By Jeremy Yoder  
Co-editor-in-chief

The EMU student body is a little less diverse this year – but not necessarily in a bad way: the number of Mennonites in this year’s incoming class is up six percent from last year.

According to numbers recently released by the Admissions Office, 112 of 196, or 56 percent, of first-years are members of Mennonite Church USA, MC Canada, or other affiliated denominations. In comparison, last year’s first-year class contained 107 Mennonites, about 50 percent.

“This is a nice upswing that we want to watch,” Vice President for Marketing and Enrollment Shirley B. Yoder told Weather Vane.

Yoder attributed the increase to a rise in enrollment of recent graduates from Mennonite high schools across the nation. Christopher Dock Mennonite High School in Lansdale, Pa., showed the largest increase: it sent 12 graduates to EMU in 2002 and in 2003, which more than compensated for a drop in enrollment from Eastern Mennonite School, Central Christian School, and Bethany Christian School.

By Galen Wenger  
Staff Writer

Percent of Mennonites in Incoming Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Non-Mennonites</th>
<th>Mennonites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
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"If we can keep our incoming class around 50 to 55 percent Mennonite," said Yoder, "then we get that infusion [from Hesston] in the third year, and that keeps us above 60%.

EMU students had mixed opinions as to the importance of what denomination claims the largest portion of the student body. Yoder is a newcomer to EMU with this being his first year student Laura Arendt. "As long as you believe in God, that’s the important thing." First-year student Renee Mennonite high school.”

"We’re enriched by other denominations,” said Yoder, “but we like to see the Mennonites come, because we think it’s good for the Mennonite Church.”

By Galen Wenger  
Staff Writer

Lefever Talks Economy on “Virginia Tonight”

Before the show, Lefever surveyed students and workers on campus and in the community to find out how they feel the economy will do in the next half. An encouraging 60 percent of the 30 people surveyed believe the economy will enjoy "slow but steady" growth. None of the people surveyed believe the economy will decline.

"I think that the next half will be very strong," said Lefever, referring especially to Rockingham County. In his conversation on “Virginia Tonight,” Lefever reported that Rockingham County is a well-balanced area that is thriving with unemployment at half of the national average. As time passes from the 2001 recession and business scandals, both the national and local economies should continue to improve with great productivity and returning trust in the market.

Lefever is a newcomer to EMU with this being his first year as the MBA director, but he is no stranger to the world of business and economics. Lefever has over 28 years of business experience with the most recent being OneMain.com, a highly successful Internet Service Provider. OneMain.com was one of the largest independent ISPs before it was sold to Earthlink for $308 million in September of 2000.

After serving as an Earthlink vice president, Lefever left the boardroom for the classroom. In 2001, Lefever became the executive director of the Goshen Family Business Program at Goshen College. When Dr. Lyn Krause, the former director of the MBA Program, left EMU for Diablo Valley College, Lefever gladly took the opportunity to return to the East.

During his time in business, Lefever found values and ethics to be essential. OneMain.com was based on the values of people, quality, integrity, mutuality, and return to the East.

Conflict Transformation Program founding director John Paul Lederach will appear in the program “Peacemakers,” airing 8 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, on CBS.

Homecoming Weekend festivities will begin Friday, Oct. 10 with Chapel Assembly in Lehman Auditorium at 10 a.m.

During Fall Mission and Service Days, which have been set for Monday, Oct. 13 through Wednesday, Oct. 15, representatives from 12 service organizations will set up displays in the Campus Center Greeting Hall.

Tickets are now on sale for Godspell, which EMU Theater will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 3-4 and 10-11; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5 and 12. Call the EMU Box Office at 432-4582.

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