

CROSSROADS

A man with curly hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and brown shorts, is captured in the middle of a disc golf throw. He is standing on a lush green grassy field, with his body twisted and arms extended forward. A green disc is visible in his hands. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall tone is active and energetic.

*FIND
YOUR* **ROAR**

DISC GOLF AT NATIONALS

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/president/mission

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

FIND YOUR CALLING

SUSAN SCHULTZ HUXMAN

“One night, as he was falling asleep, he heard a voice calling out to him. He thought it was the priest Eli, so Samuel called back, ‘Here am I.’ Eli was asleep, so he did not respond. Samuel then ran to Eli, woke him, and said, ‘Here am I; for thou hast called me.’” (1 Samuel 3:4-5)



Wouldn't it be nice if like the young man Samuel we could all hear a “clarion call” for how we can best serve God in our lives and then eagerly respond to that call? Students face many challenges today in selecting a university that will be a “good fit.” For how many does a “good fit” include a university that will help them discern call?

If you follow social science polling of what students and parents say they want in their university of choice, you will find: 1) a university that will cost little to attend; and 2) a university that will result in getting a good job. These are important selection criteria, but a key selection criterion is missing—calling. What does the Lord require you to do?

EMU's missional identity for 105 years has been led by the guiding verse Micah 6:8: *“And what does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.”* Recently, a cross-section of our EMU supporters revealed in a feasibility study testing the price tag for a comprehensive philanthropic campaign that their No. 1 reason for giving was that EMU changes lives, makes Anabaptist-inspired Christian education relevant in our polarized world today, and educates the *whole* student—personally, relationally, intellectually and spiritually.

One parent shared with me after the Nursing Pinning Ceremony in May: “What we just witnessed in that moving ceremony... where a professor of nursing gave a homily on Micah 6:8 and what that passage means in the nursing profession... is why we have sent three children to EMU!”

Another parent shared with me at a recent Board of Trustees meeting why his daughter decided to enroll in the fall: “Most universities put vocation ahead of identity and calling. EMU prepares students for careers with excellent academics... and to be kind, compassionate, and spiritually rooted in Jesus!”

We have stellar academics, excellent job placement statistics, and thanks to generous donors, we can make an EMU education affordable. Yet our real distinctive is that we have faculty and staff walking alongside our students to become Anabaptist-inspired agents of change. Our higher calling is to make a radical difference in educating more “bridge-builders” in our world today.

The literary journalist Anna Quindlin said it well: “It's so much easier to craft a resume than to craft a soul.” EMU is in the business of crafting souls.

As we “pitch” the value of an EMU education to prospective students, we say: “Find Your Roar.” (We are the EMU Royals, and a blue lion is our mascot!) This expression has multiple meanings and yet at its core we are saying: come to EMU where you can BELONG to a caring and compassionate community of learners in the Anabaptist tradition and BECOME your authentic self, ready to find your calling to serve a God of love and light and make the world a better place!

Susan Schultz Huxman

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**COMMENCEMENT
2023**

Graduates and their families and friends gathered inside University Commons to escape the rain after EMU's Commencement ceremony in May.

PHOTOS BY JON STYER '07
AND THE DOWNTOWN CREATIVE



EMU awarded 348 total degrees at its 105th Annual Commencement on Sunday, May 7, including 203 undergraduate degrees, 144 master's degrees, 78 graduate certificates, and one doctorate. Among those were 18 students who received either a degree or certificate from the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding and 18 graduates of Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

ON CAMPUS

THE ARTS

1. EMU made history as one of the first universities in the country to present the two-time Tony Award-winning musical “Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812,” which ran March 31-April 1 and April 13-16 in EMU’s Blackbox Theater. Based on the scandalous slice of Leo Tolstoy’s “War and Peace,” this immersive production directed by EMU Theater faculty director Justin Poole featured a cast of 11 students, alumni, faculty/staff, and community members singing and dancing to and with theatregoers who were seated around tables and an octagonal bar with an orchestra pit. All six performances of this production sold out.



2. The EMU Chamber Singers embarked on two Spring 2023 tours: a U.S. spring break tour from March 4-10 and a European tour from May 9-21. For its spring break tour, the group traveled to Ohio and Indiana to sing at eight churches and three schools. They performed the program “Local and Global: songs of peace and justice,” featuring composers and styles from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and around the world. The Chamber Singers performed the same program during its European tour to 11 churches in Germany, The Netherlands, and France. The international tour was the first of any EMU ensemble since Ken J. Nafziger, professor emeritus of EMU Music, led the Chamber Singers to Cuba in 2003.



3. EMU’s 31st Annual Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival launched “The Next Opus” under new artistic director David Berry, EMU Music piano professor and program director. The theme marked the start of a new chapter for the Bach Festival, which began under the artistic direction of Ken J. Nafziger in 1993. This year’s festival featured guest conductor Daniel Myssyk of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra as well as other guest and faculty artists. The lineup included three main pay-what-you-will concerts in Lehman Auditorium and five free noon concerts at Asbury United Methodist Church, in addition to other pay-what-you-will/free on- and off-campus events. The weeklong festival ran June 11-18 and drew in an all-time high of 2,300 attendees.



4. Conservation photographer Steven David Johnson, professor and program director of Visual and Communication Arts (VACA) at EMU, was featured along with his work in the National Wildlife Federation’s April 2023 issue of *Ranger Rick* magazine. The article, titled “Spring Awakening,” highlights Johnson’s passion for and photography of woodland vernal pool creatures in the Shenandoah Valley. According to the article, vernal pools are temporary ponds that form in the springtime in low areas that collect rain and melting snow—and in Virginia, they are a breeding ground for the spotted salamander, wood frog, as well as water insects including the caddisfly larva, water flea, and fairy shrimp. Johnson got hooked on capturing these creatures in all forms!



PHOTO BY DERRICK CHIRINOS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JUNIOR WINS
MULTI-CULTURAL
INNOVATION
AWARD

Hebron Mekuria, junior engineering and computer science double major, and her team of three other college women in tech from the U.S. and Canada won Best Hack for Multi-Cultural Innovation at the third annual Black Wings Hacks in February.

Mekuria and her teammates were among 150 participants competing for 20 prizes in interest groups of two to four women, each working to code a project pertaining to the overall theme of “social good.” Participants had access to professional mentors who held workshops and helped with problem statements.

Mekuria’s team coded a website called “Internet Hospital,” an online platform that connects patients with licensed medical professionals for virtual consultations free of charge. Mekuria got the idea for the platform after seeing people ask medical questions on forum sites like Reddit. She shared the project idea with her team members, who were all interested in medical technology, and they decided Internet Hospital would provide patients with a more secure and verified way to get quick diagnoses—especially those with limited access to health insurance or medical expertise.

“Almost half of people in the U.S. do not have good health insurance coverage. Internet Hospital could help to bridge that gap,” said Mekuria, whose hackathon participation resulted in the opportunity to work with women in her field for the first time. “It was such an encouraging experience... a feeling of ‘oh, we CAN do it.’”

Daniel Showalter is Mekuria’s computer science professor and says she sets herself apart both in—and out of the classroom. “Hebron has been diligent in thinking big-picture beyond her classes. She has been known to spend four to five hours a day working on applying for internships, developing her coding, and networking... all outside her normal classwork.” — **BY KATE SZAMBECKI**



HEBRON MEKURIA, junior engineering and computer science double major, and her team of three other college women in tech from the U.S. and Canada won Best Hack for Multi-Cultural Innovation at the third annual Black Wings Hacks in February. The virtual hackathon is “an opportunity for college women to gather and work on technical projects that matter to them and our society.” The event is sponsored by RTC (Rewriting the Code) Black Wings, a group for Black women in technology and engineering majors.

LEAD TOGETHER

EMU REAPPOINTS BOARD CHAIR, WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

MANNY NUÑEZ '94 has been reappointed to a second term as chair of the EMU Board of Trustees. Two new members, Janet Lind and Susan Taylor, begin their terms July 1, 2023. Additionally, Glenna Ramer and Jim Rosenberger were reappointed to the board.



"I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve another term as board chair and am particularly grateful for trustees like Glenna and Jim, who have also willingly accepted the call to serve another term alongside so many talented new trustees who have joined us over the past year," said Nuñez, who serves as associate dean of graduate programs; professor of practice, management & operations; and faculty director of diversity, equity and inclusion at Villanova University. "This continuity of service among trustees is indicative of the incredible momentum EMU has as an institution. The five-year strategic visioning process and major comprehensive capital campaign points to a future that we're all excited about."

JANET LIND works in information technology as director of integration services at the University of Pennsylvania where she has held a number of positions in identity management, team management, project management, and systems analysis. She grew up in Eugene, Oregon. Lind earned a bachelor's degree in music from Goshen College and a master of science in information studies from Drexel University.



Lind is a charter member of Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster where she has held several leadership positions, including chair of congregational council. She currently lives in Strasburg, Pennsylvania, with her family. While she has never been an EMU student, her son Isaac Esh '22, husband Calvin Esh MEd '05, parents, and numerous extended relatives are EMU graduates.

SUSAN TAYLOR is a 23-year partner in Just Money Advisors, a financial planning and investment management firm that specializes in socially-responsible investment strategies and community development backing. She is serving her fifth year on the Mennonite Education Agency Investment Committee and also serves on the investment committee of Natural Investments, LLC. Taylor serves as board chair for Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries in Oak View, California. She is board vice-chair for Faith and Money Network in Washington D.C., and is part of the ministry mission group to people experiencing homelessness run by her small church community in Louisville, Kentucky. Her church, Jeff Street Baptist Community, is explicitly committed to peacebuilding and nonviolence; it is part of a local coalition of churches working for justice in Louisville and enjoys several Mennonite connections.



Prior to joining Just Money Advisors, Taylor was an economist in Corporate Treasury for Bank of America. She earned a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University and a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. Taylor writes and presents workshops on issues of money and faith, social investing, and intentional banking. She has been married 35 years to Andy Loving, who is the founder and her partner at Just Money Advisors. The couple has two adult children.

OUTGOING TRUSTEES INCLUDE CHAD LACHER '97 AND SHAWN RAMER '83, WHOM WE THANK FOR THEIR SERVICE.

A LIST OF THE FULL MEMBERSHIP IS LOCATED ON THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE WEBPAGE AT: WWW.EMU.EDU/PRESIDENT/TRUSTEES

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

EMU WELCOMES NEW PROVOST, COO/VP OF FINANCE



TYNISHA D. WILLINGHAM started as provost and vice president of academic affairs on July 3, succeeding Fred Kniss who retired in June after 14 years as the university's top academic leader. Willingham joined EMU after three years at Mary Baldwin University in Staunton, Virginia, where she most recently served as vice president of academic affairs, chief academic officer and professor of education. Prior to MBU, Willingham held several administrative positions at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin, including assistant vice president of academic affairs, associate academic dean, and assistant academic dean. She began her career as an elementary teacher in La Joya Independent School District in South Texas and also taught in Baltimore City Public Schools. Willingham earned two degrees from Penn State: a PhD in language and literacy education and a BS in Spanish and African American studies. She also holds both an MEd in elementary education and a teacher certification from The University of Texas-Pan American.

"I am grateful and honored to join the EMU community, a faith-based campus where the academics are grounded in the liberal arts tradition," shared Willingham, a self-described "teacher-scholar-leader" and "firm believer of the sacred dignity of all persons." Willingham says she appreciates EMU's commitment to restorative justice, its holistic perspective of student development in the spirit of Micah 6:8, and being part of a leadership team that promotes academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. President Susan Schultz Huxman cited Willingham's relational qualities, demonstrable successes in faculty recruitment and retention, and past successes in launching innovative academic programs and partnerships as among sterling credentials to lead EMU.



DR. SHAWN RAMER '83, a third-generation graduate of EMU and a Board of Trustees member, will start his position as chief operating officer and vice president of finance on Oct. 9. Ramer earned a BA in chemistry from EMU and has recently served the university through board appointments on the President's Second Century Advisors (2018-20) and as Board of Trustees chair of the Strategic Positioning and Growth subcommittee since 2021. "My affiliation with EMU has deep roots, and I have a deep and growing appreciation of the significance of EMU in generating the next generation of people ready to serve and lead in a complex global environment through its strong heritage, values, and academic quality," said Ramer. "It is in that spirit that I am excited to contribute to the future success of EMU." Reporting to the president and serving as a key member of the Executive Leadership Team, Ramer will oversee the business office, facilities, auxiliary services, human resources, campus safety and security, information systems and food service. His responsibilities include workforce sustainability—the recruiting and retaining of employees and sustaining a culture of care and vitality—and finances, including budget analysis and long-range projections.

Ramer brings more than 30 years of experience in developing people and businesses. He has held various global scientific and technology leadership positions at Hoffmann-La Roche and Bristol Myers Squibb, including senior vice president of information technology at BMS. Since 2016, he has worked as an independent consultant, partnering with schools and organizations to create and innovate in the areas of science and technology. His most recent experience is as chief science officer for the start-up wellness-based company Neurohacker, LLC. Ramer holds a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Alberta. He was a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School.



BREAKING GROUND



“THE TRACK-&FIELD TEAM AT EMU IS WELCOMING. THERE ARE A LOT OF CLOSE-KNIT RELATIONSHIPS. IT’S ALWAYS POSITIVE ENERGY, POSITIVE VIBES.”

RAY RAY TAYLOR, a master’s in biomedicine student from Pottstown, Pennsylvania, has been named the VaSID Field Athlete of the Year as well as First-Team jumps (long jump, triple jump, and high jump) and First-Team multi (heptathlon) after finishing third in the heptathlon at the 2023 NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships where she was named an All-American. In her third-place finish, Taylor was 16th in the 100m hurdles, seventh in the high jump, third in the shot put, ninth in the 200m, eighth in the long jump, second in the javelin, and ninth in

the 800m and combined for an ODAC-record 5040 points. She was also named the USTFCCCA South Region Field Athlete of the Year and ODAC Women’s Field Athlete of the Meet.

Taylor graduated in 2021 with a BS in science degree from Penn State where she competed in the multi and relays; she was a 2019 All-American at Penn State-Harrisburg. She took a gap year before coming to EMU and also took her senior year off from competing in outdoor track. So, she still had eligibility left when Kyle Dickinson, EMU associate head coach for track & field, reached out to her to join the Royals. “I thought it would be a nice fit because I could improve upon my undergraduate grades and get prepared for medical school,” said Taylor, who aspires to become a sports medicine doctor. Taylor is enjoying EMU. “It feels like everybody wants you to win.” She is also embracing her success and potential. “After taking time off, I realize I still have the athlete in me. I’ve come far, but know I can do better in a number of events.” She is “definitely excited” to see where she can go on EMU’s new track and field. (Courtesy Photo)

EMU HELD a groundbreaking event to launch construction of its new state-of-the-art track and field complex on April 24, 2023, at its current track facility. Construction is set for completion in March 2024.

The new track will include an upgrade from six to eight lanes; the regrading and installation of a 10-millimeter full-pour polyurethane surface; and on-location throwing areas and steeplechase. The complex will support EMU student athletes and coaches, EMU’s enrollment goals, and the campus and local communities at large.

The event program featured comments from EMU President Susan Schultz Huxman, Harrisonburg Mayor and EMU Regional Advancement Director Deanna Reed, and EMU Director of Athletics Carrie Bert ’97. The EMU track and field team also recognized its 10 seniors during the event.

The new track and field complex is a strategic initiative of the university’s Forward Together Capital Campaign; \$3.05 million has been raised, more than halfway toward the \$6 million campaign goal. **For more information and to support this compelling initiative, visit: www.emu.edu/campaign/track-and-field**



PHOTOS BY JON STYER



“A NEW TRACK ALLOWS EMU TO HOST HOME MEETS AND CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE ATHLETES THAT ARE INVESTING SO MUCH IN THE UNIVERSITY.”

HANNAH CHAPPELL-DICK ’16 has started a new job as head coach of men’s and women’s cross country at Amherst College in Massachusetts. Chappell-Dick had previously been promoted to head women’s cross-country coach and assistant track-&field coach at Brown University after having served as the lead in overseeing the women’s cross-country team and distance runners for two seasons. “I’m honored to have the opportunity to lead an exceptional group of dedicated and passionate young men and women at Amherst, whose cross-country and track-and-field programs are among the best of DIII schools,” said Chappell-Dick. Her new role brings increased responsibilities in recruitment, logistics, compliance, as well as the training, strength and conditioning of student-athletes. She will oversee a roster of 40 men and women student-athletes who compete in cross country and on the track-and-field team; the track-and-field program is one of the largest at the prestigious “Little Ivy.”

“EMU prepared me well for this role and for my future in general. It offered me a different perspective to bring to the table and provided a safe space to grapple with hard topics,” shared the former student-athlete. As a cross-country and track-&field standout at EMU, Chappell-Dick was one of 30 NCAA Women of the Year Honorees, a five-time NCAA DIII All-American, and a school record holder in seven events. Chappell-Dick, who also served as the interim head coach of men’s and women’s cross country at EMU in 2017, says her coaches played an instrumental role in her time as a Royal and in the self-actualization of the person she wanted to become at college. She says she looks forward to bringing the holistic approach to coaching she experienced to Amherst. “I think about the lessons that EMU taught me in a faith-based environment, and I want to integrate those values into my coaching to make my team feel supported and an important part of something bigger than themselves.” (Courtesy Photo)

“THE CROWDS ARE FANTASTIC,
AND THE ENERGY IN THE CITY PRE-
AND POST-RACE IS UNBEATABLE.”

- Ashley Handrich Kniss '06

2023 BOSTON MARATHON

Several alumni are part of an elite group of 30,000 runners who qualified for—and finished—one of the world’s most challenging and prestigious races.

RYAN GEHMAN



ASHLEY HANDRICH KNISS:
Being on the cross-country
team at EMU gave me a built-in
group of friends during my first
year at EMU.



ABIGAIL
SHELLY: I was
SO grateful to
get to continue
my running
career at EMU.



AARON KAUFFMAN:
I loved being part of
the EMU cross-country
and track teams. Lester
Zook and Paul Johnson
were great coaches and
mentors not only in
running, but also in life
and what it means to
follow Jesus.



DARYL YODER-
BONTRAGER: I did not run
cross country or track at
EMU. I ran a three-mile jog
on my wedding day when
I was 23 and did not run
again until I was about 55.
[Running] makes me feel
healthier, brought down
my blood pressure,
and—added bonus—
is usually fun. Plus,
it’s a challenge.

HOPKINTON

START

ASHLAND

5K

FRAMINGHAM

10K

15K

NATICK

20K

HALF

WELLESLEY

25K

NEWTON

30K

BROOKLINE

35K

40K

FINISH

BOSTON

**FOR ONE FORMER ROYALS
ATHLETE**, crossing the finish line of
the 2023 Boston Marathon was a dream
come true. Charging down the last 600
meters among the crowds on Boylston
Street was an experience **Ryan Gehman**
'16 says he'll never forget—and one
he had visualized “hundreds of times”
during his training.

Gehman ran a time of 2 hours, 27
minutes and 31 seconds to place 85th
among the men, taking more than
11 minutes off his personal best and
inching ever closer toward his goal of
qualifying for the 2028 Olympic Trials.

The moment signified a huge step on his
journey since the prior career highlight
of winning the 2014 NCAA South
Southeast Regional Cross-Country
Championships—the cap on his
breakout season earned him Southeast
Regional Athlete of the Year honors as
well. That win gave him both renewed
confidence and a platform: Gehman,
diagnosed with autism as a child, began
to speak publicly about how running has
helped him deal with anxiety and other
mental health challenges.

He's dealt with both since graduating
from EMU, as well as injuries. But after
success coaching at the high school and
collegiate levels, the Millersville, Penn-
sylvania, resident has found time to train,
as well as stability, support, and a new
focus for sharing his passion for fitness as
a wellness assistant at Landis Homes.

Three other EMU alumni followed
Gehman across the line of one of the
most challenging and prestigious races
in the world. Also notching personal
triumphs that day were **Aaron Kauff-
man** '01, MDiv '12, of Harrisonburg,
Virginia, in 2:55:01; **Abigail Shelly** '20,
of Tacoma, Washington, in 3:17:47; and
Ashley Handrich Kniss '06, of Lovetts-
ville, Virginia, in 3:27:14.

Running Boston is a unique experi-
ence: the race has both a storied history
as the U.S.'s oldest marathon, with the
first running in 1897, and a unique
point-to-point course through the sub-
urbs into downtown. But not everyone
can toe the starting line. Unlike most

other major marathons across the world,
Boston has retained qualifying standards;
all runners must meet specific times
based on age and gender. That means
simply getting to the start line, among
30,000 other runners from all over the
world, means our Royals alums are part
of an elite group.

Kauffman, now a two-time Boston
finisher who ran a personal best, says
there's no experience to match “round-
ing the bend onto the final stretch on
Boylston Street and hearing the deafen-
ing crowds. It honestly makes me think
of the Christian life, with that great
cloud of witnesses who have finished the
race before us who are cheering us on.”

All four alums say another joy of the
experience was sharing it with loved
ones. Shelly, an All-American at EMU
in triathlon, posted a personal best in
just her second marathon. At one point,

overcome by emotion, she chose to make
a detour to hug family members who
made the trip to support her. “I think
my time could have been 20 seconds
faster, but that doesn't matter. Seeing
people you know in the crowds of others
cheering is deeply meaningful and not
bound by the milliseconds of locked eyes
on a race course. I wanted the people
who came out to support me to know
that and feel my gratitude.”

Kniss, an assistant professor at Steven-
son University, is building back from an
injury and logged less speed and tempo
work than normal over the course of her
Boston training. Despite this, she was
just two minutes off her course best, and
seven minutes from her personal best.
She logged her slowest time in her first
finish at Boston in 2009 and has come a
long way since, even finishing a 50-mile
ultra in 2019. Yet Boston pulls her back:
“The crowds are fantastic, and the energy
in the city pre- and post-race is unbeat-
able,” she said. “The city knows and loves
its runners.”

NOTE: We have since learned that Daryl
Yoder-Bontrager '80 finished his first Boston
Marathon—and just the third marathon
he's ever run—in 3:34:28. The time puts
Yoder-Bontrager in the top 10 percent of his
65-69-year-old age category (51st out of 549
runners). Yoder-Bontrager, who worked for
25 years in various capacities with Mennonite
Central Committee's Latin America and
Caribbean programs, said the experience
meant he was part of a group of people from
all over—a group cheered on by a crowd that
radiated energy and yelled encouragement
along the whole 26.2-mile route. “I live
and run in hilly south-central Pennsylvania
(Lancaster), and the hills in Boston were
like the ones I run on every day. What made
Boston different and fun was the excitement
bubbling everywhere, the camaraderie of
runners and their supporters.”

- BY LAUREN JEFFERSON



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BUSH

Ramsuze Pierre takes the blood pressure of a resident at Mennonite Home with oversight from Bernice Reynolds '21, director of the nurse aide training program at EMU Lancaster.

A STEPPING STONE TO SUCCESS

DEVELOPING A DREAM

A new nurse aide (aka Certified Nursing Assistant, or CNA) training program at EMU Lancaster is providing job opportunities for those interested in the entry-level nurse aide position while meeting the needs of the numerous nursing homes in Lancaster County and surrounding regions. The program is the brainchild of **Mary Jensen**, vice president for enrollment and strategic growth at EMU, who sought out a solution to the shifting healthcare needs in the pandemic-laden summer of 2021 while serving as associate provost of EMU Lancaster. “We had one of the first

RN to BSN programs in the Lancaster region and had developed a reputation in healthcare. While it became apparent during COVID that workers were leaving healthcare, there were also people who still needed jobs and wanted to work in healthcare, but had to start at the ground.”

Jensen consulted with the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, members of her team and EMU administration to research the viability of a scaffolded workforce development plan that involved partnering with area nursing homes to provide their employees with CNA, LPN, RN and BSN training. The

results of this long-term strategy revealed a positive economic and educational impact to both EMU and Lancaster County, one of the largest retirement regions in the nation. So, in the fall of 2021, Jensen began the process of acquiring approval from the state of Pennsylvania to run a CNA program. A short time later, she was offered her current position in Harrisonburg, so would become a supporter of the project from a distance.

Christine Sharp, who was named executive director of EMU Lancaster in June 2022, led the Lancaster team through implementation of the CNA program. She continued conversations Jensen had started with executives from local nursing homes—and before long Landis Homes, Mennonite Home and Fairmount Homes had signed on as partners. The three nursing homes donated most of the equipment—including six hospital beds—for the classroom-turned-lab that was created to spec at EMU Lancaster by its resourceful staff in October 2022; an onsite lab was required as part of the state application process for administering a CNA program. “I love

working in partnership,” shared Sharp. “It’s powerful for the school. It’s powerful for the community. And it’s powerful for our partner organizations.”

With partnerships in place, Sharp shifted to hiring instructors to teach the CNA training classes that would begin in January 2023. Seasoned nursing professionals **Carmen Miller** and **Bernice Reynolds '21** stepped in to fill the two spots required to get the program up and running. Miller agreed to teach in a part-time capacity. Reynolds, who graduated from EMU Lancaster’s RN to BSN program and had Miller as an instructor, accepted an offer to teach part-time in January before moving into a full-time role as director of the nurse aide training program in March. Both women were required to take a course through Penn State to become certified to teach classes at EMU Lancaster as part of a strict set of state standards for CNA instructors.

LAUNCHING A PROGRAM

After a nine-month process, EMU Lancaster received state certification—and Sharp and staff worked with Landis Homes, Mennonite Home and Fairmount to fill training slots for the brand-new, six-week CNA program. Cohort 1 launched with 10 Landis Homes employees in January; cohort 2 followed in March with five Mennonite Home and five Fairmount employees, and cohort 3 got underway in May

with three employees from Mennonite Home, one from Fairmount, and one from Pleasant View Communities—a new nursing home partner. The program, which prepares employees to take both a written and skills nurse aide exam through Credentia for state certification, totals 120 hours and is divided into three parts: classroom/theory (45 hours), lab (35 hours), and clinicals (40 hours).

According to Reynolds, classroom instruction entails PowerPoint presentations, handouts, activities, and videos related to body systems, abuse, vital signs, pain levels, and “some 50 skills of daily living” (23 of which are Credentia skills) including washing the hair, handwashing and bathing. Lab time involves students practicing these skills on mannequins or on each other before working directly

with the nursing home residents during clinicals. Sharp says a benefit of the partnerships is having clinical sites, which is an integral part of the training.

The need for nurse aides is so great that partners pay to send their employees through the CNA training program while also paying them their hourly rate, which can range from \$18-\$24. Mennonite Home even offered CNA candidates a \$10K sign-on bonus, paid over two years, to fill its second shift. “It was so fortunate that EMU Lancaster’s partnership and the sign-on bonus came together,” said Justin Lewis, HR recruiter and former CNA at Mennonite Home. “There is a huge demand in healthcare for CNAs, and EMU has helped us fill our vacancies.” Lewis added that the Monday/Wednesday/Friday training schedule allows for a work-life balance with two days in between to “recoup, study, or potentially work.” (EMU Lancaster has since added an eight-week Tuesday/Thursday training option.)

Ramsuze Pierre was hired by Mennonite Home as a CNA after working in a fast-paced position as a technologist assistant at Lancaster General Hospital. “I wanted a slower-paced environment and the opportunity to get to know my residents,” said Pierre, who went through cohort 2. Pierre says she learned medical terminology and the importance of learning residents’ routines, body changes and mood swings in the CNA training program. “We learned everything that was on our exams,” declared Pierre. To date, 100 percent of students have passed the Pennsylvania state written exam, and



It was “all hands on deck” to creating a state-certified onsite training lab in a month’s time, says Sharp, executive director of EMU Lancaster.

COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Mennonite Home cohort 2, from left: Justin Lewis, HR recruiter - Mennonite Home; Amy Martin; Madison Mowery; Ramsuze Pierre; Felicia Costley; Aneysiah Santiago; Bernice Reynolds, director of the nurse aide training program at EMU Lancaster.

93 percent have passed the skills portion of the exam.

Tiffany Millner had been working as a laundry aide at Fairmount for nearly a year when she learned that CNA classes for cohort 2 would be held on MWF evenings, which fit her schedule. She applied, interviewed, and landed a CNA position with Fairmount, who sponsored her training. “I feel like I made a good choice by switching [jobs],” shared Millner, who says she “missed taking care of people” after having looked after her mom for five years before her passing in 2022. “EMU Lancaster’s program was amazing. Ms. Bernice (Reynolds) and Ms. Carmen (Miller) were excellent teachers and broke down our questions until we understood the answers.” Millner says she learned physical skills like how to “properly stand and hold your resident” to social-emotional skills like “making residents feel important and letting them be as independent as they can be.” She also grasped why as a laundry aide she had folded washcloths



Fairmount Homes cohort 2, from left: Bernice Reynolds, director of the nurse aide training program at EMU Lancaster; Katrina Spangenburg; Jaeda Davis; Tiffany Millner; Tarianna Oberholtzer; Naizaya Deleon; Jerry D. Lile, Fairmount president/CEO.

in fourths: because nurses use a clean area of cloth for each body part!

MEETING A NEED

Since starting in January, EMU Lancaster’s training program has hosted celebrations of completion for three cohorts of students who are serving as CNAs in Landis Homes, Mennonite Home, Fairmount, and Pleasant View Communities. United Zion and Hospice

& Community Care have signed on as partners, and several other nursing/senior care organizations have reached out to partner with EMU Lancaster. Reynolds is hiring additional instructors, and three more cohorts are scheduled for 2023 to meet the nursing home needs and demand for the course by high school students and community members.

“I have a passion for the program because it has the capacity to change people’s lives,” said Reynolds. “Our nursing home residents deserve to be treated abuse-free with dignity and respect, and this program addresses the proper way to care for residents. It also recognizes a CNA job as a profession, can impact earning power, and is a stepping stone to other educational and professional opportunities in healthcare.”

With a model of success in place, EMU Lancaster will continue to assess the marketability of an LPN training program and other offerings. Millner says she is satisfied with her CNA status for now, but that EMU Lancaster should still start an LPN program. Pierre is “praying” for such a program. Whatever the future holds, Jensen believes EMU Lancaster is living into its mission to “prepare people from all walks of life for the workforce.” She says the CNA program “diversifies what it means to be educated at EMU” and “solidifies EMU’s place in Lancaster County as a partner who is seen as innovative, flexible, and willing to work with people to meet actual needs of the community.”

– BY JEN KULJU



When Bernice Reynolds was 16, she became a CNA, a “stepping stone” to her LPN, RN, BSN, and current role at EMU Lancaster.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN BUSH

2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DISC GOLFERS FIND THEIR ROAR

The 12 members of EMU’s disc golf team were among more than 700 students from 80 universities across the country who traveled to Marion, North Carolina, for the 2023 College Disc Golf National Championship featuring four days (April 5-8) of team and individual competition at North Cove Leisure Club.

BY JEN KULJU





RETURNING TO A SCENIC AND CHALLENGING STAGE

It's the third time EMU has participated in the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)-sanctioned annual tournament—and the third time since 2021 that nationals have been held at North Cove, an outdoor recreation and events center about an hour from Asheville that boasts three championship 18-hole disc golf courses of varying lengths, elevations, and difficulties.

Nestled between the Linville Gorge and Pisgah National Forest, the courses play back and forth across the Catawba River and feature stunning mountain views; open meadows; wooded holes with trees; and impressive boulder, rock and stone formations. "It's beautiful, and the fact that the river comes into play on a lot of holes is both scenic and adds challenge," said coach **Trevor Oyer '19**.

BUILDING A PROGRAM

Oyer got "obsessed with disc golf" as a sophomore at Hesston College where he even helped to design and install a 9-hole disc golf course. Oyer transferred to EMU as a junior and a year later decided he wanted to play college disc golf. He gained the support of former EMU Athletics Director **Dave King** and in the fall of 2019 started a disc golf team that included his brother **Jared Oyer '21** and **Silas Driver '19**, both of whom began playing disc golf at Hesston, and **Cameron Byer '21**.



2022-2023 EMU disc golf team: Standing, from left: Maddie LaFlamme; Lindsey White '23, Ethan Spicher '23; Sean McClary; Aaron Moyer; Caleb Oesch '23; Trevor Oyer '19, head coach; and front row, from left: Kara Kornhaus; Rebekah Amstutz '23; Seth Andreas '23; Zach Bauman '23; Will Bartel; Noah Swartzentruber.

The four EMU disc golfers competed in their first tournament that November at Liberty University where they missed a bid to nationals by one stroke. They went on to earn a bid in February 2020 at their own tournament, the EMU Royals Qualifier, held at Westover Park Disc Golf Course in Harrisonburg.

COVID canceled the 2020 National Championship, but it did extend Oyer's eligibility, allowing him to compete during the 2020-2021 disc golf season and at the 2021 National Championship; the PDGA typically awards bids to nationals through rankings, invitations, and qualifying events throughout a season, but decided any team who registered on time could play at North Cove in 2021.

EMU sent six men to nationals that

year, including Oyer, his brother, and Byer. "It was a great time," shared Oyer, who placed 12th out of 42 doubles teams in the DII division along with Byer; the doubles team of Jared Oyer and **Zach Bauman '23** finished 22nd in the DII division. (DI, DII and DIII disc golf divisions correlate to top, middle and bottom, respectively, and not NCAA Divisions I, II and III.)

Oyer's eligibility expired after the 2021 National Championship, and he transitioned from player to head coach of EMU's disc golf team for the 2021-2022 season because he wanted "to help continue to grow the program." "I knew how helpful it could be to have someone assist behind the scenes with logistics... and coach players." Bauman was one

of eight players (two teams of four) representing EMU at North Cove for the 2022 National Championship. His team of **Joe Seitz '22**, **Sean McClary** and **Noah Swartzentruber** encountered "weather in the '70s, rain and then snow" to tie for 18th out of 71 teams in the DII division, said Bauman.

RIISING TO THE OCCASION

While it didn't snow at nationals in 2023, disc golfers did have to contend with three days of cold, windy and rainy weather. "When it's slippery, your footing is affected and you can't throw as hard because you don't have as good of a grip on your disc," revealed Bauman. "You have to tone it down and go for simpler shots." Bauman says he has learned to travel with towels and an umbrella when coming to North Cove.

EMU performed well at Liberty



Out of the students and universities who attended nationals, most were from NCAA DI institutions.

COURTESY PHOTO

"I'VE LEARNED THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I JUST NEED TO KEEP PLAYING AND LOOK AHEAD."

LINDSEY WHITE '23

of 201 individual DII competitors. The Men's B Team of **Seth Andreas '23**, **Will Bartel**, **Aaron Moyer** and **Caleb Oesch '23** placed 21st out of 42 teams in the DIII division. Out of 28 teams, the Women's A Team of **Rebekah Amstutz '23** and **Lindsey White '23** placed 9th while the Women's B Team of **Kara Kornhaus** and **Maddie LaFlamme** finished 26th; White placed 13th in the nation (out of 59 individual competitors).

"It's surprising," White said of her results. "It's only the second tournament I've played in." Amstutz, her doubles partner, had reached out to Oyer over the summer about starting a women's team and then "roped in" her friends Kornhaus and LaFlamme to join. The three women played in one fall tournament. White joined the team in January—three months prior to the EMU women's team competing for the first time on college disc golf's national stage.

"Lindsay played smart and strategically," said Oyer of White's individual round. "For Holes 1-17, she only had single bogeys, pars or birdies." Disc golf is scored like golf where players can earn an eagle, birdie, par, bogey, double bogey, or triple bogey; they must keep each shot inbounds—avoiding water and trees—or



PHOTO BY RACHEL HOLDERMAN

From left: Cameron Byer '21, Trevor Oyer '19, Jared Oyer '21 and Silas Driver '19—the EMU disc golf team's first golfers—celebrate their 2020 national bid.



PHOTO BY DERRICK CHIRINOS

Trevor Oyer has designed and installed several disc golf courses, including the Nathan Longenecker Memorial Disc Golf Course on EMU Hill.



PHOTO BY TREVOR OYER

Lindsey White and Zach Bauman both finished 13th in their individual rounds: White 13th in the nation and Bauman 13th in the men's DII division.



PHOTO BY LARRY BARTEL

Lindsey White attempts to sink a putt at nationals.



PHOTOS BY LARRY BARTEL



Zach Bauman takes a shot in a team round against The University of Kansas. "At the end of the day, I have a sport I can keep playing," said Bauman.

team round on Boulders and two team rounds on The Gorge, the longest and most difficult course.

APPRECIATING DISC GOLF AND ONE ANOTHER

"I just like throwing shots and watching them fly," said Swartzentruber. "I also like meeting and getting to know the people I play with... It helps me relax because I feel like I'm just playing the game versus competing against other people." McClary says he likes "the sound of a disc flying into the basket from however far away you are" and that "the people are amazing."

The EMU team of 12 also enjoyed getting to know one another better by staying in a house Oyer booked about 10 minutes from North Cove. "Players could come and go as needed for their rounds or support and watch other teams. The communal space also allowed us to share meals together and talk in the evenings about the rounds," said Oyer.

"I so deeply enjoyed being with the team and getting to know them while working on the mental and physical aspects of my game," shared White. "I've learned that no matter what happens, I just need to keep playing and look ahead." Amstutz added, "I want to keep playing disc golf forever to try to get better."



Sean McClary tees off with his forehand.

incur a penalty stroke. It's different from golf in that players aim to throw a disc into a basket each hole in the fewest number of shots possible; they tee off from a tee pad, typically with a driver disc.

In addition to a driver, there are also mid-range and putter discs. Drivers are for longer distances, mid-range for middle distances, and putters for shorter distances. Each disc has a number on it, which represent speed, slide, turn, and fade. Oyer says beginners only need one disc and that college players often carry up to 20 discs in their bag, but rely on those they are most confident in when it comes to crunch time. In addition, as players improve, they may opt to use new discs.

"I throw three discs," said White. "I have to be intentional about the shot I'm taking, the disc I'm throwing, and how I'm going to throw it." White generally throws backhand while McClary usually throws forehand. Several other throwing styles exist, including overhand; players often have a preferred style but adjust as needed depending on the shot.

EMU disc golfers played one individual round and three team rounds at North Cove. The women's team rounds were played as regular doubles; both women teed off at each hole, decided which shot they liked better, and then both threw again on each subsequent shot. The individual women's scores were added together and divided by two to come up with a team score for the round. The men's team rounds were played as team doubles; two men teed off, decided which shot they liked better, and then the other two men threw. The teams alternated until they finished the hole and also alternated tee-offs. The individual men's scores were added together and divided by four to come up with a team score for the round.

The Men's B Team, Women's A Team, and Women's B Team played their individual rounds and two team rounds on River Run, the simplest and shortest of the three courses with mainly par 3 holes, and also played one team round on Boulders, a longer and more challenging course. The Men's A Team played its individual round on River Run, one



Players enjoyed the scenery, conversations, and meals from their deck. Out of the homes booked for nationals over the past three years, Oyer said, "We definitely liked this year's the best."

PHOTO BY TREVOR OYER



2021 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR IS EMU COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

John Lowe '81, Austin, Texas, was the speaker for EMU's 2023 Commencement. EMU's 2021 Alumnus of the Year, Lowe is the Joseph Blades Centennial Memorial Professor in the School of Nursing at The University of Texas at Austin where he developed the first Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity and hosted the first international Indigenous nursing research summit. A Cherokee tribal member with Creek and Lenape tribal heritage, Lowe is the first Native American man to earn a PhD in nursing and to be inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. (Photo by Jon Styler)

MILEPOSTS

FACULTY AND STAFF

This list is a sampling of faculty and staff activities during spring semester 2023.

Jacob Cook, academic program director and visiting assistant professor of Christian ethics in the seminary, presented a lecture in the Wheaton College philosophy department 2022-23 Philosophy Speaker Series: "The W(h)it(e)ness of Worldview Theory: On the Troubled Genealogy of a Favorite Framework" on March 27. Cook traced the impulse toward and development of worldview theory from modern philosophical discourse conceived in a moment with the age of colonial exploration and global exploitation through contemporary American evangelical political engagement in terms of "the biblical worldview."

David Evans, associate professor of history and intercultural studies and director of cross-cultural programs at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, co-facilitated a workshop on May 19 for Hamline University's Mahle Lecture Series entitled "A Principled Pedagogy for Religious

Educators" that addresses teaching race to white students in religion-focused classes.

Marci Frederick, director of libraries, is researching Brethren communion bread practices for a sabbatical project. Frederick will be looking into recipes, spiritual practices related to breadmaking, and other topics. She is collecting relevant personal and congregational stories through a survey. For more information, contact marci.frederick@emu.edu.

Dave King, director of athletics, retired June 30, 2022, after leading the Royals for 17 years. During his tenure, he hired coaches and support staff for EMU's 17 intercollegiate athletics teams and built the institution's reputation in the region and conference. He oversaw a marked increase in the number of student-athletes with more than a third of undergraduates now competing. King also guided the athletics program through the pandemic and back to regular competition schedules.

Gaurav J. Pathania, assistant professor of sociology and peacebuilding at the Center for

Justice and Peacebuilding, was published in the *Boston Globe*. His article is titled "Caste Should Not Be Part of the 'American Dream.'" He was also interviewed by *PBS Newshour* as an expert on caste discrimination.

Stephen W. Sachs, professor emeritus of music, was the featured soloist for the Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra's season finale, "Mid-European Promenade," at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Jackson, Mississippi, on May 7. He performed Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 for piano and orchestra.

Timothy Seidel, associate professor of peacebuilding, development, and global studies and director of the Center for Interfaith Engagement, was the reviewer for "The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank: The Theatrics of Woeful Statecraft" (Routledge, 2019) by Michelle Pace and Somdeep Sen.

Jonathan Swartz, associate director for the Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice, presented at the second annual Restorative Justice Academy at Le Moyne College in

Syracuse, New York, in May. The event is a one-day conference on restorative practices and community building.

Allison Wilck, assistant professor of psychology, presented at the Psychonomic Society's annual conference in Boston in November. Members of the society are cognitive psychologists and include some of the most distinguished researchers in the field.

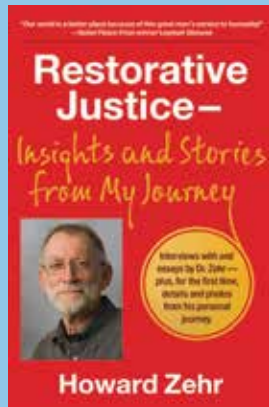
UNDERGRADUATE 1950-59

Anna Frederick Bunk '53, Lititz, Pa., is retired from her career as a nursing care supervisor for Landis Homes. She has volunteered at the Landis Homes General Store and Ephrata ReUzit store and has been an elder adult leader at Lititz Mennonite Church.

Mary Louise Lehman '58, Harrisonburg, Va., is a volunteer at Gift & Thrift. She is married to **Wilmer Lehman '57** and attends Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church.

ZEHR RELEASES NEW BOOK

Howard Zehr, director emeritus of the Zehr Institute and widely known as “the grandfather of restorative justice,” released his newest book on February 7. “*Restorative Justice: Insights and Stories from My Journey*” (Walnut Street Books, 2023) contains stories, photos, and insights from Zehr’s years spent teaching, practicing, critiquing, synthesizing, mentoring, and leading.



Milton Lehman ‘58, Ephrata, Pa., is retired and attends Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster. He holds a master’s degree in social work and is married to **Lois Lehman ‘64**.

1960-69

Grace Bingle ‘63, Spokane, Wash., is retired from her career as a paralegal. She volunteers with TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Club and a women’s Bible study.

Ed Bontrager ‘63, Harrisonburg, Va., is retired from his career as a pastor and mission administrator and now volunteers at Gift & Thrift. He holds a doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and is married to **Edie Bontrager ‘66**.

J. Mark Frederick Jr. ‘63, Lansdale, Pa., is a retired pastor and now volunteers with Immigration Rights Action, Mennonite Central Committee’s Material Resource Center, and Plains Mennonite Church where he provides attendees with transportation to medical appointments. He holds a master of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and is married to **Emma Frederick ‘64**.

LaVon Kolb, class of ‘63, Sellersville, Pa., is retired from her career in education and volunteers at the Rockhill Gift Shop as a clerk. She holds a master’s degree in business education from Temple University, and one of her sons, **William Kolb ‘94**, is an EMU alumnus.

Lola M. Lehman ‘63, Lititz, Pa., is retired from the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and now volunteers in the mailroom at Landis Homes Retirement Community. She enjoys working on family history projects and is a part of the Stumpdown Mennonite Sewing Circle at her church.

Harold F. Miller ‘63, Harrisonburg, Va., is a volunteer with Mennonite Central Committee and a country representative for Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Sudan. He is married to **Annetta W. Miller ‘62** and holds a master’s degree in international affairs and public administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Glenn Myers ‘63, Philadelphia, Miss., is retired from his career as a high school science teacher and now works in food distribution at Jubilee Mennonite Church. Myers previously served as the pastor at Pearl River Mennonite Church and Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church. He holds a master’s degree in physics from Mississippi State University and is married to **Emma Myers ‘60**.

Dan Shenk ‘63, Harrisonburg, Va., is retired from his private practice of psychotherapy. Shenk serves as a board member of the Sun Valley Property Owners Association, a development near Elkton where he also maintains three miles of roads and seven bridges. He holds a master’s degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania and is married to **Naomi Shenk ‘63**.

Esther Wert ‘63, Goshen, Ind., is retired from a teaching career and attends College Mennonite Church. She moved to Greencroft Communities last year and was married to the late **Robert Wert ‘63**.

Wesley Mast ‘68, Goshen, Ind., is a chaplain with Heartland Home Care and Hospice and volunteers as a Goshen Hospice companion. He holds a master of divinity degree from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and is married to **Elsie Mast ‘66**.

1970-79

Cheryl Lyon ‘71, Dayton, Va., is the owner of Silver Lake Mill, which celebrated its 200th

anniversary in 2022. After working at the *Daily News-Record*, she bought the mill in 1999 and restored it to its pre-1945 condition. Lyon recently published the historical account “Silver Lake: 200 Years of a Shenandoah Valley Mill & Community.”

Linda Lefever Alley ‘73, SEM ‘10, Rockingham Va., is a self-employed, ordained spiritual director. She and her husband **Robert Earl Alley SEM ‘72** have three children who have all received degrees from EMU or EMS.

Christine Burkholder ‘73, Linville, Va., assists her husband **Marlin** with market gardening. She volunteers with Morning View Mennonite Church, Laotian Bible studies, and refugee families.

Anna Louise Detweiler ‘73, Phoenixville, Pa., is retired. She volunteers providing physical therapy for uninsured patients at two clinics and manages a food bank garden at Frazer Mennonite Church.

Ruth Johnson Duncan ‘73, Staunton, Va., is retired from a 37-year career as a second-grade teacher at Craigsville Elementary School. She now volunteers as an after-school tutor with Valley Mission.

Kathy D. Fisher ‘73, Harrisonburg, Va., is retired, but continues to teach classes in the Intensive English Program at EMU, which she began doing in the 1990s. She was married to **Al Keim ‘63**, professor emeritus of history, who passed away in 2008. Fisher lived and taught English in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for many years. She holds a master of education in TESOL from Temple University.

Carol Godshall ‘73, Manheim, Pa., is a self-employed wedding florist and a retail merchandiser and buyer at S. Clyde Weaver. Godshall volunteers at East Petersburg Mennonite Church where she leads women’s events. She is married to **Leon Godshall ‘68**.

Stephen Hackman ‘73, Souderton, Pa., is the co-founder of One Village Coffee. He volunteers at the local YMCA, Manna on Main Street, and Common Grounds Coffee Shop.

Jerry L. Kauffman ‘73, Harrisonburg, Va., is a retired pharmacist who serves on the Valley Village Board of Directors. Kauffman is involved with his grandsons, various hobbies, a Bible study and other activities at Community Mennonite Church. He is married to **Joan Kauffman ‘75**.

Karen Moshier-Shenk ‘73, Harrisonburg, Va., retired last year from her position as senior associate director of development at EMU. Moshier-Shenk volunteers as a choir director, music leader, and care elder at Park View Mennonite Church. She holds a master of music degree in sacred music from Duquesne University and is married to **Steve Shenk ‘73**.

Daniel Ness ‘73, Lititz, Pa., is retired and volunteers at the Mennonite Central Committee ReUzit store in Ephrata.

Ginny Rew ‘73, Iowa City, Iowa, is a home health nurse with the Visiting Nurse Association of Johnson County, Iowa. She is also involved in local politics.

Ora Shetler ‘73, Kidron, Ohio, volunteers as an Amish taxi driver. He holds a master’s degree in education from James Madison University.

Sharon Yoder ‘75, Elkhart, Ind., was named one of “5 Notable Women in Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC)” by *Anabaptist World*. Yoder is an IMMC co-minister, one of the first of two women to hold the position,

BOOKSHELF



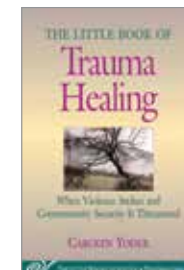
Huldah Gehman Claude, class of ‘50, has published “Mom, You Gotta Write This Down!” (Lulu Publishing, 2022) about her time as a psychiatric nurse serving with the Congo Protestant Relief Service in 1965-68 with her husband **John Claude ‘71**. The Claudes raised their three daughters across Swiss, Congolese, and American cultures.



Robert Hostetter ‘69 has published “Peacemakers in Israel-Palestine: Dialogues for a Just Peace” (Routledge, 2023), which examines the roles of nongovernmental peacemakers. He teaches communications arts at North Park University in Chicago.



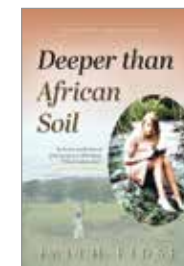
David Eshleman ‘58, SEM ‘61 has published his 11th and 12th books: “Following Hard After God: Autobiography of J. David Eshleman” (Masthof Press, 2022) and “Jesus Speaks to the Church: Revelation 2-3” (Masthof Press, 2022).



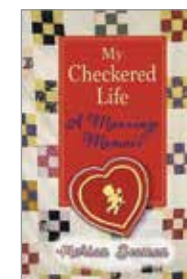
Carolyn Yoder ‘72, former director of the Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) program, has released a German translation of “The Little Book of Trauma Healing: Revised & Updated: When Violence Strikes and Community Security Is Threatened” (Skyhorse Publishing, 2020).



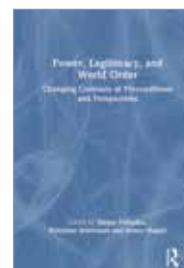
Ray Horst ‘59 and Ervie Glick, class of ‘62, co-edited and published “Go Where I Send Thee: A Congo Pax Journal” (independently published, 2022) by the late **Allen Horst**, who served as a trucker with Congo Protestant Relief Service amid post-independence tribal conflicts. He and Glick also volunteered rebuilding refugee houses in post-war Germany.



Faith Eidse ‘79 has published “Deeper than African Soil” (Masthof Press, 2023) about growing up as the child of parents serving in emerging nations where she and her sisters survive revolution, disease, and boarding school trauma. Written as Eidse’s master memoir, it won Florida State University’s Kingsbury Award.



Marian Longenecker Beaman ‘63 has published “My Checkered Life: A Marriage Memoir” (Bookbaby, 2023), a sequel to her first book, “Mennonite Daughter: The Story of a Plain Girl” (self-published, 2019).



Sanjay Pulipaka MA ‘07 has published “Power, Legitimacy, and World Order: Changing Contours of Preconditions and Perspectives” (Routledge, 2023), a reflection of the decline of international cooperation in world politics and ways to restore order.



JUBILEE HOUSE '79 PHOTO: Standing, from left: **Beth Landis '79;** **Kenneth Miller '79;** **Marlin Groff '79;** **Sandy Drescher-Lehman '79;** **Kevin King '81;** and sitting, from left: **Brenda Hollinger Grimes '79;** **Jeryl Hollinger '79;** **Mary Ellen Witmer,** faculty advisor; **Ketema Belete '79;** **Ruth Wolf Wagner '79;** **CJ Rutt Landis '79.**

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS WHILE BUILDING HOMES

Seven former EMC students who resided at the intentional living community Jubilee House in 1978–79 reunited along with their spouses at a Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) worksite in Dulac, Louisiana, from February 26 to March 4. The participants traveled from six different states covering three time zones. In the 44 years since graduation, house members have periodically met with one another, with some connecting at Mennonite Church USA conventions. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the group has been meeting via Zoom every few months. The reunion came about after **Kevin King '81**, Jubilee House member and executive director of MDS, suggested the work project as a meaningful way to gather in person.

The 13-member group enjoyed working alongside Amish young adults from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who led the project. Only three of the 10 Jubilee House members and the faculty advisor were missing from the reunion. Sadly, one member of the group, **Ketema Belete '79**, from Ethiopia, passed away in 2021. MDS began working in Dulac after Hurricane Ida devastated the area in August 2021, and finished building 24 new elevated homes in May 2023.

MDS DULAC PHOTO: Back row, from left: **Jack Swaim** and **Beth Landis '79**, **Ed** and **CJ Rutt Landis '79**, **Jeryl '79** and **Mary Hollinger**, **Daniel '78** and **Brenda Hollinger Grimes '79**, **Marlin Groff '79** and **Sue Aeschliman Groff '79**, **John '79** and **Sandy Drescher-Lehman '79**, and **Kevin King '81.**



and was the first female pastor of Olive Mennonite Church. She is a member of Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship in Elkhart.

J. Eric Bishop '78, Souderton, Pa., is the director of curriculum and instruction at Quakertown Christian School and produces legacy books about local businesses and business people. He previously taught English for 37 years at Dock Mennonite Academy. Bishop holds a master's degree in education from Arcadia University and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Kent State University. He is married to **Linda Hostetter Bishop '81**, an elementary school librarian in the Norristown Area School District.

Donna Callahan '78, Martinsville, Va., is a registered nurse at Pregnancy Care Center. She assists with a food and clothing ministry, teaches children's church, and organizes marriage seminars. Callahan has 10 grandchildren, ages one to 16.

Laura Blosser Draper '78, Taylor, Mich., is a private music teacher. She is retired from working in elementary schools in Dearborn Heights School District #7. Draper volunteers with Heart of Gold, providing spiritual care for residents in rehab and assisted living. She holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan.

Les Helmuth '78, Harrisonburg, Va., retired in August as the executive director of Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community Foundation after a 45-year career in philanthropic work. Helmuth serves on the boards of the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, Valley Business Keynote, the Shenandoah Valley Athletic Club, the Harmonia Sacra Society, the Charlottesville Area Planned Giving Council, and the council of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. He is married to **Sylvia Helmuth '79.**

Sherill Hostetter '78, Rockingham, Va., is a self-employed spiritual director and coach. Hostetter has co-led Spirituality of Aging retreats with her daughter and is also involved in the organization Bridge of Hope through Community Mennonite Church. She is married to **Darrel Hostetter '77.**

Nevin Immel '78, Sellersville, Pa., is a self-employed Tastykake distributor. He volunteers at the Material Resource Center and is married to **Sharlene Immel '79.**

David King '78, Elverson, Pa., retired last summer from Malone University after serving as president for 10 years, during which time he oversaw the introduction of new academic programs—including cybersecurity, data analytics, digital arts, and criminal and restorative justice—and represented Malone at the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and other organizations. He holds master's degrees in human services administration and human resources development from Villanova University and a doctorate in education from Temple University.

Margaret Kreider '78, Nottingham, Pa., is retired from her career as a school nurse with the School District of Lancaster. Kreider serves as a deacon and adult Sunday School teacher at Little Britain Presbyterian Church and assists with fundraising for the Lions Club and local fire department. She holds a master's degree in nursing education from the University of Virginia and is married to **John Kreider '64.**

Rosemary Landis '78, Rockingham, Va., retired in February from a 45-year nursing career, working most recently as a nursing manager with First Choice Home Health & Hospice. Landis looks forward to spending

time with her eight grandchildren and other volunteer opportunities. She is married to **Steve Landis '77.**

Betty Peachey Ross '78, Kailua, Hawaii, is retired from her career as a registered nurse with Hale Ku'iike Alzheimer's Care House. She helps to care for her two grandchildren and volunteers with Hawaii Meals on Wheels.

Maurice Stutzman '78, Millersburg, Ohio, is a retired physician. Stutzman volunteers with Mennonite Disaster Service, the Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale, and Ukrainian refugee resettlement. He holds a degree in medicine from The Ohio State University.

Rebecca Miller '79, West Unity, Ohio, has retired from *The Village Reporter* newspaper in Fulton and Williams counties. She was a reporter there for 10 years.

Tim Swartz '79, Spring City, Pa., was a top prizewinner in the Philadelphia Water Color Society's 2022 International Exhibition of Works on Paper with his watercolor painting "Depot 2 & 3." Introduced to watercolor at Dock Mennonite Academy by **Roland Yoder '57**, Swartz has paintings in collections throughout the United States, including the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. He is a signature member of the Philadelphia Water Color Society, the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, and the Baltimore Watercolor Society.

1980-89

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz '81, Ephrata, Pa., is the denominational minister for peace and justice for Mennonite Church USA.

Richard Hostetter '81, Elkhart, Ind., has been named the health officer for Elkhart County after serving as the interim health officer since the beginning of 2022. Hostetter previously retired from the Goshen Health System as a board-certified surgical oncologist. He received his medical degree from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

Myron Blosser '83, Rockingham, Va., is the director of the Harrisonburg High School Governor's STEM Academy and the science coordinator for grades 9-12. Blosser is a board member at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community and an alumni board member at Eastern Mennonite School. He is married to **Rhonda Blosser '86.**

Opal Jean Bontrager '83, Salem, Ore., is retired after a 29-year career as a government accountant and budget analyst for the state of Oregon. She is currently learning natural horsemanship skills with her palomino quarter horse, Lady. She holds an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Lucy Brubaker '83, Telford, Pa., is a transitions and downsizing manager for Alderfer Auction. Brubaker volunteers as a facilitator for conversations on racism and holds a master's degree in education from Beaver College and a master's degree in reading from Arcadia University. She is married to **Ed Brubaker '84.**

Melody Keim '83, Philadelphia, Pa., is the executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger and serves as a board member at Northwest Mutual Aid. She holds a master's degree in textiles and clothing from Iowa State University.

Vicki Mast Nolt '83, Rockingham, Va., is the founder and CEO of Rockingham Educational Therapy. Nolt has served on the board of the Highland Retreat Association for 10 years. She holds a master's degree in education

from Regent University and is married to **Wesley Nolt '82.**

Ken Shank '83, West Liberty, Ohio, is retired from a 34-year career in education and is a leadership volunteer for Mennonite Disaster Service. He holds a master's degree in education from Wright State University and is married to **Cheryl Shank '83.**

Beverly Smeltzer '83, North Chesterfield, Va., is a triage nurse with the Bon Secours Health System at Richmond OB-GYN. She is also a volunteer Sunday School teacher for preschoolers.

Stephen K. Hall '86, Lebanon, Ky., is an advanced practice provider in cardiology at Ephraim McDowell Heart & Vascular Institute. He is board certified as a family nurse practitioner and has more than 35 years of experience. In 1987, Hall was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and the Army Nurse Corps where he had numerous assignments in the United States and overseas, capping off his military career as the chief nursing officer at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He is the recipient of the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star and is a member of the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit for significant exemplary contributions to the U.S. Army Medical Department. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2018 with 30 years of active-duty service. Hall lives in Lebanon with his wife, **Diane**. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

Kate Brainard-Lee '88, Brackenridge, Pa., is a trauma therapist with the private practice Living Stones Counseling Services. She holds a master's degree in counseling and an EMDR therapist certification.

Tammy Kiser '88, Dayton, Va., was featured in a May 5 *Daily News-Record* article in honor of National Nurses Day. Kiser has worked as a nurse for 36 years; her first job at age 12 was working as a candy stripper at Bridgewater Retirement Community. She holds a master's in nursing from James Madison University and a second master's and doctorate in nursing from the University of South Alabama. Kiser told the *DN-R* that her true passion is "working with vulnerable populations, such as the homeless."

Jewel Gingerich Longenecker '88, South Bend, Ind., has been named a co-director of the new doctor of ministry in leadership program at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart. She will also continue in her current role as dean of lifelong learning.

Mary Anne Weber '89, Goshen, Ind., is director of enrollment at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She is also a member of the Pastoral Leadership Team at Benton Mennonite Church in Goshen.

1990-99

Rosalyn Alleman '93, Greenbelt, Md., recently celebrated two years as the reference and outreach librarian at the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Transportation Library. She holds a master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Flo Horning '93, Ephrata, Pa., is a receiving technician at Good's Store. She volunteers at Weaverland Mennonite Church as a greeter and Sunday School teacher.

Edie Lantz-Leppert '93, Tucson, Ariz., is the program director for adult basic literacy at Literacy Connects. She serves on a support committee for Mennonite Voluntary Services and holds a master's degree in language, reading, and culture from the University of Arizona.

Ella Martin '93, Harrisonburg, Va., retired in January from her career as a registered nurse case manager. She volunteers as a cashier at Gift & Thrift and makes baby blankets for AVA Care.

Karen Longacher Minatelli '93, Alexandria, Va., is an attorney and unit chief with the U.S. Department of Justice. She is a foster parent, volunteers as a church trustee, and is a member of Alexandria Choral Society and Pro Coro Alexandria. She holds a law degree from Temple University.

Tony Ramsey '93, Lyndhurst, Va., has been named the principal of Stuarts Draft High School after working for Augusta County Public Schools for 28 years, including as a teacher and coach at Wilson Memorial High School and as an assistant principal at Stuarts Draft. He holds a master's degree in education administration from Shenandoah University.

Erika I. Leaman Stiffler '93, Middletown, Pa., is a certified school social worker in the West Shore School District. She holds a master's degree in social work from Temple University and a master's degree in human services - crisis response & trauma from Liberty University.

Bob Yoder '94, Goshen, Ind., is the new director of development at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He holds a doctor of ministry from Western Theological Seminary and is a pastor and author.

April Graber '98, Dexter, Mich., is a human resources generalist with Reink Media Group, LLC. Graber volunteers with Education First, an international exchange organization, and she and her husband **Mark Graber '98** host exchange students. She holds a master's degree in organizational leadership from Rockhurst University.

Mike Shank '98, Broadway, Va., is a criminal investigator with the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office. He is a Cellebrite Certified Mobile Examiner and has been in law enforcement for more than 10 years. An album Shank and his band recorded in 2001, "SuperNova Cosmosis," was remastered and released on all platforms this year.

Karla Tierney '98, Bridgewater, Va., is the dining hall manager for Eastern Mennonite School and volunteers at the Red Wing Roots Music Festival.

Ellyn Nolt '99, Lancaster, Pa., is the manager of the Heirloom Seed Project at Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum, a living history site that preserves and interprets Pennsylvania German heritage. She worked with the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist program as south-east region coordinator from 2015 to 2021.

Perry Shank '99, Harrisonburg, Va., is the director of curriculum at CodeVA, a computer science nonprofit. He was recently awarded a \$1 million National Science Foundation grant to design professional supports for high school teachers. He is married to **Rebecca Miller Shank '99** and holds master's and doctoral degrees in curriculum and instruction from the University of Denver.

2000-09

Brent Yoder '00, Hesston, Kan., has been promoted to associate vice president of academic affairs at Friends University in Wichita. He previously served as associate academic dean and professor of chemistry. He has also been a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission and was formerly vice president of academics and registrar at Hesston College.



RECORD-BREAKING GIVING DAY

LovEMU Giving Day 2023 was another record-setting event—with \$300,915 raised from 844 gifts and 592 total donors, a gain of more than \$5,000 over last year's totals. Dollars raised go toward scholarships, belongingness initiatives, resources for retaining faculty and staff, and more! In addition to the fundraising successes of the day, LovEMU merged with SGA Day, an initiative of the Student Government Association to bring students together with faculty and staff in meaningful ways outside the classroom. This partnership resulted in a palpable energy on campus, as the community celebrated the importance and impact of the day of generosity.



AND THE WINNER IS...

Nursing student **Madison Mae Bowyer** was crowned Miss Out-of-Town Honorary Fire & Rescue in the 2023 Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival's In-Town and Out-of-Town Miss Honorary Fire & Rescue Chief Pageant in Winchester in March, raising over \$40,000 for childhood cancer patients. She competed as the 2022 Miss Elkton Fire Chief, sponsored by Elkton Volunteer Fire Company. Bowyer is a 2022 graduate of Staunton High School, where she was the captain of the varsity cheerleading team. She aspires to work in pediatric oncology as a registered nurse.

NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR AN ALUMNI AWARD!

emu.edu/alumni/nominations



From left, Kate Kooker; Dorothy Jean Weaver, seminary professor emerita; Mary Beth Lind; Jan Foderaro; Sharon Metzler-Ruth; Marci Keener; Carolyn Yoder, former director of the Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) program; and Sue Hess.

MUM’S THE WORD? NOT THIS TIME!

Eight alumnae gathered in the Hartzler Library at the end of March to relive a treasured college memory—although, this time they did not have to keep the rendezvous a secret. Just over 50 years ago, seven seniors hid in the then-newly-built library for a slumber party—a final hurrah before graduation. The young women had helped to fundraise for its construction three years prior, when an enthusiastic student-led bake sale, auction, and telethon made national news.

This year, women from the class of 1972 took to the library for another sleepover—this time to raise money for the Jubilee Alumni Endowed Scholarship. Their creative effort added nearly \$10,000 on top of the \$25,000 their classmates had contributed in 2022 to mark their 50th reunion. Those who graduated 50 or more years ago make up the EMU Jubilee Alumni group. The Jubilee Alumni Committee established the scholarship fund to enable students with significant financial need to attend EMU. The fund is nearing \$200,000 in total value with a goal of \$1 million by 2030.

ALUMNA LANDS NEW LEADERSHIP ROLE

Amy Phillips ‘20, Warm Springs, Va., has joined the Mountain Gateway Community College Educational Foundation as its new executive director. She also serves as the director of institutional advancement and public information officer for the college. Phillips has spent more than 20 years working in the healthcare industry—as the manager of development, marketing and communications at Bath Community Hospital in Hot Springs and then as the development officer for operations at the Augusta Health Foundation in Fishersville. Phillips is a first-generation college graduate who earned a bachelor of science degree in leadership and organizational management from EMU.



Matthew Eshleman ‘01, Baltimore, Md., is the chief technology officer at Community IT, an employee-owned company based in Washington D.C. that provides information technology services to nonprofits. Eshleman has been with Community IT for more than 23 years and holds a master’s degree in business administration from Johns Hopkins University.

Anita Clymer ‘03, Broadway, Va., home-schools her four children ages five to 11, gardens, and raises chickens. She is also involved at Linville Creek Church of the Brethren.

Sara Hiebert ‘03, Hesston, Kan., is the CEO of Bethesda Home and serves as a board member for the Goessel USD 411 school district.

Russell Tecumseh James ‘03, Corvallis, Ore., is a self-employed songwriter and author and the owner of River’s Bend, LLC. James also volunteers as a disability coordinator for Fishtrap, Inc. and is working toward a master of fine arts degree in creative writing at Eastern Oregon University. He is married to **Deborah Good ‘02**.

Lisa Lehman ‘03, Harrisonburg, Va., is leading the planning for the Mennonite Church USA 2023 Convention. Lehman has experience in marketing and administrative leadership, including as a board member and publicity chair for the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale.

Sara Obri ‘03, Twinsburg, Ohio, is a registered nurse in the Cleveland Clinic main campus emergency department. She served on the Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes Board of Directors for 12 years, including two years on the MCC U.S. Board of Directors.

Adam Starks ‘03, Philippi, W. Va., founder and CEO of MNDYRR (Mentoring Nurturement for Dynamic Youth Resilience and Restoration) Technologies Inc., has been recognized by Marquis Who’s Who Top Executives for dedication, achievements, and leadership in child welfare, family advocacy and organizational leadership. His nonprofit helps child welfare and educational professionals connect with and understand traumatized youth. Starks serves as the board president for the West Virginia CASA Association, Inc. and is a member of the Harrison County Child Advocacy Center Board of Directors, the World Vision KidREACH Academy Advisory Board, and the Barbour County School Board.

Shannon Yoder ‘03, Rockingham, Va., is a fifth-grade teacher at Plains Elementary School with Rockingham County Public Schools. She is married to **Alex Yoder ‘02**.

Aerlande Petros Wontamo ‘06, Silver Spring, Md., is the senior vice president of U.S. programs at World Relief, a global Christian humanitarian organization.

Kevin Ressler ‘07, Lancaster, Pa., was recognized in *PennLive’s* “Trailblazers and Trendsetters: Black men and women under 40 who are entrepreneurs, professionals, artists and advocates - leaders committed to uplifting their communities and inspiring change.” Ressler has been the president and CEO of the United Way of Lancaster for three years after spending more than five years at Meals on Wheels of Lancaster as the executive director. He is married with two children.

Lisa Burkholder ‘08, Linville, Va., is a registered nurse unit coordinator at Sentara RMH. She serves on the boards of Healthy Communities Health Center and Nazareth Project, Inc.

Rachael L. Penman ‘08, Washington D.C., is the assistant exhibits curator at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. She recently helped to open the Capitol building’s new Exhibition Hall, dedicated to telling the story of Congress

and the Capitol. Penman holds a master’s degree in museum studies from George Washington University.

Laura Cattell Noll ‘09, Chesapeake Bay, Va., is the local leadership workgroup coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Program. She has more than a decade of experience managing and implementing community-based watershed restoration and stewardship projects across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

2010-19

Erika Gascho ‘10, Harrisonburg, Va., has been named principal of the middle school division of Eastern Mennonite School where she will also work with the growing Learning Support Services program. She has taught fifth grade since 2018 and was named Teacher of the Month by Q101 Radio earlier this spring. Prior to teaching at EMS, Gascho was a special education teacher for Harrisonburg City Public Schools. She is married to **Andrew Gascho ‘09**.

Amelia Schmid ‘11, Millersburg, Ohio, is a realtor with The Harrisonburg Homes Team at Kline May Realty. Schmid co-founded The Pinwheel Collective, a wedding and portrait photography business that she operated for more than eight years. She has also owned and operated a clothing company and managed a hardware store.

Lyubov D. Slashcheva ‘11, Fergus Falls, Minn., has been promoted to the position of research director at the nonprofit Apple Tree Dental. She serves as a chairperson of the American Public Health Section of the Oral Health Section, as a board member of the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry, and as a transition board member of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative.

Steve Burkholder ‘13, Broadway, Va., has joined the Board of Directors of the Scholars Latino Initiative, an organization that supports higher education opportunities for Latinx youth. Burkholder is a financial planner at Everence and previously taught middle and high school math. He is married to **Olivia Burkholder ‘13**.

Erin Huddleton ‘13, Roanoke, Va., is a kindergarten teacher with Roanoke City Public Schools. She also volunteers with a young adult ministry at First Baptist Church Roanoke.

Aaron Springer ‘13, Santa Cruz, Calif., is a quantitative user experience researcher at Google where he works on AI fairness in Google Photos. Springer holds a doctorate degree in computer science from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Mariah Elliott Leonard ‘14, Rockville, Va., is the volunteer coordinator at Comfort Zone Camp, a nonprofit organization that works with children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, primary caregiver or other significant person.

Ryan Henschel ‘15, Harrisonburg, Va., has been named the new assistant principal at Harrisonburg High School where he has been a math teacher since 2015 and has also served as the administrator for night and summer school programs.

Joshua David Lomas ‘15, Somerville, N.J., is the new assistant director for TRIO Student Support Services at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. The grant-funded program supports 170 first-generation college students, economically-disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities pursuing a four-year bachelor’s degree. Lomas holds a master of education degree from Kutztown University.

Dana Shomo ‘15, Craigsville, Va., was presented with the 2023 Augusta Health Leadership of Excellence Award in March. She is a nurse manager in the Outpatient Surgery/Post-Anesthesia Care Unit at Augusta Health where she first started working at age 18 in the emergency department. She spent time as a travel nurse and ER nurse in multiple states before returning to Virginia.

Anna-Louise Cecil ‘18, Richmond, Va., owns and operates a small business as an East Coast wedding photographer. Her work can be viewed online at: www.annalouisececil.com

Connor Faint ‘18, Martinsburg, W.Va., is a critical care nurse at WVU Medicine and coaches track and field at Spring Mills High School.

Shae Delicia Powell ‘18, Harrisonburg, Va., is the parent relations coordinator of communications and operations at James Madison University where she earned a master of education in counseling/college student personnel administration in 2022.

Mason Stoltzfus ‘18, Hershey, Pa., is a medical student at Penn State College of Medicine. He serves on the board of The Family Table Ukraine and is married to **Marina Baker ‘19**.

Daniel Zook ‘18, Lancaster, Pa., is a finance associate with Mennonite Central Committee and volunteers as the welcome team leader for Afghan refugees. He holds a master’s degree in public administration from Penn State University.

2020-

Lexi Deffenbaugh Ramsey ‘20, Fishersville, Va., is an assistant coach for the Wilson Memorial High School women’s basketball team, which went 16-6 this season and earned the title of Shenandoah Valley co-champions with Fort Defiance.

Asha Beck ‘22, Harrisonburg, Va., is the office manager for Gaines Group Architects. She has two German Shepherds.

Jordan Jones ‘22, Saxe, Va., is a baseball scout for Prep Baseball Report in Central Virginia. He recently visited his alma mater, Randolph Henry High School in Charlotte Court House (VA), to talk with the baseball team about his athletic career.

Jaylon Lee ‘22, Harrisonburg, Va., is an outfielder on the D1 baseball team at James Madison University, where he is a graduate student studying cyber intelligence. Lee has played on multiple Valley Baseball League teams including the Harrisonburg Turks and Woodstock River Bandits where he earned MVP honors representing the North team in the All-Star Game in 2021.

GRADUATE

William Goldberg MA ‘01 (conflict transformation), South Bend, Ind., left EMU in July 2022 after more than 20 years at the university, serving the last nine as the director of the Summer Peacebuilding Institute. He is currently the director of the Master of Global Affairs program at the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame.

Naw Kanyaw Paw MA ‘04 (conflict transformation), Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, is a freelance technical consultant with HOPE International Development Agency of Myanmar, working on public peace and dialogue facilitation initiatives. She also volunteers as a board member of Friends of Burma.

Iris de Leon-Hartshorn MA ‘05 (conflict transformation and peacebuilding),

Portland, Ore., was among seven community elders honored at the Mennonite Church USA Hope for the Future 2023 conference. De Leon-Hartshorn is the associate executive director of operations and director of human resources for Mennonite Church USA and is a member of Portland Mennonite Church.

Rebekah Brubaker MA ‘06 (counseling), Harrisonburg, Va., is the executive director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board. Brubaker is a licensed professional counselor who has worked for the CSB for 16 years. She most recently held the role of director of behavioral health services.

Valerie Helbert MA ‘08 (conflict transformation), Durham, N.C., is program coordinator for the Center for Reconciliation at Duke Divinity School. Helbert previously served as co-director of the Summer Peacebuilding Institute at EMU. She is active in her church, Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren, and is on the Board of Directors of DurhamCares.

Carla VanDevander MED ‘12 (curriculum and instructional strategies), Staunton, Va., hosted the PhD Ideation Challenge at Yale University in March. VanDevander is the director of the Program for the Exceptionally Gifted (PEG) at Mary Baldwin University. She is also a faculty member in the School of Education and coordinator for the Education Leaders Learning Collective.

Lenore Bajare-Dukes MA ‘17 (conflict transformation), Lancaster, Pa., is a new congregational life staff member at Central East Region. She has spent the past five years serving as a lifespan religious educator in Lancaster.

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Mike ‘13 and Hannah Tissue Ferguson ‘14, assistant professor of nursing, Bridgewater, Va., Eleanor “Ellie” Beth, April 1, 2023.

Chaska ‘14 and Phil T. Yoder ‘14, Delaware, Ohio, Flora Saloma, April 15, 2023.

Kara Miller ‘07 and Matt Ruth ‘06, director of enrollment operations, Harrisonburg, Va., Louisa Mae, May 2, 2023.

Kelly and Matt Blauch ‘14, Linville, Va., Savannah James and Rosemary Marie, May 13, 2023.

DEATHS

Luke Mummau Drescher ‘57, Harrisonburg, Va., died at age 87 on March 4, 2023, at Oak Lea of Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. After his long career in education, he worked as the director of parks and recreation for Rockingham County; in institutional sales at Valley Sports Center; and as a life, health, and disability insurance agent with Drescher Insurance, which he owned and operated from 1981 until the time of his death. He married **Margaret June Hostetler** from Shelbyville, Illinois, on June 14, 1958. Drescher and Hostetler have three children and six grandchildren.

David W. Shenk ‘59, Lititz, Pa., died at age 85 on Jan. 3, 2023, at Landis Homes. He was born in Tanzania, the son of missionaries. He earned a master’s degree in social studies education and a doctoral degree in religious studies education and anthropology from New York University. He served in Somalia with Eastern Mennonite Missions; lectured at Kenyatta University; and pastored a church in Nairobi, Kenya, before returning to the United States in 1979 to work for Eastern Mennonite Missions. Shenk also served as the academic



From left: Sophomore **Mana Acosta**; **Shannon Dycus**, VP of student affairs and dean of students; **Jackie Font-Guzmán**, VP for DEI; and junior **Thaddeus Jackson**.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Shannon Dycus, vice president of student affairs and dean of students, and **Jackie Font-Guzmán**, vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), represented EMU along with sophomore engineering major **Mana Acosta** and junior music major **Thaddeus Jackson** at the Hope for the Future 2023 conference in Atlanta in February. The conference is an annual gathering of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) leaders from Mennonite Church USA conferences, congregations, agencies, constituency groups, affiliated schools, and ministry partners.



STEPPING IN FOR A SEASON

Jewel Lehman ‘87, Goshen, Ind., is the new interim head coach for men’s volleyball at Goshen College, where she serves as department chair and professor of kinesiology. “The most important role I can play in this new situation is to make sure the program continues to be successful, as it has been the last several years,” said Lehman, who played volleyball at EMU and is still in the top three in program history for career service aces and career hitting percentage. A part of four ODAC champion teams at EMU, she was the ODAC Player of the Year for three consecutive years and an NCAA Regional All-America Selection in 1986; she is in the EMU Athletics Hall of Fame and was the first female EMU athlete to have her jersey retired.

Lehman was the women’s volleyball head coach at Goshen from 2004-2008, and her teams posted winning records in three of five seasons. She ranks second in program history at Campbell University for a total of 69 wins in four seasons as head coach of the women’s D1 volleyball team.



AS 'GOOD' AS IT GETS

EMU English and history grad **Merle Good '69** and his wife **Phyllis, class of '70**, Lancaster, Pa., received a Lifetime Tribute from the Center for Mennonite Writing Journal at the 2022 Mennonite/s Writing Conference at Goshen College in October. The couple founded Good Enterprises, a book publisher and quilt retailer, and the independent publishing house Walnut Street Books. Among Walnut Street Books' titles are "Restorative Justice: Insights and Stories from My Journey" by **Howard Zehr**, director emeritus of the Zehr Institute; and "Cousins" by **Betty Kilby Baldwin** and **Phoebe Kilby GC '04 (conflict transformation)**, former fundraiser for the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding.

dean at Lithuania Christian College for four years. He authored or co-authored 18 books and was married to **Grace Shenk '59**.

Albert T. Miller '62, Dillsburg, Pa., died at age 86 on Dec. 16, 2022. He worked at Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Prince George's General Hospital, and King's Daughters Hospital as an emergency room physician. He enjoyed hiking, cruise vacations and classical music. He was married to **Marilyn Steffen Miller '61**, a registered nurse.

Auburn A. Boyers, class of '74, Bridgewater, Va., died at age 91 on April 13, 2023, at Harmony House in the Bridgewater Retirement Community. Boyers completed Virginia State Teacher Certification coursework at Eastern Mennonite College and served on the faculty of Eastern Mennonite College's Teacher Education Program from 1969 to 1994.

Rev. David Ray Burrough '75, SEM '79, Broadway, Va., died at age 73 on Jan. 26, 2023. He pastored churches in West Virginia and Virginia for over 44 years, beginning in 1968. Burrough was a Mason and a member of the Valley Shrine Club. He disliked family reunions until he found out Booker T. Washington was born on his ancestor's farm in Roanoke.

Dwight Hamilton Diller MA '87, Marlinton, W.Va., died at age 76 on Feb. 14, 2023. Diller was a renowned musician and teacher who was dedicated to preserving old-time West Virginia music. He held a master's degree in horticulture from West Virginia University.

CORRECTIONS

Shalom Mennonite Congregation in Harrisonburg, Va. was misidentified as Shalom Mennonite Church in updates for **Carroll Yoder '62** and **Sarah Bucher Myers '67**.

Ethel Bucher Caldwell '72 was a registered nurse at Landis Homes. She was the nursing home administrator, not health assistant, the last 15 years before she retired in 2018.

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: www.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 desired information for publishing—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.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

PAUL AND LISA ZENDT SHELLEY

WHAT IS YOUR CALLING? WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL MISSION?

Questions that, if contemplated, cause a person to pause, reflect and set goals. Clarity often reveals itself along the way. Those who have lived their lives guided by these two answers are morally richer for it; many trudge through life without realizing the importance of discovering their calling and mission.

Paul and Lisa Zendt Shelly '89

have long known it. Their calling is to develop relationships. Their mission is positively touching the people in their community as they learn and grow together. They have risen to the top of their fields while settling in Mississippi and investing themselves into the life of the community.

As selected by Eastern Mennonite University's Alumni Association and its Awards and Nominations Committee, Paul and Lisa Zendt Shelly '89 are co-winners of the 2023 Distinguished Service Award. Since 1984, the Distinguished Service Award has been given annually to recognize select alumni who have, in notable ways, demonstrated the Christian service and peacemaking emphases of EMU. The award is given to honor EMU alumni who have significantly impacted the lives of others.

"I've reflected on how formative my experience at EMU has been in life guidance and direction," said Lisa Shelly, adding that she and Paul are both grateful for—and humbled by—the recognition. "EMU introduced me to a broader worldview, challenged me to think deeper and consider multiple perspectives, and encouraged me to serve with awareness of opportunities to learn from other people."



With their hearts in the right place, the two got married and became public school teachers in Meridian, Mississippi, in 1989, their graduation year from EMU. Paul started a company that developed software for teachers' lesson plans and now focuses primarily on assessment software that helps teachers grow students. Educational Leadership Solutions, co-founded in 2003 by Paul and fellow Royal **Kevin Baer '90**, has serviced nearly every school district in Mississippi at one time or another over the past 20 years.

The Shellys have earned widespread recognition. In 2003, Paul earned his district's Administrator of the Year plaudits, and Lisa was awarded Administrator of the Year for Lauderdale County School District in 2018. Within her first year of becoming one school's principal, that school improved from a "D" rating to an "A" rating for state testing; it is now upholding that "A" distinction under the helm of Lisa's sister, **Anita Zendt Wansley '95**.

But the Shellys' legacies don't end there; they extend through their children. Their son, Zachary, is a data analyst for the NBA's Sacramento Kings, and their two daughters are EMU graduates. **Abigail Shelly '20** is carving out a path as an educator and high school cross-country and track coach in Washington, and **Allison Shelly '22** is a content writer for ELS and assistant triathlon coach at EMU for the 2023-24 season following a standout athletic career as a Royal.

"Our two daughters had ... an amazing experience at EMU, where they were given opportunities to flourish," said Paul Shelly, who has volunteered for the past 15 years as a high school cross-country coach. "There were so many people at EMU, including professors, coaches, administrators, staff and friends, who played instrumental roles in who they have become."

The Ohio native Paul and Lisa, from Pennsylvania, personify service—from teaching in Mississippi and becoming school administrators to residing in an intentional community and supporting the growth and development of Jubilee Mennonite Church, a small Mississippi congregation where Paul served for six years as junior high Sunday school teacher and Lisa headed up the pastoral search committee. Both served as board members and volunteers for local organizations: Paul at Pine Lake Fellowship Camp and Lisa with Community of Hope.

"Any service that we have done along the way pales in comparison to what people [from EMU and since then in Mississippi] have poured into us," concluded Paul Shelly. — **BY KHALIL GARRIOTT**



A COLORFUL COLLABORATION

Artistic alumni **Rachel Bucher Swank '03** and **Melinda Steffy '03** reconnected in Swank's classroom at Manheim Township Middle School in Pennsylvania last year for a colorful collaboration. Steffy, a Philadelphia-based artist, worked with students to convert their school song, "Who We Are," into a visual design using her system that translates musical notes on the chromatic scale to colors on the color wheel and rhythms to boxes of varying lengths. The students created their own pieces of abstract art using Steffy's process and painted the mural's wooden panels. The eight-foot-by-eight-foot mural was unveiled in the school's lobby in May. Swank and Steffy received a \$4,500 grant from the Manheim Township Educational Foundation for the project.



THE PRO STREAK CONTINUES

Brett Lindsay '22, Hayes, Va., has signed on to play for the baseball club Jablonec Blesk in the Czech Republic, marking the infielder's second consecutive year as a pro competitor in Europe. During his college baseball career, Lindsay compiled 188 hits, stole 26 bases in 29 tries, and scored 120 runs in 150 games while batting over .300 in all five of his seasons. He was a three-time All-ODAC selection and was EMU's 2018 Freshman Athlete of the Year. Lindsay is currently finishing his master's program in occupational leadership at EMU and coaching at Christopher Newport University under Coach John Harvell.

ALUM OF THE YEAR AWARD

ANDY DULA



His success story is marked by longevity and continuity. He started out in drafting, then was elevated to project manager and controller. Later, he rose to chief financial officer and chief operating officer before becoming president in January 2021. In all, it's been a 31-year run for Dula at EGStoltzfus.

As a company, the biggest satisfaction for EGStoltzfus "comes from the relationships we build with our team

TRUST. It's a difficult principle to achieve, and once it's fractured, it's even harder to repair.

By prioritizing this core value, **Andrew (Andy) Dula '91** has risen to the top of his organization and led by example. As president of EGStoltzfus, a family-owned, full-service, 55-year construction business, his servant leadership style is admired by those within his sphere of influence.

As selected by Eastern Mennonite University's Alumni Association and its Awards and Nominations Committee, Dula is the 2023 Alum of the Year. The Alum of the Year Award is given annually to an alum who has been recognized for significant achievement in her/his/their profession, community or church. Not only is it given to honor the alum, it is also awarded to inspire EMU students and fellow alumni to live lives of service and vocational excellence.

The child of a shepherd boy from Ethiopia and a trailblazing Mennonite missionary woman, Dula has been "immeasurably impacted" by his parents.

members, customers, suppliers and trade partners." Consistency, teamwork and change management are hallmarks of his long and distinguished tenure with the same organization. His values align with his company's corporate culture; EGStoltzfus received the 2022 Ethic in Business Award, which is based on criteria such as integrity, fairness, justice and transparency.

As a corporate executive, Dula's success spans business, service and volunteer experiences. Not one to rest on the laurels of his professional career, the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, resident has modeled the way for others by continuing to give back. Dula's leadership and efforts on multiple boards represent his purpose in the world and alignment with EMU's mission: preparing students to serve and lead in a global context.

From 2003 to 2015, Dula was a member of EMU's Board of Trustees. That long period of service was punctuated with a five-year tenure as chair of the board, a role he relished as servant to his beloved alma mater.

His Christian faith remains paramount; he has served on many church and church-related boards while attending Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, where his wife, **Michelle Witmer Dula '91**, is pastor. The couple has two young adult children, **Maya Dula '21** and **Mesa Dula '24**, whom they say "were and are being shaped by a values set and worldview at EMU" that they think is important.

From strategic planning and accounting to financial reporting and budgeting, Dula utilizes the education he received at EMU while majoring in business administration and management. His commitment to lifelong learning is evidenced by the MBA he earned in 2006 from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. Dula believes that only education can provide a pathway to success.

"Education in all forms is about learning," Dula said. "Learning and acquiring all forms of knowledge is a part of what makes life fulfilling and enables you to do what you love. At this later stage in my career, I can do what I love. Leadership tasks such as coaching, mentoring, advising and supporting our current and future group of emerging leaders is about as fun as it gets."

"Andy is a leader who follows the servant leadership model, leading his company in setting a culture that encourages everyone (employees and customers) to thrive," said his longtime mentor and friend R. Clair Sauder, a former EMU board member and retired corporate executive.

David Gautsche, president & CEO of Goodville Mutual Casualty Company, adds Dula's success "is somewhat unusual and a testament to the trust the family has developed in him."

—BY KHALIL GARRIOTT

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUM AWARD

BASIL MARIN



AMERICA'S YOUTH face myriad risks and challenges meeting them head-on. From mental health struggles and bullying to academic concerns and the perils of social media, vulnerable children in the U.S. have a lot on their minds—and many just need someone to show that they care.

Anastacio (Basil) Marin '10 prides himself on being that person, continuing his work with secondary students who act out and struggle in school. By parlaying his lived experiences with advanced degrees in the field of education, he also has blossomed into a sought-after keynote speaker on education topics.

As selected by Eastern Mennonite University's Alumni Association and its Awards and Nominations Committee, Marin is the 2023 Outstanding Young Alum of the Year. The Outstanding Young Alum Award is given annually to an alum who, who through her/his/their professional achievement and/or Christ-like compassionate service, is making a significant contribution to the local, national or global community.

"I am grateful to the EMU community for thinking of me during one of the lowest periods of my adult life," said Marin of winning the award. "Losing my father a year ago has truly impacted my life in a significant way. Being the Outstanding Young Alum of the Year is not only an honor but a dedication to my father's legacy of serving others. The award has given me hope in the Bible verse Galatians 6:9, which states, 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'"

Marin, previously principal of Kennedy Road Middle School in Georgia, is a self-described "disruptor of the status quo." Whether he's in the classroom, mentoring teachers, leading in various

capacities or volunteering with professional organizations—he counts at least five he's currently involved with—Marin stays busy. In the 13 years since leaving EMU with his business administration and management degree in tow, he's hardly stayed still.

"He always exhibited a remarkable amount of passion, dedication and drive when it came to students, parents and the community," said Shawn Millaci, principal of Churchland High School in Portsmouth, Virginia. "Basil's demeanor was calm and supportive, and he always put students, parents, colleagues and stakeholders at ease. He could often be found counseling at-risk students and gave many of our students the hope that they needed to persevere."

His master's degree in special education and teaching from Liberty University preceded a pair of degrees from Old Dominion University, including a PhD in educational leadership and adminis-

tration. That formal training has proven invaluable since his first high school assistant principal post in 2017.

"I believe wholeheartedly that I was placed on Earth to help young scholars who have the mentality that they will never amount to anything," Marin reflected. "Too easily, our underserved youth believe the societal lies that they will never be successful nor have access to quality educational experiences."

Marin credits his years at EMU—and his professors and other leaders showing him grace day in and day out—with helping him to deepen his walk with Christ. "In order to be a Christian, one must have a personal connection with God," Marin said. "I struggled with this concept growing up but always felt God calling me in with a small, still voice."

"Christianity is a major component in my life, and I could not see me living life any other way."

—BY KHALIL GARRIOTT

ATHLETIC AWARDS

HALL OF HONOR

MIRANDA WHITE TERRY

Miranda White Terry '08, a liberal arts major, played both softball and basketball at Fort Defiance High School in Verona, Virginia, and chose EMU because she wanted “to stay local and continue to play sports.” The homegrown catcher/infielder had heard head softball coach **J.D. McCurdy** was a “great coach” and decided to become a Royal when he asked her to come play for him.

Terry and her teammates “worked hard to improve the EMU softball program,” which won 95 games and qualified for the ODAC tournament from 2005-2008. At the time of her graduation in 2008, Terry held three single-season records: hits (56), doubles (16), and total bases. She also held career records in hits, runs, singles, doubles, at-bats, games played, walks, and putouts. Terry finished her time as a Royal batting .373 with 174 hits, 39 doubles and 119 RBI. She was a four-time All-ODAC honoree, earning Honorable Mention in 2005, Second Team in 2006 and 2007, and First Team in 2008. In 2005, she was named the EMU Female Newcomer of the Year.

Terry currently lives in Monterey, Virginia, where she and her husband work for River View Farm and also own their own farm. She continues to play softball in a local co-ed recreation league and has been excited to start teaching the game to her daughters, Kelsey (5) and Lacy (2). McCurdy described Terry as “everything a coach wants in a softball player.” Terry, who also played basketball at EMU for a year, credits EMU Athletics with growing her work ethic, leadership skills, and spiritual life.

HALL OF HONOR

JAMIE FRAYSHER RUNNER

Jamie Fraysher Runner '09, a liberal arts major and psychology minor, became hooked on EMU for college after an overnight stay. “The people were so genuine and made me feel at home.” One of those people was head softball coach **J.D. McCurdy**, whose excitement to have Runner on his team made EMU “an easy pick” for the ace pitcher from Loudoun County, Virginia.

Runner saw success beginning her first year as a Royal. In 2006, she made the All-ODAC Second Team and set multiple records, including number of wins in a season (14), strikeouts in a season (88), lowest ERA (1.23), and lowest opponent batting average (.180). She captured All-ODAC Second Team honors again in 2008. Runner completed her career at EMU with a total of 40 wins, 239 strikeouts, 13 shutouts, and a 1.95 ERA over 437.2 innings pitched.

Runner speaks highly of her college softball experience. “My teammates and I clicked right away and were close my whole time at EMU. We created quite a sisterhood and have a reunion with our children every year.” Runner and her husband Jason, a member of the U.S. Navy, have two sons, Lucas (8) and Noah (4), and live in Suffolk, Virginia. Runner, who McCurdy says was “a true example of a pitcher,” currently offers pitching lessons and hopes to one day get into coaching.

HALL OF HONOR

LUKE YODER

Luke Yoder '08, a business administration major, liked the idea of attending a college 1000 miles from his home in Kalona, Iowa. He was drawn to the cross-cultural program at EMU and would have the opportunity to compete in a sport. A standout mid-distance runner for the Royals from 2005-2008, Yoder qualified for the NCAA Track & Field Championships twice and was a multiple-time All-ODAC performer.

In 2005, Yoder set the university record in the 800m with a time of 1:52.92, a record that stood for 12 years and still stands third all-time. He was also crowned ODAC Champion in the 800m and qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. In addition, Yoder—along with teammates **Chad Hershberger, class of '07, Marcel Long, class of '07, and Jeremy Webster '07**—set the EMU record in the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:18.38, a record that still stands today. In 2006, Yoder was named All-ODAC in the indoor 4x400 relay and the outdoor 800m and 4x400 relay. He again qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Yoder earned four more All-ODAC honors, two in 2007 and two in 2008, including an ODAC championship in the outdoor 800m.

Yoder says he has fond memories of his track teammates and the friendships he made at EMU. His wife **Rachel Yoder '10** is a fellow Royal, and since 2015 the two have owned a farm in Iowa with her parents. The couple has three children: Eve (9), Iris (6) and Willa (3).

HALL OF HONOR

2003 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Twenty years after making a strong postseason run, the 2003 EMU women's basketball team will become just the second basketball team—and the first women's basketball team—to be enshrined into the EMU Hall of Honor.

The Royals started the 2003-04 season 7-0 before dropping their first game of the year to Roanoke. They followed up with nine straight wins, including four games where they scored more than 80 points, and finished the regular season at 21-3, 17-3 in the ODAC. The Royals were the No. 1 seed heading into the ODAC tournament where they knocked off No. 8 Washington & Lee and No. 4 Guilford to reach the ODAC Championships before downing No. 3 Randolph-Macon 65-54 to win the conference title. The Royals edged Christopher Newport University 63-62 in a second-round home game to advance to the Sweet 16 before losing to Hardin-Simmons University in Wisconsin to end their magical run in the NCAA tournament. They ended the season ranked 30th in the nation by www.D3hoops.com.

“It's amazing that we were able to make it to the Sweet 16 with such a small group. We believed in ourselves, and it was a great run. It was a fun run,” shared **Amanda Renalds Webster '05**, a starter on the 2003 team along with **Shantee Bryant '06, Stephanie Mathews Lane Cooper '06, Carrie Grandstaff, class of '06, and Laura Ludholtz, class of '06**. Guards Grandstaff and Ludholtz were named All-ODAC First Team, and coach **Richard McElwee** was named the VaSID Coach of the Year. McElwee passed away in December 2020, yet his legacy lives on.

“Richard was the right man at the right time for the EMU women's basketball team when hired in 2003. As good of a coach as Richard was, he was an even better person. He always looked for the good in people and was always willing to help out those who were down on their luck. His expertise as a coach and his kindness as a person surely lives on in the hundreds of players he coached over the span of his career,” said **Kirby Dean**, EMU men's basketball coach from 2003-2018 and longtime friend of McElwee.

HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

October 13-16, 2023

FEATURED EVENTS

EMUTenTalks

IMPACT. INFLUENCE. INSPIRE.

Dynamic 10-minute presentations followed by Q&A.

Fall Festival

Reunite with friends while enjoying live music, food trucks, yard games, inflatables, and a photo booth!

Bonfire After Games

Writers Read

WITH POET

Kate Baer '07

3X NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Music Celebration Concert

AN EVENING WITH
MADELINE BENDER '93



Friday, October 13

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT VISITATION*

9:05 a.m., 10:35 a.m., noon or 2:40 p.m.

INFORMATION AND WELCOME CENTER

9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

📍 JUBILEE ALUMNI PROGRAM AND LUNCHEON*
(CLASSES 1950-1973) - 11:30 a.m.

CAMPUS TOUR - 1:30 p.m.

ART GALLERY OPENING AND RECEPTION - 4-5 p.m.

📍 DONOR APPRECIATION BANQUET (BY INVITE ONLY) - 5:30 p.m. (doors open at 4:50 p.m.)

📍 MUSIC CELEBRATION CONCERT:
AN EVENING WITH MADELINE BENDER* - 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 14

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT VISITATION*

9 a.m., 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

INFORMATION AND WELCOME CENTER

7:30 a.m.-noon

OPENING HOMECOMING CELEBRATION BREAKFAST*
8:30-9:50 a.m.

EMU SWAG SHOP - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

DEI DIALOGUE - 10-11:15 a.m.

LIFELONG LEARNING OPTIONS AND PROGRAM
GATHERINGS (OPEN TO ALL) - 10-11:15 a.m.

CHILDCARE AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES*
(AGES 2-12) - 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

CLASS OF '58 ZOOM REUNION*
10 a.m.

MILESTONE REUNION PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS -
CLASS OF '73 (50 YEARS), '98 (25 YEARS) AND
'13 (10 YEARS) - 11:30 a.m.

CLASS REUNIONS AND LUNCH* - 11:30 a.m.
(11:45 a.m. for classes of '73, '98 and '13)

PARENT RECEPTION LUNCHEON* - 11:30 a.m.

TAILGATING*

FIELD HOCKEY VS. ROANOKE COLLEGE - noon

AFFINITY GATHERINGS* - 1-2 p.m.

EMU TENTALKS | MADELINE BENDER '93,
RYAN GEHMAN '16, KEVIN RESSLER '07 - 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. ROANOKE COLLEGE - 3 p.m.

COLOR RUN - 2 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES - 3-6:30 p.m.

- Li'l Royals Zone
- Local Food Trucks
- Special EMU Photo Booth
- Alumni and Parent Reception Tent
- Concert: Premiere Band

MEN'S SOCCER VS. FERRUM COLLEGE - 6 p.m.

BONFIRE - after soccer game

LGBTQ+ ADVISORY BOARD:
AN INITIAL CONVERSATION* - 6-7:30 p.m.

WRITERS READ* WITH POET KATE BAER '07 - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 15

EMU HOMECOMING WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:30 a.m.

AWARD RECIPIENT LUNCHEON (BY INVITE ONLY)
noon

Monday, October 16

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
8 a.m.

*Registration required

📍 - Facebook livestream option

For a full schedule with descriptions
and registration instructions, please visit:

emu.edu/homecoming

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