

BETHEL COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER 2020

Around^{THE} Green



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Thanks to all donors for a successful first Cornerstone Day!

ON THE COVER:

George Rogers III '69

PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN

Around the Green

WINTER 2020

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IN PRAISE OF BETHEL'S HEROES AND HEROINES

Dear Alumni and Friends of Bethel College,

What is a hero and who is worthy of such a title? Joseph Campbell's definitive work from comparative mythology¹ identified a hero as an individual who accepts a call to adventure, overcomes trials and tribulations, is reborn, and returns to share consolidated wisdom with the world. The hero's journey is a monomyth that occurs across diverse cultures. It is a common template for novels and movies, and it always begins when the known world is threatened by a person or event.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a disruption to our known world and thus a clear call to adventure. Our faculty answered the call. They delivered courses in hybrid and online formats when it was necessary to do so. They faced the supreme ordeal of teaching in an unfamiliar world. Our nursing staff and student life staff answered the call. They provided care for students who were isolated and quarantined. The heroine was Geraldine Tyrell '07, director of the Department of Nursing, who donned protective gear every day to check on our students even as she taught and led the department. As we conclude the Fall 2020 semester, I'm proud to tell you that Bethel College is full of heroes and heroines.

One may argue, of course, that Bethel's location in south-central Kansas – removed from the metropolises – results in unusually high concentrations of heroic people. After all, nobody arrives at Bethel College with casual indifference.

”

People choose to be here. The journeys of alumni in this issue of *Around the Green* started in places such as Chicago, Queens, and Lincoln. All of them had good reasons to become Threshers. We're celebrating them because they share their consolidated wisdom with the world.

I don't mean to imply that they are at the end of their heroic journeys, for one can undertake many such journeys. However, George "Jolly" Rogers III '69 does conclude his formal service to Bethel College in December. I join Wynn Goering '77 and many others in celebrating George's remarkable, sustained contributions to Bethel.

While being saturated with news of unrest and turmoil, we are in great need of emotional stories on both a grand and small scale in which to share our universal values. I hope you find strength and wisdom in the stories presented on the following pages. The COVID-19 pandemic and the multilayered challenges of our current age provide all of us abundant opportunities to be a hero or heroine. I am confident that you, fellow Threshers, will continue to answer the call to adventure.

Yours on the journey,

Jonathan C. Gering

Jon



JON C. GERING, PH.D.
President

¹*The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, 1949, Pantheon Books

TAKE NOTE



JOSH BOOTH

» The American Association for State and Local History honored the Kauffman Museum traveling exhibit "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War" with an Award of Excellence, making the museum **the only entity in Kansas** to win a 2020 AASLH award. To date, "Voices of Conscience" has been shown at 16 sites in nine states and one Canadian province, reaching an estimated 12,000 visitors.

» Sophomore Drannon Lenox, a member of the football team, has been named second vice-chair of the NAIA's Association of Student Athletes for 2020-21. The NAIA-ASA serves as the voice for student interests and concerns within the NAIA. Lenox is **the only representative from the KCAC at the national level**, and is also a member of the Student-Athlete Leadership Team at Bethel and for the KCAC.

» Abby Schmidt, senior from Newton, is **the 2020 Bethel winner of the Maud Wyatt Recognition Scholarship**, given by the Kansas Independent College Foundation. Recipients are full-time students on the cusp of graduation who have demonstrated excellence in academics, character and integrity, and a commitment to the value of a Kansas private college education.

Freshman Daniela Herrera (above) **broke a 12-year drought to represent Thresher women's tennis on the national stage**, after posting a fall singles record of 12-0, capturing No. 1 singles at the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Individual Championships, and finally winning the ITA Regional Championship, Sept. 27 at Southwestern College.

These feats earned Herrera an appearance at the ITA Cup, the annual national championship for NAIA tennis student-athletes put on by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, in Rome, Ga., Oct. 16-18.

Herrera was the only female singles player from the KCAC in the 16-person field. She lost in the first round to the tournament's #2 seed but came home with a victory in the consolation round, and a bucketful of experience for her future career in Thresher tennis.

The last time a Thresher women's tennis player qualified for the ITA National Championship was in 2008, when Paige McKinney (Pippin) '09 did so.

At the end of the fall season, Herrera was ranked #1 in the ITA Central Region (first #1 ranking for Bethel women since 2008) and #37 nationally (2014). In addition, Bethel's Michael Cech ranked #50 nationally (second ever, after Jared Ward '97 in 1997).



» The Kansas State Department of Education on Oct. 26 recognized its 2020-21 **"Teachers of Promise," including Bethel's Kendrick Weaver and Tristin Wheeler**. Both are seniors – Weaver, from Hesston, is a music and education major, and Wheeler, Newton, is an elementary education major.

» Bethel is located in the top 25 (at #23, out of 325) of **"safest college towns" in the United States** as ranked by the website LendEDU, which helps prospective college and university students and their families make smart financial decisions. LendEDU calculated safety by adding the number of violent and property crimes and dividing by the population, to yield the number per capita (North Newton scored .005).



» For the third straight year, Bethel has received the NAIA Champions of Character® Five-Star Gold Award – this time, with a **perfect score of 100**. NAIA institutions are asked annually to demonstrate their progress in pursuing "character-driven athletics," earning points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion, and based on exceptional student-athlete GPAs and minimal to no ejections during competition throughout the academic year.



» Bethel stayed in the Top 15, **the highest at #14 of any Kansas college or university**, in the *Washington Monthly* annual list "Best Bachelor's Colleges."

» Bethel **earned several accolades in the annual "Best Colleges" issue published by U.S. News & World Report**. Bethel landed at #26 among "Best Regional Colleges Midwest," schools that award mostly bachelor's degrees and are located in the 11-state region that covers Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. On some more specialized lists within that regional ranking, Bethel appears at #11 for "Best Undergraduate Teaching," #31 among "Best Value Schools" and #38 for "Top Performers in Social Mobility."

A BETHEL CORNERSTONE



A fixture of Bethel life and functioning for more than a third of its history retires from his last active role at the college.

Bethel's class of 1969 has a noteworthy share of alumni with long ties to Bethel – among them Dwight Krehbiel, who taught psychology and advised pre-med students for four decades; Richard Zerger, who taught chemistry, physics and astronomy for 15 years; Allen Wedel, who served 11 years as vice president for business affairs; Dale Schrag, longtime director of church relations, campus pastor and convocation coordinator; and Doug Penner, who taught psychology, and then served as president from 1995-2002. But the record for continuous service and connection to the college certainly belongs to George "Jolly" Rogers.

George came to Bethel in 1967, after starting out at Wilson City College in his hometown of Chicago, at the urging of his friend, the late Mike Burnett '69. He has basically not left either Newton or Bethel since. From 1969-98, George worked at Bethel (variously and sometimes simultaneously) as defensive coordinator for Thresher football, where one of his players was current Bethel President Jon Gering '94; head coach for men's and women's track; athletic director; and dean of students.

In addition to his degree from Bethel, George earned a master's degree from Wichita State University. Over the years, he has played critical and foundational roles in Bethel athletics, that resulted in his being named NAIA District 10 Administrator of the Year in 1990.

After leaving Bethel, George worked as coordinator of operations for Whitewing Construction in Newton, a company founded by the late Earl White '69. Since retiring, he has served as adjunct faculty and on the Bethel board, including a term as treasurer. Said Tom Adrian, current board chair, when acknowledging George's retirement from the board (as of Dec. 31), "You've been such great help to me, particularly, because I don't have anywhere near the background you do with Bethel College. ... One of [the things I want to note about you] is your sense and knowledge of the history of Bethel College, for at least the last 50 years. I have considered that invaluable to me, and to the board, and to Bethel."

Wynn Goering '77, Albuquerque, reflects on his long friendship with board retiree George Rogers III '69, at the board's Oct. 2, 2020, meeting.



VADA SNIDER

I have known George Rogers for over half a century. I find that a scary thing to say out loud – but I mention it so you will know that what I'm about to offer is *not* an objective assessment of George's contributions to the board or the college.

My first memory of sharing a Bethel event with George happened almost exactly 50 years ago, on a spring evening in 1970, in Memorial Hall. Bethel was hosting its annual Buffalo Barbecue, the predecessor to today's Athletic [Hall of Fame] Banquet. Back then it was for men and boys only; the menu was always the same; and speaking fees were so low that Bethel could get really prominent people as headliners.

I was a sophomore in high school. George was just completing his first year as a coach and counselor at Bethel. The speaker for the evening was the NBA basketball legend Bill Russell. George and I have the same memory of him getting up at the podium on the Mem Hall stage, all 6 feet 10 inches of him, dressed to the nines in a double-breasted suit. He looked out at the hall for a while, and he nodded his head and said, "North Newton, Kansas." You could just read the amazement in his face, at the thought that he, Bill Russell, was standing there with about 500 Mennonite farmers and their sons, in "North Newton, Kansas."

Russell had many other things to say that evening, about college admissions standards and the equitable treatment of black athletes and a host of other issues we're still wrestling with today, but for me, and for George, nothing quite stands out like that one simple remark. And I have no doubt that many times over the ensuing half century, as he headed out for work, or a game, or even a board meeting, George has had exactly that same thought.

We shouldn't let our familiarity with him blind us to the remarkable fact of George's willingness to come, and to stay, at Bethel and North Newton, Kansas. George is the Bill Russell of Bethel College.



So I want to offer three more observations about George Rogers that, in my mind, capture something of who he is and the impact he has had at Bethel.

First, George Rogers is smart. This is obvious to anyone who knows him at all, and yet I find myself wanting to insist upon it, given the world we live in. Or maybe more precisely, given the world George has had to live in.

Years ago, I read a book by George Will entitled *Men at Work*. It's a book about professional baseball, and how its great players and coaches approach it as a profession: their ideas about the game; their strategies and tactics; their discipline; their work ethic. In a chapter on hitting, Will relates an observation about the great hitter and outfielder Willie Mays.

Like Jackie Robinson, Mays got his start in the Negro Leagues, but unlike Robinson, he was a cheerful and easygoing guy. Partly for that reason, the author notes, Mays was invariably described as "a great natural talent." "Natural" – carrying the implication that he didn't really have to, or want to, work as hard as other men. "Natural" – meaning he really didn't or couldn't think about his craft. "Natural," as Will dryly notes, and as we would now recognize, being a simple racist trope.

Over the years I have heard many well-meaning people describe George Rogers as having "street smarts." (George himself has cheerfully encouraged this serious miscalculation of his abilities.) And though he certainly does know more about "the streets" than the entire rest of our board combined, there's always a faint hint there that George's intellect is limited to his experiences on the south side of Chicago.

Nothing could be more misleading. George Rogers is one of the smartest men I know, period.

It was said of Willie Mays that he could have played any position on a baseball team and been one of the best. A look at George Rogers' resume, from student to counselor to professor to coach to athletic director to dean of students, to his service and leadership on this and many other governing boards, suggests a similar range of talents. George is the Willie Mays of Bethel College.



George Rogers graduating Bethel in 1967

Second, George Rogers is observant – observant to a degree the rest of us can only aspire to. William Wordsworth talked about having the ability to “see into the life of things” – that’s the quality of “observant” that applies to George. Or take another description from the American novelist Henry James, who when asked whether it was good advice for writers to stick to their own experience, said he would support the principle if you added this caveat: to be someone on whom nothing is lost.

Nothing is lost on George Rogers. During those years at Bethel when I was fortunate enough to work across the hall from him, I would often drop in to get his take on everything from our most recent faculty meeting to figuring out which Bethel alumni were related to whom.

I’m sure you’ve all noticed that in the good ol’ days when our board still met in person, I made it a point to sit next to Jolly. I’ll admit there was entertainment value to that, but the real reason is that I still rely heavily on what George Rogers observes in a meeting. Nothing is ever lost on him. George is the Henry James of Bethel College.



A group of Bethel coaches, 1972-73: from left: Chuck Klaassen, Bob Fairbank, Jim Corns, George Rogers

Third and finally, George Rogers is crafty. This, too, is obvious to anyone who has ever watched him coach, and yet not all George’s craftiness is illustrated by public displays. In this, he reminds me of the epic Homeric character Odysseus, whom Homer always describes as “the crafty Odysseus,” a warrior who by means of his cunning controls his own destiny and confounds the gods.

In the *Iliad*, Odysseus is the one who thinks up the idea of smuggling warriors into the heart of Troy by hiding inside a giant wooden horse. In the *Odyssey*, when he’s captured by the cyclops Polyphemus, Odysseus tells Polyphemus his name is “Nobody,” so that when Odysseus later blinds Polyphemus and makes his escape, the giant cries out, “Nobody hurt me!”, and so no one comes to his aid.

In the present day, “I’m no one special” is a classic George Rogers trick. Yet hundreds of former Bethel students, if you could find them all, would testify to the time a well-placed word or sentence, or a good talking-to from George, either strengthened or straightened them out at a key moment in their lives.



MENNONITE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES



George Rogers in front of the Ad Building at Fall Festival 1994

And not just students. There was the night that George, then athletic director, intercepted a well-known local pastor after a basketball game as he was headed to the referees' locker room to give them a piece of his mind. George "persuaded," let us say, the pastor that he didn't need to be there. Or the game where George called the local police to escort a group of folks out of the gym before they could start something. When George's boss called him on the carpet the next day and informed him that only he, the president, was authorized to invite police to campus, George responded that if that was the case, then he, the president, better get his ass down to every home basketball game, because people spoiling for a fight were definitely not waiting on presidential authorization.

I am confident that the careers of both the preacher and the president would have taken different turns had George not been there. And these are just two I know about. The whole list, I'm sure, is much longer and would include many familiar names in our little part of the archipelago. George is the Odysseus of Bethel College.

I guess all this is my way of saying that we can't overstate the difference George Rogers has made at Bethel. He's not just an interesting footnote or sidebar to the real "Bethel story" – he is integral to the Bethel story. Try to imagine the Boston

Celtics without Bill Russell, the San Francisco Giants without Willie Mays or the Trojan War without the Trojan Horse. Bethel College without George Rogers? Can't be done.

Still, all these examples only hint at the real George Rogers. What's the expression – larger than life and twice as ornery? Maybe for literary brevity, Hamlet summed him up best: "Take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again."

I'm just grateful that Bethel College and the Bethel board have had the benefit of the real George Rogers for all these many years, and that I am privileged to call him my friend. Thank you, George. We'll miss you.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

by MELANIE ZUERCHER

NURSE ENTREPRENEUR

STEPHANIE (SADIQ) UNGLES '05
NURSING

When looking for a college, Stephanie didn't want to go far from her close-knit Pakistani family, and she wanted a Christian school. That made Bethel, only 30 minutes from home in Wichita, just about perfect — and she even had two cousins there.

When choosing what to study, she cites her uncle, a cardio-thoracic surgeon who took medical mission trips for 30 years. "When I said I wanted to go along, he said, 'You need to become a nurse.'" And while Stephanie came to college fairly certain of what she wanted to study, she also appreciates that a liberal arts college, by its nature, "can help you with [career] decision-making."

After several years of working in an intensive care unit, Stephanie wanted to start a medical-related business. She was thinking about hospice care or in-home nursing.

"I was at a wedding in Philadelphia. A cousin who was there told me his parents, who are both nurses, had started a medical staffing company. I thought, 'That's brilliant — I wouldn't have to buy a building.'"

That led her and her husband, Cody, to "take a leap of faith," she says, and found Caring for Kansas Medical Staffing.

"We supplement nurses and other medical professionals, like nurse practitioners, respiratory therapists and CNAs — it's like substitute teachers at schools, but with medical professionals when facilities are short-staffed." CKMS has about 120 employees at more than 20 different facilities in the region.

The business grew so much, Stephanie and Cody, also an ICU nurse, stepped back from bedside nursing to run the company for a few years. They have now hired an assistant and returned to hands-on work — for Stephanie, Kansas Spine Hospital and selected acute care — while also raising three children.

Trying to start their family, Stephanie says, they suffered a number of miscarriages. In the midst of this struggle, they began attending a Bible study, and things "started to fall into place," she says. "We give God the glory for our success."

At Bethel, she loved the smaller class sizes, "the beautiful, peaceful campus," and the chance to get to know both professors and classmates more intimately and personally.

I made some lifelong friends. And [former nursing professor] Gregg Schroeder '92 was amazing. He made class fun, he was a great teacher, and he set a good example.

”



COURTESY PHOTO

PRIZE-WINNING RESEARCHER

JOHANN EBERHART '93

BIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY

Growing up in Topeka, Johann dreamed about leaving Kansas after high school to pursue his love of science.

But a teacher in his high school gifted program, Lila (Waltner) Bartel '68, pushed him to check out Bethel. He clicked with biology professor, the late Wayne Wiens '58, and psychology professor Dwight Krehbiel '69. "I loved them – they had a passion for science and for what they were doing," Johann says.

In particular, he says, his developmental biology class with Wayne "blew my mind – it was amazing." He particularly remembers doing an independent research project in retinal development using chicken embryos.

Johann completed a master's degree at Wichita State University and a Ph.D. at the University of Missouri-Columbia, both in biology, and found his own passion in the research lab. It led him to a position as associate professor of molecular biosciences at the University of Texas at Austin in 2014 and, in 2019, to a multi-year multi-million-dollar research grant.

Johann received the Sustaining Outstanding Achievement in Research (SOAR) award from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, in part for his work on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, specifically how genes interact with the chemical. The award goes to only two individuals a year.

"My interest [in FASD] got started through an interest in phenotypic variations," he says. "FASD is remarkable in that way. Some children have exposure [to alcohol in the womb] and seem completely normal and some have very distinct physical manifestations.

"Over the long term, we have a goal of being able to identify and predict how chemicals are going to interact in humans. We've had some luck with that, working with alcohol. We will be looking at mutations in gene pathways and similar defects."

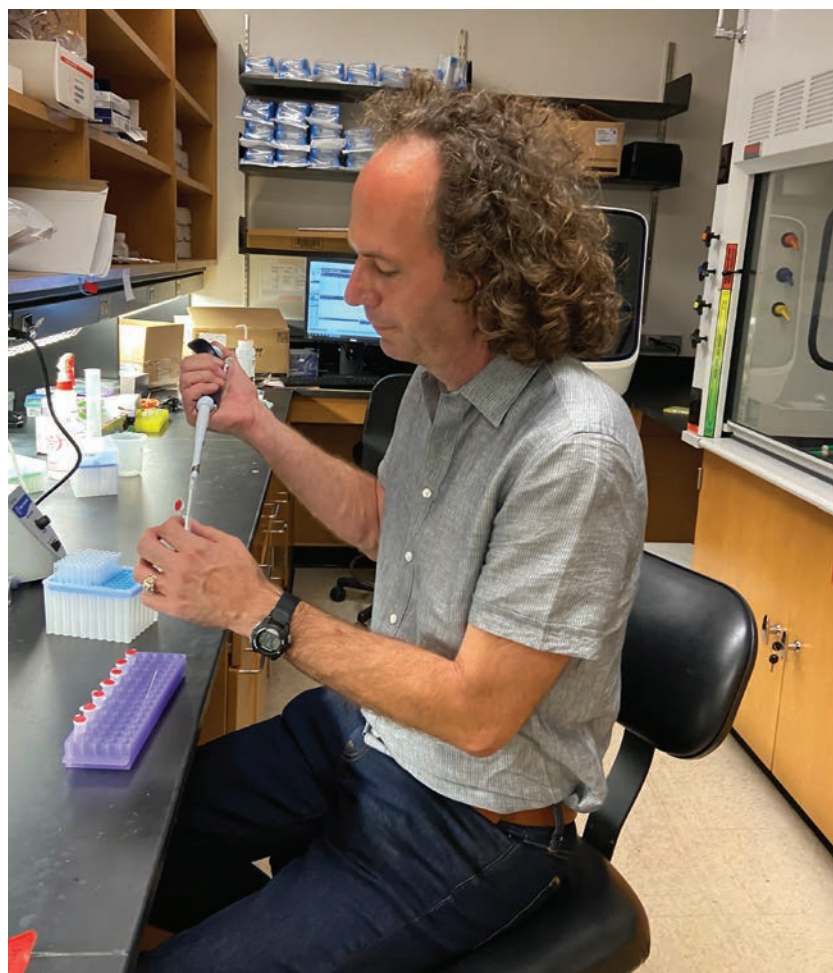
Johann hasn't forgotten where it all started.

A big [reason for attending a school like Bethel] is you get to know your professors better," he says. "I really cherish the relationships with Wayne and Dwight. That's the most important.

”

"An added benefit, in the times we find ourselves in now, with racial and social injustice – at a small liberal arts college, you can't be insular [in choosing] your friends.

"You have to have a diverse group – only hanging out with biology majors would be a pretty small group of people. At Bethel, I got exposed to a lot of personalities and ideas."



COURTESY PHOTO

LIBERAL ARTIST

RACHEL EPP BULLER '96

ART, GERMAN, HISTORY

Although Rachel grew up in Lincoln, Neb., the Bethel campus was familiar from holiday visits to her grandparents, Dan '39 and Frieda (Huebert) Epp '40, who lived nearby.

"I [concentrated] on science all through high school," Rachel says.

I came [to Bethel] as pre-med. But I had always taken art classes. That made 'liberal arts' seem like a good choice. I really embraced the liberal arts ideal by studying a lot of different things – including art and history.



ANNE LABOVITZ

She cites Emerita Professor of Art Gail Lutsch and Emeritus Professor of History Keith Sprunger as influential.

"Those classes piqued my interest in studying abroad," she says, and she subsequently spent her junior year in Marburg, Germany. There, she took some art history classes in German, and she was already thinking about graduate school when she graduated from Bethel.

She kept "narrowing my focus, into German art history," she says. She earned master's and Ph.D. degrees in art history from the University of Kansas.

Rachel is associate professor of visual arts and design at Bethel, where she has been since 2012. Besides art history, she teaches studio art courses, including drawing and printmaking.

She has developed a popular class in making artist books, as well as Special Topics classes on the artist as activist and (upcoming in spring 2020) "slow art for fast times," arising from her recent "slow practice" of communicating through words and letters using different media.

"A lot of why I went into teaching has to do with giving students experience of both theory and practice," she says.

"In my generation, although that's changing some now, there was a separation between the art historians and the visual artists. Art students have to take art history, while art historians don't often have to take art.

"I always thought it was a shame not to have that intersection, partly because of my background in doing both. It informed what I did and how I looked at art.

"[Bethel art professor] David [Long] and I have degrees in both, we've taught both, we get to teach both – and it helps students see the larger context in which they're making or studying art."

Rachel is one of the most successful grant writers at Bethel. She has secured funding for her research, scholarship and new course development from the Fulbright Commission, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, the National Art Education Foundation and KU's Hall Center for the Humanities. She credits "a strong writing focus at Bethel" with being one key to her success.

Rachel has written or edited books on the intersection of art and mothering (she and Tim Buller '96 have three children), as well as the German artist Alice Lex, the subject of her doctoral dissertation. Her pursuit of her own education continues – she finished an MFA in creative practice in 2018 and certification in Deep Listening in 2020.

"I got progressively narrower in my Ph.D. work," she says. "Now I'm opening out, exploring media and ideas. I'm living the liberal arts life."

STAR SOCIAL WORKER

SARA FRIESEN GUHR '92

SOCIAL WORK

Sara grew up surrounded by educators. Her dad, Duane Friesen '62, taught in the Bible and religion department at Bethel for 35 years. Her mother, Elizabeth (Voth) Friesen '62, sister, Anne Friesen Birky '87, and extended family members were or are teachers.

"This made me want to be involved in education in some way, but maybe different from teaching," Sara says.

One of those teachers was Sara's uncle, the late Larry Friesen '67. He and family friend Ada Schmidt-Tieszen '74 spent their teaching careers at Bethel in social work, which helped point Sara to what she wanted to do – school social work.

Sara came to Bethel feeling fairly secure in her career choice, which she admits is unusual. She made sure to do her fieldwork in other areas, just to be sure, she says – with Presbyterian Manor, a retirement and skilled nursing facility, and with the state foster system through Kansas Children's Service League.

After graduating from Bethel, Sara and Brad Guhr '92 went on to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where Sara earned a master's degree in social work, with the emphasis on school social work. She has been a school social worker for 22 years, the last 15 at Sunset Elementary in Newton.

In March 2020, she was named Kansas School Social Worker of the Year.

"The best part is working with children," she told a local newspaper after receiving the award. "They give me hope for what our world can and hopefully will be in the future.

"I like helping students when they are in a hard place. I am often with students and families when they are struggling or sharing really difficult things. This is such a sacred space to be a part of, and I do not take this lightly."

Sara is grateful for her liberal arts education, she says.

"Bethel was a place small enough that I could participate in choir and music even though I knew it wasn't what I wanted to study. I made a lot of friends I wouldn't have otherwise."

"You might [start college] thinking you know exactly what you want to do – I was unusual – but you take so many different classes and you get such a well-rounded experience. You might figure out something that fits you better."



BRAD GUHR

You experience different disciplines much more intensely, with smaller classes. I tell my [two sons] to pursue liberal arts, and learn about all different things.

”

TRANSFORMER OF MALADIES

ZANDRA (GÜETE) SAWATZKY '96

PSYCHOLOGY

Zandra was born in Queens, N.Y., and lived in Chicago (in addition to Goshen, Ind.) before moving to Hesston, Kan., as an adolescent. She thought she'd be headed back to a large urban area for college, since when it was time for her to go, her pastor father was about to take a job in Miami. Zandra planned to pursue her dream of studying occupational therapy there.

However, when her parents ended up staying in Kansas, Zandra decided to at least start at Bethel. Then, as have so many others, she found kindred spirits in the psychology department, especially among the faculty — emeritus professors Dwight Krehbiel '69 and “especially Paul Lewis, my Einstein with his crazy hair and racing thoughts.”

Zandra's interest in physical and occupational therapy stemmed from her therapy experience following an injury she sustained as a high school tennis athlete, and a conversation with her mother's best friend when the family went to Colombia (her parents' home country) as a high school graduation celebration.

Working full-time while going to college kept Zandra busy but also helped her career choices. A job at Prairie View Mental Health Services in Newton “showed me I really enjoyed working with people. You meet ... all ages at one of the most traumatic points in their lives.”

Following graduation from Bethel, Zandra went on for OT training at Newman University, Wichita. A strong background in art at Bethel, taking classes with Gail Lutsch, gave her an advantage in creating the hand molds needed in her OT work.

Her year of clinicals was “life-changing,” Zandra says, especially two rotations in Texas. She worked in acute care at Baylor Hospital, and at San Antonio State Hospital with all Spanish-speaking patients who had been convicted of crimes and deemed “not guilty by reason of insanity.”

In her current position at Newton Medical Center, Zandra works with a team with physical therapists.

Many of [my co-workers] did not go to a liberal arts school. [My] ability to connect with people, to have outside interests, has made for a much richer experience with my patients and community.

”

Earlier this year, Zandra received Newton Medical Center's BEE (Be Extraordinary Everyday) Award given to clinicians “in deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people.”

She has yet to return to that urban area. She and Phil Sawatzky '96 are raising two daughters on a “farmette” near Newton, surrounded by goats, cats, chickens and ducks.

“I've stuck around here this long because I'm committed to working in this community. I could get a job in Wichita, but here I've been able to meet people who enriched my life and to give back in that way.”

Borrowing from a short story by Jhumpa Lahiri, “Interpreter of Maladies,” Zandra says she sees herself as “a transformer of maladies — you take a person with what they can do right now and help them to something meaningful, at whatever level they are.”



JIM STUCKY

CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS



1. Officers from the North Newton Police Department bring snacks for students quarantined at the beginning of fall semester.

2. Thresher volleyball players cheer teammates on the floor. 3. COVID couldn't stop Week of Welcome T-shirt tie-dyeing.

4. As of ATG press time, Thresher football was 7-0. 5. Students put together school kits for MCC Central States on Service Day, Sept. 23.

CAMPUS NEWS

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



Masks in place, students spread out under the trees near the library to tie-dye T-shirts during Week of Welcome.

ENROLLMENT RISES DESPITE PANDEMIC

Bethel's incoming student numbers stayed up and total enrollment increased, a heartening trend following the unexpected end to the 2019-20 school year.

After the 20th day of classes, when semester numbers become official, there are 151 first-time freshmen (compared to last year's 155), the second-largest class in the past 32 years, along with 30 transfer students.

Total enrollment was 469, compared to 456 in fall 2019, an increase of 2.8%.

"After the turbulent last six months, this incoming class reaffirms the value of a Bethel education," said Eric Preheim '16, interim director for admissions.

The Class of 2024 includes eight high-school valedictorians, with 9 percent of freshmen coming from the top 10 percent of their graduating class and 29 percent from the top quarter.

Other characteristics of Bethel's fall 2020 student body: first-time freshmen come from 14 states (California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming) in addition to Kansas, with 10 new international students, from Argentina, Chile, Czech Republic, Mexico, Spain and the United Kingdom.

First-time freshmen represent 45 different

Kansas high schools, while 25 first-time freshmen are legacy students, meaning a parent, grandparent or sibling has previously attended Bethel.

"We're excited to watch them grow as Threshers," Preheim said. "As a college, these consecutive and historic first-year numbers mean a strong foundation for enrollment is building."

STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH FOUNDATION PERSISTS WITH NEW MATCHING GRANT

The Sunderland Foundation has awarded Bethel a challenge grant as part of the college's *Engage the Future* capital campaign.

Bethel's connection with the Sunderland Foundation reaches back two decades.

"The Sunderland Foundation's history with Bethel is very strong," said Brad Kohlman '07, Bethel vice president for institutional advancement. "Over the past 20 years, they have been part of every capital project – Krehbiel Science Center, Voth Hall, Thresher Stadium, Will Academic Center and [major renovations to] the fine arts center.

"This time, we reached out for something special – \$1 million for *Engage the Future*."

Founded in 1945, the Kansas City-based Sunderland Foundation focuses on funding bricks and mortar projects – including planning, design, construction, repairs and restoration – that "allow nonprofits to fulfill their mission," according to the foundation's website.

The foundation's latest grant to Bethel is specifically for the Wellness Center, a



centerpiece of *Engage the Future*; the new softball clubhouse; and a football locker room to be built as a free-standing structure north of Goering Hall.

"In order to meet the challenge, we need to have the funding for these projects commit-

ted by January 2022," Kohlman said.

Work has proceeded this fall on the softball clubhouse (pictured above under construction), which is expected to be completed in time for the spring 2021 season.

BOARD RECOGNIZES RETIREMENT, WELCOMES NEW MEMBER AT FALL MEETING

The Bethel Board of Directors held its second virtual meeting of 2020, Sept. 30-Oct. 2.

Among the business items were recognition of an outgoing member and approval of a new one.

George Rogers III '69, Newton, retires from the board Dec. 31 after 12 years of service (see p. 6).

Cynthia Doyle Perkins '77, Indianapolis, begins a five-year term Jan. 1, 2021, as a board appointment.

Doyle Perkins currently (since 2013) serves as a school administrator in the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township in Indianapolis.

She has a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, and has done additional graduate work

in educational administration at the University of Texas in Austin.

As an administrator for the National Federation of State High School Associations, she has helped high schools across the nation handle everything from Title IX enforcement to transgender athletes to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In addition to being the editor of multiple sport rule books, Doyle Perkins was responsible for advances that increased safety measures in a variety of high school sports.

As a Bethel student, Cynthia Alexander was part of four championship volleyball teams, and completed her career in track and field holding part or all of 13 KCAC women's records (some still stand). She was inducted

into Bethel's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004 – the same year her daughter, Kendra Doyle, graduated from Bethel (Kendra is a member of the Hall of Fame Class of 2017).

Also related to membership, the board acted to recommend re-election for several members and approved the slate of officers.

The board accepted revisions to the new Software Development program, program, initially approved at the spring 2019 meeting.

The board granted emeritus or emerita status to John McCabe-Juhnke '78, Ph.D. (communication arts), Ada Schmidt-Tieszen '74, Ph.D. (social work), and Patty Shelly '76, Ph.D. (Bible and religion).

BETHEL JOINS ONLINE JOB RECRUITING PLATFORM FOR STUDENTS, YOUNG ALUMNI

One obstacle college students and young alumni face is knowing where to look for internship or job opportunities, both nationwide and locally.

Bethel and its new Office of Career and Leadership Development have recently invested in an online platform to assist students and new alumni launch their careers.

Handshake, "a jobs community for college [students] and young alumni," was founded in 2014 by three students at Michigan Technological University and is the premier site for early talent to find employment.

The founders of Handshake looked to create something like LinkedIn, which they saw as being more geared to people in mid-career, for students at small and/or lesser known institutions.

They wanted it to address factors like this: Even in a robust economy, it's difficult for young adults who want to get on the first rung of the corporate ladder to do so.

Six years in, Handshake promotes impressive numbers – 14 million-plus college students and young alumni, more than 700 4-year colleges and universities, 900,000 job recruiters and 100 percent of Fortune 500 companies in its network.

"This partnership with Handshake will provide our students and alumni with easy access to nationwide career and internship opportunities," said Megan Kershner '08, director of career and leadership development (pictured at right).

"It provides potential employers with the benefit of posting and managing their job openings from a single site. They'll also be able to have direct contact with our stellar students and alumni."

All employers who wish to have their opportunities advertised to Bethel students and alumni can create a free account through Handshake (<https://joinhandshake.com/employers/>). The process takes less than 5 minutes.

In mid-January, as students return from Christmas break, their accounts will go live. And then the job and internship connections can start being made.

"I want to make sure to give businesses in the community enough time to begin posting their jobs," Kershner said, "so that when students log in, there are many opportunities already available to them."

Bethel College is committed to preparing students for meaningful lives of work and



service through practical experience in career pathways. Kershner welcomes questions about Handshake at mkershner@bethelks.edu

More information can be found at Handshake's employer site, <https://support.joinhandshake.com/hc/en-us/articles/115004897268-The-Employer-Onboarding-Process>

REIMER GIFT FOR ENDOWED CHAIR TO HELP BUILD MAJOR

A major gift from two alumni is meant to get the college closer to a major in economics.

Lois M. Unruh Reimer '60 and Richard D. Reimer '57 of North Newton made the gift as part of the academic program enhancement piece of the college's *Engage the Future* capital campaign, said Brad Kohlman '07, Bethel vice president for institutional advancement.

"The Reimers' gift is a significant boost to the academic program component of *Engage the Future*," Kohlman said. "Their support will positively impact Bethel students for generations."

"Bethel College will now be further empowered to offer opportunities to educate a greater number of students who will engage our constantly changing society, specifically in the field of economics, through critical thinking, peace and justice," said Robert Milliman, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty.

"The focus of our work is the education of students, students who will produce a better world for all people, both now and in the future. This donation will play a vital role in that mission."

The Awards Committee of the
BETHEL COLLEGE ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
is seeking nominations for
THE 2021 ALUMNI AWARDS.

SCAN QR or VISIT
www.bethelks.edu/alumni/alumni-awards
to make a nomination





Left, Dave Kreider '82, Kauffman Museum technician, with students who helped with Tatarian honeysuckle eradication on the museum grounds on Service Day

IN A YEAR OF CHANGES, SERVICE DAY STAYS ALMOST THE SAME

Even though many things about the fall 2020 semester looked different from past years, students still shared in one important annual tradition: Service Day, which took place Sept. 23. Classes were canceled so they could spend several hours serving on campus and in the nearby community.

"Service Day is a physical expression of how Bethel College values an ethic of service," said Michael Unruh '09, campus pastor.

Service Day saw its own changes. This year's service locations were either on campus or within walking distance of campus — instead of throughout North Newton and Newton — and most opportunities took place outdoors.

"With these unique guidelines at play, it would have been easy for Service Day to dwindle in enthusiasm, but our students rose to meet the challenges," Unruh said.

Around 340 students took on 28 different service opportunities on campus or in the nearby community.

Unruh said that on-campus projects this year were meant to recognize the maintenance and facilities staff for all the extra work required to open and maintain campus for the 2020-21 school year.

There were branches trimmed, trash collected, paint brushed on, areas cleaned and mulch spread, among other projects.

At the Mennonite Central Committee Central States office, just north of campus, 68 students checked and boxed 2,255 school kits, and folded and baled 300 comforters.

New this year: writing letters to older adults in local retirement communities and nursing facilities and to inmates on death row, and cards to kids at Wesley Children's Hospital in Wichita.

In all, students wrote 461 encouraging letters in hopes of lifting the spirits of the people at these places, who are likely experiencing fewer visitors in the midst of the pandemic.

"Several community partners commented that the amount of work completed by the students exceeded their expectations," Unruh said.

"Although receiving compliments should not be the primary motivation for serving others, all the students who participated in Service Day should be commended for their excellent service to the community in such a difficult school year."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

FALL LECTURES TAKE PLACE VIRTUALLY

Most events that normally happen on campus in the fall have looked very different this year, if they haven't been cancelled altogether. Convocation has been entirely virtual (watch fall 2020 convo speakers and Q&A sessions on Bethel's YouTube channel), and two regular lecture series, the Menno Simons Lectures and the KIPCOR Peace Lecture, had to move to Zoom.

KIPCOR PEACE LECTURE

Sarah Smarsh, a native Kansan who still lives in the state, a widely published journalist and the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* (Scribner, 2018), was originally scheduled to give the Peace Lecture last spring on campus. After one attempt to reschedule in the fall, the lecture went to virtual on Nov. 5, in the immediate aftermath of a deeply contentious U.S. presidential election.

Smarsh titled her lecture "Bridging the Cultural Divide in Challenging Times."

"Usually I'm saying some iteration of the same message about socioeconomic class as it intersects with other aspects of identity, often

informed by rural issues," Smarsh began. "I'm usually talking about those themes in my work, and that's going to come up [here]."

"But I thought ... [with] this virtual event [falling] two days after the election, when we are suspended in this moment as a nation, I [would] go in a bit of a different direction."

She presented two challenges that were meant "to go beyond government, media, social media, the Bethel campus, the streets of the cities and towns you come from."

"You don't have to call anyone or go anywhere but, that said, it's a formidable undertaking. Whether you decide to do it determines, even more than this election that's currently up in the air, whether this society recreates itself as a better and more just place or tears itself into pieces and disintegrates. This might sound hyperbolic, but I don't think it is."

As someone who "straddles two worlds," that of the working-class wheat farming family in which she grew up and the country's "media elite," Smarsh said, "the act of bridge building is something I think about all the time, and I'm going to try to apply it to this situation we find ourselves in."

Her first challenge was: "Make a shift from pride to humility," especially when it comes to political identity. Social media in particular, she said, has produced an attitude of "This is the signal I'm on and therefore I'm superior."

"I'm not critiquing holding firm to your values, or being strong in your cause," she said. "I'm talking about thinking yourself superior because of that. Your values may very well be superior, but it doesn't mean *you* are innately superior."

Smarsh's second challenge, given within a context of the vast power of 21st-century media, is "to shift from 'follower' to 'leader.'"

"I don't mean civic action, like organizing a demonstration or founding an organization, although those are fine things to do. What's going down in our country right now is on the level of ideas. We may be on the same page as far as hearts and minds, but not conceptually. When they're coming at us full tilt in this social media ... reality, we have to up our game from just following the information flock."

"Ask yourself: What have I been told, and where did it come from? This is not the same as disparaging 'fake news.' Are you just hitting 'share' on the things you believe because it validates you and makes you feel good? Or are you leading the way by scrutinizing information and sharing the best and the truest of it?"

"Even beyond information consumption, ask yourself whether you're a follower or a leader in your day-to-day conversations. Are you just regurgitating the things you've been told that boost your sense of pride about which 'tribe' you belong to? Or are you pushing back against the party line if it doesn't sit well or feel right?"

"The challenge [might be] shifting from an unconscious follower to a conscious leader. And maybe it doesn't mean you check someone else, but you have to check yourself. There's no more important work, and to a great extent that is what this whole talk is about."

In the question-and-answer session that followed Smarsh's lecture, she responded to a tone of worry about the divisiveness of the recent election, for which, at that moment, votes were still being counted.



Sarah Smarsh (screenshot)

"It might seem like things are dissolving," Smarsh said, "but as a farm girl, I know that things have to die before there can be new growth."

"I do think reconciliation will come. But I'm not about reconciling so we can go back to 'the way things were' – whether it's justice for black and brown bodies, for women, a host of ways we've claimed we are about equality but we certainly are not."

"We are here tonight to talk about peace and unity, but justice has to come along for that ride. We're moving backward if we set justice aside for the sake of peace and unity."

"We have to ask what we mean by 'reconciliation.' It has to be coming together as we allow a new and better society to emerge. That's going to take generations. I don't believe that I will see it, but someone will."

MENNO SIMONS LECTURES

The annual Menno Simons Lectures were, for the first time in the series' 70-year history, given virtually. (They can be viewed at <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/convocation-lectures/menno-simons-lectures>)

The speaker was César García, general secretary of Mennonite World Conference, a global body comprising around 1.5 million Christians who claim Anabaptism in some form.

The overall title of the series, "Towards an Anabaptist Catholicity," uses the last word in the sense of "universal" or "universality." In other words, how do we speak about a world-wide church from an Anabaptist perspective? That was the question García sought to answer in his three lectures, Oct. 25-26.

In his first lecture, García looked at three reasons: theology, ethics and mission.

In terms of theology, "We need diversity of churches and communication among them in order to understand God's will for us and who and what God is," García said.

In Acts 15, the early church came together to talk over deeply controversial questions. "In spite of how difficult the topic was, they decided to [meet] together to come to a decision. There are ethical issues that require us to come together to talk about."

Regarding mission, García said, "In Ephesians 4, Paul says our final mission is to arrive at the stature of Christ, but we can only do this when we do it in community, as people from different languages and cultures."



César García (screenshot)

In his second and third lectures, García expanded on "the global church [as] a foretaste of God's kingdom. We are called as Anabaptists to show the world what God requires: a communal global experience, a catholicity that is interdependent."

Doing so creates "centripetal force" that attracts others, or brings them in, and "centrifugal force" that influences society and ripples out.

A new social order for a global community must include equitable relations (no preference or superiority on account of race, gender, social class and so on); balanced economic or financial relations; and just relations (restoration of broken relationships and restorative, not retributive, justice).

"It is possible to experience these in a global way when we are a transnational communion or community," García said. "Our identity is not built on political borders or race but on Jesus."

"Therefore, it is possible to overcome relationships of dominion, that privilege people because of gender, social class or skin color. This kind of transnational society can show the world a different way of dealing with conflict – that it's possible to love each other even if we are different from each other."

"That's our call as a catholic Anabaptist community: to be organized to make decisions

that show Jesus to the world and God's will for the world."

Finally, García considered "what we are called to do outside the church, in relation to other societies."

"The church as alternative society is called to be a voluntary community," he said. "For Christians to force their way on others is contrary to God's way of working. If we have the opportunity to influence politics, we need to be sure other minorities are heard and that everyone is included, even those who disagree with us."

"Politicians should govern for everyone, not only for Christians. We are ambassadors of another kingdom, God's kingdom, and so we cannot participate in civil society as if we were its only citizens."

Second, "the church as alternative society is called to be peripheral community. We should operate from the margins – the same place we see Jesus going – rather than the centers of power."

"Let's stop these fantasies of 'a Christian ruler' [being necessary] to achieve a just society," he concluded. "To influence our society, we need to act from the margins, with an attitude of service. These ways of influencing society are what we should practice according to Jesus' example."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

TWO INDUCTED INTO THRESHER HALL OF FAME AT FALL FESTIVAL



Trisha Clark (Terada), left, and Frank Flores at the 2020 Hall of Fame induction

JOSH BOOTH

The Department of Athletics honored two individuals with induction into the Hall of Fame Class of 2020: Trisha Clark (Terada) '01, Shawnee, Kan., in volleyball, and Frank Flores '03, Colorado Springs, Colo., in men's basketball. (Russ Graber '74 was initially announced as the third member of the class, but elected to put off induction for one year due to COVID-19.)

The induction ceremony went on as scheduled Oct. 2 at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet, which was moved from the Schultz Student Center cafeteria to a larger venue in order to allow for COVID safety protocols, and the inductees were recognized at halftime of the homecoming football game on Oct. 3.

Trisha Clark came to Bethel in 1997 by way of Bishop Carroll High School, Wichita, bringing with her the determination and success that makes her one of Thresher volleyball's all-time greats.

Clark started her career by being named Kansas Athletic Collegiate Conference Freshman of the Year, to be followed by three straight seasons of unanimous All-KCAC First Team selections. In 1999 and 2000, Clark was KCAC Player of the Year.

Her awards also included being named the KCAC Setter of the Week on eight different occasions, an NAIA All-Region selection in 1999 and 2000, and being the George Rogers III '69 Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year in 2000-01.

Clark was part of the 1999 and 2000 KCAC Championship squads, as well as three different KCAC Tournament champion teams. She is currently second all-time at Bethel with 4,257 career assists. The 1,327 assists she racked up in 2000 are still the single-season record.

Frank Flores currently ranks among the Top 10 in 16 different statistical categories for Thresher men's basketball. He is a two-time

NAIA All-American, including being named to the Third Team in his senior season.

In his senior campaign, Flores helped lead the Threshers to an outright KCAC regular-season championship, resulting in the first (so far only) NAIA National Championship appearance in program history.

Flores capped off his career at Bethel by being named the KCAC Player of the Year. He was a two-time unanimous All-KCAC First Team selection.

Flores currently holds the program records for steals in a season (88 in 2002-03) and steals per game for a career (2.1), as well as being second all-time in career points (1,381) and third in free-throws made (313).

JOSH BOOTH

FACULTY CONTRIBUTE TO TWO GROUNDBREAKING BOOKS

Three Bethel faculty had roles in two recently published books that are the first of their kind.

Sheryl Wilson, executive director of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) and a faculty member in Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies, is the author of a chapter in *Colorizing Restorative Justice: Voicing Our Realities* (Living Justice Press, 2020).

The book is a collection of 18 essays by Wilson and 19 other Restorative Justice (RJ) practitioners of color (including adjunct faculty member Michelle Armster), with a foreword by Justice Robert Yazzie (Diné), edited by Edward C. Valandra (Lakota name Wanbli Wapháha Hoksíla). This first-ever volume by RJ practitioners and scholars of color has as a goal to begin addressing issues of racism and colonization baked into RJ and Restorative Practice (RP).

"Whereas one might think that the RJ movement would shine in championing racial and social justice," Valandra writes, "the movement has actually been silent, afraid and conforming – complacent with institutional and structural harms.

"If RJ as a movement does not address racism and colonization, then, as [noted author and practitioner] Fania Davis warns, [RJ and RP] will [themselves] function in racist and colonizing ways, because that is the default."

Wilson's chapter is entitled "Calling Out Whiteness."

"While I felt the support of many of my White restorative justice counterparts and

mentors," Wilson writes, "I found it difficult over the years to digest that ... we [practitioners of color] still have been isolated, working in predominately White systems.

"This discussion is not new in many White/White-dominated fields where People of Color carve out a living daily. ... When I work with White practitioners, it disturbs me that we are often serving diverse communities and yet we don't accurately resemble them."

The other volume, scheduled for publication in paperback at the end of November, is the first book-length, scholarly consideration of Mennonite involvement in and relationship to the Holocaust.

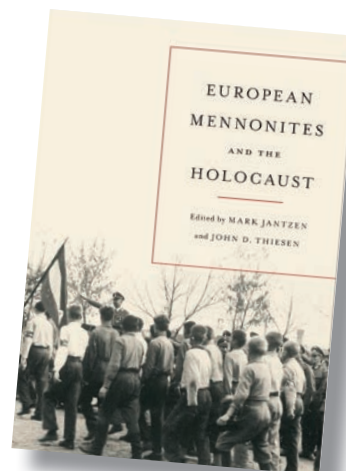
Mark Jantzen '85, professor of history, and John Thiesen '82, archivist at the Mennonite Library and Archives, are the editors of *European Mennonites and the Holocaust* (University of Toronto Press, 2020).

The book stems from the "Mennonites and the Holocaust" conference that Bethel hosted in March 2018, the third such event (after conferences in Germany in 2015 and Paraguay in 2017) organized around scholarly consideration of the experiences and activities of European Mennonites during the Nazi Holocaust.

The Germany conference led to a self-published volume in German, and the Paraguay one to an issue of *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, published at Goshen (Ind.) College. *European Mennonites and the Holocaust* is the first book-length, English-language treatment of the topic. It is the inaugural volume in the new U of T Press series Transnational Mennonite Studies, edited by Aileen Friesen, and is being published in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

"We worked hard to cover geographic areas" in considering what should be included, Jantzen said. That means chapters that examine events in the Netherlands, Germany, occupied Poland/Prussia and Ukraine. Chapter authors represent those places, along with the United States and Canada.

The German-speaking Mennonites who lived in central and eastern Europe during the Second World War were neighbors to



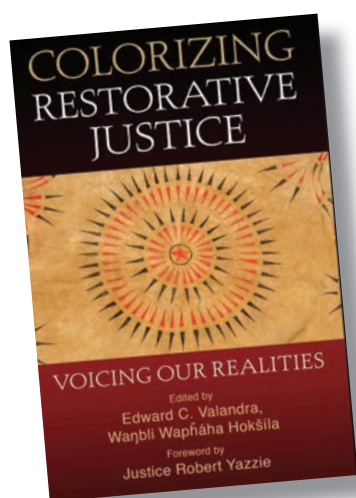
Jews and to the Nazi death camps, not only witnessing the destruction of the European Jews but in some cases benefiting from or even enabling it. When the war ended, these same Mennonites became refugees, with thousands resettling in the United States and Canada, as well as Latin America. Their history vis-à-vis European Jews was forgotten (often deliberately), leading to a myth of Mennonite innocence, ignorance and even persecution and suffering "equal to" that of the Jews.

"*European Mennonites and the Holocaust* identifies a significant number of Mennonite perpetrators, along with a small number of Mennonites who helped Jews survive, examining the context in which they acted," states the U of T Press blurb. "In some cases, theology led them to accept or reject Nazi ideas. In others, Mennonites chose a closer embrace of German identity as a strategy to improve their standing with Germans or for material benefit."

Jantzen says "a lot here is new" for those who don't read German or have not been part of the academic conferences over the last several years. "There are a couple of chapters based on KGB archives in the Ukraine that are fairly recently accessible," he added. "There's a lot more to do.

"This book was done with a major academic press, in association with [what's considered] the Holocaust museum [in the United States], and includes scholars from five different countries. It's a major international volume of cutting-edge research that is carefully documented in many countries' archives."

MELANIE ZUERCHER



SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR EMERITUS LEAVES LEGACY OF WORK, SERVICE



At left, Larry Friesen and friends during a Bethel interterm trip to Mexico, ca. 2010

Generations of Bethel College social work majors are recalling their favorite “Larry stories” following the death of Professor Emeritus of Social Work Larry D. Friesen on Aug. 8.

He had struggled for a decade with frontal temporal dementia (FTD).

Friesen was born and raised on a farm in the Aberdeen, Idaho, area. Both he and his older brother, Duane K. Friesen ’62, fulfilled the dreams of their parents, Waldo ’34 and Linda (Zielke) Friesen, for education by graduating from Bethel College and completing graduate degrees.

Friesen grew up in “a family with a commitment for service,” he recalled at the time he retired in 2011. But there was no social work program at Bethel when he was a student.

He majored in English, but his service orientation led him to stay in Newton for the summer between his junior and senior years to work at Prairie View Mental Health Services.

He was also influenced by the social justice movements of the 1960s, his obituary noted. A family tragedy sparked his interest in mental health, solidifying his decision to pursue more studies in the area of social services.

Immediately after graduating from Bethel, in 1967, Friesen went to the University of Denver for a master’s degree in social welfare, eventually earning a doctorate in social welfare from Columbia University.

While at UD, he met fellow social work student Donna June. They married in 1969 and had a daughter, Katy June-Friesen ’02, in 1980.

Friesen began teaching in Bethel’s Department of Social Work in spring semester 1983, and completed a tenure of 28-and-a-half years in 2011.

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.

Said Ada Schmidt-Tieszen ’74, whom Friesen recruited for the program and who retired from Bethel as a professor of social work in May 2020, the scholarship was meant to honor Friesen “for all the work he did in the social work program.”

“Here are a few examples. He initiated the Mexico interterm [Social Development and Social Justice class]. He conducted commu-

nity research with his students every year in Research Methods and then reported back to agencies. He established the current curriculum and wrote quite a few successful self-studies. He established the strong reputation of the program over the 28-and-a-half years he was [department] chair.

“He developed an approach in Research Methods that helped students be very successful. In the course of a semester, students did a project from start to finish – gathered data, analyzed it, did a literature review and presented the results to the agency. Being involved in something ‘real’ helped students become much more interested in research.

“Larry was always good at organizing a fun activity for Service Day. We painted a house for the domestic violence shelter in Wichita and did yard work at the shelter in Newton. We cleaned out a toy and donation storage area for the Wichita Children’s Home – this was a riot because Larry tried out the tricycles.

“Larry was seen by a lot of people as a social work mentor, a consultant, a listening ear. He worked with Youthville [in Newton] for one sabbatical, which established him as someone staff could, and wanted to, talk to.”

Sara Friesen Guhr, Newton, is a 1992 Bethel social work graduate, a member of the Social Work Advisory Council, a school social worker at Sunset Elementary School in Newton, and one of Friesen's two nieces.

"I had the privilege of having Larry as a professor and mentor," she said. "Larry offered a passion for the field of social work, a commitment to disenfranchised groups and individuals, a focus on strengths and the whole person and their autonomy in their lives, and a wonderful sense of humor."

The first Larry Friesen Scholarship in social work was awarded at the start of the 2019-20 school year to Viviana Rodriguez, San Antonio, Texas. The co-recipients for 2020-21 are seniors Jadin Kaltenbach, Wichita, and Amonde Street, Newton.

"As a professor of social work at Bethel College," Friesen's obituary said, "his greatest satisfaction was helping prepare students for the challenges they would face in life and

work, and expand their knowledge of diverse people and cultures.

"He brought his experiences of the 1960s to the classroom, teaching students to advocate for those in need and to always (constructively) question authority. Larry's legacy will live on in the many students he mentored over the years. Each has her or his favorite 'Larry story.'

"In the more than 40 years he lived in Harvey County, he supported numerous community organizations, by serving on boards, involving his students in research, or just sharing his wisdom.

"He served for eight years on the [Newton] USD 373 School Board (1992-2000), where he advocated for students and families, particularly those with challenges, as well as all educators. He was also instrumental in expanding the hiring of school social workers.

"Alongside his professional life, Larry was always fixing or building something. He built

furniture, turned bowls on his lathe and drilled wells with a home-built rig in the back yards of friends and family. He still planted potatoes every spring."

In October 2019, the family celebrated Larry and Donna's 50th anniversary, Larry's 75th birthday, and Katy's marriage to Christian Samaniego, which gained the Friesens a grandson, Matias Samaniego.

Due to COVID-19, a celebration of life will take place sometime in 2021, with former students encouraged to attend and share their memories and "Larry stories."

Memorials are the Bethel College Department of Social Work (online or contact the Bethel College development office), Good Shepherd Hospice and Mennonite Central Committee.

MELANIE ZUERCHER

ANDRES NAMED MUSEUM DIRECTOR

In August, the Kauffman Museum board of directors appointed longtime employee Andi Schmidt Andres '85 as museum director.

She had served as acting director since Jan. 28, following the resignation of Michael Reinschmidt.

Andres began working at the museum in 1993, variously holding positions as assistant to the director, education coordinator, curator of education, transitional operations manager and finally acting director.

She was curator of education for almost 19 years, initiating several popular programs: Uncle Carl's Camp (summer day camps for children and youth); Celebrate Kansas Day!, a community festival marking the anniversary of Kansas statehood every January; and Bring Back the Buses, a campaign to fund public school field trips to the museum.

Andres' job description has included working with all field trip programs, hosting museum bus tours, organizing and coordinating museum special events, and managing the museum store, student employees and museum volunteers.

She served as vice president of the Kansas Museums Association and began as president

in November at the KMA annual meeting.

Andres graduated from Bethel in 1984 with a degree in German, then continued to complete a major in environmental studies with an education emphasis in 1985.

Prior to working at Kauffman Museum, Andres was employed for six years by the City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation department, where she supervised interpretive programs at Garden of the Gods Park, at North Cheyenne Cañon Park, and on the summit of Pikes Peak.

"I am honored and pleased to step into this new role," Andres said, "working with museum staff, board and volunteers to keep things lively, innovative and moving forward at Kauffman Museum."

Said board chair Donna Becker '70, "The board has great confidence in Andi's leadership and is looking to a strong future for Kauffman Museum."

MELANIE ZUERCHER



BETHEL WELCOMES NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Mark Brown, Information and Media Services support technician

Adam Akers '03, director of facilities; previously on maintenance and AV staff

Andi Schmidt Andres '85, director of Kauffman Museum (see article on p. 25)

Nancy Banman '79, associate professor of social work and social work field coordinator. She has a Ph.D. from the Bryn Mawr College of Social Work and Social Research, and taught social work at Bethel from 1984-86 and in fall 1992.

Grant Bellar '19, associate web developer

Joel Boettger '13, director of band (new position). He has a master's degree in jazz and contemporary media from the Eastman School of Music, and was previously instructor of jazz studies.

Lyndsey Cook, adjunct instructor of communication arts. She has an M.A. in communication from Wichita State University.

Angela Demovic, adjunct instructor of sociology. She has a Ph.D. in anthropology from Tulane University.

Danica Dickson, transfer and international admissions counselor; previously admissions visit and events coordinator

Kaylee Fifita, assistant dance coach

Peter Goerzen '07, assistant professor of Bible and religion and interim department chair. He has an M.Div. from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He was previously Bethel campus pastor.

Anthony Gonzalez, assistant softball coach

Jacob Gunden '02, director of human resources and compliance, and Title IX coordinator

Brenna Haines, assistant professor of mathematics and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. She has a doctor of education degree in mathematics education from George Washington University.

John Hansberry '20, admissions counselor and admissions events coordinator

Elizabeth Herbel, assistant professor of nursing. She has a master's degree in nursing education from MidAmerica Nazarene University.

Kristopher Hilding, adjunct instructor of music. He has a master's degree in viola from the University of Kansas.

Jennifer Janes '05, adjunct instructor of psychology. She has an M.S. in clinical psychology from Fort Hays State University.

Megan Kershner '08, director of career and leadership development. She has an MBA from Kansas Wesleyan University, and was previously director of human resources and career services.

Dalen Markham, assistant football coach, defensive backs

Deanne McGrew, assistant softball coach

Heather Miller, custodial services

Lacey Morgan, assistant softball coach

Eric Preheim '16, interim director of admissions, previously associate director of admissions

Eric Reid, assistant men's basketball coach

Larry Rice, coordinator of residence life for programming and first-year experience. He has an M.A. in student affairs, higher education, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Mark Rittenour, interim director of forensics. He has a J.D. from Case Western Reserve School of Law.

Karen Robu, instructor of theater. She has an M.Div. from Phillips Theological Seminary.

Amy Ruetten, interim vice president for business and finance. She has an MBA from Baker University.

Martin Simmons, technical support, continuing in custodial services

Kerrigan Simons '20, assistant softball coach

Dante Texeira '20, assistant men's soccer coach

Michael Unruh '09, campus pastor. He was on Bethel's admissions team from 2011-14.

Gavyn Veith, assistant track and field coach and assistant cross-country coach

Caitie Williams '20, intern athletic trainer

Alexis Wilson, assistant softball coach

Kaci Wilson '20, admissions counselor

BETHEL BABY BOOM



A number of Bethel faculty and staff have welcomed new family members over the past 18 months. Pictured here: **1.** Ashley Davis, head dance coach, with Andrew and Carson Davis (b. September 2019); **2.** Michael Unruh '09, campus pastor, with Lina (Adame) '15 and Heath Ortiz Unruh (b. August 2020); **3.** Brian Kimmell, senior web developer, with Edmund Kimmell (b. February 2020; mom is Lois and big sister is Abigail); **4.** Julian Gonzalez-Salamanca, director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, with Elizabeth Friesen '10 and Melina Mae Gonzalez-Friesen (b. June 2019); and **5.** Madison (Wiles) '15, assistant women's soccer coach, with Alex Hagan '16, head women's soccer coach, with Jensyn June Hagan (b. May 2020). Others are Tony Hoops '05, athletic director, and Kelli (Ackerman) Hoops '07; Mark Brown, IMS support technician; James Cottage, head men's soccer coach; Joseph Gogus, head cheer coach; and Terry Harrison, head football coach.

CLASS NOTES

Information received as of Nov. 4, 2020

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF:

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

1950–59

K.T. Fann '59, Taiwan, is the author of *Reading "Dao De Jing" in English* (Singapore: Partridge Publishing Company, 2020).

Wilma Janzen Toews Loganbill '58, Hesston, Kan., is the author of a memoir titled *A Very Fortunate Woman*, available at Faith & Life Bookstore in Newton.

Donald Schierling '59, Denver, received the national Journey Award from Everence Financial for his stewardship related to his lifelong commitment to serving others and to advocating for peace, justice and equality.

1960–69

Anna (Deckert) White '68, Austin, Texas, recently moved from Goliad, Texas (her home for 46 years), to Austin to be closer to children and grandchildren who live in Austin. It also gives easier access to the airport, for visiting a child and grandchildren near London, UK.

1970–79

Dianne Schmidt '77, North Newton, graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in May with a Master of Divinity degree and a major in Christian faith formation.

1980–89

Anne (Herbert) Bailey '80, Lawrence, Kan., retired from teaching at Deerfield Elementary School in Lawrence after 40 years in the profession.

Donald Miller '85, Winnipeg, Manitoba, presented at the prestigious Delaware Valley Drug Metabolism Discussion Group

in September on his work in early cancer detection.

Mark Rich '83, Dayton, Ohio, received the University Professor Award at Wright State University where he teaches neuroscience, cell biology and physiology.

Ed Smith '88, Orlando, Fla., was nominated for the 2021 National Football Foundation (NFF) College Football Hall of Fame.

Kathy (Burkey) Wiens '82, Newton, opened a new business, Possibilities Healing Arts Studio, in Marion, Kan. She will offer individual coaching and support groups for survivors of trauma.

1990–99

Jennifer Chappell Deckert '96, North Newton, Bethel associate professor of social work, was appointed to the National Association of Social Workers-Kansas Board of Directors

Penny (Frey) Dorado '96, Newton, received the Guardian Angel Award from Ascension Via Christi Health in Wichita. Patients or families can nominate associates for this award when they feel that person has provided exceptional care. Penny serves as a weekend social work case manager at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. Penny also earned her Certification of Play Therapy from Wichita State University in July.

Sara Friesen Guhr '92, Newton, a school social worker at Sunset Elementary School in Newton, was named the 2019-20 Kansas School Social Worker of the Year.

Sara Jackson Miller '90, Westmoreland, Kan., was a district nominee for Kansas Teacher of the Year, and traveled throughout

the state during the spring semester visiting other Kansas school districts.

2000–09

Amy (Mattson) Adams '03, Salina, Kan., was named assistant director of the Salina Public Library.

Phil Barron '06, San Antonio, Texas, was named head football coach and athletic coordinator at South San Antonio High School.

DJ Bookout '09, Newton, ran 55 miles on March 21 to honor his senior track and field student athletes at Wichita North High School who didn't get to finish their season because of COVID-19. At the end of the 2019-20 school year, he transitioned to coaching at Newton High School from Wichita North.

Helen (Dick) Brandon '02, Normal, Ill., was a 2020 Illinois Teacher of the Year finalist and a nominee for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is working on her doctorate in teaching and learning, focusing on STEM education with multilingual students.

Adam Gaedert '07, Decatur, Ga., began working as the controller at GROUND FLOOR Finance Inc.

Jacob Gunden '02, Hesston, Kan., began in August as director of human resources and compliance/Title IX coordinator at Bethel.

Jacob Larson '00, Lawrence, Kan., completed a master's degree in K-12 building administration this spring.

2010–19

Heidi (Atteberry) Flores '11, Newton, was named assistant principal at Santa Fe 5/6 Center in Newton.

Brooke Powers '15, Newton, athletic trainer for Thresher football and clinical education coordinator for athletic training at Bethel, received Bethel's John O. and Elsie Schrag Helping Hand Award in May for her work with athletic training students.

Austin Prouty '19, Newton, joined the exhibit design team at Bethel's Kauffman Museum as he works to complete an MFA in graphic design from Cal Arts (the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia).

Abram Rodenberg '13, Lawrence, Kan., became a fellow of the Society of Actuaries (FSA) in August.

Renae Stucky '16, North Newton, earned her master of library science degree from Emporia State University's School of Library and Information Management in August.

Jesse Voth-Gaeddert '15, Hesston, Kan., was allowed to graduate early from the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita this spring, in order to serve with the Kansas Pandemic Volunteer Health Care Workforce in Liberal, Kan.

marriages

Stephanie Brown '19 and **Alec Loganbill** '19, Newton, June 3

Julia Fromm '07 and John Mohlencamp, Andover, Minn., May 25, 2019

Olivia Gehring '16 and **Westen Gesell** '18, Wichita, Jan. 3

Breetta Moe '16 and **Terrence Jones** '17, Hesston, Kan., March 25

births and adoptions

Adam Gaeddert '07 and Rebecca Woodruff, Decatur, Ga., a daughter, Eleanor James, Aug. 23

Madison (Wiles) '15 and **Alex Hagan** '16, Newton, a daughter, Jensyn June, May 13

Jordan Hill '19, Summit, N.J., a son, Bryson James, Sept. 18

Daniel Klaassen '11 and Megan, Topeka, a son, Jack Aaron, Oct. 12

Chelsy (Chaffin) '08 and **Jacob Larson** '00, Lawrence, Kan., Willow Frances, Sept. 22

Christian Loganbill '10 and Jaimie, Rogers, Ark., a son, Kasen Miller, July 4

Julie (Wedel) Martens '14 and Timothy, Inman, Kan., a son, Isaac Dale, April 2

Jill Schmidt '05 and Ben Gerig, Englewood, Colo., a son, Jude Archer, May 8

Rebecca (Trumble) '14 and **Aaron Tschetter** '15, Newton, a son, Theodore Alden, Sept. 15

Lina (Adame) '15 and **Michael Unruh** '09, Wichita, a son, Heath Ortiz, Aug. 16

remembrances

Harlin Balzer '71, Newton, June 2

Evelyn (Dyck) Bertsche '58, Normal, Ill., Oct. 22

John Bertsche '58, Normal, Ill., Aug. 8

Judi (Helfer) Burkett '03, Newton, May 21

Dwight Cox '72, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, May 19

Edward Dick '63, Newton, April 19

Nicholas Dick '56, Toronto, Ontario, April 2

Rosella (Reimer) Duerksen '48, Tucson, Ariz., April 30

Waldeen Epp '58, Rushville, Ill., May 30

Harold Friesen '58, Dunwoody, Ga., Aug. 31

Jacob Friesen '44, North Newton, June 6

Larry Friesen '67, Hesston, Kan., Aug. 8

Vernon "Vipz" Friesen '53, Manhattan, Kan., Sept. 13

Mary Lou (Rich) Goertzen '51, Deadwood, Ore., Oct. 20

Mark Hill '83, Fort Collins, Colo., April 27

Carl Jantzen '57, Seven Mile, Ohio, Aug. 29

Elaine (Goering) Jantzen '50, Hillsboro, Kan., March 31

Marty Kaufman '50, Wichita, Jan. 1

Roland Kaufman '39, Moundridge, Kan., May 25

John Klassen '51, Wichita, April 4

Ellen (Waltner) Kling '45, Moundridge, Kan., Sept. 16



COURTESY PHOTO

KOONTZ A 'SERVANT' OF PUBLIC HEALTH DURING COVID CRISIS

Nov. 15, the Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society (KATS) conducted its annual awards ceremony virtually, presenting Jennifer Scott Koontz '98, M.D., with its 2020 Service Award.

This is given to an athletic trainer or other professional with a history of service to the athletic training profession. As a sports medicine physician, Koontz has supervised many athletic trainers' licenses, is a public advocate for athletic trainers, and serves as Bethel's team physician, as well as that of Hesston (Kan.) College and Newton High School. She is employed by Newton Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at Newton Medical Center.

For the last eight months, however, Koontz has become best known in Harvey County and beyond for her tireless efforts to bring clarity to the tangle of issues surrounding COVID-19 and the public health crisis it has produced.

Every day on her Facebook page, Koontz provides a COVID update, ranging from Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information, to explanations of academic studies, to the status of school openings, and much more. The Kansas Hospital Association's weekly newsletter, *Current Report*, called these updates "highly relevant, thoughtful and reliable" and an "excellent public service."

Sondra (Valentine) Lansaw '82,
McPherson, Kan., Aug. 1

Marguerite (Bixel) Loganbill '52, Tucson,
Ariz., May 3

Varden Loganbill '50, Moundridge, Kan.,
July 9

Nancy Mueller '05, Colorado Springs, Colo.,
Aug. 20

Frank Nachtigal '62, North Newton, Aug. 17

Arnie Neufeld '75, Inman, Kan., May 12

Walter Ott '57, Henderson, Neb., Aug. 18

Frank Pang '58, Camano Island, Wash., Aug.
31

Mary (Schrage) Pauls '52, Winnipeg,
Manitoba, March 21

Verlene (Waldo) Pinkston '89, Hutchinson,
Kan., Aug. 14

Richard Ratzlaff '48, South Hutchinson,
Kan., April 19

Esther (Lehrman) Rinner '47, North
Newton, May 30

Gladys (Hall) Rutschman '45, Englewood,
Colo., March 21

Marjorie (Waltner) Schrage '75, Hesston,
Kan., April 28

Nancy Schroeder-Warner '60, Inman, Kan.,
June 13

John Siemens '55, Derby, Kan., Aug. 13

Eldred Thierstein '58, Phoenix, July 15

Ruth (Esau) Thimm '49, Beatrice, Neb., Aug.
10

Norma (Becker) Unruh '61, Copeland, Kan.,
April 25

Helen (Vorán) Voth '46, Hesston, Kan., April
6

Roy Voth '60, El Dorado, Kan., Aug. 10

David Wagler '69, Yoder, Kan., April 8



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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 above, 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).

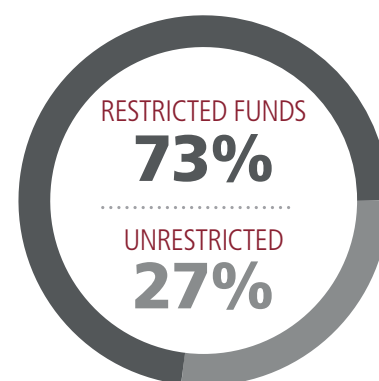
ADVANCEMENT THANKS ALL DONORS FOR FIRST-EVER CORNERSTONE DAY



This year on Oct. 12, the Office of Institutional Advancement hosted its first-ever Cornerstone Day, an online day of giving for alumni to show support for their favorite programs at Bethel. Cornerstone Day honors the dedication of the Ad Building cornerstone on Oct. 12, 1888.

We want to thank all our donors for strengthening Thresher Pride by participating in Cornerstone Day. With your generous support, we are able to continue transforming lives and providing life-changing and life-shaping educational experiences.

CORNERSTONE DAY #BCGIVES



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- 56%** Bruce Toews '84 Endowed Music Fund
- 27%** Unrestricted (Bethel College Fund)
- 6%** Ada Schmidt-Tieszen '74 Lectureship
- 2%** Music Department
- 1%** or less for 24 designations:
Admissions Office, Art Dept., Athletic Dept., Men's Soccer, Biology Dept., Chemistry Dept., College Choirs, Communication Arts, Education Dept., English Dept., Golf, History Dept., Instrumental Music Dept., Kauffman Museum, Men's Basketball, Football, Physics Dept., Social Work Dept., Student Life Office, Tennis, Track, Women's Basketball, Softball, Volleyball

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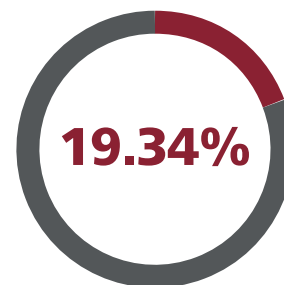
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