Our students are saying...

“My favorite class at Goshen was, hands down, Jesus and the Gospels with Jo-Ann Brant, professor of Bible, religion, and philosophy. I learned so much! I will certainly use the knowledge and experiences that have shaped me along the way at Goshen to pour my heart and self into my future church family, community and world, thereby making it a better place.”

– Leanna Teodosio

is a senior Bible and religion major from Lima, Ohio.

Encourage young family and friends to plan for the future

As you were growing up, you were no doubt strongly influenced by your parents and other adults in many aspects of life, including stewardship of resources entrusted to you and generosity – sharing with others in need. I hope I have been such an influence on my own children and other young adults.

Earlier this summer, our family learned that our daughter and son-in-law, both 2006 Goshen College graduates, were going to be blessed with a baby: our first grandchild! We’re excited about it (to put it mildly) and are looking forward to being grandparents. Both Kate and Will are CPAs and are careful planners. I know they have already done some financial planning and basic estate planning.

Another experience a few weeks ago also brought to mind the importance of planning while still relatively young. A 2008 GC graduate came to my office to seek some advice as to how best to leave a portion of her estate to Goshen College. She has a trust that was set up for her children and other young adults.

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When Isaac Steiner, 7, died on March 6, 2013, after a 21-month struggle with brain cancer, his parents, Rob and Sarah Steiner ’98, were devastated. Though the experience of Isaac’s illness was agonizing, the Steiners found that having meaningful nursing care made a difference in their journey. So as a tribute to their son and his nurses, they recently established a scholarship for Goshen College nursing students with the hope that recipients will provide the same kind of compassionate care that Isaac received.

Isaac, a student at Jefferson Elementary School in Goshen, loved playing with his brothers, Jonah and Eli; had visited 19 states with his family; and enjoyed stories about the triumph of good over evil, including “Star Wars,” “The Hobbit,” “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy, “Harry Potter” and “The Chronicles of Narnia.” He also had an exceptional talent with Legos, and continued to put together complicated sets while he was in treatment.

“Legos were his therapy,” Rob Steiner said. “They would take him to a different world, away from his sickness.”

During Isaac’s illness, family members, friends and strangers from around the world rallied behind him, forming a group that his parents dubbed “Isaac Nation” who followed a CaringBridge page and an Isaac Nation Facebook page that the Steiners started.

“The CaringBridge site began as a way to communicate with family and grew into many people we didn’t know hearing about Isaac and being touched by his story,” Rob Steiner said.

Throughout his struggle with cancer, Isaac received loving care from his nurses. When Isaac awoke from his first surgery in June 2011, he told his parents that he had felt “Jesus and his nurses” with him during the operation.

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Heritage Scholarship to honor late son of 1998 graduates

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David and Darlene (Dottie) Birkey Byler spent their whole lives in service to others. Dave, a pastor and musician, was well loved for faithfully serving those in his congregation, and Dottie was a tireless mother, teacher and church member. Passionate about their Christian faith, they lived lives that witnessed to Jesus' teachings, quietly manifested in repeated acts of everyday kindness shown to friends and strangers alike. It is for that reason that Dave and Dottie’s four children established a scholarship fund to honor and remember their parents.

In the fall of 1941, Dave Byler and Dottie Birkey met at Goshen College. Dottie was studying elementary education and Dave studied Bible. At Goshen, Dave honed his musical talents by singing in a men's gospel quartet that gave concerts at churches throughout the upper Midwest. They were married on March 29, 1945. After graduation, Dave began his life-long calling to ministry at a Baptist church in South Bend, Ind., and Dottie took leave from her job as a teacher to give birth to Michael, the first of their four children.

Dave earned a bachelor of divinity degree at the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also served as the part-time minister of music at the nearby Crescent Hill Baptist Church. Dottie, meanwhile, served as a church secretary at Crescent Hill until the birth of their daughter, Cynthia, in 1948. In 1950, Dave was called to minister at First Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tenn. During the next 35 years, he also served at Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., and at First Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C., until his retirement in 1985.

During his ministry, Dave planned music, directed the choir, led the singing at Sunday worship and developed a choir program. Dave was also known for faithfully visiting newcomers to town, the sick, the homebound and those grieving the death of a loved one.

Meanwhile, as a homemaker, Dottie kept the home fires burning. Two more sons, Patrick and Timothy, were born in 1952 and 1956. Throughout the decades, she regularly served as a Sunday School teacher and often as a leader of the Women’s Missionary Union (WMU). In the mid-1960s, after their youngest child entered school, Dottie returned to teaching children at a local kindergarten.

In February 1985, Dave and Dottie officially retired, but continued as active church participants, especially when it came to music. Dave died on May 20, 1999. In 2004, the congregation of First Baptist Church Hickory dedicated their magnificent new pipe organ in memory of their beloved pastor and in honor of his wife.

In 2005, Dottie moved from Hickory to Raleigh, N.C. to live near her daughter and her second son. She died on August 25, 2011.

In 2012, the children of Dave and Dottie decided to initiate this scholarship fund as a way to honor the memories of their parents and the many enduring connections to Goshen College of both the Byler and Birkey families. Because of David and Darlene’s dedication to ministry, music and education, the recipients of the Byler scholarship can be Bible and religion majors who plan to enter the ministry at some point in their lives, youth ministries minors, music/music education and/or elementary education majors.

The three sons of David and Darlene wish to acknowledge their sister’s desire to see this fund established. Cindy Byler Yelton died in September 2012 after a short bout with cancer, but she had made it very clear to her brothers and to her husband David that she wanted this fund at Goshen College set up to honor and pay tribute to their parents.

Continued from page 1

In Isaac's memory and to honor the nurses who cared for him, Rob and Sarah established the Isaac R. Steiner Scholarship Endowment Fund, which will award scholarships to students in the Goshen College Nursing Department. The family has a multi-generational connection to Goshen College. In addition to Rob and Sarah, both sets of Isaac’s grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandfather attended the college, and Isaac might have as well.

The Steiner Scholarship will be given to nursing students entering their senior year who have shown outstanding commitment and kindness to patients during their clinical rotations.

“I hope the recipients of this scholarship continue to be inspired to provide high quality nursing care in their careers, wherever their careers take them,” Sarah Steiner said. “I want them to understand that they really have a chance to make a difference in their patients’ lives.”

The first scholarship recipient, who will receive funds for the 2013-14 school year, is Lesley Rutt-Dyck ’14 of Elkhart. Rutt-Dyck’s family and the Steiners attend Belmont Mennonite Church and are close friends, which Rutt-Dyck said makes this scholarship even more meaningful for her.

“Our kids have grown up together at church and we have shared many memories,” she said. “I was humbled and honored to receive such a gift in the name of Isaac and the Steiner family.”

If you are interested in helping to celebrate Isaac’s memory by growing the Isaac R. Steiner Scholarship Endowment Fund, contact the Goshen College Development Office.

-- by Lauren Stolzefus ’13

**Leaving a legacy of service**

**The Rev. David O. and Darlene Birkey Byler Memorial Scholarship Fund**

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**60 years of nursing**

In 1958, sophomore nursing students Carol Corbett, Janet High, Betty Rudy and Melba Martin practiced basic nursing skills in the then-new nursing department headquarters, which included a demonstration room, nursing arts laboratory, seminar room and reading room. (Photo provided by the Goshen College Maple Leaf, 1958)

In 2013, (left) Tracey Buller, associate professor of nursing, instructs Bianca Brambila ’15 and Yumi Otoku ’16 during a simulation lab. Since 1950, when the Goshen College nursing program became the first liberal arts college in Indiana to offer a bachelor of science degree in nursing, more than 1,000 graduates have established themselves in successful careers as registered nurses. Since then, the nursing program has added an RN to BSN track, as well as a master of science in nursing degree. (Photo provided by the communications and marketing office)

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**HERITAGE**

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**Heritage Newsletter** published several times yearly, is a service for friends of Goshen College on developments in planned giving and estate planning. Each issue also focuses on a small number of participants in the college’s special and deferred gifts program. Information in **Heritage Newsletter** should not be considered an interpretation of the law or of federal tax rules and regulations. Your own lawyer, bank trust officer or financial adviser can help you select the most advantageous way to give or bequeath funds or property to Goshen College. Litho in U.S.A.

**THEN & NOW**

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