

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

# bridges

Fall 2015



The Treasure of Music: Teachers, Students and Alumni Making a Difference



# Connecting the DOTS

This issue of *Bridges* introduces a new visual and content format.

GARY HILLER  
EDITOR



Starting with this issue's focus on music, each subsequent issue will focus on one particular aspect of the school and the faculty, students and alumni who are involved in it.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this fascinating issue of *Bridges* as much as I enjoyed researching and writing it. LM is a dynamic, diverse learning community of interesting people doing interesting things!

The persons featured in this issue are only a representative sample of one slice of LM life. Many more persons could be mentioned.

Although the stories are colorful and the resumes are impressive, I was most struck by the interconnectedness of the LM community as each story contained a connection to other LM alumni of diverse ages and musical genres. You'll find even more interconnectedness among this issue's articles.

These connections are shared by literally hundreds of other alumni who were in Campus Chorale, concert band, orchestra, pit orchestra, jazz band, musicals and other opportunities for musical expression at LM. And the connection is further shared by the thousands of people with whom they share their musical gifts in live performances, recordings, arrangements and teaching.

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### Superintendent's NOTES

Amid beautiful fall weather and an outstanding first quarter of the school year, we have received many positive notes from parents – perhaps more than any other year since I have been a school administrator. These notes and interactions with staff and students show that inspiration is finding students and their God-given gifts are blossoming.

Staff members are working hard to make a good school better, to live up to our vision that “LM is a leader in providing PreK-12 educational experiences of excellence and character.” For example, the Lancaster Campus middle school faculty is transforming an educational delivery system that is student-centered, experiential and better able to prepare students for living with meaning in the Information Age. Attending their “museum night,” which showcased what was learned in the first quarter, was inspirational.

Other recent examples of educational excellence include:

- Receiving the Beth Bash Award for excellence in theater
- LMH winning the PIAA District III AA Boys Soccer Championship
- Four students qualifying for Lancaster County Chorus
- SAT scores significantly higher than local, state or national averages
- Receiving a Sierra Club grant for an LMMS “green project.”

On another note, we welcome Gary Hiller as the new editor of *Bridges*, replacing Stephanie Weaver, who resigned due to increased responsibilities at her full-time job with the *Reading Eagle* newspaper. Along with a new editor, we also introduce a new format to bring a more in-depth focus to areas of our school, starting with music. The connection and collaboration of our music alumni shows that an LM education is not just about academics, but is also about building community and preparing students to live a life of meaning.

Shalom!



#### Lancaster Mennonite School has five campuses:

**Hershey, grades K-12**  
1525 Sand Hill Road  
Hummelstown, PA 17036  
(717) 533-4900

**Kraybill, grades PreK-8**  
598 Kraybill Church Road  
Mount Joy, PA 17552  
(717) 653-5236

**Lancaster, grades 6-12**  
2176 Lincoln Highway East  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
(717) 299-0436

**Locust Grove, grades PreK-6**  
2257 Old Philadelphia Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
(717) 394-7107

**New Danville, grades PreK-5**  
393 Long Lane  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
(717) 872-2506

*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, peace-making and service. The school welcomes students without regard to sex, race, nationality or ethnic origin.



# The Treasure of MUSIC



Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

— Martin Luther

This issue of *Bridges* features some of the many alumni making an impact in the local, national and international music scene. Not surprisingly, some world-class teachers are at the root of this success, and we'll take a look at them, too.

Along with producing some of Pennsylvania's best vocalists and musicians, the LM music program benefits and enriches all students. At all levels, the use of appropriate music reinforces what LM students learn about faith, history, culture and other disciplines. The entire



Campus Chorale is an outstanding auditioned performance group for LMH juniors and seniors.

performing arts faculty believes that students need to understand the historical background and the intended message of the music. Significant learning takes place through this cross-disciplinary approach from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

For students who are particularly gifted/talented, LM offers a cooperative program with Millersville University's Pre-College Music Division. Students in this program take college-level music courses that count toward their high school diploma from LM as well as a Certificate of Music from Millersville University. Students in this program regularly win local, state and national awards and enter prestigious music schools.

In addition to offering a comprehensive PreK-12 music education program, LM also sponsors the Mennonite Children's Choir as an out-of-school activity in which both LM and non-LM students can participate. With more than



LM students have won numerous music awards such as the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra Competition.

130 participants, MCCL consists of three choirs: Carol Choir, grades 2-5; Concert Choir, grades 6-8; and Chamber Choir, grades 9-12.

Lancaster Mennonite School's performing arts program has a significant impact on the Church and the overall Christian community by integrating musical excellence with informed faith and a service orientation. Whether or not they choose to be professional musicians, students emerging from this program are well-equipped to serve Christian congregations in leading worship experiences and using the arts to communicate God's message to the world.



## FACULTY focus

Lancaster Mennonite School students are blessed with an outstanding music faculty that is second to none.

# MARCELLA HOSTETLER



Singing has always been the bedrock of music at Lancaster Mennonite School. When the school was founded in 1949, a *cappella* vocal harmony was the only form of musical expression allowed, in keeping with the strong Mennonite tradition of unaccompanied four-part singing. Although the use of musical instruments was gradually introduced in the 1970s, the human voice continued to be at the forefront of the music program.

LMS's select choir, Campus Chorale, was the face of Lancaster Mennonite School to thousands as they sang in congregations and in the community and established a reputation for, and tradition of, choral excellence under highly-esteemed directors Arnold Moshier (1959-1982) and John Miller (1992-2008).

With such a tradition of excellence, the school had some high expectations to fulfill after Miller retired in 2008. Fortunately, another talented, accomplished and enthusiastic vocal director was at hand to accept the position and take LMS to an even higher level.

An award-winning teacher in the York Suburban School District, Marcella Hostetler's teaching experience included the Hempfield School District, Penn View Christian School and the American Boychoir School. She had received her undergraduate degree in music education from Goshen College and

held an M.A. in Music Education from Westminster Choir College.

On the Lancaster Campus (grades 6-12), Hostetler is responsible for Campus Chorale, Vocal Ensemble and the Middle School Choir. She also provides consultation and coordination of the vocal music programs at the Kraybill (PreK-8), Locust Grove (PreK-6), New Danville (PreK-5) and Hershey (K-12) campuses. She says:

"I love the faculty, administration and students. The atmosphere is positive and nurturing. I also love being able to connect with students on many different levels, whether they are discovering their singing voices for the first time, working on a Renaissance composition or singing in chapel."

Hostetler recently led a 19-member international ensemble of singers and instrumentalists at Mennonite World Conference Assembly, which was attended by about 7,000 people from 83 countries. Among that select group were three LM alumni: **Frances Crowhill Miller '94**, **Ryan Kauffman '93** and **Mark Wenger '73**.

Hostetler was selected for the task because of her accomplishments as a director and her international experience. From birth to age 9, Hostetler lived in Brazil, where her parents were missionaries. While an undergraduate at Goshen College, she studied music in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After college,

she lived in Germany for a year and later led a Mennonite Central Committee Youth Discovery Team in a study of African and North American musicians.

In the summer of 2014, she took Campus Chorale on a concert tour of South Africa that included learning African music.

Of the Africa trip, alumna **Renae Gochbauer '14** said:

"There's something about music that brings friends, schools and people from around the world together. For 17 days, I, along with 30 other singers from Lancaster Mennonite High School, gave seven concerts, sang in three assemblies and participated in countless spontaneous songs. The days were filled with song, dance and history... I know that I learned so much about people, hospitality, racism and faith in the course of those two weeks."



Hostetler leading at Mennonite World Conference.



# NATHAN SHEFFER

Considering the musical excellence that has come to characterize LM, it is difficult to believe that instrumental music was first allowed in 1971 when teacher **Daniel Wenger '56** started an instrumental group of four violists and a cellist. Later that year, the Trustees approved an ensemble of "orchestra type instruments" provided it did not perform "popular music." Today, under band director Nathan Sheffer, the music emanating from LM is quite diverse — and popular in every sense of the word.

As part of LM's continued quest of excellence in musical education, the school welcomed Sheffer to the faculty as band director in 2014. A graduate of Millersville University

(BA in Music), Sheffer's major performance area was saxophone with concentrations in flute and clarinet. He has since distinguished himself as one of Central PA's most prominent saxophonists. Sheffer performs frequently in the York and Lancaster areas with members of the Millersville, Lancaster, Harrisburg and Carlisle Bands, the Jazz Ministers and The Mama Tried Band. He also has made frequent appearances on the East Coast with Funk Church, Los Monstros and The Big Unkle. He does studio work at Lanark Records, Toil Records and Philly Jam Studios.

Sheffer is the music associate at Church of the Apostles as well as the director and instructor at Apostles Academy of the Arts and Sciences.



Recently elected president of the Lancaster-Lebanon Music Educators Association, Sheffer is enthusiastic about promoting music education in schools:

**"While many public schools are cutting and even eliminating the arts and music education, LMS is continuing its excellence in music education, appreciation and the opportunity for students to master instrumental and musical skills."**

# MICHAEL JAMANIS

Dr. Michael Jamanis serves as orchestra director at both Lancaster Mennonite and Lancaster Catholic high schools, and is also a senior adjunct assistant professor at Franklin and Marshall College. He previously chaired the string department and directed the senior orchestra at the Pennsylvania Academy of Music.

A world-class violinist and founding member of the acclaimed Newstead Trio, Dr. Jamanis has performed in major concert halls worldwide as a soloist and chamber musician. In addition to his work as a chamber musician, Dr. Jamanis performs with *Inspira: The Power of the Spiritual*, a multidisciplinary performance project that emphasizes improvisation, spoken word and movement.

Dr. Jamanis has been instrumental in offering musically-enriching experiences to diverse students. He directs the "Music in the Schools" program sponsored by Music For Everyone, an innovative program that engages professional musicians and student mentors to enhance the music programs at primarily inner city schools. LMS alumni **Ryan Kauffman '93** and **Kate Umble '02** have served with him in this program.



Jamanis holds a Bachelor of Music from The Juilliard School, a Master of Music from Yale University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Rutgers University.

# DARLENE HEIN



Since 2009, Darlene Hein has been bringing musical energy to grades PreK-5 at the New Danville Campus where, along with regular music classes for all grades, she currently prepares and presents two all-school music programs, provides music for weekly chapel services and teaches instrumental music for grades four and five. She also serves as one of two artistic directors for the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster and served as director of children and youth music at Neffsville Mennonite Church.

A veteran of 18 years teaching music in the School District of Lancaster, she received her B.S. in music education from Lebanon Valley College and an M.S. in music education from Towson State University.

Hein says,

**"I love the energy that music brings to people, and I love helping children discover more of who God made them to be."**



## FACULTY focus

### JAMES FAIRMAN

**Jim Fairman** has taught for more than 30 years in Christian schools in New York, Florida and Pennsylvania, most recently at the Hershey Campus for the past seven years. He currently directs the secondary music program at Hershey while directing the middle school band and chorus at the Kraybill Campus.

Fairman is a graduate of Houghton College and has a Master's in Music Education from Hofstra University. In college, he was part of the Trumpet Trio. Fairman says, "I enjoy the interaction with students, helping them develop their God-given talents and giving them opportunities to perform in a variety of settings."



### JAN STAUFFER

**Jan Stauffer** is in her 32nd year at the Locust Grove Campus where she taught middle school general music for 25 years. Elementary music classes were added to her schedule eight years ago. She is currently teaching elementary music at both the Locust Grove and Kraybill campuses.

She has served as minister of music at Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church and also served as organist at Calvary Church for more than 20 years.

She is currently serving as accompanist of the Lancaster Chorale as well as substitute organist for various churches in Lancaster.

Her overall objectives for the music program are to prepare inspiring concerts that showcase the learning taking place in the classroom and to instill a love for music-making while following national standards of teaching elementary music.



### JIM BAER '76

Technically, **Jim Baer '76** is not a music teacher at the Kraybill Campus — but he is a great music teacher. A gifted singer of all male voice parts, Baer got the boys in his Home Technology class singing while they worked on projects. Baer joined in with harmony, and the boys wanted to learn how to do that, too. The impromptu singing while working led to the formation of the Kraybill Boys Chorus under Baer's direction, which is offered in addition to the Middle School Chorus at the Kraybill Campus.

# The Importance of Music Education

Music education at all levels is a vital aspect of a successful school's curriculum. When students have music education at both the elementary and high school level, they perform considerably better in other subjects.

Research shows a strong correlation between music education and increased academic performance. For example, high school music students tend to have higher grade-point averages than non-music students in the same school, and music students generally out-perform non-music students on achievement tests in reading and math.

A number of other studies demonstrate a connection between music and the development of the brain: instrumental practice enhances coordination, concentration and memory and also brings about the improvement of the entire neurological system, perhaps because music more fully involves brain functions in both left and right hemispheres than other activities.



Chapel services are meaningful outlets for musical talent.



The opportunity to perform as artists is also an essential part of a well-rounded curriculum and complete education. The arts help students explore realities, relationships and ideas that cannot be conveyed simply in words or numbers. The arts also engender innovative problem solving that students can apply to other academic disciplines.

Success in college can be more accurately predicted by levels of individual achievements in student activities (drama, debate, music etc.) than it can from SAT scores, class rank and grades in school. Fred Hargadon, former Dean of Admissions for Stanford University, said, "We look for students who have taken part in orchestra, symphonic band, chorus and drama."

Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, has stated:

**"Education in the arts is more important than ever. In the global economy, creativity is essential. Today's workers need more than just skills and knowledge to be productive and innovative participants. To succeed today and in the future, America's children will need to be inventive, resourceful and imaginative."**

As educators of children, we recognize that it is essential to teach each child as a whole, and that in order for a student to learn best, a school's curriculum must address children's multiple intelligences.

## Band Instruments Needed

**Donate your used instruments to help LM students!**

Because of the importance of learning an instrument, instrumental music lessons are now required for all students in grades 4 and 5, with the exception of the Hershey Campus. However, not all students have easy access to instruments. Aside from the financial challenge for some families, some of the larger instruments present a transportation hardship even if a student's family could afford a marimba, timpani, xylophone or bass drums. Therefore, it is important to have an inventory of good school-owned instruments on hand at each campus.

Lancaster Mennonite School is seeking donations of all types of band and orchestra instruments to be used at all campuses. The school has a budget for instrument repair and also has a contact that will accept several damaged instruments in exchange for a good one.

If you do not currently have an instrument to donate, please consider buying used instruments you may see at garage sales and flea markets. Again, these can be re-conditioned or, if only good for parts, be part of a trade for a good instrument.

If you would like to make a donation, please email **Nathan Sheffer**, director of instrumental music, at [shefferno@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:shefferno@lancastermennonite.org).





## STUDENT spotlight

### VICTOR MUHAGACHI '16

As a boy in his native Tanzania, **Victor Muhagachi '16** could not afford a guitar, so he drew a fretboard on a piece of long, narrow wood to practice fingerings. Today, the talented senior has the opportunity to play a real guitar, a gift from a music teacher, for chapels, talent shows and any other opportunity that comes along for him to sing and play.

His father, a Mennonite pastor in Dodoma, came to the US for a church conference in 2012, during which he visited the Lancaster Campus and decided that this was the place for Victor to continue his education. It didn't take much to convince his son.

"I checked it out online," recounts Muhagachi. "It was a beautiful campus, and when I saw pictures of Campus Chorale, I wanted to be in it."



Sure enough, he auditioned for the school's select choir and is now part of both Campus Chorale and Jazz Ensemble. However, one of his weaknesses is reading music.

"In Tanzania, we figure it out by ear," Muhagachi explains.

Muhagachi has received much help and encouragement from Mr. Sheffer, who arranged for him to receive guitar and music theory instruction.

Although he frequently plays and sings with others, Muhagachi feels at

his best as a solo act. At the school's Fall Festival concert, he performed captivating renditions of numbers written by two popular British singer-songwriters in a folk-blues style.

As for his career goals, he says he is realistic. Although he would love to be a professional musician, he plans to study engineering or economics in college "so I have something to fall back on if my music doesn't pay the bills."

### EMMA HURST '18

Daughter of **Melissa Garber Hurst '93** and former LM teacher **Nevin Hurst '91**, **Emma Hurst '18** plays in the highly-regarded Lancaster Youth Symphony Orchestra in addition to the many musical opportunities at LM.

"The thing I like best about Lancaster Mennonite is that we are all one big family. We watch out for each other, we laugh together, we support one another and most of all, we strive to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

The school is helping me fulfill my dreams by providing amazing academics, fantastic extra-curricular activities, and most importantly, opportunities to deepen my faith.

Mr. Sheffer has a gift of taking a musician at the level they are at and supporting them in a way that helps them to grow.

I love music and I'm anticipating using it in different worship settings after high school."





# XINYUE ZHANG '20

Not many pianists can electrify a room and bring a crowd to its feet like Xinyue Zhang '20 – and she's only in eighth grade.

At the age of 10, Zhang gave her premier solo piano recital in her home town of Suzhou, China. Since then, she has performed solo concerts in China, Hong Kong, Korea, Turkey and the United States and has won numerous national-level piano competitions in the US and China. She is the two-time winner of the US Open Music Competition in Oakland, California, and in June of this year, she won first prize in the Hawaii International Piano Competition.

Known as "Sissy," Zhang is currently at the Lancaster Campus while studying piano with Dr. Xun Pan in LM's cooperative program with the Pre-College Music Division of Millersville University.

Zhang's parents called Dr. Pan in the fall of 2013 and asked him to give Xinyue a piano lesson while they were touring the US.

At that time, they learned about the pre-college program and immediately became interested. They decided to stay in Lancaster for several more days, with Xinyue sitting in classrooms at both LM and the MU pre-college program while taking more piano lessons from Dr. Pan. Two months later, she decided to come to study at LMS.

"He told me that LMS is a really good school, so last year, I just came here and tried three days – I loved it!"

Zhang says she appreciates all the opportunities she has to use her musical gifts and the encouragement she receives from her teachers and peers. "I like to play in chapel and accompany the Campus Chorale," she says. All the while she's wowing local audiences with solo performances. A recital at St. Edward Episcopal Church on



October 30 got a standing ovation from the audience. She's preparing another recital for March 5, 2016.

Dr. Pan says, "Xinyue is not just a wonderful student, but already a mature pianist. Not too many kids at her age can give full recitals and play a very advanced repertoire well. She practices hours every day while at the same time finishing her homework from LMS and her MU pre-college program. She is a very positive person."

Zhang aspires to go to Columbia University after she graduates from high school. As for her music, the winsome eighth-grader says, "I want to play my music to everyone in the world and share my happiness with other people!"

## JACKSON TROUT '19

"I chose to come to LMH because my mom (**Alexis Lefevre Trout '93**) was an alumna. She enjoyed this school and thought my brother and I would, too. We, of course, do.

I really like how classes are spread out all throughout the campus. It gives me time to see my friends (and get some exercise) between class periods.

This school is helping me fulfill my dreams by opening my mind up to different subjects. For instance, the music program has influenced me to possibly look into music education as a career in the future.

Mr. Sheffer is always able to offer great musical advice due to all of his experience.

I would like to attend either the Juilliard School of Music or the Manhattan School of Music."



Jackson Trout '19 is an outstanding percussionist who attends the world-renowned Juilliard School of Music on weekends.



## STUDENT spotlight



## SARAH HENNIGH '16

**Sarah Hennigh '16** is involved in Concert Band (tuba), Jazz Band (trombone), choir, small vocal ensemble and worship team (voice and guitar) at the Hershey Campus. She has been named to the High School County Band (first chair for tuba) and District Band.

She says, "The school has given me a firm foundation in music by allowing me to use my talents in many areas. My music teachers have forced me out of my comfort zone numerous times, and this has allowed me to grow and develop my musical talents even more."

"Without Mr. Fairman (band and choir director) I wouldn't be involved in half of the things I am involved in now," Hennigh says. "He's the one who wanted me to start the tuba and convinced me to take up the trombone later. He pushes me to become a better musician, but he is also a lot of fun and has a great sense of humor. He's the best."

"Even though I don't plan on making music a career, I definitely want it to always be a part of my life. I hope to continue being involved in music in college and attend Tuba Christmases all over the US."

## Recent Music Honors

Four LMH students qualified for County Chorus: Emily Peifer placed 11th and Maia Garber placed 12th in the Soprano 1 category; Ben Millar and Peter Millar placed 8th and 20th, respectively, in the Bass 2 category. Peifer and Ben Millar also qualified for the District Chorus along with Tenor 1 Conner McCall.

Emma Hurst (clarinet), Ester Moro Moragrega (clarinet), Caelin Grambau (French horn) and Rein Wenger (trumpet) were accepted into the 2016 Lebanon Valley College Honors Band. Hurst, Janelle Preheim (violin) and Sarah Hennigh (tuba) won seats in the 2016 PMEA District 7 Concert Band and Orchestra.



The Millar twins, Ben and Peter, with sopranos Emily Peifer (left) and Maia Garber; Conner McCall (inset)

## Campus Chorale DATES

Feb. 28	Concert with Beyond Ourselves
March 13	Landis Homes, 3 p.m.
March 20	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
April 3	River Corner Mennonite Church, Conestoga, 10 a.m.
April 7-12	Mennonite Schools Choir Festival, Kalona, Iowa
April 17	Marietta Community Chapel, 9:30 a.m.
April 24	Mount Joy Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
May 1	Mellinger Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
May 15	Stumptown Mennonite Church, Bird-in-Hand, 7 p.m.





## FRANCES CROWHILL MILLER '94

**With roots in both Lancaster County and Nairobi, Kenya, Frances Miller '94 grew up with a rich heritage of music from Mennonite hymns to East African drumming.**

Miller was also shaped by the musical legacy and influence of her father, the late John J. Miller, who spent seven years teaching at Rosslyn Academy in Nairobi, Kenya, and later taught music at Lancaster Mennonite High School from 1992 to 2008.

John Miller's teaching style was marked by an insistence on discipline and quality and by a deep and genuine enthusiasm for the work his students created. An accomplished singer and professional actor himself, he was instrumental in growing the music and drama programs at Lancaster Mennonite School, including the addition of yearly musicals, and led student choirs on tours to Africa and Eastern Europe.

Miller says, "My father was one of the largest influences on me; as a musician, he is the one who inspired,

pushed and coerced me into music over the years. It has been a long journey with many chapters; at this point I can say that I've found my own musical voice, and I'm grateful for many things he passed on to me."

An accomplished violinist, singer and composer, Miller enjoys working across artistic disciplines. She has recorded and released three solo CDs and one movie soundtrack. She has recorded and performed with Grammy-Award-winning cellist David Darling, has collaborated with fellow alumna **Mindy Nolt '96** on her album *Movers and Lovers*, and is currently collaborating with alumnus **Nate Bontrager '02**, a virtuoso cellist, on what Bontrager calls "re-imagined versions of hymns which were important to all of us earlier in our lives."

In addition to the fiddle/violin, Miller plays a unique new instrument called a "hang," which was developed in 2001 after many years of research on metal percussion instruments from around the world (steelpan, gong, bells, etc.). *Hang* means "hand" in Bernese German (a Swiss dialect), and so this new instrument of the millennium is played with the hands.

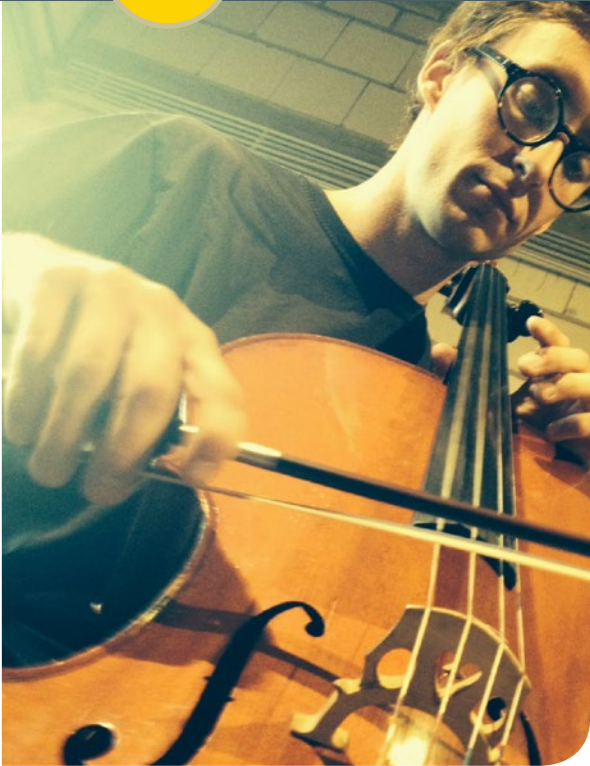
In 2010 Miller began collaborating with Daryl Snider (singer-songwriter, acoustic guitar, saxophone and akogo) while in graduate school at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern

Mennonite University. Snider was exploring how to use his music to promote healthy change and new connections, while Miller was working to root her music vocation in peacebuilding. Both view their music as more than entertainment.

They formed a group called Sopa Sol to explore music that is transformative in individual lives, communities and broader society. Drawing on their experiences in other countries and cultures – including Kenya, Haiti and Brazil – Sopa Sol provides music for various settings and offers special projects to promote healing and community-building.

**"Peace building and social justice work influence what I do musically. I am no longer interested in using music for entertainment only. I am interested in the deep layers of transformation that can take place when engaging with the creative arts and in opening up the space for positive change through music."**

Miller lives with her husband **Tim Sauder '95** and their son Eli at Fiddle Creek Dairy, where they have an all-natural yoghurt business.



During his LM days, his friends had no inkling of the type of musician **Nathan Bontrager '02** would evolve into. Nor did he. After all, he now

## NATHAN BONTRAGER '02

specializes in an instrument known to few, if any, high school students. And his music, like the *Starship Enterprise*, tends to “go where no man has gone before.”

In addition to playing cello, guitar, fiddle, bass, piano, organ and percussion at the professional level, Bontrager plays the *viola da gamba* or *viola*, a forerunner of the modern-day cello that was popular during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Ironically, playing old medieval and Renaissance music on the *viola da gamba* was foundational to his avant-guard improvisational/experimental music. Bontrager plays both these genres on the international music scene, along with “traditional” music.

While at LM, Bontrager was certainly musically-inclined and had many opportunities to

experiment with his musical gifts in the orchestra and as a praise and worship leader. Reflecting back, Bontrager says:

“While I certainly wanted to play/perform well, the music in that context was secondary to the faith-related outcomes we were trying to attain, which ranged from individual, personal expressions of devotion to full-scale, revival types of events.”

Bontrager appreciates an environment that allowed him to explore:

“I never felt constrained in terms of personal expression. The freedom to explore things in my own way allowed me not only to become a professional, freelance musician but has left me with a fairly unencumbered view of what is aesthetically and personally possible in the art world.”



## MINDY NOLT '96

**Mindy Nolt '96** wrote her first song in the fourth grade at Hinkletown Mennonite School and has continued to explore music in a variety of ways ever since. After graduating from LMH in 1996, she attended Eastern Mennonite University where she sang covers of Gillian Welch, Nanci Griffith and Emmylou Harris in a bluegrass band (Reuben's Potted Ferns) with fellow alumni **Angela Hiller Myers '96** and **Reuben Miller '95**.

She has continued to write songs over the years, releasing her first album *As a Tree* in 2004. She recently recorded *Movers and Lovers* with backup from fiddler and vocalist **Frances Crowhill Miller '94**, mandolin player **Reuben Miller**, banjo and bass player **Josh Pfarr '95**, and banjo player and vocalist **Jared Hankee '98**. In both 2008 and 2013, Nolt had a song chosen for an album produced by the local nonprofit Music for Everyone, which benefits music programs in schools and the community. Her original songs speak to life's struggles and mysteries in a poetic and contemplative way. She performs locally with her husband **Jared Hankee '98** (pictured).

Currently associate pastor at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, Nolt says, “I think one way LMH influenced me in music was through friendships with other musical people in Campus Chorale and musicals. Through those connections I discovered a way to express myself and my faith through music. I remember being inspired by other students or visiting musicians who performed during chapel.”



## ESTEBAN NIEVES '14

While at LMH, **Esteban Nieves '14** received the Music Department Award as the most outstanding music student in the senior class. Esteban participated in Concert Band, Jazz Band and Campus Chorale and qualified as a tenor for District Chorus.

"Musically, I was influenced most by Campus Chorale and the experience I had going to South Africa with that group," Nieves says. "I think the faculty did a good job of preparing me for college. We went over different exercises and did a lot of music theory that prepared me for the next step."

Nieves is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a Commercial Music concentration at

Messiah College. During his freshman year, he was one of seven students selected to be in the Messiah College Seven touring worship band. He's currently a part of five ensembles at Messiah: JazzTWO (which is a Big Band group), Jazz Fusion, Guitar Ensemble, Worship Community and Powerhouse. He's also a member of the recording studio and the sound tech/lighting crews.

Besides guitar and vocals, he is proficient at the banjo and the ukulele. To graduate as a music major, he's learning piano, too.

"As far as what I want to do after college, I'm not sure yet. It would be



amazing to work as a producer in Nashville, but I'm going to let God lead me. I will be attending an arts/recording/music business school in Nashville my senior year with the study abroad program."

## CARMEN CHILES '97

"Music is that universal language that connects all different kinds of people throughout the world," says **Carmen Chiles '97**, an international recording artist who has opened for giants such as the legendary Brian Wilson, Kansas and Foreigner. "I describe my music as soul, rock and blues as there are elements of all in my songs."

In 2007 she released her debut album *SOULution* with Chiles on guitar, bass, piano, harmonica and organ. "It's sort of a play on words, *SOULution*. You have to find answers within yourself, and that's okay! It's a positive thing," she said. Chiles recently completed her sophomore EP *Candles In Harlem* and will soon be releasing the EP worldwide.



## JESSICA SMUCKER '94

**Jessica Smucker '94** is an award-winning nationally-touring singer, songwriter and poet. She thinks of herself primarily as a poet, but audiences experience her sincere and captivating voice as the perfect sonic match to her emotionally eloquent lyrics. Her second full-length album *Tumbling After* features eleven catchy and disarming songs that incorporate elements of experimental rock, organic folk and edgy pop with a stellar cast of backing musicians. She has opened for notable acts like Bill Staines and co-billed with The Stray Birds. After studying at Goshen College and Western Illinois University, Smucker moved back to Lancaster in 2005. She is married to **David George '94**.



## KATE UMBLE '02 & ERIC UMBLE '09

When she was a little girl, her grandfather won a bugle in a contest, and Kate Umble learned to blow it, just for fun. When the time came to take formal lessons, she “felt comfortable getting sound out of a mouthpiece” and wanted to play the more feminine French horn. Because she was too small to handle the big instrument, her teacher suggested she play a trumpet until she grew a bit. Eventually, she did get bigger, but she stuck with the trumpet.

While at Lancaster Mennonite High School, Umble took advantage of every music opportunity the school afforded – Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, pit band for musicals and more. “I had a fabulous experience in the music department,” she says. “I decided to become a music major due to the fun I had with music at LMH.”

Today, **Dr. Kate Umble Smucker '02** is a freelance trumpet player and music educator based in Lancaster, PA, where she plays with the Allegro Chamber Orchestra, the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, the Fulton Theater pit orchestra and the Lancaster British Brass Band. In 2013 Umble was a founding member of Spark Brass, a brass and percussion ensemble dedicated to promoting the value of music education. Umble is also the founder and artistic director of Lancaster New Sounds, a concert series that showcases new music by living composers and “off the beaten path” chamber music in a casual, intimate setting. Among these are several LM alumni such as **Nathan Bontrager '02**.

Umble holds a Doctorate in Trumpet Performance from the University of Missouri, a Master of Music from the University of North Texas, and a Bachelor of Music Education (K-12 instrumental) and a Bachelor in Trumpet Performance from the University of Northern Colorado. She is a member of the music faculty at Millersville University, and she helped to start the band program at the Kraybill Campus.

Reflecting on her LMH days, Umble says, “I loved working with Mr. Miller. Looking back as a music educator, I can appreciate the repertoire he had for us.” Near the end of Miller’s life, Umble and her brother **Eric Umble '09** had the opportunity to play for him. She said that this was a way of telling him, “Look at the musicians we have become because of you.” (See article on **Frances Crowhill Miller**.)

**Eric Umble '09** is a professional clarinetist and a founding member of the sTem ensemble. Additionally, Umble performs with renowned ensembles including the WindScape Quintet, American Modern Ensemble, Tactus Ensemble, Contemporaneous, and Ensemble Mise-en. Dedicated to the idea of using music as a force for positive change, Eric produces benefit concerts that have raised thousands of dollars for public health,



shelters and disaster relief. He has received awards and honors including the Lancaster Red Rose Award for Community Service. Internationally, Umble has presented solo recitals in Romania, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, France and Mexico. Umble also performs frequently as a soloist with orchestras in New York City and across the United States. He is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and has also presented master classes at the Escuela Nacional de Música in Mexico City. Umble received his bachelor’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music and is currently pursuing his master’s degree.

Umble experienced both John Miller and Marcy Hostetler, Miller’s successor in vocal music after his retirement in 2008. Eric says:

**“LMH was a positive place of growth for me. I had a lot of fun performing in the pit orchestras for the musicals, and I had an extremely positive experience working with Marcy Hostetler in Campus Chorale. John Miller was also a huge influence and support when I was in middle and high school. These are the people who encouraged me to believe in myself. They truly changed my life and helped set me up for success.”**





# RYAN KAUFFMAN '93 ROSEMARY BLESSING '97

**Ryan Kauffman '93** is a professional saxophonist and private teacher heavily rooted in the bop style influenced by John Coltrane. He currently leads several bands that perform throughout the Central PA region. His most recent band is The 717 Collective.

This summer, Kauffman was one of a select group of 19 musicians and singers from around the world, led by LM's **Marcy Hostetler**, that provided music at Mennonite World Conference.

Kauffman does a lot of work as a studio musician and arranging music for Lanark Records. He is currently arranging horn parts and playing sax for an album by Kenley Collins.

Kauffman, along with current LM strings director **Michael Jamanis** (see Jamanis article), is also a mentor with the Music for Everyone program that supports music education in schools and communities that have limited resources.

With his wife Christy on violin and LM alumna **Rosemary Siegrist Blessing '97** on piano, Kauffman is part of a four-person chamber ensemble called Beyond Ourselves that promotes the global work of Mennonite Central Committee through a benefit concert, highlighting a specific region or need each year.

Blessing is on the piano faculty at the Lancaster Conservatory of

The individual music careers of Rosemary Siegrist Blessing '97 and Ryan Kauffman '93 intersect in the Beyond Ourselves ensemble.

Music and teaches piano through the non-credit lesson program at Franklin and Marshall College. She is artistic director of the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster and serves as minister of music at Landis Valley Christian Fellowship.



## DENISON WITMER '95

**Denison Witmer '95** has been compared to 1970s-era singer-songwriters such as Cat Stevens. His "neo-folk" style integrates poetic and thoughtful lyrics with his complex guitar fingerpicking.

Witmer has recorded eleven albums to date, which have been licensed and released in Europe, Australia and Asia. He has been touring almost annually in the US and Europe since 2004. He has also toured in South Korea and is going on his first tour of China in 2016.



## MADELINE BENDER '89

**Madeline Bender '89** recently had a full page in *Bridges* for her work in founding and organizing Voices of Hope, an opera fundraiser, as a way to support Mennonite Central Committee's Global Family international relief efforts. The event features guest performers from around the world. Bender frequently donates her world-class operatic talent for other benefit concerts and sang at LM's Fall Festival in 2013.

In demand as a concert soloist, Bender graduated from the Manhattan School of Music Opera Theater and has a lengthy resume of operatic roles in major venues throughout the United States and Europe. Her sister, **Sena Bender Larard '93**, is a London-based singer and cellist.



## More Music Alumni



**Jonathan Keener '03**, received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance, Pedagogy and Literature from James Madison University and a B.A. in Piano Performance from Eastern Mennonite

University (EMU). Keener was the only piano student ever admitted to the DMA program without first receiving a master's degree. Upon graduation, Jonathan was hired as adjunct professor of music at JMU and maintained a studio of about twenty piano students. He continues to be active as a collaborative pianist and recently performed several public solo recitals in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Indiana.

'89

**Steve Garrett '89** is the worship pastor at The Gate, a growing church community in Franklin, Tennessee. From 2008-2013 he served as lead pastor of New River Fellowship, a church founded by Michael W. Smith. Garrett has traveled extensively in the USA and internationally as a recording artist. After several years as frontman for his family band called Pilgrim's Progress, he released two solo projects and then went on to be a featured worship artist and lead vocalist on various projects for Integrity Music, Promise Keepers, Provident, Word Music, Maranatha Music and Kingsway Music. He is currently enrolled in the Theology and Ministry program at Princeton Theological Seminary.

**John Bucher Herr '53**, Verdi baritone for Immortal Sounds Recordings, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in musical performance. With 41 years of experience as a professional singer, Herr specializes in singing Verdi operas. His recordings can be heard around the world. The highlight of his career was performing a concert at Carnegie Hall. Herr studied at the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

**J. Harold "Hal" Hess '60**, an operatic tenor, retired after 33 years as a music teacher. He currently chairs Cincinnati's Mennonite Arts Weekend, which celebrates the work of Mennonite artists from the United States and Canada. Hess completed his graduate studies in conducting and voice performance at Indiana University.

**Lorraine Murphy '60**, a lyric soprano, has performed throughout the US and Europe. She is currently the soprano section leader and board member of Key Chorale and a founding member of Sarasota's newest women's ensemble, Belle Canto.

**Glenn Lehman '62** has held positions in church music leadership including organist,

choir director and arranger. Lehman founded the Table Singers, a choir which explores 20th century Mennonite singing styles. Most recently he founded the Foresingers, an ensemble of singers and instrumentalists that specializes in early Mennonite music. Lehman is the executive director of Harmonies Workshop, a nonprofit music organization committed to creating new Christian music resources through performance, leadership training and product creation. He is the author of *You Can Lead Singing* (2001).

**Karen Moshier-Shenk '69** is on the staff of Park View Mennonite Church as adult choir director. She holds a Master of Music degree from Duquesne University.

**Rich Winey '78** is associate pastor of worship at Mount Joy Mennonite Church and a music teacher in the Elizabethtown Area School District.

**Kathy Keener Shantz '80** is associate pastor of music and worship at James St. Mennonite Church and a board certified music therapist.

**Daryl Shawn Newswanger '89** studied classical and flamenco guitar at Berklee College of Music and formed the Maxwell Horse band. After four records and a number of successful tours,

'11

When **Dawon Suh '11** accepted a full scholarship to study violin performance at the University of Texas at Austin, she knew she was ready, thanks to her experiences at LM. While a student, Suh played in the string orchestra, full orchestra and pit orchestra. She also participated in the Pre-College Gifted and Talented Program, receiving many opportunities to perform. She said her favorite and most important class was Advanced Music Theory with Marcella Hostetler. "Music teachers at LM not only have good talent, but also a heart-full mind," Suh said. "That was what I really loved. When I was experiencing difficulties with any problems related to my music studies, they really helped me a lot with good advice and encouragement."



he left the band to develop his own unique approach to the acoustic guitar that can produce the sound of a full band. Currently, Shawn is celebrating the release of his latest album *In Place* while playing live shows all across North America.

**Jessica Landes '95** has been teaching and playing violin for more than 20 years and currently operates the Landes String Studio in Wilmington, NC. She received her B.S. in Music Education from Goshen College and recently a Master of Music Performance from East Carolina University. She has been a member of the Lancaster Symphony, the Williamsport Symphony and currently is a member of the Wilmington Symphony as well as the American roots band Stray Local.

**Joseph Gascho '91** joined the University of Michigan School of Music in September 2014 as assistant professor. Gascho enjoys a multifaceted musical career as a solo and collaborative keyboardist, conductor, teacher and recording producer.

**Tricia Bare Stoltzfus '94** provides private instrumental lessons.

**Jason Leister '95** attended the Eastman School of Music and has served as organist and music director for several major metropolitan churches.

**Tara Bare Kenkelen '96** is a violin instructor and performs with the Allegro Chamber Orchestra.

**Adrienne Leasa '95** is a singer/songwriter with blues, folk and rock tendencies. Her first album *For God's Sake* was released independently in 2008 and *Nomsan?* in 2013.

**Krista Miller Petersheim '97** is music coordinator at Conestoga Mennonite Church.

**Jonathan Shoff '03** is a music teacher in the School District of Lancaster and gives private lessons in piano, voice and music theory. He accompanies the high school ensemble in the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster and directs their male ensemble. He has played in or directed more than twenty musicals. He is completing a Master of Music Education at West Chester University.

**Patrick Ressler '07**, a professional musician/composer based in Philadelphia, has released *Stand By Me: Hymns of Hope & Healing*, a collection of soulful hymn arrangements from the *Hymnal: A Worship Book* in a variety of musical styles.

**Lauren Fairfull '06** received a Master of Music in Oboe Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University. One of Lancaster's most respected chamber musicians, she performs with the Prana Winds Quintet and other ensembles.

**Kayla Klase Ressler '10**, a voice instructor at the Popovsky Performing Arts studio, has performed in multiple productions with OperaLancaster and Millersville University. She is also the winner of the 2013 Louis Vyner Award.

**Andrea Oberholtzer Brubaker '89** with husband **Robert Brubaker '89**



'89

**Andrea Oberholtzer Brubaker '89**, singer/songwriter, studied classical voice and piano at Messiah College where she graduated with a B.A. in Vocal Performance. She has been a soprano soloist with the Susquehanna Chorale, has toured throughout the United States and Europe with numerous vocal ensembles, and is currently the director and lead vocalist for Gloria Deo, a women's vocal ensemble. She has won classical vocal and piano competitions in the Lancaster and Harrisburg areas, had leading roles in numerous musicals and performed at Sight and Sound Theater as a singer. In 2008, she recorded her first solo album entitled *In God Alone*, which consists of all original compositions. In addition to solo compositions, she has written choral pieces that have been performed by various choirs and has also co-written and produced two children's musicals entitled *Chosen by the King* and *Jonah: Swallowed by Grace*. Andrea is employed by Mellinger Mennonite Church as minister of worship, where she gives leadership to multiple choral and instrumental ensembles, directs musicals and serves as worship leader. Brubaker says, "There is no greater honor than to lead a group of worshipers before the throne of Almighty God."

'89

**Ronald Gardiner '89** is currently an associate professor of music at Southeastern University and principal cellist of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in cello performance from the Eastman School of Music with additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory. During his student years at Eastman, he performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Rochester Philharmonic. An active freelance musician, Professor Gardiner has worked with diverse world-renowned artists such as Plácido Domingo, Carrie Underwood, Rascal Flatts, Kool and the Gang, Mannheim Steamroller, the Gatlin Brothers, Wynonna Judd and Itzhak Perlman.



## Featured Alumni

# RHODA REINFORD CHARLES '72 . . . . . ALUMNA of the YEAR



At Fall Festival and Homecoming, **Rhoda Charles '72** was recognized for serving the Church, the school and the Lancaster community as an exemplary church leader, educator and businessperson. Her style has been to empower and encourage, facilitating the work of others without calling attention to herself. Yet, her effectiveness in transforming lives and changing our world has not gone unnoticed.

The former Rhoda Reinford enrolled in Lancaster Mennonite High School as a junior and lived in the school residence hall. "I have great memories of making many new friends in the girls' dorm," she recounted. "Singing in Campus Chorale, giving music programs in various churches and going on tour together forged friendships and deepened my love for the Church."

"Teachers and classmates really encouraged me to develop my gifts. Teachers also shared their own faith in a way that served as a positive example."

After graduating in 1972, Charles received her B.S. degree in Home Economics Education from Eastern Mennonite University in 1976. From 1976 until 1979, she taught in the Home Economics Department at Lancaster Mennonite High School, where she met and married Jonathan Charles, who taught social studies and photography.

For 33 years she and her husband operated their own

photography business, Charles Studio, that provided considerable in-kind contributions for many churches and schools. From 1994-2000 she was a member of the board of the former Kraybill Mennonite School, now an LM campus, serving as chair from 1996-2000. From 2002-2008, she served as president of Mennonite Women of Lancaster Conference and, from 2010-2014, she was chair of the board of Mennonite Women USA.

In her home congregation, Habecker Mennonite Church, Charles teaches an adult Sunday school class, serves as worship leader and gives leadership to the sewing circle. Since 2008, she and her husband have been leaders in helping the Habecker congregation welcome and resettle ethnic Karen refugees from Burma to form a unique intercultural congregation.



Charles has three adult sons who are all LMS graduates: **Nathan '98**, **Derrick '01** and **Michael '05**. "Because Jonathan and I both graduated from LMH, and then both taught here after graduating from college, it was clearly an important value of ours to pass on. We believe that the school provides Christian values woven into the curriculum and modeled through the lives of teachers."

"The friendships our sons formed, and the community of faith that stretched their world, reinforced what we tried to live as a family. We are blessed by the way each of our sons has chosen to develop his gifts for serving God."

Along with having four biological grandchildren, she and Jonathan also serve as grandparents for six Karen children from Habecker Mennonite Church who attend school at the New Danville Campus.

Charles said,

**"I continue to support LMS because I care about an education that is Christ-centered and encourages students to develop their gifts to be shared as followers of Jesus. I really like that the LMS graduate profile includes academic, spiritual, and lifestyle components."**

Rhoda Charles '72 with husband Jonathan and grandchild, Caleb Charles



# WILLIAM K. POOLE '79

## ALUMNUS of the YEAR

Along with **Rhoda Charles '72**, the school honored alumnus **William K. Poole '79** as Alumnus of the Year. In granting the award, Superintendent J. Richard Thomas said, "Bill is thoughtful, insightful and committed to following Jesus and strengthening Lancaster Mennonite School and Christian faith in Central Pennsylvania."

Poole recently was a leader in the acquisition of Hershey Christian School as Lancaster Mennonite's fifth campus. In his acceptance speech, Poole said, "It was very rewarding to bring two quality schools together with a common mission of serving students and impacting their lives."

About his LMS days, Poole joked, "I remember many trips to the school office for discussions with then-assistant principal Richard Thomas, but they were not about school mergers." However, on a serious note, Poole related how Mr. Thomas "challenged me as a man and a leader. That simple challenge

changed my entire year."

Poole expressed appreciation for other relationships forged at LMS. "I feel very blessed to have made many lifelong friends at LMS. Most precious to me is my high school sweetheart and wife of 33 years **Diane K. Lehman '80**."

The Poole's three daughters also graduated from Lancaster Mennonite: **Sara '05**, **Mary '08** and **Caroline '10**.

Poole said, "The biggest compliment I can give LMS is that we entrusted the school with educating and helping us raise our three girls. Each one was provided a solid education grounded in Christ, which is evident in their lives today."

After graduating from Lancaster Mennonite High School in 1979, Poole went to Millersville University where he received his B.S. degree in Business Administration/Management in 1983. Soon afterward, he began his banking career as a management trainee at the Bank of Lancaster County, the lead bank of Sterling Financial Corp. After 15 years of increasing responsibility at Sterling Financial, ultimately serving as Executive Vice President, he left Sterling in 1998 to form HomeTowne Heritage Bank, where he was founding president, CEO and a director. He is now with Integrity Bank – A Division of S&T Bank.

Caroline '10, Diane '80, Sara '05 and Mary '08 Poole



Throughout his career, Poole has served on boards and committees of various other organizations such as the Pennsylvania Bankers Association, Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, Family Services of Lancaster, Hospice of Lancaster County, Community First Fund, Lancaster Mennonite School, Millersville University Foundation, Town & Country Leasing and Bank of Lancaster County. He currently serves as the chairman of the board for Sight & Sound Theatre Co., Strasburg, PA, and is also on the board of directors of the Ambassador Foundation of Lancaster Bible College.

**"The biggest compliment I can give LMS is that we entrusted the school with educating and helping us raise our three girls. Each one was provided a solid education grounded in Christ, which is evident in their lives today."**





## Alumni Notes



'79

**Valerie Miller Baer '79** shows her new book *Baking with Whole Grains*.

Valerie Baer's book *Baking with Whole Grains* was recently released by Good Books, an imprint of Skyhorse Publishing, Inc., and is currently available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and a growing list of local stores. The book includes more than 100 recipes that feature whole wheat, spelt, flax and other flavorful and nutritious grains. The book includes numerous photographs by **Jeremy Hess '97**.



'92

**Jessica King '92** was named to the Mayor's Commission to Combat Poverty.

## [ CLASS NOTES ]

**Steven Landis '73**, is now pastor of Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community after serving as pastor of Franconia Mennonite Church (Telford, PA) for 20 years.

**Jon '93 and Jennie '95 Groff** took home the top prize at The Great Social Enterprise Pitch, a contest meant to encourage organizations that perform social good while making a profit. For their win, the Groffs received \$5,000 plus in-kind products and services worth more than \$25,000 to jump-start the Stroopie Company, which makes traditional Pennsylvania Dutch cookies with the help of refugees. The Groffs plan to hire more refugees and open a shop in downtown Lancaster this spring.

**Katelyn Vanderhof '08**, has been named head basketball coach at Lancaster Bible College. She was previously an assistant coach at Elizabethtown College. After graduating from LM she played two years of D1 basketball before concluding her career at Messiah College.

**Jared Schatz '11**, Messiah College, earned All-Middle Atlantic Conference honors and was All-League cross country for the fourth straight year.

This spring he won the MAC championship in steeplechase while setting a new MAC record.

**Kegan Rosenberry '12**, Georgetown University, is a two-time Big East second team soccer selection.

**Jessica Rheinheimer '12**, Eastern Mennonite University, was named to the D3hoops.com Preseason All-American First Team. The honor is the first for an EMU women's basketball player. Last year, Rheinheimer was 20th in the nation in points per game, was the ODAC Player of the Year and was named to the Capital One Academic All-American Div. 3 women's basketball team.

**Jesse Schatz '14**, Vassar College, was named to the Liberty League All-Academic Team for Cross Country.

**Carlissa Gehman '14** and **Shayna Landis '15**, Messiah College, earned second-team and honorable mention honors, respectively, on the MAC Commonwealth All-Star Field Hockey Team. Landis was also named Rookie of the Year.

**Eric Bailey '15**, Lancaster Bible College, made the third team of the NEAC All-Conference Soccer Team.

The 2012 Young Alumna of the Year, **Jessica King '92** seeks to transform lives and change the world as executive director of ASSETS Lancaster, an agency established by Mennonite Economic Development Associates to reduce poverty and build sustainable communities by creating economic opportunity and cultivating entrepreneurial leadership. And she's one of a dozen people recently named to Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray's Commission to Combat Poverty. The commission will examine factors that contribute to poverty; recommend policies that government, businesses, service providers, advocates and individuals can adopt to reduce poverty, and develop a plan with a timeline and measurable goals to reduce poverty.



## [ MARRIAGES ]

**Chase Boian '02** and Getchen Kuenzli, September 26, 2015

**Megan Lehman '12** and Jeremy Kreider, May 10, 2015. They live in Holtwood.

## [ BIRTHS ]

**Neal R. Martin '93** and Stacy, New Holland, third child, a son, Elias Roy, October 11, 2014

**David Brubaker '99** and Olivia, second child, a daughter, June 17, 2015

Patrick and **Joy Denise Ruhl Strasbaugh '99**, first child, a daughter, Autumn Hope, November 24, 2014

**Jonathan Keener '03** and Claire, Warsaw, Indiana, first child, a son, Levi Quinn, November 16, 2015

## [ DEATHS ]

**Rhoda Elizabeth (Thomas) Buchen '46**, Ephrata, September 18, 2015

**Thelma B. Wolgemuth '47**, Lititz, teacher, February 23, 2015.

**Janet M. Heistand '49**, Elizabethtown, volunteer, March 2, 2015.

**Mildred B. Miller '50**, Lititz, November 2, 2015

**Edwin G. "Eddie" Landis '50**, Lancaster, missionary pilot and farmer, September 1, 2015

**John Clayton Groff '51**, Quarryville, farmer, November 12, 2015

**Dorcas Leah Stoltzfus Morrow, MD '51**, Lititz, missionary and psychiatrist, August 7, 2015

**Calvin Earl Shenk '54, Ph.D.**, professor, Harrisonburg, VA, September 18, 2015

**J. Harold Zook '55**, distinguished educator, Oley Township, PA, August 6, 2015

**Laban Paul Kauffman, '57**, Richfield, PA, farmer and minister, August 7, 2015

**Paul Elvin Reed '59**; teacher, editor, pastor; Dayton, OH, November 1, 2015

**Dorothy Groff Allgyer '60**, dental assistant, Lititz, August 26, 2015

**Roy J. Brubaker '61**, McMinnville, Oregon, machinist, April 5, 2015

**Ruth H. Reed '61**, school nurse, Northampton, PA, March 14, 2014

**Irma Louella Mast Linacre '65**, Tyler, Texas, January 20, 2015

**Mary Louise Engle '73**, Lancaster, March 2, 2015

**Reynold L. "Ren" Zimmerman '76**, Ephrata, contractor and property manager, August 6, 2015.



'75

LM alumnus **Phil Wenger '75** will become Lancaster County Conservancy's chief executive officer

Jan. 1. His highest priority is to preserve more land. "Lancaster County is one of those special and unique places where we still have farmland and we still have wild places, and if we want it not to be like (suburban Philadelphia) we need to act now," he said. The conservancy handles easements and land acquisition.

Two years ago, Wenger stepped down as head of Isaac's Famous Grilled Sandwiches, the restaurant chain he built, to dedicate himself to not-for-profit organizations. He's vice chairman of Lancaster General Health and past chairman of The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Pennsylvania College of Art & Design. He's also served YWCA Lancaster, United Way, Fulton Opera House and many other groups.

'81

State Senator **Lloyd Smucker '81** was the keynote speaker for the induction of 18 students into the LMH National Honor Society on the basis of service, scholarship, leadership and character. Smucker serves as chair of the Senate Education Committee.

'58

**Karl D. Stoltzfus '58** recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Virginia Department of Aviation.

Founder and chairman of Dynamic Aviation, he was previously inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

'60

**Allan W. Shirk '60** recently had his book *Ed Nolt's New Holland Baler: "Everything Just Went Right"* published by the New Holland Area Historical Society. It's the story of how Ed Nolt, an Old Order Mennonite, built a baler in his Farmersville barn that put New Holland on the map. Shirk taught at LM from 1965-69 and 1984-2010.







## Class Reunions

### Class of 1966 50th Class Reunion

Date: May 6 and 7, 2016

Place: Dinner in Alumni Dining Hall at the Lancaster Campus on May 7

For more details: Please contact Evanna Hess at (717) 299-3495 or [dvhess@comcast.net](mailto:dvhess@comcast.net).

Address alumni and school news to [bloomkg@lantermennonite.org](mailto:bloomkg@lantermennonite.org) or call (717) 509-4459, ext. 701.

## Class of '65 Goes All Out at Homecoming

The Class of 1965 celebrated their 50th class reunion with the theme of "Launching with a Living Christ" at the Lancaster Campus on October 2 as part of Fall Festival and Homecoming. The afternoon started with campus tours, a reception and group photo prior to dinner and a short program in the Alumni Dining Hall. Most of the evening was spent finding classmates and socializing.

Wenger led the singing of both the class dedication song and the class song, which the members had the opportunity to practice since Janet had placed it on YouTube. Memorial tributes were led by Pearl Snader Lantz, Susan Hess Guengerich and Esther Sauder Sensenig. Many people stayed and socialized until it was time to close the Alumni Dining Hall.

The next day, 49 of the group took a bus for a guided tour of the Pearl S. Buck national landmark home to discover the life and legacy of the Pulitzer-prize winning writer, advocate and humanitarian. A 50th anniversary book is being completed and will be mailed to each person in the class. [See the alumni section of the school website for pictures and more information.]



'85

The class of 1985 held its 30th class reunion during Fall Festival and Homecoming.



'50

The class of 1950 held their 65th class reunion at Landis Homes. From the original class of 60 students, 30 attended the reunion, including nine who are now living at Landis Homes.





## Fall Festival and Fundraisers Help LM Students

Despite rainy weather on October 2 and 3, Fall Festival and Homecoming had many highlights:

- More than 2,200 persons participated in the weekend in some way.
- More than 1,000 barbecue meals were sold.
- The benefit auction raised \$56,335.
- On Saturday, FFA served breakfast to more than 100 persons.
- Students gave tremendous musical performances Friday night.



Funds are still coming in from the Race for Education fundraising events held at the Kraybill, Locust Grove, New Danville and Hershey campuses this fall. The LMMS Race for Education is May 6.

**Thank you**  
to those who  
participated and  
helped make our  
2015 Fall Festival  
and Homecoming a  
successful weekend.  
More than \$105,000  
was raised toward  
our \$1 million annual  
fund goal.

Next year's Fall  
Festival and  
Homecoming will be  
October 7 & 8, 2016.



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





## School News

# Experiential Learning at LMMS

Sixth-grade students at Lancaster Mennonite Middle School experienced hands-on science and engineering as they created and tested rafts made from all-natural materials such as bark, leaves, sticks, twigs and a limited amount of string.

Teams of students each developed a unique vessel to test in Mill Creek, which runs through the Lancaster Campus. One criterion was that they had to create a miniature passenger to float on the raft. Some of the passengers were made of stones with twigs for arms and legs. Once the rafts were constructed, barefoot representatives from all the teams eagerly entered the water to release their rafts into Mill Creek at the same time. Students cheered as they watched the rafts ride the current downstream.



Sixth-grade teacher Stephen Kenkelen supervises the release of rafts into Mill Creek on the Lancaster Campus of Lancaster Mennonite School. The construction of the rafts and the raft race were part of a hands-on experiential learning experience that integrated science and engineering for middle school students.

After releasing the rafts, the students hiked downstream to the finish line to see which raft would arrive first. Although one well-designed raft made it first, all others successfully arrived close behind.

LMMS curriculum changes involve students in more experiential learning, spending more time exploring, integrating and synthesizing content in a project-based learning environment.

## LMMS Receives Sierra Club Grant

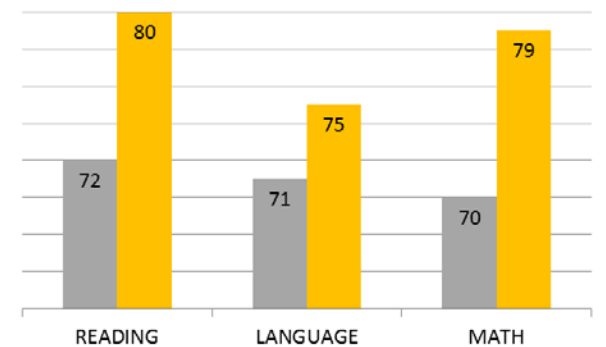
Lancaster Mennonite Middle School's on-campus pollinator garden is one of nine Lancaster County projects to receive the Sierra Club's "green project" grants to organizations that promote sustainability, expand environmental awareness and improve green infrastructure.

## TerraNova Scores Show Progress

Under the guidance of exceptional teachers and a carefully-planned curriculum, LM students advanced steadily in academic and cognitive abilities from elementary through middle school. The 2010 through 2015 TerraNova test results of LMS class of 2019 confirm a significant progression in Reading, Language and Math from the time the students were in third grade to eighth grade (see graph).

LM's academic excellence is evidenced by the solid performance of our students in this standardized achievement test compared to students at other schools in the same grade level. For Reading in eighth grade, the LM class of 2019 outperformed 80% of other students in the country. For Language and Math, the LM 2019 cohort scored in the 75th and 79th percentile nationally.

TerraNova Scores for LM Class of 2019



■ 3rd grade (test taken in 2010) ■ 8th grade (test taken in 2015)



# The SOUND of MUSIC

Music by RICHARD RODGERS

Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE

**March 3-5, 2016, at 7 p.m.**

THE SOUND OF MUSIC is presented through special arrangement with R&H Theatricals: [www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com)

Tickets are \$5 for students, \$7 for senior citizens and \$8 for adults, and may be reserved by calling the box office at 299-0436, ext. 340, or emailing the box office at [boxoffice@lancaster-mennonite.org](mailto:boxoffice@lancaster-mennonite.org).



Locust Grove Campus students (pictured), along with other LM campuses, participated in gathering items to make hygiene kits for Syrian refugees this fall that will be distributed by Mennonite Central Committee.



At the Kraybill Campus, Mrs. Long's fifth grade class won the Lancaster-Lebanon Sumdog Math Contest, an online competition with other public and private schools.

## Merit Scholars Named

Rachel Steckbeck, Erin Kauffman and Andrew Furjanic have been named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program, and Ben Stutzman was named a National Merit Semi-finalist. Stutzman will compete to become a National Merit Finalist, which will be announced in the spring. Andrew Furjanic is a student at the Hershey Campus; Steckbeck, Kauffman and Stutzman attend Lancaster Mennonite High School.



Scholars (l-r) Rachel Steckbeck, Erin Kauffman and Ben Stutzman; Andrew Furjanic (inset)

**CORRECTION:** In the Winter 2015 edition of *Bridges*, the article "Building a Legacy" misspelled the Eshleman family name and provided the wrong maiden name for Elizabeth "Betty" Sauder Eshleman. The four generations of Eshleman's to graduate from LM are: **Elizabeth Sauder Eshleman '43, Robert '65 and Anna Ruth Neff '65 Eshleman, Daryl Eshleman '88 and Matthew Eshleman '15.** Apologies to the Eshleman family.





PHOTO: Keith Nisly Photography

# BOYS SOCCER WINS DISTRICT 3-AA TITLE!

**The LMH boys soccer team won a district championship and advanced to the state quarterfinals.**

People have come to expect that LM soccer will be in contention for district and state trophies every year. But they weren't so sure about this year.

Coming off a 2014 campaign in which the Blazers finished as the state runner-up, Coach Winey had an inexperienced bunch coming into the 2015 season. He then saw his starting goalkeeper sustain an injury in pre-season practice, and the back-up keeper also went down later in the season. Amidst all of this, the Blazers had a 14-2-1 record in league play and claimed the Section Three crown. Lancaster Mennonite then made it to the L-L League tournament semifinals before winning the District 3-AA championship. The L-L League recognized Winey's efforts by naming him Section Three Coach of the Year.

The 2014 LMH boys soccer team recently received the 2014 NSCAA Team Academic Award. This annual award is based on a team's academic performance for the entire academic year. To qualify for the award,

the team must have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 for the entire academic year. The team GPA is determined by adding every player's GPA, then dividing by the number of players.

A total of 142 boys soccer teams throughout the United States earned the NSCAA Team Academic Award for exemplary performance in the classroom as a team during the 2013-14 academic year.

Not only were the Blazers successful in the classroom last year, they also got it done on the field. The Blazers finished 2014 with a 24-3 record (18-0 in regular season), losing in the final match of the state championship.



Coach Fred Winey was once again awarded Coach of the Year honors.



# Celebrating Sports



## STILLMAN CROWNED DISTRICT GOLF CHAMP

Grace Stillman claimed the District 3-AA girls championship and was an L-L League All-Star in golf.



## KRAYBILL BOYS & GIRLS WIN SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the Kraybill Campus, the Blazers middle school girls soccer team finished the season as champions of the Commonwealth Christian Athletic Conference east division and the boys as co-champions of the central division.



## LMH BOYS SOCCER ALL-STARS

First Team: Ben Breisinger, Josiah Kratz, Jeremy Newswanger  
Second Team: Ben Coryell, Chase Ross  
Academic All-Star: Josiah Kratz



## LMH GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TOPS SECTION 3

The girls volleyball team (10-0 league, 16-5 overall) finished first in Section 3 and advanced into the District 3 quarterfinals. Lancaster Mennonite senior outside hitter Rebecca Lauver was the MVP selection in Section 3. Lauver was also recognized as the senior with the highest GPA on her team. Cassidy King joined her as an L-L League first-team all-star. Malena Tyson and Mariah Kaltenstein were named to the second team.



## TWO RUNNERS HEAD TO STATES

The boys cross country team secured eleventh place out of 26 teams at the District 3 AA Cross Country Championship. Ben Stutzman qualified for States, along with L-L All-Star Honorable Mention Ashley Spangler for the girls.

## LMH FIELD HOCKEY ALL-STARS

First Team: Kara Leaman, Alexa Kurtz, Mackenzie Brubaker  
Second Team: Maddie Peck  
Honorable Mention: Hannah Brubaker

## LMH GIRLS SOCCER ALL-STARS

First Team: Marisa Hooper  
Second Team: Maia Garber, Savannah Walter

**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 five campuses!**  
**Thursday,**  
**January 28,**  
**6–8:30 p.m.**

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

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

For more information about admissions at all campuses, please contact Christy Horst, director of admissions, at (717) 509-4459, ext. 312, or horstcl@lancastermennonite.org