The True Spirit of Sport

- GETTING A MAKEOVER — BETHEL STYLE - p. 4
- RUNNING THE COURT, WALKING THE STREET - p. 6
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We’re excited about this issue. It’s different than others, because it’s the first time we’re making the magazine available online in a digital format. That means you’ll be able to interact with our stories through audio, video and web links. It is our hope that as we portray Bethel in many different mediums, so you will become even more engaged and as excited as we are about what’s happening on our campus.

In this issue, whether you’re a sports fan or not, you’ll appreciate these heartfelt stories about our sports teams, individual student athletes and alumni athletes who showcase the true spirit of sport.

For instance, Matt Cunningham (’05), overcame some major challenges when he was enrolled as a student. Bethel’s Track and Field Coach Tony Natali helped him along the way, making Matt’s college years and sports experience about much more than just winning trophies.

Then there’s our women’s softball team that went out of its way to help a disadvantaged family after one player took notice and befriended an 11-year-old summer Sports Camp participant who had no lunch this past summer. Eventually the entire team reached out to the girl’s family. It’s amazing to see what the Bethel community has done for this family.

So when we say that Bethel is one of the most special places on earth, it’s because of our wonderful faculty, staff, students and alumni who care so deeply about their community, serving others and using the excellence they have acquired through their learning experiences for the Kingdom. They make this campus vibrant. They spread life everywhere they go for the Kingdom and the King.

Steven R. Cramer, Ph.D. (’75)
President

Visit us online at www.BethelCollege.edu/DigitalMagazine.
Softball Team Cleans Up At "Home" Plate

“Extreme Makeover: Bethel Edition” recently made a home run with one local family when the Bethel College women’s softball team traded in their mitts and bats for work gloves and paintbrushes — proving that with a little teamwork and effort, dreams can come true.
Although there wasn’t a Ty Pennington, a bullhorn or a bus, the enthusiasm that Nancy Kabui and her two children, Samantha, 11, and Emmanuel, 7, felt last fall when Bethel’s softball team arrived at their rental property on South Bend’s northwest side matched that of many contestants on TV’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.”

“I’m excited,” Nancy Kabui says of the surprise makeover. “I wasn’t expecting this. When [Coach Anna Welsh] first called and said she wanted to help, I never thought it would be a makeover.”

Welsh and her team were introduced to the Kabuis last summer when Samantha Kabui attended Bethel’s softball camp on a free scholarship. When junior physical education major Emily Lamkin realized Samantha didn’t have a lunch for camp, she immediately came home and told her mother.

Samantha didn’t have a lunch because the Kabuis didn’t have any food, Emily’s mom, Lori Lamkin, explained through tears. “The next weekend we put some stuff in a garage sale, and I planned on giving the money we earned to the [Kabui] family.”

But Lori Lamkin held onto the money for a bit while Emily Lamkin and Welsh took inventory of the Kabui’s home and compiled a list. Within days of getting word out that the family was in need, the team obtained many of the items, and the effort escalated to a house full of nearly 20 Bethel softball players and volunteers painting, stocking cupboards, arranging furniture, hanging draperies, redecorating bathrooms and more.

The ladies had no problem stepping up to bat for the Kabui family. “The team wanted to do this,” Welsh says. “They are fired up. They worked so hard. I just love it.” And it all began with $100 from a garage sale and a vision.

“I have never done anything this big,” Emily Lamkin says. Some team members wanted to paint, while others wanted to organize, she added. No matter the chore, someone from the team was there to do it, making Christmas come two months early for the Kabuis.

“They went out of their way — they didn’t have to,” Samantha Kabui says. “They’re painting … in my favorite color green. It’s like we’re moving into a new house.”

And if there’s one thing that the team has taught Samantha Kabui it’s that “when you work together, sometimes more can come from it,” the 11-year-old said with a beaming smile.

“My food stamps were discontinued. It’s really been a blessing. I’ve never in my life had this much food. It blows my mind.”

— Nancy Kabui

The women knocked it out of the park for the Kabuis. And if the softball team has anything to do with it, the Kabuis will never go hungry again.

“This is an ongoing thing between us and this family,” Emily Lamkin says. “We will always be in their lives.”
On the court, he may be known as Bethel basketball team’s starting point guard and star player with more than 2,000 career points, but on Friday nights, Ryne Lightfoot (’10) is just Ryne — a guy with a big heart and food to share with people in need.
“Every person down at the bus stop has a story and it is not our job to judge them, but first show compassion.”

– Ryne Lightfoot

For more than 1-1/2 years, Ryne has coordinated a group of Bethel students to go out and walk the streets, feeding the homeless and needy near the Transpo bus station in South Bend, Ind. The idea was born during a Bible study when Ryne and his roommates were talking about what it would look like to feed the hungry and clothe the poor. So they collected food and went downtown looking for someone to help.

He admits it’s a step out of his comfort zone. “It has been challenging, I never saw myself doing this, but I like it!” says Ryne.

On a typical Friday night visit, Ryne says they feed about 50-100 people. Students donate food and Ryne has been known to buy bread and meat to make 70-90 sandwiches with the money collected from his Bible study. But he’ll be the first to tell you that this isn’t just about feeding people.

“Everybody has a story to tell and they just want someone to listen,” says the 6-foot-3-inch senior. “The more you go and listen, the more they open up. The main thing is, we want them to feel safe with us and to know we care.”

He says being the constant, reliable food source on Friday nights has helped to build relationships. Willy is one of the first people Ryne met early in the ministry, and their relationship has developed into a friendship. “The first time Willy came to a basketball game, it gave me motivation. Now he comes to every home game.”

Mike Lightfoot, Ryne’s father and Bethel’s head men’s basketball coach, has seen a change in his son. “I hear Ryne say over and over ‘Every person down at the bus stop has a story and it is not our job to judge them, but first show compassion.’”

This compassion has spread to other players on the basketball team too. “Some of our players have made sacrifices of their time to reach out to make a difference. They have built relationships and have shown compassion,” says Coach Lightfoot.

Ryne is graduating this year, but says he plans to “pass the torch” to someone else if he moves out of the area. He wants to always be a part of this ministry that has been so invaluable to him. “I think if we are supposed to live lives like Christ, then we should do ministry like this and do a lot more of it!” says Ryne.

When asked about what he loves more — basketball or these relationships — this superstar athlete doesn’t hesitate with his words. “Basketball is a passion. This [building relationships] is a love. This is something I can continue till I’m old and gray.”
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

The Bethel College Sports Camps offer excellent team and individual instruction to campers, just as they did when the program started 37 years ago. They feature one-on-one instruction, and campers are treated as individuals, not numbers. Daily fundamentals as well as individual and team play are important parts of Bethel’s camps. At Bethel, campers have fun, play hard and feel great about their camp experience.

CONTACT THE ATHLETIC OFFICE AT 574.807.7425 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS CAMPS OR VISIT www.BethelCollege.edu/Camps
FATHER/SON BAPTISM
A couple days before Mark Lettinga ('10) left for the Study Abroad program in the Dominican Republic, he decided it was time to make a statement. On Sept. 4, Lettinga was baptized outdoors on Bethel’s campus in a baptism tank in front of family and friends. His father, Al Lettinga, took the dip next. Mark will be the first offspring of J.A. Huffman, one of Bethel’s founding fathers, to graduate from Bethel.

PANNABECKER TREE REMOVED
The large green ash tree between Wiekamp Athletic Center and the Admission Office was removed this past fall. Arborists said the tree was dying. Former Bethel President Ray Pannabecker planted the tree on May 13, 1974, on his last day as president. College administrators plan to plant another tree in that same place.

“SCRIPTURE 66” TRADITION CONTINUES
For the fourth year in a row, Bethel students and faculty participated in Scripture 66, a reading of the entire Bible from start to finish. The purpose of the reading, which took place last fall, is to show the importance of scripture reading to students, faculty and members of the community.

CALDERONE JERSEY RETIRED
During halftime of the Bethel Classic game, Jerome Calderone ('87) was honored with the retiring of his jersey from the men’s basketball team. Calderone, an NCCAA All-American, finished his career as the first player to score 2,000 points in school history. His mark of 2,227 points scored still places him fifth all time while his assist record of 1,027 has yet to be topped.

SAVE THE DATE
GOLF OUTING
The 17th annual Bethel College Golf Classic will be held on June 28 at Knollwood Country Club in Granger, Ind. For information on registering or becoming a sponsor, e-mail Mike Lightfoot at lightfm@BethelCollege.edu.

www.BethelCollege.edu/Sports/GolfClassic
OFFICERS HONORED
In honor of fallen Mishawaka Officers Cpl. James Szuba and K-9 Ricky, Bethel hosted the two-day visitation and funeral service. Hundreds of officers and K-9s from around the Midwest came to pay their respects, while hundreds of students, faculty and staff lined LaSalle Ave. to honor the fallen officers in the funeral procession. Szuba and Ricky died Jan. 9 in a crash allegedly caused by a drunk driver.

2010 COMMENCEMENT
Approximately 550 students plan to participate in graduation ceremonies on May 1 and 2. This is one of Bethel’s largest graduating classes. For more information about graduation weekend, visit www.BethelCollege.edu/Graduation.

100-YEAR-OLD FAN HONORED
Joe Yoder rarely misses a Bethel men’s basketball home game. Recently, he was honored on his 100th birthday as an honorary coach.

Head Men’s Basketball Coach Mike Lightfoot says he played basketball with Yoder’s son, Jared, back in the ’70s at Bethel. Yoder and his wife, Joyce, have been coming to games ever since.

STUDENTS PRODUCE BETHEL TV SHOW
Bethel students produced the first 30-minute TV news magazine show about life at Bethel called “Bethel Prime Time.” Students determined the content, conducted the interviews, shot the video and wrote the stories. The show is the outcome of a class on TV news taught by Director of Student Media Tim Ceravolo.

www.BethelCollege.edu/Prime

— JAIMEE THIRION & ERIN KINZEL
From magazines to books — including fiction, nonfiction, biographies and most recently the entire Jane Austin collection — Wayne Gerber, Ph.D. ('53), says he can read for eight hours without his eyes getting tired. “One of my main joys is reading and learning. I don’t intend to ever stop reading,” says Gerber.

At 82-years-young the Bethel adjunct faculty member hit 50 years of teaching at Bethel this spring, making him the only faculty to ever reach this mark. Even while Gerber served in administrative roles as Bethel’s academic dean, dean of adult studies and registrar, he’s always taught. “It’s still as much fun now as it was in the first years,” says Gerber.

Fun because Gerber is just as much a student as he is a teacher. Part of teaching is staying up-to-date and learning new things — even reading things you don’t agree with, says the religion professor. “You have to keep learning or you just repeat yourself.” Reading is how he accomplishes this philosophy. Every day he reads a passage of the Bible in Hebrew and Greek and a chapter in the New Testament in German.

That’s in addition to the multiple magazines and books he reads. He says he’s always reading several things at the same time.

That’s why it’s no surprise that Gerber has a list of degrees. His academic accomplishments include a bachelor’s degree from Bethel, two seminary degrees and a Ph.D. “My wife wondered if I was going to be a perpetual student forever.”

He admits that he could have been happy living in a library as a student for life. Funny — his office is inside the Otis Bowen Library. You’ll find him on the lower level at the end of the moving stacks. You might even catch him reading a book or two.

— JAIMEE THIRION

GERBER’S LEGACY
HOW IT STACKS UP AT BETHEL

- Instrumental in helping Bethel gain regional accreditation in 1971.
- Helped develop and implement the Adult, Master of Ministries, M.B.A. and Counseling programs.
- Continues to hold the position of chair of the trustees of Bethel’s Missionary Church Archives.
- Has taught three generations of students, including two of his own children.
FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KNAPP JOINS THE BETHEL STAFF
Clair Knapp was selected as the new vice president for financial affairs and chief financial officer. “After a 15-month search, we believe we’ve found the candidate who is a good fit for Bethel and has the needed skill set to assist in helping us continue to move the college forward. We are excited to welcome Clair Knapp to the Bethel family,” says President Steve Cramer. Knapp, who graduated from the University of St. Francis (Fort Wayne, Ind.) with a B.S. in Accounting, has more than 18 years of experience providing financial and accounting services. He began his duties on Oct. 28 and is excited to be at Bethel. “The Holy Spirit is alive at this place and I can see it in the people each day,” he says.

BETHEL CFO RETIRES AFTER 18 YEARS OF SERVICE
John Myers has retired from his position as vice president and chief fiscal officer after almost two decades at Bethel. “We are extremely grateful for John Myers’ leadership as the college has grown,” says President Steve Cramer. “Reflecting back on my years at Bethel, I am amazed at what God has done. I see not only the physical changes and growth, but also the lives touched for Christ,” says Myers. He plans to spend more time with his wife, Sherry, and hopes to travel and possibly take some short-term mission trips.

DOROUGH SELECTED AS NEW DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING
After a yearlong search, Carol Dorough, Ed.D., has been selected as the new dean of the School of Nursing. She fills the position formerly held by Ruth Davidhizar, Ph.D., who passed away in 2008. Dorough, who will start in her new position this fall, is currently chair of the School of Nursing at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla. She holds her Doctorate of Education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

ESKRIDGE RECOGNIZED FOR WORK WITH THE DRIFTERS, INC.
Irene Eskridge, assistant director of graduate programs, was given special recognition at the 53rd Annual Drifters Convention in New York City in honor of her work as president of the organization. During her four-year tenure she added three new chapters, created a Web site for the organization and increased scholarships for women. The Drifters, Inc. is a group of women from all over the country with unique charitable, civic and social involvement in their communities.

NURSING PROFESSOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD
Deborah Gillum, associate dean of the School of Nursing, received the Golden Lamp Award at the Rush University Medical Center. This prestigious award is presented by the Golden Lamp Society, Rush University Nursing Alumni Association, to merit scholars. It is awarded to Ph.D. students who are at the dissertation stage of their studies who show promise in developing a career in nursing research.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY PROFESSORS PUBLISH BOOKS
Four faculty members from the School of Religion and Philosophy published books in 2009. Gene Carpenter, Ph.D., professor of Old Testament, completed a translation of “Leviticus” for Logos. Anthony Tomasino, Ph.D.,
assistant professor of Bible, contributed to the “Esther” volume in the Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary. Terry Linhart, Ph.D., dean of the School of Religion and Philosophy, co-authored “Evangelism Remixed.” Chad Meister, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, published three books: “The Cambridge Companion to Philosophical Theology,” “The Oxford Handbook of Religious Diversity” and “God is Great, God is Good: Why Believing in God is Reasonable and Responsible.” The last book received Christianity Today’s 2010 Book of the Year Award in the category of evangelism and apologetics.

— ERIN KINZEL & JAIMEE THIRION

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Art News

ART-ABILITY DISPLAYS ARTWORK
Art-Ability, a nonprofit organization that serves those who are mentally and/or physically challenged with art classes, showcased students’ work in the Weaver Art Gallery last fall. Paintings and drawings were displayed from students in Loretta Kaser’s (’98) Art-Ability class. The class consisted of a small group of five to 12 adults from late teens to seniors.

ACCREDITATION TO EXPAND
Bethel’s department of visual art recently received approval from Bethel’s Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee (APCC) and the Indiana Department of Education to expand its program by adding the art education major. This new major will offer an increased range of specialized areas of expertise to make students more prepared than a general arts degree.

FACULTY ART SHOW
The department of visual art’s faculty: Jeffrey Combs, Angela Leed, Suzanne Mauro, Katharine Schmidt and Christopher Stackowicz, displayed their work in a collaborative effort in the Weaver Art Gallery for the second annual faculty art show this past winter.

ART SHOW BENEFITS GREEK ORGANIZATION
Christopher Stackowicz, chair of the department of visual art, has spent the past three summers in Greece doing archeological research for the Greek Architecture Project. During his free time, he went off the beaten path photographing hidden beaches, mountaintops, valleys and nonaccessible historical ruins. He showcased his work, “The Greek Landscape,” this past winter at the Weaver Art Gallery. One-third of his proceeds benefited the Children’s Ark Roma Education (C.A.R.E.) in Corinth, Greece.

— JAIMEE THIRION

DESSERT THEATRE
Christmas Belles
sequel to the 2009 Dessert Theatre, Dearly Beloved
by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

June 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Dining Commons

The evening will begin with a selection of tasty desserts ranging from chocolate cheesecake to fruit tarts, followed by a musical performance and a comedic play. Tickets go on sale May 10, 2010. Call 574.807.7080, Mon.-Fri., 1-5 p.m. The cost is $18 for adults and $16 for seniors. Groups rates available.

MUSICAL FACTS
• During the Christmas Concert, “The Whole World Rejoices,” 11 international trees and 22 nativity sets were on display in the Great Hall of the Everest-Rohrer Chapel/Fine Arts Center.
• Last November during a concert, the Jazz & Percussion Ensembles performed “Junk Funk,” beating on large trash cans, metal pipes and various other items.
• The Concert Choir will head to Washington and Oregon on tour in early May.
As a philosophy student turned filmmaker, Mikel Wisler ('04) likes to think deeply about life. Perhaps that’s why his films focus more on the gritty nature of humanity than glossed-over ideals. As a freelance writer-director for Runaway Pen Productions, a company he started with friend and fellow Bethel alumnus Andy Gilbert ('04), he produces independent films designed to make people ponder. “Filmmaking is a great place to ask questions,” he says.

Wisler learned a lot about asking questions during his time at Bethel through philosophy professor and mentor Chad Meister, Ph.D. “I’ve always been curious about life and understanding other people’s perspectives,” he says. “At Bethel I developed a critical mind and learned to dig deeper.” His college experience laid the foundation for the way he approaches filmmaking.

In his films, rather than telling the audience what to think and pushing agendas, he prefers to portray real-life situations that will cause audience members to think for themselves.

“Filmmaking asks: What is ethical? What is right? What is beautiful?” Wisler says.

In 2003 Wisler spent a semester at the Los Angeles Film Studies Center in Los Angeles, Calif., and really fell in love with film. He roomed with Gilbert, and the two spent a great deal of time writing together and collaborating ideas for projects. Now, more than six years later, they are producing films together as a profession.

When looking for projects to pursue, Wisler gravitates toward compelling stories that evoke strong emotion. This past summer, he served as the producer and cinematographer for “Evaluating Kaitly,” a short film he and Gilbert wrote together and Gilbert directed. The film, starring Bethel Production Manager and Adjunct Faculty Lisa Staples, focuses on one woman’s struggle with cancer and the child who gives her hope.

Though Runaway Pen Productions is currently producing small, self-bankrolled independent films, Wisler’s hope is to one day make a full-length feature film. “We have a full-length script. We just need to find investors,” Wisler says. Through entering the independent films into film festivals and sparking interest in investors, Wisler hopes to produce more films that, true to the craft, make people ponder.

— ELIZABETH GRASHORN ('07)
“I just tell [students] that we’re not going to use the lack of [regulation] facilities as an excuse.”
— Tony Natali
A lot of college coaches focus on winning, but Tony Natali has another approach. “We emphasize the journey,” says the head of Bethel’s track and field program. “Sure, we want to win, but we emphasize the process more than the results. We get better results that way and have more fun.”

That journey takes team members down the path to a good work ethic, spiritual health and close team camaraderie. If anyone doubts that it works, here are the results:

The men’s and women’s teams both were conference champions last year. The men’s team won the Indoor and Outdoor NCCAA championships. The women’s team was the national runner-up. Natali and all his staff were honored as national and conference coaches of the year. (See what the team accomplished this year on page 22.)

What’s probably even more remarkable is the fact that the team has no regulation track facilities on campus. A debilitating factor? Natali has turned it into a challenge. “We have a meeting in August and I go through my philosophy,” says Natali. I just tell them that we’re not going to use the lack of [regulation] facilities as an excuse.”

On campus the Pilots have a rather well-worn practice track that was built more than a decade ago. Space limitations have prohibited construction of a full-sized, regulation track. Dennis Engbrecht, Ph.D., senior vice president, says the recent acquisition of 13 acres south of campus may eventually allow for development of a full-size track that could be used for meets.

The team also practices on the track of a nearby public middle school, and makes use of the basement of Bethel’s new residence hall, nicknamed “The Lodge,” for “straightaway” sprint work.

Moreover, lack of a track is viewed as opportunity. “It gives us a platform to talk about how Christ is in the middle of our program and points to an inner strength that says facilities are secondary. We talk every day about character and integrity. You have to remember, these are still 18- to 21-year-olds, and there’s always the temptation to say ‘I’m tired. I don’t want to go to class,’ or to take a shortcut on a workout. I try to help them understand that they’re shortchanging themselves when they do that.”

Hard work and self-discipline were things Natali learned by playing basketball in high school under Marvin Wood. Wood guided the Milan High School team to a state victory in 1954, and then became the subject of the 1986 hit movie “Hoosiers.” Long after the 1954 win, Wood came to settle at Mishawaka High School, where Natali attended in the late 1970s. Natali also credits basketball for his focus on teamwork. In college he worked as a student assistant under Purdue University’s Gene Keady.

At Bethel’s track meets, which are all away, there’s a strong supportive atmosphere. Individual team members stay and cheer on their comrades, instead of heading back to the bus after competing. Natali and his wife, Andrea, also invite all track team members to their home for dinner three times a year.

On campus, Natali’s door in Wiekamp Athletic Center is always open to students. He wouldn’t have it any other way. He loves being accessible. And when he recruits high school students to Bethel, he points out right away that instead of track facilities, the college has an intriguing collection of professors with whom they will have excellent working relationships.

Yeah, a lot of college coaches focus on winning, but Tony Natali loves the journey.

For more about Natali’s journey with the Bethel track and field team, visit www.BethelCollege.edu/TonyNatali. Turn the page to read a track athlete success story.
By the time Matthew Cunningham (’05) was 18, he was a felon — auto theft and arson. His high school days were plagued with fights. He had been expelled repeatedly. You can imagine, then, what it must have been like for him the first day of class at Bethel.

“The praying, at the beginning of class, was like taking someone who had just learned adding and subtracting, and throwing them into geometry,” says Cunningham.

His guide in this new world was Tony Natali, Bethel’s head track and field coach and assistant men’s basketball coach.

Cunningham attended Bethel on a pole-vaulting scholarship, the result of connections with high school coaches who still believed in him and wanted to see him succeed.

“I came in on academic probation because I had been expelled before, and because I had to work for a year after graduation to pay restitution for the truck I stole,” says Cunningham.

“Coach Natali put me on a very tight leash. There was to be no fighting and no drinking since I liked to do that on weekends. But he had me motivated within 15 minutes, telling me how my life was going to improve, and how he was going to believe in me and be committed to me. Within eight practices, I realized Bethel was where I wanted to be,” says Cunningham.

Matt pole-vaulted all four years at Bethel, winning conference championships several times and named All-American by the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes) three times.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies in 2005. Today, he’s married and works in Elkhart. He wants to attend graduate school, and eventually, he would like to be a track and field coach.

“Coach Natali made a huge difference in my life,” says Cunningham. “We would have lots of discussion about faith and life. Anytime I had a problem, he would talk to me. He always left his door open. But he expects a lot out of you, too. When he disciplines you, you know it’s in your best interest. He’s such a motivator, it’s hard to walk away.”
MEN’S SOCCER TEAM MAKES BETHEL HISTORY

The men’s soccer team ended their regular season by capturing back-to-back MCC championships and a 15-0-1 record, making them the first team in Pilot history to have an undefeated regular season. Although this team accomplished a great amount, there were definitely some hardships along the way.

Their first setback occurred before the regular season even began. The momentum from the Pilots MCC championship was replaced with insecurity when they heard their former coach would not be returning. However, all uncertainty was soon alleviated when Thiago Pinto (‘05, ’07), who has appeared in four NAIA National Tournaments as a player, would be returning to Bethel to lead the Pilots.

More adversity occurred during the Spring Arbor University game. “The game was like something you see in movies,” says Pinto. “We had two players dismissed from the game, and after being down by two goals, we came back to score five goals to win the game! The outcome just showed what kind of determination was on this team.”

That determination came with a price. “We worked harder than we ever did last year,” says sports studies major Arron Patrick (‘10). “We had to go into Coach Wally’s dungeon of pain knowing that the thousands of pull-ups and burpees would make us better.”

The Pilots’ hard work was rewarded with individual awards. Pinto received MCC Coach of the Year, Patrick received MCC Player of the Year, Romulo Nobrega (’12) received MCC Offensive Player of the Year, and Humberto Trejo (’11) completed the sweep of MCC awards by receiving MCC Defensive Player of the Year.

Unfortunately, the Pilots’ hard-fought season came to an end in the first round of the NAIA tournament against Bellevue University. “Even though we lost,” Patrick says, “it was a great way to end my senior year.”

— BREANNA BECKER (’12)

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<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>OVERALL RECORD</th>
<th>MCC RECORD</th>
<th>STATISTICIAN’S COMMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Soccer</td>
<td>18-1-1</td>
<td>8-0</td>
<td>Men’s soccer finished the season ranked No. 8 and advanced to the NAIA National Championship for the second consecutive year.</td>
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<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>5-10-1</td>
<td>2-5-1</td>
<td>Women’s soccer finished seventh in the MCC.</td>
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<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Volleyball finished seventh in the MCC.</td>
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<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>The men’s and women’s cross country teams ran in eight events. Trisha Miller (’13) and Amber Wray (’10) competed at the NAIA Nationals in Vancouver, Wash.</td>
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For sports updates, visit the official home of the Bethel Pilots at www.BethelCollege.edu/Sports.
CHEERLEADING
Bethel cheerleading has always been a unique sport, with the main focus on supporting the men’s basketball team. This year, however, the team sent a stunt couple to a competition to contend against other collegiate partner stunt couples around the nation. Coach Rebecca Bunton (’08) hopes the entire team can participate in a national competition next year. “Like any athletic team at Bethel, we are excited to move forward and represent the college and Christ with our abilities and overall character,” says Bunton.

BASEBALL
The baseball team returns all but one starting pitcher and five starting position players from the 2009 team that finished as runners-up at the Mid-Central College conference tournament last season. Coach Seth Zartman expects his pitching staff to be even deeper this season if they can overcome a few offseason injuries that have slowed down preseason preparations. A strong group of newcomers combined with a veteran core will look to build upon its runner-up finish to capture their first MCC Tournament Championship since the 2007 season.

SOFTBALL
2009 proved to be one of the most successful seasons in Bethel softball history. The Pilots finished the season with a 52-7 record and a No. 8 final ranking. Despite the graduation of two seniors, the team expects to have an even better season this year. They return their entire starting lineup from last year’s team except starting pitcher Britney Hire (’09). The loss at pitcher, however, is bolstered by two transfer pitchers in addition to returnees Katie Boocher (’11) and Rachel Zirille (’11), who combined to go 28-4 last season. The Pilots will start six seniors, five of which have been starters since their freshmen season, and have made three trips to the NAIA National Tournament.

For more sports updates, visit the official home of the Bethel Pilots at www.BethelCollege.edu/Sports.
It is not unusual to hear “Row, Row, Row,” at a Bethel College men’s basketball game. Actually, it’s one of the few times you’ll ever see the student section sit down during a game. This cheer demonstrates their fan name — the Wiekamp Wackos.

This January marked the 13th year of the Wiekamp Wackos. The name came about in 1997, as Men’s Basketball Head Coach Mike Lightfoot saw a need for a name that would encompass the excitement students have for Bethel basketball.

The name has stuck and the students have embraced their role. The Wackos are the students who stand and yell, wear crazy outfits from time to time and come up with unique cheers like the trash can cheer. For this cheer the Wackos bring a trash can on the court. When they take the lid off, the rest of the Wackos yell. When they put it back on, the Wackos are quiet.

Some might say, “So what. They’re crazy fans. A lot of teams have them.” But Lightfoot says these wacko fans are crucial. “The Wiekamp Wackos mean a lot more than people realize,” says Lightfoot. “What helps make a team successful is fan support, fans who are knowledgeable of the game, who know when it’s a critical time, and who know when we need a key basket or stop.”

Through the years the fans have helped create a unique home court advantage for men’s basketball. The team holds one of the longest home winning streaks in any level of college basketball. The streak started back in January of the 2007 season. “They have had a big impact on outcomes of games,” says Lightfoot. “They have made so much noise that it’s hard for our opponents to communicate with one another.”

Robby Hamman (’10), a veteran Wacko, believes there are only two real requirements to be a Wacko. “All you need is a body and to just be loud,” says Hamman.

While the students change from year to year, there’s one thing that remains the same — the Wiekamp Wacko tradition. It’s a small section in the stands for fans with a big role to fill.

— AARON BONTRAGER (’10)
The Bethel track and field program looks to repeat a very successful season in which the men and women claimed the 2009 MCC Championship. The men’s team won both the indoor and outdoor NCCAA National Championships in 2009. Bethel’s coaching staff was also named Indoor Coaching Staff of the Year by the NCCAA. The team began the 2010 season by sending 65 athletes to compete at the NCCAA Indoor Championships, where the women’s team came away with their first-ever NCCAA Indoor National Championship. The coaching staff has brought in a strong recruiting class to go along with the return of all three NAIA All-Americans from last season in J.W. Maierle (‘10), Nichole Arnold (‘11) and Jordan Heim (‘11).

MEN’S BASKETBALL
The men’s basketball team qualified for the NAIA National Championship for the third consecutive season, but lost in the second round in overtime. The Pilots closed the season with a 28-7 record and a second-place finish in the MCC. Ryne Lightfoot (‘10) moved into the all-time top 10 scorers in Bethel history with 2,000 points, and received the NCCAA’s Pete Maravich Memorial Award for his testimony and leadership qualities on and off the court. Wes Laidig (‘10) became the 50th member of the 1,000 point club. Lightfoot, Laidig and Tyler Brown (‘10) received all-conference honors, while junior Caleb Laidig (‘11) was named to the all-defense team, and Tony Benford (‘10) was named to the all-newcomer team.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Bekah Basinger (‘11), Heather Seyfred (‘11) and Mandy Yoder (‘11) led the Lady Pilots and Coach Jody Martinez to his 12th consecutive 20-win season as well as his 300th victory overall. The Lady Pilots finished with a 23-12 overall record (8-8 in the MCC), and went on to win the program’s fifth NCCAA Championship. At the conclusion of the game, Seyfred was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player. She was joined on the All-Tournament team by teammates Yoder and Basinger. The post-season honors continued with Seyfred earning a spot on the NCCAA All-American First Team and the Scholar Athlete Team. Yoder was named to the All-American Second Team and Basinger received Honorable Mention. Martinez was named NCCAA Women’s Division I Coach of the Year for the fifth time.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
Steve Dregits (‘01), has recently been named Bethel’s head women’s soccer coach. Dregits has been an assistant coach for the women’s soccer team since 2005. “As a coach, I feel that I have a tremendous opportunity to serve God by teaching my players to represent Christ in their actions on and off the field,” says Dregits.

— JEFF WELSH
From the Alumni Office

You may have noticed quite a bit of change with alumni events and programs. For starters, Homecoming turned to Alumni Weekend this past fall and will soon change again. Take a look at our calendar of upcoming alumni events. You’ll see that we’ve added several reunions, but this time they’re not all on the same day! Why so many changes? Well, our goal is to identify more effective ways to use our resources and energy while still facilitating alumni involvement.

Remember, we’re always open to suggestions and need alumni involvement and support in planning reunions. So for instance, if you’d like to reconnect with your residence hall from a specific year or your FYE block, let us know. The alumni team would love to work with you to create a memorable event.

Also, we hope you’ve received our alumni e-newsletter a few times in your inbox in the last several months. If you did not and would enjoy reading alumni updates every other month, sign up at www.BethelCollege.edu/Contact/Alumni.

Lois Pannabecker
Director of Alumni Services

50s
Jack (’59) and Irma (Washmuth ’58) Longley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner cruise on the Seine River in Paris, France. Jack serves as interim pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Irma is a retired teacher. Her oil paintings have been displayed in local events, galleries and restaurants. The couple resides in Los Gatos, Calif. • Evelyn (Thomas attended ’47-’48) Smiley is a pipe organist at her local church, plays piano for Winsome Women retreats each spring and fall at the Grand Hotel, Mackinaw Island, Mich., and is music director for Winning Women of Florida Retreats. She has produced three piano CDs and is presently working on a pipe organ CD. Evelyn lives in Fort Pierce, Fla.

60s
Bernice (Mason ’67) Warner was recently ordained as a minister for The Church of God. She resides with her husband, Richard, in Rich Creek, Va.

70s
Margaret (Lavelle ’70) Hejhal is professor and associate director of library service at Oxford Graduate School in Dayton, Tenn., where she earned her doctorate degree. The school recently honored her achievements with the “2009 Outstanding Alumnus Award.” • Bonnie (Mills attended ’70-’71) Kerber is retired after 37 years of working in human resources with the federal government and Department of Veterans Affairs. She is executive director of HOPE-Net Ministries, a nonprofit faith-based organization whose goal is to provide homeless and near homeless families in Council Bluffs, Iowa, with the tools and resources they need to break the cycle of poverty. • Joseph (’74, ’97) and Elizabeth (Elshby ’74) Steele reside in Granger, Ind. Joe is an accountant and Betsy is a teacher and literacy coach in the South Bend Community School Corporation.

80s
Linda (Schuck ’89, ’05) Geer is a certified public accountant with Ondrovich & Associates, PC located in Portage and Valparaiso, Ind. • Richard C. Harris (’88) is pastor of Living Hope Community Church located in Lakeland, Fla., and author of the book “One Nation Under Curse” published by Intermedia Publishing Group. • John (’80) and Linda (Boylan ’78) McCready live in Elkhart, Ind. John is a bank equipment technician for
Coming back to campus for Alumni Weekend brought back some good memories, reconnecting many alumni. Some of Bethel’s former soccer players kicked the ball around out on the field, celebrating the 40th anniversary of men’s soccer; while the department of theatre presented “The Boys Next Door.” The Pilots 5K Run/Walk, affinity reunions, Heritage Chapel and kids’ activities rounded out the rest of the weekend. Want to see more photos? Go to www.BethelCollege.edu/AlumniWeekend.
MEMORIES

FUN FOR KIDS

AFFINITY REUNIONS

BETHEL SOCCER 40 YEAR CELEBRATION

sprin 2010 25
1st Source Bank. He directs the choir at Adamsville Road Church of God and sings with a men's gospel quartet, “Worship-4.” Linda is receptionist-clerk at Speedgrip Chuck Inc., teaches fifth and sixth grade Sunday school and sings in the choir.

90s
Janet (Seeker ’99) and Doug Billenstein were married Aug. 29, 2009. The couple resides in Sidney, Ohio. • Jason and Brenda (Beyler ’91) Dunn and daughter, McKenna (2), welcomed Lauren Kate, born Dec. 31, 2008. The family resides in Plano, Texas. • Geoff and Lisa (Voge ’98) Eliason along with their daughter, Emma (3), welcomed Logan John on Dec. 2, 2008. The family resides in Highlands Ranch, Colo. • Brent Ellis (’94) is vice president for advancement at Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, Mich. • Steve (’98) and Robin (Hossler ’99) Gamble announce the birth of Asher Etes on Nov. 4, 2008. He joins his siblings, Hannah (8), Adin (6) and Silas (2). The family resides in Madison, Ind. • Mario (’99) and Sarah (Shoesmith attended ’96 -’98) Guajardo announce the birth of Gabriel on July 24, 2009. He joins his siblings, Jayden (3) and Abran (2). Mario is director of actuarial services at Scott & White Health Plan. The family resides in Temple, Texas. • Troy and Karla (Myers ’99) Handrich along with their children, Caroline (3) and Jacob (1), welcomed Henry Myers into the family on June 25, 2009. Karla is a teacher at Wakarusa Elementary School, and Troy works in renovation at Greencroft, Inc. The family resides in Goshen, Ind. • Sheila (Jacobsen ’97) and Javier Hernandez were married Dec. 12, 2008. The couple resides in Indianapolis, Ind. • Lonnilei (Prince ’97) and Erich Kunnemann were married Oct. 24, 2009. Lonnilei works out of her home as a Cogmed working memory training coach. Erich is employed at Navistar, Fort Wayne. The couple resides in New Haven, Ind. • Jeffrey (’94) and Jennifer (Jueckstock ’01) Little announce the birth of their son, Gavin.

Get Your Bethel License Plate Now

Last year the Bethel Magazine displayed an ad calling all grads to get their license plate to keep the program from disbanding.

GOOD NEWS!

We still have the program, but with a few changes! Now all you have to do is deal directly with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. A Bethel application is no longer necessary to apply. For more information, visit www.BethelCollege.edu/Alumni.
Benjamin, on July 30, 2009. He joins big sister, Gracie (4). Jeff is director of loss control and premium audits at Pioneer State Mutual Insurance Company located in Flint. The family resides in Flushing, Mich. • Jon ('98) and Bethann (Karnath '00) Ranous along with their children, Anna (5) and Noah (3), welcomed Micah James on March 23, 2009. Jon is senior pastor at Newson Missionary Church, and Bethann is a registered nurse at Upper Valley Medical Center located in Troy. The family resides in Saint Paris, Ohio. • Stephanie (Armstrong '99) Witham is a nurse manager at Parkview LaGrange Family Birthing Center. Her husband, Lance, is pastor of Lake Missionary Church. The couple and their daughter, Riley Eileen (4), recently moved back to their hometown of Angola, Ind. • Wyatt (attended '94-'97) and Rachel (Traub '97) Wood announce the birth of Tyler Joseph, born May 19, 2009. He joins big brother, Bennett (6) and sister, Erin (4). 00s Matthew ('08) and Brittany (Fried '07) Baughman reside in Moses Lake, Wash., where Matt pastors Lakeview Missionary Church, and Brittany is a graphic designer for a local newspaper. • Joel Bergman ('05) is a doctoral student in medical chemistry and molecular pharmacology at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. • Nathan Cole ('05) is a junior high science teacher at St. Joseph Grade School, South Bend, Ind. • Patti Jo Crothers ('09) is ordained with Provident Ministries International, headquartered in South Bend, and is co-pastor at Harvest Community Church, Kendallville, Ind. • Bill and Kathleen (Aurand '01) Cuthbertson announce the birth of Naomi Kathleen, born Aug. 20, 2009. She joins big sister, Hannah (3). The family resides in Gladstone, Mich. • Sara (Zook '05) and Jeshua ('04) Franklin were married June 20, 2009. Jeshua is director of music at Steel Lake Presbyterian Church and is pursuing a doctor of musical arts in choral conducting at the University of Washington. Sara is a math teacher at Cleveland High School located in Seattle where the couple resides. • April (Stier '04) Frazier received a Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary where she is an administrative assistant in the New Testament department. She resides with her husband, Will, in Dallas, Texas. • Joshua ('03) and Renee Gulledge announce the birth of their son, Levi, on July 10, 2009. Joshua is webmaster and an adjunct professor at Bethel College. • April (Stier '04) Frazier received a Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary where she is an administrative assistant in the New Testament department. She resides with her husband, Will, in Dallas, Texas. • Joshua ('03) and Renee Gulledge announce the birth of their son, Levi, on July 10, 2009. 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Joshua is webmaster and an adjunct professor at Bethel College. received a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Mo., and is an advanced graduate student pursuing a doctoral degree in instructional leadership. • Bethany Heynen ('05) holds the NIC Advanced certification and membership by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. She is in training with a mission organization and will be working overseas as a sign language Bible translation consultant. • Anthony and Laura (Magrum '00) Hiss along with their children, Kyle (3) and Amelia (2), welcomed Anne Elizabeth, born July 6, 2009. The family resides in Northwood, Ohio. • Donald ('06) and Sandra (Bareiss '06) Hunter announce the birth of their daughter, Celina Anne, born Oct. 24, 2009. • Jana (Eberly '08) and Bryce Langebartels were married Aug. 15, 2009. Jana is an executive assistant in the Indianapolis office of Baker & Daniels. The couple more news on page 28
resides in Zionsville, Ind.  • Kenneth and Joey Lynn (Podlesak ’07) Lukkarila were married Aug. 5, 2008, in Cancun, Mexico. She is an international procurement manager with Conn-Selmer, Elkhart. The family resides in Wakarusa, Ind.  • Ruth (Ringenberg ’08) and Jason (’09) Martin were married Jan. 1, 2009. Ruth is an instructional resource specialist with the South Bend Community School Corporation. Jason is employed with The Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County, Ind.  • Joshua Miser (’05) works in computer services and system development at the University of Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Kelly (Gadd ’09), reside in Pittsburgh, Pa.  • Jamie Lynn Morris (’03) is a volunteer with the Peace Corps. Her responsibilities include the development of local nongovernmental organizations and community development in the Republic of Moldova.  • Katie (Grundemann ’06) and Shaun (’06) Palus were married July 18, 2009. Katie is a client improvement manager with Press Ganey Associates, South Bend. Shaun is a therapist with The Family and Children’s Center. The couple resides in Granger, Ind.  • Nate Phillips (’09) resides in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he is employed by Lake Michigan Credit Union.  • Kelsey (Waliszewski ’09) and David Poole (’09) were married Aug. 1, 2009. David is youth pastor at Hilo Missionary Church located in Hilo, Hawaii.  • Sallie Rupe (’02) received a Master of Arts in Psychology from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She is a case manager/therapist at Chamberlain Children’s Center in Hollister, Calif.  • Rebecca (Ledbetter ’04) and Kendal Shipley were married July 17, 2009. The couple resides in Ringgold, Ga.  • Emily Wilcoxson (’09) works for Martin’s Supermarkets and resides in Granger, Ind. A highlight of 2009 was a ministry trip to South Africa where she experienced God’s power at work in many exciting ways.

IN MEMORY

M. Jean Crist (’52) of Goshen, Ind., died Aug. 15, 2009, at the age of 80. She is survived by her brothers, Carl and Dale, and was preceded in death by her parents, John and Ruth, a sister and a brother.

• Elsie “Bonnie” (Babcock attended ’51) Eby of Petoskey, Mich., died June 26, 2009.  • Yvonne Magee (attended ’98,’03’-05) of South Bend, Ind., died Aug. 13, 2009.  • John Reynolds (’66) of Davison, Mich., died Nov. 1, 2007, after a severe insulin reaction and heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Kay (Breniser ’65); two daughters, Stephanie (Reynolds ’94) Elder, Mary (Abbott attended ’79’-81) Alexander; and three grandchildren.  • Charles C. Sprague (attended ’71’-72) of South Bend, Ind., died Nov. 12, 2008.
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Elizabeth Grashorn (’07)

HOURS
MON. - THURS. 9 A.M. - 7 P.M.  •  FRI. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.
SAT. 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  •  CLOSED SUNDAY

SUMMER HOURS
MON. - THURS. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.  •  FRI. 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

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When softball player Tara Blair (’10) applied for the American Red Cross/NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) Collegiate Leadership Program scholarship, she didn’t quite know what she was getting herself into. “Coach [Anna] Welsh and [Athletic Director] Mark Lantz told me there was this scholarship and I just went for it,” Blair says. What followed was two weeks of intensive leadership training with the Red Cross and NAIA in Washington D.C.

“We worked on a strategic plan to recruit donors and set up drives on campus,” Blair says. It was there that she met Brian Hamil (’82), who volunteers as National Chair of Bio Medical Services with the Red Cross, in addition to his full-time job as a CPA and serving on the Bethel College board of trustees. “Brian is fun,” Blair says. “While we were in D.C., he took us places and showed us all around. He is a generous guy with a heart for the Red Cross.”

Hamil started the scholarship program in 2007, when he realized there was a lack of young leadership in the Red Cross.

His goal is to train student-athlete leaders who will go back to their colleges/universities and get young people involved in donating. “I realized that in order for this program to be a success, it had to be a win-win opportunity for students” he says. That’s why the two-week training program is so fun-filled, while being educational. Students get paid for training, in addition to leaving with a $2,000 scholarship and enthusiasm for the Red Cross.

“The hope is that they will do blood drives,” Hamil says. Here at Bethel, Blair has already coordinated two, bringing in 247 units of blood.

She’s realized what Hamil’s known all along — that this program is more than just a scholarship. It’s saving people’s lives. “If we can get people to donate when they’re younger, they’ll most likely donate in the future,” says Blair. It’s safe to say — Blair’s caught the vision.

— ELIZABETH GRASHORN (’07)
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL
11    Nu Omicron Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society Induction
12    String Chamber Orchestra Concert
15    Opera Workshop Performance
16    Jazz Percussion Night
17    Band Concert
23    Choral Showcase

MAY
1     Adult Student Commencement
1     Nursing Pinning Ceremony
2     Traditional Undergraduate/Graduate Commencement

JUNE
3     Sports Camps Begin
17-19   Dessert Theatre “Christmas Belles”
21     Academic Camps Begin
24-26   Dessert Theatre “Christmas Belles”
28     Golf Classic

AUGUST
26     Traditional Classes Begin

SEPTEMBER
13-17  Spiritual Emphasis Week in Chapel
On Feb. 20, alumni and future Pilots escaped the winter blues and came to Bethel to reconnect and create new friendships. Here are just a few pictorial highlights of the all-day event.