

Homecoming Weekend: Oct. 18-20, 2019

Register at easternmennonite.org/homecoming

Activities for current students, families, alumni and friends.

- Class reunions for grad years ending in '4 and '9
- Activities for students, families, alumni
- Details at easternmennonite.org/homecoming

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 9:30 a.m. **Chapel with Kirsten Nafziger '89 Moore**, Community Engagement Award recipient
- Evening **Some informal reunions at homes and restaurants.**
- 5:30 p.m. **Fan appreciation meal**, outside dining hall. Meal provided by the Booster Club at no cost; drinks available to purchase. **Please register online.** Bring tableware to cut down on disposables. Games. Face painting. Giveaways. Open to all.
- 7 p.m. **Boys varsity soccer v. Virginia Episcopal.** EMU Turf Field. Half-time fun for young fans under the lights.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

- 8:30 to 10 a.m. **Homecoming Breakfast.** Drop in. **Please register online.** \$10 adults; 12 and under free. Featuring a menu by Kirsten Nafziger '89 Moore. Served in the dining hall with tables under the tent outside. Comments at 9:15 by Paul Leaman, head of school, and recognition of alumni award winners.
- 8:30 a.m. **Color Fun Run/Walk.** Register by Oct. 7 for t-shirt. \$5 per person. More details online.
- 10 a.m. **Self-guided tour** through the middle/high building and guided tour of new elementary building. Registration appreciated.
- 11:30 **Touring Choir 2019 rehearsal** in auditorium.
- Noon and evening **Various class reunions.** See schedule online.
- 1 p.m. **JV and Varsity Volleyball vs Broadway** in gym. Free for alumni and EMS families.
- 7:30 p.m. **Homecoming concert.** EMS auditorium. Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Orchestra, and Junior and Senior Choirs. Includes combined choirs performing selections from Haydn's *Creation* and Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth* with harpsichord and small orchestra of students and professionals. Special guest: Lori Snyder '79 Garrett, EMS Alumna of the Year, who was lead architect on the auditorium building addition (2005).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 10 a.m. **Worship.** EMS auditorium. Music by 2019 Touring Choir. Sharing by Richard Shue '69 (Lifetime Service Award recipient) and Lori Snyder '79 Garrett (Alumna of the Year). Offering to benefit student financial aid.

WELCOME HOME!



Content and cover photo by Andrea Wenger. Alumni award article photos courtesy of award recipients.

Harvest celebration photo by Patrick Fore on Unsplash.com.

Today creative team: Andrea Schrock '82 Wenger, writer and editor; Trisha Maust '95 Blosser, editorial assistant; Erin Kennedy Hess, advancement assistant; Lindsey Kolb, designer; Paul Leaman, head of school.

Send feedback to today@easternmennonite.org

Find past issues at easternmennonite.org/today



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TODAY

Volume 37, No. 1
Fall 2019

Save the date!

Details on the calendar at easternmennonite.org

Oct. 18-20 – Homecoming Weekend (see page 5)

Nov. 1, 6 p.m. – Harvest Celebration (see page 6)

Nov. 15 – Making History Day

Dec. 3, 7 p.m. – EMES Christmas concert

Dec. 5, 7 p.m. – EMMS Christmas concert

Dec. 10 & 12, 7:30 p.m. – EMMS Christmas concert

Jan. 20 – Visitation Day, middle and high school

Jan. 24-26 – High school musical, *Little Women*

Jan. 28 – Elementary Open House

Feb. 15 & 16 – *Voces8* in Concert

Fall athletics schedules

Come cheer on your Flames in cross country, volleyball, girls tennis and boys soccer! easternmennonite.org/athletics

News

easternmennonite.org/news



A steady downpour didn't dampen School Day Out at Highland Retreat for grades 9-12, a time of building friendships to launch the new year.

Celebrate with us!

Eastern Mennonite School welcomed 354 students this fall, up 11 students from the previous year with 94 students in K-5, 100 students in middle school and 160 in high school.

"We are thrilled with the high energy and growing diversity of our student body, faculty and staff," says Paul Leaman, head of school. "Our vision is to be a school where every student thrives and belongs," he continues. "We are working hard to fulfill that vision and welcome each person and the unique story they bring."

This year's students come from a wide range of communities with addresses from Bergton to Waynesboro.

Two out-of-state students came from Illinois and Michigan and eight international students came from Nigeria, South Korea, China and South Africa to live in local homes.

Faith traditions represented include Anglican, Buddhist, Catholic, Church of the Brethren, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Evangelical, Judaism, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Mennonite, Muslim, Nazarene, Seventh Day Adventist and United Methodist.

"What a diverse community of learners we are," concludes Leaman. "Celebrate with us!"

MISSION:

Eastern Mennonite School joins home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world.

VISION:

Eastern Mennonite School aspires to reflect Christ's light as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives, and lives God's call.

FOLLOW US:



PLAN TO JOIN OUR HARVEST celebration

FRIDAY, NOV. 1, 6 P.M.

FEATURING seasonal meal, The Walking Roots Band and live auction to benefit Eastern Mennonite School

Tickets to attend and online auction at easternmennonite.org/auction

2019 Alumni Awards

These individuals will be recognized for their accomplishments and service to others as part of Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 18-20. Read full coverage of each recipient at easternmennonite.org/news

Photo courtesy Glavé and Holmes



Alumna of the Year: Lori Snyder '79 Garrett

Photo courtesy of Richard Shue



Lifetime Service Award: Richard Shue '69

Photo by Sarah Featherstone



Community Engagement Award: Kirsten Nafziger '89 Moore



Lori Snyder '79 Garrett, right, collaborates with colleagues at Glavé and Holmes Architecture. Photo courtesy of G&H.

Alumna of the Year: Lori Snyder '79 Garrett

A passion for racial reconciliation and mentoring young female professionals shapes Lori Garrett's work as Senior Principal and Director of the Higher Education Studio at Richmond-based Glavé & Holmes Architecture.

A high school field trip to New York City under the care of art teacher, Esther Augsburger '49, helped her to launch her career. Her touch is on many universities across the Commonwealth and beyond, including the 2005 EMHS Fine Arts addition.

In 2018, Lori submitted a proposal for a national contest to revise Richmond's Monument Avenue. The competition's goal was to "facilitate constructive dialogue around the historic street, Confederate history, urban planning, and public art." Lori's submission is among the final 20 out of 200 under consideration.

Lori will share reflections at Homecoming Sunday worship.

Lifetime Service Award: Richard Shue '69

Richard Shue prefers to work hands on, behind the scenes, something his parents modeled and he's done all his life. Skilled with his hands and in relating to people of all backgrounds, Richard – often joined by his wife Jolene – has used his gifts in the local community and around the world, often in the areas of construction in camp and education settings.

"Rich always puts others before himself," says Diana Suter '70 Berkshire, who nominated him for the award. "He is generous with his time and resources and is always kind. He loves God and serves others because of this. A group of rare and unique character traits in this day and age."

"When you give back," he summarizes, "you get back more than you give."

Richard will share reflections at Homecoming Sunday worship.

Full stories at easternmennonite.org/news



Sub Rosa Flora and Fauna Meal in the George Washington National Forest (before the rain).

Community Engagement Award: Kirsten Nafziger '89 Moore

Not even a surprise downpour on an outdoor dinner party can dampen the enthusiasm of Kirsten Moore to bring people together over good food.

Kirsten is the recipient of the new Community Engagement Award this year in recognition of her gifts for creating space for people to connect. Her touch has spawned multiple businesses and helped launch the local food movement in Harrisonburg.

Her newest project is a revitalization of the former Big L Tire flatiron building, called Maggie. The lower level will house a breakfast and lunch "modern interpretation of the corner diner" along with an in-house bakery making artisanal bread, pastries and pies. The second floor will house The Perch at Maggie, a new location and brand for The Hub Coworking, which Moore launched in 2015.

Kirsten's touch will be on the menu for Sat. breakfast during Homecoming Weekend.

Class of '49 Marks 70th Reunion

The "49ers" meet monthly at a local restaurant and will celebrate their 70th anniversary this Homecoming Weekend.

Left side, front to back: Avinell Ketterman Weaver, Dorothy Yoder Shank, Charlene Weaver Kiser, Anna Mae Hartman Hostetler, Sarah Godshall Hunsberger. Right side front to back: Lorene Weaver Suter, Esther Kniss Augsburger, Ruth Yoder Martin, Peggy Brackbill Shenk, Margaret Yoder Turner.



Photo by a gracious waitress at Xenia in Harmony Square

Article photos by Sarah Featherstone



Farewell and Welcome

We said farewell to the following faculty and staff this summer:

- **Dave Bechler** – 23 years as Athletic Director (22 as boys varsity basketball coach)
- **Jodi Beachy** – 11 years as 5th grade teacher
- **Frances Cedeno** – 1.5 years on dining hall team
- **Roy Good** – five years as bus driver
- **Hope Graber** – 1.5 years on dining hall team
- **Carla Hurst** – six years as counseling office manager
- **Ardith Kauffman** – nine years as EMES office coordinator
- **Liz Martin** – six years as dining hall manager
- **Melodie May** – one year in the front office
- **Barbara Miller** – 12 years as kindergarten teacher



Photo by Andrew Gascho

- **Wendell Shank** – nine years as Spanish teacher
- **Mary Kaye Slonaker** – four years as part of the Advancement team
- **Wendy Stapleton** – five years as biology teacher

office assistant), **Erika Gascho** (5th grade teacher), **Laurie Loucks** (academic lab, English for Internationals), **Sarah Mitch** (HS science and boarding coordinator).

New EMS employees who joined our community this fall include: Front row, left to right: **Erin Williams** (EMES art and K assistant), **Claudia Fencer** (HS science), **Jen Stoltzfus** (EMES

Back row, left to right: **Kristi Strum**, **Edith Emswiler**, **Deb Pardini**, **Devin Archie** (dining hall team with Pardini as manager); **Emily Moyer-Warren** (reading assistant, 3rd grade assistant teacher). Not pictured, **Valeria Eshleman-Robles** (HS Spanish).

EMES Building and Bridge Update

Our K-5 building renovation is nearly move-in ready, thanks to donors who supported our *Let the Children Come* campaign over the past two years. The building has large airy classrooms, lots of natural light, a kitchen, new offices and entry.

"Learning portals" allow students to see building inner workings in a few spots, including space behind drywall where donors, students and supporters wrote blessings last winter. A playground featuring creative climbing and exercise apparatus made from trees and reclaimed tractor tires, and a rooftop garden area are nearly ready for eager outdoor learners!

BRIDGE

In mid August we surpassed our \$50,000 goal to build a bridge between our upper and lower buildings. Donors purchased more than 400 engraved bricks to create a pathway between the bridge and the lower sites.

The bridge will provide safe drop off and pick up space for elementary students, and outdoor covered learning and gathering space. Thank you for participating!

THE FUTURE

Nov. 15 we will have a "Making History Day." All students K-12 will join to help relocate the K-5 classrooms to their new home. Students will also hear stories



about the 1964 move from then Eastern Mennonite College to the "new" high school building (now our middle and high school).

A Gathering Space addition to the elementary school building will be the next big project. Stay tuned!