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BIRUDI

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Reconnecting at Reunions

In this age of instant gratification through online messaging, Facebook, and other social sites, nothing quite compares to face-to-face human interaction. Many class reunions provided opportunities this past summer for just that. Whether it's been five or 55 years since high school, keeping relationships current is the key to lasting memories.

The IMS Class of 1950 met on May 21-23 to celebrate their 60th class reunion. Attendees met in the Kalona area, having their first greetings on Friday evening for supper at the home of Ila Miller. Nine of the original members of the class of '50 were present:



Class of 1950—Back: **Dean Yoder, Dorothy (Hershberger) Miller, Darlene (Miller) Logan, Virginia (Brenneman) Ryan, Joan (Shettler) Weaver; Front: Velma (Weaver) Yoder, Marvin Yoder, Elwood Swartzendruber, Dorothy Showalter.**

Dorothy (Hershberger) Miller, Darlene (Miller) Logan, Virginia (Brenneman) Ryan, Dorothy Showalter, Joan (Shettler) Weaver, Elwood Swartzendruber, Dean Yoder, Velma (Weaver) Yoder, and Marvin Yoder.

The classmates' tight bond was evident as several members traveled some distance to attend. Joan came from Goshen, Dean and Velma from Missouri, and Virginia came from Michigan. Two members, Dayle Brenneman from



Class of 1960—Back row: **Ed Hershberger, Phil Hartzler, Keith Litwiller, Marv Stoltzfus, Dennis Yoder, Sam Zook, Duane Richard, Elmer Wyse, James Wenger, Lynn Yoder.** Row 3: **Edlith (King) Kenagy, Jane (Marner) Kopsa, Janet (Troyer) Keim, Charlotte (Graber) Rosenberger, John C. Yoder, Dick Swartzendruber, Anna (Freyenberger) Hochstetler, Phyllis (Detwiler) Yoder, Omer Troyer, George Brenneman, Lois (Kieffaber) Bare, James Bare, Bob Swartzendruber.** Row 2: **Mary (Yutzy) Dachtler, Susan (Hartman) Brenneman, Linda (Miller) Messer, Janet (Slagle) Speas, Gladys (Blosser) Thomas, Velda (Eash) Chapman, Ila Jane (Schlabaugh) Yoder, Mary Jane (Burkholder) Troyer, Neva (Stutzman) Frey, Mary Ellen (Beachy) Litwiller, Ron King.** Front row: **Darrel Kempf, Martha (Miller) Shawver, Marlene (Swartzendruber) Yoder, Alice (Wenger) Hsu, Phil Shetler, Gordon Yoder, Robert Wenger, Wilbur Litwiller.**

Mission Statement of Iowa Mennonite School

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.

Reunions continued

California and Don Erb from Denver were unable to attend. Two classmates who passed away, Carolyn (Slaubaugh) Yoder and Dellis Schrock, were fondly remembered.

Saturday morning found the group on an Amish Country Bus Tour, led by driver and narrator Dan Nisly. Dan pointed out farms, schools and churches that spurred memories for all. Two stops were made en route, the JK Woodworking Shop and the Amish Country Store.

Upon returning to Kalona, lunch, fellowship, and sharing continued at the Family Restaurant. After a tour of IMS by Larry Swartzendruber, the class met in the library to share memories, photos, old Reveries and hopes for a great future for IMS.

On Sunday evening the class was recognized at the 2010 graduation exercises. "We are eternally grateful for the experiences we had at IMS and the role the school had in each of our spiritual and intellectual lives," said Virginia.

August 27-29 found the **Class of 1960** celebrating their 50-year reunion at Crooked Creek Christian Camp in Washington, IA. Credit for the wonderful turnout (42 of 50 classmates) went to senior class president, Omer Troyer, who called every person and encouraged interest in a reunion over a year ago. Classmates came from California (Dennis Yoder), Florida (Marv Stoltzfus, Omer and Mary Jane Troyer), and Washington (John Yoder).

The class spent time catching up on each other's life journeys. Sunday morning found them in Celebration Hall where they shared their spiritual journeys and gave tribute to their six classmates or spouses who have passed on. A catered meal, followed by Larry Swartzendruber leading a school tour, completed the weekend. Many class members had not been back to IMS since they graduated, so seeing the changes was interesting.



Class of 1970—Back row: Galen Miller, Mike Eash, Lynn Newcomer (sponsor); Row 6: Ron Bender, Anthony Yoder, Ed Gingerich, Arden Miller; Row 5: Lorene (Yoder) Bender, Letha (Mullet) Yoder, Wendell Miller, Merle Beachy; Row 4: Dennis Miller, Sheldon Yoder, Curtis Yoder; Row 3: Emma Lou (Boller) Miller, Twila (Miller) Hochstedler, Kathy (Brenneman) Schlabach, Miller Yoder; Row 2: Carolyn (Hostetler) Miller, Mary (Freyenberger) Hereford, Ken Bunch; Front row: Linda (Hershberger) Adams, Brenda (Miller) Freed, Dan Bontrager.

Another highlight was raising almost \$7,000 for an orphanage in Ecuador where Omer and Mary Jane have helped with a new school start up.

The **Class of 1970** gathered over the July 4th weekend for a time of renewing friendships and making new friends, while celebrating their 40th class reunion. Thirty of the 53 graduates were able to attend at least one of the activities. An extra special presence over the weekend were class sponsors, Lynn and Lois Newcomer, and one of their Bible teachers, Dean Swartzendruber with his wife Lois.

On Friday night the class stepped back in time and went bowling at Colonial Lanes followed by a pizza party at Godfather's. "The only noticeable difference after 40 years was the lack of competition! We just enjoyed seeing one another again," claimed Linda (Hershberger) Adams.

Saturday began with a tour of the school. As Larry Swartzendruber guided the class, there was much reminiscing about the various classrooms: "This is the hall where

Pauline Weaver smiled at me." "There's the chalkboard that the bb's were bounced off of." "This old bathroom certainly got a facelift." The newer parts brought more questions than memories, but everyone agreed there are many opportunities available to students today.

Saturday night a meal catered by the youth of Upper Deer Creek Church accompanied an entertaining evening of memorabilia, pictures, and much laughter. Sunday morning class members gathered in Celebration Hall to worship. According to Adams, "Individuals had the opportunity to share their spiritual journeys which moved each of us deeply and reminded us anew of God's faithfulness throughout the past forty years." A candle was lit to honor Warren R. Miller, who passed away in 1987. One of the special highlights was when Willis, his father, shared about Warren's final hours and the decision he had made to accept Christ into his life.

A committee was chosen for the 50-year reunion.

Reunions continued

The **Class of 1975** held their class reunion July 24 and 25 with 20 of their 37 member class in attendance. They enjoyed a wonderful family-style meal at Hearth and Home (Henry JC and Ila Miller) on Saturday evening followed by visiting, a slide show, and a little trivia game. On Sunday morning they met at Windmill Ridge campground for a breakfast buffet catered by Hearth and Home. The beautiful morning was spent singing and sharing with Bernie Swartzendruber providing a short devotional. The class member traveling the farthest was Ray Miller, from Greencastle, PA. The classes' next reunion is planned for 2015.



Class of 1975—Back row: Kirby Doolin, Deon Leichty, Brent Hochstetler, Bernard Swartzendruber, Lynn Hochstetler, Ray Miller; Row 3: Pam (Stutzman) Hochstedler, Doyle Hochstedler, Stan Marner, Donovan Bender; Row 2: Evelyn (Miller) Bender, Deb (Stoltzfus) Swartzentruber, Cynthia (Miller) Hostetler, Cindy (Yoder) Widmer, Patty (Roth) Bancroft, Marcla Gingerich; Front row: Rachel (Oswald) Yoder, Jeanna (Schlabough) Stauffer, Carla (Shetler) Slaubaugh.

The **Class of 1980** celebrated their 30-year class reunion on Saturday, July 17, 2010. The original plan was to have a tour of IMS, followed by a catered meal and relaxing evening of reminiscing about high school at Terry Erb's home. Due to the intense heat index of the hot Iowa summer, the reunion gathering moved to the air-conditioned lobby outside Celebration Hall where the tour began. A catered meal, perusing old Reveries, catching up with everyone, and watching

slides (while making fun of hair and clothes styles) from IMS days followed the tour. Gary Yoder created a trivia game of happenings from 1976-1980 to challenge everyone. Those in attendance discovered their competitive spirits were still strong! Thirteen from the graduat-

ing class of 35 attended; Jill Miller, from San Diego, CA, traveled the farthest.

Prior to their time together, class members had been invited to complete an e-mailed Class Reunion Questionnaire. Questions included: name, spouse, address, phone, email, church affiliation, special achievements/hobbies/interests, family info, updates on siblings, and an IMS memory or two. Once completed, a reply to all insured everyone would receive each person's updated information. According to Bev (Leichty) Swartzentruber, "Of course the most entertaining response to read was the IMS memory!" Thanks to Jerilyn (Gingerich) Martin for inspiring the questionnaire idea.

Jill Miller, Sonda (Ropp) Reinartz, and Anne (Swartzendruber) Williams will plan the 2015 reunion.



Class of 1980—Back row: Jordan Marner, Kelth Hostetler, Terry Erb, Gary Yoder, Rod Swantz, Sonda (Ropp) Reinartz; Front row: Ann (Swartzendruber) Williams, Lois (Miller) Dehogues, Karen (Stout) Unruh, Bev (Leichty) Swartzentruber, Emily (Erb) Ferguson, Jill Miller, Connie (Miller) Swartzendruber.

Reunions continued



Class of 1995—Back row: Amy (Brenneman) Flick, Heather Stoltzfus, Allcia (Wenger) Lemon, Jamie (Miller) Trueblood, Nicole (Widmer) Nikkel, Theresa (Litwiller) Blossom, Carol (Darby) Williams, Stacy (Ropp) Miller, Denise (Bontrager) Yoder; Front row: Aaron Fleming, Jeremy Pickard, Renea (Hershberger) Pickard, Aaron Springer, Patrick Yoder, Kevin Miller.

Sixteen members from the **Class of 1995** gathered on Saturday night, July 10 at Ila Miller's for an in-home meal and informal visiting. On Sunday morning families joined the class members at Celebration Hall for singing led by Liz Miller, a time of reminiscing and stories, class trivia, and a review of current events from their senior year. A catered brunch followed in the foyer; then a tour of the campus by Larry Swartzendruber. "The tour and update from Larry was great and the accommodations for the reunion were excellent. Even many of us who live around here have not seen all of the changes to the old parts of IMS (the gals were impressed with the upstairs "women's lounge"). We even discovered our class gift of a darkroom is no longer in existence which brought a round of laughter," said Stacy (Ropp) Miller.

Theresa (Litwiller) Blossom created a booklet with updated class member information and sent an electronic copy to class members for whom we had e-mail addresses. Those traveling from a distance included Carol (Darby) Williams, Broken Arrow, OK and Pat and Denise (Bontrager) Yoder who live in Plymouth, MN, but who had just returned from a trip to Japan. Matt

Reynolds and Eldy Miller volunteered to plan the 20-year reunion.

Twenty-four of the 47 members of the **Class of 2000** gathered on August 7th at The Summit restaurant in Iowa City for an evening of reminiscing. The evening included watching a video made during their senior year. A family picnic was enjoyed at IMS the next day. The classmate who traveled the furthest was Aaron Lehman of Austin, TX.

Jill (Widmer) Lundburg commented that "It was a great time to reconnect with old friends and laugh about our IMS days. Reunions give me a chance to catch up with everybody's life events."

The **Class of 2005** gathered at Old Chicago (Coralville) on July 2 for a casual evening of eating pizza and catching up on events over the past five years. Thirty of the 47 class members spent the evening in conversations centered around the places all over the world where classmates have studied, worked and volunteered. People shared their future plans such as going to graduate school, getting married, starting on their careers, moving back to Iowa, starting a family or living in other countries.

Alumni Trip to Peru

Have you only dreamed of visiting Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas" and one of the *Seven Wonders of the World*?

Now's your chance!

IMS graduates Dean and Becky (Guengerich) Rhodes, both from the class of 1968, are in the early stages of planning a trip for IMS alumni (and friends) to Peru, with tentative plans to travel in late May or early June 2012.

The trip, depending on participants' interest, would span approximately 14 days, and would include time in Lima, the jungle city of Puerto Maldonado, Cuzco, the Sacred Valley of the Incas, Machu Picchu, and more.

There will be organized group time as well as individual time . . . time for exploring and experiencing the culture, climate, and food of this beautiful country!

Dean taught Spanish at IMS for many years, and is currently teaching at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana.

We're just gathering names at this point, as the group will be limited to 20-25 persons. Every attempt will be made to curb costs.

If you would like your name put on the list as "interested," please indicate that to Allen and Merridy Leichty via email, at mjleichty@hotmail.com. Final commitments need to be made by the fall of 2011; this list will merely entitle you to upcoming information about the trip without obligation.

55th Class Reunion

Reunion Planning Committee:

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Dates of Reunion: 12:30 pm Saturday August 20th to 2:00 pm Sunday August 21, 2011

From the Development Director

Baseball and softball were in full swing, students were gone for the summer . . . and IMS was putting the finishing touches on another fiscal year.

Several events highlighted the final fund-raising efforts of fiscal

Friends. Solos, duets, small ensembles, and numbers by the entire cast filled the evening with quality music and entertainment, and a 'gifting opportunity' that resulted in some much-needed funds to help balance the school's operating budget.

2006. Gifts on June 18 totaled almost \$30,000; of the \$60,000 committed (with the challenge gift), \$40,000 was contributed prior to June 30. The remaining \$20,000 will be given by December 31, 2010.

The evening also included a silent auction of more than 15 in-home meals; the meals themselves raised more than \$6,000.

In true summer (and Mennonite) fashion, an ice cream social concluded the festivities!

Two athletic fund-raisers took place the following weekend on Saturday, June 26. The *Hymn Sing Hustle* generated funds for the 2011 *Touring Choir* trip to the annual MSC Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico and a golf outing that same morning resulted in \$2,000 for the operating fund.

As we continue to provide a quality Christian education for high school students, we are reminded once again of the tremendous support of the IMS community! Thanks to Adam and Brigitte for stepping out and offering a challenge, and to all of our alumni and friends for responding to the challenge! May you all be blessed!

-- Larry Swartzendruber



Liz Beachy, Erica Yoder, Allison Yoder, Laurle (Bender) Miller, Carolyn (Bachman) Yoder, Elaine Yoder, Kelsey Schrock.

year 2011, including a night of music, humor and ice cream.

Alumnus Erica Yoder ('05) assembled a cast of more than a dozen friends, and put on a show the evening of June 18: *Red into Black: An Evening with Erica Yoder &*

A challenge gift was offered by 1993 alumni Adam and Brigitte (Nisly) Ingersoll; they committed \$30,000 in a dollar-to-dollar match. The gift was made in honor of Brigitte's maternal grandfather, Chester Miller, who passed away in

Alumni news

Births

Stephan James Miller and Nathan Andre Miller to **Reba (Miller '84)** and **Wayne Miller**, April 27, 2010, Canyon City, OR.

Jacob Owen Brenneman to Cindy and **Ross ('85) Brenneman**, April 30, 2010, Wellman, IA.

Faith Abigail Lehman to **Kim (Ropp '86)** and Ken **Lehman**, May 23, 2010, Kalona, IA.

Gannon Maxwell Orr to **Lia Brenneman ('88)** and Charles Orr, September 10, 2010, Melrose, FL.

Ira Kahlil Siemens-Rhodes to **Mitch ('91)** and Heidi **Siemens-Rhodes**, July 9, 2010, Goshen, IN.

Colton Anthony Litwiller and Chance Thomas Litwiller to **Denise (Hochstedler '93)** and **Tim ('85) Litwiller**, April 1, 2010, Kalona, IA.

Colton James Miller to Ashley and **Chris ('94) Miller**, February 1, 2010, Pennsburg, PA.

Christian Amadeus Ortman to **Sherilyn (Graber '94)** and Will **Ortman**, April 1, 2010, Marion, SD.

Addison Claire Skelton to Amy (**Beachy '94)** and Todd **Skelton**, April 13, 2010, West Des Moines, IA.

Blake Johannes Yoder to **Jenelle (Bender '95)** and Dwight **Yoder**, March 12, 2010, Swanton, MD.

Macy Renee Archer to **Jennifer (Shank '95)** and Vic **Archer**, September 7, 2010, Kalona, IA.

Libby Rae Miller to Jill and **Randy ('96) Miller**, August 16, 2010, Adair, IA.

Oliver Dean Nebel to Kristen and **Craig ('96) Nebel**, December 1, 2009, Lancaster, PA.

Ian Robert Sadler to **Jocelyn (Hartzler '96)** and Nathan **Sadler**, October 22, 2009, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Idonea Flora Saner-Harvey to **Jen (Harvey '96)** and Kerry **Saner-Harvey**, March 9, 2010, NL, Canada.

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***Bruit*: a favorable report**

Editors: Mary Forney, Kris Brenneman,
Pam Stoltzfus, and Mary Lou Gingerich

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Alumni news continued

Births continued

Kenna Ranae Schrock to April and Aaron ('96) Schrock, July 8, 2010, Kalona, IA.

Jacob Daniel Fultz to Kenna (Swartzendruber '99) and Dan Fultz, April 10, 2010, Bluffton, OH.

Molly Ann Birky to Julie (Gingerich '99) and Kyle Birky, September 17, 2010, Parnell, IA.

Tessa Red Brokaw to Rancee (Gingerich '01) and Justin ('01) Brokaw, March 25, 2010, Parnell, IA.

Levi Joseph Fernau to Carmen (Schrock '01) and Joe Fernau, September 23, 2010, Kalona, IA.

Kydalin Brianne Baker to Cammy (Perez '02) and Drew Baker, April 10, 2010, Independence, OR.

Bronx Elias Miller to Carleen (Perez '03) and Kyle Miller ('05), August 29, 2010, Kalona, IA.

Marriages

Lia Brenneman ('88) and Charles Orr, June 26, 2010.

Shawna Yoder ('96) and Chris Huber, August 28, 2010.

Iloa Hochstetler ('99) and Matthew Roberts, August 28, 2010.

Allison Brenneman ('02) and Isaiah Goertz, June 12, 2010.

Corrie Stutzman ('05) and Miles Swartzendruber, June 5, 2010.

Matt Ropp ('05) and Rachel Kauffman, July 24, 2010.

Nathan Swartzendruber ('05) and Grace Eidmann, July 31, 2010.

Lydia Short ('06) and Dirk Detweiler Leichty, June 5, 2010.

Jenna Steele ('07) and Andrew Schneider, May 29, 2010.

Asenath Libby ('08) and Craig Shetler ('08), May 29, 2010.

Deaths

Lorene Leichty ('55), Wayland, IA, died June 2, 2010.

Nancy (Wenger) Burkey ('58), Lebanon, OR, died April 12, 2010.

Jason Marner ('06), Harrisonburg, VA, died July 1, 2010.

Service

Rachel Halder ('06) is serving with MCC/SALT for one year. She is living in Abepura, Papua, Indonesia and working at a women's empowerment organization called P3W. It is a center for women's training and development.

Rebecca Yoder ('06) is teaching 3rd & 4th grade at Hopi Mission School located on the Hopi Reservation in Kykotsmovi, AZ. She is serving a 1-year term through MVS.

Josh Widmer ('10) is serving a 1-year term with MVS in Colorado Springs, CO. He is working for Head Start of Colorado Springs as a teacher's assistant for at risk children in grades K-5.