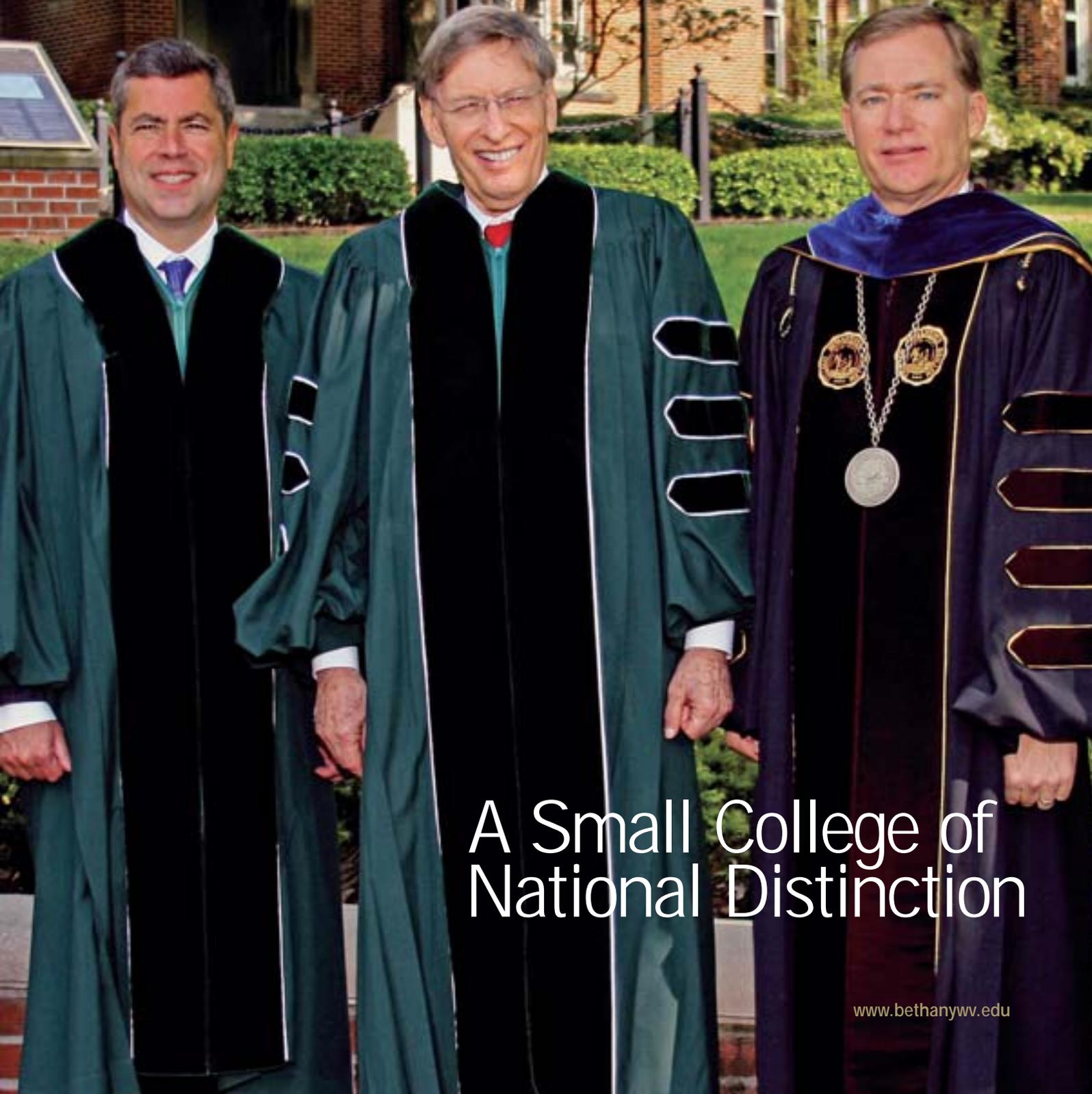


SUMMER 2008

Alumni and Friends Magazine

# Bethany

## TODAY



A Small College of  
National Distinction

[www.bethanyww.edu](http://www.bethanyww.edu)

# Why Not?

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; together, we can do so much." The speaker, the great Helen Keller, overcame odds of being born both blind and deaf that would have overwhelmed a lesser person. Today, Bethany College—a small college of national distinction and the state's oldest independent four-year college—faces challenges, but at the same time, is a place of tremendous possibility and potential. Like the late Ms. Keller, I choose to focus on the latter.

Since my days as an undergraduate at West Virginia Wesleyan, I have admired Bethany as a historic place of unparalleled beauty and academic distinction. Never did I dream in those days, however, that my family and I would join the list of College presidents who have lived in the newly renovated Pendleton Heights. Distinguished alumni and programs complement its beautiful campus, and former students who have gone on to success have been generous in creating opportunities for those who follow. These are some of the strengths that attracted me to the College when, in fall 2007, I came to explore the presidency.

Just one month into the office as I write this, it's clear that while I have much to learn and there is much to do, there is virtually no limit to what we can accomplish with a shared mission—by working together. The difference between dreams and reality, however, is strategic planning and goals. A recently completed institutional review will provide the framework as we progress. You will be hearing more about these as I meet and talk with many of you in the weeks ahead.

In my 18 years as a college president,

I've learned that synergistic partnerships are key to advancing together. So, as we get to know one another, I'll be soliciting your ideas for mutually beneficial relationships that will be a win-win for the College and the region. There is tremendous energy in like-minded people and organizations working together for the common good—the totality is definitely greater than the sum of its parts. We have begun by joining the InterAmerican Consortium, an organization that will increase foreign exchange opportunities for students, faculty and staff. In addition, the College will host the prestigious West Virginia Governors Honors Academy (GHA) for the next three summers—a magnificent opportunity to showcase Bethany College and all it offers for top students from every one of the state's 55 counties.

The late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, just before his untimely death, uttered his famous vision for the Presidency: "Some look at things that already are and ask, 'Why?' I dream of things that never were and ask, 'Why not?'"

Thus, vision, planning and synergy—these are some key words that you'll be hearing as we move forward together.

I invite your energy, your enthusiasm, your investment of time, talents and treasure—and yes, your sense of possibility as we move forward together.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Scott D Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott D. Miller  
*President of the College*

# Bethany TODAY

SUMMER 2008

*Bethany Today* is a quarterly publication of Bethany College. For additional copies of this magazine, or more information on the college, please call (304) 829-7000.

*Editor*

Elizabeth Van Iersel

*Managing Editor*

Rebecca (Guinan) Rose '01

*Contributing Editor*

Don Clegg

*Contributing Photographers*

Todd Jones

Scott McCloskey

Martin Santek Photography

*Contributing Writers*

Brian Rose, '98

*Design + Production*

MSK Partners, Inc.

*Issue Date*

July 2008

Printed in the U.S.A.

Address all correspondence concerning this magazine, including class notes, submissions and address changes to:

OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS

BETHANY COLLEGE

Bethany, West Virginia 26032

(304) 829-7411

or via e-mail to: [alumni@bethanywv.edu](mailto:alumni@bethanywv.edu)

[www.bethanywv.edu/alumni/news](http://www.bethanywv.edu/alumni/news)

Would you like to receive alumni news and event notices via e-mail? Please be sure to update your contact information with the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at (304) 829-7411 or via e-mail at [alumni@bethanywv.edu](mailto:alumni@bethanywv.edu).

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of the editor.

Bethany admits students of any race, color, sex, handicap and national or ethnic origin.

**On the Cover:** National Leaders –From left: **Gregory B. Jordan** ('81, Global Managing Partner, Reed Smith, a leading global law firm), Chair of the Bethany College Board of Trustees; **Bud Selig** (Commissioner of Major League Baseball), Bethany Commencement Speaker; **Dr. Scott D. Miller** (one of 17 presidents nationwide profiled in the book *The Entrepreneurial College President*), new President of Bethany College.

©Bethany College 2008



## Contents



### 12 Right Person. Right Time.

Returning to his roots in West Virginia, Scott D. Miller brings a sought-after work ethic, creativity and ability to his position as Bethany College's 19th President. Let the future begin.

### 2 Around Campus

### 6 Commencement '08

### 8 Alumni News

### 16 Bethany News

### 18 Sports

### 24 Class Notes

**Bethany College**, a small college of national distinction, was founded March 2, 1840. For nearly 170 years, Bethany College has been a highly contemporary institution based in the tradition of the liberal arts. The College offers a wide array of studies, awarding Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in more than 30 fields of study, many with options for emphasis. Students also have the option of including one or more optional minors as part of their programs.

The College's program of liberal arts education prepares students for a lifetime of work and a life of significance. Bethany places particular emphasis on leadership and incorporates pre-professional education in dentistry, engineering, law, medicine, physical therapy, public administration, theology and veterinary medicine.

Bethany's 1,300-acre campus is located in the northern panhandle of West Virginia in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains. Pittsburgh, America's Most Livable City, is a 50-minute drive from campus. Wheeling, W.Va.; Washington, Pa.; and Steubenville, Ohio are less than a half-hour away.

Founded by Alexander Campbell, who provided the land and funds for the first building and served as the first president, Bethany has been a four-year private liberal arts college affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), since its inception. This religious body, of which Campbell was one of the principal founders, continues to support and encourage the College, but exercises no sectarian control. Students from virtually every religious community attend Bethany.

The approximately 830 Bethany students represent 27 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and six countries.

## Values

Bethany College is an academic community founded on the close interaction between students and faculty in the educational process. Bethany College values intellectual rigor and freedom, diversity of thought and lifestyle, personal growth within a community context, and responsible engagement with public issues. Its programs are designed to engage the mind through emphasis on discipline in thinking, motivation in the search for knowledge and acquisition of the intellectual resources for a lifetime of learning embolden the spirit through the opportunity for intellectual challenge, collaborative enterprise, athletic competition, artistic expression, personal growth and meaningful work enlarge the world through exposure to the abundant diversity of thought and lifestyle of the human community, support for personal engagement with societies and cultures different from one's own and commitment to service.

## Senior Administration

**Dr. Scott D. Miller**

*President of the College*

**Dr. Michael Mihalyo, Jr.**

*Provost and Dean of Faculty*

**William R. Kiefer**

*Executive Vice President and General Counsel*

**Sven de Jong**

*Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

## Center for Institutional Advancement

**Dr. Scott D. Miller,**

*President of the College*

**Sven de Jong '95,**

*Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

**Stephanie Kappel '95, Executive**

*Assistant to the President*

**Michele Rejonis '94,**

*Director of Alumni and Parent Relations*

**Rebecca Rose '01, Director**

*of Communications*

**Brian Rose '98, Sports**

*Information Director*

**Shirley Kemp, Director of**

*Advancement Services*

**Donald Clegg, Media Relations**

*Specialist*

**Judy Pyle, Executive Assistant**

*for Advancement*

**Stephanie Gordon '07,**

*Administrative Assistant for Institutional Advancement*

**Betty Van Iersel, Editor of**

*Bethany Today*

**Karina Dayich-McCabe,**

*Director of Admission and Financial Planning*

**Felicity Ruggiero,**

*Curator, Historic Bethany*

## Officers of the Board of Trustees

Gregory B. Jordan, *Chair*

Robert J. McCann, *Vice Chair*

Scott D. Miller, *President of the College*

Janet A. Long, *Secretary*

## Board of Trustees

William B. Allen *Parkersburg, West Virginia*

Elizabeth S. Athol *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

George M. "Ken" Bado *San Rafael, California*

Walter M. Bortz *Hampden-Sydney, Virginia*

Marc B. Chernenko *Wellsburg, West Virginia*

Neil Christman *Alpharetta, Georgia*

W. Darwin Collins *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

James F. Companion *Wheeling, West Virginia*

George M. Davis *Owings Mills, Maryland*

Fred M. Harris *Hagerstown, Maryland*

Sy Holzer *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Thomas P. Johnson, Jr. *New York, New York*

Gregory B. Jordan *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Linda A. Lewis *New York, New York*

Janet A. Long *Elyria, Ohio*

Robert J. McCann *New York, New York*

Eugene Miller *Boca Raton, Florida*

Scott D. Miller, *ex-officio* *Bethany, West Virginia*

Gary M. Novak *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

G. Ogden Nutting *Wheeling, West Virginia*

Robert Nutting *Wheeling, West Virginia*

Edward J. See *New Fairfield, Connecticut*

Thomas A. Smock *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Lewis P. Wheeler *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

## Trustees Emeriti

O. John Alpizar *Palm Bay, Florida*

F. D. Bloemeke *Alpharetta, Georgia*

James F. Collins *Wheeling, West Virginia*

Gordon B. Dalrtnple *Atlanta, Georgia*

Douglas D. Danforth *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Robert W. Ewing, Jr. *Jackson, Wyoming*

William R. Hoag *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Rodney B. Hurl *Marysville, Ohio*

Harry Martens *Weston, Massachusetts*

John McLaughlin *Allison Park, Pennsylvania*

Robert Ponton *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Ann C. Preston *St. Petersburg, Florida*

John W. Renner *Cleveland, Ohio*

William S. Ryan *Baltimore, Maryland*

Joseph M. Sakach, Jr. *Vero Beach, Florida*

Robert A. Sandercox *Lititz, Pennsylvania*

Harold R. Watkins *Indianapolis, Indiana*

# Around Campus

“MUCH LIKE THE inevitability of our own mortality, the question surrounding change is not “if” but “when?” While we can’t gird you with steel-plated armor against all the vicissitudes of life, what you have gained here is immeasurably more valuable. You have acquired that which, unlike wealth and material possessions, can never be taken away—an excellent education. In the words of a current credit card ad, “It’s priceless.”

*—excerpts from President Scott D. Miller’s  
remarks to the Class of 2008*

*May 17, 2008*

# Cole Comfort

Retiring Professor of English Robyn Cole remembers four decades at Bethany with fondness and amazement

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH Robyn Cole registers two probable “firsts” in her 40-year history at Bethany. Cole, who has chaired the Department of English since 2006, is perhaps the only faculty to be hired over an interview conducted on a tennis court, and the only woman to advise a campus fraternity.

Of the first event, shortly before her hire in summer 1968, she remembers meeting with then Vice President Warner Peterson, who also coached tennis. He was at the net, while she was standing just outside a fence surrounding the court.

Remembering her nine-year tenure as advisor to the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, Cole says she accepted the post for a six-month trial period but, after an incident “involving answering a 1 a.m. phone call and many meetings in the dean’s office the following week,” her role was secure.

“My brother was a Beta at Dickinson (College),” she notes, “so I was sort of an honorary ‘legacy.’”

Cole, who will retire this summer after reading Major League Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (“Bud”) Selig’s honorary degree citation at Commencement, remembers her memorable four decades at Bethany with fondness and amazement.

“As a new faculty in 1968, I never thought I’d stay 40 years.

“However, I twice applied (to teach) elsewhere and both times, withdrew my application. Quite simply, I’ve never been ready to ‘divorce’ Bethany,” she says.

Memorable students were part of her

remarkable career; congenial colleagues were another.

“I remember such alumni as (actress) Frances McDormand and Robert McCann. I even remember his (McCann’s) handwriting,” she says. She and her husband, John O. Cole, a retired English professor at West Liberty University who served as Bethany mayor for 20 years, spend two weeks each summer at the Lewes, Del., home of alumna Jean Lodge Blumenfeld.

Moreover, it’s colleagues and community that have kept her in her home surrounded by three fraternity houses and within walking distance of campus, Cole adds.

“It has been my great good fortune to have come to the College at the time when so many legendary Bethanians were still on campus – men and women such as the late Helen Louise McGuffie, who was my second child’s godmother, John J. Knight, Richard Kenney and Pearl Mahaffey,” she emphasizes. The latter “knew not only my name, but that of my dog, when I had been at Bethany less than a week,” Cole adds.

A close network of ties with English faculty including McGuffie, John Taylor, Larry Grimes and Tony Mitch, godfather of Cole’s third child, has been rewarding. “I’ve taught with John for 40 years and with Larry and Tony for 38,” she says. Her family dog, “Russell”, 16, was once owned by the late Professor David Judy.

When Cole and her husband, John, first arrived at Bethany, there were many young faculty with new babies. “In fact, when my son J.G. arrived in 1970, he was the 15th boy in a row born to faculty families,” she recalls.

The Cole family now numbers four children, all adults—two sons, J.G. and Seth and two daughters, Devon and Annie, the latter both Bethany graduates, Classes of 1996 and 2000, respectively.

“All were very cooperative in arranging to be born in summer, with the exception of Seth, who was born during spring break, so that I never missed any classes,” Cole notes.

From her first days on campus, life has been a whirlwind.

“John and I married at 10:30 a.m. on a Tuesday at my parents’ home in Baltimore; on Wednesday at mid-morning, we were moving into our faculty apartment; and on Thursday at 10:30, I attended my first faculty meeting,” she notes. That pace set the tone for the next four decades.

“I kept thinking to myself, ‘Next week, things will slow down,’ but that time never arrived.”

Teaching English composition, writing for business and industry, linguistics and drama courses, Cole—a football (Steelers), lacrosse and baseball fan—is especially known for her freshman seminar in sports writing in which students create feature articles in the genre of *Sports Illustrated*.

“I have no idea what I’ll do after I’ve graded the last English paper,” she says of her retirement. Beyond planned summer visits to the NCAA national lacrosse championships and Delaware shore, she may be found at Pittsburgh Pirates’ games or indulging in “my retirement gift to myself,” a 42-inch flat screen television.

“I have loved my years at Bethany, and I would do it all again. I can’t imagine a better life,” she concludes. ●





# Hooping it Up



## Bethany Men's Basketball celebrates 100 Years

THE BETHANY MEN'S BASKETBALL program celebrated its 100th season of competition during a special weekend Feb. 22-23, 2008 on campus with festivities coinciding with the Bison's regular season finale against Washington & Jefferson.

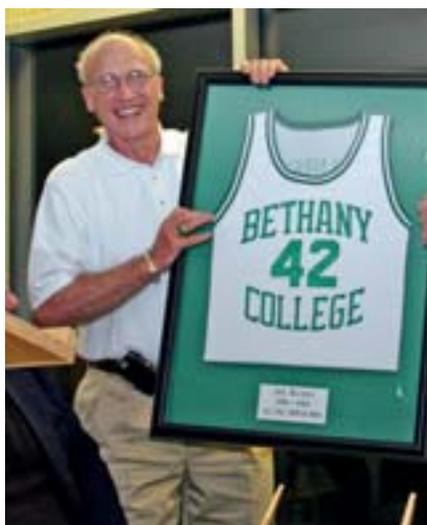
The weekend began with a Wine and Cheese Get-Together Friday night at Harder Hall on the Bethany campus. Although it was only scheduled to run from 7-9, the reliving of stories and memories went well into the night.

Saturday was a full day of activities for all who attended. It kicked off in the morning at 9 a.m. with an alumni skills challenge and shoot-around. That was followed by a pregame meal and Meet N' Greet at Benedum Commons, which gave all alumni a chance to meet the current Bison players and coaching staff.

Following Senior Day activities, the game between Bethany and W&J, which is the longest running rivalry in BC history, tipped off at 4 p.m. At halftime of the contest, all 82 alumni and former coaches who came back were recognized during an on-court ceremony.

Although the Presidents pulled out a 73-70 win over the Bison that day (Bethany got its revenge one week later with a 90-76 win over W&J to win the PAC Championship), spirits were still high for the last event of the weekend, a banquet at Benedum Commons. Former Bethany head coach and Board of Trustees member Bob Goin served as Master of Ceremonies, with Bethany President Dr. Scott D. Miller welcoming everyone to the event. In addition, PAC Executive Director Joe Onderko and Dave Sims ('75), a current broadcaster for the Seattle Mariners and ESPN, were on hand as special guest speakers.

The banquet concluded with a commemorative slide show containing pictures from as far back as the first varsity team in 1906-07 and running through this year's Bison squad, which went on to capture the program's 12th PAC championship, the most in the 50-year history of the PAC. ●



# Starting Lineup

2008 Bethany graduates are told to face their futures with courage and vision, and with a priceless education



“As in life, baseball has had great successes and it has had its problems. One can’t dwell too long on success because it’s fleeting, and one can’t ignore problems because left unattended, they get worse.

“Preserving the status quo or following the path of least resistance often is the most negative option because it requires neither vision nor courage.” —*Bud Selig*

#### About The Speaker

THE NINTH MAJOR League Baseball Commissioner, Bud Selig has been a visionary leader and advocate for our national pastime far beyond its early years in the 19th century. A lifelong fan, Selig took over baseball as interim commissioner in September 1992; since then, he has reinvigorated the sport and expanded its fan base by introducing the Wild Card, three-tiered playoff and six-division formats while

adding interleague play to the regular-season schedule. Credited with bringing major league baseball back to Milwaukee after the Braves decamped to Atlanta in 1965, he gained his business acumen working for the family car dealership.

At 73, he has been in baseball as either owner or commissioner ever since the advent of the Milwaukee Brewers in 1970. At the end of 2010, when his current contract ends, he will

have accrued the second-longest tenure of any of his predecessors.

He was formally introduced by Robert Nutting, chairman of the Board of the Pittsburgh Pirates since January of 2007, and a Bethany Board member. Dedicated to supporting the Pittsburgh area community, Bob is not only the sixth principal owner in the history of the club, but he also brings a long and respected multi-generational tradition of building successful organizations.

2008 Bethany College Commencement  
May 17, 2008

### 164TH COMMENCEMENT

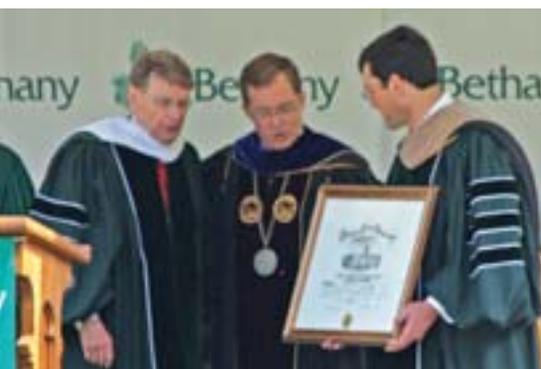
Degrees Awarded: 163

Speaker: Allan (Bud) Selig,  
Commissioner, Major League Baseball

Speaker Theme: Baseball as a metaphor  
for life

Also awarded Doctorate of Humane  
Letters to The Rev. Thomas E. Johnson Jr.

Notable Facts: Diplomas inscribed in  
Latin with the same design used since  
the College's founding in 1840



#### President's Remarks:

"WE CONTINUE TO BE DRAWN—sometimes kicking and screaming—into the future, facing changes known and as yet unforeseen. Today, like the Class of 1899, you will face challenges abroad and at home, economic uncertainty and personal setbacks. Because of your values-centered, community-oriented and liberal arts-based education here at Bethany, however, you are well-equipped to channel change into productive outcomes. You graduate prepared to become leaders in your families, communities and chosen professions.

Much like the inevitability of our own mortality, the question surrounding change is not "if" but "when?" While we can't gird you with steel-plated armor against all the vicissitudes of life, what you have gained here is immeasurably more valuable. You have acquired that which, unlike wealth and material possessions, can never be taken away—an excellent education. In the words of a current credit card ad, "It's priceless." —*excerpts from President Scott D. Miller's remarks to the Class of 2008 May 17, 2008*



#### About the Baccalaureate Speaker

THE REV. THOMAS E. JOHNSON, JR., is co-founder and head of The Neighborhood Academy in Pittsburgh. In response to its success, the Academy opened its doors as a full year day school to its first class of 8th and 9th grades in September 2001. To date, the School has achieved a 100 percent college acceptance rate among its first four graduating classes. Its first class of seniors is set to earn its college diplomas next spring.

He has seen a summer remedial academic program beginning in a church basement thrive and become a nationally-recognized pilot for the college preparatory academy that serves students from throughout the city.

A native of Pittsburgh, The Rev. Johnson is a graduate of Shady Side Academy and the College of Wooster. In 1986, he entered the Master of Divinity program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary while teaching English, counseling and coaching boys' basketball and lacrosse at Shady Side. In 1992, he received his degree from the seminary and was ordained in The United Church of Christ.

He then served the Allegheny United Church of Christ for seven years while teaching the history of world religions at the Community College of Allegheny County.

His vision and faith in "what lies over the horizon" has led The Rev. Johnson and Academy co-founder Josephine Moore from an innovative program for at-risk youth to one of the city's most academically rigorous college preparatory schools serving a cross-section of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods. The Academy's faith-based but non-sectarian education has enabled its graduates to fulfill the promise of their lives. ●

# Calling the Action

**Dave Sims '75**, a self-described sports jock, now makes his living as the Seattle Mariners play-by-play announcer

“THAT INTERNSHIP MARKED THE turning point. It was the start of my 35-year career in sports reporting and announcing,” says Seattle Mariners play-by-play announcer Dave Sims '75 of his summer stint with his hometown *Philadelphia Inquirer* after his sophomore year at Bethany.

Sims, who now splits his time between New York and Seattle, also covers college football and basketball for ESPN and NFL Sunday Night Football nationally on Westwood One Radio. Now in his second season with the Mariners, he remembers growing up in Philadelphia, where he and his father would walk to Phillies' games at Connie Mack Stadium, even tucking a transistor radio under his pillow at night.

“I've been a jock all my life,” he recalls.

“But it was about the time I entered Bethany that I realized, after writing for my high school newspaper, that maybe I could make a living at this.”

Although he earned a varsity letter in football at Bethany, finishing third in the conference in kickoff returns, and playing baseball (catcher) for two years, Sims realized that his future lay in reporting, rather than making, sports news. He served as both sports editor and radio station manager for the College.

Returning to the *Inquirer* for a second summer, Sims graduated with job offers from that newspaper as well as the *Chicago Daily News* and *New York Daily News*. He accepted the latter, covering college sports, professional soccer and the NBA, but moved to broadcast in 1982 when satellite news was in its infancy. Sims has been on the other side of the camera ever since, winning two local-market Emmys— one in 1993 for his play-by-play work on Big East football games, and another for telecasts of



**New Kid on the Block:** Dave Sims '75 (right) with Dave Niehaus, the “voice of the Seattle Mariners” since the organization's inception more than 30 years ago.

the Atlantic 10 Conference post-season tournament. He has also worked as a reporter and anchor for WCBS-TV and as a talk show host for MSG Network and WFAN-AM in New York.

“Sure, the transition from print to broadcast was challenging at first,” he admits. “You are writing for the ear, not the eye. It's a totally different performance.”

With a voice described by the Tacoma, Wash., *News Tribune* as “having a lot of range, Sims has the ability—invaluable for a baseball broadcaster—to talk as if he's showing you some snapshots from a scrapbook.”

Each sport requires its own rhythm and pacing, he explains. “The trick with baseball is that it's more languid. The

time between moments of action can be deadly without a repertory of anecdotes, but I have to be careful. I don't want to push it.”

In an intense profession, Sims' flexibility has also proven to be an asset.

“I laugh about it now,” he says, “but I used to get so nervous before games. I over-prepared. I'd wanted to know everything about everybody. But for basketball broadcasting, I realized that you don't need to know what each kid did in second grade. Just tell the audience what's happening.”

Sims credits Bethany College and especially, retired soccer coach John Cunningham and former vice president and registrar Joe Kurey for “putting up with a lot from me.” ●

For a sports-crazed kid of the '60s growing up in the shadow of Connie Mack Stadium, his represents the ultimate dream job.

"Last season (2007) was the first time I'd ever had my own team," he says.

"There are 30 major league teams, and each team has four announcers. That's 120 jobs from a pool of 300 million people. Tell me that's not exciting."

"I get to call the action," he concludes. "That's tough to beat."

#### FIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAVE SIMS

**Q. What's your favorite sport?**

A. Which child do you love the most? I love whichever I'm reporting at the present time.

**Q. Who are your sports heroes?**

A. That's easy. Willie Mays. It was a thrill to meet him, as well as Wilt Chamberlain, Don Drysdale and Sandy Koufax, although he (Koufax) used to really wear out the Phillies.

**Q. What was the most memorable highlight of your career?**

A. Without a doubt, it was broadcasting the play-by-play of the NCAA Division I men's basketball quarterfinals in 2006, when underdog George Mason defeated Connecticut. That was just off the charts big. George Mason beating Connecticut, a heavily favored No. 1 seed, to go to the Final Four? Get outta here. That was so significant.

**Q. What sports legend did you most enjoy meeting?**

A. While all have been memorable, I think the most meaningful have been broadcast, rather than sports, heroes. As a Philadelphia native, it was inspiring to meet the great Dick Clark, one of television's greatest communicators. What a gamer.

**Q. What do you enjoy in your free time?**

A. My wife Abby and I (the couple has two sons) conduct media awareness seminars with student athletes at several prestigious colleges and universities. We teach such things as eye contact, posture, showing charisma, avoiding one-word answers—all the details that student-athletes should understand when presenting themselves publicly. These kids have opportunities to be seen in a great light. We want them to take advantage of it.



# Outdoor Adventure

**Jack Wheeler '08** is helping sick children experience life through the outdoors

"THE THERAPEUTIC SETTING of the outdoors offers a new and novel way for many adolescents to challenge themselves and set goals," says Jack W. Wheeler '08, of Hilliard, Ohio. A new alumnus with double majors in social work and psychology, he hopes to incorporate his outdoor adventure experiences into a future career in therapeutic counseling focusing on teens and young adults.

"The outdoors is full of natural consequences," he explains. "It's a good place for troubled adolescents to empower themselves through conquering obstacles."

Wheeler, Bethany's 2008 "Senior of the Year," connected with summer camp adventure through his fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, a sponsor of Camp Boggy Creek in Florida, where he worked with chronically and acutely ill children during the summers of 2005 and 2006.

Facilitating a high/low ropes course, among other activities, was rewarding "because it gave seriously ill children the chance to experience the outside, rather than being confined to hospital beds."

Bethany's "Outstanding Senior in Psychology" comes by his College ties naturally. He is the fifth member of his family to receive distinction on social work comps. Both parents, Barbara '79 and Jeffrey Wheeler '78, are alumni, as are sister Mary Wheeler van Boxel '04 and brother-in-law Adam van Boxel '03

of Mentor, Ohio. In fact, his mother, Barbara, a teacher, and father, Jeffrey, a Disciples of Christ minister, made their first home in Campbell Mansion, serving as curators after their marriage.

"I grew up steeped in Bethany College lore," he says.

Active in all aspects of College life, Wheeler has served as vice president of his fraternity, as a resident assistant, French lab proctor and recently, as a teaching assistant in one section of a required freshman seminar entitled "Identity, Sexuality and Gender in the Arts and Humanities," leading a small group section weekly. Numerous awards and honors include those of "Freshman Leader of the Year" in 2005, "Junior Man of the Year" in 2006-2007, "Social Work Student of the Year," 2006-2007 and "Psychology Senior Fellow," Fall 2008.

Wheeler will take only a month-long hiatus from his studies before enrolling in an accelerated Master of Social Work (MSW) program at The Ohio State University this summer. Eventually, he plans to open his own practice and to pursue a Ph.D. in counseling and social work.

Recognizing that Ohio State's student population is many times that of Bethany, Wheeler looks forward to "carrying the Bethany experience with me."

"The sense of community I've gained through Bethany has empowered me to succeed wherever I go," he concludes. ●

# Judging Thomas

Bethany prepared the path for **Thomas Buergenthal '57** to become a judge on the International Court of Justice



“BETHANY COLLEGE HELPED TO Americanize me,” says Judge Thomas Buergenthal, the American judge on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands. His position as a judge on the Court represents the capstone of a career devoted to international law, especially international human rights law.

“For an international lawyer, this is a dream court and a dream come true.”

Born in Slovakia, Judge Buergenthal was just one month shy of 11 when World War II ended, one of the youngest child survivors of the

Holocaust. Human rights issues have played a central role in the career of the jurist and international legal scholar who, as a child, was imprisoned in the Auschwitz and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. Liberated by Polish troops, he became their mascot and immigrated to the U.S. in 1951, living with an uncle in New Jersey.

His memoirs of the World War II period are told in a book, *A Lucky Child*, now available in German, Dutch, Spanish and Czech; by the end of this year it will have been published in nine languages, including Japanese. The orig-

inal English version will be published in January 2009.

“The title of the book says it all,” he says.

However, these early experiences reinforced a strong belief in the critical importance of independent international courts that can intervene in countries without a tradition of civil rights. A staunch advocate for international human rights law, he maintains a deep interest in the ways in which international institutions can protect individuals and positively impact the international community.

A year and a half into his American experience, Judge Buergenthal began exploring American colleges and came close to not applying to Bethany.

“While still at Eastside High School (in Paterson, N.J.), its college guidance counselor had given me a list of about a dozen colleges to which she thought I should apply. Bethany was one of them. When I received the application forms and catalogues from these colleges, I noticed that Bethany College identified itself as a ‘Christian’ school. Assuming that Jews would not be welcome there, I decided not to complete my Bethany admission forms.

“A month or two later, I was called to the office of my guidance counselor, who introduced me to a man she identified as ‘Dean of Students of Bethany College.’ After we shook hands, he asked me why I had not returned the completed Bethany application forms. Embarrassed and groping for the right words, I finally said that I was Jewish and that I assumed that Bethany College, being a Christian college, would not want me. ‘Young man,’ he replied, ‘you are in America, and neither your religion nor the College’s religion has anything to

do with our admissions policy,” Judge Buergethal remembers.

“He then assured me that if I applied to Bethany, I would be granted a scholarship to study there. He was true to his word.”

“In retrospect, my enrollment was a wise decision. Bethany was small enough to allow me to work very closely with my professors and to receive the type of individual attention that would not have been available at a larger university. Because of its size, it was also relatively easy for me to get to know a large number of students, to be accepted by them and to feel part of the Bethany College community.

“Coming to Bethany and West Virginia was in and of itself an experience,” he recalls. Majoring in history and political science, he found himself with “excellent” professors such as Earl McKenzie, Chandler Shaw and William Young. On a campus of some 600 students, he found himself in small classes that sometimes enrolled just two or three others.

“Had I gone to a larger university, I would have gotten lost,” he says.

Instead, he went on to earn degrees at both NYU and Harvard law schools.

At both, “Bethany prepared me as well as any undergraduate institution prepares any student for the rigors of law school. Never, at any time, did I have the sense of being disadvantaged.”

Today a prominent international magistrate, Judge Buergethal has served as a judge of the ICJ since March 2000 and was re-elected in February 2006 to a full nine-year term.

With his time divided between hearing cases—all 15 justices hear every case—sitting in on hearings that may last up to eight weeks at a time, and writing individual opinions, he has been part of numerous landmark decisions that have affected the development of international law.

In addition, he is a widely respected professor and scholar who spent 11 years at The George Washington University School of Law as the Lobingier Professor of International Law and

### About the International Court of Justice (also known as The World Court)

Located in the Netherlands’ capital, The Hague, the 15-member court is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It tries solely cases involving disputes between states. Recent cases have centered on territorial water rights, human rights violations and illegal exploitation of minorities. Judge Thomas Buergethal is the American judge on the Court, with others coming from UN member nations including one from each permanent Security Council member and two from each major world region. Appointments are by concurrent vote of the UN General Assembly and Security Council and are for 9-year terms; judges may be reappointed. Judge Buergethal’s current term runs through 2015.

### Career Highlights

- 1957: graduates summa cum laude from Bethany College
- 1960: earns J.D. degree from NYU Law School, where he was a Root-Tilden Scholar
- LL.M. (1961) and S.J.D. (1968) degrees from Harvard Law School
- 1989-2000: Lobingier Professor of International and Comparative Law and Presiding Director of its International Rule of Law Center, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- 1980-1985: Dean, American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C. (1980-85)
- 1985-1989: Professor of Law, Emory University Law School, Atlanta, Ga. (1985-89)
- 1985-1989: Director, Human Rights Program, Carter Center, Atlanta, Ga. 1985-89)
- 1975-1980: Professor of Law, University of Texas Law School, Austin, Texas (1975-80)

### Judicial Appointments

- Judge and President, Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- Judge and President of the Administrative Tribunal, Inter-American Development Bank
- First American elected to the UN Human Rights Committee
- Member, UN Truth Commission for El Salvador
- Vice Chairman, Claims Resolution Tribunal for Dormant Accounts, Switzerland

### Honors and Accolades

- Honorary President, American Society of International Law
- Honorary President, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, San Jose, Costa Rica
- Honorary degrees from the University of Heidelberg, Free University of Brussels, Bethany College, State University of New York (Buffalo), American University, University of Minnesota, The George Washington University and the University of Goettingen

### Publications

- *International Human Rights* (with D. Shelton and D. Stewart), 3rd edition, 2002;
- *Public International Law* (with Sean Murphy), 4th edition, 2007
- Author and co-author of more than a dozen books and numerous articles on international law and human rights topics
- *Ein Glueckskind (Child of Fortune)*, childhood memoirs, 2007

Comparative Law and presiding director of the International Rule of Law Center. He previously served as dean of the American University Washington College of Law and has held endowed professorships at the University of Texas and Emory University law schools.

The first American to serve on the UN Human Rights Committee and the only American ever elected judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judge Buergethal is the author and co-author of more than a dozen books and numerous articles on a variety of international law and human rights topics. Numerous accolades and awards include the Louis B. Sohn Award from the International Law and Practice Section of the American Bar Association (2006.)

Although “never for a long enough period of time,” he returns to the United States about three times a year, to lecture and visit his grandchildren. He and his wife maintain an apartment in Washington, D.C., where he lived for many years before moving to Europe for his ICJ appointment.

However, “it’s been a long time—I think about a decade—since I’ve been back to Bethany College,” he says.

Reflecting on his time at the College, Judge Buergethal emphasizes its life-changing nature.

“By the time I graduated in 1957, the same year I became an American citizen, my emotional Americanization had also set in. I was not only legally an American; I also felt like one.” ●

# Right Person.

Returning to his roots in West Virginia, **SCOTT D. MILLER** brings a sought-after work ethic, creativity and ability to his position as Bethany College's 19th President. Let the future begin.



Above: Dr. Miller with students. Right: Now settling into their new residence in historic Pendleton Heights are President Scott D. Miller and his wife, Annie, a registered nurse. Both were raised in the region, he in Edinboro, Pa.; she, in Rio Grande, Ohio. Though officially "empty-nesters," the Millers expect frequent visits from their daughters: Katie, 23, a standout scholar-athlete at Goucher College in Maryland where she played soccer and graduated with honors in 2006, is currently enrolled as a doctoral student in pharmacy at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va.; and Ashlee, 21, a senior at the University of Delaware, who recently completed an internship with U.S. Sen. Tom Carper.

# Right Time.

“WE HOPE THAT BETHANY IS READY FOR HIM.” That was a common refrain of new Bethany President Scott D. Miller’s Cabinet, Board, faculty, alumni and community leaders at Wesley College in Dover, Del., upon learning of his selection as Bethany’s 19th president.

After 10 transformative years (1997-2007) on the Dover campus, a college in covenant with the United Methodist Church, Dr. Miller, 49, is poised to bring his energy and passion for strategic planning, vision and partnerships to Bethany. Now in his 18th

year as a college president, he brings experience on two other small liberal arts campuses to the challenge ahead.

“With its strong sense of place, proud history and tradition and reputation as an excellent small college of national distinction, all the pieces are in place for Bethany to become one of the nation’s premier liberal arts institutions,” says Dr. Miller.

Adjectives including “indefatigable,” “visionary,” “irrepressible,” “visible” and “supportive” are commonly used to describe Bethany’s new CEO, who was honored by colleagues at Wesley as president emeritus in December 2007 after four consecutive years of top tier regional rankings for Wesley College

from *U.S. News and World Report*.

A national leader in higher education, a frequent author and presenter who chairs the Council on Independent Colleges’ (CIC) New Presidents Program, Dr. Miller is credited with tripling the Delaware college’s enrollment and doubling its endowment in his decade-long tenure.

At Wesley, he led a 10-year strategic master plan through eight years, completing more than \$40 million worth of new construction while raising \$67 million overall, creating a satellite campus, adding new academic niches and spearheading numerous synergistic community partnerships.

“Scott Miller is the finest CEO with whom I’ve had the pleasure of working,”

says Wayne Holden of Dover, a Wesley trustee and co-chair of the Schwartz Center for the Arts in that city’s historic downtown, a project launched by Wesley College, Delaware State University and Friends of the Capitol Theater, a local arts group.

At Bethany, he is expected to bring the same work ethic,

creativity and reputation as an “idea man” that he exhibited at Wesley and previously, as president and executive vice president of Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee.

Perceptive analytical skills coupled with willingness to take calculated risks make President Miller a sought-after mentor, troubleshooter and reviewer on other campuses, says Dr. James L. Fisher, president-emeritus of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and a widely-published national higher education consultant. Dr. Fisher, who has worked with more than 300 colleges and universities nationwide, commends President Miller for his acute vision, sense of mission and ability to quickly size up a situation and act upon it.

“Surveying the field of college presidents, I see few with his energy and ability,” adds Dr. Marylouise Fennell, RSM, principal of Gallagher-Fennell Higher Education Services and former president of Carlow University, both in Pittsburgh.

A former college and high school athlete, Dr. Miller enjoys following sports, especially college football and professional baseball. He is an active United Methodist layman. Raised in Edinboro, Pa., and educated at West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he earned his undergraduate degree and went on to begin his career as sports information director, Dr. Miller is, in a very real sense, “coming home” to West Virginia. His wife, Annie, is a native of Southeastern, Ohio.

“We are very much looking forward to beginning a New Year and a new life at Bethany,” says Dr. Miller. ●





### What initially attracted you to Bethany?

I had known Bethany over the years as a small liberal arts college of national distinction with a beautiful campus and scenic mountaintop location. The fact that it is located not far from my wife Annie's and my roots was an additional "plus."

### What strengths and challenges do you see?

In addition to its academic reputation and campus, Bethany can boast a strong alumni base with phenomenal graduates in leadership posts worldwide. The oldest private college in West Virginia, it is an historic institution with a sense of tradition and community.

Building upon these strengths, we need to grow the traditional enrollment to about 1,100 while continuing to upgrade facilities to provide the contemporary student-friendly amenities that today's undergraduates expect. We also need to enhance our academic delivery systems, offering, for example, both distance learning and classes at community college campuses around the region. In addition, there is tremendous potential in continuing education programs.

### What will be your first areas of focus?

When I accepted the presidency of Bethany, I made five commitments to the Board. One was in the enrollment area; we have begun with a professional enrollment audit and are continuing to implement its recommendations. The second is to grow the endowment to \$75 to \$100 million. That, I think, is very doable, and we are already underway. The third is to renovate and expand the physical plant, especially in

the areas of student services facilities. Fourth, I have pledged to use the Institutional Review now in hand as the foundation for a long-term, 10-year comprehensive strategic plan. Finally, I will embark on a focused image-building campaign to put Bethany College back on the national map.

### How will your previous two presidencies at Lincoln Memorial University and Wesley College inform your Presidency here?

My 18 years as a college president at small liberal arts colleges have given me the experience and perspective to forego a learning curve and to begin at Bethany with a proactive agenda from Day One. My first presidency, at Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee – where I spent 13 years as president and in other senior leadership posts– is especially helpful in providing me with first-hand knowledge of the culture and practices of Bethany's peer institutions since both are members of the Appalachian Colleges Association.

### How have your first few months in office gone?

They've been terrific. Bethany College is already a healthy institution that possesses a magnificent campus and the financial and physical assets to move to the next level of vitality.

### How have you found the Bethany community?

The College community has been outstanding; in fact, my family and I have basked in the warmest welcome we have received in any of my three presidencies. Thank you!

### What are you most looking forward to?

In my first two years, to crafting a comprehensive 10-year Strategic Plan. Meanwhile, to growing Bethany College, both financially and in terms of enrollment while spearheading a variety of initiatives to garner the national visibility that it merits.

## SCOTT D. MILLER BIOGRAPHY IN BRIEF

**1991**

Becomes president of Lincoln Memorial University

**1997**

Assumes Presidency of Wesley College

**1998**

Spearheads more than \$4.5 million investments in campus renovations and refurbishments

**1999**

Wesley welcomes largest freshman class in 25 years

The Council for the Advancement & Support of Education (CASE) cites the College with its Award for Excellence in Fund-Raising

**2000**

Wesley Board approves comprehensive 10-year Master Plan, From Here to 2010

**2001**

Partnership announced with the University of Delaware as a charter member of the Delaware Biotechnology Institute

Establishment of the MBNA School of Professional Studies

**2002**

Wesley featured as one of "four amazing turnarounds" in *The Small College Guide to Financial Health* (NACUBO)

**2004**

President Miller named one of 17 transformative presidents nationwide in *The Entrepreneurial College President* (ACE)

**2005**

Wesley College earns first in a series of four consecutive "Best Regional Colleges" rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*.

**2006**

Academic Village completed with dedication of Malmberg Hall and Joseph Bellmeyer Honors House.

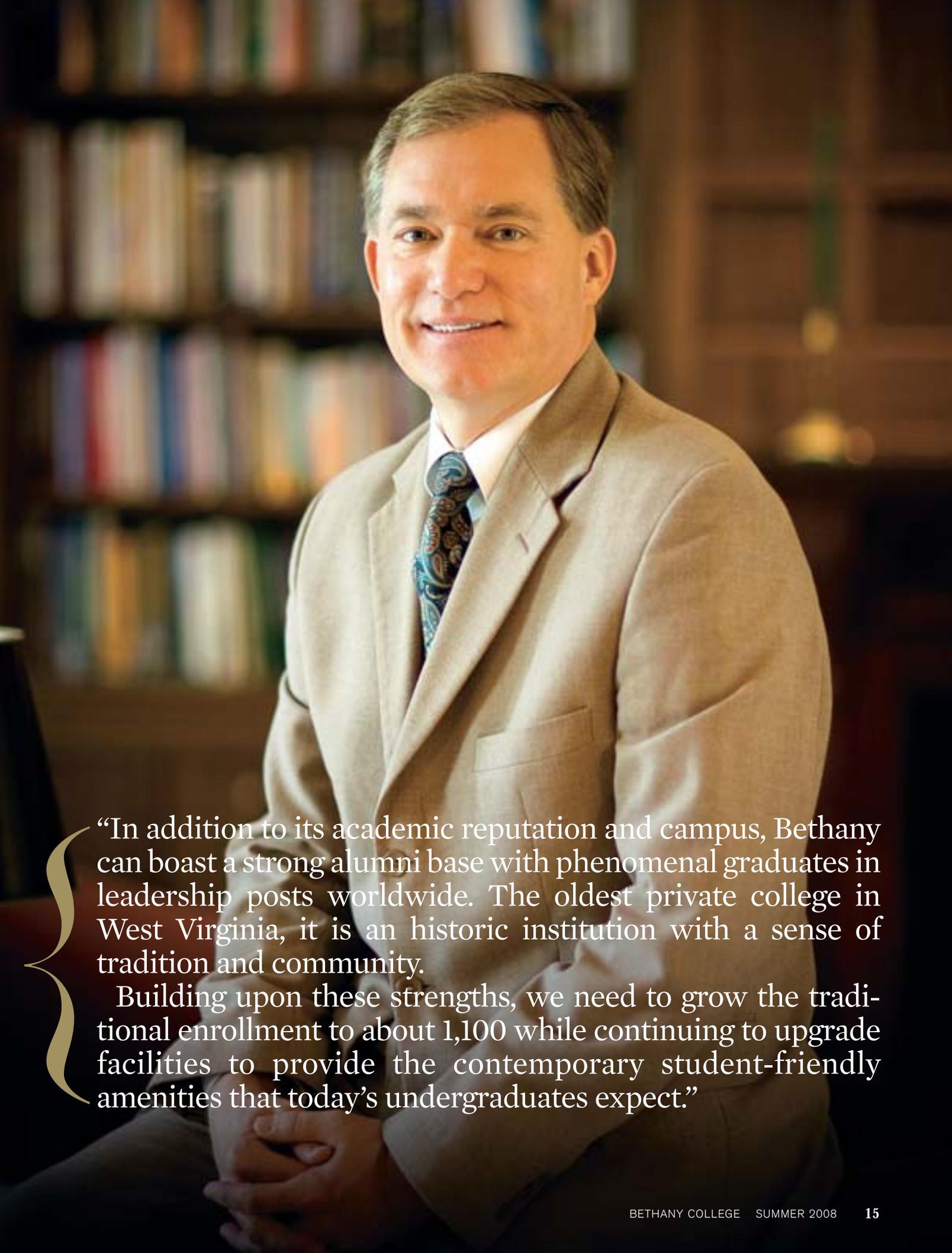
New chair and task force on Global Initiatives established

**2007**

College caps \$67 million capital campaign for Wesley; College's endowment doubles, \$40 million in new construction

Named 19th president of Bethany College

**Meet Dr. Miller:** <http://www.bethanywv.edu/about-bethany/presidents-welcome/presidential-biography>



“In addition to its academic reputation and campus, Bethany can boast a strong alumni base with phenomenal graduates in leadership posts worldwide. The oldest private college in West Virginia, it is an historic institution with a sense of tradition and community.

Building upon these strengths, we need to grow the traditional enrollment to about 1,100 while continuing to upgrade facilities to provide the contemporary student-friendly amenities that today’s undergraduates expect.”

# High Marks

## Recommendations to Undergird **Comprehensive Master Plan**

“BETHANY IS A VITAL and very promising liberal arts college,” notes an outside institutional review completed in January.

Bethany’s faculty, staff and campus earned plaudits from the recent institutional review, as did teacher education and other academic programs and alumni outcomes. However, the College needs to continue to strengthen its endowment and raise its enrollment, a report by the outside team which visited campus from November 2007-January 2008 reported.

“The College’s own analyses suggest that Bethany’s enrollment must exceed 950 students, the review states. Fall 2007 headcount enrollment was 805; however, “the good news is that these enrollment numbers are substantially larger than Bethany experienced several years ago,” it adds.

Further, because Bethany is a tuition-driven institution, massive tuition discounting of 45-50 percent has resulted in a loss of almost half the College’s gross tuition revenues, the review noted.

It recommends the more conventional discounting for a roughly similar liberal arts college of between 30-35 percent.

These and other recommendations will form the basis for a comprehensive 10-year Master Plan to be developed and implemented by President Miller and the Board of Trustees. President Miller has pledged to increase full-time enrollment to at least 1,000 within two years while adding distance learning and “two-plus-two” programs on community college campuses. (see Miller interview, page 10 ).

Fundraising from alumni, major donors and foundations must also be

increased to reduce the currently unsustainable 10 percent spending rate from endowment, with additional staff resources devoted to this area, the report notes. A recent report from NACUBO (the National Association of College and University Business Officers) reveals that the current best practice is at about five percent. President Miller’s goal is to increase the endowment to \$75 to \$100 million as part of a comprehensive master plan to be crafted within the next two years.

Also earning high marks from the review are Bethany’s programs in Economics, English, Psychology and Social Work as well as the new McCann Learning Center and the College’s distinctive PASS program serving students with a variety of special needs. It also applauds Bethany’s “devoted” faculty who put teaching first and are known for “walking the extra mile.”

The 96-page review addresses institutional strength, issues, opportunities and limitations in areas including academics, faculty, students, administration, intercollegiate athletics, technology, budget and finance, fundraising, public relations, senior officers and governance.

President Miller noted that while much of the review is written based upon individual opinions, campus reviewers interviewed an extensive cross-section of more than 130 members of the Bethany community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, volunteer leaders and parents as well as area residents, business leaders and prospective students in compiling their survey.

“Its findings represent a sound road map for the future,” he concluded.

## Bethany Welcomes Kalon Leaders

SIXTY-FIVE LEADERS WHO HAVE distinguished themselves through scholarship and community service were hosted on campus this spring, welcomed by President Miller. The College anticipates welcoming back 15 Kalon Leaders as students in Fall 2008. This marked the 166th year for the College to recognize the leadership and service activities of its students and the 24th to reward students for community involvement through the Kalon Leaders Scholarship Program.

Alumnus R. Timothy Stack, ’75, president and CEO of Piedmont Health Care, was keynote speaker.

“Tim Stack and other distinguished Bethanians honed the qualities that have made them national and international leaders right here on this campus,” President Miller noted.

---

## InterAmerican Consortium Fosters International Study Opportunities

BETHANY COLLEGE IS NOW A new member of the InterAmerican Consortium of Higher Education comprised of Elmira College, Lake Erie College, Lewis University, Neumann College and Wesley College. The initial focus of the consortium has been to bring students from Costa Rica to American higher educational institutions. The Consortium works in partnership with the Universidad Interamericana of Costa Rica and Panama. Members are seeking to expand the scope of exchange opportunities to include affiliations with Australia Catholic University and American University of Bulgaria.

---

## Bethany Hosts Governor’s Academy

BEGINNING THIS YEAR and for the next three summers, Bethany will host the prestigious West Virginia Governor’s Honors Academy involving students from each of the state’s 55 counties. Following an intensive, three-

week-long experience on our campus, it is hoped that many of them will also select Bethany as their college home. Some 180 students are expected for this year's event, scheduled for June 29-July 20, 2008.

"We are honored to have been selected to host the Governor's Honors Academy and look forward to welcoming many of the best and brightest of West Virginia's high school students to our campus over the next three summers," said President Miller. "We are planning a number of exciting and challenging activities to help in expanding the educational horizons of these gifted young men and women."

Founded by Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV in 1984, during his term as Governor, the GHA is designed to stimulate and support excellence in education by placing high-ability/high-achieving students in an academically rich environment at an institution of higher education.

---

## College Celebrates 168th Founder's Day

BETHANY TURNED 168 YEARS OLD March 2, 2008, more than a century and a half since Alexander Campbell established the College as the oldest independent institution of higher education in West Virginia.

"Dr. Campbell proved to be a visionary leader at a time when there were just a relative handful of colleges in the entire nation, providing both the land and the funding and going on to serve as Bethany's first president," President Miller noted in Founder's Day remarks on March 6.

Of the more than 660 small liberal arts colleges founded in the "golden age" for American higher education from

1830-1860, fewer than 20 percent, including Bethany, have survived the tumult of wars, economic depression and changing demographics, he added.

"Against the odds, our founder pursued a vision that has led to a small college of national distinction, with more than 22,000 alumni going forth to become national and international leaders," President Miller concluded.

"The College's essential character—emphasizing intellectual freedom, diversity, personal growth, leadership and a close academic community—has continued to flourish."

---

## Bethany Hosts Camp Canyon

BETHANY'S SCENIC 1,300-ACRE campus will be the setting of Camp Canyon, a co-ed residential summer camp where children have the opportunity to experience summer in a new way. A three-week residential camp for children entering Grades 2-10, the program offers campers an extensive and diverse program, including campfires, hiking, swimming, soccer, tennis, lacrosse, flag football, volleyball, arts and crafts, and theatre. Equestrian and ice hockey are also offered.

---

## Dr. Marvin Meyer Keynotes Annual Scott Lectures

DR. MARVIN MEYER, A NOTED author, teacher and theologian, was the featured speaker at the 53rd Oregon E. Scott Lectures hosted on campus this spring. His topic was Disciples and Gospels – Lost and Found.

Author of numerous books and articles on Greco-Roman and Christian religions in antiquity, he is Griset Professor of Bible and Christian Studies

and co-chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Chapman University in Orange, Calif. Dr. Meyer also directs the University's Albert Schweitzer Institute and recently served as chair of the Chapman University Faculty and president of the Faculty Senate.

The first Scott lecture was given on Founder's Day 1956 by Pulitzer Prize winner Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., professor of history at Harvard University, launching a precedent for ongoing excellence. The series' namesake, a Pittsburgh businessman, was an alumnus of Bethany, Class of 1892, and later a trustee and benefactor. In 1955, he established a fund to endow a lecture series on the history and founders of Bethany College and on the work of the Disciples of Christ. Expanded to two days, the program became an annual "Minister's Workshop," and that tradition has continued up to the present.

Bethany College continues to take pride in its relationship with the church and opportunities to bring its leaders to campus.

---

## Hibernia House Gains New Identity

ORIGINALLY OWNED BY BETHANY founder Alexander Campbell, the Hibernia House has found new life as the Renner Visiting Scholars Residence. Beginning this fall, the historic home pre-dating the founding of Bethany College in 1840, will house scholars and lecturers visiting the campus. At various times in its history, it has served as home to a frontier press, The Millennial Harbinger; a boarding house; private residence; a student/faculty residence and sorority house; and home to two College presidents and vice-presidents.

"It is rewarding—and I believe our founder would have approved—to have this historic home revitalized for a dynamic new use," President Miller noted.

---

**"The College's essential character—emphasizing intellectual freedom, diversity, personal growth, leadership and a close academic community—has continued to flourish."**

---

# Bison of a gun!

BETHANY'S YOUNG softball team, consisting of only seven seniors and juniors on a roster with 25 players, battled consistency issues throughout the 2008 season. But when the postseason came around, the Bison put everything together to go on a wild, unexpected ride through the postseason.





# Sports

Although the temperatures were typically cold during the winter months at Bethany, the Bison sports teams kept fans warm with plenty of victories on the basketball courts, an All-American on the track and numerous school records in the pool.



## Men's Basketball

THE 2007-08 SEASON didn't start off the way the Bison wanted, as they were just 6-7 overall at the midway point of the season, with five of those losses coming by four points or less. Bethany picked the right time to get back on track, as their season turned around with a 73-53 rout of defending PAC champion Grove City on the road Jan. 12, which ignited an eight-game winning streak.

The victory string was highlighted by a 41-point blowout of Westminster, a thrilling 86-83 overtime triumph at Washington & Jefferson and a 77-76 win at Thomas More, as junior Petre Petkovski scored the game-winning bucket with just 11 seconds to play. The streak also saw an 87-62 victory at Geneva, as senior Brody Jackson fired in 21 points to become just the 21st men's player in Bethany history to reach 1,000 career points.

Although BC's had its



streak stopped at eight with a one-point loss at Saint Vincent, the Green and White rebounded in their next outing to defeat Grove City 78-61 to clinch the top seed and home court advantage throughout the PAC Tournament. Bethany didn't build a great deal of momentum for the conference playoffs however, as it lost its final two regular season games at Westminster by two and at home against W&J by three.

Once the PAC Tournament began, the Bison were off and running again. In the semifinals against #5 Thomas More, Bethany had six players score in double figures, led by Jackson (21 points, six assists) and junior Tyler Morando (18 points, eight rebounds), as they out-gunned the Saints 105-98 to move into the championship game.

In the title tilt, Jackson propelled BC to victory, as he scored 22 of his game-high 30 points in the second half. Petkovski added 14 markers and seven rebounds

off the bench in a 90-76 win over W&J to give the Bison their PAC-high 12th league championship in school history. With the victory, Bethany also earned the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, which marked the sixth trip to the Big Dance for the Bison in their 100 seasons of basketball.

In the tournament, the Bison drew a first round assignment against Capital (Ohio) University, the regular season champion of the Ohio Athletic Conference.

Although BC led 26-20 midway through the first half, the Crusaders rallied to take an 18-point halftime lead and went on to a 92-70 tri-

umph to end the Bison's season with a 17-11 record. Senior captains Jackson and Marcus Adams ended their outstanding careers by scoring 16 points each in the contest.

Jackson and Adams would also be rewarded following the season. They both earned First Team All-PAC honors, with Jackson also being selected as the conference's Player of the Year. A 6-0 guard from Akron, Ohio, Jackson added First Team (D3Hoops.com) and Second Team (NABC) All-Great Lakes Region honors, as well as co-ECAC South Region Player of the Year laurels to his collection after he finished his career ranked 11th all-time at Bethany in scoring (1,175) and fourth in three-pointers (215).



## Women's Basketball

THE BISON WOMEN enjoyed their best season in four years, as the program posted a 15-11 overall record and 10-4 mark and third place finish in the PAC regular season standings. BC's strong season was spurred on by a defense



which finished the year ranked 15th in all of Division III in steals.

Bethany dropped three out of four games in early February to stand at 10-9 overall, but a five-game winning streak, started by a 78-67 triumph over Thiel, ensured BC's first winning season since

2004. The final win of that stretch saw Bethany edge Westminster 53-50 on the road when junior Susannah Cartland's three-point play with 5.1 seconds to play supplied the winning points.

The season would come to an end in the PAC Tournament Quarterfinals, as Grove City knocked off the third-seeded Bison at home 71-68. Although the campaign had a disappointing finish, four BC players were honored following the season. Senior Lisa Mitchell and freshman Kelly Goode received Second Team All-PAC accolades, while Cartland and junior Kaitlyn McCormick garnered Honorable Mention status.

The awards weren't all for work on the court. Mitchell was honored with ESPN the Magazine Third Team Academic All-District II recognition for her work in the classroom as well.

---

## Indoor Track

BETHANY SOPHOMORE Matt Cruse was the highlight of the Bison indoor track and field season, as he became the first Bison in school history to qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Cruse provisionally qualified for



nationals in the 55 hurdles during the Feb. 23 meet at Kent State. He would also earn a chance to compete at the ECAC Indoor Championship meet, which is where he solidified his spot at NCAAs. Entering the meet, he was ranked 15th in the nation, leaving him "on the bubble" for earning a berth to the national meet.

Running against two of the best hurdlers in the nation, Cruse finished third at ECACs with a time of 7.61 seconds, which moved him up to ninth in the country and clinched a trip to NCAA Championships. Without his performance at the ECAC meet, Cruse would not have had a chance to compete at NCAAs, as only 11 hurdlers received invitations to the meet.

Although he was seeded ninth out of 11 competitors at nationals, Cruse quickly proved himself as one of the top hurdlers in attendance. In the preliminaries, the sophomore from Naples, Fla., finished second in his heat and earned the sixth seed for the final race. In the championship race, Cruse broke the tape in 7.60 seconds to earn fourth place overall, making him the first Indoor Track & Field All-American in Bethany College history.

This was Cruse's second NCAA Championship appearance, as he also qualified in outdoor track in the 110 hurdles during his freshman season. Although he set the school record in the event with a time of 14.71, Cruse just missed out on a spot in the finals and finished 11th in the nation.

## Swimming & Diving

THE BETHANY SWIMMING and diving teams enjoyed strong campaigns in 2007-08. The women's team recorded three victories in dual meets, their highest total since the 1999-2000 season. Three school records were broken and one Bison brought home her second consecutive PAC championship.

Sophomore Desiree Finley was the repeat winner, as she earned first place in the one-meter diving competition at the conference championship meet. She was in first place following the preliminaries and then scored 316.50 to claim her second straight PAC title. Finley's freshman teammate Sara Patnesky also earned Third Team All-PAC on the one-meter board.



All three school records were set during the PAC Championship meet. Freshman Kenny Drombosky broke Bethany's 41-year old record in the 50 Freestyle, as he finished with a time of 21.98 seconds to win the consolation finals and surpass Pete Cassell's 1967-mark of 22.40.

The other two records were on the women's side. The 4x800 relay team of freshman Suzanne Stettinius, freshman Jillian Zewe, junior Brenda Maxwell and senior Erin Staniech posted a time of 8:41.49 to clip nearly seven seconds off the previous record which had stood since 1998. Maxwell would claim the other school mark, as she shaved 18 seconds off the record in the 1,650 Freestyle, which was set by Mary E. Scollins in 1975. Maxwell placed seventh overall in the event with a time of 19:07.43.

# Sports

The Bison's spring sports season matched the winter with one team going on a magical ride to claim a conference title and advance to the NCAA Tournament, a track runner putting together an All-American performance and school records falling.

## Softball

BETHANY'S YOUNG SOFTBALL team, consisting of only seven seniors and juniors on a roster with 25 players, battled consistency issues throughout the 2008 season. But when the postseason came around, the Bison put everything together to go on a wild, unexpected ride through the postseason.

A 19-21 overall record and 9-5 PAC mark was good enough to give BC the third seed in the four-team PAC Tournament. Squaring off against Thomas More, the defending conference champion, in the first round, Bethany jumped out to a quick lead when senior Kara O'Dell crushed a solo homer in the first inning for a 1-0 lead. That would be all senior pitcher Heather Immesberger would need, as her incredible postseason started with a four-hit shutout of the Saints.

Later in the day, the top-seed Washington & Jefferson took a 1-0 lead into the seventh inning, but the Bison rallied for the win to move into the tournament championship game. Sophomore Nikki Gillis evened the score in the seventh with an RBI single and freshman Chelsea Butler hit a two-out, two-run single to give Bethany a 3-1 lead. Immesberger retired the Presidents in order in the bottom of the inning to clinch the win.

In the title game, Bethany was matched up with Waynesburg, which took a 1-0 lead on a home run in the second inning. BC tied it up at 1-1 an inning later on the first career home run by junior Brittany Leslie, then took the lead in the fifth on a two-out, RBI double from Butler. Immesberger took care of the rest, as she struck out a career-



high 12 batters to clinch the Bison's 2-1 win and wrap up the program's 12th PAC title in school history and fifth trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Bethany's ticket to the NCAA Tournament took them to the Ithaca Regional in New York. BC was the sixth-seed and drew a first round matchup with the University of Rochester. Although the Yellow Jackets had won 16 straight coming into the game, they could not slow down the Bison. Immesberger struck out seven in a two-hit shutout and Butler had another two-out RBI double in a 2-0 Bethany victory.

The Bison's Cinderella story added another chapter the next day against Ramapo (N.J.) College, which was ranked 13th in the nation after being as high as 8th during the season. In perhaps their most complete game of the season, BC opened the scoring with a run in the second and would build up a five-run advantage en route to a 5-1 triumph to move into the winner's bracket championship game. Sophomore Bridgette Fauth had two hits and

scored twice and Butler drove in a pair to lead a lineup that saw eight of the nine starters get hits. Immesberger was sharp again, scattering seven hits over seven innings and striking out five to raise her record to 18-8.

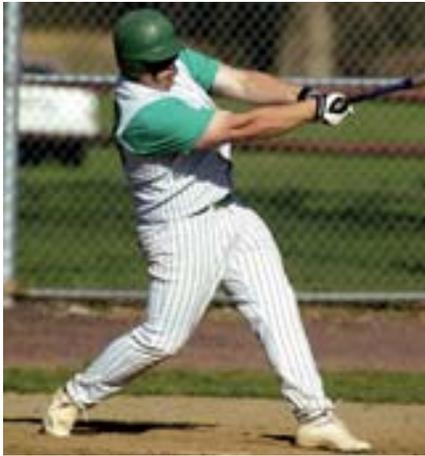
Bethany's ride through the postseason would come to an end over the next two games, as they dropped a 4-0 decision to eventual regional champion Ithaca and then suffered a narrow 2-1 setback to Rochester. The Rochester loss came despite Immesberger striking out nine batters to set a Bethany single-season record (165). Despite entering the NCAA Tournament with the lowest winning percentage of any team, BC wound up taking third place at the eight-team regional.

The accomplishments of the Bison did not go unnoticed following the season. Immesberger and Gillis were named the Regional All-Tournament Team. The PAC recognized six BC players, including Immesberger and Fauth with First Team honors, sophomore Ashley Marinacci and freshman Andrea Thomas with Second Team laurels and Butler and

Leslie with Honorable Mention accolades. Three of those players, Immesberger, Fauth and Butler, would also receive Third Team All-Central Region awards from the NFCA. And completing the honorees was senior Kara O'Dell, who was voted to ESPN the Magazine First Team Academic All-District II.

---

## Baseball



THE BETHANY BASEBALL team battled through a tough season in '08. Despite gathering just 10 wins on the year, there were a couple bright spots. Sophomore Chris Leasure earned First

Team All-PAC accolades after he led the team with eight home runs, 10 doubles and 34 RBIs. His eight homers were the second-most in one season at Bethany and give him 12 in just two years as a Bison, which places him third in school history.

On the mound, freshman Adam Nyswaner broke the single-season appearance record by pitching in 19 games. Next year looks brighter for the Green and White, as they'll return seven of nine starters in the lineup and all of their top pitchers from this season.

---

## Men's Golf

THE 2008 GOLF SEASON came to an end at the PAC Championships, which were held at the Oak Tree Country Club in West Middlesex, Pa. . Senior Kris Simmons was the team's top finisher, as he placed 19th overall, five spots out of All-PAC consideration. Fellow senior Brandon Tonkovich shot a team-best 78 on the final day of championships to place 24th overall. Sophomore Logan Kowcheck and senior Dominic DeCarlo rounded out the Bison's foursome at PACs.

## Men's Tennis

THE BISON MEN'S TENNIS TEAM went through growing pains this spring, as only two players returned from the 2007 team which won five matches. Junior Andrew McPherson was back, but the Bison's top player was freshman Dustin Opalka. He recorded four singles wins during the season, including a pair of PAC triumphs. Opalka also teamed with McPherson to capture two doubles contests during the season. The 2009 season also shapes up as a better one for the Green and White, as there were no seniors on this year's roster.



## NEW FOOTBALL FIELD



THE ATHLETIC FACILITIES are receiving an extensive face-lift at Bethany over the spring and summer months. The project includes the construction and revitalization of the football, track and softball facilities with the deadline for completion being July 15.

The facility upgrade began in mid-

April with the excavation of the previous field. The project has moved along quickly and is on target to be finished at the July deadline, if not sooner.

Once completed, the football field will have a new artificial turf surface, which will be surrounded by a new 400-meter synthetic all-weather track, and lights. The fully renovated

softball field will include a re-graded surface, permanent outfield fence, new fencing by the dugouts and baselines and a new backstop.

Coming in the fall issue of *Bethany Today* will be complete details of the project's completion, as well as pictures documenting the various phases of the construction.

# Classnotes

## We'd love to hear from you!

We're interested in hearing how you are doing. Send or email your engagements, marriages, births, promotions or other news to be published in *Bethany Today*.

**William Bonville '47** has released a travel book titled, *A Traveler's Highway to Heaven: Exploring the History and Culture of Northern Spain on el Camino de Santiago*. The book is available through SynergEbooks.

**Dr. Jeff Eger '66** has constructed a new website for any golfer who wants to get rid of the YIPS or just wants to lower their score, [www.drputts.com](http://www.drputts.com).

**Adrian Melott '68** was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, "For distinguished contributions to the cosmological large-scale structure, for organizing public support for teaching evolution, and for interdisciplinary research on astrophysical impacts on the biosphere."

**Russ Vanderbeek '77** was recently promoted to Vice President of National Sales and will also become an International Business Development Consultant for Wachovia Securities. He and his wife currently reside in St. Louis, Mo.

On November 8, 2007 **Nancy Lewis '78** was awarded the PR Team Leader of the Year award from *PR News Magazine*. A ceremony in honor of Nancy was held at National Press Club, in Washington, D.C.

**Robert Brosh '85** was recently awarded a research grant from the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund. The funding will go into effect in 2008 for two years. He will be receiving \$25,000 per year for the research. Robert's research is titled: *Molecular and Cellular Investigation of the FANCF Helicase Defective in Fanconi Anemia*. This information was also published in the 2007 fall FA Family Newsletter.

**John H. Olson '88** was invited to play in an international polo tournament hosted by the Yale Polo Club of which he is a member. The Yale Polo Club proved victorious in the tournament, where they defeated Ireland's Polo Wicklow Club in a three match tournament. John and his wife Cassidy currently reside in Killingworth, Conn.

**Victoria Taylor**; adopted in June 2007 by **Laura L. Taylor '90**. Victoria was born September 30, 2002. They reside at 29 Baker Rd. SW, Cartersville, GA 30120.

**Karen Keener '97** recently earned National Board Certification. National Board Certification is the highest achievement a teacher can receive. Karen started the process in 2006, and after much time and effort completed it in 2007.

**Brent Waldman** graduated WVU Dent al School in 2004. He is currently serving with the Air Force and is stationed in Italy with his wife **Jessica (Warfield) Waldman '02** and their two-year-old son Beck.

## Births

Owen Alexander Stillwell; born December 18, 2007 to **Christopher Stillwell '98** and **Jessica Cunningham Stillwell '98**. They currently reside in South Park, Pa.

Erin Rachel Harding; born February 9, 2008 to **Kristen Hecker Harding '93** and **Mark Harding**. The family currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Keira Anne Foster; born September 25, 2007 to **Pamela Frei Foster '96** and **Philip Foster**. The family currently resides in Berkley, Mich.

Maryn Lea Pleasko; born September 26, 2007 to **Rebecca Mansberry Plesko '03** and **Joshua Plesko**. The family currently resides in Prosperity, Pa.

Reese William Murphy; born September 9, 2007 to **Robin Butler Murphy '85** and **Ronald Murphy**.

Charlotte Josephine Wells; born September 3, 2007 to **Myra Pross Wells '89** and **Barry Wells**. The family is stationed in the Netherlands with the U.S. Air Force.

James G. O'Toole; born December 3, 2007 to **Darren C. O'Toole '96** and **Kerri K. O'Toole**. The family currently resides in Wall, N.J.

Gerard Basil William McCord; born September 12, 2007 to **Brian McCord '95** and **Amy Vondrak**. They currently reside in Bordentown, N.J.

Owen Michael Edwards; born January 16, 2008 to **Chris Edwards '94** and **Susan Marie Dursa Edwards '93**. The family currently resides in Delray Beach, Fla.

## Marriage

**Cheryl A. Braun '94** and **Raymond E. Thomas** were married on August 25, 2007 on the Gateway Clipper Party Liner in Pittsburgh, Pa. Cheryl is a training specialist at Dish Network Satellite. Robert is works as a driver for DHL Express. The couple currently reside in Robinson Township, Pa.

**Jennifer A. Newcaster '94** and **Paul J. Wierl** were married on October 13, 2007. Other Bethanians in the wedding were **Stacey (Collins) Tearne '93**, **Michele Capots '94**, **Amy (Mayhew) Thompson '94**, **Marci (Jackley) McClelland '95** and **Nick Newcaster '92**. The couple currently resides in Winthrop, Mass.

**Keli N. Freshwater '00** and **Clay R. Henderson** were married July 21, 2007 in Commencement Hall, Bethany College. The couple resides in Weirton, W.Va.

**Meredith Vansant '06** and **Randy Shah '03** were married in 2007. Bethanians in the wedding were **Alex Pentino '03**, **Carissa Moore '05**, **Susan Nosal '07**, **Mallory Roadman '06** and **Frankie Taal '95**. The couple currently resides in Wheeling, W.Va.

**Renee Mohn '01** was recently married to **Mr. Weifenbaugh**. She and her husband currently reside in Butler, Pa.

## Memoriam

**Paul F. Ward '27** of Upper Arlington, Ohio on December 10, 2007.

**Norman Stanley Faulk '32** of Phoenix, Ariz. on December 24, 2007.

**Dr. Max H. Tischler '34** of Boca Raton, Fla. on October 18, 2007.

**Blair E. Saxman '36** of Carlisle, Pa. on March 19, 2008.

**James L. Stoner '41** of Austin Texas, on December 24, 2007.

**Helyn Burrows Jobson '47** of Fort Myers, Fla. on February 24, 2007.

**Helen A. Meess '48** of Pittsburgh, Pa. on January 7, 2008.

**Richard D. May '49** of Brimfield, Mass. on December 23, 2007.

**Amos E. "Top" Redding '50** of Pittsburgh, Pa. on November 29, 2008.

**Francis D. Palmer '51** of Elmira, N.Y. on August 24, 2007.

**Ann Wilkin Trombadore '51** of Bound Brook, N.J. on May 4, 2008.

**Steve Purpura '53** of West Virginia on November 2, 2007.

**Robert Edwin Brown '60** of Holtwood, Pa. on January 25, 2008.

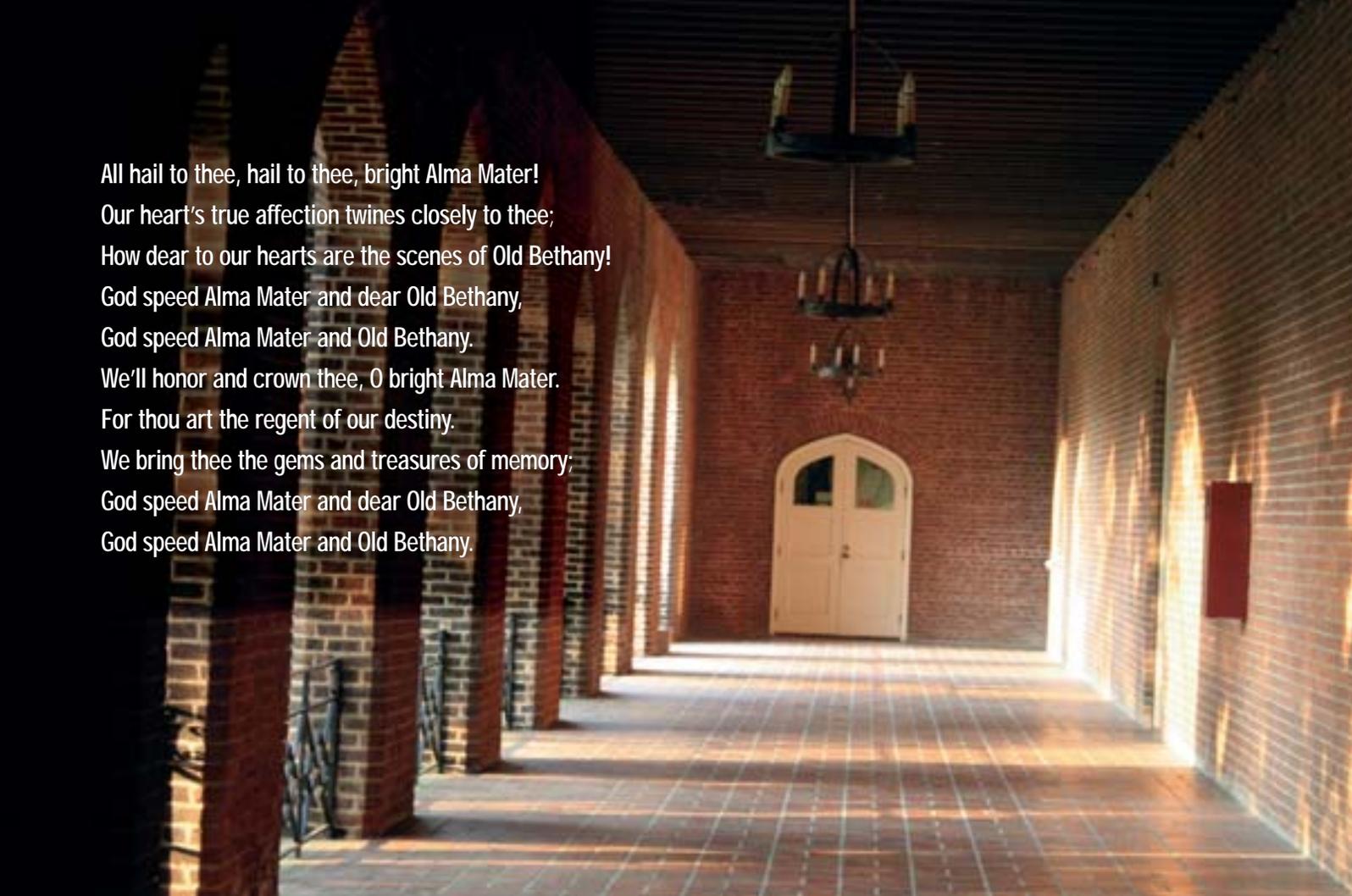
**Harriet M. Lewis '64** of Charlottesville, Va. on June, 15, 2007.

**Mark Gilyard '68** of Cheshire, Mass. on November 6, 2007.

**Larry T. West '69** of San Antonio, Texas on August 28, 2007.

**Laura Jones '81** of Columbus, Ohio on March 24, 2008.

All hail to thee, hail to thee, bright Alma Mater!  
Our heart's true affection twines closely to thee;  
How dear to our hearts are the scenes of Old Bethany!  
God speed Alma Mater and dear Old Bethany,  
God speed Alma Mater and Old Bethany.  
We'll honor and crown thee, O bright Alma Mater.  
For thou art the regent of our destiny.  
We bring thee the gems and treasures of memory;  
God speed Alma Mater and dear Old Bethany,  
God speed Alma Mater and Old Bethany.



**Bethany College**  
Bethany, WV 26032-0417

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Baltimore, MD  
Permit No. 3361