

THE BRUIT

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF IOWA MENNONITE SCHOOL





IOWA MENNONITE SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Greetings to the IMS community,

It has been a full and good year thus far! There have certainly been some tough moments along the way, as will always be the case, but it has been energizing! We chose to think of this year's theme this way: in a word, Compassion; in a phrase, "See a Need, Fill a Need"; and in scripture, Romans 12. We live in a time when division and hostility is in the air at so many levels. It is hard not to get swept up in the social, cultural and political back and forth. It is my hope that we at IMS can stay above the fray and seek first God's kingdom. It is my prayer that we can be proactive in setting a positive, compassionate tone that will empower our students to serve God and one another in love.

Our faculty and staff, along with our administrative team, are working very hard. The passion and commitment to IMS is extremely high. I see the face of Jesus as I observe our teachers giving extra time and love with our students. The giving nature of our teachers is readily observable as they sit with students after school, helping them be successful in and out of the classroom.

The giving nature of our community is readily observable as well. On December 3 we honored the memory of Teresa Cardenas, our beloved student who passed away one year earlier. Teresa's mother, Mireya, courageously spoke to us that day and encouraged each student to take the time to tell their parents each day that they love them. Just recently a parent told me her child was doing this every day, and it was clear this development meant a great deal to her, as she expressed gratitude her child was at IMS. The gift that Mireya was for us that day is a witness of God's love among us.

We want to share this love with others. Already this year we have spent a lot of time and energy looking at how we can make IMS more relevant, accessible, and available to all families as we move forward. The IMS community is unique and has seen so much change through the decades. Each one who has passed through the doors of

IMS is a human piece of what is IMS which enriches us with diversity. Though we are smaller in number, our diversity may be higher than ever.

We are conservative, we are liberal, we are younger, we are older, we live across the continuum in any domain you can conceive, but we are united by Jesus Christ. It is our goal that all students who walk our halls are nurtured and loved, are encouraged to do their best, and that the IMS experience will enable them to grow in compassion, goodness and grace. As alumni of IMS, you are IMS. We need you! It is our hope that more alums will find IMS to be the best option for their children and we invite conversations as you contemplate the best high school experience for your child.

Our year has been full of strategic initiatives as you have likely read about, including meetings with pastors, church council/elder groups and congregations. It has been a really great opportunity to experience the love and support so many have for IMS. Thank you to those who have participated in a variety of ways to help us work through this process.

Our Operating Board and Administrative Team have also been working to hammer out new operational core values and a strategic plan for the future. We have been blessed with excellent professional development opportunities and I have leaned heavily on Beth Swantz, Digital Consultant at Grant Wood Area Education Agency and an IMS alum, to help guide that process. Blended learning is our current focus. Our What I Need (WIN) Center has been a great resource for students who need extra support, and I appreciate Math Instructor, Lynn Yoder, providing leadership for that program.

I could say so much more, but want to close by saying thank you to the larger IMS school community. I have been overwhelmed by the sense of support I have experienced, thank you. I ask for your continued prayers and to repeat: alumni, we need you!

Sincerely,

Dwight Gingerich, **INTERIM PRINCIPAL**

THE BRUIT | bruit: /broot/ noun 1. a report

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BUILDING BRIDGES (FIGURATIVELY + LITERALLY)

by Ethan Gingerich ('08), edited by Maya Kehr Yoder



Ethan carrying concrete at Edlangeni, eSwatini
Photo provided

FINDING A CALLING

If I had two words to describe myself, they'd have to be "bridge builder." I'm the Bridge Program Director at an international development non-profit called Engineers in Action. We build literal pedestrian bridges with underserved communities in the developing world to connect them to essential resources like schools, healthcare, and markets which they would otherwise be unable to reach due to dangerous rivers. And we build metaphorical bridges of love and friendship between the communities we serve and the college students we engage to help us implement the projects.

This career allows me to help, empower and inspire people, travel the world, build bridges, and learn something new every day.

And it all started at IMS.

IMS is where I found my thirst for social justice, became a compelling writer and public speaker and a dynamic servant leader, and learned to let my faith drive the rest of my life. Most of this was thanks to the devoted and loving teachers, students, and extended community we had there.

It was in Current Events class with Marcus Miller [history teacher] that I discovered that international development engineering might be my calling. We were required to read and report on a certain number of articles from *Newsweek*. One of those articles was about a Brazilian engineer who used solar powered hydroponics to grow gourmet peppers in the middle of the desert which ended up lifting that entire region out of severe poverty. That was all I needed. Engineering was for me and I attended the University of Iowa to pursue it.

At Iowa I learned how to think like a problem solver and that being counter-cultural (i.e. Mennonite) is difficult, but worth it. I ended up hating engineering school so much that I had to take a year off.

Thank God I was able to spend that year interning for JZ Engineering in Harrisonburg, Virginia. That's where I got to work on my first real international development engineering project, rehabilitating a pedestrian bridge in the mountains of Guatemala. That convinced me to return to Iowa to finish my degree, where fate would have it I stumbled across Bridges to Prosperity (B2P), a non-profit that specializes in building pedestrian bridges in the developing world.

I joined the Iowa student chapter and led our team to construct two bridges in Nicaragua before graduating, after which I was lucky enough to be offered jobs at both B2P and JZ Engineering and find a way to do both of them.

DREAM JOBS

The next five years of my life flew by in a blur, working two dream jobs right out of college. Working on international development projects taught me how to “row with the flow” and stay positive instead of stressing when life doesn’t go according to plan, while still fervently pursuing God’s will. It also taught me how to work alongside a diverse team of people from different cultures, languages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and core convictions.

Last year B2P decided to put more focus on their professional teams and spin off their student teams so that we could merge with a partner organization called Engineers in Action (EIA). That transition required me to transition away from my work with JZ Engineering and devote my whole career to our bridge building operations at EIA.

As a director I have a lot more responsibility and have to wear a lot more hats. That means I work way more than 40 hours a week and have a lot of pressure on me at all times. It’s very difficult for me to maintain a healthy work-life balance in this role. On the bright side, as the boss I also have more freedom and authority to take our Program where I think it needs to go. I get to work with a lot of incredible volunteers and dedicated staff. Most of my work can be done from anywhere in the world, and our projects are all overseas, which leads to a lot of travel opportunities and flexibility in my schedule.

Ethan Gingerich ('08) lives and works in Harrisonburg, Virginia and is an avid outdoorsman. “Exercise is a critical part of my physical, mental, and spiritual health,” Gingerich writes. “Hiking, backpacking, and cliff jumping are all great outlets for me to push my body to new heights and feel incredibly alive. Nature is such a powerful testament of God’s awesome power and unconditional love for me.”

ABOUT THE COVER This 210' cable suspended pedestrian bridge connects the rural community of Jícaro, Nicaragua to the school, health clinic, and market on the other side of the canyon. The project would not have been possible without a herculean collaboration between the community, the local municipality, and a group of college students from Iowa (including **Ethan Gingerich '08**) which required them to overcome all sorts of challenges including flooding, rabid dogs, political upheaval, scorpions, excavations through incredibly dense rock, hornets, a never-been-done-before anchor design, snakes, giardia, and crocodiles in the river (to name a few). The bridge was completed in the department of Matagalpa, Nicaragua in 2013 and continues to serve thousands of people every year. -Ethan Gingerich



Collaborative construction with the community in Edlangeni, eSwatini
Photo provided

WHAT IN YOUR FIELD GIVES YOU HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?

We asked Ethan this question; his responses below offer us a hope-filled intersection of work and calling.

Seeing the transformation that takes place in communities after they are connected to essential resources by the bridges we build together. People no longer die of treatable diseases and can get to work or sell their crops at market to better support their families. And children can finally go to school and become whatever they dream to be.

Seeing the relationships between community members and our students who live and work alongside them during the bridge build, and seeing those relationships continue to flourish over the years even from half a world away.

Seeing how many of our students and professional mentors get hooked on using their skills and resources to help others and come back year after year to help us empower more students to build more bridges and connect more communities.

WE ALL COULD ASK OURSELVES THIS QUESTION.



DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS: EXPLORING OUR WORLD + BEYOND

by Maya Kehr Yoder

The color view of Europa from NASA's Galileo spacecraft in the late 1990s. It shows the largest portion of the moon's surface at the highest resolution. Image Courtesy: NASA/JPL-Caltech

EXPLORING SPACE: NASA + THE EUROPA MISSION

IMS Alum Patrick Fischer ('08) not only studies life on earth, but the possibilities for sustainable life beyond our surface. Fischer's graduate research at Caltech focused on Europa, an ice-covered moon of Jupiter. According to the NASA's Solar System Exploration, "Europa is perhaps the most promising place to look for present-day environments suitable for life."¹

Fischer was attracted to Europa for precisely that reason.

"I was most drawn to the study of habitable environments outside of the earth," he writes.

Some of Fischer's research focused on the "chaos regions" of Europa. Chaos terrains are areas where the icy surface of Europa is disrupted, "where blocks of ice appear to have broken off, drifted and refrozen to the surface."² Study of these regions presents possibilities for scientists to understand the oceanic activity below Europa's icy surface. NASA funded and benefitted from Fischer's research.

"I'm especially proud of one project where we used the Keck Telescopes to discover a new compositional signature associated with particular 'chaos regions' on Europa's surface," writes Fischer.

The team discovered "a unique mid infrared spectral signature" in distinct chaos regions, he explains. Infrared waves are not visible to the human eye, but we do experience them as heat. Some telescopes at the W.M. Keck Observatory are able to collect infrared imaging. A spectral signature is a way scientists can discover the composition of a substance "by splitting light into its component wavelengths, or spectrum." For example, we can understand what stars are made of because we can measure how the electromagnetic waves they emit vary with wavelength (i.e. we can determine their spectral signature).

Fischer and his peers used this process to map a unique spectral signature to some chaos regions of Europa's surface. Based on their data, they found that the chaos regions were "certainly a mixture of ice with impurities." Their observations extended yet a step further.

"We could all but rule out the sulfate salts that were thought to be prevalent on the surface," says Fischer, "We proposed chloride salts as a better spectral match."

NASA and others are still researching Europa and the official mission is scheduled to launch in the 2020's.

"I was never officially involved in the upcoming Europa mission, but I was privileged to work with some who are involved, and I've heard that my research has made an impact on their science planning."

"I'll certainly be interested in the mission results as they come back in a decade or so," he adds.

¹ <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/moons/jupiter-moons/europa/in-depth/>
² <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/11176>

THE MOVE TO DIFFERENT DATA

Upon graduation from Caltech, Fischer continued to collect and analyze data, but the focus shifted from space to consumer behavior. He currently works as a Data Scientist at a startup tech company called 605.

"Data Science is a very new field that lies near the intersection of a number of disciplines such as machine learning, statistics, and computer programming," he writes.

In this role, he develops modeling tools to help companies analyze "large diverse datasets." These models produce results to help companies understand consumer behavior and how to more effectively advertise.

Although his current field is an industry science and not academic science, he says it relates to artificial intelligence, one of his interests.

ADAPTATIONS + FOUNDATIONS

Throughout his studies and career changes, Fischer has continued adapting. In his transitions from IMS to the University of Iowa to Caltech, he has needed to supplement his knowledge with specific technical skills. Despite that need, his strong problem-solving ability, work ethic, and educational foundation paved the way for success.

“I had a strong foundation in math and physics from IMS; I was able to develop a thorough grasp of the concepts, which helped me to excel in college. There’s also a surprising amount of persuasive writing in science, and the classes at IMS laid a good foundation for that skill as well,” he writes.

“IMS definitely has a stronger sense of community than anywhere I’ve been since,” he adds.

Although he is proud of the institutions and scientists he’s worked with, Fischer’s “favorite achievements are marrying [his] high school sweetheart and exploring the world [with her].”



Fischer at the Caltech campus, January 2017. Photo credit: Erin Fischer

Patrick Fischer ('08) has his BS in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Iowa and his MS in Planetary Science from Caltech. He and his wife Erin currently live in Pasadena, California.

THE IMS EXPERIENCE

CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY

QUALITY STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Grades Served **9-12**
STUDENTS FROM

9 Clubs -AND- VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

22 CHURCHES DENOMINATIONS

8 FINE ARTS & DRAMA GROUPS

11 Cities

FINE ARTS & DRAMA GROUPS

BIBLE CLASSES
SMALL GROUPS
DAILY CHAPEL

15 ATHLETIC TEAMS

47% FACULTY with MASTERS or PHD

ATHLETIC TEAMS

AP CLASSES
CAREER TECH CLASSES
SERVICE AND LEARNING TERM

6:1 STUDENT TEACHER

THE RESULTS

\$497,998 AWARDED IN MERIT BASED COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

ACT
PERCENT TESTED

28 **22** **21**

81 IMS

68 IOWA

AVG. ACT SCORES

LIFE MOMENTS

FUTURE **ALUMNI**

SAWYER LEON | Ann (Snyder '08) and Brian Walsh, July 12, 2018

JUDE CHESTER | Ramona (Beachy '03) and Brylee Miller ('03), August 6, 2018

TRUMAN ROBERT | Sheila (Schrock '04) and Blaine Copenhaver, September 7, 2018

EZRA LEE EIDMANN | Grace and Nathan Swartzendruber ('05), September 19, 2018

AYDEN THEODORE | Kara (Ropp '10) and Josh Yoder ('10), September 25, 2018

LUCAS JAMES | Samantha Messer ('13) and Andrew Keeser, October 14, 2018

TEDDY VIVEN | Elora Diaz and Jesse Ney ('09), October 14, 2018

LOGAN MATTHEW | Allison (Miller '97) and Kyle Troyer, November 11, 2018

CYRUS PAUL | Laurel and Michael Swartzendruber ('07), November 23, 2018

BRIELLE ISABEL & BRIANNA ABIGAIL | Karenza (Kroeker F '05-12) and Neil Yoder ('97, F '03-06), November 29, 2018

MADDUX DOUGLAS | Haley (Slaubaugh '09) and Ryan Bontrager ('08), December 10, 2018

CREW WESTON | Kourtney and Garrett Yoder ('05), December 20, 2018

EASTON DEAN | Lauren (Swantz '14) and Leland Ropp January 24, 2019

WEDDING **BELLS**

Casey Perez ('14) and Bryce Nitzsche, June 23, 2018

Hannah Altmaier ('12) and Eric Yang, July 6, 2018

Truman Shetler ('10) and Hannah Palkie, July 14, 2018

Summer Schrock ('15) and Lavon Ropp, July 14, 2018

Ida Short ('11) and Peter Miller, August 25, 2018

Rosina Ropp ('16) and Josiah Hoyt, September 1, 2018

Naomi Miller ('13) and Brandon Gingerich, September 15, 2018

Whitney Gibbs ('12) and Thadd Gray II, October 27, 2018

Juston Yutzy ('07) and Aftan Vander Zwaag, November 25, 2018

Jesse Shetler ('12) and Eleya Raim, December 22, 2018

IN **MEMORIAM**

Ryan Knepp ('91), June 28, 2018

Larion Troyer ('63) August 3, 2018

Orval Brenneman ('49), August 23, 2018

Mahlon Yoder ('68), September 3, 2018

Allen Horst ('57), September 9, 2018

Donna (Stoltzfus '69) Wyse, September 25, 2018

Stan Litwiller ('54), November 1, 2018

Elwood Swartzendruber ('50), November 20, 2018

Eugene Wenger (F '67-69), November 21, 2018

TELL
US

YOUR LIVES ARE IMPORTANT TO US!

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

EMAIL: iamenno@iowamennonite.org

WEBSITE: iowamennonite.org/contact

CLASS REUNIONS

1949 | The Class of 1949 met over Homecoming Weekend, October 13-14. Class members present were Lois (Brenneman) Gugel, Donna Marie (Brenneman) Helgens, Margaret Miller, and Cletus Miller. Dorothy (Hershberger '50) Miller and Jane Collins were also in attendance (Jane brought her mother Donna to the event). In the past year three of our class of 1949, Orlin Hochstetler, Imogene (Gingerich) Schlabaugh, and Orval Brenneman passed away. The spouses of the deceased, Lores, Norma, and Emil also met with us and shared some of their experiences and lasting memories. Eleven of the 23 members of the class of 1949 are still living. Lois opened the meeting by suggesting we take turns sharing memories and experiences at IMS. Each person shared what was important to them, but time ran out before we could share everything. The sharing will be continued at our next meeting. Emil shared a number of art pieces Imogene had chalked or painted. Those in attendance also shared pictures. Letters from class members Marilyn (Brenneman) Brenneman, Keith Erb, Ruth (Swartzendruber) Grasse, Arlene (Eash) Miller, and Russ Miller were read and shared with the group. Ruby (Swartzendruber) Lehman shared a video of her classroom and travels. After we met together, we all attended the Pork Supper and the Hymn Sing. It was good to come together to renew friendships and share special memories. We also grieve with the spouses of the deceased. The meeting closed with a prayer. Our plan is to celebrate our 70 year anniversary in 2019. *Submitted by Cletus Miller*



Back Row: Cletus Miller, Lois (Brenneman) Gugel. **Front Row:** Donna Marie (Brenneman) Helgens, Margaret Miller.

**JUST BECAUSE YOU
SHOULDN'T LIVE IN THE
PAST DOESN'T MEAN IT'S
NOT A NICE PLACE TO VISIT!**

SAVE THE DATE

HOME COMING WEEKEND OCTOBER 4-5, 2019

Plan to join us again October 4-5, 2019 on the campus of IMS for the Joetown Classic 5K, the annual Pork Supper, and much more. **This year, graduating classes in years ending in 4 and 9 will meet for reunions.** Classes are always encouraged to meet on campus and if assistance is needed in coordinating the reunion please contact Jeremy Ours, Director of Advancement (319-656-2073 or jours@iowamennonite.org).

CLASS REUNIONS

1958 | Twenty-one of the 1958 graduating class of 52 students gathered from seven states for their 60th reunion at Crooked Creek Christian Camp August 24 and 25, 2018. Four of them traveled over 1,000 miles. The total attendance including spouses was 30. Hand-crafted items by classmates, including quilts, wooden bowls, vases and a scrapbook project were displayed. In an open mic session following our Friday evening dinner, the class shared significant life changes they have experienced since the last reunion five years ago. During the second hour, several classmates shared their talents in the form of recitations, readings and achievements. After breakfast on Saturday morning, Karen (Hochstetler) Gingerich directed a brief time of singing, which included our class song, and John Arthur Yoder led devotions followed by a remembrance of seven class members who passed away since our 50th reunion. Jeremy Ours, Director of Advancement at IMS, gave us an update of the challenges and visioning process of the school. As for future gatherings, the group decided that beginning in August 2020, a reunion meal would be held every two years somewhere in Southeast Iowa. *Submitted by Wesley Richard*



Back Row: Eldon Yoder, Larry Roth, Jim Brenneman, Ed Miller, Wesley Richard.
Row Three: Arlis Swartzendruber, Delbert Schrock, Lynn Graber. **Row Two:** Robert Yoder, Roline (Yoder) Migliore, Helen (Slaubaugh) Lindstrom, Loris (Swartzendruber) Cunningham, Karen (Hochstetler) Gingerich, and Doris (Schrock) Thirtle.
Front Row: John Arthur Yoder, Loretta (Miller) Kauffman, Erma (Yoder) Coppinger, Sue (Schlatter) Richard, Miriam (Miller) Hershberger, Shirley (Bender) Yoder, Daniel Keith Yoder.

1960 | On October 10 the IMS Class of 1960 held an informal on-day reunion at Kalona Mennonite Church. Sixteen class members out of the original 54 were in attendance accompanied by nine spouses. A number of classmates who were unable to attend corresponded with attending class members regarding their activities. Plans are underway for our 60th anniversary reunion in 2020. *Submitted by Ronald King*



Back Row: James Bare, Ronald King, Lynn Yoder, Anna (Freyenberger) Hochstetler, Janet (Slagle) Speas, Neva (Stutzman) Frey, Susan (Hartman) Brenneman, Wilbur Litwiller, Omer Troyer. **Front Row:** Lois (Kieffaber) Bare, Marlene (Swartzendruber) Yoder, Jane (Marner) Kopsa, Ila (Schlaubaugh) Yoder, Mary Ellen (Beachy) Litwiller, Phyllis (Detwiler) Yoder, Mary Jane (Burkholder) Troyer.

CLASS REUNIONS

1963 | Twenty-four class members and fifteen spouses attended all or part of the reunion at the cozy Die Heimat Country Inn Bed & Breakfast and Next Door Event Center (NDEC) in Homestead, IA, on September 19-20. Wednesday evening we had a “Meet & Greet” time at the NDEC. Along with delicious food, it was a joy to renew old friendships and share experiences of the intervening years. Early Thursday morning, Harlan Hochstetler led a walk around the Lily Pond in Amana for the ambitious ones among us. Other activities on Thursday were opportunities to visit Main Amana Shops - Antiques, Furniture Making, Woolen Mill, Wineries, etc. or hang out at the NDEC for more conversation and endless coffee/tea. A healthy and colorful noon lunch was catered by a local Amana eatery, Serena's Coffee Shop. Jeremy Ours from the IMS Advancement Office joined us for lunch and then gave us an IMS update and answered our questions following lunch. The afternoon provided more opportunity to visit places like Amana Museums or to hang out at the NDEC. Our evening meal was catered by Country Cookin' (Janet Stutzman) of Wellman. Following the evening meal, Ron Guengerich and Lovina (Gingerich) Rutt led a “Light & Lively Trip Down Memory Lane,” which required quite a bit of audience participation by way of stories and remembrances of our high school days. The five class members who have passed on were remembered and others gave updates of class members who were unable to attend. The program ended with all of us singing two songs from our Commencement Program – “Lead on, O King Eternal” and “Take Thou My Hand, O Father.” Is it possible for five class members who live in four different states and three different time zones to plan a wonderful class reunion in yet another state? Yes! Many thanks to Lovina (Gingerich) Rutt, IN; Lois (Gingerich) Beck, NC; Harlan Hochstetler, NC; Bob Yoder, VT; and Ken Beachy, OR for a great reunion! *Submitted by Charlene (Yoder) Rhodes*



Back Row: Bob Miller, John Gingerich, Dale Rhodes, Harlan Hochstetler, Jay Brenneman, Patty (Mishler) Roswell, Arlen Hershberger, Marlin Hershberger, Bob Yoder, Keith Troyer, Wayne Beachy, Marv Marner, Ken Beachy. **Front Row:** Sheryl (Yoder) Miller, Charlene (Yoder) Rhodes, Lovina (Gingerich) Rutt, Laverta (Yoder) Butterbaugh, Lois (Gingerich) Beck, Wanda (Mullet) Rediger, Janet (Yoder) Schulz, Bonnie (Roth) Yoder, Ron Guengerich, Fred Roth.

SAVE THE DATE | The Class of 1954 will meet at Ila Miller's for lunch (11:30AM) on July 12, 2019. Class members will receive more information by mail or email. Reunion planners: Marlene Leichy and Wilma Gingerich.

CLASS REUNIONS

1968 | The Class of 1968 celebrated their 50th high school anniversary on September 28-30 at IMS. Forty-one classmates out of 58 graduates, two non grads, and one former teacher/class sponsor traveled from 12 states and Germany. Friday evening the class enjoyed connecting over a barbeque supper and around campfires. During the day on Saturday classmates opted to roam the Kalona Fall Festival, met with friends/family, and/or toured IMS. The evening meal was enjoyed at an Amish home followed by a program that included a memorable DVD complete with photos from our IMS years and set to '60s folk music. Each class member shared a memory and the "girls" sextet and "boys" quintet closed the evening. On Sunday morning we returned to IMS for brunch and a worship/memorial time. Time was spent viewing the DVD again, singing favorite, old acapella hymns, lighting candles for seven classmates who have died, and hearing Loren & Pat Swartzendruber provide a reflective meditation. The Pariahs closed the reunion by singing several '60s favorites. As youth of the '60s who witnessed the Vietnam War, assassinations, and the fights for rights of minority and marginalized groups, we believed that we were off to change the world, to make peace, and to make the world a better place. This reunion was a reflection that we are still working toward those goals. Reunion planners were Firman & Susan (Yoder) Gingerich, Wilma (Swartzendruber) Miller, and Kathy (Brenneman) Walter. *Submitted by Susan (Yoder) Gingerich*



Top to Bottom: Judy (Bender) Yoder, Linda (Chupp) Stoll, Rosie (Yoder) Miller; Karen D. (Miller) Albrecht, Dori (Yoder) Yoder, Becky (Guengerich) Rhodes; Mim (Ropp) Kennel, Firman Gingerich; Judy (Yoder) Moskalik, Steve Yoder, Marietta (Miller) Fowler; Kathy (Brenneman) Walter, Galen Yoder, Karen Y. (Miller) Kahler, Susan (Yoder) Gingerich; Pat (Swartzendruber) Swartzendruber, John Nice; Robert Ropp, Mary Helen (Logan) Miller, Rita (Hershberger) Hoffman; Jim Gingerich, Rod Wenger, Loren Fisher; Kerstin (Matsson) Abramowski, Eldon Miller, Rich Miller; Dennis Miller, Wayne Hershberger; Wilma (Swartzendruber) Miller, Steve Lowry, Rich Troyer; John Stutzman, Dean Rhodes, Stan Freyenberger, Tom Yoder, Loren Swartzendruber. **Not Pictured:** Janet (Beckler) Hershberger, Frank Brenneman, Larry Hershberger, Clifford Schrock, Gaylord Yoder.

CLASS REUNIONS

1973 | The IMS Class of '73 enjoyed a fun 45th reunion in Jerry and Lou (Schlabaugh) Miller's barn on September 1, 2018. While we certainly missed all of those unable to attend, we had a great time of catching up, renewing old friendships and hearing where our paths have led since 1973 from those in attendance. We even had some original attire (black IMS gym shorts!) from 1973 . . . and they still fit! Our very own Dan Fisher provided the delicious cheesecakes for dessert. After it got dark, we set off four sky lanterns, each with the name of a former classmate who has passed away since graduation. (Jeff Kauffman, Gary Gingerich, Merlyn Yoder, and Lois Yutzy). *Submitted by Deb (Yoder) Miller*



Back Row: Deb (Yoder) Miller, John R. Yoder, Diana (Ropp) Miller, Eileen (Miller) Sawat-sky, Lorna (Miller) Bender, Sue (Miller) Hershberger, John H. Yoder, Doug Stoltzfus, Cindy (Shetler) Litwiller, Dan Fisher, Bob Yoder, Lou (Schlabaugh) Miller, Jerry Miller. **Front Row:** Dave Gugel, Merlin Miller, Anthony Swartzendruber, Doug Miller, Dave Stutzman.

1978 | The IMS Class of 1978 gathered on October 13 at the home of Ezra & Dawn Schrock, the same homestead that classmate Steve Brenneman grew up on! A nice machine shed provided a great place to gather for a catered meal and lots of reminiscing and celebrating the past 40 years. We came from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, California, Virginia, Kansas and South Dakota! We are already looking forward to the next reunion! *Submitted by Donna (Swantz) Miller*



Left to Right: Lee & Pam (Brenneman) Miller, Donna (Swantz) Miller, Maynard Yoder (seated), Lowell Miller, Lillian (Miller) King, Sherri (Schweitzer) Miller Thompson, Carrie Miller, Dawn (Schlabaugh) Schrock, Leon Snyder, Diane (Hochstetler) Miller, Tony Miller, Lori (Mullet) Eash, Reagan Gingerich, Sanford Miller, Merrill & Cindy (Litwiller) Miller, Steve Brenneman, Carol (Shetler) Gingerich, Ross Nisly, Carol (Bender) Bates.

CLASS REUNIONS

1983 | The graduating Class of 1983 had 35 students walk across the stage and 35 years later we gathered on Saturday, October 18 at Cilino's restaurant in Wellman for some Italian food, fun, and fellowship. We had a group of 21 people, which included 15 class members and six spouses. This included those who currently live close, in other parts of Iowa, and Illinois, Indiana, and Virginia. Following the meal we had a time of hearing updates on people's lives who were present and reading updates that were collected from nine classmates who were not able to attend. Part of this sharing included a favorite high school memory, which sparked a lot of storytelling and laughter. Another part of sharing was including something they appreciated or learned at IMS. It was interesting to hear about all the different ways, big and small, that IMS impacted people's lives and unique opportunities IMS provided and how people were grateful for their experiences. Heather (Blosser) Herschberger provided more entertainment by organizing a trivia contest. This included trivia from the pop culture of 1983 and the IMS 1983 Reverie (yearbook). Prizes were given to the winning team along with some door prizes. Thirty-five years later and it was obvious our class still knows how to talk a lot and we had a great time reconnecting and reminiscing with one another. *Submitted by Ruth Brenneman*



Back Row: Craig Gingerich, Brian Herschberger, Karleen (Kauffman) Uitermark, Ruth Brenneman, Heather (Blosser) Herschberger, Tony Stutzman, Kendal Gingerich, Kurt Roth, Herb Weiss, Lori (Miller) Bender. **Front Row:** Maribeth (Yoder) Schlaubaugh, Norma Miller, Mike Bender, Elroy Shetler, Kermit Bender.

1988 | Members of the Class of '88 had a very nice evening eating at the Tin Roost in North Liberty Friday night, October 12. On Saturday, Rick Faber showed everyone else up and won the Joetown Classic. A few had a tour at IMS, and then the rest of us joined up at IMS to eat at the Pork Supper. Then we all headed out to Sleepy Hollow Campground, owned by Gregory & AlidaLee Gingerich and sat around a cozy fire and talked for several hours. It was very fun for all I think but we really missed those who couldn't be there. And, like usual, we weren't able to get a photo when everyone could be there. This photo is of the group that ate supper together at the Pork Supper. Missing are Klint and Kendra Gingerich along with LaDonna Kauffman-Abbott who were with us Friday night, and Kurt Kemp, who joined us at the campground after the meal. And we can't forget Amy (Stutzman) Tackaberry, who helped us plan, and then got stuck at home with strep throat. *Submitted by Robin (Schlabach) Schrock*



Back Row: Troy Roth, Chris Rhodes, Rick Faber, Greg Gingerich. **Front Row:** Jenny (Gingerich) Roth, Diane (Mast) Chapman, Robin (Schlabach) Schrock.

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CLASS REUNIONS



1993 | The IMS Class of 1993 got together several times over the Homecoming Weekend of October 12 and 13. On Friday evening we met at the Kalona Brewing Company for dinner. We had such a good time catching up with each other that we were the last ones to leave. Some of us participated in the IMS Homecoming events on Saturday including the Joetown Classic and the Pork Supper. After the Pork Supper, a group gathered at Jon and Anita Beachy's home to hang out and play games. We enjoyed reconnecting with each other over the weekend. Submitted by Anita (Miller) Beachy

Left to Right: Rebecca Beachy Miller, Angie (Miller) Shaw, Erika (Payne) Miller, Tim Beachy, Ryan Shetler, Anita (Miller) Beachy, Chris Hartzler, Kari (Kemp) McGaffey, Beth Gingerich, Denise (Hochstedler) Litwiller, Brenda (Chrisinger) Randall.

1998 | Nineteen members of the graduating class of 1998 came from 12 different states to celebrate our 20-year class reunion during the weekend of July 20-21. On Friday evening, classmates and spouses met for dinner at the Kalona Brewery. After the meal, each person shared a bit about themselves and updates were provided on those who were not able to attend the reunion. While we also enjoyed an impromptu Skype phone call from one of our classmates in Texas. Most of the evening was spent visiting and many remarked that it felt like we picked up right where we left off 20 years ago. Saturday we met for a family picnic at the Kalona Park and enjoyed watching our children play together (and tried to guess which child belonged to who, some being quite obvious as they are basically miniature versions of their parents). Before parting ways, we agreed to meet in five years and are already looking forward to being together again for our 25-year reunion in 2023. Submitted by Angela (Hershberger) Lamb



Back Row: Nathan Piper, Trevor Miller, Jacob Huber, Brian Darby, Andy Hershberger, Clark Oswald, Kevin Zook, Seth Wenger, Joel Beachy, Brandi Ockenfels. **Front Row:** Devin Yoder, Shaina Lacina, Angie (Hershberger) Lamb, Rachel (Swartzendruber) Miller, Sarah (Smith) Baber, Annette (Yoder) Miller, Emily Miller, Eric Unternahrer, Ledru Miller.

CLASS REUNIONS

2003 | The IMS Class of 2003 came together for their 15 year reunion over the IMS Homecoming Weekend. On Friday evening, several classmates participated in the alumni volleyball and soccer games with others in the stands to cheer them on and some ice cream to celebrate between games. Our biggest turnout event was a Saturday evening dinner at Tin Roost with a total of 26 people overflowing the capacity of our reserved room. On Sunday we got together for a final meal and farewell with smoked pork and delicious sides provided and organized by Carleen (Perez) and Kyle Miller. A big thanks to all who came out and especially to those who made the trek from places as far flung as Texas, Washington DC, Colorado and elsewhere. It was a joy to catch up, reconnect and reminisce. *Submitted by Beth Bender*



Back Row: Ramona (Beachy) Miller, Carleen (Perez) Miller, Kyle Gugel. **Middle Row:** Sonja Stutzman, Amanda (Beachy) Bleichty, Beth Bender, Brylee Miller. **Front Row:** Chris Troyer, Kareem Lehman, Ben Yoder, Jared Widmer.

2008 | Many members of the IMS Class of 2008 gathered from near and far to celebrate their 10-year class reunion. Events were scheduled in conjunction with the IMS Homecoming Weekend, October 12-13. Several classmates attended and participated in the alumni volleyball and soccer games held at IMS on Friday night. The Saturday events began with a tour of the IMS grounds lead by Jeremy Ours, which proved to be a wonderful way to reminisce on the shenanigans our class pulled in every corner of the campus. We snagged a screen in one of the classrooms and shared pictures and videos of what we've been up to in the past ten years, highlighted by a video made by the Washington YMCA about Christopher Marner! Later we gathered at the house of one of our classmates nearby for a potluck, bonfire, and continued fellowship. We had a fantastic time together and look forward to seeing even more of our classmates at future gatherings. *Submitted by Ethan Gingerich*



Back Row: Craig Shetler, Ryan Bontrager, Christopher Marner, Asenath (Libby) Shetler, Ann (Snyder) Walsh, Jill (Swartzendruber) Swartz, Nicole (Ropp) Elliott, Bailey Schrock, Trent Miller, Britt (Hochstetler) Wilson. **Front Row:** Levi Ney, Ethan Gingerich, Patrick Fischer, Todd Hooley.



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THE BRUIT is published by the Office of Advancement with the purpose of facilitating alumni communication and publicizing 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.

SUBSCRIBE: *The Bridge* is IMS's 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.

UPDATE ON ENROLLMENT INITIATIVES

The last several months, the IMS Administration has been busy working at the marketing and enrollment strategic initiatives Dr. Rick Newberry of Enrollment Catalyst presented to us to help increase enrollment. The initiative that has been the most public is the rebranding process and considering a name change. A lot of work has gone into exploring this decision. It has been an insightful exercise to engage our many constituent groups. We appreciate the responses and are evaluating all of the feedback we have received to help our Operating Board make the best decision they can. Meanwhile, we have moved forward on many of the other initiatives Dr. Newberry recommended to us:

- We are being more purposeful with our word-of-mouth marketing by creating and utilizing a Friends and Ambassadors Network (FAN) and by sharing information with our board, faculty, current students and families so they are equipped to share information about IMS in their social circles.
- We plan to host and be involved in more community events to increase awareness and visibility of IMS. Some events we are considering include basketball tournaments and middle school youth faith development events.
- We are reaching out to other churches in our area with information packets and by offering to have our praise band, choirs and worship/drama group available to perform at their churches.
- We have come up with a personalized enrollment plan to have more consistent contacts with prospective families and utilize enrollment software to collect data so we can tell what is working and what is not.
- We are expanding our social media marketing with more regular posts focused on telling the IMS story to prospective families. This will include inbound marketing efforts like Facebook ads and paid search to help attract new families.
- We are creating a new affordability page on our website that explains our Variable Tuition. Other schools who have done this have found that it opens up the option of their school to families who might have thought it was too expensive for them.
- We are working on expanding our international student program. We are working to establish contacts with agents in other countries.
- We continue to work on retention strategies, including continuous enrollment. Once a family has chosen IMS, we want them to continue here through graduation. Our retention has always been high (above 90%) and we want to continue that.

As we continue to address our challenges, we ask for your continued prayers and support as we move forward into a bright future!