

# YOUNG CENTER *News*

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR  
ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES  
AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



## Professors visit China to research Brethren mission in Shanxi Province

Two Elizabethtown College professors escaped Pennsylvania last winter for an exotic spring break destination, but it was not a tropical sandy beach. Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center, and David Kenley, professor of Asian history, traveled to Shanxi Province in China to conduct research for a book project about the Brethren mission in China. A Brethren couple living near the city of Pingding, Eric Miller and Ruoxia Li, helped Bach and Kenley by arranging excursions and meetings with people who provided helpful information. “We were treated royally by many Chinese people who helped us to experience some of life in Shanxi today and to learn about Shanxi’s past,” noted Bach.

Five members of the Church of the Brethren traveled to China in 1908 to start mission work. They were Frank and Anna Crumpacker, George and Blanche Hilton, and Emma Horning. After two years they decided to locate in the interior province of Shanxi and settled in Pingding. Famine in 1918-1919, an outbreak of pneumonic plague in 1919-1920, and regional military conflicts made humanitarian service an important priority for the missionaries in addition to their evangelism and educational work. During the main years of missionary activity, from 1910 to about 1948, the church in China grew and developed indigenous leadership as well as trained Chinese teachers, nurses, and doctors. The peace teachings of the Brethren were severely tested by armed conflict between provincial leaders in the 1920s, the Japanese occupation during the 1930s, and the revolution in the 1940s, when missionary staff were finally evacuated. The last Brethren missionary returned to the United States in 1953.

Bach and Kenley want to tell the story of the interaction of the Brethren and the people of Shanxi and interpret the work of the Brethren in the context of the many struggles China experienced in the first half of the twentieth century. On this trip the professors discovered that although the Brethren congregations formally ended after the Communist Revolution, the areas where the Chinese Brethren established congregations proved in many cases to be fertile ground for more recent Christian activity to emerge.

The trip began in Taiyuan, the provincial capital of Shanxi. Miller introduced Bach and Kenley to Professor Anrong Liu, who teaches history at a college in Taiyuan and studies Christian activity in Shanxi. She has a special interest in the Brethren missionaries. Together, this small group visited two former homes of E. L. Ikenberry and Minor Meyers, Brethren missionaries in Taiyuan.

The group traveled on to Shouyang, one of the Brethren mission stations and the childhood home of Ruoxia Li, Miller’s wife. Pastor Yin, who serves a small Christian congregation in Shouyang, gave the visitors a tour through the old mission house and the newer church building adjacent to it. He also showed them a church manual written in Chinese that the Brethren created, as well as a scrapbook of photos from the mission era.

Just outside the city of Shouyang, the group stopped at the home of Yin’s aunt, Guimei Liang. At age 94, she is the last living Brethren member of the Shouyang congregation. She remembered her teacher, Minerva Metzger, when she attended the Brethren girls’ school. She recalled the day of her baptism at age 18 in a stream near her home. Later she worked as a nurse in the



*David Kenley, Guimei Liang, and Jeff Bach meet at Liang’s home near Shouyang. Liang, age 94, is the last living member of the Brethren congregation at Shouyang, where she also attended the girls’ school.*

small Brethren hospital in Shouyang until the Japanese invasion of China. Liang reported that she reads her Bible and prays every day. Meeting Liang was one of the highlights of the trip for Bach.

For the next several days, Kenley and Bach stayed near Pingding, where the Brethren mission started. The two professors attended worship in a Christian congregation there. Although the church is not directly connected to the Brethren congregation of the past, the congregants consider the Brethren

*(continued on page 2)*



## From the Director

Lars Levi Laestadius is probably an unfamiliar name to most of us. We may even wonder how to say it. When Dr. Aini Linjakumpu applied to be our Snowden Fellow, my knowledge about the Laestadians expanded as I read about this Pietistic group from Finland. Their views on temperance, ecstatic experience, and confession of sins are intriguing. I plan to learn a lot more about Laestadius and his group this fall. I hope that you will join me.

Shanxi Province in China is a place I had read about related to Brethren missionaries. However, my knowledge expanded exponentially during my trip there last March with David Kenley from the history department. Meeting people who told me about Shanxi and seeing towns and cities created completely new perspectives for me.

The Young Center's mission is to expand understanding about Pietist and Anabaptist groups. The recent Amish conference increased knowledge about the Amish and technology, health care, and other topics. Our Kreider Fellow and researchers over the spring and summer have brought new questions and new insights even as they enlarge the understandings of their topics. Next spring, the Young Center building itself will expand when construction of the new addition begins. The building will increase in order to serve our mission of increasing understanding of Pietist and Anabaptist groups.

Sometimes knowledge grows by learning more about topics that are already familiar. Sometimes understanding increases by encountering people, places, or subjects that are totally new. At the Young Center, we embrace both ways of expanding knowledge.

Come and join us for our programs this fall to learn more about the Laestadians, Brethren in Shanxi, and perspectives on 9/11. Drop in on our Heritage Festival. Whether a topic is new or old at a Young Center event, we can all increase in understanding. See you soon!

Jeff Bach  
Director

## Bach and Kenley's visit to China *(continued from page 1)*

ren their spiritual forerunners. After a walking tour of the old section of Pingding in the morning, they toured the You Ai Hospital, where Eric Miller works. It is a newer, private hospital offering care for people who cannot obtain it elsewhere. In the evening Kenley and Bach were treated to a walk to see colorful lanterns, a part of Pingding's Lantern Festival marking the end of the lunar new year celebrations.

Later in the week, the professors visited the hospital that stands on the site of the old Brethren hospital. They met hospital administrators and viewed an exhibit about the hospital's history, which features a bust of Dr. Daryl Parker, one of the Brethren physicians.

Miller also arranged two excursions to rural areas of southern Shanxi Province. Bach had asked to see some of the villages mentioned in Crumpacker's journals as preaching points for the Brethren. A retired professor of education from the area, Professor Wang, led the two trips.

The first outing included a tour of Matian, the headquarters of the 8th Route Army, the leading force in the Chinese Communist Revolution. The group also visited a museum commemorating the army. Several photos taken by Howard Sollenberger, son of one of the Brethren missionaries, were featured

in the museum. After Matian, the travelers ate supper in the nearby town of Zouquan, another Brethren mission station (formerly known as Liao Chou). The restaurant was in the church building that the Brethren had built. It is the only Brethren church building that is still standing. Thirteen Chinese Brethren were killed in Zouquan (Liao Chou) by Japanese occupying forces in 1940.

The second excursion into southern Shanxi included places where missionary Frank Crumpacker stayed and preached. Thanks to Professor Wang's help, Bach and Kenley met people whose relatives had hosted Crumpacker and saw some old, traditional homes where he stayed. Bach was surprised that some memories of his work still survive after seventy years.

Professor Wang also helped the researchers find the site of Frank and Anna Crumpacker's home in Pingding. Along the way, they met two elderly men who had attended the Brethren boys' school. One of them remembered Frank Crumpacker as a large man.

Other highlights of the trip were not connected directly to research about the Brethren. One morning Professor Wang arranged for a visit to part of the Great Wall that borders Shanxi Province. On another morning he took the two Americans to a teachers' college in Pingding to meet students preparing to teach English. They demonstrated their English skills and asked many questions about American popular culture. At the end of their trip, Kenley and Bach spent a day in Pingyao, a UNESCO world heritage site renowned for its intact city wall and many historic buildings.

The professors were overwhelmed by the generosity of their Chinese hosts, who were eager to share broader history of Shanxi and to learn about the Brethren. Kenley noted how much the Brethren had to depend on help from their Chinese associates, who provided much of the work in establishing Brethren congregations in China. Bach was surprised that some memories of the Brethren remain, and that generally they are positive. The researchers returned from spring break with many new friendships and a deep appreciation for their hosts.

Bach and Kenley will give an illustrated presentation about their trip on Tuesday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Young Center's Bucher Meetinghouse.



*Although not directly connected to the Brethren, this church in Pingding, which Kenley and Bach visited, sees itself as the spiritual successor to the Brethren work.*

## Conference receives positive response

More than 200 attendees brought lively energy and deep interest to the Young Center's international conference "Continuity and Change: 50 Years of Amish Society" on June 9-11, 2016. Participants noted the value of hearing about the work of other researchers and practitioners, and the opportunity to connect with colleagues and meet new people with similar interests.

One unique event was Steve Nolt's interview of Ann Hostetler, daughter of John and Beulah Hostetler. During their conversation, Hostetler reflected on how the experiences of her Amish grandparents led to her father's interest in studying Amish society.



## Additions to archives and special collections

CENTER RECEIVES SERMON MATERIALS AND PURCHASES UNIQUE COMMENTARY

This summer Karen Wenger donated about a dozen sermon outlines and notes by her grandfather, Herman B. Heisey (1890-1981), a Brethren minister and missionary in India. Heisey was born near Middletown, Pennsylvania, but grew up in Lebanon County. He attended Juniata College and was among the first paid ministers in the Church of the Brethren. Heisey served congregations in Cali-

fornia, Florida, and Pennsylvania, including Harrisburg First (1940-1944). He also worked in Vada, India, from 1912 to 1914.

Heisey's sermon notes are based on a variety of biblical texts and appear to date to the 1940s. Included is a recording of a sermon he preached at the Brethren Village retirement community in 1970 when he was 80 years old. These materials will be added to other

papers of Heisey's that were donated earlier to the Young Center and are stored at the Hess Archives and Special Collections.

The Young Center purchased a unique commentary on the Song of Songs, *Hohe geistreiche Lehren und Erklärungen: Über die fürnembsten Sprüche dess Hohen Lieds Salomonis* ("High Spiritual Teachings and Explanations concerning the Foremost Sayings of the Song of Solomon"). The book was written by Daniel Suderman, a Lutheran man who came under the influence of the writings of Caspar Schwenkfeld in Strasbourg. The text was written in German but is based on Jerome's Latin translation.

Published in 1622 in Frankfurt, Germany, the book features several engravings by Jacob van der Heyden, a prominent Flemish engraver, illustrating scenes from the biblical text. The commentary is allegorical and includes Suderman's comments, quotations from various medieval Christian writers, and comments from unnamed sources. It is a unique example of a biblical commentary that blends a variety of sources, some of which may not have been fully acceptable to orthodox Protestant theologians in the seventeenth century. The illustration pictured here is for Song of Songs 2:1 with a caption reading, "I am flower of the field and a rose in the valley." This book will also be stored in the Hess Archives and Special Collections.

Eine Lehr vnd erklärang über den Spruch  
im Hohen Lied Salomonis am 2. Cap.

Ich bin ein Feldebsum/ vnd ein Rose im Thal/ &c.



# Aini Linjakumpu named Snowden Fellow

Aini Linjakumpu, a university lecturer in politics at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi and an adjunct professor at the University of Tampere, Finland, has been named the Young Center's 2016 Snowden Fellow. Linjakumpu graduated from the University of Tampere with an M.A. in political science, completed her licentiate degree in political science at the University of Tampere, and received her Ph.D. in international relations at the University of Lapland.

For more than 15 years, Linjakumpu's main research has focused on the political dimensions of religions, especially in the context of Islam and currently also in the context of the largest revival movement in Scandinavia—Conservative Laestadianism, a Lutheran revival movement. Her research in-

terests are related to communities, violence, network politics, and the politics of emotion. She has completed three monographs on political dimensions of Islam and two related to Conservative Laestadianism. She has also edited five books and published more than 30 articles and book chapters nationally and internationally.

During her semester as the Snowden Fellow, Linjakumpu will be working on two projects: one on the economic dimensions of Conservative Laestadianism, especially from the point of view of entrepreneurship, and the other on the meanings of work in Christian religious communities. For the latter, she is studying Amish communities and Jehovah's Witnesses in addition to Conservative Laestadians.

"Working at the Young Center will provide expertise and knowledge that is unavailable in Finland," Linjakumpu says, "especially in terms of understanding the Pietist religious tradition. Equally important are the expertise and resources related to Amish communities as well as the proximity to Amish settlements in Lancaster County. Thirdly, the interest among the Center's scholars in economic dimensions of religious communities, especially in the context of Amish people, will be highly meaningful for my research interests."

The Snowden fellowship and lecture are named for Armon and Lucille Snowden, whose generous gift endowed them. The Young Center invites nominations and applications for its fellows programs. Visit [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr) for more information.

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## Summer visitors to the Young Center

The Young Center hosted several groups and individuals this summer. On May 25 a group of visiting scholars—Markus Roskopf, Claire Mensack, and Dan Sheng—traveled to the Amish community around Belleville, Pennsylvania. Guided by Hedda Durnbaugh and Elaine Mercer, the tour included visits with an Amish Mennonite builder, a Nebraska Amish farm family, and Amish vendors at the sale barn in Belleville.

In late June, 16 junior high youth and eight adult leaders from across the Church of the Brethren attended "IMMERSE," a special event sponsored by Bethany Theological Seminary intended to immerse the students in learning about Brethren of the past, present, and future.

On June 23, Young Center director Jeff Bach talked with the group about Anabaptism and Pietism during a tour of Amish areas in Lancaster County. After lunch in an Amish home, they visited Kreider's Meetinghouse near Manheim, a historic Brethren meetinghouse that is now part of the White Oak Church of the Brethren. Jim Meyer, a minister from White Oak, described the history of the building and what worship and love feasts were like in that space.

On Sunday, June 26, Bach led the group on a trip to Germantown, where they visited the site of the first Brethren baptisms in America in 1723 in the Wissahickon Creek. They also attended worship at the Germantown Church of the Brethren. After the ser-

vice and a walk through the church cemetery, Pastor Richard Kyerematen discussed the congregation's ministry and outreach into the neighborhood. He challenged the youth to consider how they might act on their faith in urban settings.

In July a group from EYN (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), including the new president of the church, visited the Young Center. They were in the United States to attend the Brethren Annual Conference and

made a trip to Pennsylvania.

During July and August, Galen Fitzkee, a senior at Manheim Central High School, volunteered at the Young Center as part of the social studies club at the school. He helped Young Center staff by recording research statistics for a project related to the Ephrata *Martyrs Mirror* printed in 1748. He also helped with inventories and packing Young Center materials for storage this winter. Thanks to Galen for his volunteer work!



*Markus Roskopf, an environmental engineering student from Germany; Esther Spicher, an Amish Mennonite woman who lives near Belleville; Claire Mensack, the Young Center's 2016 Kreider Fellow; and Dan Sheng, a visiting scholar from China*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PANEL DISCUSSION

Remembering 9/11: Flight 93

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Panelists will reflect on the significance of 9/11, the crash of Flight 93 near Shanksville, Pa., and the current political climate. Panelists include Mal Fuller, air traffic controller at Pittsburgh Airport that day; Tim Lambert, director of multimedia news at WITF and owner of the land on which Flight 93 crashed; and Oya Ozkanca, associate professor of political science at Elizabethtown College. Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center, and David Kenley, director of the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking, will moderate the discussion. (The Young Center and the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking are cosponsoring this event.)

## LECTURE

China Friends: New Discoveries for the Church of the Brethren

JEFF BACH & DAVID KENLEY

Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center



Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center and associate professor of religious studies, and David Kenley, director of the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking and professor of history, discuss their March 2016 research trip to Shanxi Province in China to trace the activities of Brethren missionaries. The two will recount their visits to cities where the Brethren had mission stations (Pingding, Shouyang, Zouquan, and Taiyuan). They will also describe outings to rural villages where Brethren missionaries preached. The presentation will include photos from the trip as well as a few historic images. The speakers will also share impressions of Shanxi today as people there face economic challenges while dealing with urban growth. (The Young Center and the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking are cosponsoring this event.)

## HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 15, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Young Center

During Homecoming the Young Center will host a family-friendly heritage festival to celebrate the college's connection to the Church of the Brethren and the Anabaptist and Pietist movements. Children can enjoy crafts and games, art projects, old-fashioned bubbles, and hands-on experiences like making cornhusk dolls. Special features include a quilting bee and a capella singing. Homemade treats such as ice cream churned by a bicycle, apple butter on fresh bread, and popcorn from the historic Reist popcorn wagon will be available.

## LECTURE

Mennonite Elites in the Frisian Southwest, 1580-1850

COR TROMPETTER

Thursday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Almost from the very start of the Mennonite movement, some members of the Mennonite community in the southwestern part of Friesland were part of the economic elite. This lecture will show how, little by little, this economic elite became part of the societal elite and that, at the end of this process in the early nineteenth century, the Mennonite and Dutch Reformed elite had almost merged.

Cor Trompetter studied philosophy and history at Groningen University and received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, where his supervisor was Gail Bossenga. Trompetter's dissertation was published in 1997 as *Agriculture, Proto-Industry and Mennonite Entrepreneurship*. He has written a number of books on social and economic history. This fall his latest book, *An Introduction to the History of Mennonites in Friesland until 1850*, will be published. Currently, Trompetter is *Wethouder* and deputy mayor of the county of Weststellingwerf in Friesland.

## SNOWDEN LECTURE

The Entrepreneurship among the Conservative Laestadian Movement

AINI LINJAKUMPU

Thursday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center



Conservative Laestadianism is a Lutheran revival movement that emerged in the nineteenth century, inspired by German pietism. Located mainly in Finland, it is the largest revival movement in Scandinavia and has some 100,000-120,000 adherents worldwide, with members in 17 countries, including the United States and some African states. Claiming to be the only true Christians, the Kingdom of God on earth, the group belongs to the Finnish Evangelical-Lutheran Church, and has a strong social, political, and economic position in Finnish society. Conservative Laestadians form a strongly normative community, maintaining strict guidelines for religious issues and for daily life as well. This normative focus and an elitist self-understanding of religious communality has caused much dispersion within the movement and various external struggles in Finnish society at large.

In her talk, Snowden Fellow Aini Linjakumpu, a lecturer in politics at the University of Lapland and adjunct professor at the University of Tampere, will focus on entrepreneurial activities among Conservative Laestadians. Such activities are fairly common within the movement, and the entrepreneurial networks among the members are dense.



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ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

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## Addition to the Young Center now slated to begin in early March 2017

Construction of the addition to the Young Center and the temporary relocation of the staff have been rescheduled. The work will begin in March 2017 and is expected to last into early 2018. The Young Center will not be available for tours or events from late December 2016 until construction is completed. People who would like to see or make use of the Young 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, 717-361-1470.

During the construction, the Young Center staff will be relocated to 905 College Avenue (directly across from Lake Placida). The staff will vacate the Young Center building during the college's winter break in late December and be in the temporary location when the college reopens on January 2, 2017. All of the phone lines will remain the same and be in operation. The staff will be able to

help researchers and the general public while the construction is underway. Young Center events will be slightly reduced in the spring and fall of 2017. The Dale Brown Book Award lecture for 2016 will take place in the spring of 2017.

We are excited about increased possibilities for Young Center programming with the building expansion. The new interpretive gallery will create space where we can use images and media to tell visitors the stories of Anabaptist and Pietist groups. New office and work space will give more room to carry out our projects. We are thankful for our supporters and appreciate your patience with the temporary inconveniences as the construction of the addition moves forward.

FALL 2016

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*News*

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