

Around^{THE} Green



TABLE OF CONTENTS



12

4 TAKE NOTE

Highlights

6 INTERIOR

The Fearless 21

10 PERSPECTIVE

*A Thousand Percent –
Joseph Winfield*

12 FEATURE STORY

Institutional Memory

SIDEBAR: *Statistics to softball,
computers to carpentry – a century
of service*

17 CAMPUS NEWS

28 CLASS NOTES

31 ADVANCEMENT

*The SECURE Act and Gifts Through
Qualified Charitable Distributions*

ON THE COVER:

Rebecca Mullen, a member of the Class of
2020 with a major in nursing

PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN

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ADAPTABILITY IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS

Dear alumni and friends of Bethel College,

On March 18, after announcing that students must return home and finish the Spring 2020 semester with online courses, I stepped out of the Administration Building and began walking around campus in search of employees and students. I didn't know what emotional state to expect from people.

My first encounter was with a faculty member who, with furrowed brow and distant gaze, narrated me through his current thinking about how to deploy online courses in two weeks. We parted ways when, in mid-sentence, he paused and conceded that he should get back to his office.

Next was a coach, misty-eyed for a group of seniors who had worked hard and stayed together for three years to arrive at this point, only to have their ultimate season canceled by a virus. What could I possibly say to address broken hearts and scattered dreams?

In the cafeteria, I approached a table of forlorn students who had planned to tour the upper Midwest and sing in churches. They understood – they all understood – but with downturned mouths and cheeks resting on fists.

Lastly, I encountered a small group of students on the sidewalk, searching their phones for answers. Looking up, they said they were going home, although they didn't know what they would do when they got there.

Now, months later in the COVID-19 pandemic, resiliency has replaced dejection and sadness. Resiliency – the power to return to original form after being distended – has been the most-used word of the last several months.

The nursing students of Bethel's Class of 2020, now collectively called "The Fearless 21," succeeded in spite of the coronavirus. Joseph Winfield '20 put "1,000%" into his career at Bethel. I admire his resilience. The retiring faculty and staff of 2020, with more than 100 years of collective experience, exhibited unusual resiliency across four decades of institutional life.

I applaud the employees of Bethel College for their adaptability over the last few months. They've made rapid, significant changes in how we operate and function so that we can effectively carry out our mission. The students have also been adaptable, even as their campus experience was truncated and their communications and celebrations slipped into the digital world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has gifted to us a scattershot of institutional challenges. The reward is a renewed emphasis on adaptability. It is precisely this trait that has allowed us to survive – and thrive – in the midst of the pandemic.

With careful planning, luck, and the grace of God, we will reopen in fall 2020 for another year of in-person classes. Soon after everybody reassembles on campus in August, I will again walk around campus to take in the joy and happiness of the Thresher community. I don't know what the circumstances will be, but I know we will have adapted to them.

With best wishes for your continued good health,



JON C. GERING, PH.D.
President



In the midst of the pandemic and its many e-mails and video calls, I've found myself drawn to yet another way to exist in the world: adaptability. To readily adjust oneself to different and ever-changing conditions is an important quality for success, if not survival.



TAKE NOTE



JOSH BOOTH

Junior Abby Schmidt (#25 above) finished her basketball season with a **slew of awards** for athletics and academics: Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference 1st Team; KCAC Defensive Player of the Year (second consecutive year); CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors Association) 2nd Team Academic All-American, the first Bethel female athlete and second overall to earn that honor; and NAIA and WBCA (Women's Basketball Coaches Association) All-American, Honorable Mention.

In her 2019-20 season, Schmidt became **the first and only member** of the 1K/1K Club at Bethel. On Feb. 15 in a home game against Avila University, Schmidt surpassed the 1,000-rebound mark. Earlier in the season, she had scored her 1,000th point. No other Bethel basketball player, male or female, has achieved that record.

» Bethel has placed in **the top 15%** in a college ranking designed to help address issues of college cost and student debt. The website lendEDU places Bethel at #57 among 829 colleges and universities in the United States that it considers "Best Colleges for Financial Aid."

» Bethel's annual athletic banquet and **awards night, the Threshpys**, had to be done virtually this year. The Threshpys recognize students for athletic and academic honors given by the KCAC and the NAIA, along with 4-year letter winners and "B" award winners for seniors who completed 1-3 years in their respective sport. See www.bethelks.edu for a complete list. A number of special awards are also presented, including: the George Rogers III '69 Outstanding Athlete, male and female – Joseph Winfield, football, and Abby Schmidt, basketball; male and female Newcomer of the Year – Calvin Duverge, football, and Gabby Valdez, volleyball; male and female Freshman of the Year – Logan DeMond, football, and Stephany Meyer, volleyball and track and field; male and female Best Individual Performance – Kemroy Cupid, track and field, and Abby Schmidt; male and female Breakthrough Athlete of the Year – Poe Bryant, basketball, and Jadin Kaltenbach, soccer; male and female Athlete of the Year – Camryn Harrison, football, and Abby Schmidt; Best Comeback – Bethel men's basketball vs. Avila University, Feb. 15; Play of the Year – Josie Calzonetti game-winner, women's basketball vs. Southwestern College, Nov. 14, 2019; Game of the Year – men's basketball beats Southwestern, 67-66, Feb. 27, clinching their first 20-win season since 1999 and advancing to the KCAC semi-finals; Unsung Hero – Ryan LaCombe, men's tennis; and Team of the Year – Thresher football. In addition to Abby Schmidt's All-American designation, football players Camryn Harrison and Joshua Seabolt were named NAIA All-American, Honorable Mention.

» Instead of the annual awards convocations, **the internet was the venue for presenting departmental awards** this spring, as follows: the Dorothy Wedel Kaufman '45



JOSH BOOTH

» Jadin Kaltenbach (left, #13) received the 2020 **Seth Dunn Memorial Award**, established by the family of Seth Dunn, Fresno, Calif., who died in an accident in 2011 right before his senior year. The award annually recognizes a junior who makes “a significant overall contribution to Bethel community life.” The awards committee cited Kaltenbach’s “quick-witted persistence, dedication to look beyond herself to consider the needs of others, willingness to lend a hand, and commitment to make the Bethel community stronger. Jadin persistently raises questions to address racism and sexual violence, and has brought creativity and passion to new campus ventures, such as the food pantry and the Bethel Worship Center.”

Honors Scholarship in English – Bethany Powls and Jessie Thomas; Writing Fellowship from the Center for Academic Development – Allison Weaver; the Gerald Schrag ‘60 Award in Mathematics – Anna Lubbers; the J. Lloyd Spaulding Award in Business and Economics – John Hansberry; the Ray ‘48 and Betty ‘48 Funk Prize for Entrepreneurship – Sydney Harper, Emalee Overbay and Kerrigan Simons. In addition, there were four URICA Summer Research Grants awarded: to Adam Kroeker in visual arts, Madeline Nachtigal in psychology, Wynter Rentas in biology and Alayna Wallace in natural sciences.

» Other **service-based awards** presented at the end of the school year included: Student Ambassador of the Year in admissions, to Victoria “Tori” Mosakowski; the Gerry Sieber Service Award, to Doug Siemens ‘84, associate professor of education (and “the voice of Thresher basketball”); the Loren ‘59 and Peggy Reusser Spirit Scholarship, to Isabel Diaz, Logan DeMond, Alexiou Munnings and Gabby Valdez; and the Douglas A. Penner ‘69 Champion of Character Award, to Josie Calzonetti (women’s basketball), Emalee Overbay (softball) and Jaylon Scott (men’s basketball).

» The **virtual nurse pinning** took place May 16, with these awards given: Janlee Ruth

Loewen Blosser Award for Student Excellence in Maternal/Child Nursing – Charley Carver, Perry, Kan.; Janlee Ruth Loewen Blosser Maternal/Child Award for Nurse Mentor – Kerry Rea (Carver’s capstone preceptor); Bethel Deaconess Hospital/Bethel College Nursing Florence Nightingale Award – Madison Roth, Abilene, Kan.; Jubilee Award – Alexis Anderson, Valley Center, Kan.; Doris and Menno Schmidt Donor-Advised Fund of the Hutchinson Community Foundation Award



for Excellence in Nursing – Rebecca Mullen, Wichita. The Sigma Theta Tau International nursing honor society inductees received their cords – Sydney Bollinger, Lawrence, Kan., Taylor Edson, Newton, Kristen Herzet, Marion, Kan., Annalee McCloud, Clearwater, Kan., Libby Schrag, Newton, and Samantha Simmons, Derby, Kan. Edson was the Iota Chi Award winner for the highest GPA among the STTI inductees.

» The recipient of this year’s **J.O. ‘38 and Esther ‘38 Schrag Helping Hand Award**, given to a faculty or staff member nominated by a student for “having had a significant impact on their life above the call of their work,” was Brooke Powers ‘15 (left), instructor of athletic training. Graduating senior Ryan LaCombe wrote in his nomination essay, “Much to [her annoyance], we athletic training students oftentimes refer to Brooke as ‘Mom.’ Whether it be appropriately dishing out tough love, or being a needed foundation of comfort, everyone who walks in her clinic leaves a little bit better than when they walked in.”

THE FEARLESS 21



by MELANIE ZUERCHER

The nursing class of 2020 learns resilience from the unprecedented end to their college careers.

No one expected it. Hardly anyone has found it easy. When COVID-19 ended the 2019-20 school year on March 13, a week before Bethel's spring break, students, faculty, staff and administrators were left scrambling to salvage the semester.

Seniors are arguably the ones who lost the most. Perhaps the greatest potential for that was in the professional programs.

In nursing, as in other programs, "all of our didactic classes moved to online," says Geri Tyrell '07, director of nursing. "We were able to transition the juniors to virtual simulation and have them complete the semester that way. We realize they're missing some of their hands-on



Left, Rebecca Mullen works with one of the patient simulators in the nursing department; above, Geri Tyrell presents Rebecca with the 2020 Doris and Menno Schmidt Award for Excellence in Nursing.

hospital experience, so we will adjust for that [in the senior year]."

Seniors were a little harder. Their two major requirements in the final semester are the capstone course – working in a hospital setting with a nurse preceptor – and the NCLEX (nursing boards) prep class.

"Part of that preparation is to sit in a testing environment that mimics what they're going to be exposed to for state boards," Geri says. "[Most] can't really do that at home."

One answer was to allow a few (no more than four) seniors at a time to come to campus for practice testing, with physical distance maintained, and strict cleaning and sanitizing protocols.

But "the top priority" was the senior capstone.

"We have 21 seniors, who were all doing their capstones in Wichita except for one in Salina. We had to move about 13 students out of their clinical settings, and there were a few days when we had to halt all of our clinicals," after Sedgwick County issued its stay-at-home order ahead of the state of Kansas.

"The hospitals needed to figure out what their processes and procedures would be. [Our students] are considered essential parts of the health-care team – although they aren't to be taking care of patients confirmed or suspected to be infected [with COVID-19]."

Our students at this point are not going to be delayed in graduation. We worked around the clock to make sure nobody was interrupted. We have very supportive educators and affiliates – they want students, and they were working hard to make these happen.





From left, nursing seniors Charley Carver, Krystin McKelpin, Katelyn Boston, Alexis Anderson and Rebecca Mullen

"When President [Jon] Gering made the decision to cancel classes the week before spring break, we got permission to start the capstone course early, and to work through spring break. They got 12 extra days in [ahead of when they would normally have started].

"Our students were very nervous at first, [wondering] if they were going to be able to continue their capstones, if it would delay their progress toward graduation.

"But once we were able to communicate the plan, I think that helped. We received lots of e-mails saying, 'Thanks so much, we recognize how hard you're working.' They were seeing some of their peers in other programs not getting information and being pulled out of their hospitals, [but] that we didn't just step back and say, 'Well, we're done.'"

As for the seniors, they learned very quickly that flexibility was a survival requirement.

"Right now I feel like there is not necessarily a typical day," says Charley Carver, Perry, Kan. "My [capstone] placement is a subspecialty area, so with COVID-19 there are not as many patients. I could have a long day or I could have a super short day, and that is quite different for me [after] being used to a set schedule."

Another thing is every time I walk through those doors of the hospital there is something new – some new policy or a change in policy. I think it is okay to say nurses live by policies and right now things are just all over the place. It puts a lot of stress on my preceptors, and [on me].



Echoing Charley, Rebecca Mullen of Wichita says, "There is no typical day for me anymore. I have no schedule really – [except] just going with the flow and trying to keep up with everything that seems to always be changing. This is the biggest challenge for me because I love a set schedule."

Even though students in the nursing program were used to virtual learning by the time they were in their final semester, lengthened online sessions and studying alone proved to be challenging.

"I am an auditory learner," Rebecca says. "I love talking about topics and learning from others. Well, with social distancing that isn't recommended. Fortunately for nursing, all of our tests have been online since we started two years ago, so that isn't a new concept for us."

"We had a couple of long three-day [NCLEX] reviews that got switched over to virtual learning, and that was hard," says Charley. "There were so many times that I had questions that I couldn't just speak up and ask out loud because they weren't going to hear me. It was hard to stare at a computer for eight hours. I had a headache at the end of every day.

"The best thing for me is I am a talker, so not having anyone around who I can just start talking to instead of listening has probably done more good than not!"

Sydney Bollinger, Lawrence, Kan., adds, "We all used to study together, to get together in study groups, but now we can't do that. [Studying alone] and not being in class make it really hard to get motivated to get your work done.

"That has definitely been the biggest thing for me. It's pretty easy when you have your classmates there and you see everybody else working hard."

She was pleasantly surprised, however, to discover "not much difference in my test scores [after shut-down]."

They're grateful for how nursing faculty and staff worked hard to be accessible to them.

Says Charley, "Having my professors readily available via e-mail or phone has been the most helpful. They are always ready to answer questions and provide support," and Rebecca adds, "We are very fortunate to have the staff we do. Dr. Tyrell and Dr. [Sarah] Masem have worked so hard to ensure we are able to complete our capstone hours on time.

"Without those hours, we would not be able to graduate. I have personally have had three different preceptors or nurses whom I have worked with for capstone because of things changing."



Sydney Bollinger receives her pin from Geri Tyrell as part of this year's virtual nurse pinning ceremony.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bethel nursing seniors made a service-learning trip to Chiapas, Mexico, in the fall semester. Front row, from left: Rebecca Mullen, Kate Cherveney, Madison Roth; back row: Fabian Hernandez (UNICACH host), Geri Tyrell, Charley Carver, Katelyn Boston, Alexis Anderson, Sarah Masem and Juan Carlos Najera (UNICACH host).

All three have jobs lined up for after (virtual) graduation, though Charley's original plan changed. She had been planning to move to the Dallas-Fort Worth area but decided it was best to stay in Wichita for now.

She admits she wasn't feeling quite ready to leave and sees the chance to stay around a couple more years as "a blessing in disguise."

Rebecca had planned to take a cruise with her family in early June that probably won't happen now, she says. "Not the biggest setback, but I was looking forward to celebrating becoming a nurse on the beach."

Sydney's biggest disappointment was "not to have the [in-person] pinning [on May 16]. That's the big thing for nurses."

Commencement is just the ceremony.

The point [for nurses] is that we graduate and we're able to go do what we were in school to do. And that's still on track. We're getting to the end goal.



Sydney will be working in an observation unit for patients admitted to the ER, Charley in an ICU, and Rebecca in pediatrics, all in Wichita.

And they know that lessons from this unwanted conclusion to their undergraduate education will carry into their practice as nurses.

"This unexpected end has really taught me that the little things are just that – little," Charley says. "It will contribute positively in my future work to be okay with change, and okay with the unknown."

"Things are always changing in medicine every day, and there is nothing wrong with that. I'm not saying it's [always] good to have the unknown, but I think I have learned to keep a level head when it arises."

"I also have learned that it is okay to ask for help. Never be afraid to ask for help, especially in our profession. We are not always going to have the answers but someone else just might."

"This has been a good precursor for what we can expect," says Sydney. "We now have to wear masks 24/7 in the hospital. I can see it being positive [to have seen] one of the worst scenarios that can happen. Hopefully, we won't see another one for a long time, but now we know what it can be like."

Rebecca notes, "I think it has already made the class of 2020 have a different perspective on everything we do, nurses or not."

"Nursing is a profession that is always changing. If it wasn't changing, the health-care industry would be in big trouble. As a nurse, things happen unexpectedly, either to you or to your patient, and you have to be able to take it as it comes without letting your emotions show."

"My classmates and I have encountered so many changes but we are still waking up and going to help others at the hospital or studying to achieve our dream of helping others."

"The times we are in now will make me appreciate when hospitals are fully stocked with personal protective equipment (PPE). I have learned to adapt very quickly to change. It has also taught me how to quickly think on my feet. I think we all have taken things for granted and are so much more appreciative of 'normal' life."

The nursing class of 2020 has been named the 'Fearless 21' because we have not stopped or backed down from the challenges we have been faced with. We have been resilient, courageous, and we continued to persevere during unknown times.



A THOUSAND PERCENT – JOSEPH WINFIELD

by MELANIE ZUERCHER



Joseph Winfield came to Bethel from Edmond, Okla., to play football and to get everything he could out of his college education. He succeeded at both.

Social work faculty posted photos and short biographies of their 2020 graduates on the Bethel College Social Work Facebook page this spring. Part of Joseph's read: "[His] favorite thing about social work is the ability to connect with all kinds of population groups. He believes in social work because he wants to give back to people who are in need. Friends of Joe describe him as 'hardworking,' 'a strong leader' and 'outgoing.' In his spare time, he enjoys movies, football and cooking."

As a part of Thresher football, Joseph was a four-year letter winner and four-year All-KCAC player (a rare feat). He had 205 career tackles (one of only nine Threshers to do this since 2004, when the current electronic stat system was implemented). He was a senior leader for a revamped defense that earned an NAIA Top-10 ranking in 2019 in rushing defense, and helped lead the team to an 8-3 record (second-most wins in program history for a season) and #24 national ranking.

How and why did you choose Bethel?

My senior year in high school, I didn't know if it would be college or work after graduation. A [former] coach at Bethel reached out and told me about playing football here. I did want to keep playing, and he said he thought I'd be a great addition to the team. I did a little research, checked out who else might be coming here, and found out my best friend [David Wulff-Cochrane] was coming. I thought, I can go to the other side of the country, where I don't know anyone, or come here and get a good education and already have a friend here, too.

POLLY CARLSON

Right: Joseph Winfield, #52, on the football field

» Four-year All-KCAC player

» 205 career tackles

» Senior leader for a revamped defense that ranked Top-10 in the NAIA in terms of rushing defense; helped lead the team to an 8-3 record (second-most wins in program history for a season) and #24 national ranking

» Winner of a 2019 Reusser Scholarship and the 2020 George Rogers III Outstanding Male Athlete



JOSH BOOTH

I was born in Mississippi. We moved to South Carolina, then Oklahoma City, then Edmond. I've known David since we were in 6th grade.

When did you decide on social work as a major?

I didn't know what I wanted to study but I knew I wanted to help people. I knew about disaster relief but I didn't know what social work was. Then I ran across Ada [Schmidt-Tieszen '74, professor of social work]. On my very first visit, James McCartney '10 took me to visit Ada and said, "I've got the perfect person for you to meet." We hit it off immediately. She told me what social work was, and I thought, "That's exactly what I want to do."

I took the public speaking class and found it was really easy. I thought, "Maybe I have a knack for talking to people." Then Ada said, "I think you'd be really good at [social work]."

How would you describe your four years at Bethel?

I knew when I came here that I wanted to make sure I had the opportunity to evolve into a different person. I feel like I am 1,000 percent different from the person I was when I came here.



I wasn't really the type of person to try everything new. After my first year, I found myself saying, "I want to do everything possible, to see what I do and don't like." I would put myself in situations where the outcome might improve my personality and my mental state, to see things from a different perspective.

I knew I wanted to meet lifelong friends, and I would say again, 1,000 percent, I've met people I will never forget. There are about eight of them I know I can call 20 years down the road for anything I need.

The most recent risk was going on the interterm trip [Social Development and Social Justice] to Mexico [in January 2020]. I would see everybody do study abroad when I came here, and I said, "I'm not that type of person. I want to do what I can here." When I went to Mexico for interterm, that trip completely changed my life.

The main thing I took out of it, no matter who you are or what you're doing, put 1,000 percent into it. There are people living just a few hundred miles away who don't have the things that you would take for granted. We met people who had to go up a mountain every day to a get a jug of water, and it's their water for the day, to drink, wash dishes, bathe. We will take an hour-long shower and not think a thing about it.

I was seeing a whole new perspective on life. I feel like I can genuinely connect with people from all walks of life. I will never forget that experience.

What are your plans post-graduation?

I've been training and working out and keeping in condition so I can keep playing football, maybe in other countries, but also continuing my social work jobs. I'm a tech and counselor at Mirror Inc. [in Newton], and PRN at Prairie View [also in Newton]. When there's a child in need of a para at a school, I can go do that.

If/when I decide not to do football, I want to do anything that aligns with helping people. I love working with kids and adults both. I have a knack to help people, meet new people and talk to them. [I've been] an intern at Newton High School and Chisholm Middle School. I can see the difference I make with other people and I don't think I could ever stop doing that. The kids in the mentor program — before we started working with them, teachers would give them the cold shoulder. Just to see them improve in a school year, becoming leaders in the classroom and on their teams, making a complete reverse — it's been life-changing.

I come from a single-parent home. I had to mature quickly, to take care of my little sister when my dad would be at work, be the man of the house when he wasn't home. I wish I would have had someone in my life to be a mentor, the way I'm helping the kids now.

The pain and struggles I've been through helped create the person I am now. Since I had to go through everything, I want to show kids who are struggling that no matter what it's like now, don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it. I don't want them to be stuck in the mindset of being the person people perceive and expect. They can do better.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY

by MELANIE ZUERCHER



Les Goerzen



Five retirements in 13 months equals well over two centuries of combined experience at Bethel.

Between the end of May 2019 and the end of June 2020, there will have been seven retirements – four faculty, two staff and one administrator, all Bethel alumni – whose combined experience, including their student days, totals 272 years.

For the five who retired in 2020, it's safe to say they never expected their careers at Bethel (which averaged 31½ years) to end the way they did. It's also true that those years of institutional history give them a perspective both long and broad.

It seemed that the best way to try and describe the tenure of the four who retired in May (whose average career length is almost 38* years each) – Ada Schmidt-Tieszen '74, Les Goerzen '76, Patricia Shelly '76 and John McCabe-Juhnke '78 – was to let numbers, fun facts and comments do the talking.

WHY BETHEL?

Les: "I chose to attend Bethel because it was close to home [Goessel area], and growing up I just always knew that I would attend Bethel."

Ada: "I had lots of requests from other colleges, but I never applied elsewhere. My parents [Art and Ruth Schmidt], my mother's parents [David and Marie Unrau] and my older brother [Archie Schmidt '74] and sister [Elaine Bartel '65] all went to Bethel."

Patty: "It was inevitable I would go to Bethel. We moved to North

Newton when I was in junior high. I had lived in small towns in Iowa and Ohio [where my father, Kenneth Shelly, was a pastor] before that. We became part of Bethel College Mennonite Church and I was discovering what it meant to be 'ethnic Mennonite.' My dad even worked at Bethel as an admissions counselor for a couple of years."

John: "I was not very discriminating. I had a conversation with my dad, in which he said, 'If you want to go to Bethel, we'll pay for it. If you want to go somewhere else, that's fine, but we won't pay for it.' But I didn't feel like I was forced. It felt good to know I'd be close to home. My middle sister, Nancy [Stucky '71], went to Bethel. My dad [John E. Juhnke '61] and an uncle [William Juhnke '36] had gone to Bethel."

IMPORTANT FACULTY

Les: "J. Lloyd Spaulding was my adviser. I appreciated his personal interest in me and his sharing with me about his pacifist convictions. Rod Frey '67 was a special instructor for me [in industrial arts]. He taught me a lot about woodworking and he also gave me a lot of room to explore my interests and skills. I took an independent study my senior year and made an oak dining room table and chairs. For more than 40 years, it has been a special part of our home and I appreciate Rod allowing me to take on such a project."

Ada: Although she decided against a history major, she says she very much enjoyed Keith Sprunger's history classes, and history remains "an avocation to this day." "Donna Neufeld '55 did a good job teaching in social work. Bob Wert, who was only at Bethel a couple of years, was down-to-earth, steady, stable and ethical."

Patty: Duane Friesen '62 was a first-year professor when I was a freshman. I remember an intense conversation on the steps of the Ad Building about dropping out – he was afraid I wouldn't come back. I have vivid memories of a capstone course with Marion Deckert '56. He was a consummate discussion leader, guiding us into consideration of ideas that were a new world for me."

John: "Arlo [Kasper '61] was a great mentor. He modeled true interest in theater and especially in the process of theater. He was never finished – theater was constantly evolving. Ada Mae Haury '41 was so encouraging. No matter what you did, with her beaming smile she always looked like she was thrilled. She was formative for me in forensics and readers theater. I remember Raylene Hinz-Penner '70 for her energy and how much fun it was to be in her classes." (John also notes the further influence of Harold Moyer – see below – who, when John was finishing his master's degree in Illinois, wrote him about an open position at Tabor College, which is where John met his wife, Karen.)

POSITIONS AT BETHEL

Les (1976-2020): Tapped by President Harold Schultz, he began working at Bethel June 1, 1976, one week after graduation, as a carpenter and locksmith; to plumber and electrician; to assistant director of physical plant, supervising mechanical repairs and electrical work, managing the new automated phone system, installing and overseeing the energy management system, and purchasing and repairing office computers and printers; to director of physical plant (now called director of facilities), Jan. 1, 1999.

Ada (1985-2020; professor of social work): She was working as assistant executive director for the YWCA of Metropolitan Denver when the director of Bethel's social work program, Larry Friesen '67, asked her to interview for an open position in the department. Ada was the program director from 2011 until retirement. Among the many positions she has held at Bethel: faculty chair, 1996-99; associate dean, 2004-05 and 2005-06; faculty dean (Division of Social Sciences), 2006-11.

Patty (1985-2020; professor of Bible and religion): She was also living in Denver, serving as associate pastor of First Mennonite Church there, when Perry Yoder, then a professor of Bible and religion at Bethel, contacted her to say he had accepted a position at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and she should apply for the opening. Patty chaired the department from 2005 until retirement. Other positions and roles, among many: campus minister, 1986-96; campus pastor of chapel and worship, 2000-03; coordinator of the Baccalaureate Committee, 1986-96, 2000-14; Basic Issues of Faith and Life (BIFL) coordinator for the faculty workshop and oral exams, 2000 until retirement; faculty chair, 2017 until retirement. Patty also served as moderator of Mennonite Church USA, 2015-17.

John (1986-2020, professor of communication arts): After three years teaching speech and theater at Tabor College, Hillsboro, he was in a Ph.D. program in Louisiana when Bethel academic dean Marion Deckert wrote to him about an opening at Bethel. John chaired the department from 1992-2007, 2009-14 and 2015 until retirement. Other positions, among myriad, were director of forensics, 1992-2013; faculty chair, 2005-11; faculty dean (Division of Arts and Humanities), 2016-19.

Fun fact: There were 10 buildings erected or extensively renovated during Les's tenure: Thresher Gym, Schultz Student Center, Kauffman Museum, the maintenance building, Mantz Library, Voth Hall, Krehbiel Science Center, Thresher Stadium, Will Academic Center and the Ward Tennis Center building (plus major renovations in Goering Hall and Luyken Fine Arts Center).

Fun fact: Three of the replacements named for the retirees thus far are also Bethel graduates: director of facilities, Adam Akers '03; social work, Nancy Banman '79 (whom Ada points out she replaced at Bethel in 1985); Bible and religion, Peter Goerzen '07.

EDUCATION

Les's degree from Bethel was in business with a minor in industrial arts. "I always thought that I would be an accountant after graduating, and work in a bank. I spent the January interterm at a bank in Newton during my senior year and it turned out to be an unpleasant experience.



Ada Schmidt-Tieszen

COURTESY PHOTO

With my woodworking classes [in industrial arts], I found out how much I really enjoyed working with my hands."

Ada was a National Merit Scholar as a high school senior, and could have had her pick of colleges. She began at Bethel in 1970 as a history major, and then in her sophomore year learned that a new social work program was starting at Bethel. "I was intrigued. I was always fascinated by my brother-in-law Verlin's [Bartel '63] stories about social work. I took the first class and decided that was what I wanted. Social work has been the perfect fit."

Patty also started college in 1970. Those were the early days of convocation, and she says she was a "convo nerd" from the get-go. She dropped out of college after three semesters, and over the next 2½ years went on a journey of "questioning faith and being disillusioned with church," before coming back to both while also discovering a love for "studying the Bible from an academic perspective." She returned to Bethel in 1974 and completed a major in Bible and religion.

John was offered a \$100 scholarship in theater at Bethel, and also received "a nice letter from J. Harold Moyer '49 [professor of music] complimenting me on my performance as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Moundridge [Kan.] High School. That made me feel good, and made an impression." John won a Thresher Award in speech and theater as a senior at Bethel, and majored in English with teaching certification in speech and theater.

Among them, the three faculty members have degrees from the University of Denver (Ada, master's; Patty, master of divinity, Ph.D. — Iliff School of Theology), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (John, master's), Louisiana State University (John, Ph.D.) and the University of Kansas (Ada, Ph.D.).

Fun fact: The Schmidt-Tieszen family all have social work degrees from Bethel and eight social work degrees in total: Ada, 3; Wes '75, 1; Tina Graber '07, 2; and Alison '11, 2.

Fun fact: Ada had both her daughters in classes at Bethel and the first one each of them took with her was Human Sexuality.

INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

For Les, these were physical – the ice storm of 2005, during interterm, which left the campus without power for four days, and the flood of July 29, 2013. “It was a real challenge with keeping the dorms warm and getting equipment repaired. Lots of motors burned out and we had to get them replaced. We also had many trees break down because of the ice. We spent several weeks cleaning up the mess. We were glad to have help from students and others in the community. The Kidron Canal flood [resulting from heavy rainfall over a short period of time] came just a few weeks before fall classes began. Mem Hall, Thresher Gym and Goering [home of the athletic department] had major damage to flooring and walls. It took a few weeks to install new flooring and walls. I had to work with the insurance company and contractors. Again, I got lots of help from the college community with getting everything cleaned up.”

Ada, Patty and John all said nearly the same thing – a variation on “finances”:

“I arrived at Bethel [in 1986] and almost immediately there was talk of faculty cuts while [simultaneously] wishing we could be bigger. There has always been the challenge to stay steady.” (Ada)

“Almost as soon as I started in 1986, I had FTE removed and was told I would go to chapel planning, and I spent the next 10 years with that at varying percentages. Bethel has often squeezed FTE in Bible and religion when there are financial constraints. I was not happy at first to have the FTE cut but I came to see it’s good to have someone who’s teaching and also showing what it means to pray and praise, and I would advocate for the connection now.” (Patty)

“There has been continual reducing of the student body, and [near-constant] financial reorganization. Patty, Ada and I have lived through many iterations.” (John)

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Ada: “The students – in some ways they are still the same. They’re at the same stage of life [as they always have been] – idealistic, curious, looking for adventure. [But] there has been a change from majority legacy and Midwest. We are now much more diverse, which is an amazing strength. It enriches conversations. We are a stronger community not because we are alike but because we have to listen [so carefully] and learn so much. I have learned so much.”

Patty: “We have a much more diverse student body – [in terms of] denominations, no church backgrounds, racial and cultural. There is less biblical literacy even in the Mennonite students. Whatever is changing the face of faith, it doesn’t have to do with the Bible. The academic levels, and the levels of preparation, in students are more diverse. In my first year at Bethel, I was still typing lectures on a typewriter. [There has been a huge movement in] the technology available to us and how it has shifted ways of learning and communicating.”

John: “The students are different from even a decade ago. I don’t know what to attribute it to. Access to smart technology has made us all more distractible. It takes more to engage a student, and more for me to stay focused.”

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All three faculty have received Bethel’s Ralph P. Schrag Distinguished Teaching Award – Patty in 1991, John in 2003, Ada in 2009.

Ada was named a Newton Woman of the Year in 2020, an award made annually to three Newton-area women. Ada earned this citation in part because of her extensive record of community service, including, but not limited to: the board of Mirror, Inc., 2003-present, board president twice; volunteer facilitator, Victim-Offender Dialogues, Kansas State



Dwight Krehbiel



Rodney Schmidt



Allen Wedel



STATISTICS TO SOFTBALL, COMPUTERS TO CARPENTRY – A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Even though **Dwight Krehbiel** ’69, professor of psychology, retired at the end of the 2018-19 academic year, he still got a shout-out from Jalal Gondal ’20, who was accepted into medical school and, along with many others over the years, gives Dwight credit for helping that happen.

In 1978, Dwight joined his classmate Doug Penner ’69 to double the Bethel psychology faculty. During his 41 years at Bethel, Dwight taught a breadth of courses, in psychology, biology, applied statistics and

computers in the sciences, in which he was an institutional pioneer.

“He has been a leader in inquiry-based learning and undergraduate research, demonstrating truly exemplary performance in that field,” says President Jon Gering ’94, who also cites Dwight as an influential faculty member. “Dwight has dedicated many hours and taken a critical leadership role in URICA, STEM, NSF [National Science Foundation] funding, and advising, providing endless opportunities for

Department of Corrections; Offender Victim Ministries board; Meadowlark Homestead Board Executive Committee; Harvey County United Way; Kansas State Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution. She has also served as president and vice president of the Kansas Council on Social Work Education. Ada says, "Social work is not just something you teach – it's something you do."

Les says, "I feel best about how I've been able to take care of the \$50 million worth of buildings and assets, and I've done this with limited funding and staffing. I've been blessed with a maintenance staff that is long-term and highly skilled. They can fix anything and do whatever it takes to get things repaired or cleaned up. By placing my confidence in them and allowing them to make decisions, it has made them a dedicated crew that has taken ownership in their work."

Fun fact: President Schultz might have approached Les about working in the maintenance department because Les built Schultz's kindergarten-age son, Christopher, a treehouse on the Goerz lawn.

At Bethel, John has directed 28 plays (he did *Arsenic and Old Lace* twice) and 16 musical theater productions or operas (*The Old Maid and the Thief* twice). He was the stage director for Bethel's high school summer theater program, Seven Days of Broadway, from 1997-2012: *L'il Abner* (4), *Fiddler on the Roof*, *State Fair* and *Brigadoon* (3 each), *Oklahoma!* (2) and *Guys and Dolls* (1). From 2000-05, he directed a similar program, six different musicals, at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. He began doing theater in prison at Lansing (Kan.) Correctional Facility in 2000, moving to Hutchinson (Kan.) Correctional Facility in 2002, and has directed/facilitated 16 productions, the last three as collaborations between inmates at HCF and Bethel students. And he has directed a handful of other productions, including



John McCabe-Juhnke

The Upside-Down King, an original musical by Carol Duerksen, Doug Krehbiel '79 and Jude Krehbiel, at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Columbus, Ohio, in July 2009.

Fun fact: The first show John directed as a Bethel faculty member was *The Foreigner* by Larry Shue, in which Ken Regier '87 played the role of Ellard. His final one was the musical *The Theory of Relativity* by Neil Bartram and Brian Hill, and Ken's daughter, Addie Regier '21, was a member of the ensemble cast.

Fun fact: John directed his son, Austin McCabe-Juhnke '11, in *The Upside-Down King*, and coached his daughter, Taylor McCabe-Juhnke '12, in forensics.

Bethel students. His record of NSF grant-writing and reviewing [are] emblematic of his impressive achievement."

Dwight and Bonnie (Graber) Krehbiel '69 have a daughter, Stephanie Krehbiel '98, and son-in-law, Eric Cook-Wiens '99, who are also Bethel graduates.

Rodney Schmidt '75 retired Dec. 23, 2019. He graduated from Bethel with a degree in industrial arts and later that year began working in the maintenance department.

Les Goerzen '76, who worked with Rod for most of those 44 years in maintenance, remarks, "Rod could always make just about anything out of wood or metal, and his degree from Bethel advanced his skills."

Rod started as a carpenter, doing a lot of renovation work in his first few years, including in the Ad Building chapel, where he constructed the two front stages and the north wall paneling. He moved into repair work and fabrication, making indoor and outdoor signs, custom shelves, hand rails and cabinets. Any Bethel employee who has worked five years has a plaque hand-made by Rod, and every Thresher Award winner for the past 40-plus years owns a piece of his handiwork.

Rod is married to Marsha (Andres) Schmidt '75. During his tenure,

he saw both their daughters, Kara Schmidt '05 and Kiley Schmidt '08, graduate from Bethel.

"For nearly 50 years, Bethel has been a significant part of my life, first as a student and then as an employee," Rod says, "and for that I am grateful. I have always enjoyed the variety of work that campus maintenance has provided, but also more importantly the Bethel community of students, faculty and staff."

Allen Wedel '69, vice president for business affairs, will retire June 30. Interim President John K. Sheriff hired Allen in 2009. He had worked at AGCO Corporation, Hesston, Kan., since 1974 and left the position of general accounting manager to come to Bethel as VPBA, although he had already been serving as adjunct faculty in the business department for a number of years.

Allen says, "These last 10 years have been filled with joy, personal growth and the development of many personal relationships with faculty, staff and students." One of Allen's favorite parts of his life at Bethel has been the softball team. He gave the lead gift for the field in 2014, a huge step forward in developing the sport that now also provides joy to many students and fans.

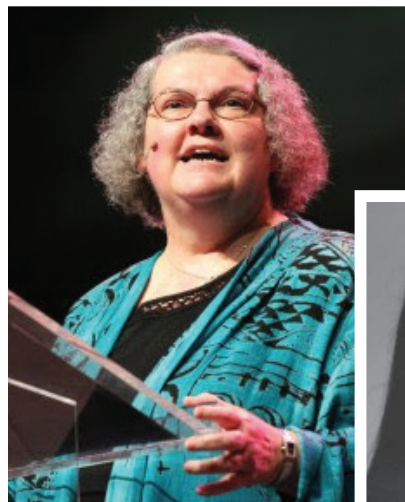
Fun fact: When John directed *Arsenic and Old Lace* the second time, in 2013, the crazy Brewster sisters were played by (fraternal) twin sisters Audra Miller '13 and Julia Miller '13.

John was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Teaching Award for the 2014-15 school year and taught at Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National University in Lutsk, Ukraine. Since the fall of 2010, he has held the Nelson W. and Gladys I. Krehbiel Chair in Speech and Forensics.

In 1986, **Patty** developed the Jerusalem Seminar, aimed at helping pastors and laypeople understand the modern context of "the Holy Land" while visiting sites important to Christianity, as well as Judaism and Islam. She led it 15 times through 2013, every other year and mostly in January (twice in June).

Patty was on the Religious Life Team at Bethel near the end of fall semester 1986 when two sophomores, Stephanie Gingerich '89 and Beth (Hege) Piatote '92, came to her with an idea about having a "more inclusive" event for the Advent season. That was the start of Lighting of the Green (and Les has been dousing the campus lights for the lighting's entire history).

Patty is famous for her puns, a practice she says she picked up from her father. "They took off when I started teaching at Bethel, as a way to keep students alert and awake."



Patty Shelly



Fun fact: Patty wrote "The Light Shines in the Darkness," the song that closes every Lighting of the Green, when she was in voluntary service between leaving and returning to Bethel as a student. (She has recorded two albums of original praise and worship music, and has three songs in *Hymnal: A Worship Book* and its two supplements, used by most Mennonite congregations.)

Les: "My favorite memories are of the relationships that I have built with Bethel employees and friends. I've made a lot of people happy by fixing their computer or phone, unclogging their toilet, or providing

the funds and employees to complete a project. I have so much to be thankful for from my 48 years as a student and employee. It was the best place to get an education and I wouldn't have wanted to work anywhere else."

Ada: "Favorite moments have included the [interterm] trips to Mexico and the interactions with students while there, and with Gerardo from Quest in Cuernavaca, who arranges parts of each visit [Ada has led or co-led four of these trips]. My effort was small, but I'm pleased there's now a minor in Criminal and Restorative Justice."

Patty: "In 13 years in campus ministry, including coordinating chapel, I have been able to plan worship for the community in ways that live on – such as certain chapel services, like the end of the year communion and commissioning, different prayer services, and Lighting of the Green. I have found very satisfying the relationships with students – Bible and religion majors, those in campus ministry or chapel planning. A highlight of the [Mennonite Church USA] Kansas City convention in 2019 was having at least a dozen conversations with different Bethel alumni who are in [some kind of] church leadership, whether pastoral or lay. I am so glad to have been a part of these people's college journey."

John: "I'm proud to have been part of an ongoing tradition of excellence in forensics, including Bethel's first and so far only national champion, Jeremy Schrag '04 in Persuasion. The groundwork was laid by Ada Mae Haury and by Mark Stucky '71, who coached a number of nationals finalists. Another proud moment was collaborating with the project that had theater departments across the company doing *Dead Man Walking*, and meeting Sister Helen Prejean" [author of the book].

AND NOW WHAT?

What wisdom do these long-tenure employees have for Bethel in a time of pandemic?

Patty and Ada were both first-year students in 1970 when Bethel was faced with a dire financial situation.

"In fall 2019, as we were facing the Higher Learning Commission probation, I flashed back to 1970 – not many can do that," Patty says. "Bethel was on the precipice of closing. Western District Conference had a special session, and pledged its support. I knew 'this was unprecedented.' Bethel's future was undergirded by the church.

"It's useful to look at the legacy of the church's commitment. Bethel's distinctiveness is rooted in its connection to the General Conference Mennonite Church, lived out in an expression [of that] – commitment to faith and to exploring it through ideas, thinking, service and openness."

"The pandemic and the shut-down is a whole different thing because our sense of community has to be so different," Ada says. "That has always been a strength of Bethel – students and faculty get together to support each other, and now we can't.

"Just like in 1970 and 1971, and Western District Conference came in and showed their love and rescued Bethel, we have a sense that there are many supporters out there, offering finances and other resources to help us get through this."

**Patty took a 4-year leave of absence to serve as the Mennonite Central Committee representative for West Bank and Gaza, 1996-2000. She continued to lead the Jerusalem Seminar during that time.*

ALL BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOS FROM BETHEL YEARBOOKS

CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS



1



2



3



4



5

1. From Bethel with Love (letter-writing chapel), March 2020. 2. Virtual Nurses' Pinning, May 2019.
3. Interterm: Mexico, January 2020. 4. The Threshpys, May 2020. 5. *The Theory of Relativity*, March 2020.

CAMPUS NEWS

FOR MORE IN-DEPTH STORIES, VISIT: bethelks.edu/news-events

SPRING SEMESTER SEES SUCCESSFUL TEACHER ED. ACCREDITATION, APPROVAL OF NEW MAJOR

Teacher education has been accredited for another cycle, through the end of December 2026.

The department finished in such good standing that faculty were asked to be resources for other colleges and universities in the state.

At the end of December 2019, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) made its final recommendation for Bethel teacher education to be accredited through 2026.

This followed “the same conclusion from [the national] accrediting body, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation [CAEP],” said Robert Milliman. “All standards were met with no stipulations.

“In addition to a positive review, KSDE has asked Allen Jantz ’84, department chair, to provide accreditation training for other institutions in the state, [to give] the small institution perspective.”

Jantz did exactly that on Feb. 17, when Bethel hosted about 30 “education preparation providers” — staff and faculty from college and university teacher education departments across the state — for a periodic KSDE accreditation workshop.

A quick and successful accreditation is “validation that we’re doing a good job preparing teachers,” Jantz said.

www.bethelks.edu/article/successful-accreditation-makes-bethel-resource-other-colleges-and-universities

Like most boards across the country, Bethel’s Board of Directors held its spring 2020 meetings via videoconference, April 2-4.

One significant decision was approval of a new major, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, pending subsequent approval by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Bethel’s accrediting body, which it did in mid-April.

This move reflects one of the strongest career interests in both prospective students and current students, that of health-care sector professions (such as medicine, dentistry, physical therapy and optometry).

Many prerequisites for entrance into these professional schools fall within biology and chemistry. The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major is intended to serve as a hybrid of these two disciplines that provides a balanced approach of both sciences.

“Other schools have found this type of major to be popular, and successful for having students admitted to professional schools,” said Robert Milliman.

“I am very excited about the Biochem major. It will especially will help students interested in health professions, particularly if they are considering further education.”

www.bethelks.edu/article/meeting-virtually-board-approves-new-major

In December 2019, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) made a ruling of “Accreditation-On Notice” at the conclusion of Bethel’s regular every-10-years accreditation process.

College administrators had been informed after the peer review team’s site visit in May 2019 that the team’s recommendation would be for probation. “On Notice” represents an important shift.

In order to achieve reaffirmation of accreditation, an institution must successfully meet five “Criteria for Education,” by meeting every “core component” that falls under each criterion.

During the routine 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation process in May 2019, the peer review team flagged one core component under Criterion 4 (assessment) and two under Criterion 5 (annual operating budgets and financial position).

The three core components are now “met with concerns” (rather than “not met”), which moves the college away from probation status.

On Notice has “some big differences from probation,” noted Robert Milliman, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty.

The college can now apply for “substantive changes [for example, adding a major], although subject to strict scrutiny,” he said.

“We are now faced with an evaluation visit in 2021 based only on the core components ‘met with concerns,’ instead of a full-fledged comprehensive visit in which all of the core components would have once again been in play. And we are back on the regular ‘Standard Pathway’ schedule for comprehensive evaluations, with the next visit slated for 2023-24.”

Bethel must show by Feb. 1, 2021, that it has remedied the issues that led to the On Notice sanction, in preparation for HLC’s on-site evaluation, to take place no later than April 2021.

In November 2021, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether Bethel College has demonstrated that it is no longer at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, and whether On Notice can be removed.

“In sum, while relieved we were not placed on probation, we take this sanction of On Notice seriously and have begun to aggressively address the concerns expressed by the HLC,” Milliman said. “We are confident that we already have taken the right steps and will achieve a satisfactory outcome.

“Bethel College has been and remains an excellent place to receive a top-notch liberal arts education with a variety of outstanding professional program options.”

www.bethelks.edu/article/bethel-receives-final-notice-accrediting-body-avoids-probation

CARPORT WILL ADD TO SOLAR CAPACITY OF SCHULTZ STUDENT CENTER

It's hard to miss the new structure that has sprung up in the Luyken Fine Arts Center parking lot, with the aim of increasing campus energy sustainability.

The solar carport, which includes two electric car charging stations, came from the efforts of Richard '69 and Donna (Graber) '69 Zerger of McPherson, Kan., with the support of nine other alumni.

It's also part of Bethel's work toward joining a nationwide movement, called the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, to address climate change through high-visibility action on campuses.

The Zergers "were looking for a way to help Bethel College increase its use of solar energy to meet its electrical needs," says Richard, who taught chemistry at Bethel from 1995-2010, when he retired.

"The idea of a solar carport grew out of a conversation I had with Roger Reimer '78," Zerger says. Reimer works on the maintenance staff at Bethel and has been integral to developing the existing solar system on the roof of Schultz Student Center, just to the north of the parking lot.

"Roger Reimer was [also] key to the development of the solar carport project," says Brad Kohlman '07, Bethel vice president for institutional advancement, "with support from Tim Sweigert from Kansas Electric and Mark Horst from King Solar.

"Roger is a good steward of natural resources, and has a passion for reducing use of fossil fuels," Kohlman adds. "He's known for that" — along with his maintenance vehicle, a golf cart he converted to solar.

"He has the knowledge and experience, and he helped us make informed decisions and put us in touch with the right people for building the carport.

"King Solar and Kansas Electric were very excited about this project and easy to work with."

Kansas Electric served as the general contractor. Regier Construction and King Solar built the structure.

"The solar carport photovoltaic system is fully integrated with the existing solar system installed previously ... and adds 52,000 watts of panels to the existing 9,000 watts on the roof of the Schultz Student Center," says Zerger. "Together they form what I see as the 'Bethel Energy Center.'

"The college has been very supportive of the project [as] part of a larger pledge Bethel has made to reduce its carbon footprint."

A gift from the Class of 2012 started the student center solar project, with a second gift, from the Class of 2014, adding to it.

Zerger has long had a strong interest in promoting alternative energy. He installed solar panels for home heating and a wind generator in the early '80s, a wood furnace in



2010, and a solar electric system from King Solar for his farm and home use several years ago.

In addition to Donna and Richard Zerger, Chuck '67 and Pat (Mueller) '69 Friesen, North Newton, Jim '55 and Shirley (Suderman) '57 Goering, North Newton, Robert '64 and Barbara (Burdette) '64 Waltner, Mulvane, Kan., Steven Waltner '94, Benton, Kan., and Kay (Schrag) '63 and Mark Weidner, Lancaster, Pa., also contributed to the solar carport project.

MELANIE ZUERCHER



HIGHLIGHT

SENIOR MURAL ADDITION

In a tradition started in 2019, the senior class commissioned a mural for the north side of Haury Hall. Graduating senior Blayne Stump, Crook, Colo., was the artist, with help from Katrina Heinrichs '19, an experienced muralist. Candles are used at several different Bethel events and activities during the year, so the artists decided to use them as a symbol to help evoke memories of 2019-20.



Todd Flory



Doris Bartel



Barry Hieb

ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS SPAN TEACHING, HUMAN RIGHTS, INFORMATICS

The Awards Committee of the Bethel College Alumni Association has announced its selections for the college's three annual alumni awards.

Todd Flory, Wichita, will receive the 2020 **Young Alumnus Award**, which recognizes character and citizenship, achievement or service rendered, and honors and recognition received. The recipient must be 39 years of age or younger.

He graduated from Bethel in 2004 with a B.A. in communication arts, intending to be a print journalist.

He spent a year as a staff writer for the *McPherson (Kan.) Sentinel* and then two years with Brethren Volunteer Service in Washington, D.C., and Elgin, Ill.

He was an online reporter for the *Salina (Kan.) Journal* for a year, then went back to school and completed a B.S. in elementary education at McPherson College.

After one year teaching 5th grade at Buhler, Kan., Flory moved in 2012 to his current position as a 4th-grade teacher at Wheatland Elementary School in Andover, Kan.

He was a 2018 Kansas Master Teacher (one of seven chosen each year by Emporia State University) and the 2018 president of the Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics, and has earned considerable recognition for his use of technology in the classroom.

Flory was one of the first two dozen Skype in the Classroom® Master Teachers in the world, and also serves as a Skype in the Classroom® Mentor Teacher.

He was chosen as a "Teach U.N. Sustainable Development Goals" Ambassador; a PBS Digital Innovative Educator (Kansas lead, 2016); a Google Certified Educator Level 2; and a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert.

He regularly speaks and gives workshops at state and national education conferences on using Skype and other technology in the classroom to "widen the world" for students.

He co-developed a media literacy and news reliability education project that was featured in an NPR article, appeared on national Japanese news and can be found on the Microsoft Education website.

He's written numerous education articles for *EdSurge*, *Kidblog*, *PBS Education* and the Microsoft Education blog (see toddflory.com). In 2015, he was one of 20 U.S. educators selected to attend the Microsoft Global Educator Exchange conference in Redmond, Wash.

Doris Bartel (Dyck), Riverdale, Md., is this year's **Outstanding Alumnus**, awarded on the basis of character and citizenship, service to church/community or college, or other outstanding achievements, honors and recognition.

Bartel worked in various capacities with CARE USA from 2001-18, then transitioned to an independent consultant in designing processes for strategic visioning and planning.

She describes herself as "a passionate advocate for women's and girls' rights, reproductive rights and gender justice, and advancing progressive social change."

Bartel graduated from Bethel in 1984 with a B.A. in international development and peace studies. She went on to earn a master of science in nursing, RNC (registered nurse, certified), NP (nurse practitioner), at the Institute of Health Professions in Boston.

From 1988-90, Bartel worked as a registered nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital and from 1990-95 as an OB/GYN nurse practitioner in Florence, Mass.

She was a health services researcher at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and then a medical director for the International Medical Corps in both Kosovo and Eritrea, providing primary health care and health education with a focus on maternal and child health.

In 2001, Bartel began working for CARE USA, which has a mission to "save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice" around the world, with women and girls at the center of the organization's work.

She served as a technical adviser and senior program adviser in sexual and reproductive health and finally, from 2010-18, as senior director for gender and empowerment.

Now semi-retired, Bartel is an independent consultant. Recent projects have centered on disability rights, immigrant justice, applied social change and women-led conflict resolution efforts in Latin America.

The recipient of Bethel's 2020 **Distin-guished Achievement Award** is Barry Hieb, Tucson, Ariz. This award acknowledges character and citizenship, achievement in a chosen profession or vocation, and work of benefit to humanity.

Hieb is a medical doctor with a master's degree in computer science and more than 40 years of experience in medical informatics.

He graduated from Bethel in 1966 with a B.A. in natural sciences and a deep love for mathematics.

He continued his education with medical school at Washington University in St. Louis, where he discovered the thing that really excited him, a brand-new field: computers and medical computing. He eventually completed a master's degree in computer science, as well as his M.D. degree, at Wash U.

Hieb worked for five years at Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) in Marlboro, Mass., and one year at First Data Corporation in Charlotte, N.C., before moving to Tucson in 1996.

Over the next 15 years, he worked for Sunquest Corporation, a lab automation company, and Gartner, an information technology consultant for hospitals all over the United States and around the world.

Since 2010, he has been the chief scientist at a small company he co-founded, Global Patient Identifiers, Inc.

In that role, he has been responsible for the design, implementation and deployment of

the Voluntary Universal Healthcare Identifier (VUHID) project.

He believes the VUHID "represents a simple and cost-effective way to enable error-free patient identification and enhanced patient privacy." After years of work, he says he is finally seeing some interest in VUHID at a national government level.

The Outstanding Alumnus and Distin-guished Achievement awards are normally presented at the annual Alumni Banquet on campus in early June, but now will be celebrated at a time and place to be determined.

The Young Alumnus Award will be presented (along with a program by the recipient for Bethel students, faculty and staff) at a convocation to be scheduled for the 2020-21 school year.

MELANIE ZUERCHER

ADVENT TRADITION ENTERS THE THIRD GENERATION

Since 1986, Bethel students, staff and faculty have been inviting the wider community to join in the Lighting of the Green.

Peter Goerzen '07, who transitioned from campus pastor to a full-time faculty position in Bible and religion this summer, has been part of this tradition for most of his life, starting from a different and special vantage point.

With the 2019 Lighting of the Green, he saw his experience come full circle.

His first memories of the event are of accompanying his father, Les Goerzen '76, Bethel physical plant director who retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

"I would follow my dad around campus beforehand as he would get all the lights shut off. Then we would go up to the third floor of the Ad Building and watch from there."

This year, Peter Goerzen's son, Nathan, age 5½ at the time, went with his grandpa Les to shut off the lights and watch from the Ad Building's third floor. The 2019 Lighting of the Green was Dec. 8.

Peter Goerzen studied computer science at Bethel and participated in the Lighting of the Green each December of his four years as a student.

He remembers that "it was moving to join the service as a student, knowing my dad was still watching from the Ad Building" — compounded this year by the fact his son was up there, too.

To light the Green, a couple hundred people line the sidewalk around the large grassy area in the center of the Bethel campus, holding lit candles.

After some Scripture reading and carol singing, everyone walks to the center of the Green to form one large "Christ candle."

In Peter Goerzen's opinion, the service perfectly encapsulates the values Bethel was founded on.

"[Lighting the Green] expresses much of what makes Bethel a special place — an inclusive community, with its identity rooted in a faith tradition committed to the hope and joy of the Light that still shines in the darkness."

MELANIE ZUERCHER



From the top, Les Goerzen, Peter Goerzen and Nathan Goerzen on the Ad Building steps

FREEDOM MEANS MOVING FORWARD, SPEAKER TELLS MLK DAY AUDIENCE

To help Bethel College celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Jan. 20, Michelle Vann chose to speak about freedom – starting in the New Testament.

Vann is a teacher, speaker, church leader and Christian counselor from Wichita, who came to Bethel at the invitation of graduating senior Jenna Ratzlaff and Bethel's Diversity Council.

Quoting Paul in Galatians 5, Vann said, "'God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows.

"'For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out – in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?'

"Does that [last part] sound a little like our country and our world today?'

Vann went on, "In life, there are chains. Some of them are real. Some of them are in

our minds, in our spirits, in our families. We need to be broken free of them in order to go [forward]."

Looking at the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr., Vann said, a common theme that emerges is "freedom."

Then and now, she said, there are "degrees of freedom" that have to do with physical ability, access to power, other social and economic factors, or even, she said, whether or not as a Christian you are "in bondage to corruption and sin."

"One of the biggest things that keeps us from being free is to walk in unforgiveness," she said. "We can all think of a time where something has happened to us, a time when you felt you were 100 percent justified in being mad at the person. If we want to walk in freedom, we have to examine ourselves first. Walking in freedom is not about pointing fingers, it's about looking at ourselves.

"[Another] message Dr. King preached was that of love. When I walk in freedom, it's not hard to love someone who doesn't look like me, or to extend my hand to someone who doesn't live or believe like me. It takes a lot of

energy to hate, to hold a grudge – you have to remember all these things about what they did and why you're mad.

"Dr. King said, 'I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.'"

She concluded, "In this election year, we must put some demands on some people. Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable – it requires sacrifice. It requires struggle.

"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. Whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward. 'Freedom' is 'forward.'"

In a brief question-and-answer period following her presentation, one audience member asked Vann about how to build bridges between groups.

"Part of it is having conversations," she said. "I think you started [this celebration] in a great way – eating together is a way to have good conversations.

"We all have the same needs no matter who we are and where we come from – for education, affordable healthcare, food, shelter. We need to understand we're more alike than we are different."

The celebration started with an informal time of snacks and conversation around tables in Memorial Hall, while the Bethel College Worship Center band performed instrumental and vocal numbers.

A highlight of the afternoon was a 15-minute excerpt from the address King gave at Bethel College Jan. 21, 1960, on "The Future of Integration."

King ended that speech with a challenge to his audience.

"I'm proud to be maladjusted," he said. "I call upon you to be maladjusted. I never intend to adjust myself to the evils of segregation and discrimination. I never intend to become adjusted to the madness of militarism and the self-defeating effects of physical violence.

"I call upon men and women all over our nation, and over the world, for that matter, to be maladjusted."

MELANIE ZUERCHER



From left, members of the Bethel Gospel Choir – students Greg White, Charlie Gibson and Jadin Kaltenbach, and Ashleigh Hollis, director of annual giving – perform during the MLK Day celebration.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION REVIVES ENDOWMENT TO BRING GUESTS TO CAMPUS

An endowment set up by the Bethel College Women's Association helped bring three special guests to interact with students and community in the spring 2020 semester.

BCWA has been a loyal college supporter for 80 years, in money raised and more.

Bernadette Barton, Ph.D., professor of sociology and gender studies at Morehead (Ky.) State University, spoke in convocation Feb. 3 as the first of three presentations in the spring semester sponsored in part by the BCWA's Carolyn Schultz Lectureship Endowment.

Margaret Toews '73, BCWA treasurer, briefly explained the fund to the Feb. 3 convocation audience.

"Carolyn Schultz [the wife of former Bethel president Harold Schultz] was a leader with BCWA for 20 years in the 1970s and '80s. To honor her work, BCWA started the lectureship endowment in the spring of 1991."

The fund launched with a \$15,000 gift from BCWA. By the early 2000s, it had grown

enough to be used to sponsor lectures from 2004-07.

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, BCWA decided to begin drawing from the endowment again, hoping to "renew interest among faculty in using this fund to bring lecturers and presenters to the Bethel campus or to fund lectures and presentations by Bethel faculty," said Robert Milliman, Ph.D., Bethel vice president for academic affairs.

The endowment also helped fund the visits of Ayesha Durrani, M.F.A., a Pakistani artist and educator (March 9-13), and Thea Groth, D.M.A., an instructor of bassoon at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa (March 5-6).

Earlier this school year, BCWA Vice President Nadine Reimer Penner '76 wrote to Carolyn Schultz to tell her about the revival of the endowment and the plans for using the funds.

"Thank you so much for the exciting news of bringing outstanding women to the campus

with the endowment fund," Schultz, who lives in Kansas City, Mo., responded. "I wish I were closer to the campus to participate in the enrichment that the presenters will bring.

"My years working with the Bethel College Women's Association were, indeed, an enriching experience. While I have been gone from Bethel for 28 years, I look back at my 20 years with the [BCWA] and realize that these women were empowered to take on projects that would enrich the college for years.

"Of all the women's groups and clubs that I have been a part of, the [BCWA] is at the top. They were, and I assume are now, an energetic, creative and joyful group of women eager to take on any challenge to advance the college."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

www.bethelks.edu/article/womens-association-revives-endowment-bring-guests-campus

MLA ACHIEVES \$1 MILLION FOR ENDOWMENT TO ENSURE STABLE FUTURE

It took a bit longer than expected, but the Mennonite Library and Archives achieved a major financial goal that helps stabilize its future.

At the end of February, John Thiesen '82, co-director of libraries and archivist in the MLA, announced the completion of a \$1 million goal for an endowment to support the MLA.

"In fact," Thiesen said, "we now have \$1,037,413 in hand for the endowment."

Mennonite Church USA ended its subsidy to the MLA in 2017, but even before that, volunteer fundraiser Dale Schrag '69, North Newton, retired campus pastor and director of church relations, had agreed to head up the effort to raise the endowment.

Schrag says he didn't expect it would take three years to complete the goal, but that there were pleasant surprises along the way, including some anonymous donors who were determined to ensure the MLA's future.

"There are some incredibly generous people out there who care a great deal about the MLA," Schrag said.

"I am grateful to the many donors who allowed us to build this foundation for the future of the MLA," Thiesen said. "We will continue adding to the endowment to ensure the collection remains a resource for the community, and to create new opportunities for research."

In his letter, Thiesen reported on some recent projects in the MLA, such as providing photos of Hopi men imprisoned at Alcatraz in the 1890s, for an exhibit at the San Francisco Public Library, and helping a local woman who was trying to get her driver's license renewed and hit a snag because of a typo on her birth certificate and needed to see church records to help prove her birth year and verify her identity.

"Thank you for supporting the MLA as we help people answer their questions about the Mennonite past," Thiesen concluded.



John Thiesen, left, and Dale Schrag look at the oldest item in the MLA's collection, an Erasmus New Testament.

www.bethelks.edu/article/mla-achieves-1-million-endowment-ensure-stable-future

PAINTING 'BRINGS TO LIFE' ARTIST HONORED BY ENDOWMENT



"Untitled" by Milford Greer, a view of Taos Mountain in New Mexico, now hangs, along with one of Greer's palettes, outside the Regier Art Gallery.

Milford E. Greer Jr. didn't attend Bethel College and may never have set foot on campus, yet his name has a familiar ring to many.

That's due to a visiting artist endowment named in his honor, which has been bringing visual artists, musicians, composers, architects, actors and filmmakers to campus for the past 40 years.

Now an estate gift to Bethel has made Milford Greer more visible through a painting of his hung in Luyken Fine Arts Center this spring.

Greer, a native of Geuda Springs, Kan., with ties to Moundridge, Kan., was best known as a painter who specialized in still lifes. He died in 1972 at the age of 45 in an automobile accident. He had been living and painting in Taos, N.M., since 1960.

Robert C. Goering, M.D., and Amparo Goering were close friends of Greer's. They established the Greer Fine Arts Endowment, for the purpose of helping visiting artists come to campus, to honor Greer's memory.

Robert Goering was a 1948 Bethel graduate and a native of Moundridge. He earned his M.D. degree from the University of

Mexico, where he met and married his wife, Amparo. Robert Goering died in 1982 and Amparo Goering in 2014.

Since 1979, Greer Visiting Artists have come to Bethel from around the country to conduct workshops with students, put on concerts, performances and exhibitions, and give public presentations to the community.

Late in 2019, Bethel's advancement office was notified of the donation of a painting by Greer along with one of his palettes.

These came from the estate of Louis Criss, Greer's partner until Greer's death. Criss, who died in 2017, was an actor and theater director who also taught at the University of New Mexico.

Caren Golden, a relative of Criss's and one of three heirs, explained, "Lou inherited several of Milford's paintings and offered them to the Albuquerque Museum with the thought that [they] could be kept together to be viewed by the public."

"Milford was best known for his still life paintings, and the museum selected a grouping of them for their permanent collection. The landscape [given to Bethel] was one they did not select.

"Lou Criss's heirs – myself, Marsha Tammi and Jason Hutchins, two former students and old friends – were a bit baffled by this, since Taos Mountain [the painting's subject] is the subject of so many renowned artists who have traveled through the area. It was the view directly out of Milford's studio window. But we suppose that the museum was focused on the theme of the still life paintings.

"It was Jason's idea to offer the landscape to Bethel College. He had done some research and realized that Milford was being honored there with a visiting artist series in his name and thought that the gift of this painting would give additional weight to the series and contextualize Milford's name. I thought of adding the palette as a means of gaining further insight into Milford's art-making methods."

The untitled painting, the palette and a plaque now hang outside the Regier Art Gallery, making the artist for whom the Greer Endowment is named a little more real.

MELANIE ZUERCHER

PLANTING SEEDS: COLLEGE MENTORS SEE CHANGES IN THEMSELVES, STUDENTS

As with so many things, the pandemic put an abrupt end to a special mentoring program involving Bethel students, but they won't forget it any time soon.

Seven young African-American men volunteered at Chisholm Middle School in Newton during the 2019-20 school year (two were repeats from the previous year).

They found out about the program from school social worker Ralita Cheeks.

"[The college students] check in with [the middle school students] on grades and just talk about what's going on in life," Cheeks says. "Sometimes it's going to come better from a young guy than from me."

Joseph Winfield, graduating senior from Edmond, Okla., who was in his second year of mentoring, says, "We didn't do school work at first -- we talked about life. But [if] we find out they're struggling with school work, we'll [help]. When they feel successful with that, it helps [in other areas]."

"You need to give him an opportunity to shine. It's meant seeing a decrease three to one to no Fs"

"We set goals for them, and they will change them in a week," says Terrell Marshall, graduating senior from Tulsa, Okla. "I saw their willingness to open to us. They will tell us more than they will the teacher."

Says junior Derrick Hudson, "I've seen confidence [grow] in some of the kids. When we get a new kid, they're kind of hesitant to speak, and then in a couple of weeks, they're the ones talking the most -- it's hard to get them to be quiet."

It's not only the kids who have changed during the course of this mentoring program. Winfield credits the experience in part with cementing his major, social work.

"Working with these kids [has] helped me see what I want to do in the future -- anything to do with social work, but especially with kids."

He continues, "I feel like all of us have seen ourselves in the kids we mentor. They've gotten in trouble for the same things we did at that age. That helps the connection even more."

"We tell them our stories, so they understand we're not here with a façade. It's real life."



From left, Terrell Marshall, David Wulff-Cochrane and Amondre Street talk about mentoring.

"Not only do you see the kids grow, you see your friends grow," adds Amondre Street, a junior from Dallas. "I get to see my friends acting in a way I don't see every day. These are future fathers, future teachers."

He admits he "didn't know if I wanted to do the program. I didn't like working with children -- it wore me out. [But] this was life-changing for me and for the kids. Working with this group was great."

Marshall says, "I'm a business major but what I want to do long-term is help people on a deeper level."

He says it has deeply affected him to "see that real-life problems have no age limit, and [see] some of the stuff these kids go through, how they are affected at an early age, how their home life affects everything else."

"It's been great to see the changes."

Says David Wulff-Cochrane, a graduating senior from Edmond, "There are things I experienced growing up that some of these kids are experiencing."

"Why not use my status as a role model to help influence them with morals and ethics, prepare them for life, facing trials and tribulations -- to help equip them with skills to help better themselves?"

Says Winfield, "I wish I could have had a mentor [like this] when I was growing up, to show no matter what your struggle is, you can be successful."

"They understand where we're coming from. It's crazy, the ability we have to [affect] someone."

Street adds, "It's not just the school environment, it's also their home environment. I admire them, for the things they [overcome]."

Hudson notes that the mentoring program gives the middle-school students "the ability to realize that some of the things they did, we also did, and that 'Maybe I can change and I can become something.'"

"It gives them confidence that 'I could be like these guys. I could be a mentor, too.'"

"I don't think it's a coincidence," says Wulff-Cochrane, "I think God put us in this position to use what we have to help the next generation be better. To let them know they can be something."

"They hear so much: 'You're not going to be anything.' We want to be that driving force [that lets] them know: 'We're behind you. We'll help you out however we can.'"

"We want our students to succeed," says Cheeks. "The wise person leaves something behind, a seed planted. It's important for someone to sow that seed, and then others will water it. The Bethel students give their time, and they plant the seeds."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

www.bethelks.edu/article/college-mentors-see-changes-themselves-students

STUDENTS MEET SHUT-DOWN CHALLENGE WITH VIRTUAL SENIOR SHOW



REBECCA SCHRAG

Above: A panoramic view of "Meta"; right: Emma Girton (left) and Elizabeth Friesen Birky

What do you do when your project, by definition, is meant for people to visit and look at – and everything is closed?

Graduating seniors Elizabeth Friesen Birky, Denver, and Emma Girton, Wichita, are completing Individualized Majors in art history. Friesen Birky has an additional major in communication arts.

Almost literally at the same hour as the two finished their co-curated senior exhibit "Meta: An Exhibition about Exhibitions," the staff of Kauffman Museum, where the exhibit was, decided to close the museum to the public.

"We were committed to maintaining our opening deadlines whether people would be able to actually come into the museum or not," says Girton.

"I think it's fair to say we are both still disappointed that this could not happen [as we had envisioned]," Friesen Birky adds, "but we are so very thankful for the creative and quick-thinking museum staff, who helped us figure out [how to show our work] virtually."

"Rebecca Schrag '19 worked hard to create a quality virtual exhibition experience [using] Google Tour Creator."

"It's open-source software that turns Google Earth photos or your own 180- or 360-degree photos into virtual reality," Schrag explains.

"Elizabeth and Emma's narration in the exhibit is the best part of the virtual exhibit," she says. "I really enjoy 'hearing' from the curators in this way. All their [text] from the exhibit is [presented] as audio commentary to the virtual museum visitor."

Girton and Friesen Birky had already worked together, and collaborated with Kauffman Museum staff, to create an exhibit.

As members of the Curatorial Studies class taught by Rachel Epp Buller '96, Ph.D., associate professor of visual arts and design, they helped develop the award-winning "Campaign for a New China" last spring.

"Whereas we were on a curatorial team for 'Campaign for a New China,' Emma and I were given free range on 'Meta,'" Friesen Birky notes.

"I would say that working as student curators on 'Campaign for a New China' really helped us gain confidence and [prepared us to create] an entire exhibit as we did for 'Meta,'" Girton adds.

"Additionally, all of the objects in the exhibition were pulled from Kauffman Museum storage, and this was a really good way for us to finally display a lot of the fascinating artifacts they don't get to [show] very frequently."

"Some of these artifacts even go back to the original museum of Charles Kauffman, so this is a really good look into all the treasures that we got to go through in the creation of this exhibit."

Says Friesen Birky, "This process of student curating has never been a partnership that has been explored previously, so I'm glad we have been able to test the waters for future students."

Andi Schmidt Andres '85, interim director of Kauffman Museum, agrees.

"Providing hands-on, real-life experience for students fits perfectly with Kauff-

man Museum's mission," she says. "We are eager to collaborate with area organizations, whether that is the school district, local businesses or Bethel."

Epp Buller says, "It's been exciting to see [Elizabeth and Emma] leverage that learning into this new project. Both projects have helped them develop skills vital to their eventual museum careers."

Both Girton and Friesen Birky have a career goal of continuing in museum work. Girton looks forward to her fourth summer at the Wichita Art Museum, while Friesen Birky will be spending the fall at the Washington Community Scholars' Center with a museum internship (she hopes for the Smithsonian).

"I've so enjoyed having Elizabeth and Emma in classes and conducting directed studies with them on specialized topics," Epp Buller says, "and I look forward to seeing where their paths lead."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

www.bethelks.edu/article/students-meet-shut-down-challenge-virtual-senior-show

THRESHER AWARDS PRESENTED ONLINE TO FIVE SENIORS

As with almost every other activity normally held in the spring semester, the internet was the venue for presenting this year's Thresher Awards.

May 8 was the scheduled date for the convocation at which five graduating seniors would have learned they had received the highest academic honor given each year.

Instead, at 11 a.m. that day, a video of the professors reading the citations from their home offices went live on Bethel's Facebook page.

David Long, professor of visual art and design, gave a Thresher Award in art to Georgia Anderson, Wichita.

He briefly described how she prepared her senior show (ceramics), which then shattered in firing, and how she started over, creating an even stronger collection.

"What impressed me the most about Georgia's working method and attitude is her ability to consistently move forward," he said. "She quickly figured out what she wanted to do, selected the design language she was going to use and started plugging away."

"It is my feeling that this current body of work could easily be the springboard into a graduate program. It is that strong."

Naomi Epp, North Newton, received a Thresher Award in biology from professors of biology Francisca Méndez-Harclerode and Jon Piper.

Reading the citation, Méndez-Harclerode said, "The biology department ... is blessed with many good students. However, if we were to pick [one] who excelled in most ...

areas and embodied the spirit of a liberal arts institution, we would have to pick Naomi Epp."

"She has consistently excelled academically. The work she produces in the classroom and lab stands heads and shoulders above the rest. Moreover, her enthusiasm and engagement inside the classroom and lab are without equal."

Presenting a Thresher Award in English to Justice Flint, Wichita, Professor of English Brad Born '84 said Flint "demonstrate[d] a unique combination of intellectual vigor, creative thinking and deep engagement with literature. Her formal written scholarship has been exceptional."

In the prospectus for her senior thesis, on "Christian Independence in *Jane Eyre*," Flint "promised that her scholarship would foreground 'the theological commitment of its author and the surprising ways in which her heroine negotiates the tensions of being a gifted and independent-minded woman who is also devout and sincere in her faith,'" Born said. "Those words aptly describe Justice herself."

Madison Hofer-Holdeman, Wichita, was the recipient of a Thresher in theater, presented by John McCabe-Juhnke '78, professor of communication arts.

He noted that Hofer-Holdeman made her Bethel debut in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* as a first-year student in fall 2016, and then appeared in every theater production for the next four years, ending with *The Theory of Relativity* in March 2020, just before the COVID-19 shut-down.

"Madison's record of stage accomplishments remains unblemished," McCabe-Juhnke said. "She has shown exceptional dedication, maturity and depth of understanding about the craft of making theater."

"Her excellence is a testament to her acute instinct for acting, her exceptional tenacity and her genuine receptivity to critique."

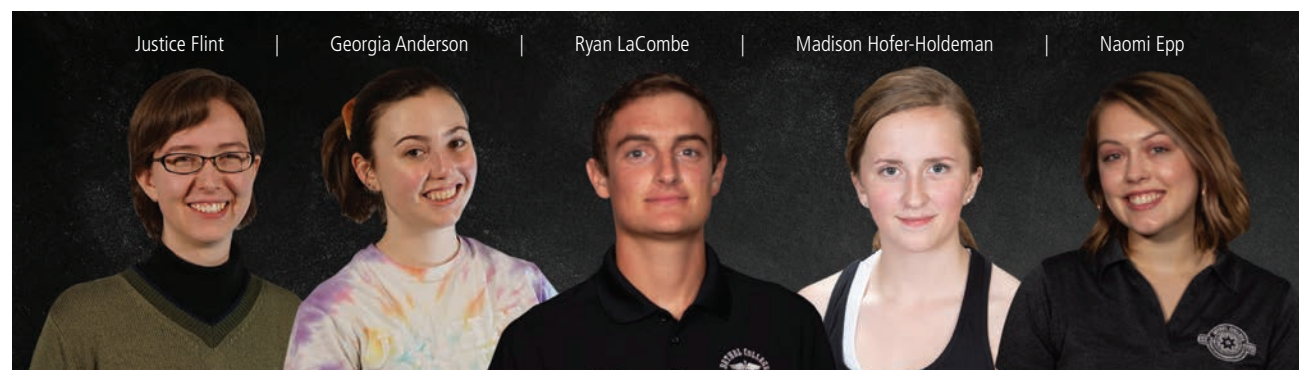
Finally, Rachel Messer, assistant professor of psychology, read a citation on behalf of herself and Brad Celestin '03, assistant professor of psychology, to Ryan LaCombe, Abilene, Kan., for a Thresher Award in natural sciences.

Among LaCombe's accomplishments, Messer noted his "[dedication] to gaining experience as a health-care provider through both applied work as an athletic training student and his independent research on ankle injuries and recovery in athletes, during which he conducted a nearly two-year-long study."

In addition, "his leadership as the head of his research groups over the years has allowed him to grow and shine."

The five students graduated from Bethel May 17 (virtually, of course) – Anderson with a B.A. in art; Epp, a B.A. and a double major in biology and chemistry; Flint, a B.A. in English; Hofer-Holdeman, a B.A. in English; and LaCombe, a B.A. and a double major in athletic training and natural sciences.

MELANIE ZUERCHER



CLASS NOTES

Information received as of April 1, 2020

1950–59

Arthur Dick '55, North Newton, retired in September 2019 after 50 years in the Department of Neurology at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Lawrence.

Dale Goering '53, Santa Fe, qualified at the New Mexico Senior Olympics state meet to compete in the cycling 10K and 20K road races at the 2019 national Senior Olympic Games in Albuquerque. The 20K race happened to be held on his 89th birthday.

1960–69

Lauren Friesen '65, Chicago, presented the lecture "Eugene O'Neill: Rebel with a Cause" at the Reedley (Calif.) Peace Center, Feb. 7. He also spoke on "The Dutch Golden Age: Mennonite to the Core" to the senior professionals at Fresno Pacific University on Feb. 11.

Clayton Koppes '67, Cleveland, will retire June 30 from Oberlin (Ohio) College, where he joined the faculty in 1978. Besides serving as professor of history at Oberlin, he was academic dean, provost and (twice) acting president.

Hugo Neufeld '64, Calgary, Alberta, published his fifth book (coauthored with his wife Doreen Neufeld), *The North End Lives On*. This is a continuation of Hugo and Doreen's first book, *The North End Lives*, and consists of short stories of the experiences they had while living in Hamilton, Ontario.

1970–79

Shirley Delk '75, Sedgwick, Kan., retired June 30, 2019, from 40-plus years of administrative assistant work in various nonprofit organizations, including Bethel College, the Harvey County Attorney's Office, the Reno County Special Education Cooperative, the City of Wichita Attorney's Office, United Methodist Youthville and, most recently, the Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office-CINC Division.

Shirley plans to spend her retirement following her six grandchildren in their athletic activities in Kansas and in Indiana, singing in several church groups and continuing her peanut brittle business.

Edward C. Epp '71, Portland, chairs the Oregon Robotics and Automation Society, which received the IEEE Oregon Section 2019 Outstanding Chapter award. Ed created six machine learning high school workshops impacting 95 students and their mentors. He authored the coursework materials organized around Android Tensorflow Lite, built a demo robot controlled by a cell phone, created hands-on exercises, and delivered the workshops, which investigated machine learning internals and code. He also supported adult professional education by organizing six seminars – one of which, presented by David Gonzalez-Aguirre of Intel Research, focused on robot visual perception, and another, presented by Matt Hansen, Intel's ROS (Robot Operating System) Navigation Project head, on Intel's Open Source Robot Development Kit using ROS 2.

Wayne Plenert '74, Dawson Creek, British Columbia, has law degrees from the University of British Columbia and York University, Toronto. He was the 2019 recipient of the Susanna Jani Excellence in Mediation award from Mediate BC for contributions to the field within the province.

Delbert B. Peters '75, Hillsboro, Kan., retired from Cooperative Grain & Supply, Hillsboro, on Jan. 17. He was hired in 1977 to be the grain accountant and was later promoted to grain merchandiser, then office manager and then controller. He says his tenure of more than 42 years reinforced some of the values taught at Bethel College.

Ada Schmidt-Tieszen '74, Newton, Bethel professor of social work, was named a Newton Area Woman of the Year for 2020.

Stanley Senner '73, Missoula, Mont., received the 2019 Allan Baker Lifetime Achievement Award for Shorebird Conser-

vation at the 8th biennial meeting of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group, Oct. 28, 2019. The organization brings together ornithologists, resource managers and conservationists interested in shorebirds throughout the Western Hemisphere from Arctic Alaska and Canada to Argentina and Chile.

1980–89

Murray Penner '84, Washington, D.C., started as executive director, North America, at Prevention Access Campaign in May 2019. Prevention Access Campaign (PAC) launched the Undetectable Equals Untransmittable, or U=U, campaign in 2016 to disseminate the scientifically proven fact that people living with HIV who are on effective treatment and have an undetectable viral load cannot sexually transmit HIV. In just over three years, U=U has grown into a global health and human rights movement with more than 950 official partners in nearly a hundred countries. U=U has been accepted by the global medical and scientific community as a life-changing, stigma-busting and transmission-stopping fact, changing lives and the HIV field worldwide.

Diana (Erb) Schunn '87, Whitewater, Kan., received the 2020 Russ Meyer Community Leadership Award from Difference Makers for Wichita.

Mark Wedel '81, Salina, Kan., managing director at Wells Fargo Advisors, recently attended the annual Forbes|SHOOK Advisors Summit. Hosted by *Forbes* magazine and SHOOK Research, the conference is an invitation-only forum attended by financial advisers from around the country to exchange ideas and best practices, with the ultimate goal of improving their businesses and serving the investing public in the best possible manner.

1990–99

Ken Dusenbury '93, Garden Plain, Kan., was named head football coach at Andover (Kan.) High School.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF:

ALUMNI EVENTS: bethelks.edu/alumni/events | ATHLETICS: bethelthreshers.com | FINE ARTS: bethelks.edu/calendar

Walter Holmes III '97, Killeen, Texas, received his master of arts degree in Christian spirituality and formation from Regent University, Virginia Beach, Va., in December 2019.

Sara Jackson Miller '90, Westmoreland, Kan., is a high school teacher, new teacher mentor and cooperative learning coach at USD 323, Rock Creek High School. As a district nominee for 2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year, she will spend part of the spring semester visiting schools and classrooms in other area districts.

Anne (Reiman) Montera '97, Gypsum, Colo., received the Colorado EMS Region of the Year award for 2019.

James Sheppard '90, Newberry, Fla., principal of Newberry High School, received the key to the city of Newberry after NHS was the first school in Alachua County to achieve a 100% graduation rate.

Jeff Smith '90, Key West, became director of financial aid at the College of the Florida Keys on Jan. 1. The previous four years, he worked in the financial aid department as the Veterans Affairs specialist. He has also taught the class World Religions for the past three years. Jeff and **Kathy Smith** '90 have lived in Key West for 6½ years and are part of The Gathering

Tree, the southernmost Mennonite congregation in the United States.

Correction from winter issue:

Ken Troyer '93, Lyons, Kan., was promoted to associate professor of communication at Sterling (Kan.) College.

2000–09

Owen Kindall '07, Minneapolis, Kan., was promoted to vice president/loan officer at the Minneapolis location of Citizens State Bank and Trust.

Kate (Larson) Stephenson '08, Lawrence, Kan., is employed in both the administrative and arts-based kindergarten departments of the Lawrence Arts Center.

2010–19

Caleb Allen '19, Moundridge, Kan., has joined the Mennonite Church USA staff as communications production coordinator.

Grant Bellar '19, Conway Springs, Kan., is the associate web developer in Bethel's IMS (tech support) office.

Barry Harrison '11, Manchester, United Kingdom, was recognized for his work at Abbey Hey Primary School in Manchester, where he is

a teacher and coach. The school received the Platinum Award for its school games from the Greater Manchester Sports Awards.

Tyshawn Simon '19, Columbia, S.C., is a behavioral specialist at St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Bulverde, Texas.

Christopher Smith '13, Wichita, received his doctor of education degree from Capella University in November 2019.

marriages

Kylie Jantz '12 and **Jacob Weber** '14, Manhattan, Kan., May 25, 2019

Clayton Koppes '67 and David Kelly, Cleveland, Ohio, March 14

Kate Larson '08 and Michael Stephenson, Lawrence, Kan., Sept. 1, 2019

births and adoptions

Matt Beth '09 and Kristine, Wichita, a son, Jaxson Charles, Jan. 7

Jill (Rundquist) Boswell '05 and Larry, Leavenworth, Kan., a son, Koda Jack, June 8, 2019

Matt Hein '09 and Jessica, North Newton, a son, Hudson Jett, Feb. 4

THRESHERS BC ALUMNI RIDE 2020

The first Bethel College Alumni Remote Ride took place Saturday, May 9, when BC riders from around the world rode to destinations of their choice.

Pictured, from left: Garrett Whorton '07, director of development; Brad Schmidt '88, director of alumni engagement; and Taylor Brown, multi-media coordinator in Communications and Marketing.

#RollOnThreshers



WHAT IS NEW?

Alumni are invited to submit recent news of interest to others—marriage, job change, addition of a child, award, promotion, graduate school, retirement, and so on—to the

Office of
Alumni Relations.
Mail to 300 East 27th Street,
North Newton, KS 67117,

e-mail to alumni@bethelks.edu
or submit via the Bethel website at
www.bethelks.edu/alumni-update.

Please model your information after the current listings below, beginning with name, class year, city and state.

Anyone who earns 24 or more credit hours is a Bethel alumnus, whether a graduate or not. When reaching alumni status, they are assigned a “class year” (later replaced by “grad year” if they graduate). The year behind each name below is the person’s class year, often the same as the grad year unless the individual has told the alumni office that they wish to associate with another reunion year (as in the case of a five-year program, study overseas, etc., that delays graduation).

Tyler '07 and **Amy (Balzer) Huntley** '09, Seattle, a daughter, Edrie Corinne, Dec. 27, 2019

Brett Klingenberg '03 and Cassie, Beatrice, Neb., a son, Jake William, Nov. 10, 2019

Austin McCabe-Juhnke '11 and Alyssa Graber Juhnke, Columbus, Ohio, a daughter, Marlow June, Jan. 13

Karey (French) Roberson '06 and Dominic, Newton, a son, Zander Renly, Oct. 4, 2019

remembrances

Ruth (Wedel) Andres '46, North Newton, Feb. 2

David Balzer '68, Whitewater, Kan., March 10

Siegelinde (Hinz) De Jong '59, Virgil, Ontario, Feb. 11

Monroe Duerksen '60, Lenexa, Kan., Feb. 25

Heidi (Friesen) Ensz '54, Potwin, Kan., Nov. 22, 2019

Dorothy (Schmidt) Franz '44, Lind, Wash., Jan. 9

Lola (Regier) Friesen '46, North Newton, Nov. 21, 2019

Charlotte (Eymann) Gordon '65, Tollhouse, Calif., Dec. 1, 2019

Clair Graber '52, Pretty Prairie, Kan., Jan. 23

David Habegger '46, Elkhart, Ind., March 30

Maurine (Siemens) Hean '49, North Newton, Jan. 23

Glennys (Kaufman) Henry '46, Bluffton, Ohio, Jan. 4

Elda Hiebert '60, Augusta, Kan., Dec. 13, 2019

Joyce (Bargen) Koehn '53, Lees Summit, Mo., Feb. 1

Gladys (Weber) Krauss '60, Olathe, Kan., Dec. 23, 2019

Eleanor (Loganbill) Lehman '45, Fort Collins, Colo., Jan. 27

Ralph Lehman '48, North Newton, Nov. 21, 2019

Charles Lehrman '48, Buhl, Idaho, Jan. 5

Venita (Krehbiel) Patchin '47, McPherson, Kan., Oct. 29, 2019

Lynette (Goering) Preheim '61, Marion, S.D., Jan. 12

Betty (Pankratz) Ratzlaff '63, Wichita, Nov. 23, 2019

Luella Jane (Holmes) Regier '57, Buhler, Kan., Jan. 31

Anne (Neufeld) Rupp '60, North Newton, Dec. 23, 2019

Vionetta (Voth) Schmidt '58, Loveland, Colo., Feb. 7, 2018

LaVern Schroeder '54, Newton, Nov. 7, 2019

Anna (Yoder) Showalter '78, Newton, Nov. 6, 2019

Virginia Solis-Avila '62, Wichita, Jan. 20

Alma Jean (Penner) Thiel '63, McPherson, Kan., March 26

Carolyn (Bachman) Voran '57, North Newton, Feb. 13

Willis Voran '49, New Holland, Pa., Jan. 15

Arlo Voth '59, Whitewater, Kan., Jan. 20

Naomi (Tieszen) Wollmann '84, Moundridge, Kan., Jan. 1

Marvel (Siemens) Zook '52, Moab, Utah, Jan. 23

THE SECURE ACT AND GIFTS THROUGH QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act was signed into law Dec. 20, 2019. It is viewed as one of the most significant pieces of retirement legislation over the past decade or more. Below are a few highlights you should be aware of, and some ways you can use your retirement plan to maximize your philanthropic wishes.

1. The SECURE Act now permits Traditional IRA owners to make contributions to their account(s) past age 70½ as long as the individual has earned income at least equal to the contributions. (Sec. 107)
2. The SECURE Act raised the Required Minimum Distribution to age 72. This is effective only for individuals turning 70½ after Dec. 31, 2019.
3. The SECURE Act **DOES NOT CHANGE** the eligibility age for Qualified Charitable Distributions. The qualifying age is still 70½.
3. QCDs are NOT included in your Adjusted Gross Income. Using this strategy may lower your income and may decrease the tax you pay for Social Security income.
4. Be sure that checks have cleared by the last working day in December by requesting and completing your giving through QCDs at the beginning of December.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are a unique tax strategy that allows individuals who are at least 70½ and have a Traditional IRA to distribute up to \$100,000 per year directly from their IRA to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with no federal tax consequences.

1. QCDs may satisfy all or part of an individual's Required Minimum Distribution, or exceed it.
2. QCDs are Traditional IRA distributions that would otherwise be taxable.

DISCLAIMER: This information is compiled from many sources and is not intended as tax, investment, financial planning or legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. For tax, investment, financial planning or legal advice, you are encouraged to consult with your personal advisers.

GIVE A GIFT

make a difference

BC FUND

Your gift to the Bethel College Fund has the widest impact on campus life. The Bethel College Fund ensures that the college remains strong on a daily, weekly and yearly basis.

bethelks.edu/donors/gift

HERITAGE
ROLL OF HONOR

Your planned gift will make a difference to the college, its programs and services and, most of all, the students.

bethelks.edu/heritage-roll-honor

SCAN ME



YOUR LEGACY
BETHEL'S FUTURE

VIRTUAL CORPORATION ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Bethel College Corporation
Friday, Sept.25, 2020, 7:30 p.m. (CDT) by Zoom

- Welcome
- Invocation
- Call to Order and Remarks.
- State of the College Report
- Corporation Business
- Closing Remarks



SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 1-4

For event updates, visit
bethelks.edu/fall-festival



1970-2020