



# Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Fall 2009

# News

## Japanese interest in the Amish spurs visit to Japan

In 1998, Chiho Oyabu and Toshihara Sugihara traveled from Japan to the United States to study Amish economics at the Young Center. A decade later, the two Gifu University professors invited their Young Center “teachers” to travel to Japan to present their knowledge to a wider Japanese audience.

Oyabu became a Young Center Fellow in the summer of 1998, and was especially interested in Amish school curriculum and other Amish literature. Steve Scott helped arrange for her to live with an Amish family and to collect Amish printed material. Oyabu returned to Pennsylvania on several occasions for further Amish studies and to attend Young Center conferences on the Amish. In June 2008, she asked Scott if he could obtain Amish items for an exhibit she was developing at the Shibunkaku Art Museum in Kyoto the following summer. Scott collected and sent a number of artifacts including Amish clothing and

children’s toys; a few months later, Oyabu invited him to lecture at Gifu and the museum after the exhibit opened.

The Young Center welcomed another Japanese visitor in November 2008. Nanami Suzuki of the National Museum of Ethnology at Osaka came to the Center and interviewed Scott about the Amish. A friend of Oyabu’s, Suzuki knew that Scott was traveling to Japan in June 2009, and so she too invited him to present a lecture.

Meanwhile, the Gifu University professors, who had collaborated on translating two of Donald B. Kraybill’s books into Japanese, extended an invitation to him to lecture on Amish culture and society in conjunction with the exhibit. Yujin Yaguchi, a professor of American studies at the University of Tokyo, invited Kraybill to speak to his graduate students about the international media and the Nickel Mines tragedy.

Kraybill travelled to Japan at the end of May. In addition to presenting lectures, he spent a fascinating two and a half hours being interviewed by Kunio Yanagida, a prominent nonfiction writer and columnist for *The Asahi Shimbun*, Japan’s leading newspaper (circulation: 8.3 million) and the Japanese publisher of *Amish Grace*. Yanagida had written a favorable review of the book’s Japanese translation, and he wanted to discuss the Amish forgiveness story as it related to capital punishment, and punitive responses to crime, both of which are lively topics of debate in Japan. The extensive interview appeared in the July 8 issue of the paper.

Steve Scott’s visit to Japan followed Kraybill’s return to the States. He too lectured at Gifu University and the Shibunkaku Museum; his presentations focused on Amish clothing. His talk, “The Amish Way of Life in Modern American Society,” at the *(continued on p. 2)*



Donald B. Kraybill and Chiho Oyabu outside the Shibunkaku Art Museum in Kyoto.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jeff Bach

This summer I have been dealing with some English ivy in my flower garden that is spreading to areas where I did not imagine it would go. I am amazed at how those vines travel!

At the Young Center, we are amazed at how our scholarly work is traveling, literally and figuratively. Donald B. Kraybill spent a week in Japan talking about his book, *Amish Grace*, which is already available in Japanese translation. Steve Scott was invited to Japan for two weeks in June by former Young Center Fellow Chiho Oyabu. He lectured on the lifestyle of the Amish and other Plain groups.

We have also received news of recent books written by past Fellows from other

countries. Musa Mambula (Fellow in Spring 2007) published *Are There Limits to Pacifism?*, which explores Brethren pacifism and religious tensions in northern Nigeria. Andy Borella, our doctoral fellow from Italy last spring, released *Gli Amish* (The Amish), the first book about the Amish written in Italian, and Erik Wesner (Snowden Fellow in Fall 2008) has completed the manuscript for a book about the Amish written Polish. In October, Marcus Meier (Fellow in Fall 2006) will receive the Dale Brown Book Award and lecture on his recent book, *The Origin of the Schwarzenau Brethren*.

I am amazed at how the work of staff and Fellows at the Young Center spreads

in places and languages that we might not imagine. The scholarship of the Young Center staff reaches around the world through print and other media. Thanks to financial backing for the Center, we can welcome scholars from other countries who want to pursue Anabaptist and Pietist studies here. We celebrate the ways that the work of the Young Center travels to new places. We are also grateful for people who make this growth possible through their interest and financial support.

I hope you will come to our events this year and see how the work of the Young Center is spreading in amazing ways. ■

# Anna Blough correspondence project underway

Recently, the Young Center was able to expand its historical research on Brethren Missions in China during the first half of the twentieth century. In March 2009, Maylee Samuel lent the Center correspondence and diaries from her

great aunt, Anna V. Blough, a Church of the Brethren missionary stationed in Shanxi Province from 1913 to 1922.

The letters and diaries range from 1906, during Blough's student years at Mt. Morris College in Illinois, to 1922,

when she died of typhoid fever in China. They provide valuable insight into the daily struggles and satisfaction of missionary work in a foreign country. Blough's letters recount her calling to mission work and detail her departure for China in 1913, where she joined Brethren missionaries in Shanxi Province. Blough visited Chinese women in her area, taught at the girls' school set up by the missionaries, and worked in the villages during the famine conditions in the 1920s.

The Anna Blough Collection is a remarkable primary source for researchers interested in women in the early twentieth century and cultural interfaces between American Christian missionaries and, in this case, Chinese people.

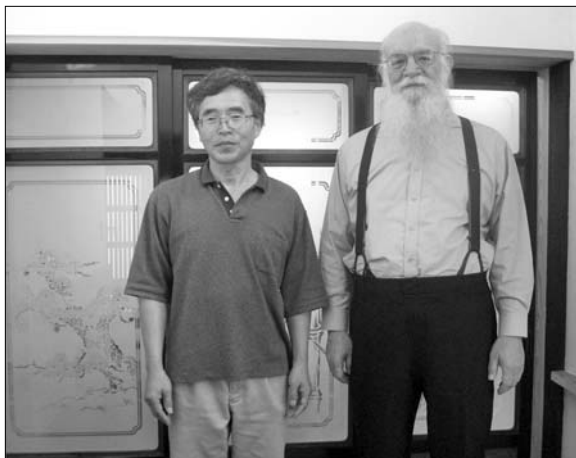
Samuel has given the Young Center permission on behalf of her family to copy the letters and diaries as well as some photos. Thanks to the college's High Library, the collection will be digitized and made available to the public. After the digitizing is complete, the original materials will be returned to Samuel. The collection, however, will be available to interested people around the world through Elizabethtown

## Japanese interest in the Amish (continued)

Museum of Ethnology had a broader theme, and was the featured lecture of an afternoon forum titled "The Amish Way

of Living Together in the 21st Century."

Both Scott and Kraybill combined their speaking engagements with the novel experiences of visiting a new and intriguing country. From decidedly tourist activities such as watching cormorant fishing and visiting the Imperial Palace grounds to everyday, "native" experiences such as riding the bullet train, eating rice and fish at breakfast, and sleeping on futons atop tatami mats, the two enjoyed a bit of cultural immersion themselves as they shared the Amish culture with their hosts. ■



Toshihara Sugihara and Stephen Scott in Sugihara's home near Gifu.

## Martyrs Mirror conference scheduled

On June 8-10, 2010, the Young Center will hold a conference to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the publication of the first edition of *Martyrs Mirror* by Thieleman van Braght in Dutch. “*Martyrs Mirror: Reflections Across Time*” will focus primarily on the German translation produced by the Ephrata Community in 1748. However, the conference will also cover other aspects of *Martyrs Mirror*, including its history and social context, theological themes, and portrayal of women.

*Martyrs Mirror* has symbolic value for Anabaptist groups in the United States, especially for Mennonites and

Amish. The Ephrata edition of 1748 was the first complete German translation, significant because it meant that Mennonites in the colonies could read the work. It was also the largest book produced in colonial America.

The goal of the conference is to examine the importance of *Martyrs Mirror* and to provide a forum for sharing the knowledge of those who have studied it. The Young Center is coordinating the conference with a research initiative being developed by Mennonite scholars for a multi-year study of the full history and impact of the various editions of *Martyrs Mirror*. ■

## Falkenstein materials donated

In the summer of 2008, Andrew Miller donated several boxes of materials related to George Ness Falkenstein to Elizabethtown College and the Young Center on behalf of G. N. Falkenstein’s grandchildren. Falkenstein was instrumental in the founding of Elizabethtown College and served as president from 1901 to 1903.

Among the materials in the collection are several of Falkenstein’s detailed diaries and a number of business papers related to the Falkenstein and Shellenberger families from the second half of the nineteenth century. A handwritten letter in which Falkenstein reflects on his time as pastor at the Germantown Church of the Brethren is pasted into one of his journals. Also among the artifacts is a German Bible dated from 1860 with “G. N. Falkenstein” signed on a piece of paper attached to the inside of the front cover.

A significant portion of the donated materials is a group of more than 550 stereoscopic slides from around the turn of the twentieth century. The slides include international scenes ranging from Roman catacombs and Egyptian tombs to city views of Algeria and the digging of the Panama Canal. There are also slides of historical events and persons including the U.S.S. *Indiana*, a battleship in the Spanish American War, and John L. Burns, the “old hero of Gettysburg.”

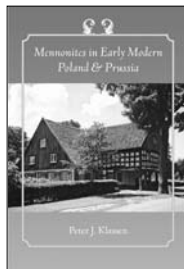
These materials are valuable resources for researchers and others interested in the Brethren in the early twentieth century and in the life of one of the early leaders of Elizabethtown College. ■


## New publications in the JHUP series

The Johns Hopkins University Press has recently released the sixth book in the Young Center Books in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies series. In *Mennonites in Early Modern Poland and Prussia*, Peter J. Klassen, professor emeritus of history at California State University, Fresno, discusses the religious tolerance that Mennonites found in Poland and

Prussia from the early sixteenth through the late eighteenth centuries. Klassen used documents he discovered during his extensive archival research in Poland, Germany, and the Netherlands to inform this narrative about a displaced people who found, under Polish rule, a safe haven from religious persecution.

The seventh title in the Young Center series is slated for release in Spring 2010. *An Amish Paradox: Diversity and Change in the World’s Largest Amish Community*, by College of Wooster professors Charles Hurst and David McConnell, is an in-depth study of the Amish settlement in Holmes County, Ohio. ■



 **Young Center**  
Fall 2009 *News*

- DIRECTOR  
Jeff Bach, Ph.D.
- SENIOR FELLOW  
Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D.
- RESEARCH STAFF  
Stephen Scott  
Cynthia Nolt
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Hillary Daecher

*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.

Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies  
Elizabethtown College  
One Alpha Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2298

Phone: (717) 361-1470; Fax: (717) 361-1443  
E-mail: [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu)  
Web site: [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr)

## Divided by Faith: dialogue continues

As a follow-up to the April seminar on Racial diversity and Anabaptists co-sponsored by the Young Center and the College’s sociology and anthropology department, six staff members from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) visited the Center on May 26 to continue the discussion. The MCC staff focused the con-

versation on their work for peace, ideas to overcome racism, and advocacy for women. The productive discussion illuminated areas for further research on Anabaptist groups that interface with the work of MCC. These conversations are helpful in planning future programs at the Young Center. ■

# Steven Nolt named Fall 2009 Snowden Fellow

Steven M. Nolt will serve as the Snowden Fellow for Fall 2009. At Goshen College, where he is a professor of history, Nolt teaches a variety of courses including American History, History of Mennonites in America, Amish and Old Order Groups, and War, Peace and Nonresistance.

Nolt's semester as the Snowden Fellow will be the first half of his yearlong sabbatical from Goshen to work on writing projects. While at the Young Center, he will team up once again with Donald B. Kraybill and Karen Johnson-Weiner to complete *The Amish in America*, a forthcoming book that will present a "broadly comparative interpretation of Amish society and culture across North America." The book is the final component of their collaborative research project on Amish identity and diversity in the twentieth century, which is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

While on sabbatical, Nolt will also work on *A Global Mennonite History: North America*, a book that he is co-authoring with Royden Loewen, professor of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg. "This project is part of an international effort to write five continent-focused volumes on Mennonites and Brethren in Christ around the world," Nolt says. Volumes on Africa, Europe, and Latin America have already been completed, and the Asian volume is also in process.

Nolt is looking forward to spending time at the Young Center to focus on these manuscripts. The Amish research project has been based at the Young Center, so "it will be helpful to be on location to work with Don Kraybill and Steve Scott and have access to the many archival resources related to Amish history and life, including the migration data that Steve has compiled and the news stories that have been scanned and archived," Nolt says. "For both projects, I look forward to spending time with colleagues

who share common interests, testing and refining ideas together."

As a doctoral fellow, Nolt spent the spring of 1997 at the Young Center. He is a noted scholar on the Amish and on Mennonite history, and has written or co-written nine books, as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters. He is also book review editor for *Mennonite Quarterly Review*.

Nolt will present the Snowden Lecture at the Young Center on November 12. The Snowden Fellowship and Lecture are named in honor of Lucille and Armon Snowden, whose generous gift endowed them. The Young Center invites applications and nominations for Center Fellows and Doctoral Fellows. Visit [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr) for more information on the Fellows program. ■

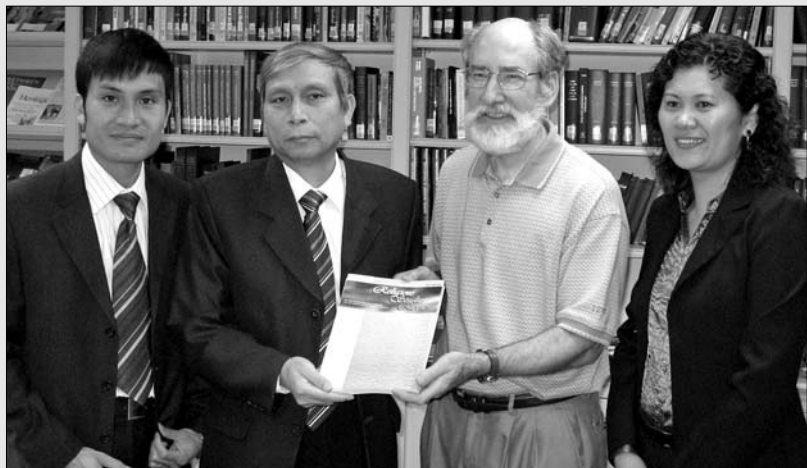


Steven Nolt

## Center receives book donations

The Young Center has received two sets of book donations this spring and summer. Dale Brown, retired Bethany Theological Seminary professor, donated books on history and theology related to Anabaptism and Pietism, as well as books about peace studies. Some, such as Martin Schmidt's two-volume biography of John Wesley and Theodore Tappert's four-volume collection of selected works by Martin Luther, will expand the college's collection on church history. Others, such as *Buddhism and Nonviolent Global Problem Solving* (Glenn Paige and Sarah Gilliatt, eds.) and *Christ the Reconciler* (Peter Schmiechen) will enrich the peace studies collection.

The family of Esther and Earl Kurtz donated several books, most of which were published by Brethren Press. Among the donations were *The Boy and the Man* by J. H. Moore and *The Lost Sister among the Miamis* by Otho Winger. The late Earl Kurtz worked at Brethren Press for many years, starting in the 1950s. ■



Two scholars from the Institute for Religious Studies in Hanoi met with Donald B. Kraybill at the Young Center on June 3 to discuss religious liberty in the United States. Many of their questions focused on the Amish and the "free exercise" clause in the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The men, Duong Nguyen (2nd from left), director of the institute, and Chung Hoang (left), international relations assistant and editor of *Religious Studies Review*, are interested in models of religious freedom that can apply to religious groups in Vietnam. The visit was arranged and facilitated by the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Global Engagement (IGE), which encourages cross-national discussions about religious freedom. Hien Vu (right), East Asia program officer at IGE, served as translator for the meeting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **A Reading and Discussion of *Nightwatch: Alone on the Prairie with the Hutterites***

ROBERT RHODES

**Thursday, September 17 ■ 7:00 p.m.**

*Nightwatch: An Inquiry Into Solitude: Alone on the Prairie With the Hutterites*, published in June by Good Books, describes the spiritual journey Rhodes took from the South, where he grew up near Memphis, Tennessee, to the communal farming enclaves of the Hutterian Brethren. The book details not only this journey but Hutterite history and the impact of modern society and technology on Hutterian communalism. Rhodes will read from the book and discuss his experiences in the Hutterite colony.

Robert Rhodes is a former daily newspaper journalist who worked for 11 years at the *Northwest Arkansas Times* in Fayetteville before joining Starland Hutterite Colony in Gibbon, Minnesota, with his family in 1995. After leaving the colony in 2002, he was associate editor of *Mennonite Weekly Review* and an editor at Good Books. The author of numerous essays and a published poet, Rhodes holds an M.F.A. from the University of Arkansas.

### **Amish Dress: Tradition and Transition**

STEPHEN SCOTT

**Thursday, October 1 ■ 7:30 p.m.**

Scott will present an illustrated lecture on the religious garb of the Amish and how it relates to that of other Plain groups.

Stephen Scott's interest in the Plain People began during his boyhood in

### Lectures

■ Thursday, September 17, 7:00 p.m.

#### **A Reading and Discussion of *Nightwatch: Alone on the Prairie with the Hutterites***

Robert Rhodes

■ Thursday, October 1, 7:30 p.m.

#### **Amish Dress: Tradition and Transition**

Stephen Scott

■ Thursday, October 29, 7:30 p.m.

#### **The Schwarzenau Brethren: Anabaptist Dissent in the Context of Pietism?**

Marcus Meier

■ Thursday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.

#### **Globalizing a Separate People: World Christianity and North American Mennonites**

Steven Nolt

Snowden Fellow, Fall 2009

southern Ohio. He has lived in several different Amish, Mennonite, and Brethren communities and has visited many others. As a young man, Scott joined the Old Order River Brethren Church in Pennsylvania and now works on the staff of the Young Center. He has written six books relating to conservative Anabaptist groups, including *Why Do They Dress That Way?*

### **The Schwarzenau Brethren: Anabaptist Dissent in the Context of Pietism?**

MARCUS MEIER

**Thursday, October 29 ■ 7:30 p.m.**

Meier will offer insights into the process of writing *The Origin of the Schwarzenau Brethren*, especially the methodology, source material and central themes of the book. In addition, he will outline the present state of research and suggest some future research projects in the field of early Brethren history. His talk will also reflect on the beginnings of historical research on the Schwarzenau Brethren by focusing on Martin Grove Brumbaugh, the first noted historian among the Brethren.

Meier is a research fellow with the Interdisciplinary Center for Pietism Research at Martin Luther University in Wittenberg and Halle in Germany. He holds a Ph.D. from Philipps University in Marburg, Germany.

*The Origin of the Schwarzenau Brethren* was selected to receive the 2009 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing following the lecture.

### **Globalizing a Separate People: World Christianity and North American Mennonites**

STEVEN NOLT

SNOWDEN FELLOW, FALL 2009

**Thursday, November 12 ■ 7:30 p.m.**

Drawing on his work on the Global Mennonite History Project, Nolt will explore how Mennonites and, increasingly, historians of Christianity have begun to think in global terms. He will not only focus on how North American Christians have impacted other parts of the world via traditional mission work, but also on how the wider world and wider Christian community has shaped North American Christianity. The Mennonite story is distinctive in that it was Mennonite separatism, especially in terms of non-participation in the U.S. military, which set the stage for these global interactions.

Steve Nolt is professor of history at Goshen College in Indiana, where he has taught since 1999. Nolt has written extensively on Amish and Mennonite topics; he is the author or co-author of nine books and numerous chapters and journal articles. Nolt holds a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.



Elizabethtown College

YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST  
AND PIETIST STUDIES  
ONE ALPHA DRIVE  
ELIZABETHTOWN, PA 17022-2298

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Marcus Meier receives 2009 Brown Book Award

**T**he *Origin of the Schwarzenau Brethren* by Marcus Meier has won the 2009 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Published by Brethren Encyclopedia in its monograph series in 2008, the book was translated into English by former Young Center Fellow Dennis Slabaugh. The original German version, *Die Schwarzenauer Neutäufer: Genese einer Gemeindebildung zwischen Pietismus und Täuferium* (The Schwarzenau New Baptizers: Genesis of Church Formation between Pietism and Anabaptism), was published in 2008 in Germany.

Dale R. Stoffer, academic dean of Ashland Theological Seminary, hails the book as “by far, the most detailed exposition available of the sources that shaped Brethren thought in Germany.” Meier, he says, has documented “the numerous connections between Anabaptism and Radical Pietism,” and advanced “the scholarly discussions about the interaction of these movements.”

Meier is a research fellow with the Interdisciplinary Center for Pietism Research at Martin Luther University in Wittenberg and Halle in Germany. He holds a Ph.D. from Philipps University in Marburg, Germany, is a former Young Center Fellow, and has taught courses on Brethren history for Bethany Theological Seminary. Meier’s research interests include religious reform movements and the intellectual transfer of religious patterns of meaning.

Meier co-edited, with Wolfgang Breul and Lothar Vogel, *Der Radikale Pietismus* (Radical Pietism), which is slated for publication in 2009. He recently contributed an essay on Jane Leade to a forthcoming collection of essays (edited by Udo Sträter) from the second International Congress on Pietism Research in 2005.

The book award judges selected *The Origin of the Schwarzenau Brethren* from a pool of 35 books nominated for the award. They noted that Meier “plows new

ground on the influence of Anabaptism and, to a lesser extent, Quaker thought on Radical Pietism,” “adds considerable clarification to the complex relation of Radical Pietism and

Anabaptism,” and “is especially helpful in showing how the diverse strains in Radical Pietism shaped Mack and other Schwarzenau Brethren.”

The national award, which recognizes an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies published during the previous three years, was named for noted author and theologian Dale W. Brown. Nominations for the 2010 award will be accepted until December 10, 2009. Visit [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr) for details. ■



Marcus Meier