



AAAAA Update

**A newsletter for members and
friends of the Bethel College
African-American Alumni Association**

AAAA member receives alumni award



AAAA member Arthur Marks '93, New York, received the Young Alumnus Award from the Bethel College Alumni

Association in a morning convocation on Feb. 11, and presented a special concert in Krehbiel Auditorium that evening, where a freewill offering was taken to support the African-American Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Marks has sung on stages from Wichita to Berlin and inhabited characters such as the Cat in the Hat, Jesus' disciple Simon Zealotes and Ernest Green of the Little Rock Nine.

At Bethel, Marks earned a bachelor of arts degree with a double major in music and social work. After graduating, he was a social worker with Hospice Inc. in Wichita. He also served as minister of music at Hillside Christian Church. While in the Wichita area, Marks ran a successful voice studio connected with the Maize School District, teaching students from Wichita and surrounding communities. He was musical director for several choral groups in Wichita, including Stage One Singers, Emerald City Chorus and Music Theatre for Young People.

Marks made his professional singing debut in 1992 with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra. He has performed

as a soloist with the Baltimore, Des Moines and Wichita Symphony Orchestras, the Vivaldi Travelling Virtuoso Orchestra from New York City and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. He has performed on stages and classical venues in Rome, London, Berlin, Leipzig, Paris and Vienna. In spring 2007, Marks was the tenor soloist for the annual Masterworks concert at Bethel, performing in Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana."

For more go to www.bethelks.edu/bc/news_publications/news/bc/index.php/2008/01/24/p1797. For a video clip from the convocation, go to www.bethelks.edu/video/

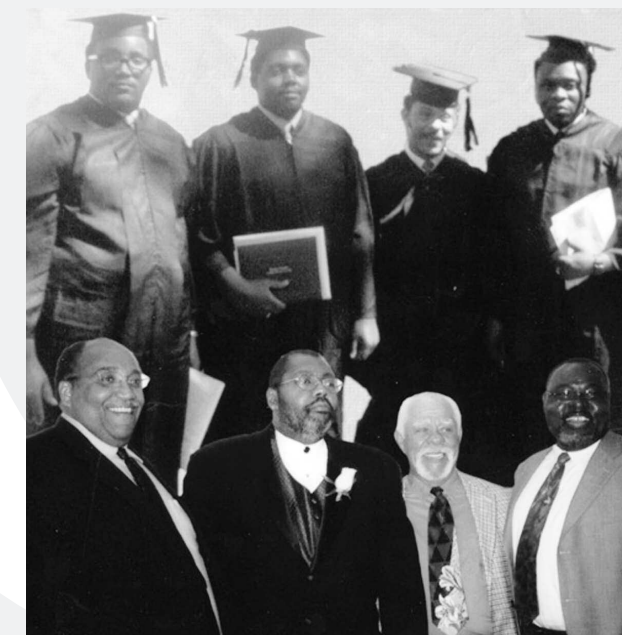
Four AAAAA members featured in *Mennonite Life*

The summer issue of the online magazine *Mennonite Life* includes an

interview with four black graduates of the Class of 1969: Bill Price, Edina, Minn.; George Rogers and Earl White, both of Newton; and the late Mike Burnett. The article is titled "Friends for Life: Four African-American Men and Bethel College."

Bethel alumna Ardie Goering '80, Albuquerque, N.M., conducted the interview and wrote the piece. In it, the four reflect on the elements that brought them to Bethel and helped to make them "friends for life." Their stories illuminate both the good intentions and the broken promises of integration on a Mennonite college campus.

See www.bethelks.edu/mennonitelife/2008spring/friends_for_life.php. The complete summer issue is at www.bethelks.edu/mennonitelife/current_issue_toc.php.



From left, George Rogers, Mike Burnett, Earl White, and Bill Price. The upper photograph was taken the day of their graduation from Bethel in 1969. The four posed for the lower photograph at the wedding of Burnett's son in 2002. Only later did they realize they had posed in the same order. (Courtesy of George Rogers)



AAAAA Update



Fall Fest to feature AAAA booth and special gathering

This year's Fall Festival activities will include not only the traditional AAAA booth featuring sausage and hot links, but also an AAAA gathering. Fall Festival is Saturday, Oct. 4.

During the day, volunteer at or stop by the booth, located along the brick side-walk near the Ad Building. To volunteer, contact Sammie Simmons, (316) 284-2266, srsimmons67114@peoplepc.com, or Hope Lee, (972) 522-0429, thehopeblee@yahoo.com.

Between 3:30-6 p.m., join other AAAA members and friends for informal visiting, reminiscing and eating together at Mardi Gras Restaurant, 1021 Washington Road, Newton. The meal will be catered by C & S Barbecue and Catering. Those attending will order from the menu and pay individually.

Scholarship fund almost there!

The AAAA Scholarship Endowment Fund has nearly reached the \$10,000 mark, at which it will provide support for a current student of African-American heritage. At the beginning of August, the fund totaled \$8,091. Nearly 100 individuals have contributed to the endowment since its inception, with gifts ranging from \$5 to \$1,000.

The fund was started in 2005. Since then, not only AAAA members but alumni of all classes observing reunions each fall and spring have been invited to contribute. Since Jan. 1 of this year, donors gave \$4,600. For every additional \$10,000 in the fund, another scholarship can be offered. Alumni may contribute at any time.

Donations may also be designated to the AAAA general fund or to other Bethel causes of the donor's choice. Feel free to use the contribution slip that is part of this newsletter. Mail it and your donation to AAAA, Bethel College, 300 East 27th

Street, North Newton, KS 67117, or give online at www.bethelks.edu/alumni/giving/givegift/index.php. Booklets with monthly tear-off coupons – which serve as reminders for regular giving to AAAA – are available upon request. Contact the alumni office at (316) 284-5251 or alumni@bethelks.edu. Thank you.

Stats and AAAA history included in accreditation materials

In 2009, Bethel College is up for re-accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. In preparation, a Steering Committee has been meeting since fall 2007 and has drafted chapters to be included in an institutional self-study, which will be submitted to the visitation team in December. The team will be on campus in February 2009.

The chapters cover five criteria, including one on engagement and service

among alumni and constituents, written by director of alumni relations Dave Linscheid. AAAA member Sylvia Kelly, Newton, served on a committee to submit ideas for the chapter and respond to the draft.

In the chapter, Linscheid lifts up AAAA as a model for engaging and listening to alumni. The chart on the previous page was among the data collected for the accreditation materials, showing a history of African-American student fall enrollment since 1992 as recorded by the Registrar's Office, using official government categories.

Future events

Those attending the Fall Fest gathering may wish to talk about the next AAAA planning meeting. The dates and location are yet to be decided, possibly in Florida in spring or summer 2009. Possible spring weekends include March 6-8, March 13-15, April 3-5, April 17-19 or May 1-3. Summer may provide the opportunity to combine the meeting with family travel.

Also on the horizon is another AAAA reunion on campus, possibly in 2010. AAAA members not present at the gathering may share their thoughts with AAAA president Sammie Simmons, (316) 284-2266, srsimmons67114@peoplepc.com, or AAAA vice president Hope Lee, (972) 522-0429, thehopeblee@yahoo.com.

Congratulations!

Congratulations go to AAAA member Faith Allen '78, Detroit, Mich., who received a doctorate of ministry degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, in May. Faith's field of study was Christian education and urban ministries. Her dissertation was titled "Teaching to the Masculine Spirit: A Model to Retain, Reinvigorate and Recruit Men in the Church Through Christian Education." She is a pastor at Carter Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Detroit.



Faith Allen '78



Bethel College commencement 2008

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Fall Enrollment Survey:
ETHNIC BACKGROUND SUMMARY

NUMBERS	As of Fall Semester	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
Nonresident Alien		57	37	27	19	17	14	21	20	13	16	27	28	32	32	29	34
Black		35	29	31	28	29	41	34	23	19	16	19	17	25	39	31	26
Amer. Indian / Alaskan Indian		3	3	7	3	1	1	5	4	1	3	3	5	5	6	6	6
Asian / Pacific Islander		9	10	9	12	11	10	12	10	12	15	18	11	5	9	6	8
Hispanic		21	18	20	24	24	26	34	32	24	25	26	32	29	38	19	12
White		416	442	420	423	388	379	419	417	408	443	517	525	525	520	544	540
Unknown		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Totals		541	539	514	509	470	471	525	506	477	518	610	618	624	644	635	626
Total U.S. Minority		68	60	67	67	65	78	85	69	56	59	66	65	64	92	62	52
PERCENTAGES																	
Nonresident Alien		11%	7%	5%	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Black		6%	5%	6%	6%	6%	9%	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	6%	5%	4%
Amer. Indian / Alaskan Indian		1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Asian / Pacific Islander		2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Hispanic		4%	3%	4%	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	6%	3%	2%
White		77%	82%	82%	83%	83%	80%	80%	82%	86%	86%	85%	85%	84%	81%	86%	86%
Unknown		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Totals		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
U.S. Minority to White		13%	11%	13%	13%	14%	17%	16%	14%	12%	11%	11%	11%	10%	14%	10%	8%

\\fs\faculty\Departments\Alumni\African American\Fall Enrollment Survey 1992-2007.xls

Bethel College African-American Alumni Association Contribution Form

The following gift is enclosed: \$150 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$_____

\$_____ (specify amount, or check if all) for AAAA Operating Fund

\$_____ (specify amount, or check if all) for AAAA Scholarship Endowment Fund

Payment by Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Discover

Name on card (please print) _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ V code* _____

Signature _____ Date _____

*Last three numbers on back of credit card (often following the same credit card number as on front)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to "Bethel College AAAA." Send this response slip to African-American Alumni Association, Bethel College, 300 East 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117. Thank you.