

# A Witness for Science

By Kenya McCullum



*Bryan Rehm '98*

When **Bryan Rehm '98** graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a bachelor's degree in physics and a teaching certificate, he had no idea that his love for education would propel him into the middle of a lawsuit that pitted religion against science.

But that's exactly what happened shortly after Rehm began teaching at Dover High School, when the school board announced that it wanted biology teachers to include the concept of Intelligent Design in their lesson plans alongside Darwin's theory of evolution. As a man

of science, the idea of teaching an inherently religious concept in a biology class did not sit well with Rehm, nor did he want his own children to learn this in public school.

"Living in the district and having children in the district meant that if the curriculum changed, my children were going to be taught that the religious concept of creationism is a valid scientific theory," he said.

His colleagues at Dover High School felt the same way about the curriculum change, and thus a lengthy battle started between the school board and the teachers. If you are picturing genteel intellectual debates among educators, think

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again. Rehm said that the discussions were often incendiary and led to personal attacks on his character and belief system—the word 'atheist,' among others, was bandied about, which was ironic considering Rehm is not an atheist. In fact, he is a religious man who is active in his church and runs Vacation Bible School.

But the battle did not end with the school board. When the two sides were unable to reach an agreement, Rehm and 10 other Dover residents filed suit to keep Intelligent Design out of the science curriculum. The debate was not confined to the classroom—Rehm recalls being confronted and insulted in public. In addition, students became downright belligerent in the classroom when they learned of his involvement in the debate.

Ultimately, the court sided with Rehm and his colleagues, keeping Intelligent Design out of Dover's science classrooms. Despite the amount of strife the episode caused for several years, he said the outcome made it all worthwhile, because the court's decision goes a long way toward preserving religious freedom as well as intellectual growth.

"The end outcome of the lawsuit and the filing is really the protection of religious liberty—the fact that I'm allowed to have my religion and members of the board are allowed to have their religion. The local government can't say that one person's religion is better than another person's religion," said Rehm. "I feel that the need to protect our religious liberties, and religious freedom is very important."

**Kenya McCullum is a freelance writer based in San Francisco whose work can be found at [www.km-com.com](http://www.km-com.com).**

## class news & notes

**William E. Kesil '96** and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed a daughter, Morgan Anna, into their home on March 3, 2006. William is a global senior study data manager at Roche in Nutley, N.J.

On Sept. 18, 2005, **Donald J. Klunk '96** and his wife, **Lynne Morrell Klunk '96**, welcomed a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, into their home.

**Emedio V. Marchozzi '96** is a QC actives laboratory supervisor at Adhesives Research in Glen Rock.

**Diane Porter Ford '96** is a student at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. She and her husband, **Robert D. Ford '98**, reside in Hummelstown.

**Amy B. Shollenberger '96** is policy director at Rural Vermont in Montpelier, Vt.

**Brain T. Stover '96** is a principal sales consultant at Oracle Corporation in New Jersey.

**Nicole L. Adams, Esq., '97** is a deputy attorney general with the Office of Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the health care section of the Public Protection Division.

**John M. Black '97** is a software engineer at Fiberlink Communications Corporation in Blue Bell. John is a member of the Department of Liturgical Music at the Orthodox Church in America, and he assists with typesetting music for various occasions.

**Brian J. Kampf '97** is a special education teacher at the Valley Day School in the Philadelphia School District.

On April 8, 2006, **Martha R. Mains '97** married **Michael B. Lobaugh '99** in Chambersburg. The wedding party included matron of honor **Cathleen Damms Ketterer '97**, bridesmaid **Dr. Sarah E. Eckenrode '97**, and best man **Johnathan P. Lobaugh '04**.

**Michael S. McGreevy '97** is director of business operations for Comcast Cable Communications, Inc., in Rockville, Md.

**Susan McCurdy '97** is a biology teacher at Manheim Central High School.

On Sept. 26, 2004, **Sharon Possessky Krock '97**, and her husband, Brad, welcomed a son, Alan Francis, into their family. Sharon is a staff scientist at Schnabel Engineering in West Chester. She earned Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) certification from the Society of Wetland Scientists.