

Bridges

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL



3 Senior Presentations

7 Spanish Immersion

14 Kraybill Bricklaying Ceremony

SPRING 2012

- 3** Senior Presentations
- 7** Spanish Immersion
- 8** School news
- 11** Reinford steps down as chess coach
- 12** Alumni notes
- 14** Kraybill Bricklaying
- 15** Liz Landis, alumni feature

PAUL JACOBS



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

Lancaster Mennonite School has four campuses:

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

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

Locust Grove, PreK–8
2257 Old Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 394-7107

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

Address alumni and school news to sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 299-0436, ext. 701.

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Check out our Facebook page, Lancaster Mennonite School, for videos and more photos from campus events.

Cover: First grade Locust Grove teacher Jennifer Esbenshade helps Soleil Yoder-Salim during an activity in the Spanish Immersion program.

PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES

from the superintendent

You may notice something different about this issue of *Bridges* since it is the first issue in 27 years without Fern Clemmer serving as the editor. During those years, Fern taught me a lot about writing, editing, organization and communication and I am grateful to her.



J. Richard Thomas

Fern graduated from Christopher Dock Mennonite High School and knew first-hand the value of a Mennonite education. During her years here, Fern's two daughters graduated from LMH and she was always a loyal Blazer.

Thank you Fern for your service to Lancaster Mennonite School and we wish you blessings in your retirement.

We welcome Stephanie Weaver as the new *Bridges* Editor. She grew up a black-and-gold Blazer. She is a third-generation LMS alumna and her grandfather, the late A. Earl Weaver, previously served as the chair of the school board.

While new to the editor position, Stephanie has appeared in *Bridges* before. Her photo was featured in *Bridges* when she was one of the senior commencement speakers in 2006. During her senior year, Stephanie was also the editor of the LMH yearbook, *The Laurel Wreath*, and was a member of the National Honor Society. She earned six varsity letters while at LMH, three in volleyball and three in softball.

Since earning her degree from Eastern University, Stephanie works as a full-time newspaper reporter. It is now our pleasure to have her back at LMS part-time as *Bridges* editor.

While there is always change, much remains the same. In this issue, you will read about senior presentations, which are relatively new at LMS but a wonderful capstone reflection by each senior on their holistic growth, their God-given gifts and their future plans. The many achievements of LMS students and alumni will also remain in these pages.

While the editors have changed, *Bridges* will continue to communicate and celebrate a Christ-centered education that is a transformative experience to change lives and thus make our world a better place. ❖

SENIOR PRESENTATIONS

Reflecting on the journey

The Senior Presentation, a requirement for all seniors, grew out of the school's educational strategic plan to become more deliberate in helping students identify God-given gifts, interests and career options. Students review their PreK-12 education, reflect on how they have grown and discuss future plans. To prepare, students maintain a vocational portfolio for the duration of their education at Lancaster Mennonite, guided by faculty advisors. The presentations are then shared with family, friends, teachers and pastors, giving loved ones an opportunity to support and affirm the students. Here are excerpts from 10 members of the Class of 2012.

DANIELLE CAMPBELL

For the title of my senior presentation, I used the quote, "It's about the journey, not the destination" for a specific reason. Throughout the past four years at Lancaster Mennonite, I have come to realize that it is through our journeys, trials, and glorious days that we truly encounter God and happiness in our own lives.

In the summer of my eighth grade year, I had a hard time figuring out if I wanted to continue the tradition in my family of going to Octorara High or if I wanted to branch out and pursue Lancaster Mennonite. Quite honestly, I cannot say enough of how happy I am that I came to Lancaster Mennonite. I have been challenged in not only my academics, but also my faith and relationship with our Savior. I have grown to realize that nothing can compare to our Lord and that it is His love and praise I need, not man's.

I have been extremely active in extracurricular activities at Lancaster Mennonite. All of my four years, I have played sports year-round. Though I disliked it at times, sports pushed me to do my best. Having the privilege to play on teams with excellent friends and coaches, I was taught a new work ethic that I will use for the rest of my

life. Being challenged in my Christian leadership skills has made me a stronger follower of Christ.

Lastly, having the help of my supportive family of eight, I was able to grow academically, spiritually and physically. I thank my dad for nudging me toward Lancaster Mennonite and my parents for being at just about every sporting event I had. God has truly been revealed to me through them and Lancaster Mennonite.

CILANG YANG

Coming to the United States was a big change in my life and I am grateful to the Lord for giving me such a great opportunity. One of the major changes I experienced was learning how to communicate with American students.

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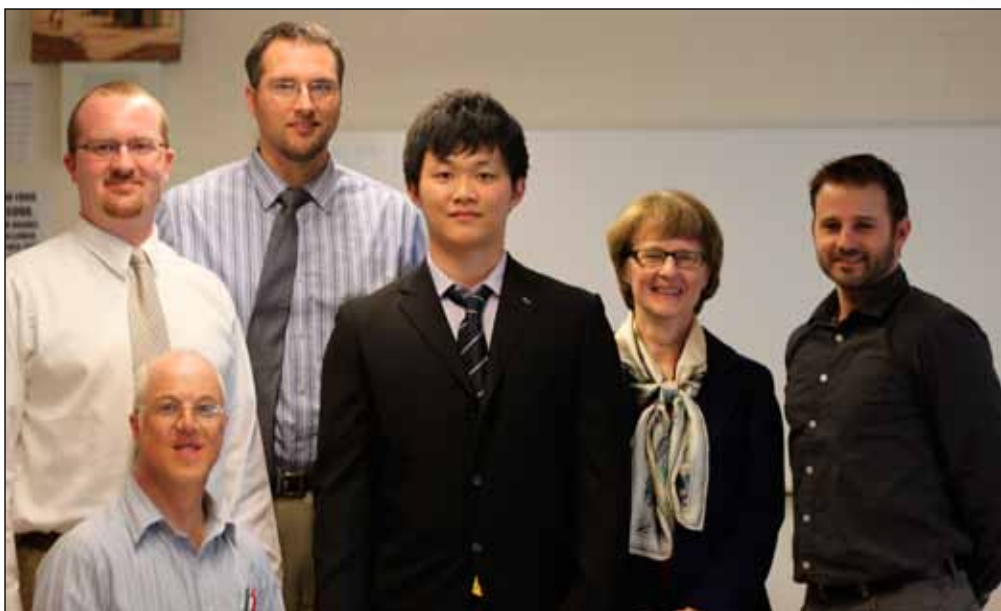
"Throughout the past four years at Lancaster Mennonite, I have come to realize that it is through our journeys, trials and glorious days that we truly encounter God and happiness in our own lives."

- Danielle Campbell, 2012



BRENDA BARE

Above: Danielle Campbell
Below: Cilang Yang (center) is surrounded by LMS faculty members Kirk Benner, Aden Stoltzfus, Seth Buckwalter, Karen Diffenbach and Fred Winey.



BRENDA BARE



GEOFF GROFF



BRENDA BARE

Above: Lesley Andricks uses a slideshow to emphasize different parts of her senior presentation. Below: Isaac Mast and his faculty advisor, Kris Horst.

ISAAC MAST

I first attended the Lancaster Campus in sixth grade. I spent my elementary years at the New Danville Campus, so transitioning to the LMS main campus wasn't that much different. Although I was initially reluctant to change schools, I very quickly grew to love the new campus which would almost become a second home to me over the next seven years. LMS has provided numerous opportunities to use the gifts God has given me and to improve my other skills.

Athletics have been a large part of my high school experience. I've played soccer all four years in high school and being a member of a state championship team is something I will never forget. I also participated in track the first two years, but switched to volleyball.

Through my athletic endeavors, I have not only learned to hone my skills, but I have also learned to show my faith on the field and off. Coach Fred Winey emphasized the importance of being good examples of Christ-like behavior in everything we do.

Lancaster Mennonite has also been a great way to learn more about Christ and discuss my faith. Chapels, although not the most entertaining at times,

can be an excellent way to learn about others and how they've done the will of God in the world.

Bible classes have been another way that I've been able to grow spiritually and learn more about God. The classes are set up in a way that I feel comfortable asking just about anything.

These past few years at Lancaster Mennonite have truly been a blessing. I appreciate the Christian atmosphere and I feel confident that LMH has prepared me for whatever God has for me in the future.

LESLEY ANDRICKS

By choosing to go to Lancaster Mennonite, I missed out on football games and homecoming but I gained so much more. Through the different classes offered, the things I was interested in developed into the things I love.

AP Psychology, Conflict Resolution, and Honors Sociology have been great opportunities to dip my feet into a specific field of interest. I have always been interested in counseling and these classes helped me realize I definitely want to do it in my future.

Chapel, Campus Chorale, and the spring musical have all enhanced my passion for music. Chapel has given me the opportunity to sing on stage and perform with many talented students. I had the chance to go to Oregon and Ohio through Campus Chorale to sing with students from across the nation. By performing in the spring musical, *The King and I*, I had an opportunity to learn how to act and be a part of a great production.

These classes have constantly given me new opportunities. They developed me into who I am, what I love and what I will pursue in the future.

(Senior Presentations, continued from page 3)

I was born in a Christian family and my mother is a pastor. Ever since I was young, she taught me to hold onto God tightly. A significant event that happened during my senior year was being involved in the Chapel Planning Committee. At that time, I worked with other students who are members of CPC to plan chapels. CPC helped me to learn more about teamwork, leadership and, especially, serving God.

Chapel is one of the best parts of LMS. I have had so many experiences and have learned many life skills from different chapel speakers. I will miss chapel, but will still serve God after I graduate.



BRENDA BARE

Grace Jemison (right) poses with friends after giving her senior presentation.

GRACE JEMISON

I have always been slightly wary of the idea of senior presentations. While I support the effort to reflect and to thank the people who have helped you along the way, I abhor the idea of just talking about myself for a half hour. Still, as I prepared, I began getting excited to share parts of my life with the people I care about.

The atmosphere at school was mixed, full of the nerves of the presenters and the pride of the parents. As I began my presentation, my own nervousness subsided as I realized my duty was not to boast of my achievements, but to honor all those who have given me so much to help me reach the point where I am in life, mere weeks away from graduation and the future beyond.

I found looking back at my early education at the New Danville Campus especially meaningful. I reflected about the cliques that were evident there, and how I regret many of the ways that I behaved. I moved into my awkward middle school years, and thought about many of the teachers there who made a lasting impression on me.

The other part of the presentation that

was especially meaningful was when I looked into my future. I recognized the numerous unknowns that are awaiting me, from choosing a college major to the role that the church will play in my life. But as I looked into the eyes of those who were sitting before me — my parents, grandmother, boyfriend, close friends and educators — I realized that I am in good hands, even with the mysteries of the future. Just as I have been able to reach where I am only with the support, conversation and hugs from the people who were there and others, I will be able to face the future with the continued encouragement from these important people.

AMANDA FORTE

Choosing Lancaster Mennonite for high school was one of the best decisions I ever made. I've been active in many activities throughout my high school experience. Coming in as a freshmen, I wasn't sure how I wanted to get involved. Playing guitar and singing was all I really wanted to do, so when I took voice class my sophomore year, I found my niche.

Everything took off from there. I became friends with a lot of other people who shared my same interest and my music took off with the help of those around me, including my music teacher Mrs. Hostetler.

Amanda Forte, shown with parents Joseph and Dawn, played her guitar during her senior presentation.

BRENDA BARE



Going into my senior year, I had the honor of being the president of Senior Class Committee. I learned how to work with others and made friends that I didn't have prior to my senior year. I also discovered that becoming a leader begins by being a follower.

I also participated in Campus Chorale and took a music theory class. I'll admit my music ability was pushed and at some points stretched to the point of tearing. But it strengthened me and I loved it. Mrs. Hostetler has become my music mom. She is someone who is there to help and is willing to work with you whenever you're willing to learn. She helped me see that I can do it, even when it's tough, and I found her patience to be extraordinary.

As I look back and say good bye to Lancaster Mennonite, I'm confident in saying that the Lord has been with me through it all and continues to guide me into my future plans. After volunteering last summer at Aaron's Acres, working with children who have disabilities, I truly believe God has a plan for me working in this field.

(continued on page 6)

(Senior Presentations, continued from page 5)

CHRISTLE GEHMAN

Attending LMS is one of the best decisions I ever made. LMS provided me with many amazing opportunities that I never would have dreamed of and the school's diversity, variety and faith-based education have helped me grow in ways I will appreciate for years to come. This kind of education is not something that comes along every day.

Some of the classes that I enjoyed the most were Bible classes. Every class gave me new insight to my faith and challenged some of my perspectives. My favorite was Jesus Story, taught by Mr. Dean Sauder. I learned so much that I had never even thought about before. For example, Mr. Sauder gave a detailed description of Jesus' death on the cross. I had not heard the resurrection story in those terms before, and hearing that gave me a fresh perspective. The English courses I took also helped me grow and develop my interest in communications.

Through those experiences, I gained a new appreciation for writing.

The people that I met at LMS are exceptional. I have especially loved the diversity of the people that I have gotten to interact with. I think that LMS has helped to develop my appreciation for other people and cultures. My friends also impacted my life and I felt supported and encouraged by them in everything I do. LMS and the wonderful friends that I have made there will have a lasting, positive impression on my life.

SAM STONER

LMS has been the perfect fit for me. I decided to come to LMS when I was in eighth grade at Manheim Christian Day School. I had the choice of either going to Manheim Central with my friends or following in my three siblings' footsteps and starting from scratch at Lancaster Mennonite.

That was the first real and difficult decision I ever made. Though I didn't feel pressured either way by my parents, I knew this decision would determine my future and who I hoped to become, so I wanted to make the right one. I put my faith in God that He would guide my feet.

Now four years later, I know I made the right choice. I have developed friendships that I know will last for years to come. Not only have I been given knowledge from the many insightful teachers, but I

Sam Stoner poses with his parents, Larry and Karen.



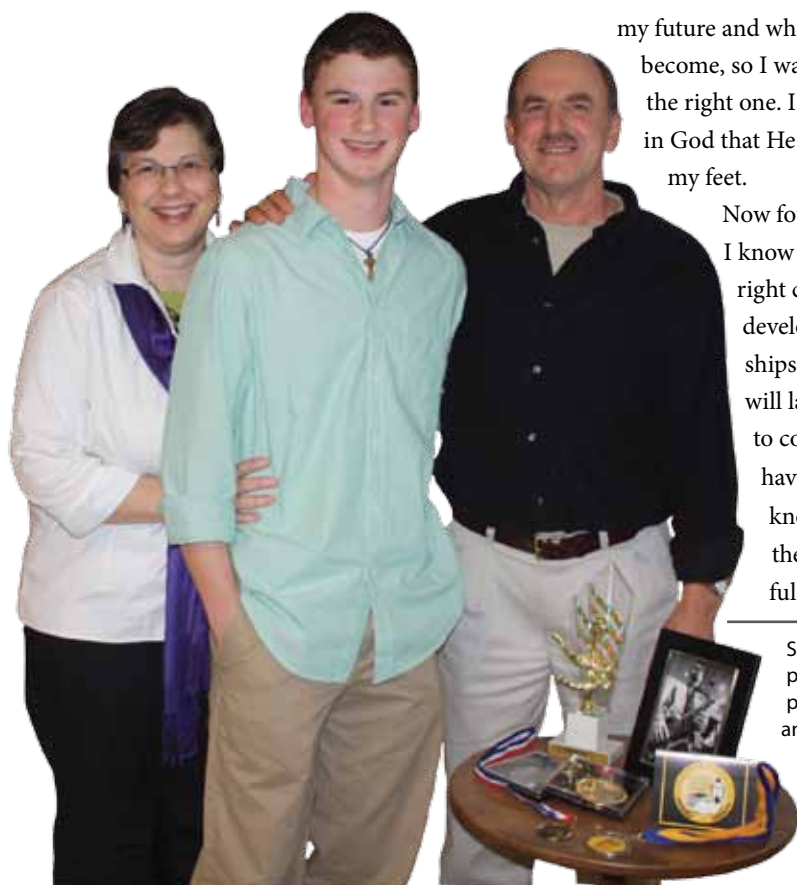
Christle Gehman laughs with a friend after sharing her senior presentation. GEOFF GROFF

have also been shown how to live my life for Christ on a daily basis.

In four years I have been privileged to develop the skills of a varsity athlete while maintaining an acceptable grade point average. I had the honor of competing on a state championship soccer team. I experienced not only the joy of success, but the unity and compatibility that made the season exceptional.

I have been involved in numerous clubs and activities throughout my years. Each has taught me valuable lessons. I have taken part in tech crew for plays and musicals, helped out with Friday morning Bible Study, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, Student Advancement Committee, Chapel Planning Committee and played soccer and volleyball.

I am thankful for all the time the teachers invest to make each day enjoyable. I am thankful for friends who support me when a day doesn't go the way I hoped. I thank my parents for allowing me to make my own decision, trusting that I would make the one that was right for me. I know that I will always look back and think of how great my high school years were, thanks to all that encompasses Lancaster Mennonite. ❖



GEOFF GROFF

Immersed in a new type of learning

The groans and squeals made it clear that the first-graders knew exactly what Susana Brown was saying. As the newly-hired teacher continued her tale about the time her dog was sprayed by a skunk, told completely in Spanish, some students' eyes grew in horror while others failed to suppress giggles.

The reactions showed just a glimpse of the successes achieved during the first year of the Spanish Immersion program at the Locust Grove Campus.

While the students in Jennifer Esbenshade's classroom learn the same curriculum as their peers in traditional classrooms, the lessons are taught completely in Spanish. Music, art, physical education and Bible classes are taught in English, but everything else in the classroom, even snack time, is communicated through Spanish.

The experience helps students not only become proficient in a second language, but also increases their cultural awareness.

The successful program will be expanding this fall with the hiring of Susana Brown, Annville. Esbenshade will remain at the first grade level, while her current students will move on to Brown's second grade classroom. As the inaugural class continues to advance, additional Spanish Immersion teachers are expected to be hired.



STEPHANIE WEAVER

New second grade Spanish Immersion teacher Susana Brown meets one of her soon-to-be students at the Locust Grove Campus.



Brown was born and raised in Chile and graduated from Madre Cecelia Lazzeri High School in Santiago.

"The many opportunities I had to travel in Chile and abroad, and to serve with Youth with a Mission, opened my eyes and heart to the beauty of people of many cultures," Brown said.

Brown attends Vida Church International, where her family has become part of an initiative to plant a bilingual church in the city of Lancaster. ❖

Weaver returns to LMS as new *Bridges* editor



Stephanie Weaver, 2006, got her first taste of journalism as a sophomore at Lancaster Mennonite in Kriston Horst's classroom.

However, her love for the subject didn't truly develop until she became editor of the yearbook, *The Laurel Wreath*, her senior year.

Weaver is returning to LMS as the new editor of *Bridges*, replacing Fern Clemmer who retired in March. She is the oldest of Mike and Valerie Weaver's six children, all of whom attended LMS.

Weaver is excited to be giving back to the community that helped her grow as a person and a journalist.

"In yearbook, she was innovative and creative, but also sensitive about what was appropriate for the school community," *Laurel Wreath* advisor Jane

Moyer said. "I have not had an editor who invested so much time and care before her or since."

Weaver utilized the writing, design and leadership skills from her time at LMS to pursue journalism at Eastern University in St. Davids, where she became the editor of the student newspaper.

Weaver has worked for several newspapers, covering everything from homicide trials to swim meets. She currently works as a full-time reporter for the *Reading Eagle* and has designed the game programs for several LMS athletic teams.

"As a reporter, I'm a firm believer that everyone has a story worth sharing," Weaver said. "I think it's important to share about what's happening at LMS and I feel communication is a vital way for the body of Christ to stay connected and encouraged." ❖

FBLA advisor Kirk Benner, left, with the students who qualified for the state competition. Left to right: Sam Stoner, Jaclyn Dagen, Zach Alderman, Xiaoqing (Minnie) Zhang, Do Hyun (Danny) Ahn, Lia Feleke and D Probst.

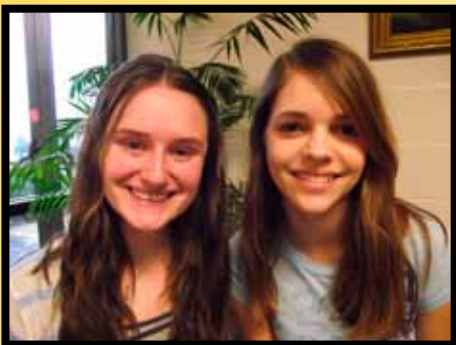


FERN CLEMMER



FERN CLEMMER

Spelling Bee Finalists, left to right: Anna Farmer, Isreali Colon, Lucas Jemison and Sydney Esch.



J. DANIEL MARTIN

Gold award winners: Above, Kraybill eighth graders Maggie Roberts and Rachel Keener. Right: Zachary Yoder, Alexa Evans, Emily Rosenfeld, Alessandra Levato, Caitlin Erb, Chelsea Weaver Mikayla Eby and John Kruis.

Celebrating Achievements

FBLA AWARDS

The quality of the LMS business curriculum in shaping future business leaders was evident when seven students advanced to the state FBLA competition in Hershey April 16-18 after taking top spots at the Region 18 competition in February.

The following students won awards at the Region 18 competition: senior D Probst, first place in Client Services; junior Do Hyun (Danny) Ahn, first place in Global Business; freshman Zach Alderman, first place in Global Business; junior Lia Feleke, first place in Ms. Future Business Leader; senior Jaclyn Dagen, second place in Business Communications; senior Xiaoqing (Minnie) Zhang, second place in Business Law; and senior Sam Stoner, second place in Word Processing II.

Seven other students received certificates at the Region 18 competition: Yue Du, Daheuin Kim, Micah Lehman, Micah Boyer, Garyd Martin, Alexa Weidman and Leo Valmonte.

SPELLING BEE FINALISTS

Our committed students developed another academic skill by participating in the school's annual spelling bee on Jan. 24. Lancaster campus eighth-grader Lucas Jemison took first place, beating out sixth-grader Sydney Esch by spelling "behest" and "confidence" correctly in the final round.

Eighth-grader Isreali Colon took third and Kraybill campus seventh-grader Anna Farmer finished fourth and served as the alternate. The top three moved on to the written test component of the 54th Intelligencer Journal Spelling Bee on Feb. 22.

ARTISTS SHINE

Sixty-four students demonstrated the results of LMS's outstanding fine arts program in recent art contests, with ten claiming gold awards. Ninth-grader Alessandra Levato won one gold and two honorable mention awards in the 2012 Art Awards program and nine awards during the Lancaster County Young Artist contest, including the Lestz Junior Painting Award and five golds. Her scholastic gold piece moved on to the national competition.

Other students who received gold awards in the Lancaster County Young Artist contest include: Mikayla Eby (9), Caitlin Erb (12), Alexa Evans (9), Rachel Keener (8), John Kruis (9; two golds), Maggie Roberts (8; two golds), Emily Rosenfeld (9), Chelsea Weaver (9) and Zachary Yoder (9).



FERN CLEMMER



AWARDS HIGHLIGHT EXCELLENT WRITING CURRICULUM

FERN CLEMMER

Twelve students received Gold Key writing awards through the Lancaster County Regional Scholastic Writing Awards Contest, showcasing the strength of the LMS writing curriculum. Senior Natalie Brubaker's piece was also nominated for the American Voices award at the national level. Gold Key winners include, left to right: Zachary Yoder (9), Grace Jemison (12), Faith Dinger (8), Natalie Brubaker (12), Sophia Martin (8), Rebecca Lauver (8), Maia Garber (8), Lydia Rittenhouse (12), Lucas Jemison (8), Lara Strickler (12), Benjamin Stutzman (8) and Kate Hernquist (8)



Zachary Lees



Maria Waterfield

NIE WRITING AWARDS

Sophomore Maria Waterfield and Kraybill Campus fourth-grader Zachary Lees won first place awards in the Newspapers In Education Journalism Contest. They both received a cash award and their writings and photos appeared in the *Intelligencer Journal/New Era* in March.

TWO ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Two LMH seniors received athletic scholarships to join Division 1 programs in the fall. Abigail Basom will play field hockey for Liberty University in Virginia and Keegan Rosenberry will continue his soccer career at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



Abby Basom



Keegan Rosenberry

LANCASTER SYMPHONY FINALISTS

Lancaster Mennonite's reputation for excellence in all areas was enhanced as LMS musicians captured the top two honors in the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra competition on March 18 at Franklin & Marshall College.

Freshman Ziyue Wang, 15 (standing), took top honors with her performance of Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, opus 25 and earned a \$4,000 scholarship.

Sophomore Yudan Wang finished second and received a \$200 prize.



ELI PASSAGE



Students excel at PA Computer Fair

Through opportunities to develop her talents at LMH, senior Morgan Steffy, shown above, took first and second place at the PA Computer Fair in high school web page design. Kraybill Campus eighth-graders Bryce Yoder and Josiah Kratz also took first place prizes in the middle school computer animation and digital video categories, respectively. The computer fair was a local competition for all schools in Lancaster and Lebanon counties. All three students qualified for the state competition in Carlisle in May.



Rheinheimer earns top recognition

In a season that saw her eclipse the 1,000-point mark and snag the third spot on the all-time leading scorers' list, senior Jessica Rheinheimer also earned the title of Lancaster Newspapers' Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

Rheinheimer finished her career with 1,303 career points, averaging 17 points per game this season, and led the Blazers to the league final. She will play for Eastern Mennonite University next year.

After coaching for seven seasons, Sherri Gorman will be stepping down from the girls basketball program to coach at her alma mater, Elizabethtown College. Gorman led the Blazers to a District 3 Class AAA title in 2008.

Reinford steps down as chess coach

Merle Reinford is practically synonymous with Lancaster Mennonite chess.

But after serving as the coach of the team for 33 years, Reinford decided it was time to let someone else take over the reins.

“It’s probably time for a change,” Reinford said. “Maybe a new coach would bring new excitement for the team.”

The mathematics teacher, who has been at LMS for 37 years, said he’s look-

ing forward to having some extra free time as well. The chess season begins in October and, if the team does well, can last until the beginning of March.

Reinford’s teams have been very successful throughout the years, earning 10 league championships and claiming LMS’s first state title in 2004 .

Reinford enjoys chess and being able to match wits with opponents, whether as a player or coach.

“Another thing with chess is that if you lose, you can’t blame the ref or anything else,” he said. “If the other person beats you, either he or she was better or you made more mistakes than they did.”

Reinford sees a lot of similarities between teaching and coaching, but feels coaching gave him a better opportunity to connect with students.

“I can get to know the students on a personal level more than I can in the classroom,” Reinford said. “I definitely will miss the interaction with the students.” ❖

Merle Reinford, who served as coach of the chess team for 33 years, with the 2011-12 team, left to right: John Ebaugh, Siyuan Wu, Reinford, Zixin Wang, Connor O’Sullivan, Liam O’Sullivan, John David Satriale, Kwun Yu Kan.

CHARLES STUDIO



LMS summer day camps scheduled register by May 31 and save!

BASKETBALL

Boys basketball, grades 5–10 July 9-13

Girls basketball, grades 5–10 July 16-20

FIELD HOCKEY

Jr. high field hockey, grades 6–8 June 18-22

Sr. high field hockey, grades 9–12 August 6-10

SOCCER

Elem. coed soccer, grades 1–5 June 25-28

Jr. high boys soccer, grades 6–8 July 16-19

Girls soccer, grades 6–12 July 23-27

Sr. high boys soccer, grades 9–12 August 6-10

TENNIS

Beginner/intermediate tennis, gr. 5–8 . July 30 -Aug. 3

Intermediate/advanced tennis, gr. 9–12 .. August 6-10

VOLLEYBALL

Jr. high volleyball June 18-21

(girls, grades 6-9; and boys, grades 6-8)

OTHER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Eagles Football, ages 6–14 July 9-13

Chinese Culture & Handcrafts, grades 6-8 June 11–15

Culinary Arts, grades 4–9 July 23-27

Sewing/Crafts, grades 4–9 July 23-27

Dramatic Drawing, grades 6-9 July 30-August 3

Acrylic Painting, grades 6-10 July 30-August 3

For a complete listing and applications, go to www.lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 299-0436, ext. 310.

Technology enhances Kraybill 8th grade trip

The annual eighth grade trip to Manhattan is a highlight of the middle school experience at the Kraybill Campus. This year, that cross-cultural experience was further enhanced by technology.

Valerie Garton, technology coordinator, has used the one-day excursion in the past to help teach students about various forms of technology. This year, Garton set up video conferences through Skype with the teachers and students from Joseph B. Cavallaro School in the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn. The sessions allowed the LMS students to connect with the Brooklyn students.

"When we asked how not to look like tourists, they laughed and said we can't help but look like tourists," Garton said.

Garton also set up two websites for the trip, one containing general information and places to visit, and



Kraybill Campus eighth-graders model shirts in Chinatown in New York City. From left to right: Lizzie King, Isabella Clair, Lydia Brubaker, Jillian Wolgemuth, Jessica Carrera, Samantha Hershey, Katie Ashley, Ann Hershey (parent), Alexis Stoner and Sarah Hollinger.

the other, a wiki website, to give the students a place to share trip highlights and photos.

The Skype relationship helped the LMS students get a tour of the New York City Fire Department at Times Square Station and they Skyped with the class again afterward to report on the trip. ❖

Entrepreneurship class gets real-world experience

To prepare students for the business world, and to fulfill the dream of owning their own business, LMS offered a new Entrepreneurship class this year, taught by Chief Financial Officer Marlin Groff.

The class got a special visit from Brandon Hollinger and his electric 1992 Mazda Miata on Feb. 16.

Hollinger, a musician, became an electric car conversion business three years ago. He showed the students how the electric car operates and shared about his passion for transportation that doesn't rely on oil.

"It's nice to have a message I believe in that people are ready to hear," Hollinger said. "It's up to us, the people, from the grassroots level to the CEO, to allow moral integrity to play a part in our daily decisions." ❖



FERN CLEMMER

ARLEN HOLLINGER

Commencement 2012

The Class of 2012 will be celebrating commencement in the Weaver Auditorium at the Calvin and Janet High Fine Arts Center on Saturday, June 2 at 10 a.m.

Glen Guyton, associate executive director of finances and convention planning for Men-



nonite Church USA will be the keynote speaker. Guyton's message is entitled "Fail Well — Tips for What Do You Do When You Don't Succeed."

Guyton has served as a youth pastor and in other ministry leadership roles for more than 17 years at Calvary Community Church in Hampton, Va.

New Ephrata/Reading Bus Route

LMS is moving forward with plans to begin a new Ephrata/Reading bus service for the 2012-13 school year. Families from the Lancaster and Berks County areas showed their support for the proposed service by attending a public meeting on March 29. According to Curtis Edwards, LMS admissions counselor, the vision is for an express-type service to run along the Route 222 corridor, making stops in Reading, Denver, Ephrata and Brownstown/Akron to meet the needs of as many families as possible. In order for this to become a reality, a sufficient number of paid rider commitments must be received by May 25. Rider commitment forms are available at the school office or on the website. To learn more about the new bus route and sign up for updates, please contact Curtis Edwards at edwardscg@lancastermennonite.org or (717) 299-0436, ext. 721.

MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT

To raise funds for renovations to the classroom building, about 300 LMS high school students grabbed their putters April 19 and participated in the 6th annual Mini-Golf Tournament at Water's Edge. The tournament, which was organized by the high school Student Council, raised a record \$23,000 this year. Student Council advisor Michael Charles said a large part of the funds came from a generous \$10,000 match from Engle Printing. Student Council was able to raise the other \$13,000 through sponsors and student entry fees.

Student winners were awarded in each grade level and each received a \$10 gift card to Wawa. The winners included: Liz Imhor and Brad Pinkerton (ninth grade); Alyse Yoder, Graydon Briguglio and Dan Brubaker (tenth grade); Olya Hershey and Jon Sauder (eleventh grade); and Hurubie Meko, Stephen Shenk and Andrew Whittaker (twelfth grade).

The fundraiser will help jump-start what Student Council President Olivia Mast referred to as "Operation Renovation" to bring the 1964 brick classroom building into the 21st century. The current building lacks a cooling system, has a poor heating system and still utilizes old overhead projectors, Mast said. The building has only received minimal renovations since it was built.

At right: Junior Colleen Andrews lines up a shot during the 6th Annual Mini-Golf Tournament.



GARY HILLER

CLASS NOTES

Frederick John Lamp, 1962, New Haven, Ct., recently published a new book, *Connecticut by Bicycle: Fifty Great Scenic Routes*, through Schiffer publishers in Atglen. The book includes color photography by the author with narrative, maps and a listing of tours throughout the state. Lamp is Curator of African Art at the Yale University Art Gallery and a Lecturer in Theater Studies at Yale.

Sheryl Buckwalter, 1973, Eberly, Lancaster, published the second edition of her book, *365 Manners Kids Should Know*. With help from her tech-savvy daughter Caroline, Eberly's book now includes "cybermanners," which are tips on how to behave in a technological age. The book is available in major bookstores and online. Eberly is a leadership consultant at North Group Consultants, Lancaster.

Cheryl Kreider, 1979, Carey, Lansdowne, Va., currently directs the American Academy of Audiology, an association representing about 12,000 audiologists, based in Reston, Va. Her background as an educator and recent experience in governance of non-profits resulted in her article "One Board,

Two Professions," which was published by the American Society of Association Executives.

Samuel Beiler, 1983, Lancaster, is the lead developer of a team planning to convert a former Armstrong World Industries Inc. warehouse near Landisville into a sports facility. The 600,000 square foot building will serve the mid-Atlantic region and will offer indoor and outdoor space for sports such as soccer, football, baseball, tennis, basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, softball and rock climbing. More details about the proposed "Spooky Nook Sports" facility can be found at www.spookynooksports.com.

Keith and **Carol Brubacher, 1992, Hershey**, Ephrata, are serving with Hopewell Asia Missions. They will leave in August for a six-year term in Thailand, planting churches among the unreached Isaan people.

Linford Fisher, 1993, Cranston, R.I., will be releasing his book, *The Indian Great Awakening: Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America*, on June 12 through Oxford University Press. Fisher is a professor at Brown University.

Daniel C. Heller, 1995, and Jen Heller, Lititz, operate Flintrock Farms, which was recently honored with the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association's Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award. The farm encompasses 80 acres and has 12 poultry houses that hold 330,000 birds.

Denison Witmer, 1995, Brooklyn, N.Y., an indie singer-songwriter, performed a free show at the Community Room above Prince Street Café in Lancaster in January. The show was part of a tour crisscrossing the United States. Witmer has composed music since his late teens. For more information, visit his website, www.denisonwitmer.com.

Kim R. Stoltzfus, 2005, Gordonville, is in Thessaloniki, Greece this spring working as an intern with the A21 Campaign, an international volunteer group dedicated to working to prevent human trafficking. Stoltzfus has a bachelor's degree in social work from Temple University. She is employed by Bethany Christian Services in Lancaster and works with adopted children. She plans to pursue her master's degree in international development at the University of Kent's Brussels School in Belgium.

CAREER AND FAITH

Lancaster Mennonite High School students had a chance to consider how their faith can be intertwined with their career choices and workplace behavior during Career and Faith Week, Jan. 23-27.

Students heard from three guest speakers during morning chapel services, including 2001 graduate Josh Keefer who serves as a youth pastor at Mount Joy Mennonite Church and works as a realtor. Keefer shared about his early struggles in finding a job that left him feeling "completely broken." Only after immersing himself in God's word, Keefer was able to realize God wanted his trust more than anything.

Sherri Gorman, vice president of Kinsey Archery Products, and Andrew Huth, a documentary photographer from the Philadelphia area, also shared with students.

At right: Josh Keefer shares his experiences with students in a Career English class.



FERN CLEMMER

MARRIAGES

J. Matthew Weaver, 2007, and Kalah Hess, 2007, May 5, 2012. They live in Ephrata.

BIRTHS

Kirby Denlinger, 1992, and Jennifer Denlinger, Flower Mound, Tx., second child, first daughter, Ella Madeline, Jan. 25, 2012.

Chris Lehman, 1993, and Bonnie Lehman, Salem, Ore., first child, son Paul Cornelius, June 6, 2011.

Eric and **Laura Kukich, 1995, Dawson,** Blue Bell, first child, Samuel Charles, Aug. 7, 2011. Eric and Laura were married in 2004.

Justus Moyer, 1996, and **Melissa Stott, 1996, Moyer,** Manheim, a son Donavan Leo, May 28, 2009, and adopted Dec. 15, 2011.

Kenneth and **Carla Denlinger, 1997, Shirk,** Alton, Va., third child, second daughter Rachel Fay, Jan. 20, 2012.

Josh and **Rosemary Siegrist, 1997, Blessing,** Lancaster, first child, Joelyn Rose, Dec. 8, 2011.

Aaron Buckwalter, 1997, and **Kristen Weatherlow, 1997, Buckwalter,** Lancaster, third child, first son Izak Nicholas Aaron, born Nov. 1, 2011, and

adoption finalized Dec. 28, 2011.

DEATHS

Mary Elizabeth Lutz, 1944, Good, Lancaster, Jan. 7, 2012.

Mary Jean Heiss, 1948, Lancaster, Feb. 22, 2012.

Herbert Huddle Histand, 1952, Souderton, Nov. 14, 2011.

LeAnne Engle, 1956, Jamison, New Holland, March 8, 2012.

Elam G. Stoltzfus Jr., 1956, Lancaster, Dec. 28, 2011.

Carol R. Gehman, 1963, Strasburg, Feb. 20, 2012.

CORRECTIONS

Ryan and Bethany Umble's son's name was spelled incorrectly in the winter *Bridges*. They welcomed son Aslan Roff on Dec. 10, 2010. ❖

ALUMNI PHONATHON

Phonathon has been great again this year, but we still have some work to do before we reach our \$300,000 goal.

We once again have a 2-for-1 Challenge Fund this year, thanks to some significant leadership gifts. Gifts increased by at least \$20 or first-time gifts of \$20 or more will qualify for the Challenge.

In 2011, the phonathon raised \$254,278 for the Annual Fund. Each year alumni and current students help make calls during the phonathon.

It's not too late to give to the phonathon if you have not done so. Please consider what you can do to help us reach our goal by June 30.



2012-2013 CLASS REUNIONS

1948 ▶ April 13, 2013	1992 ▶ June 2, 2012
1957 ▶ Nov. 16, 2012	1997 ▶ Sept. 30, 2012
1962 ▶ July 23, 2012	2002 ▶ Sept. 14, 2012
1972 ▶ Sept. 22, 2012	2007 ▶ June 23, 2012

Reunion planners: Consider planning your reunion around Homecoming 2012, which will be held Nov. 15-17. Contact Matt Weaver at (717) 299-0436, ext. 706, or weaverm@lancastermennonite.org.

For reports of past reunions go to www.lancastermennonite.org/alumni_news.



PAUL JACOBS



PAUL JACOBS

Principal J. Daniel Martin and students at the Kraybill Campus of Lancaster Mennonite School laid commemorative bricks to mark the beginning of work to construct a new front entrance. Front row (l-r): Matthew Simkins, Nathan Eby, Sam Kramer, James Mahala, Ethan Hess, Brent Shearer. Back row (l-r): Jacquia Ruhl, Brianna Travis, Caleb Morrison, Carli Costello, Lily Saunders, Alexa Hellein, Elaina Dinse, Greta Bornmann.

KRAYBILL CAMPUS BRICKLAYING

Securing a solid foundation

“What we’re building in this place, is a slightly different face, welcoming and making space, for all who want to learn.”

While singing the above lyrics, students at the Kraybill Campus of Lancaster Mennonite School laid the first 100 commemorative bricks to mark the beginning of the construction of a new entrance to the school during a special ceremony on April 18.

The project will make the school more welcoming with a distinctive entrance that is handicap-friendly. Renovations includes a wheelchair-accessible front entrance, lobby and restrooms along with a new office configuration that allows office staff to screen visitors before they can enter student areas.

The bricks used in the ceremony were purchased in honor of other students, alumni, staff, board members and current and former teachers since the school was founded in 1949. The students lined up to carry bricks to several middle school students, who placed them along a stretch of sidewalk in front of the current school entrance.

Fred Garber, who attended the school from 1954 to 1964 (grades 1-10) and served on the board for six years, shared stories of several outstanding teachers, leaders and students who passed through the entrance over the years and how he was touched as a student and later as a parent and grandparent of students. He said the bricks symbolize the long-term impact that people at the school have on each other.

John Weber, former Kraybill Campus principal, made a special guest appear-



PAUL JACOBS

Commemorative bricks can still be obtained for a contribution of \$100 per name with up to two names on a brick. Order forms are available at www.lancastermennonite.org/support/kraybill or by calling Heidi Stoltzfus at (717) 299-0436, ext. 308.

ance with his wife Janet, dressed in gold and black biking attire. The couple biked across the U.S. in 2007 and raised \$81,000 for the project.

Current Kraybill Campus principal J. Daniel Martin stressed the school’s desire to be a caring Christian community that provides a nurturing and diverse environment for academic excellence.

Representatives from the two conferences of Mennonite Church USA that sponsor Lancaster Mennonite School joined the celebration. Joanne Dietzel from Lancaster Mennonite Conference led the invocation and Keith Wilson, coordinator of the Atlantic Coast Conference, gave a prayer of benediction.

Representatives from EG Stoltzfus, the contractor, and Cornerstone architects, the designer, also attended.

The bricks used in the ceremony will be removed during construction this spring and relaid along a new walkway and courtyard when the new front entrance is completed before the start of the 2012-13 school year. The school is hoping to have 1,000 bricks to line these areas. ❖

YouTube Check out our YouTube channel, MennoniteBlazers, for videos from the bricklaying ceremony and other campus events.

Elizabeth Landis, 1995

Returning to her roots

Elizabeth Landis never really thought her life's journey would bring her full circle, but the 1995 alumna's desire to live out her faith has led her back to the place where it first took flight: Lancaster Mennonite School.

Landis, who currently teaches English at Octorara High School, will be taking on the role of assistant principal at the Lancaster Campus beginning July 1.

"I'm excited to jump in and work at both the student level and staff level," Landis said. "Sometimes as a teacher, I feel like an island.

I'm excited to navigate both and excited to be somewhere where I had a great experience."

Returning to the LMS halls, however, is a bit surreal for Landis, as she is now working with some of the people she previously had as educators.

"It's kind of daunting ... with the expectation of maintaining a certain standard," she said. "It's a great thing and provides a necessary pressure."

After graduating from LMS, Landis went to Messiah College in Grantham for two years before finishing up her undergraduate degree in English at Millersville.

While at Messiah, Landis spent part of her time at the Philadelphia campus, which stretched her in ways she didn't expect.

"It encouraged me to think outside the box," Landis said. "We were directly confronting social justice issues."

When she graduated from Millersville, Landis worked as an assistant manager in charge of advertising at Ten Thousand Villages before earning a full scholarship to attend Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

"I went in thinking I'd pursue a master's in Divinity," Landis said. "But it didn't feel like a right fit, so I changed to a master's in Peace Studies."

Landis was sitting in a class about war, peace and resistance on Sept. 11 when a man ran into the room and said the World Trade Center had been attacked.

At that moment, Landis felt a desire to do more.

"It was a turning point for me," she said. "Theology is excellent, to set a foundation, but my theology needs to have arms and legs."

Landis worked at a mediation center in York at first before helping to spearhead the Bully Prevention Program as the Bullying Prevention Coordinator for the Octorara School District.

"Part of my realization was, how in the world can we expect governments to work peacefully together if we can't get our kids to," she said. "This is the best place for me to make an impact."

Landis is married to LMS graduate Steve Denlinger, has three children and attends Blossom Hill Mennonite Church in Lancaster.

As she steps into the new position, Landis said her goal is to listen and re-acclimate herself to the staff and students, absorbing everything that's going on around campus.

"I want to be a part of creating a positive environment like the one I experienced when I was here," she said. "We have a lot of learning to do in terms of a multicultural environment and that's what Lancaster Mennonite has become – with that great gift comes a lot of learning and responsibility. ❖"





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