# BethelParent

AnewsletterforparentsofBethelUniversitystudents<sup>n</sup>lssue48/Spring2010

# Summer Missions Opportunities

Summer is an ideal time for students to gain experiences they don't have time for during the school year, whether that be career experiences or other opportunities that can prepare them for life after college. One opportunity unique to Bethel is summer missions. Two trips this summer will minister to people in Thailand and China. In Thailand, students will teach English



at the Santisuk English School (SES) while building relationships with the Thai children. The purpose of SES is to give Christian teachers the opportunity to be salt and light by offering low-cost, high-quality conversational English classes. Bethel students will spend a majority of

their time with the Thai children teaching them English, but also learning the culture and sharing their love for Christ through friendship.

The China missions opportunity, also known as Camp Shamineau East, is a lot like working at any other camp in the United States, except that students will be working with kids who only speak broken English and live in tents 10 miles from the Russian border. The cross-cultural engagement, ministry, and skill-building activities Bethel students will oversee will help them learn skills they can put to use in corporate America, public schools, or just about anywhere.



For more information, go to cas.bethel.edu/campus-ministries/outreach/smp. n

# North End Elementary Partnership

Nine Bethel education majors were commended by St. Paul's new public school superintendent, Valeria Silva, for their commitment to the students at North End Elementary School, a high-minority, high-poverty school of 310 students. Through a new partnership, these Bethel seniors take their education methods courses on the North End school site. Then they spend much of the day as teachers' assistants in classrooms before returning to "the Bethel room"—as Principal Hamilton Bell calls the room he's allocated for Bethel students—for more classes.

Students at North End Elementary are reaping the benefits of having a teacher and a student teacher in their classrooms. Their test results have been improving immensely as the elementary students have already made up one year's worth of skills.

Dedicated students like senior Sarah Muyskens are excited and encouraged by this partnership as she explains, "It's been a great way to culminate everything I've been learning. I feel much more prepared now."

Louise Wilson, Bethel's education department chair, is hoping to create additional partnerships as part of the Twin Cities Teacher Collaborative (TC2). "Teacher preparation is a part of the fabric of our society because teachers affect every child in the country," says Debra Harless, vice president and dean for the College of



Arts & Sciences at Bethel University. "I'm excited about the partnership and the opportunity to dream and plan with other experts in the education field." n

## Parent Volunteers Needed for Spring Banquet

Each May, before final exams begin, the entire student body gathers for the All-School Spring Banquet. This is a wonderful tradition celebrating the completion of the school year and the beginning of summer. Parent volunteers play an important role in this special evening, and we need your help!

This year, the banquet will be on May 15. As a parent volunteer, you will have a great time getting to know other parents as you dish up delicious dinners, juggle plates of food, and pour beverages for the students. After the dishes are cleared, we invite you to sit down and enjoy dinner as our guests.

We are in need of the following volunteers:

- 24 parents to arrive at 5:30 p.m. to prepare dessert
- 44 parents to arrive at 6:15 p.m. to set tables by pouring water, putting out bread baskets, etc.
- 80 parents at 6:30 p.m. to help with serving the meal Clean-up should be done by 8:30-8:45 p.m. However, if you are able to stay longer and tear down tables and chairs, your help is appreciated.



If you would like to be a part of this exciting evening, sign up at bethel.edu/parents. n

# Connect with President Barnes Online

Gain new perspective on your student's Bethel experience by following the blog of Bethel President Jay Barnes. On the Just Jay blog, Barnes' postings have ranged from a serious reflection on how Christians can react to crises such as the earthquake in Haiti to a more personal reflection about his dad's impact on his life.



One of Bethel's core values

is to be a community of world-changers. In one post, "Preparing World-Changers in a Cold Month," he discusses the wide range of educational experiences Bethel students have during the January interim: "I get chills (and not from the cold) when I think about the experiences our students are having right now, meeting people of other cultures, seeing places and studying events that have changed our world forever, and learning how they can be world-changers...We hope the cumulative outcome of these experiences is that our students will not just learn about the world, but gain a passion for how they can change it."



Check out the Just Jay blog online at bethel.edu/president/blog. You can also connect with President Barnes on Facebook. n

# Bethel + iTunes

You can now listen to the same chapel messages your student hears through iTunes U, a free distribution channel Bethel uses to broadcast content that has been made public. Not only can parents hear chapel speakers, they can also listen to academic content, including podcasts from the Departments of Political Science and History as well as Christianity and Western Culture lectures. You can also download condensed videos of football games, band performances, and Welcome Week videos.



Want to hear for yourself? Go to bethel.edu/its/itunes-u/. You can use a guest account to log in. n

#### Don't-Miss Dates

Twelfth Night, Bethel Theatre April 22-May1 Bethel Chamber Ensembles Concert April 27

April 30 Jazz in the Great Hall

May 2 Bethel Handbell Ensemble and Male Chorus

Concert

Classics in the Great Hall May 7 May 14 Last Day of Classes May 15 All-School Spring Banquet

May 17-21 Final Exams

May 21 Senior/Parent Banquet, 5:45 p.m. May 21 Baccalaureate Service, 7:45 p.m. May 22 Commencement Services at 9 a.m.,

12:30 p.m., 4 p.m. May 26 Summer Classes Begin



Go to bethel.edu/calendar for more information on any of these events. n

### Your Student and Summer Jobs

What is the big deal about finding a good summer job?

"Numerous surveys of employers, both regionally and nationally, demonstrate that employers look for previous work or internship experience when they review candidates for career positions," says Kathy Scholljegerdes, director of career services at Bethel.



How can students maximize their summer employment? Parents can urge students to:

- Use the summer to begin exploring their interests and recognize abilities;
- Gain experience that will enhance their resume;
- · Discover the kind of work environment they thrive in, whether that be nonprofit, corporate, government, or
- Gain a perspective on career paths from mentors; and
- Network, network! Summer jobs can help to connect students with employees for a future job search.

What steps should students take now?

- 1. Meet with a Bethel career counselor to revise resume and cover letter, explore career direction, and take a vocational assessment.
- 2. Develop interviewing skills by scheduling a practice interview in the Office of Career Services.
- 3. Attend on-campus recruiting events such as panel discussions and employer information sessions.
- 4. Utilize the Office of Career Services Online Career Center to look for internships and summer employment at bethel.edu/career-services.

Even in the current economy, people are still hiring, Scholljegerdes says. "Parents play an important role in helping students with their future plans. We are excited to work alongside you to provide additional resources to assist your student." n

# TCO Gives Students Opportunities to Be Salt and Light to Twin Cities Communities

salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world." For students who are a part of Twin Cities Outreach (TCO) this translates

into using their time and energy to serve those in need in the Twin Cities. Currently, TCO has 110+ student volunteers who participate on a weekly basis through 14 different organizations including Lino

Lakes Juvenile Detention Center, Dorothy Day Center, Salem Evangelical Free Church, and Living Hope Ministries.

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus tells His disciples, "You are the

'We believe that this service is a spiritual practice," says Tanden Brekke, assistant campus pastor, "to reflect and know who God is, where God is involved in this world, and how we can participate in that." The students partake in what TCO calls "reflective service." Students ask questions such as: "What am I doing to bless others, and am I being blessed as well in the process? How am I changing through this process? How can I make a substantial difference in the lives of others, and how does that impact my own life?'

Adds Brekke, "The different sites we go to are communities we help in the process, but in the end our services are compelling internal change and knowledge gained as we are blessing others who in turn bless us."



For more information, visit cas.bethel.edu/campusministries/outreach/tco. n

### Coming Home for Summer

Will your student soon be returning home for the warm summer months? Along with the joy of reconnecting, you can expect some adjustments, too. Students go through substantial change and can be homesick for the freedom of college life. Go to bethel.edu/parents to learn more about how you can help your student adjust to life at home. n

### **Keep Us Updated!**

Have you moved? Changed your email address? Have a new phone number? We would love to stay in contact with you, so please keep us updated! Go to bethel.edu/ parents to make any changes to your information. n

abishlistigo Janareguning paraled

St. Paul, MN 55112-6999 3900 Bethel Drive Bethel University



