

*fine arts*  
at Bethany



Learning that lasts.  
Faith that lives.

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*fine arts*  
at Bethany  
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also featuring  
**Spring Arts Day**

Learning  
that lasts.

## *fine arts* at Bethany

Last fall Bethany invited alumni to share how they are using their gifts in fine arts in their vocations and for the church. The diversity is amazing and responses include: designers, directors, teachers, performers, worship leaders, and participants in congregations. Yet regardless of how alumni use their gifts, many have found that what they learned at Bethany has lasted.

Two respondents who felt their fine arts gifts were not adequately nurtured, nevertheless still valued Bethany's impact on their lives. This holistic learning is not accidental, but fundamental to Bethany's philosophy of education. Bethany strives to do more than enhance students' performance skills. Opportunities for each student to explore and develop gifts allow students to integrate learning and faith in a way that equips them for life.

Seniors leading worship in chapel:

Hannah Roth



Anthony Fizer  
Martin Brubaker



Carrie Slagel



Photos by senior Jordan Kauffman

## Community

All students in grades 6-9 take choir. So, when participating in district contest, grade 9 *Chorale* includes students who are strong singers and students who are challenged with pitch. Yet, the students often find success as a group. "Singing is a community experience," says director J. D. Smucker. Orchestra and upper-level choir students participate in community-bonding events such as music festivals and choir tour.

**"The seeds of drama and communicating God's truth were established for me at Bethany."**  
—Mable (Bontrager '77) Mendoza, church lay leader in children's and drama ministry

## Integrating Faith in Class

"Students learn to examine the theology of fine arts and the ways in which that theology interacts with any given artistic medium," says instrumental music instructor Bradley Kauffman. Choir students balance learning how to sing (quality) and living the meaning of music (faith). Choir literature is chosen not only for its importance in history and composition, but for its theological relevance. Students discuss the meaning of what they sing and can internalize what it means to sing a song of grace, repentance, or hope and connect this with their faith journey. And in art classes, "students learn to appreciate God's creation and to revel in it," notes art teacher Mark Daniels.

**"One of the main reasons I made music my career and ministry choice was the experience I had as a student at Bethany."**  
—Marvin Miller ('56), music minister/educator

## Worship and Leadership Skills

"Music is an important aspect of worship and expression of faith," says choir director J. D. Smucker. The junior-senior level choirs, *Jubilate Singers* and *Cornerstone Singers*, perform in six to eight churches each year: singing, leading worship, reading scripture, sharing a children's story, and leading congregational singing. In the process, students experience different worship styles and develop varied gifts in leading worship.

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## Opportunities for Involvement

Bethany is a place to explore, to try something new. Because of Bethany's small size, students of varying abilities enjoy opportunities to participate in classroom and extracurriculars. Similarly, students can test interests in multiple areas of the fine arts. Furthermore, with more than 75% of students participating in fine arts, many also participate in athletics, Academic Superbowl, and various clubs such as Peace Society and Key Club. Students receive a more balanced education when not focusing on just one area.

**"My involvement with music and as editor of *The Reflector* laid the foundation for my career path. Not a day goes by when I'm not grateful for having such broad experiences to draw from."** —Anne Berry ('94), illustrator for *Gather* 'Round Sunday school curriculum.

## Performance Skills

Private music lessons and small art classes allow students to increase their skills through individualized instruction. Excellent ratings at district contest for choirs, ensembles, and individual instrumentalists and vocalists indicate the high level of skill development.

**"Bethany, with its strong choral programs, was where I started singing, discovered my love for it, and developed my talent and knack for performing."** —Julia Hollenberg ('03), senior music major at Hope College

## Personal Attention

Teacher-to-student ratio is quite exceptional. Students in visual art classes have daily opportunity to interact with the teacher. Upper level students in fine arts classes can select a specialized area of interest and work on an independent study guided by a teacher.

**"I didn't think I was artistic, but one class set me on a trajectory to do things I never dreamed."** —Kris (Sommers '93) Shenk, interior/quilt designer and worship visuals coordinator



Working on an independent study of clay pottery: senior Aaron Shenk

Faith that lives.

**"High school was challenging for me, but I gained confidence through art and received the Art Purchase Award in 1993. Eileen Becker-Hoover guided my work as layout editor for the school newspaper. Little did I know that experience would turn into an occupation."** —Tammy Sawatzky ('93), former designer for a national Canadian Mennonite news magazine and currently a freelance graphic designer and web editor

## Teachers as Mentors

Teachers model Christ's love, build positive relationships with students, and incorporate faith into the classroom. A Bethany parent recently emailed art teacher Mark Daniels, "You have made a positive difference in motivating my son to care about his potential." At times, choir teacher J. D. Smucker stops students' singing to discuss what they are singing or to pray together about student concerns. He says, "Bringing faith into action is what Bethany is about: encouraging students to raise questions about faith in the context of living out their faith, whether in class, a Sunday choir outing, a voice lesson, or Spring Arts Day rehearsal." Bethany teachers provide a safe setting for students to comfortably ask difficult questions about their faith, their church, and their future.

**"I definitely felt encouragement for my creative self at Bethany—never did I feel it came second best to other things."** —Judy Clemens ('87), author and church music and drama ministry leader

**"My life focuses around the arts and Bethany had a lot to do with that. Teachers like Suzanne Ehst were major influences in my life and in what I have done since high school."** —Eric Meyer ('00), graphic designer [note: Eric, Tim Nafziger ('99), and Peter Hartman ('98) are nearing completion on redesigning Bethany's website.]

## Renaissance and Rebirth

Over half the high school students spent weeks drawing, writing, or preparing outside of class for one of several performing arts categories such as drama, vocal music, instrumental music, poetry, or readings. Their goal: help their class win Spring Arts Day, which this year focused on the Renaissance and rebirth.

While competition is a motivator for many students to participate and to work hard, they also understand and appreciate the other aspects of the day: an opportunity to try something new or simply to revel in the joy of the arts.

Johnny Kauffman ('09) uses this opportunity as a way to spread out his extracurricular interests beyond athletics. He says, "It's cool seeing people in things you wouldn't expect to see them in."

Faculty leader J. D. Smucker says, "The emphasis is on trying and through the experience possibly becoming more involved in the arts at school, at church, or in the community. And at times when students are less than perfect in their performance, their peers (the audience) applaud, affirm, and encourage in a way that is life giving."

Stephanie Hollenberg ('07) agrees, "There is so much encouragement. And you get more applause when you return to the auditorium after performing." Classmate Sara Padilla says, "It gives you the confidence to do other things."



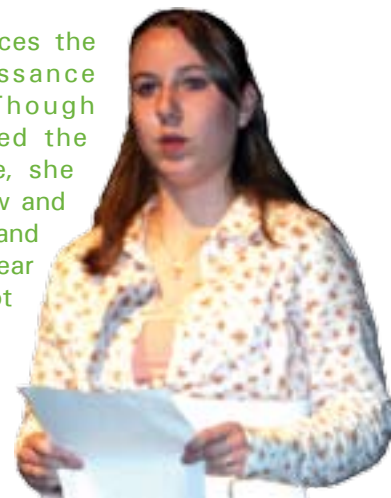
Johnny Kauffman, in front of a photo collage relating to immigration, and two sophomore classmates created their own dramatic reading using differing views on immigration expressed in readers' say columns of local newspapers.

One year a younger student who did not have much self-confidence performed. It took a lot of encouragement from the faculty leader to help the student through the weeks of practice to the stage. The performance was not one of the better ones, but the highlight was just seeing this student on stage and receiving encouragement from the entire school. In one day this student received a boost in confidence and a renewed sense of worth in the school community, which filtered into coursework and life outlook." —J. D. Smucker

Sydney Kehr introduces the ninth-grade Renaissance recorder group. Though nervousness affected the group's performance, she says, "This was a new and interesting experience and I learned a lot. Next year I will be working a lot harder and earlier."



Jesse Ramer during the ninth-grade poetry recitation of "The Shepherd's Wife's Song."



# Students Say



"I never expected to be involved in drama, but in ninth grade a teacher encouraged me to give it a try. Looking back it's remarkable how much I've learned. Extracurriculars at Bethany focus on more than just building performing skills; teachers pass on life skills. Through drama I have become more confident not only in performing, but in being in front of people."  
 —senior Martin Brubaker, participant in various music and drama groups, worship team, and academic all-state and all-district defender on the Bruins 2006 sectional champion boys soccer team.

Martin Brubaker ('07) and Jay Mast ('08) portrayed Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn in the spring musical production of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

## By the Numbers

- 503 Music events led by J. D. Smucker
- 100 Percent of students who take music and art before graduating
- 69 Congregations in which Bethany music groups have participated since 1987
- 16 Years since Spring Arts Day began
- 11 Consecutive years of first-place ratings at district choral contest; states in which *Jubilate Singers* have sung
- 10 Dollars needed to purchase a 2007 *Jubilate Singers* CD (see page 6)
- 3 Funerals and weddings in which *Jubilate Singers* have sung

## Sixth Graders Enjoy Fine Arts



"J. D. [choir teacher] makes music fun. And taking viola lessons at Bethany is like a dream come true!" —Anna Bailey, St. Mark's United Methodist



"I really enjoy *Beginning Instruments*. Playing my clarinet has been a big outlet. At first it was hard, but Mr. Kauffman is a big help." —Rachel Schrock, First Mennonite of Middlebury



"In music class I learned a lot. In my old school we only had music 30 minutes a week." —Ike Lehman, North Goshen Mennonite



"Our orchestra teacher, Mr. Kauffman, makes orchestra fun." —Amber Heydon, Prairie Street Mennonite



"Drama helps me become less shy and gives me a chance to do something I like." —Melinda Sherer, Berkey Avenue Mennonite



Hannah Beachey and Jesse Bontreger portray Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf in the middle school's fall production of *Rutherford Wolf*. Bontreger of Yellow Creek Mennonite says, "I really enjoyed acting, and director Evie Nafziger recognized my abilities and helped me add them to the production."

# Campus News

## Open House for Dan Bodiker

After 43 years of faithful and dedicated service at Bethany, Dan Bodiker will be retiring at the end of this school year. To honor Dan for his service, Bethany will hold a retirement open house on Saturday, May 12, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the high school gym lobby beginning with a program and followed by a reception.



## Buller Wins 300th Game

On Jan. 12 boys basketball coach Jim Buller won his 300th career game—the most by any Elkhart County coach at one school. Buller has earned community-wide respect as an excellent basketball coach. He takes time not only to coach basketball skills, but to nurture faith and leadership skills in his players and says, “one of my greatest rewards is the relationships with players that continues as they grow into adults.”



## Jubilate Singers CDs Available

“The Size of Your Heart is the Size of Your Life” is the theme for *Jubilate Singers* 2007 CD recording. If you would like to purchase a CD for \$10, contact a Bethany choir student at your church or email [jdsmucker@bethanycs.net](mailto:jdsmucker@bethanycs.net). A limited number of CDs will be made and will be available in May.

## Calendar

### April

- 20 Fish Fry, 4:30-8:00 p.m.
- 23-27 Interterm/Senior Trip
- 27-28 MS drama: *Zink: the Myth, the Legend, the Zebra*, 7 p.m.

### May

- 11 HS spring concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Dan Bodiker retirement open house, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- 17 MS spring concert, 7 p.m.
- 27 Commencement, 3 p.m.

### Admissions Calendar

Drop-in Open House and Luncheon:  
May 6, Noon-3 p.m.

Middle School New Student Night:  
May 22 at 6 p.m.

## Conservation Award

Bethany received the urban conservation award from Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District for turning the school's retention pond into a wetland that will have diverse plant and animal life and treat stormwater. Congratulations to *Biology* teacher Amy Thut for giving significant leadership to this project and to the many students and others who have helped.



For the first time ever, winners of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Washington Office Eighth Annual Public Policy Essay Contest were from the same school: Bethany. Students from across the United States submitted essays on one of four topics: the U.S.-Iran nuclear conflict, climate change, U.S. border policy, or military recruitment. The purpose of the contest is to promote churchwide awareness of significant public policy issues and to encourage youth understanding of the relationship of faith to public policy. Pictured with MCC Washington Office director Daryl Byler are first-place winner Matt Thomas, second-place winner Meg Kennell, and third-place winners Hannah Roth and Rachel Lanctot. All are seniors.



## Deaths

**Eudean (Schlabach '55) Broni (staff '59-60)**, Goshen, Jan. 18. Survived by her husband Emil and daughter Margie (Broni '91) Miller.

**Kenneth Kauffman ('56)**, Ephrata, Pa., Jan. 31. He is survived by his wife Betti and three adult children.

## Births

**Craig ('81) and Laura Martin**, Johnson City, Tenn., daughter Amanda Jo, Feb. 22.

**Brent L. ('92) and Jennifer Miller**, Nashville, Tenn., daughter Addison Aletta, Feb. 4 (during the third quarter of the Super Bowl).

**Heather (Graber '93) and Jason Potsander**, Anchorage, Alaska, daughter Selah Jean, Feb. 13.

**Jeff ('94) and Jen (Helmuth '89) Shenk**, Elkhart, Ind., son Jacob Howard, Dec. 28.

**Mandy Yoder ('95) and Jon Schrock**, Indianapolis, son Noah, March 6.

**Todd ('97) and Gretchen (Gusler '98) Sommers**, Indianapolis, Ind., daughter Madeline West, Nov. 18.

**Andrew ('00, C'07-) and Stephanie Kauffman**, Goshen, son Todd Michael, March 8.

## Marriages

**Jeff Miller ('95) and Monica Newcomer**, Brooksville, Fla., March 31.

**Vanessa Mishler ('02) and Dan Adcock**, Goshen, Jan. 6.

**Justin Lugbill ('04) and Erica Meert**, Bremen, Ind., Dec. 16.

## Notes

**Marion Bontrager ('55)**, Hesston, Kan., received Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary's 2006 Alumni Ministry and Service Award. He helped start Hesston College's Pastoral Ministries program and has taught Bible there since 1973.

**Jon Yoder ('73)** was presented a citizenship award in November 2006 by an Oregon environmental organization for his work developing and building the Environmental Learning Center in Salem. He was also the 2002 Oregon Biology Teacher of the Year.

**Roger Kurtz ('81)**, Rochester, N.Y., is a professor of English at State University of New York Brockport. He and his family spent the fall 2006 term in East Africa while he was on a Fulbright leave.

**Shane Mullet ('88)**, Staunton, Va., is developing a new high needs program for students at Riverheads High School. In December 2006 he completed a master's in special education at Radford University.

**Colleen (Schleining '88) Guengerich**, Santa Fe, N.M., graduated *summa cum laude* from University of New Mexico with a B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies in December. She worked in government relations during the state legislative session in January and February.

**RosaMaria (Vazquez '88) Puente**, Davenport, Iowa, plans to graduate in December with a doctorate of physical therapy from St. Ambrose University.

**Rachel Lapp ('91)** is completing a master's degree in multi-cultural communication at DePaul University. *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Indiana Woman*, a book that she co-authored with her mother was published in November 2006 and is available at amazon.com.

**Mimi Hollinger-Janzen ('05)**, sophomore at Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, Ont., organized a campus Christmas bazaar that raised over \$500 for La Casa Grande, a children's home in Benin where she volunteered in July 2006. Mimi said, "The event showed people that they have an alternative to shopping at the mall and can buy thoughtful,

## Designated Endowments

Anyone interested in donating to the following endowed scholarships, established in honor of alumni or faculty, should contact Susan Gingerich at Bethany.

**Wendall Bontrager** (junior killed in plane crash on April 7, 1985) to fund tuition assistance.

**Class of '55** to fund tuition for a Mennonite international student.

**Marlin Miller Memorial Scholarship** (president of class of '57) given to a Bethany senior with gifts likely to lead to church/pastoral ministry.

**John Steiner** (principal '54-66) to fund tuition assistance.

**Rochelle Wyse Memorial Fund** (sophomore killed in auto accident on June 2, 2002) to fund tuition assistance.

**Heidi Claassen Scholarship** (died of leukemia June 20, 2003) awarded to senior with interest in physics and music.

**Beth Berry Peace and Justice Award** (F'88-06) awarded to senior who shows commitment to peace and justice.

## Alumni Reunions

**Class of '57:** Oct 13 lunch at Das Es-senhaus. Contact Charlene Farmwald at dcfarm@maplenet.net.

**Class of '62:** Contact Gretchen Honderich Yoder at yodercj@verizon.net or 574 533-2085.

**Class of '67:** Sept. 29 and 30. Contact Joann Troyer Garber at cragarb@maplenet.net or 574 533-0216.

**Class of '72:** Aug. 3 and 4. Contact Max Beck at mmbeck@comcast.net.

**Class of '77:** Contact Wes Bontreger at wescheryl@bontreger.com.

**Class of '82:** Aug. 10 and 11. Contact Cindy Hawkins at hawk-mom4@aol.com.

**Class of '87:** Aug. 11. Contact Marlis Chupp at mchupp@ccsgoshen.org.

**Class of '92:** Contact Justin Weaver at justin@friedenswald.org or 269 476-1639.

**Class of '97:** Contact Ben Hartman at benchartman@hotmail.com.

**Class of '02:** Contact Laurel Yoder at laurel.yoder@gmail.com.

From  
the  
Principal  
Allan Dueck



When asked to identify ways in which church schools such as Bethany build the church, many are likely to mention that church school students study the Bible and church history and learn the value of Christian service. This issue of the *Bulletin* draws attention to another important way in which church schools build the church—by enabling students to explore their gifts in the fine arts and to develop them for participating in church music, worship, and visual arts.

Choral and instrumental music, which the psalms illustrate have been part of Judaeo-Christian worship for millennia, constitute an important part of the curriculum at Bethany. Students learn music skills and acquire an appreciation of congregational singing in choir classes and chapels. Singing an eclectic blend of hymns, choruses, spirituals, and folk melodies, students learn to enjoy music for worship and bring this enjoyment to their congregations. *Jubilate Singers* lead worship in local congregations and participate in annual choral festivals with choirs from other Mennonite high schools. Such experiences imbue students with a sense of belonging to the larger church.

Creating visual art, writing, acting, and public speaking are additional fine arts skills

students in church schools develop in ways that build the church. For several decades Bethany has awarded the “art purchase award” to a student each year for an outstanding piece of visual art. The winning pieces, displayed in Bethany’s hallways, attest to the fact that some students have made significant strides in cultivating their gifts in visual art at Bethany. As they move into adult involvements in congregational life, many of these students will share these gifts with the church.

Recently Bethany seniors won the four top prizes in a national essay contest sponsored by MCC’s Washington Office. Grappling with complex issues such as how Christians ought to care for the environment, these students showed fine persuasive essay writing skills and, more important, the capacity to think critically, bringing to bear their faith perspectives on challenges facing the church today.

This issue of the *Bulletin* highlights the church school’s significant role in giving students opportunities to explore the fine arts in an encouraging environment—to develop enjoyment of and skills in fine arts for building Christ’s church.



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