

CROSSROADS



DAVE DETROW
SIGNING OUT

A CLASSIC TALE, A NEW TWIST, AND OUR CALLING...

SUSAN SCHULTZ HUXMAN

REMEMBER THE BOOK *The Little Engine that Could*: First published in 1930 in the midst of the Great Depression, it is an anthem to the “Horatio Alger myth” that through rugged individualism and a confident can-do spirit, anyone can succeed and live the American Dream.

It’s a memorable tale. And certainly, there is some truth to this story: one’s confidence level plays a role in predicting success in life. But there are some shortcomings to the “I think I can and so I can!” lesson especially in light of our pandemic circumstances.

A man by the name of Bob McKinnon thought so too. He wrote a children’s book entitled *Three Little Engines* that puts a new twist on this classic tale. McKinnon grew up poor, raised by a single mom, literally lived “on the wrong side of the tracks,” and was the first in his family to go to college.

In his reframing of the story, the Little Blue Engine does what she always does. But her friends – the fierce and confident Yellow Passenger Engine and the strong and fiery Red Freight Engine – don’t have it as easy. They each encounter trouble on their tracks that, through no fault of their own, forces them to stop.

In the end, *Three Little Engines* is a lesson in the importance of social mobility. The story teaches readers that they each have their own “rails” to follow; they’re not always equal, but accepting help is a sign of strength, and offering help models an ethic of responsibility.

In the spirit of these twin tales, EMU opens pathways of access and achievement to all students – regardless of circumstance – who aspire to be unifying leaders.

Student success comes from hard work and determination, alongside gratitude, empathy, collaboration, and service.

Faculty and staff walk with our students as they journey along challenging tracks. One staff member – a helpful “engine” of an academic sort – has been assisting students for 40 years stay on their educational tracks through steep hills and sharp curves. He is the feature of this issue. His name is Dave Detrow, our registrar “star.”

LEAD TOGETHER – our motto – informs our pandemic times. We are better together. We need each other. We flourish when we remember what Jesus preached: “Happy are the kind and merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.”

May our selfless devotion to our mission keep us passionate and compassionate in our New Year, 2022!



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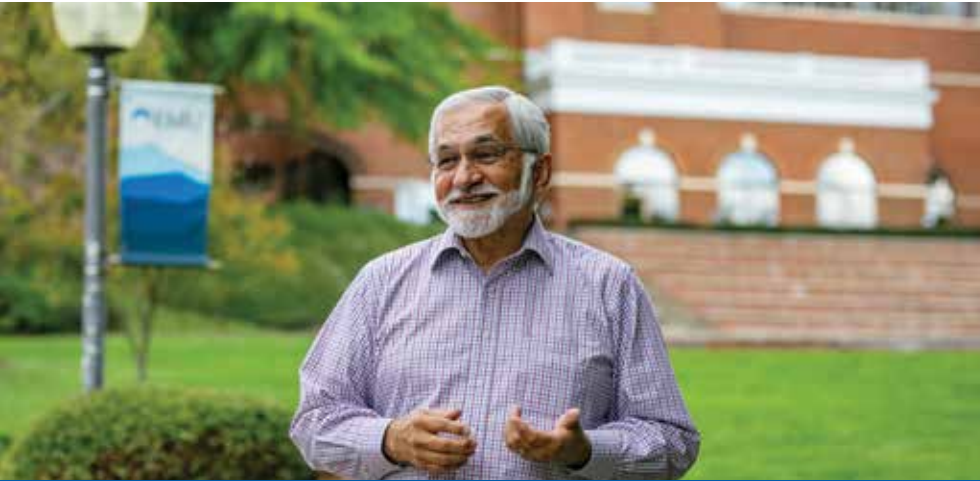
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Registrar Dave Detrow '77 in reflection on his years at EMU. Images are from the *Shenandoah* yearbook 1974, 1977, and 1983. Studio portrait and composite by Rachel Holderman '18.

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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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PHOTO
**HOMECOMING
2021**

PHOTOS BY RACHEL HOLDERMAN '18,
JON STYER '07 AND
JOAQUIN SOSA '14



At left: Fall Festival and the Color Run are favorite events during EMU's three-day celebration. Above top: Culinary entrepreneur Oz Blackaller '07 is one of three alumni to share the stage at TenTalks. Middle row, from left: A panel of alumni teachers share their experiences. The Walking Roots Band performs on the front lawn. A donor recognition display is unveiled during the dedication of Suter West, Suter Science Center (see page 17). Bottom row, from left: Hall of Honor inductees sit with Director of Athletics Dave King (see page 32). The Royals take on nationally ranked Washington and Lee.



ON CAMPUS

'U2 ROMEO & JULIET'

Rave reviews for EMU's own original rock musical

A DREAM BLOSSOMED into reality with EMU's fall production of "U2 Romeo & Juliet," co-created by theater professor **Justin Poole** and visual and communication arts professor **Jerry Holsopple**. The long-time fans of the iconic Irish band developed a creative proposal in March 2020. After an unusually quick review, U2 gave permission to continue with the project and charged only a modest fee for use of the songs.

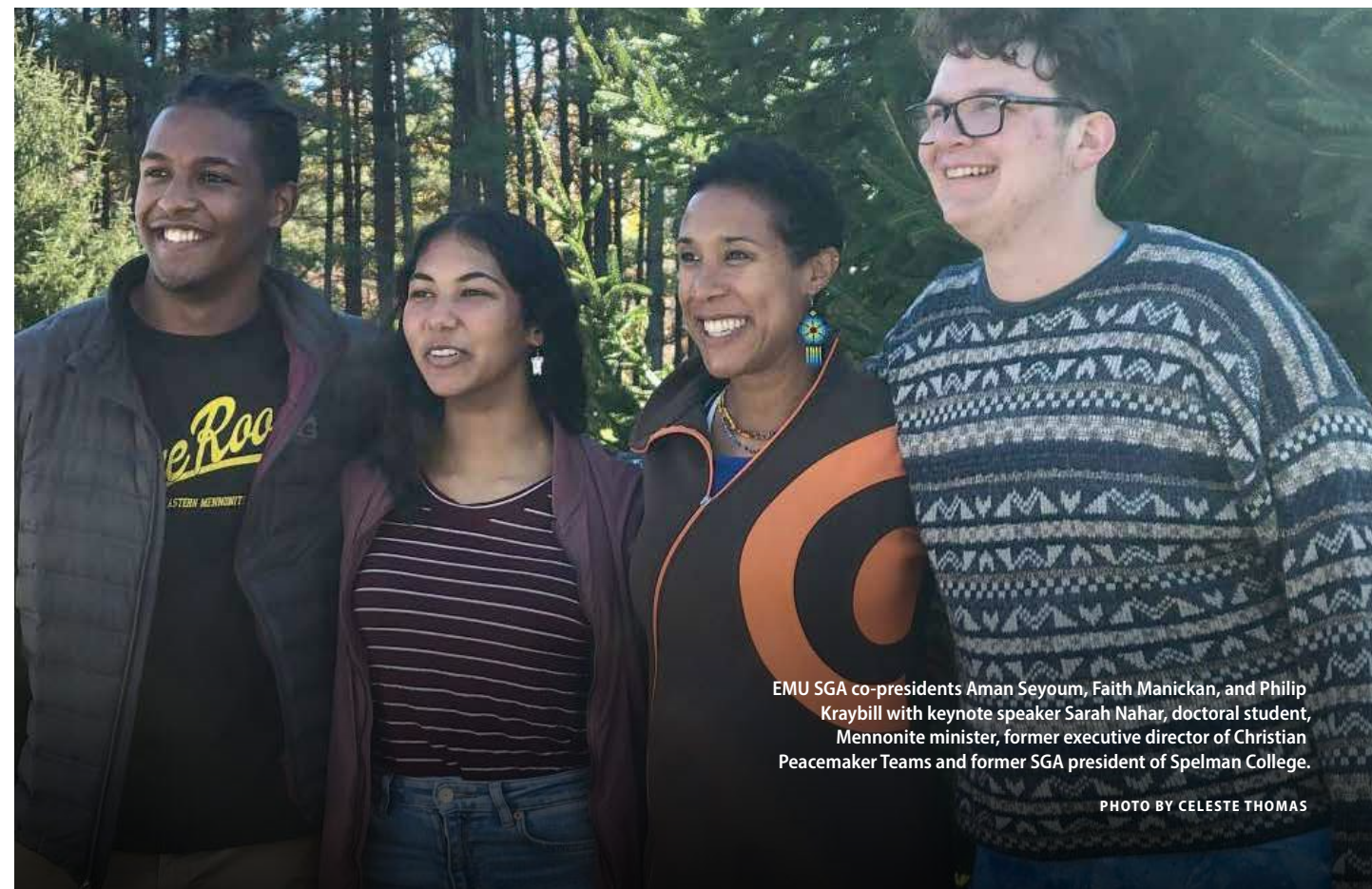
Poole and Holsopple developed the adaptation in summer 2020. They cut archaic scenes, while keeping favorite Shakespearean quotes and the story intact. U2's songs on the themes of hatred, violence, love and reconciliation include "Love and Peace or Else," "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For," "Grace," and "Sunday Bloody Sunday."

"The music of U2 works so well in this show because most of their songs mean more than one thing," said Holsopple. "It may be about love, but it is also about this other situation. It goes from lament to prophetic anger, from intense personal feelings to grand ideas all while balancing multiple narratives on the flow of text and music."

Poole said the play tells the story of the constant human struggle between light and darkness, but challenges audiences to make a difference in today's chaotic world: "It's about the horrible things we do to each other and the need for us to advocate for peace and justice despite seemingly insurmountable odds."

The production opened to a sold-out house during Homecoming and Family Weekend, with live music by local band Prince Bellerose and **Joseph Harder '20**, original videos produced by visual and communication arts students, and intense fight scenes. The skilled ensemble of actors included student leads **Andrew Stoltzfus** and **Greta Schrag**; **Stan Swartz '87**; and faculty **James Richardson**, professor of music, and **Shannon Dove**, theater tech director.

The production earned several awards at the 2021 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival: Poole and Holsopple, as well as fight choreographer **Wolf Sherrill**, earned Certificates of Merit. Schrag, Stoltzfus, **Elizabeth Eby** and **Anna Hoover** were each nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition. Eby was nominated for the MTI Musical Theater Intensive Audition.



EMU SGA co-presidents Aman Seyoum, Faith Manickan, and Philip Kraybill with keynote speaker Sarah Nahar, doctoral student, Mennonite minister, former executive director of Christian Peacemaker Teams and former SGA president of Spelman College.

PHOTO BY CELESTE THOMAS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

FALL LEAD CONFERENCE PROMOTES COLLABORATION

NEARLY 50 STUDENTS active in 22 clubs and organizations attended a two-day LEAD Conference at Highland Retreat this fall. Hosted by Student Life, the event helped students enhance their leadership skills, engage with campus resourcing, and "think about the role they play in moving EMU towards where we want it to be," said **Leda Werner**, a member of the conference planning committee and project director of Safer Together. "This was really an opportunity to think outside the box, to talk together about the ways their goals intersected, so

that they could collaborate toward the change they want to make on campus."

The planning committee also included University Chaplain **Brian Martin Burkholder**, Director of Multicultural Services **Celeste Thomas**, and Director of Student Programs **Rachel Roth Sawatzky**.

Student facilitators played an important role, along with keynote speaker Sarah Nahar, a scholar-activist, community cultivator, and doctoral student in environmental studies and religion at Syracuse University. She also served as SGA president at Spelman College, her undergraduate alma mater.

Elementary education major **Ashley Schoenhardt** is a co-vice president of Campus Activities Council and a peer educator with Safer Together. As a commuter student, she especially enjoyed the connections made during late-night conversations, as well as making new friends and learning more about the "how" of leadership. "I also found that I got a lot out of our unstructured down time, from taking a hike with a few friends, playing Uno, coloring, and just having impactful conversations with other leaders within my own club and others," she said.

CJP

READ THE CJP IMPACT REPORT

HOW HAS CJP CHANGED in the year 2020-21? How do we do justice and peacebuilding education in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, sustained racism and oppression, poverty and inequality, global climate change, and political polarization?

What has changed in the way we do our work? What needs to continue?

The CJP Impact Report attempts to answer these questions and more:

- Read about two grads of the new MA in Transformational Leadership program.
- Learn how a network of CJP alumni and friends is working to change the criminal justice system of Virginia.
- Meet new faculty and staff, including lawyer and conflict transformation practitioner **Jackie Font-Guzmán**, EMU's new executive director of diversity, equity, and education.
- See what CJP alumni are doing, their endeavors, nourishing connections and a bounty of interesting works.

Special thanks to the donors who help us to connect peace-builders with education, skills, support, and mentorship.

[LEARN MORE AT EMU.EDU/PEACEBUILDER](#)



COMMENCEMENT 2022

BRYAN STEVENSON

STUDENTS ARE FORTUNATE when the authors of their university's Common Read selections visit campus, but such visits are rare when that author is a person of such stature as Bryan Stevenson, attorney, best-selling author, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, the organization responsible for the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (Spiegel & Grau, 2014) has been integrated in many course syllabi throughout the academic year. Stevenson will give the Commencement address Saturday, May 8. The event will be livestreamed.

[FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT EMU.EDU/COMMENCEMENT](#)

BY THE NUMBERS

NEW GRANTS



\$1.2M
over 5 years

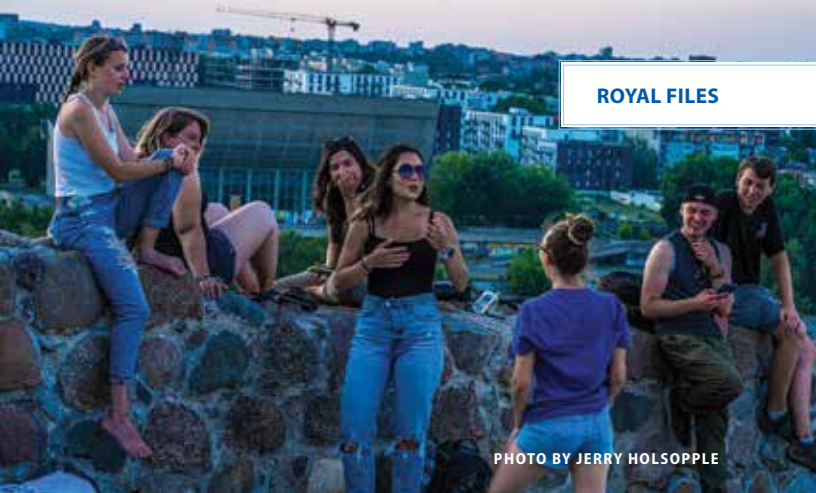
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

NSF's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program at EMU prepares juniors or seniors for a teaching career in the STEM fields. Inaugural cohort scholars (from left) Morgan Evans, Christian Knight and Abby Olmstead visit with Professor Paul Yoder, the grant's principal investigator, outside the Suter Science Center.

\$1M
over 4 years

U.S. HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

A new continuation grant extends support of internships for graduate counseling students to increase access to mental and behavioral healthcare in the Shenandoah Valley.



INTERCULTURAL

HAVE PASSPORT, WILL TRAVEL

EMU resumes global intercultural programming

AFTER GUIDING EIGHT STUDENTS through Lithuania during summer 2021, Professor **Jerry Holsoipple '80** said all the uncertainties and contingencies of pandemic-era traveling were worth it: "To be out of the classroom on the beaches, the cobblestone streets, the outdoor cafes, the forest paths all brought joy after what seemed like a long winter. Watching the students become comfortable in Klaipeda, have conversations and make friends, take risks to explore on their own and get lost, and connecting this experience to their lives is why I continue to lead trips."

Experiencing the joys of global travel was "eye-opening" and "wonderful," student **Shannon Cooper** wrote in thanks to Holsoipple later. She called it the "trip of a lifetime."

The Lithuania intercultural was EMU's first overseas travel since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted programming at the end of spring 2020. Students needing to fulfill their intercultural requirements were not left without options during the past year. Washington Community Scholars' Center in Washington D.C. continued internship placements and regular programming. A special local intercultural was offered in summer 2020. Domestic travel programs resumed in summer 2021, with a Navajo Nation intercultural led by **Jim Yoder**, professor of biology and his wife Kathy. This fall, Professor **Daniel Showalter** and **Myrrl Byler MA '04 (religion)**, executive director of Menonite Partners in China, led 21 students through southeast Asia. Among other travels, the group based at the Chiang Mai YMCA in Thailand for a month and trekked out to visit villages, natural areas, historic sites and even an elephant sanctuary.

Pending pandemic developments, programming is planned for Guatemala and WCSC in spring 2022 and New Zealand, Spain, Ghana, the western United States, WCSC and the local context in summer 2022.

[LEARN MORE AT EMU.EDU/INTERCULTURAL](#)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

DAVE DETROW

SIGNING OUT

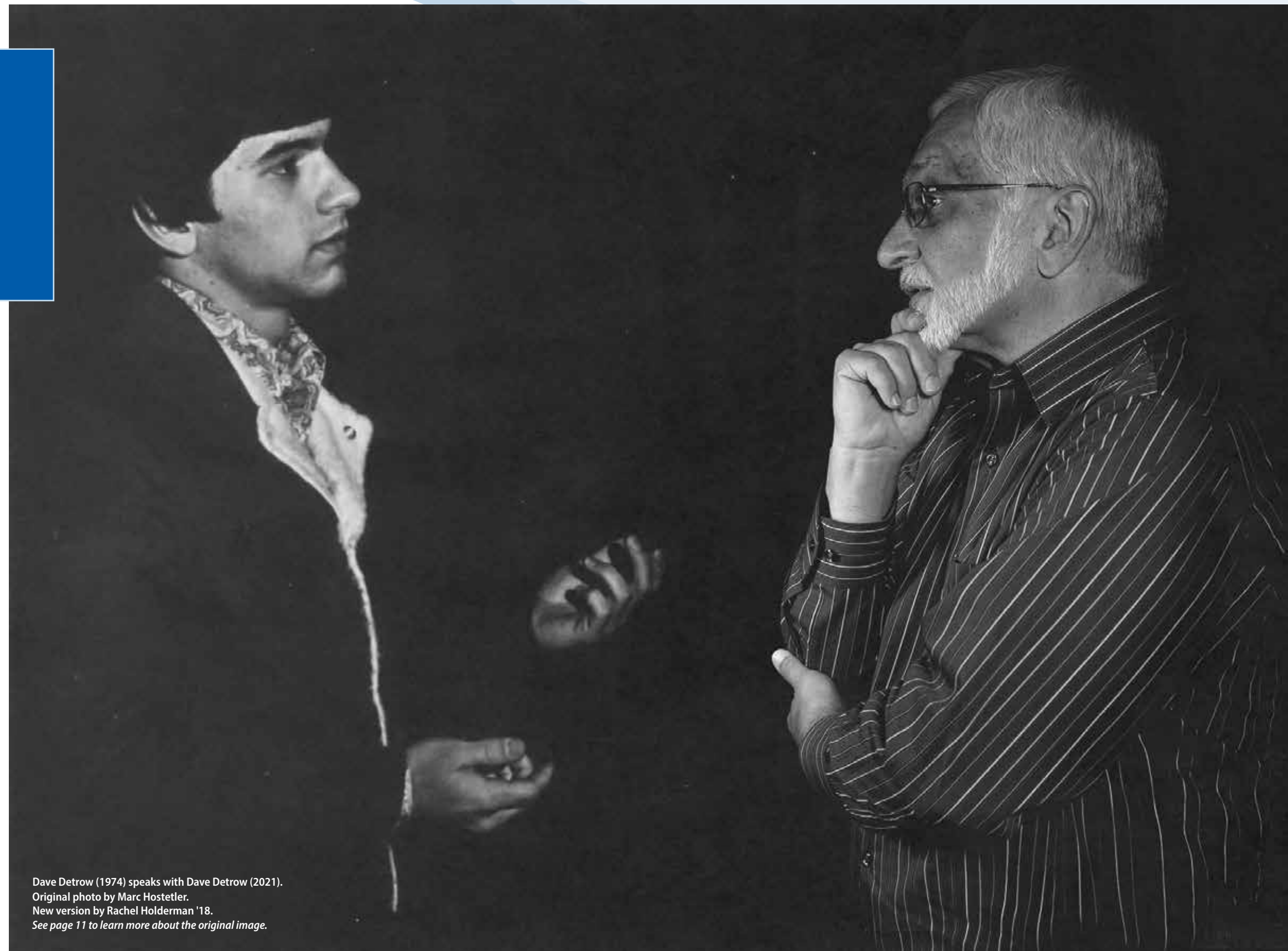
Registrar Dave Detrow heads into retirement after nearly 45 years with EMU

AS COVID LINGERED into the early months of 2021, **Dave Detrow** found himself in a tight spot. Plans to retire in the summer after 44 years serving EMU, almost all of those as registrar, were reappraised and delayed: Leaving the institution he had served for all of his career in the midst of such uncertainty was not a good option. A mid-academic-year departure – in the calmer times of December 2021 – was eventually set. By the time *Crossroads* is published and in readers’ hands, Detrow will be in his first month of retirement.

But in the last semesters of Detrow’s long devotion to his profession and to EMU, he has continued to earn esteem among colleagues who already loved and respected him. Setting that giant ship of EMU sailing forward into multiple COVID-time semesters meant challenges at every step to the philosophies and processes Detrow had developed and mastered over the years – the giant three-dimensional puzzle of logistics, collaboration, and communication at all phases, from class scheduling to registration, including faculty, facilities management staff, student success staff, advisors, and then finally students.

“We are going to miss Dave Detrow in ways we don’t even understand,” said Professor **Melody Cash**, chair of the nursing department. “I am sure we can find someone to be a registrar, but no one will ever replace him.”

Jan Kauffman, registrar at Goshen College, also shares a unique appreciation for Detrow. “I have often felt that EMU was so fortunate to have such an amazingly gifted person in the role and someone who has worked tirelessly to help faculty and students,” she said. “Dave is the heartbeat of the institution with his vast knowledge of how things work, his care and concern for students and all people, and his many many hours of service beyond what anyone even knows to keep things running smoothly and efficiently.”



Dave Detrow (1974) speaks with Dave Detrow (2021).
Original photo by Marc Hostetler.
New version by Rachel Holderman '18.
See page 11 to learn more about the original image.

How do you calculate the impact of an entire career spent with one institution? For Detrow, one measurement stands out. Before any undergraduate student is conferred a degree, Detrow carefully reviews their academic record to assure that grades, credit totals and coursework meet required standards. His personal signature on a form showing the student's academic history indicates final institutional approval that the degree should indeed be conferred. From 1982 to the present, Detrow has signed such a form for more than 10,600 undergraduates.

He views the registrar's role as "part accountant, part information technologist, and part counselor," and says keeping the intricate system working smoothly is dependent on many others, including advisors, deans and faculty across all disciplines, and facilities management staff. "That's part of what makes it so fun, and that's probably why I'm here so many years later," he said. "I don't do the same thing two days in a row. And what we do now and the way we do it is not the same as it was 20 years ago."

Detrow has skillfully guided the registrar's office through many complex changes: the introduction of adult degree and graduate programs, many requiring revision of existing practices; changes from paper-based registration and degree audit systems to online registration and automated advising worksheets; the launch of the student portal Campus Web, now myEMU; and recently, the move to virtual methods of carrying out business in response to COVID. Through this, Detrow's main objective has not changed.

"I want EMU to be about people teaching and learning. And what we do in our office is help that happen without all the logistical friction that could possibly get in the way, so those teachers are not distracted because their classroom isn't adequate, or students aren't kept from graduating because the classes they need are offered at the same time," he said. "We're like the grease on the wheels of the whole machine. If we are

doing our job right, all of the cogs of all the wheels are aligned and smooth, and our faculty and students are able to do their best teaching and their best learning."

Amy Springer Hartsell, executive advisor to the president, names working with Detrow as one of the "top highlights" of her professional career. Like Detrow, she started as an admissions counselor, but moved into and then up the ranks of the undergraduate dean's office in more than 20 years at EMU. Hartsell says Detrow brings "an exquisite attention to detail, utmost integrity and rock-steady demeanor."

What most of his colleagues value about Detrow is his capacity for servant leadership — to the mission and vision of the institution and to those who live and learn within its space.

His legacy at EMU echoes two other family members with long careers in Mennonite higher education. Uncle J. Harold Yoder taught physical education and coached baseball at Goshen College in Indiana for more than 30 years. And for nearly 40 years, his great-uncle Maurice A. Yoder taught natural science and Bible at Hesston College in Kansas. ("Someone needed to make a run for it here," Detrow quips.)

As he prepares for life after EMU, Detrow and his wife **Charmaine Weaver Detrow '77** look forward to spending more time participating in living history

and history education events. They want to travel around Virginia, particularly to the Eastern Shore and to the mountains of southwest Virginia. Detrow will continue his frequent appointments as a platelet donor with the Red Cross, and eventually, when the time and job seem right, he thinks he'll find some low-stress work.

"I like to think that those I've come across at EMU over the years have benefited in some way from my work, whether they know it or not," he said. "What I've done is not always apparent, but I hope it's made a difference."

— BY LAUREN JEFFERSON

HOW DO YOU CALCULATE THE IMPACT OF AN ENTIRE CAREER SPENT WITH ONE INSTITUTION?



Dave Detrow from first year student in 1974 to his final year as registrar in 2021. His career at Eastern Mennonite University has spanned the tenure of five presidents.

A CLOSER LOOK

Dave Detrow assembled this collection as representative of his time and experiences at EMU.

1. Dave Detrow enjoyed attending, and contributing to, state and regional professional conferences. He was recently awarded an honorary membership in the Virginia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in recognition of his long career and contributions.

2. Admissions recruitment travel often included recording letters and memos on this hand-held recorder. The dictation would be transcribed by a staff member in the word processing office upon return to campus.

3. Detrow began annual visits to Hesston College, Kansas, in the early '80s to register students when he was an admissions counselor. Those annual visits were discontinued by the pandemic in 2020. The note is from a Hesston student in appreciation for Detrow's assistance with her transfer to EMU. The mug is from the Larks Nest, the college's snack shop.

4. Detrow's office includes a display of mugs, some of which are the work of former students. This one was made by an art major who enrolled in fall 1978, the first class Detrow helped recruit during his time in admissions.

5. Catalogs from the first and last years of Detrow's tenure show changes in the academic program. November 2003 was the first time students could register online through what was known as Campus Web. Previously, they brought a card, listing their choice of courses and an advisor's signature, to the Registrar's Office -- a process which often resulted in long lines and patient waiting for staff attention.



The feature image on page 9 is an adaptation of a photo taken during Detrow's freshman year by his friend and yearbook photographer Marc Hostetler. The experimental shot was a double exposure on The Hill against the darkness of the rural area west of EMU. It ran in the 1974 *Shenandoah*.



GOOD WISHES AND GRATITUDE

SELECTED FROM COMMENTS CONTRIBUTED BY ALUMNI AND CURRENT
AND FORMER COLLEAGUES AFTER THE NOVEMBER 2021 PUBLICATION OF
A NEWS ARTICLE, ABOUT DAVE'S UPCOMING RETIREMENT

CHARLENE CONRAD '00

I was a transfer student from Blue Ridge Community College and considering EMU. I had the opportunity to meet and discuss my educational goals with Dave Detrow. He patiently explained many possible courses and cross-cultural opportunities. He is definitely the reason I ended up at EMU and majored in International Business. Dave, thank you for advising me and so many other students over the years! Many blessings to you and enjoy retirement!

REGINA BEIDLER '88

I was fortunate to be a summer work study student in the Admissions Office in the mid-80s tucked into the corner of the new Campus Center. A highlight of that summer was a SOAR trip to Ohio and Indiana with Dave and another admissions counselor. Dave is kind, competent, good-natured and lots of fun ... Thank you, Dave, for the warmth you shared with all of us who have been lucky to know you.

MARY WALALA '09

Dave Detrow was a warm campus presence for me as a homesick international student. He made me feel welcomed and cared for. He always had time for a conversation and was always helpful even after I graduated. Thank you Dave for your time and care through the years. All the best!

LAURA LEHMAN MDIV '06,
director of digital content

I appreciate Dave's humble attitude toward his duties. When we have worked together on projects, he never made me feel like I didn't know what I was talking about (even though often I didn't). His 40-plus years has definitely made him an expert, but he always made me feel that my ideas could improve the process.

ELVIS RIVERS '86

I'd decided to make a career change and while looking at college catalogues came across, then, Eastern Mennonite College. I called the registrar's office. Dave took my call. I explained my situation and he explained what I needed to do. I'd planned to attend the college in the fall of '82, but due to my circumstance, I needed to change plans. I contacted Dave and again explained my situation. He advised me that I'd be able to start in the winter trimester. Dave, you are the reason I decided to attend Eastern Mennonite. You will never know just how much two phone contacts blessed me. I could never thank you enough. CONGRATULATIONS on your retirement. Numbers 6:24-26

BONNIE FISHER '14,
adjunct faculty member, psychology

Through every stage at EMU, Dave has been there for me: As a transfer student, wide-eyed and nervous, to my senior year, two summers working for admissions, and again when I came back as an adjunct professor, he was the one to train me! Just a wonderful human! Thank you, Dave, and congrats!

MARGO MCINTIRE '98, MBA '08,
academic coordinator, Leadership and Organizational Management program

Dave is absolutely student-centered. ...He weighs everything very carefully to balance the needs of all the stakeholders, but ultimately asks what is the best path forward for the student. I have valued his counsel over the past 20 plus years I have worked with him. He has been a role model of thoughtful deliberation and careful listening. It has been a genuine privilege to work with Dave. I wish him much enjoyment in his future travels and lots of chocolate!

MARIE MORRIS '84,
former dean

I count David A. Detrow (a.k.a. "DAD") among the best colleagues with whom I've worked. He has a keen ability to see both detail and big picture as he serves individuals and the common good. Dave's heart, integrity, sense of humor, and collegial spirit made working with him pure joy. Blessings abundant to Dave and Char in this next phase of life. You have touched many lives through your service and EMU is a better place because of you!

DON TYSON,
professor and MSN program director

It has been a privilege & honor to work with Dave over the years, and I wish blessings upon him and his wife in their retirement. We have been blessed with having Dave work out so many logistical issues that all departments experience and he does it with grace. Words seem inadequate. Few know the many hours he devotes (volunteers?) to EMU ... on a Saturday or Sunday or holiday break.

BONNIE PRICE LOFTON MA '04,
former editor-in-chief

Steady, calm, informed, reliable, warm-humored in the face of whatever... That's how I will always recall Dave Detrow, modeling what EMU is supposed to be. Peace be with you, Dave, as you move into this new life phase.

LOREN SWARTZENDRUBER '76, MDIV '79,
president emeritus

What a wonderful legacy and track record of extraordinary service to the university! Congratulations, David, and best wishes in the transition to a new phase of life.

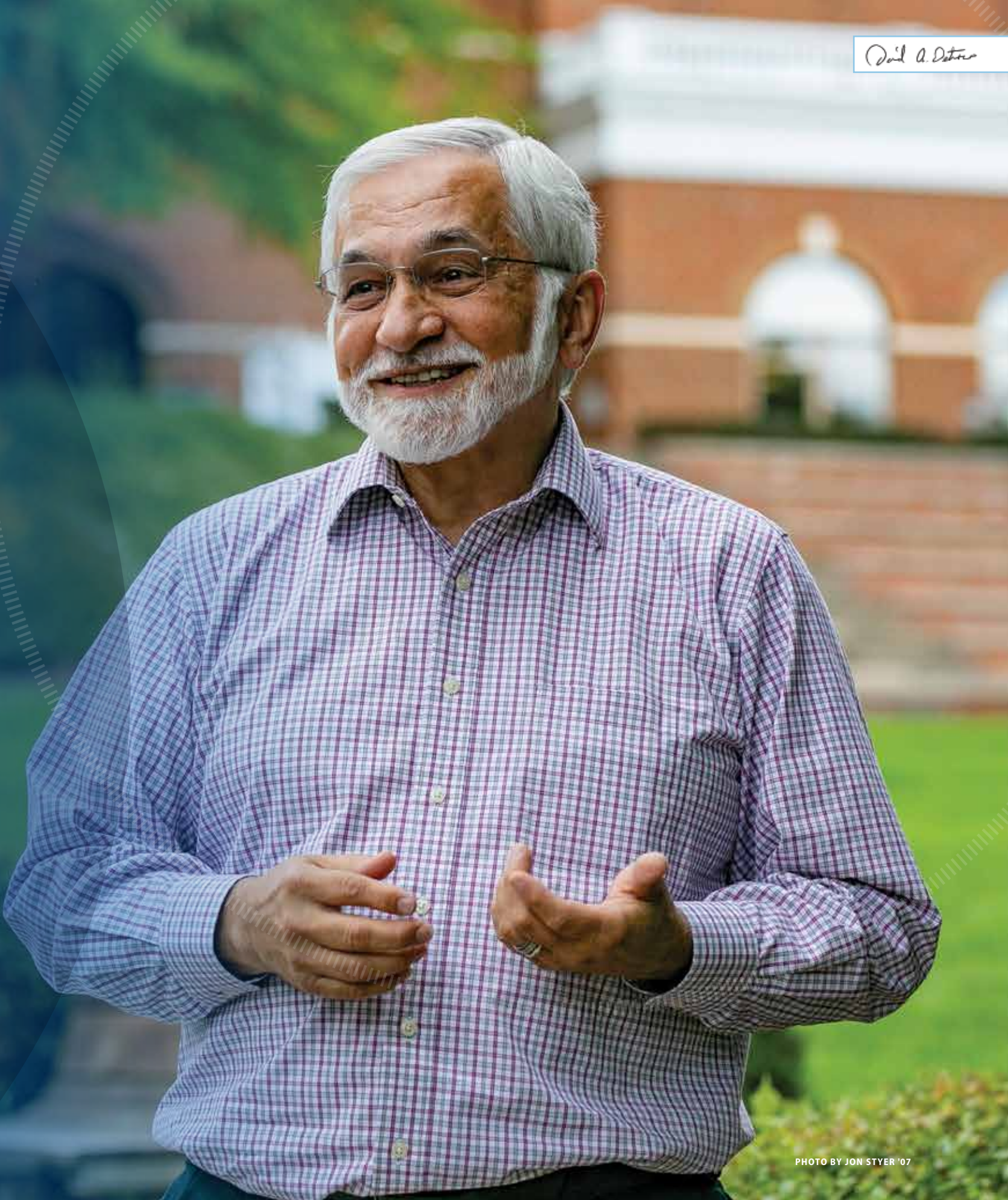


PHOTO BY JON STYER '07

IN HONOR OF DAVE'S RETIREMENT, consider a gift to the Student Tuition Relief Fund! Text 41444 with keyword Detrow, the amount you wish to give, and your name(s), then follow the prompts. You will be able to send a personalized message.

HONORING A LEGACY

Stoltzfus and Hertzler couples recognized with endowment of international student scholarship and DEI support



AFTER RETIRING FROM THE MINISTRY, Robert and Rachel Stoltzfus opened their home and hearts to many international students in Harrisonburg, Virginia. To Jose Koshy [pronounced as the first syllable of Joseph], they grew to become like a second mother and father.

Newport News residents **John Asa** and **Rebecca Hertzler** lived out their

staunch advocacy for peace and racial and gender justice in ways that challenged systems and ministered to those oppressed. Along with daughter Jean, the family moved to a racially mixed neighborhood, operating a thrift store that served area residents while also participating in desegregation, civil rights, and anti-war efforts.

When Jean and Jose met at Eastern

From left: John Asa Hertzler, Jean Koshy-Hertzler '79, Jose Koshy, class of '76, David Stoltzfus '73, Debbie Stoltzfus Accame, Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Jackie Font-Guzmán, President Susan Schultz Huxman, and Vice President for Advancement Kirk Shisler '81.

PHOTO BY RACHEL HOLDERMAN '18

Mennonite University in the late '70s and decided to spend their lives together, they carried the influence of these exemplars of service and love into their shared future.

Nearly 40 years later, in their connection to the university, **Jose Koshy, class of '76**, and **Jean Koshy-Hertzler '79** have honored the impact of these four people and ensured that their legacy of radical hospitality and justice advocacy continues. The couple's gift endows an international student scholarship and amplifies diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at EMU.

"During these divisive times, we're humbled to support a special scholarship for international students and an initiative championing diversity and inclusion," said Jose Koshy at a November celebration in the university's Hall of Nations.

In attendance at the ceremony and luncheon were three generations of family members reuniting from the Shenandoah Valley, California, Texas, and Canada. Among the honored guests were **John Asa Hertzler**, Jean's 91-year-old father, and **David Stoltzfus '73** and **Debbie Stoltzfus Accame**, the children of Rachel and Robert Stoltzfus.

"Jose and Jean's gift will extend the legacy of both of these couples for decades to come," said **Kirk Shisler '81**, vice president for advancement. "Their investments in our community align deeply with our mission of preparing

students to serve and lead in a global context."

The Koshy gifts will support the following:

- The **Robert and Rachel Stoltzfus Scholarship for International Students** provides significant financial aid to international students who otherwise could not attend EMU.
- The **EMU Inclusive Excellence Grant Program** fosters collaborative programming, partnerships, and catalysts for structural change that facilitate the development of a culture of belonging through embracing diversity and inclusivity. The program is open to EMU students, staff, and full-time faculty in Harrisonburg, Lancaster, and Washington D.C. Proposals that seek to bring together members of the community from different cultural backgrounds and perspectives (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality, socioeconomic status, generational) will be given priority.
- The **Hertzler-Koshy Faculty Fellowship Program** enables from three to six faculty members to spend one year in collaborative projects with students that integrate and infuse diversity into the curriculum with a specific focus on race, ethnicity, and gender content.

ROBERT AND RACHEL STOLTZFUS: 'A SPECIAL GENEROSITY ... FROM THE HEART'

Rachel and Robert Stoltzfus retired in Harrisonburg after a long career pastoring in Illinois, Louisiana and Kentucky. Welcoming strangers into their Virginia home was a constant ministry; the couple fostered several



Robert and Rachel Stoltzfus. (Courtesy photo)

children and sheltered homeless men, women and families. Jose Koshy and his younger brother were the first international students that the Stoltzfuses fostered; more than 20 others followed.

Jose was born in Brunei where his father, **Kochu Koshy**, worked for an oil company. As a pacifist answering a call to ministry, Kochu eventually found his way to Mennonite Brethren College in Winnipeg, Manitoba. There, then-EMC president **Myron Augsburger '55, SEM '58** invited him to continue studies at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Jose, his younger brother and their mother Rachel moved to Harrisonburg to join Kochu, who would finish his bachelor's and master's degrees three

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.

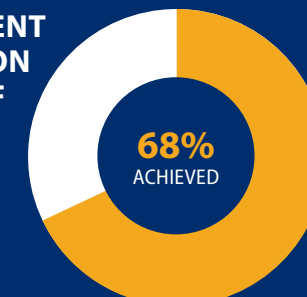
AHEAD OF TARGET

\$10.7M
OVERALL CAMPAIGN GOAL

ACTUAL RAISED (FY21)
77% OF GOAL

FY21 TARGET

STUDENT TUITION RELIEF



\$3.4M OF \$5M GOAL FOR STUDENT TUITION RELIEF

INCREASE IN GIVING



UP 5%

IN TOTAL PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT IN FISCAL YEAR 2021

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

...WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THIS HONOR OF OUR PARENTS TODAY AND I HOPE RECIPIENTS OF THIS AWARD WILL ALSO BE GRATEFUL AND PAY IT FORWARD.

years later. Jose's parents then decided to move to South Dakota, for additional studies. (Kochu Koshy was eventually ordained in the Mennonite church, and the couple moved permanently back to India.)

Understanding the family's limited resources and that the boys wanted to continue their studies locally, the couple provided the brothers with a solid Anabaptist home and foundation. A year later, the younger Koshy brother graduated from Eastern Mennonite School and left for college. Jose continued living with Robert and Rachel for another four years (he would graduate from James Madison University with a degree in communications, a program not then offered at EMC). With their grown children, Debbie and David, living away from home, Jose became like another son.

Their relationship was full of "warmth, kindness, laughter and gratitude," said Debbie Stoltzfus Accame. That gratitude was sustained over the years as Jose and Jean started a family and raised their three daughters in Texas. The love and openness Jose experienced in those five years in Harrisonburg gave shape to his life, he said, and for that, he had long sought a way to honor them.

"They preached and lived the gospel through quiet practice," Jose said. "I wanted them to be recognized for their love and how valuable sharing love is, how it can make a difference because those five years essentially molded me in so many different ways. My value system came from that experience and this community, and I've always reminded myself of who I am by keeping in touch with them on a regular basis."

Accame noted in her remarks that those who benefit from the scholarship can also carry on her parents' values of sharing generously. "My parents didn't just do service, they lived it as a way of life. But the other side of this is gratitude. Those who are grateful pay it forward and pass it on. We are so grateful for this



John Asa Hertzler and Rebecca Hertzler. (Courtesy photo)

honor of our parents today and I hope recipients of this award will also be grateful and pay it forward."

JOHN ASA AND REBECCA HERTZLER: 'GOOD TROUBLE'

John Asa Hertzler and Rebecca Hertzler, who died in 2011, spent most of their life in the Newport News area. "My parents taught my sister and I how to get into 'good trouble,'" said daughter Jean, quoting John Lewis's famous description of social activism. "They were seekers of the truth, spiritual warriors who walked the walk."

The couple questioned the status quo by advocating for women's rights, protesting against the Vietnam war, joining the protest when highway construction tore down predominantly Black neighborhoods, and building relationships with people of different backgrounds and races. John Asa was president of the Newport News chapter of the Human Relations Council and regularly contributed letters to the local newspaper which were so unpopular that the family received threatening phone calls. When Jean was a teenager, the family moved

to a racially integrated area of Newport News. "I was bussed across the city to my high school and my mother opened a nonprofit thrift store supported by our church that served local residents," Jean remembered. "Again, they were walking the walk. It was just a part of living. There wasn't a lot of discussion, it was just a given. That's the way Jesus would have done it."

EMU's new faculty fellows and grant programs are "inspired by the Hertzlers' values and convictions," said **Jackie Font-Guzmán**, executive director of diversity, equity, and inclusion at EMU. "Our aspiration with these programs is that as a community, we model the behavior and actions of John Asa and Rebecca, that we build relationships and compassion, love, and generosity, but also that, in the words of John Lewis, we get into some good trouble and disrupt the status quo when needed to fully live our mission."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES AT EMU, CONTACT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT KIRK SHISLER AT 540-432-4499 OR VISIT EMU.EDU/GIVING.



President Emeritus Loren Swartzendruber, wife Pat, and their family members pose for a photo in Swartzendruber Hall before the dedication ceremony for the Suter West wing of Suter Science Center. Swartzendruber led EMU from 2003-16.

PHOTO BY RACHEL HOLDERMAN '18

DEDICATING SUTER WEST

RENOVATIONS INCLUDE SWARTZENDRUBER HALL, NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION, AND CLASSROOM/LAB SPACES

An October 2021 ceremony, attended by a veritable "Who's Who" of the university's STEM history, marked the end of the final phase of the multi-year Suter Science Center renovations. Along with new seating, lighting and upgraded technology for S-106, Suter West renovations included modernized classrooms, a new engineering laboratory, upgrading of the discovery room and expanded displays from the D. Ralph Hostetter Natural History Collection, upgraded climate-control system, and an improved sprinkler system.

"Today's dedication of Suter Science Center West is a truly exhilarating moment for many people who worked hard over many years, both to raise the \$12 million in philanthropic support to fund the renovations, and to design and implement the major renovations of Suter East and now Suter West," said Vice President for Advancement Kirk Shisler '81, who has led the fundraising campaign.

Among the guests of honor were President Emeritus Loren Swartzendruber '72, MDiv '79, his wife, Pat, and their family. The couple were jointly honored with the renaming of the iconic S-106 lecture hall as "Swartzendruber Hall."

Donors and contributors are recognized in a special display at the building's west entrance. Accompanying this recognition, Shisler offered special commendations to individuals "who have been a very special part of this remarkable journey":

- Professor **Daniel Suter**, for whom the building is named. His exemplary guidance over several decades enabled scores of EMU students to qualify for medical school with great success and global impact. His daughter, **Jan Suter Showalter**, and her husband, **Dr. Sam Showalter '65**, were in attendance;
- Faculty involved in shaping EMU's outstanding science programs having built upon the legacy of Daniel Suter and others of his era: professors **Kenton Brubaker '54**, **Glenn M. Kauffman**, **Galen Lehman '73**, **Wilmer Lehman '57**, **Joseph Mast '64**, **Clair Mellinger '64**, **Roman Miller**, **Millard Showalter '62**, **Gary Stucky**, **John Horst '60**, and **Robert D. Yoder '57**;
- Project leaders during both major phases **Ed Lehman**, **Eldon Kurtz '76**, **Jack Rutt '72**, and **Phil Martin '80**.



CLASS OF '70 RAISES \$1 MILLION FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

AT 1:30 P.M. on Saturday during EMU's Homecoming and Family Weekend, the Community Bell rang out to mark the end of an historic fundraising campaign. The celebratory toll honored the Class of '70 and the culmination of their record-setting \$1 million fundraiser to support student scholarships at EMU. It also echoed their connection to

another history-making fundraising event when they were seniors at then Eastern Mennonite College – the Library Drive of 1969 also concluded with a bell ringing. “What’s amazing about the Class of 1970 is that when we include new estate gift commitments they actually raised more money than they did in 1969,” said

From left: J.B. Miller, Bob Brenneman, Marian Driver Hackney, Gloria Horst Rosenberger and Bob Bishop, members of the Class of '70 reunion planning committee, at EMU's Community Bell over Homecoming weekend. Their class raised \$1 million for EMU student scholarships. Right: Members of the Class of '70 present for the group photo at EMU's Homecoming and Family Weekend event (recognizing that not all are pictured!).

PHOTO BY RACHEL HOLDERMAN '18

Tim Swartzendruber '95, the senior regional advancement director who worked with the group. The total of \$111,000 in 1969, calculated for inflation, is \$829,000, Swartzendruber says. While all of the donors could not be present, those with the hands on the wooden rod were members of the Class

of 1970 reunion planning committee: **Bob Bishop** (chair), **Bob Brenneman**, **Marian Driver Hackney**, **J.B. Miller**, and **Gloria Horst Rosenberger**.

A fundraising campaign is a tradition of most classes as they approach their Jubilee reunion and induction into the more than 3,000-member strong Jubilee Alumni Association.

“It’s often a moment when alumni take extra time to reflect on the impact EMU has had in their lives. Some have more resources, relative to other periods in their lives, to consider special giving to EMU,” said Swartzendruber.

The Class of '70 has always been different: carrying on the philanthropic legacy they witnessed and participated in while at EMU, over ensuing decades, the class had already set a record lifetime giving mark of \$3.8 million.

Bishop said learning that fact helped the group better assess “collective resources.”

“I think also the idea of joining a class giving effort made a difference to a lot of people who had already given as individuals,” Miller added. “That collective community effort was important.”

As their campaign began, the group initially seized on a goal of \$829,000 in current giving and new estate gift commitments – remember this was based on the total raised during the 1969

fundraising drive, adjusted for inflation. But when the pandemic delayed their in-person reunion, raising the goal to \$1 million was a natural step.

In October 2020, they hosted a virtual reunion that was fun but definitely not what they had in mind: The group always intended to get together in Harrisonburg at the next, safe opportunity.

With extra time to plan, to track down classmates, to keep communicating, the giving continued throughout 2020. Bob Bishop was given the credit as the PR man and the cheerleader.

Bishop’s philosophy, for all his life, has been “to look for excuses to celebrate along the way,” he joked during an interview with the committee during Homecoming weekend. “You don’t have to wait for the end. I was cheering when we got a quarter of the way, and then halfway, and then when we got to \$800,000 [in early October], that gave me goosebumps.”

“Bob was one of the most encouraging leaders,” said Brenneman. “We reached a certain point and he said we need to go to the finish line with this.”

Eventually the finish line coalesced around \$1 million. During the two weeks leading up to Homecoming, classmates gave \$200,000 to attain the goal.

Rosenberger remembers being on a phone call with Miller and EMU Ad-

vancement personnel when Miller stated he thought they could actually raise that amount. “I didn’t really believe it until JB, who is a banker, said we could do it, and then I started thinking it was possible.”

“Well, I actually wasn’t so sure,” Miller admitted, to general laughter.

With such camaraderie, one would think members of this group share a long history. During the interview, there were finished sentences, lots of teasing, and laughter.

Bishop, Brenneman and Hackney were class officers (president, business manager, and treasurer respectively), and Hackney sang in the choir with Brenneman, but other than that, “we didn’t really know each other very well,” Hackney said. “We definitely didn’t run in the same social circles.”

Their friendship has deepened over these months, perhaps sustained by pandemic isolation and a new awareness about the value of connection. They pass along family and class news, console each other in grief, invite input on personal projects.

And they enjoy, very much, the idea that future students might share what they have had: both a transformative education and transformative friendships.

EMU'S LONGEST-TENURED COACH RETIRES

UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG COACH CHRIS YEAGER CALLS ROGER MAST '85 ONE OF "THE ALL-TIME GREATS."

The conference witnessed the departure of one of those greats in fall 2021, when Mast announced his retirement after 31 years at the head of the men's soccer program. He is the program's longest-tenured and all-time winningest coach.

"Words can hardly express my gratitude for the opportunity that the university has entrusted me with to guide this program over more than 30 years," Mast said. "I am deeply indebted to the hundreds of players that I have worked with. Their hard work, determination, and desire to grow as men while here at EMU has been my greatest inspiration and reward."

His record of more than 250 wins includes advancing to five Old Dominion Athletic Conference finals, winning two conference championships, and advancing to the Round of 16 in the NCAA national tournament. Mast coached more than 20 individuals to regional All-American selections, one to the national All-American team, and nearly twice as many athletes to ODAC conference and other individual honors. He also earned recognition as a two-time ODAC Coach of the Year and Virginia State Coach of the Year.

Mast plans to spend time with his wife, Cheryl Yoder Mast class of '86, his adult sons (both of whom played for him – Mark from 2011-14 and Grayson from 2014-17), and their families, as well as pursue interests he hasn't had time for. He will continue as director and associate professor with the health and physical education program. He holds national, advanced national, and premiere diplomas with the United Soccer Coaches Association, as well as an MS in health and physical education from West Chester University and an EdD in Educational Leadership: Higher Education from Argosy University. He served as athletic director from 1991-94.

"As I reflect on the many hats Roger has worn in his time here, there is no doubt about his commitment to EMU as a valuable bridge between athletics and academics," said Director of Athletics Dave King '76. "It is amazing to think about the number of lives Roger has influenced and I hope those stories are brought to the surface as we celebrate his years of service at EMU."

"A well-deserved rest" was the response of Emmanuel Boamah '20, a three-time VASID All-State and two-time NSCAA Regional All-American from 2015-18, who thanked Mast for "helping us to become responsible and respectable young men."

A decorated team captain in the late '90s, Mike Zook '99 says Mast helped "develop young men into caring and influential individuals who took that competitive edge back to communities all over the U.S. and beyond."

Ted Erickson '05, head women's soccer coach, played for Mast, coached several years at the high school level, and then returned as Mast's assistant coach. "Roger has always been willing to listen and ask thought-provoking questions while guiding me to find my own answers," Erickson said. "He's touched the lives of so many here and I'll miss our working relationship, our friendship, and his mentorship."

"Anyone who is able to coach at a higher level for more than 30 years deserves a tremendous amount of respect and admiration," said All-American Jeff Shank '94. "I'm thankful for his dedication to EMU and his impact on my life and so many others."



IN HONOR OF ROGER'S RETIREMENT, consider a gift to support student-athletes! Text 41444 with keyword Mast, the amount you wish to give, and your name(s), then follow the prompts. You will be able to send a personalized message.

MILEPOSTS

FACULTY AND STAFF

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

Benjamin Bergey '11, professor of music, was awarded \$5,000 for a VIVA Open Course Grant to develop free music theory content. Bergey was one of eight college professors out of 31 applicants in Virginia.

Kirsten Beachy '02, professor, program director of liberal arts, language and literature, and director of EMU's Core Curriculum Program, published a poem in *The TLS*, formerly the Times Literary Supplement, a U.K.-based publication with a circulation of more than 32,000. Marci Frederick, director of libraries, was her "agent": Marci shared a poem on the comma splice that was previously published in the TLS with all EMU language and literature professors. Kirsten sent back one in response and Marci, with permission, shared it with the TLS editor.

Deb Cardenas, adjunct faculty in the graduate nursing program and BSN-RN program, Lancaster, Pa., is board president of The Pennsylvania State Nurses Association. She is the program manager of quality and patient safety outcomes at Penn State Health Medical Group's Academic Practice Division.

James Richardson, professor of music, successfully defended his dissertation for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from James Madison University. Titled *Five Songs by Armstrong Gibbs (1889-1960): From Nostalgia to Christian Hope and the Assurance of Heaven*, the dissertation shares his discovery of missing song manuscripts by British composer Armstrong Gibbs. Portions of this research will be published in the music journal *Brio*.

Andrea Saner, professor of Bible, religion and theology, presented a university colloquium on "In Many and Various Ways": How the Ten Commandments and Covenant Code became Torah. Drawing on her work in writing

a commentary on Exodus, she introduced the scholarly debates surrounding the history of development of the Sinai traditions in Exodus and engaged an ecumenical and interfaith conversation about the nature of divine revelation in light of these texts and their transmission histories.

Matthew Siderhurst, professor of chemistry, presented a university colloquium in November on the use of harmonic radar to track individual melon flies in Hawaii. He spent part of the summer with two EMU student-researchers based at the Daniel K. Inouye U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center in Hawaii.

Allison Wilck, professor of psychology, presented at Psychonomics, cognitive psychology's main conference. Her talk, titled "Emotional Intensity Increases Information Believability," is based on her dissertation and research she is continuing at EMU.

Royal Awards for Staff Excellence honored the following: (summer 2021) for their work on Commencement 2021 events: **Amy Springer Hartsell**, executive advisor, President's Office; **Ronda Rittenhouse**, executive assistant, Provost's Office; **Marcy Root**, executive administrative assistant and testing center coordinator, Lancaster; and (fall 2021) **Diane Farrar**, administrative assistant, and **Luke Mullet**, admissions counselor.

UNDERGRADUATE 1950-59

Mary Reitz '56, Harrisonburg, Va., resides at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. She was a nurse educator at Massanutten Technical Center, retiring in 1996, and also a Sunday School teacher at Dayton Mennonite Church for 38 years. She has enjoyed travels throughout the United States, Switzerland, Germany, and the U.K.

John Smucker, class of '56, New Holland, Pa., has retired from careers in the pastorate

WORKS OF ACE

Azariah "Ace" Cox '17 talks about his exhibit "When Tools Become Reality" in the Margaret Martin Gehman Gallery during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Ace, owner of Works of Ace Photography, met with students in several classes and hosted two gallery talks. He has traveled around the world documenting international artists, with published work in *Vogue*, *B.E.T.*, and *Fizzy*. In 2019, he was the lead photographer and videographer with Atlantic Records for Rico Nasty's European Tour. (Photo by Jon Styer '07)

and higher education. He was dean, professor and board member of the New York School of Urban Ministry from 1983-2008.

1960-69

Mary Kauffman Martin '61, Lititz, Pa., and husband **Luke S. Martin '62** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 17, 2021.

Lloyd Wert '65, Lititz, Pa., is a retired social work administrator with Embreeville State Hospital and the Coatesville Veterans Administration Medical Center. He surveys state hospitals and county clinics. He is a 17-year board member of Brandywine YMCA and a 50-year member of Frazer Mennonite Church.

Ken Lind '66, Portland, Ore., is a retired nurse. He has served on several short-term assignments with Mennonite Disaster Service, on voluntary service with surgical teams to Guatemala and Bolivia, and with construction teams to Guatemala. He also volunteers locally.

Gary Smucker '67, Alexandria, Va., co-led the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Tour from Goshen in October to see autumn leaves and visit historical sites. Visit <https://tourmagination.com/> for more information.

James Clarke Fairfield '68, is chief of the dermatology section of VA Maine Healthcare System.

1970-79

John Fairfield '70 and **Kathryn Stoltzfus Fairfield '70**, Bridgewater, Va., were celebrated as valued alumni by Eastern Mennonite School during their Homecoming celebration.

Althea Diller Harvey '71, Front Royal, Va., is a member at Front Royal Presbyterian Church, where she is involved in choir and handbells. She also volunteers with several organizations, including a backpack food program for the local elementary school, a retired teachers group, and a teacher sorority. She retired in 2006 after 31 years as an elementary school teacher with Warren County Public Schools.

Bob Musser '71, Denver, Pa., a retired clinical social worker, coordinates a family support group for families with mentally ill members.

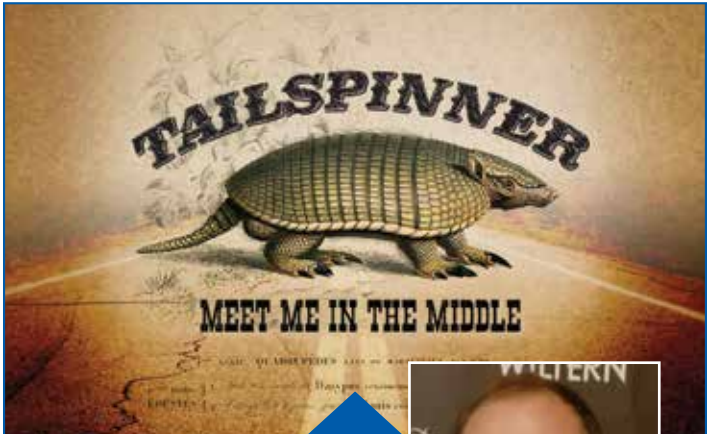
Jane Wert Miron '71, Lancaster, Pa., is the archdean for deacons in the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the co-director of the Spiritual Center at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church. Jane is also involved with the Manheim Township Community Life Task Force, Manheim Township Police Advisory Board, and Manheim Township Ministerium.

J.C. Sherk '71, Sarasota, Fla., is a self-employed CPA. He supports and promotes local high school cross-country and track programs, and is an active member of the Manasota Track Club. He also provides piano accompaniment for singers at Covenant Mennonite Fellowship.



40 UNDER 40

Bshara Nassar MA '14, Washington D.C., was named in The Arab America Foundation's "40 Under 40" Class of 2021. He is founder of the Museum of the Palestinian People in Washington D.C. and also deeply involved in his family's educational farm, Tent of Nations, in Palestine. He and his wife Kirsten Rosetto Nassar '14 co-founded Keffiyeh Masks, a socially responsible brand to invest in Palestine businesses and support local charities in the U.S. (Courtesy photo)



'MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE'

Dr. Christopher Reist '80, Long Beach, Calif., and the band Tailspinner released their debut single "Meet Me in the Middle" in spring 2021. Former medical school classmate Dr. Dave Ehlers, of Oregon, wrote the "centrist anthem" the day of the 2020 presidential election and recorded vocals and guitar. Dave plays under the name "Doc Rocktown" as a nod to his former home town of Harrisonburg. Chris contributed the bass guitar and Winchester-based guitarist James Brown provided the lead. Two Nashville session players added fiddle and drums. The song's artwork is inspired by the Texas saying, "The only thing you find in the middle of the road are yellow lines and dead armadillos." Chris noted that the collaboration "was a great COVID project and another example of what can be done virtually." Find the song on Youtube, Spotify and iTunes. Tailspinner plans to release a few more tunes and perform live at some point. Chris is medical director at Science 37 and chief medical officer at Prairie Health. (Courtesy photos)



Tim '76 and Carol Bachman Detweiler '76, reside in Washington, Iowa. Carol retired in June 2020 after 25 and a half years as a public health nurse with Washington County. Tim is retired as a minister from Central Plains Mennonite Church Conference. He continues pastoral involvements and drives the Hillcrest Academy shuttle bus. Both volunteer occasionally at the local Mennonite Central Committee thrift store and are active in the community in a variety of other ways.

Doretta HostetlerDorsch '76, Frederick, Md., is a project leader for Brethren Disaster Ministries and participates in mission trips to other countries. She and husband James are members at Frederick Church of the Brethren.

Dan Liechty '76, Normal, Ill., and Naomi Wilansky celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this year, along with the college graduation of their daughter, Hannah Miriam. Dan is in his 23rd year as professor at Illinois State University. His newest book, *Facing Up to Mortality* (Lexington Books), is due out early next year.

Jim Bell '79, Wilson, N.C., is senior pastor of First United Methodist Church.

Rolando Santiago '79, Lancaster, Pa., is the chief of behavioral health and crisis services for Montgomery County, Maryland.

1980-89

Michael Bishop '81, Blooming Glen, Pa., is pastor of worship and care at Blooming Glen Mennonite Church.

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz '81, Akron, Pa., is a foster care supervisor with COBYS Family Services in Lancaster after working with Mennonite Central Committee in restorative justice for nearly 30 years.

Keith Graybill '81, McAlisterville, Pa., retired in 2020 from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission as a juvenile court consultant. He is an addictions counselor with Clear Concepts Counseling, based in Lewistown.

Margaret Susanna Buhler Sommers '82, Sarasota, Fla., is a clinical coordinator with Sarasota Clinical Research. She retired in fall 2018 from her work as a paramedic with Manatee County Emergency Medical Services.

Beverly Benner Miller '83, Harleysville, Pa., earned a doctoral degree in higher education from Temple University in May 2020. Her dissertation was titled "Experiences of Immigrant Students and the Challenges of Accessing the Community College." Beverly is a medical writer for Merck Pharmaceutical.

Amy Rosenberger '85, Philadelphia, Pa., has been elected a fellow of The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Election as a fellow is the highest recognition by a lawyer's colleagues of sustained outstanding performance in the profession, exemplifying integrity, dedication and excellence. She has also been selected for inclusion in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, one of the legal profession's oldest and most respected peer-review publications.

Linda Huber Mininger '86, New Cumberland, Pa., earned a graduate certificate in Teaching English Speakers of Other Languages from the University of Kansas. She holds an MEd in reading from Frostburg State University.

Faythe Ropp Silveira '86, Keezletown, Va., is a registered nurse at Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital and Shenandoah Women's Healthcare. She travels annually to Honduras on medical mission trips.

Rose Landis Baer '87, Elizabethtown, Pa., is a palliative care chaplain with Hospice and Community Care in Lancaster. She received her board certification through The Association of Professional Chaplains.

Barry Kreider '87, MDiv '90, Albuquerque, N.M., works with his wife, Erika, as Service Adventure Unit leaders. He was formerly pastor of Pilgrims Mennonite Church in Akron, Pa., for 19 years.

Jody Lohr '87, Fishersville, Va., has been named the Mary Baldwin University head volleyball coach, after being the assistant coach for two seasons. Previously, he was the director of volleyball and head coach at Grace Christian School in Staunton and director of two youth volleyball programs in Augusta County.

Patricia Grace King '89, Durham, U.K., was awarded the Northern Writers Award. Established in 2000 by New Writing North, the awards support work-in-progress by new, emerging and established writers in the region. She has lived in Durham and devoted herself full time to her writing since 2015 (see patriciagracke.com). King was a featured author in the 2017-18 Writers Read series and taught at EMU from 2000-03.

1990-99

Marta Beidler Castillo '90, GC '18 (Christian leadership), Norristown, Pa., will be associate executive minister for Mosaic Conference beginning Feb. 1, 2022. She has been serving as the leadership minister of intercultural formation. She is passionate about the intercultural work of unity in cultural diversity, antiracism, and racial reconciliation. Her personal life is connected to her intercultural work: Her family is bilingual; she lives in a community of English/Spanish speakers; and she speaks English, Indonesian and Spanish.

Karen Faye Schoenly '91, Hellerstown, Pa., is the laboratory site manager with St. Luke's University Hospital.

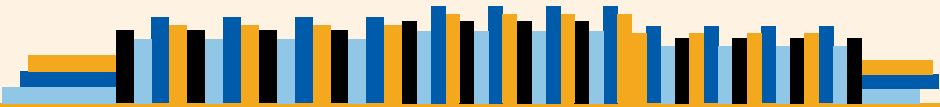
Barry Dwight Maust '92, Pigeon, Mich., has embarked on a solo gospel music ministry after leading the Calvarymen Quartet for 26 years. Barry is an ordained minister in the Conservative Mennonite Conference and is retired from working in sales and marketing at Choice Books Great Lakes.

Heidi Zendt Hochstetler '93, Harrisonburg, Va., offers life and enneagram coaching through her practice, Wholeheartedly You (heidizh.com). She also coaches with Modern Health, supporting employees in companies around the world. Her husband, Doug Hochstetler, former faculty member and coach at EMU, is an associate dean at James Madison University.

Gina Campbell Troyer '93, Bridgewater, Va., resigned as head varsity volleyball coach after 24 years of leading the Turner Ashby High School program. She is a special education teacher at the school. In her last season, her assistant coach was an EMU student-athlete, Delanie Miller.

Joseph Gascho '95, Ann Arbor, Mich., was the guest musician at the Homecoming and Family Weekend Celebration Concert. A professor of music at University of Michigan, he has traveled across the world with his harpsichord, from Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center to Paris, Tokyo, and Taipei. Other recent performances include with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and a solo recital and masterclass for the Japan Harpsichord Society. In a pre-concert interview, he said that collaborations with fellow students Madeline Bender, Angela

CREATIVE WORKS



Mennonites and Post-Colonial African Studies (Routledge, 2021) is co-edited by Harold F. Miller '63. Six other contributors are also alumni: John D. Metzler, class of '71, Lydia Glick Samatar '61, David W. Shenk '59, Lauren W. Yoder '64, P. Stanley Yoder '65, and the late Donald Jacobs '49.



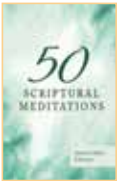
Regina Christman Martin '92 published her grandfather's diaries in the book *John D. Burkholder's Diaries Written During his Civilian Public Service: Camp 45, Skyline Drive, Luray Virginia - Nov. 1 1944 to May 1, 1946* (Masthof Press, 2021). The book includes a section on the Shenandoah National Park's creation and a list of families whose land was taken by eminent domain.



Emily Stanton MA '00 (conflict transformation) has published *Theorising Civil Society Peacebuilding: The Practical Wisdom of Local Peace Practitioners in Northern Ireland, 1965–2015* (Routledge, 2021), which argues for the value of local, practical knowledge in peacebuilding efforts. The content is informed by interviews with 40 practitioners who were active in conflict transformation at a grassroots level in Northern Ireland.



Jim Lapp '60 has self-published *Remember Who You Are: Reflections on Identity, Leadership and Faith*. He reflects on growing up in the Franconia Mennonite Conference, his relationships, his vocation as a pastor, and the trajectories his theology has taken over the years. The book can be purchased for \$18, including mailing costs; contact miriamfbok@gmail.com or Miriam F. Book at 1001 E. Oregon Rd., Lititz, PA 17543.



J. David Eshleman '58, SEM '61 and his wife, Helen Steffy Eshleman, class of '63, published David's tenth book, *50 Scriptural Meditations* (Masthof Press, 2021). These 13-minute meditations were delivered in dialogue form on the Landis Home Retirement Community TV. David sells his books primarily at Root's and Green Dragon Farmers' Markets in Lancaster County.



Kathleen Weaver Kurtz '69 published *The Blistering Morning Mist: A Memoir* (Wipf and Stock, 2021). Her story begins in Kentucky, where beauty and safety surrounded her, but Eden didn't last, and she had to go beyond that world of mists, mountains, and boundaries into wider spaces that seemed fraught with dangers but in reality held many riches.



The Prize-Winning Story (Root Source Press, 2021) is Ken Yoder Reed '66's fourth novel, a satirical suspense novel about anti-semitism and American Christians facing the reality of the Holy Land. Learn more at kenyoderreed.com.



David Shenk '59 published "A Gentle Boldness: Sharing the Peace of Jesus in a Multi-Faith World" (Herald Press, 2021) about his many years of missionary work with wife Grace answering the question "What difference does Jesus make?" They are members of Eastern Mennonite Missions' Christian-Muslim Relations Team.



Darvin Martin '95 wrote a memoir of his grandparents titled *Family Record of Lester W. Martin (1923-2001) and Hannah Elizabeth Fisher Martin (1924-2016), formerly of 1484 Landis Road, Ephrata, Pa.* (Masthof Press, 2021).



Leslie Horning '86, SEM '98 has self-published *A Year on the Farm Lane: An adventure in awareness, photography and poetry*. This collection of 365 photos and accompanying haikus can be ordered by emailing lesliehorning@gmail.com. The \$50 cost includes shipping.



The "What Now? Leading Churches through COVID" resource (free download at mennomedia.org) includes faculty and alumni contributing on topics of faith formation, sustaining leaders, community engagement, polarization and more. Contributors are David Brubaker, dean of EMU's School of Social Sciences and Professions; Jayne Seminare Docherty, executive director of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding; Cheree Hammond,

professor in the graduate counseling program; and Sarah Ann Bixler, associate dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Alumni include Hendy Matahelemual MA '19 (Christian leadership), Nelson Okanya '02, Jane Hooper Peifer '75, MDiv '98, and Martin Rhodes '02. Former faculty member Lisa Schirch, now with the Kroc Institute at University of Notre Dame, also contributed.



TRANSVIRGINIA 550

Abe Kaufman '04 (above) celebrated his record-breaking run on the TransVirginia 550 Bike Route in May. He rode from Washington DC to Damascus in a little over 55 hours, beating the previous record by 18 hours. The route, which features backroads, gravel trails, and mountain paths, was designed by **David Landis '04** (lower left). Also in May, **Joanna Friesen MDiv '21** (lower right), cross country and triathlon coach, claimed the women's record of 18 hours, 50 minutes, for the first 215 miles (ending in Harrisonburg). **Julian Bender '09** toured the route, embarking with the Grand Depart riders and taking nine days to finish. (Courtesy photos)



Leidig '96, and **Karen Fix '95**, performing with the Chamber Singers, and playing cello in the orchestra as the highlights of his musical experience at EMU. He also named professors **Ken Nafziger** and **John Fast** as great teachers and mentors.

Anne Gingerich Brenneman '96, Salt Lake City, Utah, received a doctor of nursing practice degree in executive leadership from the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in 2021. She is the administrative director of pediatric behavioral health services at Inter-mountain Healthcare and Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City.

Eric Scott Stutzman '96, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, is the CEO of the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute, which provides training, consulting, and books in the areas of trauma, mental health, counseling skills, and violence prevention.

Melody Pannell '97, GC '19, Dayton, Va., is director of diversity and community engagement at UVA Health.

Kevin Lanoue '98, Penn Laird, Va., was the interim chief for the James Madison University Police Department this past year. He joined the department in 2011 as an emergency manager and was promoted to deputy chief in 2016. Previously, he worked for the Harrisonburg Police Department.

Michael Joseph Shank '98, Broadway, Va., became an investigator in the criminal investigations division of the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office in June. Michael also works part time as a district security officer for the Western District of the U.S. Marshals, as well as a police officer for Bridgewater Airpark-Dynamic Aviation. He also writes and produces instrumental music under the name Mike Shank.

Aaron Troyer '98, Alva, Fla., is chair of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association. He is the president of Troyer Brothers, a potato business started by his grandfather and great-uncle that operates from a primary packing location and several farms in Florida as well as a potato seed production farm in northwest Pennsylvania.

Kate Good '99, Lancaster, Pa., has joined Landis Home and Community-Based Services, an affiliate of Landis Communities, as a member of the company's board of directors. Kate has worked as executive director of the Parish Resource Center in Lancaster since 2013. She also is associate publisher and partner at Walnut Street Media Group and has served as a creative, marketing and content strategist for many publishing companies. She has a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from George Mason University.

2000-09

Jean Daniels Hieber '00, Bridgewater, Va., was promoted to vice president of human resources at Nielsen Builders, Inc. She has been with Nielsen for nearly 30 years in a variety of positions.

Reuben Z. Miller '00, Lovington, Va., worked for 10 years with the maintenance and grounds department at Albemarle County Parks and Recreation. He is now focusing full-time on his home repair business, Miller Home Works. He is married to **Holly Scott '02**.

Jessica Penner '01, Booklyn, N.Y., teaches at New York City College of Technology. She also publishes fiction, poetry and non-fiction. She is married to **Tom Smith '00**.

Cedric '01 and **Christy Landis Steiner '01** reside in Lancaster, Pa., with their three children. Chris earned a doctorate of physical

therapy from the University of Mount Union and is employed by Nationwide Children's Hospital. Cedric works in health medical services. He graduated from Eastern University in 2020 with an MBA. Cedric coaches a soccer team in a U10 community league.

Stephanie Holsopple '02, Holsopple, Pa., is a special education teacher at Insight PA Cyber Charter School.

Erik Kratz '02, Telford, Pa., was inducted into the Valley League Hall of Fame in summer 2021. Before playing in the major leagues, Erik played for Waynesboro in 2000 and Harrisonburg in 2001.

Holly Scott '02, Lovington, Va., works in admissions and advising at the University of Virginia's School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Holly has a PhD in history from American University and occasionally teaches at Piedmont Virginia Community College. She is married to **Reuben Z. Miller '00**.

Benjamin Bixler '03, MA '13 (religion), Linville, Va., participated in the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre's Graduate Student Conference in June.

Misty Dawn Ward '05, GC '21 (trauma and resilience in healthcare), Rockingham, Va., is opening a new birth center in Harrisonburg, and was appointed to Virginia's Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board this year. She is a certified preceptor for five university programs around the county and has trained 12 student midwives who have gone on to achieve licensure. Misty is the current president of the Virginia Birth Center Alliance and a board member of the American Association of Birth Centers.

Jen Holsopple Bailey '06, Greenville, S.C., is the assistant principal of the middle school at South Carolina Connections Academy.

Sharon Kniss '06, Mount Rainier, Md., is a senior program officer with the U.S. Institute for Peace.

Jenny Hartwig Wagner '06, Harrisonburg, Va., is a lecturer in the Intensive English Program at EMU.

Laura Arendt '07, Concord, Calif., is a practice coordinator at University of California San Francisco Medical Center.

Jason Lentz, class of '07, Diana, W. Va., won the 2021 Stihl Timbersports Individual World Championships.

Francis Johnson '07, Ewing, N.J., was named a Nonprofit Technology Fellow for the Okta for Good Nonprofit Technology Initiative in spring 2021. The inaugural fellowship program, which received 340 applications from across the globe, selected Johnson as one of eight recipients for a \$25,000 grant to advance Tech for Good thought leadership throughout the six-month program. Johnson is the managing director of technology services at Tech Impact, offering technology services to nonprofit organizations.

Eric Trinka '07, MA '15 (religion), Harrisonburg, Va., participated in the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre's Graduate Student Conference in June.

David Samuel Gish '08, Linville, Va., completed his residency and fellowship at University of Virginia in diagnostic and musculoskeletal radiology this year, and is now a radiologist at Sentara RMH. He is married to **Rebecca Souder Gish '09**.

2010-19

Estella Bagnal '11, Cross Junction, Va., earned a Master of Science degree in Applied

Behavior Analysis from St. Cloud State University in 2021. She is a special education teacher with Frederick County Schools.

Aaron Clemmer '11, Baltimore, Md., is in law school at the University of Maryland, with an anticipated graduation of 2024.

Eli Crawford '11, Staunton, Va., is the boys varsity basketball coach at Eastern Mennonite School. He was an assistant coach for the past three seasons. He was a member of the Royals team that went to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament in 2011.

Samfee G. K. Doe '11, Yonkers, N.Y., assistant professor and physician at Columbia University Medical Center, presented a Suter Science Seminar on "Marginalized Groups' Distrust of the Healthcare System as Pertains to Women's Health" during Homecoming and Family Weekend.

Jen Blosser DuVon '11, Harrisonburg, Va., was named the clinical director of Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley in May. She has worked with the organization for nine years, and is a certified brain injury specialist. Jen also earned a master's degree in social work from the University of North Dakota earlier this year.

Anna Engle '11, Osaka, Japan, teaches English at Setsunan University and Korean International School.

Will Morris '11, Manassas Park, Va., is a manager at the consulting firm Deloitte & Touche LLP. He earned a master of accounting and information systems degree from Virginia Tech in 2015.

Lyubov D. Slashcheva '11, Rochester, Minn., is certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. She has also been chosen to serve as a member of the National Elder Care Advisory Committee for the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Practice. In October, Lyubov will transition from chair-elect to chair of the American Public Health Association's Oral Health Section.

Cassie Leatherman Thoresen '11, Sarasota, Fla., teaches at Sarasota Christian School.

Elisa Troyer '11, Safford, Ariz., practices family medicine with obstetrics at Gila Valley Clinic. She completed her residency with North Colorado Family Medicine in 2020.

Katrina Goering '12, Winthrop, Wash., is executive director of Room One, a nonprofit advocating for the health and wellbeing of residents in the Methow Valley with various programs, including housing, domestic violence prevention, youth services and more.

Nathan Hershberger '12, Durham, N.C., participated in the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre's Graduate Student Conference in June.

Leigh Parker Arbaugh '13, Stuarts Draft, Va., is head nurse at Waynesboro Public Schools. She was recognized for her service and leadership by the *Daily Progress* newspaper.

Jennifer Blankenship Hitt '13, Mount Crawford, Va., is principal at Minnick School in Harrisonburg.

Ruth L. Maust '13, Seattle, Wash., defended her dissertation and completed a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Oregon in May.

James Souder '13, Amsterdam, Netherlands, is a sustainability consultant with Metabolic, an environmental think tank. He gave a Suter Science Seminar in December 2021 titled

"From Waste to Resource: Rethinking Production and Consumption within a Circular Economy."

Christine Baer '14, Lancaster, Pa., is the acting associate director for community sponsorship with Church World Service and gives leadership to a new Community Partner initiative called the Afghan Placement and Assistance program.

Andrew Penner '14, Fresno, Calif., is a guidance counselor at Coalinga High School.

Hannah Chappell-Dick '16, Providence, R.I., earned a master of business administration degree from the University of Florida Warrington College of Business earlier this year. She is a track and field coach at Brown University.

Eyan Roth '16, Wichita, Kan., graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and is currently completing a residency in family medicine at Ascension Via Christi in Wichita.

Chris Steiner '16, Columbus, Ohio, received a doctorate of physical therapy from the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio, in 2020. He is now a physical therapy resident at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Philip Watson Jr. '16, Philadelphia, Pa., a citizen of Liberia, started a successful fundraiser to help two Liberian athletes and a delegation to attend the Paralympics in summer 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. The former EMU sprinter balanced advocacy efforts with his full-time work as a supervisory staff member in Milton Hershey School's transitional living program and monthly service commitments with the Air Force Reserve.

Taylor Bradley Allen '18, Buena Vista, Va., earned a doctoral degree in occupational therapy from Mary Baldwin University's Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences in May.

Julian Bussells '18, Harrisonburg, Va., is an editor and photographer with WHSV-TV3.

William Ragland '18, North Chesterfield, Va., was a professional volleyball player with the Chicago Untouchables in summer 2021.

Caleb Schrock-Hurst '18, Harrisonburg, Va., is the Virginia Mennonite Conference racial justice and equality leader, supporting the work of the racial justice task force.

Claire Waidelich '19, San Francisco, Calif., works through Mennonite Voluntary Service with DISH, an organization which provides high-quality, permanent housing to San Francisco residents who suffer from serious health issues.

2020-

Victoria Barnes '20, Harrisonburg, Va., is a campus missionary through Every Nation, an organization that desires to plant churches and reach college campuses around the world.

Erica Blaire Biller '20, Broadway, Va., was promoted earlier this year to CT protocoling technologist at Valley Health. She will also conduct CT cardiac imaging.

Meredith Stinnette Hall '20, Harrisonburg, Va., is the girls varsity volleyball coach at Eastern Mennonite School. A former Royals athlete and now third grade teacher at Waterman Elementary, Hall moved into the head volleyball position after serving one year as assistant coach.

Allie Coffey Hodge '20, Harrisonburg, Va., received a DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses in June, after being nominated by two family members who had loved ones on the Sentara RMH COVID-19 unit. The DAISY



PAYING IT FORWARD

Dr. Ron David '60, pictured here at an event at the Honduras embassy in Washington D.C., helped to support **Alejandra Tejada Rivera '18** (right) in her studies at EMU, inspired by his own childhood experiences.

After his mother died, he was taken in by the Weaver family in Denbigh, Va., for a summer, and then never left, becoming the youngest sibling in a vibrant, bantering family that encouraged him to follow the other children – **Sara Jane Weaver Wenger '42**, **Kenneth Weaver '52**, **Samuel Weaver '66**, and future Royals parent **Lloyd Weaver Jr.** – to attend Eastern Mennonite College. Others at the Mennonite church the Weavers attended also saw potential in the young man, and pitched in for his tuition.

He went on to graduate with honors from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, became a child neurologist, and founded the Virginia Center for Autism and Related Developmental Disorders.

Fast forward several years: David and his wife **Dr. Susan Lewis Pillsbury David** traveled regularly to Honduras on medical missions and they would eventually found KHISH Project Vision to provide free cataract surgeries and other eye care to people in southern Honduras. Melvin Tejada, a former hospital administrator who liaises between missions teams and medical clinics, and his family developed a close relationship, and when his daughter, Alejandra, wanted to pursue medical studies, the Davids offered their support.

Tejada Rivera is a registered nurse certified in orthopedics and pediatrics at Sentara RMH in Harrisonburg – and she and fiancée **Drew Diaz '18**, currently in medical school, now participate in the same medical missions through which she first met David. (Courtesy photo)

SEE PAGE 14 FOR ANOTHER STORY OF HOSPITALITY AND GRATITUDE EXPERIENCED BY ALUMNI, AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DONOR OPPORTUNITIES.

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emu.edu/alumni/nominations



NATURE-INSPIRED

ANDREA SCOTT KONSTANT '15, MA '17 (ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Harrisonburg, Va., was the featured artist in September 2021 at the Gaines Group Architects' Chesapeake Western Railway Depot gallery. View her nature-inspired illustrations on Etsy at KonstantCreative. Andrea is vice president of association management at Matchbox Realty & Management Services. (Courtesy photos)

Foundation is a national organization that recognizes nurses who provide extraordinary, skillful and compassionate care.

Yonas T. Ketsela '21, Woodbridge, Va., is an emergency department nurse at Sentara Woodbridge.

Alex Raber '21, Dalton, Ohio, began medical school at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

GRADUATE

Jeffrey Scott Heie MA '00 (conflict transformation), Harrisonburg, Va., is the founder and director of GiveSolar, a project that aims to make solar energy accessible to nonprofit organizations and low-income households. He is collaborating with Central Valley Habitat for Humanity to create a "Solar Seed Fund" that will support the installation of solar systems on all new Habitat homes in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County for the next five years.

Sumita Ghose MA '04 (conflict transformation), Gurgaon, Haryana, India, is the founder and managing director of Rangсутra (rangсутra.com), a social enterprise working with more than 2,000 artisans, mostly rural women, to provide design, marketing, technical and organizational support to make crafts in village-based employment models. In 2016, she was awarded the Nari Shakti Puraskdkar by the president of India.

Heather Brubaker Benin MA '05 (counseling), Bridgewater, Va., is the owner and founder of Sugar and Bean Café and Baking Co. Goods are sold from a historic home in downtown Bridgewater as well as the Harrisonburg Farmers Market.

Sanjay Pulipaka MA '07 (conflict transformation), New Delhi, India, is the senior fellow for research programs and strategic neighborhoods at the Delhi Policy Group.

Paulus Rahmat MA '07 (conflict transformation), Queens, N.Y., is the main representative to the United Nations for VIVAT International, a non-governmental organization associated with the Catholic church that advocates for the promotion of human rights in 120 countries around the world. Previously, he was the director of the organization's Indonesia branch.

Nilofar Sakhi MA '07 (conflict transformation), Fredericksburg, Va., gave the biannual McMillan-Stewart Lecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in December 2021. Her subject was "From Musahiban to Taliban: A Historical Review of Gender Politics in Afghanistan." She is the director of policy and diplomacy at McColm & Company, a lecturer of International Affairs at Elliott School of George Washington University, and a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, among other involvements.

Maribeth Saleem-Tanner MA '09 (conflict transformation), Williamstown, W.Va., is the new executive director of Community Foods Initiative, a nonprofit in Athens County, Ohio, that works to foster access to healthy, local food. Previously, she was the director of civic engagement at Marietta College.

Kara Beckman MA '10 (conflict transformation), South St. Paul, Minn., is a researcher at the University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development.

Abby Arey MA '11 (education), Staunton, Va., is the principal at Wenonah Elementary School in Waynesboro City Schools. Abby began her career in education in 2006 as a teacher at Wenonah. In 2012, she accepted a position with Rockingham County Schools

as an instructional coach and then in 2013 moved to Augusta County Schools as an intervention specialist and school testing coordinator. Most recently, she has served as the assistant principal at Stuarts Draft Elementary School for the past six years.

Sandra Kienitz MA '12 (conflict transformation), Filadelfia, Boquerón, Paraguay, works at Cooperativa and Asociación Fernheim as a moderator, coach, change manager and advisor.. She also supervises the project management and progress reporting of Fernheim's 30 departments, ranging from meat production to health care.

Charles Kwuelum MA '14 (conflict transformation), Washington D.C., is a senior legislative associate for international affairs with Mennonite Central Committee U.S. He monitors and guides advocacy efforts on U.S public policy related to Africa, global HIV/AIDS, food justice and security, Agent Orange, peacebuilding, counter-terrorism/ and counter-violent extremism, and U.S. police reform (mass incarceration) through the Anabaptist lens.

Vincent Morra MA '15 (biomedicine), Huntington, W.Va., graduated from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in May 2021 and began his residency in family medicine at Cabell Huntington Hospital.

Erich Sneller GC '18 (restorative justice), Keezletown, Va., is a chemistry and environmental science teacher at Harrisonburg High School. He participated in a STEM teaching gathering for undergraduate students at EMU in November.

Ian Steele Pulz MA '18 (conflict transformation), Shenandoah, Va., is an assistant public defender with Virginia Indigent Defense Commission. He earned his JD at Albany Law School in 2021.

Emily Higgins Badri MA '19 (restorative justice), Nashville, Tenn., is a restorative justice case facilitator with the Raphah Institute, an organization that addresses harm and trauma in the Nashville area through programs like the restorative justice diversion program and multisystemic therapy for youth.

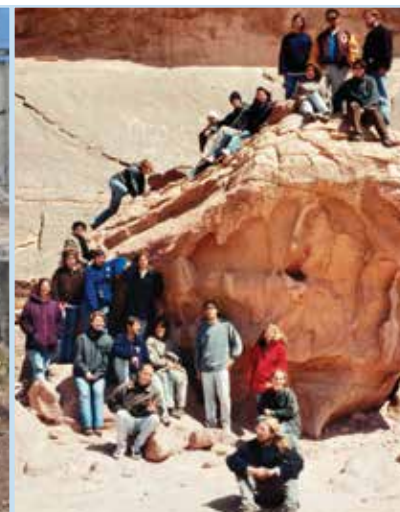
Maha Y. A. Mehanna MA '19 (conflict transformation), GC '19 (nonprofit leadership and social entrepreneurship, MA '20 (organizational leadership), GC '20 (restorative justice, business administration), Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, is pursuing her doctoral degree in peace and conflict studies at the University of Manitoba. She is a freelance field researcher, organizational consultant, and a professional English/Arabic translator and interpreter.

Lindsay Acker MA '21 (conflict transformation), Williamsville, N.Y., is a program and case coordinator for the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition.

Tim Rasmussen MA '21 (conflict transformation), Las Vegas, Nev., is an evaluation associate with PeacePlayers, an organization that uses sports to build peace and equity among youth all over the world.

David Holsinger Shenk GC '19, Harrisonburg, Va., is a home-school liaison with Harrisonburg City Public Schools.

Morgan Smith MA '21 (organizational leadership), Petersburg, Va., was named the new head softball coach at Richard Bland College of William & Mary in June 2021. She was a graduate assistant with the Royals softball team.



Cross-cultural groups from 1996, 1998 and 1999. (Courtesy photos)

90s MIDDLE EAST CROSS-CULTURALS GATHER FOR 'SACRED' SHARING

When he travels, **Dale Collingwood '98** sets out walking to get a feel for the place and the people – just as he did when an EMU student travelling through the Middle East. After graduation, **Laura Schildt '00*** and couples **Jen Linder '98** and **Landon Miller '97** and **David Roth Sawatzky '98** and **Rachel Roth Sawatzky '98** decided to work for Mennonite Central Committee. **Nathan Musselman '00** returned to the Middle East to live and work. **Christopher Martin '97** and **Brian Emery '98 *** went on mission trips. **Eric Eberly '98*** became an ESOL teacher and lived overseas. **Leah Emery Kratz '00** and **Kelly King Emery '98*** have raised children who eat Middle Eastern food, dance to Middle Eastern music, and know expressions in Arabic.

For all of these alumni – participants on three different semester trips to the Middle East in the 1990s – their travels and encounters left indelible and reverberating memories. Even in the virtual space and more than 20 years later, the sharing of those memories felt "sacred," as described by one of the participants.

Twenty-six alumni living in five states and four countries participated in virtual reunions hosted this spring by **Cynthia Yoder**. Yoder led three semester-long cross-cultural with assistance from **Heidi King '89** in the fall 1996, **John Fuller '89** in the spring of 1998, and **Kendra Yoder '96** in the fall of 1999.

For Cynthia Yoder, listening to former students share memories and explain how the semester impacted them far beyond those four months was inspiring and a joy, she said. What she heard is echoed by many alumni over the years who report that their cross-cultural is one of their most transformative experiences, both while studying at EMU and in their life's trajectory.

Lives changed in ways the participants could not begin to see or imagine at the time. This included professional careers, return for further

travels or living in the region, and the development of lifelong friendships, especially among the Beit Sahour community. Participants talked about a growth in empathy for those who are disempowered and for those living in conflict areas, and a desire to lift and leverage their own empowered voices on behalf of the marginalized.

Kendra Yoder, now a professor of sociology and women's and gender studies at Goshen College who has led several Study Service Terms there, read from a journal entry she had written in 1999 while an assistant leader: "I am so small. I know so little about this world."

Curiosity, vulnerability and empathy were all part of the experience: characteristics rooted in often searing memories of their travels.

Pediatric oncologist **Trent Hummel '97** often relates to parents of many different cultures as he treats their children with brain tumors at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. "Saying something as simple as 'salaam alekum' to a mother [of a patient] has been so meaningful, a reminder of our shared humanity," he said.

*** Four alumni also earned graduate degrees at EMU: Laura Schildt earned an MA in conflict transformation in 2006. Brian Emery earned an MDiv at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in 2007. Eric Eberly taught in EMU's Intensive English Program and earned an MA in conflict transformation in 2019. Kelly King Emery earned an MA in education in 2005.**

**** The 1998 group held a special time of memorial for Weston Elliot Strickler '01, who passed away in July 2020.**

Contributor Cynthia Yoder was the first full-time faculty member in EMU's Intensive English Program. She taught in the program for eight years, from 1992-2000, and then moved to Palestine. There, she directed an English language program at the Arab American University of Palestine from 2000-05. In 2020, she published the memoir This is Life; 'Haik al-Haya': Five Years Teaching in Palestine.

THE GANG': 38 YEARS, 74 REUNIONS...AND COUNTING

For your consideration, a unique EMU alumni story, began the email from Cheryl Kreider Carey '83 late this summer.

Unique is right. For 38 years, "The Gang" has hosted 74 reunions ("winter is for adults, summer is adults and kids," Carey explained). The group is 19-strong and includes several couples who met while at EMU.

Several of them knew each other previously, including four classmates from Lancaster Mennonite High School. But most of The Gang coalesced on campus: they met in orientation groups, became class officers, shared time in YPCA activities, and became roommates. Ten of the 19 were on cross-cultural to Jerusalem in 1981.

"The Gang" was also sighted (and sited) among other august company on the recognition wall of the Suter Science Center; spearheaded by Ed Brubaker '84, the group paid tribute to their relationships by funding renovations, fittingly, to the center's student lounge. "We liked the idea of giving back to EMU as a group by funding a room in the Science Center," Carey said. "Having all our names listed on the plate memorializes Gang presence on campus."

In some ways, The Gang has never left EMU: Three are former employees: Kevin Carey, 1982–88; Denise Miller, 1988–89; and Sheri Smucker, 2013–16. There's also been second-generation Gang members on campus: Kate Baker Baer '07 (married to Austin Baer '06), Kelly Baker Fry '11 and Justin Carey MBA '21. Repping The Gang now are current students Nicole Miller and Hannah Giagnocavo.

But the biannual reunions, usually a weekend, are a life's constant. Since the first meeting was November 1983 at the Ramada Inn, Tysons Corner, Va., they have met 73 more times in major cities such as Richmond, Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York City. They've shared bed and breakfasts, houses at the beach, their homes, and even a Caribbean cruise. When Kirk '83 and Marilyn Cassel Hanger '83 were working in Mexico City as church planters, The Gang even showed up there. (Mini-Gang meet-ups also occur "unofficially" through the year, Carey said.)

"In early years, we'd stay up late until 1 a.m., but now, lights are out much earlier," Carey said. "We would schedule a full weekend to explore the local area, eat, talk, laugh, play...not necessarily in that order ... Now, we like just being together to talk."

Here's the full Gang roster: Dave Baker '82 and Melanie Gehret Baker '83, Perkiomenville, Pa.; Carl Beckler '83 and Karen Glick Beckler '84, Middle Granville, NY; Ed Brubaker '84

and Lucy Yoder Brubaker '83, Telford, Pa.; Kevin Carey '82, MA '86 and Cheryl Kreider Carey '83, Lansdowne, Va.; Kirk Hanger '83 and Marilyn Cassel Hanger '83, Alexandria, Va.; Karen Yoder Hartz '82 and Owen Hartz, Leola, Pa.; Luke Miller '82 and Denise Yoder Miller '85, Plymouth, Minn.; Carole Roth '82, Lancaster, Pa.; Ed Shenk '83 and Christine Good Shenk '83, Lancaster, Pa.; Dave Smucker and Sheri Hartzler Smucker, Harrisonburg, Va.



How It Started," dated November 1983 (above) and "How It's Going," from the July 2021 gathering at Spruce Lake Retreat. (Photos courtesy of Cheryl Kreider Carey '83)



MARRIAGES

Kristen Myers '13, MA '16 (counseling) to Seth Berkey, Rockingham, Va., June 12, 2021.

Brianna Kauffman '16 to Steve Ralston, Harleysville, Pa., Sept. 5, 2020.

Kayla Sauder '19 to Ben Zook '19, Christiansburg, Va., May 29, 2021.

Jenifer Leight Cloud '21 to Erik Bauserman, Lebanon Church, Va., June 27, 2020.

Jared Phillip Oyer '21 to Jenna Boller, Hubbard, Ore., July 3, 2021.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Eric Trinka '07, MA '15 (religion), adjunct instructor, and **Jenna Martin-Trinka '07**, Harrisonburg, Va., Ari Francis, July 20, 2021.

Hans and **Lisa King Burkholder '08**, instructor of nursing, Linville, Va., Maia Joy, Sept. 26, 2021.

Trevor and **Bébhinn Cecilia Egger Rowland '09**, Warrenton, Va., Chloe Ann, Jan. 31, 2020.

Ryan Drudge and **Sarah Jones '08**, Stouffville, Ontario, Canada, Eli Maurice, Feb. 14, 2021.

Brendan '12 and Heidi Boese Derstine '11, Harrisonburg, Va., Adelyn (Addy) Joy, June 3, 2021.

Simon and **Hannah Kraybill Jilg '11**, Harrisonburg, Va., Nico Augustus, May 17, 2021.

Robert '09 and Alyssa Borucki Roy '11, Culpeper, Va., Cameron Bryant, Oct. 26, 2021.

Travis '12 and Emily Hodges Nyce '14, Richmond, Va., Myrina Ruth, Oct. 20, 2021.

Steven '13 and Olivia Nussbaum Burkholder '13, Broadway, Va., Micah Steven, June 16, 2021.

Jackson and **Lynae Fry Waidelich '14**, Harrisonburg, Va., Sutton Ann, Sept. 20, 2021.

Kevin '15 and Hannah Schrock Leaman '13, Mount Sidney, Va., Amari Samuel, Nov. 2, 2021.

Austin Marzullo and **Abigail Clemens '16**, Harleysville, Pa., Jack Douglas, Aug. 19, 2021.

DEATHS

Marlin Paul Alt, former professor of business, Harrisonburg, Va., died Nov. 10, 2021. He was a CPA and lectured on accounting and auditing subjects before CPA societies in Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. He is the only person to have served two terms as president of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce.

Danny Martin Conley, former assistant softball coach, Mount Crawford, Va., died April 27, 2021, at 70. Danny was employed at Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company as a sales manager for over 30 years. He loved being outdoors as well as playing and coaching sports.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Lee Garrett, former professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Costa Mesa, Calif., died on April 25, 2021, at 80. Dan served as a United Methodist minister and seminary professor for 40 years. He taught United Methodist Studies at EMS, Union Presbyterian Seminary and Virginia Union School of Theology. In retirement he wrote five books on United Methodist ministry, practical theology, and history.

Laban Peachey '52, professor and dean of students, Harrisonburg, Va., died April 23, 2021, at 94. Laban taught psychology at EMC from 1954–68 and was also dean of students. Afterwards, he served as president of Hesston

College for 12 years and worked at Mennonite Mutual Aid in Goshen, Ind., until his retirement. He then returned to Harrisonburg where he farmed and had teaching roles at Eastern Mennonite College and Seminary. Laban was also a conference moderator of the Virginia Mennonite Conference and deeply enjoyed 11 interim pastor roles with churches in Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Herbert L. Swartz, emeritus professor, Harrisonburg, Va., died on July 31, 2021, at 89. He taught Biblical studies at EMU for two and a half decades. Swartz joined the EMU faculty in 1973, after teaching and serving as registrar at Mennonite Brethren Bible College in Winnipeg, Canada. In addition to his teaching, Swartz was called on for leadership roles, including the revision of general education requirements in the 1980s and again in the 1990s. Swartz retired in 1997, and came out of retirement for one year to serve as the interim undergraduate dean from 1999–2000.

Rev. Dr. Anil Daniel Solanki, former professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, Va., died Sept. 29, 2021, at 83. His initial career was as a civil engineer in Gujarat, India. In 1976, he was ordained as a minister by the Methodist Church. In 1969, the Bible Society of India commissioned him to begin work on a new translation of the Bible. Solanki, the leading Hebrew Bible scholar among Gujarati speakers, worked together with his wife Shaila and three colleagues representing several denominations in India. The project took 35 years and was completed in 2004. He pastored at Valley Central UCC and St. Luke's County Line UCC, and more recently attended Ridgeway Mennonite Church.

Virginia Bontrager Sharp '40, Goshen, Ind., died March 28, 2021, at 99. She taught in a rural Michigan one-room schoolhouse for seven years. Throughout the years, faith was an important part of Virginia's life, and she was an active member in several churches. Always energetic, Virginia loved making connections with friends and family.

Virginia Moyers Martin '41, Harrisonburg, Va., died July 21, 2021, at 99. She was a member of the Choice Books Caribbean Board for 25 years. She was a baker at EMU from 1974–84. At Trissels Mennonite Church, she served as elder and president of the women's mission organization.

Pearl Hartz '45, Escondido, Calif., died June 28, 2021, at 98. Pearl was a school teacher and guidance counselor in Pennsylvania for 30 years. She was a member of Blooming Glen Mennonite Church. After retirement, she relocated to San Diego where she was involved in establishing and directing a restorative justice mediation program, as well as helping to found the San Diego Mennonite Church.

Margaret Moyer Yoder '50, Hillsboro, Ore., died Oct. 10, 2021, at 96. Margaret and her husband, Maynard, worked with a Mennonite mission church in Kansas City where they became acquainted with the Gospel Missionary Union, an evangelical mission organization. They spent a year in Switzerland for French language study, and then in 1954 started learning Arabic as they began their years of ministry in Morocco, North Africa. In 1970, when GMU missionaries were expelled from Morocco, they relocated to Malaga, Spain, where they learned a third language, Spanish. She continued to work after Maynard's passing from cancer in 1986 until her retirement from GMU in 1991.

Alice S. Snyder '51, Lititz, Pa., died Aug. 25, 2020, at 97. She was a member of Lititz Mennonite Church. Alice served with Eastern Men-



Photo by Lynn Cates

JOINING IN THE NATIONAL VILLAGE MOVEMENT

Two fall EMU News articles featured alumni involved in the National Village Movement ([visit vtnetwork.org](http://visit.vtnetwork.org)) – grassroots groups that help members age in place by supporting their independence.

Denise Snyder '79 (above) is executive director at the Foggy Bottom West End Village, one of 13 Village groups in Washington D.C. She left a 25-year career leading the D.C. Rape Crisis Center to help take care of elderly family members, and in the process, became active in the Village movement.

Most Villages have only one or a few staff members, who are assisted by a cadre of volunteers – many of whom are also participants in the services and activities. Some are entirely volunteer-run. Snyder said that sometimes the smallest of services "can really make a big difference," like helping someone with technology, changing a light bulb, or giving a ride to a doctor's appointment. Perhaps even more important, though, are the relationships built among neighbors. The Village movement has 350 organizations across the country and it's growing every year.

In Harrisonburg, alumni **Stan Godshall '65**, **Ann Bender**, class of '58, **Keith Gnagey '75**, **Clara Yoder**, class of '64, and **Daryl Peifer '75** (pictured below from left) serve on the board of Valley Village (the board's nine members also include non-EMU alumni). The group first coalesced as the Park View Village, the brainchild of Gnagey and Paul A. Yoder '61, who were inspired by the village model that emerged in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston. **John Spicher '58** was also a part of those early planning sessions. Visit vv.clubexpress.com for more information.



Photo by Randi B. Hagi '14



50 YEARS OF HARMAN CONSTRUCTION

Harman Construction hosted a 50th anniversary celebration Oct. 8, 2021, at their Harrisonburg headquarters. Founded by **Carl Harman, class of '67**, the company is led by an executive leadership team that includes three alumni: **Wayne Witmer '88**, president and CEO (back row, second from left, and addressing the guests); **Ryan Strite '99**, director of business development (back row, right); and **Nancy Bowers '97**, director of finance (back row, second from right). Harman built the seminary building in 1993 and has been a consistent partner in campus constructions projects since, including Northlawn renovations, 1995; Hillside Suites, 1996; University Commons, 2000; Fine Arts building, 2002; Cedarwood, 2008; Elmwood and Maplewood renovations, 2009-10; Roselawn renovation, 2014; and the Suter Science Center south addition in 2012, East renovations in 2015, and West renovations in 2019. (Photos: Mike Miriello/Downtown Creative)

CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CROSS-CULTURAL TOURS

emu.edu/alumni

nonite Missions and the Mennonite Mission in Ethiopia. Afterwards, she worked with Tabor Community Services and Menno Housing in Lancaster until retirement.

Doris Jean Showalter Trumbo '51, Harrisonburg, Va., died Aug. 20, 2021, at 94. She worked at the family business, Trumbo Electric, Inc., in Broadway as a receptionist and secretary. Doris was a life-long member of Trissels Mennonite Church, where she taught Sunday school and chaired the sewing circle and women's prayer group.

Orris Lee Basinger '52, Berlin, Ohio, died June 23, 2021, at 91. He coached basketball, baseball and softball, and umpired all levels of baseball. Orris had a commanding, yet gentle and nurturing presence. He lived his love of God on his sleeve, lifting up his family and peers in prayer.

Dr. Clarence H. Rutt, Jr. '53, Lititz, Pa., died Oct. 10, 2021, at 90. He served in medical missions with Mennonite Central Committee in Indonesia from 1958-67. He was a general surgeon at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lancaster and Columbia Hospital and at Lancaster General Hospital, where he assisted in heart surgeries, from 1971-96. He retired from his medical career in 2000. Clarence was an active member of Landisville Mennonite Church, where he taught Sunday School, served as a trustee, and filled other positions.

Fae Miller '58, Orrville, Oh., died April 5, 2021, at 97. 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. She was a member of Orrville Mennonite Church.

Maynard J. Headings '59, McMinnville, Ore., died Aug. 24, 2021.

Raymond A. Schlabach '59, San Jose, Costa Rica, died April 27, 2021, at 93. He and his wife spent over 40 years translating the Bible into the indigenous Bribri language of Costa Rica, and eventually retired there. After retirement, they also helped with the translation of the Old Testament into Pennsylvania German, their mother tongue. Ray is remembered for his ingenious creativity in providing for his family amidst challenging circumstances in the Costa Rican jungle.

Ellen (Esther) Jones Hackman '60, Glen Ellyn, Ill., died June 7, 2021, at 83. She was passionate about loving and caring for those in the margins, including early involvement in the civil rights movement, reaching out to immigrants new to the country, and providing care to those dying alone. She was a co-founding member of McHenry County's Hospice and Palliative Care.

Homer Eugene Swartzentruber '60, Goshen, Ind., died May 4, 2021, at 82. He was a mason, pastor, real estate broker, income tax preparer, driver for the Amish, and auctioneer. He owned Swartzentruber Realty, Auctions, and Income Tax Service until his retirement.

Shirley Marie Kauffman Renno '60, Ephrata, Pa., died April 21, 2021, at 90. She served as an elementary school teacher for more than 50 years in public and private schools. She was a lifelong member of Mennonite churches. Shirley enjoyed reading, doing crafts, spending time with her family and friends, and writing articles.

Martha Anne Yoder Bowman '61, North Manchester, Ind., died May 24, 2021, at 83. She worked at the Waka Schools of the Church of the Brethren Mission in northeast Nigeria for three years. After that time, Martha and her

family lived in Scotland for a year, and then returned to the U.S., where her husband served on the denominational staff of the Church of the Brethren. After their children were grown, Martha graduated from Bridgewater College and taught in the Manchester Community School system.

Gloria Harman Snider '63, Broadway, Va., died May 7, 2021, at 81. Beginning their life together in Newport News, Va., Gloria and husband Sandy were both teachers. In 1970, they moved to Richmond, where they raised their three sons. In 2010, Gloria lost Sandy to leukemia after nearly 48 years of marriage. On May 3, 2020, She married David Miller, who survives. During their almost exactly one year of marriage, Gloria and Dave enjoyed many moments lingering at their table after meals and watching the birds and other wildlife venturing near their country home.

Betty Swartz Beiler '64, Harrisonburg, Va., died Jan. 24, 2021, at 86. She was a member at Lindale Mennonite Church. For the past 13 years, her sister (Twila Seland), special niece (Jenn Frederick and husband Dan), and special nephew (Jon Seland and fiancé Mollie) cared for her. Her great-grand niece and nephew, Cora and Carson Frederick, were the light of her life. She loved others with a richness that quickly turned acquaintances into lifelong friends.

Allan W. Shirk '65, Lititz, Pa., died July 31, 2021, at 79. He taught 44 years between Western Mennonite School in Salem, Ore., and Lancaster Mennonite School in Lancaster. Allan volunteered as a mediator with the former Lancaster Area Victim Offender Reconciliation Program. He was a member of New Holland Area Historical Society and Museum, and wrote two books: *Ed Nolt's New Holland Baler: 'Everything Just Went Right'*, and *The Story of Victor F. Weaver: 'Nobody Knows Chicken Like the Folks at Weaver'*

Dan Leon Nofziger '68, Buhl, Idaho, died May 18, 2021, at 75. He spent 42 years as a small-town doctor who was known for being a great diagnostician, a straight shooter, and a caring physician with an unforgettable bedside manner. He delivered approximately 4,000 babies. Dan and his wife were pioneers in raising llamas in Idaho, with a herd that grew as large as 54 during their 30 years in the llama industry.

Fred Ellsworth Eberly '69, Harrisonburg, Va., died July 8, 2021, at 83. Fred served as the director of the respiratory/pulmonary department at Rockingham Memorial Hospital before he became a partner and general manager of Excel Steel Works, Inc. He worked there for 31 years as a Master HVAC consultant. A Rockingham County native, some of Fred's happiest moments were spent on his tractor checking his Angus cattle on a small farm north of Harrisonburg.

Rev. Dennis S. Boel '69, MDiv '69, Bing-hamton, N.Y., died April 29, 2021, at 77. He was senior pastor of Birdsboro First Church of the Nazarene in Birdsboro, Pa., for 31 years, with prior associate pastor roles in Lansdale, Pa., and Washington D.C.

Ruth E. Roth Short '71, Archbold, Ohio, died Oct. 1, 2019, at 70. Ruth was a member of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, where she served as a Sunday school and Bible school teacher, as an elder, and in numerous other volunteer positions.

Larry Wayne Steele '72, North Chesterfield, Va., died Sept. 22, 2021, at 70. After a career in sales and marketing, he became vice president of admissions for National College of Business and Technology. Larry was awarded

the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth for his tremendous contribution to education, The Honorable Order of the Kentucky Colonel.

Philip R. Kreider '76, Harrisonburg, Va., died May 23, 2021, at 79. He was ordained to the ministry in 1978 and pastored Bethany Mennonite Church, Albany, Ore., from 1978-84. He later worked for Computer Management and Development Services (now Jenzabar) as a project manager and systems analyst. He grew enough grapes in his backyard on Rorrer Circle, Harrisonburg, to make wine and open Misty Ray Winery.

Eugene Ray Frey '78, Lancaster, Pa., died June 3, 2021, at 76. Gene and his family spent several years in Tanzania, where he and his wife, Hazel, taught at the Mennonite Theological College. He also worked as a milk production specialist at Dairymen Inc., Hershey Foods Corporation, and Land O'Lakes, Inc. He served for 16 years as the secretary and delegate for the Pennsylvania Association for Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians. He also served as president of the Pennsylvania Southeast Dairy Sanitarians Association.

John Charles Dameron MDiv '80, White Stone, Va., died June 22, 2021, at 77. He pastored numerous United Methodist churches across Virginia. He also held many leadership positions with parent-teacher associations and the Ruritans. He was the first chair of the Suffolk Meals on Wheels, and a board member and treasurer of the Northern Neck-Middlesex Free Health Clinic.

Cindy Swartley Mast '81, Willow Street, Pa., died July 15, 2021, at 61. Cindy taught community health nursing at University of Pennsylvania, East Stroudsburg University, and Arizona State University. Most recently, she was a case manager for Penn Medicine/Lancaster General Hospital. Cindy found joy and purpose in grandparenting with her husband, **Dan Mast '82**, and entertaining family and friends at their home.

Willis Ray Hertzler '85, Harrisonburg, Va., died July 1, 2021, at 60. Ray was a voracious reader and loved sharing his questions and insights about all religions, politics, and philosophy with family and friends. He wrote short stories and jokes, two of which were published in the Sheffield, England-based zine *Gibbering Madness*.

Emma "Yvonne" Graber Stutzman '88, MA '88 (Christian ministries), Harrisonburg, Va., died Oct. 27, 2021, at 81. She and her husband, Marvin, spent several years in Nairobi, Kenya on a church mission assignment. Yvonne was a lifelong member of the Mennonite Church, the past 22 years at Lindale Mennonite. She enjoyed leading or participating in countless church activities throughout her life, was an avid reader, and enjoyed being a grandmother.

Lloyd Randall Meadows '91, Elkton, Va., passed away July 5, 2021, at age 55 of cancer. He had a long career with Merck and Co., and in his spare time was an avid golfer and loved playing the drums.

Daniel Mitchell Hofecker '97, Rockingham, Va., died Nov. 6, 2021, at 60. He worked at Coors Brewing Company for over 30 years. Mitch earned his bachelor's degree at EMU while working and raising a family. He continued to grow in his field and became a principal engineer. He drove a NASCAR race car, went skydiving, and raised six girls and one son, the biggest adventure of all! He was a member of the Church of the Brethren and a volunteer with LOVE INC.

Rosanna Marie Negley Burkholder '06, Chambersburg, Pa., died May 16, 2021, at 67. Rosanna was a nurse for 20 years at Summit (now Wellspring) Surgery Center of Chambersburg and Waynesboro Hospital. Alongside her husband, **Isaac Burkholder '87**, Rosanna served in missions in Honduras, Costa Rica and Venezuela.

Christina Madara Matzke '15, Midlothian, Va., died Jan. 22, 2021, at 27. She was born in Riga, Latvia and adopted into her family in 1996. She mastered many teaching skills and drew pleasure from her work as a preschool and school age teacher at Cedarhouse, Good Shepherd and Open Arms schools. Christina was an active member of Village Church and served in the children's ministry.

Sarah Cowles MA '18 (counseling), Harrisonburg, Va., died Sept. 29, 2021, at 39.

Nathan Longenecker, class of '24, a former EMU student and Yoder and Webb Scholar, died October 8, 2021, in Lancaster, Pa after an eight-month journey with brain cancer. Nathan was a first-year student, studying mathematics and computer science. He loved disc golf, hiking and being with friends and family.

CORRECTIONS

Spring/Summer 2021 issue: We apologize for the error related to the graduation and class years of **James Witmer '64** and wife **Rachel Horst Witmer, class of '62**, of Alliance, Ohio, who were included as recipients of Everence's Regional Journey Award. Also, the correct name of the spouse of **Ellen Kauffman Yoder '61** is Kenneth Yoder.

Fall/Winter 2021 issue: **Lois King '70** reported some errors in the description of her work with Lezha Academic Center in Albania. She writes, "I was involved with the school from 2013 to 2019, but only taught English for short sessions in 2013 and 2014, not the entire time as was reported. My involvement during the other visits was to continue building a library, provide enrichment for the students and staff, and sponsor library programs to encourage reading."

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.



CEO SPOTLIGHT

Cedric Moore '97, Richmond, Va., CEO of Spectrum Transformation Group, was featured in a September 2021 profile by the Virginia Council of CEOs. Spectrum is the first organization licensed in Virginia as an intensive outpatient Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) service. Cedric is a member of EMU's Board of Trustees. He holds an MBA and a doctorate in strategic leadership from Regent University. (Courtesy photo)



EQUITY AND JUSTICE STORYTELLING

Nicole Litwiller '19, MA '20 (conflict transformation), Harrisonburg, Va., started in fall 2021 as an Equity and Justice Storytelling Fellow with the National Wildlife Federation. She is helping to tell the organization's journey toward becoming a more equitable and just place to work through the creation of a shared and co-created narrative about past and current processes. The narrative includes parts of NWF's history and the history of the conservation movement, as well as people's hopes and dreams for the future of NWF. (Courtesy photo)

Nicole blogged about her new position on the PXD blog (emu.edu/now/pxd/).

2021 ATHLETICS HALL OF HONOR

Richy Bikko '11, Alyssa Derstine Landis '11, and Michelle Leaman Richards '10 were inducted into EMU's Hall of Honor during 2021 Homecoming and Family Weekend.

MICHELLE LEAMAN RICHARDS '10

RICHARDS WAS THE MOST DOMINANT FEMALE HURDLER TO ATTEND EMU, capping her career as a two-time NCAA national championships qualifier in the 100m hurdles and the 55m hurdles and 60m hurdles in 2008. That year, she was also EMU's Athlete of the Year. She was ODAC champion in the indoor 55m hurdles in 2008 and 2010 (setting two indoor conference records, as well) and in the outdoor 100m hurdles in 2008. She was on two record-setting outdoor relay teams and holds six individual EMU records in the 55m, 60m, 100m and 400m hurdles. ESPN The Magazine recognized her with three Academic All-District awards.

Richards lives in Lewiston, Maine, with her husband and children ages 7, 5, and 2. "After teaching high school Spanish for two years, God called me toward the nearby refugee, asylee, and immigrant community," she said. "During this transition, I got involved with The Root Cellar, a non-profit organization committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus in the most impoverished neighborhood of our city." In 2013, she and her family moved into the same neighborhood. "We have since been trying to figure out what it means to love our neighbors and to build bridges across cultural, language, religious and socioeconomic lines," she said, which includes overseeing a volunteer-based adult English program at The Root Cellar.



Michelle Leaman Richards '10, husband Ryland and children

RICHY BIKKO '11

BIKKO, A STANDOUT DISTANCE AND MIDDLE DISTANCE RUNNER, earned EMU's highest athletics honor, the President's Award, at the culmination of his career in 2011. He ran in two NCAA National Championships, earned multiple conference awards, and broke a 31-year-old school record in the outdoor 1500m.



Richy Bikko '11 and brother Ronny

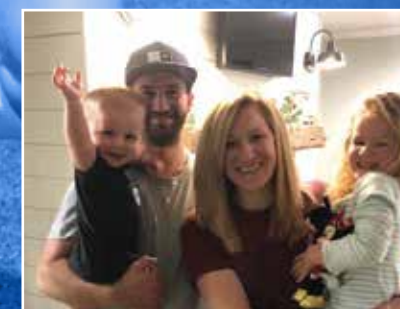
Bikko carries on the spirit of mentorship and teamwork that he says sustained him at EMU. He is director of programs for Global Minimum Inc., creating experiential learning and leadership programs for youth in Sierra Leone and Kenya. He is also a board member at Daima Initiatives for Peace & Development, founded by his late mother Doreen Ruto MA '06 (conflict transformation).

Bikko says his athletic experiences directly impacted his current work. "I learned to appreciate how everyone led through big and small ways... I also appreciate the way in which as a student-athlete I got spiritual guidance from my coaches... I still keep the verse from Micah 6:8 close, 'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God,' as I work in solidarity with the most vulnerable and disenfranchised communities."

ALYSSA DERSTINE LANDIS '11

LANDIS, AN ATTACKER AND TWO-TIME EMU ATHLETE OF THE YEAR in 2009 and 2010, helped the Royals to four consecutive ODAC championship game appearances. In the EMU field hockey record books, she is seventh in the career goals (58), ninth in career points (140) and 13th in career assists (24). Among many conference honors, she was also a three-time VaSID All-State First Team honoree and holds three All-American awards. NFCA also awarded her All-Region (South) Second Team honors in 2007 and 2009 and All-Region (South) First Team honors in 2008.

Landis lives in Telford, Pa., with her husband, Bryan, and their children. She has worked with Lacher & Associates for nine years, currently as client executive and healthcare and benefits team lead.



Alyssa Derstine Landis '11, husband Bryan and children

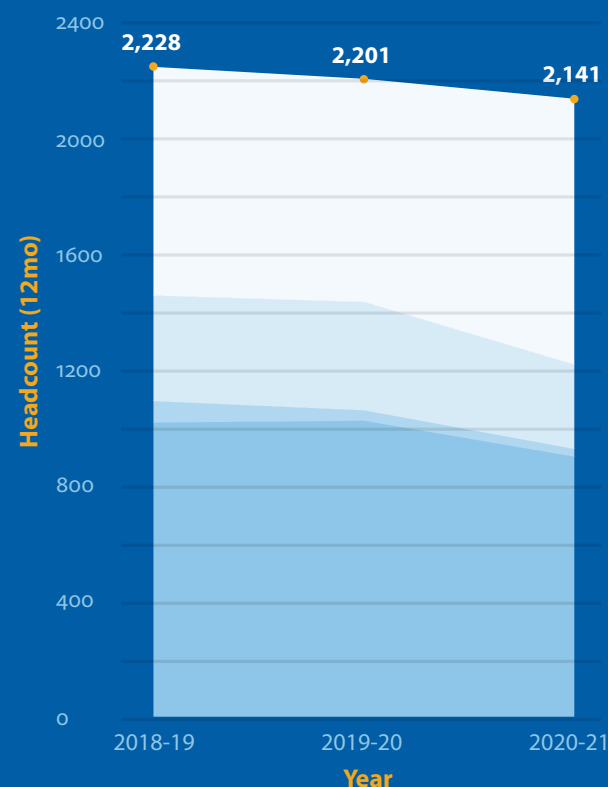
ROYALS RISE

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

ENROLLMENT

12-MONTH ENROLLMENT

12-month enrollment captures the total number of students who take classes at EMU during a 12-month period. It is a more comprehensive picture of the university's activities than the more traditional fall enrollment statistics.



Cancellation of summer programming due to COVID in '20 and '21 affected overall headcount.

TOP AREAS OF STUDY

538 Education

350 Justice and Peacebuilding

329 Nursing

279 Business and Leadership

234 STEM

INCOMING CLASS STRENGTH

3.68

average GPA is the highest in recent history

36%

BIPOC (black, indigenous and people of color) students

2021 GRADUATING CLASS DEGREES

354

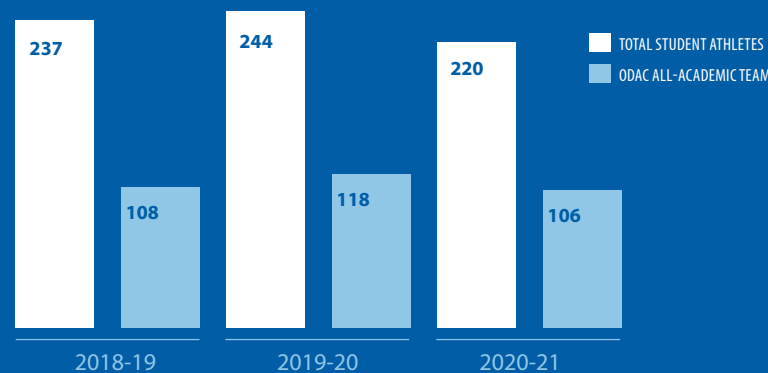
total graduates

207 bachelor's and associates degrees

4 doctoral degrees

143 graduate degrees and certificates

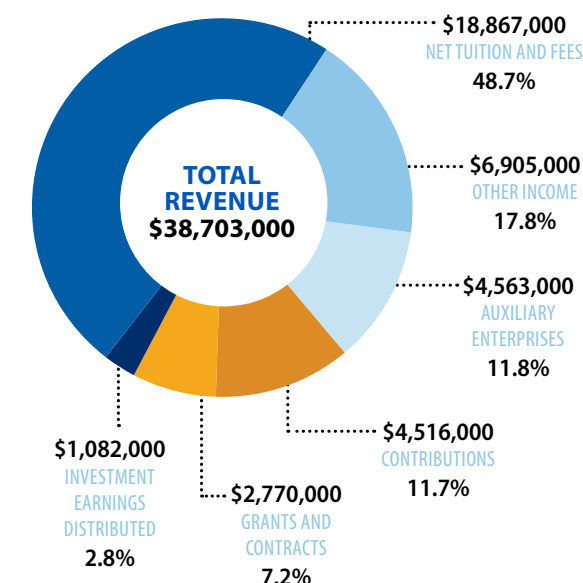
TOTAL ATHLETES AND ALL-ACADEMIC HONORS



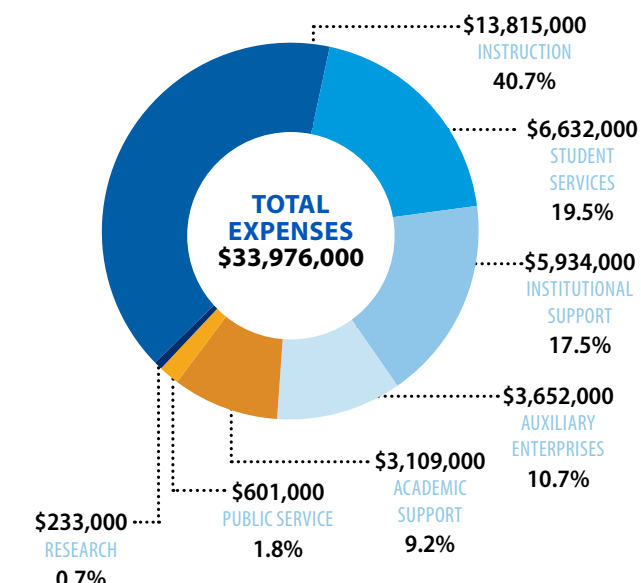
ODAC All Academic Team: Each year, around half of EMU's student-athletes are named to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference All-Academic Team.

FINANCIALS AND ADANCEMENT

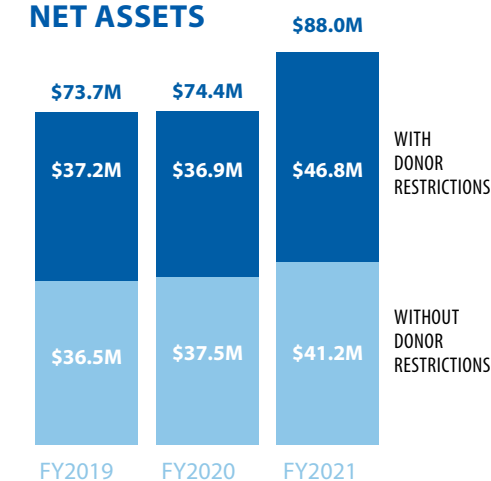
REVENUE SOURCES



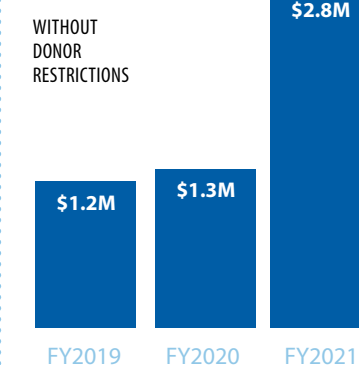
OPERATING EXPENSES



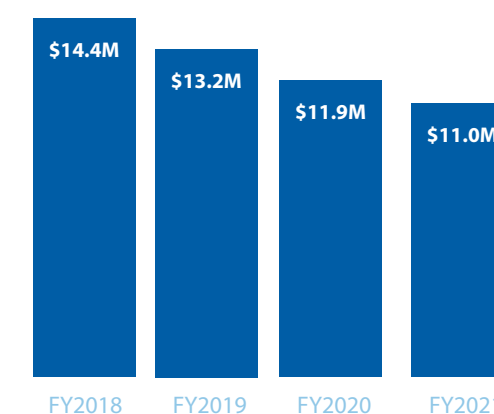
NET ASSETS



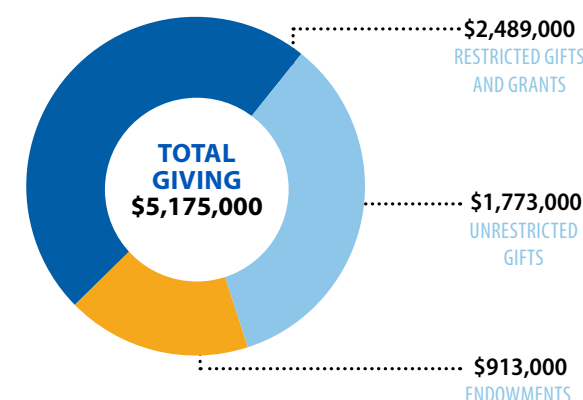
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS



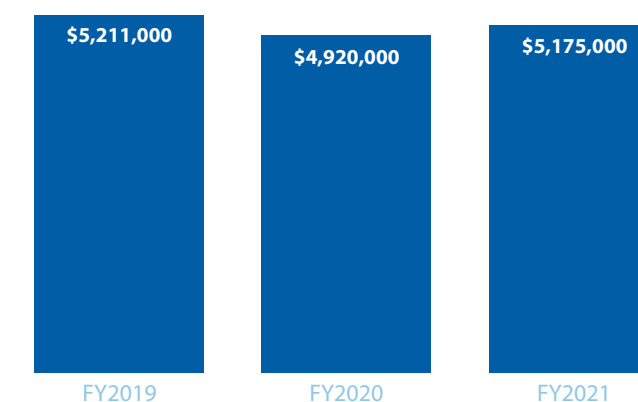
LONG-TERM DEBT



OVERALL CONTRIBUTIONS



TOTAL GIVING BY YEAR



EXTERNAL VALIDATION OF EXCELLENCE

“2020-21 was a particularly monumental year in terms of external validation of EMU’s excellence. In addition to the superb evaluations of our decennial reaffirmation of institutional accreditation, EMU’s teacher education, seminary, and engineering programs achieved important milestones acknowledging their quality.”

SCOTT BARGE

Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning

DECENNIAL REAFFIRMATION SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

EMU’s institutional accreditor, the SACSCOC, undertook its decennial review of the university in order to reaffirm its accreditation. The thorough evaluation of all aspects of university operations, conducted in part by a virtual visiting committee in February 2021, was overwhelmingly positive. In December 2021 the commission took formal action to reaffirm EMU’s accreditation with the next review scheduled for 2031.

EMU meets the following rigorous SACSCOC standards:

- ✓ Finances
- ✓ Facilities
- ✓ Governance and Administration
- ✓ Planning and Assessment
- ✓ Quality Academic Programs
- ✓ Faculty
- ✓ Student Support

TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION

The CAEP review of EMU’s undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs offered resounding affirmation for the quality, integrity, and distinctive strengths of our teacher preparation model. The reviewed programs were awarded full accreditation for the next seven years – the council’s maximum term of certification – and earned the organization’s Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement Award, for universities with no stipulations or areas of improvement in their site reviews.

EMS Guiding Principles

...we invite students to embody and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God’s Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.

EASTERN MENNONITE SEMINARY ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

The ATS assessment, which included a virtual visit from reviewers with faculty, staff, students and administrators, reaffirmed the seminary’s accreditation for 10 years and praised its distinctive strengths:

- A clear sense of identity and purpose shaped by its four guiding principles
- A supportive faculty and staff that embody the seminary’s heritage centered on formation
- A culture of adaptability and innovation.

ENGINEERING ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

EMU’s engineering program achieved another significant milestone with ABET, the leading accrediting agency in the field. The multi-year accreditation process, which can only be initiated after the program has its first graduates, successfully completed the second major step toward accreditation. ABET reviewed the program’s Readiness Review Report and gave approval for the program to submit its full Request for Evaluation. This full report was submitted in July, and a visiting committee will conduct a final review of the program and issue an accreditation decision during the 2021-22 academic year.



OPTIMIZE YOUR GOALS FOR EMU’S BOLD VISION WITH TAXWISE GIVING

Several factors are converging to create win-win scenarios for EMU alumni and friends, and for EMU’s vision to open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders.

All-time highs in the stock market mean that many donors own appreciated assets that, when gifted directly to good causes, enable capturing the full fair market value of their gift while also avoiding capital gains taxes.

Donor-Advised Funds (available via Everence, Fidelity, and other investment firms) are more popular than ever, because donors can transfer securities and cash when most convenient for tax-wise giving purposes, and then distribute cash grants (after assets are liquidated in the DAF) to their charities of choice.

EMU alumni and friends who are age 70 ½ or older may directly transfer up to \$100,000 per year from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to one or more public charities (other than a donor-advised fund) and avoid both income and estate tax. Giving through an IRA Charitable Rollover allows donors to reduce their taxable IRA balance by directing gifts from their IRA to charities of their choice in a tax-efficient manner.

These tax-wise giving options have greatly enhanced Phase I of the Forward Together campaign (see page 14).

“It’s so exciting to see many of our alumni and friends taking advantage of the rise in asset values to leverage generous gifts to support EMU students during these challenging times. Thanks to the generosity of our constituents we are on track to potentially complete phase 1 of our campaign one year earlier than originally anticipated!”

– KIRK SHISLER ’81, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT



For assistance in maximizing your charitable gifts, please contact Kirk Shisler, vice president for advancement, at 540-432-4499 or kirk.shisler@emu.edu.

Find more planned gift and tax-saving strategies at [EMUPlannedGiving.Org](https://www.EMUPlannedGiving.Org)



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Parents: If this is addressed to your son or daughter who has established a separate residence, please give us the new address. Call 540-432-4294 or email alumni@emu.edu.

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ALUMNA/ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR | DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD | OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA/ALUMNUS



2021 Honorees Cheryl and Timothy Heatwole Shenk '07, John Lowe '81, and Ral Obioha '08

**2022 NOMINATIONS ARE
NOW BEING ACCEPTED!**

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