



*Prepared to serve and
lead in a global context*

SUMMER 2023

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings from President Huxman

In this beautiful season in the Shenandoah Valley, I bring greetings from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) to the families, churches and conferences that make up MCUSA. A special greeting to the Central District Conference. Join me as I feature a few highlights from the previous year.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS. I enjoyed accompanying the super talented **EMU Chamber Singers** under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Bergey on its Ohio and Indiana Spring break tour. We are raising money for the choir to embark on a European tour this summer. The group visited 11 churches and schools. It was a lovely time to engage with so many alumni, friends and prospective students of EMU.

In addition to 50 undergraduate programs, EMU is home to 11 graduate programs and a seminary. One such graduate program is in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP). A new student in CJP is **Anna Dovbyck from Ukraine**. She joins students from USA, South Korea, Japan, North Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Kongo, Liberia, Mozambique, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and India. Her family has been upended by the war and a best friend is on the front lines in Donbas. She says: “Amidst the turmoil, I began to ask myself: what can I do? Getting a professional education in conflict transformation and work with trauma became my way of responding to the challenges of the war. And so now I find myself studying in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. It is probably the first time in recent adult years that I feel so much in my place, and so motivated.”

UPGRADING FACILITIES. We’ve just completed a major renovation in University Commons, creating a new student union and new admissions space. Now we are turning our attention to a new Track and Field Complex, looking for “pace setting” gifts to completely build a new complex. We’ve already raised over half of the total. We are also replacing our aging Turf Field for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. The third imminent capital project this year is the architectural design and specs for a new facility to house a fabrication lab for our growing Engineering program. We were so pleased to receive ABET accreditation for our engineering program this summer. Precious few private liberal arts colleges in the country receive this coveted validation.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer, encouraging prospective students, and offering generous financial support. Mennonite students still comprise well over one-quarter of our traditional undergraduate student body.

In gratitude,
Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D., President, EMU

Harrisonburg, Virginia

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How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker:
540-432-4597 or
ChurchRelations@emu.edu

Central District Conference Connections to EMU

Students

Eleven undergraduate students, two graduate students and one seminary student from Central District Mennonite Conference are enrolled in the spring 2023 semester.

Giving

Central District Mennonite Conference churches gave \$48,839 in matching church grants during the fiscal year ending June 2022.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**,
president
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, *vice president for advancement*
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, *Associate Vice President of Advancement*
- ▶ **Luke Litwiller**, *director of undergrad admissions*

Our Vision

We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.