

CROSSROADS

A group of graduates in blue caps and gowns are walking away from the camera on a paved path. The path is lined with green grass and trees, some with vibrant red autumn foliage. A white spherical lamp post is visible on the left. The scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast on the path.

FORWARD
TOGETHER

Crossroads (USPS 174-860) is published two times a year by Eastern Mennonite University for distribution to 14,000 alumni, students, parents and friends.

A leader among faith-based universities, **Eastern Mennonite University** emphasizes peacebuilding, creation care, experiential learning and cross-cultural engagement. Founded in 1917 in Harrisonburg, Virginia, EMU offers undergraduate, graduate and seminary degrees that prepare students to serve and lead in a global context.

EMU's mission statement is posted in its entirety at www.emu.edu/mission.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

GRATITUDE FOR FORTITUDE

SUSAN SCHULTZ HUXMAN

GREETINGS FRIENDS OF EMU! Summer is here, light has replaced darkness, and we have experienced signs of health, beauty and wonder after 15 long months of an ever-changing COVID reality. Our students, faculty and staff have with great grit and imagination navigated us through on what has been a wild ride at times. But here we are afloat! We give thanks for your own efforts to toss the lifelines of prayer, encouragement, generous financial support, advocacy, hospitality and service.

Our buoyancy through this turbulence is not coincidental. Forever fortified by our rootedness in an active faith modeled on the life and lessons of Jesus, our campus community has found spiritual reserves, not just intellectual or psychological reserves, to shine EMU's light brightly with and for our students through the difficulties of pandemic protocols. Spiritual reserves were dramatically on display in mid-February when for two weeks nearly 20% of our residential students were in quarantine or isolation – our one and only sustained outbreak of the virus. Thankfully, no one became seriously ill needing hospitalization. What an outpouring of support from so many faculty, staff and community volunteers who delivered hundreds of meals to students.

We were buoyed also earlier this semester, when dozens of students, faculty and staff responded to the question: *What is your greatest hope for 2021?* Read their heartfelt words at www.emu.edu/hope. And hope and joy were present in May, when we hosted six Commencement exercises, four in-person events and two virtual commencements – in an imaginative effort to comply with gathering restrictions and celebrate fully with our grads and their families.

We have been blessed with key indicators of good organizational health in 2021:

- **Our amazing retention rate from fall to spring of 91% shows resilience from our students.**
- **All 19 Royals teams were back in action this spring, with postseason successes from baseball and women's volleyball, two individual national qualifiers in track and field, and individual honors among many teams.**
- **We are delighted to introduce our first executive director of diversity, equity and inclusion, Dr. Jackie Font-Guzmán. Read more about her expertise and vision on page 4.**
- **Our total fundraising efforts are on track to be the best since our centennial year! We are so thankful for our many generous supporters. I invite you to check out our Forward Together campaign on page 20, and remember June 30 ends our fiscal year!**

There is so much more to share, but I leave you with these words of blessing that have guided my way these past months: May the God of hope be a lamp unto your feet, and a light upon your path.

In gratitude for your faithfulness,



FEATURES



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HOMECOMING 2021

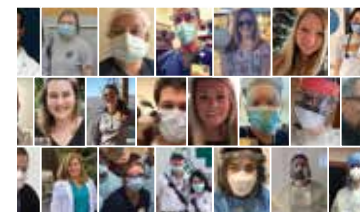
See the lineup for this fall!

FORWARD TOGETHER

20

FORWARD TOGETHER

Join a new campaign to support university resilience and student access.



22

ROYAL GRATITUDE

EMU Athletics highlights former athletes now working in healthcare.

ON THE COVER

Graduates process during one of three Commencement Walks on the Harrisonburg campus in May. (Photo by Jon Styer)

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PHOTO
**COMMENCEMENT
2021**

Graduates, their families and friends enjoyed the celebrations during EMU's Commencement Walk in May as the pandemic eased.

PHOTOS BY JON STYER,
RACHEL HOLDERMAN, RANDI B. HAGI,
AND REBEKAH BUDNIKAS



Wearing special masks designating their class, graduates of the Class of 2020 and 2021 celebrated their accomplishments during three separate Commencement Walks on Saturday, May 1, organized by EMU's three academic schools. All participants in the ceremonies on the turf field were socially distanced and masked, but that didn't dim the colorful academic regalia nor the smiles underneath. The university awarded 351 total degrees to the Class of 2021, including 209 undergraduate degrees, 104 master's degrees, 37 graduate certificates and one doctorate (see this page, top left, for doctoral degree-awardees). On May 8 and 9, virtual ceremonies with pre-recorded speeches were released. The Hon. Deanna Reed (bottom right), mayor of Harrisonburg and a Board of Trustees member, gave the Commencement address for the Class of 2021. Professor Carolyn Stauffer was the honored speaker for the Class of 2020.

CORE VALUES

'READY TO DO THE HARD WORK'

New executive director begins with surge of support

NOT A WEEK AFTER beginning in her new role as EMU's first executive director of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), **Jacqueline N. Font-Guzmán** made her first public appearance during a Facebook Live interview for LovEMU Day. Her time slot coincided with the launching of a special DEI Initiative Fund.

Font-Guzmán gave a hint then of her vision for EMU as "the most welcoming university in the world."

She was drawn to EMU's "institutional values and mission rooted in Christian faith, selflessness, compassion, empathy, solidarity, social justice and community." She also noted the university's strong commitment to advancing DEI initiatives and its missional focus on educating students in their development of "a moral compass that is essential in today's globalized world and the critical historical moment the nation faces."

By the end of the day, more than \$82,750 had been raised in support of both her new leadership and the importance of this collective work at EMU. The ongoing total is \$101,263 in current and pledged donor support. One of Font-Guzmán's tasks in the coming weeks and months is to determine the best focus for this fund – and for the excitement and commitment symbolized in the investment.

In a March announcement of her hiring, President **Susan Schultz Huxman** identified Font-Guzmán's new role as providing "guidance to our campus community to live more fully into its identity as a faith-informed peace and justice university ... [she will be] a dynamic ambassador, catalyst and facilitator in mobilizing our campus community around DEI goals."

Font-Guzmán bring to her EMU role a wealth of knowledge. She gained experience developing and implementing DEI and social justice curricula into graduate degree programs in her former roles as law and conflict studies professor and director of the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program at Creighton University. There she also collaborated with a colleague on a popular dialogue series that explored experiences and built relationships across diverse groups at the university.

An accomplished teacher, scholar and administrator, Font-Guzmán holds a PhD in conflict analysis and resolution from Nova Southeastern University; a law degree summa cum laude from the Interamericana University of Puerto Rico; a Master's in Health Care Administration degree from Saint Louis University; and a BA degree from Coe College. An active practitioner in conflict studies, she has led trainings, workshops and seminars in mediation and facilitation in the United States and international settings.

Since arriving at EMU April 1, Font-Guzmán has met with various groups, including leaders of 14 student organizations and faculty, staff, and administrators across disciplines and campuses. Listening to and gathering those perspectives, she says, has affirmed "that EMU is an extraordinary student-centered community, wanting and willing to do the hard work to advance DEI."

Among the main themes, she has heard "a passion for making EMU a campus where everyone feels that they belong and can be their authentic selves; an unwavering commitment to bringing our vision to life and opening new pathways of access and achievement for all students; the challenges that many members of our community face, especially those belonging to a minoritized or underrepresented group; and some big ideas on how we can make changes to move forward together."

As she continues to gather information through the summer and fall, Font-Guzmán says relationship-building is the core action through which learning, healing, and growth can happen: "We must dream big and act small, and one way of doing this is by nurturing quality relationships with each other and expanding our networks within and beyond campus. Relationship building is at the core of my vision because it can disrupt unhealthy patterns of interactions, neutralize relationships of exploitation and exclusion, and create a healthier EMU community that moves us all towards a welcoming campus."

– LAUREN JEFFERSON

\$111,263
RAISED FOR DEI
INITIATIVE



Jacqueline N. Font-Guzmán, EMU's first executive director of diversity, equity and inclusion, began in her new role April 1. In her first weeks, she has met with leaders of all student groups, members of the Board of Trustees and President's Cabinet, and faculty and staff in Harrisonburg, Lancaster and Washington D.C., among others. Listening to and gathering those perspectives, she says, has affirmed "that EMU is an extraordinary student-centered community, wanting and willing to do the hard work to advance DEI."

PHOTO BY RACHEL HOLDERMAN

ON CAMPUS

'NEW NORMAL'

1. A research team of seniors Alex Raber (here collecting specimens) and Reuben Peachey-Stoner and professors Stephen Cessna and Matt Siderhurst published results of a multi-year study on volatile organic compounds in *Phytochemistry*, an international journal. The study has implications for climate change modelling and forest management. (Photo by Jared Oyer)

2. Middle distance runner Isaac Alderfer (left) and sprinter Alijah Johnson competed in the NCAA D3 National Championships May 27 and 28. Both athletes set multiple personal records on the way to becoming ODAC champions and conference record-holders this season. They are coached by Bob Hepler and Kyle Dickinson. (Photos by Clint Brownlee and Gary Brockman/d3photography.com)

3. Waterman Elementary School tweeted their thanks after senior psychology major Brandon Higgins delivered nearly 400 donated books in early April. An intern with Student Life, Higgins initiated the project and collaborated with EMU's Black Student Alliance and the Student Nurses Association to collect books with special emphasis on underrepresented groups and themes. Higgins was a Cords of Distinction honoree and recipient of the Judy H. Mullet Award for Internship Excellence.

4. The Asian Pacific Islander Student Association, EMU's newest student organization, hosted several events, including a Lunar New Year celebration and two panel discussions about the rise in anti-Asian violence and hate crimes. (Photo taken in February 2020)

5. After its spring 2020 cancellation, "Shrek the Musical" returned to sellout crowds with some new cast members and an all-outdoors production on Thomas Plaza in mid-April. The production was directed by the indomitable Professor Justin Poole.

6. Cameron Byer, Caleb Hostetler and Hannah Leaman (left to right) secured a top-16 finish out of 85 teams in the mid-Atlantic regional competition of the International Collegiate Programming Contest. Alternate Noah Swartzentruber (far right) took Leaman's place in the North America Division Championships.

7. Ivy Yanek, a junior in EMU Lancaster's aviation program, holds her Flight Instructor Certificate. The first to finish the certification among the inaugural

cohort, she was hired this spring by Aero-Tech Services, EMU's flight training partner, as an instructor. The job means she will be paid as she accrues the required flight hours to meet her career goal of becoming a commercial pilot.

8. Tucker, best buddy of head soccer coach Roger Mast, checks out some snacks while visiting with students. The "Paws Day" event was hosted during "Pause Day," one of several days of rest to take the place of a spring break during this unusual semester.

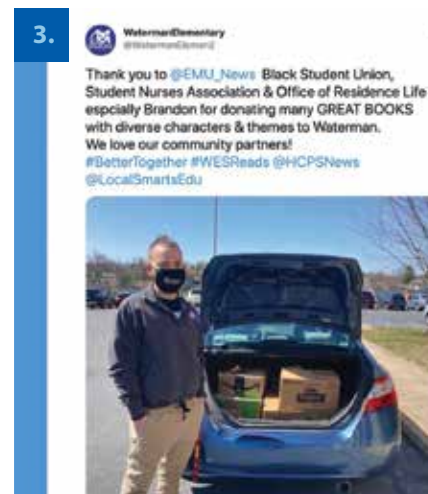
9. As Virginia's vaccine rollout spread in the Shenandoah Valley, nursing students helped to staff vaccine clinics with the Virginia Department of Health. Professor Kate Clark (left) consults with Natalie Stoltzfus.

10. Although both the 2020 and 2021 Shell Eco-marathon competitions were cancelled, students still tested their supermileage car at the Shenandoah Speedway. Mechanical difficulties prevented James Madison University's entry from joining the friendly competition. The car averaged mid-20 miles per hour, but got 204 miles to the gallon on its best run. (Photo by Randi B Hagi '14)

11. In an experiment that sounds like it's from a science fiction movie, Laura Troyer, Jonas Beachy and Andrew Schunn built a capsule-greenhouse, created beds of soil similar to Earth and Mars, and planted radish, oregano and turnip seeds. They then pumped in a gaseous mixture approximating the atmosphere of Mars. The capsule was fully autonomous and ran through the Internet, with help from Professor Stefano Colafranceschi. Nothing grew but that was only part of the point of the research! (Courtesy photo)

12. The Royals celebrate after toppling nationally ranked Randolph-Macon College during the ODAC conference tournament. The team would fall to Shenandoah University in the next round, but their postseason run generated a wave of fan support and the promise of more success. To stay tuned, follow EMU Royals Baseball on Facebook and EMURoyalsBaseball @EMUbaseball1 on Twitter. (Photo by Jenny Posey)

PHOTOS BY RACHEL HOLDERMAN '18, OR CONTRIBUTED.



INNOVATIVE NEW PROGRAMS

This year, EMU has entrepreneured new curricular offerings that meet workforce demands; offer increasingly important skills and knowledge to undergraduate and graduate students; and integrate special expertise across the fields of peacebuilding, conflict transformation and restorative justice.

3

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMS

MEd IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

MA IN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

MA IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT*

2

NEW MINORS

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

PEACEBUILDING AND MUSIC

1

NEW PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICATE IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (FOR ADULT DEGREE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS)

1

NEW ALL ONLINE GRADUATE DEGREE

MA IN EDUCATION: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN EDUCATION



INTERFAITH

The new Interfaith Pastoral Assistant position, a collaboration between Campus Ministries and the Center for Interfaith Engagement, debuted during the spring semester. Senior James Dunmore was the first in the role, which developed out of an exploration funded with an Interfaith Youth Core grant.



STEM EDUCATORS

A five-year National Science Foundation grant, written by EMU education faculty, will support scholarships for junior and senior education majors earning certifications in biology, chemistry, computer science, or math. The grant also includes mentorship and professional development opportunities in their first year of employment, and supports EMU research into how restorative justice training impacts K-12 STEM outcomes.



PARTICLE DETECTOR

Four students teamed up to work on the first phase of research supported by a \$100,000 Jeffress Grant that helped to bring new technology to EMU's engineering lab. The end goal of the grant awarded to Professor Stefano Colafrancesci is to support development of inexpensive particle physics detector technology.

*Pending Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approval, to launch fall 2022

BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Five new trustees contribute diverse expertise

***LIZA HEAVENER '07** has wide-ranging experience working nearly ten years in grassroots and campaign strategy, as well as in federal politics, including with the United States Congress. Liza currently serves as the chief operating officer at NEXUS Global. The organization works to catalyze new leadership among young investors and social entrepreneurs to accelerate global solutions. She was also a founding member of an organization dedicated to stopping deforestation in Borneo, Indonesia, and assisted in building an orangutan rehabilitation center in the rainforests of Borneo. She lives in Montclair, New Jersey, with her family.



***SHAWN RAMER '83** currently consults for the health and wellness industry. He retired as senior vice president of IT from Bristol-Myers Squibb in 2016. Prior to this, he held global scientific and technology leadership positions at Hoffmann La-Roche. Shawn chaired several pharmaceutical industry forums for information management, served on the board of the eHealth Initiative, and has been involved as board member, former owner, and advisor of Shalom Mountain, a non-profit personal growth center in the Catskill mountains. A third-generation EMU graduate, he also holds a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Alberta, and was a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard Medical School. He is married to **Victoria Myer '83**; they have two adult daughters. Shawn and Victoria reside in Conestoga, Pennsylvania, and Escondido, California, and attend Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster.



***LIZA HEAVENER AND SHAWN RAMER WERE INTERIM TRUSTEES FROM MARCH-JUNE, 2021, REPLACING OUTGOING MEMBERS CHARLOTTE HUNSBERGER AND CLYDE KRATZ. ALL NEW BOARD MEMBERS LISTED ABOVE BEGIN THEIR FIRST FULL TERM JULY 1, 2021.**

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

GLORIA Y. DIENER '76 has been an English teacher at Eastern Mennonite School in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Country Day School in Escazú, Costa Rica. She holds a BA in English education from EMU, a MA in English from James Madison University and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Eastern Mennonite Seminary. She and husband **V. Eugene Diener '68** have two adult children. They are members of Park View Mennonite Church, where Gloria has been a worship leader, chair of the elders, Sunday School teacher for children and adults, and a mentor. She has been a member of the Faith & Life Commission of the Virginia Mennonite Conference.



BENY KRISBIANTO MDIV '15 is lead pastor of Nations Worship Center in South Philadelphia. He has co-chaired the Indonesian Diaspora Network for the past eight years. He is a member of the Constituency Leadership Council of Mennonite Church USA, on the board of directors for Mosaic Mennonite Conference, and on the board of trustees for Dock Mennonite Academy.



RAJARSHI ROY is a professor of physics at the University of Maryland, College Park. He has been Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor of Physics at Carleton College, director of the Institute for Physical Science and Technology at University of Maryland, and chair of the School of Physics at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His research specialty is the nonlinear dynamics of optical systems and networks. He is active at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. He and his wife, Katherine, have deep appreciation for Anabaptist values. Their son, Partha, is a current EMU student.



HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

**NEW
THIS YEAR!**
CLUSTER
REUNIONS!*

October 15-17
2021

Learn more about the in-person and hybrid events at

→ **emu.edu/homecoming**

FEATURED EVENTS

Fall Festival Fun



GIRL NAMED TOM
gospel/pop/country
South Bend, Ind.

**THE WALKING
ROOTS BAND**
Americana/folk
Harrisonburg, Va.

Enjoy live music, food trucks,
yard games, inflatables and
time to mingle.

EMU TenTalks

Dynamic 10-minute presentations on community,
food and hospitality followed by Q&A.



OZ BLACKALLER '06
De Nada Kitchen
& Market
San Diego, Ca.



KIRSTEN MOORE '93
Magpie Diner
and The Perch
Harrisonburg, Va.



KALEB WYSE '10
Wyse Guide
Mount Pleasant, Iowa



BACK TOGETHER

*Classes on either side of a reunion year will be invited to join the reunion they most affiliate with.

EMU ALUMNI AWARDS

As Eastern Mennonite University alumni, we all know of former classmates who deeply exemplify the institutional mission of "living and serving in a global context." Our annual alumni recognitions highlight EMU's mission in practice. The first award, created in 1976, was the Alumnus/a of the Year Award. Since then, the university added the Distinguished Service Award in 1984, in recognition of those who make significant commitments and life choices as servant leaders, and the Young Alum Award in 2013, for a recent graduate who has made already noteworthy contributions in the early stages of professional, faith and community life.

In the challenges of our current time, these recognitions from among our alumni community help to center us, ground us in shared values, and inspire us in our own work. In lifting them up, we lift up our shared community – past, present and future – and our collective commitments in resonance with EMU's enduring mission and values.

DARYL PEIFER '75

Alumni Awards Committee

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD

JOHN LOWE

JOHN LOWE '81 HAS BROKEN a lot of glass ceilings to attain his many accolades, such as becoming the first Native American man to be inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Even being an Indigenous person with a doctoral degree in nursing places him in a small class of peers: there are currently fewer than 25 in the United States, he said, and fewer than 100 in the whole world.

Now, he looks to mentor the next generation of Indigenous nurses.

"Who's going to carry on the work? Who's going to do even greater things?" he asks.

Lowe, who is Cherokee, Creek and Lenape, and an enrolled Eastern Cherokee tribal member, is now a professor at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, and an Indigenous adjunct scholar affiliate at the University of Southern Queensland in Australia. In 2019, he was appointed to the National Advisory Council of Nursing Research, an advisory body to the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health.

Throughout all of his work, one of Lowe's foremost callings is to usher in the next generation of Indigenous nurses and health scientists. He's currently developing a center for Native American and Indigenous Health Research at The University of Texas at Austin.

"We will address health disparities and the need for health equity among Native American and Indigenous people globally," Lowe said. "Nurses are key to being able to do this. In Native and Indigenous communities, nurses are very respected, and they're trusted."

It's important that Indigenous com-

munities have their own health experts, Lowe said. He's been recognized many times for his research and development of interventions for reducing and preventing substance abuse in Native American and Indigenous communities, including the Cherokee Self-Reliance, Native Self-Reliance, and Native-Reliance Models.

He said that Native American nurses who do this work in their own communities have a stronger commitment than outsiders.

"In a lot of Native communities, in health systems, our providers are sent to us via the Indian Health Service that's housed in the U.S. Department of Health," Lowe explained. "Many of those providers are there because they are on payback, so they've been provided their education via a scholarship or funding. And in payment, they agree to serve in an underserved area."

But those folks typically only stay for a few years, until their agreement has been fulfilled. In contrast, he said, "if they are people from our own communities, these are their family, community, their ancestry ... the commitment is so much greater."

One of the barriers that aspiring nurses from Native communities face is the price of education – and how far they may have to go from home to get it. And especially for those students' older relatives, leaving home to go to school can evoke the trauma of the Indian boarding school era that lasted from the late 1800s until 1978.

"You find this especially in the elder generation, where they will say phrases such as, 'What will you do with my babies? Don't hurt my babies,'" Lowe said.

Lowe's own journey into academia began when he took a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program in high school. He and his twin brother had been raised in North Carolina and Virginia before moving to their mother's birthplace on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. As Lowe was finishing high school, he remembers a guidance counselor saying, "People where you're from don't go to college."

Rather than resenting that counselor, Lowe has exemplified, time and time again, the axiom that "the best revenge is a life well lived."

After earning his LPN and getting a few years of work experience, Lowe looked for a Christian school relatively close to home to pursue his bachelor's degree, and decided on EMU. Even coming to a small college, Lowe had to adjust to living in a dorm instead of with his family.

"It was kind of strange for me, and I just stayed to myself," he said. "I just went to class, and then in the evening I'd go to the library and rewrite my notes."

By his senior year, he had come out of his shell – becoming president of the Student Nurses Association and going on a summer mission trip to Tanzania with three other nursing students that "really opened my world."

The faculty at EMU also made a lasting impression on the young Lowe.

"I think now having been in academia for most of my life, I look back and I know the genuineness and the investment that the faculty had, a very unselfish motive," he said. "They were there to really invest in the lives of students."

– RANDI B. HAGI '14



PHOTO BY BRUCE W. PALMER/ THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



PHOTO BY LATOYA SPARKS CREATIVE

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUM AWARD

RAL OBIOHA

RAL OBIOHA '08 REMEMBERS

the exact day she knew she wanted to be a lawyer. She was five years old, on Christmas vacation from school, and tagged along with her mother, Theodora Oby Nwankwo, to work. Nwankwo presided as chief magistrate in the courtroom that day.

"I sat at the very back of the court with our driver when the court officer shouted 'all rise!' and majestically introduced her. She emerged from the chambers fully cloaked in her legal attire – elegant, dignified, beautiful, but confident," Obioha recalled.

She looked like a lioness to her young daughter.

"Her very presence commanded magnificent attention and respect," said Obioha. "Yet she addressed the lawyers she was presiding over with firm poise and adjudicated the matters they presented with compassion."

Her mother went on to represent Nigeria on the United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) until her death in 2017. As a private immigration lawyer and advocate for human rights and gender equality, Obioha has proudly carried on her mother's legacy.

After earning her bachelor's degree in psychology and history in 2008, Obioha was awarded a merit scholarship to Howard University School of Law. In addition to her juris doctorate, she also holds a Master of Law's in international human rights law from American University. After working in a Washington DC law firm for several years, she founded a private firm in Houston, Texas, where she represents clients seeking permanent

U.S. residency and citizenship.

"Whenever a family is being reunited or a client naturalizes, I feel very truly fulfilled. I also enjoy the advocacy, especially ensuring that my clients' rights are not being violated," she said. "The smile on a client's face knowing they have a second chance to pursue a better life is truly irreplaceable – it's what keeps me going."

She is also executive director of the Civil Resource Development and Documentation Center. Founded by her parents, the NGO is based in Nigeria and works for the protection and promotion of human rights, women's rights, gender equality, and good governance in the country and beyond.

"Our projects are typically aimed at eliminating gender-based violence of all forms," Obioha explained, "campaigning for the end of female genital mutilation and cutting, enhancing government accountability through budget transparency, and increasing access to health information for vulnerable population."

She also volunteers with multiple organizations, providing free legal services to low-income families, and is a guest lecturer at Columbia University.

Obioha's ambition was apparent at a young age. She was born in Washington DC and then grew up in Nigeria. She graduated high school at the age of 16 and immediately enrolled at EMU, a natural choice: All six of her siblings are alumni, as are two of her uncles, two aunts and "at least" seven cousins. "My family has always loved EMU," she said.

Even so, starting college as a teenager was "challenging." At first she felt out of place. But friendships soon grew. By

her senior year, Obioha was president of the Black Student Union and two other organizations. To her, the most valuable aspects of her undergraduate education were "the welcoming and inclusive nature of the people. The diversity. The celebration of different cultures. My professors. It was indeed an enriching experience."

When she went directly into law school, the 23-year-old felt ready, both academically and socially.

In 2018, Obioha founded the Vic & Oby Scholarship Fund, named after her parents, to help other ambitious young immigrants go to college. College, graduate, and law students can also qualify if their parents are immigrants, or if they aspire to a career path that will improve the lives of immigrants in America. Thus far, the fund has awarded \$5,000 scholarships to eight undergraduate and graduate students.

She was inspired to start the fund by her parents' example of helping everyone they could, from adopting children to taking in family members to starting their human rights organization. They even gave their children names steeped in this spirit.

"My middle name, Eziafakaego, means 'being known for good is better than being rich,'" said Obioha. "My sister's name, Ogomegbunam, means 'may my good work not kill me – but instead bring me good.' My other sister's name, Obiageli, means 'all who come to my home will be fed.'"

Now from her home in Houston, Obioha carries on the family legacy in so many ways. There is still much work to be done. – **RANDI B. HAGI '14**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TIMOTHY AND CHERYL HEATWOLE SHENK

TIMOTHY AND CHERYL HEATWOLE SHENK RECALL that their fourth visit to Camden, New Jersey made all the difference. “Though we had planned to work internationally after graduation with Virginia Mennonite Missions or Mennonite Central Committee, the intentional community we had connected with asked us to consider moving to Camden, and by the end of the week, we felt like Camden is where God could use us to learn, grow and serve.” They had first visited on a Y-Serve

trip and returned later on separate occasions to lead two more spring break service trips, research an independent study project, and earn practicum hours. The couple graduated in April, married in May and in August 2007 began living, working, worshiping and serving in one of the country’s most troubled cities. They have now spent nearly 14 years there, living as some of the few white residents among Black and Brown neighbors. Together with their neighbors, they have responded to issues of racial injus-

tics, poverty, environmental injustices, and economic disparity. The couple are both dedicated educators. Cheryl started a now-thriving Montessori program at nearby Sacred Heart School, where their children Lydia, Matteo and Vivia attend; Tim teaches PE there and is now working on a reading specialist certificate, while volunteering and contributing to program development and fundraising. In 2019, *Crossroads* staff visited the family in Camden for a profile [find it on the EMU news blog emu.edu/news]. The afternoon included a memorable walking tour through the neighborhood, enriched by our guide Timothy as he told us about their joys, sorrows and relationships, amidst the domineering forces of discrimination, racism and segregation.

In recognizing Timothy and Cheryl with the 2021 Distinguished Service Award, we also value their wish that the honor not ignore that “our Black and Brown neighbors have been deeper in the struggle, and we have been welcomed/adopted with so much grace and love into their lives and work.”

JOIN THEM FOR A WALK THROUGH THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD.

OPEN THE FOLD OUT MAP HERE!

ILLUSTRATION BY RANDI B. HAGI '14



Cheryl and Timothy Heatwole Shenk with children Matteo, Lydia and Vivia (middle, front).

PHOTO BY REFLECTIONS BY DORRIANE



MAP LEGEND

These locations were selected by the Heatwole Shenk family as important places in their daily life. The descriptions were contributed by Timothy and Cheryl.

“BLUE HOUSE” ON BROADWAY AVENUE, 2008-2013

We moved into this community house, the only residence on the block, six months after relocating. The block included some abandoned houses and lots, a ministry, and a liquor store across the street. The location meant nightly disruptions, often heated arguments, and drive-by cruising from outsiders coming to buy drugs and sex. We got to know people trapped in prostitution, addiction, alcoholism, and PTSD. There was a need for constant vigilance, as we were trying to create safe spaces for neighborhood children to visit our house. Lydia and Matteo were born in this house.

“FERRY HOUSE,” FERRY AVE., 2007 AND 2013-CURRENT

Our current home is a rowhouse among Black, Latinx, Vietnamese, and white families. Vivia joined our family here in 2014. Our kids can play out on the sidewalk and we have a rich network of support. Neighbors shovel snow, share food and child care, and work together to respond to issues, such as illegal truck traffic or an influx of homeless and addicted people. We grapple with the privileged treatment we sometimes receive just because we are white, such as when a plumber asked if we were missionaries. Some of our Black neighbors also intentionally relocated to this community, but don't receive the same benefit of the doubt. Derrick, a regular community volunteer, was talking to a friend outside his home when wrongfully detained & harassed by police. On another occasion, both white and Black neighbors responded to an accidental gun discharge on the block. Officers acted suspicious and spoke disrespectfully to Marquis, while giving full courtesy to us who were white.

INDUSTRIES

Our small neighborhood is surrounded by 25 polluting industries. New Jersey is greatly segregated by race and class, a factor that disproportionately impacts the pollution burden of poor communities of color. In our neighborhood, Camden County's sewage is treated, trash is incinerated, old cars and scrap metal are shredded. Wealthier suburbs shunt these vital services to poor communities that cannot fight back, a striking example of environmental racism and injustice.

SITE OF ANJANEA'S SHOOTING

While waiting for food outside the corner store on Jan. 20, 2011, Anjanea Williams, age 20, was caught in gunfire. At the time of the shooting, Cheryl was preparing to walk that direction, towards the library, with our toddler. Anjanea's death spurred community conversations, organizing and marching.

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATION, GREENHOUSE, AND GARDENS

The greenhouse and gardens were what first drew Cheryl here as an undergraduate studying environmental science. She did a practicum with CFET, learning about sustainable agriculture. Our connection continues: Cheryl serves on the board and we speak to visiting high school and college students at the retreat center (one common question we field: "How could we choose this environment to raise our children in? Aren't we scared for their safety?"). Our commitment to environmental justice also encompasses organizing around these issues in our overburdened community, integrating these concepts into our education work, and shopping at the youth-run farmer's market.

LINEY DITCH PARK

We take our students here every day at recess, and our own children gather with friends to play on the playground, fields, and to walk and play on the nature trail that we made in a wooded section. Timothy taught PE classes here before a gym was created in an abandoned movie theater a block away.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Sacred Heart School is a Catholic Partnership School serving approximately 200 students, including the Heatwole Shenk children. Initially, Timothy taught PE and Cheryl was an assistant in second grade. Never attracted to the traditional classroom structure, Cheryl eventually discovered Montessori's unique pedagogy strategies and its potential to help overcome economic and racial disparities in education outcomes. She founded Sacred Heart's preschool in 2015, with the help of a \$30,000 grant. As lead teacher and director, she also supports staff in a second Montessori pre-K/K classroom. Timothy still teaches, volunteers, works with students on reading as he earns a graduate degree, and aids with fundraising.

“...WE FELT LIKE CAMDEN IS WHERE GOD COULD USE US TO LEARN, GROW AND SERVE.”

FORWARD TOGETHER

The Campaign for EMU in Unprecedented Times

PHASE I

\$10.7 MILLION

Three-year-goal to support university resilience and student access through a tuition relief fund, current direct grant scholarships, and long-term endowed scholarships.

THE UNIVERSITY FUND FOR RESILIENCE
GOAL: \$5.4 MILLION

THE STUDENT TUITION RELIEF INITIATIVE
GOAL: \$5 MILLION

THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION FUND
GOAL: \$300,000

ALUMNI SUPPORT



With its highly regarded perspectives about justice and peacebuilding, opportunities for global awareness and involvement, a strong sense of community, and broad educational excellence, EMU has had a powerful impact on our lives. We believe that it has a unique role to play in guiding the next generation of unifying leaders. We are committed to supporting the Forward Together campaign and, with you, supporting the future of EMU and the next generation of students and leaders.

Shawn Ramer PhD '83, Board of Trustees member, and Victoria Myer '83



As proud alumni and parents to three graduates, we know firsthand the transformational power of an EMU education. We are inspired by and take seriously EMU's vision to open new pathways of access to current and future students, and to do that in a just and equitable way. We are thrilled to support the Forward Together campaign, and invite you to join us in moving EMU forward, together!

Louise Hostetter '79, Board of Trustees member, and Alden Hostetter MD '79

\$4.1 MILLION

2,424 DONORS

6,769 GIFTS

Already given by generous alumni and friends

Learn more at emu.edu/campaign and help us move forward together!





ROYAL DOSE OF GRATITUDE

Royals alumni-athletes working in the healthcare profession were celebrated this spring in a social media campaign by EMU Athletics. Approximately 25 alumni sent in photos and quotes.

"It has been so exciting to reconnect with former Royals for this special social media campaign highlighting the outstanding work being done in the healthcare field, and it has been very rewarding to hear the ways in which athletics prepared and shaped them for their current work."

— DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
DAVE KING

Emily Augsburg '18, *field hockey*, CCU RN, Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pa. // **Jess Rheinheimer Bishop** '16, *basketball*, RN, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, Pa. // **Linda Cimini Boesch** '11, *field hockey/track and field*, CCU RN, St. Luke's University Health System, Chalfont, Pa. // **Lisa King Burkholder** '08, *field hockey*, RN, Sentara RMH and instructor of nursing, EMU, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Tyler Denlinger** '18, *cross country/track and field*, vaccines process development engineer, Merck Pharmaceutical, Elkton, Va. // **Julie Kratz McElwee** '85, *BSN '86*, *field hockey*, emergency department chair, Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery, Christiansburg, Va. // **Rodney Eshleman** '88, *soccer*, ICU nurse, Augusta Health, Fishersville, Va. // **Mariah Foltz** '17, *softball*, RN, Sentara RMH, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Jamey Groff** '98, *volleyball*, oncology pharmacist, Hahn Cancer Center, Sentara RMH, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Brooke Hensley** '14, *softball*, emergency department team coordinator, Sentara RMH, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Jessica Blanks Jandl** '13, *field hockey*, RN, Sentara RMH, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Leah Lapp** '20, *triathlon*, associate chemist, Merck Pharmaceutical, Elkton, Va.; attending Liberty University School of Osteopathic Medicine, fall 2021. // **Mariah Martin** '17, *field hockey*, labor and delivery nurse, Sentara RMH, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Jackson Maust** '09, *soccer*, physical therapist, Augusta Health, Fishersville, Va.; captain and life member of Harrisonburg Rescue Squad, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Katie Lehman Maust** '09, *soccer*, emergency department RN, Sentara RMH / Paramedic and training lieutenant, Harrisonburg Rescue Squad, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Sylvia Mast** '19, *soccer*, ED technician, Sentara RMH and EMT, Harrisonburg Rescue Squad, Harrisonburg, Va. // **R.J. Ocampo** '19, *volleyball*, EMT, Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad, Virginia Beach, Va. // **Nolan Prock** '12, *volleyball*, veterinarian, Healthy Pets Veterinary Care, Boca Raton, Fla. // **Martin Pou** '20, *volleyball*, assistant to the practice manager, Shenandoah Valley Gastroenterology, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Laura Rittenhouse** '20, *soccer*, CCU RN, UVA Hospital, Charlottesville, Va. // **Laura Rosenberger** '03, *track and field*, surgeon, associate professor of surgery, Duke University Medical Center, Chapel Hill, N.C. // **Laurie Serrell** '19, *cross country/track and field*, RN with Spanish interpreters training, Sentara RMH, Harrisonburg, Va. // **Juni Schirch Sauder** '16, *cross country/track and field*, athletics testing coordinator, spring semester, EMU // **Rachel Sturm** '18, *soccer/track and field*, RN, UVA Medical ICU/Special Pathogen ICU, Charlottesville, Va. // **Brent Yoder** '12, *soccer*, physical therapist and co-owner of Yoder Physical Therapy and Wellness in Sarasota, Fla.



Libya's Foreign Minister Najla Mohamed El-Mangoush MA '15 (conflict transformation) makes a joint press statement with her European counterparts French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, and Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio in Tripoli, Libya on March 25, 2021. The lawyer and human rights activist was named foreign minister March 10. El Mangoush studied restorative justice as a Fulbright Scholar at EMU's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding with her advisor, Professor Howard Zehr. She is also a trainer in the Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) program. (Photo by Hazem Turika/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images)

MILEPOSTS

FACULTY AND STAFF

This list is a small sampling of faculty and staff activities during spring semester 2021.

Sarah Ann Bixler '02, instructor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, graduated with a PhD in practical theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in May. Also in May, she was named incoming associate dean and assistant professor of formation and practical theology to the seminary.

Shannon W. Dycus, dean of students, is chair of the worship planning committee for MennoCon21, this summer's annual conference of Mennonite Church USA.

Marti Eads, professor of English, has been appointed a mentor for the Lilly Graduate Fellows program. Her partner in the 3-year project (partners are always male and female from different Christian traditions) is Professor Charles Strauss from the Catholic-affiliated Mount St. Mary's University. Marti is the faculty member appointed to the program from a Mennonite institution. Alumni **Donovan Tann** '08, a professor at Hesston College (Kansas) and **Michael Spory** '11, an architect, both participated in the Lilly Graduate Fellows program.

David Evans, director of cross-cultural programs and professor of history and intercultural studies at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, gave a virtual colloquium in January on "Damned Whiteness! White Christian Race Relations in the Black Freedom Era." His current

research project investigates the practices of white Christian agrarian pacifist resistance to Jim Crowism in the context of Black freedom activism.

Jerry Holsopple, professor of visual and communication arts, was awarded a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. He and co-applicant **Rebecca Slough**, academic dean emerita at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will use the funds for a collaborative project that looks at visual forms of Anabaptist worship.

Timothy Seidel, professor of international development and director of EMU's Center for Interfaith Engagement, moderated the Diverse Faith Perspectives on Nonviolence event, part of the Day of Unity, sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington. The day is an annual, coordinated time of local interfaith grassroots action and community building around the DC metro area.

Daniel Showalter, professor of mathematics, was the 2021 winner of the John M. Smith Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching from the Mathematical Association of America, Maryland-DC-Virginia region. He will be the region's nominee for the national Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Rick Yoder '69, professor emeritus of business and economics, spoke at the 2021 National War Tax Resistance online gathering in March.

Honorees of the 2021 Excellence in Teaching Awards were **Marti Eads**, professor of language and literature, (tenure track), **Leah Kratz**, professor of accounting (pre-tenure assistant professor), and **Robert Curry**, adjunct, music (non-tenure track). The selection process began with nominations from the campus community, reviewed by a committee appointed by the Faculty Senate.

UNDERGRADUATE

1940-49

Violet Troyer Miller '46, Hesston, Kan., is retired from her career as a registered nurse.

1950-59

John Hostetler '51, Rockingham, Va., is retired after a 50-year career in community pharmacy.

Charles Sherk '51, Columbus, Ohio, is retired from his career as a missionary with the Mennonite Board of Missions (now Mennonite Mission Network). He participates in congregational life at Columbus Mennonite Church, and over the years has made multiple visits to a church in Japan.

Cliff Lind '56, Harrisonburg, Va., is retired from a career as a teacher and principal. He has volunteered with Mennonite Disaster Service, Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center, and Gift & Thrift. Cliff is married to **Hope Kauffman Lind** '57.

Margaret Wyse '56, Bradenton, Fla., is retired after many years in missions. She

served in Peru, South Africa and five countries in East Africa, from 1965-2002, with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

1960-69

Carolyn Hartzler Conley '61, Yorktown, Va., is retired from her career as a registered nurse.

Norma Martin Kaufman '61, Goshen, Ind., is retired from a 52-year nursing and nursing instruction career with Goshen Health Hospice and Home Health.

Paul Kratz '61, Rockingham, Va., is now retired after years of service in education and ministry. He taught middle school and also pastored at Staunton, Zion Hill, and Mount Clinton Mennonite churches. Paul was also a missionary to Guyana and Trinidad with Virginia Mennonite Missions; an overseer in the Virginia Mennonite Conference's Central District; and a speaker on Way to Life Broadcast.

Harold Kraybill '61, Lebanon, Pa., has retired from a career as a psychiatry specialist, but maintains his medical licensure. He volunteers with the Lebanon Free Clinic and the family support group No Longer Alone, and is involved in amateur radio. He is married to **Esther Emswiler Kraybill** '60.

Ron Roggie '61, Lowville, N.Y., is retired from his career as a coordinator of language arts at Carthage Central School.

Lydia Glick Samatar '61, Goshen, Ind., is a library assistant at Greencroft Communities, and a social studies and English language teacher.



10 ALUMNI WORKING IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD

Ten EMU alumni working in various environmental careers shared their experiences and best advice to undergraduates in a panel series this spring titled "What's Next?" **Hannah Daley '17** is pursuing a doctorate degree from the University of Maryland's Atmospheric and Oceanic Science program. Her current research is on air quality, including the environmental effects of reduced traffic as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Braden Herman '18** is in graduate studies in natural resources and fisheries biology at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Ca. He previously did an internship with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. **Amanda Williams '18** graduated from the University of Delaware and is now working with their Citizen's Monitoring Program. Williams has experience in both environmental monitoring and public outreach. **Bryce Yoder '15** works for the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the USDA through the regional Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley. **Alex Wynn '14** works as a consultant with a small environmental contracting company that owns and operates water and wastewater treatment facilities. **Sam Stoner '16** has worked as a sustainability coordinator at Mary Baldwin University, and with a local solar energy company. Stoner is currently enrolled in the master's program in digital media at James Madison University. **Jesse Reist '16** is helping to start a local CSA and farm called Huckleberry Hollow Farm, and also works at Massanutten ski resort, where he is developing their sustainability plan. **Clara Weybright '20** works with the MCC Washington office on climate advocacy, and is applying to law school. **Laura Cattell Noll '09** went to graduate school at the University of Virginia, has worked on various public outreach and education projects, and currently works with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. **Jakob zumFelde '11** has a master's degree in city and regional planning, and currently works for the city of Harrisonburg on public sustainability efforts. (Courtesy photo)

Ellen Kauffman Yoder '61, Plain City, Ohio, is retired from her career as an elementary school teacher and school librarian in Missouri, where she and her husband Kevin raised their two children on a farm. Ellen earned her master's degree in education in 1971 and her master's degree in library science in 1981.

Rachel Horst Witmer '62, Alliance, Ohio, is a retired nurse, and now teaches Sunday school and Bible school at Beech Mennonite Church. In September 2020, she and her husband James received a Regional Journey Award from Everence Financial in recognition of their lifelong support of Christian education, medical service and church agencies.

David D. Yoder '62, Harleysville, Pa., received a Regional Journey Award from Everence Financial in September 2020. David was recognized for his service to Virginia Mennonite Missions and to Quakertown Christian School, where he formerly served as director of development and a board member.

Merle G. Cordell '65, Chambersburg, Pa., taught in the public schools and pastored Marion Mennonite Church in Chambersburg.

Luke Beidler '65, Norristown, Pa., is retired. He was a pastor in the Franconia Conference and an urban church pastor in Norristown, Pa. He also served missions in Vietnam and Indonesia. He and his wife, **Dorothy Godshall Beidler '65**, attend Methacton Mennonite Church.

Lee Roy Berry, Jr. '66, Goshen, Ind., is an attorney and is retired from teaching political science at Goshen College. Lee gave a chapel presentation at the Mennonite Church USA offices in Elkhart about how he joined the Mennonite Church and his upbringing as the Black child of migrant farm workers. His words were also shared in a February article in *Anabaptist World*. Lee is a member of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church.

Edie Shirk Bontrager '66, Harrisonburg, Va., is retired. She and her husband, **Ed Bontrager '63**, reside at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, where Edie volunteers in visual arts and design.

Leon and Elaine Wenger Good '66, Lititz, Pa., are both retired. Elaine volunteers at Landis Homes, coordinates a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) project making comforters, and serves on the environmental action group. Her favorite pandemic activity is reading with her grandchildren every day on the phone. Leon volunteers at MCC's Resources Center in Ephrata.

Goldie Showalter Huber '66, Atmore, Ala., is a retired educator. A member of Grace Fellowship, she volunteers with women's ministries and mentoring; sponsors two children with Compassion International; and helps to support a local pastor in ministry in India. She also participates in a yearly Read-A-Thon fundraiser for We Care Prison Ministry and volunteers with Sav-A-Life Escambia County, a program of the Women's Resource Center based in Mobile, Ala..

Douglas Hostetter '66, Valley Cottage, N.Y., is the United Nations representative for Pax Christi International, a Catholic peace movement with 120 member organizations worldwide that promotes peace, respect of human rights, justice, and reconciliation. He also serves as a peace pastor at Evanston Mennonite Church in Illinois.

Mary Lou Weaver Houser '66, Lancaster, Pa., is a self-employed spiritual director and artist, and is retired from her career as an art educator. Mary Lou is involved with the Lan-

caster Downtowners, Lancaster Tree Tenders, Gardens Gone Native Club, and the Sacred Grounds program of the National Wildlife Federation. She is also the designer and lead gardener at the Wolf Museum of Music and Art and co-director of the Parrot Gallery at Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster. She is married to **Rod Houser '65**.

Doris Kolb '66, Lancaster, Pa., is a retired community health nurse. She began her career in Augusta County, Va., before spending 30 years working for the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Glenn Lehman '66, Leola, Pa., is the director of music at Harmonies Workshop, a nonprofit music ministry committed to creating new Christian music resources for the global church through performance, resource development, leadership training, and product creation.

Lois Moyer Longenecker '66, Elkhart, Ind., is retired from her career as an assistant librarian at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She volunteers by piecing quilt tops for Mennonite Central Committee comforters, and previously volunteered with the MCC SOOP (short-term service opportunity) program and at a seminary library in Costa Rica. Lois is married to **Alton Longenecker '68**.

Verda Mayer '66, San Antonio, Texas, is a retired registered nurse. She volunteers at Morningside Ministries Nursing Home, hosts weekly Bible studies, and is involved in neighbor outreach.

Herb Myers '66, Keezletown, Va., is retired from a career in medicine. He is married to **Sarah Bucher Myers '67**.

Ken Nissley '66, Lancaster, Pa., is retired. He serves on the boards of Advoz, a restorative justice and community mediation center, and Lancaster Downtowners, a virtual village supporting seniors who choose to age in place. He is also a volunteer facilitator for a victim-offender conferencing program. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking in his garage woodshop.

Eugene Shelly '66, Chambersburg, Pa., is retired from his Manhattan-based clinical practice as a psychotherapist and marriage counselor. He continues to train other therapists in imago relationship therapy, a form of relationship and couples therapy that focuses on transforming conflict into healing and growth through relational connection. In 2015, he and his wife, **Martine Stauffer Shelly '65**, moved to Menno Haven Continuing Care Community in Chambersburg.

Norma Newcomer Strawbridge '66, Lancaster, Pa., is retired and has four grandchildren.

Alvin Swartzentruber '66, Danville, Pa., is retired from his career as a medical technologist for Geisinger Medical Center. He serves as an elder at Community Mennonite Fellowship, is a hobby woodworker, and has 10 grandchildren, including EMU student **Noah Swartzentruber**.

Mary Ellen Groff Dula '67, Lancaster, Pa., is a retired nurse. She does pastoral visitation for Blossom Hill Mennonite Church and is the recording secretary for Vision Care Ethiopia. In September 2020, Mary Ellen and her husband, Mamo, received a Regional Journey Award from Everence Financial in recognition of their community service in the United States and Ethiopia.

1970-79

Sharon Showalter-Harman Bowers '71, Harrisonburg, Va., is a home economics educa-

tor. She has served on several boards and is a member of a women's Bible study.

Robert Eby '71, Scottdale, Pa., is a behavioral health counselor with Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc.

Kay Dietzel Erb '71, Weaverville, N.C., is in her 27th year as retail supervisor at Ruth's Attic Bookstore at the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville. Previously, she taught in public and private schools and homeschooled her three children.

Kenneth Fellenbaum '71, Milford, Conn., is a semi-retired pastor with Wildermere Beach Congregational Church. He is also a trustee at the Milford Cemetery.

Loren Horst '71, Linville, Va., is retired from a career in church and mission leadership. Loren is married to **Earlene Yutzky Horst '72**.

Marcia Schmidt Horst '71, Hagerstown, Md., is retired from her 43-year career as a nurse with Meritas Medical Center. She is involved with World Treasures and leads worship and children's stories at Hebron Mennonite Church. Marcia is married to **Marv Horst '71**.

Ruth Stoltzfus Jost '71, Harrisonburg, Va., is retired from her career as a lawyer and the director of Blue Ridge Legal Aid. In 2020, she started the COVID-19 Compassion Release Project to help eligible incarcerated individuals qualify for early release during the pandemic.

Mel Lehman '71, New York, N.Y., is the director of Common Humanity, a nonprofit organization based in New York City which seeks to build understanding, respect and friendship with the Middle East and Muslim world.

Gerry Meck '71, Lititz, Pa., is a consultant with North Group. He volunteers on nonprofit boards and a church committee.

Fannie Bomberger Miller '71, Manheim, Pa., is a retired registered nurse with the University of Virginia. She is involved in prison ministry for refugee women and the clothing bank and children's ministry at Landisville Mennonite Church. Fannie is married to **Richard Miller '70**.

Charles Nafziger '71, La Junta, Colo., is a retired registered nurse anesthetist. He volunteers at his local recycling center.

Sharon Kurtz Nusbaum '71, Norfolk, Va., is retired. She is the president of the board of directors for Virginia Supportive Housing. The nonprofit provides permanent housing and supportive services for homeless adults in Richmond, Hampton Roads and Charlottesville. Sharon is also first vice president of Ohof Shalom Temple in Norfolk, and previously served on the board of the Women's Auxiliary.

Rachel Snively Rader '71, Mill Creek, W.Va., is a retired teacher. She has served on the board of the Russell Memorial Public Library, volunteered at Beverly Elementary School, and assisted with hammered dulcimer and lap dulcimer classes at the Elkins Senior Center. After retirement, she also traveled to Switzerland to visit family.

Nancy Horst Vance '71, Lakeland, Fla., is a nursing instructor at South Florida State College.

John S. Weber '71, Lititz, Pa., is retired after 31 years in education. He taught social studies at Lancaster Mennonite High School for nine years and served as principal of Kraybill Mennonite School for 21 years. In 2007, John rode a tandem bike across the country with his spouse, **Janet Weber '98**.

Bruce Yoder '71, Richmond, Va., is retired and a volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

David Kraybill '75, Brentwood, Md., is a professor emeritus at the Ohio State University's Center for African Studies. His recent research includes studies of household poverty, household savings, governmental decentralization, primary and secondary education, and adaptation to climate change. He has been a consultant advisor to the World Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, Southeast Consortium for International Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and numerous governments and other organizations.

Reba Showalter Brunk '76, Dayton, Va., is a registered nurse at Heartland Health Clinic and Sentara RMH. She also teaches CPR and first aid, and leads a support group for new mothers. Reba is married to **Raymond Brunk '61**.

Deborah Beachy Canepa '76, Sherwood, Ore., is an emeritus professor of biology at Linfield College. She volunteers with the local food pantry and serves on the board of Oregon Right To Life. Deborah also is a deacon at Faith Journey Church.

Sandra Cleaver '76, Clear Brook, Va., is retired from her healthcare career at City Hospital, Inc. in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Carol Weaver Eberly '76, Rockingham, Va., is "mostly" retired. She is a vaccinator for COVID vaccine clinics through the Medical Reserve Corps, helps conduct community flu shot clinics for Emergicare, and leads various children's programs at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. Carol is married to **Wendell Eberly '75**.

Earl Gingerich '76, Iowa City, Iowa, is a field service engineer and medical technologist with the instrumentation laboratory at the University of Iowa. Earl is also a representative for Mennonite Disaster Service.

Mary Lou Wagner Grant '76, Dallas, Pa., is a registered dietician. She is a Pennsylvania Master Gardener and is involved with the Back Mountain Memorial Library and Back Mountain Bloomer Garden Club.

Carolyn Grasse '76, Harrisonburg, Va., is retired after teaching for four years at Bridgewater College and 15 years at Penn State Harrisburg. She now works for a home health agency.

Phil Helmuth '76, Harrisonburg, Va., received a Scholars Latino Initiative Service Award in recognition of his eight years with the organization, which included terms as chair and treasurer. Phil is a coordinator for early response and rebuilding efforts with Mennonite Disaster Service, focusing on Hurricanes Laura and Delta in Louisiana.

Ann Graber Hershberger '76, Linville, Va., is the executive director of Mennonite Central Committee U.S., and is professor emerita of nursing at EMU. Ann is married to **Jim Hershberger '82**.

Dave King '76, Rockingham, Va., is the director of athletics at EMU. He is married to **Deb Glick King '77**.

Dale Lehman '76, Broadway, Va., is the founder and co-owner of Lehman Construction Group. He is married to **Rita Brenneman Lehman '76**, who is a retired nurse.

Linda Eberly Miller '76, Harrisonburg, Va., is a psychiatric nurse practitioner with the Suitcase Clinic, a mobile organization that provides healthcare to the local homeless population. She is also involved in creation care initiatives at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. Linda is married to **Elroy Miller '75**.



INTRODUCTIONS IN JUBA

Samuel Gbaydee Doe MA '98 (conflict transformation), Bronx, N.Y., is the United Nations Development Programme's resident representative to South Sudan. Previously, he served as the resident representative to Sierra Leone. Above he presents his credentials Jan. 18, 2021, to Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Beatrice Khamisa Wani in Juba. (Courtesy photo)



NEW LEADERSHIP AT EVERENCE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Three alumni were involved in leadership transitions at Everence Federal Credit Union. From left: **Leonard Dow '87**, Philadelphia, Pa., is the new vice president of community and church development, leading the company's efforts to serve emerging diverse communities and churches that historically have been underserved. **Matt Gehman '09** has succeeded **W. Kent Hartzler '94** as president and CEO. Matt joined Everence in 2015, and most recently served as the credit union's chief lending officer. Kent began serving in the role in 2007 and is stepping down to become a lead consultant with the North Group in Lancaster, Pa. (Courtesy photos)



SOCCKER+ARTS+KIDS = SUCCESS

Katrina Hochstetler Owens '00, Washington D.C., was chosen as the next executive director of DC SCORES in March. She was previously chief of staff at the nonprofit, which provides children in the city with opportunities in sports, arts, service, and academic success. While teaching in the DC public schools, Katrina joined DC SCORES in 2003 as a coach. Four years later, she came on staff to launch the middle school program and then served as senior director of programs from 2011-15. (Courtesy photo)



EMU'S 2021 RETIREES

EMU honored seven retiring faculty and staff members:

- **Tony Brenneman**, structural services supervisor with Facilities Management, 15 years;
- **Kenton T. Derstine '72**, associate professor of supervised ministry/ACPE certified educator, 21 years;
- **Mike Downey**, head athletic trainer, 25 years;
- **Judy K. Leaman '79**, business office cashier, Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir manager, 16 years;
- **Barry Hart MDiv '78**, professor of trauma, identity and conflict studies, 24 years;
- **Kimberly D. Schmidt**, director of the Washington Community Scholars' Center and professor of history, 22 years;
- **Lonnie D. Yoder**, professor of pastoral care and counseling, 30 years.

Donna Rutt Siegrist '76, Elizabethtown, Pa., has retired from careers in nursing and as director and associate pastor of women's ministries at Mount Joy Mennonite Church. She is married to **Marvin Siegrist '77**.

Martha Johns Wunch '76, Louisa, Va., is a retired school nurse and currently works as an instructional aide at Providence Presbyterian Preschool. She volunteers with Louisa Resource Council's food pantry and with the Goochland Cares food pantry and medical clinic. She is an elder at Providence Presbyterian Church in Gum Spring.

Phil Yoder '76, Elkhart, Ind., is a senior pastor at First Mennonite Church of Middlebury. He did mission work in Moldova between 2001 and 2014 through the Akron, Pa.-based organization Cross Links.

Ethan Zook '76, Rockingham, Va., is retired from his career as a school psychologist with Harrisonburg City Public Schools. He is the director of support services for the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir, a genealogical researcher, and a theater construction volunteer for Harrisonburg High School and Eastern Mennonite School. He is also a special projects volunteer, teacher, choir member, oboist, and organist at Park View Mennonite Church. Ethan has completed five marathons, with plans to run his third Boston Marathon this October.

1980-89

Nyla Blosser Barrett '81, Akron, Ohio, is a case management supervisor at Direction Home Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities. She and her husband, Patrick, started the non-denominational Community of Christ Church almost 30 years ago. The church runs a recovery services program for those seeking sobriety, and they recently opened their third recovery house.

Jayne Speigle Byler '81, Johnstown, Pa., is a pastor at Stahl Mennonite Church.

Samuel Glick '81, Pekin, Ill., is a retired high school science teacher. In 2018 and 2019, Samuel and his wife, Jean, were hosts of the International Guest House in Washington, D.C.

Dan Hooley '81, Canton, Ohio, has pastored at the First Mennonite Church of Canton for 29 years, in addition to doing five years of transitional pastor work. He is also in his 26th year of involvement with Lighthouse Ministries of Canton, whose mission is supporting families by walking alongside the youth in southeast Canton. Dan and his wife, **Julia A. Stauffer Hooley '80**, run the Pleasant View Farmhouse in North Lawrence, which can be booked through AirBnB.

Jo Histand Martin '81, Souderton, Pa., is working on developing a small business. She serves on the board of directors of the Alliance of Hazardous Material CyberChapter and on the microcredential task force for the Institute of Hazardous Material Management Microcredential. Her volunteer work includes helping at the Mennonite Central Committee thrift store and the Hands-In-Service Common Good ministry with Mosaic Mennonite Conference. She is also a delegate for Blooming Glen Mennonite Church. She is married to **Conrad Martin '80**.

Judy Reimer Nafziger '81, Champaign, Ill., is a registered nurse at Carle Foundation Hospital. She is married to **Ken L. Nafziger '79**.

Lorena Rosen Suter '81, Orlando, Fla., is a school social worker for Orange County Public Schools.

Bob Troyer '81, Lincoln, Neb., is a self-employed mental health practitioner and counselor. Previously, he was a Mennonite pastor for 20 years and a chaplain at Bryan Hospital and Horizon Hospice for seven years.

Ruth Ann Swartz Welty '81, McDonough, Ga., is a clinical social worker for U.S. Renal Care, and volunteers as a missions coordinator for McDonough First United Methodist Church.

Darrell Yoder '81, Lancaster, Pa., is self-employed as a magician and storyteller known as "Doc Yoder." He is a retired teacher. Darrell is married to **Sylvia Weaver Yoder '81**, a registered nurse case manager with Hospice and Community Care in Lancaster.

Nelson Yoder '81, Narvon, Pa., is a pastor at Pilgrims Mennonite Church in Akron, Pa., and a clinical social worker at Wellspan Philhaven. He is married to **Pat Shoemaker Yoder '79**.

Jane Groff Wise '84, Denver, Pa., is a self-employed artist. Jane paints watercolors and is a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society. Previously, she homeschooled her children, and volunteered with the Five-pointville Fire Company's Women's Auxiliary and The Lord's Fair Share food wagon.

Melanie Delagrance Haas '85, Newport News, Va., was honored with a Milestone Award from the Peninsula Sports Club in recognition of her coaching and support of field hockey for more than 30 years.

Loren Hostetter '85, Nairobi, Kenya, is the coordinator of markets and private sector linkages at Canadian Food Grains Bank in East Africa. On a recent trip to Harrisonburg to visit family, he worked with four Eastern Mennonite School students to reintroduce the American Chestnut tree on a plot of land owned by his family in Hopkins Gap.

Mary Linde '85, San Francisco, Calif., began as CEO of Heritage on the Marina in March. She has more than 20 years of experience in the field of aging, most recently as executive director of St. Paul's Towers in Oakland, Calif.

Amy L. Rosenberger '85, Philadelphia, Pa., was recognized among the "2021 Women Leaders in the Law" by legal media publisher ALM. She is an attorney at the law firm Willig, Williams & Davidson, where she represents labor unions and workers in government service, education, transportation, health care, and other sectors.

Keith Blank '86, Lancaster, Pa., is a licensed realtor with Coldwell Banker and a bishop for the Landisville-Manor District.

Joyce Brenneman Gross '86, Nampa, Idaho, is a Title I paraprofessional with Nampa School District.

Kathy Farrell Hurst '86, Lancaster, Pa., teaches three-year-olds at Neffsville Christian Preschool.

Cindy Lapp '86, Mount Rainier, Md., is the lead pastor of Hyattsville Mennonite Church and a community chaplain for the Hyattsville City Police. She sings with the Washington Women's Chorale.

Audrey Shenk '86, Harrisonburg, Va., is a systems librarian at EMU. She is also the treasurer of the Rockingham Bird Club, treasurer of Zion Mennonite Church, secretary of the Northfield Estates Homeowners Association Board of Directors, and secretary of the Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Board of Directors.

Earl Zimmerman '86, Rockingham, Va., is retired. He is involved in climate action organizing as well as theological and pastoral

CREATIVE WORKS



The Red Pop Beads (Masthof Press, 2021) by **Vi Dutcher**, professor of rhetoric and composition, is a children's book of grief, loss and hope. Vi contributed to an April panel hosted by EMU on the topic of empowering children's literature for challenging times.



Esther Harder '03 shared her book *Quarantine Kids* (Roaming Pen Press, 2020) in an April panel hosted by EMU on the topic of empowering children's literature for challenging times." She holds an MFA in Children's Writing from Chatham University.



D. Paul Mishler '65, Rileyville, Va., self-published his first book: *The Aroma of Love: A Memoir*, "offering glimpses of life's experiences as educator, pastor, husband, sibling, father and friend." If interested in purchasing a copy, contact **crossroads@emu.edu**.



Entrepreneur and former Royals basketball star **George Johnson '11** penned *Double Crossed*, a self-published memoir available on Amazon about his rise from a childhood in Richmond to family challenges and his current success with several businesses.



Jill Landis Jha '99 MA '10 (conflict transformation) is the author of *Tickle Trouble* (Ladderworks LLC, 2021), a children's book about an interplanetary journalist named Spiffy and adventures in the Garden of Goo.



Sara Wenger Shenk '75, Waynesboro, Va., has published *Tongue-Tied; Learning the Lost Art of Talking About Faith* (Herald Press, 2021). She is president emerita of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and a former dean and professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.



D.J. Mitchell MDiv '19 helps non-addicts better understand the nature of drug and alcohol abuse and how to help those who are addicted with *The Soul of an Addict: Unlocking the Complex Nature of Addiction* (Alma James Publishing, LLC, 2020). The book blends statistics, anecdotes from addicts, and the author's personal experience.



Roland Lee England '72 has published *Worthy is the Lamb: The Book of Revelation as a Drama* (WestBow Press, 2020). He is a pastor at the United Church of Christ: Christian Community at St Paul's in Hillsboro, Va. and holds a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.



Michael Miller '82 is the author of the children's book *My Visit with Mama in Heaven* (Covenant Books, 2020). Michael teaches private music lessons and is retired from teaching in the Frederick County Public Schools.



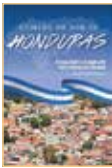
Adam Starks '03 has published his second book. *Love Will Find Your Home* (Fulton Books, 2020) is an "adult children's book" about the challenges some children face before entering foster care, and is based on his own experiences in the foster care system.



Cheree Hammond, professor of counseling, published a new textbook *Diagnostic Essentials of Psychopathology: A Case-Based Approach* (SAGE Publications, 2021).



Phoebe Kilby MA '04 (conflict transformation) and Betty Kilby Baldwin are the co-authors of *Cousins* (Walnut Street Books, 2021), a story of racial reconciliation and their work with Coming to the Table.



Don Clymer, emeritus professor of Spanish language and literature, captures his unique experiences as a conscientious objector in the memoir *Coming of Age in Honduras: A Young Adults Struggle with Faith, Poverty and Sexuality* (Masthof Press, 2020).



Listening to the Movement: Essays on New Growth and New Challenges in Restorative Justice (Cascade Books, 2021) is a new anthology inspired by a series of dialogues sponsored by the Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice. Former CJP professor **Carl Stauffer** is one of the book's editors. Contributors include **Kathy Evans**, professor of education, and CJP graduates **Valerie Luna Serrels MA '10** and **Barb Toews MA '00**.



FINAL “DINING A LA KING” COLUMN

Marshall King '92, Goshen, Ind., announced the publication of his final “Dining A La King” column in the April 5 issue of *The Goshen News*. Since its debut in April 2000 in *The Elkhart Truth*, Marshall estimates he’s penned approximately 1,000 more columns about food, dining and area restaurants. The 21-year run included publication in several local newspapers and online outlets. Marshall is now the director of communications and marketing for the Community Foundation of Elkhart County and nearing completion of a biography of M.J. Sharp, slated for publication in spring 2022 (read more about M.J. Sharp on page 33). Find past columns and keep up with Marshall's next endeavors at www.hungrymarshall.substack.com (Courtesy photo)



ARTISTS AT WORK

Professor **Cyndi Gusler's** oil paintings grace the walls of the counseling practices within an renovated 1910-era building on Main Street. // Also in Harrisonburg, an online art exhibit hosted by the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community called “Beyond Words” included works from four alumni and a former professor reflecting on grief, hope, and resurrected life. The early spring exhibit was curated by **Ashley Sauder Miller '03** and included **Rachel Kauffman Herr '04**, **Barbara Gautcher**, former professor of art, **Rhoda Miller '03**, **MA '20 (restorative justice)**, and **Keesha Esbenshade Dickel '00**. (Photo by Randi B. Hagi)

writing. He is also a Master Gardener and a member of Faith in Action. Earl is married to **Ruth Hoover Zimmerman '94**.

Tony Krabill '89, Goshen, Ind., hosts “All Things Considered” on WVPE, the local National Public Radio station serving southwestern Michigan and north-central Indiana. He first joined the station in 1997, and hosted Morning Edition from 2000-02, during which time he won the station a Best Radio Newscast Award from the Associated Press.

1990-99

Debra Gingerich '90, Sarasota, Fla., received the President's Award from JMX Brands, where she is the director of marketing. This is the second time in four years she has been presented with the award. One of her recent contributions was spearheading search engine optimization for the company's flagship Amish furniture website, dutchcrafters.com.

Bettina Martin Balmer '91, Big Creek, Ky., is a social service clinician working in child protection with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Phil Bergey '91, Lancaster, Pa., is a self-employed executive leadership coach and volunteers at Bridge of Hope. He is married to **Evon Swartzentruber Bergey '79**.

Duval Denlinger '91, Perkasie, Pa., is the owner of Heacock Lumber. He is married to **Tamara Hunsberger Denlinger '90**.

Linda Michael Edwards '91, Mount Solon, Va., is retired from a career in information and library services. She is involved with the Boy Scouts and Ruritan Club.

Barry Freed '91, Lebanon, Pa., is a missionary support team coach for Eastern Mennonite Missions.

Tina Martin Holderman '91, Chambersburg, Pa., is a third-grade teacher at Shalom Christian School. She earned an MEd in curriculum and instruction from Messiah College in 2017. Tina is married to **Paul Holderman '91**.

Jewel Mohler Horst '91, Akron, Pa., is a home care assistant for Landis Homes and a Bible adventure coordinator for Akron Elementary School.

Linda King '91, Hickory, NC, is a practice administrator at Viewmont Optometry. She is an elder and on the Outreach Committee at Northminster Presbyterian Church. She and husband Gregory VanBenschoten are involved in border issues and homeless crisis. They love to travel!

Jeff Landis '91, Sellersville, Pa., is self-employed as a lawyer.

Mark Mast '91, Broadway, Va., is on the board of directors for the Blue Ridge Free Clinic, serving low-income and uninsured area residents. He and others started the clinic in Harrisonburg after a previous free clinic in the area closed. Mark will also be a physician on the volunteer staff.

Ramona Shetler Nissley '91, Canton, Ohio, and husband **Darin Nissley '92** visited Darin's college roommate **Leon Kauffman Class of '92** in Condon, Mont., this past fall. Their second grandchild was born in February. Ramona is a labor and delivery nurse at Cleveland Clinic, Mercy Hospital. Darin is director of Lighthouse Ministries in their Canton neighborhood. The couple co-lead the junior high club, which has 8-10 student participants.

Jill Stoltzfus '91, Souderton, Pa., is the senior network director for St. Luke's University

Health Network in Bethlehem, where she also performs graduate medical education data management and outcomes assessment. She is also an associate professor of biostatistics at St. Luke's School of Medicine, Temple University. Jill has a doctorate in school community and child clinical psychology (1999) and a master's degree of education in psychological services (1995) from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Tisa Wenger '91, Hamden, Conn., is a professor of American religious history at Yale University.

Gina Hoover Breslin '92, Lititz, Pa., was among several women leaders highlighted in a social media campaign honoring Women's History Month by the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce. She works with North Group, a consulting firm. Her advice to young professional women appeared in a March Facebook post: “We are often tempted to think we're not quite ready for next level responsibility. We down play our skills and talents. We feel a twinge of uncertainty and don't raise our hand. As Carey Lohrenz, the First Female F-14 fighter pilot in the US Navy says, 'You've got to feel the fear and go for it anyway.' My encouragement to young women is to be courageous and confident. Take that first step... you might be surprised where it leads you.”

Lee Good '92, MA '15 (education), Harrisonburg, Va., oversaw four Eastern Mennonite School students reintroducing the American Chestnut tree on a mountain in Hopkins Gap. Lee formerly taught science at EMS.

Stacy Wray Atkins '93, Roanoke Rapids, N.C., opened the Mainspring Accounting firm.

Kirsten Nafziger Moore '93, Harrisonburg, Va., owner of Magpie Diner, earned the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce.

Melanie Grasse Anders '96, Telford, Pa., is a registered nurse with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Mary Joyce Guill '96, Roanoke, Va., is retired. She coordinates a community Bible study and volunteers with Gentle Shepherd Hospice Care and Agape. She is married to **Bobby Guill '68**.

Kenji Kaneko '96, Warsaw, Mo., is the owner of Sushi Ya Kaneko and serves on the athletics board of Applewood Christian School.

Tracy Huffman Myers '96, Grottoes, Va., is a teacher with Rockingham County Public Schools. She also volunteers at Patchwork Pantry and Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry. Tracy earned a master's degree in social science and restorative practices from the International Institute for Restorative Practices in 2017.

Phil Yoder '96, Leola, Pa., is the athletic director at Conestoga Christian School. He is also a United States Soccer Federation referee, and is married to **Stephanie Yoder '96**.

Gary Sommers '98, North Canton, Ohio, is the CEO of HRM Enterprises, which runs Hartville Hardware and other businesses. In January 2021, HRM Enterprises announced their acquisition of Lehman's, a historic hardware store in Kidron.

Meredith Zirkle '98, MA '03 (education), New Market, Va., was awarded an instructional grant of more than \$21,000 for a project titled “MERGE-ing Science and Math” through the Moore Educational Trust. Meredith teaches at Stonewall Jackson High School. The project enables the purchase of MERGE cubes, a 3D digital teaching tool with broad applications across the STEM fields.

2000-09

Phil Bergey '00, Chesapeake, Va., was named Teacher of the Year at Butts Road Intermediate School in the Chesapeake Public Schools. Phil teaches third grade and has taught for 21 years. He is a member of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Committee and the school's beautification committee.

Laura Harner '01, East Otis, Mass., is the operations supervisor at Hume New England Christian Camp.

Jill Hertzler Hostetter '01, Rockingham, Va., is a practice manager of operations at Heartland Dental and chair of the board of directors of Park View Federal Credit Union. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in business administration at Longwood University. Jill is married to **Obe Hostetter '00**.

Eric Rutt '01, Arlington, Mass., is an attorney with the Wolf Greenfield firm in Boston, which handles all aspects of intellectual property with a focus on patent prosecution and litigation. Eric gave a Suter Science Seminar at EMU in January.

Julie Schlegel Youngs '01, Lincoln, Neb., is a school counselor at Lincoln North Star High School.

Ben Stauffer '01, Nicholville, N.Y., is self-employed as a dairy farmer.

Melissa Stauffer '01, Portland, Ore., is a senior compliance consultant with Kaiser Permanente.

Angela J. Kratzer Zuercher '01, Apple Creek, Ohio, is a registered nurse at New Leaf Center in Mount Eaton. The small nonprofit clinic is dedicated to serving children with Amish, Mennonite, or Anabaptist ancestry who have special needs due to inherited disorders.

Benjamin Bowman '02, Harrisonburg, Va., is Teacher of the Year for J. Frank Hillyard Middle School in the Rockingham County Public Schools. He teaches special education.

Erik Kratz '02, Telford, Pa., retired from his professional baseball career last year and is now coaching middle school baseball at Dock Academy. His son Brayden, 14, is on the team, and **Kara Souder Derstine '01** is an assistant coach. Erik told the Daily News-Record in a March interview that he was also considering broadcasting or other coaching opportunities.

Caleb E. Ediger '03, El Dorado, Kan., was named the associate dean of health, education, and public services at Butler Community College.

Laura Horst Rosenberger '03, Chapel Hill, N.C., is a breast oncology surgeon and associate professor at Duke University Medical Center.

Daniel R. Brubaker '05, Stamford, Conn., is the conservation outreach manager for Greenwich Land Trust. Previously, he was a farm curator and environmental educator at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. Daniel holds a master's degree in natural resources from the University of New Hampshire.

April Gordon '06, Mount Crawford, Va., is a business administrator with Harrisonburg Presbyterian Church. She and husband Clay have two children.

Rachel Swartzendruber Jenner '06, MA '12 (education), Harrisonburg, Va., is the Teacher of the Year for Massanutten Technical Center in the Rockingham County Public Schools. She is a resource teacher and instructional coach.

Stephanie Good Rittenhouse '06, Harleysville, Pa., is employed at Weaver, Reckner & Reinhardt Dental Associates. She and husband Brandon have three children.

Alexis Sauder Rutt '06, MA '11 (education), Harrisonburg, Va., is an assistant professor of education at the University of Mary Washington. She earned a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction, concentrating in science education and TESOL, from the University of Virginia in 2020. Alexis is married to **Jason Rutt '06**, a school psychologist with Harrisonburg City Public Schools.

Marisa Clymer Shank '06, Harrisonburg, Va., is a school librarian with Harrisonburg City Public Schools. She spent three years in Nicaragua with MCC and holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Marisa is married to **Adam Shank '06**.

Philip Shirk '07, Newport, Ore., was awarded a two-year Presidential Management Fellowship and now works as a health scientist with the Virology, Surveillance and Diagnosis Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The fellowship is a training and leadership development program, administered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and designed as a “talent management system” to bring highly qualified personnel into government positions. Philip completed post-doctoral research in ecology at Oregon State University. He earned his doctorate at University of Florida, with a research focus around estimating population abundances of cryptic species and threats, particularly climate change, facing species in East Africa. Philip earned an MS in biology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Erica Yutzy Clymer '09, MA '11 (counseling), Harrisonburg, Va., has opened the private practice Ivy and Sage Therapy LLC. Erica is especially interested in offering support for postpartum depression, motherhood and identity building, and securing a healthy relationship with your body. She is married to **Mattias Clymer '11**.

Seth Thomas Crissman '09, Harrisonburg, Va., is leading the worship band that will participate in five daily evening services for MennoCon21, the annual conference of Mennonite Church USA. Seth is an educator, pastor, and writer/musician with the Walking Roots Band.

Matthew Gehman '09, Strasburg, Pa., has been appointed to lead Everence Federal Credit Union. He first joined Everence in 2015, and most recently served as the chief lending officer.

2010-19

Heidi Muller Hoover '10, Dayton, Va., was elected to the Dayton Town Council in 2020. Heidi is an attorney and runs Hoover Investigations & Consulting, LLC, which provides training and investigative services to educational institutions for Title IX-based offenses. She is also a client services associate at CT Assist in Harrisonburg.

Charlotte Wenger Boudreau '11, Medford, Mass., was a panelist at an EMU event on children's literature for stressful times this spring. Charlotte is a literary agent for New York-based Prospect Agency. She represents authors and illustrators of children's and young adult books and select authors of adult nonfiction memoirs and biographies.

Katie Cimini '11, Harrisonburg, Va., is a kindergarten teacher for Rockingham County Public Schools and coaches cross country and track & field at Eastern Mennonite High School.



EMHS THANKS RETIRING TEACHER

Elwood Yoder '81 has retired after 33 years teaching history and Bible classes at Eastern Mennonite School. His family joined him for a May 3, 2021, recognition at the school. From left to right, **Philip '15**, Elwood, his wife **Joy Risser Yoder '81**, daughter **Maria Yoder Billings '10** and son-in-law **Aaron Billings '09**, and two grandchildren. Unable to attend, his son **Nathaniel '08** lives in Kansas with his wife **Maggie Parker Yoder '08** and children. Elwood plans to focus full time on his loves of research, writing, and church history. He will partner with historian Steve Nolt to write a Virginia Mennonite history book, a joint project of the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians and the Virginia Mennonite Conference Historical Committee. (Courtesy photo)



PEACEBUILDER PODCAST SEASON 2

Patience Kamau MA '18 (conflict transformation), graduate recruitment and marketing social media coordinator, released Season Two of the Peacebuilder podcast this semester. Visit emu.edu/cjp/peacebuilder to find all the episodes. Her guests this season include **Vernon Jantzi**, director of academic programs at CJP; **Talibah Aquil MA '19**, instructor at CJP; **Tim Seidel**, director of the Center for Interfaith Engagement and professor of politics, development, and peacebuilding; and **Benjamin Bergey '11**, professor of music.



MODERATOR-ELECT OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Jon Carlson MDiv '21, CMS '17, was nominated moderator-elect of Mennonite Church USA (MCUSA). Carlson is a MCUSA Executive Board member, assistant moderator of Atlantic Coast Conference, and the lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa. Pending affirmation by delegates at the online MennoCon21 Delegate Assembly, Carlson will serve two years as moderator-elect and then two years as moderator and chair of the Executive Board, presiding over the 2025 MC USA Convention and Delegate Assembly. (Courtesy photo)



ROOMIES TALK SCIENCE

Laura Cattell Noll '09, Hyattsville, Md., and **Kelly Smucker '09**, Salem, Ore., former roommates, were co-lecturers for a Suter Science Seminar in March. Laura coordinates the Local Leader Workgroup of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and has more than a decade of experience in community-based watershed restoration and stewardship. Kelly is a pediatrician with healthcare network Kaiser Permanente. (Courtesy photo)

Travis A. Ebersole '11, Parrish, Fla., is a transitions coordinator and the assistant director of the Haven Academy, a nonprofit, private high school for students with a disability.

Anna Elizabeth Engle '11, Ibaraki, Osaka, Japan, teaches English at Setsunan University and Korean International School in Osaka. Anna holds a master's degree in TESOL from the University of Findlay.

Sheri Hoak Lamparter '11, Quarryville, Pa., is a hospitalist nurse practitioner at UPMC Pinnacle Health. She holds a master of science in nursing degree from Widener University.

Donnita Kuykendall Williams '11, Broadway, Va., is a substitute teacher for Rockingham County Public Schools. She is a farmer's wife and grandmother to 11 grandchildren.

Patrick Campbell '12, MA '14 (conflict transformation), Frederick, Md. is the senior emergency manager for emergency response and preparedness for Montgomery County. Patrick and his team on the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force were recently presented with a governor's citation for their Shepherds of Zion Feeding the Hungry program.

Jennifer Leaman Blosser '13, Harrisonburg, Va., is a family nurse practitioner at Waynesboro Primary Care. Last year, she earned her master of science in nursing degree with a specialty in family medicine from the University of Virginia.

Corben Weaver Boshart '13, Archbold, Ohio, is a minister at Zion Mennonite Church and co-host of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast.

Owen Longacre '13, Harrisonburg, Va., is a social studies teacher and coach at Spotswood High School in Rockingham County. In December 2020, Owen earned a National Board Teaching Certification.

Jake Wheeler '14, Rockingham, Va., is a history teacher at Thomas Harrison Middle School in Harrisonburg.

Joshua Lomas '15, Mt. Hope, W.Va., is a college success coach at West Virginia University's Institute of Technology in Beckley. In this role, Joshua helps guide first-generation students through their college experience, from FAFSA applications to graduation. He earned a master's degree in education from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania in 2019.

Cindy Knott Cummings '16, Mount Solon, Va., is a registered nurse working in dialysis for DaVita Kidney Care.

Melissa Jantzi '16, Washington D.C., is a nurse at Christ House, a long-term respite clinic for men experiencing homelessness. Before accepting this position, Melissa spent a year in Zambia with Mennonite Central Committee's Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program.

Amanda Cabbage Lanier '16, Stanley, Va., owns a hair salon.

Karisa Martin '16, Leola, Pa., is a medical social worker at Wellspan Health. Karisa holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Austin Mumaw '16, Harrisonburg, Va., is a fifth-grade teacher at Spotswood Elementary School in Harrisonburg.

Lauren Sauder '16, Washington D.C., is owner of The Yarn Addict Co.

Caleb Schlabach '16, Harrisonburg, Va., is a mortgage loan advisor at Park View Federal

Credit Union. Before this promotion, he was a member advisor at the credit union.

Kristy Byers Wertz '16, Penn Laird, Va., is a hospital services administrator at DaVita Kidney Care. She is currently pursuing a master of science in nursing degree at Western Governors University.

Hannah Daley '17, Lothian, Md., is pursuing a doctoral degree in atmospheric and oceanic science from the University of Maryland.

Quinn Kathrineberg '17, Memphis, Tenn., completed her master's degree in urban education from Union University through the Memphis Teacher Residency program. Quinn is a high school English teacher with Shelby County Schools.

Eli Wenger '17, State College, Pa., is a fourth-year doctoral student in chemistry at Penn State. He is affiliated with the Bollinger-Krebs lab, which uses a variety of kinetic and spectroscopic techniques to characterize the intermediate stages of chemical reactions inside living organisms. He has been elected to his second term on the Chemistry Graduate Student Association leadership board. Eli is the treasurer of the board and served as the vice president last year. He is also the coordinator of the Lion Lecture Series, a venue for older grad students from all subdisciplines within chemistry to give a "practice defense" in an informal setting.

Rachel Breidigan Hartzler '18, Meyers Cave, Va., works in labor and delivery on the Family Birthplace unit at Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital. She is married to **Abe Hartzler '18**, associate director of advancement at Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Sarah Regan '18, Harrisonburg, Va., is the assistant director of auxiliary services at EMU. This spring, she acted in, ran the box office for, and planned COVID-safe seating for *Shrek the Musical!*

Melissa Aburas Michaels '19, Waynesboro, Va., is a charge RN for University of Virginia Hospital ambulatory clinics.

Austin Sachs '19, Harrisonburg, Va., is working towards a master's degree in applied economics at George Washington University. As part of his interest in creating more inclusive and prosperous communities and economies, he helps to promote the use of Ethyk, a free-to-use browser extension that helps consumers choose to patronize and support businesses that value sustainability. Austin serves as the treasurer of Shalom Mennonite Congregation, the treasurer of FairVote VA, and a manager of the Sustainability Alumni Network (SAN) Investing Collective, LLC.

2020-

Austin Engle '20, Harrisonburg, Va., is pursuing a doctorate in computer science at the University of Virginia. In 2020, he patented the "Garbage Grader," which he invented with **Ben Stutzman '20** for their engineering capstone.

Luke Samuel Hertzler '20, Wellman, Iowa, is a preschool paraeducator at Stewart School in Washington, Iowa. He is married to **Cassidy Hertzler '20**.

Ben Stutzman '20, Lancaster, Pa., is a software engineering intern with the company WebstaurantStore in Lancaster. In 2020, he patented the "Garbage Grader," which he invented with **Austin Engle '20** for their engineering capstone.

GRADUATE

Shawn Printz MBA '04, Shenandoah, Va., is the director of human resources for Harrison-

burg City Public Schools.

Beth Teachey MA '08 (education), Waynesboro, Va., was named Teacher of the Year for Waynesboro City Schools. She is an English teacher at Waynesboro Academy, an alternative high school.

Kim Dove MA '09 (education), Broadway, Va., was named Teacher of the Year for Wilbur Pence Middle School.

Joel Ballew MDiv '09, Keezletown, Va., is the executive director of Open Doors, a homeless shelter that many area church congregations cooperate to host. He formerly served as executive director of a camp and conference center in Pennsylvania.

Stephanie Knicely MA '11 (education), Bridgewater, Va., is the Teacher of the Year for Mountain View Elementary School in Rockingham County Public Schools. She is a Title 1 reading specialist.

Jenn Whorrall Turner MA '11 (education), Fishersville, Va., is an instructional coach with Staunton City Schools. She collaborated with EMU professor **Barbara Wheatley** on a research project exploring the power of books to help children deal with emotional needs and stresses. Their findings were published in the Virginia Association of Teachers of English's *Virginia English Journal* in winter 2020 and shared in a panel discussion at EMU this spring.

Adam Blagg MDiv '12, Harrisonburg, Va., is the pastor of Asbury UMC and leads Faith in Action, a consortium of faith communities working together on social justice issues.

Lisa Burnelli Knick MA '12 (education), Stephens City, Va., was recognized as the VFW Teacher of Year for the elementary level by VFW Post 9760 in Berryville. Lisa teaches English language learners and pre-kindergarten students in the Clarke County Public Schools.

Jonathan McRay MA '13 (conflict transformation), Keezletown, Va., is EMU's sustainability and social justice curriculum consultant and the co-founder of Silver Run Forest Farm in Harrisonburg. Jonathan hosts practicum experiences for peacebuilding and development undergrads and CJP students at the farm.

Sarah Roth Shank '10, MA '14 (conflict transformation), Wellington, New Zealand, has completed her dissertation, titled "Institutionalizing Restorative Justice in New Zealand's Criminal Justice System," at the Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. Sarah also offers restorative justice trainings, workshops and case facilitation through Aspen Restorative Counseling.

Fabrice Guerrier MA '15 (conflict transformation), Coral Springs, Fla., is one of *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 honorees in the field of art and style for 2021. Fabrice is the founder of sci-fi and fantasy production house Syllble, which promotes and mentors Black and indigenous authors and other writers of color through a collaborative storytelling process.

Bridget Mullins MA '15 (conflict transformation), Pittsburgh, Pa., led a training on high-stakes mediation and facilitation as part of the Pennsylvania Council of Mediators annual conference in April with **David Brubaker**, dean of the school of social sciences and professions.

Valerie Meza-Cooper MA '16 (counseling), Waynesboro, Va., is an intensive in-home counselor with Family Preservation Services, Staunton region.

Jalal Maqableh MA '17 (conflict transformation), Amman, Jordan, has joined the

board of the Fairfield Center, which provides mediation and conflict resolution services, restorative justice programs, and trainings to enhance communication and improve joint decision-making.

Sabrina Burress MA '18 (counseling), Staunton, Va., is the co-founder and executive director of Augusta Resources for Resilience, Opportunity and Wellness, or ARROW. The nonprofit works to improve access to mental health services in Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro.

Laura Feichtinger McGrath GC '18 (restorative justice in education), New Market, Va., was presented with the United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County's "Bright Star Award" for her work as the director of English learner services and Title III at Harrisonburg City Public Schools.

D.J. Miller MDiv '19, Harrisonburg, Va., has started Healing Refuge Fellowship, a ministry in partnership with Virginia Mennonite Missions to help those struggling with substance addiction find physical, psychological and spiritual healing.

Corinne Rowland Gunter GC '20 (conflict transformation), Noblesville, Ind., founded Rise Up Woman International in 2020. The organization collaborates with community leaders and partners, including African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM), to empower and provide opportunities to women in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Kenya.

David M. Nyiringabo MA '20 (conflict transformation), Harrisonburg, Va., is a business development manager with World Vision U.S. He recently completed a program in filmmaking at the online Christian academy Tomorrow's Filmmakers.

MARRIAGES

Timothy Gascho '73 to Ginger, Twin Falls, Idaho, Nov. 14, 2020.

Carolyn Grasse '76 to Ronald G. King, Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 10, 2020.

Leah Ellen Ott '12 to Kyle Kniskern, Linden, Va., July 24, 2020.

Andrew Penner '14 to Jennifer Little, Fresno, Calif., Sept. 19, 2019.

Austin Mumaw '16 to Jana Wenger, Harrisonburg, Va., July 29, 2019.

Abe Hartzler '18 to **Rachel Breidigan '18**, Linville, Va., April 27, 2019.

Rachel Shenk '18 to **Andry Stutzman '18**, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 10, 2019.

Luke Hertzler '20 to **Cassidy Bontrager '19**, Wellman, Iowa, Aug. 1, 2020.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Ryan Good (professor and co-director of the Washington Community Scholars' Center) and Hannah Dueck, Hyattsville, Md., Ira Henry, May 21, 2020.

Jasmine Hardesty (director of development and planned giving) and Ashley Driver, Timberville, Va., Heath William, Jan. 14, 2021.

Brandon and Stephanie Good Rittenhouse '05, Harleysville, Pa. Landon Dale, July 17, 2020.

Bryce '06 and **Kristen Bergey**, Malvern, Pa., Alexander and Matthew, May 27, 2020.

Michael and Carlita Sue Schweitzer Sheldon '06, Harrisonburg, Va., Beckett Thomas, Nov. 23, 2020.



MARYLAND RISING STAR

Kevin Docherty '05, Baltimore, Md., was selected for his fifth consecutive recognition on the Super Lawyers' Maryland Rising Stars list. Kevin is a partner at the Brown, Goldstein & Levy law firm, where he represents individuals in civil rights litigation, employment disputes, and personal injury matters; and businesses and business people in ownership disputes, breach of contract actions, and other commercial litigation. He and **Rachel Weaver Docherty '03** live with their two children in Baltimore. (Courtesy photo)



CROSS-COUNTRY RIDE

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions is "Moving the Story" on climate issues with its Climate Ride this summer. For 59 days, 17 riders are cycling 3,737 miles from Seattle to Washington DC, stopping at communities along the way to hear and share stories of what climate change means to people across the nation. Trip leaders are **Joanna Friesen MDiv '21**, assistant triathlon and cross country coach, and **David Landis '05**, experienced cyclist and the founder of Village to Village Press, which publishes adventure travel guides and develops walking and biking trails. Riders include **Tyler Goss MDiv, MA '19** (conflict transformation), assistant director of student programs, and several current EMU students. (Courtesy photo)



HONORS FOR FACULTY

Each year, EMU honors faculty with the annual Excellence in Teaching Awards. Recipients for 2021 are:

- in the Tenured Faculty category, **Martha Greene Eads PhD**, professor of English,
- in the Pre-tenure Faculty category, **Leah Kratz '00**, assistant professor of business and leadership,
- in the Adjunct Instructor category, **Robert Curry**, adjunct music faculty and director of the jazz ensemble and wind ensemble.

Criteria include impact on students, effective teaching practices, subject knowledge and continual growth, including a commitment to professional and pedagogical development.



HONORS FOR STAFF

The Royal Awards are a new recognition of exemplary staff efforts, awarded twice each semester. The award comes with a golden EMU magnet and a gift certificate of one's choice. Nominations can be made by any university employee. Awardees for spring were **Beth Good '03**, director of intercultural programs who served as lead COVID contact tracer this year; **Tim Stutzman '95, MBA '18**, vice president for finance; **Joshua Lyons**, web analyst; and **Tyler Goss MDiv, MA '19 (conflict transformation)**, assistant director of student programs. Fall awardees were **Shannon Dycus**, dean of students; **Lauren Jefferson**, director of communications; **Nancy Heisey MDiv '94**, associate dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary; and **Jon Swartz MDiv, MA '14 (conflict transformation)**, director of residence life, student accountability, and restorative justice.

Mikaela Bender '08 and **Joel Landis '10**, Altadena, Calif., Brooks Avery, June 1, 2020.

Christopher '08 and **Eliza Barnhart Burkholder '09**, Salem, Ore., Brielle Katherine, Aug. 7, 2020.

Courtney Miller '08 and Dirk Miller, Harrisonburg, Va., Imogen Mae, Feb. 10, 2021.

Amanda Leigh Styer '08, MA '16 (counseling) and Ryan Arnold, Mount Sidney, Va., Runa Edith Styer, March 20, 2021.

Benjamin '11 (professor of music) and **Kate Nussbaum Bergey '10**, Harrisonburg, Va., Ezra Nussbaum, Feb. 6, 2021.

Jeffery and **Linda Cimini Boesch '11**, Pennsville, N.J., Christopher, June 11, 2020.

Jonathan Matthew '11 and **Kelly Elizabeth Brewer Dean '10**, Charlottesville, Va., Norah Grace, Aug. 24, 2020.

Mike and **Janelle Freed Duerksen '11**, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Enzo Henry, March 23, 2021.

Lance (facilities management staff) and **Kristin Nussbaum Wenger '11**, Rockingham, Va., Reagan Lynn, July 15, 2020.

Jake and **Cassie Leatherman Thoresen '11**, Sarasota, Fla., Stephen Caleb, Oct. 4, 2020.

Josh '12 and **Annie Diller King '14**, Rockingham, Va., Ezra David, Nov. 12, 2020.

Justin and **Erin Nussbaum Beeker '13**, Broadway, Va., Emma Sue, Dec. 7, 2020.

Tyler and **Michelle Miller Bocock '13**, Sarasota, Fla., Reagan Brynn, March 10, 2021.

Ryan '13 and Valeria **Eshleman-Robles**, Rockingham, Va., Matias Rubén, March 14, 2021.

Alex '16 and **Abby Dwyer Miller '16**, Sarasota, Fla., Mason Alexander, July 27, 2020.

DEATHS

Stella Knicely, former physical plant administrative secretary, Mount Crawford, Va., died Dec. 6, 2020, at 72. Stella retired from EMU in 2015 after nearly 23 years of service. She was a member of Dayton Mennonite Church.

Duane Michael Sider, former professor of church studies, Harrisonburg, Va., died Jan. 5, 2021, at 68. Duane led a life filled with family, music, travel, and a passion for teaching. After teaching at EMU, he finished his career with Rosetta Stone, serving as their learning director for 17 years. Duane also performed in a number of local productions with ShenanArts and Valley Playhouse, where he also served as board president.

Laban Peachey '52, MA '97 (religion), Harrisonburg, Va., died April 23, 2021, at 93. The former professor of psychology and dean of students at EMC was also president of Hesston College for 12 years, from 1968-80. After retirement, he served various pastoral assignments and taught at both EMU and the seminary. During these years he took great joy working with his cattle herd, fulfilling a lifelong love of nourishing, tending and caring for the earth and animals.

Samuel Levi Horst '49, Harrisonburg, Va., died Jan. 6, 2021, at 101. Samuel taught history at EMU for many years, and held a doctorate in history from the University of Virginia. He wrote and contributed to many books about Mennonite history and the experiences of Black people during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Helen Trumbo Shank '53, Harrisonburg, Va., died Nov. 10, 2020, at 95. Helen worked on the editorial staff of Mennonite Publishing House in Scottdale, Pa., for 20 years, taught English in Puerto Rico for two years, and taught second grade in Timberville, Va., for nine years. She loved music and sang in a number of groups, including a ladies' quartet which made a recording.

John Richard Martin '54, Harrisonburg, Va., died March 23, 2021, at 92. John pastored at Mennonite churches in Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania before serving on the faculty of EMU and Eastern Mennonite Seminary. He served on a number of denominational boards and programs, including Virginia Mennonite Conference, and wrote four books and several articles for various publications.

Gladys Lehman Buckwalter '56, Chambersburg, Pa., died Dec. 4, 2020, at 86. She was a member of the Marion Mennonite Church, and served with the Menno Haven Auxiliary for many years. She enjoyed golf, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Marie Keener Riehl '56, Lititz, Pa., died Feb. 3, 2021, at 86. As a person who had lupus for many years, she was active in helping other lupus patients and received multiple awards for her community service. Marie was a Christian dedicated to the cause of Christ and was active in several churches throughout her life.

Dorothy Yoder Shetler '56, Boswell, Pa., died Dec. 16, 2020, at 92. Dorothy served three missionary terms in Araguacema, Brazil between 1957 and 1971, where she delivered 150 babies. She later became the nursing supervisor and instructor for the school of nursing at Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital in Pennsylvania. She led hymns and participated in the ladies' sewing group at Blough Mennonite Church.

Mabel Jean Minnich Weaver '56, Ephrata, Pa., died Aug. 27, 2020, at 85. Jean taught elementary school in Ohio and Pennsylvania, but her main occupation was being a loving mother to her four children. Jean was an excellent piano player and vocalist, often sharing her gift of music with her students and church, and by singing around the piano with her family. She also loved to read and instilled this love in her children and grandchildren.

Joseph Grove '57, Hanover, Ontario, Canada, died Feb. 9, 2021, at 87. He was a dairy farmer and a faithful member of the Hanover Mennonite Church. Joseph was also an avid stamp collector. His wife, **Betty Schultz Grove '60**, died August 7, 2020, at 91. She cooked for a camp, a private hospital, and several nursing homes throughout her career, and worked on numerous projects for Mennonite Disaster Service and Habitat for Humanity.

Fae A. Miller '58, Orrville, Ohio, died April 5, 2021, at 97. Fae was a woman of faith and spent her life serving others. She served for some 35 years as a medical missionary in Somalia and South Sudan. After retiring from mission work, she worked in several Ohio hospitals, taught African Studies at Wayne College in Orrville and volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

John Robert "Bob" Ramer '61, Broadway, Va., died Jan. 28, 2021, at 86. He taught in public schools and at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Canada. Bob also served as chair of the business department at EMU, and then returned to NAIT to lead their business department. In 1987, he became the publisher of Mennonite Publishing House. He was a cowboy at heart who frequently told

stories of his days riding horses and corralling cattle on the Canadian prairies.

Lois Esther Mumaw Martin '65, Harrisonburg, Va., died March 1, 2021, at 86. Lois worked for Red Front Supermarket, Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, and Harnish Haus. She retired from State Farm as an administrative assistant. Lois played basketball at EMC and was an avid lifelong baseball fan.

Omar Eby '57, Harrisonburg, Va., died Jan. 4, 2021, at 85. Omar was a teacher of writing and literature and a friend and mentor to many aspiring authors. He taught at Lancaster Mennonite High School; in Mogadishu, Somalia; in Musoma, Tanzania; in Kitwe, Zambia; and at EMU for 27 years before taking early retirement to pursue his own writing. Omar published many essays, articles, and poems, as well as thirteen books of fiction, biography, and personal experience. He and his late wife, **Anna Kathryn Shenk Eby '63**, were known for their welcoming home overflowing with books and laughter.

Ruth Eleanor Good Yoder '61, Intercourse, Pa., died March 25, 2020, at 82. Ruth taught school in Michigan and then in Indiana. While in Indiana she met her husband, Jim, to whom she was married for 51 years. They moved to Pennsylvania in 1969 to be closer to family. She enjoyed journaling, reading, and writing poems and articles, several of which have been published.

Rachel Ann Frey Frerichs '62, Beatrice, Neb., died Dec. 30, 2020, at 84. Rachel taught first grade in Washington D.C., and was a social worker in Nebraska, where she counseled children and parents through court-ordered reunifications. Rachel was the first director of Beatrice Day Care. She was active in the Beatrice Mennonite Church, Women's Mission Society, and the Delta Kappa Gamma sorority.

Dr. John Ernest Reed '63, Harrisonburg, Va., died Jan. 25, 2021, at 81. He was a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, and performed his alternative service at a Maryland hospital. John and his wife Carolyn raised their children in Richmond, where John practiced medicine at Stuart Circle Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital. They later moved to Ohio, where John worked at the Cleveland Clinic in Wooster until his retirement.

Nina L. Estep Desper '70, Fishersville, Va., died July 22, 2018, at 70. Nina had a passion for those with special needs. She served faithfully at Church on the Hill in the Special Disciples Ministry for over 22 years and considered all of the special disciples "her babies."

Henry P. Dyck '70, Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada, died July 30, 2020, at 93. He is lovingly remembered by his son Wes and grandsons Kevin and Jordan.

Johanna Kess Allender '71, Beverly, W.Va., died Oct. 13, 2017, at 70. Johanna was a teacher for the Randolph County School Systems until she retired, after which she volunteered at Tygart Valley Christian Academy. Johanna also served on the board of Tygart Valley Ministries Beverly Community Church.

Ardiss Kennel Burch '71, Monmouth, Ore., died July 16, 2017, at 68. Ardis taught at Calapooia Middle School until she became a mother. The family then moved to a farm in Monmouth. Ardis returned to teaching in 1982, and taught at Santiam Christian High School for 20 years. She loved her life and being a grandmother.

Philip M. Horning '71, Lancaster County, Pa., died July 12, 2014, at 65. For 20 years, Philip was a real estate appraiser, specializing in farmland preservation for multiple Pennsylvania counties. His many interests included travel, writing, books, food, history, and politics.

Rebecca "Becky" Hershberger Pretzeus, class of '71, Sugar creek, Ohio, died Dec. 14, 2016, at 67. She worked at Scheetz Insurance for 30 years, and then at Hummel Insurance until her retirement. She was well-known for her infectious laugh, caring heart and strength to overcome anything.

Thomas Verghese '71, Leola, Pa., died Oct. 26, 2020, at 74. Tom owned and operated the Tom Verghese Insurance Agency where he represented several companies. He enjoyed his church, Forest Hills Mennonite; his family and friends; and the Philadelphia Eagles.

Gloria F. Yoder '71, Iowa City, Iowa, died June 9, 2018, at 68. Gloria lived in the Champaign-Urbana, Illinois area for much of her life. She appreciated art and nature. Before her health limitations, she was active with the Urbana-Champaign Friends Church, helping to promote peace and justice.

Joseph Eugene Miller '72, Lancaster, Pa., died March 14, 2021, at 70. He worked as a nurse in Philadelphia for many years, and also worked in pain management at Wellspan Ephrata Community Hospital. After retirement, he volunteered at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Joe was an early member of the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns as well as Black and White Men Together.

Dr. Tuomah "Tom" Sahawneh '72, Oneonta, Ala., died August 14, 2020, at 72. He practiced medicine at St. Vincent's East Hospital, where he was known for spending quality time with patients and being a prankster. He also taught adult Sunday school classes for more than 15 years at Union Hill Baptist Church.

Karl David Stoltzfus Sr. '72, Mount Crawford, Va., died Nov. 27, 2020, at 80. Karl founded the company K&K Aircraft with his brother Ken in 1967. That business became Dynamic Aviation, which provides special-mission aviation solutions for government and commercial organizations worldwide. Among other awards, he was presented with the Virginia Department of Aviation's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.

Beverly Jean Miller '74, Wauseon, Ohio, died Nov. 9, 2020, at 68. She taught math in Oregon and Ohio, and worked for M. E. Miller Tire in Wauseon. She also taught junior high Sunday school classes. Beverly enjoyed hosting picnics and tea parties, and giving tours of her Victorian home. She spoke publicly about her experience with bipolar disorder to give hope and reduce the stigma of mental illness.

Mary Beth Gascho Coffey '75, Rhome, Texas, died Dec. 4, 2020, at 66.

Alan K. Messersmith '78, Stuarts Draft, Va., died April 10, 2020, at 64. Alan worked in retail for 19 years and in bulk food sales until 2011. He was an avid runner, loved Jesus with all his heart, and adored his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Michael Dean Beckler '80, Rockingham, Va., died Nov. 4, 2020, at 62. After earning a law degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Michael practiced law in the Harrisonburg area. He enjoyed art and painting, and was a member of the Mt. Crawford Ruritans and Asbury United Methodist Church.



M.J. SHARP '05 CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

While working as a United Nations expert on armed groups, he was murdered in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Now a new photo book documenting the 2019 "MJ Dream Hike" up Kilimanjaro is available. The 12 hikers commemorated MJ's legacy and helped to raise funds for the MJ Sharp Peace & Justice Endowed Scholarship, which has brought two Congolese peacebuilders to the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding for graduate studies. Photographers and hike participants **Riley Swartzendruber '19** and **Christy Kauffman '19** designed the book. It was originally developed as a keepsake for hike participants and donors, but those involved realized there were many more who were invested in the endeavor. Contact lindsay.e.martin@emu.edu to order the book or learn more.

Also available for viewing on the EMU website is the 2019 documentary "No Longer Theory," by Swartzendruber, Kauffman, **Toni Doss '19**, **Missy Muterspaugh '19**, and **Kiernan O'Leary '19**, with animations by **Paul Johnson '19** and music by **Luke Mullet '19**. Visit www.emu.edu/cjp/no-longer-theory



100 TOP WOMEN LEADERS

Gwendolyn Myers GC '14 has been appointed Global Chairperson for Youth Empowerment for the G100, a club of 100 top women leaders. Myers is founder and executive director of Messengers of Peace-Liberia, which became the first recipient of H. E. President George Manneh Weah National Peace Prize Award in 2018. Since earning a graduate certificate in peacebuilding leadership through the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Myers has been recognized for her work in Liberia and on the global stage. In 2019, she was named among *TIME* magazine's "Top Eight Young Reformers Shaping the World," in part for her representation and contributions at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. (Courtesy photo)



HERM ON PARADE

Herm made his first public appearance in his new costume during a May parade at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. He was escorted by Lauren Jefferson, Jessica Hostetler '08 and her son Toby, all of EMU's marketing and communications (Toby is one of several MarComm children who make honorary "cuteness" appearances whenever needed.) (Photo by Rachel Holderman)

In the parade, Herm was delighted to see Les Helmuth '78, former alumni relations director, who had played a major role in the evolution of the blue lion mascot – notice Les is fittingly wearing a lion's costume as well. Now executive director of the VMRC Foundation, Les travelled with Mike Piper '95, CFO of VMRC and Roxy Figueroa-Vargas, VMRC Foundation assistant. Those two appear to be wearing sunflower headgear, in keeping with the parade's theme of "Walking on Sunshine." (Bekka Harsh/VMRC)



Herm, a botanical enthusiast, was also thrilled to see some other alumni-sunflowers, though these were of the pedestrian rather than vehicular variety. From left, the Wellness & Community Based Services team, Lolly Miller, Carmen Miller '96, MDiv '21, Caitlin Miller Ickes '06, Steve Landis '77, MA '87 (Christian leadership), Emily Shickel '15, and Betsy Hay. (Bekka Harsh/VMRC)

William “Bill” Richard Fisher ‘81, Waynesboro, Va., died April 16, 2020, at 72. Over his nearly 40-year ministry in the United Methodist Church, Bill pastored 13 appointments across Virginia and Georgia. In true Bill form, he took his final ride in a Harley Davidson motorcycle hearse for interment.

Alan Denton Averill ‘83, Newport News, Va., died November 23, 2020, at 62. He worked for many years in computer programming and later in retail distribution. His lifelong medical challenges gave him a great compassion and a love to witness to others who did not know the love of Jesus. He had a far-flung ministry of supporting and encouraging Christian ministries. His prayer ministry included service in Healing Rooms and in many local home groups.

Richard McElwee ‘83, Salem, Va., died Nov. 28, 2020, at 59. He was the athletics director at Glenvar High School in Salem. He played baseball at EMU, and then coached baseball and basketball in Bath County and Montgomery County. He also coached women's basketball at EMU, taking the Royals to the NCAA Division III Sweet 16 in his first season.

David Bennett Jr. ‘85, Trenton, Mo., died Sept. 17, 2020, at 63. He earned a doctorate in dental surgery from Howard University, and earned honors from the Academy of General Dentistry for further specialization in oral surgery. David and his wife, Rachel, raised 10 children together.

Rodney L. Yoder, class of ‘88, Middlefield, Ohio, died Jan. 9, 2021, at 54. He worked at Kinetico Water Systems for over 20 years. He and his wife, Marla, traveled to various craft shows, selling wooden furniture and products that he made and she painted. Rodney was president of the Cardinal school district music boosters and served on the local Water Quality Association committee.

Robin Elizabeth Armentrout Powell MA ‘89 (ministry), Waynesboro, Va., died March 19, 2021, at 60. Robin received her bachelor's degree from Ferrum College and did several years of mission work in Mexico through the United Methodist Church before attending EMU. Robin was employed as a teacher and at various churches as a church program director.

Dean Mark Weaver ‘89, Linville, Va., died Jan. 12, 2021, at 55. A loving and committed family man, Dean was also integral to the communities of Harrisonburg and Broadway through coaching, volunteering, church involvement at Park View Mennonite Church, and entrepreneurial achievements.

Caryn Meissner Kozel ‘96, Harrisonburg, Va., died March 5, 2021, at 72. Her early years of marriage were spent raising her family as she accompanied her husband, Nick, in his passion for pursuing and working in Christian education. Upon settling in the Shenandoah Valley, Caryn and Nick started the Good Shepherd School and Day Care. Caryn also served as the people's warden at the Church of the Incarnation.

Annabelle Lee Miller Payne MA ‘97 (counseling), Rockingham, Va., died Dec. 30, 2020, at 92. Annabelle worked for over 30 years at Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative before attending EMU. After earning her master's degree, she became a licensed professional counselor in 2005 at the age of 77. She then volunteered as a hospital chaplain and helped with hospice patients.

Stanley Maclin Sr. GC ‘01 (ministry studies), Harrisonburg, Va., died Jan. 11, 2021, at 67. Before attending EMU, he served as a pastor in Peoria, Ill., and Richmond, Va., and for 16 years he directed the Harrison Homes Interdenominational Mission in Illinois. For twelve years, he served as national president of the African American Mennonite Association. Among his many achievements for social and racial justice, Stan founded the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center in Harrisonburg and led the movement to rename Harrisonburg's Cantrell Avenue as Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Jotham “Papa Joe” Chancellor ‘03, MBA ‘07, died Nov. 13, 2020, at 51. Papa Joe loved to work with his hands and spend time with his family and friends. He was the kind of person who made friends easily wherever he went. He was quick to laugh and offer a helping hand.

Victoria Lauren Clymer Lorenzana ‘15, Harrisonburg, Va., died Feb. 28, 2021, at 28. Victoria fought cancer courageously for two years. She loved music, cooking, overseas travel, the outdoors, holiday and family traditions, and raising her dear daughter Sophia. She was a member of Lindale Mennonite church and enjoyed singing with the worship team. She was passionate about using her conflict resolution degree in combination with early childhood education.

CORRECTIONS FALL/WINTER 2020-21

Chester Wenger '36 was a resident of Lititz, Pa.

We apologize for the errors related to **Maynard Shirk '70**.

Degree Key
CLASS OF - attended as part of the class of a given graduation year
GC - graduate certificate
MA - master of arts
MS - master of science
MDiv - master of divinity

Entries about alumni with both their undergraduate and graduate degrees from EMU are listed in the undergraduate section.

Have an update? Visit emu.edu/alumni/update.

Editorial Policy
Milepost entries are printed on the basis of submissions from alumni or on the basis of publicly available information. We do not verify the accuracy of information that alumni provide, nor do we make judgment calls on the information that they wish to be published, beyond editing for clarity, conciseness and consistency of style. The information provided to us does not necessarily reflect the official policies of EMU or of its parent church, Mennonite Church USA.

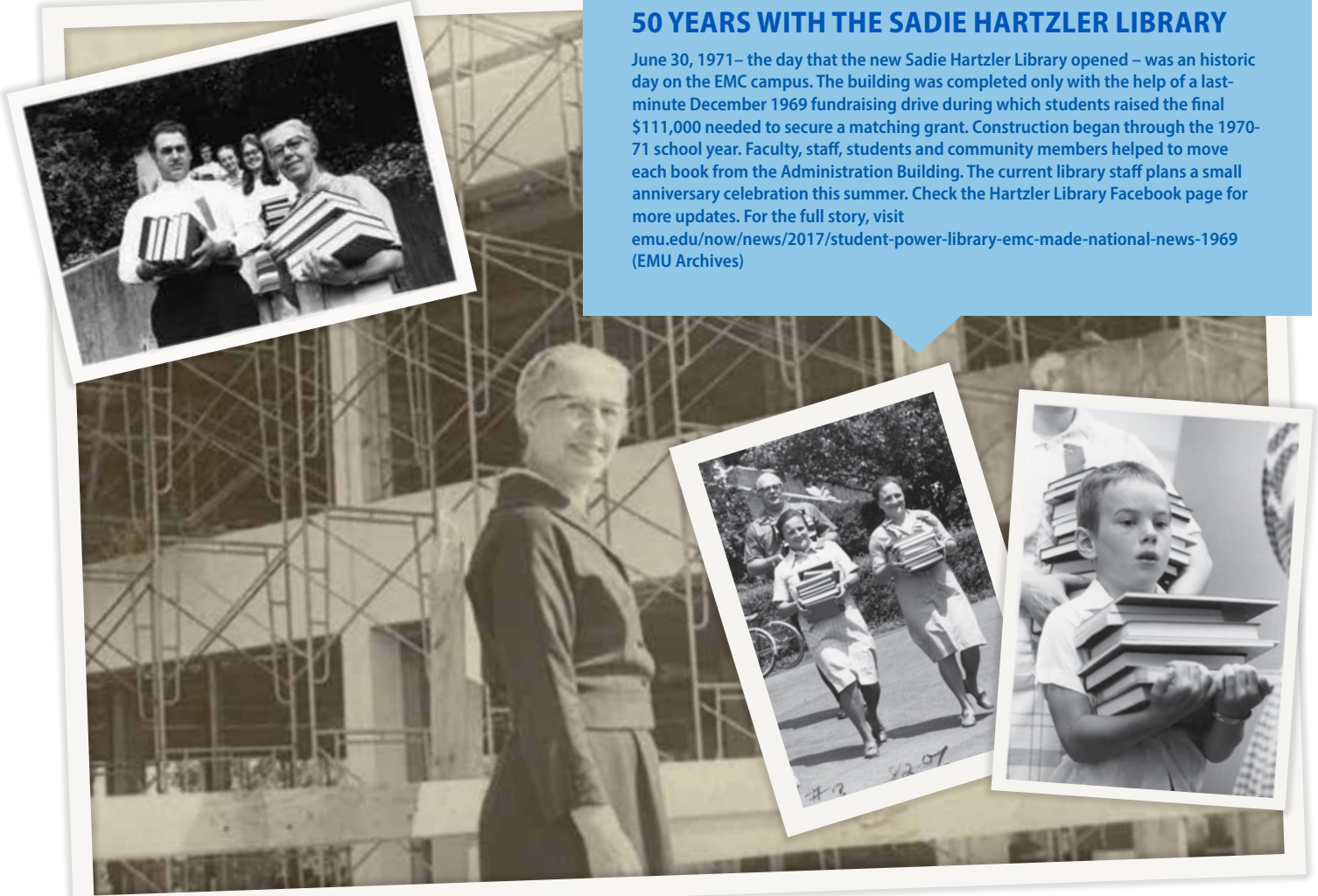
FROM SARASOTA TO EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TO HARRISONBURG, FULL CIRCLE...

This spring, Vice President for Advancement Kirk Shisler ‘81 delivered a beautiful heirloom cane back into the hands of its gifter. Here's the story: When Raymond Rosenberger concluded his service on EMU's board in 1972, President Myron Augsburg gave him a handcrafted cane. The wood came from an old tree on the Florida property where Myron and Esther lived in the early 1950s during their pastorate at Tuttle Avenue Mennonite Church in Sarasota. Raymond passed the cane on to his son, Henry Rosenberger ‘67 and wife, Charlotte Graber Rosenberger ‘65, who served on the EMU board herself from 1991-2002 (left, in 2015, accepting the Margaret Martin Gehman Philanthropy Award, during EMU's annual donor appreciation event). From their home in Blooming Glen, Pa., Henry and Charlotte sent well wishes and the cane back to Myron and Esther. The photo on the right captures the happy moment of return in the lobby of Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. (Courtesy photo)



50 YEARS WITH THE SADIE HARTZLER LIBRARY

June 30, 1971 – the day that the new Sadie Hartzler Library opened – was an historic day on the EMC campus. The building was completed only with the help of a last-minute December 1969 fundraising drive during which students raised the final \$111,000 needed to secure a matching grant. Construction began through the 1970-71 school year. Faculty, staff, students and community members helped to move each book from the Administration Building. The current library staff plans a small anniversary celebration this summer. Check the Hartzler Library Facebook page for more updates. For the full story, visit emu.edu/news/2017/student-power-library-emc-made-national-news-1969 (EMU Archives)





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More information on
the Forward Together Campaign on pages
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