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## The Bethany College Connection

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Photos courtesy of Cora Lynn Carey, Graphic Designer



## Bethany College: Class of 2013



Bethany College's Spring Concert and Commencement weekend has always been a memorable time for students and their families, and for alumni and friends to gather, celebrate, congratulate, and say good-bye. This year's celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, affirmed the outstanding student body which graced the halls of Bethany this year. The event highlighted young men and women who have grown as disciples of Jesus and have exemplified 2 Timothy 2:15: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth."

The celebrations began on Saturday with the annual Spring Concert at Knox United Church in beautiful downtown Saskatoon. Susan J. Schmidt Goertz directed a presentation of musical ensembles and drama, "When I Walk through Those Doors," which focused on walking with Jesus in the power of God. Conductor Brent Kruger and the Teen Challenge Choir were special guests who, along with students, alumni, and community members, presented an uplifting message of hope.

Following the concert, students and guests along with Bethany faculty and staff gathered for an impressive banquet at the Sheraton Hotel. The students presented a program which was filled with tributes and shared memories of the year and the transformation they experienced in their lives.

On Sunday, the Commencement Service drew family and friends to the Bethany campus in Hepburn to recognize the accomplishments of the students. Bethany College conferred 13 Bachelor of Arts degrees, 13 Bachelor of Christian Studies degrees, 21 Diplomas of Biblical Studies, and 3 TESOL Certificates to Terri Epp (*in absentia*), Shanda Martens, and Spencer Nikkel.

Four Academic Awards were presented:

1. Cherie Bright – First Year Academic Award for Excellence in an Exegetical or Research Paper for her essay, "Joy Through Surrender, Isaiah 55:6-1"
2. Dynel Weber – Second Year Academic Award for Excellence in a Creative Project, "Noah and the Flood"
3. Stephanie Chase – Second Year Academic Award for Excellence in an Exegetical or Research Paper for her essay, "Becoming One in a World of Two: God's Intention for Male and Female Relationships as portrayed in Genesis 2:18-24" (photo next page)
4. Brittany Suderman – Fourth Year Academic Award for Excellence in an Exegetical or Research Paper for her essay, "The Power of Images, Pride and Greed: The Biblical Theology of Idolatry"



President Howie Wall presents Academic Awards (l-r) to: Cherie Bright, Dynel Weber, and Brittany Suderman (Stephanie Chase in next photos)

Additionally, two other awards were given recognizing excellence in academics and leadership:

1. Stephanie Chase – the Governor General’s Bronze Medal, awarded to the Diploma graduate with the highest cumulative Grade Point Average
2. Kaylee Buhler – the Delta Epsilon Chi Award of the Association of Biblical Higher Education for academic excellence, Christian character, and leadership contribution



President Howie Wall presents Awards (l-r) to: Kaylee Buhler: The Delta Epsilon Chi Award; Stephanie Chase: the Governor General’s Bronze Medal, and Second Year Academic Award recipient

In addition, several faculty and staff received recognition for long-term service: Rick Schellenberg, 25 years; Lisa Braun, 15 years; Jean Campbell, 10 years; and Candace Hamm, 5 years.

Michelle Dyck, a Second Year student from Calgary, Alberta, shared how God taught her to use her gift of hospitality as she spent time in “community” and in building relationships with others. Student Council President and Third Year student, Tim Peters, from Winkler, Manitoba, challenged students to continue to nurture their relationship with Jesus and be rooted in Him instead of putting their confidence in their accomplishments and qualifications. “The only thing that qualifies us for ministry,” Peters stated, “is our relationship with Jesus and being rooted in Him.” His concluding hope was “that you will have used Bethany to dig your roots so deep that when you leave, you will be able to stand firm on the solid Rock of Christ.”



Bachelor of Arts Degree Grads (pictured l-r):  
 Back – Stephen Johnson, Erick Penner, Steven Schmidt;  
 Centre: Chris Frostad, Rebecca Davies, Brittany Suderman, Justin Hamilton;  
 Front: Matthew Bergen, Shanda Martens, Kaylee Buhler, Stephen Dyck, Cameron Kerney; Not pictured: Jordan Loewen (*in absentia*)

Bachelor of Christian Studies Degree Grads (pictured l-r):  
 Back – Spencer Nikkel, Tim Peters;  
 Centre: Jeff Williams, Ryan Bright, Brendon Johnston, Jesse Doell, Tyrel Klassen;  
 Front: Michael Streilein, Erin Bader, Joanna Schellenberg, Brittany Suderman, Claressa Campbell, Joel Jantzen





Diploma of Biblical Studies Grads (pictured l-r): Back – Chris Allard, Clayton Wiebe, Matthew Boettcher, Luke Gruenhage, Spencer Epp, Trevor Bergen;  
Centre: Lane Thielmann, Andrew Reddekopp, Olivia Brotzell, Jaymie Baumann, Benjamin Thielmann, Jefferey Williams;  
Front: Sarah Thiessen, Dynel Weber, Stephanie Chase, Jennae Marriott, Josephine Penner, Michelle Dyck, Amy Thiessen Not pictured: Kelsey Magill (*in absentia*)

The heart of Bethany College is to *nurture disciples and train leaders to serve* and was evident in the details of the commencement celebration itself. Alumna Ashley Marie Wiebe stated, “Bethany College has encouraged my soul yet again. I don’t know how it can be so meaningful and encouraging to watch other people, most of whom I don’t know, celebrate another year at Bethany other than to say that God moves in that community and no one is immune to how powerful it is when a generation of people decide to be open and obedient to God’s calling on their life.”

For information on this and other events or activities at Bethany College, please go to our website: [www.bethany.sk.ca](http://www.bethany.sk.ca).

**Nurturing Disciples and Training Leaders to Serve**

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