fan said he was “impressed by their global vision and desire for peace.”

After teaching in China for three years, Fan returned to the US to get Master’s degrees in English and Technology Education from Millersville University. Janet Gehman, a former LMH teacher who had been an MCC professor in China, invited him and his family to attend Hershey Mennonite Church, where Fan accepted Christ as his savior and was baptized.

Fan later became involved in the local Chinese Church in order to help Chinese LMH students attending there. He was excited about the Chinese students going to a church where they could learn about Jesus from people to whom they could relate. He said that he felt called to help international students grow spiritually like he himself was helped by others in the past.

Fan was teaching Chinese language at a large public high school in 2011 when then-Superintendent Thomas asked him

to teach Chinese language at LMH while helping with international students. Fan was elated by the opportunity.

“I felt very positive about my own daughter’s experience at LM (**Tingting Fan-Santiago ’06**), and I wanted to give back,” he said.

He understood what it was like to go to a Christian school without knowing anything about Jesus Christ or the Bible, and he was eager to start teaching an Introduction to the Bible class for students who needed some foundational understandings before they could benefit from LM’s other Bible courses. This group would include students from Russia, Ukraine, Japan, Vietnam, Burma, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea and China.

Fan’s main job is teaching Chinese to English-speaking students, but teaching the Bible excites him. “It’s not just a job, it’s a mission,” Fan said.



CHINA TRIP

Xiaodong Fan leads mini-course trips to China, which now includes students from the Hershey Campus and Lancaster Catholic High School where he also teaches Chinese language. They travel to big cities such as Beijing, Xi’an, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Chongqing and Shanghai, where they experience being a student in a Chinese high school and in a middle school, going on a Yangtze River cruise, watching the Beijing Opera and Acrobat Show, visiting Tiananmen Square and Forbidden City, climbing the Great Wall, and eating authentic Chinese cuisine. They also visit Qin Shi Huang’s mausoleum near Xi’an in Shaanxi province, which contains the famous 2,000-year old Terracotta Army (pictured right).

JONATHAN METZLER '91

Jonathan Metzler '91 chose to teach German because he loved the language and culture. He first encountered German in Paraguay where he attended a German-speaking kindergarten. He studied German in high school and college, but trained as an English teacher. "Early in my teaching English at LMH, the need for someone to teach an extra section of German came up and allowed me to get my feet wet in world language teaching," Metzler related. He subsequently trained to teach English as a Second Language, and when LMH's main German teacher retired, took over all the German classes.

"Language is very much a cornerstone of culture," Metzler said. "As we study language, we examine culture, think about the reasons things are expressed differently and recognize the things which we have in common." He especially likes to look at how the English language is really Germanic at its roots.

"I like to teach clothing and food the most because these topics especially give distinct opportunities

to use "realia" or real, physical items to work with in the teaching," Metzler said. "Food is also one of the cornerstones of culture, so studying it becomes fun as well as tasty!"

Metzler regularly leads LMH mini-courses to Germany and arranges for student exchanges with Kreisgymnasium Bad Krozingen in Germany.

From October 27 to November 11, 20 students and their two teachers were here at LMH for the ninth German exchange. They attended classes at LMH, witnessed the election, traveled to New York, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. and took an Amish excursion.

LM families hosted the German students, and Metzler will lead a group of LM students to Germany this summer to stay with the German partners, attend their school and sightsee within the Black Forest area.



Jonathan Metzler '91 teaches German and English as a Second Language at LMH. He has a B.A. in Secondary Education/English from York College of Pennsylvania, and an M.A. in Education, plus an ESL certification from Eastern Mennonite University.

GERMANY TRIP

In 2000, LMH began a German exchange with Kreisgymnasium, a university preparatory high school located in Bad Krozingen, a town just south of Freiburg and about an hour north of Basel, Switzerland. The Rhine River and France lie just ten minutes by car to the west, and ten minutes to the east sits the Black Forest.

This picturesque and idyllic setting has inspired several students to study German in college. Others went on short-term mission teams to Germany, and many have participated in the exchange twice.

In June of 2017, the LMH group will travel to Germany to spend three weeks (June 14–July 5) with the German partner students, attending school, taking side trips and experiencing German culture. Students who have studied German or who are interested in studying German and learning about the German culture are welcome to participate. LMH students will be matched with German students who came to LMH for three weeks this fall.



Jon Metzler (far right) with the 2013 group standing on the pedestrian bridge over the Neckar River in Heidelberg, Germany. The Heidelberg Castle is in the background.



Dennis Kauffman has been teaching Spanish for 41 of his 45 years in education. He started at LMH in 1978 as director of development.

José Borrero teaches Spanish at the Hershey Campus and the Kraybill Campus.

DENNIS KAUFFMAN

Dennis Kauffman's interest in Spanish was stimulated by a high school Spanish teacher who piqued his curiosity about linguistics as well as cultural aspects of various Spanish-speaking countries. "My older brother also encouraged my interest by sending me letters from Costa Rica, where he served through the church's Voluntary Service program," Kauffman recalled.

After teaching Spanish in a US high school for two years, he and his wife, Rose, taught in a missionary school in Paraguay from 1974-77 through the Mennonite Board of Missions. While living in Asuncion, he was also involved in teaching a youth Sunday School class at the Iglesia de los Hermanos Menonitas de San Bernadino, started a youth choir and led singing in the worship services.

In 1989 he received his master's degree in Spanish from Millersville University through a summer immersion program primarily for world language teachers.

Over the years, Kauffman has led numerous LMH cross-cultural trips to Spain, Central America and the Caribbean. "The best way to understand people of other cultures is to learn to communicate in their own language and make friends," Kauffman said. "Developing cultural understanding begins by gaining at least a rudimentary ability to communicate in the language, an important beginning toward building bridges of understanding."

"What excites me most about teaching Spanish is helping students develop an appreciation for some of the many cultures represented by people in Spanish-speaking countries," Kauffman said. "They may speak the same language (with some variations), but all have unique aspects that are special to their own culture."

"For me, helping students learn Spanish is one small way of carrying out the Greatest Commandment. Loving our neighbor means getting to know our neighbors in their own cultural context so we can share God's love in a meaningful way."

JOSÉ BORRERO

Born in Cali, Colombia, **José Borrero** came to live in the USA in 1990. At that time, Colombia was unstable, with high unemployment and violence. His father was a US citizen, so the Borrero family decided to move to Lancaster, PA, where Borrero went to college to improve his English and to pursue a degree in education from Millersville University.

Borrero already had a degree in Industrial Engineering from the Colombian College of Professional Education. "The feeling of becoming an engineer was neither enjoyable nor feasible anymore," he said, "so I decided to become a teacher."

"Having to learn English as a second language inspired me to help others to learn a second language," Borrero related. "I really enjoy motivating, encouraging and challenging students to learn my native language. I could not choose a better vocation."



BRENT HARTZLER



Because he needed to take a foreign language to go to college, **Brent Hartzler** took three years of Spanish in high school, never anticipating the bi-cultural, bi-lingual life that lay ahead of him.

Equipped with rudimentary high school Spanish, Hartzler's first experience in a Spanish-speaking culture was a 1986 trip to Argentina with the Hesston College soccer team. He then returned a number of times to live with Floyd and Alice Sieber, who had started a Mennonite church in the southern part of Argentina known as the Patagonia. Living there, he met his future wife, Lourdes, who he married in 1988.

After coming back to the States, Hartzler studied to be a history teacher, but the first job he could get after graduating from Eastern Mennonite University in 1992 was teaching Spanish at LMH. After his immersion in the Spanish-speaking world, Hartzler had no problem with that assignment!

In 1994 he started taking student groups with him when he went back to Argentina to visit family and friends, and the Argentina trip has become a staple mini-course option through the years. "I have really enjoyed having former students return as leaders with me," said Hartzler. "**Sophia Mast '14** has

gone three times, twice as a leader, and it is such a blessing to watch students mature and develop their talents."

Many of Hartzler's students build relationships and return to Argentina. **Alexis Jones '16**, who was part of this summer's Argentina mini-course, went back to visit an Argentine family over the Christmas break.

"A picture may be worth a thousand words," said Hartzler, "but personal experience is worth a thousand pictures." "I don't think that anyone can truly understand someone else's culture until they sit with a family in their house, share a cup of their traditional tea, smell the food cooking and hear the daily sounds of family life."

Hartzler has four daughters who are LM alumnae: **María Smucker '07**, who teaches Spanish Immersion at the Locust Grove Campus (and was married in Argentina in 2014); **Gabriela Karzewski '10**, married to Kevin, an Argentine; **Alejandra '12**, who is graduating from EMU this spring; and **Natasha '12**, who has a boyfriend in Argentina.

Gabriela Hartzler Karzewski '10, married to Kevin, holding baby Alexander; **Alejandra Hartzler '12**; Lourdes Hartzler, **Natasha Hartzler '12** and Brent Hartzler

LM believes that learning another language and culture is crucial to being a missional church both locally and globally, preparing students to join God's work of bringing healing and hope to the world that God loves.

ARGENTINA TRIP

A group of 26 students (16 from the Lancaster Campus and five from the Hershey Campus) went to Choele-Choel, Argentina, from June 28 to July 21. LM teachers **Brent Hartzler** and **Karen Maddox** chaperoned the trip with alumnae **Sophia Mast '14** (pictured at far left with **Alexis Jones '16** and Argentine friends) and **Ellie Keener '15**. All of the students had at least one year of Spanish. The students stayed with host families, mostly from the Mennonite churches in Choele-Choel, and visited three schools to meet students, hear presentations and play games together. They also went to the coast with an Argentine youth group and visited the small Mennonite church in Puerto Madryn, which is an outgrowth of the Choele-Choel church.





LYN CARLSON



Lyn Carlson has been a passionate advocate for the Khilo family at church, at school and in the community (see page 20).

Lyn Carlson was initially contacted for *Bridges* simply because she teaches French and the magazine wanted to feature all LM's world language teachers. What emerged was a background of significant international experience and her recent role in working with the Khilo family, Syrian refugees whose children are currently enrolled at the Lancaster Campus, largely through her influence and advocacy.

Carlson's global vision started in 1998 when she went to France through Eastern Mennonite Missions as a short-term missionary. At that point, she had no particular passion for languages or people from other countries, although she did go to school with refugees from Romania and Russia.

"Frankly, it all started because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," she admitted, "but my time in France helped me find out."

Carlson fell in love with the French language and decided to take formal French and Spanish classes when she returned to the USA. She also gained a passion for reaching out to people from other cultures, leading to further short-term mission assignments under EMM and a stint as assistant director of EMM's Discipleship Training Center.

Carlson has a Bachelor's degree in special education, early childhood and elementary education, as well as a Master's degree in multi-cultural education from Eastern University, and she enjoys teaching from a global perspective.

ALEJANDRO ULLOA



Alejandro Ulloa (B.S., Social Studies and Secondary Education, Temple University) teaches AP World History, US History and Recent World History at LMH.

Alejandro Ulloa was born in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to Honduran parents while his father was studying at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. His parents, both born in Honduras, became Christians as young adults and felt God calling them to help churches in the United States. His father's seminary studies were a response to that call.

When he was about six months old, Ulloa's parents moved back to Honduras, where he lived until the age of five. He then moved to Pennsylvania, where he has lived ever since. Most of his extended family still live in Honduras, so he visits there about every two years.

Although Ulloa said he often felt he was not "at home" in any one culture, he was thankful for the global perspective it gave him. "I am constantly reminded that there are other ways to see the world," Ulloa said, "and I do my best to consider how things can be seen from another point of view."

Ulloa also loves the differences in cultures and their uniqueness. "To have been immersed in two distinct cultures/nationalities throughout my life has been a blessing to me," he said. "I also feel that my experience has allowed me to see that individuals are unique within their cultures. Generalizing is unnatural to me, and I try to encourage my students to avoid stereotypes."

MICK STECKBECK



Ever since 1987, Mick Steckbeck (B.A., Messiah College) has been enthralling Kraybill Campus middle school students with exciting stories from history that have expanded their world view. He was featured in the Spring/Summer issue of *Bridges* for his Bible teaching, but is now focusing on Social Studies.

MARCELLA HOSTETLER

Through music and her life experiences, LM's vocal director **Marcella Hostetler** brings global perspective and connections to LM. Students participating in her classes and vocal groups are enriched by music from around the world and the stories that go with it. While most music teachers gain some cultural understanding as part of their music education training, Hostetler has international music in her soul through immersion in African and South American cultures.

Hostetler was born in Brazil and Portuguese, the language of Brazil, was her first language. She was returning "home" when she took her select Campus Chorale singing group to Brazil this past summer. While an undergraduate at Goshen

College, Hostetler studied music in the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the guidance of Mary Oyer. In 2014, she led a Campus Chorale trip to South Africa where the Chorale experienced African music styles and culture.

"I value the broadening experience of taking the students to another country," she said.

With these and many other international experiences, Hostetler was tapped to lead music at the 2015 Mennonite World Conference Assembly, directing an international ensemble of singers and instrumentalists from India, Congo, Ethiopia, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Indonesia and Colombia. About 7,000 people from 83 countries attended.



Marcella Hostetler at Mennonite World Conference.



CAMPUS CHORALE BRAZIL TOUR

This past summer, the Campus Chorale flew to Sao Paulo, Brazil, then to Curitiba, where they performed concerts at Colegio Erasto Gaertner and Witmarsum Mennonite Colony School and conducted a workshop with a children's choir. They then traveled to Paraguay to perform at Colegio Johannes Gutenberg and also visited Colegio El Sendero.

During their tour, they saw the spectacular Iquazu Falls on the border of Argentina and Brazil before flying to Recife where they were hosted by wonderful families and participated in some community service projects and church services. They also performed for area churches.

The trip concluded in Rio de Janeiro with visits to Copacabana Beach, Corcovado ("Christ the Redeemer" statue at right) and Sugarloaf Mountain.



BRIAN DENLINGER '95

"Ever since I can remember I have been interested in geography and politics," said **Brian Denlinger**

'95, who teaches history and Bible at the Hershey Campus. "I enjoy teaching Social Studies because I enjoy exploring the complex issues of our time and hearing students' views on these subjects. My goal is to listen well and encourage students to see multiple sides of these issues."

When he was an LMH student, a highlight was Government class with Mr. **Al Shirk**. "I remember Mr. Shirk's extensive knowledge of the subject and the way that he brought current political issues into our class discussions," Denlinger recalled.

In 2012 Denlinger took his family to Cusco, Peru, through EMM where he taught English at PROMESA, a bi-lingual school that is run by the Peruvian Mennonite Church. "This experience broadened my world view as I experienced classroom life in another place and culture," Denlinger said.



David Adams '09 (B.A., Messiah College) teaches history to grades 7-11 at the Hershey Campus.



Mercè Garcia Marsà teaches first grade Spanish Immersion at the Locust Grove Campus.

Starting with first grade in the 2011-12 school year, the Spanish Immersion program at LM's Locust Grove Campus now has 206 students enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade.

MERCÈ GARCIA MARSÀ

Mercè Garcia Marsà was born in Barcelona, Spain, and lived there until she moved to the U.S four years ago. With help from her husband's international company, she now has a "Green Card" to work in the United States.

"I wanted to teach and, as a Christian, I checked all the private Christian schools in the area. When I read about LM's Spanish Immersion program, I thought that it was the perfect fit for me. Also, I wanted to work in a place that I'd like to bring my kids, so that is why I applied to teach at LM!"

Garcia came to LM with a law degree from the University of Barcelona as well as a degree in education. She said she always wanted to be a teacher, but felt that the law degree provided her with useful information and perspectives. "After I started to work

as a teacher in Barcelona, I realized that I needed more knowledge about psychology in order to help every one of my students," Garcia said. Consequently, she entered a master's program in psychology and received her degree last year from Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," Garcia said. "I love to be with my students and try to help them grow academically and personally. I love to be able to help every child in a different way, because each child needs something different. That is why I love my job – every day is an adventure!"

"I think that it is very important to speak more than one language," Garcia said, "because it helps you to communicate with people around the world, and it helps you develop mental and personal skills as well."

SUSANA BROWN

"I was born and raised in Chile, said Susana Brown. "My parents were Chileans, but lived in the USA for one year when I was four years old and also spent some time in Spain, Brazil, Argentina and Peru as missionaries with Youth With a Mission. I learned to appreciate and love these different cultures."

"My husband's family from Annville, PA, came to Chile as missionaries with United Zion Church. We met when I was about 10 years old and grew up going to church and on mission trips together. When we got married, I came to live in the States and learned English. I soon felt God's call to complete my degree in Education,

which I had started in Chile, so I enrolled in Penn State."

"As a young lady trying to decide what to do with my life, I asked God to show me what was his plan for my life after I had been accepted by two of the best Universities in Chile to complete two very different programs: one in nursing and the other one in education. The night before I needed to make my choice, I vividly remember God giving me a dream of me reading a book to a group of young children. I thank God for allowing me to become a teacher, a profession I truly love and enjoy. There is never a dull moment in my classroom!"



Susana Brown teaches second grade Spanish Immersion at the Locust Grove Campus.

JENN ESBENSHADE

How and why did you learn Spanish?

I began learning Spanish in ninth grade and took classes through high school. I continued studying Spanish in college and decided to make it my major. My studies included a semester at the University of Barcelona and living with a host family in the city. In graduate school, I continued taking Spanish courses as electives. After graduate school, I spent three years living and working in Guatemala as a community development worker with Mennonite Central Committee. I lived in a rural community of returned refugees where I taught classes in the local school and helped adults complete the schooling they missed due to the war. My life there was entirely in Spanish, and I came to finally feel I had become proficient in the language.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

When I lived in Guatemala, I helped a number of adults complete their middle school and also high school classes. I saw their incredible desire to finish their schooling despite living through war, fleeing to another country, and eventually resettling again in Guatemala. It was an honor to

help them complete those classes. When I returned from Guatemala I taught ESL in a public elementary school. I not only worked to improve my students' English abilities, but I also helped many families from Spanish-speaking countries to bridge the cultural differences that made schooling a challenge. My current teaching in the immersion program is similar to teaching ESL because my students are also immersed in their second language and using that as a tool to learn the curriculum.

What excites you about the Spanish Immersion Program?

I love seeing how naturally the students in the immersion program come to learn Spanish. Even though they aren't living abroad, they are receiving the same benefits of learning another language and culture every day in their schooling along with the typical curriculum. Most of these students will leave LM with the gift of proficiency in Spanish, cultural understanding and empathy.



Jenn Esbenshade teaches sixth grade Spanish Immersion at the Locust Grove Campus.

WHY SPANISH IMMERSION?

The goal of language immersion is for students to become proficient in a second language while developing increased cultural awareness. Students develop proficiency in the second language by hearing it and using it to learn all of their school subjects rather than by studying the language by itself.

MARIA HARTZLER SMUCKER '07

Maria Hartzler Smucker '07 has a bachelor's degree in early elementary education with a minor in Spanish, from Eastern University.

Smucker's mother is from Argentina. "My grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins live in Argentina, so I visit almost every year," Smucker said. "I also lived in Chos Malal, Argentina, with my family and attended public school there for fifth and sixth grade while they served as missionaries."

"I always wanted to be a teacher, and I really enjoy being part of the Spanish Immersion program because I can relate to students as they are immersed in a new language like I was at their age."





BETHANY GEIB

Bethany Geib graduated with a B.S.Ed. in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Millersville University and is currently pursuing a M.Ed. in School Counseling from Lancaster Bible College.

She currently teaches fifth grade Spanish Immersion at the Locust Grove Campus.

“I began learning Spanish in high school and immediately fell in love with it, causing me to wonder whether God had something with Spanish planned for my life. After high school, I spent six months in Cusco, Peru, with the YES program through Eastern Mennonite Missions. While in Cusco, I learned that the Mennonite Church had a vision to begin a Christian school there, and I knew right away that I wanted to teach in that school.

I returned to the USA to get my teaching degree and, a month after graduation, I was in Cusco to teach at PROMESA. I taught there for seven years before returning to the States in February, 2015.

As I was considering returning to the States to pursue a master's degree, I knew that I didn't want to lose my connection with Latin America or Spanish. A number of people told me about Locust Grove's Spanish Immersion program, and it seemed like a perfect opportunity. I love being in the Spanish immersion program because it keeps my heart connected to Latin America and because I get to share that love with my students. Students in our program are prepared to be globally-aware 21st century God-followers, wherever they choose to live.”

WHY SPANISH IMMERSION?

Immersion programs are the most effective type of foreign language instruction currently available.

The young child's brain is developmentally ready to learn language naturally. After this window of opportunity, the brain is less receptive and the job is much more difficult.

“Younger learners still possess the capacity to develop near native-like pronunciation and intonation in a new language. Finally, young learners have a natural curiosity about learning which is evident when they engage in learning a new language. They also are open and accepting of people who speak other languages and come from other cultures.”

– American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages



ANN ZIEGLER

Ann Ziegler served in Honduras for 2.5 years under Brethren Volunteer Service, living and working at a home for orphans. She holds a B.A. from Juniata College and also studied at Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain. She teaches the fourth grade Spanish Immersion class at the Locust Grove Campus.



KAREN VALLADARES CANO

LM is a long-time partner in Mennonite Central Committee's International Visitor Exchange Program in which promising young persons from other countries have the opportunity to work in USA schools and not-for-profits for a year. This year, **Karen Valladares Cano** from Honduras is working as a teacher assistant in the Spanish Immersion program.



KAREN MADDOX

Karen Maddox teaches the very youngest Spanish learners at the Locust Grove Campus.

She has a B.A. from Eastern University in Youth Ministry and Spanish, and a teacher certification through Saint Joseph's University.

A Diversity of Perspectives

IGNACIO SILVA

For some people, having a global perspective comes naturally by virtue of their birthplace, life experiences or education.

“On a personal level I hold the trifecta of global birthplace, life experience and education,” said **Ignacio Silva**. He was born in Cuba, came to the US, moved around with his father’s international career, studied international business, and spent a couple of decades working with companies around the world. “I thrived on the differences and challenges inherent in steep cultural learning curves,” Silva said. A global perspective was ingrained.

“People in the USA would lead a spartan and expensive life without the imported items we all enjoy so much.” Silva mentions coffee, cacao beans for chocolate, bananas and many other food products that cannot be grown

in the States. He also lists the various low-cost imported items that have become affordable for most Americans and, at the other end of the spectrum, imported luxury goods.

Silva believes a global perspective is vital to USA businesses. “With the money they earn exporting items to the USA, people around the world are able to purchase US goods and services,” Silva said. “The economy is circular, convoluted, interdependent, across geography, languages and cultures – irremediably global.”

“Thanks to our international students, our USA students will have at least acquired a sensitivity toward a global perspective, particularly when taking advantage of our many travel opportunities, language courses, chapel speakers and daily interactions.”



Ignacio Silva teaches an Introduction to International Business course at Harrisburg Area Community College, and the online dual enrollment Introduction to Business course that he teaches at LM includes a chapter on global business.

HEATHER RUARK

Heather Ruark first lived abroad for a semester in Dominican Republic with Goshen College. Immediately following graduation, she jumped on a plane to spend the summer with CASAS (Central American Study and Service) in Guatemala. This led to a year-long commitment with MVS (Mennonite Voluntary Service) on the Tex-Mex border, assisting Mexican immigrant women.

From there, she uncovered a passion for education and became a teacher at an international elementary school for refugees and US students in Atlanta, GA, where she met her eventual husband, Horacio, who was from Mexico. The couple relocated to Mexico to be closer to his family and to work on his immigration status.

They lived for more than nine years in Queretaro, Mexico and had two children while she taught at a bilingual

school. “Life abroad simply became ‘normal’”, she said, “except that my husband was not – and still is not – able to travel to the States. He had to remain outside US borders for 10 years, even though we are married.” The Ruark’s have submitted his visa application, but continue to await a favorable decision.

“While circling back to the Mennonite world, I felt confident it would be a safe place for us as a biracial/bicultural/bilingual family,” Ruark said. “Working at LM has ensured that safe space. In addition, as parents, the Spanish Immersion program has proven note-worthy. It not only maintains our sons’ Spanish, but also allows them to be surrounded by teachers who have either lived abroad or are from other countries, and are thus even better equipped to meet our children’s needs.”



Heather Ruark, shown with her husband and children in Mexico, teaches third grade at the Locust Grove Campus. She holds a B.A. from Goshen College in Religion and Bible with a minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).



LACHELLE HACKMAN

Lachelle Hurst Hackman's college experiences and overseas service helped prepare her to be LM's residence hall supervisor.

Hackman attained a B.A. in Psychology at Eastern Mennonite University. "At EMU, I had the privilege of becoming friends with many international students," Hackman related. "My college roommates were from three different continents: Peru, Japan and Congo. They shared with me their food, language and customs."

Hackman then served in MCC's SALT (Serving and Learning Together) program in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 2005-2006. While there, she served in a children's home, learned to speak Spanish and lived with a kind and loving host family. She has since

returned to visit her host family two times.

"When you are immersed for a longer period of time in another culture, you can relate to what homesickness may be like," Hackman said. "Most of the students in the dorm come here leaving their families many miles away."

"Our international students inspire me to go out of my comfort zone," Hackman said. "I also enjoy having students come back and visit and hearing about their current endeavors. One of my students, Neomi Albrecht from Germany, came back to Lancaster to volunteer with Mennonite World Conference for a year."

Hackman holds a Master's degree in Higher Education.

Students coming from outside the Lancaster area can live with host families or in one of LM's two on-campus residence halls: Graybill Hall, constructed in 1949, and the new Millstream Hall. While most of the dorm students are international, the residence hall is home to several US students.



CHINA
40



ETHIOPIA
22



USA
5



KOREA 2



NIGERIA 2



GHANA 2



VIETNAM



UKRAINE



JAPAN



HONGKONG



INDIA

NUMBERS
IN
RESIDENCE
HALLS

RESIDENCE HALL STAFF

LM's residence hall advisors can have a big impact on students' lives. **Camille Bellino** (pictured below, on left), said that she graduated from Messiah College with a desire to "work in the residence hall field." EMU grad **Phil Yoder '10**, who works with youth at James Street Mennonite Church by day, sees his evening dorm work as an extension of youth ministry. **Brandon Riehl** (center) came to the residence hall position with a background in working with youth. **Sarah Herr** (far right), whose husband, **Ben Herr**, works in the dorm on weekends, has a degree in Bible and Secondary Education from Cairn University and has lived in Australia.





INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Expanding economies in places such as China, South Korea and Vietnam enable their growing middle classes to fund their children to study overseas, with many doing so at younger ages than they had previously.

While most European and Latin American students pursue US study for cultural enrichment, students from Asia enroll in US secondary schools to earn full degrees in order to prepare themselves for admission to US higher education institutions.

According to the Institute of International Education, 46% of the Asian students who come to the US for secondary education are Chinese. At LM, 54% of the whole international student body comes from China (69% of the Asian students).

With relatively few university openings for a huge secondary school population desiring higher education,

competition for university admission is intense. Much depends on how well students perform on examinations, so Chinese education is devoted to “teaching to the test” and rote memorization. Such an education does little to engender creativity, problem-solving or critical thinking.

By studying at LM, Chinese students can have a much more enjoyable life while developing critical thinking skills and exploring their gifts and abilities.

South Korea’s educational situation is similar to China’s, and Korean students were, until recently, the most numerous international students at LM. This year saw a surge in enrollments from Ethiopia, a country from which LM received some of its first international students back in the 1980s.

Most international students are on the Lancaster Campus; the Hershey Campus currently has 13 students.

COUNTRIES

Bhutan	1
Chile	1
China	80
Colombia	1
Congo	1
Eritrea	1
Ethiopia	22
Ghana	2
Haiti	1
Hong Kong	2
India	1
Japan	4
Mexico	1
Myanmar	1
Nigeria	2
Norway	1
Philippines	1
S. Korea	18
Syria	4
Thailand	1
Ukraine	1
Vietnam	6

JIAN SONG '19

Jian “Jack” Song '19 has made a positive impact on the Hershey Campus. “Oh, I love Jack!” exclaimed Hershey Campus teacher **Sue Eckert**. “What a blessing he has been to our campus and to my life!” “If we had 200 Jacks, we could change the world,” she added.

Song volunteered to teach in a remote rural area of China during the summer. He visited many schools, bringing them school supplies, telling stories about American children, teaching some English and encouraging them to study (pictured left). “He told the children that the outside world is wonderful,” said Lihui Wang of the Aoji Education Group. Wang reported that a principal of one of the schools Song visited said, “I really know now why Chinese parents are willing to send their children abroad to study in America.”

Wang told LM that “Jian Song has touched many Chinese people and has influenced attitudes toward America and American education.” Song has also influenced his classmates and teachers regarding Chinese people.





XINYI HUANG '17 & JOEY LAM '17



“A mature person is one who does not think only in absolutes, who is able to be objective even when deeply stirred emotionally, who has learned that there is both good and bad in all people and all things, and who walks humbly and deals charitably.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt



Reflecting on Xinyi (Rita) Huang and Joey Lam, three words come to mind: mature, cultured and diplomatic.

Hopefully, every parent wants their students to gain maturity, culture and manners through the educational process. Cultured persons are characterized by good taste, polite manners and an education that makes them intellectually aware, well informed and discerning. Diplomatic people avoid offending others and know how to deal with people in ways that avoid unpleasantness or overt aggression. Both Xinyi (Rita) Huang (top left) and Joey Lam have been role models of these traits.

“Thinking that your way is the only way or the best way is just not mature,” Lam said. “Each culture has strengths and weaknesses,” added Huang, “And sometimes it’s just simply different, with no advantages one way or another.”

Lam went to an English-speaking school in Hong Kong. Her brother, **Anson '13**, now at Penn State, had many good things to say about LM, so she was eager to come, too.

Why study in America? “It was very competitive and stressful in Hong Kong. Only a small percentage of students can get accepted into college. Also, you are just prepared to take examinations. You are not taught critical thinking, just memorization.”

Lam wants to double major in psychology and special education in order to help children with special needs. She said that she developed compassion through her church, which helps people with many needs. Interestingly, one of her church’s many ministries is helping refugees.

In AP Government class, Lam and Huang were on opposite sides of the debate about Hong Kong versus China. Huang reflected a mature attitude toward Hong Kong, which she strongly believes is part of China. Her belief is not due to government indoctrination, but upon principles that have historic and logical merit. At the same time, she can understand the perspective of those who live in Hong Kong and harbors no ill will toward them. She takes a respectful attitude toward students from Taiwan, which she also believes is part of China. Although unshakable in her position, she believes that the people of Hong Kong and Taiwan can peacefully come to realize that being part of China is not so bad – and she can attest to that.

“We have freedom; it is not as bad as some people think,” Huang said. “I am not jealous of Hong Kong or Taiwan freedom.”

“Every government has corruption and issues,” Huang said. “The one-party system has advantages.”

“I am thinking a lot about free speech,” Huang said. “Here in America, I see some limits may be good to have an orderly, unified society.”

Huang has benefited from many conversations with her grandfather, a professor of history and government. She would like to be involved in diplomacy and international relationships. However, as an undergrad next year, she will major in food science and nutrition.

How did she come to be at LM? Huang said that her uncles, who are doctors at Hershey Medical Center, recommended the school to her. She appreciates the diversity of the student body. “If I stayed in China, I would not have the opportunity to experience so many cultures.”

International Student Association

The International Student Association is a club for students from all nationalities to connect, share experiences and support each other. It offers leadership and volunteer service opportunities to enrich the students' lives and the lives of others. Through ISA activities, students develop inter-cultural competencies which are critical for global citizens to be successful in today's world.



ISA LEADERS: Alice Lauver and Tim Yoder, advisors; Xinyi (Rita) Huang '17, co-president; Muyan Hao' 17, fundraising coordinator; Miriam Jean-Louis '18, secretary; Joey Lam '17, co-president; Soyeon (Olivia) Kim '18, service coordinator.

MIRIAM JEAN-LOUIS '18

Miriam Jean-Louis '18 was born in the States to parents from Haiti and grew up speaking both Creole and English. Although living in the United States, she said she was in a Haitian household in a Haitian community and attending a Haitian church. "I was always curious about what was happening outside my culture," she said.

"Coming to Lancaster Mennonite and living in the dorm has had a great influence on me since I am able to experience different cultures and meet new people," Jean-Louis said. "I have widened my perspective of the world and am able to better understand other ideas."

Jean-Louis lives in the dorm because her parents live in Boston, MA.

"I feel as though I am more open minded now when it comes to political or social issues because I have heard so many stories and views from other students around me," she said. "I have enjoyed living in a multicultural community here at LMH so much that I joined the International Student Association here on campus."



ALENA CLATTERBUCK '19

"I like to be aware of global issues," said Alena Clatterbuck '19. "One way that LM does this is by inviting chapel speakers who bring forward important issues that affect people around the world, which is very important for high schoolers to hear and talk about."

"Many young adults think that anything different from their culture is scary or stupid," Clatterbuck said. "Being able to talk with students who are from other countries often disproves stereotypes that we may have heard and enables us to see people from these countries as wonderful, loving, caring and intelligent persons."

"The ISA at our school is another way that international students and American students get to interact and teach each other about their experiences and ideas," Clatterbuck said. "American students can have fun, open-minded conversations with international students and gain understanding about different places in the world."





Featured ALUMNI Working with Refugees



Christine Baer '10, congregational resource developer with CWS, speaks at "Welcoming Refugees," an information session hosted by EMM and CWS at Alive Church in Ephrata, PA, on Feb. 13.

"Refugees are people who flee their country based on a well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group, and who are unable or unwilling to return home," she said.

Baer explained the history of refugee resettlement through the United Nations, the process by which people at risk are given refugee status, and the options people have once they are declared refugees.

Most Mennonites came to the New World as refugees fleeing religious persecution. In Pennsylvania they found a safe haven due to William Penn's policy of toleration and the separation of Church and State. Today LM alumni are actively involved in welcoming other refugees and immigrants.

Christine Baer '10, the 2016 Alumna of the Year, has been the public face of the refugee crisis for people in central Pennsylvania, tirelessly speaking on their behalf as the congregational resource developer for Church World Service Lancaster. The articulate advocate has been featured in many news media locally and nationally, educating the community about the refugees and how congregations and individuals can help. Featured in the last issue of *Bridges*, her story ties together many of the themes of this issue of *Bridges* as she shared how LM influenced her to care about displaced persons. One of those influences was chapel services by Mennonite Central Committee on the plight of refugees around the world and the need for peacebuilding. Although many of her fellow alumni, several of whom are featured in this issue of *Bridges*, would serve directly with MCC, Baer would express her principles and values through the avenue of CWS's Immigration and Refugee Program.

"Lancaster has been a destination for refugees for quite a long time. This

is nothing new," Baer said. "Through the years, the world's conflicts change and, consequently, the waves of refugees needing resettlement always is changing and shifting."

"This isn't something new to this area," Baer said. "My ancestors came to the Lancaster area from Europe to escape religious persecution."

Two other alumni who have previously been featured in *Bridges* magazine and the local media for their work with refugees are **Jonathan '93** and **Jennie '95 Groff**. With backgrounds in traditional overseas mission work and then urban church planting, the Groff's shifted their focus to ministering to refugee families. This focus combined their interest in sharing God's love with international people with helping people in their own city. Ministering to refugees also combined with their business interests as they use their family business, The Stroopie Company, to employ refugees and give them the tools they need to acclimate to the community and eventually become successful in their own ventures.



Tim Shenk '88 is focused on immigrants and refugees as the program director for IU13's community education program, which has a Refugee and Immigrant Center at Reynolds Middle School in Lancaster in cooperation with Church World Service. Shenk is a part of the Lancaster County Refugee and Immigrant Coalition that meets monthly to coordinate services. Many of the representatives in this coalition are Mennonites, Shenk related. "It seems that Mennonites are about connecting with the world," he observed.

Before coming to teach at LMMS, **Janelle Thomas '91** worked with Shenk at IU13 teaching ELL classes, mostly for a refugee population. Prior to that, she worked in a similar role for the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council. "Both of those experiences made me keenly aware of the many obstacles and challenges that immigrants and refugees face," Thomas said, "and it also gave me opportunities to get a taste of cultures that are different from my own."

THE KHILO KIDS

When their house and business in Aleppo, Syria, were destroyed by bombs, the Khilo family found itself with no home, no jobs, no school — but with plenty of people who wanted to kill them.



Their father, Salah, a hard-working tailor, fled to Turkey where he got a job and apartment. The rest of the family followed later, traveling across rough terrain at night so one of the warring factions, including Turks who did not want them in their country, would not shoot them on sight.

At first, they thought they would stay in Turkey for a short time until the crisis in their country was resolved and they could return. However, after a year in Turkey, they realized the painful truth that there could be no going back to Aleppo, and they sought refugee status through Church World Service.

After two years of intense vetting by US government agencies, they were granted visas to enter the States on Nov. 5, 2015, where they received a warm welcome by members of Forest Hills Mennonite Church, including LM teacher **Lyn Carlson** and her husband, Jon, the pastor of the Forest Hills congregation. “I was so nervous,” **Mohammad '20** recalled. “I didn’t know the language,” **Fekrat '19** related, “except to say ‘Thank you’ and ‘I love you.’” “I thought Americans would not like us,” said **Ahmed '17**.

“From our standpoint, we were praying for a family to come,” Carlson related. “We had previously been disappointed that an expected family could not come because the mother had a baby and the US government would not issue a visa until the baby was old enough to be questioned.”

The Khilo kids said that, to get their visas, they were each interviewed four times, each lasting 2-3 hours. The US

security agents would interrogate them separately, then review their stories to see whether they matched. The process took almost two years.

Upon coming to Lancaster, their mother, Khalideh, found assistance and employment working for LM alumni **Jon '93** and **Jennie '95 Groff** (see page 19). Their father found work in York.

Supportive Forest Hills members include LM Alumni of the Year **Evanna Umble Hess '66**, LM teacher **Kris Long, Louise Babikow '10**, Laurie Lefevre, **Coleen Rohrer Hurst '92**, wife of **Chad Hurst '91**, **Dustin Lapp '98** and **Norma Stauffer '70**, who won a Peace Mug award from Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference for her work with refugees.

The Forest Hills congregation, with generous financial aid from LM, is making it possible for the Khilo children to be in a welcoming, understanding Christian educational environment that has excellent English Language Learning support. Many people contribute to the educational assistance fund and the congregation, along with the school and other supporters of this refugee family, have partnered with **Jonathan '93** and **Jennie '95 Groff** to conduct sales of the Groff’s stroopwaffle cookies to raise additional funds.

Ameneh '23, Ahmad '17, Fekrat '19 & Mohammad '20 Khilo arrived in the States through Church World Service after two years of intense vetting by numerous US government agencies.

Norma Martin Stauffer '70 received a Peace Mug award from Vonetta Storbakken, ACC’s Peace and Justice Commission chairperson, for her work with refugees.





IVAN '50 & MARY ELLEN '54 LEAMAN

Ivan '50 and Mary Ellen '54 Leaman

celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 26, 2016, at Stumptown Mennonite Church. The celebration included a dinner of African and Asian cuisine by Upohar, a Lancaster caterer whose mission is to provide employment for refugee women. This international meal fit well with the Leaman's global perspective and the international vision of their Stumptown congregation, which has welcomed refugees and other immigrants from Kenya, Somalia, Congo, Pakistan and Iraq.

The Leaman's served with Eastern Mennonite Missions in Somalia during the 1960s. Two of their three

living children were born in Africa.

Deborah Masters '79 was born in Shirati, Tanzania. **David '81** was born in Jamama, Somalia, and is presently dean of the Eau Claire campus of the University of Wisconsin. (**Jonathan '82** was born in Lancaster and presently works for non-profits in Lancaster.)

Today, in retirement, Mary Ellen and Ivan have great interest and fulfillment in relationships with the international families who attend Stumptown.

After graduating from LMH, Ivan went to Franklin and Marshall College and then obtained a Doctor of Medicine degree from Hahnemann Medical College in 1958. In 1970 Ivan joined Henry Wentz in family practice in Strasburg. Along with two other doctors they helped to form Eastbrook Family Health Center in 1974.

MICHAEL CHARLES '05

Michael Charles '05, has been named principal of LM's Kraybill Campus for the 2017-18 school year.

Charles is excited about returning to the school he attended from kindergarten through eighth grade before he went on to graduate from LMH in 2005.

"I'm thrilled to return to Kraybill and join a great tradition and school," Charles said. "Attending Kraybill as a student was an enormously positive experience for me, and I hope to be able to contribute to similar experiences for students today."

After graduating from LMH, Charles obtained a B.A. in history and social science education from Eastern Mennonite University and an M.S.Ed. in educational leadership with a principal's certification from the School Leadership Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

For the past seven years, Charles has taught in LMH's History and Social Studies Department, served as Student Council advisor, and coached JV boys volleyball.

The new principal has fond memories of the school community. While Charles was a Kraybill Campus student, he and his family were involved in all aspects of school life, and his mother, Rhoda, served on the board from 1994-2000. Now he has an opportunity to build on that legacy of leadership.

"I'm energized to learn from Kraybill faculty and students and to shape the next generation in the life of the school together," Charles said.

Charles and his wife, Rachael, and two children, live in Lancaster City and attend Rossmere Mennonite Church, where he is Sunday School superintendent and youth advisor.



Michael Charles '05 has taught in LMH's Social Studies Department for the past seven years.

JONATHAN '70 & RHODA '72 CHARLES

Another Alumna of the Year working with refugees is **Rhoda Reinford Charles '72**, who is quick to credit her husband **Jonathan '70**, as an equal partner in her endeavors. Since 2008, she and Jonathan have been leaders in helping Habecker Mennonite Church welcome and resettle ethnic Karen refugees from Burma to form a unique intercultural congregation. Together Jonathan and Rhoda support the Karen families in many ways, such as completing paperwork, accompanying them to medical and dental appointments, assisting with housing needs and job applications, providing transportation to church services, speaking with social service workers and providing advice.

The Charles' pointed out that the congregation has numerous other LM alumni who pray for the refugees and provide support:

Miriam Ebersole Charles '44 regularly helps three refugee children with their homework. **Lois Charles Zeiset '63** uses her skills as a nurse to accompany people to medical appointments and to provide supportive follow-up care. **Daniel Becker '76** provides transportation to church services, takes children to the public library on Saturdays and provides materials to them on Sunday mornings.

Laverne Sensenig Martin '54 and her husband J. Elvin Martin, retired pastor of Ephrata Mennonite Church, act like grandparents to many refugee children. They help provide transportation and are attuned to the needs of families that they regularly visit. **Mary Jane Nissley '60** and **Barbara Sue Nissley '67** offer welcoming support and assist with purchasing back-to-school supplies for the refugee children attending LM. Former pastor **Karen Weaver Sensenig '72** provided invaluable pastoral leadership, vision and personal involvement in making it all happen.

Eight Karen children from the Habecker congregation are currently enrolled at LM's New Danville Campus. "I am so grateful to the many people who generously contribute to LM so that financial aid can be offered to these students," Rhoda said. "The children have blossomed in the caring environment as they grow academically and learn about Jesus."

The Charles' are adamant that the blessings and benefits flow both ways. "They've adopted us as much as we've adopted them," Rhoda said. "It's totally changed us as a congregation. We've formed wonderful friendships."



ALUMNI SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN THE HABECKER MENNONITE CONGREGATION: Behind the children, left to right in the front, are **Dan Becker '76**, **Jonathan Charles '70**, **Rhoda Charles '72**, **Barbara Sue Nissley '67**, **Joyce Stauffer '72** and **Miriam Charles '44**, with **Mary Jane Nissley '60** behind her, **Lois Zeiset '63** and **Laverne Martin '54**.



REFUGEE CHILDREN AT THE NEW DANVILLE CAMPUS: Front row (l-r): **Grace ThaSu '30**, **Moo Low Leh Soe '30**, **Hsapo Pawbu '30**, **Bromna Baunee '30**

Back row: **Naw Definite '27**, **Se Thu Naing '24**, **Jasper Baunee '26**, **Se Thu Aung '26**





Featured ALUMNI



Many LM alumni have served with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, sharing God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

LYNN '90 & LAURIE ESHLEMAN '90 LONGENECKER

What inspired you to serve abroad? Is there any connection between your LMH experience and your global vision?

Our experience at LMH instilled a desire to follow Jesus, to live a life of compassion, and to use our skills and gifts not only for our own benefit but for the good of others. We were both inspired by teachers who had lived lives of service in places far and near, and their stories opened our eyes to a world beyond what we had personally experienced.

How does a global perspective relate to your current work as education coordinator for MCC?

Everything I do is related to a global perspective, with a growing awareness of how that connects locally, too. I think a global perspective simply means learning to see beyond your own experience. Working with schools and education partners around the world has helped me understand the great disparities of people's opportunities, both in other countries and right here in Lancaster.

Why is global perspective so important to you?

Ideally a global perspective helps us value all people as children of God. Our increasingly globalized world is helping those of us who have traditionally been in positions of power and privilege to hear a wider range of voices and see the connections better. When we recognize inequality on a global level, hopefully it opens our eyes to similar inequities close to home related to things like race, gender and generational wealth. We think MCC's vision statement encompasses all of this and expresses it well: "MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation."

Laurie Eshleman Longenecker '90 is an RN Care Coordinator for Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health's Healthy Beginnings Plus program. "Many of the families that I work with are recent refugees who are resettling in Lancaster through Church World Service. Our program provides support for pregnant women through education, home visits and helping them navigate the US health care system for the first time."

About 50 LM alumni are known to have served with MCC in some capacity.

From 1997 to 2000, **Lynn Longenecker '90** and his wife, **Laurie Eshleman '90**, served in Guatemala as community development workers focused on health and education.

From 2008 to 2011, the Longenecker's served in Bolivia, he as "peace and justice program coordinator," working with MCC partners focused on building peace in a polarized society, while Laurie supervised and supported short-term volunteers.

Since returning to the States in 2011, Longenecker has served as MCC's education coordinator, strengthening local partners that provide quality educational opportunities for children and young adults, especially those who face obstacles due to poverty, gender, ethnicity, disabilities or violence.

SHARON LÓPEZ '79



President-elect of the 27,000-member Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), **Sharon López '79** will become the first Latina to lead the organization in its history.

Born to a Mexican father and a Pennsylvania Dutch mother in Mexico City, Sharon López moved to the United States from Latin America for elementary school. López attended Akron Mennonite Church from fourth grade through high school. "Akron Mennonite was a diverse and welcoming church community," Lopez recalled. Many of her church friends talked fondly about Lancaster Mennonite High School, and her parents wanted her to meet more Mennonite friends and get an Anabaptist education, so she enrolled in LMH.

In the 1970s, the student body was much more homogenous, Lopez said, and the dress code made it difficult for her to feel included. Nevertheless, she joined the softball team and singing groups, and she enjoyed theater and writing for the school newspaper. Although some experiences made her feel that she did not fit in, she said she still

cherishes many interactions with her teachers. In addition, as with most LMH graduates, she made lasting friendships over the four years she attended LMH.

Following graduation, López went to Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), where she joined the Peace and Justice Society.

After returning to Lancaster, López continued to work on social justice issues and soon hungered for more tools to achieve her goals. Law school was the direction she chose. She went to Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg Campus, then embarked on a career as a legal services attorney, providing representation and advice for disadvantaged persons in Lancaster.

In 1999 she left legal services work to join the legal department of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) as their first Pennsylvania senior attorney. At PCADV she spearheaded several notable projects, such as the first Pennsylvania Domestic Violence Judicial Benchbook.

In 2006, López opened her own civil rights law firm in Lancaster, PA, with other colleagues from PCADV, including her present law partner, Andrea C. Farney.

Throughout the years López continued to be actively involved with the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) and the Lancaster Bar Association (LBA). She played leadership roles in the PBA Minority Bar Committee and the LBA Diversity Committee. In 2014, the PBA Nominating Committee selected her as vice president. On May 12, 2017, López will ascend to the position of PBA president. She believes lawyers and an independent judiciary are vital to preserving democracy.

JODI L. WENGER ALDERFER '83



Jodi L. Wenger Alderfer '83 is a world languages teacher (German, French, Spanish) in Quakertown Community School District since 2000. Since 2005, she has chaperoned multiple student groups on trips to Germany, France, Switzerland and Austria.

As a member of the Choraleers, a touring singing group of LM students and alumni under the direction of the late Arnold Moshier, she toured Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras.

After graduating from LMH, she served on an EMM STAT team in Germany for four weeks before beginning studies as a German major at Millersville University. She also studied French, Spanish and Russian. While a Millersville student, she studied in Germany and France through exchange programs and subsequently studied translation and interpretation at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California.



Featured ALUMNI



Peter Dula, Ph.D. '88, currently associate professor of religion and culture at Eastern Mennonite University, formerly coordinated Mennonite Central

Committee's Iraq program. He also taught at LM and at Meserte Kristos College in Ethiopia.

Lindsey Dale Schrock '02 teaches Spanish and German in the School District of Lancaster.



Lena Horning Brown '52, 2008 Alumna of the Year, has been active in refugee resettlement.

Rebecca Dietz '74, Columbia, MD, helps sponsor a Syrian refugee family.



Chris Fretz '01 is an MCC service worker in Mexico, having previously served with MCC in Bolivia.

Kimberly Garrett '96 and **Courtlyn Martin '96** are currently in Puerto Montt, Chile, where Kim is teaching English.



Eastern Mennonite Missions global consultant **David W. Shenk '55** recently visited Bangladesh to lead a series of peacemaking seminars focused on Christian-Muslim relations, his main area of specialty. The government welcomed his talks as a contribution to the Bangladeshi spirit of religious tolerance.



Allison G. Cattell, Ph.D. '03 works in the Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures at Texas Tech University. Before earning a Ph.D. in 2014, Cattell completed a BA and MA in German at the University of Waterloo. During her studies, she participated in a one-year exchange to the Universität Mannheim, Germany, and spent one semester at the Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg, Germany.



In February 2017, **Todd Weaver, DMD '83** volunteered with the Hearts, Hands and Smiles Foundation, in conjunction with the Help Them Help Themselves Foundation, to provide dental care in Masachapa and Villa El Carmen, Nicaragua. His team provided dental care, training to local dental workers and community education about dental hygiene. They treated about 500 patients and provided equipment, instruments and supplies for clinics in Nicaragua to continue treating the community. He is pictured with Dr. Delia, a young Nicaraguan dentist that he helped to train in oral surgical procedures.



Fikeveni Dlamini '08, a native of Swaziland who entered LMH as a sophomore, was one of his class's commencement speakers. Today, he is the host of the "Gospel Impact" show on Swaziland Television and chief sound engineer at Challenge Ministries Swaziland. His story is included in LM's 75th anniversary commemorative book, *Bridging Decades, Embracing the Future*.

Alumni Notes



Karen Brubaker Hooper '88, Ph.D., Atglen, has been named Assistant Director for Graduate Education and Outreach for the University of Delaware's Center for Bioinformatics & Computational Biology. As the Assistant Director, Dr. Hooper will manage the graduate programs and expand the Ph.D., Master's and Graduate Certificate programs. Dr. Hooper comes to this position from the UD Chemistry and Biochemistry Department where she taught biochemistry for more than 15 years. She will continue to teach biochemistry in addition to her new appointment. Dr. Hooper is an accomplished researcher, noted for her work in discovering a family of enzymes, which led to a new field of study with growing biomedical implications in cancer research. Dr. Hooper's work has now assumed importance in biomedicine and has been cited by *Web of Science* more than 440 times. Dr. Hooper and her husband, **Scott '85**, are the parents of **Natalie '14**, **Charles '18** and **Cameron '21**.



Jay Richard Frey '64 is currently a member of the renowned Oratorio Society of New York and regularly performs in Carnegie Hall. Frey praised the late Arnold Moshier, his LMH music teacher, for instilling in him a life-long passion for vocal music and the ability to sing a capella harmony. After LMH, Frey went on to sing in the Choraleers, in college and in church.



Nelson Longenecker '75 was named chair-elect of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Longenecker is vice president for business innovation at the Four Seasons Family of Companies.



[MARRIAGES]

Lorraine Murphy '60, married Lee Holden, Sept. 3, 2016, St. Francis Garden at Church of the Redeemer, Episcopal, Sarasota, FL. (above)

Andy Whitlatch '07 and Alexandra Peter, June 18, 2016

[BIRTHS]

Janae (Yoder) '01 and Rodney Hostetter, fourth child, a son, Isaiah Miles, June 3, 2016

[DEATHS]

Dr. Harry Groff Lefever '49, professor, Athens, GA, February 3, 2017.

Marvin S. Musser '54, Goshen, IN, January 28, 2017

Class Reunions

Class of 1947 — 70th

Date: Friday, June 2, 2017
Time: 11 a.m.
Location: Muddy Creek Library, Fairmount Homes, Ephrata
Contact: John Weaver at jweaver74@gmail.com

Class of 1957 — 60th

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

Class of 1962 — 55th

Date: Sat., May 20, 2017
Place: Enck's Catering, Manheim
Time: Dinner/program at 5 p.m., visiting at 3 p.m.
Contact: Paul Wenger at paul@paulwenger.com

Class of 1967 — 50th

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

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

Esther (Martin) Kline '69, Mt. Airy, MD, January 18, 2017

Ethel (Ebersole) Metzler '54, Lititz, PA, December 15, 2016

J. Dale Landis '44, Lititz, PA, farmer and mail carrier, December 3, 2016

J. Donald Martin '56, Myerstown, PA, November 11, 2016, minister and chaplain.



Education Conference Marks 75th



Susan Schultz Huxman, president of Eastern Mennonite University, was a keynote speaker and workshop leader.



Author and historian **Don Kraybill '63** led workshops such as “The urge or conviction to be counter-cultural ...”

The “Education from an Anabaptist/Christian Perspective” conference on March 4 inspired participants with keynote addresses, workshops and in-depth discussions.

The first keynote speaker, John D. Roth, Ph.D., from Goshen College (above right) laid a theological foundation for Anabaptist education in God’s restorative, redeeming work.

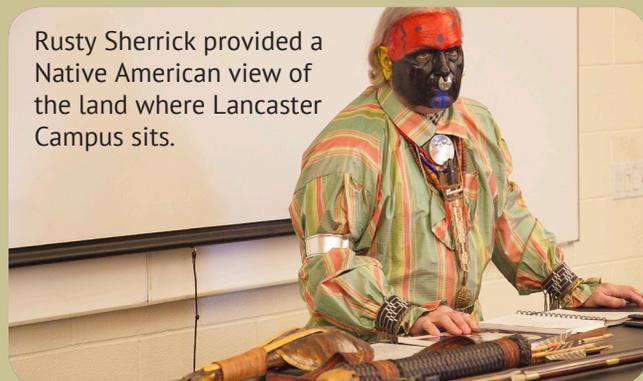
Former LM Superintendent J. Richard Thomas shared ten observations about LM’s 75-year history. Among these were that the negative reasons for founding the school (e.g., no dancing, no instrumental music, no drama, no athletics) are now non-issues, but the positive reasons have endured.

Susan Schultz Huxman, president of Eastern Mennonite University, spoke on “What is ‘Christian’ About Education?” Huxman said that Christian education matters because it is 1) counter-cultural, 2) offers connections and 3) builds community. “The heart

and soul of academic mission are the connections fostered in a Christian school. But, it is the community where lives are groomed to be prepared to live in a broken world.” Huxman repeated Anabaptist educator Palmer Becker’s summation of the work of both the Church and the school: “Jesus is the center of our faith, reconciliation is the center of our work and community is the center of our lives.”

Huxman also led workshops about the differences and similarities among Mennonite schools and the challenges of marketing Mennonite education in today’s world (above left).

More than 30 workshops were offered on a variety of topics, such as “Tensions Between Creativity and Community,” “Managing School Athletics” and “Students and Spiritual Development.” Other workshops covered subjects such as the evolution of arts at LM, the history of food at LM and providing students with a global perspective.



Rusty Sherrick provided a Native American view of the land where Lancaster Campus sits.



Jocelyn Santiago '08 (left) assisted with conference registration in the lobby of the Fine Arts Center.



Auctions to Benefit LM Students

Five LM campuses will hold annual benefit auctions to help keep tuition affordable and build a spirit of school community.

The **Forty-first New Danville Country Auction** will be held Friday, April 7, starting at 4 p.m. when food stands open. The auction begins at 4:30, featuring gift certificates, household items, tools, toys and collectibles. Quilts and wall-hangings will be sold at 8 p.m. More info at newdanvilleauction.weebly.com.

The **Locust Grove Benefit Auction and BBQ** will be held Friday, April 28. This year's event includes a chicken BBQ from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., a silent auction starting at 5 p.m. and a live auction beginning at 6 p.m.. Other highlights include children's activities and food stands. Featured auction items include an Amish-made swing set, quilts, teacher experiences, and travel and dining events. More information can be found at lgauction.org.

The **Hershey Campus Benefit Auction Blast** will be held Saturday, April 29, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast and auction preview. The live auction starts at 9:30 with "kids only bidding" for specific kids items. Features of the day will be a silent auction, class baskets, teacher activities and more. The event offers a strolling magician and games for the kids, including a Musician Showcase Showdown competition with a prize of \$350. See lmshersheyevents.com for more information and how to audition.

The **Kraybill Benefit Auction and Pig Roast** on May 12 begins at 3:30 p.m., selling unique experiences, dining opportunities, a variety of plants, patio furniture, art and class projects. The famous all-you-can-eat pig roast runs from 4-7 p.m. More info at kraybillauction.com.



BENEFIT AUCTIONS

New Danville Benefit Auction
April 7

Locust Grove Benefit Auction & BBQ
April 28

Hershey Benefit Auction
April 29

Kraybill Benefit Auction & Pig Roast
May 12

Fall Festival and Homecoming
October 6 & 7, 2017

Golf Tournament Set for May 10 to Benefit Students

This year's tournament will be held Wednesday, May 10, 2017 (Rain date: May 11), at Conestoga Country Club, 1950 Stone Mill Road, Lancaster.

The event will include morning and afternoon four-person scrambles with a light lunch before the afternoon round and prizes after each round.

The morning shotgun begins at 7:30 a.m. and the afternoon round will begin at 1 p.m.

In addition to the meal, the \$95 golfer fee includes greens fees, cart and either breakfast before the morning round or a snack before the afternoon round. Golfers also have the opportunity to purchase mulligans.

Team, individual skill and door prizes will be awarded after each round. Awards will be given to top men, senior men, women and mixed foursomes.

Anyone interested in participating in the tournament is encouraged to register as soon as possible. The afternoon round is limited to 124 golfers. The registration deadline is April 18. To register, contact Keri Bloom at (717) 299-0436, ext. 701, or email bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org.



Experiential Learning at LMMS

100 People Project

LMMSConnect!, the seventh and eighth grade project-based learning program, held a “A World Portrait Exhibition Evening” Jan. 12, in Lancaster’s Southern Market. Students displayed artwork, narratives and portraits gathered for their “100 People Project: If the World Were 100 People Represented by the Residents of Lancaster.” Students researched and presented on topics such as global healthcare, shelter, energy, and the cost of war.



DISTRICT CHORUS: Three LM singers qualifying for District Chorus were (L-r) **Conner McCall '17**, **Ben Millar '17** and **Joseph Jing '18**, pictured with LM choral director **Marcella Hostetler**.



At the PMEA District 7 Band Festival Feb 10-11, **Rein Wenger '18** placed fourth out of 17 trumpets and qualified for the Region 5 Band Festival.

Hershey Campus “Seed Money Project”

In November, each student at Lancaster Mennonite School’s Hershey Campus was given \$25 in seed money to invest and multiply for a Seed Money Project to raise funds for the Seats and Eats Capital Campaign. Students were encouraged to “make something, do something, plan something” individually or in groups. Projects included hand-made earrings, headbands, hand-drawn coloring books, jewelry, candles, candy dispensers, pencil holders, and even a wooden tree made

from old pallets. On January 27, students gathered to present their multiplied funds to Principal **Miles Yoder** and LM Superintendent **Pam Tieszen**. Yoder and Tieszen talked about how the projects had a broader impact on the students’ lives and the community. Parents remarked that valuable life lessons were learned through the projects.

Altogether, the projects raised \$29,951, which was then matched by a generous donor to bring the total to \$54,951. With additional

gifts since, the total stood at \$81, 675 of the \$85,000 goal when *Bridges* went to press. The funds will purchase bleachers for the gymnasium and tables and chairs for the recently-completed dining hall.

The Seats and Eats Campaign is part of the larger goal of completing the school building’s entire second floor with an elevator, locker rooms, office area, outside entrance area and additional classroom space.



Janell Preheim '17 (left) and **Alarie Hurst '20** participated in PMEA District 7 Orchestra. Preheim qualified for Regionals as well.



SCHOLASTIC WRITING AWARDS

Numerous LM high school students received recognition at the local level of the National Scholastic Writing Awards competition. The three Gold Keys winners from LMH advance to national competition in New York.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's most prestigious recognition initiative for creative teens and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers.

The awards were presented by The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world. The students' submissions were judged by leaders in the visual and literary arts who looked for works that exemplify originality, technical skill and the emergence of personal voice or vision.

Hershey Campus

- **Libby Connell '21**, Silver Key, Poetry
- **Joseph Nichols '21**, Silver Key, Sci Fi/Fantasy
- **Michael Rosenfeld '18**, Silver Key, Short Story
- **Grace Davidson '21**, HM, Poetry
- **Ellie Herster '21**, two HM's, Poetry
- **Michael Rosenfeld '18**, HM, Poetry

Kraybill Campus

- **Isabella Astuto '21**, Silver Key, Humor
- **Isabella Astuto '21**, HM, Flash Fiction
- **Courtney Lehman '21**, HM, Poetry

Lancaster Mennonite Middle School

- **Hannah Clatterbuck '21**, HM, Short Story

Lancaster Mennonite High School

- **Olivia Umstead '17**, Gold Key, Critical Essay
- **Wanyue Zhu '17**, Gold Key, Personal Essay/Memoir
- **Rebecca Sauder '20**, Gold Key, Short Story
- **Mia Deibert '20**, Silver Key, Short Story
- **Alarie Hurst '20**, Silver Key, Short Story
- **Alena Clatterbuck '19**, HM, Journalism
- **Emily Eshleman '20**, HM, Short Story
- **Dominic France '20**, HM, Short Story
- **Aidan Sommers '20**, HM, Science Fiction/Fantasy
- **Fiona St. Clair '19**, HM, Poetry
- **Alexis Stengel '19**, HM, Short Story

LCYA AND SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Several LM students recently won awards in the National Scholastic Art competition and the Lancaster County Young Artists competition. **Taylor Groff '18** and **Jiaxin Wu '17**, winners of Scholastic Gold Keys, advance to national competition in New York.

Kudos also go to the art teachers who worked to have students enter this contest and win.

Students of Kathryn Ciaccia (LMH)

- **Taylor Groff '18**, Scholastic Gold Key, Sculpture
- **Jiaxin Wu '17**, Scholastic Gold Key, Drawing
- **Kendra Coryell '20**, LCYA Gold Key, Ceramics
- **Gabrielle Martin '20**, LCYA Gold Key, Ceramics

- **Jiaxin Wu '17**, LCYA Gold Key, Drawing
- **Katherine Gish '18**, LCYA Silver, Graphic Design
- **Mia Deibert '20**, two Scholastic HMs, Photography
- **Taylor Groff '18**, LCYA HM, Sculpture
- **Hannah Ray '18**, LCYA HM, Sculpture
- **Kathryn Will '17**, LCYA HM, Sculpture

Students of Paul Brubaker (LMH)

- **Hannah Kraenbring '19**, two LCYA Silver Keys, Digital Photography
- **Kelsey Houser '19**, LCYA HM, Digital Photography
- **Nicholas Robey '18**, LCYA HM, Film Photography



Hershey Campus teacher **Rachael Thomas** (right) received the Education Service Award from the Hershey Lions Club. The award is presented annually to an outstanding teacher in the Hershey area. She is accompanied by Brenda Zeevaart, LM Board and Hershey Campus Site Council member.



SPORTS Spotlight

The LMH Blazers boys basketball team got its super 23-4 season off to a great start by winning the Gettysburg Tip-Off Tournament Dec. 10.



Boys B-ball Wins Section; #2 in District

So close! With 12 seconds left in the District 3 finale, 3-point specialist **Isaac Beers '18**, who made a game-tying 3-ball in the district semifinal that sent it to overtime, rimmed the tying shot. Teammate **John Gillespie '18** collected the rebound for a chance to repeat his own game-tying 3-point magic from last year's district semifinal against Trinity that sent it to OT. His second-chance 3-point attempt rimmed out, allowing Trinity to escape with a 75-72 victory.

Senior forward **Javan Terry**, the team's leading scorer throughout the season, tallied a team-high 24 points. **Richie Rosas '17**, **Timmy Stefanosky '17** and **Carter Hurst '18** also scored double digits in the big game.

On the way to Districts, the Blazers won the school's fifth section championship in the Lancaster-Lebanon League. The team is headed to States as *Bridges* goes to press.



The Blazer Nation recently honored the 1997 Boys Basketball District 3 Championship team, coached by Geoff Groff (l-r): **Michael George**, **Steve Leaman**, **Seth Buckwalter**, **Ben Bixler**, **Travis Bare** and **Roger Miller**.

Chess Champions

The LMH chess team won the Lancaster Scholastic Chess League championship with a 12-1 overall record.

Captain **Conner McCall '17**, who plays first board, tied for first place in the LSCL individual tournament. Captains

Joel Gish '17 and **Katherine Gish '18** were undefeated throughout the season. **Ryan Dellinger '19** and **Haolun Wu '20** both placed third in the LSCL individual tournament with 4 wins each. The team is coached by Cedric Steiner.



The Blazer Nation also honored the 2005 Girls Basketball Section 3 Championship team, coached by Sherri Kinsey Gorman (l-r): Coach Sherri Gorman, **Rachel Ranck Johns**, **Kristen Groff Landis**, **Amy Horst Haller** and **Kelsey Gorman Heisey**.



LMH League Championship Chess Team: (l-r, standing) Nick Sampsell '19, Caleb Stoltzfus '20, Ryan Dellinger '19, Haolun "Harry" Wu '20, Connor Edie '19, Wenye "Will" He '19, Coach Cedric Steiner, Geon "Kaiden" Son '17, Zhinan "Clover" Zhang '19, Sennan "Sean" Cen '18, Yining "Joni" Li '18, Zheyu "Joe" Zhou '18, Trong Phan '17 (l-r, seated) Ben Mast '20, Alena Clatterbuck '19, Joel Gish '17 (Captain), Cameron Sydorko '17 (Captain), Katherine Gish '18 (Captain), Conner McCall '17 (Captain), Serifina Mei '20

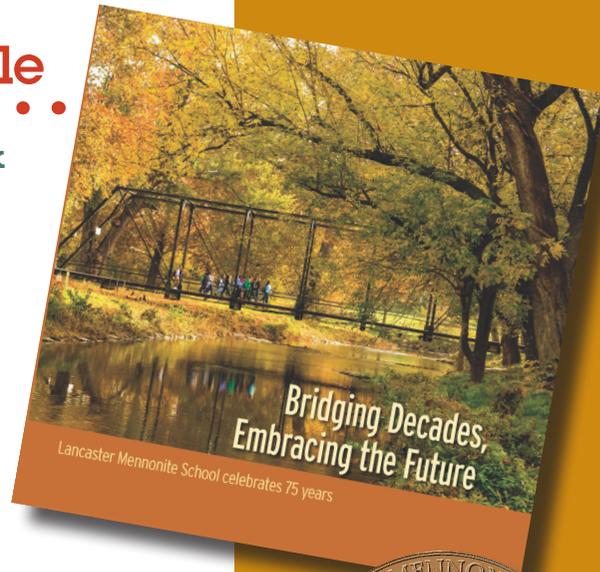
75th Anniversary Book for Sale

An attractive, well-designed “coffee table” book is now available to commemorate Lancaster Mennonite School’s 75-year history.

The 180-page full-color hardcover book contains 578 of the best photographs from those 75 years, alumni interviews, lists of graduates and administrators, and much more.

To be able to sell online and accept all types of payment, the school is selling the book on EBAY for \$35. EBAY also expedites the shipping and handling of the book. (See link on school website.)

The book is also available through the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society bookstore.

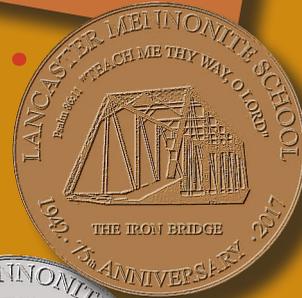


Celebrate LM in Silver or Bronze!

A commemorative medal celebrating Lancaster Mennonite's 75th anniversary is being created in partnership with the Red Rose Coin Club of Lancaster.

One side of the coin depicts the beloved and iconic “Iron Bridge” on the Lancaster Campus. The other side of the medal features the logo of the Red Rose Coin Club and the date 2017. The project is sponsored by the Alumni Association to support the Annual Fund.

Medals will be struck in bronze and 1 oz. of 99.9% pure silver at the Keystone Mint in a limited supply based on orders received at the school by June 15, 2017. The medals will be ready for delivery in early August.



Renditions are based on the draft submitted to the sculptor.

Anniversary Medal Order Form

Pre-orders, paid in advance, must be received by June 15, 2017

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Bronze (\$25 each) x _____ = \$ _____

Silver (\$65 each) x _____ = \$ _____

Silver and Bronze Set (\$75 per set of 2) x _____ = \$ _____

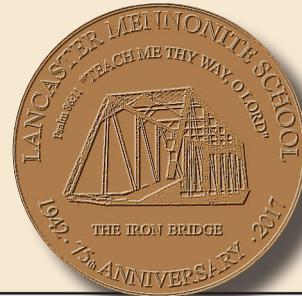
Mailing/shipping: \$2 each medal = \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Tax (add 6% of total): \$ _____

Amount enclosed or to be charged: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
Lancaster Mennonite School • 2176 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster, PA 17602



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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



All six campuses!
Sunday,
April 23,
1-3 p.m.

From PreK through grade 12, LM is a place where students **THRIVE** 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) 509-4459, ext. 312, or horstcl@lancastermennonite.org

www.lancastermennonite.org