

Conference natives part of Goshen College Study-Service Term unit to Nicaragua

GOSHEN, Ind. -- Two Illinois Conference natives are participating in the Goshen (Ind.) College study-Service Term (SST) in Nicaragua during this summer, along with 21 other students. This is the first group to return to that country after 30 years. In 1978, the college stopped sending students to the Central American country because it was experiencing great civil unrest that would result in 12 years of war and a devastated economy.

Joshua Richer, son of Ned and Dottie Richer of Saint Charles, is majoring in chemistry and molecular biology/biochemistry at Goshen College. He is a 2005 graduate of Saint Charles North High School and attends Lombard Mennonite Church.

Jill Stalter, daughter of Randy and Sandy Stalter of Flanagan, is majoring in elementary education

at Goshen College. She is a 2005 graduate of Flanagan High School and attends Prairieview Mennonite Church.

The students left for Nicaragua April 30 and will return to the United States on July 29. Doug and Marie Schirch, with their children, Jessica, Juni and Joshua, are leading the unit to Nicaragua. Doug is associate professor of chemistry and spent 15 years in Nicaragua, including 10 years as a college chemistry professor, and Maria is Nicaraguan.

Web updates and photos from the group are available from Goshen College's SST Web site: www.goshen.edu/sst/nica08. Letters can be directed to: Maria y Douglas Schirch, Apdo. Postal #93, Jinotepe, Carazo, Nicaragua, CENTRAL AMERICA.

Conference natives part of Goshen College Study-Service Term unit to Perú

GOSHEN, Ind. -- Two Illinois Conference natives are participating in the Goshen (Ind.) College Study-Service Term (SST) in Perú during this summer, along with 22 other students. Goshen established an SST unit there in 2005.

Andrea Iverson, daughter of Mike and Shari Iverson of Evanston, is majoring in nursing at Goshen College. She is a 2005 graduate of Evanston Township High School and attends Reba Place Church.

Lane Miller, son of Darrel and Lynette Miller of Danvers, is majoring in Bible and religion at Goshen College. He is a 2005 graduate of University High School and attends Hopedale Mennonite Church.

The students left for Perú April 30 and will return to the United States on July 29. Duane Stoltzfus and Karen Sherer Stoltzfus, with their daughters, Kate and Emily, are leading the unit to Perú. Duane is associate professor of communication at Goshen College.

Web updates and photos from the group are available from Goshen College's SST Web site: www.goshen.edu/sst/peruspring08. Letters can be directed to: c/o Diez Canseco, No 212 Dpto. 201, Miraflores, Lima, PERÚ. Stoltzfus is also keeping a blog about his cross-cultural observations at: dstoltzfus.wordpress.com.

Conference natives part of Goshen College's Study-Service Term in Senegal

GOSHEN, Ind. -- Two Illinois Conference natives are participating in the Goshen (Ind.) College Study-Service Term (SST) in Senegal during this summer, along with 21 other students. Goshen established an SST unit in the French-speaking

West African country in 2004 and this is the third unit to go to the country.

Grant Bachman, son of Jay and Shirley Bachman of Roanoke, is majoring in Bible and religion at Goshen College. He is a 2006 graduate

of Roanoke-Benson High School and attends Metamora Mennonite Church.

Peter Miller, son of Lee and Susan Miller of Evanston, is majoring in English and music at Goshen College. He is a 2005 graduate of Evanston Township High School and attends Evanston Mennonite Church.

The students left for Senegal April 29 and will return to the United States on July 29. Students will live in Dakar, the country's capital, the first half of the 13-week term, and then move into other areas of the country for service assignments. The students will study the history, art, literature, religion and other features of the Senegal society as they interact with Senegalese host families, a

special aspect of SST that fosters deeper understanding of the country and culture. Students will also visit Goree Island, which was once one of the major embarking points for slave ships.

Kevin A. Koch and Donald R. Cripe, both Goshen College alumni, are leading the unit. Koch is an assistant in the International Education Office at Goshen College and Cripe is a professor of English at l'université d'Avignon in southern France.

Web updates and photos from the group are available from Goshen College's SST Web site: www.goshen.edu/sst. Letters can be directed to: Villa 8926, Sacre Coeur 3, Dakar, Senegal.

Conference resident participates in Ministry Inquiry Program

-- By Tyler Falk

GOSHEN, Ind. -- Six Goshen College students are spending the summer with different congregations through the college's Ministry Inquiry Program (MIP). The students will have the opportunity to work with pastors from a church and explore their interests in ministry.

An Illinois Conference resident is among the participants. Kaleem Kheshgi, a junior music major from Evanston, Ill., is spending his summer at Plains Mennonite Church in Hatfield, Pa. Kheshgi, son of Omar Kheshgi and Janelle Landis Kheshgi, is a 2004 graduate of Evanston Township High School and attends Evanston Mennonite Church.

The Ministry Inquiry Program is a joint effort of Mennonite Church USA and the five Mennonite colleges in the United States. The 21-year-old program enables students from Mennonite colleges to test their calling and gifts for ministry by serving as pastoral interns. Under close supervision from host pastors, students take on various worship, pastoral care and administrative roles during their 11-week terms, including preaching, leading worship, youth ministry and hospital and home visits.

"We see it as a wonderful way for young adults to explore their vocational interests and inquiries, but also a great way for development of their leadership skills," said Bob Yoder, campus minister, and director of the inquiry programs. Goshen College has had a total of 155 students take part in MIP.

"I knew ministry was an interest of mine, and this summer showed me that it is something to seriously consider someday," said Nathan Grieser, a 2007 MIP participant. "The congregation was very open and willing to let me try new things, both in worship and in general participation."

For the second consecutive year, participation in the inquiry programs included the opportunity to take a one credit-hour May term course that explored vocation, goals for the summer, prayer methods and a blessing ceremony with President James Brenneman.

At the end of the summer, each student will receive a scholarship of up to \$1,500 toward tuition costs for the next academic year, along with a \$500 stipend from the host congregation.

Conference resident researches with the Goshen College Maple Scholars program

-- by Tyler Falk

GOSHEN, Ind. -- From studying a wetland, to analyzing radiation effects from liver cancer therapy, to conducting a demographics study of the Hispanic population in Elkhart County and surrounding areas, 16 Goshen College students are spending the summer doing intense study and research during the college's eight-week Maple Scholars program.

The Maple Scholars program is summer program that gives students the opportunity to participate in independent research projects alongside Goshen College faculty of various disciplines. Each scholar is paired with a faculty member who serves as both colleague and supervisor.

A student from Illinois Conference is among the participants, Trevor Kauffman (2008 graduate, Tiskilwa, Ill.), an environmental studies major, is working on a project titled, "The Efficiency of a

Constructed Wetland for the Removal of Triclosan," with Merry Lea Environmental Science Educator Lisa Zinn. Kauffman is the son of Connie and George Kauffman. He is a 2003 graduate of Princeton High School and attends Willow Springs Mennonite Church.

Professor of Physics Carl Helrich, who has been the director of the Maple Scholars program since it began in 1998, believes the program is a unique opportunity for students to work directly with a professor or faculty member. Unlike undergraduate research projects at larger universities, students are not working with graduate students, but with professors who can answer their questions and guide them in their research and learning.

Students also get the chance to take a break from their research each Friday and split up into groups to share their project and engage other students across disciplines.

Conference students recognized for excellence in academic achievement

GOSHEN, Ind. -- Goshen College recently recognized 260 students, including 23 Illinois Conference students, for excellence in academics, on the 2007-08 spring semester Dean's List.

Benjamin Ray Bouwman, son of Jan-Gerrit and Wanda Bouwman of Woodridge, is studying social work at Goshen College. He graduated from Community District 99 South High School in 2006 and attends Lombard Mennonite Church.

Nicholas Hans Bouwman, son of Jan-Gerrit and Wanda Bouwman of Woodridge, is studying elementary education/special education at Goshen College. He graduated from Community District 99 South High School in 2006 and attends Lombard Mennonite Church.

Greta Marie Breckbill, daughter of Don and Carola Breckbill of Stoughton, is studying music at

Goshen College. She is a 2007 home school graduate and attends Madison Mennonite Church.

Alison R. Brookins, daughter of Bradford and Lorna Brookins of Madison, is studying theater and art at Goshen College. She is a 2007 home school graduate and attends Madison Mennonite Church.

Tyler J. Falk, son of Kate Falk and Dennis Falk of Champaign, is studying English at Goshen College. He graduated from Champaign Central High School in 2005 and attends First Mennonite Church of Urbana-Champaign.

Daniel Ian Foxvog, son of James and Margaret Foxvog of Tiskilwa, is studying peace, justice and conflict studies at Goshen College. He is a 2005 home school graduate and attends Plow Creek Mennonite Church.

Andrew R. Gerber, Goshen, is studying nursing at Goshen College. He is a graduate of Normal

(III.) Community High School and attends Mennonite Church of Normal.

Laura Elizabeth Harnish, daughter of Rick and Annette Harnish of Flanagan, is studying art at Goshen College. She graduated from Flanagan High School in 2005 and attends Prairieview Mennonite Church.

Jennifer Kay Imhoff, daughter of John and Darlene Imhoff of Roanoke, is studying collegiate studies at Goshen College. She is a home school graduate and attends Roanoke Mennonite Church.

Scott Russell Kempf, son of Dale and Kay Kempf of Libertyville, is studying peace, justice and conflict studies at Goshen College. He graduated from Vernon Hills High School in 2007 and attends North Suburban Mennonite Church.

Lesli Jo Kennell, daughter of Thomas and Lynn Kennell of Eureka, is studying American Sign Language Interpreting at Goshen College. She graduated from Eureka High School in 2007 and attends Roanoke Mennonite Church.

Stephanie Liane Kennell, daughter of Thomas and Lynn Kennell of Eureka, is studying nursing at Goshen College. She graduated from Eureka High School in 2004 and attends Roanoke Mennonite Church.

Lane K. Miller, son of Darrel and Lynette Miller of Danvers, is studying Bible and religion at Goshen College. He graduated from University High School in 2005 and attends Hopedale Mennonite Church.

Peter N. Miller, son of Lee and Susan Miller of Evanston, is studying English and music at Goshen College. He graduated from Evanston Township High School in 2005 and attends Evanston Mennonite Church.

John Gerald Munley, son of Gerry and Anne Munley of Mundelein, is studying biology and English at Goshen College. He graduated from Mundelein High School in 2007 and attends North Suburban Mennonite Church.

Karis Anne Munley, daughter of Gerry and Anne Munley of Mundelein, is studying art at Goshen College. She graduated from Mundelein High School in 2004 and attends North Suburban Mennonite Church.

Amanda L. Richer, daughter of Ned and Dorothy Richer of St. Charles, is studying molecular

biology/biochemistry at Goshen College. She graduated from St. Charles North High School in 2007 and attends Lombard Mennonite Church.

Joshua Amos Richer, son of Ned and Dottie Richer of St. Charles, is studying chemistry and molecular biology/biochemistry at Goshen College. He graduated from Saint Charles North High School in 2005 and attends Lombard Mennonite Church.

Reuben Carl Sancken, son of Greg and Lynne Sancken of Tolono, is studying Bible and religion at Goshen College. He graduated from Unity High School in 2007 and attends First Mennonite Church of Urbana-Champaign.

Sara Hertzler Schrag, daughter of Tim and Sue Schrag of Bloomington, is studying psychology at Goshen College. She graduated from Normal Community West High School in 2005 and attends Mennonite Church of Normal.

Jill Eileen Stalter, daughter of Randy and Sandy Stalter of Flanagan, is studying elementary education/special education at Goshen College. She graduated from Flanagan High School in 2005 and attends Prairieview Mennonite Church.

Zachary James Yordy, son of Jeffrey and Patty Yordy of Libertyville, is studying physics at Goshen College. He graduated from Libertyville High school in 2007 and attends North Suburban Mennonite Church.

Jenna Lynn Zehr, daughter of Cal and Carol Zehr of Tiskilwa, is studying elementary education at Goshen College. She graduated from Princeton High School in 2007 and attends Willow Springs Mennonite Church.

The Dean's List includes students earning at least a 3.75 GPA, while completing at least 12 hours of course work for a letter grade. Only grades from the designated semester are included in the Dean's List selection process.

Students earning at least a 3.6 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in Goshen College Division of Adult and External Studies also are included in the list -- a significant achievement since most DAES students are working adults taking highly personalized night classes.