

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

www.lancastermennonite.org

SUMMER 2008

Bridges

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*Centered in Christ
Transforming Lives
Changing our World*



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insert



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–6

393 Long Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 872-2506

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Volume 36, No. 1

Cover photos: Lancaster Mennonite Blazers celebrate Kelsey Gorman's winning goal with three minutes left in the PIAA Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association spring girls soccer championship, held June 6 at Hersheypark Stadium. PHOTO: LINDA WINGARD

A ride to remember

In the distance a Hersheypark roller coaster inches gently to the summit, then drops its victims in a heart-stopping rush.

Back in the Hersheypark Stadium the Lancaster Mennonite girls soccer team, yearning for its first PIAA Class AA spring crown, is on a roller coaster ride of its own. After an exhilarating first goal for the Blazers, Fleetwood (27-4) answers with two back-to-back goals with 8:20 left on the clock.

But what may have been paralysis for some, is an energizer for a team that knows about second-half challenges. About a minute after Fleetwood takes the lead, Allison (Ally) Brown ties the game. Then, with just 3.38 minutes left, Gorman is awarded a direct kick after colliding with two Fleetwood defenders just outside the box. When Kori Wenger fakes the kick and steps aside, Gorman moves in, deftly shaping the ball over the defensive wall into the top right corner of the net.

Minutes later an exceptional season-long ride that rolled a week past com-

mencement comes to an end. The Blazers have just written some more school history—a first ever state title for an LMS athletic team.

That evening the celebrating continues at the Lancaster Campus where families, staff and friends welcome the victorious team back to the school amidst a lively police/fire truck escort. Inside Gym B, School Board President Diane Umble shares a board resolution that congratulates the students and their coach for “representing the values of LMS” in their team play and daily life.

“We wish you the blessings of God as you transform our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service,” the resolution concludes.

When Coach Dale Stoltzfus, a 1979 LMS graduate, describes the team’s journey to the gold medal, he says one of the things he appreciated most about the students was their singing on the way to the games. To illustrate, the team breaks out into the contemporary hymn, “In Christ Alone,” then leads the

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Gorman named *Female Athlete of the Year*

Two days after scoring the game-winning goal that sealed her team’s state title, Kelsey Gorman was named the Lancaster Newspapers Female Athlete of the Year for stellar performances in volleyball, basketball and soccer. Gorman, who attended the Kraybill and Lancaster campuses kindergarten through grade 12, earned 11 varsity letters and this year was captain on all three teams.

In soccer, she helped her team win the Section 3 and Lancaster-Lebanon League championships and reach the finals of Districts before advancing to the District 3 Double-A championship game at Hershey.

In volleyball, she earned All-State status for the second year in a row and helped her team win the Section 2 championship, earn a trip to the league semifinals, advance to finals in Double-A district play, and go on to state play.

And in basketball she averaged 8.3 points a game, hit 15 three-pointers and was an all-section performer, finishing her career with 906 points. The team won the Section 4 title, reached the league championship game, and won the school’s first District 3 Triple-A title in basketball (with a school-record 28 wins) before advancing to state play.

She says teamwork was the key for all three teams. “To be successful as a team really brings it all together,” she told New Era sports writer Jeffrey Reinhart. “And I just loved being with all my teammates. That’s what made this all very special for me.”

This fall she will attend Messiah College where she plans to study accounting and play soccer. ■



Kelsey Gorman, 2008



On their way to States, the LMS girls soccer team won the Section and League championships and were runner-ups in Districts. Shown above with their state trophy, the players and coaches are—Front row, left to right: Bethany Miller, Taylor Wenger, Lisa Wingard, Sarah Dickinson, Bethany Engle, Kelsey Gorman, Kori Wenger, Allison Brown, Stephanie Miller. Second row: Rachel Dickinson, Shelby Roberts, Julie Collins, Joanna Cote, Katie Ruth, Laura Gochnauer, Danielle Zeamer, Rachel Stoltzfoos, Heidi Weaver, Brianna Lehman, Marisa Umble, Kaitlyn Hurst. Back: assistant coach Mike Neuman, assistant volunteer coach John Denlinger, Heather Gochnauer, Celina Nissley, Katherine Zell, Katie Leeking, Rachel Kennel, Katelyn Vanderhoff, Katelyn Ritzenhouse, Jaclyn Gyger, Caroline Augsburg, Carli Bowman, coach Dale Stoltzfus (1979), assistant volunteer coach Cliff Wenger (1979). At right, the team is welcomed back to campus. PHOTOS: JOYCE COTE



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crowd in singing “Amazing Grace.”

For Stoltzfus, coming into an already successful soccer program and coaching a winning team in his first season at LMS is an incredible honor. He gives the team a great deal of credit for their resiliency and hard work during the

more difficult competitions and also during the many end-of-year distractions.

“It was a tremendous group of individuals who represented their community, school, parents, coaching staff, and teammates so well during the entire season,” he says. ■

Editor’s note: While girls soccer is the first team to win a state title, track and field star Lindsey Shertzer was the first individual to bring home the gold (spring of 2007) when she captured the Class AA 1,600-meter title.

Focus on the journey

By John Denlinger

The team motto for this season—“Focus on the journey, not the destination”—grew out of a pre-season conversation about the team’s goals. Cliff Wenger (volunteer assistant coach) explained to the team that while it is important to talk about the desired outcome or destination, it is equally important to focus on the journey, which includes the joy of day to day practices and relating together. He explained that when that daily focus happens, there is a much better chance of reaching the destination of playing in the state championship.



John Denlinger

As a pastor I believe this speaks to our lives as Christians as well. Our daily talk and walk with Christ and others should inform, instruct and influence our journey as the church and

finally our destination at “the end of the season.” Teamwork, sharing, bearing and caring with one another, and putting others or the team before individual needs and desires—all of these speak to our journey with Jesus and others.

One of the unique distinctives that both Christians and athletes share is the desire to be responsible for our actions and say “I’m sorry” when we play or live in a way that is not compatible with our beliefs or standards. As an assistant volunteer coach of this soccer team, I have witnessed that approach playing itself out throughout the season. Not only is that a uniqueness that sets LMS athletics apart; it’s a great practice for being the church. ■

John, a former school board member and a pastor at Ridgeview Mennonite Church, served the soccer team as an assistant volunteer coach.

You have much to offer

At Lancaster Mennonite High School's 66th commencement on May 31, guest speaker Sue Conrad, associate pastor at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church, challenged the 175 graduates to "Go out there and transform the world, taking what you have learned at LMS."

"Up until now, you have received much ... from your parents, your school, your teachers, your extended family, and even your world," she said. "But now, it is time to reverse the roles. Now the world is needing you to give back, and the good news is, you have much to offer."

Conrad compared the graduates to Joshua, who, when called to lead the Israelites after Moses' death, was, like them, probably excited and scared. She said the words Joshua heard from God at that time (from the first chapter of Joshua) are appropriate for today's LMS graduates: "Be strong and courageous ... do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your

God is with you wherever you go."

At Friday evening's Class Dedication program, three senior speakers centered their talks around the school's mission statement: "Lancaster Mennonite School—Centered in Christ, Transforming Lives, Changing our World." The speakers were Fikeveni Dlamini (Fika), Jonathon Martin and Melissa Sauder. ■

Top right photo: Lancaster Mennonite High School commencement speaker Sue Conrad, second from left, is surrounded by the graduates who spoke at their Class Dedication. Left to right they are: Fikeveni Dlamini, Melissa Sauder and Jonathon Martin.

PHOTO: SUNDAY NEWS (LANCASTER, PA). Middle photo: Lancaster Mennonite graduate Kidus Gebregiorgis celebrates with his family after the school's 66th commencement ceremony Saturday, May 31. PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES. Bottom photo: When a thunderstorm prevented the graduates from meeting on the front lawn following commencement, they gathered in the school's gymnasium for their traditional prayer of blessing and mortarboard toss.

PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES



LMS: a time of growth and discovery

By Melissa Sauder, 2008

Each year seniors are invited to share with others their LMS experience and post school plans—either in a small group setting or during a chapel presentation. Senior presentations grew out of the school's recent re-accreditation process which led to a school goal to become more deliberate in helping students identify God-given gifts, interests and career options. The presentation is the culminating experience in this K-12 effort. Following are excerpts from Melissa Sauder's presentation.

Over the years, LMS has given me many opportunities to discover my gifts and abilities. My first memory of academic growth is first grade when I was having difficulty reading. I participated in a summer reading program with my teacher, Mrs. Dot Hershey, and loved it so much because I got rewarded for reading. So I actually began to like to read. English has never been my strongest subject, but thanks to Mrs. Hershey, I never got too far behind.

Middle school helped me to grow academically because that's when more homework started. Putting that with increased sports and church activities helped me learn time management. In high school, AP classes probably helped me the most to grow academically. They were challenging, especially AP US History, which gave me the incentive to work harder.

Friday Morning Bible Study was the activity that helped me grow the most spiritually. From the people I met there who encouraged my walk to just the times of worship and prayer, I grew a lot stronger in my faith. In addition,

just having Christian teachers and friends were important in helping to point me in the right direction, especially during difficult times; those were the biggest growing experiences for me. Other areas of growth include:

Sports: Here I learned about time management, a strong work ethic, and commitment. I loved playing sports and I got to meet a lot of awesome people.

Music: Music festivals (band and Campus Chorale) set up some really sweet opportunities to get to know people from other schools—different from sports where there is a more competitive spirit. With Campus Chorale, God taught me that my voice is a blessing from him. And I needed to use it to glorify him, so I began to see Campus Chorale as more of a ministry rather than just a chorus.

Just having Christian teachers and friends were important in helping to point me in the right direction, especially during difficult times.

PALS (peer leadership program): PALS provided me again with some great relationships. Specifically, relating to students at Locust Grove helped me remember what a lot of the girls were going through. After all, it was just a few years ago I was at the same place. Also, PALS showed me the need for love. If you start by loving someone, it's a lot easier to understand where they are coming from or why they act the way they do. PALS gave me a chance to use some of the struggles



Melissa Sauder, 2008. PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNDAY NEWS (LANCASTER)

I had in my life to listen to others. I realized through PALS that God allows us to experience struggles so we can help others down the road.

I plan to attend Millersville University for Special Education and Early Childhood Education. Micah, my best friend when I was younger, was a huge influence on my picking a major. He has Down syndrome. Between my love of teaching and my heart for people with learning disabilities, my major seemed pretty clear. In addition, I would love to get involved with youth ministry someday. Who knows what God's going to have for me? ■

Helping our graduates choose life



J. Richard Thomas

We face as no previous generation, the choice once described in the book of Deuteronomy between life and death, with the admonition to choose life. That choice—or more properly choices by all of us—will be made one way or the other in the near future. If we choose life we must act with extraordinary creativity, energy, stamina, wisdom and dispatch. The defense of life as the theologian Thomas Berry calls it, is the “Great Work” of your generation and mine.—Dr. David Orr, professor of environmental studies at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Challenges faced by our global society include global poverty, global insecurity, environmental issues, human rights, violence in relationships, and the protection of all human life.

At Lancaster Mennonite School, our Graduate Profile speaks of graduates being prepared to face these challenges which are beyond technology and economics. At the root the challenges are spiritual struggles against the principalities and powers that would shape us. Therefore, we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds to discern what is true and right and just. Perhaps that is why Romans 12:1 is a key verse describing Mennonite education.

Our Great Work is not just to teach this vision but also to model it. That is why the school board should be commended for showing commitment to “green principles” for the new academic building when there were economic pressures to cut costs. Their Great Work, which is the kind of modeling

called for in our Graduate Profile, means that the academic center will not only be a facility that provides classroom instruction; it will also teach by the sustainable way it was constructed.

Similarly, that is why the peacemaking and conflict resolution happening at our elementary, middle and high school levels is so important, as is the modeling that occurs when faculty conduct class meetings, use restorative justice discipline, and build community in every class.

And it is why we invite representatives from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and other nations to speak in our chapel services, why we include international students in our student body, why we involve students in Penny Power projects, why we plan student trips to other cultures, and why we welcome an MCC exchange visitor as a member of our staff.

Finally, it is why we teach the values of humility, respect, anti-racism, and compassionate living. This Great Work happens through stewardship teaching at several grade levels; as we help students own the Revelation (chapter seven) vision of persons from all racial-ethnic, cultural and national groups gathered around the Lamb; and as we model an increasingly diverse school where all are equally valued regardless of racial-ethnic origins or socio-economic status. Thus, providing financial aid is a key ingredient in practicing the values we want for our alumni, as spelled out in the Graduate Profile.

Orr writes, “Our challenge is to honor wholeness, health and the great Holy mystery of life.” Our graduates will do that when, in the words of the LMS Graduate Profile, they “have a love for God’s creation in its diversity in the natural environment and peoples,” “know they are loved by God and share this love with others,” “infuse a Christ-centered faith into learning and understanding,” and “live with a sense of curiosity, wonder and mystery.”

In living this way, our millennial graduates will engage in the Great Work of choosing life in its fullness. ■



Electing to build “green” learning facilities such as the new academic building at the Lancaster Campus (slated for a fall completion) and inviting students to participate in service projects such as Mennonite Central Committee’s Penny Power clean water project (photo at right) are two examples of how the school is calling students to choose lifestyles that will protect and respect all of God’s creation. New Danville students at right are Aleana Glah, left, and Kerri Ressler.



Hostetler to direct LMS vocal program

By Gary Hiller, director of marketing and enrollment

Marcella “Marcy” Hostetler of Lancaster has been hired to direct the vocal music program of Lancaster Mennonite School. On the Lancaster Campus (grades 6-12), Hostetler will be responsible for the Campus Chorale, Vocal Ensemble, and the Middle School Choir. She will also provide consultation and coordination of the vocal music programs at the Kraybill (grades PreK-8), Locust Grove (grades PreK-8) and New Danville (grades PreK-6) campuses.

Hostetler holds a master’s degree in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College. Prior work experience includes teaching music in the York Suburban School District, Hempfield School District, Penn View Christian School, and the American Boychoir School. She received her undergraduate degree in music education from Goshen College where she collaborated with Mary Oyer, Goshen College professor emerita of music, in the study of African musical influences. She has also been active in church music, serving as music director of Akron Mennonite Church from 1990-92 and now occasionally leading music at Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster.

Hostetler replaces John Miller, who retired after 16 years at the Lancaster Campus where he was involved with music and drama. **Dean Sauder**, who came to the Lancaster Campus in 2001 to teach Bible and drama, will assume the drama component of Miller’s responsibilities, including the fall high school drama and the spring musical. **Danielle Hofstetter**, who has directed for the Theater of the Seventh Sister and the Summer Shakespeare Camp for Teens, will direct the high school winter production.

Rounding out Lancaster Mennonite’s comprehensive performing arts program, **Durrelle Leaman** will give leadership to orchestral and string music instruction and performance while **William “Bill” Mitten** will direct band music.

On the Lancaster Campus, Leaman will direct the symphony orchestra, high school string ensemble, and middle school string ensemble, in addition to teaching middle school general

music. At Locust Grove and New Danville he will provide instrumental lessons for grades 4–6. He also will direct the band at New Danville while **Rhoda Yost** teaches music classes for pre-kindergarten through grade 6.

In addition to conducting the band, jazz band and pep band for the Lancaster Campus, Mitten will direct an inclusive band program at Locust Grove with over 50 students in grades 4–8. Mitten also directs a 70-member middle school band of the combined campuses of Lancaster and Locust Grove. **Jan Stauffer** will teach PreK–8 music at Locust Grove and direct the handbell and vocal choirs there.

On the Kraybill Campus, **Sylvia Weaver** teaches elementary music and produces two major musicals each year, **Deanna Grager** teaches middle school music and directs the girls and combined choruses, while **Jim Baer** directs the boys chorus. This year Grager will form a new Kraybill band program for grades 5–8.

Lancaster Mennonite School strongly supports the role of music in a holistic education and in the life of the Church. The use of appropriate music reinforces what the students learn about faith, history, culture and other discipline. For example, the entire 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.

The LMS music program produces some of Pennsylvania’s best vocalists and musicians. Three Lancaster Mennonite students were recently selected for All-State music honors by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. Clarinet player Eric Umble was chosen for All-State Band, violinist Devin Troy was selected for All-State Orchestra,



Marcy Hostetler

and vocalist Maggie Nicholas was given All-State Chorus honors.

Lancaster Mennonite School’s performing arts program has a significant impact on the Mennonite Church and the overall Christian community by integrating musical excellence with informed faith and a service orientation. 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.

A new tab on the school’s student-produced website is being developed to highlight the many faith-infused fine arts opportunities at Lancaster Mennonite this year. ■



In addition to offering a comprehensive PreK-12 music education program, the school also sponsors the Mennonite Children’s Choir as an out-of-school activity in which both LMS and non-LMS students can participate. MCCL consists of three choirs: Preparatory Choir, grades 2-5; Concert Choir, grades 6–8; and Chamber Choir, grades 9–12. To audition for the Preparatory or Concert choirs, please contact Darlene Hein at (717) 898-0398 or dtmhein@aol.com. For the Chamber Choir, please contact Rosemary Siegrist Blessing at (717) 606-3272 or siegrists@hotmail.com.

SCHOOL UPDATE

■ Twelve seniors received top department awards at the high school awards assembly in May. In photo at right, they are, front, left to right: Suzanne Yocom, science; Jonathon Martin, technology education; Corey Weaver, physical education; Michael Baer, social studies; and Emily Yoder, music. Back, left to right: Ann Ntari, agriculture; Brigetta Reeser, family and consumer sciences; Laura Benkendorf, world language; Charise Garber, mathematics; Jenna Ebersole, English; Cara Good, business; and Jung Eun Shin, art.



■ The high school team of Corey Weaver, Joe Lab, and Alyssa Groff was the highest scoring team during the April 24 Lancaster/Lebanon Safe Driving Competition. Corey Weaver was the highest scoring individual.



Corey Weaver



Joe Lab



Alyssa Groff



Nicole Leaman

■ Nicole Leaman, 2010, won first place in the Chemistry Olympics held this spring at Hempfield. The event is sponsored by the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit.

■ Two students won awards in the 24th Annual Lancaster County Peace Essay Contest held this spring. Joel Nofziger, 2009, was the first place winner in Division II for his essay, "Education to End Economically Driven Conflict." Twila Flaud, 2010, took third place in Division I with an essay titled "Imbalance." The contest was begun in 1981 by the Lancaster Friends Meeting to encourage young people to think about peace and peacemaking. The theme this year was "Economic Disparity: The Enemy of Peace?"



Joel Nofziger



Twila Flaud



Erika Babikow, left, and Carli Bowman were recognized at Carnegie Hall for national gold awards received for artwork submitted to Lancaster's Scholastics Art Show. PHOTO: PAUL BRUBAKER

■ During the annual FFA Activities Week held June 10–12 at Penn State University, incoming junior Michael Becker took first in Farm Business Management, senior Mary-Elizabeth Keeney took third in Agriculture Sales, and senior Josiah Rohrer took third in Extemporaneous Speaking.



Left to right: Josiah Rohrer, Michael Becker and Mary-Elizabeth (M.E.) Keeney.

PHOTO: RYAN KING

■ Brittany Kauffman and Jessica Kerr, both 2008, received a gold medal at the Family and Career Leaders of America (FCCLA) state conference held at the Lancaster Host this spring. They competed in the Focus on Childhood area. This was the school's first official year of involvement with FCCLA, a national organization that is service/leadership driven and

encompasses all areas of family and consumer science.

■ This spring the boys volleyball team captured the Section Championship and advanced to District play.

■ For the 11th year in a row for the girls and the 6th year in a row for the boys, Kraybill finished first in both the Commonwealth Christian Athletic Conference (CCAC) and Mid-Atlantic

Christian Schools Association (MACSA) Track & Field championships.

■ Eight incoming seniors have been invited to participate in the 2009 National Merit Program's College Plans Reporting Service: Lindsay King, Andrew Kreider, Kaela Landis, Jordan Miller, Joel Nofziger, Lauren Stoltzfus, Devin Troy and Thea Weaver.

■ Colleges and universities awarded nearly \$1.5 million in scholarships to LMH seniors this year.

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■ The following high school students received recognition at the annual FFA banquet in early April: Kandace Hershey, Star Keystone for On Farm Placement; Katie Zimmerman, Star Keystone for Off Farm Placement; Derek Nissley, Outstanding Keystone Male Leader; Charise Garber, Outstanding Keystone Female Leader; Bryan Miller, American Welding Society; and Suzanne Yocum, Dekalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award. Red Rose Speaking Awards: Caitlyn Kelly, second in Jr. Prepared Public Speaking; Josiah Rohrer, first in Extemporaneous Speaking; Kelsey Good, second in Creed Speaking; Kristen Garber, third in Creed Speaking; and Andrea Rohrer, fifth in Creed Speaking. All of these students represented Lancaster County at the Regional Contest on April 16.

■ Thank you to all who helped raise over \$33,000 for the Annual Fund during the April 30 LMS Golf Tournament. A record number of corporate sponsors donated dollars, door prizes and goodie bag items to help make the event a success. The volunteer golf committee consisted of: Al Shirk, Lisa Horst, John Mattillo, Cheryl Miller and members of the LMH golf team. Mark your calendar for next year's tournament—Wednesday, April 29. Interested in being a corporate sponsor? Contact Heidi Stoltzfus at (717) 394-7107. ■

August 18	Lanc. Campus New Student Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
August 20	First day of school
Sept. 26 & 27	Fall Festival & Homecoming, Lancaster Campus
October 12	Fall Open House, 1–3 p.m., Lancaster Campus
October 30	Prospective Student Day—All Campuses
November 13–15	High school play, <i>All I Really Wanted to Know I Learned in Kindergarten</i> , 7:30 p.m.



The low-scoring mixed foursome during the school's April 30 golf tournament at the Lancaster Host was, left to right, Mike Weaver, Valerie Weaver, Linda Snader and David Snader, with a 68. Lowest overall for both a.m. and p.m. shotguns goes to Matthew Burkhart, David Denlinger, Trent Miller and Jason Sauder, with a 57.

Thank you, our valued volunteers!

Care of earth leads to creative giving



Marlin Groff. PHOTO: HERB KRAYBILL

LMS Assistant Superintendent Marlin Groff discovered a unique way to give. For the past year he calculated the money he saved when riding his scooter or cycle instead of driving his vehicle. Then he donated the money to the school's Annual Fund.

Not only did it provide \$773 more for the school, it reduced his consumption of gas and his carbon footprint. And it was a lot of fun, he says.



PHOTO: EDIE HESS

Clayton Thomas is one of many faithful volunteers who have helped make LMS an affordable, quality Christian education at four campuses. Thomas volunteered as a custodian at the New Danville Campus from 1978–1986. At age 90, he continues to mow the lawn occasionally. Thank you, Clayton, and all our volunteers, for your kindness and generosity.

Staff recognized for service to LMS

Three LMS staff members who retired at the end of the school year were recognized at a school-wide Staff Appreciation Celebration held in April. Bus driver Warren Shenk, bottom photo, retired from the Kraybill Campus after 47 years; Ernest Hess, at right, retired from the high school guidance office after 31 years; and John Miller, far right, retired after 16 years at the Lancaster Campus where he taught music and drama and directed the Campus Chorale touring choir.

Also recognized—Pauline Stoltzfus, bookkeeper, 40 years, and Richard Thomas, superintendent, 35 years. For 30 years: Janet Banks, Lanc. English; Dennis Kauffman, Lanc. Spanish; Millard Steckbeck, Kraybill social studies/Bible. For 25 years: James Baer, Kraybill shop/home tech. For 20: Geoffrey Groff, Lanc. phys. ed. and Marlin Groff, assistant superintendent. For 15: Amy Frantz, Kraybill bus driver/custodial; Carl Laws Landis, Lanc. media center; Erma Shultz, student billing. For 10: Marie Burkholder, Kraybill kindergarten; Brent Hartzler, Lanc. Spanish; Alice Lauver, Lanc. English; Jeff Shank, executive director of development/alumni relations; Lee Thurber, Lanc. & LG phys. ed.; Nancy Witmer, Kraybill bus driver; Kathryn Ciaccia, Lanc. art; Beverly Kreider, Kraybill school counselor; Lynn Longenecker, technology; Wendy Weinstein, Kraybill art; Lorie Yoder, Lanc. administrative assistant. ■



PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES

PHOTO: GARY HILLER

Minicourses enrich, outside the classroom

During the last week of school, nearly 700 Lancaster Mennonite High School students left the traditional classroom setting to participate in a variety of minicourses. Held every other year, the minicourse program is a unique educational/service opportunity that complements classroom learning and encourages deeper interpersonal relationships with teachers and other students. Participation in the program is required for high school students.

Twelve of this year's 39 courses involved some kind of service, including construction and house repairs for lower income families in Georgia and South Carolina, preparing youth camps for summer programs, learning about and working at the Food and Clothing Bank in Lancaster, and doing service projects with Mennonite Central Committee in Akron, Pa.

Other courses included: an extended cross-cultural trip to Argentina; a soccer missions trip to Costa Rica; attending



LMS senior Ashley Dagen traveled to northwest Georgia for her minicourse. Students painted a home for a widow, cleaned up a church cemetery, and helped rebuild a wheelchair ramp. PHOTO: CHARISE GARBER

the Stratford Shakespeare Festival near Toronto; backpacking/hiking excursions to sites such as the Appalachian Trail in Pa; rock climbing in upstate New York; biking through South Central Pa.; exploration of the eastern seashore; golfing; and sightseeing in cities such

as New York, Newport (Rhode Island), and Boston.

Some students remained on campus for courses such as photography, photo album construction, games of logic, and rug making. ■

The Writer

By Emily Hess



Emily Hess

Pen poised at paper slightly pulsing, excitedly wispy words capped up inside.

POP goes the cork flowing, pouring, rushing out imagination fills the paper.

Quivering excitedly words call out to one another marching like soldiers all line up—in a row.

Slipping, sliding pushing, shoving words spin across the page trying to get to their place.

Finally, chaos over, words settle down tucking themselves into a book.

Editor's Note: Emily Hess will be a 7th grader at the Kraybill Campus this year.

Help dedicate facility debt free



The new academic building at the Lancaster Campus will welcome students and system staff sometime this fall. Your financial support will help us dedicate the facility debt free. For more information, contact Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus at (717) 394-7107.

Host families needed

Numerous international students want to attend Lancaster Mennonite High School this year but do not yet have a host family. Would you consider opening your home to such a student? This is not only a significant way to help the school; it is also a ministry to these students from around the world. Students need a bedroom with a dresser and desk. Host families receive a monthly stipend to cover expenses. For more information, contact Donna Edwards at (717) 397-5455.

Register now for winter season!



MENNONITE SPORTS ORGANIZATION

Providing Christ-centered sports opportunities for elementary-age children

Over 150 children are registered for the Mennonite Sports Organization's inaugural fall season which will include boys soccer for PreK–6 and girls field hockey for grades 1–6. Please register for the boys/girls winter basketball season in late August and early September. For registration and additional information go to www.mennonitesports.org or call (717) 394-7107.

Students learn about Jesus



L-R: Nardos Haile, Hailey Fafel, Elizabeth Hoke, Dylan Pons, Ebba Dinka, Brian Wenger, Kathleen Calix-Alvarado, Kenyon Kelley, Victoria Phillips, Tristan Secker, and teacher Jennifer Miller.

This year New Danville teacher Jennifer Miller used drama to teach first graders about Jesus' ministry. They read and performed plays about Bartimaeus, the Nobleman's son, and Jairus' daughter as they

focused on how Jesus brought light to people who had darkness in their lives. In the above photo, the first graders perform for their parents and the PreK class. ■

CLASS NOTES

Velma Yoder, 1962, Magill, Leola, and son, **Renny Magill, 1987**, Akron, recently shared an art exhibit at Landis Homes Retirement Community, Harvest View Gallery. They displayed a collection of acrylic, mixed media and abstract acrylic collages. Velma teaches elementary and middle school art at the Locust Grove and New Danville campuses, while Renny is director of development for Tel Hai Retirement Community, Honey Brook.



Renny Magill and Velma Magill
PHOTO: DEB LAWS-LANDIS

Brenda Burkhart, 1972, Blank, Landisville, has been named as an executive assistant for Global Disciples.

Leslie Murphy Book, 1973, Philadelphia, graduated from the University of Kentucky with a masters in social work, mental health concentration, in May. She is employed by Esperanza Health Center in Philadelphia as social services director and counselor.

Janet Kauffman, 1977, Stauffer, Lebanon, was awarded a Ph.D. at Union Institute and University and is now an assistant professor in the Marriage and Family Therapy Department at Evangelical Theological Seminary. In her doctoral thesis she explored dialogue in the navigation of loyalty dynamics between and across the generations in Mennonite families.

Lloyd K. Smucker, 1981, Lancaster, won the Pennsylvania Republican primary for State Senate in April.

Brent Siegrist, 1991, Accident, Md., has returned from a six-year teaching assignment in Kenya and will assume pastoral leadership at Glade Mennonite Church in Accident, Md.

Linford Fisher, 1993, South Bend, Ind., graduated from Harvard University with a doctorate in the history of religion in America. In August he will begin a tenure-track position as assis-

tant professor of early American history at Indiana University, South Bend.

Moriah Hurst, 1999, Elkhart, Ind., graduated in May from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary with a master of divinity degree, emphasis in youth ministry. She will serve a three-year term with Mennonite Mission Network as an associate pastor for youth and young adults and community coordinator of Canberra Peace House in Australia.

Bozho Todorich, 2000, Lancaster, is a second-year M.D./Ph.D student at Pennsylvania State University of Medicine in Hershey. You may read his story, "Growing up too fast: a refugee boy's story," in a Common Place magazine, September 1998 issue at www.mcc.org/acp.

Jonalyn Denlinger, 2002, Lancaster, bilingual caseworker for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS), and **Tim Hoover, 2002**, Akron, were recently involved in BBBS Photoworks, a program that gave Carter and MacRae elementary students an opportunity to display their photographs in Hoover's Infantree art gallery in Lancaster City.

In July, **Matthew Eby, 2003**, Washington, D.C., participated in the World Deaf Football (soccer) Championships in Greece. The team placed fourth in the world, the best in the team's history. Eby, who is an assistant coach for Gallaudet University's soccer team, says these were three weeks of adventure he will never forget. Eby married Kimberly Erickson in June of 2005. They have two boys—



Matt Eby

Trenton Matthew, born June 16, 2006, and Kona Kyder, born June 2, 2008.

Lane Crouse, 2004, Stevens, was named the Syracuse University and the New York State Student Employee of the Year. Crouse holds a senior leadership position for student employees in Student Centers and Programming Services, Event and Technical Services division, where he is responsible for oversight of the staff.

Lisa King, 2004, Harrisburg, received the Eastern Mennonite University's Presidents Award for senior student athletes who have had significant academic and athletic achievement, possess a strong character including Christian commitment, and are involved in campus activities.



Lisa King with Dr. Loren Swartzendruber
PHOTO: JIM BISHOP

Donovan Tann, 2004, East Petersburg, graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Mennonite University in April, and received a major fellowship award for a graduate studies program in English literature at Temple University. He has been accepted into the Lily Graduate Fellows Program operated by Valparaiso University, Ind.

Felicia "Fe" Moore, 2005, Philadelphia, placed at the state level in the collegiate Future Business Leaders of America organization, Phi Beta Lambda, and moved on to the national level in June. She will be a junior at Indiana University of Pennsylvania this fall.

Matthew Gehman, 2005, Akron, **Lindsey Grosh, 2006**, York, and **Sarah Roth, 2006**, Harrisonburg, Va. were recently elected to the Student Government Association at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va. Grosh and Roth will serve as co-presidents and Gehman as treasurer.

MARRIAGES

Doreen Ebersole, 1996, and Loren Bishop, February 16, 2008. They live in Harrisburg.

Sarah Graybill, 2003, and Aaron Keener, August 18, 2007. They live in Bainbridge.

Rebecca Kane, 2004, and Kevin Crouse, March 15, 2008. They live in Lancaster while Rebecca pursues her master's degree in Counseling Psychology at Immaculata University.

Philip Weiler, 2004, and Alison Smith, March 1, 2008. The live in Kansas City, Mo., where they serve as intercessor missionaries. Phil serves with the "One Thing" conferences for young adults and is event logistics director for "The Call" which is to be held in Washington D.C. on The Mall, on August 16.

Jared Yoder, 2003, and Meredith Dunscorn, June 28, 2008. They live in Langhorne. Yoder has been named the interim men's basketball coach at Philadelphia Biblical University. He will continue in his role as sports information director for the Crimson Eagles.

Heather S. Dunlap, 2005, and Jason R. Kimble, June 21, 2008. They live in Coatesville. Heather is working toward a psychology degree and working as a loan file administrator at DNB First.

BIRTHS

Michael and **Thelma Gochnauer, 1975, Conklin**, Lititz, seventh child, fifth son, Theodore Edwin, born April 3, 2004, and adopted June 15, 2007; eighth child, third daughter, Amelia Rose, March 31, 2008, awaiting adoption this fall.

Tim and **Wilma Fisher, 1987, Bender**, New Holland, third son, Seth Timothy, March 13, 2008.

Tom and **Andrea Bontrager, 1987, Unzicker**, Indianapolis, Ind., second child, Elena Marie, April 7, 2008.

Christopher and **Juanita Martin, 1988, Horst**, Ephrata, a daughter, Larisa Joy, May 29, 2007.

Tim and **Cheryl Lehman, 1991, Railsback**, Broomfield, Colo., fourth child, Micayla Hong, born April 2, 2004, adopted from China, May 13, 2008.

Brett, 1992, and Jennifer Rainwater **Eby**, Leola, second son, Landon Isaiah, February 8, 2007.

David and **Amy Harnish, 1992, Woods**, North East, Md., second daughter, Addison Christine, April 22, 2007.

Linford, 1993 and **Jo Wenger, 1992, Fisher**, South Bend, Ind., third child, second daughter, Helena Miriam, February 23, 2007.

Andreas and **Jolene Harnish, 1994, Wehner**, Enkenbach, Germany, a daughter, Alea Marie, May 6, 2008.

Timothy, 1994, and **Melody Nolt, 1994, Althouse**, Alexandria, Va., second daughter, Anna Naomi, March 29, 2008.

Mark, 1995, and Kristin **Cote**, Millersville, a daughter, Victoria Grace, born February 28, 2008, died March 4, 2008. The Cote's have two sons, Caleb and Jacob.

Brendon, 1995, and Yvonne Harrison **Landis**, Lampeter, a daughter, Elianna Joy, March 5, 2008.

Christopher, 1996, and **Megan Smoker, 1999, Beiler**, Gap, third child, second son, Mason Christopher, December 12, 2007.

Keith and **Gemma Hostetter, 1996, Bruner**, Lancaster, third child, second daughter, Aleah Kate, March 30, 2007.

Gary, 1996, and Jennifer **Landis**, East Petersburg, a son, Jackson Major, October, 13, 2005, and a daughter, Calista Elizabeth, April 13, 2007.

Mark and **Elizabeth (Liz) Correll, 1996, Sisler**, Indian Head Park, Ill., a son, Jaden Elijah, December 18, 2006.

Steven, 1997, and Rebecca **Harnish**, Washington Boro, second child, first

Networking Breakfast looks at two local businesses

Nearly 75 friends and alumni attended Lancaster Mennonite School's fourth Business Networking Breakfast on May 28 at Auntie Anne's, located in downtown Lancaster in the former Lancaster Post Office facility. The event included tours of both Auntie Anne's and Cornerstone Design Architects which are housed in the same building.

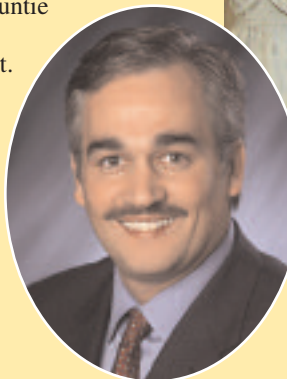
Guest speaker Sam Beiler, president and CEO of Auntie Anne's, talked on the theme, "The Power of Momentum." He said positive momentum at Auntie Anne's is achieved through (1) customer service "with a heart to serve," (2) collaboration that invites broad employee participation in decision making, and (3) a singular focus in meeting people's needs.

"It's really all about people," Beiler said. A 1983 LMS graduate and current LMS parent, Beiler serves on the board

of the Economic Development Company of Lancaster as well as the Churchtowne Development Committee and the C.E.O. Forum and Leadership Roundtable.

The networking event, planned by the LMS Alumni Association, also included remarks by Cornerstone Design Architects President Dale Yoder and a school update by Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus.

Cornerstone and Auntie Anne's were major sponsors for the event. Additional sponsors were Atlas Property Services; Home-towne Heritage Bank; and MMA Trust & Foundation and Mennonite Financial, Inc. ■



Above, Anne Kaufman Weaver, of Coaching Connection, and Clarence Rutt, a retired surgeon, chat during the school's Networking Breakfast that was held at Auntie Anne's in May. At left: Guest speaker Sam Beiler.

daughter, Kate Elizabeth, January 24, 2007.

Nelson Horst, 1997, and Meghann Sanders, 1997, Horst, Honey Brook, a son, Connor William, September 22, 2007, joining brother Wesley. Nelson graduated from Longwood Garden's two-year professional gardener program in February and is a partner with KJM Landscaping, Honey Brook.

Joseph, 1997, and Kristen Kauffman, 1999, Lusby, Atglen, fourth son, Cody Mark, January 30, 2008.

Kenneth and **Carla Denlinger, 1997, Shirk,** South Boston, Va., first child, Alyssa Jane, May 12, 2008.

Karl and **Jillian (Jill) Simmers, 1998, Diffenderfer,** Mount Joy, fourth child, Arianna Hope, January 18, 2008, joining siblings Aidan Sky, Arctura Renee, and Heaton Karl. They were married May 27, 2000. They own Shire Interactive, a marketing and advertising firm in Mount Joy, as well as InReach Total Wellness Consulting Services.

Derek, 1998, and Julie Hines, 1998, Ramsey, Aston, first son, Avery Cole, May 29, 2008. Julie graduated from

Temple University in January with a master's in occupational therapy.

Michael and **Kari Pennell, 1998, Yarnall,** Schuylkill Haven, first child, Alaina Veronica, September 24, 2006; second child, Thomas Owen, April 29, 2008.

Kirk, 2000, and Dorothy Landes, Leesburg, Va., a daughter, Abigail Sophia, May 25, 2008.

Tom and **Joy Zimmerman, 2003, Haller,** Denver, first child, a daughter, Katelyn Jane, February 9, 2008.

DEATHS

H. Florence Miller, 1944, Mount Joy, May 1, 2008.

Susan W. Snavely, 1954, Mount Joy, November 23, 2007.

Gerald D. Hess, 1974, Midlothian, Texas, May 17, 2008.

Karen L. Sauder, 1989, Stevens, April 15, 2008. ■

Class Reunions

1948	September 27, 2008
1959	June 27, 2009
1963	Sept. 19-20, 2008
1968	October 11, 2008
1973	October 11, 2008
1978	September 20, 2008
1993	October 19, 2008
2003	September 27, 2008

For more information, go to www.lancastermennonite.org

For your information

- **The 2008 Alumni Phonathon** raised approximately \$160,000 for the Annual Fund. About \$40,000 of that is matching dollars from the alumni board and other friends. Thank you!
- **Addresses are needed** of alumni who left home and did not notify us of their new address. If your children are in this group, please help us update our records. Write to Deborah Sprunger at sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org.

CLASS REUNIONS

1987

The class of 1987 celebrated their 21st year reunion Saturday, June 7, in a sky box at the Lancaster Barnstormers. Besides taking in the ball game, the 36 classmates and 39 family members enjoyed a buffet and fireworks.

1988

The class of 1988 celebrated their 20th year reunion at the Black Rock Retreat Center on Sunday, June 22. Approximately 160 attended, including 32 graduates. The event included a cookout and swimming in the center's new pool. Traveling the farthest was Eric Replogle from Colorado. Committee members were Craig Martin, Kurt Kreider, Cindy Kreider Rohrer and Karen Brubaker Hooper.

Watch for more reunion reports in the next issue of Bridges or go to the alumni section of www.lancastermennonite.org.



Enjoying their class reunion are 1987 graduates, left to right: Jean Groff Good, Quentin Miller, Sean High and Kris Wolgemuth Kauffman.

A heart for family, Christian education and service

Growing up on a farm the oldest of nine children, Pluma King was accustomed to hard work and child care. So at age 26, marrying Donald Hostetter, a 37-year-old widower with nine children ages 1–16, wasn't such a big deal. God blessed them with three more children, bringing the total to an even dozen.

"You never know what you are being prepared for," Pluma said, musing over circumstances that might have terrified any other bride. Besides raising a large family, the 1948 graduate often helped milk the cows at the couple's dairy farm near Parkesburg.

Nine of the couple's children graduated from LMS and a 10th attended for one year. In addition, 17 grandchildren graduated from the school and three others have attended at least one of the four campuses.

"Donald used to say, 'My children are going to get a Christian education; that's something no one can take from them,'" Pluma said. Donald died in 1980, but Pluma continues to be a strong advocate of Christian education. Over the years, she has volunteered many times at Locust Grove and the high school—including the alumni phonathon—and has faithfully attended music programs, athletic games, and Grandparents Day events.

Pluma's volunteerism has not been confined to LMS. In her late 60s, after being reassured she wasn't too old and she didn't need a nursing degree, Pluma began spending two weeks a year in the Dominican Republic, assisting medical personnel under Medical Ministries International. The culture shock was rough at first but she learned quickly that a smile is often all it takes to connect with a person in another land. Pluma is not short on smiles.

Two years ago and again this summer, she spent a week or more cooking for Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers who were helping to build houses for Katrina victims in Louisiana and Mississippi. She also has volunteered at the Mennonite Central Committee thrift shop in White Horse for 16 years.

"That was a big goal of mine that when I got older ... I could go and give some time in service since the Lord has



These two pictures show many of the 38 children and grandchildren (and their spouses) of Pluma King Hostetter (seated above, center in white jacket) who have attended one or more LMS campuses. Seated with Pluma are, left to right: Rachel Talbott (Locust Grove); Katelyn Talbott, '04; Lydia Talbott (Locust Grove); Joshua Hostetter, '99; Audrey Hostetter, '01. Standing, left to right: James Byler, '59 (non-grad); Darlene Hostetter Byler, '60; Dwane Hostetter, '62; Dale Hostetter, '73; Dorothea Stoltzfus Hostetter, '76; Dean Hostetter, '70 (non-grad); Cindy Hostetter Talbott, '76; Gerald McDowell, '85; Susan Hostetter Miller, '84; Kimberly Hostetter Stoltzfus, '87; Donna Hostetter Mosemann, '64; Luke Mosemann, '63. PHOTO: THOMAS TALBOTT. In photo at top are, left to right: Megan Hostetter Kennel, '01; Zachary Kennel, '01; Anita Augsburg Hostetter, '79; Dorothea Hostetter, '09; Mikaela Hostetter, '06; Jerry Hostetter, '79; and Mitchell Hostetter, '04. PHOTO: MEGHAN LEWIS. Not pictured: David Hostetter, '71; Ada Snader Hostetter, '72; Rhonda Hostetter Lapp, '77; Beverly Hostetter Landis, '80; Chad Byler, '88; Bryan High, '89; Melissa Hostetter High, '91; Rodney Hostetter, '99 (non-grad); Andy Hostetter, '03; Jodie Hostetter Hostetter, '03; Luis Hostetter, '06; Valerie Talbott, '06; and Sheila Talbott, '09. Pluma's daughter, Doris Hostetter Graber, who died in 2004, graduated from LMS in 1961.

done so much for me," she said. "It really does something for you to be able to see how people live in other parts of the country and world. I'm really thankful I had that opportunity."

At age 77, Pluma is still active, despite having had open heart surgery in February. Between her twice weekly cardiac therapy sessions she volunteers as an usher at the Fulton Opera House, cross stitches quilts, spends time with family and friends, helps to lead singing at Old Road Mennonite Church, and when school starts this month, hopes to be back in the Lancaster Campus kitchen where she has worked part time for the past three years.

Pluma lives with her sister, Sue, in Paradise but is waiting for a cottage at Landis Homes—a move that will give her more space to entertain her family.

Best part of LMS experience

I loved the teachers. Harvey Bauman (Problems of Democracy) was an interesting speaker who told lots of stories.

Then there were Lois Garber, English, and Clyde Stoner, music—I loved music class because music and singing were important to my family.

Friends forever

I learned to know a lot of wonderful people at LMS. I still get together two or three times a year with about 14 classmates.

Why I'm glad my children and grandchildren could attend LMS

It (LMS) did so much for me—the teaching I got, what the school represented—so it makes me happy when I see my family attending. I see them choosing good friends and learning many of the same things I learned, especially in the Bible area and in music.

My passion

To see my family serving the Lord no matter where. I pray for them daily. ■



Preparing students for the Great Work

A highlight of the past year was celebrating with the girls soccer team when they won the State PIAA Spring Soccer Championship. Reading the stories in this issue brought back good memories from that remarkable day in early June.

One of those memories was the special celebration that evening that began when the team was welcomed back to campus with a police and local fire department escort. After some comments from school officials and Coach Stoltzfus, the team asked to sing some hymns they had sung on the bus on the way to the games. How unusual to hear this kind of request at a state championship celebration. And how rewarding to see the team so naturally embody the LMS Difference at such an occasion.

Commencement was another highlight as we sent forth our graduates who, according to David Orr of Oberlin College, are part of the millennial generation that faces a world of daunting challenges. The hope, though, is that

our graduates take with them an LMS education that emphasizes Christlike love, peacemaking and service. With these tools they go out to do what theologian Thomas Berry calls the “Great Work” of choosing life—which you can read about in my annual report to the Board, some of which is included in this issue.

That Great Work is mostly accomplished through the everyday stuff of relationships and a life lived through the power of the Holy Spirit. I continue to be inspired by the stories of graduates from the past seven decades. One such story is that of Pluma Hostetter, class of 1948, who keeps in close contact with her alma mater through her service in the LMS Alumni Dining Hall. As you enjoy that and other stories in this issue of *Bridges*, please keep us in your daily prayers as, through the LMS Difference, we prepare students for the Great Work.—jrt



J. Richard Thomas



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