

Around THE Green



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ON THE COVER:

Jason Schmidt '04 holds a barn kitten in one hand and a chunk of Tilsit cheese, made with milk from his Jersey and Jersey-cross cows, in the other.

PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN

AROUND THE GREEN
WINTER 2019
bethelks.edu

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AROUND THE GREEN
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Published two times a year
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THE COST OF HURRYING

Dear alumni and friends of Bethel College,

Like you, I am proud of my loved ones and supportive of their endeavors. I shuffle my schedule, commit resources, and expend energy to share in the significant moments of their lives. Benjamin, our 16-year-old high school junior, was scheduled to run at the regional cross-country meet in Great Bend, Kan., at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26. Emerson, our 11-year-old fifth grader, was scheduled to play soccer in Wichita at 2 p.m. on the same day. I went into serious planning mode on Friday: I mapped our driving route, estimated how long it would take to walk from the car to the race route, factored in a brief stop for lunch, added transition time for our group of six (including grandparents), and concluded that we must leave North Newton at 7:20 a.m.

My precisely crafted plan deteriorated almost immediately on Saturday morning. A frantic search for a misplaced soccer shoe resulted in a departure time of 7:35 a.m. – without the shoe. To stay on schedule, I accelerated above the speed limit on the interstate. But I was stalled again: a stoplight for a single-lane construction project turned red as I approached it, resulting in a finger-tapping delay of five minutes. At the green light, I accelerated some more, now breezing along the two-lane roads and through small towns, glancing nervously between the minivan's speedometer and my wristwatch.

My wife saw the police car before I did, but it was too late to slow down. Thankfully, the police officer understood my predicament – she worked quickly to issue me a speeding ticket! We resumed our journey toward Great Bend, now driving the speed limit. Within a few miles, we had to stop again when my daughter became entwined in her seatbelt. A few minutes with her grandmother's paring knife released her from her bind. I had lost the seatbelt – and all hope of arriving on time at Great Bend for my son's regional cross-country meet.

This holiday season, please take some time to slow down. Travel slowly and carefully, like the wisemen and shepherds on starlit footpaths to Bethlehem. Take others with you on the journey so you can learn from one another. Your journey takes time, but it will lead somewhere beautiful and

promising. That's how the tired travelers discovered baby Jesus in the manger. And when you get to where you are going, slow down some more. I encourage you to spend time with your loved ones doing "slow activities" – cook a meal, play a board game, or take a walk. Or simply sit down and talk with one another and strengthen your relationships.

The race started just as I walked in from the parking lot. The course ran by the entryway, and Benjamin passed by four times. I celebrated his good effort, hugged my family, and talked with friends before driving back to Newton. Grandma found the shoe (in a bin of Halloween decorations!) and we made it to Wichita in time for the soccer game.

My speeding ticket cost \$126, but hurrying through life can cost us friendships, health, and missed opportunities for learning and wisdom.

With slow, warm blessings on the eve of Christmas,

Jon C. Gering

JON C. GERING, PH.D.
President



TO VIEW THE 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT, VISIT: bethelks.edu/annual-report

TAKE NOTE



» The 2019-20 school started off with campus energized by the **largest class of incoming first-time freshmen in more than 30 years**. As of the first day of classes, enrollment of first-year freshmen was 157, with 466 total full-time students (compared to 434 a year ago).

- » Women's soccer was named the 2018-19 **Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Team of Character** at the annual Sport Management Conference Aug. 6. The award is based on academic achievement and especially on community service.
- » Thresher volleyball earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association Academic Award for **the second straight year** (2018-19), given to teams who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher.
- » Bethel is the **highest ranked Kansas college or university** in the Washington Monthly list of Top 200 Bachelor's Colleges for 2019-20, at #12. These rankings are based on an institution's contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, research and service.
- » Sports Information Director Josh Booth '16 was named **KCAC SID of the Year** for 2018-19 at the annual Sport Management Conference Aug. 6. Booth, who began as SID in 2016, was also promoted to assistant athletic director July 1.
- » Bethel's athletics department has earned the NAIA's Champions of Character Five-Star Institution Gold Award (2018-19) for the **second straight year**.
- » Bethel had **11 teams on the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) list of Scholar-Teams** for 2018-19. Leading the Threshers was the golf team, with a cumulative team GPA of 3.578, closely followed by men's tennis, who turned in a GPA of 3.526.
- » Bethel's exchange with UNICACH (Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas/University of Sciences and Arts, Chiapas, Mexico) continues, with **the first UNICACH student on campus** this fall (Eduardo Lopez Argueta) and with UNICACH professor of evolutionary ecology, Sergio Lopez Mendoza, at Bethel through February, along with his family. (For more, see page 20.)

FOR THE FULL STORIES, VISIT: bethelks.edu/news-events



» Kauffman Museum received the **2019 Publication Design Award** from the Mountain-Plains Museum Association for the materials that accompanied its special exhibition "Campaign for a New China: Looking Back on Posters from the Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976." On display at the museum in spring 2019, "Campaign for a New China" featured propaganda posters collected in China in 1976 by the late Robert Kreider '39, Bethel professor of peace studies. May 2019 graduate Austin Prouty (on the right in the photo) created the exhibition's promotional package as his senior graphic design project, in collaboration with Chuck Regier '81 (on the left), Kauffman Museum curator of exhibits.



» Rachel Epp Buller '96, associate professor of visual art and design, published the book ***Inappropriate Bodies: Art, Design, and Maternity*** (Demeter Press), with co-editor Charles Reeve, this fall. The edited collection examines conflicting assumptions, expectations and perceptions of maternity in artistic, cultural and institutional contexts.

» Bethel is #23 in U.S. News & World Report's ranking of **Best Regional Colleges Midwest**. Bethel also appears in two specialized categories: #29 in "Best Value" (based on overall ranking plus attendance cost) and #43 in "Top Performers on Social Mobility" (based on graduation rates for students receiving federal Pell Grants).

» The Kauffman Museum special exhibit "Campaign for a New China" **won an additional honor** this fall: the Kansas Museums Association's 2019 Award of Excellence. Seniors Elizabeth Friesen Birky, Denver, and Emma Girton, Wichita, who were on the design team, accepted the award Nov. 8 at the KMA annual conference.

» Bethel football ended an **11-year NAIA rankings drought** after a 31-26 victory over Sterling College Sept. 28 gave the Threshers their best start (4-0) since 2008 and brought them in at #25 on the NAIA's weekly Top 25. Bethel finished the season ranked #24 in the NAIA, with one of the best records in program history (8-3), #1 in the NAIA in rushing, and with six KCAC First Team picks.



» Kaci Wilson, senior from Sterling, Kan., is Bethel's **2019 recipient of the Kansas Independent Colleges Foundation's Maud Wyatt Memorial Scholarship**, given to seniors close to graduation who have demonstrated excellence in academics, character and integrity; shown a commitment to the value of a Kansas private college education; maintained GPAs of 3.5 or higher; and contributed to their respective communities.

A SPORTING CHANCE

by MELANIE ZUERCHER

Football brought Leland Brown from coastal Texas to south-central Kansas. Now he wants to use sport to empower students to build their lives and dreams post-college.

Statistically, sport leaves athletes worse off than they were before they started their collegiate career, says Leland Brown III. And he hopes to change that.

Leland came to Bethel from Galveston, Texas, in 2011, “because of football, not knowing anything else I wanted to do.” Now he’s serving a highly sought-after internship with the NCAA in Indianapolis, in the Office of Inclusion, where “I get to help empower athletes to overcome the barriers that exist.”

Speaking in convocation Sept. 13, Leland said, “I come from generations of incarceration, a deadbeat dad, a mother who didn’t care, a society that had consigned me to jail. But I also come from ancestors

who made it too hard for me to fail, a beautiful history of chaos, strength and intellect.”

His grandparents raised him and a host of other young relatives, making it hard for them to attend his high school football games and other activities, he says. “I felt like I fell through the cracks.”

It was only later that he began to see “how much my grandparents were doing. They took all of us in when they didn’t have to, and showed us the best love they could. We were never hungry, we had a roof over our heads. My feelings of hurt and abandonment began to turn into love, and the desire to learn how I could do things for others like they did.

When I went to college, I didn’t know what I wanted to do except to help people and to make sure anyone who came in contact with me never felt abandoned. I wanted them to know that they matter.





Nevertheless, he nearly didn't make it through his first year. He often tells the story about "how everything that could go wrong, did": his roommate was expelled, his computer was stolen, he had no money to buy books, and he came down with Bell's palsy, that left half his face paralyzed (temporarily). He credits Bethel staff member Denise Krase and faculty members Nathan Bartel '02 (former English), Gary Histan (former chemistry), John McCabe-Juhnke '78 (professor of communication arts) and Ami Regier '85 (former English) with almost literally saving his life.

They certainly saved his freshman year, and with it, his academic career. Leland graduated from Bethel in 2015 with majors in English and communication arts, certified to teach speech and theater at the high school level. He was a four-year football letter winner, a member of the Bethel College Concert Choir and the forensics team, active in theater and opera, president of the Multicultural Student Union and Bethel's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a student ambassador for admissions, and a student chaplain.

Following graduation, Leland spent the summer as a division leader for the Grade 7 boys' counselors at Chestnut Lake Camp in northeastern Pennsylvania, then took a position as an admissions counselor for access populations at the University of Colorado, Boulder. After a year, he moved to the University of Cincinnati, where he was a program coordinator for the Office of Ethnic Programs and Services and began a master's degree in sports administration. In spring 2018, Leland was awarded a prestigious Albert C. Yates Fellowship and graduate assistantship in the program, graduating this past spring with his M.S.

"I evaluated what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," Leland says, "and I knew it was to give back to the community that gave so much to me – the student [life] professionals and the faculty, the people who gave me confidence when I didn't have it myself.

"I identified [what seemed to me to be] the most vulnerable [student] population, the student-athletes. The world pulls at them from so many angles. Everyone demands the same level of commitment in everything, and the demands don't stop coming. They're exhausted mentally, physically and intellectually.



I needed to understand the full scope of the world around them. I knew what it felt like to be to be a student, but not the staff and faculty perspective.

”

He learned much in his entry-level position at UC-Boulder, particularly in “outreach and strategic communication. I recruited in a lot of communities, but I was [in particular] an access recruiter, targeting ‘strategic populations.’

“Once I realized what was keeping students from getting [into college], I went to the University of Cincinnati to learn how they were sustaining their collegiate careers. What were schools doing to make sure students were succeeding in the real world?

“In the Office of Ethnic Programs and Services, I worked to create identity curriculum – to equip students with tools for who and where they were. That gave me further insight into what I could bring back to athletics to help prepare athletes for the real world.

“And finally, I wanted to understand the faculty side, and what better place than in sports administration?

“So now I understood the problems getting [into college], the problems while they were there, the academic deficiencies, the problems post-career. I was ready for the ‘big-boy job,’ working for the NCAA in order to enhance the student experience on a wide scale. The NCAA [includes] almost a half-million athletes, and it affects millions of people. I want to empower, to liberate, to be one of the change agents and give back on a wide scale.

“I’m in the Office of Inclusion as a post-graduate intern [through June 2020]. We develop resources and guides for our NCAA members to empower others to voice change for themselves but also to empower the people in this building to understand that people should be valued, they’re whole and their identities matter – not only the student-athletes but the people who lead them

Nothing should get in the way of that, for [our student-athletes] to be the change makers and the barrier breakers they are, and we give them the tools.

”

“Identity” is a key word for Leland and the work he’s doing at the NCAA. “As a poor black person, growing up, I knew those who struggled with their identities would never be able to achieve what they wanted to achieve.

“I was first able to find the language around diversity, equity and inclusion at Bethel – a shout-out to Christine Crouse-Dick [associate pro-



fessor of communication arts] for that. She gave me the tools and resources to speak about what I actually wanted to do. I knew that meant to educate, and to give [young people] tools to successfully navigate a landscape where they don't look, act or think like the majority.

"Bethel also helped me realize why I needed to do the work I do. There is a lot of good in the world but also a lot of cultural dissonance, a lot of hate and oppression, quite frankly, a lot of incompetence as it relates to inclusion, identity, race, sexual orientation, gender, religion. That's what begets racism, sexism, homophobia.

"When I went to Bethel, those things were prevalent in that society, too, because Bethel is a microcosm of the world. There were students from rural communities who were incompetent because of lack of knowledge, experience and information about the communities like the one in which I grew up. It wasn't all their fault – we were a product of our communities. I had the same cultural incompetency about their communities. Bethel helped me realize what the world is and how to speak to it.

"I also got to live in the positive. I got to have invigorating conversations with students who did see and understand, to sit down and put language to what was happening, thanks to Christine. I found common ground via music because Bill Eash [professor of music] gave me the chance to sing in the Concert Choir. I was able to build community because people like Denise Krase helped me understand family isn't distinct to your race or gender or sexual orientation."

In his Sept. 13 convocation presentation, Leland spoke directly to the athletes. "Understand the problems. I want you not to be exploited.

I want you to prepare for your life after sport. You won't get anything from your sport without those other things like teamwork, leadership, communication skills. Find outside experiences. Equip yourself with knowledge.

If I had left the same way I came, I would have wasted not only money, but opportunity. Take something away from this experience. Learn from people who are different from you, who have different experiences from you.

”

Leland says, "Bethel gave me three things: a sense of what the world truly was; the tools and resources and love to conquer the world; the community I needed when I was in my darkest days. When my job is the hardest and I don't have any energy left, I think back to who I was, and who I was with, at Bethel."

SAY "CHEESE!"



by MELANIE ZUERCHER

After going out to see the world, two alumni came back to the farm, and hope cheese will give them a sustainable way to thrive.

Neither has an undergraduate degree in agriculture. One freely admits he spent most of his 20s "running from the farm." Yet here they are. Both Jason Schmidt '04 and Miriam Goertzen-Regier '08 are making a living farming, on land east of Newton, Kan., that has been in their respective families for generations. The two recently began working together to make cheese from some of the milk Jason produces on his dairy farm, Grazing Plains LLC.

Before Bethel, Jason graduated from Hesston (Kan.) College, the two-year Mennonite school down the road, then went to South Africa with the Serve and Learn Together (SALT) program of Mennonite Central Committee.



Above, Jason Schmidt holds a chunk of Tilsit cheese; left, farm dog Willow checks on the cows

That's when the farming bug started getting to me. I went into MVS thinking it was going to be training to go back overseas, but I began feeling the pull to go back home.

”

Jason met his wife, Carol Longenecker, in MVS. When she got into graduate school at Clemson University in South Carolina, he says, “I found a master’s program in plant and environmental science that was right down my alley, studying grazing systems. In those two-and-a-half years in grad school, I decided I really wanted to farm. Carol was game to give it a try.

“At Clemson, I decided on the kind of farming I wanted to do. Coming from a dairy farm, there was a lot of potential for moving it toward pasture-based, with the dream of eventually marketing my own dairy products.”

Miriam majored in mathematics and German at Bethel and then followed a path not so different from Jason’s.

“I did MVS in Evansville, Ind. My job title was urban gardener, which was delightful. I managed an emergency food pantry in the mornings, and in the afternoons, I made healthy snacks for kids and taught them how to garden. [Like Jason,] I began to see the link at a local level between farming, between connecting people with food, and social justice.

“I shadowed a retired Anglican priest who was starting small business enterprises, mostly organic vegetable co-ops that helped disempowered youth grow food sustainably. That experience began to open my eyes to the connection between the land, environmental preservation, and social justice and poverty issues.”

After that year, he came to Bethel, where he was one of the last global peace and justice majors, with a focus on international development. Then he went to Colorado for two years with Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS), working in Alamosa and La Jara with community gardens and organic vegetable co-ops.



Miriam Goertzen-Regier and her father, Dwight Regier, with a young pig

"I remember seeing kids come back for seconds and thirds on kale because they grew it themselves. I realized: There's something at work here that isn't happening in the broader society."

In Evansville, Miriam says she began to see "Kansas was home and where I wanted to eventually end up." After two years in Evansville, she did another MVS term in Tucson, Ariz., with a low-income home repair organization, and then a SALT term in Bosnia, where she worked on a small-scale farm that functioned as a therapeutic community for men in recovery from addiction.

Miriam is a 5th-generation farmer on the Regier side. Her father, Dwight Regier '80, raises field crops (corn, soybeans, milo, wheat) and specializes in humanely raised, antibiotic-free hogs. When Miriam returned from Bosnia, her parents offered her one of their fields to do her own farming. She also works for her father as a farmhand. (Her husband, Ryan Goertzen-Regier '12, works full-time in tech support for Mennonite Church USA in Newton. He was raised on a Kansas farm as well, and now does beekeeping and honey production on the side.)

Jason represents the 4th generation of Schmidts on the home place but the 5th farming in the rural Newton/Whitewater area. His greatgreat-grandparents homesteaded two miles north of the home farm in the 1870s. His grandparents started the dairy farm in the 1940s and '50s. Jason bought the operation from his parents, Jeanne (Penner) '75 and Ralph Schmidt '72.

When Miriam was first back in Newton, she worked as a baker at Prairie Harvest (now Prairy Market), but came to "the slow realization that being on the farm, and that kind of work, was how I wanted to spend most of my time. Getting to see different methods of agriculture has been helpful for providing some direction and also making it a little harder to see with rose-colored glasses.

"My farming is a fairly small portion of my income [currently]. I'm looking at moving away from tillage, into rotation that includes cover crops and pasture animals. It all comes back to soil [and caring for the soil]."



Jason adds, "That little crust on the earth is what has given us all life. If you're sustainably minded, you eventually realize it's all about building, protecting, loving and bringing it back to life."



"The convergence of the no-till and sustainability movements has made it much more accepted to see soil as a living organism that needs to be protected, although how you do that varies."

Jason milks around 75 cows, selling most of the milk to a large national co-op, Dairy Farmers of America. His dream is to eventually reduce his herd by about half and "get out of the commodity milk market" — and that's where he and Miriam have gotten together.

"We have been talking about what it would mean to make cheese since Miriam lived with [my sister] Jill [Schmidt '05] for a year, in 2011-12. Miriam likes food science, so we were talking about a 'Newton Area Cheese Head Organization,' or NACHO.

"We made mozzarella one time," Miriam says, "and Jason couldn't keep his fingers out of the pot, he was so impatient. I decided I was going to be the cheese maker and Jason was going to be the farmer."

"The dairy industry has been in a terrible cycle for the last five years, at or below the cost of production," Jason says. "Typically, it's a 3-year cycle, where you hit a low, it recovers, you come back up, you go back down. But we've now had five years of right below cost. It's been rough. At least Carol can put food on the table with her job as a lawyer in the Kansas Appellate Office.



Miriam Goertzen-Regier examines some of her milo.

"A little over a year ago, Miriam and I decided to get serious about the cheese. She worked on recipes and we worked together to figure out how to get certified with the state. We're starting really small, about 30 pounds of cheese per batch. We're not making a profit, but if we can cover costs and get our name out there, then we'll figure out what to do next."

The initial Grazing Plains cheeses have been cheddar curds, that don't have to be aged, and the first specialty cheese, Tilsit, which has a particular connection to both Jason's and Miriam's backgrounds.

"As a math major, I take part in the annual math alumni breakfast," Miriam says. "Mark Jantzen '85 was at one of these, and he said, 'I hear you're starting to make cheese – you have to learn about this cheese.' There was a town in East Prussia called Tilsit. There were Mennonites who lived in the area, although there's no evidence they were making this cheese."

"From a cheesemaker perspective, it feels like these Mennonites who came from the Netherlands to East Prussia could have brought some [of this kind of cheese]. But cheese is a product of its environment – it doesn't turn out the same in another place. Mark had also had this in Germany."

"So it's a cheese named after the town that is no longer called that. I think it's now part of Russia, close to Poland. I had to do all kinds of research to get the recipe. I finally found a video of a cheesemaker in Australia, watched it several times, and got the recipe."

"Miriam and I are both from this Mennonite lineage," Jason says. "We thought it would be great to have a cheese that fits our story."

Prairie Market and Mojo's at Bethel carry the cheese curds, and Prairie the Tilsit, but Jason has sold most of it at the Wichita Old Town Farmers' Market.

Both Jason and Miriam will say that growing up on a farm in close touch with the natural world has shaped where they are choosing to go in life. And so did their Bethel education.



Jason Schmidt greets some young calves being cared for by the nurse cow, Big Girl.

"Both majors taught me particular ways to think," Miriam says. "The nuance of the liberal arts – I got to take Mennonite history, Greek, and gen ed requirements like chemistry, that has been helpful in farming and cheese-making."

"More broadly than that is a sense of who I am in the world and how I interact with it. I have responsibility in the world and in my community. Bethel instilled that in me."

Bethel [made me see] the need to think critically and [gave me] the tools to do it, to not just take things at face value but to ask why they are the way they are. That pushed me to caring about soil and about the people who are metaphorically downstream.



"Social justice is a foundational background ethic that I took away from my years in the peace and justice program," Jason says. "Liberal arts in general, being exposed to interdisciplinary classes and professors who pushed critical thinking – that's all still pretty important, allowing me to think outside the box and maybe getting me into the mess I'm in now of not wanting to follow the conventional model."

"In farming, you have to know a little bit about a lot of things. That's what liberal arts is about, and it gets you a long way in life."

CAMPUS NEWS

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

SUMMER IN THE CITY PART OF NEW BETHEL-EMU COOPERATION

From an internship at an urban elementary school to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing on the Washington Mall, junior Jen Andres had a summer like no other.

Her experience also broke the path for some new intercollegiate cooperation.

Andres, a junior elementary education major, spent 10 weeks at the Washington Community Scholars' Center (WCSC), administered by Eastern Mennonite University, which immerses students in cross-cultural urban studies and community living while they serve in an internship.

"We want students in our sister schools to have opportunities for the kinds of competitive internships available in D.C.," says Kimberly Schmidt '84, professor of history at EMU and co-director of WCSC.

Schmidt has worked with WCSC for 21 years and was instrumental in transitioning it

from Washington Study-Service Year, or WSSY, to WCSC in 2002. Among other changes, the program went from a 9-month school year to offering the fall or spring semester or a 10-week summer term.

"We called it 'Center' because we wanted to involve all the Mennonite schools," Schmidt says.

Bluffton (Ohio) University students have been joining EMU students at WCSC for about the past decade. Bethel and EMU signed a memo of understanding last year that allows Bethel students to remain that (not having to transfer temporarily to EMU) and to get Bethel credit for their work.

Schmidt has long hoped to have Bethel students come to WCSC, but needed someone to lead the way.

Andres has known Schmidt (a peer of her

parents, Andi Schmidt Andres '85 and Mark Schmidt Andres '83) all her life and has visited the D.C. area many times, so she wasn't a hard sell.

"I heard about it when Kim came to speak in a couple of classes about the Bethel-EMU cooperation," Andres says. "I've enjoyed the times visiting Washington, D.C. I loved the city and I thought it would be fun to spend the summer there.

"I want to teach in an urban setting, so I thought it would be helpful to [get some experience] in an urban school."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

www.bethelks.edu/article/summer-city-part-cooperation-emu



Above, Jen Andres with Sister Maria, one of the teachers at the school where she did her summer internship; right, Jen Andres (second from right) with four of her fellow day-camp staff at a birthday party they gave her.



STUDENTS EXPERIENCE MENNONITE CONVENTION FOR THE FIRST TIME

One grew up Mennonite and one didn't, but both Ellie Bradley and Bruce Rosario attended their first MennoCon this past July.

Bradley, a sophomore, was born and raised in Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton but says church has not been a major part of her life for the past number of years.

Shalom youth go to every other Mennonite Church USA convention, meaning each has one chance in their four years in high school. Bradley chose not to go when her time came.

Then, at the end of her first year at Bethel, Professor of Bible and Religion Patty Shelly '76 asked Bradley if she was interested in participating in a project being organized by Jason Kauffman at the archives of MC USA in Elkhart, Ind.

"Even [being] a small part of a research project is good for a resume," Bradley says. "I had never done something like that. I hadn't used a recorder before. I feel better now about having to conduct [my own] interviews,

and about a similar project I'm doing in one of my communication classes this semester."

Bradley saw lots of people she knew at MennoCon, including Bruce Rosario, senior from Pollocksville, N.C.

Rosario spent his summer in the Ministry Inquiry Program (MIP) at First Mennonite Church in Newton, but that's not how he made the connection to the worship band at Men-noCon.

"At the beginning of [last] year, Glen Guyton [executive director of MC USA] came through Bethel on his 'Mennonite college tour' and Patty Shelly introduced us. He said, 'If you want the opportunity, e-mail me if you're serious.' So I did, looking for anything music related."

Rosario's experience with MennoCon was intense, and sometimes "tedious," he says, "with three practices a day. We had to learn at least 16 songs. We had to prepare for each [daily] worship service.

"I was in awe the whole time, doing something I loved to do, in the biggest venue I've been in so far."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

www.bethelks.edu/article/students-experience-mennonite-convention-first-time



Top: Ellie Bradley, left, and a Camp Mennoscah camper work on friendship bracelets; bottom: Bruce Rosario, right, sings with the worship band at MennoCon 2019 (photo by Vada Snider).

SOCIAL WORK RE-ACCREDITED, AWARDS FIRST FRIESEN SCHOLARSHIP

Bethel's social work department had two big reasons to celebrate this fall — a successful reaffirmation of accreditation, and the first recipient of a scholarship established in honor of social work professor emeritus Larry Friesen '67.

Earlier this year, the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education voted to reaffirm the accreditation of the Bethel's social work program for eight more years.

"This is quite an achievement for our social work department," said Robert Milliman, Ph.D., academic dean. "[It] is a credit to Bethel's excellent program and the fabulous preparation for the site visit by the faculty, Ada Schmidt-Tieszen '74 and Jennifer Chappell-Deckert '96, [as well as] detailed assistance provided by Elissa Harris."

Schmidt-Tieszen, the department chair, noted, "It's a grueling and tedious process that can also be energizing and insightful. You look at every aspect of your program through new or different eyes.

"We received reaffirmation of accreditation with no concerns and no requirements to report on later, which is somewhat unusual. When the site visitor was here, talking with students and a group from our Advisory Council, they were impressed with what they heard from both those groups."

Another reason for the program to be proud is that it's the first year to be able to award a Friesen Scholarship in social work.

Friesen graduated from Bethel before there was a social work program, but was always drawn to service as a profession. He eventually

got graduate degrees in social welfare from the University of Denver and Columbia University.

He began teaching at Bethel in the spring of 1983 and retired in 2011 after 28-and-a-half years.

At that time, Bethel's Social Work Advisory Council decided to set up the Larry Friesen Social Work Scholarship to be awarded annually to a new student, either first-year or transfer, who intended to major in social work.

Viviana Rodriguez, a junior transfer from Hesston College, is the first recipient.

MELANIE ZUERCHER

www.bethelks.edu/article/social-work-starts-school-year-accreditation-scholarship-award

BETHEL ADDS FOOD PANTRY TO STUDENT SERVICES



From left, Bethel President Jon Gering, Vice President for Student Life Samuel Haynes and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Brad Kohlman cut the ribbon for the new food pantry.

Vice President for Student Life Samuel Haynes hadn't been in his job very long when two students approached him with a problem.

Social work majors Akiyaa Hagen-Depusoir and Sophia Minder, then juniors, had realized that hunger was an issue for some Bethel students, and wanted to start a campus food pantry.

"Sam took this on, even with a lot of other projects," said Bethel President Jon Gering '94 at the food pantry's opening Nov. 4, about a year after the idea was first raised.

Bethel joins more than 640 other colleges and universities across the country who are adding or have added a food pantry to the services offered to students.

According to the College & University Food Bank Alliance (cufba.org), low-income students are enrolling in college at increasing rates; 39 percent of undergraduate students are at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty guideline; and the majority of college students are classified as "nontraditional," meaning they fit one or more of six criteria that include "single parent" and "must provide for dependents."

All these things add up to a need to help more students with basic daily necessities.

The Bethel College food pantry is also open to faculty and staff. It will have daily hours, and will operate on the honor system. Four student volunteers will oversee the stocking and other maintenance.

At the food pantry's opening, Haynes pointed out the broad support that has already come in terms of financial and food donations, including from Bethel College Mennonite Church members, Aladdin Food Service (dining hall contractor) and Kroger (Dillon's gift cards).

"The most remarkable has been the care and support of our students," Haynes said, "starting with Akiyaa and Sophia and extending to our student volunteers and others."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

FACULTY LEARN TO BUILD FIRST-YEAR COMMUNITY THROUGH CIRCLES

As Bethel geared up to welcome new students this fall, one group of faculty spent a recent morning in circles.

They weren't running in circles – they were sitting in them, learning the basics of the "circle process," with the ultimate goal of transforming conversations on the Bethel campus.

All Bethel freshmen are divided into First-Year Seminar (FYS) groups, each led by a Liberal Education Adviser (LEA). The WINTER 2019 LEAs gathered at the office of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) to hear about circles (sometimes called talking circles) from KIPCOR staff and spend time practicing the process.

"Circles are often used in the process of restorative justice," said Sharon Kniss, KIPCOR director of education and training. She noted that there are various ways to do the circle process, and the one KIPCOR uses and teaches "most closely resembles that of the Plains people – the first people to live where we now do."

KIPCOR's kind of circle employs a "talking piece" that gets handed from one person to the next. Only the person holding the talking piece is allowed to speak, and they can also choose to pass.



John McCabe-Juhnke '78, professor of communication arts and one of this school year's LEAs, suggested that the LEAs be introduced to the circle process as a way to foster more constructive discussion, especially on hard topics.

"We had been talking about ways to push anti-racism work forward on campus," McCabe-Juhnke said. "For the second year in a row, our common text in FYS is *The Hate U Give* [a young-adult novel centering on a police shooting of an unarmed black youth]."

"The circle process is designed to help groups talk about difficult issues. But I think it's

helpful in other ways, in terms of developing a sense of class community."

"Circle process is highly adaptable, even though it's rooted in indigenous culture and practice," Kniss said. "It's a good tool for conversations about race that are typically tense, uncomfortable and emotional."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

www.bethelks.edu/article/faculty-learn-how-build-first-year-community-through-circles

ADVANCEMENT CELEBRATES RECORD GIVING TO BETHEL FUND

The Bethel advancement and development team finished the 2019 fiscal year with record giving to the annual fund (for unrestricted gifts).

"We had the highest giving to the Bethel College Fund in college history, at almost \$1.7 million," said Vice President for Institutional Advancement Brad Kohlman '07.

"That was a 12.5% increase in total dollars donated to the Bethel College Fund compared to FY18," he added. Bethel's FY 2019 ended June 30.

Money raised for the Bethel College Fund each year has the widest and most direct

impact on campus life each year, going to support academic programs, student scholarships, library services, upgrades to lab equipment and instructional resources, Student Life programs, faculty development, and facility maintenance and campus beautification.

"I'm very proud of our team," Kohlman continued. "Our new staff are excited to get out and build relationships with alumni and donors."

In the past six months, the advancement and development office has welcomed Ashleigh Hollis as director of annual giving and Garrett Whorton '07 as director of development.

"Our goal is to increase our total donor pool over the next year," said Kohlman, "and talking to our donors about all the ways they can support Bethel College."

"Bethel College alumni and donors are truly amazing people. They routinely provide financial, spiritual and moral support that produces life-shaping experiences for our students."

CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS, FALL 2019



1. Freshman Rumble, August; 2. Tie-dye, August; 3. Block Party, August; 4. Service Day, September; 5. Home football game, September; 6. "Where's Shane?" from KWCH-TV, October; 7. Fall Festival, October; 8. Fall Festival play, *A Shayna Maidel*, October; 9. Climate Strike, October.



EXCHANGE BETWEEN MEXICO AND KANSAS BUILDS LANGUAGE AND FRIENDSHIPS

Three students, two colleges, one language-learning goal.

For seniors Sarah Balzer, Inman, and Madison Hofer-Holdeman, Wichita, spending the summer in Chiapas, Mexico, was a way to improve their Spanish, while Eduardo Lopez Argueta, at Bethel for the fall 2019 semester, wants to get better with English.

Lopez is a fifth-year biology major at UNICACH (Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas, or University of Sciences and Arts, Chiapas, in Tuxtla Gutierrez), which has a new exchange agreement with Bethel. Balzer is a social work major with a Spanish minor and Hofer-Holdeman an English major.

All three say now that their language skills have improved — and that the relationships they built or are building are equally valuable.

Balzer needed a study abroad option to complete her minor. “I knew about the partnership with UNICACH, and felt like that would be a good opportunity,” she says.

“There’s a big difference between Latin American and academic Spanish, plus there was an option for staying with a host family, which the other programs [available through Bethel] don’t offer.”

Hofer-Holdeman wanted “to go to Mexico because I feel like, we’re neighbors; Spanish is really prevalent in the U.S.; Mexican culture is similar to the Hispanic culture in the U.S., more so than between Spain and the U.S.”

Balzer did her junior social work placement at UNICACH, working in the psychology department. “That was a very different perspective on what social workers do,” she says. “It was set up to be more like individual therapy sessions, compared to what I’m doing now [in my senior placement], which is straight-up community organizing.”

Although she didn’t have much interaction with clients, “I got a good feel for it, through talking with co-workers, going to group meetings, doing some outreach, coordinating with a government organization — a wide range.”

Hofer-Holdeman had “an internship where I helped translate the school’s Spanish website into English and worked with their web department. They were a blast, super friendly. I also took a Spanish-language class with Sarah. It was just the two of us so it was catered to [our needs].”

Lopez has studied English since middle school, and at UNICACH, he says, “almost all the sciences are in English, so I came to [improve my] English and my abilities as a researcher.”

This fall, he’s taking Environmental Science (his specialization) and Neurobiology.

“I wanted to make an exchange, but I didn’t want to spend my time in a country where I couldn’t practice another language, such as Colombia or Argentina. I chose Bethel because when I saw what it was like, I said, ‘That’s where I want to be.’

“I met Sarah and Madison in the summer. When UNICACH knew they were coming, they said, ‘You’d be perfect to help them out if they need something, make them feel welcome and comfortable.’”

In Chiapas, Hofer-Holdeman and Balzer were happy to have Lopez to show them around, in addition to the Gomez family, their hosts.

“They were amazing, so welcoming,” says Balzer, and Hofer-Holdeman adds, “We couldn’t have asked for better. They were always really good about explaining things, [speaking] slower

and helping us. They made us feel like they were actually their daughters — [the parents] called us ‘m’ija’ [daughter].”

The family included two young adult daughters, Ana and Esly. “They are both language majors [at UNICACH], so they understand the process of learning a new language and were really helpful,” says Hofer-Holdeman.

“We’d go watch movies and hang out with our ‘sisters’ and their friends a lot,” says Balzer. “They were very nice about introducing us to their friends and their lifestyle. I liked doing things outside. [When] we met Eduardo, he took us out to do a lot of exploring — to see waterfalls and other things.”

She adds, “My favorite part was definitely the relationships I built during that time. Everyone was so nice, and patient with me. I was super worried people would be frustrated or give me a hard time and that was so not the case.

“I’m thankful for that time and those relationships. I also feel like it gave me the opportunity to live in a different country and culture. Even though I have traveled lot, I haven’t done that. I learned things about living in Mexico and in the U.S.”

“It increased my understanding that people don’t always inherently think about things the same way I do,” says Hofer-Holdeman. “It was nice to see and hear the perspective of Mexicans on U.S.-Mexico relations. It solidified my opinion of what’s going on at the border, which is, I feel like we could be doing more and we come off as pretty aggressive (which we are).”

“Sarah and Madison picked me up in Wichita and brought me to Bethel,” Lopez says. “I thought maybe I had died in the airport and gone to heaven, because this is a completely different lifestyle. We don’t have residence halls and the meal plan at UNICACH. You live in the city and commute to the university. You’re just there for the classes.

“All the extra [campus] activities are interesting and fun. I never tie-dyed a shirt before!

“The kindness of people here is something I like. They are so kind all the time. They are a little shy but when you meet someone, they’re really nice.”

MELANIE ZUERCHER



Madison Hofer-Holdeman and Sarah Balzer (standing second and third from right) with new friends in Chiapas, Mexico

BETHEL WELCOMES NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Mark Brown, Information and Media Services support technician

Amber Celestin '04, director of student success and retention and assistant professor of English. She has an M.A. in English from Wichita State University.

Brad Celestin '03, assistant professor of psychology. He has a Ph.D. in psychology with a minor in social neuroscience from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Ashley Davis, head dance coach

Danica Dickson, admissions visit and events coordinator

Devi Gandikota, visiting assistant professor of mathematics. She has an M.S. in mathematics from Wichita State University.

Chywonna Gonzalez '94, coordinator of residence life

Jason Greever, adjunct instructor of social work. He has an MSW from Washburn University, Topeka.

Justin Helmley, director of forensics and instructor of communication arts. He has an M.A. in communication studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Ashleigh Hollis, director of annual giving. She has an MBA from Southwestern College, Winfield.

Katie Hoody, interlibrary loan assistant

Jill Hoopes, director of student wellness. She has an MSW from Newman University, Wichita.

Gabe Johson '19, head tennis coach

Damon Klassen '98, media services coordinator. He continues as an instructor in communication arts and adviser for KBCU-FM.

Nate Kroeker '19, admissions counselor

Megan Leary '14, instructor of mathematics. She has an M.S. in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma.

Christina Liu, assistant professor of music. She has a DMA in piano performance with pedagogy emphasis from the University of Kansas.

Emily Lockhart, assistant professor of health and physical education. She has an M.S. in physical education from Pittsburg (Kan.) State University.

Jenny Masias, adjunct instructor of Spanish. She has a B.A. in modern classical languages from Wichita State University.

Dan Muhwezi, adjunct professor of sociology. He has a Ph.D. in sociology and anthropology from Iowa State University.

Ana Parra, coordinator of student activities and engagement. She has an M.A. in college student development with a concentration in administration from Kansas State University.

Kelly Parsley, head track and field and cross-country coach

Angela Sager, adjunct instructor of philosophy. She has an M.A. in philosophy from Fordham University.

Rebecca Schrag '19, Kauffman Museum exhibition assistant

Brad Shores, recruiter and promoter for summer camps and events. He continues as director of the Bethel College Steel Drum Band and the athletic pep band.

Dan Sigley, director of athletic training and assistant professor of health and physical education. He has a Doctor of Athletic Training degree from the University of Idaho.

Miranda Soriano '16, instructor of nursing (moving from adjunct clinical instructor role to full-time faculty)

Renae Stucky '16, access services librarian

Emma Ware, athletic training graduate assistant. She has a B.S. athletic training with a minor in kinesiology from Kansas State University.

Garrett Whorton '07, director of development

Leroy Wilson, information services coordinator. He has an M.S. in software design and development from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

Holly Winiarczyk, athletic training graduate assistant. She has a B.S. in athletic training from Winona (Minn.) State University.

HALL OF FAME CLASS INCLUDES TENNIS, FOOTBALL, TRACK



Left to right: Brandon Kaufman '08, Katrina Khicha '06, Angela Bontrager '00 and Mel Goering '61

The four members of the Thresher Hall of Fame Class of 2019 were recognized at Fall Festival this year, at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet Oct. 11 and at the Fall Fest football game the next evening.

They were tennis athletes (and sisters) Angela Bontrager '00, Valley Center, Kan., and Katrina Khicha '06, Wichita; football star Brandon Kaufman '08, Moundridge, Kan.; and meritorious service awardee and track and field athlete Mel Goering '61, Santa Fe, N.M.

Angela Brodhagen (1996-2000) and Katrina Brodhagen (2002-06) were two of the most dominant athletes that Bethel and the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) have ever seen on the tennis courts.

They combined for two NAIA All-American nods, seven KCAC MVP awards, six KCAC championships for their teams, multiple NAIA Championship appearances, and a slew of singles and doubles victories.

Defensive back Brandon Kaufman was a terror to opposing quarterbacks, picking off a school record 23 interceptions during his career. His stats also include 274 total tackles, 25 tackles-for-loss and three sacks.

He was named to the KCAC 1st Team for three straight years – in his senior year, as both a defensive back and a punt returner.

He finished his Bethel career in 2007 ranked No. 1 in the NAIA for interceptions per game (1.1) and No. 2 in both passes defended per game (2.1) and punt return yards per attempt (17.8).

Kaufman was one of only four Bethel football players to be named an NAIA Player of the Week. He helped the Threshers win back-to-back KCAC Championships, in 2006 and 2007.

Mel Goering was a three-sport athlete for Bethel from 1957-61, as quarterback of the football team, a point guard on the basketball team and four-time KCAC high-jump champion.

He was also president of his class (1961) and a Rhodes Scholar finalist, who continued over the years to serve Bethel College and the athletic department.

He held numerous positions at the college, culminating with Chief Operating Officer, and later served as chair of the Board of Directors. He is credited with creating Bethel's athletic training program.

JOSH BOOTH

www.bethelthreshers.com/article/2065

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES WITH SEVEN-FIGURE GIFT

As Bethel College moves full steam ahead with its Engage the Future capital campaign, a significant gift from two alumni has boosted the effort.

The Dick Living Trust has made a commitment of \$1.5 million toward the campaign, which is focused on student wellness (physical, spiritual, emotional), information technology upgrades, academic program initiatives and annual giving.

Brad Kohlman, Bethel vice president for institutional advancement, said, "This is the type of commitment that is transformational to our institution's present and its future."

He added that Engage the Future moves forward with "100 percent involvement and support of the Board of Directors."

The tangible centerpiece of the campaign is construction of a campus activity and wellness center.

Becki '78 and Gary Dick '80 of Baldwin City, Kan., are the trustees of the Dick Living Trust.

One of the reasons for their financial commitment, said Becki Dick, is that "[the center] will enhance recruitment of student-athletes and the experience for everyone at Bethel.

"It shows Bethel's commitment to students' physical health and the role that plays in students' mental health and quest for knowledge – in short, to nurturing the needs of the whole student."

The proposed new wellness center is "a facility that can be used by all," Gary Dick said.

"We both believe access to a facility that promotes physical health is an important part of a well-rounded college experience, as reflected in the capital campaign's goal of 'strengthening minds, bodies and communities.'"

Becki Dick was raised in the Newton area. Her father, the late Robert Schmidt '52, taught chemistry at Bethel. Gary grew up in the Buhler, Kan., area.

Becki is a Bethel graduate and Gary attended Bethel for three years, finishing his degree at Kansas State University. Both were members of Bethel's tennis team, as was their son, Nathan Dick '11.

They also have two daughters – Nathan's twin, Tessa, and Jena.

The Dicks moved to Lawrence, Kan., in 1984. In 1993, Gary realized his goal of starting his own manufacturing company – Custom Mobile Equipment, Inc., which makes Versa-Lift® forklifts.

Custom Mobile Equipment is located in Baldwin City, where the Dicks have lived since 1998.

"A gift of this size will positively impact students for generations to come," Kohlman said, "as Bethel prepares them for meaningful lives of work and service through faith

formation, the liberal arts and practical experience in career pathways."

MELANIE ZUERCHER



Becki and Gary Dick

Join the club – everyone else is.

BETHEL COLLEGE HARVEST CLUB

\$1,000 or more donation to Bethel College
for any designation during the fiscal year.

Give today at www.bethelks.edu/gift

CLASS NOTES

Information received as of Oct. 30, 2019

1940–49

Edith (Peck) Maclean '41, Mystic, Conn., celebrated her 100th birthday Sept. 2. She enjoyed a career as a piano teacher and choral director for 57 years before retiring to Mystic in 2014.

1960–69

Dorothy Nickel Friesen '69, Newton, was honored by the State Library of Kansas for her memoir *The Pastor Wears a Skirt – Stories of Gender and Ministry*, which was chosen as a Kansas Notable Book of 2019.

David Schmidt '65, Wichita, wrote a digital book titled *Computer Information Systems*, published by Great River Learning, Dubuque, Iowa, in summer 2018. A revised version was made available this past August.

1970–79

Peter Goering '70 was inducted posthumously into the Topeka (Kan.) Shawnee County Sports Hall of Fame for his work in sports journalism.

Donald Krehbiel '79, Dallas, celebrated his 30th anniversary as director of music at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, and the 25th anniversary of the Orpheus Chamber Singers, a professional choir he founded and directs.

David E. Ortman '75, Seattle, ran lead-off for a M65+ 4x400-meter relay team Sept. 1 at a meet in Alexandria, Va., which bettered the masters world age-group record (and American record), running 4:01.03. Also in 2019, David won the M65-69 pentathlon and placed 2nd in the high jump (1.42 m) and 3rd in the 400m (65.57) at the USATF National Masters Indoor Track and Field Championships in Winston-Salem, N.C.; placed 3rd in the (M65) 50m (6.98) at the National Senior Games in Albuquerque; and won the (M65) 300m hurdles (47.30) and placed 2nd in the 400m (60.54) and 3rd in the 200m (26.98) at the USATF National Masters Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Ames, Iowa. His 300m hurdles time is the world's fastest 2019 time for his age group (as of mid-September).

Rebecka Stucky '75, Austin, Texas, was named Educator of the Year at Westlake High School in Austin. Stucky also serves as

English department chair and is responsible for coordinating the school's Virtual Vietnam Wall website.

Karen Wiens '73, Palmer Lake, Colo., is still working, "with great joy," full time as a psychotherapist in private practice.

1980–89

Denise Brueggeman '87, North Newton, had three paintings accepted into the juried art exhibition "DragonMasters" at CityArts in Wichita. Two of her paintings were also accepted into the Kansas Watercolor Society National Exhibition, to be held at Mark Arts Center in Wichita, Nov. 20, 2020-Feb. 13, 2021. She teaches gifted students in USD 259 (Wichita) and is working towards her Ed.S. in school psychology through Emporia State University.

Gregg Dick '87, North Newton, was inducted into the Kansas Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame in September. Dick has assisted with and managed the Moundridge (Kan.) 13-15 Babe Ruth baseball team for 38 years, as well as many all-star teams over the years. For the last 10 years, he has served as the league's state treasurer. He was state tournament director in 2009 and regional director in 2000.

Barbara Krehbiel Gehring '86, Lombard, Ill., graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., in May with a graduate certificate in theological studies. She and her husband **Richard Gehring** '86 have begun a co-pastorate at Lombard Mennonite Church.

Lora Jost '88, Lawrence, Kan., had her art featured in a show at the Carriage Factory Art Gallery in Newton, July 27-Sept. 20.

Brenda Krehbiel '89, Columbia, Mo., was hired as director of financial aid at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Mo.

Jason Latham '93, Golden, Colo., after working on liver microsome CYP 450 research and development in the University of Kansas

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).

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.

Medical Center's Division of Pharmacology, left to start Xenotech, Inc., an FDA-certified testing facility. He was an analytical biochemist and supervisor of the metabolism division. He joined the Army National Guard in 1991. In 2001, he began working for the Johnson County (Kan.) sheriff's office crime lab, where he developed and implemented the Digital and Multimedia Evidence (DME) forensics section and was assigned to the homicide/major crime scene investigation team. In 2006, Jason became one of the first to obtain Certified Forensic Video Analyst (LEVA) designation. He was deployed to Iraq from 2007-08, where he was wounded in combat and subsequently spent the next four years recovering and in physical therapy. During this time, he participated in an internship at the FBI's Forensic Audio, Video and Image Analysis Unit (FAVIAU) and, in 2012, was one of the first to obtain the Certified Forensic Video Examiner (CFVE) designation from the International Association for Identification (IAI). He was seated on the CFVE board and co-developed new certification and proficiency exams. In 2013, Jason co-founded DME forensics, Inc., with an FBI colleague. He developed and implemented an ISO 17025-compliant forensics laboratory, and developed and taught forensics courses around the country to various law enforcement and government entities. He moved the company to Golden in 2015. In 2017, he was in a near-fatal motor vehicle accident and retired from DME forensics. He currently lives in Golden with his wife, Sheryl.

Joel Schroeder '88, Newton, graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind., in May with a graduate certificate in theological studies.

Bruce Toews '85, Neodesha, Kan., retired after 30 years of teaching K-6 music in the Neodesha school district.

1990-99

Rachel Epp Buller '96, Newton, had her art featured in a show at the Carriage Factory Art Gallery in Newton, July 27-Sept. 20.

Margaret De Jong '90, Fredericton, New Brunswick, participated in the May 4

commencement at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind., and anticipates completing her degree in December with an M.Div. and a major in Christian faith formation. She received the Willard M. Swartley Award for Excellence in Biblical Interpretation from the seminary's Bible department.

Johann Eberhart '93, Austin, Texas, received the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) Award for Sustaining Outstanding Achievement in Research, intended to "provide long-term support to experienced investigators with outstanding records of research productivity," to "encourage them to embark on long-term projects of unusual potential." Johann is on the faculty of the Department of Molecular Biosciences at the University of Texas, Austin.

Larissa Fast '92, Manchester, England, is the senior lecturer at the University of Manchester as of August 2018.

Cara (Eshelman) Kliwer '97, Wichita, was recently awarded "Marketer of the Year – Agency" by the Wichita American Marketing Association. Her agency, CK Communications, consults on strategic communications planning, event marketing and media and public relations for nonprofits and small businesses.

Angela Lehman '94, Richmond, Va., received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to the Palestinian Territories-West Bank. She will lecture at Al Quds University in spring 2020 as part of a project to teach poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction writing, and to train English language teachers.

Travis Schlenk '95, Atlanta, was promoted to president of basketball operations and general manager of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks.

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

Heather Esau Zerger '96, Newton, joined Stinson LLP law firm as a partner in their Wichita office, in the business litigation division.

2000-09

Correction from June edition: **Emily Smith Goering** '05 and **Joel Smith Goering** '04, Washington, D.C., along with their daughter Delmy and grandson Juan, welcomed their second grandchild, Antonio "Joel," March 19.

Amber (Layton) Celestin '04, Newton, began as director of student success and retention at Bethel in August.

Brad Celestin '03, Newton, began as assistant professor of psychology at Bethel in August.

David R. Hiebner '01, Columbus, Neb., was promoted to head principal of Columbus High School.

Doug Maury '01, Orange City, Iowa, completed his doctorate in athletic training at A.T. Still University in Mesa, Ariz., in June, and started at Northwestern College in Orange City as clinical education coordinator for the master's in athletic training program.

Jesse Nathan '05, San Francisco, received his Ph.D. in English literature from Stanford University this spring. His interview with Robert Hass is forthcoming in *The Paris Review*, and he is a lecturer in the English department at the University of California, Berkeley.

Adam Schrag '01, Robbinsdale, Minn., is senior lecturer in communication in the Department of Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

2010-19

Josh Booth '16, North Newton, was named Sports Information Director of the Year for 2018-19 by the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC). As of July 1, he also assumed the position of assistant athletic director at Bethel.

Erin Engle Bartel '14, Newton, was featured in the Summer 2019 issue of *knitscene* magazine in an article about her yarn-dyeing business, Coast to Coast Yarn Co.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF:

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

The Awards Committee of the **BETHEL COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
is seeking nominations for **THE 2020 ALUMNI AWARDS.**

To make a nomination, go to **www.bethelks.edu/alumni/alumni-awards**

Renee Epp Reimer '14, Newton, graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind., in May with an M.Div. and a major in Christian faith formation. She received the Award for Excellence in Preaching from the seminary's church and ministry department. She began as associate pastor for faith formation at Bethel College Mennonite Church in August.

Megan Fowler '11, Mechanicsburg, Pa., completed her doctoral degree in athletic training at Indiana State University, Terre Haute.

Jonathan Huber '11, Wichita, is host/producer of *Morning Edition* at KMWU-FM in Wichita. This year, he received 1st place, Newscast, Division B, from Public Radio News Directors, Inc., and Best Newscast, Region 5, Small Market Radio, from Radio Television Digital News Association.

Megan Leary '14, Newton, began as adjunct instructor of mathematics at Bethel in August. She also teaches math at Hesston College.

Abigail Phillips '18, Topeka, Kan., completed a master's degree in social work (MSW) at Washburn University, Topeka, and began in the position of maternal and child health home visitor for the Shawnee County Health Department.

Jared Regehr '14, Wichita, received the 2018-19 Henry H. Loewen, M.D., Award for Outstanding First-Year Resident in the Ascension Via Christi Family Residency Program.

Benjamin Rudeen Kreider '15, Princeton, N.J., is a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master of Social Work (MSW) candidate at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Justin Schneider '12, Newton, took the position of boys' basketball coach at Halstead High School.

Miranda (Snyder) Soriano '16, Park City, Kan., is employed at Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph in Wichita as a registered nurse-labor and delivery.

Renae Stucky '16, Moundridge, Kan., began as access services librarian at Bethel this past summer.

Miriam Weaverdyck '13, Los Angeles, was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) graduate fellowship, one of the most prestigious available for students in the sciences. Miriam is a graduate student in social neuroscience at the University of California, Los Angeles.

marriages

Ivonne Cabrera '05 and James Janusz, McPherson, Kan., June 3, 2017

Sarah Fuentes '10 and Adam Kutniewski, Frederick, Colo., July 29, 2018

Katrina (Seibert) Mikiah '85 and Steve Nelson, Missoula, Mont., June 23, 2018

Amy Rinner '78 and Marc Waddell, Abbotsford, British Columbia, April 20

Abram Rodenberg '13 and Emily Yang, Lawrence, Kan., Aug. 3

Miranda Snyder '16 and **Justin Soriano** '17, Park City, Kan., June 22

Kiley Varney '18 and **Eric Preheim** '16, Mission, Kan., June 22

births and adoptions

Elizabeth Friesen '10 and Julian Gonzalez-Salamanca, North Newton, a daughter, Melina Mae, June 30

Bethany (Miller) Gibbes '06 and Stephen, Rockingham, Va., a daughter, Claire Adrienne, Sept. 19

Sarah (Fuentes) Kutniewski '10 and Adam, Frederick, Colo., a son, Finn, Nov. 14, 2018

Allison Boehm Lehman '09 and **Ross Lehman** '07, Overland Park, Kan., a daughter, Margaret Eva Naomi, Aug. 11

Shaka Lucas '18 and Robyn Whitnee Lucas, Newton, a daughter, Rose, Feb. 27

Emily (Kliwer) McCartney '12 and **James McCartney** '10, Newton, a daughter, Avery Marie, Oct. 2

Brian Pauls '92 and Nikki, Prairie Village, Kan., a daughter, Simone Vernita, Aug. 7, 2018

Graham Unruh '11 and **Rachel (Voran) Unruh** '12, Wichita, a son, Owen Thomas, May 11

deaths

Sylvia (Unruh) Abrahams '46, Hillsboro, Kan., May 7

Carl Andreas '50, North Newton, June 8

Sonja Andreas '71, Portland, Ore., June 1

Helen (Goertzen) Bachman '54, Hesston, Kan., May 15

John Bland '80, Lincoln, Neb., July 20

Roland Brown '47, North Newton, Aug. 16

Gerald Dyck '60, Assonet, Mass., July 23

Thomas Dyck '80, Hesston, Kan., May 27

Irene Fast '51, Ann Arbor, Mich., July 19

Charles Frank '62, Wichita, March 6

Erwin Fransen '79, Saint Thomas, Ontario, June 9

Mary Ann (Claassen) Franz '62, Newton, Aug. 26

Loren Groening '57, Hillsboro, Kan., May 26

William Grubbs '49, Lawrence, Kan., Sept. 7

John Hiebert '58, North Newton, Aug. 17

Elsie (Zerger) Kaufman '40, Moundridge, Kan., Sept. 24

Lois Koehn '59, Fredericksburg, Va., Aug. 1

Edythe (Schmidt) Leek '56, Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 26

Marcella (Thiesen) Martens '59, Inman, Kan., June 9

Rosemary (Linscheid) Moyer '52, North Newton, June 26

Walter Neufeld '53, North Newton, July 7

Clarence Niles '50, North Newton, May 14

Arlan Ortman '58, Marion, S.D., Jan. 26

Kaye (Friesen) Penner '62, North Newton, May 11

Rodney Penner '60, Newton, Oct. 5

Winfred Reimer '50, Bellingham, Wash., April 7

Carl Rempel '84, Wichita, June 19

Linda (Hiebert) Sekiguchi '67, Minden, Nev., May 15

Kent Sheriff '89, North Newton, Oct. 15

Viola Unruh '47, North Newton, Aug. 9

Watch your mailboxes for information about these alumni events coming this spring:

• Phonathon – February 11-18, 2020

The 2020 phoning fundraiser begins Feb. 11, with volunteer callers working through Feb. 28.

Gifts made to Bethel College in response to Phonathon go directly to support Bethel students — through scholarships, academic programs, campus ministries, recruitment, health and wellness initiatives, athletic equipment and fine arts programming, to name just some.

• 3rd Annual Alumni Motorcycle Ride – May 9, 2020

Alumni and friends will fire up their two-wheeled machines and head out for destinations unknown.

If you enjoy feeling the sun on your face and the wind rushing around you, don't miss this event!

• Alumni Heritage Weekend – June 5-7, 2020

This year we will honor the Golden Thresher Class of 1970.

Fellowship with others in the Classes of 1970, 1965, 1960 and Heritage Classes of 1955 and earlier years.

Hope to see you at these Bethel College alumni events!

• Bethel College Concert Choir annual tour – March 21-29, 2020

The Bethel College Concert Choir tour will tour during spring break, March 21-28, with the home concert in Memorial Hall March 29. In addition to Kansas, the choir will sing in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Nebraska.

The tentative schedule is:

Saturday, March 21: Plymouth Congregational Church, Lawrence, Kan., 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 22: Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, Kan., 9:30 a.m. service

Monday, March 23: evening concert, Indianapolis

Tuesday, March 24: evening concert, Goshen, Ind.

Wednesday, March 25: 7:30 p.m. mass, St. John Cantius Cathedral, Chicago

Thursday, March 26: afternoon workshop at Hillcrest Academy (formerly Iowa Mennonite School), Kalona, Iowa

Thursday, March 26: West Union Mennonite Church, Parnell, Iowa, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 27: evening concert, Des Moines

Saturday, March 28: evening concert, Lincoln, Neb.

Sunday, March 29: home concert, 7 p.m.

Alumni in these areas, watch your mail and e-mail for details once the schedule is finalized. Contact Ben Lichti '03, alumni and church relations coordinator, 316-284-5251 or e-mail blighti@bethelks.edu, with questions.

SAVE THE DATE

THRESHER FACTS:

40
FULL-TIME
FACULTY

 **456** **STUDENT
ENROLLMENT**
LARGEST CLASS OF INCOMING FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN IN MORE THAN 30 YEARS

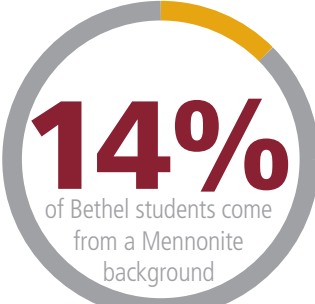

10:1
STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO


25 STATES
REPRESENTED

 **13 OTHER
COUNTRIES**
REPRESENTED

 **21.2** **AVERAGE
ACT SCORE**
Information for
2019-20 freshman class

 **\$26,323**
average financial aid package for full-time students;
combines academic and performance scholarships

 **14%**
of Bethel students come
from a Mennonite
background

 **16**
**VARSITY
INTERCOLLEGIATE
SPORTS**



RETURN ON INVESTMENT:



#1 Kansas small college with
highest earning graduates



#12 in the Nation of "Top 200
Best Bachelor's Colleges"