

# HERITAGE

## A love of music leads to Robert L. Weaver music endowment



**Robert Weaver '58** loved music. He studied, taught, performed and experienced the magic of music throughout his life, and now that love of music will live on through the Robert L. Weaver Music Endowment at Goshen College, giving future generations of students the opportunity to study music.

Weaver was born on June 9, 1936, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the son of Harry H. Weaver and Lottie Zimmerman Weaver. Already an accomplished pianist when he entered Goshen College in 1954, he earned a bachelor's degree

in music in 1958. In 1959, he received a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan, and in 1971, he earned a Ph.D. in humanities, with an emphasis on musicology, from Syracuse University.

From 1959 to 1961, Weaver served with Mennonite Central Committee in the Netherlands. He taught briefly at several colleges, including Bluffton (Ohio) College (now University), and Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. In 1972, he was hired by Centre College, a Presbyterian affiliated college located in Danville, Kentucky, and remained on the faculty there until his retirement in 2001. He died February 16, 2015.

"Bob was an intelligent, talented and generous person; he was a close friend over a period of many years," said **Ron Schertz '58**, a lifelong friend and classmate. "I am pleased for Goshen College that he has remembered it in this way, and pleased for Bob's memory that the college will be honoring him in this manner."

As a student at Goshen College, Weaver was particularly influenced by the teaching of Dr. Mary Oyer, a professor who taught a general, yet thorough, art and music appreciation and humanities survey course open to all students. He maintained a lifelong friendship with her. Based on his experiences at Goshen, and later at Syracuse, he developed a first-year humanities course at Centre College, which has become a required course in the college's curriculum. One of his colleagues at Centre has stated that there has probably never been a professor there so thoroughly knowledgeable in both art and music.

Weaver enjoyed cultivating friendships and entertaining colleagues, students and friends with unassuming style in his home and beautiful backyard garden.

Years after he left Danville to return to Pennsylvania, it was made known that Weaver was an anonymous benefactor of the new Taylor & Boody pipe organ in the Danville Presbyterian Church. During his lifetime, he was a regular contributor to Goshen College,

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## Our students are saying...

*"When we had our first Chamber Choir rehearsal, we sight-read all the music and it sounded good. The music was really difficult and yet, we didn't have any train wrecks. It's great to be at a college where this kind of thing is possible and where I have the opportunity to have a broad array of experiences."*



– **Sadie Gustafson-Zook**,  
a junior music major  
from Goshen

## After five extensions, it's finally permanent!



Well, I should say as permanent as provisions of the U.S. tax code get – always subject to change by each Congress. But in December, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law legislation that, among many other things, makes the charitable distribution provision

from IRAs permanent. This provision, starting after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, was renewed five times for a period of two years each time.

The charitable distribution provision allows an IRA holder, who is at least 70½ years old, to direct up to \$100,000 each year directly to charity and have it qualify as their mandatory distribution. Then come tax time, while the IRA custodian

might still send the donor a form showing the distribution, the donor does not show it as taxable income. Thus, whether or not the donor itemizes their deductions on Schedule A, the amount directed to charity is not taxable to them.

So this provision is especially useful for folks who use the standard deduction rather than itemizing. For these donors, writing a check to charity or to their church has no effect on their income tax liability. Giving directly from their IRA does indeed lower their taxable income. It makes it a wonderful way to do your charitable giving.

Questions on how you might use a planned or deferred gift to benefit Goshen College? Please contact me at [rogeran@goshen.edu](mailto:rogeran@goshen.edu) or call me at (574) 535-7797, toll-free 1-800-348-7422.

– **Roger A. Nafziger**, *Director of Gift Planning*



# Mathematics instructors' impact adds up



Since 1950, thousands of students have taken mathematics courses at Goshen College. Many were mathematics majors, and many more just needed to meet a mathematics requirement. For all of these students, though, what they learned in those classrooms helped prepare them for their careers.

Many professors have stood at the front of those classrooms, and now the Goshen College Mathematics Instructors' 1950-2000 Scholarship Fund has been established to recognize, remember, affirm and show appreciation for what those Goshen College mathematics instructors from 1950 through 2000 offered their students.

The fund was established in 2014 by a number of former mathematics students who wished to express thanks for the instruction in mathematics they received at GC.

"I greatly appreciated the teachers I had at Goshen," said **Lotus Hershberger '61**, who helped establish the scholarship. "My professional career was in teaching, so it occurred to me to honor teachers."

Hershberger taught at Goshen College from 1965-67, and owes much of his career to his GC education.

"I realized once I arrived at Goshen that my background in mathematics was marginal to say the least," said Hershberger. "Goshen helped me past that hurdle, and in some sense, the rest is history. I received an excellent education at Goshen, but that is not half the story of what Goshen did for me in those four years."

While there may have been more than 20 individuals who taught mathematics courses between 1950 and 2000, only six were on staff for at least five years. Those six, in order of arrival date, were:

**H. Harold Hartzler** (1937-57), **Lester J. Zimmerman** (1947-83), **John Nyce '59** (1966-76), **Marion Bontrager** (1968-74), **Merritt Gardner** (1969-98) and **Ronald J. Milne '67** (1976-2009).

Others who were on staff for one to three years, in addition to Hershberger, include: **Carl Metzler '55** (1960-62), **William Freed** (1962-65), **Russell Smucker '65** (1967-69), **John A. Beachy '64** (1967-69) and **Carol Smith** (1988-90).

In addition, there are two others who joined the mathematics faculty during the 1990s and continued beyond the year 2000 to become "long termers." They are **David Housman** (1998-present) and **Patricia Oakley** (1998-2013).

Still others were not mathematics faculty but taught mathematics courses on occasion, such as **Henry Weaver** from the Chemistry Department and **Albert Meyer '50** from the Physics Department, or were on staff for a semester to fill in for someone on sabbatical such as **Jose Montero '85** (Fall 1987) and **Arnold Wedel** (Spring 1988). Many others served as adjuncts during this time.

The fund remains open and can be added to at any time and in any amount. **To donate, visit [www.goshen.edu/give](http://www.goshen.edu/give) or contact the Development Office at (574) 535-7564 or [give@goshen.edu](mailto:give@goshen.edu).**

– By Brian Yoder Schlabach '07

If you'd like to contribute to any scholarship funds mentioned in this newsletter, you can send your gift to Goshen College with a note regarding the scholarship you'd like to apply it toward. Visit [www.goshen.edu/give](http://www.goshen.edu/give) for more information or to give online.

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and a significant portion of his estate was given to fund this endowment, which he started in 2010. It was his stated intention to help Goshen College maintain a high quality music program and an excellence in music education.

"I have had a lifelong love of music, especially musicology, piano performance, integration of music with the visual arts, and church music," Weaver wrote. "In addition, I have had a longstanding admiration for Goshen College, for its liberal arts outlook rooted in the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition and its concentration on love that yields to self-giving service."

– By Brian Yoder Schlabach '07

## HERITAGE

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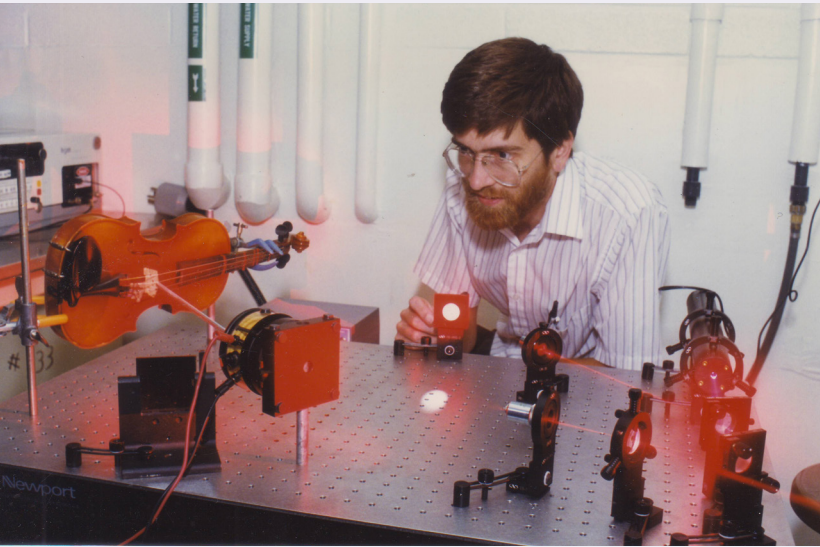
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## THEN & NOW

### The science of music

In 1996, Professor of Physics **John Ross Buschert '80** and the GC Physics Department acquired a holographic Interferometer, allowing them to show the vibration patterns of musical instruments. For the past 20 years, dozens of students, under the guidance of Buschert, have studied instruments such as violins, banjos, saxophones and handbells to learn more about the science behind their sound. Students continue to study the intersection of music and science in various ways, including inventing new electronic instruments.



(Top) Professor of Physics John Ross Buschert '80 makes a holographic image of a violin in 1996.

(Bottom) Kenan Bitikofer '18 demonstrates a computer program that harmonizes with a musician during the biennial electronics and robotics show.