BETHEL COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2022

# Around THE Green



## FAMILY TIES

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ike and Adam with Bruce and Denise Krase. The matching clothing was made by Ike's cousin, Somayina, in Anambra state, Nigeria, from a fabric called Ankara (African Print), and given as a token of Ike's parents' appreciation for Denise and Bruce.




4 **TAKE NOTE**
Highlights

6 **PERSPECTIVE**
Social Education–Ben Kliewer

8 **CLASS NOTES**

11 **ADVANCEMENT**
Thresher Stadium locker room

12 **INTERIOR**
Family Ties–International students

15 **CONCERT CHOIR**

16 **CAMPUS NEWS**

## ON THE COVER

Ike Umeh, left, and Adam Gouro on the Ad Building steps; photo by Chase Dempsey

Inside: Ike and Adam with Bruce and Denise Krase The matching clothing was made by Ike's cousin, Somayina, in Anambra state, Nigeria, from a fabric called Ankara (African Print), given as a token of Ike's parents' appreciation for Denise and Bruce.

***Around the Green***
**SUMMER 2022**
bethelks.edu

**Editorial Board**
Tricia Clark, Collin Loutensock, Brad Schmidt and Melanie Zuercher

**Class Notes**
Ben Lichti

**Layout and Design**
Oscar Gonzalez

**Photography**
Chase Dempsey (unless otherwise noted)

*Around the Green*
Bethel College
300 East 27th Street
North Newton, KS 67117-1716

**Comments:** magazine@bethelks.edu
**Class Notes:** class-notes@bethelks.edu

Published two times a year
© 2022 Bethel College

*Printed on FSC® paper*

**Join us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.**

**FOR MORE NEWS AND EVENTS, CHECK bethelks.edu**

Bethel College adheres to all federal, state, and local civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and education and complies with all applicable campus safety laws. For more information regarding BC compliance efforts visit www.bethelks.edu or contact the Dir. of Human Resources & Compliance (TIX Coord) at titleixcoordinator@bethelks.edu or 316-284-5248. 21065

# OUR RESERVOIR OF KINDNESS

**Dear Alumni and Friends of Bethel College,**

One of the learning outcomes of a residential college experience is care for the well-being of others. The value that best describes this at Bethel is community with global consciousness. The cross-cultural learning, and peace, justice and conflict studies components of our curriculum help develop this aptitude among our students.

Living and interacting with others contributes significantly to a person's sensibilities about how to get along in the world. The dorm room talks, shared meals, and myriad relationships are part of the hidden curriculum wherein students learn about the broader world through the experiences of their peers.

Awareness and consciousness are just the beginning, however – one must choose to take action. This issue is full of stories of Threshers carrying out acts of kindness to make the world a better place.

Consider the recent actions of four students as described by an anonymous individual who nominated them for the April 2022 ThresherKIND award:

*"On Thursday, Feb. 24, a young student of Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts was dropped off by her mother for an evening of dance practice. Unknown to the mother, BCAPA had closed because of snowy weather. The 6-year old was alone in Memorial Hall as her mother returned home.*

*"Students Thomas K., Marvin P., and Alexiou M. came to the young student's rescue. The three men were working out when the little girl came down the hall crying.The young men transported the young child to Thresher Shop, where student Schyler E. helped her feel safe, warm, and relaxed. The panicked mother returned to campus 10 minutes later, and described a 'happy ending for all.'"*

I am proud of these students who acted on their consciousness and received the award.

Acts of kindness are also evident among our alumni, such as Ben Kliewer '07 (see p. 6), who worked for 18 months as a COVID contact tracer for the L.A. County Department of Public Health, often speaking to people when they were at their most vulnerable.

Many circumstances throughout the world have driven people into vulnerability. As of May 2022, more than six million refugees have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion in February 2022; another eight million have been displaced but remain in Ukraine.

Amidst this global turmoil, our international students have shown courage and resilience. Nino, Ike, and Adam (see p.12) are among those Threshers who have enriched my life over the past year.

I just returned from visiting Nino's home area, which includes Wuppertal, Germany. While in Wuppertal, I met with the president of Wuppertal University, as well as staff and alumni of the Bethel-Wuppertal exchange, with the goal of strengthening one of our longest-running international partnerships.

I am proud of current students and alumni for their acts of kindness. Dorotha Sundquist '57, who recently bequeathed Bethel $7.25 million, wrote: "You have to do something for somebody." That "something" should be an act of kindness. Small acts of kindness – a smile, a word, a gesture – create ripples of consequence across a campus or a society.

The reservoir of kindness among the Bethel community is deep and wide. Please do your part to ensure that it stays that way.

Yours on the journey,

Jonathan C Gering


TAYLOR BROWN

**JON C. GERING, PH.D.**
**President**

# TAKE NOTE





Bethel College's highest academic award, the Thresher, goes to one or more graduating seniors – this year to Emma Beachy (top), Kalona, Iowa, in history and music, and Bethany Powls, Garnett, Kan., in English.

Beachy earned praise from Joel Boettger '14, director of bands, for the way she developed skills in jazz piano, "solid fundamentals of jazz language" and a deep love for jazz history while at Bethel, coming in with no training or experience in any of them.

"Emma's interests in the critical subject matter of race and gender, late-stage capitalism and their intersection in the trajectory of expression of art, and artists in the current moment have prepared her for cutting-edge research in the field of musicology," Boettger said.

Kip Wedel, associate professor of history and conflict studies, noted Beachy's senior research paper on Mary K. Oyer, a pioneer for women in Mennonite music and education and probably the most influential figure in Mennonite hymnody in the 20th century.

In addition to her exemplary research accomplishments, in her four years at Bethel, Beachy was involved in Concert Choir, FemCore, Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo, tutoring in the Center for Academic Development, teaching piano at Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts and publishing or presenting her research multiple times.

In fall 2022, Beachy begins Ph.D studies in musicology at the University of Michigan with full funding.

Powls received the Thresher for "sustained academic excellence in English studies, for completion of an outstanding English senior thesis, and for her editorial role in campus publications."

English faculty remarked on Powls' "commitment to research [that] is notable in her senior thesis, 'From Nursery to Narnia: Ideal Girlhood in Nineteenth-Century Children's Literature and C.S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.'"

Beyond Powls' excellence in the classroom–beginning in her first-year Introduction to Literature course and sustained through four years–and an exemplary senior thesis, the Thresher citation also recognized her for editorial leadership.

Powls served three years as editor-in-chief of *The Bethel Collegian*, the student-led newspaper, and worked on the editorial team for Bethel's biannual literary magazine *YAWP!* during her senior year. As a junior, she did an independent study as an editorial intern for *Mennonite Life*, creating a significant section of the issue in which alumni wrote on navigating the pandemic.

In addition, Powls was a member of the Bethel College Concert Choir and the women's a cappella ensemble Woven.

# WE ARE THRESHERS

Members of the forensics team gave **the first live performance to their peers** Feb. 25 during convocation. Char Ehrmann, senior from Andover, Kan., and first-year student Emil Benavides performed Program Oral Interpretation, while Nathaniel Schmucker, senior from Moundridge, Kan., performed Prose. Benavides, Ehrmann and first-year students Sophia Chindamo and Tristan England qualified for and competed at the National Forensic Association-National Individual Events Tournament in Omaha in April.

At the annual Threshpys, Bethel athletics' year-end banquet and awards presentation, the **Athletes of the Year** were sophomore Claire Hedlund in women's soccer and Jaylon Scott, senior from Allen, Texas, in men's basketball.

Three students gave speeches in convocation April 18 in the annual C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest. First-year student Josué Coy Dick **finished first** with "Moses, the Two-World Peacebuilder." Also competing were Natalie Graber, senior from Divide, Colo., who took second place with "Peace Begins in Our Hearts: The Ripple Effect of Small-Scale Peacemaking Habits," and first-year John Mark Koontz, who was third with "Music and Peacebuilding: Bridging the Divide Between Different Cultures."

Thresher men's basketball was recognized as **Team of the Year** at the annual Threshpy awards celebration on May 7. Bethel ended the season with a trip to the NAIA Round of 16 for the second straight year, finishing the regular season 28-8, a new school record for wins in a season.

Incoming seniors Karl Bottorff, Stephany Meyer and Allison Weaver are recipients of the **Dorothy Wedel Kaufman '45 Honor Scholarship**, given to English majors. The English department, along with the Center for Academic Development, also awards a **Writing Fellowship** annually, won this year by sophomore Lucy Buller.

Men's golf was named the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference **Team of Character** for 2021-22, with Trae Gehring, senior from Pretty Prairie, Kan., taking his place as Bethel's Champions of Character Student-Athlete. Champions of Character is based on academics and service.

Bethel's Department of Business gives **two awards each year**: the Ray '48 and Betty Funk '48 Prize for Entrepreneurship and the J. Lloyd Spaulding Award for Business and Economics. Sophomores Carter Funk and Clayton Hatfield and junior Colby McWhorter earned the Funk prize for a business plan involving a new product that helps retrieve snagged fishing lures. The Spaulding award is based on GPA, and was shared this year between seniors Jaylon Scott, Allen, Texas, and Antonino Mangiapane, Solingen, Germany, who had nearly identical final averages.

Head tennis coach Gabe Johnson '19 is the **KCAC Women's Tennis Coach of the Year** after taking his team from last place in 2021 to fifth, along with a KCAC Tournament berth, in 2022.

The **Gerald Schrag '60 Award in Mathematics** went to junior Helena Driscoll, a math major working toward teaching licensure.

The URICA Committee has awarded Summer Fellowships to **six students for 2022**: Allison Weaver in communication arts, Capri Bisom in art, Cayle Irvin in history, Alejandra Martinez and Isabela Diaz (joint project) in social work, and Miki Harkins in biochemistry and molecular biology. (URICA stands for Undergraduate Research, Internships and Creative Activity.)

Jaylon Scott, senior from Allen, Texas, received **several national honors**: National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) NAIA All-American; NAIA 1st-Team All-American; and CoSIDA Academic All-American, all for the second straight year. In addition, Clifford Byrd II, senior from Memphis, earned his **first All-American honor**, being named NAIA Honorable Mention.

Francisca Méndez-Harclerode (right), professor of biology, received the **John O. '38 and Esther Schrag '38 Helping Hand Award**, after being nominated by Sandy Dao, senior from Salina, Kan.

The Seth Dunn Memorial Award is named for the student who died in an accident in 2011, right before the start of his senior year, and is given to an incoming senior who has been deemed to have made **a significant contribution to the Bethel community**. This year's awardee is Logan DeMond.

Among **a number of Threshpy (athletic) honors** were the Douglas A. Penner '69 Champion of Character Awards, given to Brianna Reeves (softball), Milan Bucek (men's tennis) and Stephany Meyer (women's track and field); the Loren '59 and Peggy Reusser Spirit Scholarship which went to Kalyn Corley and Bethany Regehr (female 1st and 2nd), and Denzel Dixon and Michael Cech (male 1st and 2nd); and the George Rogers III '69 Outstanding Athlete award, to Jaylon Scott (male; basketball) and Katy Ponce (female; soccer).



# SOCIAL EDUCATION

by MELANIE ZUERCHER

*As Ben Kliewer navigates the winding path of an entertainment career, he's bolstered by family, friends, faith and his Bethel experience.*




Ben Kliewer publicity still

The course of true love, as Shakespeare put it, is not the only thing that never did run smooth – figuring out vocation can have its own twists and turns.

For Ben Kliewer of Los Angeles, his course ran right through COVID. His "typical" path – the one that involves piecing together whatever work you can find on the way to a career in Hollywood – recently involved 18 months of contact tracing.

Ben grew up in the small south-central Kansas town of Buhler. Coming, as he says, from "a long line of Threshers," Bethel was a logical college choice.

Already interested in theater and film, he flirted with the idea of going to the University of Kansas. His dad, Leon R. Kliewer '67, said, "Sure, you can go to KU – after you finish at Bethel."

"I had a myriad of great experiences at Bethel," says Ben, who graduated in 2007 with a degree in communication arts. "Ironically, it put me in a place where I didn't quite know what I wanted to do."

He did manage to keep theater and media as constants. "I was interested in journalism and sports broadcasting, and one thing that happened while I was at Bethel was Thane Chastain '82 getting me connected to an internship at KWCH-Channel 12 in Wichita."

He also created his own "internship," moving to L.A. for a semester in spring 2006 to "go to acting school and get the lay of the land."

However, once finished with his Bethel degree, he didn't see a clear next step, he says.

"I still had a lot of passion for entertainment and the arts but knew it wasn't the most financially sound direction," he says. "I thought, I need to get a job and pay my bills for a while."

He worked a variety: Blockbuster Video (then still a thing) in Newton; waiting tables at P.F. Chang's in Wichita; children's case manager at ComCare, a social service agency in Sedgwick County; and a Wichita motorcycle dealership.

In late 2008, Ben's dad, Leon, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and he passed away in April 2009. "That began to re-prioritize things," Ben says, "like my own mortality and what I want to do on this planet.

"I was on the phone with my mom [Mary (Mierau) Kliewer '67] one day, and I told her I was spinning my wheels, that I was fine financially and enjoying the work I was doing, but not feeling fulfilled or like I was going anywhere.

"She asked me, 'If you really look inside, what do you want to do?' I said, 'Move back to L.A. and try to be an actor,' and she said, 'Well, why don't you do that?' That nudge from my mom let me know: It's OK to take that kind of a risk."

Within the next year, Ben had moved to Los Angeles. "It changed my life to move," he says. "I got more involved in [the] entertainment [business]. I met all kinds of new people, and eventually my wife, Breanna Sarpy.

"We met at a comic book convention in Anaheim [in 2015]. I say we met at the time we were supposed to. We're both big nerds." They got married four years later.

Ben Kliewer and Breanna Sarpy at the Streamy Awards, which are given to the best in online video and their creators. Ben attended along with the cast and crew of a web series he was in, *Atropa*.




Breanna worked in marketing for an independent comic book publisher. Ben kept waiting tables, tending bar, and picking up whatever "different performance-based jobs" he could find.

"I was actually doing really well by the end of 2019," he says. "I got a small part as a police officer in a Warner Bros. film, *The Little Things*, with Denzel Washington, and a big Mercedes Benz ad campaign. The snowball had started rolling as far as booking work in the entertainment industry.

"I shot another role as a police officer in a Lifetime movie in February 2020 – and then you know what happened. The film industry, the hospitality industry, all my sources of income dried up.

"Fortunately, my wife was able to continue in a completely remote work-from-home situation. I got federal unemployment for about six months, with extra allowances because of COVID. I was specifically looking for work from home, going through Indeed.com, and I saw [an ad] for a contact tracer program that was attached to L.A. County. I did a Zoom interview and was hired."

Ben spent the next 18 months working for the L.A. County Department of Public Health. "The gist of it was, I got a list of names of [people who had tested positive for COVID-19]. I would go through the list and call. If they answered, I did an intake interview where I would find out their symptoms, get the demographics and offer information on what to do as far as quarantining, being fever-free for 24 hours [before going back to work], where to find other resources, if they needed financial help."

> I grew up in a good Mennonite home and I continue to exercise my faith....and I feel like the Lord has provided in these situations. [Hospitality, entertainment and public health] have come along to provide me work in my times of need. ❞

"These jobs are also an act of serving others. It takes a kind and comforting approach, being able to work with people in vulnerable places."

He continues, "I don't feel it's a 'calling' for me personally. I have appreciated working in mental health care and health care and being of service to others. That was my vocation for a time.

"For me as a creative and very emotional person, it does create burnout. I couldn't do it for [very long]. I don't think I would be effective in helping people. But it's been an honor and a pleasure to do these kinds of jobs – especially during the pandemic, when it would have been easy to feel like I'm just staying at home and not contributing to anything, to instead do something to help."

After 18 months, Ben left the job with L.A. County and took one at a production studio, "but they ran into some financial issues and had to lay me off," he says. He is taking time now to ask: "What are my priorities and why am I here? I'm back to bartending, and throwing myself into promoting myself, getting back into the swing of my acting career, getting that engine restarted. It takes time and work to do that.

"Being in the arts is a crazy, wild experience, but I'm very lucky to have a supportive family, social group and wife."

The enforced down time of the pandemic has provided a lot of room for introspection over the past two years.

"Growing up in the church and going to Bethel [offered] experiences that introduced me to concepts of social justice and compassion. How do we apply that practically in the community around us? I would not have gotten that at a state school unless I doggedly pursued it. At Bethel, it's a given, absorbed into all things."

Racial justice and gender equality – things to which he was introduced in a seminal class at Bethel, Gender, Race, Class and Media – are very personal to Ben. "Breanna is a mixed-race woman who identifies as Black," he says.

"I look back and give a ton of credit to my experience at Bethel for how I've been able to approach my own faith and [represent it to others], and how I approach politics, social justice, gender equality and LGBTQ justice."

Experiences such as playing football as a walk-on in his senior year on a racially diverse team and touring Europe with the Concert Choir "exposed [me] to so many things I hadn't had a chance for before.

"I found a path of encouragement to accept and love things different from me, and have a passion for righting injustice against things that might be different from me. That has been the biggest thing for me, aside from my academic education – my social education. Bethel gave me compassion and passion for it."

# CLASS NOTES

Information received as of April 26, 2022

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF:**
ALUMNI EVENTS: **bethelks.edu/alumni/events** | ATHLETICS: **bethelthreshers.com** | FINE ARTS: **bethelks.edu/calendar**

## 1950-59

**Otto** '53 and **Florence (Hooge) Driedger** '54, Regina, Saskatchewan, received the 2022 Paul Harris Fellow recognition by Rotary Foundation of Rotary International in appreciation of their 60-plus years of voluntary service. They were also honored by Canadian Mennonite University with an alumni award.

**Kenneth Hiebert** '52, Gwynedd, Pa., had his professional archives taken by the Cary Collection of prominent design archives at the Rochester Institute of Technology, to be made available for research purposes. These include Ken's studies in Switzerland, his design-professional activity in Switzerland and the United States, and his teaching archives including course syllabi at multiple institutions and student outcomes. Since retiring, Ken has received two honorable DFA (Doctor of Fine Arts) degrees, from Maine College of Art and the University of the Arts, Philadelphia.

**Justina Neufeld** '57, North Newton, was interviewed by the National Holocaust Memorial Museum about her family and childhood in Ukraine.

**Vern Preheim** '57, North Newton, was celebrated for his 26 years of volunteer work at Book ReViews, a used-book store in Newton that donates all profits to local charities.

**Leonard Wiebe** '57, Goshen, Ind., received Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's 2021 Alumni Ministry and Service Recognition.

## 1960-69

**Valetta (Goering) Seymour** '68, North Newton, participated in a Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) service-and-learning trip to McAllen, Texas.

**Paul Enns Wiebe** '60, Fort Collins, Colo., is the author of eight novels in a variety of styles, with humor as a common denominator. The most recent is *Hôtel Adiós* (2020). See paulennswiebe.com

## 1970-79

**Bob Harder** '77 and Lorna (Habegger) Harder '87, Hesston, Kan., were featured in an article in the *Washington Post* for their contributions to environmental issues and prairie preservation.

## 1980-89

**David Balzer** '88, Inman, Kan., was promoted to director, economics, at CHS Inc., a cooperative refinery in McPherson, Kan.

**Brenda (Kinzie) Beck** '88, Albuquerque, works for Lovelace Medical Group as a certified nurse midwife, and recently delivered her 1,000th baby.

**Rachel Kasper Fitzsimons** '88, known professionally as Rachel de Benedet, co-starred in *Sugar Plum Twist*, a holiday movie from the Hallmark Channel.

**Lorna (Habegger) Harder** '87 and Bob Harder '77, Hesston, Kan., were featured in an article in the *Washington Post* for their contributions to environmental issues and prairie preservation.

**Dennis King** '81, Lawrence, Kan., co-authored a book to help educators implement the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) at Work process in virtual and hybrid classrooms.

**Wanda (Goering) Knight** '85, Moundridge, Kan., participated in a Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) service-and-learning trip to McAllen, Texas.

**Darrel Knoll '87**, Hillsboro, Kan., led the Hillsboro High School boys basketball team to a second state championship and was named Class 2A Boys Coach of the Year by Sports in Kansas.

**Greg Raleigh** '84, Hesston, Kan., led the Hesston High School boys basketball team to a second straight Class 3A state championship. He was named Class 3A Boys Coach of the Year by Sports in Kansas.

**Karen Reimer** '82, Chicago, had a solo exhibition at the Salina (Kan.) Art Center. Her show of quilting and embroidery work was titled "The Map vs. the Walk."

**Paul Rudy** '84, Perry, Kan., worked with colleagues at the University of Missouri-Kansas City to study the effects of sound on patient safety in operating rooms.

**Linda Kamille Schmidt** '84, Brooklyn, New York, was artist-in-residence at the Red Barn Studio Museum in Lindsborg, Kan., in April.

**Tammy Duvanel Unruh** '84, Newton, recently became development director at Camp Mennoscah in Murdock, Kan.

## 1990-99

**Kent Erb** '95, Moundridge, Kan., CFO of Citizens State Bank in Moundridge, received a 2022 CFO Award from the *Wichita Business Journal*.

**Alison (Schmidt) Flores** '99, Kansas City, was named to the Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council.

**Willmar Harder** '97, Buhler, Kan., was a panelist in the 2021 Kansas Abolition Conference held by the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

**Kevin Kehrberg** '99, Swannanoa, N.C., plays string bass for the band that won Instrumental Recording of the Year from the International Bluegrass Music Association for their recording of "Ground Speed."

**Chris Kliewer** '96, Wichita, was named a "person on the move" by the *Wichita Business Journal*.

**Eric Peters** '97, Prairie Village, Kan., was given an RD100 award on the patent pending ballistic gas chromatograph (BGC).

**Angela VanArsdale** '94, Albuquerque, was promoted to chief learning officer for Sandia National Labs.

## JOIN THE ALUMNI BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Support other Bethel alumni by using their amazing products and services. If you are a small business owner and a Bethel alum and would like to join our Alumni Business Directory, **SCAN QR TO SIGN UP.**

## 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**

**PHOTOS WELCOME!**

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).

For additional activities of Bethel faculty and staff who are alumni of the college, go to **www.bethelks.edu/news-events/news-room/facstaff-achievements**

## 2000-09

**Riann (Hill) Allendorf** '01, Overland Park, Kan., was named varsity volleyball coach at Shawnee Mission North High School.

**Helen (Dick) Brandon** '02, Normal, Ill., completed her doctorate in teaching and learning from Illinois State University. She successfully defended her dissertation, titled *Inclusive Math and Science Spaces Through Professional Development: A Qualitative Study Focusing on Educator Views of Multilingual Learners and Educator Identity*. She also completed a Fulbright trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, focusing on Funds of Knowledge (collections of knowledge based in cultural practices).

**Alex Carbajal** '02, Newton, was featured in *Wichita Real Producers* magazine as the Celebrating Leaders Spotlight for October 2021.

**Scott Goering** '09, Pretty Prairie, Kan., led the Pretty Prairie High School girls basketball team to their first-ever state title. Scott earned honors as All-Reno County Girls High School Basketball Coach of the Year from the *Hutchinson News* and Class 1A-I Girls Coach of the Year from Sports in Kansas.

**Brandon Kaufman** '08, Moundridge, Kan., was interviewed for "A recipe for fighting climate change and feeding the world," an article by Sarah Kaplan for the *Washington Post*, about his work in sustainable farming and co-founding the company Sustain-a-Grain to work on developing and marketing perennial Kernza® grain.

**Peter Miller** '08, Newton, was mentioned in "A recipe for fighting climate change and feeding the world," an article by Sarah Kaplan for the *Washington Post*, about his work with Sustain-a-Grain products.

**Kara Schmidt-Robben** '06, Burien, Wash., was promoted to principal of design at Unispace, a commercial design and build firm.

## 2010-19

**Nakita (Menefee) Dobbs** '11, Wichita, started as a faculty member in Bethel's Department of Business.

**Nathan Fort** '17, Dayton, Tenn., was named director of the parks and recreation department in Dayton, as well as one of "30 under 30" by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA).

**Reece Hiebert** '18, Newton, started as associate attorney at Adrian & Pankratz P.A. in Newton.

**Alec Loganbill** '19, Emporia, Kan., completed his master of arts degree in history at Kansas State University and started as a production assistant at the University Press of Kansas in Lawrence.

**Abigail Phillips** '18, Longview, Wash., has been working with law enforcement in the State of Washington to build a first-response mental health professional program from the ground up.

**Jared Regehr** '14, Wichita, completed his residency training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi Hospitals, and has now joined the program's faculty.

**Michelle Schrag** '19, Moundridge, Kan., began as administrative assistant at Mennonite Church USA's Western District Conference offices in North Newton.

**Keari (Bennett) Shelite** '15, Guymon, Okla., was named Teacher of the Year at Homer Long Elementary School.

**Andrew Thiesen** '17, Garden City, Kan., started as assistant band director for USD 457 in Garden City.

## 2020-21

**Oscar Gonzalez** '21, Newton, is the graphic design coordinator in Bethel's marketing and communications office.

**Courtney Simpson** '20, Wichita, completed a master's degree in May from Friends University, Wichita. She started as an admissions counselor at Bethel in April.

## Marriages

**Rachel Evans** '14 and Hunter Porter, Astoria, N.Y., Nov. 13, 2021

**Sarah Unruh** '12 and David Johnston, Lawrence, Kan., Oct. 16, 2021

## Births and adoptions

**Julia Fromm-Mohlencamp** '08 and John Mohlencamp, Andover, Minn., a son, John Jensen, Aug. 26, 2021

**Kara Schmidt-Robben** '06 and Daniel Robben, Burien, Wash., a daughter, Edeline Scout, Dec. 26, 2020

**Miranda (Snyder)** '16 and **Justin Soriano** '17, Park City, Kan., a son, Diego Anthony, July 30, 2021

**Blaire (Mayhue)** '10 and **Matt Stucky** '10, North Newton, a daughter, Kira Mayhue, March 4

**Kristen (Schrag) Stucky** '09 and Tyler Stucky, Moundridge, Kan., a daughter, Breckyn Rae, Dec. 14, 2021

## Remembrances

**Leland Albrecht** '61, Hillsboro, Kan., Dec. 8, 2021

**Lois (Franz) Bartel** '60, North Newton, Feb. 26

**Donald Buller** '53, Sedalia, Mo., Dec 8, 2021

**Jean Butts** '09, Newton, Jan. 15

**Wilma (Regier) Dyck** '55, Normal, Ill., Dec. 21, 2021

**Doris (Schmidt) Engemann** '72, Chicago, Nov. 4, 2021

**Elmer Enns** '66, Texarkana, Texas, Dec. 11, 2021

**Elizabeth (Claassen) Goering** '65, North Newton, Dec. 23, 2021

**Marvin Goering** '58, McPherson, Kan., March 23

**Martha (Esau) Goossen** '44, Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 14

**Martha (Friesen) Graber** '41, North Newton, Oct. 5, 2021

**Donald Harder** '60, Whitewater, Kan., Nov. 9, 2021

**Lawrence Hart** '61, Clinton, Okla., March 6

**Alonzo Haywood Sr.** '14, Wichita, Nov. 28, 2021

**Beryl (Jantz) Isaak** '51, Inman, Kan., April 28, 2021

**Ethel (Dick) Kaufman** '46, North Newton, Oct. 2, 2021

**Maynard Kaufman** '57, Bangor, Mich., July 11, 2021

**Arlene (Schmidt) Klassen** '59, Hesston, Kan., Nov. 9, 2021

**Edna (Schmidt) Kliewer** '58, Edmond, Okla., Oct. 22, 2021

**Ralph Krehbiel** '73, Enid, Okla., Sept. 19, 2021

**Emil Kreider** '60, Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 28, 2021

**Athanasios Matsoukis** '62, Thessaloniki, Greece, Dec. 30, 2019

**Gertrude (Leisy) McKellar** '40, Ellensburg, Wash., Jan. 14, 2021

**Fern (Funk) Mishler** '51, Ransom, Kan., Oct. 22, 2021

**Jerry Nickel** '60, North Newton, Oct. 21, 2021

**Lennea (Oetinger) Nikkel** '71, Hesston, Feb. 9

**Fritz Potreck** '52, Berchtesgaden, Germany, Oct. 18, 2021

**Marilyn (Schrag) Preheim** '62, Moundridge, Kan., Nov. 21, 2021

**Velma (Schwartz) Ratzlaff** '50, South Hutchinson, Kan., March 18

**Marie (Ediger) Regehr** '51, North Newton, Dec. 19, 2021

**Catherine Ruth** '61, Hesston, Aug. 30, 2021

**Maxine (Ratzlaff) Schellenberg** '61, North Newton, June 7, 2021

**Kenneth Schmidt** '83, Salt Lake City, Jan. 24

**Alvin Schrag** '61, South Hutchinson, Aug. 11, 2019

**Glenna (Schmidt) Schrag** '58, Moundridge, Nov. 8, 2021

**Clarence Schroeder** '53, American Falls, Idaho, Feb. 14

**Florence (Fast) Siebert** '51, Reedley, Calif., March 16

**Doyle Smith** '67, Decatur, Ind., Nov. 24, 2021

**Jerome Stucky** '74, Whitewater, Nov. 8, 2021

**John Stucky** '67, Hesston, Nov. 12, 2021

**Marjorie (Goering) Stucky** '51, Moundridge, Aug. 28, 2021

**Bill Voth** '51, Walton, Kan., Dec. 27, 2021

**Jerry Weaver** '63, Hesston, Oct. 10, 2021

**Melva (Goering) Wiebe** '47, Hyde Park, Utah, Jan. 5

**Malinda (Jantz) Zilliox** '43, Moses Lake, Wash., Feb. 14, 2021

# TIESZEN COMES BACK FOR SECOND ROUND AS VPIA



A familiar face returned to Bethel when Pam Tieszen, who served as vice president for institutional advancement 2016-18, resumed the position Feb. 1.

"I am excited about returning to Bethel College and joining the advancement team and president's cabinet," Tieszen said.

"The Bethel College alumni and community hold warm memories and I look forward to engaging plans for a bright future after five years at Lancaster Mennonite Schools."

Since 2018, Tieszen has been the superintendent of the private K-12 system in Lancaster, Pa.

Before taking the VP position at Bethel the first time, Tieszen was head of school, from 2008-14, at Freeman (S.D.) Academy, another small, private, K-12 school system.

"I am delighted to welcome Pam back to Bethel College," said President Jon C. Gering '94.

He added, "Her name was brought up independently for this position by many alumni and donors. I am impressed with her seriousness of purpose, her executive presence and her warmth toward the constituents of Bethel College.

"She has a rare combination of talents and experiences that will elevate the college and the Office of Institutional Advancement."

Tieszen has an A.A. degree from Freeman (S.D.) Junior College and completed her B.A. at Jamestown (N.D.) College. She earned her M.A. in educational leadership from the University of Sioux Falls, S.D., and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

In addition to many years of teaching, coaching and school administration experience, Tieszen has done accounting and payroll for a gymnastics business, managed financial records for a 300-cow dairy farm operation, and served in lay leadership at Hutterthal Mennonite Church in Freeman.

She is currently a member of the boards of Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va., Lezha (Albania) Academic Center, and the Mennonite Schools Executive Council, for which she is treasurer.

Tieszen is the parent or parent-in-law of three Bethel graduates: Aaron Tschetter '15, Rebecca (Trumble) Tschetter '14 and Jaime Tschetter '16.

# THRESHER STADIUM
# LOCKER ROOM

## ESTIMATED COMPLETION EARLY FALL 2023

- Locker room with 110+ lockers
- Two breakout rooms for film review
- Team huddle area
- Second-floor viewing suite
- Laundry facilities



Nino Mangiapane, left, and Noah Ballesteros enjoy Mudslam volleyball.



COURTESY PHOTO

# FAMILY TIES

by MELANIE ZUERCHER

*Bethel has been enjoying a surge in the number of international students, who were drawn, and encouraged to stay, through community care.*

The past couple of years might not have seemed the most auspicious for young people looking to travel and live outside their home countries. Yet Bethel has seen its highest number of international students in decades who have found their place here.

COVID-19 was actually one of the major reasons Antonino "Nino" Mangiapane of Solingen, Germany, came from the university at Wuppertal, Germany, in 2019, for the normal Wuppertal exchange year – and just graduated in May with a business administration major and a minor in English.

When it became clear the COVID shut-down of March 2020 was not going to be a short-term prospect, Nino began communicating with his Wuppertal advisers about what he should do for the 2020-21 school year. He'd also developed a new relationship he didn't want to leave.

Though the exchange technically shut down, the university agreed to let Nino continue with it for a second year. After that, he realized if he returned to Germany, it would take him two additional years to finish at Wuppertal but only one at Bethel.

Now, he has applied to a U.S. program called Optional Practice Training, or OPT.

"OPT extends a student visa for a year," he says, " and it allows me to work off campus at a job related to my major. Business administration is a good field with a lot of options.

"I would like to work in finance, but mostly I'm just looking for something related [to my major]. I'm trying to stay in Newton, to help keep expenses low."

Nino has thoroughly enjoyed his three years at Bethel. He connected with a host family, Tim and Heidi Huber and their three children, in his first year and was able to stay with them through the summer of 2020 when everything remained mostly shut down. He has made many other friends through working a campus job in maintenance and living on campus.

"I like Bethel a lot because the people are interactive, friendly and communicative," he says.

"I grew up in a city, surrounded by brick walls. In Newton and here in Kansas, there's farmland and beautiful landscape. It has been a great experience to have the difference, and the slower pace of life."

> [Being at Bethel has given] a unique perspective on culture – on the relationship of indigenous people in America and in Kansas. I have learned so many different topics and themes in convocation."

And incidentally, the Wuppertal exchange is set to resume with the 2022-23 school year. Dan Quinlin, professor of languages and coordinator of study abroad, says there are two students ready to come from Germany and several Bethel students who are seriously exploring going to Wuppertal.

Although this wasn't the case for Nino, many students from outside the United States study inside it with interest in, and with scholarship help from, a sport.

Daniela Herrera, a sophomore from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, is a tennis player, so when she and her parents were looking for a college and considering one outside Mexico, they wanted an opportunity for her to play.

The family contacted Bethel head tennis coach Gabe Johnson '19 with an e-mail that included a video of her playing, and he followed up with a phone call. "It was clear Bethel had what Daniela was looking for," Gabe says.

"I was looking for a small school, nothing too big," Daniela affirms. "And to be honest, I wanted to experience something different, so I decided to go far from home."

Tennis has been a big help to her in managing that reality of distance, providing her with ready-made friend support, as have "the Latin guys," she says. There are students currently at Bethel from Argentina, Chile, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, plus four from Spain – all men except one in addition to Daniela.

Daniela Herrera, left, and Coach Gabe Johnson after Daniela won the ITA Women's Singles regional title in fall 2020 and qualified for the ITA Cup in Rome, Ga.

COURTESY PHOTO



> There are a few of us Latin people, and they have helped me in so many ways....The environment at Bethel is so good. Also, my coach has helped me to feel like home."

Daniela doesn't hesitate to recommend Bethel to other students like her. "It's a school that welcomes every person. It's a school that [provides] a lot of fun activities, and makes you feel like you are at home."

Like Daniela, Mauro Arancibia Campos notes the importance of a coach. A track athlete from Talca, Chile, he was looking to transfer from Colby (Kan.) Community College, and initially chose Friends University in Wichita.

It wasn't working as he'd hoped, and he had met then-Bethel head track and field coach Kelly Parsley on Facebook. "I asked if he was recruiting. I'm a distance runner.

"He was friendly and helpful. He guided me with the paperwork. The person who recruited me was the face of Bethel, and I thought, if he was this way [this must be a good choice]. And everyone – my teammates and professors and other staff – has been friendly, and that's what I was looking for."

Mauro has also appreciated the help of an international student adviser in admissions – JDaijon Sumpter '17 and more recently Joseph Husong.

"It's hard learning a new language and culture," Mauro says. "The international student adviser has been really helpful with work permits and jobs. Joseph helped me a lot with my questions by going to the internet. I'm really glad he's here."




COURTESY PHOTO

Mauro Arancibia Campos, right, and teammate Isaiah Bartel running the 1500 meter at the Bethel invitational in spring 2021

Mauro came to college in the United States because he wanted to grow as an athlete, get involved in a new culture and language, and pursue an academic degree. He graduated in May with a B.S. in business administration.

"I wanted to focus on study and sports, with not too many distractions," he says, and the small-town atmosphere of the Kansas colleges he chose have enabled those things.

"I also wanted to grow as a person [by] meeting new people and learning new realities," he says. "Here, I have met people from different countries as well as different parts of the U.S., which has expanded my knowledge."

Junior Ike Umeh and senior Adam Gouro have a somewhat different story from the others in how they got to Bethel, while also being drawn through athletics, in their case, basketball.

Adam grew up in Niamey, the capital of Niger. At age 18, he came to the United States to play basketball, first at Redemption Christian Academy, a prep school in Troy, N.Y., and then Murray State College, a 2-year school in Tishomingo, Okla.

"I got a DM on my Twitter from Coach [Jason] Artaz '05, offering me a scholarship to play basketball," Adam says. "I felt like he wanted me the most."

Ike, on the other hand, was born and raised in Dallas, where he played basketball at Lake Highlands High School. His parents, however, emigrated from Nigeria and the family is part of a large and vibrant Nigerian-American community in the Dallas metro area.

"Coming from a big city to a small town is a big change," he says. "Traffic, people, the community itself. But it was easy to adapt to, because everybody is welcoming. They treat you as their own. There are people you can call family. That all makes the change and transfer so much easier."

Adam also grew up in a large city, but "after two years in Oklahoma" – Tishomingo is not much larger than North Newton – "I was able to adapt well to Bethel. People are friendly."

From left, Bruce Krase, Ike Umeh, Adam Gouro and Denise Krase



The Host Family Program at Bethel has made a huge difference for Adam and Ike, who became friends on the basketball team. Their host parents are Denise Krase, the administrative assistant to the academic dean, and Bruce Krase (photo above).

Ike tore his ACL earlier this year and had to have surgery, so his mother came for a week to help him.

"[Denise and Bruce] opened up their home to my mom. They told her, 'Treat this space as if it's yours.' They really made her feel at home. It was so helpful."

"I haven't been back home for five years to see my parents or other family," Adam (who graduated in May with a degree in business) says. "Bruce and Denise don't replace my family, but I can talk to them about the same issues, the same personal things, that I would talk to my parents about. I call Denise 'Mama,' and she gives me advice like my own parents would."

They also don't think living in a small town in the American Midwest is such a bad thing.

Adam advises, "Don't think twice. Me personally, I don't regret it. We came here for school. [The small community] helps keep you focused and locked in on school work. You won't find a staff – and I've been to two schools before this – who will treat you like family the way they do at Bethel."

> Don't immediately judge Bethel from the location, the small town....When I was a freshman, I couldn't help thinking, I need to get out of here, there's nothing to do. But you want to try to be as outgoing as possible, to meet new people. That's who will keep you here. Those memories are what you're going to cherish."

## STUDENT PROFILE STATISTICS

REPORT BASED ON FALL & SPRING MATRICULATION

| | |
|---|---|
| INTERNATIONAL | **35** |
| UNITED STATES | **501** |

## SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE

If you are interested in becoming a host family for a Bethel College student whose home is outside of Kansas, email the student life office at **studentlife@bethelks.edu** or call **316-284-5324** for more information. You can also complete the Host Family Application online.

# CONCERT CHOIR TOURS IN EASTERN EUROPE



With the January interterm a thing of the past, the quadrennial choir tour took place in 2022 during May and June. Mark Jantzen '85, professor of history, was on sabbatical in Poland during the spring semester and planned the tour, which this time took place almost entirely in eastern Europe. Concert venues were:

Saturday, May 14 – Memorial Hall, North Newton
Thursday, May 19 – Baptistengemeinde Schöneberg, Berlin
Friday, May 20 – Schinkel Kirche Großbeeren, Großbeeren, Germany
Saturday, May 21 – St. Marienkirche, Kyritz, Germany
Monday, May 23 – Kosciół Zielonoswiatkowy, Zbór Radosc Zycia, Gdansk, Poland
Thursday, May 26 – Warsaw
Saturday, May 28 – Willa Decjusza, Kraków Family Fest, Pentecostal Church, Kraków, Poland
Monday, May 30 – Baptist Church (tentative), Budapest
Friday, June 3 – Crkva Sveti Ante, Sarajevo (with choral group Pontanima), Bosnia and Herzegovina
Saturday, June 4 – Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sunday, June 5 – Franjevacki Samostan, Pridvorje, Croatia
Monday, June 6 – Samostan Male brace, Dubrovnik, Croatia

# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## SUNDQUIST ESTATE GIVES LARGEST GIFT IN BETHEL HISTORY



Bethel College has received the largest single gift in the institution's 135-year history, President Jon C. Gering '94 announced March 30.

The gift of $7.25 million from the estate of Dorotha and Grant Sundquist will go to Bethel's endowment to be used for student scholarships within Bethel's Career Pathways initiative.

Dorotha (Huebert) Sundquist, who died Nov. 4, 2020, in Independence, Iowa, was a 1957 Bethel graduate.

Sundquist was born and raised in Henderson, Neb. She graduated from Henderson High School and attended the University of Nebraska-York and Kearney (Neb.) State College, earning a teaching degree.

She taught public school for four years before going to Bethel, where she received a degree in medical technology.

After completing her training, she was the first medical technician at her hometown hospital in Henderson and also worked at Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton.

Over the years, she worked and taught in the medical technology field in Cedar Rapids, Waterloo and Independence, Iowa.

In 1967, she married Grant L. Sundquist. They built a successful business, Bloom Manufacturing Inc. of Independence, which produces custom-made winches. They sold the business in 2000. Grant Sundquist died in 2003.

During their life together, the Sundquists enjoyed traveling to many different locations with family and friends. They shared a love of flying, and Dorotha was the first woman to have her pilot's license at the Independence (Iowa) Airport.

"Dorotha was a remarkable, informed and wise woman," said Bethel Vice President for Institutional Advancement Pam Tieszen. "It was a privilege to spend time with her.

"Dorotha Sundquist was ahead of her time in applying her knowledge, curiosity and interest to her life's work. Her gifts transformed hospital labs, the family business and [local] communities.

"Her active role in her community, in fundraisers and at voting polls demonstrate how she made a difference wherever she was planted.

"Dorotha exemplifies the Bethel College graduate, and now Dorotha and Grant's passing continues to impact Bethel College."

**MELANIE ZUERCHER**

**SCAN HERE TO DONATE**

Help us reach 1.5M for the BC Fund by fiscal year end, June 30.

# PROFESSOR DEDICATED A LIFETIME TO HISTORY




BOB REGIER (COURTESY OF MLA)

Keith and Aldine Sprunger in North Newton, ca. 2003

*Keith L. Sprunger*, Oswald H. Wedel Professor of History Emeritus, died April 24 after a short illness. He was 87.

A native of Berne, Ind., Sprunger had a bachelor's degree from Wheaton (Ill.) College and earned master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois. He began a 38-year teaching career at Bethel College in 1963.

In 1972, the Danforth Foundation awarded Sprunger the E. Harris Harbison Award for Gifted Teaching. Bethel College honored him with the Ralph P. Schrag '37 Distinguished Teaching Award in 1985 and the David H. Richert 1899 Distinguished Scholar Award in 1991.

Among Sprunger's areas of scholarly interest were Puritanism in the Netherlands and Anabaptist-Mennonite studies, with a particular focus on the history of printing and publishing by both groups, as well as the history of Mennonite church architecture.

He is the author of *The Learned Doctor William Ames: Dutch Backgrounds of English and American Puritanism* (1972), *Dutch Puritanism: A History of English and Scottish Churches of the Netherlands in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (1982), and *Trumpets from the Tower: English Puritan Printing from the Netherlands, 1600-1640* (1994), as well as many articles, reviews and professional papers about English, Dutch and church history.

He wrote two Bethel-related histories: the centennial history of Bethel College Mennonite Church, *Campus, Congregation and Community: The Bethel College Mennonite Church, 1897-1997*, and *Bethel College of Kansas 1887-2012*, written for and published in the college's 125th anniversary year.

Also in 2012, Bethel College gave Sprunger the Julius A. '67 and Agatha Dyck Franz Community Service Award in particular recognition of his work on the Bethel history, which was the topic of the Menno Simons Lectures that Sprunger gave later that year.

Along with other Bethel faculty and students, Sprunger was active in oral history, especially in building a collection of interviews with conscientious objectors from the First and Second World Wars.

He was dedicated to local history through such roles as organizer and advocate for the Kansas History Day programs, presidency of the Kansas History Teachers Association, leadership in the Harvey County Historical Society and chair of the Newton/North Newton Historic Preservation Commission.

In 1996, he curated a Kauffman Museum special traveling exhibit, "Menno Simons: Image, Art and Identity."

Generations of Bethel students remember Sprunger for the class "History of Civ."

Keith and Aldine Sprunger are the parents of three children, who all went on to careers in academia: David Sprunger '82, recently retired English faculty at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.; Mary Sprunger '84, history, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.; and Philip Sprunger '88 (economics), administration, Lycoming (Pa.) College.

**MELANIE ZUERCHER**

# MANY INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOGETHER WILL CHANGE THE WORLD, SAYS MLK DAY SPEAKER

Jasmyn Elise Story speaks at Bethel's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in January.



Working for change takes individual commitment to collective action, said Jasmyn Elise Story, Birmingham, Ala., the main speaker for Bethel's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Jan. 17.

Story, a trained practitioner of Restorative Justice, was making their third visit to Bethel, having most recently given the KIPCOR Peace Lecture in 2019.

Early in the presentation, Story told a story: At Princeton Seminary in the 1970s, a group of students were told to write a sermon on the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan, then go immediately to another part of campus to deliver the sermon.

A man had been hired to place himself, slumped and coughing, along the way they would be walking. More than 60 percent walked past him, too focused on having to be at a certain place at a certain time.

"It's often really hard to put away our individual desires for collective benefit," Story said.

"The whole Jericho Road must be transformed," Story continued. "How can I transform the context that created this harm? It's an invitation to take individual responsibility for a collective problem.

"The Jericho Road is a collective problem: Why would someone be beaten and robbed and left for dead there? True compassion sees that an edifice [such as Princeton] that produces beggars needs restructuring.

"What does it mean for us to see that what is produced here needs restructuring? What does it take for us as individuals to take on something bigger than us? The hallway was bigger than the students. The Jericho Road was bigger than one Samaritan. Poverty and injustice are bigger than us. But I, as one person, can say yes to doing something about it. And if the person sitting next to me says yes, we are now collectively taking action."

Story asked the audience for "the first thing that comes to mind when you think of what is 'unacceptable.'"

It could be violence toward indigenous communities, structural racism and structural violence, inequity toward disabled people, the fact that 1 in 5 children lives in poverty, endless possibilities.

"They're huge. I can't return land by myself, end mass incarceration by myself, shift the way we actively impede our disabled citizens, shield every child in this world from harm.

"I can have a conversation with myself about what I, Jasmyn Elise Story – 5-foot-4, Sagittarius, loves sweet potatoes and grits – can do. I can help change policies that sustain harm against children. I can find small and big ways to live [that show] I'm working on something, just me in Alabama, chipping away at a huge problem.

"That doesn't mean I will see these things [changed] in my lifetime. Dr. King knew [an end to white supremacy] wouldn't happen in his lifetime.

"He held [that truth] lightly, and he also said yes, as did every person who walked alongside him, every teacher, fire fighter, mail carrier. They were just individuals who said yes, who said, 'This is unacceptable, and I'm going to say yes to taking on individual accountability for a collective harm.'"

With an eye to the mostly white audience, Story said, "You weren't there when a great-great-grandparent caused the harm, but you bear the legacy. You take that on just like you take on the collective pride and glory. If you can hold onto the feeling of collective pride, then you know you have the strength and energy to hold onto the collective accountability."

Here's what's needed, Story said: "Ask what is unacceptable. Figure out if you're willing to accept accountability. It's going to take all of us to heal this world.

"Finding the way out is not as hard as it might seem, because it's finding our way in to collective accountability and collective change. The history books say 'it was the work of a few that changed the lives of many' but really, it was the lives of many that made us give thanks for the work of a few.

"I hope as you walk through space that every time you see that person slumped in the hall coughing – whether it's before, during or after COVID – you don't only ask if they need help, you also ask what systems brought them here.

"What is bigger than me that I can take accountability for? Being a Good Samaritan is always a choice, and I hope you say yes."

**MELANIE ZUERCHER**

# THOMAS SHARES PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL WORK, IMMIGRATION AND CONNECTIONS

For Rebecca Thomas, it's all about connections, and being open to the possibilities they bring.

Thomas was at Bethel March 4 to give the 2nd Ada Schmidt-Tieszen '74 Social Work Lecture, established by an endowment to honor the long-time professor of social work who retired in 2020.

Born and raised in India, Thomas became acquainted with Mennonites through church workers in her area. When she wanted to go to college in North America, that's who her family trusted in sending their daughter so far away. She spent two years at Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg, Manitoba, before coming to Bethel.

"My family pushed 'vocation' – by being inherently myself, what can I contribute to the world?" she said. "My journey has never been very planned or on a defined trajectory. I was open to possibilities.

"At one of the convocations, a choir came that was from a church one block from Temple University [in Philadelphia]. They talked about economic development, restructuring neighborhoods, community development. I wanted to be part of it, so I applied to Temple."

Thomas graduated from Bethel in 1989 with degrees in social work and international development, and she noted her appreciation for her professors, in addition to Schmidt-Tieszen: Nancy Banman '79 (social work faculty then, and again since Schmidt-Tieszen retired), the late Larry Friesen '67 and former professors Mary and Paul McKay in international development, Doug Penner '69 and Raylene Hinz-Penner '70. Thomas went on to earn masters and doctoral degrees at Temple.

She is currently a professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Connecticut, Hartford, where she began teaching in 2010, and director of the Center for International Social Work Studies at UConn, a position she took in 2014. At the School of Social Work, she chairs the policy practice concentration, as well as the focused area of international social work.

She directs a joint academic program exchange between UConn and Yerevan State University in Armenia; chairs the Global Commission of the Council on Social Work Education; and represents the International Association of the Schools of Social Work on the NGO Committee on Migration at the United Nations.

Thomas's current research and scholarship includes issues related to remittances, international development, poverty and climate-induced migration. This has meant, most recently, serving as principal investigator on a needs assessment of the State of Connecticut's responses to human trafficking, and collaborating with Yerevan State University to conduct research with students on Syrian refugees of Armenian descent returning to Armenia.



Rebecca Thomas

"When I was at Bethel, we were very focused on ideas of activism and resistance," she said. "We understood that the work is long, hard, requires consistency and can't be done alone, so collaboration is very central. I'm relational. To me, people have their strengths, so that is the natural way.

"I was actively engaged at Bethel with the women's group, the Peace Club, the International Club and race relations. My work revolves around these areas to this day: race, class, culture, gender; looking at issues tied to decolonization of curriculum; being more inclusive of the voices of people of color in our narratives – who we read, how we engage."

Thomas believes that "social work needs to be at the table. Social work is really good at collaborating, bringing people to the table, working in the context in which people live."

Thomas's current work and teaching is centered on the situation of immigrants and refugees around the world, and the reality of climate change's effect on migration.

"In the context of migration, we need to make sure human mobility remains a choice rather than a forced decision," Thomas said. "We have the technology – we have to figure out how to share it. We have to notice who is being absorbed and who is being left out – race, economics, reduce challenges and increase opportunities. It requires networking and collaboration to let people migrate safely or allow them to remain in their homes and maintain their livelihoods."

At the end of the convocation, Schmidt-Tieszen asked the first question.

"I've heard you talk about human connection and about taking opportunities. What advice do you have about noticing and taking opportunities when they come up, about forging connections and relationships, that have led to some of your own success?"

"Recognize that you can make mistakes, and be open and vulnerable," Thomas said. "You don't have to spill your guts, just figure out what is the point of connection. Develop the ability to listen and observe. Part of my practice is to observe the environment I'm entering. That's a skill I've developed.

"Be open to the possibilities," she reiterated. "You have nothing to lose, only to advance. I have learned more from mistakes than from the things that went well."

**MELANIE ZUERCHER**

# SPEAKER CALLS CHRISTIANS TO A MORE BIBLICAL VIEW OF LAND



Karen González speaks to a group in the chapel.

In Karen González's view, Christians who claim the Bible as holy Scripture seem to be missing important points about land and the people who live there.

González was at Bethel March 20-21 to give the Staley Lectures, focusing on "a conversation on immigration."

Her topic supplemented this year's common texts in the senior capstone course, Basic Issues of Faith and Life (BIFL), which included her book *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong.*

González immigrated from Guatemala with her family at age 9. They lived in Rhode Island and California before settling in Florida.

Since 2015, she has worked for World Relief in Baltimore, where she currently lives. In 2019, she published *The God Who Sees* with Herald Press, an imprint of MennoMedia of Mennonite Church USA.

In her talk during convocation on March 21, González drew largely from her second book, forthcoming in October, *Beyond Welcome: Centering Immigrants in Our Christian Response to Immigration*.

She pointed out that the theology of land found in many indigenous cultures and origin stories is echoed in the biblical account, namely that the land belongs to the creator (Yahweh/God) who has given it to human beings to take care of – not to "own."

González said, "Most Christians affirm God gave human beings stewardship over creation, and that the gift of land comes with responsibilities and opportunities.

"But our Western understanding of the world puts humankind at the center of creation. [And we] live in a world where land is a commodity to be bought and sold. We don't live as if the land belongs to God alone."

As a result, González said, most American Christians don't question the existence of borders (arbitrarily imposed centuries after the first people took up residence) or of there being "lawful" and "unlawful" ways to cross those borders.

"How we view, how we theologize about, the land matters in the immigration conversation. The question is ultimately one of belonging – who belongs on the land and who does not.

"Chicana writer Gloria Anzaldúa refers to the U.S.-Mexico border as una herida abierta, an open wound, where the [developing] world grates against the [developed] world and bleeds. This image of a gaping wound is very powerful, invoking the humanitarian crisis that exists [in the borderlands]."

She cited as one source of hope what Miguel De La Torre, a professor at Iliff School of Theology, calls "a theology and ethic of [messing] with the system."

That means subverting it, "creating new opportunities through disorder and chaos," González said.

Speaking to a smaller group in the Ad Building chapel on March 20, González said she also found hope in "gatherings like this, when people come together and give up their time to have a conversation, because they care about immigrant neighbors and want to help and to inform others."

Elsewhere, she noted, "Many meetings, conferences and church services now begin with land acknowledgments. We acknowledge that the first people in this land, the indigenous people, were displaced.

"It's important to remember these stories, this reality, that people were removed from their historical lands, but we need to go further. All of us who follow Jesus, the God-man who walked the earth himself, need to acknowledge that the land is not a commodity to buy and sell, it's a gift from the creator for us to steward.

"[Land] acknowledgments should include this – that God gave us the land for the good of all people everywhere, for life, freedom, sustenance and hope."

**MELANIE ZUERCHER**

# BETHEL WELCOMES VP FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE



Jayna Bertholf, CPA, Winfield, Kan., began March 14 as vice president for business and finance.

Bertholf is a 1992 graduate of Kansas State University, Manhattan, with a B.S. in accounting and business management, and earned an M.S. in business education from Emporia (Kan.) State University.

She was most recently assistant professor of accounting and finance at Southwestern College in Winfield, where she taught since 2016, and was named Exemplary Teacher of the Year in 2021.

After finishing her undergraduate degree at K-State, Bertholf worked for three years, 1993-96, as an accountant for Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball in Hays, Kan.

From 2005-16, she taught business at Winfield High School.

While teaching at Southwestern, Bertholf worked during winter and summer breaks as an accounting intern at Galaxy Technologies Inc. in Winfield.

She is a licensed CPA in the state of Kansas and currently serves on the board of directors for the Kansas Society of CPAs.

"I and members of the Executive Cabinet were impressed with Jayna's finance skills and her team-oriented approach to budgeting and strategy," President Jon C. Gering '94 said.

"She has experience inside and outside of higher education as well as statewide influence from her position on the board of Kansas Society of CPAs. She is a thoughtful, motivated leader who wants to be at Bethel College."

Bertholf is no stranger to Bethel – her son, Sam Bertholf, graduated in 2018.

"In the time my son was at Bethel, I came to love and admire the college for its family atmosphere, dedication to citizenship and commitment to the development of its students," she said.

"I have a great respect for Bethel College and the impact the college has on the lives of its students," she added. "I am honored to join the Thresher community."

Following the retirement of Allen Wedel '69 as VP for business affairs in May 2020, Amy Ruetten served in an interim role for one year, July 2020-July 2021. Gregg Dick '87, controller, filled the position from then until Bertholf began.

# NEW CABINET POSITION ANNOUNCED

President Jon C. Gering '94 announced a new cabinet-level position March 14. Megan (Abrahams) Kershner '08, who currently serves as director of career and leadership development, will become dean of vocational development as of July 1, 2022.

Kershner graduated from Bethel with a B.A. in music, and completed an MBA from Kansas Wesleyan University in 2017.

She was recognized by the *Wichita Business Journal* among "Women Who Lead in Higher Education" for 2021, and just completed the Kansas Independent Colleges Association (KICA) Aspiring Campus Leaders Program, mentored by Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Milliman.

Kershner started Bethel's Human Resources Office in 2018. She currently serves on the board of the Newton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Harvey County Human Resources Cohort. On campus, she is actively involved in the URICA, Strategic Planning and Title IX committees.

The public announcement of the change in Kershner's position came during the March 14 convocation, in which Gering, Kershner and several students spoke about the Career Pathways program, which has been a major part of Kershner's work over the past several years.

Career Pathways is an important component in Bethel's five-year strategic plan first outlined in early 2021.

"I am honored to serve the college in this capacity," Kershner said. "I am a strong believer in ensuring our students are ready for life and work after graduation and am looking forward to how this opportunity will shape what it means to be a Bethel College student and alumnus."

"I am pleased to appoint Megan to Bethel's inaugural dean of vocational development position," Gering said.

"She has been deeply engaged in career support for our students and has effectively led the faculty and staff through two semesters of study on vocation in higher education.

"She is also a respected presence in our local business community. She is a courageous and thoughtful leader."



# BETHEL JOINS LEARNING PARTNERSHIP




From left, Dale Schrag, retired director church relations; President Jon Gering; James Krehbiel '88, president and CEO of Bluestem Communities Inc.; Raylene Hinz-Penner; and Dwight Krehbiel, at the kickoff for the new Bluestem U lifelong learning initiative.

Bethel, along with Bluestem Communities and Hesston College, on April 26 announced a partnership to bring new learning opportunities to residents of south-central Kansas and beyond.

Called Bluestem U, the new program seeks to provide lifelong learning – and an enhanced quality of life through enjoyment of learning and social interaction – for those 55 and above.

Bluestem U will launch its inaugural semester this September.

Courses will vary each semester and be taught by former and current instructors from Bethel and Hesston, as well as community experts.

Course topics include subjects such as history, creation care, spirituality, psychology, the arts, wellness and technology. Some courses will also be available via Zoom so people outside the area can participate.

"We are excited to offer this program that will open our campuses to the community and to those who want to learn more about specific areas of interest," said Ariana Kauffman, Bluestem Communities vice president of marketing and communications.

"We are looking forward to working in collaboration with our neighbors at Bethel College and Hesston College to create professional and meaningful programs and experiences for the participants."

Bluestem U kicks off with a fall 2022 semester hosted by Schowalter Villa in Hesston and Hesston College, followed by a spring 2023 semester with Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton and Bethel College.

Faculty for the first "academic year" were announced April 26: Brad Guhr '92, John Sharp and Kevin Wilder in the fall and Raylene Hinz-Penner '70, Dwight Krehbiel '69 and Dale Schrag '69 in the spring.

Several 4- to 8-week courses will be offered each semester, at $50 per semester course. Classes will be held on the Bluestem Communities campuses. Class times will vary (some will be offered during the day, some in the evening) based on instructor schedules. See BluestemU.org

Bluestem Communities is a nonprofit organization in south-central Kansas made up of several retirement communities and programs dedicated to serving those 55 and better. See bluestemks.org

Hesston College is a two-year institution founded in 1909 and, like Bethel, is affiliated with Mennonite Church USA.

BLUESTEM U
learning for life.

# SPRING RETENTION NUMBERS GIVE REASON TO CELEBRATE



TAYLOR BROWN

Bethel's spring semester enrollment, and in particular the retention percentage, showed numbers worth celebrating, especially in a pandemic.

Enrollment numbers become official on the 20th day of classes, which was Feb. 8 for spring 2022. The report showed an official count of 449, the second highest spring number in a decade.

Equally important: the retention rate for all students is 93.2% (fall 2021 to spring 2022), and 89.9% for first-time freshmen, both of which are above average overall.

"Retention rates are one form of measuring our success," Bethel President Jon C. Gering '94 noted.

"Retention numbers reflect the investments we have made in student support over the last two years, which is ultimately why we have been successful," he added. "And we have the dedicated work of staff and faculty thank for that."

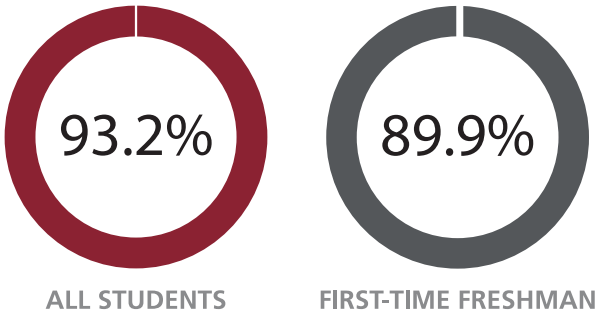
"What's most impressive about the outstanding retention numbers from this past fall semester is that athletics had some significant staff changes during the semester," said Tony Hoops '05, athletic director.

"Strong retention takes everyone. This past semester, the Bethel community proved this by collectively working to serve all of our students."

Added Vice President for Enrollment Management Heidi Hoskinson, "We are thrilled with these numbers and what they say about the Bethel campus community and its focus on students, their success and their fit at the college and in the wider community.

"These numbers show a laser-like focus on recruiting students who are a good fit for Bethel, having great faculty in the classroom and cultivating vibrant and engaging campus life, and represent the efforts of everyone who works for and cares deeply about the college and its success."

**FA21 - SP22**
RETENTION RATES



# STOKES RETURNS TO BETHEL AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Bethel athletics announced the appointment Nov. 29, 2021, of A.B. Stokes as the 24th head football coach in program history.

"It's an honor to welcome Coach Stokes and his family back to Bethel College," said Director of Athletics Tony Hoops '05.

"The impact that he made on Bethel College and establishing the Bethel football program four years ago was profound," Hoops went on. "[We are] lucky to have a leader with such high integrity."

Stokes was part of previous coach Terry Harrison's staff during the 2018 and 2019 seasons, serving as offensive coordinator and associate head coach/director of recruiting.

"I would like to thank God for this opportunity," Stokes said. "It is a blessing for myself and where I came from as a young man to be able to lead a college football program."

At a press conference announcing his appointment, Stokes thanked President Jon Gering '94 and Hoops for thinking of him when the position opened and ultimately offering him the opportunity to lead the program.

In 2018, when Stokes was offensive coordinator, the Thresher offense finished the season averaging more than 274 rushing yards per game, the third-most nationally.

The 2018 team had three All-KCAC 2nd Team players and 13 total All-KCAC award recipients.

Bethel finished the 2019 season with a record of 8-3, second in the KCAC, ranked in the NAIA Top 25 for the first time since 2008, and ending the year at #24 in the polls.

The 2019 Threshers had two NAIA All-Americans, the KCAC Special Teams Player of the Year and six All-KCAC 1st Team players, and recorded 19 total conference awards.

Before returning to Bethel, Stokes spent two years at Lincoln Christian School in Tulsa, Okla. where he served as an assistant football coach as well as head wrestling coach. While launching a first-year wrestling program, Stokes also helped the football team achieve a 12-1 record and a state runner-up finish.

Before his first stint with the Threshers, Stokes spent six years at Larned (Kan.) High School, where he was head football coach as well as head track and field coach.

He led the Indians past several milestones during his tenure in western Kansas, including ending a 28-year playoff drought and winning back-to-back first-round playoff games for the first time in program history.



COLLIN LOUTENSOCK

As a collegiate athlete, Stokes played for Andy Lambert at Trinity International University, Deerfield, Ill., from 2003-05 before following Lambert to Sterling (Kan.) College, where Stokes finished his collegiate football career, 2005-06. Stokes also coached receivers for Sterling for three semesters following the conclusion of his playing career.

Stokes expressed his goals of guiding and ministering to members of his team, with hopes "they graduate from Bethel College as better men than when they arrived."

**COLLIN LOUTENSOCK**

BC FOOTBALL

# FIRST WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL COACH APPOINTED

Angela Rowe has been named head coach of Thresher women's flag football, the first in program history, tasked with building the newest athletic program.

"It's with great excitement and anticipation that we announce the hiring of Coach Rowe to lead our inaugural women's flag football program," said Bethel Athletic Director Tony Hoops '05.

"The mission and vision of our athletic department and Angela's coaching philosophy aligned from the very beginning. She is an elite leader of young people who will dynamically impact our campus."

Rowe, a native of Atlanta, comes to Bethel after a long coaching career spread among flag, flex and tackle football. Most recently, she was a defensive coordinator for the Atlanta Phoenix, a contact football program, where she crafted and implemented game plans.

"It is an absolute privilege to be named head coach for the inaugural women's flag football team at Bethel College," Rowe said.

"I am ecstatic at the opportunity to build a program with the assistance of a sound support system and aligned philosophies."

Rowe has coached and played flag, flex and tackle football. She has experience coaching at a variety of levels, from middle-school to professional flag and tackle teams.

"We are fortunate to hire a coach with the expertise Angela brings," Hoops said. "She has an incredibly strong background of experience in women's football that spans over two decades."

Rowe has spent time as a player/coach, where she was in charge of both coaching and implementing game plans, along with calling plays while on the field.

"I felt an overwhelming sense of family and community from the moment I stepped onto the campus of Bethel College," Rowe said. "This is an immeasurable honor to be a part of the Bethel community."

Rowe is a graduate of Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C., where she was a two-sport athlete in basketball and track.

While at WCU, Rowe earned All-American honors in track while being an All-Conference basketball player.

She currently holds the WCU 400-meter record, and also earned MVP honors at the Naval Academy Basketball Tournament.

Her football honors include the Atlanta Xplosion Women's Full-Contact Football Iron Women Award; Independent Women's Football League World Champion, in 2001 and 2006; USA Football Alternate; and Defensive MVP for the United States Flag and Touch Football League.



COLLIN LOUTENSOCK

For the last 22 years, along with playing and coaching football, Rowe has worked in law enforcement in the Atlanta area.

"Women's flag football is one of the fastest growing female sports in the country," Hoops noted. "I'm excited to see Coach Rowe build this program as we compete for the first time in spring 2023 at Thresher Stadium."

**COLLIN LOUTENSOCK**

BC
WOMEN'S
FLAG FOOTBALL

# CAMPUS FOOD PANTRY REOPENS




Almost exactly two years after the pandemic closed Bethel's first campus food pantry in March 2020, the Office of Student Life was able to open it up again.

The food pantry was launched Nov. 4, 2019, after two social work students, now graduates, and a faculty member approached Vice President for Student Life Samuel Haynes to talk about a problem they had identified: student food insecurity.

Akiyaa Hagen-Depusoir '20 and Sophia Minder '20 had seen that hunger was an issue for some Bethel students. Their proposal, backed by others in the social work department, was to open a food pantry on campus.

After the students and their professor, Ada Schmidt-Tieszen '74 (now retired), had some setbacks trying to get a pantry started, President Jon C. Gering '94 asked Haynes to work with them.

When Bethel shut down along with the rest of the country on March 13, 2020, so did the food pantry. There have been attempts to reopen it since then, and especially to make it COVID-safe, and the time finally seemed right.

There was a public reopening Feb. 21, when students, staff and faculty could stop by for a cupcake and to see the pantry on the ground floor of Haury Hall.

"Thresher Pantry" is intended to serve Bethel students (off campus and on), staff and faculty who are experiencing food insecurity.

One student worker, junior Louis Etienne, is responsible for opening, closing, watching the inventory and shopping as needed, while junior Shanti Kauffman works with Haynes on operations as part of her social work scholarship.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring the food pantry back," Haynes said. "I am personally and professionally excited for this reopening."

He pointed out that some new items have been added, including personal hygiene items and basic school supplies.

"Future plans include possibly expanding to offer bedding and certain items of donated clothing such as coats," Haynes continued. "We have a refrigerator now and also hope in the fall to add perishable items, like fresh fruits and vegetables and bread."

From the day the food pantry first opened, Haynes said, there has been broad community support for it.

Helping to get it started, several members of Bethel College Mennonite Church gave money and Bluestem-Kidron Bethel in North Newton had a food drive. Another BCMC food drive just this past Advent season yielded more food and additional funds to help restock the pantry.

"Dillon's/Kroger Foods has made financial donations," Haynes said, "and we have had continuous support from Aladdin Foods, our cafeteria food service contractor, and food service director Luci Johnson – not only donating food but meal vouchers, and that has been ongoing all through the pandemic.

"The most remarkable has been the care and support of our students and the Department of Social Work," he concluded, "starting with Akiyaa, Sophia and Professor Schmidt-Tieszen, and extending to our current student volunteers and others."

**MELANIE ZUERCHER**

# BETHEL JOINS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP'S EFFORT TO KEEP TALENT LOCAL

The Office of Career and Leadership Development has joined "Campus Wichita," a program launched in 2021 to give college students a chance for professional development and networking for 10 weeks over the summer.

"I am really excited that Bethel will be partnering with the W, the young professionals' division of the Wichita chamber, on an initiative called Campus Wichita," said Megan Kershner '08, director of career and leadership development.

Wichita businesses and companies provide the internships, while Campus Wichita's Fellows Program, #internICT, helps students "gain the soft skills needed for a 21st-century workforce while connecting them to the Wichita community," according to the W's marketing material.

Some of what Campus Wichita offers its Fellows: participation in "Your Leadership Edge," a program of the Kansas Leadership Center; access to the W's networking events; mentoring; volunteer opportunities in the Wichita area; a "passport" to facilitate exploring Wichita during free time.

Campus Wichita's purpose is "to expose students to industry and engage them in the community to help them envision a future of living and working in Wichita."

It grew from Project Wichita's identification of "talent" as one of five focus areas for long-range planning over the next decade.

While there are 15 colleges and universities within 90 minutes of Wichita, the data shows that few students outside of Wichita State University (and then only half) stay in the area after graduation – and in particular that the area is bleeding educated women and people of color.

When Wichita Young Professionals, now the W, was created, its founders discovered that "every time a young professional leaves Wichita, we lose a capital investment of $300,000." Campus Wichita hopes to help reverse that.

Campus Wichita has a goal to place 60 interns in summer 2022. Hopefully some of those will come from Bethel College.

"This will be an outstanding opportunity for our students to get involved in the Wichita business market," Kershner said.

CW CAMPUS WICHITA

JOINING VOICES Together

SAVE THE NEW DATE

NOVEMBER 12, 2022

WORSHIP AND THE ARTS
BETHEL COLLEGE

# MUSEUM CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF COLLECTING



Kauffman Museum volunteers Jim Mueller '74, left, and Steve Kreider Yoder help to move a 19th-century hearse into the museum's current special exhibit celebrating 125 years.

KAUFFMAN MUSEUM

To celebrate the depth and breadth of today's Kauffman Museum, the current special exhibit is "The Magic of Things: 5 Continents, 25 Centuries, 125 Years of Collecting," curated and fabricated almost entirely by Bethel alumni.

In December 1896, students and friends of Bethel College announced the formation of a Museum of Natural History and American Relics at the college. Starting in 1941, Charles J. Kauffman began integrating his personal collections with the Bethel museum, eventually opening "Kauffman Museum" to the public. The current building was completed in 1983.

Current and former staff selected more than 100 artifacts and animal specimens to illustrate how objects astonish collectors, donors and museum staff. Items in "The Magic of Things" are not on permanent display, and many are being exhibited for the first time.

Reinhild Kauenhoven Janzen '63, rural Newton, was Kauffman Museum curator of cultural history from 1983-93 and served as lead curator for "The Magic of Things."

Said Janzen, "I have always been fascinated by the global and deep historical reach of Kauffman Museum's collections, so I selected a statuette from ancient Egypt, 20th-century Chinese Buddhist paintings and 21st-century African ritual pottery."

Demonstrating the exhibition's subtitle are a ngoma drum from a Zimbabwean healer and a 1914 Indian motorcycle, a Mesopotamian cuneiform tablet from 524 BCE and a Macintosh computer from 1986, and a red-sided eclectus parrot from New Guinea and a horse-drawn hearse from a Goessel, Kan., funeral home.

Steve Friesen '75, Littleton, Colo., was director of Kauffman Museum from 1975-77 and joined the exhibit team for "The Magic of Things."

"I have always returned to my roots at Bethel College and Kauffman Museum," Friesen said. "It is a special joy for me to select Charles Kauffman's rather unusual folk creations using animal horns, hide and hair to construct chairs and decorative items for the home."

Other guest curators are current museum staff Andi Schmidt Andres '85, director, Dave Kreider '82, exhibit technician, Austin Prouty '19, exhibit assistant, and Chuck Regier '81, curator of exhibits; newly retired museum assistant Kristin Schmidt '74; former directors John M. Janzen '61 and Michael Reinschmidt; director emeritus Rachel Pannabecker '80; emeritus Bethel faculty and longtime museum contributors Dwight Platt '52 and Bob Regier '52; and former museum staffer Renae Stucky '16.

Reinhild Janzen spoke about the process of putting together the exhibit at its grand opening Feb. 19, and later, on March 6, gave a Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program about her choices, Acholi pottery from Uganda and Buddhist scrolls from Taiwan, in "Ritual Markers of Life and Death in Uganda and Taiwan."

There were two other special programs: John Janzen talking about the ngoma drum and portable Estey reed organ he chose, in "Drums or Organ: Contesting Musical Styles in African Christianity," April 3, and Kreider on "Collecting for College and Community: Past, Present and Future," May 22.

# CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS, SPRING 2022




1




2



3



4

**1. Student life**
**2. Students waiting to go into convocation**
**3. Spring musical** (*Bright Star*)
**4. Students in lab**
**5. Commencement** (*Jake Smucker*)
**6. Commencement** (*Jim Turner*)
**7. Commencement** (*Jim Turner*)
**8. Commencement** (*Jim Turner*)
**9. Commencement** (*Jake Smucker*)
**10. Commencement** (*Jim Turner*)
**11. Commencement** (*Oscar Gonzalez*)
**12. Commencement** (*Jim Turner*)




WE ARE
THRESHERS
6


7


8


5


9


10


11


12

BETHEL COLLEGE

300 East 27th Street
North Newton, Kansas
67117-1716

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 1
North Newton KS

## VIRTUAL CORPORATION ANNUAL MEETING

**Members of the Bethel College Corporation**
**Friday, Sept. 23, 2022, 7:30 p.m. (CDT) by Zoom**

- Welcome and invocation
- Call to order and chair's remarks
- State of the College report
- Corporation business (elections if applicable)
- Closing remarks

FALL FESTIVAL 1970-2022

# SAVE THE DATE

## OCT. 6-9

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

**THE THRESHER GOLF CLASSIC IS NOW A PART OF FALL FEST CELEBRATIONS.**

**CALL YOUR FRIENDS, GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER AND CIRCLE FRIDAY, OCT. 7, 2022, ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

**SCAN QR FOR MORE INFORMATION.**