



Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Spring 2008

News

Supporters meet NEH challenge as Young Center marks 20-year anniversary

The donors declared how much they value the Young Center by giving the \$2 million ahead of schedule.

ALLEN HANSELL,
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
RELATIONS

In 2004, the Young Center received one of only 17 challenge grants given nationwide that year by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant, which promised \$500,000, required that the College raise \$2 million by the end of January 2008. The resulting \$2.5 million will endow a faculty chair in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, enhance the Young Center's research, teaching, and publishing efforts, and expand its collection of research and archival materials.

Although the results will not be certified by the NEH until February (because the campaign officially runs through January 31), Allen Hansell, director of Church Relations, reports that the goal has now been met, indeed exceeded.

"My hopes and dreams for the campaign were

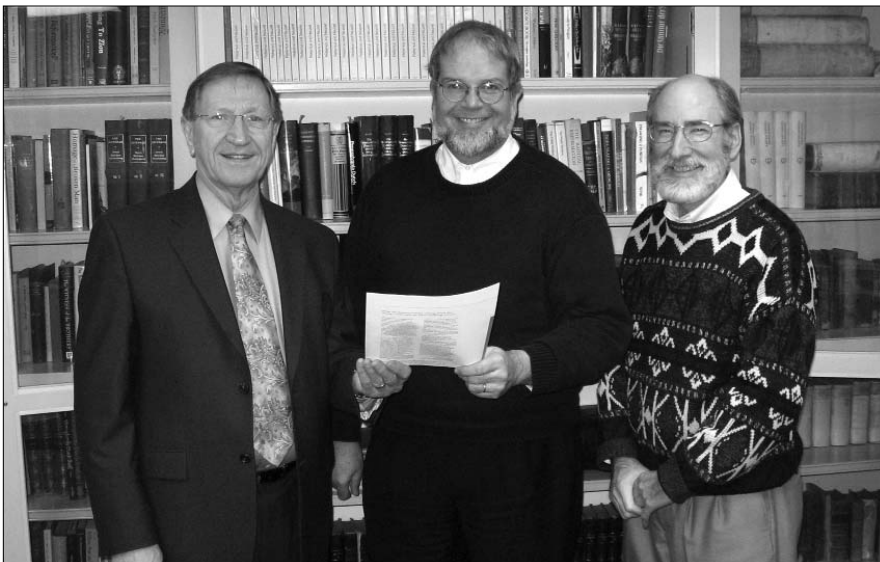
fulfilled beyond my expectations as we worked with individuals, churches, and businesses," he says. "The donors declared how much they value the Young Center by giving the \$2 million ahead of schedule." David Beidleman, the College's vice president of Institutional Advancement, concurs: "The NEH Challenge Campaign is a remarkable success story that will ensure the sustainability of the Young Center for generations to come. Displaying their solidarity of support for the important work of the Young Center, more than 200 donors have graciously given more than \$2 million as their pledge of confidence in the work of the Center and indeed Elizabethtown College, and for this we are truly grateful."

The campaign's successful close comes in conjunction with the Young Center's 20th anniversary.

Envisioned by the College's 12th president, Gerhard Spiegler, the Center was established in 1986 with John A. Hostetler as its founding director. Facility fund-raising began that fall and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in April 1988. A year and a half later, in October 1989, the Young Center and the Bucher Meetinghouse were dedicated at a public open house.

From the outset, one of the Center's purposes has been to interpret the culture and religious heritage of Anabaptist and Pietist groups. To this end, the anniversary will be celebrated with several public events on April 4 and 5. On Friday evening and Saturday morning, Rebecca Slough will deliver the Durnbaugh lectures. Then, following an invitation-only

(continued on p. 2)



Church Relations director Allen Hansell, Young Center director Jeff Bach, and Senior Fellow Donald B. Kraybill discuss NEH challenge grant donations.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jeff Bach

The warm colors of autumn gave way to the winter and the greenery of the Christmas season. Now the holidays have passed and a new year begins. This has been a season of gratitude for gifts and anticipation for exciting events to come.

The October conference related to the Brethren 300th anniversary drew over 100 participants. Strong presentations and lively discussion over breaks made for a rich experience. We took a new step by doing live webcasts of some sessions and receiving responses via the Internet.

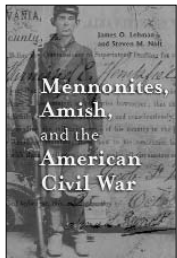
We are grateful for the gifts that have put the Young Center over the goal for the NEH grant. The gifts of donors will help to support scholars and doctoral students who will be future Center Fellows. I talked with some of those people at the American Society of Church History's annual meeting in January in Washington, D.C. The Young Center continues to attract attention in wide networks of scholars.

The new year brings an exciting season here. Russell Haitch will be our Fel-

low, researching Brethren practices and youth. Rebecca Slough will give the Durnbaugh Lectures on April 4 and 5. The exhibit on Anabaptist and Pietist hymnody opens on March 26. In April we will host a four-week Bonhoeffer seminar on Monday evenings, exploring the connections of peace, theology and politics. James Juhnke will lecture on March 6. I hope you'll join us for these events and experience some of the gifts at the Young Center. ■

New publications in Johns Hopkins series

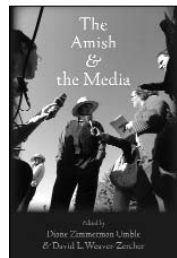
During the Civil War, Mennonites and Amish faced moral dilemmas that tested the core of their faith. How could they oppose both slavery and the war to end it? How could they remain outside the conflict without entering the American mainstream to secure legal conscientious objector status?



In *Mennonites, Amish, and the American Civil War*, the fourth book in the Young Center series published by Johns Hopkins University Press, James O. Lehman and Steven M. Nolt describe the strategies used by these minority groups

who struggled to come to terms with the American mainstream without sacrificing their religious values. Integrating recent scholarship with little-known primary sources and new material, Lehman and Nolt provide a definitive account of the Anabaptist experience during the Civil War period.

The fifth title in Young Center Books in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies is slated for release in March. *The Amish and the Media*, edited by professors Diane Zimmerman Umble and David L. Weaver-Zercher, is a collec-




tion of essays about the relationship between the Amish and the media in contemporary American life. The chapters in this collection discuss the Amish not only as subjects of the media, but also as consumers and producers of media. ■

Supporters meet NEH challenge *(continued)*

event on Saturday afternoon to thank the NEH campaign donors, the public is invited to an evening of choral music featuring hymns from the Young Center's hymnody exhibit.

"The weekend offers an opportunity to celebrate how the Young Center has grown from a vision for an institution to study Anabaptist and Pietist groups to become a place and a program at Eliza-

bethtown College that is also connected internationally to scholars in these fields," says director Jeff Bach. "Through vision, leadership and generous supporters, the Center has grown to be a focal point in Anabaptist and Pietist research. In April we will take time to celebrate the people who helped to make this possible, and who help us to dream new possibilities for the future of the Young Center." ■



Young Center
Spring 2008 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. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please direct correspondence to the address below.

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Russell Haitch named Center Fellow Church Member Profile activities

Russell Haitch, Young Center Fellow for Spring 2008, has just arrived in Elizabethtown from Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, where he teaches practical theology and directs the Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults.

While here, Haitch will do research and writing for a book entitled *“Do This”*: *Practices That Transform Young People*, which will examine nine Anabaptist and Pietist practices: baptism, love feast, and anointing; prayer, Bible study, and congregational singing; peace-making, volunteer service, and simple living. In the book, Haitch will show how these practices connect with the deepest desires of young people and, at the same time, connect young people with church traditions. He'll also discuss how pastors and youth

workers can help young people engage these practices in ways that transform them, their congregations, and their surrounding culture. *“Do This”* will be published in 2008 by The Pilgrim Press.

“I am looking forward to researching Anabaptism and Pietism in such a vibrant scholarly community and important geographical location,” Haitch says. “In particular, I look forward to conversation with Jeff Bach, whose deep knowledge and insights I came to value when he was a colleague at Bethany. I also look forward to talking with Don Kraybill, another giant in the field.”

Haitch is the author of *From Exorcism to Ecstasy: Eight Views of Baptism*, published last April by Westminster John Knox Press, as well as numerous articles, book reviews, and academic papers. ■



Honoring a Legacy, Embracing a Future: 300 Years of Brethren Heritage, the Young Center conference held in mid-October, drew more than 100 attendees. The event brought together a variety of scholars who study the Brethren, including several who are currently in graduate school. It also brought together people from various Brethren bodies, including two presenters from the Brethren Church, and several attendees from the Old German Baptist Brethren. The intersection of scholars and laity, younger and older attendees, and representatives from different Brethren groups made this an unusually rich group of participants. Lively discussions continued informally between sessions and during meals.

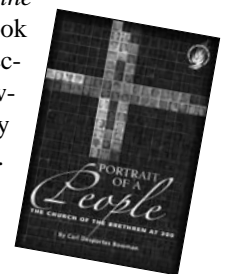
The mix of topics and the high quality of the presentations provided many engaging themes. Highlights included Stewart Hoover's presentation on Brethren in relation to a media-saturated culture, Marcus Meier's continued new analysis of Brethren in their Radical Pietist and Anabaptist roots, and Carl Desportes Bowman's findings from the recent church member profile.

The Young Center launched a new era at this conference with live webcasting of eight sessions, thanks to Enten Eller and Bethany Theological Seminary and the Information and Technology Services Department of Elizabethtown College. Some webcast viewers took advantage of the opportunity to exchange comments during the presentations via the Internet connection. The Young Center plans to continue to develop this avenue of presenting its work.

Church Member Profile directors continue to share survey results with their constituencies. Mennonite project director Conrad Kanagy has presented findings from the Mennonite Member Profile and his book *Road Signs for the Journey* to more than thirty different audiences, including Mennonite seminaries and colleges, gatherings of denomination leaders, Mennonite conferences, and local congregations. He has additional presentations scheduled for Spring 2008.

Resources for the Journey, a DVD/CD set of congregational resources related to the survey results, has been well received by Mennonite conferences and congregations. Many have used it to reflect on the state of the church and on the challenges confronting local congregations. Similar DVD packages are currently being produced by the Brethren in Christ and the Church of the Brethren for use in their congregations.

The Brethren Member Profile report is scheduled for release by Brethren Press in early March. Entitled *Portrait of a People: The Church of the Brethren at 300*, the book by Brethren Profile director Carl Desportes Bowman interprets key findings from the study. Rather than walking through the findings section by section,



Bowman selectively highlights themes that have special historical and cultural relevance for the Brethren. Themes pertaining to Brethren identity and the Brethren peace heritage are given particular prominence. In addition to Bowman's narrative, the book includes a foreword by Donald Kraybill, an afterword by Jeff Bach, and the distribution of responses to every question asked in the lengthy questionnaire. It is included among the officially endorsed tercentennial publications of the denomination.

Additional publications and resources based on the 2006 survey results are underway. ■

Rebecca Slough to deliver Durnbaugh Lectures

Rebecca Slough, academic dean at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will present the 2008 Durnbaugh lectures. Slough, who is also associate professor of worship and the arts and director of the Spiritual Formation Program at AMBS, will use *Hymnal: A Worship Book* in her presentations. The hymnal, which is used by most Mennonite and Brethren congregations, “draws on ancient and modern hymns from other

Christian traditions for singing a contemporary understanding of Jesus, the church, and worship,” Slough says. “By taking a historical overview, it is interesting to see what attributes, stories, or claims about Jesus have been significant in the church’s different eras.”

Slough recently collaborated on two books: *Preparing Sunday Dinner: A Collaborative Approach to Worship and Preaching* (Herald Press, 2006), coau-

thored with Marlene Kropf and June Alliman Yoder, and *Nurturing Spirit Through Song: The Life of Mary K. Oyer* (Cascadia, 2007), coedited with Shirley Sprunger King. A member of the North American Academy of Liturgy, she is also a regular reviewer of books on music and worship for *Religious Studies Review*.

Slough received a B.A. from Goshen College, an M.Div. from Goshen Biblical Seminary, an M.A. from University of Notre Dame, and a Ph.D. in liturgical studies from Graduate Theological Union. She has been on the faculty of AMBS since 1998.

Established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh, this endowed lecture series brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually. This year’s lectures will be held on April 4 and 5. ■

Hymnody exhibit opens March 26

An exhibit featuring a representative sample of historic hymnals from three hymn traditions—Anabaptists, Mennonites and Amish; Radical Pietists, Brethren and River Brethren; Lutheran and Lutheran Pietists—opens at the

Young Center on March 26. The exhibit is the fruit of scholarship on Anabaptist, Brethren, and Lutheran hymnody by project collaborators David Rempel Smucker, Hedda Durnbaugh, Betty Long, John Spangler, Mark Oldenburg, and Steve Scott.

The exhibit interprets some of the significant changes over time in the Anabaptist, Pietist, and Lutheran hymn traditions, and illustrates how each tradition borrowed hymns from other traditions. Visitors have the unique opportunity to see hymnals that have rarely been displayed together.

The Young Center is grateful to several private collectors, as well as to Elizabethtown College, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society for allowing the use of these rare books. ■

Bonhoeffer seminar offered

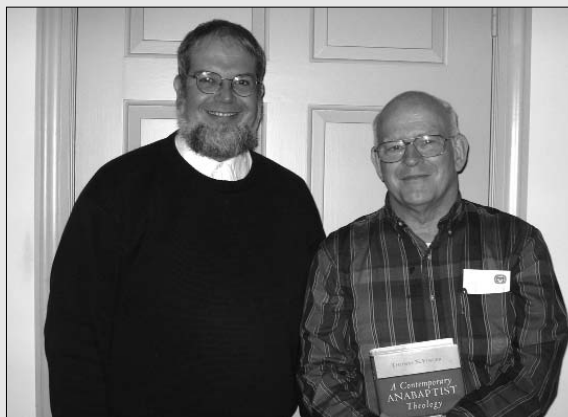
Members of the Elizabethtown Inter-Church Peace Group at the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren and the Young Center will host Bonhoeffer Seminar: A Conversation, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Bucher Meetinghouse on Monday evenings in April. Each of the four sessions will open with a 15-minute presentation by a guest speaker, followed by discussion by a three-member panel. Then the audience will be invited to engage in the conversation.

The seminar will focus on the life, thought, and implications of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Session titles include “An Inherited Legacy: Personal Testimonies” on April 7, “A Biography: Decisive Events” on April 14, “A Life Developed: ‘Worldly Ethics’” on April 21, and “Bonhoeffer for Today: How and Where to Take Him” on April 28.

Speakers and panelists will be announced at a later date. Please contact the Young Center for details. ■

Web site launched

The Young Center officially launched a new web site last fall. Developed by the Center with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, www.etown.edu/AmishStudies provides concise, accurate information on the Amish of North America for students, scholars, journalists, and the general public. The site has received positive feedback from scholars and others interested in Amish culture and history. ■



Young Center director Jeff Bach congratulates Thomas Finger on receiving the 2007 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Finger presented a lecture on his book *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology* in October 2007.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rediscovering the Mennonite Great Trek to Central Asia, 1880-1884

JIM JUHNKE, PH.D.

Thursday, March 6 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

In the 1880s some Russian Mennonites traveled to Central Asia to escape military conscription, obtain land for settlement, and find refuge from the tribulation expected to precede the anticipated return of Christ. What happened to these pilgrims, and the villages they founded? Jim Juhnke, professor emeritus of history at Bethel College, will answer this question and discuss his recent research on the Great Trek.



Jim Juhnke

Juhnke taught American history and Mennonite history at Bethel College (Kansas) from 1967 to 2002. He and his wife, Anna, were visiting fellows at the Young Center in Fall

1995 and Spring 1996. In 2007 Juhnke traveled twice to Uzbekistan to follow the route of the Great Trek and to make arrangements for a Mennonite museum exhibit in Khiva.

Young People and the Language of Love Feast

RUSSELL HAITCH, PH.D.

Thursday, March 13 ■ 7:00 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Haitch will offer reflections on how the Brethren Love Feast can speak to the lives of young people today. He also will explore how youth and young adults, in their God-given desires for intimacy and transcendence, can help churches to rediscover the hidden power of their historic practices.

Lectures

■ Thursday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.

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■ Thursday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.

Young People and the Language of Love Feast

Russell Haitch, Ph.D.

Durnbaugh Lectures

Rebecca Slough, Ph.D.

■ Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

Singing From Hymnal: A Worship Book: Image of Jesus

■ Saturday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.

Singing From Hymnal: A Worship Book: Image of the Church

Concerts

■ Saturday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Hymnody of the Amish, Brethren, and Lutheran Traditions

Elizabethtown College Concert Choir and College-Community Chorus

■ Sunday, April 13, 4:00 p.m.

Choral Concert

Ephrata Cloister Chorus

Conference

■ Friday, June 6, and Saturday, June 7

Pa. German Society Annual Meeting



Russell Haitch

Haitch, Young Center Fellow for Spring 2008, teaches practical theology at Bethany Theological Seminary and is director of the Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults. A graduate of Amherst College (B.A.) and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div., Ph.D.), Haitch worked as a writer on Madison Avenue before becoming ordained in the United Methodist Church and serving as pastor to two multi-ethnic congregations.

Durnbaugh Lectures

REBECCA SLOUGH, PH.D.



Rebecca Slough

Rebecca Slough is academic dean, associate professor of worship and the arts, and director of the Spiritual Formation Program at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Before joining the AMBS faculty, she taught at Bethany Theological Seminary, served as pastor of First Mennonite Church of San Francisco, and was the managing editor of *Hymnal: A Worship Book*. Slough holds a Ph.D. in liturgical studies from Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley, California.

Singing from Hymnal: A Worship Book: Images of Jesus

Friday, April 4 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Slough will explore expressions of piety and faith in the Anabaptist and Pietist hymnody tradition through the images of Jesus found in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, which is used broadly by the Mennonites and Brethren. The presentation will be part lecture and part hymnsing.

Singing from Hymnal: A Worship Book: Images of the Church

Saturday, April 5 ■ 10:30 a.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Slough's second presentation will include more singing and focus on the character of the church found in *Hymnal: A Worship Book* and the recent supplements completed by the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite Church.



Elizabethtown College

YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Hymnody of the Amish, Brethren, and Lutheran Traditions

Saturday, April 5 ■ 7:00 p.m.

Leffler Chapel & Performance Center

Members of the Elizabethtown College Concert Choir will join voices with members of the College–Community Chorus as well as invited musicians from the Elizabethtown community to present selected hymns from the 300-year history of Brethren hymnody as well as hymns from the Amish and Lutheran traditions. The concert will feature hymns central in the development of these faith traditions' use of congregational singing throughout their respective histories. The ensemble will be directed by Dr. Matthew P. Fritz, associate professor of music and director of choral activities at the College.

Concert Choir is an auditioned group, the College's premiere vocal ensemble. This 32-member mixed-voice touring

ensemble has performed throughout the United States as well as internationally. College–Community Chorus is open to all students, staff, faculty, and community members. This non-auditioned ensemble counts 80+ singers in its membership and focuses on masterworks.

Concert by Ephrata Cloister Chorus

Sunday, April 13 ■ 4:00 p.m.

Leffler Chapel & Performance Center

This concert will commemorate both the 275th anniversary of the founding of the Ephrata Community and the 300th anniversary of the Brethren, from whom Conrad Beissel separated to form the Ephrata Community. The concert will include hymns composed by Beissel and music from other German religious groups and communal groups.

The Ephrata Cloister Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Daryl Hollinger, is a group of about 30 women and men who

volunteer their time to sing music from the Ephrata Cloister community, as well as music from early American religious and communal groups, early American hymns, and Afro-American spirituals.

Pa. German Society Annual Meeting

Friday, June 6, and Saturday, June 7

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

The Pennsylvania German Society will hold its 2008 annual meeting in collaboration with the Young Center. Scholarly papers will be presented on topics related to Pennsylvania German Church and Plain people. Because the Church of the Brethren is commemorating 300 years since its founding, the focus of this year's meeting is on issues related to the church's culture and history.

Contact the PGS office (484-646-4227; pgs@kutztown.edu) or check the PGS web site (www.pgs.org) in April for registration information.