

Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN



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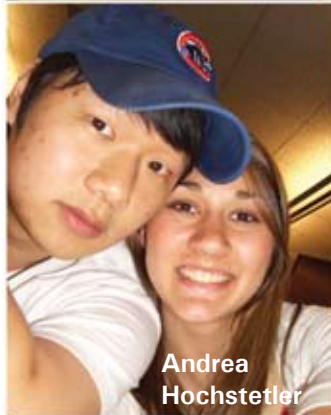
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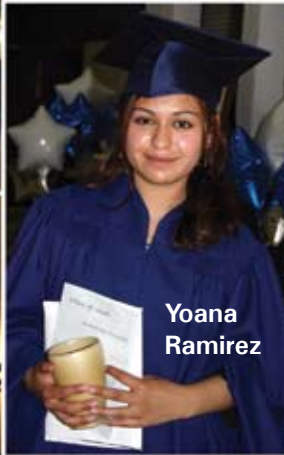
Gwen Kelly



Callie Bontrager



Andrea Hochstetler



Yoana Ramirez



Daniel Gingerich



Jay Mast



Kelly Frey

Seniors Share Faith

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Learning that lasts.
Faith that lives.

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and

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Accreditation Awarded from NCA and MEA

Principal Allan Dueck announced that Bethany Christian Schools has earned dual accreditation from the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA) and from Mennonite Education Agency (MEA). Bethany continues to be fully-accredited by Indiana Department of Education, as it has been since the school's inception in 1954.

"Accreditation demonstrates to our students, parents, and community that we are focused on student achievement, providing a safe and enriching learning environment, and maintaining an efficient and effective operation staffed by highly qualified educators," stated Dueck. "Accreditation by these two bodies assures parents that the school is meeting or surpassing nationally-accepted standards for quality and Mennonite Church USA criteria for Christian education."

To earn accreditation, a Quality Assurance Review Team (QART) of educational professionals representing both accrediting bodies visited the school and verified that Bethany meets both NCA and MEA's high standards and is operating with institutional integrity—fulfilling its vision and mission

for students. Bethany was judged to be highly functional or operational in all seven standards for accreditation: vision and purpose, governance and leadership, teaching and learning, documenting and using results, resource and support systems, stakeholder communications and relationships, and commitment to continuous improvement.

Based on its review, QART issued four performance commendations: consistently fostering a learning community, maximizing student success, demonstrating a strong commitment to Anabaptist-Mennonite education, and exemplary efforts in completing Validating the Vision, a comprehensive self-assessment. (See box below.)

Bethany began the self-assessment and accreditation process as part of its strategic planning initiative in October 2006. The school also established two fast-track initiatives in fall 2007, created a set of foundation documents, and established an action plan. The Fast Track Team created a school-wide communication/marketing plan and implemented a Leadership Development Program

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Commendations from Accreditation Team

Consistently fostering a learning community. The nurturing environment and committed staff members create an atmosphere for optimal student achievement. Faculty consistently integrate student learning and faith into all curricular areas. School administrators hire quality faculty, motivate students, maintain a small school size, and encourage a supportive and caring environment.

Maximizing student success. Students consistently perform well on standardized tests and upon entering college are known for their skills in writing and articulating their beliefs. Parents often express satisfaction that students' learning is supported by an integration of strong faith values.

Demonstrating a strong commitment to Anabaptist-Mennonite education and distinctives in blending academic excellence with Christian faith—integration that provides opportunities for students to achieve and prepare for a life of discipleship and service.

Exemplary efforts in completing Validating the Vision. This comprehensive self-assessment provides a baseline to measure future effectiveness. Many stakeholder groups, including community members not affiliated with the school, contributed to the report.

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BULLETIN

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Editor: J. Kevin Miller

Consulting Editors:

Allan Dueck,
Scott Richer,
Karen Shenk,
Hank Willems,
Sarah Yoder

2904 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-5499
574 534-2567
info@bethanycs.net

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(see below) that provides goals, teaching tools, and evaluation of skills for students in leadership roles.

Representatives of stakeholder groups met in several visioning events in 2007 to help create a set of foundation documents: mission statement, core values, graduate profile, and parameters of accreditation and church affiliation. And as part of the self-assessment, the school developed an action plan, which among other priorities, included conducting an alumni survey, reviewing the

music program, and implementing the Ophelia Project to help middle school students build respectful and compassionate relationships.

Finally, QART recommended that the school, as it has done for state accreditation in the past, implement an annual student-focused school improvement plan. In early June administrators met to begin designing this plan.

Leadership Development Program Implemented

Bethany Christian seniors Alex Brew, Kari Heusinkveld, Jay Mast, Stephen Pettifor, and Kelly Snyder received Leadership Development Awards at the school's May 16 awards program. They are the first recipients to be recognized for excellence in mobilizing others in ways that enrich the Bethany community. This recognition was the culmination of the newly-implemented Leadership Development Program that provides goals, teaching tools, and evaluation of skills for students in leadership roles.

This new process resulted from Bethany's Fast Track Team's recognizing that developing student leadership skills has been a strength at Bethany and its vision to strengthen this contribution to the church and world by creating a process for teachers to work more intentionally at developing and nurturing student leaders. The crux of the process continues to be that faculty members teach leadership skills and mentor student leaders in many settings—both inside and outside the classroom—but the added dimension is a rubric for teaching and assessing leadership skills.

This leadership skills rubric includes six areas: vision and passion (big picture), public communication and administration

(basic skills), and integrity and relational skills (personal attributes). Throughout the year teachers used the rubric to explain leadership skills and the assessment process to students. Teachers supervised student leaders in their identified roles using an action-reflection model to discuss performance: what went well, what did not, and what could be improved.

At the end of a leadership event or role, teachers completed an assessment form for the Student Life Cluster to determine which seniors should be recognized for excelling in leadership. Students can participate in leadership roles in any or all four years of high school, but recognition awards are presented to students at the end of their senior year.

Leadership Development Program Award recipients for 2007-08: Alex Brew, Kelly Snyder, Stephen Pettifor, Kari Heusinkveld, and Jay Mast. (Alumni parents include John '81 and Lois '80 Stoltzfus Mast.)



Seniors Share Faith

Senior Faith Statements

Each year each senior's final Bible assignment is to share his or her faith journey, present beliefs, and future dreams/plans in chapel, class, or a group setting outside of school. Following are excerpts from presentations by seven students who shared in chapel.

Callie Bontrager

Ever since I can remember, I've tried hard to fit into whatever group I was with. In middle school I became friends with a popular girl and wished to be like her. No longer was I Callie, but a girl who could be talked into things she knew were wrong. I deceived close loved ones and completely turned my back on God.



Thankfully God never turned away from me. I've come to forgive myself and give it to God because of the community I have experienced at Bethany. During high school I found God to be a solid rock to lean on: the most reliable source of love, acceptance, and forgiveness. I want to let such a wonderful God influence and live through me, because I am a daughter of God.

Callie plans to attend Goshen College.

Kelly Frey

Because my parents have incorporated service into our family life, I have grown to value service. I have also been raised with a strong emphasis on prayer.



Due to our focus on justice at Bethany this year, I have reevaluated many things such as the death penalty and our American "justice" system, healthcare, our response to Mexican immigrants, and our obsession with wealth. I believe I am here to show justice. It is my job to show Christ's love to as many people as I can, so that each person has the opportunity to live a Christian life and gain salvation through Jesus Christ.

This has helped form my faith and given me direction to live a life of commitment to service, reliance on prayer, and actions that portray acceptance and love. But most important, Christian faith is having a personal relationship with God.

Kelly plans to study nursing and theater at Goshen College.

Daniel Gingerich

Raised in an Anabaptist home, I needed to decide to follow Jesus for myself. So I began to take apart the puzzle of my faith, which is where I am currently, though what my parents have taught me and what I believe are so intertwined that it can be hard to distinguish between the two.



Some peers have told me that questioning is the devil trying to corrupt me. But I think the opposite of faith isn't doubt, but certainty. If we have no questions, it doesn't take faith to believe. It is only when we have some level of doubt that we can have faith.

Though I don't consider myself a Christian at this point, I believe Jesus is an excellent model for how I want to live my life. I hold strong convictions that pacifism is vastly superior to war and violence, and those with means should work to help the poor. As I go on, I hope to remain open to God and the possibility of taking the leap of faith that is Christianity.

Daniel plans to study elementary education at Goshen College.

Andrea Hochstetler

I have attended a Mennonite church my whole life. At about 12 years old, I began to understand the importance of having a deeper relationship with God and was baptized. He was no longer the "Big Guy up there"—He was real and alive in me. I became more involved with church and church-related activities and was growing and learning about who I was in Christ.



However, as I entered eighth grade, my spiritual walk began to look deserted. I made friends with the wrong group of people and was sucked into their world. This internal turmoil bound me with worthlessness, guilt, and depression. I knew God hadn't given up on me, but I didn't want to change. So I ran farther from Him until I

had no one to turn to except Him. I fell on my face before God and came clean. That night He handed me a clean slate: a redeemed daughter of God.

The rest of my life will be devoted to discovering God's will and purpose. I don't feel any doubt in what I believe though I will never have God completely figured out. Rather than being confused, I choose to wonder in awe at God's amazing plan. Along the way I know there will be many tough decisions, but am confident that God will always guide me.

Andrea plans to study nursing at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Gwen Kelly



At the beginning of the year, a ninth-grader told me she envied my life: I had athletics, a boyfriend, and a posse of friends. She didn't know that I was very emotional, cried a lot, and refused to eat for days when people commented on my weight. I regret these things, but they have shaped me and I am different now.

At one point I doubted if God was real in my life. However, in Bible class this year we spent time trying to figure out who God was to us personally. Although I had chosen to live a wrong path, God helped me grow. No matter what I had done, God still loves me. Though I pretended I wasn't a Christian, I finally realized I am—a sometimes confused and sinful person, but nonetheless a Christian.

My community of friends at Bethany has impacted me the most. They have challenged my actions and beliefs. They have cared for me and I for them. In ninth grade I didn't know who I was. Now, I know who I am and what I believe.

Gwen plans to study business and communication at Tri-State University in preparation for law school.

Jay Mast



In my later years of high school, I began to question some of my earlier claims as a Christian. Was Jesus just another prophet as Muslims believe? This phase of confusion and confrontation came to an abrupt halt in the middle of my work with *Godspell* this year. Messages that I memorized, danced, yelled, whispered, and conveyed to the innocent and dense disciples on stage with me bounced back and were thrust upon me. Jesus was and is the example. It is Jesus' life that I now base my own life upon—and this seems as clear to me as anything right now.

I still have unanswered questions that could give me reason to doubt, but I have found that questions only help me grow. I will never reach full understanding, but God meets me where I am with my faith.

Jay plans to attend Goshen College.

Yoana Ramirez



My family only went to church once in a while. The first time I was interested in church was when I was 15 years old, when the youth group was doing a drama. Later I joined the choir, but after a year I dropped out because I wasn't happy. Nothing motivated me to go to church until a friend invited me to her church. I liked it and kept going. I decided to come to Bethany to try new things.

I have changed a lot since eighth grade. A lot of times I think of the past and wish I could go back and change what I did. But the most important thing is that God has been with me all these years without leaving my side. I have changed my way of seeing things, making choices, and learning about everyday life. Jesus is the one I can count on when I have a problem. *Jesus fue y es nuestro Salvador.*

Yoana plans to attend college with aspirations of becoming a pediatrician.

This I Believe

Three seniors from Suzanne Ehst's *World Literature* class wrote "This I Believe" essays that aired on WVPE, the local national public radio station. Sara Alvarez, Daniel Fecher, and Elizabeth King shared their thoughts on multi-ethnicity, the kindness of strangers, and watching the corn grow respectively. Additional information and audio links may be downloaded at www.bethanycs.net/This_I_Believe_2008.

Fools and Failures

At Bethany's 54th commencement on Sunday, May 25, Wes Bontreger, pastor at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church, challenged the 44 graduates to attain the high mark of becoming fools and failures: fools for not conforming to society's superficial standards of success, and failures as a mark of having at least tried to make something



Graduates with the highest academic standing: (clockwise from front right): valedictorian Sara Alvarez, salutatorian Emily Bowman, Simone Sommers, Callie Bontrager, Jena Schwartzentruer; (back) Jordan Shetler, Ryo Otsuka, Daniel Gingerich, Kelly Snyder, and Elizabeth King. Alumni parents include Helen (Stoltzfus '74) Bowman and Dave ('77) and Becky (Maust '77) Schwartzentruer.

better. He urged graduates to elevate faithfulness above success by learning from failure and to make a difference in their commitments, community, and caring.

In the senior address, Alex Brew thanked teachers for "caring about us, beyond our grades." He concluded, "The themes of community, hard work, and treating people with compassion—themes we learned at Bethany—will be the foundation upon which our lives are built."

Co-senior speaker Elizabeth King said, "If we take the gifts that God has given to each of us and think every day about how to use those gifts in a way that serves God, some great things can happen."

As their class gift, the graduates provided funding for a DVD recorder for classroom use.

Teacher of the Year

Special needs teacher John Mast was named Bethany's teacher of the year. In nominating John, students noted that he makes class fun, makes sure students understand, puts in many hours behind the scenes in theater productions, and is caring and highly respected. A parent commented, "John meets students where they are and achieves that delicate balance of confronting students when necessary but gaining their respect and desiring them to meet their potential."



News at bethanycs.net

Community Peace Vigil: Students protest Iraq war. See [/peace-vigil_2008](#).

Underground Railroad: Interterm group studied past and modern-day slavery. Read their reflections at [/interterm/2008_ugrr](#).

Academic Superbowl: Fine arts places fifth in state. See [/Academic_Superbowl_08](#).

Envirothon: Team wins regional, top 10 in state. See [/Envirothon_2008](#).

If I Were Mayor: Brooke Hershberger ('14) places second in essay contest. Read her essay at [/Mayor-Essay_2008](#).

Service Days: Students serve community. See [/MS-service-fieldday_2008](#) and [/Service_Day_08](#) for newspaper article.

SAFE: Peacemaker Academy instructs girls in safety training. See [/taekwondo_08](#).

Hands-on Science: science fair and a solar-oven cookoff. See [/MS-Science-Fair_2008](#) and [/env-sci_solarcookoff_08](#).

2007-08 Awards

Outstanding Senior Athletes:

Kari Heusinkveld and Stephen Pettifor

Cup of Kindness:

Daniel Gingerich

Outstanding Senior Vocalists:

Emily Bowman and Jay Mast

Outstanding Senior Instrumentalists:

Alex Brew and Elizabeth King

All high school awards listed at

www.bethanycs.net/HS-Awards_2008

Special Scholarships

Marlin E. Miller Memorial Scholarship to a senior planning to prepare for Christian leadership or service: Stephen Pettifor.

Heidi Claassen Memorial Scholarship to the top-ranked senior planning to attend a Mennonite college and who has earned the Indiana Academic Honors diploma and taken either *Calculus* or *Physics*: Sara Alvarez.

Births

Gary ('87) and Melissa **Chupp**, Goshen, daughter Corinne Elizabeth, Apr. 7.

Daniel ('87) and Lynn **Diener**, Goshen, daughters Daphne Almeda and Andrea Danae, Apr. 4.

Justine (Yoder '87) and Jerry **Nettrour**, San Antonio, Texas, daughter Addison Emery, Jan. 17.

Carrie Hochstetler ('88) and Travis Krehbiel, Newton, Kansas, son Griffin Ezekiel, Feb. 24. Grandmother is Betty (Mullet '61) Hochstetler.

Heather Wengerd ('89) and Mark Kaufman, Minneapolis, Minn., son Elias Alvin, Feb. 18.

Sam ('91, S'06-) and Meghan **Miller**, Goshen, twin sons Xavier Paul and Baylor Matthew, March 24.

Dustin ('94) and Rachel **George-Miller**, Goshen, son Levi Trennis, March 20.

Kristina (Riegsecker '94) and Joe **Miller**, Goshen, son Jude William, Feb. 27.

Heidi (Birky '98) and Andrew **Goldman**, Indianapolis, Ind., son Jack Andrew, March 6.

April (Nofziger '98) and Matthew **Eash**, Goshen, son Issac Matthew, May 8.

Derrick ('98) and Michelle **Ramer**, Nappanee, Ind., son Dominic Devon, Apr. 23.

Brad ('98) and Megan **Schrock**, Fuquay-Varina, N.C., daughter Evelyn ("Evey"), Apr. 14. Grandparents Larry ('67) and Kay (Troyer '67) Schrock.

Chris Atkins ('99) and Sarah Vandervere, Elkhart, Ind., daughter Jayda Lynn, Aug. 26, 2007.



Seven Bethany alumni—the most from any one school—were among those participating in the May 20-23 Mennonite Voluntary Service unit retreat at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Divide, Colo.: (front) Andrea Chupp ('01), Seattle, Wash.; Sarah Thompson ('02), Elkhart, Ind.; Hannah Eash ('02), San Antonio, Texas; (back) David Glick ('03), Seattle, Wash.; Kristine Bowman ('03), Tuscon, Ariz.; Jeff Bauman ('03), La Jara, Colo.; (not pictured) Laura Rheinheimer ('01), Harlingen, Texas.

Stephanie (Miller '99) and Jeremy **Entz**, Newton, Kan., daughter Abigail Grace, March 9.

Greg ('99) and Laura **Myers**, Newton, Kan., son Luke Benjamin, March 4. Grandparents are Dennis ('65) and Anita (Hershberger '65) Myers.

Kevin ('02) and **Kristen (Oswald '02) Hochstetler**, Goshen, daughter Jaycie Renee, March 3.

A.J. ('03) and Sarah **Kauffman**, Middlebury, Ind., daughter Alyssa Marie, March 20.

Marcelo (F'00-) and Clarice Ens **Warkentin**, Goshen, daughter Isabella, May 6.

Cheryl (F'98-) and **Brian (F'97-04) Mast**, Goshen, son Tobias Sebastian, June 4.

Marriages

Michael Bodiker ('92) and Jodi Opitz, Warsaw, Ind., Apr. 12.

Jay Risser ('02ng) and Stephenie Miller, Goshen, May 3.

Deaths

J. Marvin Nafziger (F'54-58,62-65), Goshen, Apr. 29. Survivors include wife Edith, children Diana Hershberger ('67), Susan Bartel ('69), Myra Oswald ('66), and grandchildren Jason Oswald ('92), Jessica Oswald ('94), and Sonia Oswald ('02).

Notes

Alfonso Valtierra ('62, F'67-70), Berwyn, Ill., is a principal in a Chicago magnet school.

Steve ('69) and Betsy **Dintaman** serve at LCC International University in Lithuania.

Randy Miller ('84), Goshen, is in his second year as volunteer president of the Goshen Little League.

Evan Bontrager ('86), Goshen, is president of Lucid Energy Technologies, a global company that designs and manufactures turbines for hydroelectric power, including the Bonneyville Mill locally.

Judy Clemens ('87), Ottawa, Ohio, has published *Lost Sons*, a novel that delves into the mystery of Mennonite Central Committee worker Clayton Kratz's actual disappearance in Russia in the 1920s.

Adrienne Yoder ('01), Tokyo, Japan, teaches English to students ranging from age 3 to senior adults.

Sae Chan Lee ('05) was part of a group of Goshen College students and faculty who developed a biodiesel project to convert used cafeteria grease to power.

Stephanie Hollenberg ('07) participated in a Feb. 4 peace march in Colombia with Mennonite Mission Network's Radical Journey Team.

Alumni News

Upcoming Reunions

Class of '58: Sept. 27-28 at Essenhaus Conference Center, Middlebury, Ind.

Class of '63: 3 p.m. Aug. 2., Shiphewana Town Center.

Class of '68: Sept. 27 at Bethany.

Class of '73: Noon, Aug. 30, Bethany Friendship Garden.

Class of '78: Aug. 1-3 at Bethany and Patchwork Quilt, Middlebury.

Class of '83: Sept. 27.

Class of '88: TBD.

Class of '93: 5:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at Belmont Mennonite Church, Elkhart.

Class of '98: July 25-26 in Goshen.

Class of '03: Sept. 26 at Bethany Friendship Garden.

For class contacts and updated information, see www.bethanycs.net/alumni/reunions or email saricher@bethanycs.net.

From
the
Principal
Allan Dueck



This issue of the *Bulletin* celebrates a significant milestone in Bethany's two-year self-study, strategic-planning process: accreditation by the North Central Association (NCA) and the Mennonite Education Agency (MEA). After spending two days in an on-site visit in March, the joint NCA-MEA Quality Assurance Review Team presented a highly complimentary report of our school's performance and an unqualified recommendation for full accreditation.

Bethany has the distinction of being one of just a few Mennonite church schools to have been accredited by their state departments of education from their inceptions. Furthermore, Bethany has maintained that accreditation throughout its 54-year history and, until Indiana stopped ranking schools several years ago, typically ranked in the top 10% of all public and private high schools in the state.

Two years ago Bethany decided to seek additional accreditation from NCA and MEA for a number of reasons, including the following:

- Each accrediting body sets standards for excellence to which member schools commit themselves. NCA evaluates schools in relation to standards such as teaching and learning, governance and leadership, and commitment to continuous improvement.

MEA focuses on the quality of faith nurture and commitment to Anabaptist-Mennonite education and distinctives.

- Both NCA and MEA require engagement of key constituents in the accreditation process. During the past two years, many Bethany constituents have participated in conversations about the school's academic and co-curricular programming. Such participation broadens ownership and enhances support.

- Both NCA and MEA support member institutions in striving for excellence. Each organization offers resource persons, print and web-based resources, and professional development events. For instance, MEA hosts annual conferences for member schools: one year for teachers and the next year for board members and administrators.

- Accreditation provides external validation. To receive a highly favorable report provides assurance from recognized outside experts that Bethany is achieving identified standards of excellence.

In celebrating Bethany's new accreditations, we recognize that these four factors represent important underlying reasons why these accreditations are significant. Join us in celebrating this milestone!



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Notice to parents:

Please notify the *BCS Bulletin* of the new address of your son or daughter.