

YOUNG CENTER

News

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



Steve Nolt appointed senior scholar at the Young Center

GOSHEN COLLEGE PROFESSOR TO SUCCEED SENIOR FELLOW DONALD KRAYBILL

“I see the role of the Young Center as telling stories and connecting constituencies,” Steve Nolt says. “And, it turns out, those two things are also what energize me about my new role there.”

Nolt will begin that new role—senior scholar at the Young Center—on July 1, but he began his professional storytelling role years ago, at a remarkably young age. When he was twenty-four and completing a master’s degree in church history, his first book, *A History of the Amish* (Good Books, 1992), was published. That year also marked his initial association with the Young Center. Director Don Kraybill hired him as a research associate supporting Kraybill’s grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania to study Amish entrepreneurship. Nolt interviewed dozens of Amish business owners all over Lancaster County the following spring, and periodically met with Kraybill to go over the data and findings. The project resulted in the first collaborations between Kraybill and Nolt: *Amish Enterprise: From Plows to Profits*, which was published in 1995 by the Johns Hopkins University Press. And thus, as Kraybill puts it, “Steve had become the author of two important academic books even before he had completed his PhD.”

In the spring of 1997, while working on that PhD, Nolt was back at the Young Center as the Connelly Foundation Fellow. Invited to fill the role by interim Young Center director Theron Schlabach, Nolt taught a course on Catholics and Anabaptists and worked on research for his dissertation, “German Faith, American Faithful: Religion and Ethnicity in the Early American Republic.”

In 1998, Nolt received his doctoral degree from the University of Notre Dame and began teaching history at his alma mater, Goshen College, the following year. He is currently completing his seventeenth academic year at Goshen, where he teaches a variety of American and Anabaptist history courses. Nolt has authored, coauthored, or contributed to 14 books and has published more than 100 scholarly articles, book chapters, essays, and encyclopedia entries. And he has spoken to groups across North America and in Europe on subjects as diverse as mental health care among the Amish, the Mennonite peace witness and Pennsylvania German religion and ethnicity.

“Storytelling is my professional calling as a historian,” Nolt says. “It’s what I do when I teach and when I talk to church and community groups. But stories are the principal inheritance and resource of the Anabaptist and Pietist traditions. Martyr stories, immigration stories, family stories. Stories that inspire and stories that disturb. Stories that ask hard questions and stories that make us laugh. Stories that energize insiders, invite dialogue with outsiders, or blur the very distinction between insiders and outsiders.”

“Stories are also what bring people together,” he continues. “Stories evoke both the analytical and the emotive. Every story is also an interpretation, which is why stories are central in teaching because they attend to formation and develop critical thinking. The media come to the Young Center for help in understanding certain stories. Churches want to know more about their stories. Scholars seek to analyze and make meaning from



stories. All of these connections and relationships point to a central characteristic of the Young Center that makes it the premier scholarly hub of Anabaptist and Pietist studies in North America. A hub connects people, and that has been and will remain the great strength of the Young Center. The Center brings people together across academic disciplines, it brings people together across denominational lines. The Center connects students and scholars, campus and community, college and church; it connects Old Orders with assimilated scholars, popular interest with expertise, and media inquirers with knowledge.

I’m energized to be a part of telling stories and connecting constituencies.”



From the Director

A new year brings many new beginnings at the Young Center! We will welcome Steve Nolt as the new senior scholar. Don Kraybill will settle into a new role as professor emeritus. We have new scholars visiting the Young Center. They will pursue topics such as Amish family life, health care, and religious and community identity. Their work expands Young Center research in new directions. We are excited about a new addition being built onto the Young Center this summer.

Even with the changes, we will still fulfill our mission of research and interpretation with the same energy as usual. In June we will host an international academic conference about the Amish, "Continuity and Change: 50 Years of Amish Society." Presenters from this region, from across the nation, and from around the world will meet here to explore what is changing among the Amish and what patterns endure. The speakers reflect a variety of disciplines engaged in studying the Amish. They demonstrate how much the field of Amish studies has grown since the release in 1963 of John Hostetler's book, *Amish Society*. The Young Center has contributed to this growth since its founding in 1986 and will continue to do so in the future.

Although construction will temporarily close the Young Center building after the conference in June, staff members will continue to assist researchers and visitors with inquiries about Anabaptist and Pietist groups. When we move back into the expanded building in the fall of 2016, we anticipate that the facility will serve our mission in new and better ways.

I hope to see you at our programs this semester and at the conference in June. Keep in touch and come see the new changes next fall. Thanks for all of the encouragement and support!

Jeff Bach
Director

Visiting scholars and doctoral students study various aspects of Old Order life

Claire Mensack, the 2016 Kreider Fellow, is an assistant professor in public health and health promotion at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. She received her PhD from the University of South Carolina and has worked extensively with older adults, and in the fields of mental health and addiction.

During her fellowship, Mensack will look at aging in place as well as the concept of the *Dawdyhaus* and its place in the Plain community. She will also study *Gelassenheit* as it relates to family and community members' care of their aging population. Mensack looks forward to "interacting with scholars who are proficient in understanding the cultural aspects of Plain people" and anticipates that her work will add to the existing body of knowledge about the lifestyle and culture of Plain communities and the influence of their faith on health care.

Due to constraints in her teaching schedule, Mensack will be in residence this summer instead of during the spring semester. She will deliver the Kreider Lecture in the fall of 2016, at a date to be announced later.

Christine Nelson-Tuttle will spend February through May at the Young Center as a visiting research scholar. Nelson-Tuttle holds a doctor of nursing science degree from the University at Buffalo and is a professor of nursing at Saint John Fisher College in Rochester, New York. She has a strong interest in health care for children with special needs, especially those in minority communities. While here, she will study health practices in local Amish communities, working in collaboration with the Clinic for Special Children and the Young Center. She'll use her findings to establish best care practices that can help meet the health care needs of the Amish in Cattaraugus County, New York.

In late January, Dan Sheng will begin her time here as a visiting scholar. She is a lectur-

er in the English department of the School of Foreign Studies at Anhui University in Hefei, China, and also a doctoral student. During her year in residence at the Young Center, Sheng will study family life and values among the Lancaster County Amish. She'll use this research in her dissertation, a comparative ethnographical study of family values among the Huizhou people of China and the Amish community in Lancaster County.

Andy Martin will spend the summer as a Young Center doctoral fellow. Martin, a counseling therapist in Elmira, Ontario, is pursuing a doctorate at Regis College, Toronto School of Theology. For his dissertation, he is tracing ascetical and mystical themes from medieval monasticism through Anabaptism and early North American Mennonite thought to identify and describe Old Order Mennonite spirituality. During his fellowship, Martin plans to wrap up his research on Old Order Mennonites and write the two central chapters of his dissertation. He looks forward to participating in the Amish conference, conversing with Young Center staff about the conservative Anabaptist communities, and running and bicycling on the rolling hills around Elizabethtown.

Doctoral Fellow Daniella Shaw-Gabay, a sociology student at the University of Surrey in England, will also be in residence this summer. Shaw-Gabay is exploring how traditional communities, particularly faith-based ones, negotiate the fluid conditions of contemporary modernity. During her time at the Center, she plans to talk with experts on the Amish, use the Hess Archives, and begin her fieldwork in an Amish community. "The archives, expertise and networks at the Young Center offer me an unrivalled opportunity to understand the Amish experience of late modernity and to develop my own research," Shaw-Gabay says.



C. Nelson-Tuttle



Dan Sheng



Andy Martin



D. Shaw-Gabay

Heritage Festival

Martha Gibbel Hunsicker demonstrated wheat weaving at the Brethren Heritage Festival held during Elizabethtown College's Homecoming on October 17. A native of Beatrice, Nebraska, Hunsicker lives in Palmyra and has many years of experience at this craft. Here she shows a young visitor how to bend and weave together the dampened stalks of wheat to create decorative items.

The festival featured art projects and games for children along with craft demonstrations. Volunteers offered refreshments such as popcorn, bread with homemade apple butter, and ice cream made in a churn powered by a stationary bicycle.



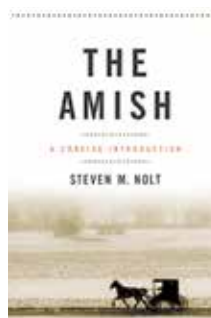
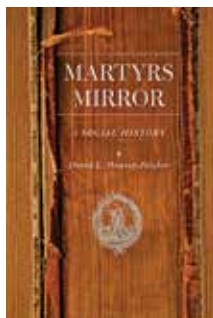
New books in the Young Center series

Three new titles in the Young Center series published by the Johns Hopkins University Press will be released in early 2016.

In *Pennsylvania Dutch: The Story of an American Language*, Mark Loudon takes a comprehensive look at the language in the life and culture of the two major subgroups that use it: the "Fancy Dutch" and the Old Or-

der Amish and Mennonites. David Weaver-Zercher's *Martyrs Mirror: A Social History*, situates van Braght's account of Anabaptist martyrdom in its historical context and traces the diverse ways it has provided cultural identity in Anabaptist communities ranging from the most ultraconservative Amish to the most assimilated Mennonite groups. And

The Amish: A Concise Introduction is Steve Nolt's succinct portrait of Amish life, which resolves common misconceptions about education, occupation, technology, *Rumspringa*, and other aspects of Amish identity.



Johnson-Weiner named Durnbaugh Lecturer for 2016

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Karen Johnson-Weiner will deliver the Durnbaugh lectures on April 7 and 8. A recent Snowden Fellow at the Young Center, Johnson-Weiner teaches linguistic anthropology at SUNY Potsdam. Her research has been supported by a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and grants from NEH, the Spencer Foundation, and the SUNY Potsdam Research and Creative Endeavors Program.

Johnson-Weiner is the author of *Train up a Child: Old Order Amish and Mennonite Schools and New York Amish: Life in the Plain Communities of the Empire State*, and coauthor, with Donald Kraybill and Steven Nolt, of *The Amish*. She is currently at work on a study of Old Order Amish women (tentatively titled "Wives, Mothers, and Entrepreneurs: The Lives of Amish Women").

Established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh, the Durnbaugh lecture series brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually. The April 7 lecture will follow the Young Center banquet in the Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall. The seminar will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon on April 8 in the Young Center, with an optional luncheon to follow.

Class studies Hess Archives objects

Eleven students enrolled in a museum studies class taught by Susan Asbury through Penn State Harrisburg met at the Young Center for three sessions last fall. Asbury collaborated with the staff of the Young Center and the Hess Archives to make some of the center's special collections available for study.

Among the objects the students selected were Amish bonnets, musical instruments from Nigeria, tableware used at Brethren love feasts, and rare books, including the 1743 Saur Bible and the Benedict Bucher family

Bible. One student reported on the diary kept by Cyrus Bucher during the Civil War years. Another, Chris Royer, is a direct descendant of Benedict Bucher and researched inscriptions about the family in the Bucher Bible.

The students prepared collection sheets for the objects they studied. Several of the students are already involved as volunteers or part-time employees at smaller museums in southcentral Pennsylvania. Their activities at the Young Center will help to prepare them for careers in museum work.

Registration opens for international Amish conference

“CONTINUITY AND CHANGE: 50 YEARS OF AMISH SOCIETY” TO BE HELD JUNE 9-11, 2016

Registration is now open for “Continuity and Change: 50 Years of Amish Society.” Hosted by the Young Center and open to the public, the conference focuses on changes and consistency within Amish communities during the years 1963 to 2013.

The three-day event features several papers and panels related to health care issues, such as health care delivery and traditional and alternative treatments. Additional paper and panel discussion topics include Amish population growth and migration, agriculture, history of the Amish, women, and family life, among others.

Steve Nolt will deliver the keynote address, “Amish Society: Continuity and Dynamism in a Hyper-Modern World,” on

Thursday evening, and Mark Loudon, Karen Johnson-Weiner, Holmes Morton, and Donald Kraybill will deliver plenary addresses on Friday and Saturday.

The conference also features thematic seminars: Jim Cates on the Amish and mental health, Dirk Eitzen on portrayal of the Amish in the media, Martha King on Amish health care choices, David McConnell and Marilyn Loveless on sustainability and Amish views of nature and the environment, and Janneken Smucker on Amish quilts.

Three pre-conference tours—health care, business, and agriculture—are available to attendees for an additional fee. Highlights of the health care tour include a visit to a health care center for Plain people, a stop at a center

for women’s health that serves women from Plain communities as well as the broader Lancaster County area, and conversation with a physician who uses some alternative health therapies. Participants on the business tour will visit with Amish entrepreneurs, including the owner of a metal fabrication shop and a food vendor. The agriculture tour will include Amish farms with traditional or innovative ventures, including a dairy farm and an herb farm. Each tour’s itinerary includes lunch in an Amish home.

For more information and to register, visit www.ETOWN.EDU/AMISH2016, call 717-361-1470, or send an e-mail to AMISH2016@ETOWN.EDU. Register by May 1 to receive a discount.

Students use Young Center resources for senior projects

Nigerian artifacts. Brethren response during the Civil War. The Amish community’s interactions with the law. What links these disparate topics? The Young Center! Three college seniors researched these three very different subjects this fall using Young Center materials and the guidance of Young Center staff.

For one of her senior projects, Elizabethtown College student Erin Gregory researched the Nigerian artifacts donated to the Young Center by Donna Steiner. Steiner, former church relations director at the college, collected the artifacts during the years she spent teaching in Nigeria. Gregory combined photographs of the artifacts, exhibit scripts,

and cataloging information into her final project, which mimics the look of an online museum exhibit. She credits Monroe Good, Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh, and Jeff Bach for helping her research the artifacts and further understand the Nigerian culture.

E-town senior Annemarie Hartzell’s project focuses on the ways Brethren ideals of nonresistance and Brethren opposition to slavery were displayed during the Civil War. For her study, she examined the writings and actions of a small sampling of men around the Pennsylvania area during the 1860s. “I utilized several letters sent from N. Ellmaker and D. Gunderman that were made available through the Samuel Ruhl Zug Collection in the Hess Archives,” Hartzell says. “I found these to be extremely helpful in trying to understand the experiences of Brethren men—both in their opposition to the war and their experiences in the army. Additionally, they were rarely utilized sources in the scholarship up to this point, which widened the perspectives in my paper.”

Hartzell didn’t spend all her time in the archives. She also came to the Young Center, where she read Annual Meeting minutes and general information housed in the reading room as well as primary and secondary source materials, including essays written by Brethren men and books on the topic loaned to her by Jeff Bach.

Quinton Meil also came to the Center for his research project. A senior philosophy major at Temple University, Meil was awarded



Elizabethtown senior Erin Gregory discusses Nigerian artifacts with Rev. Toma Ragnjiya, a former president of Ekklesiar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)

the Diamond Research Scholars Grant from Temple in 2015 to pursue independent research on the Amish community and their interactions with the law.

Meil, a Lancaster native, interviewed Jeff Bach and Edsel Burdge about the Amish. “They provided insight on their cultural practices, interactions with the English, and answered my specific questions regarding how the Amish interact with the legal system,” he notes. “They also offered suggestions about the direction of my project as well as which literature I should turn to next.” Meil’s final project is an article titled “Amish and Criminal Law: The English Response to Amish Crime and its Implications on Due Process,” which he’ll be submitting to *Drexel Law Review* within the next few weeks.

Hartzell and Meil will give talks on their research on April 21, 7:30 p.m., in the Young Center’s Bucher Meetinghouse.



Young Center director Jeff Bach congratulates Valerie Weaver-Zercher on receiving the 2015 Dale Brown Book Award. Weaver-Zercher presented a talk on her book, *Thrill of the Chaste: The Allure of Amish Romance Novels*, on October 22.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Schwenkfelder Hymnal of 1762 and Its Unique Place in German Hymnody

HEDDA DURNBAUGH

Thursday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Linguist and hymnologist Hedda Durnbaugh will explain what makes the Schwenkfelder hymnal of 1762 unique in the history of German hymn books by outlining its history and analyzing the origins of its hymn texts.

Assessing Vaccination Receptivity in the Old Order Amish in Cattaraugus County, N.Y.

CHRISTINE NELSON-TUTTLE

Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Christine Nelson-Tuttle, associate professor of nursing at St. John Fisher College, will discuss her research on how receptive Amish individuals are to vaccinations, where they obtain information, and who assists them in making decisions about getting vaccinated.

Gender, Shame and Jacob's Hip: One Communal Society's Views

JEFF BACH

Tuesday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Jeff Bach, Young Center director and religious studies professor at Elizabethtown College, will discuss the Ephrata Community's unique interpretation of the biblical story of Jacob that allowed it to criticize patriarchy and male domination.

Conscientious Objectors to the Vietnam War

Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 p.m.

Gibble Auditorium

Conscientious objectors from the Historic Peace Churches will be interviewed about their experiences as religious objectors to participating in the war in Vietnam.

YOUNG CENTER BANQUET

Thursday, April 7, 6:00 p.m. (Reception at 5:30)

Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall

The annual dinner gives faculty, staff, and friends of the Young Center an opportunity to socialize and learn about the center's activities and programs.

Cost for the banquet is \$23, and reservations are required by March 24. Call the Young Center at 717-361-1470 or register online via the events page of the Young Center website.

DURNBAUGH LECTURE Getting Hitched Amish Style: Change and Continuity in Amish Weddings

KAREN JOHNSON-WEINER

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

Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall



As life in Amish communities has changed, so too have wedding traditions, with celebrations in some communities growing in size and even engendering new businesses. This talk will explore Amish courtship and wedding practices and what they reveal about continuity and change in the Amish world.

Karen Johnson-Weiner is a Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology at SUNY Potsdam, where she teaches courses in linguistic anthropology. She has been studying culture and language use in Amish communities for over 30 years.

DURNBAUGH SEMINAR Hinglefleish Frolics

Friday, April 8, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Young Center

The Swartzentrubers are among the fastest growing Amish groups in North America and also among the most conservative, preserving traditions that are disappearing from the lives of their more progressive brethren. Karen Johnson-Weiner will present an in-depth look at Swartzentruber Amish courtship and wedding practices to explore how they reinforce community ties and help to preserve the Swartzentruber way of life.

An optional luncheon will follow the seminar. Cost for the lunch is \$10, and reservations are required by March 24. To register, call the Young Center at 717-361-1470 or register online via the events page of the Young Center website.

HONORS STUDENTS LECTURES

Thursday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Annemarie Hartzell, a senior at Elizabethtown College, will present "Men of War, Men of Peace: Brethren Ideologies and the Civil War." In her talk, Hartzell will discuss her study of a sampling of Brethren men in the Pennsylvania area and their beliefs and actions in the time surrounding the Civil War.

Quinton Meil, a senior at Temple University, will present "Amish and Criminal Law: The English Response to Amish Crime and its Implications on Due Process," an examination of the criminal justice system and its relation to the Amish community.





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Addition to the Young Center slated to begin in Summer 2016

In the summer of 2016 construction will begin on an addition to the Young Center. During the time of construction, the Young Center building will be closed and the staff will be temporarily relocated to another building on campus, but continue with their regular work. The main phone line for the Young Center, 717-361-1470, will still function and all e-mail addresses will remain active. People who wish to contact staff members with questions or requests should call the main phone line or contact individuals by e-mail. Construction may continue into the fall, so programming in the fall of 2016 will be limited.

While the addition is being built, the Young Center will be unable to give visitors a tour of the facility. People with requests to see rare books or artifacts in the Center's special collections should call Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh, college archivist, at Hess Archives and Special Collections, 717-361-1506, or the Young Center's main phone line. Research resources will continue to be avail-

able and the staff will continue to help with research requests throughout the construction period.

The expansion will add space on the side of the building facing the parking lot and on the side facing Leffler Chapel and Performance Center. The new space will include an additional entrance to the building as well as an exhibit area, a project room, and storage space. Much-needed office space will be added, including offices for the senior scholar, the editorial associate, visiting fellows, Young Center emeritus faculty, and visiting researchers. Plans call for the exterior appearance of the expansion to fit the current look of the building.

We are grateful for the generous support that will make this expansion possible. With the extra space, the Young Center can move forward into a new era in its service for research and interpretation of Anabaptist and Pietist groups.

SPRING 2016

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.

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