

BETHEL COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER 2022

Around^{THE} Green



A BETHEL
LATINX LEGACY

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ON THE COVER:

Current students Elizabeth Lumbreras, left, and Patty Huerta, right, with their cousin, Oscar Gonzalez '21. (At left, Brenda Sanchez and Patty at Oscar's graduation in May 2022, along with Patty and Brenda's brother Ricardo Sanchez '15.)

PHOTOS BY OSCAR GONZALEZ

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KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ENOUGH

Dear alumni and friends of Bethel College,

Bethel is now operating under a strategic plan entitled *Knowledge is Not Enough*. The plan has been in development since January 2021 with input from employees, students, and alumni. The Board of Directors approved this seven-priority plan at its fall 2022 meetings (see p. 6 and p. 24; <https://www.bethelks.edu/about/who-we-are/strategic-plan>).

Strategic plans help guide resource allocation and decision-making, but they should not be confused with operational (or tactical) plans wherein every detail is known at the onset of the plan. *Knowledge is Not Enough* is sufficiently strategic in that it invites participation from constituents (see sidebar).

Enacting the strategic plan will require at least \$4.6M in one-time investments, \$634K in permanent employee salary and benefits, and 4,405 employee service hours on committees and in leadership roles. To what end? The success of our students, of course. Our student body is more diverse than ever. More than one-third are first-generation students, one-third come from low-income families who qualify for federal Pell Grants, and 41% are students of color. Oscar Gonzalez '21 and his cousins, featured in this issue, are wonderful examples of how a Bethel education can have a generational impact on a Latinx family.

Our student body is a microcosm of the broader world, and each student brings a unique perspective to campus life. These are excellent conditions for education both inside and outside the classroom. Demographic trends and excellent recruiting and retention strategies have brought us this point. We have experienced four years of enrollment increases (including two of the largest first-year classes in 30 years) and the highest retention rates in 15 years. But the rapid change in the student population also demands our focused attention.

The title of the strategic plan – *Knowledge is Not Enough* – speaks to the factors that will keep Bethel College on the rise in the upcoming years: student support services; curricular improvements; employment experiences for all students; a sustained ethos of service. Like Bethel, many colleges have outstanding curricula. Academic excellence is necessary, but not sufficient, to attract students to our cause. We must develop added value and higher return-on-investment for our students. E.G. Kaufman (1916), Bethel College president from 1932-52, saw Bethel's future in much the same way as he guided the college out of the Great Depression. After implementing the college's first work program, he wrote, "Knowledge is not enough," and subsequently developed the explicit, if clunky, tagline Work – Worship – Play – Study. Our current tagline, We Are Threshers, speaks to our sense of community and shared vision at this time of exciting growth and change at Bethel College.

Please join us as we implement *Knowledge is Not Enough*. Give generously of your time and talent. Be a host family. Provide a helpful suggestion in your area of expertise. Help connect our talented students to your business. Be a mentor or build a network of student support. Provide funding for the strategic priority that gives you the greatest happiness.

Thank you for your support of Bethel College; it means a lot to me. I wish you abundant joy and peace during the holiday season.

Yours on the journey,

JON C. GERING, PH.D.
President



How you can help

- Our efforts to provide employment experiences for all our students (beginning with incoming first-year students in 2024) requires job opportunities among our alumni employers. **If you have job openings**, please contact the Office of Employment Experiences: Megan Kershner '08, dean of employment experiences, 316-284-5205 or mkershner@bethelks.edu; see <https://www.bethelks.edu/success/employment-experiences>
- Developing the Thresher Media Network demands creative input from our stakeholders. **If you are a creative Thresher in the media industry** and want to support the development of the Thresher Media Network with ideas, resources, or visibility, please let us know.



TAKE NOTE



Tricia Clark, director of communications and marketing, with Threshy

A THRESHING STONE COMES TO LIFE IN NEW ATHLETIC MASCOT

How do you create a mascot costume out of an obsolete farm implement from the turn of the (20th) century?

According to Tricia Clark, director of institutional communications and marketing, like this: "Three years googling every mascot design from the last 50 years; five months of intense design work with Street Characters Inc.; and a thousand creative discussions with the genius Bethel cheer coach, Joseph Gogus."

The result is Threshy, introduced to alumni, football fans and the world at Fall Festival Oct. 8, when the #12 Threshers beat #6 Southwestern College in the homecoming football game.

Threshy will join Bethel super-fan Loren Reusser '59 of North Newton to fire up the crowd at games and matches, and will be part of other special occasions such as alumni gatherings and recruitment events.

Connect with Threshy at threshy@bethelks.edu

» Bethel **moved up one spot**, to #14, in the *Washington Monthly* annual list of "Best Bachelor's Colleges," a number partially based on service, where Bethel placed at #6. Bethel also made *Washington Monthly's* list of "Best Bang for the Buck-Midwest" colleges, a category that ranks schools according to how well they help non-wealthy students earn marketable degrees at affordable prices.

» Bethel **jumped seven places** in the annual "Best Colleges" issue published by *U.S. News & World Report*, landing at #24 in the list of "Best Regional Colleges Midwest." The move into the top 25 was helped by a top-10 placement in one of the specialized lists within that regional ranking. Bethel appears at #9 for "Undergraduate Teaching," as well as #28 (up from #31) for "Best Value Schools" and #37 (up from #41) for "Top Performers in Social Mobility."

» Bethel's Daniela Herrera, a sophomore, the #9 seed, went on to win the ITA West Regional singles championship for **the second time in three years**. Herrera and her doubles partner, sophomore Fatima Nemi, also advanced to the semi-finals in the doubles tournament. Herrera then traveled to Rome, Ga., for the ITA Cup, Oct. 13-15.



» Josué Coy Dick, sophomore violinist, **won the instrumental division** of the Hutchinson (Kan.) Symphony Orchestra's annual Anderson Concerto Competition on Nov. 6. This is the second year in a row for a Bethel student to win this particular competition. Coy Dick played the first movement of Khachaturian's *Violin Concerto in D minor* with the HSO on Dec. 11.

» Thresher cross country had **seven runners named KCAC Scholar-Athletes**: for the men, junior Isaiah Bartel and sophomores Andrew Graber, Luke Schmidt and Tobin Wise; for the women, seniors Aubry Grame and Stephany Meyer and junior Lynnzey Young. Those honored carry a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA at the beginning of the semester in which they compete.

» Thresher football won its **third straight KCAC co-championship** following a 51-21 victory over the University of Saint Mary in the final game of the regular season on Nov. 5.

» Bethel's new director of choral music, Henry Waters, D.M.A., has **resurrected a name and a choir from years past**. In addition to directing the Concert Choir, Waters has re-started a Chamber Choir (16 voices) and renamed the treble-voice choir (formerly the Women's Chorus) the Chapel Choir, a name once used for a choir that sang in chapel services.

» At the KCAC Fall Individual Tennis Championships, the Bethel men brought home two medals and the women seven, including **two first-place**: sophomore Daniela Herrera at #2 singles, and freshman Patty Huerta, playing in her first-ever college championship, at #6 singles.

» Intelligent.com, a resource for program rankings and higher education planning, included Bethel on its list of the Best Colleges in Kansas for 2023. Bethel was awarded **Best Undergraduate Programs** on the final list, which comprised the 20 best colleges in the state out of a total of 33.

» Bethel Athletics has been named a NAIA Champions of Character® Five-Star Institution, Gold Level, for **the fifth straight year**. The recognition applies to the previous school year (2021-22), in which 17 of Bethel's 18 teams were named NAIA All-Scholar Teams, achieving the highest overall student-athlete GPA in a decade. In addition to academics, the award is based on conduct in competition and overall demonstration of character by student-athletes.



1. Thresher tennis, fall 2022 2. Smiling for the camera near Haury Hall 3. Students sign up for Student Activities Council (SAC) 4. Threshers ready to play ball 5. Thresher fans at the last home football game, Nov. 5 (photo by DT)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PRIORITY

1

PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES FOR ALL STUDENTS.

PRIORITY

2

CREATE A SUSTAINED ETHOS OF SERVICE.

PRIORITY

3

INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF CAMPUS LIFE AND BUILD COMMUNITY BY STARTING THE THRESHER MEDIA NETWORK.

PRIORITY

4

IDENTIFY AND COMPLETE CHANGES TO CAMPUS REAL ESTATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE THE COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY.

PRIORITY

5

REDESIGN SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF A DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION.

PRIORITY

6

REDESIGN CURRICULA (E.G., GENERAL EDUCATION AND MAJOR OFFERINGS) SO THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE COLLEGE MISSION AND RESPOND TO DIVERSE STUDENT NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS.

PRIORITY

7

IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER LIFE CYCLE SYSTEM.



EMPLOYMENT
EXPERIENCES



ETHOS OF
SERVICE



THRESHER MEDIA
NETWORK



REAL ESTATE
& INFRASTRUCTURE



SUPPORT
SERVICES

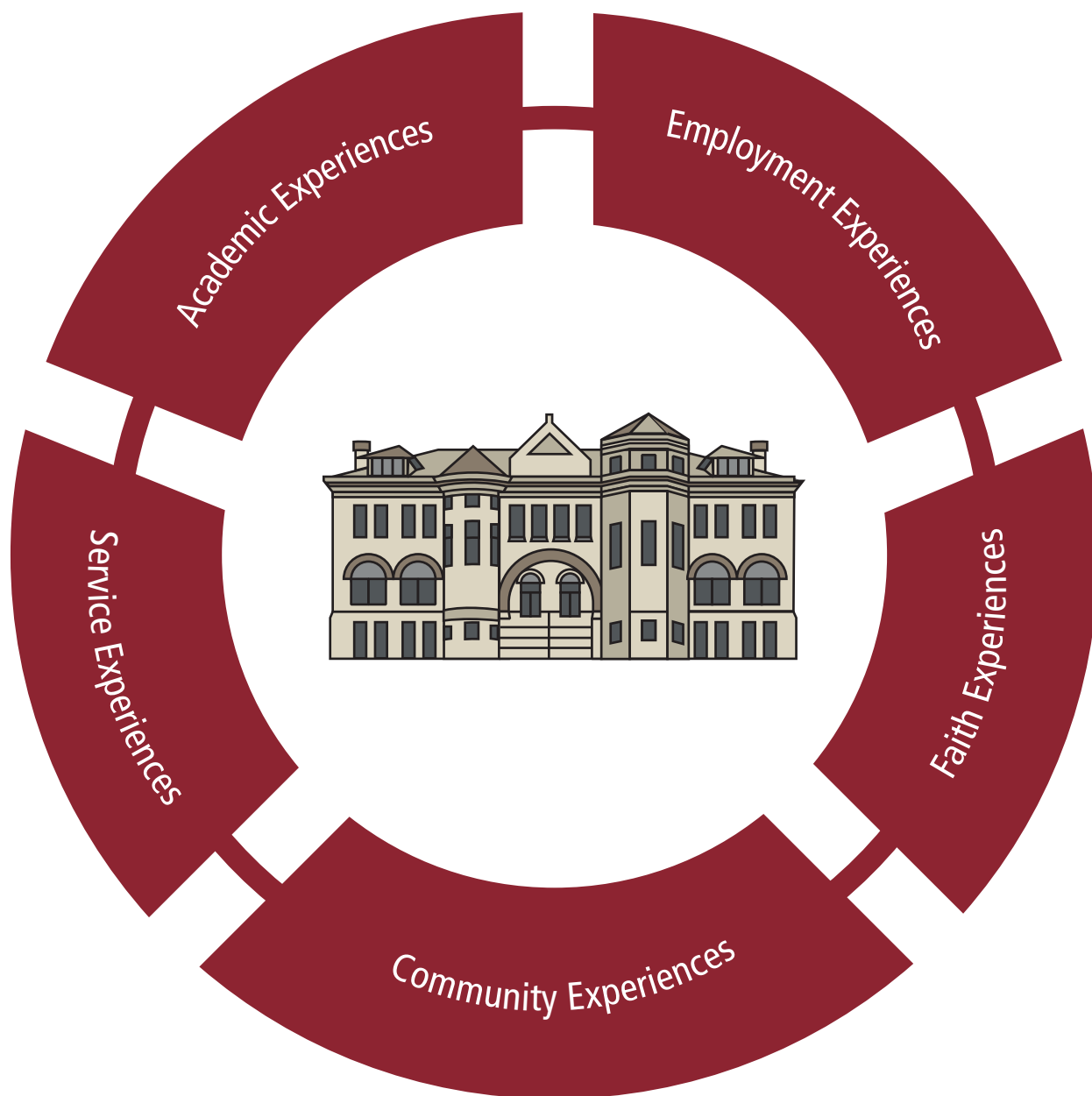


REDESIGNED
CURRICULA



LIFE CYCLE
SYSTEM

THE THRESHER WAY



The Thresher Way is five shared, integrated experiences that define student life at Bethel College.

BETHEL GUARANTEES WHEN YOU GRADUATE, YOU WILL BE 100% READY FOR YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

F



Faith Experiences: By actively engaging in faith, you will be creating a holistic balance of spiritual, mental and physical practices — essential skills for success in college and beyond.

A



Academic Experiences: Envision your future, understand contemporary issues and engage in critical thought. You'll discover how to live a meaningful life by creating and articulating your own story.

C



Community Experiences: Live on campus to contribute and benefit from the Bethel community. You will be interconnected to all Threshers with your whole spirit.

E



Employment Experiences: These will allow you to develop specific skills, tap into built-in networks and create a vocation transcript to stand out in the job market upon graduation.

S



Service Experiences: By demonstrating compassion for the powerless and taking part in selfless action, you'll be able to articulate the importance of service for yourself and for the common good.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: bethelks.edu/success/thresher-way

A LATINX LEGACY

by MELANIE ZUERCHER

Four cousins found their place at Bethel, backed by supportive communities on campus and at home.

For Latinx people, it's a big deal to get higher education.

”

Oscar Gonzalez '21



Top: Patty Huerta on the tennis court earlier this fall; bottom: Oscar Gonzalez in the communications and marketing office.

It started with Ricardo. But it really started with a strong extended family. Ricardo Sanchez '15 is a teacher and tennis coach in the Moundridge (Kan.) school system. This fall, he began as instructor of Spanish at Bethel.

Ricardo was the first among his cousins to go to college, and he began at Wichita State University as the recipient of a competitive scholarship that paid tuition.

"I still remember meeting with my adviser," he says. "We talked about my classes for the semester, and what I'd need to take as a sophomore. At the end of the meeting, she said, 'I probably won't teach any of your classes until you're a junior, so unless you need anything, I'll see you then.'"

WSU was just too big, says Ricardo. A few friends from high school had gone to Bethel, and he'd had some conversations with professors when he was in the college search process.

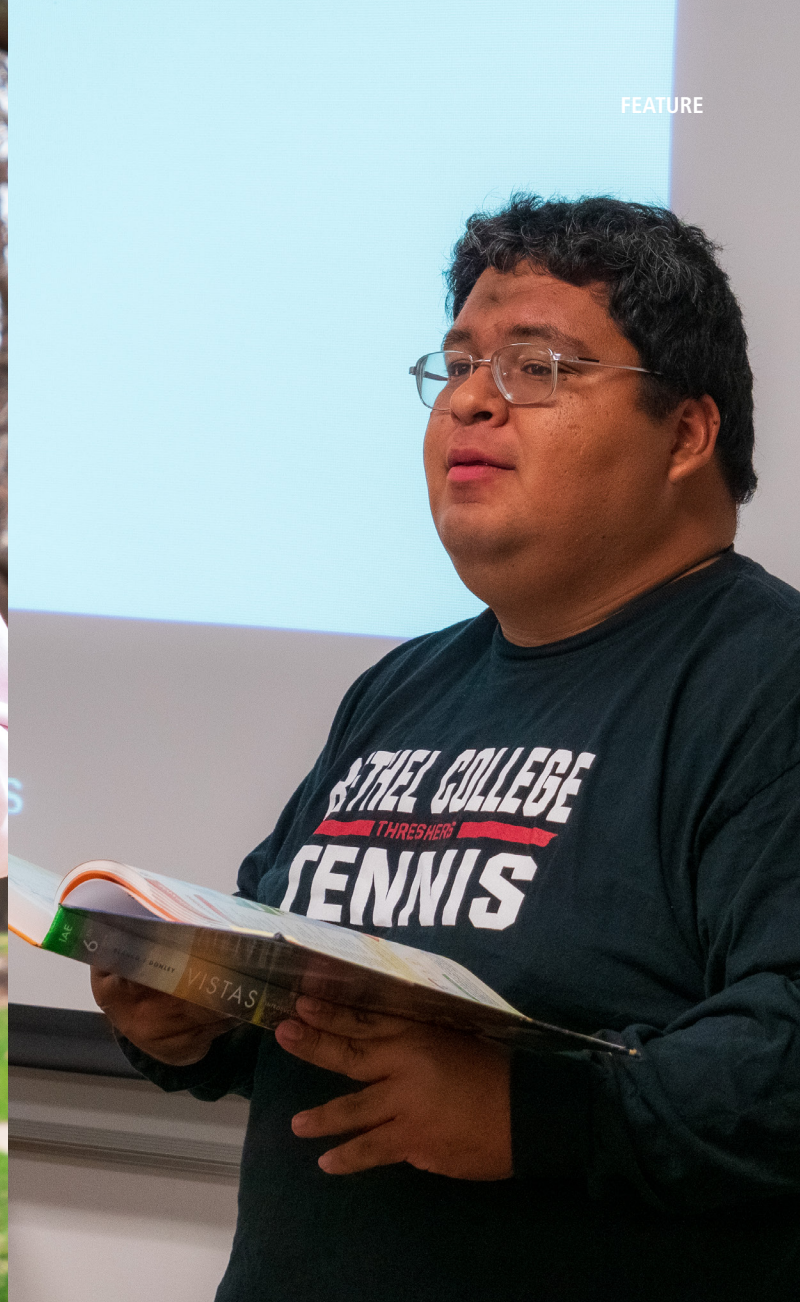
Ricardo's cousin, Oscar Gonzalez '21, also began at a different school, Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., in a business and pre-med track. "They did a really good job with recruiting," he says, "but I didn't enjoy the school as much as I had the visit."

Oscar knew he needed something different. "I talked with Ricardo for help with the admissions process and getting enrolled, since he had been here. I came to Bethel, still with the same major in mind, and then I took an art class and really loved it."

Oscar graduated in fall 2021, and walked in May 2022, with an individualized major in graphic communication. He had already worked for several semesters in Bethel's Institutional Communications and Marketing office, and when the graphic design position came open, he applied and got the job.

In the meantime, Oscar and Ricardo's cousin, Elizabeth Lumbreras, had gotten a scholarship to play softball at Bethel. Although she ultimately elected not to continue on the team, Bethel was where she wanted to stay.

Elizabeth plans to be a teacher, and she felt at home in the teacher education program, she says. She went to a small high school, and at Bethel, she "enjoyed the small school and community feeling, where everyone knows you, and you can be one-on-one with the teachers." Elizabeth will graduate with her education degree in spring 2023.



Left: Elizabeth Lumbreras on the way to class; right: Ricardo Sanchez in the Spanish classroom at Bethel

So when Ricardo's younger sister, Patty Huerta, was looking for a college, Bethel was very much on the list. Like her brother and cousins, Patty went to a smaller high school and she was immediately drawn to Bethel's "big community feeling."

Patty, who just completed her first semester, is a member of the tennis team and on a pre-dental track. "I like being able to make my own major and fill in all my prerequisites for dentistry," she says.

The cousins agree that Bethel's small size, tight community and the way professors know students and will do all they can to help them have been a big draw. They also agree that their families' support has been crucial.

"College is a big value, and something my parents didn't get," Oscar says. "That was constantly in the back of my mind, throughout high school and then college. Our extended family was positive and wanted this for us."

Ricardo is the only one of the cousins who was born in Mexico, moving to the United States when he was very young. "The opportunity for education was the biggest reason for the move," he says. "My [parents], my grandparents, all valued it so much.

"Growing up, when Liz's mom and the aunts graduated from high school, the graduation parties were huge. It's such a big milestone. [The older generation] came from childhoods where they didn't have the chance to receive much education."

"We get the support we need," Elizabeth adds. "No matter what I wanted to do, they were there – 'It doesn't matter, as long as you go and get [that] higher education.'"

"My parents obviously wanted me to come to college," says Patty, "but the support of my other two siblings [was also important]."

"My dad really pushed it. He has worked in grocery stores and factories, and he wanted something better [for us]."

"Ricardo inspired me," says Oscar. "I knew professors would know Ricardo, and they did. I want to inspire younger cousins in my families."

Even so, he was "scared to go to college, because I'm the oldest sibling and the first in my [immediate] family to do it. Here at Bethel, it felt like home."

2022 YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

ASHLEY KLEIN '13: DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY, AND ITS PETS

Ashley Klein loves animals and her community.

In fact, it says so right on her CV: "I hang out with dogs and make my community better."

The Young Alumnus Award recognizes character and citizenship, achievement or service rendered, and honors and recognition received. The recipient must be 39 years of age or younger.

Klein received the award and spoke to students, faculty and staff in Bethel's weekly convocation on Oct. 10.

Klein, of Newton, graduated from Bethel in 2013 with a double major in psychology and natural sciences. As a student, she started her own business, Blue Skies Pet Care, to help pay the bills.

At the time, Klein knew of no other pet-care business in Newton. Twelve years later, Blue Skies has grown by leaps and bounds.

As her degree neared completion, Klein says, she was faced with whether to start applying to graduate programs or stay close to home (she was born and raised in Newton) and keep building the business.

"I decided that rather than taking it out-of-state, out of the community, I would keep it local," she says. "If you stay in the community, you get to see the benefits – in a small community, you can directly see the difference a person or business makes."

And Klein started that even before graduation. Early on in her business, she realized Newton really needed a dog park.

Clients told her they would drive all the way to Wichita to use parks that weren't even free, requiring an annual membership fee.

She began working on the project in 2012. She secured Caring Hands Humane Society in Newton as the fiscal sponsor for tax-deductible donations, found matching grants, and "did a lot of fundraising with individuals."

The Newton Dog Park, located in Centennial Park and free to the public and their dogs, opened in September 2016.

In 2018, Klein hired her first Blue Skies employee in addition to herself. Today, she has eight, including two Bethel students, who work as pet caregivers and team leaders. The newest, hired in October and expanding BSPC's services even wider, is professional dog trainer Vanessa Hajek.

As a psychology major at Bethel, Klein focused on canines whenever possible – independent study, senior project. She did a nine-month internship at Caring Hands with a dog trainer, and kept honing her skills in that area by volunteering at the shelter.

"I use my psychology major all the time," she says, "and not only in animal behavior, but working with people, often people of different backgrounds."

"I [wouldn't call myself] a people person but my communications courses, convocation and other [Bethel experiences] helped

me develop my skills working with people."

Nor was the dog park her last community-focused effort.

She continues to volunteer as a dog trainer at Caring Hands.

She is currently on the board of trustees of the Newton Public Library. As the board representative to the NPL Foundation, she is currently deeply involved in a major capital campaign to build a new library.

"The board said to me, 'After you raised \$100,000 for a dog park, how about \$8 million for a new library?'"

She's also part of both Big Brothers Big Sisters of Harvey County – where she served on the Fundraising Events Committee for three years – and Newton Young Professionals, now known as Emerge.

She was events chair and a council member for NYP from 2019-21. In 2017, she was the Newton Young Professional of the Year.

"I enjoy Newton," Klein says. "Too often, people become educated or whatever and then move on. I didn't want to be one of those people."

"I felt like I could stay here and make a difference in the community."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

Ashley Klein and her "spokesdog," Skye (photo by Wes McClellan)



the dogs out

2022 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BILL SCHMIDT '82: SPEAKING THE LANGUAGES OF COMPUTERS AND MUSIC

You might say William “Bill” Schmidt works as a translator – only the “languages” he’s translating are “human” and “computer.”

The Distinguished Achievement Award acknowledges character and citizenship, achievement in a chosen profession or vocation, and work of benefit to humanity.

Schmidt is the principal compiler engineer for Intel Corporation’s development software engineering group, a position he took earlier this year after working for IBM for 29 years.

For most of those, he and his family (spouse and “college sweetheart” Lori Voran ’83 and daughters Rebecca and Rochelle) lived in Rochester, Minn. In 2021, Bill and Lori moved to Wichita to be closer to aging parents.

Schmidt grew up in North Newton as a “campus kid”: “Anyone with much history at Bethel probably knows my parents, [the late] Hartzel ’55 and Ilene Schmidt ’54.” Ilene Schmidt and Lori’s father, Omar Voran ’50, both live in North Newton.

Bill Schmidt identifies with the Bethel Class of 1982, although it took him until 1984 to finish his coursework, when he completed a B.A. with a double major in mathematics and music.

He and Lori got married in 1982, and Schmidt began working full-time for Kansas Gas & Electric as a COBOL programmer while taking one class per semester to finish his bachelor’s degree.

After a few years, he decided to return to school for his doctorate. He was awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship, and attended Iowa State University, Ames, where he earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in computer science, and then went to work at IBM in Rochester in 1992.

Schmidt was a voice major at Bethel, and after moving to Rochester, he began “re-engaging in some musical activities.”

He sang with the Choral Arts Ensemble of Rochester, a 40-voice select choir, and the Rochester Aria Group, which put on recitals of opera excerpts, and also served on the boards of both organizations.

“One highlight of my amateur musical ‘career’ was being asked to come back to Bethel some years ago to sing the baritone solos in Orff’s *Carmina Burana* for the annual Masterworks concert with the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra. That was a tremendous pleasure I will never forget.”

Schmidt held a variety of positions at IBM, most recently senior technical staff member and toolchain architect for Linux on Power. Then, after almost 30 years, he “felt a need for a change of scene” and joined Intel.

As the principal compiler engineer, Schmidt develops tools called “optimizing compilers” used by software developers who write code for Intel’s CPU and GPU architectures.

“If you have a computer running Windows, chances are there are applications on your computer that were developed using these compilers,” he says.

A compiler, he explains, is “a special kind of program that translates programs that human beings understand into programs that computers understand.”

“People use high-level languages like Java, C++, Python, Fortran, SYCL and so forth to express what they want computers to do. But computers only understand encodings of binary digits – zeros and ones. The compiler is responsible for making the conversion from high-level concepts to low-level machine instructions.

“An ‘optimizing compiler’ attempts to make the translated program as efficient as possible according to some chosen metric or metrics, usually one of speed, size and power consumption.

“What I love about the field is that the problems we solve are always challenging and require creative thought to meet all the constraints.”

Starting in 1992 at IBM, Schmidt has worked on both proprietary and open-source compilers for his entire career.

He has contributed to 85 issued patents, mostly in the area of compiler optimization, and was named an IBM Master Inventor. He served on the Core Technology Invention Review Board for many years.

Since 2006, Schmidt has been a member of Bethel’s STEM Advisory Council. In 2020, he began serving on a small committee to help design Bethel’s new Software Development major.

“I’ve been fortunate to see amazing changes in technology, from room-sized mainframes to laptops, smartphones and even doorbells. Computers can now hold simple conversations with humans.

“The current and future ethical challenges are numerous, for all STEM disciplines. It’s important to promote interdisciplinary learning through the liberal arts. The most effective leaders can think broadly about all kinds of issues, not just the technical challenges.

“I’m thankful that schools like Bethel are still here in the 21st century to help develop those leaders. I remember the influence of faculty after 40 years and am grateful for the value I received from a Bethel education and for the effect it had on me.”

MELANIE ZUERCHER

Bill Schmidt (photo by Melanie Zuercher)



2022 OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD

JALANE SCHMIDT '91: TAKING SCHOLARSHIP TO THE STREETS, PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

When Jalane Schmidt told her fellow social justice activists in Charlottesville, Va., that she was receiving an award from her alma mater, they were – her word – “incredulous.”

The Outstanding Alumnus Award is given on the basis of character and citizenship, service to church/community or college, or other outstanding achievements, honors and recognition.

Her friends wondered: “Is Bethel aware of the full scope of how your actions have attracted public attention and controversy?”

Yes, Schmidt told them, they know. “It was my Bethel education,” she said, “that influenced my path to where I am now.”

Schmidt is an associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. She is a 1991 Bethel graduate in Bible and religion who went on to spend two years in the Mennonite Central Committee Washington Office before earning M.Div., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.

Schmidt was headed down the scholar’s track. She did postdoctoral fellowships at Oberlin (Ohio) College and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and was an assistant professor of religion at the University of Florida-Gainesville before moving to UVA in 2007.

Schmidt published *Cachita’s Streets: The Virgin of Charity, Religion, Race and Revolution in Cuba* with Duke University Press in 2015. The book is based on Schmidt’s years of field and archival research in Cuba on religions of the African diaspora, popular religion of Cubans, and Latin American and Caribbean religions.

“These were topics that occupied my research and teaching up to 2016,” Schmidt says. “And then the public conversations started about what to do with the Confederate monuments.”

In 2016, after a high school student started a petition drive to remove two statues of Confederate generals from Charlottesville public parks, Schmidt joined the grassroots movement in support.

She was directly involved in the counter-protests to the white nationalists who targeted Charlottesville during the “Summer of Hate” in 2017.

She co-founded the Charlottesville chapter of Black Lives Matter and the advocacy organizations Take ‘Em Down C’ville and Monumental Justice, and currently directs the Memory Project as part of UVA’s Democracy Initiative.

Schmidt spends significant time using what she’s learned over the past five years about the history of Charlottesville and the state of Virginia to educate the public, through presentations, displays and history walks.

In her remarks upon receiving the award, Schmidt noted that five generations of her family have attended Bethel College. “My great-grandfather, David Richert (1899), is still a model to me of how to be a Christian intellectual.”

She cited the influence of several of her Bethel professors.

“Patty Shelly ‘76 is a wonderful example of public scholarship ... [from whom I learned] the benefit of moving together as a group through landscapes [such as Israel/Palestine] that are imbued with public meaning.”

“From Duane Friesen ‘62, I learned about the actions people have taken when confronted with specific moments in history. We don’t choose the time we live in or what gets thrown at us – the measure of character is how we respond to what we encounter.”

“What I appreciate about Jim Juhnke ‘62 is how he combines the study of history with the importance of public life and putting yourself out there [to push] the public conversation.”

Shelly and Friesen are emeritus professors of Bible and religion and Juhnke an emeritus professor of history (who once ran for Congress).

“I didn’t know how the lessons I was imbibing at Bethel would be put together later,” Schmidt said. “These all came to influence me: the importance of memory and landscape; responding to violence and trauma; public advocacy.”

“Walking together through these landscapes, we learn together and make change together, processing through places we thought we knew and trying to figure out how to remake them as sites that promote justice. It’s democratizing public space.”

“These were lessons well taught, and hopefully well applied where I could.”

When confronting Christian nationalism, she said, we are called to “resist these forces, and we may not win. That’s not the point – what is, is to follow the example of Jesus.”

Her experiences in Charlottesville during the “Summer of Hate” and since have taught her, she said, that “the state” is not going to rescue you. You can’t count on it. What we can do is build networks of support, mutual aid and resilience.

“That’s my takeaway from Bethel and what I try to build in life.”

MELANIE ZUERCHER

Jalane Schmidt (photo by Marley Nichelle)



FOUND IN TRANSLATION

by MELANIE ZUERCHER

One of the Western world's oldest texts speaks into the 21st century for three collaborating interpreters.

Every civilization has its creation or origin story. Most of us are at least familiar with the one found in the Hebrew and Christian Bibles (Genesis 1-2). Some know about the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the ancient Mesopotamian text. Few have heard of what may be the oldest book in the Americas, the *Popol Vuh*.

Not so for Jesse Nathan '05, Juan Coy Tení '16 and current student Josué Coy Dick. Jesse lives in Oakland, Calif., and teaches at the University of California-Berkeley. He has a Ph.D. in poetry and poetics from Stanford and is a widely published poet and essayist with a first book of poetry due to be published in fall 2023. Juan was born and raised in Cobán, Altaverrapaz, Guatemala. He has a law degree from the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City and degrees in social work from Bethel (bachelor's) and Wichita State University (master's), and is currently an elementary school social worker in Wichita. Juan is married to Jesse's sister, Daagya Dick '92. Their first son, Josué, was born in Guatemala City but the family, which also includes Diego, has lived in North Newton since Josué was small. He's now a sophomore at Bethel, majoring in peace, justice and conflict studies and music performance.

Sometime in the mid-2000s, Jesse, Daagya (a high school Spanish teacher) and Juan began talking about poetry. They would trade poems or other pieces of literature in Spanish back and forth, and sometimes try to translate from one language to the other.

"For my part, it's been a way for us to get to know each other," Jesse says. "We shared things that moved us. And then we would talk about them. ...

"One way to [do this], it turns out, is to try and bring them across the boundaries of language. ... Often we discovered how impossible translation is, and how much is lost in the process. But it's always been immensely rich to talk together about the lines."

When Josué was in high school, he chose to research the *Popol Vuh* for a paper. The phrase means something like "Council Book" in the ancient Mayan language of K'iché. It tells the story of how the world was made and everything came to be.

For untold generations, the story was passed down orally. But in the 16th century, with the Spanish invasion, the Mayan people could see the gathering

shadows of cultural annihilation. They put the story into K'iché hieroglyphs, later transliterated into Latin characters, hiding it from any European eyes for 150 years until, in the early 18th century, a Spanish priest was allowed a copy of the transliterated text to translate into Spanish.

"Any English version is an echo of an echo," Jesse, Juan and Josué wrote for *Poetry* magazine earlier this year. "Part of what makes them feel so urgent, these stories of beginnings, is that they were being transcribed in a time of endings. Into the alphabet of the invaders."

At the time Josué was working on his paper, he asked Jesse to read the *Popol Vuh* so they could talk about it. Sometime in the following years, Jesse became interested in translating, or perhaps more accurately, interpreting, portions (at least for now) of the *Popol Vuh*. The collaboration happened via e-mail and family holiday gatherings at the Coy Dick house and the home of Jesse and Daagya's mother, Kirsten Zerger '73, and Sandy Nathan in rural McPherson County, Kan., until, in late 2021, there was a "finished" version that Jesse then sent to *Poetry*.

Poetry published an excerpt in its May 2022 edition and dropped a podcast later in the month that was a conversation among guest editor Srikanth "Chicu" Reddy, Jesse, Josué and Juan, in which the three interpreters explored what working with this particular text had meant to them.

An indigenous K'ekchi person, Juan did not encounter the *Popol Vuh* until he was in middle school in Cobán. His parents had no formal education, he says, but more to the point, it was clear to him that the family's K'ekchi culture was considered "inferior" to Western.

"Maybe we were practicing some of the aspects of the *Popol Vuh* [at home]," Juan says, "but due to the oppression and inability to be who I am, to freely say, 'I am indigenous, I can identify with the book,' I had to let it go during my childhood."

However, Josué says, "Thinking back to my own experience with my dad's family and my dad, the values found in the *Popol Vuh* are very present and have been passed on, even if the book wasn't explicitly read in the household."

In the podcast, he asks Juan, "Even though your parents didn't sit you down at night and read you the *Popol Vuh*, can you articulate some of the lessons



Jesse Nathan in northern California (courtesy photo)

from the *Popol Vuh* that your parents would have taught you?"

Yes, says Juan, and "the most important is this: We should not forget about our Creator."

Years later, near the end of his university education, Juan studied for a year with Dr. José Emilio Ordoñez Cifuentes in a post-graduate class that examined the values in indigenous culture and how they could and should be applied to modern-day Guatemala.

"To address a modern failing of the state, he took a step back, to this ancient tradition," Juan says. "He said we need to reacquire ourselves with this ancient text to address it."

It's not enough to say the state legal system hasn't reached the indigenous community – the failure is the tip of the iceberg and it's much deeper and older, involving erasure of cultural memory and identity.

””

Juan Coy Tení '16

"He wanted to create a group of indigenous academics and this was a good starting point, to recreate or strengthen an identity whose roots can be found in the *Popol Vuh*."

Juan continues, "I think this work has the potential of creating new relationships, or transforming those that need to be transformed. When I study the *Popol Vuh* and think about how I don't want to transmit trauma to my kids, [the *Popol Vuh* shows me] that as indigenous people, we are human beings able to create and be creative, to think, to be free."

"Josué sees my insecurities every day. That's part of my trauma of being indigenous, being targeted, being treated as less, not intelligent or able to accomplish anything, not even able to speak my own language freely. That's what I don't want to transmit to Josué and Diego, that they don't believe that just because they are half indigenous, [they are less]."

"Growing up in America, in the next generation, I wonder where do we go with this text?" Josué says. "How can we be part of the process of helping heal, grow, empower the relationship between this text and indigenous communities, especially as we translate them in the United States, removed from these communities to some extent if not completely?"

"It's a beautiful text worth reading and studying, but it cannot be removed from the process of healing from the history of the text. I think about that a lot as we work. I'm a person who has roots in the K'ekchi community but I also have roots in a very different community, a Christian community, in particular. Balancing that and finding a way to make right relationship there is a tricky, difficult endeavor."



Josué Coy Dick, left, and Juan Coy Tení look at their collaborative work in the May 2022 edition of *Poetry* (photo by Melanie Zuercher).

CAMPUS NEWS

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A HEART FOR TEACHING LED PIPER FROM THE LAND INSTITUTE TO BETHEL



Jon Piper, left, and Bill Eash at their joint retirement party at Bethel in spring 2022

Jon Piper had already been in Kansas — after an undergraduate degree on the East Coast (Bates College in Maine) and a Ph.D. on the West Coast (Washington State University) — for 12 years when he came to teach at Bethel in 1997. Piper retired at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

A botanist, he worked at The Land Institute near Salina, where Dwight Platt '52, then a professor of biology at Bethel, was on the board. "I was always on the lookout for a small, liberal arts college job," Piper said. "That's where my heart was. From time to time, I would call around, and one time, I called Dwight and asked him what was available, and he said, 'My job.'"

Platt retired in 1996 but the job had already been offered to someone else, who asked for a year deferment and then ultimately decided not to come.

Highlights from Piper's 25 years include building the new Krehbiel Science Center ("Although the old Science Hall had a lot of character") and constructing the Kingsbury Prairie tallgrass prairie reconstruction on the east side of campus ("It was fun to watch it develop, especially because it involved faculty, staff, students and people from

the community").

He never lost his enjoyment of seeing a student, not always a science major, get "really excited or switched-on about" something. He remembers a communication arts major who was fascinated by co-evolution (for example, a certain flower can only be pollinated by a particular insect) or the "surfer dude" who had a "Whoa!" moment when he realized light could be both a particle and a wave.

"I've had students say things like 'I know I'm one of your dumber students...,' but I don't accept that. I've seen some of my best students who would have said they're 'not science-y.' I actually often enjoy those more, because they're genuinely interested. [The class] is not just a hoop to jump through."

Piper also has many stories and good memories from the January interterm trips he led to Costa Rica, pretty much every other year between 2000 and 2017.

One of his less fond memories is the 2004 program review. "It was maybe the first time a lot of people at Bethel realized there could be [curriculum] changes made based on financial considerations, that there were programs that cost the college a

lot of money, and decisions could be made on that basis.

"Since then, we've gone through several of these program or curriculum reviews or contractions, but that was probably the first one, and it was hard to be in the middle of that [as one of three associate deans]."

One big change that is also a challenge: "Not unique to Bethel, it's harder to compete with the things that distract students. Cell phones didn't exist when I started teaching. The options were, listen to me or go to sleep. The good students are always paying attention — it's the ones that are marginal you have to worry about.

"When I started teaching, it was chalk on a blackboard. I would talk and write and they would take notes. That evolved to videoing my lectures, or making PowerPoints that are available later. I have needed to make it more interactive, say with small group discussions, to make it relevant to them and to today."

Also over 25 years, Piper has seen his three children — Josh Piper '07, Emily Piper Root '10 and Sam Piper '11 — graduate from Bethel and his spouse, Beth Piper, earning her degree in nursing in 2016.

"Sometimes it feels like I just got here," Piper says. "Bethel is 'less Mennonite-y' than it was when I got here. It's now so much more diverse in terms of the student body, as well as faculty and staff. I like it — there are certain universal properties that aren't just Mennonite."



MELANIE ZUERCHER

HIGH FALL ENROLLMENT, RETENTION FIGURES DEFY TRENDS

The release of “20th-day figures” for enrollment earlier this fall shows Bethel has continued a steady upward trend over the past four years.

Enrollment numbers for the semester are released on the official 20th day of classes, which was Sept. 14 this year.

As of Sept. 14, the fall enrollment headcount was 495, compared to 484 in fall 2021.

Perhaps even more important is the improved fall-to-fall retention rate.

For first-time freshmen, retention from 2021 to 2022 was 75.5%, the highest since 2010-11.

For the total student body, it was 82.7%, the highest since Bethel began keeping retention records in 2007-08.

“What is happening at Bethel is exciting,” said

Vice President for Enrollment Management Heidi Hoskinson. “We are defying state and national enrollment trends.

“That happens through hard work and focus by everyone on promoting the college and recruiting and retaining students.

“Clearly, students and their families understand the value of a Bethel education and are increasingly excited to be a part of the Thresher family.”

President Jon C. Gering '94 expressed appreciation to faculty and staff for the high retention numbers, saying, “[Our students] attend Bethel College, and stay here, because they feel supported and valued.”

MELANIE ZUERCHER



BETHEL BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW LOCKER ROOM



From left: Mark Nelson, head track and field coach; President Jon Gering; Vice President for Institutional Advancement Pam Tieszen; Tony Hoops, athletic director

Bethel College and Bethel Athletics celebrated the start of construction of a new locker room facility in Thresher Stadium on the Bethel campus with a groundbreaking Oct. 8 as part of Fall Festival.

Representatives of the college and project contractors McCownGordon Construction of Wichita, along with coaches and current student-athletes, joined athletic and other alumni and friends, on campus for Fall Fest, to mark the occasion.

The facility has been in dreaming and planning mode for a number of years, since it became clear the existing locker room in Goering Hall, which mainly serves football, is too small.

In addition, basement flooding was becoming a persistent problem.

The Bethel board approved moving ahead with planning in 2019. In early 2020, Bethel's advancement office sought funding from several foundations.

The results included a \$1 million matching grant for a new softball building (completed in fall 2020)

and a new football locker room.

Plans for the facility include features that will serve each of the 19 varsity sports in which Bethel competes.

It will house more than 110 football lockers, along with laundry facilities, a team huddle area, two break-out rooms for film viewing and a second-floor game-viewing suite.

“This building is a much-needed addition to our Thresher Stadium complex,” said Bethel President Gering '94. “It builds on the success of past years and is a commitment to the promising future of Thresher athletics.”

MELANIE ZUERCHER

SYMPOSIUM GATHERS PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE NEW HYMNAL IN PERSON



Bradley Kauffman leads singing at a Community Evensong on Nov. 12 (photo by Melanie Zuercher)

The 6th biennial Worship and the Arts Symposium was slated to be one of the first major public events to introduce the new Mennonite Church USA/Mennonite Church Canada hymnal, *Voices Together*.

And it was — just not quite as planned.

The hymnal was published in fall 2020, and the symposium, called “Joining Voices Together,” was meant to take place in November 2021. Looking at the dates, most can guess why those plans were upended.

Part of the symposium did happen. The exhibit of the 12 original artworks reproduced in *Voices Together*, curated by Rachel Epp Buller ’96, professor of visual arts and design, opened in the Regier Art Gallery in November 2021. It subsequently traveled to four other Mennonite colleges and universities.

And on Nov. 12, 2022, the rest of the symposium took place at Bethel with members of the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee present to speak in plenary sessions and lead break-outs (although even then, the pandemic may have had an indirect effect, when a canceled flight prevented Katie Graber from being present in person).

In the morning half of the symposium, plenary sessions looked at how two 20th-century hymnals, the *Mennonite Hymnal* (*MH*, 1969) and *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (*HWB*, 1992), influenced a

21st-century one.

Prior to publication of *MH*, Mennonites had been very “denominational” in their hymnals, with different groups (e.g., the [Old] Mennonite Church, the General Conference Mennonite Church) using different hymnals.

In the 1960s, said Bradley Kauffman, Goshen, Ind., *VT* project director and general editor, “the stars aligned” for the GCMC and MC to come together to create a hymnal as they hadn’t been able to before.

MH was an anthology of mostly well-known European and American hymns, Kauffman noted. “There were about 14 texts and tunes that were ‘contemporary,’ written within 25 years of 1969.

“At the time, there wasn’t actually an abundance of contemporary work available. The 1960s and after saw an explosion in the creation of hymns and worship music.”

Kauffman met *HWB* for the first time as a Goshen College student. He was dazzled by the variety of hymns and the musical styles and cultures represented from North America and all over the world.

HWB had other major differences. Adam Tice, Goshen, *VT* text editor, said, “*HWB* did the heavy lifting [for us] in terms of textual changes.” Most of those had to do with gendered language for humanity, with some changes in gendered language for God.

Cynthia Neufeld Smith, Topeka, Kan., a longtime church musician, pointed out that while *MH* had no accompaniment book, *HWB* did (as does *VT*), “which says something already about what *MH* has and doesn’t have.”

The accompaniment book reflected “a huge shift,” she said. “[Accompaniments brought] new creative energy to the traditional hymns.

“There are hymns [in *HWB*] that push more into late-20th-century harmonic dissonance. There are Taizé songs, which were new to Mennonites. I didn’t even count the number of songs from other-than-Western cultures and languages.

“There are ‘worship songs’ from the ’70s and ’80s, liturgical folk music from the Catholics, contemporary Christian music [further added to with the supplements *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story*]. From this perspective, *VT* is continuing in the trajectory rather than making a radical shift.”

Voices Together, she said, “may be the most

Mennonite hymnal ever, since there are so many hymns written by Mennonites and Anabaptists.”

Although the committee had been tasked with creating a hymnal for “the broad middle of the church,” there was no illusion of making something everyone loved.

“There should be things that make you uncomfortable, or stretch you in some way, or don’t work for your congregation,” Tice said. “The hope is that you’ll realize, though, that for every hymn you don’t like, there’s someone or some group who has been waiting just for that.”

In the afternoon, symposium participants could choose two break-out sessions, which focused on different aspects of *VT* such as using the visual art in the book in worship, challenges of language, and an introduction to the accompaniment book.

In the evening, there was a Community Evensong put together by local planners with song-leading by the four hymnal committee members (who included SaeJin Lee in addition to Kauffman, Smith and Tice).

The service was built around the 12 artworks and 12 organizing themes in *VT*.

Kauffman Museum technicians Dave Kreider ’82 and Chuck Regier ’81 had created 12 banners with the art images, and there were several guest instrumentalists plus a small group of Concert Choir members along with director Henry Waters to help in singing 17 hymns, many of them new to the south-central Kansas audience.

Bethel’s Worship and the Arts Symposium originated with the Reimer-Boese Worship and the Arts Endowment, established at Bethel by Rosella Reimer Duerksen ’48 of Tucson, Ariz. Dr. Duerksen died in spring 2020 (she attended the first five symposia), but her husband, Harold Duerksen ’51, and daughter, Kathy Duerksen, both of Tucson, attended “Joining Voices Together.”

MELANIE ZUERCHER

MIDDLETON NAMED FIRST 'SENIOR WOMAN LEADER' FOR ATHLETICS

In partnership with an initiative set forth by the NAIA, Stacy Middleton '95 has been named Bethel Athletics' first Senior Woman Leader (SWL).

The NAIA created the SWL position in 2021 with the intent of having a representative in the role at all member institutions by fall 2023.

"We are excited to launch this vital position at Bethel," said Director of Athletics Tony Hoops '05. "Stacy is well qualified and the ideal fit for our department to serve in this capacity."

Middleton has dedicated her career to serving Bethel Athletics: head coach in two different women's sports; assistant coach in two sports; and an All-American multi-sport student-athlete and inductee into the Bethel Athletics Hall of Fame. She is now athletic operations administrator.

As outlined by the NAIA, the Senior Woman Leader will promote meaningful representation of women in leadership and management of intercol-

legiate sports on their respective campus.

"It is a privilege to be named Bethel's first SWL," said Middleton. "I look forward to being the sounding board and voice in helping to empower our coaching staff and the young women on our campus and within the community."

According to the NAIA, Middleton's responsibilities as SWL include, but are not limited to: communicating with the AD for leadership development and major departmental and college initiatives; leading and guiding for Title IX and gender equity planning for the department; assisting with strategic planning and decision-making for the department; participating in budget development and significant financial decisions for department operation and initiatives; advocating for student-athlete well-being. Middleton (pictured right) will continue as athletic operations administrator.

COLLIN LOUTENSOCK



SYMPOSIUM CONTINUES FRIESENS' LEGACY OF SERVICE



Courtesy photo

The inaugural Senses & Aging Symposium took place Oct. 20 on campus, created through a fund established by the children of the late Jacob T. '44 and Lola M. (Regier Wiebe) Friesen '46 to honor their parents' commitment to serving church and community.

The first event focused on vision and hearing, with speakers Karen Kendrick, an occupational therapist and certified low vision therapist at Envision Rehabilitation Center in Wichita, and Angela Loucks Alexander (pictured left), who has a Doctor of Audiology degree and specializes in diagnosing and treating auditory processing disorder (APD). Alexander spoke via Zoom from her home in Australia.

The symposium drew about 75 nursing students from Bethel and Hesston College, along with community members, some of whom had known Jake and Lola Friesen, who lived for many years in retirement in North Newton.

Kidron Bethel retirement community cooperated in both planning and funding the symposium. Blair Loganbill '95, Bluestem Communities director of nursing, was on the planning committee and moderated one of the sessions.

Jake and Lola both lost their first spouses early, and when they married in 1972, they blended a family of seven children: Priscilla Friesen Felton, Jacob L. Friesen '76, Von Friesen, Ruth Wiebe-Tanner

'71, Mark Wiebe '74, Mary Wiebe Patten and Lois Wiebe Koulouris '80.

Priscilla and Jacob were able to attend the symposium, which Priscilla called "successful" and "a great experience."

She continued, "What was most gratifying was to see the cooperation between Kidron Bethel and [the college] in planning and implementing the symposium. This is a central intention of this endowment. The symposium is aiming in the intended direction."

Future symposia are intended to take place biennially.

MELANIE ZUERCHER

BOARD ADDS TWO NEW MEMBERS, APPROVES STRATEGIC PLAN



Joel Gaeddert '06 (courtesy photo)



Zandra Sawatzky '96 (courtesy photo)

Meeting on campus Oct. 6-7, the Bethel College Board of Directors accepted two new members, both from the Newton area.

Starting their first 6-year terms on Jan. 1, 2023, are Joel Gaeddert of North Newton and Zandra Sawatzky of rural Newton.

Gaeddert is representing Bethel alumni and Sawatzky the Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA, with which Bethel is affiliated.

Gaeddert graduated from Bethel in 2006 with majors in natural sciences and mathematics. He is the founder and CEO of Upland® Exhibits, which began life as Flint Hills Design in 2008.

Upland® designs and builds museum exhibits from the ground up, as well as selected exhibit furniture pieces.

Gaeddert also serves on the board of trustees for the Central Kansas Community Foundation and the board of the Harvey County Economic Development Council, and is a co-owner of Prairy

Market in Newton along with his brothers, Aaron '11 and David Gaeddert '13, and parents Greg '83 and Terri (Preheim) Gaeddert '83.

Gaeddert and his spouse, Crystal (Enz) '04, live in North Newton with their two sons.

Zandra (Güete) Sawatzky graduated from Bethel in 1996 with a degree in psychology. She has a graduate degree in occupational therapy from Newman University, Wichita, and works as an occupational therapist at NMC Health in Newton.

She is a recipient of NMC's BEE (Be Extraordinary Everyday) Award, given to clinicians in appreciation of the "meaningful difference ... [made] in the lives of so many people."

She also serves on the board of her church, Shalom Mennonite in Newton.

Sawatzky and her spouse, Phil '96, live on a "farmette" northwest of Newton with their two daughters and many goats, chickens and cats.

In addition to welcoming two new members, the board also approved one re-election, of

Thomas Penner '91, Moorestown, N.J., to a full term beginning Jan. 1, 2023, and a slate of new and continuing officers to two-year terms (Jan. 1, 2023-Dec. 31, 2024): Wynn Goering '77, Albuquerque, chair; Lori Schmidt-Harrison '87, Santa Barbara, Calif., vice chair; Galen Goertzen '85 (2023), Spokane, Wash., and Cynthia Doyle Perkins '77 (2024), Indianapolis, shared term as secretary; and Thomas Penner, treasurer.

The board accepted as presented the strategic plan, newly named *Knowledge is Not Enough*, for 2022-27; approved changes to the Employee Handbook; granted emeritus status to retired Professor of Biology Jon Piper and retired Professor of Music William Eash; and granted a sabbatical for spring 2024 to David Long, professor and chair of visual arts and design.

MELANIE ZUERCHER

GRABER, 1999 VOLLEYBALL TEAM NAMED TO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Russ Graber, left, and members of the 1999 women's volleyball team, right; head coach Bev Mayer and assistant coach Chad Schilling begin the line at left (photos by Andrew Graber)

Bethel Athletics and the Athletic Boosters recognized the Hall of Fame Class of 2022 at Fall Festival Oct. 7-8.

The honorees were celebrated at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Friday evening and introduced at halftime of the Fall Fest football game on Saturday. The inductees for 2022 were the 1999 women's volleyball team, and retired coach and teacher Russ Graber '74.

Graber was originally named in 2020 but postponed his induction twice due to COVID-19, to allow family and friends to feel safe to attend his induction.

Continuing in the proud tradition of volleyball success from teams before them, the 1999 squad did not disappoint. Led by KCAC Coach of the Year Bev Mayer and KCAC Player of the Year Trisha Clark, the squad turned in an undefeated KCAC record of 16-0 against conference foes.

The team won the program's 15th KCAC title, and followed it up by winning the KCAC Tournament and clinching a spot in the NAIA regional, closing the season in regional play with an overall record at 23-8.

Bethel had five players earn All-KCAC, with four named NAIA Scholar-Athletes and four as NAIA

All-American Scholar-Athletes. Clark and Sarah Harton were All-Region selections in addition.

The team roster for 1999 was: Roxie Beckerman '03, Sarah Bergkamp (Toerber) '00, Trisha Clark (Terada) '01, Stephani Friesen (Hiebner) '01, Amy Fuqua (Flaming) '01, Sarah Harton (DeGroot) '01, Riann Hill (Allendorf) '01, Rachel Janzen (Thallman) '00, Carrie Penner (Friesen) '00, Yvette Peters (Nickel) '03, Elisa Ramberg '02, Shelese Stucky (Newmark) '01, Je T'aime Taylor '02 and Ginger Trummel '01. The coaching staff was Bev Mayer '88, head coach, and Chad Schilling '96, assistant coach, with Jason Peters '00, student assistant.

Russ Graber received the Meritorious Service Award for his work in athletic training and coaching.

As a student, Graber played on the offensive line for Thresher football, before returning to serve for many years as an assistant coach for the football, women's basketball and track and field programs.

As a coach, Graber pushed his athletes to hone their craft with proper technique, while providing the motivation needed to reach their full potential. Graber had a hand in many KCAC championships as well as NAIA National Championship appearances.

In the early 2000s, Graber took on a new role as Bethel's first board-certified athletic trainer. He is

credited with providing hundreds of Bethel student-athletes with top-notch health care through the program. He was also a huge proponent for creating the ACCK Athletic Training Consortium.

His work helped Bethel establish accreditation for its athletic training program that started in 2004 and graduated many outstanding athletic training students over the years. Even though he retired in 2014, Graber's work is still felt and seen at Bethel, and he continues to be a physical presence for Thresher Athletics.

COLLIN LOUTENSOCK

SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATES LEARNING, LIBRARIES



Greta Kroeker, keynote speaker for the symposium on Erasmus of Rotterdam (courtesy photo)

Why would anyone spend half a weekend on the words, teaching and example of a white, European man who's been dead for 500 years?

A small group of dedicated scholars did just that Nov. 4-5, joining in what was possibly the first-ever virtual symposium involving eight of the Mennonite colleges and seminaries associated with the Marpeck Deans' Fund, established by the late Gerald '42 and Robert Kreider '39.

"Old Books Made New: The Surprising Wisdom of Erasmus for Today" was sparked by the successful completion in 2020 of a \$1 million endowment campaign for Bethel's Mennonite Library and Archives. Dale Schrag '69, retired librarian, director of church relations and campus pastor, was responsible for the campaign and planned a celebration in spring 2020, only to be stopped cold by the pandemic.

A suggestion from enthusiastic Erasmusian John Byler of Hesston, Kan., and a comment by archivist John Thiesen '82 about the oldest book in the MLA being Desiderius Erasmus' 1522 3rd-edition translation of the New Testament, led Schrag and Mary Sprunger '84, professor of history at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va., to plan a

virtual symposium for 2022.

The keynote address that opened the symposium took place at Bethel, in Krehbiel Auditorium, with live streaming to EMU, Goshen (Ind.) College and Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, Ontario. Students, faculty or both from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Bluffton (Ohio) University, Canadian Mennonite University and Eastern Mennonite Seminary also participated at various times throughout the weekend.

The keynote speaker was Greta Grace Kroeker '94, who now teaches at the University of Toronto. Choosing her, Schrag said, was "a slam dunk." Kroeker is a lifelong Erasmusian who published her Ph.D. dissertation, *Erasmus in the Footsteps of Paul*, as a book with the same title (University of Toronto Press, 2011).

"With her passion for Erasmus and this enterprise, she has been a gift to me," Schrag said in his introduction of Kroeker, "and I'm confident she will be that to all of you."

The Saturday portion of the symposium comprised presentations from students at Bethel, Conrad Grebel, EMU and Goshen on Erasmus texts in those institutions' collections; presentations by the students' supervising faculty; and comments from librarians about the value and future of rare books and manuscripts. Small groups gathered at Bethel, Conrad Grebel, EMU and Goshen for livestreaming, with individuals tuned in from the other schools.

Well into the symposium, Sprunger and Breanna Nickel, a professor of Bible and religion at Goshen College, brought up perhaps the most salient point in an event on the relevance of Erasmus (1466-1536) for 2022.

"What we're doing today is very out-of-step with the times," Sprunger said during the discussion following the faculty presentations, "looking at 500-year-old Christian intellectual history from a white, male, European perspective. How do others approach this reality? It's valuable but is it good enough?"

"If we asked our students: 'Do you want to study all these old, dead, white people?,' they might be polite but they'd probably say No," said Nickel. "If we asked them: 'What do you think about a space where we slow down and have a conversation about what it means to be human and how we treat each other, where we have a chance to think and ask questions?' [the setting Erasmus championed and

modeled]. Most likely, it would be Yes. But then they are stumped, as most of us are, by the question of how to take that out of the classroom."

In her keynote, Kroeker pointed out that though much is different, both the Erasmus age and this one can be called "perilous times."

"Discernment, compromise and community were ways Erasmus tried to encourage 'the ideal Christian life,' and making peace among the factions," she said, adding that all three can be effective now as well.

Said EMU student presenter Ariel Bonilla, "It's not only ... the ideas and questions Erasmus presents — it's important to relate all of this, about the 'old world,' to the modern world. [He] continues to influence how we see and interact with each other, and highlights important aspects of the human condition."

Emma Beachy '22, now a graduate student in musicology at the University of Michigan, was Bethel's student presenter on the Erasmus New Testament. She concluded with three ways Erasmus speaks to the world now.

"One is through historical consciousness. We live in a world with a short memory, that tries to ignore what makes it uncomfortable. Erasmus wanted to use historical knowledge to [help] respond to what was happening in the present, [and we should do the same].

"Another is with critical thought and taking ownership of knowledge [that Erasmus advocated]. Education gives people the tools to do critical thinking, which is what all of these Mennonite liberal arts colleges base their education system on. It's not a coincidence that so many Mennonite higher education institutions have original Erasmus texts in their possession.

"A third is [the need to] reform society. We have so many challenges now. But actually not much is new. A positive desire to construct a more just reality is crucial.

"Like Erasmus, we have to study and learn from the past to find the value [there] and avoid repeating mistakes, and have faith in the power of curiosity and learning, and the vitality of the past and its ability to impact the present and the future."

MELANIE ZUERCHER

EASH 'CAME HOME' TO BETHEL FOR LAST HALF OF TEACHING CAREER



The 2022 Europe Concert Choir in Kyritz, Germany, with Bill Eash on the left side middle. Mark Jantzen '85 is on the right, with the tour bus driver second from right and one of the Kyritz hosts in the middle (photo by Andrew Graber).

A combination of good questions and congregational hymn singing brought William Eash to teach at Bethel in 1999. Eash retired as professor of music and director of choral activities at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

Eash, an Ohio native, graduated from Bluffton (Ohio) University, studied music in Vienna and has a doctorate from the University of Iowa. He moved to Kansas in 1994 to take a double assignment, as director of music and athletic director, at Newman University in Wichita.

A former colleague encouraged him to apply for an open position at Bethel. Even though he enjoyed the combination of the arts and athletics at Newman, he decided to take the advice.

When invited to interview, he was impressed by the questions that the groups he met with, of students and faculty, asked. Finally, he attended a chapel service, "which that day was full, and had hymn singing. Those things tied it all together for me. I felt I was coming home, after beginning [to teach] at a Mennonite school." He started at Iowa Mennonite School (now Hillcrest Academy), and went on to Methodist and Catholic institutions before Bethel.

Surveying 23 years, Eash noted the times "we did things we 'shouldn't be able to do,'" such as performing the Verdi or Brahms *Requiem* for spring Masterworks concerts — "large orchestral pieces with big choirs."

These wouldn't have been possible without the

"great support and participation of the community. There is a wealth of choral knowledge I wasn't previously aware of."

Eash has high praise for his faculty colleagues, who were willing to work with him to allow a dedicated time (weekdays at noon) for Concert Choir rehearsals.

"I think I've become a much better teacher since I arrived at Bethel," he said. "Credit for that goes to my colleagues — hardworking, creative, engaged teachers who are constantly changing their classes to challenge students in a more wholesome way, continuing to read up on their areas, engaging in what I think is stunning research at a small institution like this, where we aren't given much time to research and are barely able to find time to renew our classes. I keep being surprised by my colleagues' innovation."

One of Eash's favorite parts of teaching has been seeing the transformation that takes place in students who come to college with what some might see as disadvantages, such as being the first in their families to go to college, having experienced homelessness, coming from single-parent households or being single parents or family financial support themselves.

"Most often, they come to play sports and then become entranced by the possibilities education might offer. I see them 'grow up' in just four years to have phenomenal skills, get into graduate school in law or social work or medicine, become nurses

and teachers.

"Bethel takes a risk by inviting them here, which does lead to a bit of a shadow side — we don't [always] provide them with enough resources. There are [those] who fail miserably, because they can't make the shift within just one semester or even two."

He continued, "The students have changed the most in these years. They come in less prepared. With COVID, especially, they are much more anxiety-ridden. They're not as inquisitive — they don't ask 'Why?' often enough. They want to be told what to do and when."

What comes next, after a choral conducting career that spans nearly 45 years?

Eash and his spouse, Esther, plan to do more traveling — they started this summer after the Concert Choir's Europe tour by spending additional time in Croatia and doing a Rick Steves tour in Turkey.

Eash said he was impressed with the makeup and procedures of the search committee who found his replacement at Bethel. "Although I had no input at all, I was deeply impressed by the person hired [Henry Waters, D.M.A.]. I have every confidence in his ability to grow and build the choir, to make it better than it was at the close of 2022. I will be intrigued to watch the growth of the program."

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CLASS NOTES

Information received as of Oct. 3, 2022

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF:

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

1950-59

Harold Regier '53, North Newton, published *A Decade of Aphasia Therapy: Aphasia-Friendly Reading: A Technique for Oral Communication*. The book grew out of his experiences with the post-stroke aphasia of his wife, the late **Rosella Wiens Regier** '58, and is one of several books he has published.

1960-69

Lila (Waltner) Bartel '68, Topeka, Kan., provided watercolor paintings for the book *Living Expressions: As the Spirit Moves*, which features poetry by Duane Johnson.

1970-79

David E. Ortman '75, Seattle, on March 27, 2022, one day short of his 69th birthday, won the M60-69 high jump (1.40m), 200m (28.10), 400m (1:06.06) and 60m (8.42) at the Front Runners (FRNY) indoor track meet in New York City. For the 2022 M65-69 indoor season, his 60m and 200m times ranked 3rd overall in the United States: 400m 4th; high jump tied for 5th. All four marks also ranked in the top 14 worldwide in his age group. He also won the M65+ 100m (13.65) on April 28 at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia. In addition, he ran leadoff for the Syracuse Chargers Track Club M60+ 4x1 and 4x4 relays, which both placed 2nd. This was David's fourth trip to the Penn Relays, where he has accumulated 10 medals.

1980-89

Bill Schmidt '82, Wichita, received the 2022 Distinguished Achievement Award at the annual Alumni Banquet Oct. 9 during Fall Festival. The award acknowledges character and citizenship, achievement in a chosen profession or vocation, and work of benefit to humanity (see p. 14).

K. Mark Wedel '81, Salina, was recognized on the 2022 Forbes Best in State Wealth Advisors list. This is the second consecutive year Mark was named to the list.

1990-99

Melody (Wiens) Bontrager '90, North Newton, received a DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nurses, an international recognition program that honors registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) for the skillful, compassionate care they provide. (DAISY stands for Disease Attacking the Immune System.)

Ben Chappell '93, Lawrence, Kan., was promoted to professor of American Studies at the University of Kansas. Ben's most recent book, *Mexican American Fastpitch* (Stanford University Press, 2021), is based partly on research he conducted in Newton and presented at convocation and Kauffman Museum.

Rachel Epp Buller '96, Newton, professor of visual arts and design, co-curated the exhibit "Making it Work: Art and Parenting" at the Lawrence (Kan.) Arts Center this fall.

Bryn Gribben '96, Seattle, published her first book, *Amplified Heart: An Emotional Discography*, in late July, a few days before her wedding. Her memoir about music and intimacy can be ordered anywhere you buy books. See her press for more information: www.otherwordspress.net

Louise Hawkley '95, Ph.D., Homewood, Ill., principal research scientist at NORC at the University of Chicago, was featured on episode 190 of the podcast *Speaking of Psychology*, titled "Are we in a 'loneliness pandemic'?"

Jalane Schmidt '91, Charlottesville, Va., received the 2022 Outstanding Alumnus Award at the annual Alumni Banquet Oct. 9 during Fall Festival. The award

is given on the basis of character and citizenship, service to church/community or college, or other outstanding achievements, honors and recognition (see p. 16).

Douglas Shima '91, Topeka, Kan., was elected vice president of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks (NCACC). Doug will serve in the role until August 2023, when he will assume the office of the president-elect of the NCACC.

2000-09

Mark Arganbright '01, Topeka, Kan., was appointed program event manager for Great Overland Station in Topeka.

Heidi Johnson '08, Milwaukee, began work as a communications and public relations associate for the Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE), an organization that fights gun violence through policy and education.

2010-19

Austin McCabe-Juhnke '10, Columbus, Ohio, was appointed assistant professor of teaching in musicology at the Ohio State University School of Music.

Ashley Klein '13, Newton, received the 2022 Young Alumnus Award, given to an alumnus 39 years of age or younger, and spoke in convocation Oct. 10. The award recognizes character and citizenship, achievement or service rendered, and honors and recognition received (see p. 12).

Julia Huxman Ronnebaum '12, Philadelphia, is listed as one of Pennsylvania's "Lawyers on the Fast Track" for 2022 by *The Legal Intelligencer*.

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



WHAT IS NEW?

Alumni are invited to submit recent news of interest to others

—marriage, job change, addition of a child, award, promotion, graduate school, retirement, and so on—to the **Office of Alumni Relations.**

Mail to **300 East 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117**, e-mail to alumni@bethelks.edu or submit via the Bethel website at www.bethelks.edu/alumni-update

PHOTOS WELCOME!

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

Anyone who earns 24 or more credit hours is a Bethel alumnus, whether a graduate or not. When reaching alumni status, they are assigned a "class year" (later replaced by "grad year" if they graduate).

The year behind each name below is the person's class year, often the same as the grad year unless the individual has told the alumni office that they wish to associate with another reunion year (as in the case of a five-year program, study overseas, etc., that delays graduation).

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

Brian Skinner '12, North Newton, was named 2023 Kansas Teacher of the Year. He is an interrelated special education English teacher at Newton High School in the Newton Unified School District 373.

Aimee Voth Siebert '10, Denver, stepped into a new position as the disaster behavioral health and inclusion program manager, 10 years after starting emergency preparedness and response work with this team. In the past year, Aimee led stakeholder engagement and rule writing for the Community Disaster Behavioral Health Program created by Colorado House Bill 21-1281. She looks forward to building the team to implement this program in support of behavioral health integration, human-focused planning and adaptive functioning in Colorado emergencies.

Marriages

Gabe Johnson '19 and Mary Graefe, Newton, June 3

Heidi Johnson '08 and Brian Canning, Beulah, Colo., July 3

Cayla Lawless '18 and **Reece Hiebert** '18, Walton, Kan., Sept. 25, 2021

Births and adoptions

Lina (Adame) '15 and **Michael Unruh** '09, Newton, a son, Ellis Benjamin, July 17

Remembrances

Sharon (Goossen) Bartel '68, North Newton, March 4

Verlin Bartel '63, Kansas City, Kan., May 25

Connie (Koehn) Cornelsen '82, Wichita, Sept. 1

Kermit Daum '56, Wichita, July 15

Linda (Friesen) Deasy '50, Goessel, Kan., Dec. 3, 2021

Howard Delaplane '66, Ames, Okla., July 27

Betty (Schwartz) Dick '54, Hesston, Kan., June 12

Carol (Wiens) Epp '53, Minneapolis, Minn., June 2

Ben Friesen '56, Hutchinson, Kan., Aug. 5

Larry Friesen '72, Hampton, Neb., June 21

Delores (Schmidt) Funk '65, Wichita, July 3

James Gaeddert '62, Leawood, Kan., June 15

Oren Glick '58, Tacoma, Wash., July 4, 2021

Delores (Schroeder) Goering '57, Newton, Aug. 18

Theodore James "Jim" Goering '55, North Newton, April 13

Douglas Goodfellow '81, Albuquerque, April 1

Charles Hamm '55, Kingsley, Iowa, July 16

Letha (Epp) Hamm '58, Beatrice, Neb., March 17

James Kelly Harms '81, Newton, July 7

Claramae (Lehman) Klink '49, Goshen, Ind., April 21

Robert Koehn '54, Austin, Texas, July 7

Dean Koppes '52, North Newton, May 30

Anne (Ediger) Martin '53, Lowville, N.Y., Aug. 29

Dorothy (Androes) Mindrup '52, Olathe, Kan., April 20

Lorrayne (Unruh) Pankratz '55, North Newton, Aug. 24

Vernon Pauls '56, North Newton, Aug. 20

Maurine (Voth) Regehr '53, North Newton, Sept. 15

William Regehr '58, North Newton, May 26

Rosella (Wiens) Regier '58, North Newton, May 31

Paul Reimer '73, Hesston, May 17

Bette (Franz) Rhine '65, Hesston, Aug. 22

Carol (Jones) Siemens '61, Abingdon, Md., Aug. 1

Cathy (Peachy) Weaver '89, Hesston, July 31

Rebecca (Sprunger) Wetzel '53, Champaign, Ill., Sept. 23

Orletta (Brandt) Wiebe '58, North Newton, June 8

BETHEL WELCOMES NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

James Allen '82, coordinator of institutional research.

Nathan Bartel '02, Kauffman Museum curator of design.

Becky (Esau) Bartell '02, director of the Department of Nursing (in addition to assistant professor of nursing). She has an M.S. in nursing (education track) from Fort Hays State University.

Ross Bay, associate director of admissions operations and Slate captain.

Sara Beard, payroll and benefits administrator and cashier.

Judy Bell, adjunct faculty in accounting. She has an MBA in finance from Newman University, Wichita.

Derek Blagrove, maintenance technician.

Kameron Blanding, head cross-country coach and assistant track and field coach.

JesAnne Bouchard, registrar. She has an M.S. in justice studies from Southern New Hampshire University.

Quinton Burgess, assistant football coach.

Melissa (Hofflinger) Carlson '01, associate registrar.

Nakita (Menefee) Dobbs '12, assistant professor of business (formerly adjunct faculty in business). She has an MBA from Wichita State University.

Joan (Siebert) Entz '88, accounts receivable clerk. She remains as manager of Thresher Shop.

Ruthann Farley, assistant professor of nursing. She has an M.S. in nursing (education track) from Fort Hays State University.

John Fast '81, Kauffman Museum visitor services coordinator.

Dallas Fiszal, assistant men's soccer coach.

Tommy Fiszal, assistant men's soccer coach.

Leslie Frye, KIPCOR Community Mediation Center manager. She has an M.A. from Bethany Theological Seminary.

Lily Funk '19, admissions counselor.

Oscar Gonzalez '21, graphic design coordinator.

Jason Grider, assistant football coach.

Keith Harder, Sand Creek Trail manager.

Camryn Harrison '21, assistant football coach.

Avery Hawkins '22, assistant football coach.

Nicole Hein, student accounts.

Stephanie Kaufman, campus nurse.

Reggie Langford, assistant football coach.

Sarah Masem, assistant director of the Department of Nursing and professor of nursing. She has a D.N.P. from Graceland University.

Ana Lucia Mendonca-Zarling, director of development.

Luka Milicevic, director of soccer operations and head men's soccer coach.

Dan Muhwezi, adjunct faculty in sociology. He has a Ph.D. in sociology and anthropology from Wichita State University.

David Penner, senior web developer.

Austin Regier '18, adjunct faculty in social work. He has a master's degree in social work from the University of Kansas.

Eric Reid, coordinator of outreach programs. He continues as assistant men's basketball coach.

Renee Reimer '14, adjunct faculty in Bible and religion. She has an M.Div. from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Valaree Reyes, assistant softball coach.

Ricardo Sanchez '15, adjunct faculty in Spanish. He has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from McPherson College.

Whitney (Fast) Scheef '10, assistant director of financial aid.

Gretchen (Gering) Schrag '98, KIPCOR administrative assistant and office manager.

Braden Schultz, adjunct faculty in health and physical education and assistant football coach. He has an M.S. in health and human performance from Fort Hays State University.

Coralee (Stucky) Shenk '94, Kauffman Museum assistant.

Tammy Shirley, coordinator of nursing admissions (from associate registrar).

Melissa Siemens, associate professor of health and physical education. She has an M.S. in health and human performance from Fort Hays State University.

Courtney Simpson '20, admissions counselor.

Jordan Singh '22, assistant men's and women's tennis coach.

David Sprunger '82, adjunct faculty in English. He has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Sydney Tenant '22, assistant women's basketball coach.

Henry Waters, director of choral music and associate professor of music. He has a D.M.A. in choral conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory.

Jean Woods, assistant professor of biology. She has a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Michigan.

Laurel Woodward-Breckbill, KIPCOR Restorative Schools Initiative training coordinator.



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