

# YOUNG CENTER

## News

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



## Senior Fellow Donald Kraybill writes into retirement

Riding the train from Lancaster to Philadelphia in the fall of 1970, Don Kraybill had no idea his career would be set by his seatmate. Henry Long, a master's student, and Kraybill, a Ph.D. student, were both attending grad school at Temple University. Both were studying in the sociology department, where Kraybill was also John Hostetler's research assistant. Midway through their second year, Long, who was already teaching in Elizabethtown College's sociology and social work department, told Kraybill that the department would soon be looking for another faculty member. The college invited Kraybill to interview and then offered him the position of instructor in sociology, which he accepted "basically because it paid better" than his assistantship at Temple. So in January 1971, Kraybill began his multi-decade teaching career at E-town, working part-time during the school year and full time in the summer until completing his doctorate.

Kraybill has also had other "big breaks," as he refers to them. The next was an invitation to write a book: "The first book I wrote was in 1976, for the U.S. bicentennial. It was called *Our Star-Spangled Faith*, and I was invited to write it by Herald Press. That was a huge break because getting the first book published is often the hardest thing, and I had an invitation to do it. And then the second book was *The Upside-Down Kingdom*, which won the National Religious Book Award in 1979."

The next opportunity was receiving an NEH summer fellowship at Yale University in 1979. "That was a really big deal," Kraybill says. "They're very competitive. The director accepted me for one reason—because I was a sociologist and he was teaching 'The Social World of the Early Church.' The others were religion scholars and historians, and he

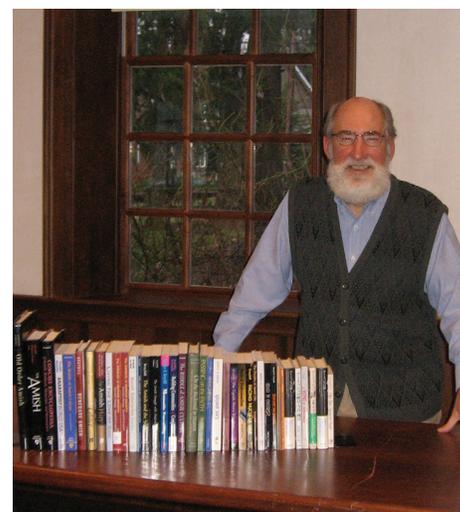
wanted a sociologist. It was a great seminar. We met twice a week in the morning for three hours, and the rest of the time we were on our own to do research and write."

A few years later, Kraybill applied for and received an NEH grant to support a semester-long writing project, another good break in his professional life. "I don't think I would have gotten it if I had not had that summer seminar. Because once you do something in those circles and do it OK, then you have a leg up in other competitions."

"That was a project I never finished," Kraybill continues. "I was funded to do a comparative history of Amish, Brethren, and Mennonites in Lancaster County from 1880 to 1980. As I got into it, I realized that before I did the comparative history, I was going to have to do the Amish history, because there wasn't a good history of the Amish. So at that point I shifted over to Amish research, which led to *The Riddle of Amish Culture*."

Kraybill's fifth big break occurred at about the same time as the writing grant. He was serving on the search committee that eventually chose Gerhard Spiegler as college president, and at one point in the process, Spiegler asked Kraybill for coffee and conversation about how the college used its heritage to market itself. Later, Kraybill would show Spiegler the little-used—and locked—heritage room in the basement of Zug. Spiegler was not impressed, and soon after he became president in 1985, Kraybill recalls, "He said, 'Write me a proposal,' and so I did."

The Study Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Groups was established a year later in "kind of a closet," with John Hostetler as director. In the summer of 1989, the current facility opened with Kraybill as director. "The hope was that this could be an intersection where different



Anabaptist groups could come together and learn from each other. It was to be a gathering place, a crossroads, a conversation."

"If it had not been for Spiegler," Kraybill maintains, "the Young Center never would have started. I simply happened to be here at the right time and by chance was on the search committee where I learned to know him. Shows the serendipity of history!"

Serendipity—or big breaks—aside, Don Kraybill has certainly worked diligently. The quantity of his publications—29 authored, coauthored, or edited books as well as hundreds of journal articles, chapters, papers, and presentations—plus his countless media interviews and appearances, and his college courses, fellowships, grants, and other professional activities clearly attest to that.

Kraybill officially retires from the college at the end of this academic year, but he is not retiring from scholarly work. His current project—a history of his alma mater, Eastern Mennonite University—is slated for publication in 2017.



## From the Director

Winter has entered more softly this year than last year. This season brings gatherings with friends and families for holiday celebrations. For me, this season is also a time to ponder the possibilities of a new year.

During the coming semester, along with regular lectures we have some special occasions to celebrate the accomplishments of our Senior Fellow, Donald B. Kraybill, as he plans for retirement at the end of this academic year. Don has nurtured and advanced the Young Center from its beginning in 1986, through his field work and writing on the Amish, and in his teaching and mentoring of students and young scholars. At our spring banquet on April 9, Don will deliver the Durnbaugh Lecture and reflect on his career and the Young Center. The banquet is open to the public (see details on page 5). We invite you to celebrate with us.

While we mark the accomplishments of Don's career to this point, he and the Young Center staff continue to plan and act for the future. The Durnbaugh Seminar on April 10 features guest speakers who will join Don for a fresh analysis of issues of law and religious identity raised in the case of the formerly Amish group of Bergholz beard cutters.

This spring two programs offer different formats. On March 12, photographer Dennis Hughes will give an illustrated presentation of his photography of Amish life. His interactions with the Amish bring aspects of their lives to light through pictures. On April 18, we offer an off-site event at Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg to learn more about Brethren and Mennonites who opposed war and the Battle of Gettysburg.

As we celebrate accomplishments and look forward to new opportunities, we are grateful for your support of the Young Center. I look forward to seeing you at our programs this semester.

Jeff Bach  
Director

# Recent donations and acquisitions

## BIBLES, PAPERS, COMMEMORATIVE OBJECTS GIVEN TO THE CENTER

In recent months the Young Center received some significant donated items. In August, Jane Bingman Guerin (an alumna of Elizabethtown College), her brother, Robert Stewart Bingman, and some of their cousins presented the Bingmann family Bible to the Young Center. Their ancestors, Johann Jost and Juliana (Ort) Bingmann, brought the Bible, printed in 1739 in Switzerland, with them from Germany in 1754. The Bible passed through several generations, and family members became involved in the Evangelical Association, a Pietist network founded by Jacob Albright in the early nineteenth century. The association gave birth to the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and some of the Bingmann descendants served as ministers in the church. The family Bible represents the important presence of this Pietist group in Pennsylvania.

In November, Gladys Bucher Sowers donated the German Bible of Benedict Bucher, which also contained some broadsides of German hymns or poetry, an inscription by Susannah Bucher, and a Fraktur piece with her name. Many descendants of Benedict Bucher have been leaders in the Church of the Brethren and Elizabethtown College, including Rufus Pfoutz Bucher, for whom the Bucher Meetinghouse at the Young Center is named.

Sowers also donated several ledgers kept by various Bucher family members.

In August, Maylee and Marc Samuels officially donated letters and papers of Anna Blough, Brethren missionary to China in the early twentieth century. Maylee, a great-niece of Anna, had lent the materials to the Young Center for digitizing. They are available through High Library's Digital Collections, with a link on the collections page of the Young Center website. Maylee has now formally donated the original documents along with material that her uncle, Lowell Heisey, created as a conscientious objector in Civilian Public Service during World War II.

Nancy Buchanan donated several love feast utensils used by Deshler Church of the Brethren in northern Ohio, which closed in 2011. The items include a tin footwashing tub, a basin for washing hands after footwashing, and a large white cloth apron used during the Brethren communion service.

The Lititz Church of the Brethren donated a handmade wooden cup commemorating its 100th anniversary this year.

We are grateful for these and other donations that came to the Young Center last summer and fall. These objects help to interpret the lives of members of Pietist and Anabaptist groups.

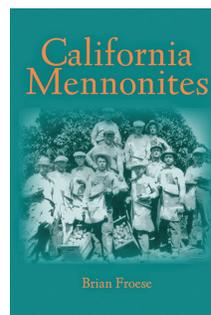
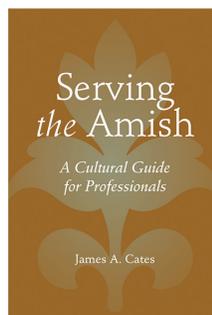
# New books in the Young Center series

One new title in the Young Center series published by the Johns Hopkins University Press was released at the end of 2014 and one more will be available at the end of this month.

*Serving the Amish: A Cultural Guide for Professionals* by clinical psychologist James Cates is designed for human service and health care providers, professionals working in the criminal justice system, and others advocating for and interacting with Plain people. In this book, Cates weaves his experi-

ences in Amish communities in northeast Indiana into his discussion of the cultural practices and spiritual beliefs of Amish people and his insights into the qualities of relationship between care providers and clients that foster effective service to Amish people.

In *California Mennonites*, Brian Froese, assistant professor of history at Canadian Mennonite University, begins his study in the 1890s with the migration of Mennonites to the Golden State for "fertile soil and healthy sunshine." By the mid-twentieth century, the Mennonite story had become one of struggle and place-finding in the midst of the state's rapid changes including urbanization and religious pluralism. Froese situates the Mennonites' experiences within the historical events of the time and describes the different approaches of the three major denominations in California: the Mennonite Church, General Conference Mennonites, and Mennonite Brethren.



## Archives dedicated

Anita F. Hess and Elizabethtown College President Carl Strikwerda cut the ribbon marking the official opening and dedication of the Earl H. and Anita F. Hess Archives and Special Collections on November 3, 2014. The ribbon cutting followed a dedication ceremony honoring donors and preceded tours of the facility.

The archives houses the Young Center's special collections of rare books, manuscripts, and scholarly papers, as well as the college's rare book and archival collections, and the records of the Church of the Brethren.



## Gettysburg event planned for April

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT ANABAPTISTS AND THE CIVIL WAR

On April 18, the Young Center and Seminary Ridge Museum at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg will present "Brethren and Mennonites and the Battle of Gettysburg." Stephen Longenecker, professor of history at Bridgewater College, will discuss

the Brethren and other religious groups in Gettysburg during the Civil War, drawing on research for his recent book, *Gettysburg Religion*. The daylong event also includes a tour of Seminary Ridge Museum, lunch, a visit to Marsh Creek Brethren meetinghouse, and a presentation about Brethren and Mennonite conscientious objectors in Adams County during the Civil War.

The day will begin with light refreshments from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the seminary. Tours of Seminary Ridge Museum and visits to the cupola will take place from 10 until 11:30, after which lunch will be served. Stephen Longenecker's lecture, "Gettysburg Religion: Pursuing Faith in a Small Town on the Eve of the Civil War," will begin at 12:30. Then participants will travel to Marsh Creek meetinghouse for a lecture by Roger Heller, "Conscientious Objection in Civil War Adams County." Heller is a retired history teacher and volunteer with the Adams County Historical Society. The event will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

The fee for the day is \$30, which includes museum admission, lunch, refreshments, and the presentations. To register, call the Young Center at 717-361-1470 or register online beginning February 2 via the events page of the Young Center website, [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr). The deadline for registration is April 8. We hope you can join us for a spring outing to Gettysburg!

## Center hosts international visitors

In recent months, the Young Center has been pleased to welcome several international scholars. Father Peter Heers, an Orthodox priest from Petrokerasa, Greece, visited last spring and again in November for discussions with Don Kraybill and a visit among the Amish community. Father Heers is exploring theological differences and similarities among the Orthodox and the Amish and other Anabaptist groups.

Andy Borella, a Young Center doctoral fellow in Spring 2008 from Milan, Italy, returned to the United States for new research on Anabaptist groups, while revisiting groups in Lancaster County. An anthropologist, Borella is working on a book in Italian that provides an overview of Anabaptist groups in the U.S.

Victoria Sun successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on Amish singing at the University of Maryland, College Park, in December. Sun, a doctoral student from China, was a Young Center visiting scholar in 2013 and 2014 while doing her field research in Lancaster County. Her dissertation compares singing in worship and singing at fellowship events among different Amish districts.



## Kreider Fellows postpone residency

Samuel and Rebecca Dali, the Kreider Fellows for Spring 2015, are unable to fulfill their residency this spring, and instead will be in residence during the Fall 2015 semester. The Dalis have been displaced from their home due to the attacks of religious extremists (Boko Haram) aimed at the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Ekklesiar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, or EYN). The church headquarters and the church's college, Kulp Bible College, have been overrun by Boko Haram, and all staff and students have fled. Samuel Dali is the current president of EYN, and Rebecca Dali has been directing an NGO that provides aid to refugees of all religious affiliations. The humanitarian work of that organization has been temporarily suspended, due to interference from Boko Haram. Because of the extremely unstable situation, the Dalis will wait until late summer to travel to Pennsylvania.

# Meet archivist Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh

Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh joined the campus community last fall as the college archivist. She came to Elizabethtown from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, where she served as archivist and public services librarian for six years. Originally from Airville in York County, Grove Rohrbaugh holds an MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and a BA from University of Delaware.

## How did you decide to become an archivist?

As long as I can remember, I've loved material and cultural history. I grew up on a farm in York County that has been in my family since the mid-eighteenth century, and my grandfather and I spent many hours together going over family documents and photographs. Looking back, this love of history we shared planted the seed of my interest in archives. But my more concrete interest in special libraries and archives really started at the University of Delaware. I worked in the Art History slide library as an undergraduate work study assistant and was inspired by the librarians that managed the department. They got to learn about all of these different movements in visual culture as they cata-

logued the collection. I loved the idea that I wouldn't necessarily have to focus on one particular time period or even subject discipline and realized that some kind of work as an information professional would satisfy my intellectual curiosity.

## What brought you to Elizabethtown College?

A friend of mine, who is an archivist at Penn State Harrisburg, sent me the job posting when it came across the Lancaster County Digitization Project listserv. My husband and I had been living in Pittsburgh for the past nine years, but were hoping to move back to south central Pennsylvania. I was excited to not only see an archivist job posting in this area but also one that was such a good fit. I was already working as a solo archivist at a small college similar in many ways to Elizabethtown. I also have some background in Anabaptist Studies—I spent one summer many years ago interviewing Amish quilters in York and Lancaster Counties for the Quilters' S.O.S. (Save Our Stories), so I was familiar with the Young Center and in particular the work of the Young Center's Senior Fellow, Donald Kraybill.



During the interview process, it immediately became clear how much excitement the new Hess Archives had generated both on campus and in the wider community, and I was eager to be part of it.

## What intrigues you about the Young Center part of the Hess Archives and Special Collections?

During the few months I've been here, we've already had several scholars visit and use the collections, and that's what interests me the most—making these materials accessible to researchers both in person here in the Hess Archives and hopefully online. I'm also looking forward to partnering with faculty and seeing the archives used more and more by students here at Elizabethtown. The collections have tremendous potential to be used in classrooms in a number of disciplines and not just Religious Studies and History.

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## Musa Mambula discusses religious violence in northeastern Nigeria

Rev. Dr. Musa Mambula delivered a lecture, "Religion and Terror in Northeastern Nigeria: Boko Haram, Christians, and Modern Muslims," on November 20 at the Bucher Meetinghouse to a group of about 45 attendees. The event was jointly sponsored by Elizabethtown College's Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking and the Young Center. Mambula, a pastor in the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Ekklesiar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, or EYN) and a former educator, was the Young Center fellow in Spring 2007.

In his talk, Mambula described the attacks by Boko Haram on Brethren congregations and institutions in northeastern Nigeria, where both EYN and Boko Haram are the strongest. In April 2014, Boko Haram extremists kidnapped over 300 school girls near Chibok, most of whom were Brethren. By November 2014, Boko Haram had overrun the denomination's headquarters and Kulp Bible College, its institution for ministry students. Other attacks by Boko Haram forced the closing of 38 out of 50 EYN church dis-

tricts and destroyed over 156 church buildings. By the end of September 2014, over 4,000 members of EYN had been killed. Mambula reported that about 1.56 million Nigerians (Christian and Muslim) have been displaced by religious violence. He noted that members of EYN do not retaliate and attempt to hold an attitude of prayer and love for enemies. Following Mambula's speech, Brian Newsome, professor of history at Elizabethtown College, commented on the formation of Boko Haram and the group's ties to other radicalized Muslim organizations.

Mambula also spoke at the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg on December 4, an event jointly sponsored with the Young Center and the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking. In that talk he described in more detail attacks on mosques and moderate Muslim clergy in northeastern Nigeria.

Musa Mambula and his wife, Sarah, are visiting in the United States through the winter of 2015. The Young Center was pleased to welcome him here.



Young Center director Jeff Bach congratulates Douglas Shantz on receiving the 2014 Dale Brown Book Award. Shantz presented a talk on his book, *An Introduction to German Pietism: Protestant Renewal at the Dawn of Modern Europe*, on September 23.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Eberhard Bethge and the Myth of Bonhoeffer the Assassin: Recovering a Consistent Christ-Centered Ethic in “a World Full of Nazis”

**MARK THIESSEN NATION**

**Thursday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.**

**Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center**



What if Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed for saving Jews from death and being a conscientious objector instead of for assisting in a plot to kill Hitler, as was commonly reported? Mark Thiessen Nation, professor of theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and coauthor of *Bonhoeffer the Assassin?*, argues that the latter is true, thus challenging the impressions left by Bonhoeffer’s influential biographer and friend Eberhard Bethge.

## From Conservative Amish Mennonite to Evangelical Anabaptist: A Historical Overview of the Conservative Mennonite Conference

**NATHAN E. YODER**

**Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.**

**Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center**



Nate Yoder, professor of church history at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and archivist for Eastern Mennonite University, discusses the growth and change of the Conservative Mennonite Conference, which is the topic of his recent book, *Together in the Work of the Lord*.

## Amish in Focus: Photos and Stories

**DENNIS HUGHES**

**Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.**

**Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center**

Professional photographer Dennis Hughes of East Petersburg, Pa., has been taking pictures of the Amish and other Plain groups since 1986. His 18,000 wide-ranging images, taken in various counties in Pennsylvania and other states, illustrate his sensitivity and respect for Amish people and their way of life. Hughes will show some of his photographs and tell behind-the-scene stories related to them. A reception honoring Hughes for the generous contribution of his slides to the Hess Archives and Special Collections will follow the program.

## YOUNG CENTER BANQUET

**Thursday, April 9, 6:00 p.m. (Reception at 5:30)**

**KAV, Brossman Commons**

The annual dinner gives faculty, staff, students, church leaders, and other friends of the Young Center an opportunity to socialize and learn about the center’s activities and programs. A reception for Durnbaugh Lecturer Donald Kraybill will be held at 5:30 p.m.

Cost for the banquet is \$15, and reservations are required by March 26. Call the Young Center at 717-361-1470 or register online beginning February 2 via the events page of the Young Center website.

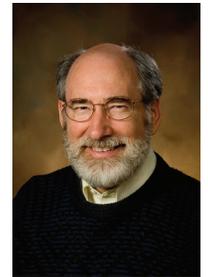
## DURNBAUGH LECTURE

### The Young Center: From Swamp to International Center of Scholarship

**DONALD B. KRAYBILL**

**Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.**

**KAV, Brossman Commons**



Donald Fitzkee, a former student of Don Kraybill, will emcee the program, which will begin with an update on Young Center activities by director Jeff Bach followed by roast-and-toast comments by several of Kraybill’s students and colleagues. Kraybill will then reflect on his teaching and work at Elizabethtown College and trace the Young Center’s birth, growth, and contributions to the world of Anabaptist and Pietist studies.

Donald B. Kraybill, Distinguished College Professor and Senior Fellow at the Young Center, is the author, coauthor, or editor of numerous journal articles and books, including *The Amish* and *Renegade Amish: Beard Cutting, Hate Crimes, and the Trial of the Berg-holz Barbers*, both published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

## DURNBAUGH SEMINAR

### How a Maverick Amish Group Impacted Federal Hate Crimes

**Friday, April 10, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall**

Don Kraybill will open the seminar with a brief overview of the Amish beard-cutting attacks and the subsequent trial, convictions, and sentencing. Kyle Kopko, assistant professor of political science at Elizabethtown College, will give the keynote address: “Amish on the Cutting Edge: Hate Crimes, Interstate Commerce, and the Unlikely Case of U.S. v. Mullet.” Detective Joe Mullet, Holmes County, Ohio, will also participate as will others associated with the case. The informal format will allow ample opportunity for discussion during the seminar.

Cost for the seminar is \$10, which includes lunch, and reservations are required by March 26. To register, call the Young Center at 717-361-1470 or register online beginning February 2 via the events page of the Young Center website.



# THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES

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## Shenandoah Valley pastors explore Brethren heritage

A group of 37 ministers and spouses from the Shenandoah District of the Church of the Brethren came to the Young Center for a Brethren heritage tour October 17 to 19. Before arriving at the Center on Friday, the group visited the historic Mumma's Meetinghouse on the Antietam National Battlefield, as well as nearby Tolson's Chapel, founded by African Americans as a Methodist Church and early school in the post-Civil War Freedman's Bureau system. Nancy Camel, a freed African American and member of the Manor Church of the Brethren, supported the chapel and donated a pulpit Bible to them.

At the Young Center, the visitors viewed rare books along with artifacts related to the Brethren love feast. On Saturday they toured the Ephrata Cloister and visited Kreiders Meetinghouse, built by Brethren near Manheim in 1859. Jim Meyer, a minister from the White Oak congregation, spoke about the history of the building, and a vocal quartet from the Chiques congregation sang hymns reflecting changing styles of Brethren hymnody.

On Sunday morning, the group traveled to Germantown in Philadelphia, where they visited the site of the first Brethren baptisms in America at Wissahickon Creek. They also attended the worship service at Germantown Church of the Brethren, toured the cemetery, and enjoyed a fellowship meal at the church before returning to Virginia. Young Center director Jeff Bach planned the tour with help from volunteer Jim Miller and the Germantown pastor, Richard Kyerematen.



*Museum educator Michael Showalter describes the architecture at Ephrata Cloister*

SPRING 2015

YOUNG  
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*News*

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*Young Center News* is published twice each year for those interested in the work and events of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. For e-mail notification and a link to each new issue of *Young Center News*, send an e-mail message to [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu).

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