

Bridges

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL



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WINTER 2013

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JONATHAN CHARLES



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 bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 299-0436, ext. 701.

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Volume 40, No. 3



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

Cover: Freshman Jeisha Arroyo and Kraybill eighth grader Roman Wagner carry a box of toys for children in New York who were affected by Hurricane Sandy.

PHOTO: STEPHANIE WEAVER

from the superintendent

This issue of Bridges features the LMH alumni of the year. J. Nelson Kraybill, Tashya Leaman Dalen and Linford Fisher exemplify LMS values. They are examples of our desire to prepare students with faith and values to navigate the issues of life so they can change our world toward the intention of God.



J. Richard Thomas

Their stories and other reports in this issue attest that the legacy we have inherited is alive and flourishing. In this 70th anniversary year, we are aware of God at work among us, transforming us into the image of Jesus Christ.

Since 1942 we have experienced much joy and some pain and we have been blessed by God – not by being immune to violence, hardship and grief, but by being a community that shares burdens, brings transformation and is a witness of God's healing and hope.

During these 70 years we have grown in many ways to be a leader in PreK-12 educational experiences of excellence and character. Through local and global connections we transform students to change our world

through the power of Christlike love, peacemaking and service.

The three alumni represented in this issue are representative of so many of our more than 10,000 alumni. Even better, these qualities are being lived out on our campuses by the students of today. ❖





Seniors Laurel Bornman and Angela Weiler help pack cans at the Mennonite Central Committee Resource Center in Ephrata during Senior Service Day.

Living to SERVE

On a sunny day in October, the Lancaster Mennonite senior class was far from their classrooms.

Instead of sitting in class, the students were split among more than a dozen sites, volunteering their time and energy during Senior Service Day.

The student-led initiative began in 2011 and reflects the school's desire to give back to the community with Christ-like love. Students at all campuses are encouraged daily to maintain a servant attitude in every aspect of their lives, not just during projects designated as service.

"Students of all ages can help make a difference in their school, in their community and in their world," said J. Daniel Martin, Kraybill Campus principal.

Continued on page 4

Kraybill Campus eighth-graders Emily Mason and Hannah Kratz help demolish an apartment for single mothers during Service Day.





Kevin King, 1976

As a teenager, Kevin King, was on the search for adventure and a purpose in life.

Now he helps lead and organize service opportunities for thousands of volunteers every year as the Executive Director of Mennonite Disaster Service in Lititz.

He likes to equate service to the parable of the young boy whose small lunch of five loaves and two fish fed thousands.

“I am thankful for the opportunity God gives us to make a tiny change in the lives of each of the people we serve, within ourselves and in our communities back home,” he said.

He said giving of one’s self helps fulfill the

scriptural command to love our neighbors and allows us to see Christ in others. Serving others also cures selfishness and produces an unexplainable joy.

He and his wife Karen live in Lititz and attend Akron Mennonite Church. They have two children: Justin, 23, and Andrea, 18.

While it can sometimes seem daunting, King said that service can be as simple as asking God to use you each day.

However, he said that prayer also comes with a warning.

“Be prepared,” he said, “because God will take you seriously.”

Students going into missions following LMS graduation:

- 2012 - 10%
- 2011 - 5%
- 2010 - 7%
- 2009 - 5%
- 2008 - 4%

New Danville students help carry empty boxes out of a teacher’s office.



ELOY RODRIGUEZ

Martin said LMS is intentional to teach students that if each person does something, no matter how small, it makes a difference.

He said teachers and staff recognize the small acts of service, such as carrying someone’s book or holding the door, in order to create a climate of caring.

“Jesus is our model,” Martin said. “He came and washed the feet of his disciples as a symbol of an attitude of service. Jesus lived a life that was not self-serving. Students learn that true self confidence and a positive self concept come from treating all of God’s children as our neighbor.”

Each of the four campuses supports various projects and fundraisers throughout the year.

At the Kraybill campus, Martin said students serve by completing classroom chores daily, from taking out the trash to

cleaning off lunch tables.

In the spring, students help mulch flower and shrubbery beds in preparation for the school auction.

Kraybill students also began a “Tornado Coins” collection for families who lost homes due to devastating weather. The Locust Grove Campus has a special service group that completes teachers’ to-do lists every week. The New Danville Campus participates in Mennonite Central Committee’s annual Penny Power Project with the Harrisburg Relief Sale.

Kraybill, Locust Grove and New Danville all offer mentor programs, connecting older students with younger ones to help them with projects.

Each campus also holds special Christmas service projects. In past years, these included purchasing books for international schools, holding food drives and writing cards for people in jail.

In addition to Senior Service Day, Lancaster campus students can also be selected for the National Honor Society. As part of their membership, these students must complete service hours every month.

Youth minister Jon Heinly, who helps organize Senior Service Day, said he hopes the experience helps students foster a worldview and outlook on life that cares about others first.

“Everyone can participate,” Heinly said. “Service is something that is vital in every culture.”



LANDIS HOMES

Senior Gordon Dimmig helps an elderly woman make a wreath during Senior Service Day at Landis Homes Retirement Community in Lititz. ❖

Paul Markovits grew up in a home where community service was a priority.

When the junior transferred to Lancaster Mennonite in 2011, he wanted to help increase the amount of service opportunities for students.

He started the Community Service Club in the fall and plans monthly events for students.

The group has already served dinner to the less fortunate at Water Street Rescue Mission, babysat at Clare House and sang Christmas carols at the Mennonite Home nursing home, all in Lancaster.

"I think as Christians, it is our duty to serve

others," he said. "It helps open up our eyes to things we wouldn't see otherwise."

Looking ahead into the new semester, Markovits is hoping to foster more interest in the club. He said attendance has varied so far, but he's seen a lot of interest from the international students.

"It gives them something to do and creates a way to make new friends," he said.

He said he is hoping that his willingness to serve will be an example to other students to get involved in their communities.

Markovits attends Mary Mother of the Church in Mount Joy.



Paul Markovits, LMS junior

Students donate hundreds of toys to hurricane victims

Junior Carlos Colon figured he was pretty safe when he made the wager.

But \$100 and a close shave later, his long locks were gone, all in the name of a good cause.

As one of the student collectors for the recent toy drive at LMS, Colon worked hard to get students to help give children affected by Hurricane Sandy a merry Christmas.

So when someone offered to give \$100 if he shaved his head, Colon didn't hesitate.

"I didn't think she'd actually do it," he said, laughing.

But he held up his end of the

bargain. Only a layer of peach fuzz was left on his head when it came time to pack the toys up for Harlem, New York.

Rev. Al Taylor, pastor of Infinity Mennonite Church in Harlem, envisioned the toy drive as an extension of the partnership between LMS and his church. It also served as a practical follow-up to his teachings on putting faith into action during the school's Commitment Week from Oct. 8-12.

LMS has been developing a relationship with the Infinity Mennonite congregation recently, with several

students and staff members making trips up to the Harlem church.

The joint toy drive empowered the church members to touch lives in their local

community. The church is surrounded by several low income public housing complexes and families who are on fixed incomes below the national poverty level.

"We're really proud of the drive and that our school supports us," freshman Jeisha Arroyo said.

In addition to the toys collected by students, the drive also sent along relief items thanks to a local community's efforts. Stacey Wilson and Jenn Conrad of the Southgate Development coordinated a separate drive with their neighbors, Lampeter Elementary School, Cub Scout Pack 286 and The Junior League of Lancaster. The drive brought in clothing, toiletries, medical supplies and about 500 pounds of food.

Taylor actually had to make two trips since the toys completely filled the van and there was no space for the relief items. The items were distributed on Dec. 23. ❖

Students from all four Lancaster Mennonite campuses helped Rev. Al Taylor load the donated toys into a cargo van on Dec. 14. From left to right: Graydon Briguglio, Jeisha Arroyo, Ethan Groff, Olivia Mason, Nardos Amare, Rev. Al Taylor, Kariann Horst, Roman Wagner, Celina Selvathambi, Carlos Colon and deacon Robert Reed.

STEPHANIE WEAVER



The 2012 boys soccer team celebrates moments after senior Mitch Rohrer scored the game-winning goal in the league championship game. The team also won silver medals in the district and state championship games.



PHOTO: KEITH NISLY

Raising the BAR

In the past decade, Lancaster Mennonite athletes have claimed five state championships. The dedication of coaches and students, on the field and in the classroom, has helped create a tradition of excellence.

After last year's state title, many people figured this season would be a rebuilding year for the boys soccer team.

But key graduation losses and injuries couldn't slow down the Blazers.

The season started slow, but the team gained momentum at the perfect moment, finishing one of the most successful seasons of any LMS team in history.

The Blazers played in the championship game at every level, racking in three medals in the process. The team earned the program's first league title since 2002 when they defeated Conestoga Valley in

double overtime.

The Blazers faced off against Tulpehocken in the district final, falling 1-0, but rallied together to make it back to the state championship. They met a familiar foe at Hershey Park stadium: Section 4 rival Pequea Valley. The Braves beat the Blazers twice during the regular season and squeezed out the state title in a very tight game that extended deep into the second overtime.

The team also accomplished another achievement during the season, giving Head Coach Fred Winey his 100th win



JONATHAN CHARLES

Senior Maddie Brubaker and the 2012 softball team were recognized for the third consecutive year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association for having one of the top GPAs in the country.

with a victory over Lebanon Catholic on Oct. 11.

The soccer team's success is just the most recent example of the strength of Lancaster Mennonite's athletics. The school earned its first state title in 2004 when the chess team ran the table.

In the past decade, the Blazers have consistently added to that stash. LMS has two individual state titles from track runner Lindsey Shertz, 2007, and



Lindsey Shertz, 2007

golfer David Denlinger, 2009, and two more team titles from the 2008 girls soccer team and the 2011 boys soccer team.

Lancaster Mennonite student athletes excel in the classroom as well.



David Denlinger, 2009

For the third consecutive year, the softball team was recognized by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association for having one of the top team GPAs in the country. The 2012

team was ranked 26th in the country. In 2011, the Blazers were ranked 18th and, in 2010, the team was ranked 33rd.

With hopes of adding to the breadth of its athletic offerings, the Lancaster Mennonite School Board recently approved of a partnership with Lancaster Catholic for football. The partnership must be approved by District 3 and the PIAA before it becomes official. Those rulings are expected to be made this spring and effective for the fall season.

The schools entered a similar partnership for orchestra and marching band before the beginning of the 2012-13 school year.



2012 graduates Trisha Tshudy, Benji Kennel and Keegan Rosenberry all played in NCAA soccer championship games this fall. Photos provided by Messiah Athletics and Candace Rosenberry.

Alumni succeed at collegiate level

Keegan Rosenberry and Benji Kennel, both 2012 graduates, made a mark on the boys soccer program as the captains of the state championship team.

That gold medal was simply a sign of things to come for the college freshmen.

Rosenberry, Kennel and fellow 2012 graduate Trisha Tshudy all competed in the NCAA national championship games for their respective divisions this fall.

Rosenberry earned a starting defensive back position with the Division I Georgetown Hoyas, helping the team cruise to its first championship appearance in program history. The Hoyas fell to Indiana, 1-0, on Dec. 10.

Kennel and Tshudy both joined traditional Division III powerhouse Messiah College. The Falcons once again claimed both the men's and women's titles this year, marking the fourth time they have

accomplished that feat in school history. No other institution at any level has had double champions.

Kennel said his experience at LMH was very beneficial to helping prepare him for the college game.

"Since Coach Winey is a Messiah soccer alum, we played the same formation and style as the Messiah men's team," he said.

He said his favorite part of playing at Lancaster Mennonite was just getting to practice and play everyday with his teammates and friends.

He admitted that realizing he's a national champion just a year after being a state champion is a bit surreal.

"During the season, we treated each game as if it were a big one, which allowed us to stay focused and play well once the NCAA tournament arrived," he said.

The agreement would allow Lancaster Mennonite students to play with the Crusaders football team, marking the first time LMS offers football in the school's 70-year history.

The Blazers also have a partnership with Pequea Valley for its newest sport: Bowling. The partnership allows Pequea

Valley students the opportunity to play on a high school team even though their school does not offer the sport. ❖





Anika Keys-Ludwig

Juniors focus on the future

The Lancaster campus was transformed into a career and college fair on Nov. 29, helping juniors get a jump start on planning for the future.

During the morning, students could visit five different career sessions to learn more details about fields of interest. About 35 guest speakers participated in the event.

After lunch, the class worked through four college and career sessions before spending the last hour of the day perusing the many college displays set up in Gym A.



Juniors check out the Goshen College display at the college fair set up in Gym A.

Celebrating Achievements

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PMEA

Three LMS students were selected to participate in the PMEA District 7 music festivals this winter.

Senior Jon Sauder, Bass 2, and junior Esteban Nieves, Tenor 1, were both chosen for the district chorus festival from Feb. 8-9. Junior Anika Keys-Ludwig, violin, was chosen for the district orchestra festival, which took place Jan. 11-12.



Esteban Nieves and Jon Sauder will both participate in the District 7 choral festival.

STEPHANIE WEAVER



STEPHANIE WEAVER

WEBER JUDGES AT FARM SHOW

Utilizing her 32 years of experience as the LMS Director of Food Services, Dottie Weber served as a judge for the baked goods competition at the Farm Show. While Weber did not judge the high dollar contests, she did choose winners in more than 15 categories, sampling roughly 200 entries. It was the first time she has served as a judge, but Weber said she would love to volunteer again.

FFA STUDENTS RECEIVE HIGHEST HONOR

Highlighting the dedication and success of Lancaster Mennonite's Hans Herr FFA Chapter, seven seniors received Keystone Degrees, the state's top FFA award, during the Pa. FFA Association's 83rd Mid-Winter Convention at the Farm Show.

Shown below, the award winners are, L-R: Colleen Andrews, Marshall Horst, Katey Ebaugh, Jon Snader, Sara Schlosser, Andrew Wassall and Abigail Rineer.



RYAN KING



GARY HILLER

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Lancaster Mennonite School announced several key leadership transitions as the school prepares for the future.

At the start of the 2013-14 school year, Judi Mollenkof will be principal of the Kraybill and Locust Grove campuses. Mollenkof became principal of the New Danville campus in 1999 and added the Locust Grove Campus in 2007.

Mary Jane "MJ" Smith, the current middle school leader at the Kraybill Campus, will assist Mollenkof as the assistant principal at the Kraybill and Locust Grove campuses.

Eloy Rodriguez will move from being the lead teacher at the New Danville Campus to a part-time principal and part-time teacher for the PreK-5 school. He is currently in the school leadership program at Millersville University to earn his principal certificate.

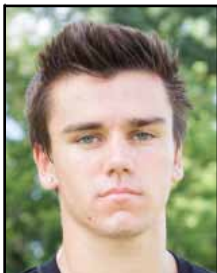
J. Daniel Martin, the current principal at the Kraybill Campus, will work at instructional improvement at all campuses during the next year. His work will focus on developing new tools to evaluate instruction for the school, including student and parent surveys, and establishing baselines to provide a structure for increased instructional effectiveness.

FALL SPORTS ALL-STARS

The league champion boys soccer team placed two players on the all-league team. Senior midfielder CJ Sturges had nine goals and eight assists, while junior midfielder Zach Lehman recorded four goals and two assists throughout the season.

Senior back Colleen Andrews earned all-league honors for field hockey with seven goals and seven assists. Andrews was also named to the all-state first team. Senior Ketura Landis and junior Carissa Gehman were all-state honorable mentions.

Senior Chloe Mattilio earned a spot on the all-league cross country team, finishing seventh in the league meet. ❖



CJ Sturges



Zach Lehman



Colleen Andrews



Chloe Mattilio

Judi Mollenkof, J. Daniel Martin, Eloy Rodriguez and Mary Jane "MJ" Smith will move into new leadership roles for the 2013-14 school year.

Taylor connects while leading Commitment Week

Cheese and The Avengers are not typical chapel topics. But then again, Rev. Al Taylor isn't your typical speaker.

The pastor of Infinity Mennonite Church in Harlem, New York, served as the guest speaker for Commitment Week this fall.

Taylor challenged students to be fully committed to God by breaking loose from distractions and striving to do their best.

In addition to speaking at chapel, Taylor also engaged with students during lunch, building stronger relationships.



GARY HILLER

Spring musical changed to Godspell

Based on the results of auditions, the LMS drama program chose to change the spring musical from *Hello, Dolly!* to *Godspell*.

Director Dean Sauder said the change will better accommodate the students' talents. The change also means that no cuts needed to be made.

Sauder added that the LMS version of the musical based on the Gospel of Matthew will include Christ's resurrection.



Celebrating New Century Jubilee success

Altogether, friends of LMS raised more than \$40 million for LMS students through this effort.



Gateway to Kraybill

J. DANIEL MARTIN

J. Richard Thomas, superintendent, said many prayers during the New Century Jubilee campaign, as LMS looked to donors to help fund various projects.

Just as acclaimed author Ann Lamont writes about prayers of Thanks, Help and Wow, Thomas found himself uttering many of all three, especially the Wow.

During the ten-year campaign, generous gifts funded the Parke G. Book Building for Agriculture and Technology Education, the New Danville entrance, the Rutt Academic Center and the Gateway to Kraybill entrance, office and classroom space.

Investments by donors also funded new playgrounds, roofs and Athletic facilities, including the turf field, stadium seating, concession stand and new track and field facility.

In addition to supporting capital projects, alumni



JONATHAN CHARLES

and friends continued to support the annual fund by contributing more than \$8 million. Gifts of about \$5.6 million in Educational Improvement Tax Credit dollars helped more than 4,000 students attend LMS and a vision for excellence helped increase the active endowment from \$1 million to \$12 million.

Throughout the NCJ campaign giving, more than \$40 million was raised for LMS students. That type of generosity is enough to make anyone say, “Wow,” and is worth celebrating.

These gifts help LMS continue to be a premier leader in PreK-12 education where God can work in the lives of students.

“In this context I feel I have been able to truly develop my character and the reasoning behind my beliefs,” 2012 graduate Natalie Brubaker said. ❖



Rutt Academic Center

PROVIDED BY HIGH CONSTRUCTION

UN Art Ambassador shares gift of creativity

LMS students received a special treat this fall when Ibiyinka Alao, United Nations Art Ambassador, visited several campuses.

Alao, who is from Nigera, works to bring people of different cultures together through the arts. He shared his gift of art and music with students while giving a message from the Gospel. In addition to leading several assemblies, Alao also hosted watercolor workshops with students, giving them one-on-one instruction.



PAUL BRUBAKER

Ibiyinka Alao, United Nations Art Ambassador, interacts with high school students during a watercolor workshop at the Lancaster Campus.

Auntie Anne's provides scholarship funds

A group of students welcomed Bill Dunn, chief operating officer and president of Auntie Anne's, Inc, to the Lancaster Campus on Nov. 14.

Dunn and his company helped provide funds for need-based scholarships through the state's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. Several recipients of the scholarships were able to speak with Dunn personally about the difference an LMS education is making in their lives.

The EITC program allows businesses a substantial tax credit for providing scholarships to students in need of financial aid. A business can receive a tax credit equal to 75 percent of its contribution up to a maximum of \$300,000 per taxable year. The amount can be increased to 90 percent of the contribution if the business agrees to provide the same amount for two consecutive

tax years. Separate tax credit programs also provide for scholarships for prekindergarten students and students from the bottom 15 percent of public elementary and secondary schools, based on PSSA scores.

LMS has also expanded its merit scholarship program to include new students entering grades six through twelve. Under the expanded program, new applicants can receive a one-time \$500 scholarship based on academic ability, character and leadership. The application date is March 1.

More information about all types of scholarships is available in the admissions section of the school's website, www.lancastermennonite.org, or by calling 717-292-0436, ext. 721. ❖



GARY HILLER

Bill Dunn of Auntie Anne's, Inc, is greeted by J. Richard Thomas, superintendent, and several students during his visit Dec. 14.

Spring Auctions

Three spring auctions will provide a way for families, alumni and others to support LMS students. Proceeds go to the Annual Fund which keeps tuition affordable.

- New Danville Campus – April 5
- Locust Grove Campus – April 19
- Kraybill Campus Auction & Pig Roast – May 10-11

Register for summer day camps

Lancaster Mennonite School will host several exciting day camps this summer.

In addition to soccer, basketball, volleyball and field hockey camps, LMS will also offer cooking, painting, drawing and sewing camps.

For more information about this year's camps, visit www.lancastermennonite.org/camps. ❖



Mark your calendar

Feb. 25	High School Talent Show at 7 p.m.
Feb. 28 - March 1	MSC HS Band/Orchestra Festival at Christopher Dock
March 7-8	Lancaster MS Drama, <i>The Trumpet of the Swan</i> , 7 p.m.
March 21	MS Fine Arts Festival at Lancaster Campus, 6:30 p.m.
March 22	Kraybill grades 4-5 music program, 7 p.m.
April 12	MCCL at Willow Street Mennonite Church
April 12-14	MSC High School Choir Festival at Christopher Dock
April 20	MCCL at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lancaster, 7:30 p.m.
April 21	MCCL at Weaverland Mennonite Church, East Earl, 6 p.m.
April 24	LMS Golf Tournament at Conestoga Country Club
April 25-27	High School Musical, <i>Godspell</i> , 7:30 p.m. daily, 2 p.m. Sat.
April 28	MCCL at Mellinger Mennonite Church, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.
May 4	MCCL at Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, 7 p.m.
May 5	MCCL at Mount Joy Mennonite Church, 6 p.m.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

Join alumni around the world in giving the gift of an LMS education to today's students. Your gift to Phonathon makes it possible for students to be led by Christian teachers who model their convictions and have a passion to share God's love with their students.

Give a gift today in celebration of our 70th year. New gifts and gifts that increase over prior year giving will be matched by our generous Challenge Fund matching donors.

Right: Ruth Ressler, 1950, Hooper helps make calls to fellow alumni during the 2010 Phonathon campaign.



FERN CLEMMER

CLASS NOTES

Isaac "Ike" Glick, 1949, Edmonton, Alberta in Canada, serves on the board for Canadian Peacemakers International and is currently working with a development project in Honduras. The project includes the Computer Aided Learning Initiative, which brings computers and computer education to rural peasant communities where there are no schools. The initiative is hoping to go country-wide for grades 1-9. CPI is currently collecting used computers in order to meet the growing need.

Marlene Faith Brubaker, 1983, Philadelphia, received The President's Volunteer Service Award in 2010 after spending a summer teaching English in France through an organization called GeoVision. Following that project, she taught word processing and Excel computer skills in South Africa with International Volunteers Headquarters and planted trees to help save the endangered Southern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in Australia. Brubaker teaches Green Technology at Camden County Technical School in Pennsauken, NJ, and advises SkillsUSA and Practical Politics clubs.

Matthew Weaver, 2003, Lancaster, was hired as the Associate Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Harrisburg Academy.

Eli Passage, 2007, Akron, is interning at Lancaster Mennonite School in the communication and marketing department. He oversees the school's presence on social media and shoots and edits videos for marketing purposes.

MARRIAGES

Almeda Wadel Martin, 1953, and Walter Lehman, July 30, 2001. They live in Shippensburg.

Jairo Paulino, 1998, and **Kassandra Kane, 1999**, July 28, 2012 in Switzerland. They live in Wilmington, Del.

Jodi Lapp, 1994, and Jesse Fahnestock, September 4, 2011. They live in Coatesville and work with a non-profit organization called Hope Beyond Borders.

BIRTHS

Todd, 2004, and **Mandie Denlinger**, Lancaster, fourth child, a son, Cooper Martin, Oct. 1, 2012.

Amos and **Jodi Nolt, 1998**, **Burkepile**, Elizabethtown, third child, second son, Tyler Ian, June 29, 2012.

ADOPTIONS

Heather Rodenberger, 1979, Spokane Wash., two daughters: Madeleine Mei, 9, from Luoyang, China; and Bridget Mei, 6, from Beijing, China.

DEATHS

Earl E. Meyer, 1966, Manor Township, Aug. 29, 2012.

Joyce Rutt Eby, 1959, Dillsburg, Nov. 24, 2012. Rutt worked for Mennonite Mutual Aid and taught mathematics at Lancaster Mennonite, Bethany Christian and Eastern Mennonite high schools.

Helen A. Peachey, 1954, Walnut, May 4, 2012.

Erma Shirk, 1954, Goshen, Ind., Aug. 4, 2012.

J. Lorraine Breneman, 1967, Strasburg, Dec. 4, 2012. ❖

2013 CLASS REUNIONS

1948April 13, 2013

1953April 27, 2013

For more details go to www.lancastermennonite.org or contact Heidi Stoltzfus at stoltzfushe@lancastermennonite.org or (717) 299-0436, ext. 308.



Tashya Leaman Dalen, 1992

Growing Relationships

With a heart for the hurting and a green thumb, Dalen uses her gifts to spread the peace and love of Jesus Christ to those seeking new life.

Tashya Leaman Dalen admits her career path has been more of a winding road than a straight path.

Still, the 1992 graduate has continuously found ways to use her love of nature and passion for war-torn societies to impact those in her community and leave lasting impressions.

“It’s been sort of various projects that kind of cumulatively point in the direction of bringing people together,” she said.

The Harrisburg freelance landscape artist founded the Good Land Collaborative in 2012 and works with partners in the city on community development projects. She received her master’s in landscape architecture from Cornell University and a bachelor’s degree in history at Messiah College.

She is currently working to develop relationships with members of a large Nepal refugee community in her neighborhood.

“I’m hoping to work with them on a garden project and record their stories,” she said. “I’m really interested in understanding the journey they’ve taken and how they use the land.”

Dalen said her interest in other cultures began while she was a student at LMS and interacted with many

international students.

“LMS definitely contributed with its international students and representing a global perspective in a lot of the teaching and chapels,” she said.

While studying history at Messiah, she focused on the impact of war on societies. “I think with my Anabaptist upbringing, I also wanted to know what ways I can contribute to peace-building,” she said.

So Dalen turned to her love of the environment to bring life to those that have seen so much destruction.

“I think there’s something life-giving about having nature in the city,” she said.

While she loves celebrating the diversity of God’s creation, Dalen said the real value of her projects is the relationships formed with others.

“It is not just the end result, but a lot of the time with these big projects, there are many hands that make it happen,” she said. “Volunteers and inner city kids are working together and being exposed to each other, which is something they may not have an opportunity for anywhere else.”

Dalen is on the board for a new organization in Harrisburg called MakeSpace. She also serves on the board of the Covenant Community Development Corporation and is a member of the Messiah College President’s Leadership Council.

She and her husband, Craig, attend Second City Church and had their first child, Naomi, in October. ❖

Tashya Leaman Dalen helps students from a Harrisburg school plant a garden. Dalen began an after-school garden club, teaching students about vegetables and healthy living.

Linford Fisher, 1993

Telling a new story

Linford Fisher aims to give a new perspective on early American history by focusing on the often overlooked stories of native cultures through researching manuscripts and forging relationships.

The assignment didn't seem like a big deal to Linford Fisher at the time.

However, the journal he was required to keep for his Kingdom Living class during his senior year at Lancaster Mennonite is much more significant now to the assistant professor of history at Brown University.

"Not only have I started journaling again, but as a historian, that is what I'm using in my work," he said. "Encouraging self-reflection and writing stuff down is great."

Fisher leaned heavily on journals and stories from several Native Americans in his recently published book, *"The Indian Great Awakening: Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America"* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

The book focuses on colonialism from the perspective of the Native Americans and how those influences impacted their culture.

In order to get a fair representation, Fisher spent a lot of time interviewing members of the native groups he writes about.

"These people are still around and wrestling with this stuff," he said.

After countless positive reviews to his first work, Fisher is already knee-deep in his next project, which will focus on Africans and Indians who were enslaved overseas.

"The idea of thinking about history with a mindfulness of the points of pressure and persecution that we as Mennonites have naturally, with our heritage and background, certainly influences the way I thought about early American history," he said.

He has taught at Brown for four years and also helps with the music at Providence Presbyterian Church.

After graduating from LMS in 1993, Fisher spent two years playing drums in a rock-and-roll band while working as an electrician for his father.

He eventually enrolled at Lancaster Bible College and received his bachelor's degree in Bible history. He went on to get two master's degrees in church history and religion from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and later his doctorate in American religious history from Harvard University.

At LMS, Fisher served as vice president of his senior class and was an all-star soccer player, but he admits he only got serious about academics about halfway through college.

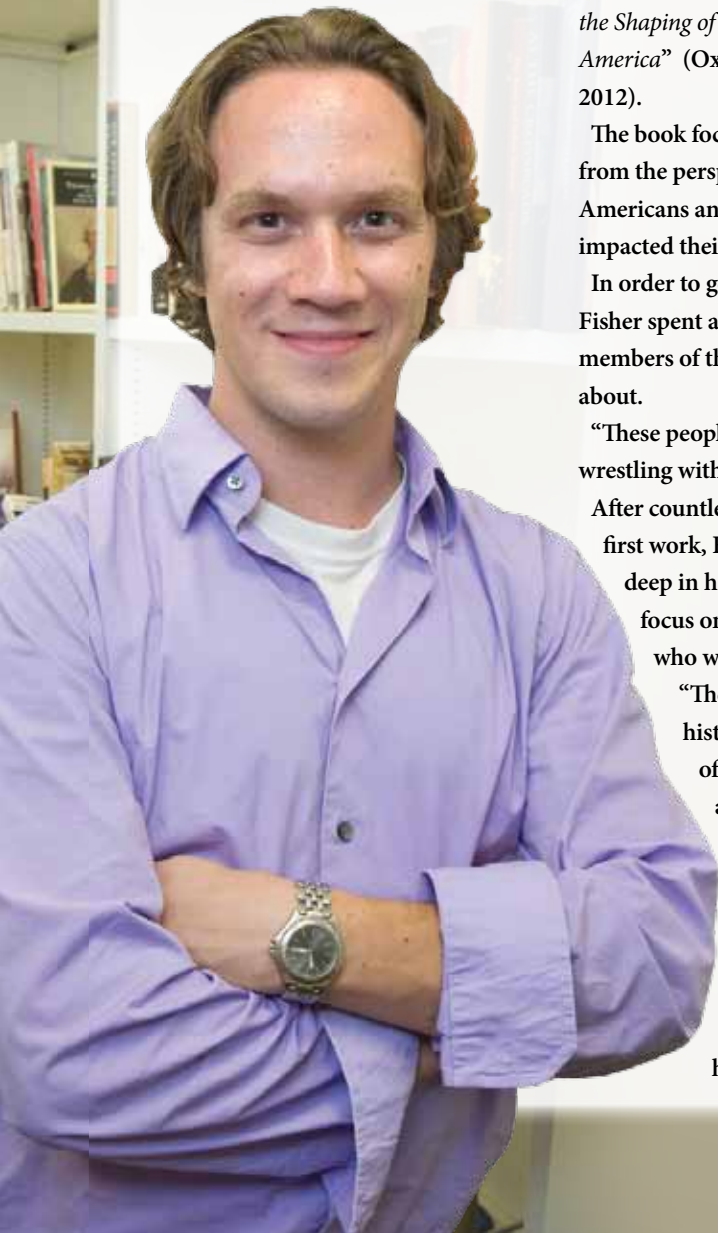
Still, he said LMS played a large part in who he is now.

"I was more influenced than I realized by this culture of not just academic expertise and rigor, but of classes taught in a way with investment and involvement," he said.

Fisher said the input and mentoring from his teachers also affected the way he now interacts with students.

"It's really about getting present day students to think in a more reflective way, not only about the past, but the ongoing present," he said.

He and his wife, Jo Wenger, 1992, Fisher, live in Cranston, Rhode Island, with their four children: Eden, 10; Elliot, 8; Helena, 5; and Harrison, 4. ❖



J. Nelson Kraybill, 1972

Stepping into the spotlight

Despite a lack of focus in high school, J. Nelson Kraybill received the encouragement and guidance he needed from LMS teachers to help prepare him for his new role as president-elect of Mennonite World Conference.

As an eighth grader, J. Nelson Kraybill had an inferiority complex about being Mennonite.

But everything changed in Leon Good's Bible class at Kraybill Mennonite School when he heard about some of the first Anabaptists.

"All of a sudden, I realized here are role models of heroic and intellectually rigorous witness," he said.

As the newly appointed president-elect of Mennonite World Conference, the 1970 graduate is becoming one of those heroes.

His new position will take him all over the world to visit many of the 84 countries in the conference. He will formally become the leader at the beginning of the 2015 MWC assembly in Harrisburg.

The volunteer position serves as the chair of the officers group and functions as the spokesperson for the global community.

"I'm realizing what I say might get a little bit more

attention now that I'm a person who is a recognized authority," he said. "It's a little bit daunting, but I'm honored and grateful."

Kraybill is eager for the North American church to learn from the global community and mesh together its call to peace, justice and evangelism.

"There are plenty of groups that do one or the other, but our particular strength as a Mennonite people is that integration of the ethics and peacemaking with a clear call to conversion through the cross and resurrection," he said.

He's come a long way from what he calls a time of "tumultuous development" at LMS.

"I was going through rambunctious intellectual, physical and social development and academic discipline seemed boring to me," he said.

One turning point was when Myron Dietz asked him to lead a lecture in his sociology class, despite his poor grades.

"The way people perform academically at age 17 might not be the measure of their potential," he said. "I found the school was a place where many of the faculty cared about me and that caring, mentoring and role modeling shaped me more than just the content of the classes."

Kraybill went on to

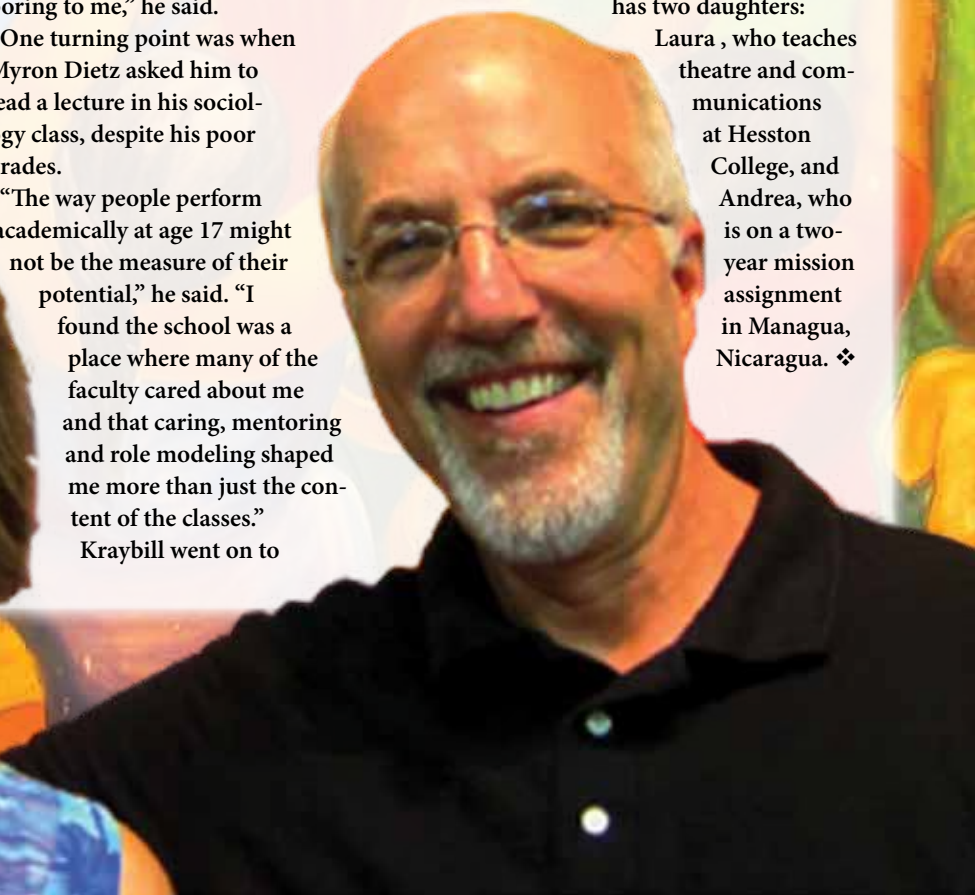
earn his bachelor's in history from Goshen College, his master's from Princeton Theological Seminary and his doctorate from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.

He was first licensed and ordained as a pastor at Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Church in Vermont. He also served as the program director at the London Mennonite Center in England from 1991 to 1996 before becoming the President of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary from 1996 to 2008.

He currently serves as the pastor at Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Ind., where his primary focus is local ministry.

Kraybill lives in Elkhart with his wife, Ellen, who is a physical therapist at Elkhart General Hospital. The couple has two daughters:

Laura, who teaches theatre and communications at Hesston College, and Andrea, who is on a two-year mission assignment in Managua, Nicaragua. ❖





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