

Guarding **Mission**

Guiding **Growth**

The Transforming
Talents and Tenure of
George K. Brushaber
President, 1982–2008



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY



“The man who had received five talents went at once and put his talents to work and gained five more...After a long time the master returned [and said], “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.””

From Matthew 25:14-21 (NIV)

Biography by
Alvera Mickelsen

Patient Candidate

At 11 p.m. on a June night in 1974, Bethel College & Seminary President Carl Lundquist made an urgent phone call to George Brushaber, then dean of Westmont College in California. “Is there a chance you could get on a plane tomorrow morning and come to Seattle?” he asked. “Delegates of the BGC have questions for you.”

The next morning, Brushaber caught a last-minute flight to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Conference, Bethel’s sponsoring denomination. He knew his name was being proposed as the next dean of Bethel College. But

Lundquist had said an interview with voting delegates wouldn’t be necessary—they’d take the recommendation of Bethel’s president and the search committee.

Now, though, there were objections. This proposed new dean was not Swedish, had not been a part of the Baptist General Conference, and had no prior connection with Bethel, as had all previous deans. After 90 minutes spent answering the delegate questions, this suspect “Gentile,” as he would frequently call himself later, won their approval.

And so began George K. Brushaber’s 33 years at Bethel—seven as dean and 26 as president. Those first concerns about an “outsider” bring smiles now, in light of all this gifted man of God has accomplished for the university.

When he was asked to consider becoming dean, the 35-year-old candidate had two important questions of his own: Was Bethel friendly to the sciences? And was Bethel supportive of the visual arts? Christians, he believed, should be fully engaged and training leaders in these fields. When he was satisfied the answer was “yes” to both questions, he agreed to consider the post.



Dean of Bethel College, George Brushaber, in the 1970s.

Growth Generator

Arriving to begin his work as dean at Bethel in the fall of 1975, Brushhaber learned that some science departments had only one or two teachers and a few adjuncts. He determined to change that. Following a steady infusion of resources, today Bethel's biology, physics, and chemistry programs are highly respected, even in Ivy League graduate schools.

The sciences are just one example of many programs that have blossomed under Brushhaber's leadership. And then there are

the entirely new ventures: In the late 1980s, he launched what are now a thriving graduate school and a college for those wanting to earn a baccalaureate degree later in life. Together these two schools now have 1,400 students with classes meeting across the Twin Cities metro area. A new MBA program also has cohorts in three Greater Minnesota cities.

As Brushhaber retires, the institution that in 1975 had 1,467 students in the undergraduate college and 294 in the seminary is now a university of more than 6,000* students—enrolled among four schools in multiple locations.

During his years as president, 19 new buildings or major additions have enhanced

*2006-2007 year-end total

the campuses, and the school's academic and spiritual reputation has grown equally. Bethel is now the third largest private college in Minnesota, and the largest of the 13 colleges in the Christian College Consortium. Among more than 250 seminaries accredited by

the Association of Theological Schools, Bethel Seminary ranks 10th largest, thanks in part to a model distance learning program that has attracted students from around the world. ■

"He's always been a dreamer... always growing, creating something. All that growth of Bethel, though, has been mission-centered with clarity about the core values."

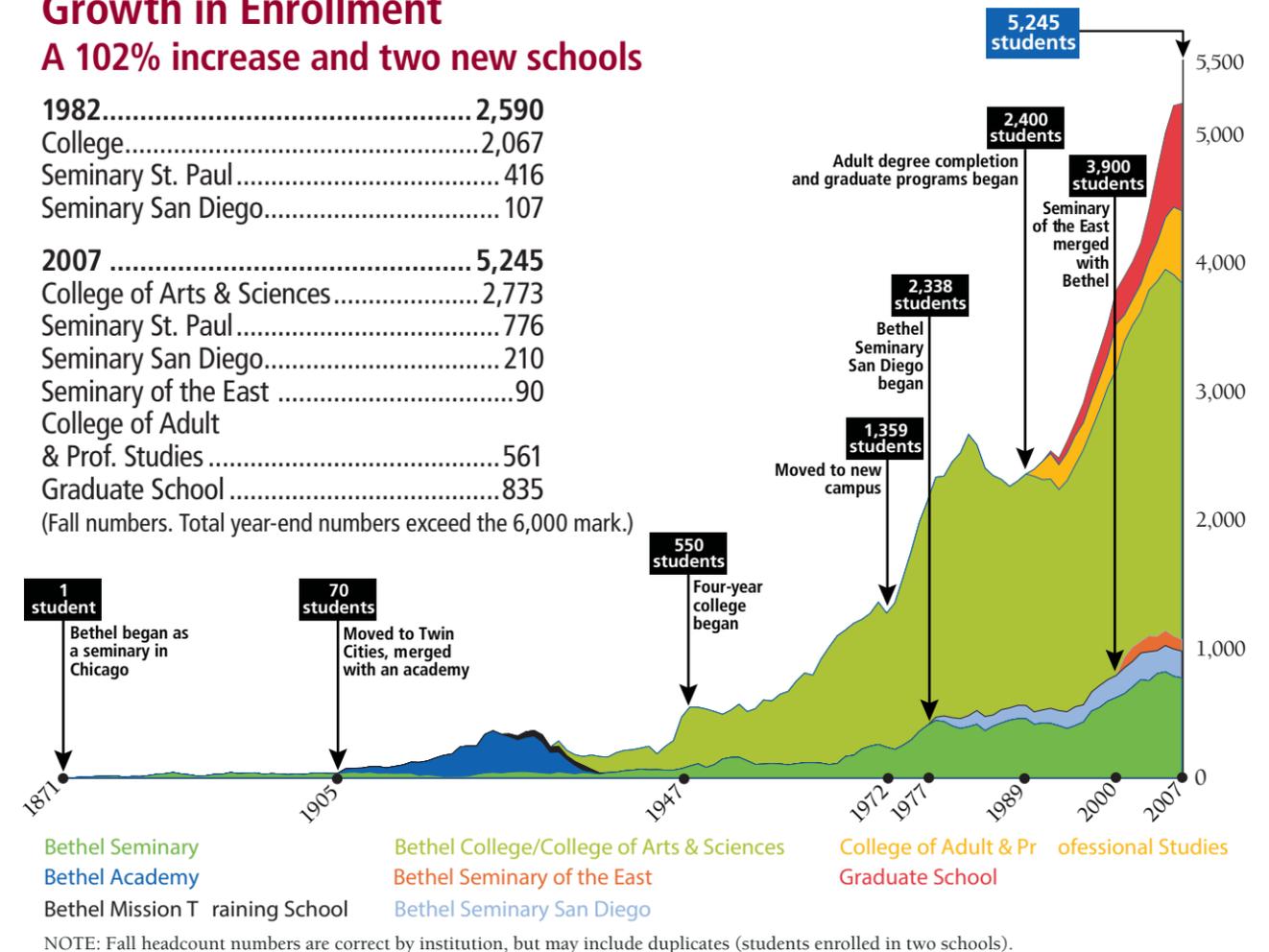
— **Philip Eaton,**
President,
Seattle Pacific University



Growth in Enrollment A 102% increase and two new schools

1982.....	2,590
College.....	2,067
Seminary St. Paul.....	416
Seminary San Diego.....	107
2007	5,245
College of Arts & Sciences.....	2,773
Seminary St. Paul.....	776
Seminary San Diego.....	210
Seminary of the East	90
College of Adult & Prof. Studies	561
Graduate School	835

(Fall numbers. Total year-end numbers exceed the 6,000 mark.)



In 1982, George Brushhaber succeeded Carl H. Lundquist, who served as president for 28 years.

"Odds are not high, after the tenure of Carl Lundquist, that Bethel would have another long and notable presidency. However, George demonstrated that he, the Baptist General Conference, and the school were ready to take another step in educational excellence."

— **Truett Lawson,**
Former Executive Minister,
Minnesota Baptist General
Conference

Steady Visionary

The journey has not been easy, even for a man of Brushhaber's indefatigable energy. He frequently would begin his office work at 7 a.m. (or earlier) and continue past 6 p.m. "He gets more out of the clock and the calendar than anyone I have ever known," says Dwaine Lind, his long-time executive assistant. "He has unusual powers of concentration, deals smoothly with interruptions, and returns immediately to the task at hand."

The many changes the president brought to Bethel were not always welcome. He has a passion for excellence—and excellence is often costly. When the Carl H. Lundquist Community Life Center was erected, it included Benson Great Hall, seating 1,500, to serve both as a chapel and a concert hall.

In the planning stage, music department

chair and Bethel Choir conductor Robert Berglund (now retired) contended for a superb concert venue—a "shoebox" style hall with precise height, width, and depth ratios, as well as furnishings for the best possible acoustics.

"Just look around and see what you see—not just in buildings, but in flesh and blood. George caught the vision of what Bethel could be and saw he could be a tool in the hands of God."

— **Nancy Lundquist,
Former First Lady of Bethel**

Such a design would nearly double the cost, and other departments argued for more multi-purpose architectural plans. Brushhaber chose to support what was acoustically excellent, though the final price would be \$16 million.

Benson Great Hall is now widely considered one of the finest concert halls in the upper Midwest, and one in which musicians the caliber of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra are eager to perform. Such a space has added greatly to the reputation and ministry of Bethel University, and time has affirmed the strategic wisdom of the decision.



Ribbon cutting at Benson Great Hall with donors Don and Roberta Mann Benson. The structure testifies to Brushhaber's high standards for quality.

What were the most difficult times? During Brushhaber's first few years as president, the last of "baby boom" students graduated from high school and the pool of prospective students across the United States radically declined. Bethel, like nearly all other colleges, saw a drop in enrollment for the first time, following years of steady growth. With a budget based mainly on tuition, it meant painful adjustments. Some well-qualified teachers had to be laid off, professional development opportunities put on hold, and pay raises frozen.

Even though he had anticipated this enrollment trend, Brushhaber was discouraged. Leith Anderson, chair of the Board of Trustees, confronted him. "Are you a quitter?" he asked directly. "If you are, move on. If you have gumption and courage, we'll stay with you." The president chose to persevere, and within a few years, Bethel's student numbers began leaping forward again.

That same tenacity also served him well in the face of occasional conflicts over theological issues. Brushhaber's educational background has enabled him to navigate through some potential minefields and to keep Bethel true to the foundational truths of Scripture. He holds master's degrees in philosophy of religion and in divinity, and a doctorate in epistemology and metaphysics. In addition, he has been a thorough student of Baptist General Conference and church history. Many credit him with knowing more about BGC history than many of the denomination's pastors. ■

Growth in Campus Facilities

- AC Building College Addition (1983)
- Seminary Lundquist Library Addition (1983)
- Sports and Recreation Center (1984)
- William and Margery Getch Residence (1984)
- Seminary San Diego (1990)
- Ewald Chalberg Residence (acquired in 1993)
- Carl H. Lundquist Community Life Center and Benson Great Hall (1994)
- H.J. Robertson Center Addition (1996)
- Nelson Residence Hall Addition (1996)
- Arden Office Center (acquired in 1996)
- Alvin and Mabel Clauson Fine Arts Addition II (1999)
- HC Terrace (1999)
- Heritage Residence (1999)
- Hargis Park Baseball Field (2000)
- Royal Stadium (2000)
- Ona Orth Athletic Complex (2001)
- Lissner Hall Residence (2005)
- Welcome Center (2006)
- University Commons (2009)



The outgoing president can look back on 19 new buildings or major additions erected during his tenure—an average of one every 18 months.

Keeper of Mission

Many admire the president, first and foremost, for his deep commitment to the evangelical Christian faith and an ongoing determination that Bethel embody that commitment in all its endeavors.

The president has “an unwavering commitment to evangelicalism. That’s George’s core theologically,” says Jay Barnes, executive vice president and provost for the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Adult & Professional Studies, and the Graduate School. “Flowing out of that, then, has been his strong commitment to our core values. That’s an important part of how he’s defined Bethel.”

To weave these tenets securely into the fabric of the school after they were reworded in 2004, the president has given a wallet-size version to each new visitor to his

office, and every new employee receives a copy as well. As a result, the “We are…” statements have come to permeate the institution’s conversations and culture. Every proposal is evaluated by whether it contributes to some or

all of the core values.

For similar reasons, Brushaber has interviewed face-to-face every candidate considered for a full-time faculty position. “I don’t ask about their academic qualifications. That has already been covered by department chairpersons,” he says. “I want to know about their personal faith, whether they’re comfortable sharing their faith with students, and if they are committed to

our core values.” He has made it a practice to re-interview each faculty member at five-year intervals. ■

“His greatest contribution has been as advocate and leader for the Christian values of Bethel University. He has relentlessly talked about, worked for, and prayed about the spiritual life and integrity of the Bethel community. The vibrant spiritual life on the Bethel campus traces directly to the president’s office. This is his greatest heritage.”

— Leith Anderson,
Chair of the Bethel Board
of Trustees



In 2001, President Brushaber helped to create and empower the Bethel Antiracism and Reconciliation Commission.

Bethel University Mission, Vision, and Values

Boldly informed and motivated by the Christian faith, Bethel University educates and energizes men and women for excellence in leadership, scholarship, and service. We prepare graduates to serve in strategic capacities to renew minds, live out biblical truth, transform culture, and advance the gospel.

We are Christ-followers—orthodox, conversionist, and evangelical, rooted in the authority of Scripture.



We are character builders—concerned with personal and spiritual formation and

therefore committed to the development of whole and holy persons.

We are truth-seekers—recognizing that all truth has its source in God as revealed in creation and Scripture, and personified in Christ.



We are learners—committed to academic excellence within a community characterized by teaching, scholarship, and service.

We are reconcilers—honoring the worth and dignity of people from all races and purposely seeking to create a community that reflects the diversity of the Body of Christ.



We are salt and light—relating to the world and society in culturally relevant ways while being informed by our pietistic denominational heritage and characterized by an irenic spirit.

We are world-changers—driven to prepare graduates who will shape and change the world through exemplary leadership in the church and throughout society.



Energetic Scholar

How did Brushaber become this kind of leader? The only child of a pastor in Milwaukee, Wis., he grew up in the church and learned a great deal from shadowing his father. At an early age, he recognized his need to confess Christ and embrace his own faith. In the same church he met his wife, Darleen, and never dated anyone else.

Brushaber began college at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and then transferred to Wheaton College. When he took the usual vocational tests, the results suggested he should be a farmer or a mortician! But his advisor, Richard Gross (later his president and friend at Gordon), assured him his options were wider and asked what he'd really like to do. "Be

the academic dean of a Christian college," he replied with unusual foresight.

Bethel Philosophy Professor Emeritus Stan Anderson has been a lifelong friend, sharing many parts of the journey from that day to this. The two met as Wheaton students, once skipped class to go to a baseball game in nearby Chicago, and occasionally played pranks on professors—mild antics by today's standards. Later they stood up for each other at their weddings and crossed paths again professionally

in two different colleges. After George and Darleen married, they moved to Boston, where Brushaber studied for his M.Div. at Gordon Divinity School

"Dr. Brushaber is highly conversant in many fields, including science, history, literature, journalism, economics, philosophy, theology, current affairs, sports, music, and architecture. This has given him great credibility as he's interviewed faculty candidates and encouraged curricular and program development and enhancement."

— *Dwaine Lind, Executive Assistant to President Brushaber*



The son of a pastor, George Brushaber earned master's degrees in philosophy and divinity, and a doctorate in epistemology and metaphysics.

and Darleen taught fourth grade to the Portuguese children of fishermen in nearby Gloucester. Later, while completing his Ph.D. at Boston University, Brushaber assumed a variety of teaching and administrative roles at Gordon, including registrar and director of adult education. Ordained during their years in Boston, he also served as interim

pastor of many New England churches.

By the time he came to Bethel—following three years as dean at Westmont College in California—Brushaber had gained a breadth of experience in education and the church, and knew well the opportunities and challenges faced by Christian colleges and seminaries. ■

Growth in Academics

Programs and Majors

1982 57
2008 141

Programs and Majors Added under Brushaber

College of Arts & Sciences

Accounting and Finance
Applied Physics
Athletic Training
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
Business Education
Business and Political Science
Community Health
Computer Science
Engineering Science
Environmental Science
Environmental Studies
Exercise Science
French Education
International Relations
Journalism
Media Communication
Reconciliation Studies
Sociocultural Studies
Spanish Education
Teaching English as a Foreign Language
Teaching English as a Second Language
Third World Studies
Youth Ministry

College of Adult & Professional Studies

Business Management
Christian Ministries

Communication Studies
General Studies (A.A.)
Human Resource Management
Nursing
Organizational Leadership

Graduate School

Communication
Counseling Psychology
Educational Administration (Ed.D.)
Education K-12
Ethnomusicology
Gerontology
Literacy Education
Master's in Business Administration (MBA)
Nursing
Organizational Leadership
Special Education
Teaching (K-12 or 5-12 Licensure)

Seminary

Children's and Family Ministry
Christian Thought
Community Ministry Leadership
Gallup Strengths-based Congregational Leadership (D.Min.)
Global and Contextual Leadership (D.Min.)
Global and Contextual Studies
Leading from the Inside Out (D.Min.)
Marriage and Family Therapy
Organic Leadership Development (D.Min.)
Servant Leadership (D.Min.)
Transformational Leadership
Urban Ministry Leadership (D.Min.)

Plus Seminary and Graduate School certificate programs

Inspiring Fundraiser

The ability to relate well with people has been invaluable in Brushaber's service to Bethel. One such connection was serendipitous. At the farewell dinner for retiring President Carl Lundquist, guests were asked to consider a pledge of support to Bethel. Little did incoming President Brushaber know that the provost of St. Thomas University was in the audience, playing a trick on his own boss by filling out a pledge card for \$10,000!

Brushaber was assigned the task of following up on the pledges, and innocently placed a phone call to "Terry Murphy," the name on the pledge. "Do you know who I am?" Murphy answered. "The president of St. Thomas!" Despite that quirky meeting, President Murphy suggested they get together—and it was the start of an enormously helpful orientation. Murphy introduced Brushaber to foundations and corporations that give to support

educational institutions. "It was a guided tour of the philanthropic community in Minnesota," the president reflects. "And it became a great friendship."

Brushaber has needed all of those contacts. In addition to the steady task of developing a relatively young campus, Bethel University now has an annual operating budget of \$90 million and about 900 employees. Fortunately, the tireless president has enjoyed fundraising. He believes fiercely in Bethel's mission and cares deeply about its students.

During the past six years, Brushaber has led Bethel University's boldest effort yet in generating resources for the institution—an unprecedented \$105 million comprehensive resource campaign called "Taking the Next Step."

His purpose was not to raise one-time support only, but to strengthen ongoing stewardship among constituents. A new level

"I applaud your persistence, particularly in the area of fundraising. You have catapulted Bethel to new heights nationally."

**— Ron Tschetter,
Director of the Peace Corps,
and Former Bethel Trustee**

of ownership of Bethel by alumni, parents, and friends, he believes, is key to securing the school's future and is part of the legacy he wishes to leave.

Brushaber's vision is being realized. Preliminary totals at the campaign's closure show \$105 million has been reached and exceeded! More than 17,000 separate donors participated at some level, 32 individuals or couples committed at least \$1 million each, and more than 225 stepped forward with at least \$50,000 each. As a result, University Commons, the college's first student center and largest piece of the initiative, is on target for a spring 2009 opening, although additional funds are still needed for that particular project.

Ground has been broken on a major expansion of Bethel Seminary San Diego as well, and gifts have exceeded Annual Fund goals three years in a row. Bethel's endowment—a source of financial stability and scholarships—has also grown significantly during Brushaber's tenure: from \$1.35 million in 1982 to more than \$34 million today. ■

Growth in Donor Support

Largest-ever Campaign Goal Exceeded

2002-2008 \$105+ million

(Final tabulation in process)

Total Annual Gift-Income

1982 \$3.6 million

2006-07 \$10 million

Endowment

1982 \$1.35 million

2007-08 \$34 million

Bethel Foundation Funds Under Management (Trusts, Annuities, etc.)

1982 \$14 million

2007-08 \$67 million

Growth in Employees

1982 295

2008 900

Growth in Operating Budget

1982 \$17.8 million

2007-08 \$90 million



During the "Taking the Next Step" campaign, far more than half of the \$105 million goal had been raised by the Oct. 2006 public launch; the rest in less than two years.



President Brushaber with chair of the recent "Taking the Next Step" campaign, David Monson

Networking Editor

Over the years, Brushaber became acquainted with many noted theologians and authors who became his mentors, including Harold J. Ockenga, Carl F. H. Henry, Dallas Willard, J.I. Packer, and David Hubbard. He had also founded and edited the *Christian Scholar's Review* while at Gordon. So several years after Brushaber took the Bethel post, Ockenga suggested Brushaber's name to those searching for a new executive editor for *Christianity Today*. And so began more than 20 years of association with the influential magazine.

For five years, he traveled to the *Christianity Today* offices in Wheaton, Ill. three times a month—rising at 5 a.m. to catch a plane, working from 8 a.m. until evening, and then flying home, arriving at midnight to resume his work at Bethel the next day. He thrived on the literary work and still acts as a senior advisor to CT magazine. For his contributions to Christian publishing, in 1997 the National Association of Evangelicals honored him with the James DeForest Murch Award.

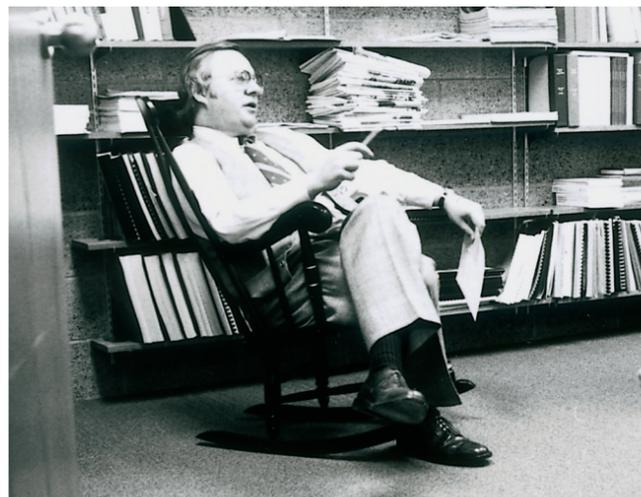
The president's work in Christian publishing, as well as his active participation in many other national organizations, such as the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, and National Association of Evangelicals, has proven

highly valuable to Brushaber in his presidential tasks. In addition to enhancing Bethel's reputation, he has gained a national voice that puts him in regular contact with other Christian leaders worldwide.

Through his visibility, he has met gifted professors whom he has recruited for the Bethel faculty, and influential leaders whom he has

invited to seek election to the Board of Trustees. That today's trustees and Bethel Foundation Governors bring talent and professional experience from across the nation in such varied worlds as law, business and finance, church

leadership and missions, media, health care, and education reflects the intentionality with which Brushaber has built Bethel's high-quality governance team. ■



Brushaber is often tapped for his wide knowledge of people within the evangelical network worldwide.

"He gave generously of his time to offer me advice and give me 'cover,' so as managing editor I could challenge readers to expand their horizons."

— **David Neff**
Vice President, Executive Editor,
Christianity Today magazine

Wise Strategist

President Brushaber has aggressively sought new strategies to keep Bethel healthy and growing in its mission. During a period of financial challenge, he led the charge to preserve Bethel Seminary, according to Executive Director and Provost Leland Eliason.

"His actions included a clear public commitment to the seminary as part of Bethel's future," Eliason says. In addition to substantial cost cutting, Brushaber created the Vision AD2001 Committee to do strategic research and planning, supported innovations such as offering the first M.Div. degree almost entirely online, and streamlined decision making processes so that new degrees could be developed more quickly.

"Today," says Eliason, "Bethel Seminary is

thriving in its mission to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ among all people in culturally sensitive ways."

In 2004, the president initiated Bethel's identity and organizational change from Bethel College & Seminary to Bethel University. This

involved a restructuring in which most administrative functions for all schools in all locations were streamlined and centralized.

Flanking the president in implementing the strategies has been a President's Leadership Team, which includes

four executive vice presidents all recruited by Brushaber. For example, in December of 2000, business entrepreneur Paul Olson had just sold the global electronic-commerce business he'd founded and was anticipating an early

retirement—until Brushaber prevailed upon him for an appointment just hours before Christmas Eve. "Here are the ideas I have for what you could do for Bethel," Olson remembers the president saying as he referred to pages of notes in his hand.

Olson is now responsible for institutional advancement at Bethel. ■

"George Brushaber is a man of quality, integrity, scholarship, and spiritual discernment. He's one of the wisest men I've known. All of those traits are reflected in Bethel University."

— **Wayne Pederson,**
Vice President,
Moody Radio Network



Brushaber in July 2004, celebrating Bethel's change in structure and name to Bethel University.

Friend of Students

As administrative demands grew, Brushaber regrets that it became increasingly difficult to keep in close touch with students. He still maintained his annual tradition of standing in the college driveway every “moving-in day” to greet all new students and their parents as they arrived on campus. And he often worked lunches or conversations with students into his schedule.

Over the years, the Brushabers have regularly attended varsity sports events, the president rarely missing a home football game when he’s in town. He’s been intensely interested in Bethel athletics and, along with improving sports facilities during



Rain or shine, moving-in day always saw the president greeting new students and their parents. And he was often on the sidelines, cheering on the Royals.

his administration, has backed efforts to recruit the best coaches available—both professionally and spiritually. In 2007 alone, Bethel teams in four sports took conference titles; but even

“He’s provided a marvelous example of what it is to be the very best in your field and academic discipline, but also a thriving believer.”

— **Tanny Eshenauer,**
Chair, BGC Board of Overseers
and 1980 Bethel Alumna

more importantly, the teams function as discipleship groups.

Judy Moseman, retired vice president for student life, remembers how Brushaber always wanted to know how students were progressing spiritually as

well as intellectually. The president has spoken in chapel at least once a semester.

Over the years, some have suggested adding a building just for all administrative staff, but Brushaber resisted the idea. He wanted staff and faculty offices to remain in the main corridors of classroom buildings, where students could easily drop in for conversation and mentoring. ■



Bethel now graduates more than 800 women and men each year.

Key Successes

A “Medallion” school in high graduation rates as measured by the Institute for Research in Higher Education. (75% of the incoming class of 2000 graduated within five years.)

Among top-ranked colleges in Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report’s* listing of “America’s Best Colleges”

Christian Best Place to Work winner in 2005 and 2006

Bethel/Frogtown/Summit-University Partnership named a finalist in Minnesota for the Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Community Partnership Award

Physics program in top 3% of “great” undergraduate programs in the U.S., and more than 95% of applicants to graduate school in the natural sciences are admitted

Ranked 16th nationally among Carnegie master’s level universities in share of students who study abroad—43% (Open Doors 2007)

Bethel Seminary is the 10th largest ATS-accredited seminary in the nation and one of only seven to receive student scholarships from the Kern Foundation.

Bethel Seminary has the recognized model in seminary distance learning; and the Graduate School’s doctoral degree in educational administration also prepares principled leaders primarily online.

The Graduate School’s MBA ranks #7 on the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal’s* Top 25 MBA Programs in the Twin Cities.

Reconciler

Does the outgoing president have dreams for Bethel that are yet to be fulfilled? He envisions a science building with state-of-the-art laboratory space and equipment, which would enable Bethel's top-notch biology, chemistry, physics, and math/computer science departments to thrive well into the future.

But also on his heart is a goal he has pursued diligently—a student body, faculty, and staff that is more racially and culturally diverse—“more like the kingdom of God,” in his words.

He has paved a path by hiring a chief diversity officer, Leon Rodrigues, making Bethel one of only two Christian College Consortium schools to have a full-time senior executive dedicated to antiracism and reconciliation.

“President Brushhaber has kept [this issue] an institutional imperative,” says Rodrigues. “He has asked me to provide a structure where

all Bethel employees will receive antiracism training, for example.”

Brushhaber has also initiated the Bethel Antiracism and Reconciliation Commission (BARRC), created scholarships for students in financial need, funded many cross-racial experiences such as the Sankofa bus trip to Civil Rights landmarks, and fostered a groundbreaking new B.A. in Reconciliation Studies with a unique study component at a sister school in South Africa.

“He has worked hard to retain students of color,” notes Professor Curtiss DeYoung, lead faculty in the reconciliation studies program. “Sometimes this has been publicly in strong stances against racism on campus. Other times it has been quietly behind the scenes in one-on-one work with students.”

More than 20 new faculty and staff members

of color have been hired across Bethel in just the past two years, including more employees in admissions and student life specifically to recruit and support multicultural students.

“President Brushhaber has been dedicated to increasing the number of faculty and staff of color, people who look the same as the students of color,” adds Karen McKinney, a member of BARRC and an associate professor of biblical and theological studies. “That is what is going to keep us on track in our commitment to being an institution of reconciliation.”

“During President Brushhaber’s tenure, the school has taken significant steps toward making reconciliation integral to the university’s life.”

— **Curtiss DeYoung,**
Professor of Reconciliation Studies

Under his leadership, Bethel has also invested in an award-winning partnership with the Frogtown/Summit-University community of St. Paul where Bethel operates the King Family Child Development Center (CDC). During the last three years, more than 325 Bethel students have worked as practice teachers there or as volunteers in other schools and agencies, learning to relate meaningfully to people of different cultures.

“The president has trusted those of us he hired to create these new programs,” says DeYoung. “He has given us an amazing amount of freedom to do the work necessary.” ■



Progress in Diversity

Percentage of Students of Color

1982	2% (less than 75)
2007-08	11.3% (636)

Current Percentage of Students of Color by School

College of Arts & Sciences	6.7%
College of Adult & Professional Studies	17.3%
Graduate School	8.6%
Bethel Seminary of the East	45.7%
Bethel Seminary San Diego	33.6%

Progress in Hiring

More than 20 new faculty and staff members of color have been hired across Bethel in just the past two years.



Choua Vang (center) received the first George K. Brushhaber Reconciliation Award on May 22. It was presented by Chief Diversity Officer Leon Rodrigues, one of the only CDOs in the Christian College Consortium.

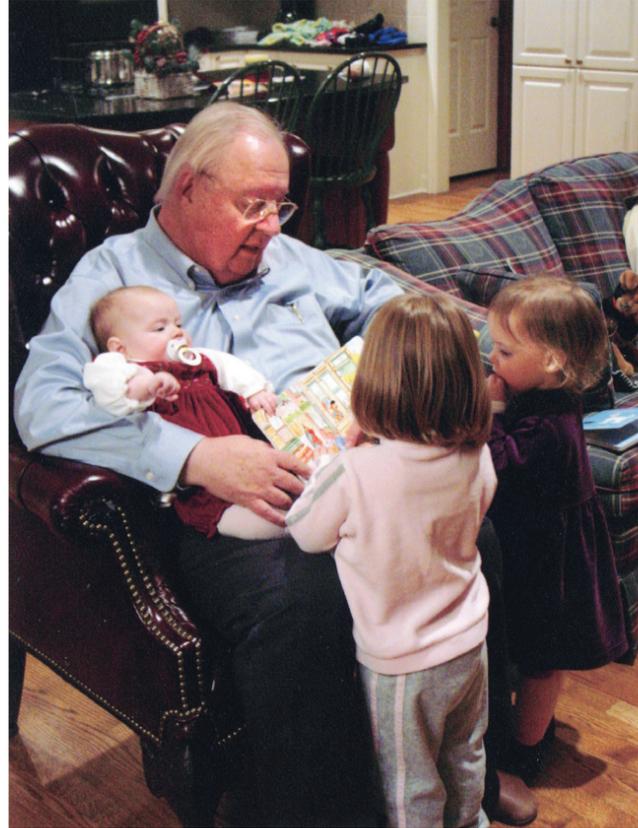
Renaissance Retiree

What will George Brushaber do in retirement? He has rarely taken vacations—a concern sometimes to the Board of Trustees. “But,” one friend said recently, “this very hard-working man . . . now has four grandchildren and has become a ‘softie’ who loves to spend time with them. He’ll be able to do that in retirement.”

It’s clear this Renaissance man has many other interests he can now pursue, and he’ll be busy with worthwhile goals. Many speculate the writer and editor will re-emerge to once again help shape Christian thought through publishing, consulting, and speaking.

But there is little doubt about one thing. The leaps of innovation and progress visible throughout Bethel during the administration of its fourth president have set the stage for continued growth physically, academically, and spiritually for decades to come.

Thank you, Dr. Brushaber. ■



His four granddaughters will undoubtedly occupy a great deal of Brushaber’s time.



The extended family gathered in front of the Benson Great Hall Christmas tree at the 50th Bethel Festival of Christmas. From left to right: Kaia, Amy, Kettly, and Don Brushaber; George and Darleen Brushaber; Brittan, Tod, and Deanna (Brushaber) Dalberg. (Not pictured: Taitte Dalberg, born in 2007.)



“George could not have accomplished what he did without the support of Darleen. Much of her work has been behind the scenes and, as a result, unnoticed.”

— David Brandt,
President Emeritus,
George Fox University

“Darleen, you are something! You are an honest person. That’s a great gift for a university, a spouse, or a friend. You have great common sense, which isn’t so common anymore. And thoughtfulness could be your middle name. As we’ve gathered as spouses [of presidents], and prayed for each other’s children, I was always assured that you would take those requests back home.”

— Jan Carlburg,
First Lady, Gordon College



Donald, Darleen, George, and Deanna Brushaber in 1982



George and son Don may still take in a few Bethel games.



Bethel alumna Mary Pawlenty recently hosted a luncheon honoring Darleen. Left to right: Deanna Brushaber Dahlberg (daughter), Mary Pawlenty, Darleen Brushaber, and Amy Brushaber (daughter-in-law)

Other Words of Tribute

“Bethel is a place of spiritual transformation—genuine spiritual transformation; not just in chapel or Bible classes, but in student residences and athletic fields. That reflects George’s passion to see lives changed by the power of the Gospel.”

—Wayne Pederson,
Vice President,
Moody Radio Network



His last commencement

“Dr. Brushhaber is not the kind of guy who will throw you to the wolves. He’s right there with you. Trust and commitment to his people—I’ve watched that and I’ve been a recipient of it.”

—Randy Thomann,
Executive Vice
President for Business Affairs,
Bethel University

“One of the great legacies that George has accomplished is to shape the Board [of Trustees] with women and men who truly are Christ-followers and who bring expertise that will benefit Bethel in the future. Bethel is in a good position to take the great next step.”

—Paul Olson,
Executive Vice President,
Institutional Advancement,
Bethel University

The president and
Marie Schultz, most recently
director of Bethel’s National
Prayer Initiative



“George just works so hard. He maintains a very broad public leadership role not only at the university but beyond Bethel to help its place in higher education—through the Association of Theological Schools, the Association of Evangelical Presidents, *Christianity Today*... There are a remarkable number of places where he is serving and leading.”

—David Tiede,
President Emeritus,
Luther Seminary



A likeness to Winston Churchill, some said

“Today many of us take for granted that Christ-centered colleges and universities have always brought faith to bear on the academic disciplines. In fact, this has become a deliberate effort relatively recently. George was one of the founders and shapers of the movement to integrate faith and learning.”

—David Brandt,
President Emeritus,
George Fox University

“I have recommended a lot of people to different offices, but this recommendation of George Brushhaber to be dean of Bethel College was one of the best ones I’ve ever made. His biggest strength is his spiritual integrity and ability to make hard decisions. God has blessed his consecration to this mission.”

—Virgil Olson,
Former Vice President and
Dean,
Bethel College

“George would often come to our executive ministry team meetings even though it was not part of his job description. He never sought to dominate, but his suggestions were strong and helpful. And the research he conducted on the history of the Baptist General Conference made him one of the finest experts on where we came from and how we developed.”

—Robert Ricker,
Former BGC President

“I always felt, ‘Here is someone who knows his calling.’ It comes from his heart. It comes from his soul.”

—Fr. Dennis Dease,
President,
St. Thomas University

“He has a pastor’s heart. A side of him that I think people don’t see is that he’s incredibly encouraging when life is difficult.”

—Jay Barnes,
Executive Vice President and Provost of the
College of Arts & Sciences,
College of Adult &
Professional Studies, and
Graduate School,



A grandpa moment

Bethel University

“At Gordon, you taught a full load of philosophy classes, an overload Bible class, were dean of the night school, served on the major committees of the college, served as interim pastor of a local church, and were working on your doctorate. In today’s parlance, you were multi-tasking. You’ve always had an enormous capacity for work and for doing several things well at the same time.”

—Richard Gross,
Former President, Gordon College
and Brushhaber’s Academic Advisor at Wheaton
College



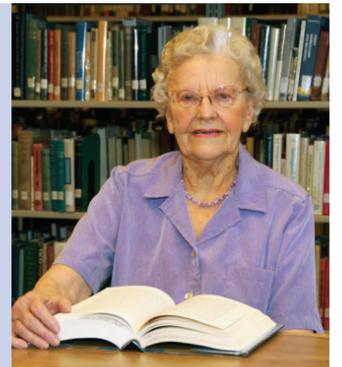
Deanna and her dad on her wedding day

“There is no initiative of the Christian College Consortium without the finger-prints of George. He’s been Christian higher education’s ‘franchise player.’ When there’s been a task needing to be done, a position to be articulated, the tendency has been to turn to him.”

—Tom Englund,
Former President,

About the Writer

Alvera Mickelsen is a retired Bethel faculty member of Bethel who taught writing and journalism from 1968 to 1988. She is a writer and editor living in New Brighton, Minn. Her husband, the late A. Berkeley Mickelsen, Ph.D., taught Hermeneutics and New Testament Greek at Bethel Seminary from 1965 to 1989.





George and Darleen Brushaber, December, 2007

Credits

Executive Editor – Sherie Lindvall '70
Editor and Contributing Writer – Holly Donato '78
Graphic Designer – Thomas Vukelich '82
Photography – Woody Dahlberg '69, Scott Streble,
and the BGC History Center

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