

THE BRUIT

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF IOWA MENNONITE SCHOOL



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ROBY MILLER *HOMEGROWN SUCCESS*



ROBY Miller's ('05) parents Todd Thompson and Sherry Schweitzer Thompson ('78) closed one of their pharmacies and sold the other to Hy-Vee (an Iowa-owned grocery store franchise), so he began to re-evaluate the way rural towns treat pharmacies.

"When I saw their business model kind of dying I was like, 'Well there's a lot of pharmacies in America and if a pharmacy isn't viable in these small towns, there's got to be a solution,'" said Miller.

Roby continued, "I kind of built the first application just for [my parents] to use. I wasn't really thinking I was going to build a business from it."

He realized soon after that there was a demand for telepharmacies—both from residents of small, rural communities and from pharmaceutical companies alike. Thus, TelePharm Technologies was born in 2012.

The platform virtually connects pharmacists with pharmacies and their patients, especially in under served communities, such as rural Iowa towns, where a traditional pharmacy may not be sustainable. The concept allows a pharmacy to

operate without having a pharmacist on site. Instead, one pharmacist can operate out of several small pharmacies through TelePharm's software program.

"Starting a tech business is a fairly big risk. I knew it was going to do really well or not do well at all," Miller said.

But before long, business was booming.

"It was almost too busy," said Miller, "We're hiring and expanding quickly." One of the reasons business grew like it did was simply taking the risk to start the company, explained Miller. What sets TelePharm apart is its concept of "any pharmacist, every pharmacy," which is a more scalable business model. The innovative model combined with Miller's passion, knowledge, and drive to produce a successful launch and growth of Telepharm.

In 2013, at the age of 26, Miller was among the youngest Forty Under 40 honorees. The annual Forty Under 40 recognizes forty leaders under the age of 40 who are making a difference in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Corridor.

Fast forward to 2016. The Corridor Business Journal recognizes Miller's business; author Dave DeWitte writes:

With a quiet but lucrative sale to health care giant Cardinal Health, Iowa City's TelePharm has gained a strong partner in its goal to improve access to pharmacy services and demonstrated that the Corridor's growing entrepreneurship support network is working . . . Investors and economic development professionals offered high praise for Roby's accomplishment in moving the company from early start-up to the exit stage in less than four years.

"It wasn't about getting an exit to get an exit. It was about getting an exit to a strategic partner that they'll be able to work with synergistically to deploy the TelePharm platform together," said Ravi Patel of venture capital firm Built by Iowa.

Mr. Patel was one of the investors in TelePharm's A-Round capitalization, along with notable investors such as John Pappajohn, Bruce Rastetter and **Adam Ingersoll ('93)** . . .

Mark Nolte of ICAD Group, which helped support TelePharm at the Iowa General Assembly, said Cardinal Health's acquisition will offer a lasting example that Iowa is a great place for startups, and that those start-ups can be a great investment.

"We can't overstate how important this sale is to the entire entrepreneurial ecosystem," Nolte said. He said that for investors the deal shows that getting a profitable 'exit' from a venture capital investment doesn't take forever.

TelePharm will maintain its headquarters in Iowa City, and its team of 18, including founder Roby Miller, will remain under Cardinal Health, which is based in Dublin, Ohio.

'We're only at the tip of the iceberg in terms of what is possible with telepharmacy and health care technology in general,' said Roby, 'Changes in health care and the pharmacy industry has made it difficult for independent pharmacy owners to maintain or grow their businesses. Through the acquisition, we will be focused on expanding our operations to more communities and states to improve access to pharmacy-care services nationwide.'

Roby said about his time at IMS: "You're most like the five people you surround yourself with. I was lucky in surrounding myself with people at IMS who had morals and a drive to better themselves, which most don't have that opportunity at a young age." He also mentioned that he made friends for life, which is rare and something students don't often realize is special until they have graduated and are able to look back at their time spent at IMS.

CREDITS:

Matthew Patane, Des Moines Register
Megan Bannister, Silicon Prairie News
Dave DeWitte & Pat Shaver, Corridor Business Journal

PHOTO CREDIT:

TelePharm



Roby and his team in the downtown Iowa City offices

ON A MISSION: 25 YEARS

The mission of the 1992 Iowa Mennonite School boy's basketball team was to "have a most successful year by winning the State tournament." The '92 team did just that by winning the 1A State Championship with a convincing win over Clear Creek Amana 63-50, ending their season with a final record of 24-2 (one of those losses being to West High by 2 points). Coach Dwight Gingerich and his team had gotten a taste of the State championship game the year before, but came up short. Now it was their turn to hoist the Championship trophy. That year the team set the school record for average points per game (80.1). Matched with a potent defense, they were virtually unstoppable.

On Tuesday, December 20 the players, managers, and coaches from the 1992 basketball team were invited back to campus to be recognized. Hillcrest Union was packed on this historic night as IMS celebrated the 25 year anniversary of their State Championship. It was also on that night that the court was named **Dwight Gingerich Court** in honor of IMS's 34 year coach. With an overall record (at the start of the season) of 621-174, this put him 10th overall and 6th for active coaches in the IAHSAA. His teams made it to State 12 times. They won in 1992 and were Runner Up in 1991, 1998, 2005, 2007.



Front row: Justin Nisly, Chris Hartzler, Ryan Shetler, Ismael Huerta, Aaron Swartzendruber, Jason Hershberger, Ryan Chupp, Matt Rhodes, Lowell Gingerich

Back row: Ron Swartzendruber, Randy Roe, AJ Miller, Jeremy Yoder, Randy Rempel, Tim Smith, Tim Beachy, Greg Yoder, Adam Ingersoll, Andrew Yoder, Dwight Gingerich

PHOTO CREDIT:

1992 Reverie

ALIJAH BEATTY *CALLED TO RIDE*

ALIJAH Beatty of Washington, Iowa is a senior at IMS and the defending National Champion in the Women's Age 15-16 Criterium. Beatty started her 2016 cycling season last April at her team training camp in San Diego, California. The next few months held an intense group of races for Beatty which include races throughout the Midwest. Beatty will end her season at the National Championships in Louisville, Kentucky where she will compete in the Road Race, Time Trial, and Criterium.

Beatty sees her cycling as a calling from God.

In a recent chapel she compared her calling to Noah's calling. "Noah listened to his calling from God and did as he was told. I will continue to listen to God to help me further my calling and maybe add a new calling to my cycling," she said. She added, "When I decided that I should follow my calling, I didn't know how much work had to go into it." Her work has paid off. This season she has already made it to the podium at the Tour of St. Louis and at the LaCrosse Omnium in Wisconsin. She won the Iowa City Omnium. Beatty has also started track cycling, better known as velodrome racing. Track cycling is unique as the bikes are single speed and do not have coasting (free hub) nor brakes. In February and March, she travelled to the Olympic Training Center Velodrome in Colorado Springs where she raced and attended a Jr. Track Development Camp. Some of her races are a little closer to home. This past September Beatty rode, pushed, and carried her bike through the mud to a 15th place finish in the UCI Women's Elite race during the Jingle Cross cyclo-cross races at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. Many of her IMS classmates watched Alijah start 31st in a field of 37 top amateur pros from around the country and the world. "My goal was to get into the top 30," said Beatty. As she rode past the pits during the first lap, she was surprised to learn that she was 17th. "It felt great to finish in the top 15," she said, "It was my first time getting a top 15 finish in a UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) race so that was really big." Wet conditions made the course muddier as the day went along, providing an additional challenge on top of the heavy competition. "It was probably the most muddy course I've ever ridden," Beatty mentioned, "It was a lot muddier than I expected from when I was pre-riding last week, so that was a big surprise, but

I worked really well with the course. I had to switch bikes every time I went through the pits." Beatty added, "I've gotten a lot better this year at technical races and just letting my bike flow through the mud instead of trying to control it with everything I had. There weren't any huge hills for me to climb or run up, so that was good for me." After graduating from IMS she will study nursing at Marian University in Indianapolis as she represents the Knights by racing road, track, and cyclocross. Beatty seems to be well-equipped and ready for the challenge of her calling.

Alijah is a member of the Women's Elite Iowa City Cycling Team and the Northstar Development Cycling Team in Minneapolis, Minn. and is coached by Elizabeth Martin with Zoom Performance in Des Moines and Charlie and Sherry Townsend of Minneapolis, Minn.

CREDIT:

Mark Beatty

PHOTO CREDIT:

Mark Beatty

Linda Drish, Drish Photography (cover)



Alijah competing in the UCI Jingle Cross/World Cup of Cyclocross in Iowa City last October

LIFE MOMENTS

FUTURE ALUMNI

Joel David

Natalie (Marner '01) and Micah Miller, February 12, 2016

Delaney Hope

Jordan and **Keith Miller ('05)**, May 9, 2016

Winnie Gertrude

Michelle and **Tyson Schrock ('06)**, May 16, 2016

Harrison Kenneth

Midori (Beachy '05) and **Aaron Gingerich ('05)**, May 22, 2016

Evelyn Judith

Teela (Thrapp '02) and Ken Tuttle, May 26, 2016

Abram Daniel

Maya Kehr Yoder (F '11-) and **Matthew Yoder ('05)**, May 30, 2016

Charlotte Dorothy

Kristi and **Jon Müller ('02)**, July 6, 2016

Noah Warren

Sheila (Schrock '04) and Blaine Copenhaver, August 3, 2016

Charlie Dale

Lindsay (Yoder '05) and **Jeff Swartzendruber ('06)**, September 21, 2016

Sofia Grace

Yulyia & **Darrell Borntreger ('07)**, November 21, 2016

Iris Amelia

Rachel (Yoder '07) and **Luke Yoder ('04)**, November 22, 2016

WEDDING BELLS

Lauren Swantz ('14) and Leland Ropp, July 16, 2016

Carlie Bender ('11) and Coady Mobley, July 30, 2016

Jacey Dehogues ('12) and Kenneth Howard, August 6, 2016

Jason Litwiller ('11) and Bridget Nebel, August 6, 2016

Vince Rhodes ('10) and Laetitia Kaiser, August 12, 2016

Jordan Brokaw ('07) and Holly Cusey, September 17, 2016

Ben Libby ('11) and Lauren Sims, September 24, 2016

Erica Yoder ('05) and Hector Morantes, October 8, 2016

Keilah Brokaw ('13) and Shelby Graber, October 29, 2016

Cody Miller ('13) and Courtney Wengerd, November 12, 2016

IN MEMORIAM

Carmelleta (Yoder '66) Webber, May 24, 2016

Darlene (Brenneman '48) Miller, July 12, 2016

Merle Brennemen ('57), July 20, 2016

Dorothy Showalter ('50), August 12, 2016

Betty Jean (Roth '54) Krabill, August 21, 2016

Dave May (F '72-'75), September 20, 2016

Sam Hochstetler ('56), October 5, 2016

John Bender ('72), October 9, 2016

Q&A WITH ALIJAH

What is one of the best things about IMS?

One of the best things about IMS is that we are a community. We are a small school so I am always able to speak up in class and talk to the teacher one-on-one. The teachers are always happy to help a student understand the material no matter how long it will take. Another pro to being a small school is that I get really close to all of my schoolmates. We have sibling families and small groups which help get the upperclassmen and underclassmen to get to know each other better. These groups of students and teachers you get close to throughout the years. They are people you can go to when you are in need or if you just want to have a girls' night they are there.

How has IMS prepared you for life after high school?

At IMS the teachers/staff treat you not as a student but as an adult, expecting the best out of you. Just being treated as an adult has made me a more responsible, caring, and honest human being. When I leave IMS I won't leave these qualities here, but I will take them wherever I go.

What has challenged you at IMS?

IMS has challenged my faith. In chapel they encourage us to challenge our faith. That means that you are trying to learn more about what you really and truly believe in. Throughout the 4 years here at IMS I have learned that challenging myself, not just in my faith, but in everything I do, will help me get further in life than just living it day by day.

If you could make the choice all over again, in hindsight why would you choose IMS?

I would choose IMS because it is a second home to me. If I need anything the faculty, staff, and students are always there. IMS is a school where I can worship God and learn. IMS has helped me become a better leader, friend, and follower of God.

THE BRIDGE

The Bridge is IMS's new e-newsletter. Our hope is that it will be another valuable form of communication from the school to our alumni, current families, and prospective families, in a sense **Connecting Campus To Community**. Subscribe at iowamennonite.org/the-bridge.

REUNIONS NOT FOUR YEARS. FOR LIFE.

THE CLASS OF 1956 (18 classmates and 7 spouses) met at Crooked Creek Christian Camp September 14-15 to attend their 60th class reunion. Class members came from Iowa, Indiana, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. The theme for our reunion was "Reconnecting, Reflecting and Remembering." Our 1956 IMS graduating class had forty members. We also remembered the five class members who are deceased. One class member Sam Hochstetler attended both days of our reunion and died unexpectedly three weeks later on October 5, 2016. We remembered our experiences at IMS and all of the changes we have seen in our lifetime. We also remembered IMS faculty who were influential in our lives. We had updates on former teachers who are still living including Ada Schrock, Clayton Gingerich, and Alice Miller Beachy. We also remembered the cost of IMS tuition for our senior year. We decided to meet for only one day at our next reunion and also not wait for five years to meet again but instead meet again in two years. As our time together ended we said our goodbyes with a hope of staying in touch with our listing of email addresses and Facebook pages to help us. *Submitted by Phyllis (Yoder) Litwiller*



Front Row: Fanni (Marner) Birky, Phyllis (Yoder) Litwiller, Arlin Yoder, Mary Lou (Freeman) Yoder, Janet (Frey) Showalter, Norma (Hershberger) Hostetler, Charleen (Gascho) Marner, Nancy (Graber) Gingerich
Back Row: Mahlon Schweitzer, Dorothy (Yoder) Nyce, Anna Mae (Leichty) Lewis, Kenneth Hochstedler, Sam Hochstetler, Treva (Swartzendruber) Stutzman-Finks, Joe Hostetler, Jim Marner, Lynn Troyer, Curtis Brenneman

THE CLASS OF 1966 met for their 50 year reunion over the weekend of September 23-25, 2016. The weekend of the Kalona Fall Festival was chosen to allow classmates to meet many more people from the IMS community, regardless of graduation year. There were 38 (of 61) class members in attendance. Phil Ropp and Gordon Troyer hosted a 'meet and greet' at Kalona Mennonite Church on Friday evening and then classmates went to town or the Fall Festival for the evening meal. Many returned to KMC after dinner and talked late into the night. We reminisced about 'Amahl and the Night Visitors', the operetta we gave in 1965. Everyone looks forward to a new production of Amahl that will be performed at IMS this December 17th. The class had juice, coffee, and pastries on Saturday morning again at KMC, then were free until an evening meal at Warren and Ila Miller's place northeast of Kalona. Sunday morning, after a brunch in the atrium of Celebration Hall at IMS, Marcia Yoder Schrock led a worship service of praise, prayer and music. We remembered the six classmates who have passed away, enjoyed small discussion groups, were treated to a men's quartet number, and posed for a classic photo. Thanks to Phil and Gordon and KMC for their hospitality, Jerry Gingerich for the photography, Marcia Yoder-Schrock, Roger and Kathleen Erteld for the awesome memory book, to those who traveled far, and to all those that helped make the weekend a success. *Submitted by Myron Graber*



Front Row: Jerry Gingerich, Linda (Wyse) Stump, Bonnie (Slaubaugh) Stuckey, Shirlene (Brenneman) Haynes, Mary (Yoder) Glick, Ray Bender, Arnold Boller
2nd Row: Wendell Nisly, Dick Yoder-Short, Phyllis (Leichty) Schlatter, Merle Schlabaugh, Myron Graber, Martha (Yoder) Graber, Wayne Wenger
3rd Row: Allen Miller, Larry Brenneman, Cynthia (Stutzman) Yoder, Kathleen (Yoder) Erteld, Roger Erteld, Elaine (Guengerich) Miller, Joanna (Hershberger) Stinespring, Lynn Bontrager
Back Row: Marcia Yoder-Schrock, John Hostetler, Gordon Troyer, Phil Ropp, Ledru Freyenberger, Phil Guengerich, Dale Hershberger, Joan (Roth) Hershberger, Karen (Garber) Reed

THE CLASS OF 2011 celebrated their 5 year class reunion in early August. Lukas Yoder, Jackson Brokaw and Riley Hochstedler hosted the class for their first ever reunion. They spent time catching up on each other's current activities, ate lots of delicious food, and played fun yard games. Eleven classmates attended and we enjoyed the company of spouses and significant others. *Submitted by Gretchen Geyer*



Front Row: Gretchen Geyer, Emma Yoder
2nd Row: Lukas Yoder, Riley Hochstedler, Marshall Schrock
Back Row: Jackson Brokaw, Kyle Miller, John Nicholson, Jason Litwiller, Ethan Gingerich

TELL US.

Your lives are important to us. Please send your announcements, change of address, or other communications to us.

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THE BRUIT: A Favorable Report
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EDITORS: Maya Kehr Yoder, Pam Stoltzfus

THE BRUIT is published by the Office of Advancement with the purpose of facilitating alumni communication and to publicize the ministry of Christian education at Iowa Mennonite School.

ALUMNI: Please send your announcements, change of address or other communications to IMS via email, website, social media, postal mail or phone.

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

WE ARE IMS. What does that mean now? What will that mean in the future?

A newly-formed Visioning Committee is asking those very questions. We acknowledge that we are in a pivotal place in our 72 year history. We must embrace the challenges we face by finding resourceful and creative responses. One of the more noticeable challenges is our enrollment. The number of Mennonite students in our community has declined. So we ask: How do we reach out to other than Mennonite (OTM) students? How do we make our identity more accessible, more understandable? How do we funnel our message and our culture into a larger demographic? Another challenge is one of development. How can we get more alumni and friends of IMS to support the school? One creative response is sustainable giving in the form of monthly, quarterly, or yearly pledges. Another is considering IMS when it comes time for estate planning. These will be important as we move forward and try to raise the funds we need to operate successfully.

Please join us as we pray for the wisdom and guidance to tackle these challenges. And as we look forward, we may not know exactly what the future will hold, but I can assure you it will be bright because Jesus is our guide.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Iowa Mennonite School, in partnership with the family and the church, offers high school students an academically excellent, Christ-centered education rooted in an Anabaptist perspective. Within a caring community, IMS prepares students for lives of Christian discipleship, peacemaking, and service.

OPERATING BOARD

Jon Beachy, Paula Buckwalter, Tyler Coblantz, Jane Davis, Fred Gingerich, Renae Miller, Stacy Ropp Miller (President), Don Patterson, Nathan Ramer, Lucille Shetler, Jared Widmer, Jodi Wyse Woline

