**Student Mural More Than Monkey Business**

*by Ellen Lechlitner*

If you see an unusual primate in the chimpanzee house at South Bend's Potawatomi Park Zoo—the one wearing overalls and packing paint cans—you’ve seen Bethel College senior Tim Towne. Towne, a Studio Art major, has turned two walls of the chimps’ twenty-two-by-twenty-five-foot playroom into an African jungle scene.

Towne heard about the mural project a year ago through an artistic coworker who was to draw a mural so Towne could paint it. When she ended up not being able to complete the work, Towne took on the entire project. Each of two murals took about a month to complete. The chimps had to play outside while Towne painted. And his days at the zoo weren’t without excitement. The male chimp, Sammy, got into the habit of throwing things at Towne as he worked.

A former Liberal Studies major whose art concentration took over, Towne says his art courses showed him what he really loved to do. After graduation, he hopes to teach art at a private elementary school. Meanwhile, there are still two blank walls in the chimp house—and Towne hopes to rectify that.

**Award Recipients Named**

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**Lifetime Achievement:**
**Margaret Wilson ’84**

Hardworking, goal oriented, people loving—these qualities combine to provide a description of the life and career of Margaret Wilson. She served diligently at Bethel College for twenty-five years and was instrumental in establishing the college’s Alumni Association. Whether in Mishawaka, IN or in her current home in Burbank, CA, many people have been blessed by her generous gift of hospitality. Margaret continues to work full time and currently manages a 98-unit apartment building for senior citizens with low income. She remains a staunch supporter of Bethel College and hosts current students and alumni whenever given the opportunity.

**Honorary Alumnus: Paul Erdel**

Currently serving as associate faculty in Religion at Bethel College, Dr. Paul Erdel has demonstrated a strong affinity for the school as though it were his alma mater for the past thirty years. The institution has benefited richly from his wisdom and knowledge gained through his scholarly pursuits, love for the Lord and service to others as a farmer, pastor, teacher, principal, professor, long-term missionary to Ecuador and administrator with the Missionary Church. From 1992-1999, he developed and led Bethel’s semester abroad program to Ecuador—a role which required him to be the sole instructor for all student participants. He also has shown his support for the college by speaking as an advocate of its mission in various venues throughout the years.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The Bethel College Alumni Board needs your help in discovering the accomplishments of our fellow alumni. Your knowledge is invaluable to us. If you would like to nominate a fellow alum for an award, go to the awards link on the Bethel web site to see a listing of award criteria and a roster of previous award recipients.

There are currently ten awards for which nominations are being accepted. They include: Alumnus of the Year (personal achievement not vocational); Lifetime Achievement (for retirees or posthumously); Professional Achievement; Outstanding Young Alum; Distinguished Accomplishment; Honorary Alumnus; Distinguished Friend; Distinguished Professor; Distinguished Parents and the Timothy Award.

Mail your nominations to: Lois Pannabecker, Office of Alumni Services, Bethel College, 1001 West McKinley Avenue, Mishawaka, IN 46545; or e-mail: alumni@bethelcollege.edu.